Montpelier
Wildlife Management Area

Management Plan
2014

Southeast Region

Montpelier
Wildlife Management Area

2014 – 2023 Management Plan
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Idaho Department of Fish and Game
Southeast Region
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Executive Summary

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Introduction

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

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

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

Department Mission

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

Department Strategic Goals

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

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

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

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

Statewide WMA Vision

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

Other Considerations

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

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

The Southeast Region

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

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

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

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

Montpelier WMA

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

Montpelier WMA Vision

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

Montpelier WMA Mission

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

Modification of Plan

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

Area Description and Current Status

Montpelier WMA is located in Bear Lake County immediately adjacent to the northeast corner of the town of Montpelier. It lies directly west of a large tract of the Caribou-Targhee National Forest administered through the Montpelier Ranger District. Totaling 2,137 acres, it includes 320 acres leased from the IDL and 505 acres managed through agreement with the BLM.

The MWMA lies within the Basin and Range geomorphic province on a westerly facing slope of the Preuss Range overlooking a broad valley drained by the Bear River. Bear Lake lies 14 miles south of the WMA. The valley floor to the west is bisected by U.S. Highway 30, several county roads, and the Union Pacific Railroad. There are several power transmission lines through the valley, and an additional 500 kV line is in planning. A 345 kV line actually crosses the midpoint of the WMA and continues northwest along the Preuss and Aspen Range fronts toward Soda Springs. Montpelier Canyon and U.S. Highway 89 run along the south edge of the WMA with approximately one mile of Montpelier Creek lying within the WMA boundary (Figure 1).

Elevation ranges from 6,000 feet along Montpelier Creek to 7,600 feet on the upper slopes. Annual precipitation is 12-15 inches with most falling as snow. Temperatures range from -35°F to over 100°F. Snow depths frequently reach four feet and the ground usually remains snow covered through the winter. The exception is on south-facing slopes, where snow depths are less and melt off quickly. Geology of the area consists of sedimentary rock formations including the phosphoria formation rich in phosphate ore. Eighty acres lying south of U.S. Highway 89 (mostly BLM) on a northwest exposure have been impacted by former phosphate mining activity. There are two known deep mine adits within the boundary of the MWMA, both of which have been gated for public safety and to protect known bat colonies.

The aspect is generally facing west or south with numerous short draws bisecting the ridges. Upland habitat is dominated by mountain brush species such as sagebrush, bitterbrush, service berry, and snowberry. Aspen, maple, mountain mahogany, juniper and Douglas-fir are also present in scattered locations across the WMA (Appendix VI). The riparian area along Montpelier Creek is dominated by a mixture of hawthorn, willows, water birch, red osier dogwood, and alder (Appendix VI). Noxious weeds are treated by a variety of methods in order to comply with state law and to protect wildlife habitat. There is no authorized livestock grazing on MWMA. The last wildfire on MWMA burned 169 acres in 1994.

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

MWMA provides winter habitat critical to big game survival in severe winters. Recent aerial trend surveys indicate 1,000 deer and 350 elk winter within five miles of MWMA on the west slope of the Preuss Range. Of those, approximately 300 deer and 200 elk actually use the MWMA. The south-facing slopes north of U.S. Highway 89 are especially important for mule

deer. With continued human population growth in Bear Lake County, big game winter range is being lost to development and infrastructure. As this trend continues, intact winter range becomes increasingly important. Winter forage for mule deer and elk is provided through a variety of vegetation management approaches. Forage quantity and quality for mule deer and other wildlife is maintained or improved with brush plantings, seedings, fertilization, noxious weed control, and livestock exclusion. Winter security and thermal cover for wildlife is provided by protecting riparian areas and by limiting shrub treatments to those necessary to meet forage objectives. Habitat security is also provided by restricting human activity, especially during critical periods.

The MWMA is open for recreational uses year-round. Motorized vehicles are restricted to parking areas; however, non-motorized access is open except during extreme winter conditions. Public use is encouraged though facilities are limited to informational signage, primitive trails, and one parking area. Recreational use has not been well documented, and though the area offers opportunity for hunting and wildlife viewing, it is believed public use is generally light.

The MWMA has very little infrastructure, limited to some fencing along the north and south boundary and one storage building. Directional signing, a parking area, and information center are provided off of U.S. Highway 89.

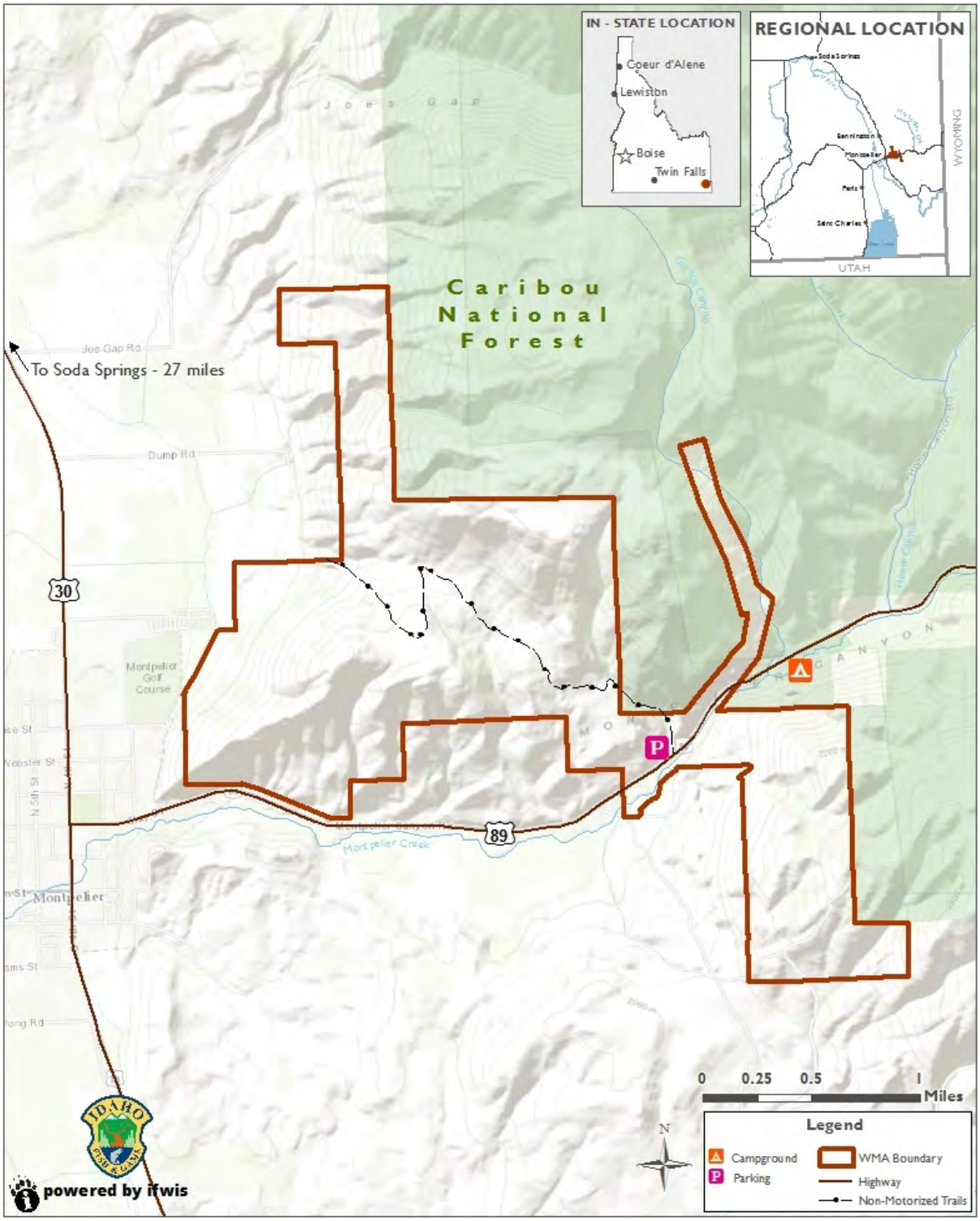

Figure 1. Montpelier Wildlife Management Area.

Management Issues

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

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

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

From 23 survey responses pertaining to MWMA, 18 comments or suggestions were received related to the questions mentioned above. Occasional unsolicited comments were also gathered from WMA "user sign-in stations" or through word of mouth. Most of the comments came from users who identified hunting/scouting as their primary use of the WMA. Other uses included being outside/hiking, dog training/walking, wildlife viewing/bird watching, and photography. In 2012, users provided zero entries registering visits at the voluntary sign-in station. In 2014, draft copies of all WMA plans were made available and comments solicited. Eleven responses were provided concerning the MWMA plan. All respondents agreed with the plan as written with few new issues raised. One respondent suggested that use of lead-free ammunition should be considered and that steps should be taken to assure trapping activity does not conflict with other priorities.

Neighbors to the WMA and management partners also have provided input through written correspondence and word of mouth. All input/issues from the public were reviewed and any

suggesting changes or improvement are listed below (similar comments have been paraphrased and/or combined).

Issues Identified by the Public

Wildlife Management

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

Public Use and Relations

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

Issues Identified by the Department

Wildlife Management

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

Public Use and Relations

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

Montpelier WMA Management Program

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

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

The following five-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) Creation of Management Program Table

Montpelier WMA Landscape Conservation

The MWMA includes BLM and IDL lands and lies adjacent to USFS land. All of these jurisdictions as well as nearby private lands include wildlife habitat that serves as core area for the overall landscape. An important role for MWMA is to protect, enhance, or restore habitat functions for all wildlife within the associated landscape.

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

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

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

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

The focal species or groups of species have been used to designate several Conservation Targets for MWMA priorities in the Management Program table below (pages 32-36). Management Directions, and subsequently Performance Targets, Strategies, and Outcome Metrics are related to a given scope of application being either within just the MWMA boundary, within the surrounding MWMA landscape, or both within the landscape and the MWMA boundary.

