



Payette River Wildlife Management Area



Management Plan
2014

Southwest Region



Payette River Wildlife Management Area

**2014 – 2023 Management Plan
December 2014**

Idaho Department of Fish and Game
Southwest Region
3101 South Powerline Road
Nampa, Idaho 83686

Prepared By:
Tim Shelton
Habitat Biologist, Payette River District

Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS.....	3
LIST OF TABLES	4
LIST OF FIGURES	4
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	6
INTRODUCTION	8
Regional Summary.....	8
Department Mission.....	9
Department Strategic Goals	10
Statewide WMA Vision.....	10
Payette River WMA Vision	10
Modification of Plan	10
Other Considerations	10
AREA DESCRIPTION AND CURRENT STATUS	11
MANAGEMENT ISSUES	18
Habitat Management Issues	18
Wildlife Management Issues.....	19
Public Use Management Issues	20
PAYETTE RIVER WMA MANAGEMENT PROGRAM.....	23
Summary of Management Priorities	23
Focal Species Assessment.....	24
Selection of Conservation Targets	31
Waterfowl	31
Upland Game Birds.....	31
Riparian Habitat	32
Coverage Assessment of Selected Conservation Targets	32
Spatial Delineation of Selected Focal Species/Habitat Landscapes	34
Payette River WMA Management Program Table.....	36
MONITORING.....	40
Compliance Monitoring	40
Biological Monitoring.....	40

Public Use Monitoring.....	42
Reporting.....	42
REFERENCES	43
APPENDICES	45
I. THE COMPASS – THE DEPARTMENT’S STRATEGIC PLAN	46
II. HISTORY.....	49
III. MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS AND AUTHORITIES.....	51
IV. PUBLIC INPUT SUMMARY.....	52
V. ACCOMPLISHMENTS	55
VI. VEGETATION.....	56
VII. WILDLIFE SPECIES LIST	58
VIII. OTHER PROGRAMS	63
IX. LAND ACQUISITIONS AND AGREEMENTS.....	64

List of Tables

Table 1. Status of conservation priority species on the Payette River WMA including their potential suitability as focal species for management.....	26
Table 2. Analysis of Conservation Target coverage and identification of conservation needs.	33
Table 3. Biological monitoring for Payette River WMA, 2014–2023.	41

List of Figures

Figure 1. Overview of Payette River WMA, including the Little Banks Island, Birding Island, and Emmett segments.	15
Figure 2. Map of Payette River WMA, Emmett Segment.....	16
Figure 3. Map of Payette River WMA, Birding Island Segment.....	17
Figure 4. Montour and Payette River WMAs and land ownership within the Payette Hydrologic Unit.	35



American Kestrel

Photo by Matthew Neal

Executive Summary

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

This document provides direction in the form of goals, objectives, and strategies for the management of the Payette River WMA (PRWMA), which are consistent with the Department Strategic Plan, *The Compass*. The PRWMA encompasses 1,066 acres along the Payette River in southwest Idaho. Wildlife habitats include riparian shrublands and woodlands, mesic meadows, and wetlands including nine constructed ponds. It is primarily managed for waterfowl and upland game production, hunter access, and other outdoor-orientated recreation.

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

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

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

Next, we conducted a focal species assessment to evaluate which species or conservation targets may serve to guide management of the PRWMA. Species evaluated included game, nongame, and special status species. Conservation targets could include single species, groups or guilds of species, or habitat types that represent a group or guild of species. Waterfowl, upland game birds, and riparian habitats were selected to best represent management priorities on the PRWMA. The coverage assessment of the conservation targets demonstrated that of the 34 focal species or groups evaluated, 23 would benefit from management actions for waterfowl; 11 species would benefit from management actions for upland game birds; and 14 would benefit from management actions for riparian habitat. We also evaluated how the selected conservation targets and associated management actions fit into the larger landscape beyond the PRWMA border.

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

This plan will serve as a guide for current and future managers to direct efforts and resources for maximum wildlife benefit, public enjoyment, and efficient operation. As new information and technology becomes available, and as more property is acquired, strategies may be modified to most effectively reach the goals and objectives in this plan. All goals, objectives, and strategies are dependent on adequate funding, personnel, and public support.

Introduction

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

Wildlife Management Areas often abut other protected lands such as federal lands or private lands protected by conservation easement. Due to the wildlife-focused management, WMAs often serve as highly productive core areas of the landscapes in which they exist. Management of these areas involves a combination of restoring and maintaining important natural habitats (shrub-steppe, riparian) to contribute to landscape-level habitat function, and creating hyper-productive habitats (food plots, impounded wetlands) to enhance the carrying capacity for selected wildlife species.

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

Regional Summary

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

Each WMA is managed as part of a larger habitat district, which may also include other lands owned or operated by the Department for wildlife habitat or public access. Management of lands

for wildlife habitat could not succeed without the cooperation and collaboration of many partners, with the Department as either a licensed tenant or a neighbor. Examples include Idaho Department of Lands, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, USDI Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), USDI Bureau of Land Management (BLM), USDA Forest Service (USFS), Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), Idaho Power Corporation, and other private landowners.

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

This management plan is designed to provide broad guidance for the long-term management of PRWMA. It replaces an earlier management plan written in 1999 and this updated plan was completed during 2012 and 2013 with public input. This plan is tiered off other Department plans and policies summarized below.

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

Department Mission

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

Department Strategic Goals

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

- Fish, Wildlife and Habitat: Sustain Idaho's fish and wildlife and the habitats upon which they depend.
- Fish and Wildlife Recreation: Meet the demand for fish and wildlife recreation.
- Working With Others: Improve public understanding of and involvement in fish and wildlife management.
- Management Support: Enhance the capacity of the Department to manage fish and wildlife and serve the public.

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

Statewide WMA Vision

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

Payette River WMA Vision

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

Modification of Plan

This plan provides broad, long-term management direction for PRWMA. 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 advancements in management knowledge and techniques.

Other Considerations

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

Area Description and Current Status

The Payette River Wildlife Management Area encompasses approximately 1,066 acres of scattered parcels in the Payette and Snake River drainages in Payette, Gem, and Washington counties (Figure 1). The WMA includes four main segments: the North and South Birding Islands, the Emmett segment, and Little Banks Island (Appendix II). These properties, with the exception of the gifted Little Banks Island, were purchased with Pittman Robertson and Bonneville Power Administration funds between 1960 and 2012 (Appendix III), and have been managed primarily for waterfowl and upland bird production. Public hunting also has a high priority on the PRWMA. Other recreational uses are encouraged as long as they are compatible with wildlife production and hunting uses. Presently, these areas have no livestock grazing, farming leases, or other agreements (Appendix VIII).

The Birding Island North and South segments total 845 acres, and are approximately nine miles east of the town of Payette (Figure 2). The Birding Island segments include several islands in the Payette River and adjacent sites on the mainland. There are also nine waterfowl production ponds on the Birding Island segments. Cattle grazing on the Birding Island segments was eliminated in 1995 to increase nesting cover and reduce repairs to ditches and fencing.

The 200-acre Emmett Segment is approximately three miles west of Emmett on the Payette River (Figure 3). It was also purchased with Pittman Robertson funds and is used for waterfowl and upland game bird production and user access. The segment includes a group of scattered islands, which makes this site a highly-used waterfowl production area.

The 21-acre Little Banks Island is located in the Snake River approximately one mile south of the confluence of the Snake and Payette rivers. This island was donated to the Department and provides hunter access and waterfowl production habitat.

Climate

The mean elevation of the PRWMA is about 2,300 feet above sea level. Summers are dry and warm; winters are cold and moist. Mean annual air temperature is 51° Fahrenheit (F). Temperatures range from -25° F to 108° F, with a frost free season from 140 to 160 days. Mean annual precipitation is nine to 12 inches, with snow depths averaging about 2.8 inches, and snow lasting only two months.

Soils

Soils of the Birding Island and Little Banks Island segments are placed in the Greenleaf-Myssaton soil association. Soils are composed of alluvial and lacustrine sediments. The ground is nearly level with well drained silt loams on low terraces. Soils respond well to irrigation and a variety of crops can be grown. The Emmett segment lies in the Moulton-Flak soil association. The ground is level to gently sloping and traversed by old stream channels.

Habitat

The PRWMA has some of the best quality riparian habitat remaining on the lower 30 miles of the Payette River. Elsewhere on the Payette River, changes have taken place to the river itself affecting riparian areas. Wildlife habitat on the river has been affected by channelization, construction of dikes, bank repair, and tree removal. Riparian zones provide excellent wildlife habitat by supporting a wide variety of trees, shrubs, forbs and grasses. Cottonwood, maples, locust, and other trees as well as false indigo and a variety of willows are the most common vegetation (Appendix VI). The river provides open water during cold weather which is important for wintering waterfowl.

Ponds are found throughout the PRWMA and were constructed for wildlife production and recreation. The total area occupied by the ponds on the PRWMA is less than 100 acres. Despite the limited size, these ponds provide highly valued wildlife habitat. There are two types of pond on the management area; shallow ponds and gravel ponds.

Six shallow ponds have been constructed throughout the PRWMA to produce waterfowl nesting areas. These ponds are closed to human access during the nesting season from February 1 to July 31. About 60% of the water in these ponds is less than three feet deep. These shallow waters and associated emergent vegetation provide nesting habitat as well as insect production which provide a high-protein food source for young birds. The remaining 40% of the water is between three and five feet deep, which prevents establishment of cattail or bulrush. Open water provides loafing areas protected from predators and foraging opportunities for diving ducks. Emergent and submerged aquatic vegetation found in the ponds include bulrush, cattail, rushes, sedges, pondweed, and smartweed. The ponds are frequently drained in winter to control non-native carp, which are detrimental to wetland productivity. Newly created or manipulated ponds tend to attract more shorebirds during spring migration. Shorebirds are attracted to the exposed shoreline and an increased primary productivity following the manipulation.

There are three gravel ponds on the Birding Island South side of the PRWMA. The gravel ponds were formed after gravel excavation, and as a result, have produced a warm water fishery. These ponds are open to fishing year-round.

The ponds on the mainland near the Birding Island South access site are directly downstream from the New Plymouth sewage ponds. These ponds have been documented to filter toxins and thus benefit water quality in the Payette River system.

Upland

The drier uplands are interspersed with irrigated and wetland habitats. Vegetation normally found at these sites includes sagebrush, greasewood, Russian olive, and cultivated grass/legume fields. Large blocks of greasewood and remnant sagebrush occur on the river islands and on the river bank portions of the PRWMA. Many of these areas are dominated by annual grasses and other weeds.



American Avocet

Photo by Matthew Neal

Tall wheatgrass and alfalfa plantings have been established to replace annual grasses and provide residual nesting cover for birds. These upland plantings also reduce noxious weed problems by out-competing weeds.

