

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT OPERATIONAL PLAN 2007-2008
Habitat Work Section Operational Plan

Habitat Work Section Units Overview

The Habitat work section management strategies directly relate to the Wildlife Program and the three subprograms: Game, Nongame, and Sport Fish. The Habitat Branch provides technical guidance for the implementation and execution of Departmental policies and procedures for an environmental evaluation work-unit, a lands acquisition and protection work-unit, and to maintain natural resource databases, including one for special status plants and animals, in support of Departmental programs.

The Habitat work section is responsible for coordinating the review of and monitoring other agencies' land and water development or management programs that may impact wildlife resources, and developing official Department position statements for these programs. The work section coordinates the preparation of or prepares Department environmental impact documentation for Department projects. The work section evaluates land protection needs on public, state trusts, and private lands, and identifies, evaluates and negotiates protection through fee title acquisition, leases, conservation easements, stewardship and other agreements. These activities require coordination with all divisions and most work-units within the Department, including the key theme areas of Wildlife Program, Off-highway Vehicle Program, Watercraft Program, and Business Administration Program. The work section also coordinates with various land management or natural resource agencies in sharing information for maintaining a geographic information system and the Heritage Data Management System. The Habitat work section activities are performed throughout all regions of the state.

The Habitat work section has four major work-units including Land and Water Rights Administration, Project Evaluation (aquatic and terrestrial habitats), Heritage Data Management System, and Geographic Information Systems and Aquatic Habitat.

A) Land and Water Rights

The Department acquires and manages real properties and ensures that the properties are managed and improved consistent with their original acquisition criteria and obligations. On an annual basis, the Commission has in excess of 2.4 million dollars available for wildlife habitat acquisitions for threatened and endangered species. Currently, the Commission owns or manages in excess of 260,000 acres and hundreds of individual surface water rights statewide. The Land and Water Rights Work-unit ensures that future property acquisitions occur under a sound programmatic approach and all existing holdings are managed in accordance with their individual Project Statement purposes and other legal requirements, technical guidance and oversight are required in order to protect both the investment and resource values. The Land and Water Rights unit is responsible for maintaining all original documents, and electronic database system and provides land and water information to internal and external customers.

Objective: To protect fish and wildlife habitat through real property management, acquisition, land leases and exchanges, creation of rights-of ways, agreements, and establishment of conservation easements and to protect and disseminate land and water database information.

Work-unit needs and benefits

The administration of lands requires a tremendous amount of review and documentation. Special land use agreements must be updated and/or reviewed in order to assure continuation of their associated benefits. Existing rights-of ways and applications for new utility corridors must be assessed to determine compatibility with Department programs and if approved, any revenue derived from Federal Aid properties must be deposited in the proper account. The potential also exists for the generation of Job income, which must be deposited into the fund from which it originated. Federal Aid shall be notified in advance of any anticipated generation of Job income. Our database of properties currently consists of 670 records of which 347 records are active holdings totaling 275,880.25 acres of land and 3,524 surface acres of water. An additional 323 records of historical significance are also maintained and updated as historic information becomes available. The Land and Water Rights unit also manages 416 water rights records, 32 Wildlife Areas, 97 ground-water wells and 28 ADWR Jurisdictional dams. The Department has developed management plans for all Commission-owned properties. These plans will require continual updating over time. The State's General Stream Adjudication requires investigation and research involving Commission-owned water rights affected by the adjudication process. The Land and Water Rights unit also provides expert testimony in the ongoing Statewide General Adjudication. In addition, State water rights statutes and rules require compilation of annual reports and support documentation detailing amounts of water utilized and the beneficial purposes to which the water was applied. Benefits will be derived through protection of Department land and water investments and through ensuring adequate resource protection. The Department may also derive benefits through the generation of income for reinvestment into the Job.