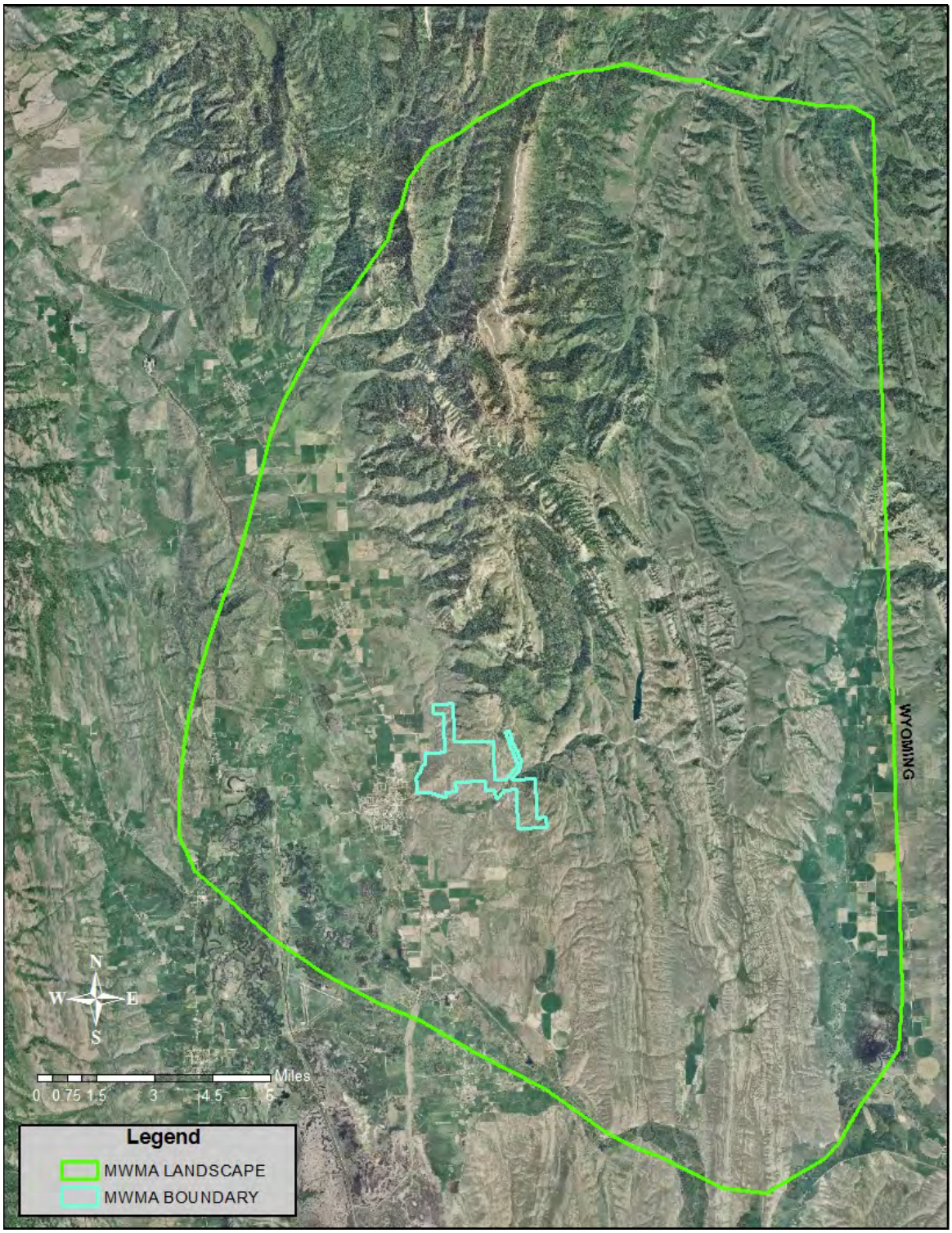

Figure 2. Montpelier WMA Landscape.

Summary of Management Priorities

Montpelier WMA, like many other WMAs, was created for a specific purpose and therefore has inherent management priorities incorporated in the cooperating agency agreements and land ownerships that formed the WMA. Montpelier WMA was acquired to preserve and enhance big game winter range.

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

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

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

Montpelier WMA Management Priorities (listed in order of importance):

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

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

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

Because MWMA is generally low to middle elevation with a westerly aspect, the area is well suited to provide quality winter range for elk and mule deer. The brush slopes and draws, as well

as the more limited riparian habitat, provide forage and security habitat for big game and a variety of other game and nongame species. Protecting blocks of shrub-steppe, mountain brush, and the riparian associated with Montpelier Creek will benefit big game, upland game, furbearers, and nongame known to occur on or near MWMA. The proximity of MWMA to the city of Montpelier and nearby facilities provided by USFS furthers its value in providing public access for wildlife-based recreation such as hunting and general wildlife appreciation.

Focal Species Assessment

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

Flagship species are popular, charismatic species that serve as symbols and catalysts to motivate conservation awareness, support, and action (Heywood 1995). Flagship species often represent a landscape or ecosystem (e.g., east Idaho highlands), a threat (e.g., habitat loss), organization (e.g., state government or conservation group) or geographic region (e.g., protected area, Department Region or state; Veríssimo et al. 2009). Mule deer is an example of a species that fits the criteria as both focal and flagship species. In addition, mule deer is a culturally and economically important species in Idaho and represents a founding priority for establishment of the MWMA. Therefore mule deer is an important flagship species considered in the MWMA assessment.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Game species considered for focal species designation include: elk and mule deer combined, Columbian sharp-tailed grouse, greater sage-grouse, sandhill crane, Bonneville cutthroat trout, and Yellowstone cutthroat trout.

Nongame species considered for focal species designation include: Canada lynx, flammulated owl, Merriam's shrew, Myotis guild (long-eared, long-legged and western small-footed), Idaho pocket gopher, North American wolverine, pygmy rabbit, Uinta chipmunk, Brewer's sparrow, bald eagle, great gray owl, northern goshawk, peregrine falcon, Transitional waterbird guild (black tern, common loon, Forster's tern, trumpeter swan), northern leopard frog, northern leatherside chub, bluehead sucker, desert valvata, California floater, red glasswort and starveling milkvetch.

Table 1. Status of flagship and special status species on Montpelier WMA, including potential suitability as a focal species for management.

Species	Status Designation(s)	Occurrence Context in Montpelier WMA Landscape	Threats	Beneficial Management and Conservation Actions	Suitability as a Focal Species for Montpelier WMA
Mammals					
Elk (*Cervus elaphus*) and Mule Deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*)	Flagship	MWMA is crucial winter range for elk and Mule deer from game management unit 76. Some Mule deer may use the MWMA landscape and the Bear Lake Plateau winter ranges interchangeably.	Rural residential/commercial development in the Bear River and Crow Creek watersheds; habitat fragmentation from conflicting land uses on adjacent public and private lands; loss of aspen habitat; conflicts with agricultural producers, including depredations and brucellosis transmission, and potential for increased conflict with loss of CRP contracts.	Protect and expand existing winter range; support management that increases aspen on the landscape; (Eastern Idaho Aspen Working Group); work collaboratively with BLM and USFS to maintain thriving elk and mule deer herds on the landscape. Provide technical assistance to private landowners to expand tolerance and available habitat on private lands; provide technical assistance to county planning and zoning staffs to minimize loss or degradation of habitat.	***Potentially suitable as a focal species.*** Elk and Mule deer are foundational priorities for the creation of MWMA. Elk and Mule deer are a culturally and economically important wildlife species in eastern Idaho and are a species with good potential for developing conservation partnerships.
Canada Lynx (*Lynx canadensis*)	SGCN, BLM Type-1, USFS Sensitive, USFWS ESA Threatened	Several historic occurrences within the MWMA landscape.	Habitat degradation, fragmentation, and loss are the primary threats to Canada lynx populations. Fire suppression and timber management practices have affected landscape-scale characteristics of vegetation composition and structure. Habitat alterations and increased access have also been associated with increased competition with coyotes and bobcats; winter recreation (snowmobiles, ski area development) may cause disturbance and displacement.	Information needed regarding the current status of Idaho populations. Timber management practices designed to maintain or enhance habitat for the snowshoe hare and other prey may help sustain Canada lynx populations. Management practices that increase habitat complexity at landscape scales may also be beneficial. Potential disturbance should be addressed in occupied habitat. Incidental take from trapping should be addressed through education.	***Unsuitable as a focal species.*** Occurrence context on MWMA landscape does not reflect the main threats. Limited and unquantified seasonal occurrence limits potential management feedback at the focal species scale.
Idaho Pocket Gopher (*Thomomys idahoensis*)	SGCN	Documented occurrence within the MWMA landscape.	Population distribution in Idaho is mostly undocumented. However, loss of shrub-steppe and grassland habitats in the range of this species is likely a factor affecting conservation.	The primary actions recommended in Idaho's SWAP are documenting population distribution and initiating efforts to better document habitat associations.	***Unsuitable as a focal species***. Limited information on distribution in the project area. Unknown distribution limits potential management feedback.
Merriam's Shrew (*Sorex merriami*)	SGCN	One occurrence within the MWMA landscape and the species occurs primarily in areas dominated by xeric shrubs and grasses. Habitats include sagebrush steppe habitat.	The distribution and status of populations are poorly understood. Livestock grazing has been suggested as a threat to populations since livestock can cause soil compaction, litter layer reduction, and changes in vegetation structure and composition.	Surveys are needed to determine the distribution, current status, and habitat associations of populations.	***Unsuitable as a focal species.*** Occurrence context on MWMA landscape does not reflect the main threats. Limited and unquantified seasonal occurrence limits potential management feedback at the focal species scale.
Myotis Guild	BLM Type-5	Long-eared myotis, Long-legged myotis and Western small-footed myotis occurrences documented within the MWMA boundary.	Individuals are long-lived and exhibit low reproductive potential. Roost sites tend to be colonial, and may be limiting in some areas; aggregations are susceptible to disturbance and intentional persecution. High prey densities are often associated with wetlands and other highly productive habitat. Local populations potentially affected by wind turbine installations situated in flyways or near high-use areas, such as wetlands or roosts.	Minimize broad-spectrum insect control activities that reduce prey base. Where possible, document natural roosting habitat. Create day-and night-roosting habitat through installation of bat boxes. Deploy escapement devices on troughs and water tanks, and develop natural and artificial pooled water sources. Track with ongoing efforts of the East Idaho Bat Working Group to mitigate bat mortalities from wind energy development.	***Potentially suitable as a focal species.*** Unknown scope of occurrence and composition of guild on MWMA would require preliminary work to determine the extent of occurrence.