Wildlife

The PRWMA with its interspersed riparian, wetland, and upland habitat, provides habitat for a diversity of wildlife species (Appendix VII). The PRWMA manager maintains ponds, upland nesting cover, goose platforms, and wood duck nest boxes to support and increase local Canada goose and waterfowl production. In 1998, Canada goose pair breeding counts from the mouth of the Payette River to just below Emmett indicated there were 215 nesting pairs and 509 non-nesting individuals. Other waterfowl found on the PRWMA are mallard, gadwall, widgeon, green-winged teal, and common goldeneye. Furthermore, the area is important for migrating waterfowl and other birds. Sandhill cranes concentrate on the PRWMA during their spring migration. The juxtaposition of quality riparian habitat and nearby agricultural lands creates an ideal landscape for migrating waterfowl and cranes. These species will feed in the fields during the day and return to the river or dense riparian vegetation to roost at night.

Upland game birds that use the PRWMA include ring-necked pheasant, wild turkey, and California quail. Pheasant numbers on the PRWMA in the late 1970s and early 1980s were very high. However, by 1987, pheasants began a very noticeable decline. As in the rest of the state, they hit very low numbers in 1995. Although the PRWMA produces a fair number of wild

pheasants, additional plantings of game farm birds are needed to provide hunting opportunity throughout the entire season. During the 2012 season, 1,041 game farm pheasants were planted on the PRWMA.

In 1982, 12 female and four male Rio Grande turkeys were released on the PRWMA. The turkey population on PRWMA and the surrounding private lands has since increased, and as a result, the number of turkey permits has also increased. The increased opportunities to hunt turkeys on the PRWMA have been enjoyed by turkey hunters. Turkey numbers tend to be higher on private land, possibly because of human disturbance on the PRWMA.

Muskrats, beavers, mink, raccoons, fox, and coyotes are common residents on the PRWMA. These animals provide a harvestable surplus and depending on annual production, can provide considerable trapping opportunity.

Both mule deer and white-tailed deer are found on the PRWMA. In 1986 and 1987, between 40 and 50 whitetails were released on the Birding Island south segment. Inventory of white-tailed deer in the cottonwood bottom land is difficult. In 2012, no white-tailed deer were seen or reported. Mule deer numbers are estimated to be below 50 animals. Deer mortality is caused by automobile collisions, fence entanglements, and illegal harvest.

A number of nongame animals are found on the PRWMA. Some of these are migrant birds that concentrate on the PRWMA in fall, winter, and spring. Bald eagles are common during the winter months; for example, seven eagles were observed at one time during the winter of 2010.

Largemouth and smallmouth bass, crappie, catfish, rainbow trout, and bluegill occur in PRWMA ponds and in the Payette River. Bass are the most popular game fish.

Public Use

Annual public usage on the PRWMA continues to grow and diversify. An estimated 12,000 to 15,000 annual user days are spread out through a diverse user-group population, including sportsmen and women, paint ball enthusiasts, wildlife viewers, bird watchers, and horseback riders, just to name a few (Appendix IV). Hunting has become very competitive on the PRWMA. With some of the state's largest metropolitan areas within easy driving distance, use of this area is very high. Reducing overcrowding will be challenging, and in the future may require adopting new approaches.

Payette River Wildlife Management Area - Overview



Figure 1. Overview of Payette River WMA, including the Little Banks Island, Birding Island, and Emmett segments.

Payette River Wildlife Management Area - Birding Island Segment

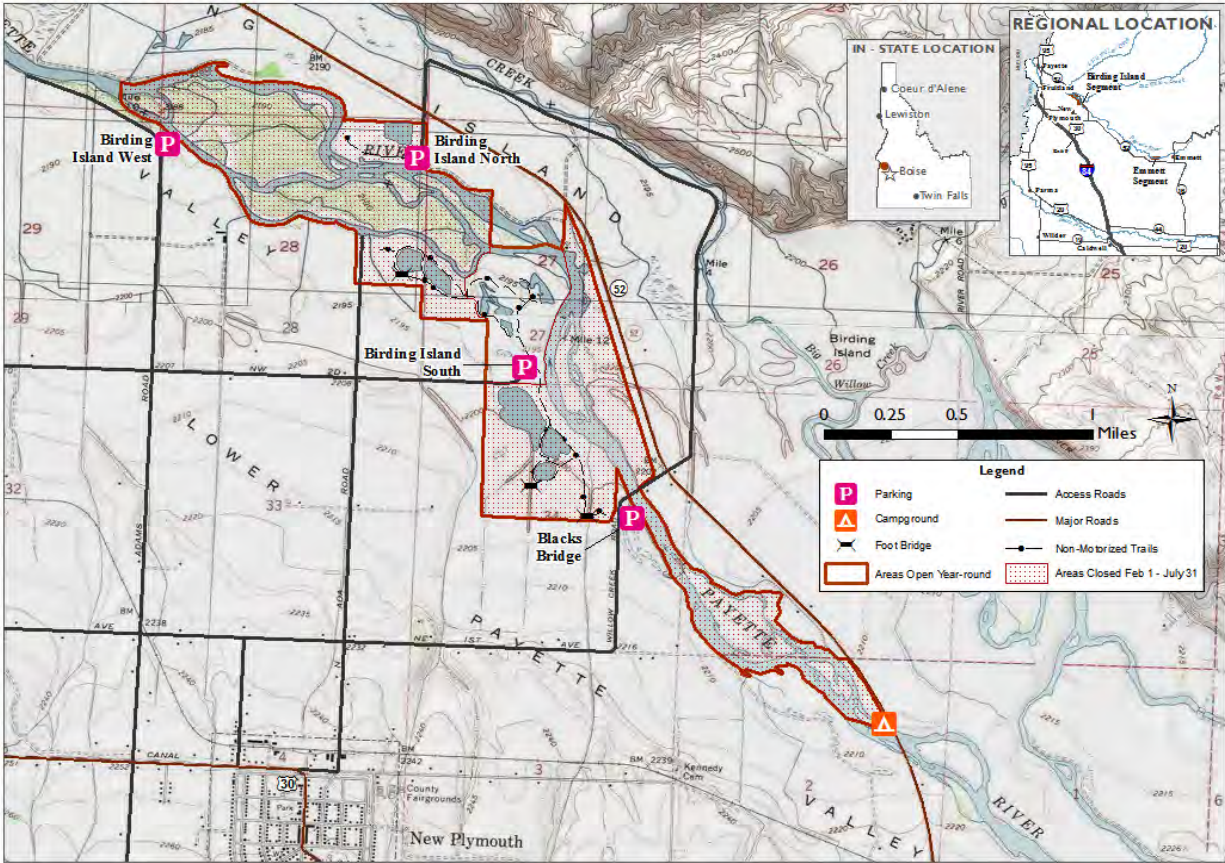


Figure 2. Map of Payette River WMA, Emmett Segment.

Payette River Wildlife Management Area - Emmett Segment

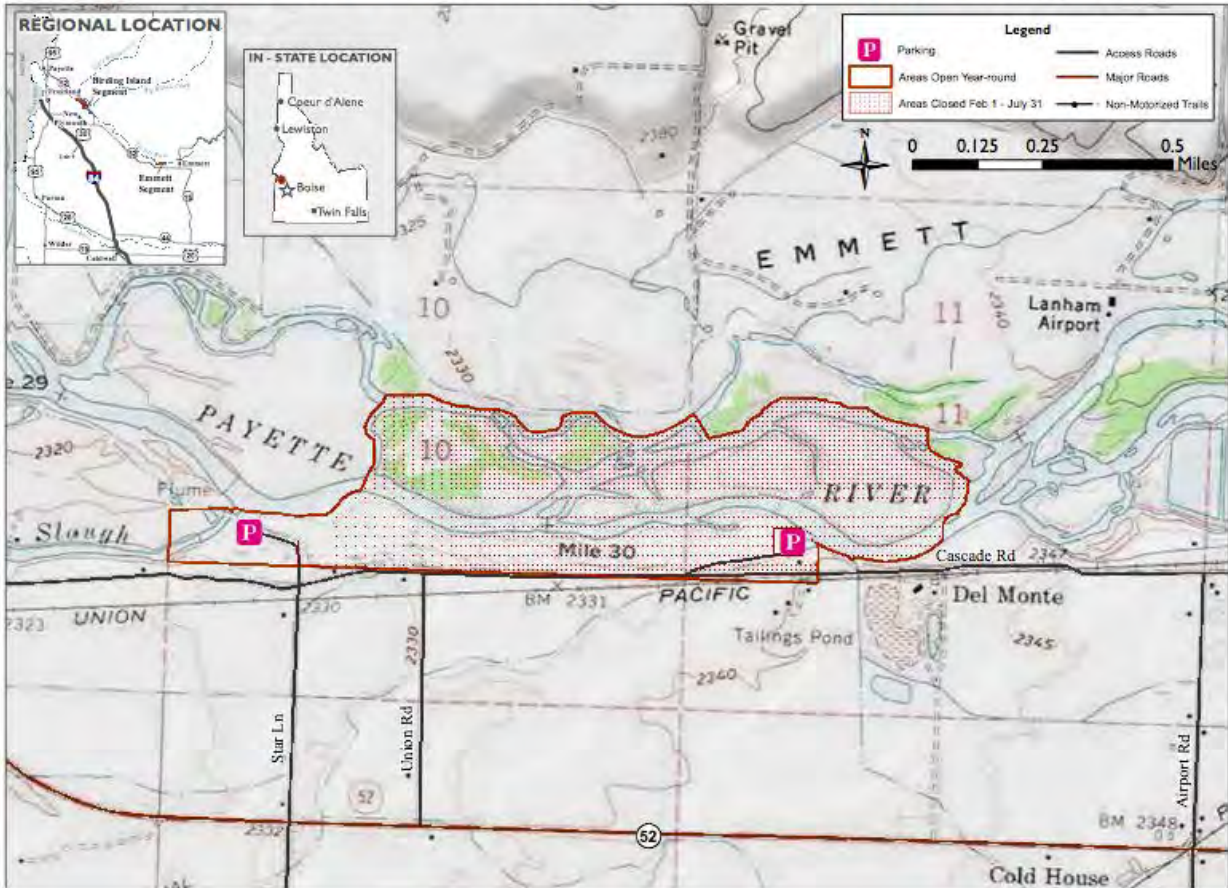


Figure 3. Map of Payette River WMA, Birding Island Segment.

Management Issues

This list of issues was developed after public input as described in Appendix IV. Two general groups provided input, WMA users and neighboring landowners. Department policy direction and WMA staff management experience also helped shape the list of current issues. The issues identified were grouped, based on similarity, into three general categories, Habitat Management, Wildlife Management, and Public Use Management. Each issue is summarized and some potential management options discussed.

Habitat Management Issues

1. Habitat improvements are needed at PRWMA.

Discussion: Habitat management to benefit wildlife is the primary focus of PRWMA annual tasks. These tasks include noxious weed control, planting or managing permanent upland nesting cover, and wetland/pond management.