Approaches:

1. Maintain database of Commission-owned lands and manage property portfolio to ensure maximum protection value received for funds invested in lands and waters. (*WL 2012 - Strategies 1.A.1,2; 1.B. 1,*)
2. Conduct feasibility studies on new properties identified for protection through acquisition, and prepare documentation and acquire as appropriate.
 - On non-Department lands, achieve wildlife objectives by providing information and guidance to land management agencies and other vested interests (e.g. lessees, concessionaires), developing and implementing fish and wildlife habitat restoration projects, and through voluntary stewardship agreements and conservation easements with property owners. (*WL 2012 – Strategies 1.A.3,5; 1.B.1,2,5,6,7; 2.D.1,2,3,4*)
 - When other land protection mechanisms have proven infeasible or inappropriate, the Department may purchase properties. (*WL 2012 - Strategies 1A. 3 - 1B. 4,5,6*)
 - Develop agreements with local governments for cooperative management of urban and rural lands and waters, and those in annexed areas that are important to wildlife and to wildlife-based recreation. (*WL 2012 - Strategies 1.A. 4,5,6; 1.B.2,5,6,7,8; 2.D.1,2,3,4*)
 - Participate in the state-wide Areas of Conservation Priority Project to identify and prioritize areas of the state for conservation through acquisition and other protection mechanisms. (*WL 2012 – Strategies 1.A.1,2,3,4,5,6; 1.B.1,6*)

3. Acquire, maintain and perfect water rights claims and maintain a database of Commission-owned water rights claims and supporting documentation.
 - Advocate for, and where possible secure, instream flows and impoundment minimum-storage levels sufficient to sustain viable populations of aquatic, riparian, and wetland-dependent wildlife. (*WL 2012 - Strategies 1.A.3,4,5; 1.B.6*)
 - Coordinate and collaborate with the other State and Federal agencies (e.g. ADWR, ASLD, BLM, USFS) as it relates to water rights issues. (*WL 2012 - Strategies 1.B.1,6; 2.D.1,2,3,4*)
 - Investigate land tenancy for water development projects on federal lands (e.g. BLM). (*WL 2012 - Strategies 1.A.1,3,4,5; 2.D.2,4*)
4. Coordinate the oversight of records retention, compliance, and initial development and revision of management plans for all Department-owned and managed properties, including Wildlife Areas. (*WL 2012 - Strategies 1.A.2,3,4,5,6*)
5. Assess existing rights-of-ways and applications for new utility corridors to determine compatibility with Department programs, including wildlife related recreation.
 - Investigate and acquire where appropriate rights-of-ways for access routes for water catchments, Commission owned lands, and wildlife related recreational opportunities. (*WL 2012 - Strategies 1.A.5; 1.B.1,4,6,7; 2.D.1,2,3,4*)
 - Maintain existing rights-of-ways where compatible with Department programs. (*WL 2012 - Strategies 1.A.5; 1.B.1,4,6,7; 2.D.1,2,3,4*)
6. Coordinate with Department Programs regarding shooting ranges in the state, including, but not limited to reviewing all range plans. (*WL2012 - Strategies 2.B.3*)

B) Project Evaluation

Arizona is currently recognized as one of the fastest growing states in the nation and, as a result, major demands are being placed upon its natural resources and their managers. Subsequently, Arizona faces a variety of challenges to ensure the conservation and protection of the diversity of wildlife currently inhabiting the state. Many agencies (local, state, federal, and tribal) are developing long-range plans to manage, conserve, or develop the natural resources of Arizona. These plans include road, power, housing and commercial development and related infrastructure to support increasing human demands, all of which are likely to have major impacts on the State's fish and wildlife resources.