Species	Status Designation(s)	Occurrence Context in Montpelier WMA Landscape	Threats	Beneficial Management and Conservation Actions	Suitability as a Focal Species for Montpelier WMA
North American Wolverine (*Gulo gulo*)	SGCN, BLM Type-3, USFS Sensitive, USFWS ESA Proposed threatened	Two relatively recent occurrences within the MWMA landscape	Human disturbance is among the most important causes of habitat fragmentation and degradation in North American wolverine habitat.	Limiting disturbance to occupied habitat is critical. Would benefit from wilderness designations in subalpine and mid-elevation forests. Incidental take from trapping should be addressed through education.	***Unsuitable as a focal species.*** Occurrence context on MWMA landscape does not reflect the main threats. Limited and unquantified seasonal occurrence limits potential management feedback at the focal species scale.
Pygmy Rabbit (*Brachylagus idahoensis*)	SGCN, BLM Type-2, USFS Sensitive	Several documented occurrences within the MWMA landscape and also documented within the WMA boundary.	Population distribution in Idaho mostly undocumented, however; recent investigations (2006-2008) have documented occurrences mostly south of, but also within the MWMA landscape and WMA boundary. Loss of shrub-steppe and grassland habitats in the range of this species is likely a factor affecting conservation.	The primary actions recommended in Idaho's SWAP are documenting population distribution and initiating efforts to better document habitat associations.	***Unsuitable as a focal species.*** Limited information on use of MWMA by Pygmy rabbits limits the potential value of management feedback.
Uinta Chipmunk (*Neotamias umbrinus*)	SGCN, BLM Type-4	One historical occurrence within the MWMA landscape near the WMA boundary.	Information is lacking regarding the current status of populations, local distributional patterns, habitat associations, and population trend. Because this species is associated with forested habitat, land uses that affect stand structure and composition could be of importance.	Surveys are needed throughout the Idaho range of this species to evaluate distribution, population size, and habitat requirements. Information is also needed to indicate population trend.	***Unsuitable as a focal species.*** Limited information on use of MWMA by Uinta chipmunk limits the potential value of management feedback.
Birds					
Greater Sage-grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*)	SGCN, BLM Type-2, USFS Sensitive, USFWS ESA Candidate	Much of the Bear Lake Plateau and surrounding areas to the west and north, including portions of the MWMA landscape include Greater Sage-grouse habitat designated as either *Preliminary Priority* or *Preliminary General habitat* in the BLM Version two habitat modeling effort; or as *Core, Important or General Management Zones* in the Idaho Governor's Alternative. Four active leks are known within the MWMA landscape and one confirmed active lek is within six miles of the WMA boundary.	Loss, degradation, and fragmentation of sagebrush habitat are the major threats to the Greater Sage–grouse in Idaho. Habitat degradation factors include alteration of historical fire regimes, conversion of sagebrush habitat, water developments, use of herbicides and pesticides, invasive species, urbanization, energy development, mineral extraction, and recreation.	In conjunction with BLM, USFS, and East Idaho Uplands Local Sage-grouse Working Group identify, protect, and maintain existing sagebrush seasonal habitats particularly breeding and winter habitats. Where possible, restore damaged and lost sage-steppe habitat. Manage projects to significantly reduce fragmentation of existing sagebrush habitats and to reduce human disturbance.	***Potentially suitable as a focal species.*** Greater Sage-grouse have a high conservation need and are representative of a group of species sharing similar conservation needs. They have a high level of current Department program effort and are a species with potential to stimulate partnerships. They currently do not occur within the MWMA boundary but important habitat lies nearby and within the MWMA landscape.
Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse (*Tympanuchus phasianellus columbianus*)	SGCN, BLM Type-3, USFS Sensitive	Although not well documented, recent sightings of grouped sharp-tailed grouse males and sightings of broods within the MWMA landscape and surrounding area suggest a viable population exists in habitats similar to those found on MWMA.	Population declines are related to habitat loss and degradation. Breeding habitats are dominated by relatively dense herbaceous (grass and forbs) cover and shrubs. Broods depend on areas with abundant forbs and insects, often with high shrub diversity. Sharp–tailed grouse often rely on riparian areas or deciduous hardwood shrub stands during winter, although agricultural fields may be used in milder conditions.	Identify, protect and maintain key breeding and wintering habitats, avoid disturbance to breeding complexes (lands within six mile radius of occupied leks), monitor breeding populations. Work with adjacent private landowners to encourage deferred haying operations.	***Potentially suitable as a focal species.*** Meets all criteria for focal species designation. Sharp-tailed grouse have large home ranges, are capable of extensive movements, but their occurrence and habitats within the MWMA landscape is not well understood.
Brewer's Sparrow (*Spizella breweri*)	SGCN, BLM Type-3	Brewer's sparrow is a common breeder in sagebrush habitat within MWMA landscape.	Shrub-steppe obligate species, closely associated with big sagebrush. Habitat destruction and degradation in sage steppe are the primary threats to Brewer's sparrow	Conservation actions should focus on preserving areas of intact, unfragmented shrub-steppe habitat.	***Potentially suitable as a focal species.*** Brewer's sparrow is a sagebrush obligate and representative of sagebrush-dependent species sharing similar conservation needs.

Species	Status Designation(s)	Occurrence Context in Montpelier WMA Landscape	Threats	Beneficial Management and Conservation Actions	Suitability as a Focal Species for Montpelier WMA
			populations.		
Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis*)	SGCN	Sandhill cranes within the MWMA landscape are part of the Rocky Mtn. Population. The Bear River valley is an important breeding and migration-staging area for the Rocky Mtn. Population.	Greatest threat to Rocky Mtn. Population is loss of migration-staging habitat. However, loss and degradation of wetland/riparian breeding habitat is also an issue.	Protect and restore wetland/riparian habitat for breeding sandhill cranes. Document breeding locations within MWMA landscape, including nesting brooding locations.	***Unsuitable as a focal species***. Occurrence context on MWMA does not reflect main threats to the population and limits potential management feedback.
Transitional Waterbird Guild	SGCN	The Bear River watershed within the MWMA landscape and Montpelier Reservoir provide transitional habitat for many Idaho waterbirds SGCN. Several species also nest in the area.	Threats to most Idaho waterbirds are not related to the use of transitional habitat but are related to disturbance of nesting breeding habitat, pesticide contamination and loss of wetlands.	Better characterize the importance of MWMA landscape to the transitional waterbird guild by quantifying occurrence/use during ice free periods on the Bear River and Montpelier Reservoir.	***Unsuitable as a focal species***. Presence of waterbird guild species is primarily limited to transitional use of the Bear River and Montpelier Reservoir.
Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*)	SGCN, BLM Type-1, USFS Sensitive	Documented occurrences within the MWMA landscape which provides important wintering habitat for resident and migratory Bald eagles. An active nest exists nearly within the designated MWMA landscape.	Perhaps the greatest threat to Bald eagles in Idaho is disturbance during the nesting period. Shooting, poisoning, and electrocution are also significant threats. Also, vehicle collisions are a particular problem due to roadkill scavenging.	Population recovery goals have been met in the Southeast Region, Idaho. Nest monitoring should continue. Disturbance around nest sites should be minimized. Roadkill should be reduced and those that occur promptly removed.	***Unsuitable as a focal species***. Occurrence context on MWMA does not reflect one of the main threats to bald eagles in Idaho. Limited and unquantified seasonal occurrence on MWMA limits potential management feedback at the focal species scale.
Northern Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*)	SGCN, BLM Type-3, USFS Sensitive	Documented occurrence within the MWMA landscape.	Northern goshawks are considered sensitive to large-scale changes to forested habitats associated with timber harvesting, livestock grazing, fire suppression and drought (Reynolds et al. 1992).	Work with CTNF biologists to update local status of nesting Northern goshawks in the MWMA landscape. Maintain forested habitat on the margins of MWMA in a variety of vegetation structure stages to provide quality habitat for goshawk prey species and that enhance foraging opportunities for Northern goshawk (See Reynolds et al. 1992 for specific recommendations).	***Unsuitable as a focal species.*** Limited information on use of MWMA by Northern goshawks limits the potential value of management feedback.
Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*)	SGCN, BLM Type-3, USFS Sensitive	An historical occurrence within one mile of the WMA boundary indicated possible breeding activity.	Loss of habitat, particularly at cliff nest sites or adjacent wetlands, is a key threat to Peregrine falcons. Disturbance at nest sites during breeding is also a threat to this species.	Potential for Peregrine falcon nesting within the MWMA landscape is unclear. However, management that minimizes disturbance near cliff nesting areas will benefit breeding raptors including, potentially, Peregrine falcons. Restoring and enhancing riparian and wetland habitats will enhance prey abundance.	***Unsuitable as a focal species.*** Limited information on use of MWMA by peregrines limits the potential value of management feedback.
Flammulated Owl (*Psiloscops flammeolus*)	SGCN, BLM Type-3, USFS Sensitive	There are no documented occurrences within the MWMA landscape; however, there are recent occurrences within two miles in similar habitat.	Forest practices that remove large-diameter Douglas-fir, creates extensive even-age stands, and removes snags reduces multiscale habitat parameters required by this species. Fire suppression favors undesirable high-density vegetation conditions that reduces foraging and nesting habitat.	Supporting forest management that strives to maintain fire as a (prescribed or natural) mechanism for forest succession is beneficial.	***Unsuitable as a focal species***. Limited information on distribution in the project area. Unknown distribution limits potential management feedback.
Great Gray Owl (*Strix nebulosa*)	BLM Type-5, USFS Sensitive	Great gray owl has been observed within the MWMA landscape.	Habitat loss and fragmentation through timber harvest and development are the primary threats facing Great gray owl populations. Other threats include fire suppression leading to forested-stand density increases and conifer encroachment into meadows.	Retain beneficial habitat features at the landscape-level; particularly open areas for foraging adjacent to stands of mature or old-growth trees for nesting and roosting. Utilize variable harvest patch sizes, irregular borders to increase forest edge area; retain forested corridors; retain hunting perches;	***Unsuitable as a focal species***. Limited information on distribution in the project area. Unknown distribution limits potential management feedback.

Species	Status Designation(s)	Occurrence Context in Montpelier WMA Landscape	Threats	Beneficial Management and Conservation Actions	Suitability as a Focal Species for Montpelier WMA
				retain forested stands around potential nest sites; and protect existing nest sites.	
Reptiles					
Common Garter Snake (*Thamnophis sirtalis*)	BLM Type-3	Several occurrences within the MWMA landscape and also documented within the WMA boundary.	Possible threats include habitat loss and changes in the prey base arising from habitat change and species introductions.	Studies to clarify the status of populations are needed, including investigations of habitat requirements and threats to populations. Protection of occupied sites from large scale habitat destruction associated with timber harvest, damming, and intensive agricultural use is needed.	***Unsuitable as a focal species.*** Limited information on distribution within the MWMA landscape. Unknown distribution limits potential management feedback.
Amphibians					
Northern Leopard Frog (*Rana pipiens*)	SGCN, BLM Type-3	Documented occurrences within MWMA landscape. Current population status is unknown.	Loss and degradation of wetland and riparian habitat is the most prevalent threat to populations. Introduced competitors and predators can cause amphibian population declines and losses. Disease is also a concern, particularly the chytrid fungus, *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis*.	Wetland protection and/or restoration of degraded sites are beneficial; a comprehensive understanding of population status is needed.	***Potentially suitable as a focal species*.** Species is important indicator of riparian and wetland systems in southeast Idaho, the stronghold for this species in Idaho. Continued persistence in the MWMA landscape would help guide priorities for riparian and wetland conservation.
Fish					
Bonneville Cutthroat Trout (*Oncorhynchus clarkii utah*)	SGCN, BLM Type-2, USFS Sensitive	Documented occurrence in the Bear River watershed within the MWMA landscape and within the WMA boundary.	Reduction in historically occupied range, habitat loss or degradation, fragmentation of current habitat, isolation of existing populations, and hybridization with Rainbow trout (IDFG 2005).	Maintain population distribution and trend monitoring program; conduct watershed habitat assessment; pursue reestablishment of metapopulation connectivity guided by the habitat assessment.	***Potentially suitable as a focal species.*** Bonneville cutthroat trout require well–oxygenated water; clean, well–sorted gravels, with minimal fine sediments for successful spawning; and complex instream and riparian habitat. Therefore thriving presence is one indicator of a highly functional system. Fragmented occurrence in the Bear River watershed limits potential feedback to managers.
Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout (*Oncorhynchus clarkii bouvieri*)	SGCN, BLM Type-2, USFS Sensitive	Documented occurrence in the Salt River watershed within the MWMA landscape.	Reduction in historically occupied range, habitat loss or degradation, fragmentation of current habitat, isolation of existing populations, and hybridization with Rainbow trout (IDFG 2005).	Maintain population distribution and trend monitoring program; conduct watershed habitat assessment; pursue reestablishment of metapopulation connectivity guided by the habitat assessment.	***Potentially suitable as a focal species.*** Yellowstone cutthroat trout require well–oxygenated water; clean, well–sorted gravels, with minimal fine sediments for successful spawning; and complex instream and riparian habitat. Therefore thriving presence is one indicator of a highly functional system. Fragmented occurrence in the Salt River watershed limits potential feedback to managers.
Northern Leatherside Chub (*Lepidomeda copei*)	SGCN, BLM Type-3	Historically observed in the Bear River watershed within the MWMA landscape, but current population status is unknown.	Habitat degradation, fragmentation, and loss from water development (e.g., diversions and dams), stream alterations (e. g., channelization, barriers, etc.), and grazing are significant threats to Northern leatherside chub populations. Channelization decreases depth, increases water velocity and removes instream structure, reducing the quantity and	Surveys should be conducted to determine if additional viable populations remain in Idaho. Water management decisions should consider the maintenance and improvement of flows in streams. Work with federal land managers and private landowners to improve instream and riparian habitats. Management of non–native fishes needs to consider	***Unsuitable as a focal species***. Limited information on distribution in the project area. Unknown distribution limits potential management feedback.