Effective noxious weed control and reducing cultivated crops on the PRWMA have had a positive effect on the overall quality of both wetlands and upland habitat. For example, areas of dense poison hemlock are gradually being converted to beneficial grasses and legumes.

Cattle grazing on the PRWMA was historically used as a tool to create grazing pastures for Canada goose broods. However, this cover type was not limiting in the surrounding landscape, and grazing was discontinued in 1995. Current management practices now leave residual nesting cover for other nesting birds.

Several wetlands have been added to the PRWMA, providing more waterfowl nesting habitat. The number of acres of food plots on the WMA has been reduced because winter food does not seem to be a limiting factor to wildlife in this area. These areas are gradually being converted to permanent nesting cover.

2. Urban encroachment creates issues at PRWMA.

Discussion: Urban encroachment is affecting wildlife habitat, wildlife populations, hunting, trapping, wildlife viewing, and other recreational opportunities on the PRWMA. Rapid, poorly-planned growth and development near the WMA is diminishing wildlife habitat quality and quantity and reducing wildlife populations. These issues make the WMA more valuable to wildlife and place an additional emphasis on maintaining quality habitat on the PRWMA.

3. Noxious weeds are a problem at PRWMA.

Discussion: The PRWMA has infestations of several noxious weeds and other invasive species that will be controlled or removed as funding allows. The highest priority for weed

control is to prevent the establishment of new species. Small infestations of weeds such as leafy spurge, spotted knapweed, and whitetop have been successfully controlled or eradicated. Roadsides and pond dikes are annually sprayed during the spring with a broadleaf herbicide for the control of Canada thistle, poison hemlock, and other invasive and noxious weeds. The PRWMA ponds are currently being treated with an aquatic herbicide for control of Eurasian watermilfoil and as necessary with elemental copper for control of algae. Occasionally, the Department conducts small (5-10 acres) prescribed burns during spring to remove dead cover and allow for the optimization of herbicide application. Burned and herbicide-treated areas are often planted with perennial grasses to compete with weeds and allow for the continued application of a broadleaf herbicide. Bio-control insects are also being used for thistles and purple loosestrife.

Wildlife Management Issues

1. Improve Canada goose production.

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

2. Improve waterfowl and upland game bird production.

Discussion: Comments concerning this issue centered on improving production habitat by constructing and maintaining waterfowl nest structures and improving nest cover by replacing weeds with grass/legume plantings. Department volunteer groups have assisted the PRWMA's staff in maintaining goose nest structures in addition to other duties, such as irrigation and maintaining water levels in the wetlands. They also maintain wood duck nesting boxes, which also benefit other cavity-nesting birds.

The Department will continue to improve both nesting and foraging habitat for upland and waterfowl species. Payette River WMA staff plant and maintain blocks of vigorous grass/legume vegetation to provide protection from predators. Quality cover attracts nesting hens to the WMA, keeping them away from adjacent agricultural alfalfa fields, where nest mortality is almost 100%. Elimination of cattle grazing on the PRWMA has also increased cover available during the nesting season. Shallow production ponds with nesting islands and

nest boxes/platforms also help to increase bird production on the PRWMA. Plans to expand the number of ponds on the Emmett Segment will add waterfowl nesting habitat. To minimize disturbance, nesting areas on the PRWMA are closed to humans and dogs (including dog training trials) from February 1 to July 31; however, trespass is still an issue in some areas of the WMA.

Quality cover also provides protection in other seasons. Cattail patches provide excellent thermal cover in winter for pheasants. Planting trees and shrubs throughout the PRWMA will also increase wildlife habitat for all species. Efforts to improve both residual and permanent nesting cover and overall wildlife-conducive vegetative habitat continue in concert with conservation and preservation values.

Public Use Management Issues

1. Overcrowding and over use is a problem.

Discussion: During the last 10 years, public use of the PRWMA has increased by an estimated 100%. An increasing number of visitors are using the WMA simply to enjoy the outdoors, run, bicycle, or exercise their dogs, which are activities not considered to be wildlife-based recreation. Human activities, including excessive amounts of some recreational activities, can adversely impact the ability of the PRWMA to provide high quality wildlife habitat. Pole fencing at parking areas has reduced some off road vehicle use. Loitering, vandalism, littering, and undesignated campfires negatively impacts all users of the WMA.

Pheasant and waterfowl hunting are the two main attractions to the PRWMA. Game farm pheasants have been released at the Birding Island Segment and Emmett sites since 1988. These stockings are popular with hunters, who support most of the cost of this program through the purchase of WMA pheasant permits. This program provides some of the only late-season pheasant hunting in the area, due to the low numbers of wild birds, and lack of access and/or habitat on private land. This situation creates a shortage of hunting areas, overcrowding on the PRWMA, and an additional concern by sportsmen about the quality of their hunting experience. The number of users on a daily basis during the hunting season can and does create safety issues and hunter conflicts can also lead to unsportsmanlike behavior.

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

The number of hunters using the PRWMA has increased significantly over the last five years. On the PRWMA, an estimated 15,000 hunter-use days are accumulated annually; this does not include the access sites near the WMA where high usage also occurs. To minimize

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

lack of access to nearby private lands. The opportunity to hunt is appreciated even if hunt quality is slightly reduced.

3. Provide more opportunities for education and non-consumptive use at the PRWMA.

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

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

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

Payette River WMA Management Program

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

We propose that an effective way to enable a broader influence over the future of PRWMA is through the use of focal species management. According to Noss et al. (1999), focal species are those used by planners and 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 PRWMA, a carefully selected suite of focal species can act as a surrogate for the conservation of many species.

Identifying landscape-scale species priorities across ownership boundaries comprehensively addresses wildlife-related issues on the PRWMA and creates a platform for conservation partnerships in the surrounding landscape. This step is also crucial for increasing the likelihood that WMA functions are resilient to inevitable changes in their associated landscapes.

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

- 1) Summary of Management Priorities
- 2) Focal Species Assessment
- 3) Selection of Conservation Targets
- 4) Coverage Assessment of Selected Conservation Targets
- 5) Spatial Delineation of Selected Focal Species/Habitat Landscapes
- 6) Creation of Management Program Table.

Summary of Management Priorities

Upon review of the management issues discussed in the previous section, we have identified four management priorities for the PRWMA over the life of this plan.

Payette River WMA management priorities:

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

Focal Species Assessment

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

Flagship species are popular, charismatic species that serve as symbols and catalysts to motivate conservation awareness, support, and action (Heywood 1995). These species often represent a landscape or ecosystem (e.g., Boise River watershed or foothills ecotone), a threat (e.g., habitat loss or climate change), organization (e.g., state government or non-government organization), or geographic region (e.g., protected area, Department Region or state; Veríssimo et al. 2009). For example, mule deer are a species that fit the criteria as both a flagship and focal species because they are a symbol that motivate action and can be used to determine the appropriate size and configuration of a conservation area. In addition, mule deer are a culturally and economically important species in Idaho and represent a founding priority for the establishment of the PRWMA. Therefore, species such as this are considered in the assessment.

A principal limitation of the flagship species concept is that by focusing limited management resources on culturally and economically important species, more vulnerable species may receive less or no attention (Simberloff 1998). To overcome this limitation, we are explicitly considering a wide variety of at-risk species (Groves 2003); yielding a more comprehensive assessment that includes culturally and economically important species (e.g., mule deer and elk) along with formally designated conservation priorities (e.g., bald eagle). Categories of at-risk vertebrate species considered in this assessment are: 1) species designated as Idaho Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN); 2) species designated as Sensitive by Region 4 (Intermountain Region) of the USFS; and 3) species designated as Sensitive by the Idaho State Office of the BLM.

The record of Idaho SGCN was developed as part of the Idaho Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy. This strategy is currently referred to as the SWAP. This plan serves to coordinate the efforts of all partners working toward conservation of wildlife and wildlife habitats across the state and serves as Idaho's seminal document identifying species at-risk.

Although most of the special status species identified by land management agencies in Idaho are included in the Idaho SWAP SGCN, those not listed may be considered priority species by other agencies. For instance, the Boise River watershed is a mosaic of land ownerships including

private, USFS, BLM, and the Department. The BLM and USFS play a key role in the management of this landscape since their actions directly influence ecological functions on the PRWMA. To maximize coordination, communication, and partnership opportunity we include both USFS and BLM Sensitive Species in our biodiversity assessment.

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

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

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

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

Suitability of assessed species as a focal species were estimated by Southwest Regional Habitat and Diversity staff based on descriptions in Groves (2003) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS 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 (USFWS 2005)*

Table 1. Status of conservation priority species on the Payette River WMA including their potential suitability as focal species for management.