In efforts to address habitat loss, fragmentation, degradation, access issues, water quality and quantity issues, invasive species issues, and increased wildlife-human conflicts (among others), the Department must be a proactive participant in assessing land and water development projects and management programs and developing and implementing fish and wildlife restoration projects in order to protect and enhance fish and wildlife resources and fish and wildlife-related recreational opportunities. Under provisions of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, the National Environmental Policy Act, the Endangered Species Act, the Clean Water Act, and interagency agreements, the Department has been actively involved in planning efforts for many land and water projects. In being a proactive participant in land and water development planning efforts, the Project Evaluation ensures coordination and involvement with federal, state, and

municipal agencies and other organizations to provide recommendations to avoid, offset, or mitigate direct, indirect, and/or cumulative impacts to our natural resources.

Objectives

Habitat Evaluation: To incorporate fish and wildlife resource needs or features in land and water development projects and land and water management planning efforts in Arizona.

Habitat Protection: To ensure habitat protection through environmental compliance and regulation and habitat monitoring, and to consider and evaluate the effectiveness of mitigation activities for various land and water development projects and management planning activities in Arizona.

Habitat Restoration: To provide for the restoration of fish and wildlife habitat through the development and implementation of habitat restoration and enhancement projects on federal, state, private, and local land and water resource management agency lands.

Work-unit needs and benefits

The Project Evaluation strives to be involved during the initial planning phase of federal, state, municipal, and other development and planning projects, and through project implementation, as full resource partners to ensure adequate consideration of fish and wildlife resource issues, management abilities, and wildlife-based recreation opportunities.

Project Evaluation tracks and monitors ongoing efforts to ensure adequate mitigation actions are developed to offset impacts to fish and wildlife habitats for a variety of transportation, development, and related infrastructure projects. The Department strives to ensure environmental commitments have been adequately addressed and that our Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat Compensation goals (A2.16) have been achieved.

Project Evaluation also provides policy, technical, and environmental law compliance guidance and oversight, and coordinates the Arizona Game and Fish Department's review of internal and external policies, plans, and projects affecting fish and wildlife resources in Arizona.

The Department's Wildlife 2012 Strategic Plan (WL 2012) identifies many of the issues the Project Evaluation Work-unit must consider (as described above) under the Strategic Theme of Wildlife. Resource Management Objectives described in WL 2012 that relate to *Issues Affecting Resource Management* and apply to the Habitat Protection and Evaluation Work-units functions and duties include:

1. Conserve, preserve, enhance and restore Arizona's wildlife habitat and resources while balancing resource needs with other uses.
2. Maintain or improve the quality and connectivity of habitats to support a diversity of wildlife species.
3. Minimize the negative impacts of invasive species on wildlife and their habitats.
4. Improve the status of wildlife, with particular emphasis on those species listed as *Species of Greatest Conservation Need*.
5. Provide for sustainable use of wildlife by people.

Approaches

1. Collaborate, coordinate, and partner with federal, state, municipal and other land and water management agencies to ensure that the needs of wildlife and wildlife habitats, as well as ensuring that law enforcement and other Department authorities, are considered during long and short range planning, and during project implementation. (*WL 2012 – Strategies 1.A.5; 2.C.4; 2.D.1,2,3*)
2. Evaluate the effects and impacts on fish and wildlife resources associated with land and water development projects and land management planning activities, and various enhancement projects/programs in Arizona. (*WL 2012 - Strategies 1.A.1,2,4,5,6; 2.C.4; 2.D.1,2,3*)
3. Develop plans, recommendations, and guidelines for mitigating losses or for enhancement of fish and wildlife populations and habitat and coordinate the incorporation and implementation of fish and wildlife features in development projects and land management planning activities. (*WL 2012 - Strategies 1.A.1,2,3,4,5; .2C.4; 2.D.1,2,3*)
4. Track and/or evaluate the effectiveness of mitigation projects established to offset habitat impacts from ongoing development around the state. (*WL 2012 - Strategies 1.A. 1,2,4*)
5. Pursue opportunities to establish and enhance fish and wildlife habitats with federal, state and local land and water resource management agencies as well as with private landowners. (*WL 2012 - Strategies 1.A 1,4,5; 2.C.4; 2.D 1,2,3*)
6. Promote safe and responsible OHV, watercraft, and wildlife-related recreational opportunities in land and water project evaluation and management planning processes. (*WL 2012 - Strategies 1.B.1,2,6*)
7. Provide technical guidance and oversight to ensure that Department activities comply with federal and state laws or other environmental legislation. (*WL 2012 - Strategies 1.A.1,2; 2.C.4*)
8. Administer the Departments Environmental Compliance Program (*WL 2012 – Strategies 1.A. 1,2,3,4,5,6*)