Species	Status Designation(s)	Occurrence Context in Montpelier WMA Landscape	Threats	Beneficial Management and Conservation Actions	Suitability as a Focal Species for Montpelier WMA
			quality of habitat.	impacts on native species.	
Bluehead Sucker (*Catostomus discobolus*)	SGCN	Documented occurrence in the Bear River watershed within the MWMA landscape. Current population status is unknown.	There is a lack of information on distribution and population status. Barriers created by dams, diversion structures and road crossings can result in habitat loss and reduce genetic exchange between populations. Non–native fish may have an impact on populations.	Develop monitoring programs to provide information on populations, distribution, and trends. Coordinate with agencies and private landowners to improve instream and riparian habitat conditions, including fish passage. Management of non–native fish species need to consider impacts on native nongame species.	***Unsuitable as a focal species***. Limited information on distribution in the project area. Unknown distribution limits potential management feedback.
Gastropods					
Desert Valvata (*Valvata utahensis*)	SGCN, BLM Type 1, USFWS ESA Delisted 2010	Historically observed within the MWMA landscape, but current population status is unknown.	Populations are sensitive to changes in water quality; livestock, agricultural runoff, housing or industrial development, and mining are potential causes of degraded water quality. Small dam construction and extensive diversions may also impact aquatic habitats.	Protection of the remaining free-flowing mainstream and cold-water spring habitats in occupied reaches of the Bear River, stabilization of water levels, improvement of water quality and control of exotic species.	***Unsuitable as a focal species***. Limited information on distribution in the project area. Unknown distribution limits potential management feedback.
Bivalves					
California Floater (*Anodonta californiensis*)	SGCN, BLM Type-3	Historically observed within the MWMA landscape, but current population status is unknown.	Populations are sensitive to changes in water quality; livestock, agricultural runoff, housing or industrial development, and mining are potential causes of degraded water quality. Small dam construction and extensive diversions may also impact aquatic habitats. The loss of appropriate host fish populations is also a threat.	Research is necessary to determine current distribution, population sizes, and population trends throughout the state. Efforts are also needed to evaluate and prioritize site-level threats and conservation needs.	***Unsuitable as a focal species.*** Limited information on distribution within the MWMA landscape. Unknown distribution limits potential management feedback.
Plants					
Red Glasswort (*Salicornia rubra*)	State rank S-2, BLM Type-4	Documented occurrence within MWMA landscape. Current population status is unknown.	Changes to hydrologic regime are main threat. Erosion, compaction and invasive species can have a negative impact.	Maintain current hydrologic conditions. Avoid any traffic through known habitat.	***Unsuitable as a focal species***. Limited information on distribution in the project area. Unknown distribution limits potential management feedback.
Starveling Milkvetch (*Astragalus jejunus*)	State rank S-2, BLM Type-2, USFS Sensitive	Documented occurrence within MWMA landscape. Current population status is unknown.	Livestock trampling, prospecting/mining, road building and alterations, and off road vehicle use can have a negative impact to this species.	Surveys are needed to determine the current status and distribution of populations in the state. These data are necessary to identify site-specific conservation priorities and needs.	***Unsuitable as a focal species***. Limited information on distribution in the project area. Unknown distribution limits potential management feedback.

Selection of Conservation Targets

The biodiversity of 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 MWMA.

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

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

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

Elk and Mule Deer

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

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

Brewer's Sparrow

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

- Upland habitat types associated with Brewer's sparrow benefit several species evaluated in Table 1 not fully covered by other Conservation Targets. Efforts to sustain Brewer's sparrow by conserving associated habitat components will also benefit a wide range of other species including sensitive species.
- Brewer's sparrow depends on specific qualitative attributes of sage-steppe habitat that are not addressed simply by expanding the extent of sagebrush on MWMA. By identifying

Brewer's sparrow as a Conservation Target, we are seeking to maintain and restore highly functional sage-steppe that will benefit many other more generalist species that rely to some degree on sagebrush.
- Upland habitat associated with sensitive species can be mapped and monitored on MWMA and the adjacent landscape.

Northern Leopard Frog

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

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

Coverage Assessment of Selected Conservation Targets

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

Regional Habitat and other staff worked together to complete the coverage assessment table (Table 2). We evaluated each of the Conservation Targets to determine which species from Table 1 would benefit from management activities focused on that target. Evaluations are based on knowledge of species habitat requirements, occurrence within the management landscape, and the scope of current and planned management actions. The assessment considered only those habitat features or needs relevant to the species as it occurs on the management landscape. Our results indicate that the selected Conservation Targets on MWMA provide substantial, but variable habitat benefits for an array of assessed species.

We also evaluated which species or guilds would receive little or no tangible benefit from management actions for specific Conservation Targets; these are designated "conservation needs." We identified conservation needs for several species or guilds and determined that further data will be useful to inform the next WMA planning process. A prudent management strategy is to consider a landscape where these species may be prioritized for management in the future. Broad strategies for addressing these management needs are identified in the following

Management Program Table (pages 32-36), 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	**Elk and Mule Deer**	**Brewer's Sparrow**	**Northern Leopard Frog**	**Conservation Need**
Elk and Mule Deer	X	P	P	
Canada Lynx	P			Yes
Idaho Pocket Gopher	P	X	P	
Merriam's Shrew	P	X	P	
Myotis Guild			X	Yes
N. American wolverine	P	P		Yes
Pygmy Rabbit	P	X		
Uinta Chipmunk	P	X		
Greater Sage-grouse	P	X	P	
Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse	P	P	P	
Brewer's Sparrow	P	X	P	
Sandhill Crane	P	P	P	
Transitional Waterbird Guild			X	
Bald Eagle			P	
Northern Goshawk	P			Yes
Peregrine Falcon	P	P	P	
Flammulated Owl	P	P	P	
Great Gray Owl	P		P	Yes
Common Garter Snake	P		P	
Northern Leopard Frog	P		X	
Bonneville Cutthroat Trout	P		P	
Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout	P		P	
Northern Leatherside Chub	P		P	
Bluehead Sucker	P		P	
Desert Valvata	P		P	
California Floater	P		P	
Red Glasswort			P	Yes
Starveling Milkvetch	P	P		Yes

[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.

Montpelier 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 29) to represent each MWMA Priority (page 21) 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: Elk and Mule Deer Winter Range					
Conservation Target: Elk and Mule Deer					
Scope	**Management Direction**	**Performance Target**	**Strategy**	**Metric**	**Compass Objective (Appendix I)**
MWMA	Elk, and Mule deer winter forage and security	Create an accurate vegetation map of MWMA by 2023	With support from other programs, ground truth and further refine ReGap mapping	Vegetation map completed	A, B, C, E, F, H
		Maintain 1,700 acres of vegetation for adequate forage, security and thermal cover	Mow, burn, and control grazing to maintain diverse, well balanced and productive plant communities	Acres maintained	
		Monitor 2100 acres and treat 50 acres annually to control noxious weeds	Use chemical, mechanical, biological and educational methods to control noxious weed infestations.	Acres treated	
		Maintain two miles of boundary fences annually	Work with neighboring landowners to maintain fencing	Miles of fence maintained	
		Remove trespass cattle from MWMA promptly (at a maximum, within the timeframe outlined in the Idaho State Trespass of Animals [Title 25, Chapter 22] or Estrays [Title 25, Chapter 23] Laws, whichever is applicable)	Work with neighboring landowners, local Brand Inspector and/or Sheriff to ensure trespass cattle are removed	Lawful removal of trespass cattle	
		Monitor two established vegetation transects by 2016, and then every five years	Supported by other programs, collect and analyze vegetation data from established transects	Data collected and analyzed	
		Monitor big game mortality due to vehicle collisions	Supported by other programs road kill history reviewed (U.S. Hwy 30 and U.S. Hwy 89) and current conditions monitored	Collisions reduced	
			Supported by other programs road kill concentration areas (U.S. Hwy and U.S. Highway 89) identified and addressed through collaboration with highway authorities		
MWMA and Landscape	Elk, and Mule deer security	Monitor winter disturbance	Compliance with motorized travel rules enforced and human entry to MWMA restricted under severe winter conditions	Violations detected	A, B, C, E, F, H
			Winter/spring recreation monitored and evaluated for potential conflicts	Conflicts detected	
			Predator activity monitored and predator control initiated if warranted	Predator controls initiated	
		Monitor for disease, toxins and malnutrition	Supported by other programs, collect samples for possible West Nile virus, brucellosis, chronic wasting disease and toxins	Animals affected	
			Monitor weather conditions, elk and mule deer body condition		
	Population monitoring	Monitor wintering elk and mule deer numbers	Supported by Wildlife Bureau survey wintering big game numbers on MWMA and MWMA landscape as funding allows	Survey completed	
Landscape	Elk, and Mule deer migration corridors	Create map depicting connectivity between summer and winter range by 2023	Collaborate with private landowners and government agencies to identify important migration corridors	Maps completed	A, B, C, E, F, H
		Identify and map current or potential migration impediments by 2023	Supported by other programs roadkill history reviewed and current conditions adjacent to MWMA monitored		
			Collaborate with landowners and government agencies to identify impediments		