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

Species	Status Designation(s)	Occurrence Context in Payette River WMA Landscape	Threats	Beneficial Management and Conservation Actions	Suitability as a Focal Species for Payette River WMA
Great Egret (<i>Ardea alba</i>)	SGCN	Breeding occurs in mixed-species colonies in large trees, often at the highest point in the colony, over water, or on islands (IDFG 2005). Observed foraging in the vicinity of PRWMA.	Disturbance of nesting islands. Loss of riparian woodland habitat through reduced cottonwood regeneration and tree thinning can reduce habitat suitability. May accumulate pesticides, affecting eggs and chicks.	Maintain river flows to facilitate cottonwood regeneration and maturation. Avoid disturbance to islands and creating bridges to otherwise isolated islands. Reduce pesticide applications and runoff pathways.	<i>Potentially suitable as a focal species.</i> Breeding and foraging habitat is well-represented on the WMA, and breeding colonies occur in the vicinity.
American Avocet (<i>Recurvirostra americana</i>)	SGCN	Generally associated with wetlands containing bulrush, cattails, and sedges, although individuals spend most of their time, and place their nests, in more open areas that have no vegetation or very sparse vegetation. Occurs in the vicinity of the WMA and may breed there.	Loss and degradation of wetland habitat, including vegetation succession. Disturbance during nesting is a prevalent threat to populations. Threats may potentially include contamination of foraging wetlands from agricultural runoff.	Maintaining early-succession shallow ponds. Minimizing access to breeding areas during the nesting period.	<i>Potentially suitable as a focal species.</i> Occurrence on or near WMA includes use of foraging habitat and may include breeding.
Black-necked Stilt (<i>Himantopus mexicanus</i>)	SGCN	Breeding sites are in wetlands. Forages in shallow-water wetland habitat, including off-channel wetlands.	Contamination of foraging wetlands from agricultural runoff. Disturbance of nesting sites.	Maintain water levels and water quality, and minimize disturbance at nesting sites.	<i>Potentially suitable as focal species.</i>
American White Pelican (<i>Pelecanus erythrorhynchos</i>)	SGCN	Currently occupied colonial nesting sites are in eastern Idaho. Large rivers, reservoirs, and lakes are used as foraging habitat. In western Idaho, foraging birds may include individuals from the eastern breeding colonies or nonbreeders. White pelicans forage on inland marshes, lakes, or rivers. During spring and fall migration, birds stop at aquatic foraging and loafing areas similar to those used during breeding season.	This species is piscivorous and sometimes is in conflict with sportsmen as a result of perceived or real predation on sport fish. Disturbance to vulnerable nesting sites on islands is a primary conservation issue. Habitat loss due to either flooding or draining areas can destroy breeding sites and foraging areas.	Protect and maintain wetland habitats and water levels.	<i>Unsuitable as a focal species.</i> Wide-ranging species that may irregularly visit the WMA.
California Gull (<i>Larus californicus</i>)	SGCN	Breeding occurs on barren or sparsely vegetated islands in natural lakes, reservoirs, or rivers. Breeding site documented on island on Snake River, south of Weiser, but no breeding has been documented elsewhere in vicinity of WMA.	Low water levels. Disturbance to vulnerable nesting sites on islands from boat recreation and island visitation.	Maintenance of water levels that separate nesting islands from dry land. Minimize disturbance to nesting colonies.	<i>Unsuitable as a focal species.</i> Habitat unsuitable for nesting.
Caspian Tern (<i>Sterna caspia</i>)	SGCN	Breeding documented in southern Idaho, but not in vicinity of WMA. Generally nest on open, fairly flat islands or islets of lakes, reservoirs, and rivers. Forages over lakes, reservoirs, rivers, and sloughs and preys almost exclusively on fish.	Low water levels and human disturbance at nesting areas; illegal shooting.	Maintain water levels and minimize disturbance at nesting sites.	<i>Unsuitable as a focal species.</i> Habitat unsuitable for nesting.
Black Tern (<i>Chlidonias niger</i>)	SGCN	Associated with shallow freshwater marshes with emergent vegetation. Occurs in the vicinity of the PRWMA but breeding habitat not expected on the PRWMA.	Loss of marsh habitat due to extraction of ground water and surface water maintenance.	Manage water levels to benefit marsh-nesting birds. Restore or create suitable marsh habitat in historical nesting areas.	<i>Unsuitable as a focal species.</i> Emergent nesting habitat not suitable.
Franklin's Gull (<i>Larus pipixcan</i>)	SGCN	Breeding occurs in large areas with fairly open emergent vegetation (particularly bulrush/cattail marshes in Idaho) and deep water. Occurrence on the WMA unknown.	Fluctuating water levels; exotic plant species and overgrowth of marsh plants can create habitat too dense for nesting; presence of substantial carp populations (Ivey and Herziger 2005).	Maintaining suitable water levels (Burger and Gochfeld 1994); maintaining vegetation open enough for nest construction (Ivey and Herziger 2005).	<i>Unsuitable as a focal species.</i> Transient species utilizing WMA on a temporary basis.

Species	Status Designation(s)	Occurrence Context in Payette River WMA Landscape	Threats	Beneficial Management and Conservation Actions	Suitability as a Focal Species for Payette River WMA
White-faced Ibis (<i>Plegadis chihi</i>)	SGCN	Colonial breeders, with nesting documented at two locations in southwest Idaho. In Idaho colonies are found in hardstem bulrush/cattail marshes. Forages for aquatic and moist soil invertebrates in shallowly flooded wetlands and irrigated croplands. Alfalfa, barley, and native hay meadows are important foraging areas.	Drought and/or diversion of water away from existing marsh/wetland habitat have resulted in temporary or permanent abandonment of traditional nesting sites (IDFG 2005); pesticide exposure risk (Ivey and Herziger 2005). Loss of foraging habitat after conversion from flood irrigation to center pivot irrigation practices.	Acquiring water rights for existing wetland sites used by ibis (Ivey and Herziger 2005); providing suitable water levels during the nesting period; minimization of human disturbance. Providing incentives for retaining traditional flood irrigation.	<i>Unsuitable as a focal species. Limited information on distribution in the project area.</i>
Clark's Grebe (<i>Aechmophorus clarkii</i>)	SGCN	Nesting occurs on freshwater lakes or marshes with extensive open water.	Water level fluctuations (Trost and Gerstell 1994) are a threat to nesting success; in particular, reservoir water levels during the nesting period are important. Disturbance and nest damage from waking powerboats during nesting may also affect some populations.	Monitoring water quality and reducing drastic water level fluctuation during the breeding season (Ivey and Herziger 2005).	<i>Unsuitable as a focal species. Limited information on distribution in the project area.</i>
Western Grebe (<i>Aechmophorus occidentalis</i>)	SGCN	Nesting occurs in the southern and southeastern parts of Idaho (Trost and Gerstell 1994). Nests on large water bodies on floating mats of vegetation.	Water level fluctuations (Trost and Gerstell 1994) are a threat to nesting success; in particular, reservoir water levels during the nesting period are important. Disturbance and nest damage from waking powerboats during nesting may also affect some populations.	Avoid water level fluctuation during breeding season (Ivey and Herziger 2005); close access to breeding areas and impose restrictions on watercraft during the nesting period.	<i>Unsuitable as a focal species. Limited information on distribution in the project area.</i>
Waterfowl (ducks, geese)	Flagship	WMA wetlands and the Payette River provide important habitat for a diversity of breeding and wintering waterfowl.	Disturbance during nesting periods, lack of appropriate nesting cover, and loss of habitat from invasive plants are primary threats.	Manage habitat to provide foraging and nesting habitat. Manage water to provide ponds and flooded meadow habitat. Manage vegetation to reduce prevalence of undesirable plant species.	<i>Potentially suitable as a focal species. WMA has been managed for waterfowl habitat since acquisition.</i>
Hooded Merganser (<i>Lophodytes cucullatus</i>)	SGCN	Year-round resident in the Panhandle and Upper Snake regions of Idaho. Additional birds spend winter throughout the southern part of the state. Eats primarily aquatic insects, fish, and crustaceans.	Threats occur primarily on the breeding range. In wintering areas in Idaho, issues include river channelization, deforestation, and agricultural practices that reduce the size of forested floodplains and increase sediment loading in streams.	Restore and/or preserve water quality and natural hydrology.	<i>Unsuitable as a focal species. Irregular winter occurrence in the project area.</i>
Lesser Scaup (<i>Aythya affinis</i>)	SGCN	Year-round resident along the Snake River Plain. Possibly breeds on WMA.	Loss of wetlands due to drainage or development. Degradation of wetlands from pollution and loss of invertebrate prey.	Restoration of wetlands; management of water quality.	<i>Unsuitable as a focal species. Migratory/transient species utilizing PRWMA on a temporary basis.</i>
Sandhill Crane (<i>Grus canadensis</i>)		Spring migrants use agricultural habitat adjacent to the WMA and may occasionally use habitat on the WMA for foraging during migration, which may represent important spring migrant stop-over habitat.	Disturbance on roosting sites and foraging habitat. Access to abundant food sources in foraging habitat may limit habitat quality.	Apply agricultural and habitat management practices that increase food availability. Identify roost habitat and manage disturbance to those areas.	<i>Unsuitable as a focal species. Use of WMA appears to be limited.</i>
Long-billed Curlew (<i>Numenius americanus</i>)	SGCN	3000-5000 nesting pairs estimated in southern Idaho. Uses upland habitat adjacent to the WMA; nests in grassland and disturbed shrubland habitat.	Housing development; disturbance from recreation to nests. Loss of foraging habitat and reduced availability of invertebrate prey. Nesting failure possibly related to disturbance exposing nests to avian predators.	Manage disturbance to nesting habitat. Minimize applications of insecticides in foraging habitat. Use enforcement patrols to minimize illegal shooting.	<i>Unsuitable as a focal species. Habitat unsuitable for nesting on WMA.</i>
Wilson's Phalarope (<i>Phalaropus tricolor</i>)	SGCN	Nesting occurs in isolated wetlands throughout Idaho.	Loss of high-quality fresh water habitat; collisions with power transmission lines over wetlands; selenium leaching from agricultural fields and pesticides.	Maintain water levels and minimize disturbance at nesting sites. Manage water quality	<i>Unsuitable as a focal species. Limited information on distribution in the project area.</i>

Species	Status Designation(s)	Occurrence Context in Payette River WMA Landscape	Threats	Beneficial Management and Conservation Actions	Suitability as a Focal Species for Payette River WMA
Yellow-billed Cuckoo (<i>Coccyzus americanus</i>)	Candidate for ESA listing; USFS Sensitive; BLM Sensitive; SGCN	Historically a rare summer visitor and breeder in the Snake River Valley. Occurs in dense riparian tree stands, often composed of willow and/or cottonwood having dense understory vegetation.	Loss of riparian breeding habitat from agricultural development and river flow modification and management.	Develop and maintain large stands of cottonwood and willow having low levels of disturbance and human and livestock trailing.	<i>Unsuitable as a focal species.</i> Unlikely to occur at WMA.
Upland game birds	Flagship	WMA has resident populations of upland game birds, including California Quail, Gray Partridge, Ring-necked Pheasant, and Wild Turkey.	Habitat loss and destruction.	Preservation and enhancement of nesting cover; increases in insect biodiversity and amount of insects present for chicks.	<i>Potentially suitable as a focal species.</i> PRWMA has been managed for upland bird habitat since acquisition.
Mountain Quail (<i>Oreortyx pictus</i>)	SGCN	Occurs in west-central Idaho, with remnant populations in the Riggins area. Populations in southwestern Idaho are in jeopardy of extirpation, but have the potential to grow quickly. Breed and winter in shrub-dominated riparian areas of hawthorn, willow, and chokecherry.	Habitat loss and degradation from forest succession, reservoir construction, fire, weed invasion, and human developments are all important factors in some areas (Gutiérrez and Delehanty 1999). Interspecific competition with introduced California quail and chukar also is hypothesized to be a factor.	Protect and maintain habitats through better management of riparian and forest habitats. Investigate the mechanisms for recent declines. Use reintroductions to expand range into restored habitats.	<i>Unsuitable as a focal species.</i> Unlikely to occur at WMA.
Bald Eagle (<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>)	SGCN	Associated with riparian cottonwoods, which birds use for foraging perches and nest sites. One nest occurs in the vicinity of the WMA.	Loss of productivity resulting from disturbance during nesting. Loss of riparian cottonwood stands through failed cottonwood regeneration. Shooting, poisoning, and electrocution also source of mortality.	Minimize disturbance around nest sites. Promote river flows that maintain riparian cottonwood stand regeneration and maturation.	<i>Potentially suitable as a focal species.</i> One documented nest on PRWMA; wintering eagles are common on the Payette River.
Ferruginous Hawk (<i>Buteo regalis</i>)	SGCN	Occurs in upland sites adjacent to the WMA. Nests in shrub-steppe and juniper woodland habitat. Relies on ground squirrels, rabbits, and other diurnal small mammals as prey.	Agricultural development and conversion of native habitat to agricultural uses. Mortality from wind turbines is a concern in some areas.	Maintain prey populations (ground squirrels, etc.). Avoid wind turbine installations or mitigate with operational curtailment at critical periods. Avoid disturbance to nesting birds.	<i>Unsuitable as a focal species.</i> Limited information on distribution in the project area.
Burrowing Owl (<i>Athene cucularia</i>)	SGCN	Breed in open grassland, shrubland habitat. Nests are in natural burrows excavated by American badgers (<i>Taxidea taxus</i>). Forages in short-grass, mowed or overgrazed pastures, etc. Preys on large insects and small vertebrates, particularly rodents (e.g., mice, voles, pocket gophers).	Loss of nesting habitat through urbanization and agricultural conversion is a serious threat throughout Idaho; pesticides are a potentially significant threat to this species as it often nests close to agricultural fields; indiscriminate killing of badgers may limit nesting burrows.	Manage American badger populations since burrowing owls rely on pre-existing burrows for nesting. Minimize pesticide spraying and use of rodenticides in occupied habitat.	<i>Unsuitable as a focal species.</i> Limited information on distribution in the project area.
Merlin (<i>Falco columbarius</i>)	SGCN	Common migrant and locally abundant winter resident, but a rare breeder. Nesting habitat in Idaho has been shrub-steppe dominated by sagebrush, and nests are in abandoned nests, often those constructed by corvids. Uncommon at WMA.	Loss of nesting habitat and decreased prey abundance due to habitat modification; West Nile virus and avian influenza may affect productivity (IDFG 2005).	Develop habitat management programs to benefit prey populations, which would include most passerines	<i>Unsuitable as a focal species.</i> Limited information on distribution in the project area.
Swainson's Hawk (<i>Buteo swainsoni</i>)	SGCN	Distribution poorly documented in Payette river valley. Nests are often constructed in trees bordering open landscapes.	Wind farm development; conversion of native grasslands to croplands and urban development.	Maintain and restore native grasslands; protection of migration corridors and important stopover habitat (IDFG 2005).	<i>Unsuitable as a focal species.</i>
Townsend's Big-eared Bat (<i>Corynorhinus townsendii</i>)	SGCN	Distribution and abundance is highly correlated with roost habitat, which includes mines and caves. More than 90% of their diet consists of Lepidopterans.	Disturbance and destruction of roost sites through mine closures, renewed mining, recreational caving. Loss of invertebrate populations from broad-scale pesticides intended to control pests.	Work with land managers to preserve roost habitat during mine reclamation projects. Take measures to protect roosts from disturbance, including cave gating. Manage pesticide applications to avoid foraging habitat.	<i>Unsuitable as a focal species.</i> Limited information on distribution in the project area.

