

YOUR  
**WYOMING**  
GAME AND FISH  
DEPARTMENT



**Agency Snapshot**



**Conserving Wildlife, Serving People**

## Landowners and partners

Game and Fish relies heavily on the support and collaboration from our partners and private landowners to effectively manage Wyoming's fish and wildlife. The commitment of state legislators, our citizens and partner organizations is essential for achieving conservation success. Many landowners throughout the state actively participate in wildlife management and habitat improvement on their properties. These dedicated individuals provide access for research and recreation on thousands of acres across Wyoming. However, there is

still much work to be done. Game and Fish continues the tradition of collaborating with people and partners from all over the state to develop strategies that will conserve wildlife for future generations.



If you are interested in participating please scan this QR code for more information.

## Invasives

**Aquatic:** In 2024, Wyoming faced an increased risk from aquatic invasive species but remains free of invasive mussels. Over the inspection season, staff inspected more than 78,000 boats to protect the state's waters from invasive aquatic plants and animals. Of those inspections, more than 6,000 were considered high-risk — the highest number since the AIS program was established in 2010 by the Wyoming Legislature. Keeping Wyoming waters clean and invasive-free is a significant undertaking that benefits all Wyoming residents and visiting anglers.



**Terrestrial:** The Department is increasingly concerned about the growing threat Invasive Annual Grasses (IAGs) pose to Wyoming's wildlife and native habitats. In the last five years the Department has worked with a wide variety of state, federal and non-government partners to address the growing threat by treating nearly 1.2 million acres of Wyoming's most important habitats. Despite the positive action, strategic planning and adaptive management, the threat of IAG infestations continues to grow in Wyoming.

## Movement matters



Wildlife and fish movement continues to be a priority for Game and Fish. Adding to the long list of Wyoming wildlife crossings, more projects are underway to protect motorists and wildlife. To date, we have two overpasses and 58 underpasses.

The Kemmerer Wildlife Crossing project on U.S. Highway 189, scheduled to begin construction this year, builds on existing wildlife crossing improvements, including the Dry Piney and Trapper's Point crossings. The upcoming project near Dubois on U.S. HWY 26/287 is part of The Wind River to Grand Tetons – Connecting Wildlife on the Togwotee Trail; crossings are significant for wildlife and motorist movement.



# Conserving wildlife

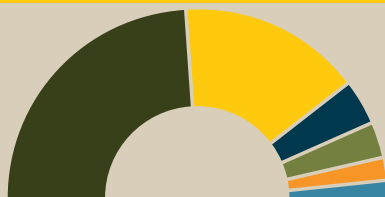
The Wyoming Game and Fish Department takes great pride in overseeing more than 800 species of wildlife and welcomes all residents and visitors to explore our magnificent state. Since 1890, we have prioritized conservation, management and research, demonstrating our commitment to safeguarding our natural heritage. We truly understand our hunting and fishing traditions play a vital role in connecting people to the breathtaking wild spaces we hold dear and call home. For more than 130 years, we have strategically invested in habitat and wildlife management, demonstrating our unwavering dedication to this cause. We remain vigilant in our mission, ensuring a vibrant future for generations to come. Whether you are a hunter, angler, trapper, recreational shooter, or wildlife enthusiast, we recognize our shared passion for the rich diversity of fish and wildlife that make Wyoming so extraordinary.



## Habitat work

Quality habitat is a cornerstone of wildlife management. Game and Fish has 45 Wildlife Habitat Management Areas for wildlife and public use. Investing in sound habitat builds a resilient landscape that allows wildlife to withstand the highs and lows of water availability and harsh winters. In 2023 and 2024, Game and Fish treated more than a million acres to prevent invasive annual grasses and dedicated more than \$13 million to completing hundreds of on-the-ground projects to maintain and improve aquatic and terrestrial habitats for fish and wildlife with our partners. The Habitat Protection Program completed 479 Wildlife Environmental Reviews in 2024. The Partnership to Conserve Big Game Habitat in Wyoming allocated \$33,751,508 since 2021 for fence modification work, invasive grass treatments, conservation easements, habitat leasing, and research in partnership with the Game and Fish, USDA, the WYldlife Fund and landowners to support big game habitat in Wyoming.