C) Heritage Data Management System (HDMS)

In its role as a natural resource management agency, the Department must manage, analyze and make decisions based on data. The HDMS is an integrated data management system of maps, computer files, and paper files. Data concerning the location of species of concern and habitats are mapped; data concerning the ecological status of species are cataloged; and data concerning the biology of species are consolidated into a well-organized system whereby a myriad of information can be easily retrieved. The system is designed to be used by decision-makers with

diverse needs and missions to promote sound environmental planning and conservation measures concerning special status species, so Arizonans can make prudent decisions weighing future development, economic growth, and environmental integrity. It identifies elements of concern in Arizona and consolidates information about their status and distribution throughout the state.

Objective: To maintain a sensitive habitat and species management system that facilitates storage, retrieval, updating, and analysis of data gathered through inventory and other management activities for the purpose of coordinating conservation activities and assessing conservation progress.

Work-unit needs and benefits:

HDMS is a computerized and manual database of status information, and occurrences of sensitive habitats, endangered, threatened, and candidate species. These data will contribute to: enhanced management and conservation of natural resources statewide, identification of sensitive species and sensitive habitats, improved inventory, management, planning, and conservation priorities for the Department and cooperators.

Approaches

1. Administer, maintain, and enhance the Heritage Data Management System (HDMS).
 - Develop, maintain, and enhance manual and computerized management information systems to efficiently and effectively store, retrieve, and analyze data. (*WL 2012 – Strategies 1.A.2,4; 3.B.4*)
 - Provide training to enhance staff proficiency in all areas of wildlife information collection, management, application, and dissemination. (*WL 2012 – Strategies 1.A.4, 5; 4.A.6*)
 - Collaboratively develop and implement standardized techniques and protocols for wildlife inventory, survey, population modeling, monitoring, harvest, and for habitat assessment and monitoring. (*WL 2012 – Strategies 1.A.3,5; 4.A.6*)
 - Administer the HDMS work-unit and identify areas for potential growth. (*WL 2012 - Strategies 3.B.3,4; 4.A.6,7*)
2. Maintain direct information-sharing compatibility between the HDMS and appropriate resource management agencies and other cooperators.
(*WL 2012 – Strategies 1.A.5; 2.C.3.4; 2.D.1,2,3*)
3. Gather and enter information on sensitive habitats, threatened, endangered, and candidate species.
 - Gather information on wildlife distribution, abundance, ecology, and natural history, and conduct research on wildlife issues, habitat requirements, taxonomy, and relate the finding to current or recommended management strategies. (*WL 2012 - Strategies 1.A.2; 1.A.4; 3.B.4*)
 - Improve the quality and availability of information on Nongame and endangered wildlife, biotic communities, habitats, and other elements of natural diversity. (*WL 2012 - Strategies 1.A.1,2.4; 1.A.5; 2.D.1; 3.B.4*)

4. Provide sensitive habitat and species occurrence and status information and interpret it for Department personnel and outside cooperators at appropriate points within conservation activities and environmental process. (*WL 2012 - Strategies 1.A.1,2,4,5; 2.D.1,2,3; 4.B.4*)
5. Participate in the state-wide Areas of Conservation Priority Project to identify and prioritize areas of the state for conservation through acquisition and other protection mechanisms. (*WL 2012 – Strategies 1.A.1,2,3,4,5,6; 1.B.1,6*)

D) Geographic Information Systems and Aquatic Habitat

1. Geographic Information Systems

The Geographic Information Systems strives to provide a Geographic Information System (GIS) for Department use as an effective natural resource data management tool in support of the Department's mission and functions. The Habitat Branch GIS work-unit provides the core system used by the Department's approximately 80 GIS users, including computer and plotting hardware, software, hardware and software maintenance, and system administration.