Species	Status Designation(s)	Occurrence Context in Payette River WMA Landscape	Threats	Beneficial Management and Conservation Actions	Suitability as a Focal Species for Payette River WMA
Piute Ground Squirrel (<i>Spermophilus mollis</i>)	SGCN	Endemic subspecies occurs between Snake River and Payette River. Occurs in shrub-steppe habitat with big sagebrush, shadscale, black greasewood, and winterfat.	Habitat conversion to tilled croplands, loss of plant diversity to invasive plants, and rodent control through poisoning and recreational shooting.	Maintain and restore diversity and productivity of forb and grass food plants. Minimize and mitigate property damage and resulting conflicts.	<i>Unsuitable as a focal species.</i> WMA does not contain suitable habitat.
Southern Idaho Ground Squirrel (<i>Spermophilus brunneus endemicus</i>)	SGCN, ESA Candidate	Endemic subspecies occurs north of the Payette River in grassland and shrubland habitats and deep soil.	Conversion of habitat to cultivated agriculture; habitat loss to nonnative annual plant invasion. In some areas, pest control activities may reduce local population density.	Maintain and restore diversity and productivity of forb and grass food plants. Minimize and mitigate property damage and resulting conflicts.	<i>Unsuitable as a focal species.</i> Most of WMA is south of the Payette River and does not contain suitable habitat.
Townsend's Pocket Gopher (<i>Thomomys townsendii</i>)	SGCN	Occurs in lower elevation river valleys in the Snake, Boise, and Payette river drainages. Occurrence on the WMA is unknown.	Habitat loss; cultivation, and activities that reduce plant biomass, such as habitat conversion, livestock grazing, and wildfires (IDFG 2005). Persecuted as a crop pest.	Maintain and restore diversity and productivity of forb and grass food plants. Minimize and mitigate property damage and resulting conflicts.	<i>Unsuitable as a focal species.</i> Limited information on distribution in the project area.

Selection of Conservation Targets

The biodiversity of the PRWMA 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 PRWMA for management and conservation, while still reflecting the management priorities of the WMA (Table 2).

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

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

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

Waterfowl

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

Upland Game Birds

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

Riparian Habitat

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

Coverage Assessment of Selected Conservation Targets

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

Regional Habitat and Diversity staff worked together to complete the coverage assessment table (Table 2). We evaluated each of the Conservation Targets to determine which species from Table 1 would benefit from management activities focused on that target. Evaluations are based on knowledge of species habitat requirements, occurrence within the management landscape, and the scope of current and planned management actions. The assessment considered only those habitat features or needs relevant to the species as it occurs on the management landscape. For instance, we emphasized the importance of resting and foraging habitat needs for waterfowl and waterbirds, knowing that most breeding activity for these species occurs elsewhere. Our results indicate that the selected Conservation Targets on PRWMA provide substantial, but variable habitat benefits for an array of assessed species. We found that management efforts directed towards maintaining or enhancing wetland and riparian habitat will provide conservation benefits for 25 of 34 assessed species while those actions targeting upland game birds, although important, benefitted just 10 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. Recent studies suggest the conservation needs of some of these species (e.g., bat species) are increasing dramatically. A prudent management strategy is to consider a landscape where these species may be prioritized for management in the future. Broad strategies for addressing these management needs are identified in the following Management Program Table (pages 36-39), but typically include collection of additional baseline data.

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

Species Assessed in Table 1	Conservation Targets ^a			Conservation Need
	Waterfowl	Upland game birds	Riparian habitat	
Invertebrates				Yes
Northern Leopard Frog	X		X	
Woodhouse's Toad	X		X	
Black-crowned Night Heron	X		X	
Snowy Egret	X		X	
Great Egret	X		X	
American Avocet	X			
Black-necked Stilt	X			
American White Pelican	P			
California Gull	P			
Caspian Tern	P			
Black Tern	P			
Franklin's Gull	P			
White-faced Ibis	P			
Clark's Grebe	P		P	
Western Grebe	P		P	
Waterfowl	X		X	
Hooded Merganser	X		X	
Lesser Scaup	P		P	
Sandhill Crane	P			
Long-billed Curlew	P	P		
Wilson's Phalarope	X			
Yellow-billed Cuckoo			P	
Upland Game Birds		X		
Mountain Quail		P		Yes
Bald Eagle	P		P	
Ferruginous Hawk		P		
Burrowing Owl		P		
Merlin		P	P	
Swainson's Hawk		P		
Townsend's Big-eared Bat	P	P	P	
Southern Idaho Ground Squirrel		P		
Piute Ground Squirrel		P		
Townsend's Pocket Gopher		P		

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

Spatial Delineation of Selected Focal Species/Habitat Landscapes

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

The PRWMA habitat biologist works in the Payette Conservation District, which also includes the Montour WMA (Figure 4). These WMAs are within the Payette Hydrologic Unit (HUC). The Payette HUC is the lower reach of the Payette River, which enters the Snake River near the town of Payette at the Idaho/Oregon border.

The juxtaposition and composition of habitats outside the Montour and Payette River WMAs influence the wildlife community within the WMA boundaries. Waterfowl and several special status species are migratory and may only use the WMAs and the Payette landscape for a brief period of time each year. The landscape characteristics, including agricultural lands which make this area an important waterfowl wintering area and migration corridor, should be maintained. In contrast, upland game birds are local residents and are impacted by habitat changes on a smaller scale. Management actions and large-scale habitat loss and disturbance occurring within this larger landscape impact habitat and wildlife on the WMAs. The Payette Conservation District biologist provides technical assistance to land management agencies and private landowners to benefit wildlife species and habitat. These activities are included in the PRWMA Program Management Table (pages 36-39).

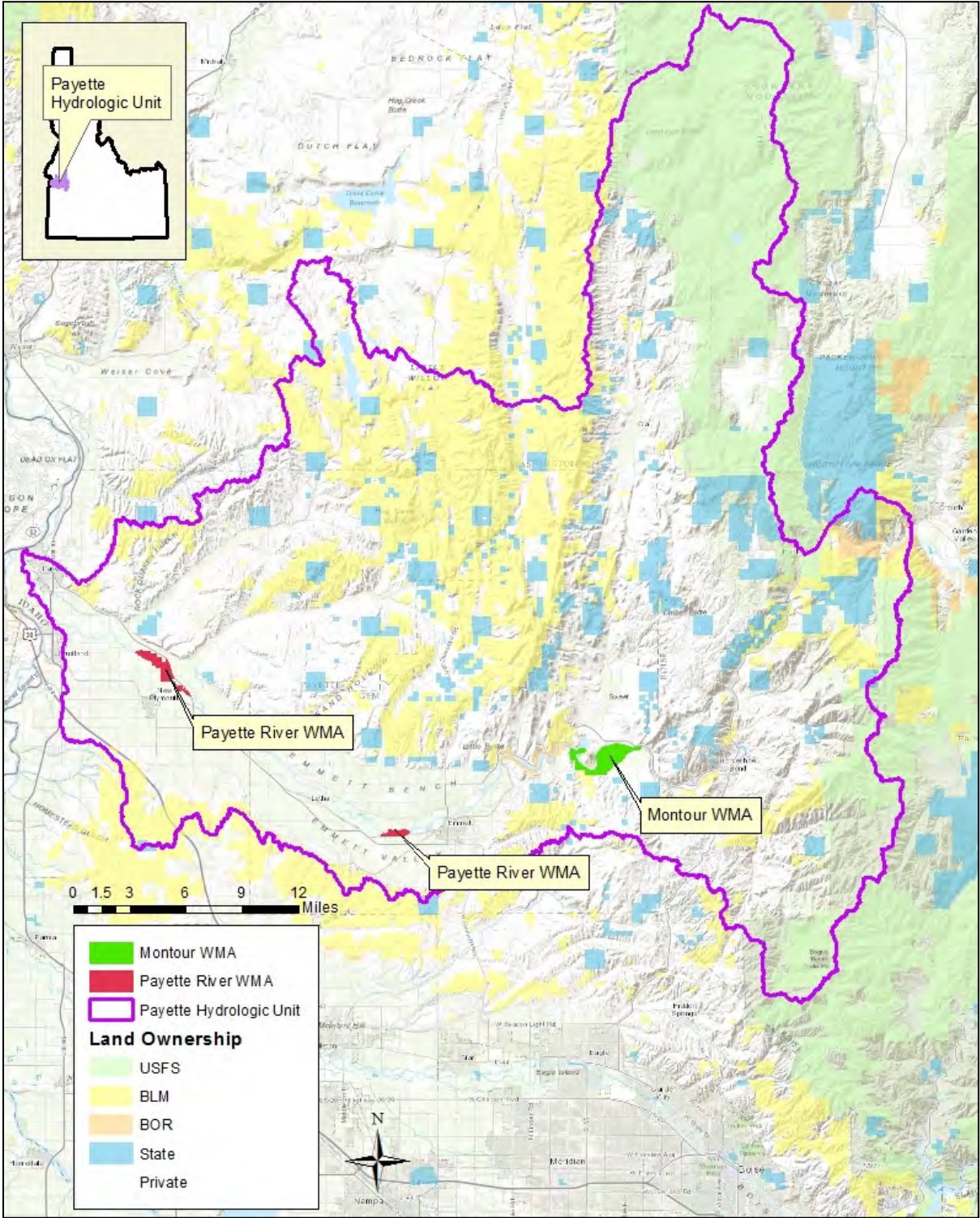


Figure 4. Montour and Payette River WMAs and land ownership within the Payette Hydrologic Unit.