WMA Priority: Elk and Mule Deer Winter Range					
Conservation Target: Elk and Mule Deer					
Scope	**Management Direction**	**Performance Target**	**Strategy**	**Metric**	**Compass Objective (Appendix I)**
Landscape	Protect and promote additional Elk and Mule deer habitat	Provide long term protection to 1,000 acres of habitat by 2023	Working with willing sellers, acquire additional lands through fee title, easement, lease or legal agreement as opportunities arise	Map completed	A, B, C, E, F, H
		Improve 2,500 acres of habitat by 2023	Through the Habitat Improvement Program, Mule Deer Initiative, Farm Bill Coordinator, public outreach and technical assistance (BLM, NRCS, USFS.) encourage and facilitate improvement of transition or winter range	Acres protected	
WMA Priority: Upland Game and Other Wildlife Production					
Conservation Target: Brewer's Sparrow					
Scope	**Management Direction**	**Performance Target**	**Strategy**	**Metric**	**Compass Objective (Appendix I)**
MWMA	Upland game habitat	Protect and enhance 2,000 acres of habitat	Balance other wildlife management needs and recreational use with habitat requirements for upland game species	Acres protected	B, C, F, G, H
			Assist promotion of local awareness of existing species and habitat needs		
			Provide nesting/brood rearing, foraging, storm cover habitat		
		Monitor 2100 acres and treat 50 acres annually to control noxious weeds	Use chemical, mechanical, biological and educational methods to control noxious weed infestations	Acres treated	
		Maintain two miles of boundary fences annually	Work with neighboring landowners to maintain fencing	Miles of fence maintained	
		Remove trespass cattle from MWMA promptly (at a maximum, within the timeframe outlined in the Idaho State Trespass of Animals [Title 25, Chapter 22] or Estrays [Title 25, Chapter 23] Laws, whichever is applicable)	Work with neighboring landowners, local Brand Inspector and/or Sheriff to ensure trespass cattle are removed	Lawful removal of trespass cattle	
	Sensitive species and nongame upland habitat	Complete updated species list and mapped breeding territories by 2019 with emphasis on sensitive gastropods, insects, reptiles, birds and mammals (Appendices VI and VII)	Supported by other programs conduct surveys of migratory and breeding species	Surveys conducted/lists published	
		Protect and enhance 2,000 acres of nesting/brood rearing, foraging, storm cover and hibernaculum habitat	Balance other wildlife management needs and recreational use with habitat requirements for sensitive and nongame species	Acres protected	
			Assist promotion of local awareness of existing species and habitat needs		
		Monitor gating of two mine adits	Supported by other agencies and programs assure protection of mine adit hibernacula	Adits gated	
		Monitor 2100 acres and treat 50 acres annually to control noxious weeds	Use chemical, mechanical, biological and educational methods to control noxious weed infestations and limit the spread of noxious weeds	Acres treated	
		Maintain two miles of boundary fences annually	Work with neighboring landowners to maintain fencing	Miles of fence maintained	
		Remove trespass cattle from MWMA promptly (at a maximum, within the timeframe outlined in the Idaho State Trespass of Animals [Title 25, Chapter 22] or Estrays [Title 25, Chapter 23] Laws, whichever is applicable)	Work with neighboring landowners, local Brand Inspector and/or Sheriff to ensure trespass cattle are removed	Lawful removal of trespass cattle	

WMA Priority: Upland Game and Other Wildlife Production					
Conservation Target: Brewer's Sparrow					
Scope	**Management Direction**	**Performance Target**	**Strategy**	**Metric**	**Compass Objective (Appendix I)**
MWMA and Landscape	Upland game habitat	Provide long term protection to 1,000 acres of habitat by 2023	Working with willing sellers, acquire additional lands through fee title, easement, lease or legal agreement as opportunities arise	Acres protected	B, C, F, G, H
		Improve 2,500 acres of habitat by 2023	Through the Habitat Improvement Program, Mule Deer Initiative, Farm Bill Coordinator, public outreach and technical assistance, encourage and facilitate improvement of mountain brush and shrub-steppe with functioning understory component, through plantings and control of wildfire, trespass grazing and invasive plants		
		Monitor for disease, toxins and other impacts	Supported by other programs, collect samples from suspect mortalities for possible West Nile virus, and toxins	Samples collected	
		Improve half mile of degraded riparian habitat by 2023	Support other programs to monitor beaver activity, address depredations	Stream miles improved	
			Support other programs to monitor Bonneville cutthroat trout and other game fish populations with emphasis on Bear River		
			Through the Habitat Improvement Program, Mule Deer Initiative, Farm Bill Coordinator, public outreach and technical assistance, encourage and facilitate improvement of riparian areas from excessive and trespass grazing with maintained fencing or improved pasture management		
	Population monitoring	Track grouse lek attendance and search for other leks on the MWMA landscape	Support other programs to track and record breeding activity on MWMA landscape	Leks located and monitored	
		Monitor for disease, toxins and other impacts	Supported by other programs, observed mortalities monitored, addressed and reported and collect samples for possible West Nile virus and toxins	Samples collected	
Landscape	Sensitive species and nongame upland habitat	Provide long term protection to 1,000 acres of habitat by 2023	Working with willing sellers, acquire additional lands through fee title, easement, lease or legal agreement as opportunities arise	Acres protected	B, C, F, G, H
		Improve 2,500 acres of habitat by 2023	Through the Habitat Improvement Program, Mule Deer Initiative, Farm Bill Coordinator, public outreach and technical assistance (BLM, NRCS, USFS.) encourage and facilitate off-site protection and restoration of nongame breeding and wintering areas		
	Sensitive species and nongame population monitoring	Survey nongame and sensitive species by 2018, and then every ten years	Supported by other programs, identified populations monitored	Surveys completed	
		Monitor for disease, toxins and other impacts	Supported by other programs, collect samples for possible West Nile virus, white-nose syndrome (bats) and other diseases or toxins	Samples collected	

WMA Priority: Upland Game and Other Wildlife Production					
Conservation Target: Northern Leopard Frog					
Scope	**Management Direction**	**Performance Target**	**Strategy**	**Metric**	**Compass Objective (Appendix I)**
MWMA	Sensitive species, nongame and other game wetland and riparian habitat	Complete updated species list and mapped breeding territories by 2018 with emphasis on sensitive bivalves, gastropods, insects, fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals (Appendices VI and VII)	Supported by other programs conduct surveys of migratory and breeding species	Surveys conducted/lists published	B, C, F, G, H
		Create stream corridor vegetation map over one mile of Montpelier Creek by 2018	Supported by other programs record species composition within 30 feet of high water mark	Miles surveyed and mapped	
			Monitor vegetation composition, structure and condition		

WMA Priority: Upland Game and Other Wildlife Production					
Conservation Target: Northern Leopard Frog					
Scope	**Management Direction**	**Performance Target**	**Strategy**	**Metric**	**Compass Objective (Appendix I)**
MWMA	Sensitive species, nongame and other game wetland and riparian habitat	Protect and enhance 100 acres of nesting/brood rearing, foraging, and storm cover habitat	Balance other wildlife management needs and recreational use with habitat requirements for sensitive and nongame species	Acres protected	B, C, F, G, H
			Assist promotion of local awareness of existing species and habitat needs		
		Monitor 2100 acres and treat 50 acres annually to control noxious weeds	Use chemical, mechanical, biological and educational methods to control noxious weed infestations and limit the spread of noxious weeds	Acres treated	
		Maintain two miles of boundary fences annually	Work with neighboring landowners to maintain fencing	Miles of fence maintained	
		Remove trespass cattle from MWMA promptly (at a maximum, within the timeframe outlined in the Idaho State Trespass of Animals [Title 25, Chapter 22] or Estrays [Title 25, Chapter 23] Laws, whichever is applicable)	Work with neighboring landowners, local Brand Inspector and/or Sheriff to ensure trespass cattle are removed	Lawful removal of trespass cattle	
Landscape	Sensitive species, nongame and other game wetland and riparian habitat	Provide long term protection to 1,000 acres of habitat by 2023	Working with willing sellers, acquire additional lands through fee title, easement, lease or legal agreement as opportunities arise	Acres protected	B, C, F, G, H
		Improve 2,500 acres of habitat by 2023	Through the Habitat Improvement Program, Mule Deer Initiative, Farm Bill Coordinator, public outreach and technical assistance, encourage and facilitate improvement of riparian areas from excessive and trespass grazing with maintained fencing or improved pasture management		
	Sensitive species and nongame population monitoring	Survey nongame and sensitive species by 2018, and then every ten years	Supported by other programs, identified populations monitored	Surveys completed	
		Monitor for disease, toxins and other impacts	Supported by other programs, collect samples for possible West Nile virus, chytrid fungus (*Chytridiomycosis*-amphibians) and other diseases and toxins	Samples collected	
WMA Priority: Public Hunting					
Scope	**Management Direction**	**Performance Target**	**Strategy**	**Metric**	**Compass Objective (Appendix I)**
MWMA	Information aids	Maintain one on site information center	Information center off U.S. Highway 89 maintained with posted information and stocked with maps and informational brochures including MWMA brochure and use restrictions	Information center maintained	A, E, F, G
		Provide off site information	Maps and brochures updated and available web based and at local vendors	Information updated and available	
			Newsletters updated at least annually and available web based and at local vendors		
		Provide directional signage, entrance sign, and boundaries marked every 660 feet	Routes, entrances, boundaries and facilities marked with maintained signage	Signs maintained	
	Facilities and hunting areas	Maintain one parking area	Parking area off U.S. Highway 89 mowed, graded, graveled as needed	Parking area maintained	
		Provide 2,100 acres of accessible cover	Access to forest woodland, mountain brush, shrub-steppe and riparian	Acres provided	
Landscape	Off-site access	Provide additional public access	Cooperate with adjacent land managers to facilitate public access	Additional acres available	A, E, F, G
			Working with willing sellers, acquire additional lands through fee title, easement, lease or legal agreement as opportunities arise		

WMA Priority: General Wildlife Appreciation					
Scope	**Management Direction**	**Performance Target**	**Strategy**	**Metric**	**Compass Objective (Appendix I)**
MWMA	Information aids	Maintain one on site information center	Information center off U.S. Highway 89 posted with information including interpretive displays and stocked with maps and informational brochures including MWMA brochure and use restrictions	Information center maintained	A, E, F, G
		Provide off site information	Maps, brochures and interpretive information updated and available web based and at local vendors	Information updated and available	
			Species lists, local history and geology available web based		
			Newsletters updated at least annually and available web based and at local vendors		
		Provide directional signage, entrance sign, and boundaries marked every 660 feet	Routes, entrance, boundaries and facilities marked with maintained signage	Signs maintained	
	Facilities and viewing areas	Maintain one parking area	Parking area off U.S. Highway 89 mowed, graded, graveled as needed	Parking areas and trails maintained	
	Public trapping	Accommodate trapping opportunity	Provide WMA restrictions (consideration for other use) and require trapping report for MWMA use	Trapping reports	
	Miscellaneous use	Survey year-round public use by 2018, and then every 10 years	With systematic sampling scheme assess year-round public use and user satisfaction	Use surveyed and reported	
			Solicit input through newsletters, surveys, public meetings and personal contact		
		Patrol once per month	Limit motorized access or other activity that could negatively impact habitat or legitimate use	Violations detected	
	Education	Promote educational opportunities	Educational tours hosted on request, all facilities available for youth hunts or educational functions	Requests accommodated	
	Neighbor relations	Control noxious weeds and other pests over 2,100 acres	Supported by Bear Lake County and weed cooperatives, monitor and control noxious weeds through approved and current methods	Acres controlled	G, J, K
		Prevent inadvertent trespass by MWMA users	All facilities and boundaries clearly marked	Boundaries marked	
		Manage two easements	Easement and rights accommodated without negative impact to the MWMA mission or impacts adequately mitigated	Easements managed	
	Infrastructure and equipment	Maintain infrastructure and equipment	Anticipate needs and budget accordingly	Infrastructure and equipment maintained	M
			Schedule routine maintenance		
Landscape	Off-site access	Provide additional public access	Cooperate with adjacent land managers to facilitate public access	Additional acres available	A, E, F, G, H, I
			Supported by other programs promote Access Yes and periodically report on Access Yes properties offered within MWMA landscape		
			Working with willing sellers, acquire additional lands through fee title, easement, lease or legal agreement as opportunities arise		
	Neighbor relations	Track and minimize depredations	Supported by other programs track depredations occurring within MWMA landscape with particular focus on elk, mule deer and sandhill crane	Depredations tracked	G, J, K

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.