The Habitat GIS Work-unit provides technical support to Department GIS users to facilitate their use of desktop GIS. The Work-unit also provides customized cartography upon request.

The Habitat GIS is striving to increase cooperative and beneficial relationships with other agencies and NGOs to promote cooperative data development activities and access to GIS resources.

Work-unit needs and benefits

As the demand for GIS services and data increases, the Habitat GIS in its current capacity cannot continue to service each work-unit's needs in a timely fashion. A large shift in how GIS services and products are delivered needs to occur to fully realize the benefits of this powerful information management and decision-making tool. The vision for the Habitat GIS Work-unit is to advance GIS to the ESRI GIS Enterprise level, which offers a wide suite of services and products focused on achieving maximum technological benefits, including spatial analysis and modeling, project consultation, mobile GIS solutions, Internet map delivery, customized cartography, and user training and support.

Priorities

1. Increase the use of geospatial technologies to improve efficiencies in workflows.
2. Establish standards and protocols for managing the GIS.
3. Acquire and maintain the hardware necessary to disseminate data.
4. Improve employee access to high quality data.
5. Develop a comprehensive training curriculum to increase user skill level.
6. Increase current staff skills and technological expertise to meet changing program demands.

Approaches

1. Expand and enhance the capabilities of the Habitat GIS Work-unit so that it supports Department-wide access, maintenance and solutions, including, but not limited to ESRI GIS Enterprise. (*WL 2012 - Strategies 1.A.4; 3.B.3,4*)
2. Develop and maintain a Department-wide inventory of hardware, software, users and methods to evaluate the effectiveness of each individual GIS component and identify improvement opportunities. (*WL 2012 – Strategies 1.A.4; 3.B.4*)
3. Develop a database model and acquire/geoprocess datasets to maintain a repository of high quality spatial data that conforms to standards and protocols for inclusion, and implement a maintenance plan to keep the data current. (*WL 2012 - Strategies 1.A.2,4*)
4. Create a GIS Technical Committee to identify GIS needs and improve data sharing and communication among users. (*WL 2012 - Strategies 1.A.4*)
5. Explore and deploy map generation methods to increase efficiency and timeliness of customer service. (*WL 2012 - Strategies 1.A.4; 3.B.4*)
6. Develop customized GIS tools to meet Department needs. (*WL 2012 - Strategies 1.A.4*)
7. Develop a GIS training curriculum spanning all skill levels and focus areas. (*WL 2012 – Strategies 1.A.4,5; 4.A.6*)
8. Increase work-unit efficiency and effectiveness to support the 80+ current GIS users and continue to provide staff training opportunities to ensure skill levels keep pace with ever-changing geospatial informational technologies. (*Wildlife 2012 - Strategy 4.A.6,8*)
9. Participate in the state-wide Areas of Conservation Priority Project to identify and prioritize areas of the state for conservation through acquisition and other protection mechanisms. (*WL 2012 – Strategies 1.A.1,2,3,4,5,6; 1.B.1,6*)

2. Aquatic Habitat

The Aquatic Habitat work-unit strives to be involved during the initial planning phase of federal, state, municipal, and other development and planning projects, and through project implementation, as full resource partners to ensure adequate consideration of fish and wildlife resource issues, management abilities, and wildlife-based recreation opportunities.