Payette River WMA Management Program Table

The following table outlines the Management Directions, Performance Targets, Strategies, and Outcome Metrics PRWMA staff will use to manage for the Conservation Targets selected (page 31) to represent each PRWMA Priority (page 24) at both the PRWMA 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 1: Waterfowl Habitat					
Conservation Target: Waterfowl					
Scope	Management Direction	Performance Target	Strategy	Metric	Compass Objective (Appendix I)
PRWMA	Provide high quality and secure waterfowl breeding, nesting, and brood-rearing habitat	Annually maintain all WMA artificial waterfowl nesting structures to increase nest success.	Annually maintain waterfowl nesting structures, including goose nesting platforms and wood duck boxes. Survey use of 50 goose nesting platforms annually.	Structures maintained	3, 4, 6, 9, 11, 12, 14, 19, 22, 34
		Maintain 60% emergent cover and 40% open water on all ponds to benefit breeding, nesting, and brood-rearing waterfowl habitat.	Maintain water levels during nesting season to reduce flooding of nests. Manipulate water levels in the non-breeding season to maintain 60% emergent cover and 40% open water. Consider manipulating/managing one pond per year to be in an early successional stage to benefit migrating shorebirds. Manipulate water levels or drain ponds as needed to control carp.	Ratio of emergent vegetation to open water on ponds	
		Protect nesting waterfowl from disturbance by continuing to use nesting area closure from February 1 to July 31 annually.	Continue to use nesting area closure from February 1 to July 31 to minimize disturbance to nesting waterfowl. Maintain and upgrade closure signage as needed to minimize trespass.	Violations detected	
		Support waterfowl and/or upland bird nest success by planting or rehabilitating 200 acres of permanent herbaceous cover over the next 10 years.	Monitor and manage residual nesting cover to optimize the vigor, bio-diversity, and density of vegetation. Utilize native plant materials whenever possible.	Acres of quality nesting cover	
		Treat at least 5 acres of mesic meadow nesting habitat annually to reduce cover of noxious weeds and other invasive plants.	Use integrated weed management (biological, cultural, and chemical methods) to control noxious weeds. Continue to explore techniques to control reed canarygrass. Explore techniques to convert mesic meadows with a high proportion of invasive plants and noxious weeds to meadows dominated by native vegetation.	Acres of mesic meadows improved	
		Treat 75% of known infestations of noxious weeds by 2018 and reduce acres of noxious weeds by 20 acres annually.	Use integrated weed management (biological, cultural, and chemical methods) to control noxious weeds. Regularly survey areas for new noxious weed species and respond immediately with appropriate control. Work with Cooperative Weed Management Areas to maintain awareness for potential for new invaders.	Acres of noxious weed infestations on PRWMA	
		Add at least two new waterfowl ponds by 2023.	Develop ponds to increase waterfowl production and migratory habitat on PRWMA.	Number of new ponds	

WMA Priority 2: Upland Game Bird Habitat					
<i>Conservation Target: Upland Game Birds</i>					
Scope	Management Direction	Performance Target	Strategy	Metric	Compass Objective (Appendix I)
PRWMA	Increase wildlife production and capacity of habitat to support wildlife.	Support waterfowl and/or upland bird nest success by planting or rehabilitating 200 acres of permanent herbaceous cover over the next 10 years.	Monitor and manage residual nesting cover to optimize the vigor, bio-diversity, and density of vegetation. Utilize native plant materials whenever possible.	Acres of quality nesting cover; pheasant productivity	3, 4, 6, 9, 11, 12, 14, 19, 22, 34
		Protect nesting upland game birds from disturbance by continuing a nesting area closure from February 1 to July 31 annually.	Continue to use nesting area closures from February 1 to July 31 to minimize disturbance to nesting upland game birds. Maintain and upgrade closure signage as needed to minimize trespass.	Violations detected	
		Treat 75% of known infestations of noxious weeds by 2018, reducing acres of noxious weed infestations by 10 acres and not allowing establishment of new weeds.	Use integrated weed management (biological, cultural, and chemical methods) to control noxious weeds. Regularly survey areas for new noxious weed species and respond immediately with appropriate control. Work with Cooperative Weed Management Areas to maintain awareness for potential for new invaders.	Acres of noxious weed infestation	
		Maintain 50 acres of heavy wetland thickets that will provide winter thermal cover for pheasants and other species.	Manage and time water levels to maintain wetland thickets year round.	Acres of wetland thickets	
		Work with local landowners and Cooperative Weed Management Areas to minimize expansion of invasive plants and noxious weeds along the Payette River.	PRWMA manager represents the Department on Cooperative Weed Management Areas.	Acres of noxious weed infestations in the PRWMA landscape	
PRWMA Landscape	Increase wildlife production and capacity of habitat to support wildlife.	Work with local landowners to improve 100 acres of pheasant habitat over 10 years.	Provide technical assistance to landowners to improve pheasant habitat on their property.	Acres of pheasant habitat improved in the PRWMA landscape	
WMA Priority 3: Special Status Species Habitat					
<i>Conservation Target: Riparian Habitat</i>					
Scope	Management Direction	Performance Target	Strategy	Metric	Compass Objective (Appendix I)
PRWMA	Provide functioning riparian woodland and shrubland habitat in good to excellent condition to benefit a wide range of fish and wildlife species.	Maintain current ratio of native to non-native riparian composition, not to exceed >50% composition of non-native tree and shrub species.	Plan appropriate restoration projects as needed to maintain native component. Plant willows and other native species to replace non-native vegetation. Using input from Department Diversity Program staff, modify or enhance wetland and riparian habitats to specific SGCN needs.	Ratio of native to non-native riparian vegetation	6, 7, 8, 12
		Identify potential sites for black cottonwood restoration by 2020.	Define appropriate site characteristics for black cottonwood restoration. Survey for sites that meet appropriate characteristics for black cottonwood restoration.	Restoration sites identified	
		Protect existing bald eagle nest site from disturbance.	Utilize nesting area closure on PRWMA from February 1 to July 31 to minimize disturbance to nesting bald eagles and other species. Educate river users, including jet boaters, about the importance of not disturbing nesting or wintering bald eagles.	Bald eagle nest success	

WMA Priority 3: Special Status Species Habitat						
<i>Conservation Target: Riparian Habitat</i>						
Scope	Management Direction	Performance Target	Strategy	Metric	Compass Objective (Appendix I)	
PRWMA	Provide functioning riparian woodland and shrubland habitat in good to excellent condition to benefit a wide range of fish and wildlife species.	Identify SGCN that utilize PRWMA.	Create GIS layer of SGCN observations on or near PRWMA.	Inventory completed	6, 7, 8, 12	
			Identify most frequent/prevalent SGCN on PRWMA and work with Department Diversity Program to identify habitat needs.			
Support Department Diversity Program by conducting surveys for and reporting observations of SGCN.						
PRWMA Landscape	Provide functioning riparian woodland and shrubland habitat in good to excellent condition to benefit a wide range of fish and wildlife species in the PRWMA landscape.	Work with local landowners and Cooperative Weed Management Areas reduce noxious weed infestations by 20 acres along the Payette River.	PRWMA manager represents the Department on Cooperative Weed Management Areas.	Acres of noxious weed infestations in the PRWMA landscape	14, 15	
WMA Priority 4: Wildlife-based Recreation and Education						
Scope	Management Direction	Performance Target	Strategy	Metric	Compass Objective (Appendix I)	
PRWMA	Provide opportunity to hunt and trap on the PRWMA that are compatible with wildlife management goals.	Continue to stock at least 1,000 farm-raised pheasants annually on the PRWMA.	Continue pheasant stocking program on the PRWMA.	Number of stocked pheasants	4, 6, 9, 11, 14, 19, 22, 24	
		Add at least 2 new waterfowl ponds by 2023	Plan new ponds to distribute hunting pressure more evenly.	Number of new ponds		
		Conduct user survey by 2020 to gauge hunter support for options to distribute hunters and minimize conflicts, while also maintaining hunt quality and opportunity.	Consider options to distribute hunters and minimize conflicts, including a locked gate system, restricting hunter numbers, or other permitting. Adjust public use in response to wildlife management goals, sportsmen needs and perceptions.	Survey completed and results evaluated		
	Provide opportunities to fish on the PRWMA that are compatible with wildlife management goals.	Provide fishing opportunity on PRWMA ponds from August 1 through January 31.	Provide fishing opportunity during periods not conflicting with nesting or brooding waterfowl.	Violations detected		
	Provide quality wildlife oriented public recreation and education compatible with management goals and in concert with good public relations.	Provide non-consumptive use and educational opportunity compatible with primary goal of WMA.	Provide environmental education to groups (scout troops, school classes, bird watchers and sportsmen).	Non-consumptive user days		4, 6, 9, 11, 14, 18, 19, 22, 32
			Partner with local schools, teachers, and others to provide outdoor classroom experiences on the PRWMA.			
			Monitor and manage public use to insure maintenance of wildlife and their habitats			
			Provide dog training or field trail opportunities during non-conflicting periods with nesting or brooding wildlife.			
			Limit motorized access to designated parking areas.			
		Develop PowerPoint program showing PRWMA points of interest.				
Install 2 new kiosks at the Birding Island North and South sites by 2018.	Install new kiosks at PRWMA to provide information about wildlife and habitat. Maintain kiosks twice monthly to ensure posters, signs, and maps are in good condition.	Number of new kiosks				
Develop outdoor interpretive activities on the PRWMA, including at least 1 interpretive hike annually.	Work with outdoor user groups (e.g., bird watchers) to organize interpretive hikes.	Number of interpretive hikes				

WMA Priority 4: Wildlife-based Recreation and Education					
Scope	Management Direction	Performance Target	Strategy	Metric	Compass Objective (Appendix I)
PRWMA	Involve citizens and organizations in management activities on the PRWMA.	Develop partnerships to engage people in PRWMA activities and produce 200 hours of volunteer work annually.	Partner with public and private entities and individuals such as schools, conservation organizations, federal and local agencies, and volunteers.	Hours of volunteer work	6, 9, 11, 12, 18, 19, 22, 29, 32

Monitoring

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

Compliance Monitoring

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

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

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

Biological Monitoring

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

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

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

Future monitoring needs associated with performance targets and strategies identified in the PRWMA Management Program Table are summarized in Table 3. The goal is to measure success or effectiveness of strategies that are implemented to reach performance targets. A detailed monitoring plan including specific techniques will be completed for the WMA by December 31, 2014.