## Approximate expenditures by species



48% - Big Game
31% - Fish
7% - Other*
7% - Small Game & Game Birds
4% - Trophy Game**
3% - Threatened & Endangered

\*Bison, turkey, sensitive species and furbearers

\*\*Black bear, mountain lion and gray wolf

## Education and outreach

Inspiring a conservation ethic in youth and adults continues to be a priority for the department. Educational programs in the classroom and beyond were expanded in 2024, including Trout in the Classroom, the National Archery in Schools Program, and Hunter Education in Schools, which reached a combined 3,954 students across the state. An additional 30,600 people were reached with game and fish education programming statewide through events and other classroom-based educational programs. The Whiskey Mountain Conservation Camp launched its first-ever collegiate camp for young adults interested in conservation careers, a third Becoming an Outdoors-Woman (BOW) camp, and Beyond BOW, which focused on fly fishing. Through these and seven other camps geared towards youth and families, 253 people experienced hands-on conservation learning.

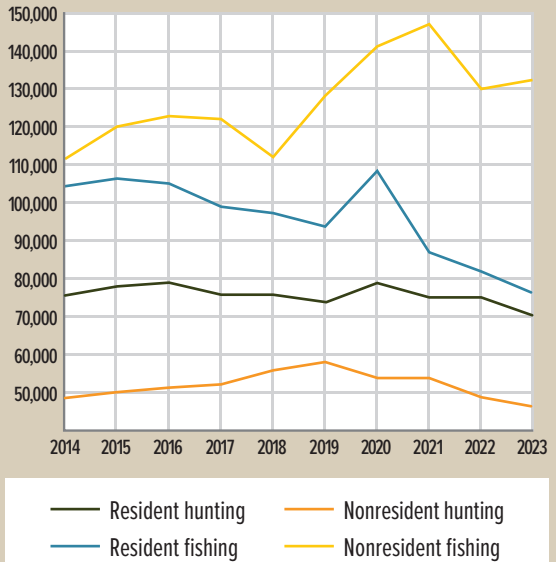




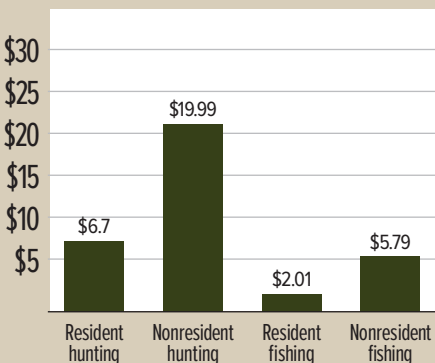
## Serving people

The department recognizes people as our greatest allies in conservation. Game and Fish is dedicated to working with the public to enhance appreciation, access and information about Wyoming's fish and wildlife. Last year, we answered over 60,000 customer calls, had over one million visits to our website, and answered nearly a million emails from people with questions. We encourage everyone — whether you are a wildlife viewer, hunter, angler, trapper, or simply exploring our state — to get outside and engage with nature. We want you to experience our outdoor culture and hunting heritage, helping to ensure that fish and wildlife remain abundant for future generations. We need your support in the field and at the legislature to continue our conservation efforts and to serve you effectively.

### Hunting and fishing license holders



### 2024 annual resident/nonresident license revenue



## Access Yes!

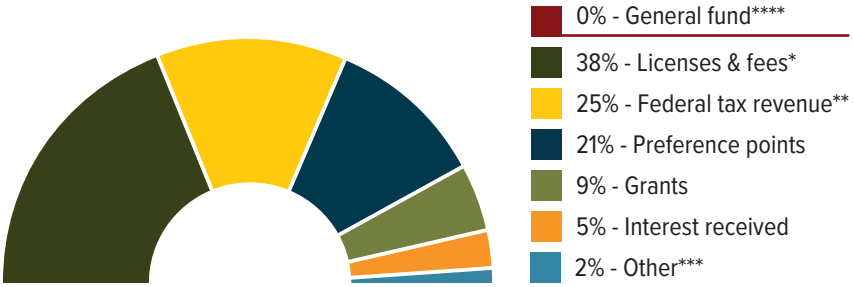
The Access Yes program was established to address obstacles sportspersons face in finding places to hunt and fish. Game and Fish works with landowners to help provide access to hunting and fishing on private lands. Access Yes has opened more than 2.64 million acres, 93 stream miles and more than 4,007 lake acres for public access.