The Aquatic Habitat work-unit provides oversight and coordination for Department programs and projects related to aquatic and riparian resources. As identified by Commission Policy (DOM A2.12) the Department encourages management practices resulting in maintenance of current riparian habitat, and restoration of past or deteriorated riparian habitat in accordance with the Department Wildlife Habitat Compensation procedures. Further, the Department encourages maintenance, restoration and protection of instream flows, which are often essential to maintaining riparian habitat.

The Aquatic Habitat work-unit also provides policy, technical, and environmental law compliance guidance and oversight, and coordinates the Arizona Game and Fish Department's

review of internal and external policies, plans, and projects affecting fish and wildlife resources in Arizona.

Operational Focus

1. To incorporate fish and wildlife resource needs or features in land and water development projects and land and water management planning efforts impacting aquatic and riparian habitats in Arizona.
2. To ensure aquatic and riparian habitat protection through environmental compliance and regulation, and to consider and evaluate the effectiveness of mitigation activities for various land and water development projects and management planning activities in Arizona.
3. To identify opportunities for restoration of degraded aquatic and riparian habitats and coordinate restoration planning and implementation efforts.
4. To coordinate with partners and stakeholders in Endangered Species Act Section 10 permitting processes, including multi-species conservation planning and habitat conservation planning.

Approaches

1. Collaborate, coordinate, and partner with federal, state, municipal and other land and water management agencies to ensure that the needs of fish and wildlife and their habitats are considered during long and short range planning, and during project implementation. (*WL 2012 – Strategies 1.A. 5; 2.C. 4, 2.D.1,2,3*)
2. Evaluate the effects and impacts on fish and wildlife resources associated with land and water development projects and land management planning activities, and various enhancement projects/programs in Arizona. (*WL 2012 - Strategies 1.A.1,2,4,5,6; 2.C.4; 2.D. 1,2,3,*)
3. Develop plans, recommendations, and guidelines for mitigating losses or for enhancement of fish and wildlife populations and habitat and coordinate the incorporation and implementation of fish and wildlife features in development projects and land management planning activities. (*WL 2012 - Strategies 1.A.1,2,3,4,5; 2.C.4; 2.D.1,2,3*)
4. Pursue opportunities to establish and enhance fish and wildlife habitats with federal, state and local land and water resource management agencies. (*WL 2012 - Strategies 1.A.1,4,5; 2.C.4; 2.D.1,2,3*)
5. Consider fishing, hunting, and other wildlife-related recreational opportunities in land and water project evaluation and management planning processes. (*WL 2012 - Strategies 1.B. 1,2,6*)
6. Provide technical guidance and oversight to ensure that Department activities comply with federal and state laws or other environmental legislation. (*WL 2012 - Strategies 1.A.1,2. 2.C. 4*)

7. Assist the Departments Environmental Compliance Program (*WL 2012 – Strategies 1.A.1,2,3,4,5,6*)

3. Invasive Species

Non-native invasive species have become an increasing problem in Arizona, and much of the United State, with huge economic impacts. One study estimates that the total costs of invasive species in the United States amount to more than \$100 billion each year. The U.S. spends \$120 billion annually on the control and impacts of more than 800 invasive species infestations. This does not account for the values of species extinctions and losses in biodiversity, ecosystems, services and aesthetics. The Department is initiating an invasive species program to assess the impacts of invasives to wildlife resources and wildlife related recreational opportunities. The Department will be working with a multi-agency group to develop a comprehensive state-wide plan to address the impacts of invasives in Arizona.

Work-unit Needs and Benefits:

Invasive species impact nearly half of the species currently listed as Threatened or Endangered under the U.S. Federal Endangered Species Act. Nine out of 21 of the most endangered ecosystems in the U.S. are significantly impacted by non-native invasive species. 80 percent of the nation's fish communities are considered degraded because of decline or loss of native species and introduction of non-native invasives.

Invasive species are increasingly impacting Arizona's land and water resources through wildlife habitat degradation and losses, decreased water quality and yields, alterations in fire regimes and watershed degradation.