Table 3. Biological monitoring for Payette River WMA, 2014–2023.

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

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

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

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

Public Use Monitoring

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

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

Reporting

Each WMA will produce a five-year report on implementation of this WMA plan in 2019, including a summary of accomplishments and progress towards meeting performance targets. During the five-year review, WMA staff will determine whether modifications to the plan are needed to meet performance targets, to accommodate changing conditions and priorities, or to incorporate advancements in management knowledge and techniques.

References

- Burger, J., and M. Gochfeld. 1994. Franklin's Gull (*Larus pipixcan*). In *The Birds of North America*, No. 116 (A. Poole and F. Gill, eds.). Philadelphia. The Academy of Natural Sciences; Washington, D.C.: The American Ornithologists' Union.
- Groves, C. 2003. *Drafting a Conservation Blueprint: A Practitioner's Guide to Planning for Biodiversity*. Island Press, Washington, D.C.
- Gutiérrez, R. J. and D. J. Delehanty. 1999. Mountain Quail (*Oreortyx pictus*). *The Birds of North America Online* (A. Poole, Ed.). Ithaca: Cornell Lab of Ornithology; Retrieved from the *Birds of North America Online*: <http://bna.birds.cornell.edu/bna/species/457> [Accessed March 4, 2014].
- Heywood, V. H. 1995. *Global biodiversity assessment*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.
- Idaho Department of Fish and Game. 2005. *Idaho Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy*. Idaho Conservation Data Center, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Boise. <https://fishandgame.idaho.gov/public/wildlife/cwcs/> [Accessed March 3, 2014].
- Ivey, G. L., and C. P. Herziger, coordinators. 2005. *Intermountain West Waterbird Conservation Plan—A plan associated with the Waterbird Conservation for the Americas initiative*. Version 1.0. Published by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Pacific Region, Portland, Oregon.
- Karl, J. W., J. M. Scott, and E. Strand. 2005. An assessment of Idaho's wildlife management areas for the protection of wildlife. *Natural Areas Journal* 25:36-45.
- Lambeck, R. J. 1997. Focal species: A multi-species umbrella for nature conservation. *Conservation Biology* 11:849–856.
- Noss, R. F., E. Dinerstein, B. Gilbert, M. Gilpin, B. J. Miller, J. Terborgh, and S. Trombulak. 1999. Core areas: where nature begins. In J. Terborgh and M. Soule, eds., *Continental Conservation: Scientific Foundations of Regional Reserve Networks*, pp. 92-128. Washington D.C.: Island Press.
- Simberloff, D. 1998. Flagships, umbrellas, and keystones: Is single-species management passé in the landscape era? *Biological Conservation* 83:247-257.
- Trost, C. H., and A. Gerstell. 1994. Status and distribution of colonial nesting waterbirds in southern Idaho, 1993. Technical Bulletin No. 94–6, Idaho Bureau of Land Management, Boise.

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 2005. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Focal Species Strategy for Migratory Birds Measuring success in bird conservation.
<http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/CurrentBirdIssues/Management/FocalSpecies/The%20Focal%20Species%20Fact%20Sheet%20and%20Table.pdf> [Accessed December 6, 2012].
- Veríssimo, D., I. Fraser, R. Bristol., J. Groombridge, and D. MacMillan. 2009. Birds as tourism flagship species: A case study on tropical islands. *Animal Conservation* 12:549-558.

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.

<i>The Compass</i>	
GOAL—Fish, Wildlife, and Habitat	
Desired Outcomes	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no net loss of habitat. • The Department is highly regarded as a comprehensive source of objective, scientifically-based information on fish, wildlife, and plants in Idaho.
A. Objective – Maintain or improve game populations to meet the demand for hunting, fishing, and trapping.	
Strategies	
1.	Set harvest rules and regulations to achieve long-term sustainability of populations and habitat.
2.	Alleviate wildlife damage to agriculture.
3.	Manage predation to achieve a balance between game and predator populations.
4.	Regularly inventory, analyze, and report on game populations and habitats.
5.	Collaborate with tribes, private landowners, and agencies to manage populations and harvest for long-term sustainability.
B. Objective – Ensure the long-term survival of native fish, wildlife, and plants.	
Strategies	
6.	Inventory, monitor, and assess the status of native fish, wildlife, and plants and the habitats upon which they depend.
7.	Identify species with the greatest need for conservation action.
8.	Restore native species where they have declined or disappeared.
9.	Assist public and private landowners in the conservation, restoration, and enhancement of native fish, wildlife, and plants.
10.	Collaborate with interested and affected parties to implement plans to recover threatened and endangered species and conserve native fish, wildlife, and plants
C. Objective – Increase the capacity of habitat to support fish and wildlife.	
Strategies	
11.	Develop measurable and achievable management objectives for fish and wildlife habitat.
12.	Assess and prioritize habitats for protection, restoration, or enhancement.
13.	Acquire interest in property where Department management can provide exceptional benefits to fish and wildlife and associated recreation.
14.	Work in cooperation with other agencies and local governments to prevent the introduction and spread of invasive species.
15.	Develop partnerships with landowners, land management agencies, and others to restore, enhance, and conserve fish and wildlife habitats.

<i>The Compass</i>	
GOAL—Fish, Wildlife, and Habitat	
D. Objective – Eliminate the impacts of fish and wildlife diseases on fish and wildlife populations, livestock, and humans.	
Strategies	
16.	Monitor fish and wildlife populations for disease.
17.	Reduce or eliminate high concentrations of wildlife that pose significant disease risk.
GOAL—Fish and Wildlife Recreation	
Desired Outcomes	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recreational opportunities are abundant and well distributed around the state, while conflicts between recreationists are few and far between. 	
E. Objective – Maintain a diversity of fishing, hunting, and trapping opportunities.	
Strategies	
18.	Provide opportunities specific to the needs of beginners, youth, people with disabilities, and families.
F. Objective – Sustain fish and wildlife recreation on public lands.	
Strategies	
19.	Protect the public’s right to use public waters for hunting, fishing, trapping, and wildlife viewing.
20.	Obtain public access across private lands to public lands.
21.	In partnership with land management agencies, provide information on fish and wildlife recreational opportunities and access on public land.
22.	Provide fish- and wildlife-based recreation on lands owned or managed by the Department.
G. Objective – Maintain broad public support for fish and wildlife recreation and management.	
Strategies	
23.	Support mentoring programs for new hunters and anglers.
24.	Promote hunting, fishing, and trapping as legitimate uses of fish and wildlife and compatible with the conservation of all wildlife.
H. Objective – Increase opportunities for wildlife viewing and appreciation.	
Strategies	
25.	Provide wildlife viewing opportunities on lands managed or owned by the Department.
26.	Assess participation, demand, and satisfaction with wildlife-viewing and appreciation opportunities. Adjust management to achieve objectives.
I. Objective – Increase the variety and distribution of access to private land for fish and wildlife recreation.	
Strategies	
27.	Collaborate with landowners and commercial operators to provide public recreation opportunities on private lands.

<i>The Compass</i>	
GOAL—Working With Others	
Desired Outcomes	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fish and wildlife management is based on sound science and is responsive to the needs and expectations of Idaho citizens. 	
J. Objective – Improve citizen involvement in the decision-making process.	
Strategies	
28.	Ensure that interested and affected parties are notified of opportunities to participate in decisions and that all voices are heard.
29.	Provide quality and timely response to input from citizens and include rationale for decisions.
K. Objective – Increase public knowledge and understanding of Idaho’s fish and wildlife.	
Strategies	
30.	Provide user-friendly regulations and information.
31.	Promote the use of Department facilities for fish and wildlife educational opportunities.
GOAL—Management Support	
Desired Outcomes	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilities, equipment, and information systems are safe, reliable, and cost effective. 	
L. Objective – Attract and retain a diverse and professional workforce.	
Strategies	
32.	Recruit and train volunteers to assist Department employees.
M. Objective – Provide equipment and facilities for excellent customer service and management effectiveness.	
Strategies	
33.	Maintain and upgrade facilities and equipment.
34.	Provide a safe, pleasant, and well-equipped work environment.
N. Objective – Improve funding to meet legal mandates and public expectations.	
Strategies	
35.	Obtain funding through grants and partnerships that support the Department’s mission.
36.	Seek efficiencies and cost savings in all programs.

II. HISTORY

In the early 1800s, Francis Payette, an explorer/trapper with the Hudson's Bay Company established Fort Boise on the banks of the Snake River some 16 miles southwest of New Plymouth. On a subsequent outing in search of beaver, he followed the Snake River north, only to discover a large, unnamed river spilling into the Snake. By naming this wandering river after himself, Francis Payette secured his place in western U.S. exploration history.

Abundant wildlife and mild winter temperatures attracted a number of Indian tribes to this region. Nez Perce, Bannock, and Shoshoni Indians converged on the Payette River and its drainages to reap the plentiful wildlife bounty found here. Spawning salmon, sage-grouse, ducks, geese, and large mammals, including mule deer and antelope, were all abundant in or near the waters of the Payette River and were harvested throughout the year to sustain these tribes.

Payette River WMA's Birding Islands segment consists of a scattered group of islands and a series of land parcels along the Payette River. These riparian areas are rich in water and wildlife values and consist primarily of cottonwood, locust trees, willow, sedges, rushes, and cattails.

Transition areas between riparian and upland habitats consist of greasewood and saltgrass. The slightly raised, upland terraces are comprised of sagebrush, rabbitbrush, bitterbrush, and a variety of grasses are present. Dense nesting cover and/or wildlife food plots are found in some upland areas.

The Payette River is a meandering waterway, with numerous side channels, oxbows, and sloughs - features which enhance the wildlife values of the river and the WMA. The river flows west out of the Birding Islands complex at an elevation of 2,230 feet, just 130 feet lower than the WMA's highest point. Beyond the river's north bank, a weather-worn bluff adds the only topographic relief to the immediate area.