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

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

Compliance Monitoring

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

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

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

Biological Monitoring

Wildlife Management Areas across the state have a range of established biological monitoring programs and needs. Additional monitoring needs may have been identified during development of the 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. Past biological monitoring has included:

Big Game Winter Population Surveys

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

Sage-grouse and Sharp-tailed Grouse Lek Surveys

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

Vegetation Monitoring

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

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

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

Montpelier WMA User Surveys

User information has been gathered on the MWMA using volunteer sign-in boxes since 2009. The sign-in boxes will be continued. Additional techniques such as traffic counters may also be employed in the future. A year-round systematic random survey will also be a high priority.

Table 3. Monitoring for Montpelier WMA, 2014-2023.

Performance Target	**Survey Type**	**Survey Frequency**
Monitor two established vegetation transects every five years	Vegetation structure and diversity	Every five years
Monitor wintering big game herd numbers	Supported by Wildlife Bureau survey wintering big game numbers on MWMA and MWMA landscape	As Wildlife Bureau priority allows
Identified breeding populations monitored (nongame and sensitive species)	Presence/absence	Every 10 years
Survey year-round public use and user satisfaction	Systematic sampling through on site and web-based surveys	Every 10 years beginning in 2018

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Appendices

I. THE COMPASS – THE DEPARTMENT'S STRATEGIC PLAN

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

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

II. HISTORY

Montpelier WMA is a small part of a once heavily stocked winter range for mule deer. Phosphate mining and livestock use have made serious inroads into this critical habitat. When the Department acquired land from the Stauffer Chemical Company in 1971, the bitterbrush and some sagebrush was hedged so severely that virtually no forage was available to deer in the winter. Subsequent reduction in deer numbers and removal of livestock has allowed rejuvenation of browse species. By 1985, the bitterbrush had responded well.

Later in 1971, the Department purchased an additional 776 acres. An additional 320 acres was acquired in 1974 and another 78 acres in 1985. The BLM included an adjacent 505 acres of federal land in a cooperative wildlife/range management program for this section of the Montpelier Canyon "front." The Department leases 320 acres of IDL land that adjoins the previous purchases, the BLM land, and USFS lands to the north and east.

Of the 558 acres given to the Department by the Stauffer Chemical Company, approximately 350 acres had been stripped for the surface mining of phosphate. A portion of the mined land had been used as a shooting range by a local rod and gun club. As part of the purchase agreement, Bear Lake County has used the pit area as a sanitary landfill. In 1997, approximately 420 acres of the landfill and surrounding property was deeded back to Bear Lake County. Although the agreement included assurances that the shooting range on the property would remain accessible to the public, the Department has no further management interest in that parcel. The Department retained ownership and management responsibility for the balance of the former mine property. It includes the riparian area along Montpelier Creek and a small storage shed near the landfill access road. Former mining claims also include two adits into the south facing slope of Montpelier Canyon. Both entrances were gated off by IDL in recent years in the interest of public safety and to preserve bat habitat.

Department developments to date include boundary fences, a parking area, and informational signing. The parking corral was refurbished in 2010. A well is located near a historical agricultural field in the center of the area, but has not been used since the Department acquired the property. Formerly cultivated fields have returned to a shrub-steppe habitat type.

The habitat management program for MWMA has included techniques such as planting desirable forage species for elk and mule deer, fertilization of selected areas and exclusion of livestock. Ten thousand bitterbrush seedlings were planted in the mid-1970s, shortly after the area came into Department ownership. Bitterbrush and small burnett were seeded by broadcast method in 1989. Another 2,500 bitterbrush seedlings were planted in 1995 following a wildfire, and then again in 1997. The most recent shrub planting was also the most extensive when 15,000 bitterbrush seedlings were planted by contract in 2011. Vegetation transects were established in the early 1990s following a fertilization experiment, but due to time constraints monitoring has not been repeated since 2006. Each year approximately 30 acres are monitored and treated for noxious weeds. Canada thistle, musk thistle, dyer's woad, houndstongue, black henbane and leafy spurge are treated through chemical, mechanical, and biological control methods.

MWMA is managed along with three other WMAs by the Regional Wildlife Biologist assigned to the East Habitat District of the Southeast Region under the supervision of the Regional Habitat Manager. The habitat management program is focused primarily on vegetation management in order to carry out the mission of enhancing elk and mule deer winter range and providing quality habitat for other wildlife and fish.

III. MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS AND AUTHORITIES

Federal funds, including those derived from the Land and Water Conservation Fund and USFWS Federal Aid Program, have been used in part to acquire and manage 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. VISITOR USE DATA AND USER SURVEY

Voluntary sign-in stations to assess public use have been maintained on MWMA since 2009. Visitors are asked to register their visit using at a sign-in box. The following table indicates documented types of use compiled mostly from the voluntary sign-in station at the parking area off of U.S. Highway 89.

Montpelier WMA user visits based on voluntary registration (2009-2013).

Entries	Visitors	Hunting	Viewing	Other
17	33	13	9	11

Access Facilities

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

One parking area is provided off of U.S. Highway 89, but is not maintained during winter months. The parking area also serves as an "information center" and is stocked with maps and brochures including pertinent harvest regulations. The parking area is equipped with a "horse stile" intended to facilitate foot and horse travel while restricting motorized vehicles.

Educational Use

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

Restrictions and Special Use

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

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

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

2012 USER SURVEY

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

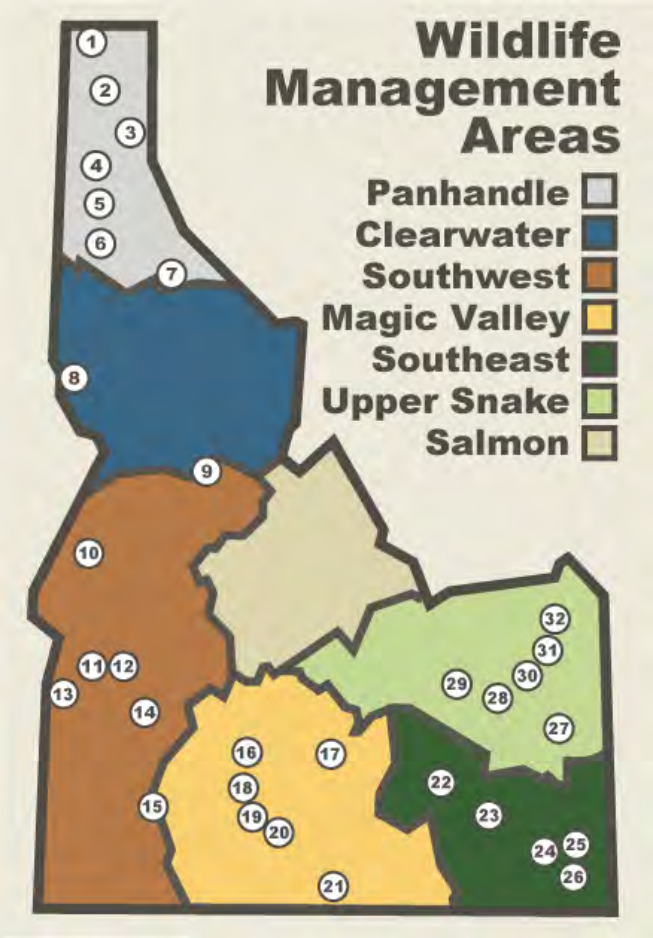
If you have any questions about the management of the WMA contact the regional office associated with that WMA.

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

   ☐ Yes ☐ No

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

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



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

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

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

_____WMA (please write the WMA you spent time at)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

_____

_____

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

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

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

_____ Social media (such as Facebook or Twitter)

_____ Television

_____ Word of mouth

_____ Other internet site, please list: _____

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

_____

_____

IDFG manages Idaho WMAs to achieve these goals:

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

9. Do you agree with these goals?

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

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

_____

_____

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

_____ State taxes

_____ Federal taxes

_____ Idaho Fish & Game license sales

_____ I don't know

_____ Other, please describe _____

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

    _____
    _____

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

    _____
    _____

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

☐ Yes ☐ No

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

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

    City: _____ State: _____

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

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

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

Email: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____

City, ST: _____

Zip code: _____

V. 1999-2013 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Since the 1999 Montpelier WMA Plan approval, the following accomplishments have occurred:

Goal: Provide secure winter habitat for big game and year-round habitat for fish, upland game, and nongame wildlife.

Objective: Provide winter forage for mule deer and elk to maintain health of herds and reduce the incidence of depredations and highway mortalities.

Accomplishments:

- Forage has been protected from trespass livestock with boundary fencing where needed. Two and one half miles of fence are maintained.
- Fifteen thousand bitterbrush seedlings were planted on the MWMA in 2011.
- Emergency big game feeding was conducted on or near MWMA in accordance with statewide policy in 2008. Deer were fed to prevent damage to private property, protect public safety, and prevent excessive deer mortality due to vehicle collisions.
- We worked with the Idaho Department of Transportation to provide recommendations and comments for U.S. Highway 89 traffic control, signage, and construction to minimize vehicle-caused deer mortality.
- Vegetation transects were measured annually up through 2006 but were not measured after that due to time and funding constraints.
- Annually chemically treated 30 acres of noxious weeds.

Objective: Provide winter security for wildlife.

Accomplishments:

- Non-motorized public access, such as cross-country skiing, is allowed. Signs were placed at access sites addressing wintering big game. In the event of a severe winter (as defined in the regional winter feeding advisory guidelines), the MWMA may be closed to ANY human entry to reduce the stress to wintering wildlife.
- Information signs were placed on all areas explaining the purpose of the motorized access closure.
- Boundaries were clearly marked and roads gated to prevent closed-season entry by motorized vehicles.
- All gates and information signs were maintained annually.
- Tall brush and trees were retained for security and thermal cover by excluding riparian areas from fire and herbicide treatments.
- Big game winter use was monitored in conjunction with regional big game aerial surveys as time and funding allowed.
- Upland game populations were not formally monitored, but records of sightings were kept.

Objective: Maintain or increase populations of nongame wildlife species.

Accomplishments:

- Maintained and improved the diversity of vegetation types by annually excluding livestock grazing and planting 15,000 bitterbrush plants in 2011.
- Evaluated needs for nongame wildlife and provided developments as necessary.
- Cooperated with IDL and Department Wildlife Diversity Program to gate two mine adits used as bat hibernacula.
- Considered non-target and sensitive species before habitat manipulation practices were put into effect.
- Annually chemically treated over 30 acres of noxious weeds.