Operational Focus

1. Coordinate with other federal, state and local agencies and other stakeholders regarding invasive species issues, including, but not limited to, golden algae, zebra muscles, and quagga muscles.
2. Outreach opportunities and the impacts of invasive species on wildlife and wildlife related recreation.

Operation Approaches

1. Provide leadership on the Arizona Invasive Species Advisory Council (AISAC) in order to develop a shared understanding of invasive species issues and impacts as well as maintain beneficial relationships with other agencies, landowners, and non-governmental entities. (*Wildlife 2012 Strategies – 2.D.4; 2.D.1,2,3,4*)
2. Through AISAC involvement, develop a comprehensive statewide invasive species management plan that identifies the scope of the problem, identifies potential future

problems and risks, recommends actions to address those problems and risks, and guides the implementation of those actions. (*Wildlife 2012 Strategies –1.A.1,2,3,4,5; 2.D.4; 2.D.1,2,3,4*)

3. Foster intra-agency networking on invasive species issues and serve on related regional and national committees. (*Wildlife 2012 Strategies – 2.D.4; 2.D.1,2,3,4*)
4. Develop Department policies, regulations, best management practices, and guidelines concerning invasive species and integrate invasive species issues and actions into Arizona Game and Fish Department work plans. (*Wildlife 2012 Strategies – 1.A.1,2,3,4,5; 1.B.8,9; 2.A.3,5; 2.D.1,2,3,4*)
5. Provide invasive species information to internal and external customers by giving presentations, workshops and training, and provide outreach and education via Web pages and print materials. (*WL 2012 - Strategies 1.A.1,2,4,5; 2.D.1,2,3; 4.B.4*)

OTHER SUB-PROGRAM AND SUPPORT PROJECT LINKAGES:

The Habitat Work Section will identify Departmental opportunities for coordination and collaboration as those opportunities arise.

Game – Coordinate to evaluate land and water acquisition, management and development projects as they relate to wildlife activities or impacts to wildlife.
Assistance with all pertinent environmental compliance issues associated with Department projects.

Information – Coordinate for review of all plans associated with shooting ranges and Wildlife Areas.

Watchable Wildlife – Coordinate to ensure watchable wildlife issues are considered in land and water development opportunities, habitat restoration, and Commission owned land activities.

Regional Coordination – Coordinate to develop Department responses on land and water development projects, other agencies' management plans, habitat restoration projects, state and national policy, information sharing, and GIS activities and land and water acquisitions, management and disposal.

Wildlife Area Management – Coordination of, oversight of, and initial acquisition and development all wildlife area management plans.
Assistance with all environmental compliance issues.

Development – Coordinate on activities related to the acquisition and management of real properties and water rights.
Assistance with all environmental compliance issues associated with Department projects.

Providing data support as it relates to the Landowner Relations Program.

Research – Data sharing associated with special status species.

Assistance with all environmental compliance issues.

Fisheries – Coordinate regarding access and special use permits required for sport fisheries activities.

Coordinate to ensure that fisheries issues, including habitat and water rights and water quality are considered in responses regarding land and water development projects, other agencies' management plans, state and national policy, etc.

Assistance with all environmental compliance issues (e.g. Section 7 Consultation for stockings).

Nongame – Coordinate to ensure nongame issues are considered in responses regarding land and water acquisition, management and development projects, other agencies' management plans, state and national policy, and Commission-owned properties.

Assistance with all environmental compliance issues associated with Department projects.

Coordinate for data sharing of special status species.

Off-highway Vehicle Program – Coordinate to ensure OHV activities are considered in responses regarding land and water development projects, other agencies' management plans, and Commission-owned properties.

Law Enforcement – Coordination to ensure law enforcement issues are incorporated in Department responses regarding land and water development projects and other agencies' management plans.

Business Administration – Coordination for budget issues, planning activities, grant reviews, personnel actions, and information services.