# Wyoming Game and Fish revenue

Nearly 85 percent of revenue comes from hunters, anglers and recreational shooters. This includes hunting and fishing licenses, conservation stamps and fees. It also includes revenue from federal taxes on firearms, ammunition, fishing tackle, boat fuel and other outdoor equipment. The total revenue for fiscal year 2023 was \$104 million.

## Game & Fish funding sources

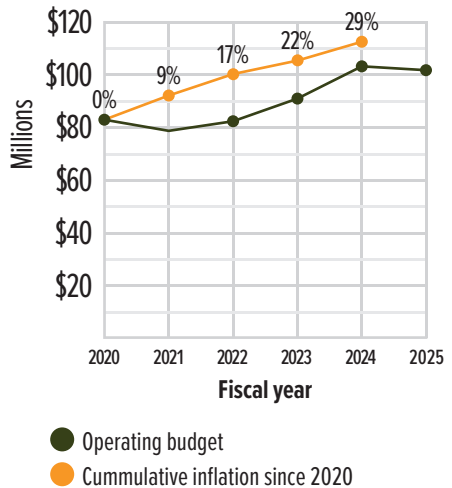


\* Hunting & fishing licenses, conservation stamps, application fees  
 \*\* Tax revenue on guns, ammo, and other hunting and fishing equipment  
 \*\*\* Income from investments & land, publication sales, Access Yes donations, boat registration, and other items  
 \*\*\*\* License recoupment is legislative reimbursement for the issuance of free and reduced priced licenses as defined in WY state statute

## Economic impact

Hunters, anglers and wildlife enthusiasts have a significant economic impact on Wyoming. According to the most recent national report, hunters, anglers, and wildlife viewers spend more than \$1 billion annually on travel and equipment in the state. Sportspeople play a vital role in wildlife and our state's economy. The total includes the estimated \$365 million spent by wildlife watchers on travel and retail, and the \$33.8 million spent to purchase hunting, fishing and trapping licenses each year. (Wyoming Outdoor Recreation Report)

## Game & Fish operating budget & inflation



## The Wyoming Game and Fish Commission

The Commission, a seven-member board, oversees the Department. The members are appointed by the Governor and approved by the Senate. Each member serves a single six-year term. They are appointed based on judicial districts and political party affiliation.

# BY THE NUMBERS

**Over 800**

species managed by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department

**305,053**

individuals purchased at least one hunting or fishing license in 2023

**3.14 million**

acres of public access areas providing high quality hunting and fishing opportunity

**45**

Game and Fish managed Wildlife Habitat Management Areas

**5.14 million**

fish stocked in 2023

**36,445**

pheasants stocked in 2023

**60,000+**

customer service calls answered

**237**

habitat projects executed in 2023

**1.2 million**

acres of habitat treated for invasives

**156**

stream miles were worked on and improved in 2023

**550+**

stream and lake fish populations surveyed in 2024

**78,157**

aquatic invasive species inspections

**47**

watercraft with live mussels found at AIS check stations. The state remains free of invasive mussels

**30,026**

samples analyzed by the forensics lab, 25,253 by the fish health lab and 4,215 teeth processed by the tooth aging section in 2023

**5,159**

animals tested for chronic wasting disease in 2024

**400**

full-time employees

**1 million+**

people visited the new Game and Fish website

**9 million**

people were reached by Game and Fish social media accounts in 2023

**30,601**

people were reached at 312 education and outreach programs in 2024

**3,631**

students completed their hunter-education certification

**21**

state, national and international awards were won by *Wyoming Wildlife* magazine in 2024