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

Objective: Manage type and timing of use.

Accomplishments:

- Security for game animals is maintained during the hunting season by limiting access to foot and horse traffic only.
- Horse access is allowed, but no facilities are provided, other than parking.
- Access maps are available at parking areas and vehicular access points.
- Primitive camping is allowed, but no facilities are provided.
- Non-motorized public access, such as cross-country skiing, is allowed. Signs were placed at access sites addressing wintering big game. In the event of a severe winter (as defined in the regional winter feeding advisory guidelines), the MWMA may be closed to ANY human entry to reduce the stress to wintering wildlife.

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

Objective: Control dyer's woad, whitetop, henbane, houndstongue, leafy spurge and thistle on MWMA.

Accomplishments:

- Noxious weed problem areas were identified and mapped.
- Seasonal temporary employees and permanent staff applied chemical herbicides to over 30 acres annually using a truck sprayer, four-wheelers, and backpack sprayers.
- Logs documenting details of chemical and biological weed treatments were maintained.
- Biological insect control was used for leafy spurge.

- Spraying began as early as possible in the spring and continued throughout the growing season as time and funding allowed.
- Habitat personnel maintained logs documenting chemical and biological weed treatments.
- Location of insect releases will be mapped and inspected to monitor effectiveness.
- Worked with Bear Lake County weed supervisor to identify and help control noxious weeds by participating in training and remaining apprised of new weed control problems.

Goal: Establish all boundaries and address other common concerns.

Objective: Clearly mark boundaries.

Accomplishments:

- Surveyed boundaries that are not established.
- Boundary markers were placed on perimeter of MWMA.
- Common fences were cooperatively maintained.
- Resolved property boundary confusion; two neighbors had encroached over property lines prior to Department acquisition.

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

Objective: Purchase land adjacent to WMAs.

Accomplishments:

- Identified land that was offered for sale and/or that falls within guidelines.
- Approached owners with proposals that follow all Department policies.
- Neighbors and other agencies were made aware that the Department is interested in land purchases from willing sellers that fit Department policies.
- Informed county commission of any acquisition plans.
- Identified land that may be acquired through trades with other individuals and/or agencies.

Objective: Acquire easements on lands that have high wildlife value and are not for sale.

Accomplishments:

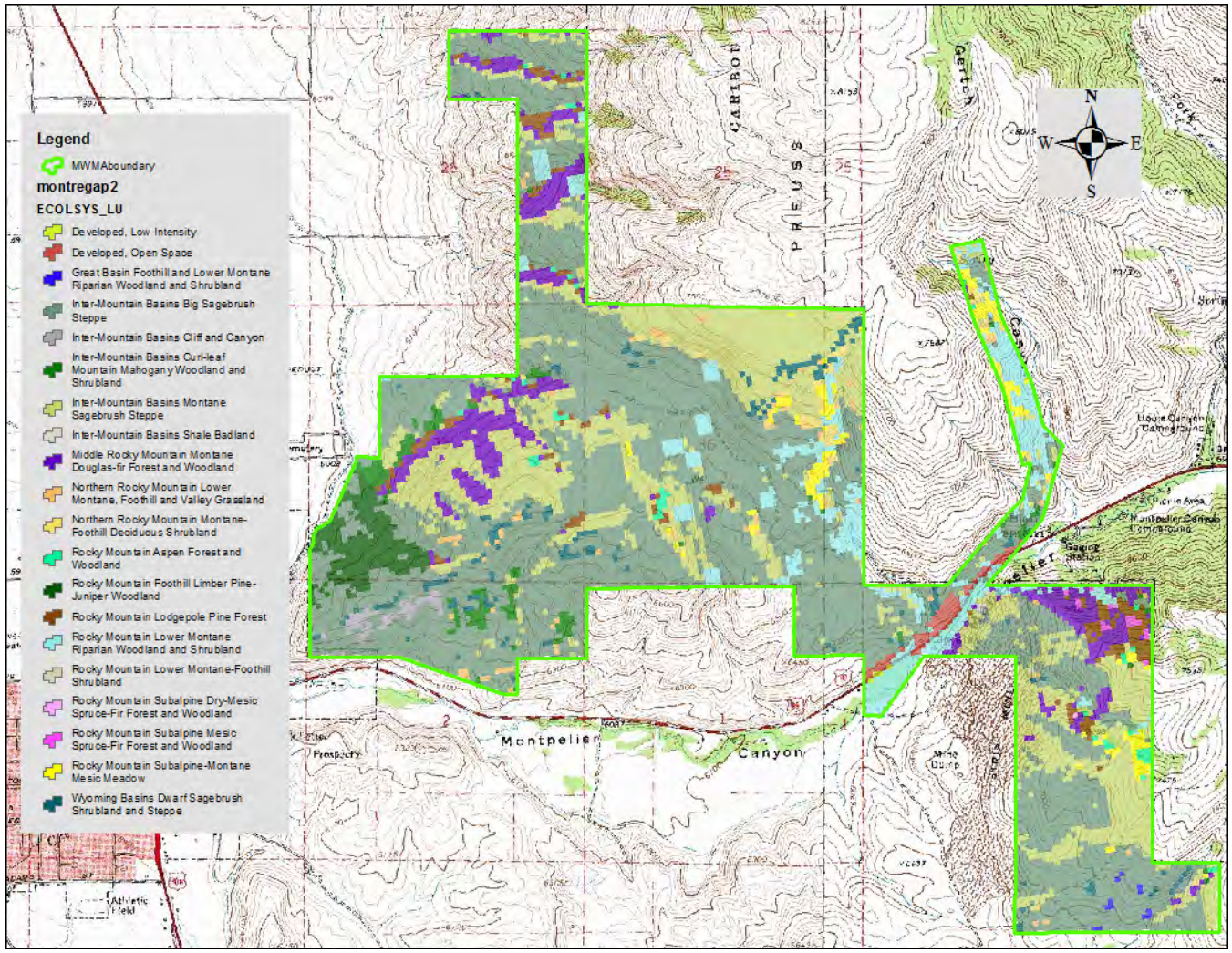
- Identified land that is not for sale but that is deemed to have important wildlife values.
- Approached owners with easement options.

VI. VEGETATION

Cover Types

Northwest GAP Analysis Project Land Cover, version 2.0 spatial data (U.S. Geological Survey, Gap Analysis Program, Moscow, Idaho; http://gapanalysis.usgs.gov) was used to estimate the ecological system type composition of MWMA (Some obvious misclassifications; e.g., Middle Rocky Mountain Montane Douglas-Fir Forest Woodland over count in known sagebrush types; have been corrected by combining with verified adjacent types).

Ecological System	Acres	Percentage
Inter-Mountain Basins Big Sagebrush Steppe	1,138	53%
Inter-Mountain Basins Montane Sagebrush Steppe	530	25%
Rocky Mountain Lower Montane Riparian Woodland and Shrubland	64	3%
Rocky Mountain Foothill Limber Pine-Juniper Woodland	52	2%
Middle Rocky Mountain Montane Douglas-fir Forest and Woodland	47	2%
Rocky Mountain Lodgepole Pine Forest	45	2%
Wyoming Basins Dwarf Sagebrush Shrubland and Steppe	40	2%
Rocky Mountain Subalpine-Montane Mesic Meadow	36	2%
Inter-Mountain Basins Curl-leaf Mountain-Mahogany Woodland and Shrubland	7	2%
Northern Rocky Mountain Lower Montane Foothill and Valley Grassland	4	1%
Northern Rocky Mountain Foothill Deciduous Shrubland	4	1%
Developed, Open Space	3	1%
Inter-Mountain Basins Cliff and Canyon	3	1%
Rocky Mountain Aspen Forest and Woodland	2	<1%
Great Basin Foothills Lower Montane Riparian Woodland and Shrubland	<1	<1%
Rocky Mountain Subalpine Mesic Spruce Fir Forest Woodland	<1	<1%
Inter-Mountain Basins Shale Badland	<1	<1%
Developed Low Intensity	<1	<1%
Rocky Mountain Lower Montane-Foothill Shrubland	<1	<1%
Rocky Mountain Subalpine Dry-Mesic Spruce-Fir Forest Woodland	<1	<1%



Ecological system type composition of MWMA.

Surveys

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

Plant Species List

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

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

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status Designations	Occurrence
Shrubs (cont.)			
Willow	*Salix* spp.		1
Mountain Snowberry	*Symphoricarpos oreophilus*		1
Forbs			
Western Yarrow	*Achillea millefolium*		1
Wild Onion	*Allium* spp.		1
Silver Sagebrush	*Artemisia cana*		1
Aster	*Aster* spp.		1
Starveling Milkvetch	*Astragalus jejunus*	1	2
Milkvetch	*Astragalus* spp.		1
Arrowleaf Balsamroot	*Balsamorhiza sagittata*		1
Western Sticktight	*Bidens vulgata*		2
Sego Lily	*Calochortus eurycarpus*		2
Littlepod False Flax	*Camelina microcarpa*		2
Hoary Cress	*Cardaria draba*		1
Canada Thistle	*Cirsium arvense*		1
Musk Thistle	*Cirsium nutans*		1
Bushy Birds Beak	*Cordylanthus ramosus*		1
Houndstongue	*Cynoglossum officinale*		1
Fireweed	*Epilobium angustifolium*		2
Whitestem Goldenbush	*Ericameria discoidea*		2
Daisy Fleabane	*Erigeron strigosus*		2
Buckwheat	*Eriogonum* spp.		1
Leafy Spurge	*Euphorbia esula*		1
Sticky Geranium	*Geranium richardsonii*		2
Curlycup Gumweed	*Grindelia squarrosa*		1
Hairy Gold Aster	*Heterotheca villosa*		2
Black Henbane	*Hyoscyamus niger*		1
Dyers Woad	*Isatis tinctoria*		1
Kochia	*Kochia scoparia*		1
Prickly Lettuce	*Lactuca serriola*		1
Field Cress	*Lepidium campestre*		1
Clasping Pepperweed	*Lepidium perfoliatum*		2
Western Gromwell	*Lithospermum ruderale*		2
Large-fruit Desert Parsley	*Lomatium macrocarpum*		1
Lupine	*Lupinus* spp.		1
Yellow Sweetclover	*Melilotus officinalis*		1
Penstemon	*Penstemon* spp.		1
Smartweed	*Polygonum* spp.		2
Cinquefoil	*Potentilla* spp.		1
Red Glasswort	*Salicornia rubra*	1	2
Russian Thistle	*Salsola iberica*		1
Lance-leaved Stonecrop	*Sedum lanceolatum*		2
Prairie Goldenrod	*Solidago missouriensis*		2
Scarlet Globemallow	*Sphaeralcea coccinea*		2