Annual precipitation averages just 10 inches, with one-half of that falling during the 140- to 160-day growing season. Summers are warm and dry with temperatures seldom exceeding 100° F, and winters are cool and moist. The region receives minimal snowfall which rarely remains for long.

Healthy riparian (streamside) areas, with their hiding cover and food plots are critical wildlife habitat components. The Payette River's riparian habitat supports hundreds of wildlife species.

Payette River WMA Birding Islands segment is managed primarily to benefit waterfowl. While Canada goose nesting success has always been high, managers also work to increase fledging success (the number of goslings reaching flight stage). More than 100 goose nesting platforms on the PRWMA help maintain high nesting success, and the construction of nine brood ponds and their associated nesting islands has further boosted nesting success while increasing gosling survival rates.

Hundreds of geese nest in and around Payette River WMA, as do mallards, gadwalls, northern pintails, American widgeon, green-winged and cinnamon teal, lesser scaup, redheads, and wood ducks. White-fronted and snow geese, together with other waterfowl species use the area during spring and fall migration.

More than 200 acres of Payette River WMA have been developed as nesting cover habitat for waterfowl and upland game birds. These thick, dense plots of undisturbed residual nesting cover help birds to successfully hatch a clutch. Many wildlife species benefit from the hiding, nesting, and winter habitats provided by these cover plots. Tree and shrub stands were planted to provide additional habitat diversity and escape cover for wildlife. English oak, rocky mountain juniper, scotch pine, native plum, chokecherry, serviceberry, and nanking cherry make up these cover plantings; many of them also produce food for wildlife.

A development history shows the progress of the PRWMA in Appendix V, showing pond construction, and installation of a variety of habitat related projects.

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

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

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

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

IV. PUBLIC INPUT SUMMARY

Annual public usage on the PRWMA continues to both grow and diversify. An estimated 12,000 to 15,000 annual user days are spread out through a diverse user group population, including sportsmen and women, paint ball enthusiasts, wildlife viewers, bird watchers, and horseback riders, and others. It is an ongoing challenge to WMA managers to implement the best possible management practices as outlined in the Department’s mission statement while ensuring both wildlife and all user groups benefit from the WMA in the best possible ways.

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

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

The current manager has been on the PRWMA for more than 30 years and has discussed a multitude of issues from hundreds of users during that time. An online survey was conducted in 2012 and the PRWMA received 69 comments. Several public meetings were held in 2002 and public input was gathered at those meetings.

The most recent 2012 survey conducted online indicated 90% of the users were neutral, satisfied, or very satisfied about the PRWMA. Small steps are being made toward improving the PRWMA; however, with two full-time employees and one part-time technician, volunteers are absolutely essential when labor-intensive projects arise. A very low annual budget also makes the expanded operation difficult. The PRWMA is understaffed and underfunded, which makes operational maintenance the primary activity for the WMA.

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

A shared concern among hunters who have either commented online or with PRWMA staff is overcrowding during the time pen-raised, game-farm pheasants are being planted. Comments indicate hunters on the PRWMA believe this particular concern makes the experience less enjoyable, dangerous, and will likely lead to reduced time they would otherwise spend on the WMA.

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

Waterfowl hunters feel that pheasant hunters reduce the rate at which waterfowl actually use the ponds and the river system on the PRWMA because of the heavy use by pheasant hunters during pheasant season. Duck hunters believe the multitudes of pheasant hunters put too much pressure on the PRWMA, and subsequently, waterfowl avoid the area.

Another conflict between upland hunters and waterfowl hunters that arises often stems from the 10:00 a.m. shooting time restriction placed upon upland bird hunters.

Waterfowl hunting spots are taken on a first come first serve basis, and when hunting is good, the best hunting locations have hunters showing up to claim the preferred hunting areas well before shooting hours. This kind of effort does not allow a casual hunter a chance to hunt in the best locations.

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

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

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

It appears that people walking dogs and training dogs on the PRWMA is increasing. Expanding areas to appease the desires of various dog owners for the purposes of exercising and training

could have a negative impact on nesting waterfowl and upland birds. The Department allows training events only in August and September on WMAs within established areas, and does not include site-specific areas designated strictly used for nesting, which are closed to all access prior to nesting season.

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

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

1. Hunter overcrowding
2. Habitat improvement
3. Noxious weeds

Payette River WMA Final Draft Public Review

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

We received seven website reviews and comments on-line about the PRWMA draft plan. Six individuals agreed with the PRWMA management plan priorities and one strongly agreed. Five agreed with the plan as written, while two were neutral. Specific comments received about the plan were: concern over decreased use of ducks on WMA ponds that are choked with aquatic vegetation, and concern of gophers expanding from the WMA to surrounding farmland.

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

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

V. ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Development History

- 1960 Purchased the Keifer Segment on the north side of the Payette River.
- 1964 Purchased 292 acres on south side of the Payette River.
- 1965 Placement of car bodies on north river bank.
- 1965 Concrete ditch installed and irrigation pump replaced.
- 1965 Leveled field on north side of river.
- 1970 Purchased 200 acres of land and islands in Gem County on the Payette River, Emmett Segment.
- 1983 Constructed ponds on the south side of the Payette River.
- 1987 Enlarged pond built in 1983 and slough area enlarged and deepened.
- 1989 Small pond on south side of area dug and control structure installed.
- 1990 Two ponds constructed on the Birding Island segments.
- 1991 Forty new goose nesting platforms and 65 new wood duck boxes were installed.
- 1992 Irrigation pump replaced and pump house built.
- 1993 Thirty new goose nesting platforms and 25 new wood duck boxes.
- 1995 Constructed one half mile of new fencing around two existing ponds.
- 1996 Constructed 11-acre pond on Birding Island south.
- 1997 Constructed 11-acre pond on Birding Island south.
- 1997 Constructed dike on Birding Island south.
- 1997 Installed 150 goose nesting platforms and 125 wood duck boxes on Payette and Snake rivers.
- 1998 Constructed new water return ditch and removed the ditch on adjacent private property to Department lands.
- 1998 Rebuilt same dike rebuilt in 1997 after flood waters damaged the structure.
- 2000 Added 45 wood duck boxes and 23 goose nesting platforms to PRWMA.
- 2000 Purchased 46.8-acre section of Island to South segment of PRWMA.
- 2006 Added 1,026 feet of concrete ditch for water delivery system on PRWMA.
- 2008 Exchange of Solterbeck access for 19.66-acre 52 Bridge access on Payette River.
- 2009 Cattail removed on two waterfowl production ponds on South segment.
- 2009 Upgraded parking areas on the West and North segments.
- 2010 Repaired flood damage on three dikes on South segment.
- 2012 Constructed five-acre waterfowl production pond on South segment.

VI. VEGETATION

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

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

VII. WILDLIFE SPECIES LIST

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

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

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

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

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

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

VIII. OTHER PROGRAMS

Mineral and Gas

During the summer of 2012, a private company took seismic recordings on the PRWMA. This required several one-mile-long cables to be laid for determining the amount of gas and petroleum that occur under the surface of the PRWMA. These one-mile long cables were laid approximately every 100 yards apart. Little habitat disturbance took place and it was a one-time disturbance. Guidelines were discussed to minimize the impacts to the WMA wildlife and habitat. If future extraction of these resources does take place, surface and onsite development should be avoided and not allowed on the PRWMA.

Travel Program

Payette River WMA is closed to public vehicle access. Public parking areas are available; however, access is restricted to foot travel only, including the use of small watercraft (float tubes, canoes, etc.) which can be carried in for use on the ponds within the WMA. The islands in the Payette River can also be accessed by watercraft, and no motorized vehicle use is allowed on the islands.

Grazing Program

Historically, cattle grazing was used on the PRWMA as a tool to create Canada goose brood pastures. However, this habitat type was not limiting goose production in the area and grazing was not leaving sufficient residual nesting cover for other species. Management goals have shifted over the last several years to increase emphasis on leaving residual cover for other nesting birds. Therefore, the grazing program has been discontinued on the PRWMA. Cattle grazing on the Birding Island segments was eliminated in 1995.

Vegetation is currently managed by a combination of chemical, mechanical, and biological methods to achieve the desired results. These methods include spraying herbicides, utilizing live insects for biological control and implementing tractor mowing when necessary. These methods are only utilized when there are little or no conflicts with wildlife.

IX. LAND ACQUISITIONS AND AGREEMENTS

<i>Land Acquisitions</i>				
Year	Funds Used	Segment	Acres	Acquired From
Payette County				
1960	PR	Birding Islands	50.00	Robert & Sam Kennedy
1960	PR	Birding Islands	73.00	Hugh Kennedy
1960	PR	Birding Islands	80.00	Ruth Keifer
1960	PR	Birding Islands	100.00	Carey Van Leuven
1962	PR	Birding Islands	61.79	Fed R. Babbitt
1964	PR	Birding Islands	291.82	Sam J. Kennedy
1964	PR	Birding Islands	2.00	Bar N Ranch
1963	PR	Birding Islands	21.00	Richard E. Meyers
1999	Donation	Birding Islands	46.80	George Colwell (IFWF)
2008	Exchange	Access site	19.66	George Colwell (Smoke Ranch LLP)
2012	BPA	Birding Islands	99.92	George Colwell (D & C Bicandi)
		<i>Subtotal</i>	845.99	
Gem County				
1970	Gift	Hudson Smith	198.82	Hudson Smith
1979	PR	Hudson Smith	.50	Gem Island Cattle Company
		<i>Subtotal</i>	199.32	
		<i>WMA Total</i>	1,045.31	

<i>Water Rights</i>			
Permit No.	Priority Date	CFS	Name
65-2561	10/09/1951	1.34	Sandhollow Ditch Company
Cert. #4464		16.50 Shares	Last Chance Ditch Company
Cert. #4502		10.50 Shares	Last Chance Ditch Company
65-0486	06/01/1924	.50	Payette River
65-0488	04/00/1924	1.30	Ada Drain
65-089	04/00/1924	1.88	Unnamed Drain
65-0490	04/00/1924	2.70	Landley Gulch Drain

PAYETTE RIVER

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA PLAN

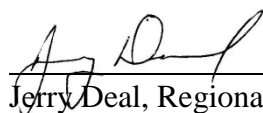
Approval

Submitted by:



Tim Shelton, Habitat Biologist

Reviewed by:



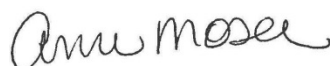
Jerry Deal, Regional Habitat Manager



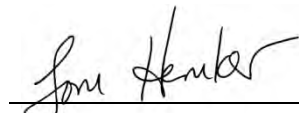
Scott Reinecker, Regional Supervisor



Tim Weekley, Bureau of Wildlife

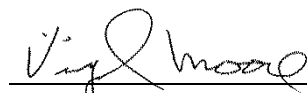


Ann Moser, Bureau of Wildlife



Tom Hemker, State Habitat Manager

Approved by:



Virgil Moore, Director