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status Designations	Occurrence
Forbs (cont.)			
Dandelion	*Taraxacum officinale*		1
Western Salsify	*Tragopogon dubius*		1
Violet	*Viola* spp.		2
Graminoids			
Cheatgrass	*Bromus tectorum*		1
Pine Reedgrass	*Calamagrostis rubescens*		1
Idaho Fescue	*Festuca idahoensis*		1
Basin Wildrye	*Leymus cinereus*		1
Oniongrass	*Melica bulbosa*		1
Indian Ricegrass	*Oryzopsis hymenoides*		1
Western Wheatgrass	*Pascopyrum smithii*		1
Bulbous Bluegrass	*Poa bulbosa*		1
Nevada Bluegrass	*Poa nevadense*		1
Kentucky Bluegrass	*Poa pratensis*		1
Bluebunch Wheatgrass	*Pseudoroegneria spicata*		1
Primitive Plants			
Common Horsetail	*Equisetum arvense*		1
Clubmoss	*Lycopodium* spp.		1

VII. WILDLIFE AND FISH SPECIES LIST

Surveys

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

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

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status Designations	Occurrence
Mammals			
Moose	*Alces alces*		1
Pygmy Rabbit	*Brachylagus idahoensis*	1, 3-s, 4-2	2
Coyote	*Canis latrans*		1
Beaver	*Castor canadensis*		1
Elk	*Cervus elaphus*		1
Townsend's Big-eared Bat	*Corynorhinus townsendii*	3-s, 4-3	2
Big Brown Bat	*Eptesicus fuscus*		2
Porcupine	*Erethizon dorsatum*		1
Wolverine	*Gulo gulo*		2
Sagebrush Vole	*Lagurus curtatus*		2
Silver haired Bat	*Lasionycteris noctivagans*		2
Hoary Bat	*Lasiurus cinereus*		2
Black-tailed Jackrabbit	*Lepus californicus*		1
River Otter	*Lontra canadensis*		1
Bobcat	*Lynx rufus*		1
Yellow-bellied Marmot	*Marmota flaviventris*		2
Striped Skunk	*Mephitis mephitis*		1
Long-tailed Vole	*Microtus longicaudus*		2
Mountain Vole	*Microtus montanus*		2
Water Vole	*Microtus richardsoni*		2
Weasel	*Mustela* spp.		1
Mink	*Mustela vison*		1
California Myotis	*Myotis californicus*	4-4	2
Western Small-footed Myotis	*Myotis ciliolabrum*		1
Long-eared Myotis	*Myotis evotis*		1

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status Designations	Occurrence
Mammals (cont.)			
Long-legged Myotis	*Myotis volans*		1
Yellow-pine Chipmunk	*Neotamias amoenus*		2
Uinta Chipmunk	*Neotamias umbrinus*	4-4	2
Bushy-tailed Wood Rat	*Neotoma cinerea*		1
Mule Deer	*Odocoileus hemionus*		1
Northern Grasshopper Mouse	*Onychomys leucogaster*		2
Deer Mouse	*Peromyscus maniculatus*		1
Flammulated Owl	*Psiloscops flammeolus*	3-s, 4-3	2
Merriam Shrew	*Sorex merriami*	1	2
Water Shrew	*Sorex palustris*		2
Golden-mantled Ground Squirrel	*Spermophilus lateralis*		2
Richardson's Ground Squirrel	*Spermophilus richardsonii*		1
Cottontail Rabbit	*Sylvilagus nuttallii*		1
Least Chipmunk	*Tamias minimus*		2
Red Squirrel	*Tamiasciurus hudsonicus*		2
American Badger	*Taxidea taxus*		1
Idaho Pocket Gopher	*Thomomys idahoensis*	1	2
Northern Pocket Gopher	*Thomomys talpoides*		2
Uinta Ground Squirrel	*Urocitellus armatus*		2
Black Bear	*Ursus americanus*		2
Western Jumping Mouse	*Zapus princeps*		2
Birds			
Northern Goshawk	*Accipiter gentilis*	1, 3-s, 4-3	2
Boreal Owl	*Aegolius funereus*	3-s, 4-5	2
Mallard	*Anas platyrhynchos*		1
Northern Pintail	*Anus acuta*		2
Golden Eagle	*Aquila chrysaetos*		1
Black-chinned Hummingbird	*Archilochus alexandri*		2
Great Blue Heron	*Ardea herodias*		1
Ruffed Grouse	*Bonasa umbellus*		1
Great Horned Owl	*Bubo virginianus*		2
Cattle Egret	*Bubulcus ibis*	1	2
Red-tailed Hawk	*Buteo jamaicensis*		1
Rough-legged Hawk	*Buteo lagopus*		2
Turkey Vulture	*Cathartes aura*		2
Greater Sage-grouse	*Centrocercus urophasianus*	1, 2-c, 3-s, 4-2	2
Black Tern	*Chlidonias niger*		2
Northern Harrier	*Circus cyaneus*		1
Northern Flicker	*Colaptes auratus*		1
Western Wood Pewee	*Contopus sordidulus*		1
American Crow	*Corvus brachyrhynchos*		1
Common Raven	*Corvus corax*		1
Dusky Grouse	*Dendragapus obscurus*		1

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status Designations	Occurrence
Birds (cont.)			
Snowy Egret	*Egretta thula*		2
Horned Lark	*Eremophila alpestris*		1
Brewer's Blackbird	*Euphagus cyanocephalus*		2
Merlin	*Falco columbarius*	1	2
Peregrine Falcon	*Falco peregrinus*	3-1, 4-3	2
American Kestrel	*Falco sparverius*		1
Common Snipe	*Gallinago gallinago*		2
Common Loon	*Gavia immer*		2
Sandhill Crane	*Grus canadensis*		2
Cassin's Finch	*Haemorhous cassinii*		2
House Finch	*Haemorhous mexicanus*		2
Bald Eagle	*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*	3-s, 4-1	1
Evening Grosbeak	*Hesperiphona vespertina*		2
Dark-eyed Junco	*Junco hyemalis*		1
Northern Shrike	*Lanius excubitor*		2
Song Sparrow	*Melospiza melodia*		2
Brown-headed Cowbird	*Molothrus ater*		1
Long-billed Curlew	*Numenius americanus*	4-5	2
Sage Thrasher	*Oreoscoptes montanus*		1
House Sparrow	*Passer domesticus*		2
Lazuli Bunting	*Passerina amoena*		1
Gray Partridge	*Perdix perdix*		1
Black-billed Magpie	*Pica hudsonia*		1
Three-toed Woodpecker	*Picoides dorsalis*	3-1	2
Green-tailed Towhee	*Pipilo chlorurus*		2
Rufous-sided Towhee	*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*		2
White-faced Ibis	*Plegadis chihi*	4-4	2
Black-capped Chickadee	*Poecile atricapillus*		1
Vesper Sparrow	*Pooecetes gramineus*		2
Bank Swallow	*Riparia riparia*		2
Broad-tailed Hummingbird	*Selasphorus platycercus*		2
Yellow-rumped Warbler	*Setophaga coronata*		2
Yellow Warbler	*Setophaga petechia*		2
American Goldfinch	*Spinus tristis*		2
Brewer's Sparrow	*Spizella breweri*	4-3	2
Chipping Sparrow	*Spizella passerina*		2
Foresters Tern	*Sterna forsteri*		2
Great Gray Owl	*Strix nebulosa*	1	2
European Starling	*Sturnus vulgaris*		1
Violet-green Swallow	*Tachycineta thalassina*		2
American Robin	*Turdus migratorius*		1
Eastern Kingbird	*Tyrannus tyrannus*		2
Western Kingbird	*Tyrannus verticalis*		1

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status Designations	Occurrence
Reptiles			
Rubber Boa	*Charina bottae*		2
Western Rattlesnake	*Crotalus oreganus*		2
Gopher Snake	*Pituophis catenifer*		1
Sagebrush Lizard	*Sceloporus graciosus*		1
Western Terrestrial Garter Snake	*Thamnophis elegans*		1
Common Garter Snake	*Thamnophis sirtalis*		1
Amphibians			
Tiger Salamander	*Ambystoma tigrinum*	1	2
Boreal Chorus Frog	*Pseudacris maculata*		1
Northern Leopard Frog	*Rana pipiens*	1, 4-2	1
Fish			
Utah Sucker	*Catostomus ardens*		1
Bluehead Sucker	*Catostomus discobolus*	1	2
Mountain Sucker	*Catostomus platyrhynchus*		2
Mottled Sculpin	*Cottus bairdi*		1
Utah Chub	*Gila atraria*		2
Northern Leatherside Chub	*Lepidomeda copei*	1	2
Bonneville Cutthroat Trout	*Oncorhynchus clarkii*	1	1
Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout	*Oncorhynchus clarkii bouvieri*	1	2
Mountain Whitefish	*Prosopium williamsoni*		2
Longnose Dace	*Rhinichthys cataractae*		2
Speckled Dace	*Rhinichthys osculus*		1
Redside Shiner	*Richardsonius balteatus*		1
Rainbow Trout	*Salmo gairdneri*		1
Brown Trout	*Salmo trutta*		1
Bivalves			
California Floater	*Anodonta californiensis*	4-3	2
Gastropods			
Desert Valvata	*Valvata utahensis*	1	2

VIII. LAND ACQUISITIONS, AGREEMENTS, AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Land Acquisitions – Fee Title			
Year	**Funds Used**	**Acres**	**Acquired From**
1971	Gift	137.12	Stauffer Chemical Co.
1971	PR	642.05	H. Winston Groo
1971	PR	134.40	H. Winston Groo and others
1974	FG	320.00	J. H. Loertscher
1985	HB530	78.37	J. Costello
	Subtotal	1311.94	
Leases			
Year	**Length**	**Acres**	**Acquired From**
2009	10 years	320.00	Idaho Department of Lands
	Subtotal	320.00	
Cooperative Land Agreements			
Year	**Length**	**Acres**	**Leased From**
1976	Indefinite	505.00	
	Subtotal	505.00	
	MWMA Total	**2,136.94**	

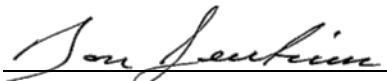
Infrastructure
1 – Parking Area/Information Center
.75 – Roads/Trails (Miles)
2.5 – Fences (Miles)
1,800 – Storage (Square Feet)
Easements / Inholdings
Montpelier Irrigation Right of Way
Idaho Power-Power Line Easement

MONTPELIER

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA PLAN

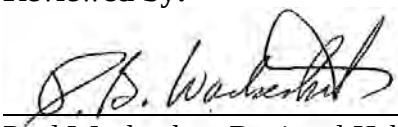
Approval

Submitted by:

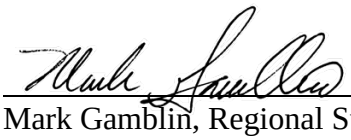


Don Jenkins, Habitat Biologist

Reviewed by:

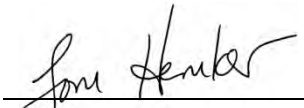


Paul Wackenhut, Regional Habitat Manager



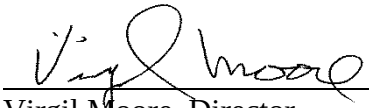
Mark Gamblin, Regional Supervisor

Sal Palazzolo, Bureau of Wildlife



Tom Hemker, State Habitat Manager

Approved by:



Virgil Moore, Director