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# 2004 Annual Report



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## ABOUT THIS REPORT

This report is the fifth in an annual reporting activity for the Responsive Management Unit (RMU) of Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP). The purpose of the RMU Annual Report is to provide leaders of FWP (and other interested employees) with an overview of agency work efforts completed each calendar year that involved assistance from RMU. Also, it is hoped this annual report will provide agency employees (and others) with reference information concerning the ever increasing knowledge base of human dimensions related work completed by the agency.

This report is divided into four main sections. This *first section* provides background information about this report. The *second section* provides information about RMU and the roles it plays within FWP. The *third section* lists accomplishments completed by FWP (with assistance from RMU) during the past calendar year (2004). These accomplishments are listed under four sub-sections: (1) agency-wide, (2) fisheries program, (3) wildlife program, and (4) parks program. Lastly, the *fourth section* provides a bibliography of human dimensions related publications completed by the agency with respect to the aforementioned list of accomplishments. Only those publications completed prior to the printing of this report are included herein.

## WHAT IS RMU?

Located in Helena, RMU was established in 1991 with a mission to help FWP employees better respond to diverse public values, needs, and expectations. RMU is a service-oriented support team that assists agency employees through the interpretation and application of social sciences to natural resource management projects and programs.

### Comprehensive Management Systems (CMS) Component

A key role of the RMU is to coordinate and support the development, implementation, and continued improvement of FWP's comprehensive management system (CMS). A CMS is a way of directing and managing the work efforts of agency employees. Since 1991, leadership at all levels of the agency have articulated a vision and mission for the agency (e.g., *Vision Document*), revisited the strategic direction for the fish, wildlife, parks programs and defined the strategic direction for the agency management program.

In addition, an initial set of performance measures were identified to help evaluate how well FWP is meeting the expectations of its customers, constituents, and employees. This evaluation provided leadership with information that will aid decisions about how to improve and/or redirect the agency's strategic and operational focus over time.

### Human Dimensions Component

Another key role of RMU is to provide expertise in the human dimensions aspect of fish, wildlife, and parks management. The human dimensions of fish, wildlife, and parks management focuses on what people think and do regarding these important resources, understanding why, and incorporating that insight into policy and management decision making processes and programs.

Over time, the public has increasingly played a vital role in the development of strategic and operational plans for the agency. Additionally, public opinion provides FWP with a useful barometer of how well the agency and its programs are doing. RMU assists agency employees with the design and application of social and economic surveys of residents and nonresidents living and recreating in Montana for the purposes of:

- ◆ Ensuring public input is included as part of important agency decision making processes.
- ◆ Ensuring public input is included as part of agency efforts to evaluate the success of the agency as a whole and its numerous programs.
- ◆ Monitoring trends in public attitudes, preferences, and opinions as they relate to the agency's long-term management of fish, wildlife, and park resources in the state.

RMU also assists with the design and application of a variety of employee related data collection efforts (e.g., employee surveys, focus groups, facilitated meetings) for the purposes of:

- ◆ Ensuring input from a diverse and knowledgeable FWP workforce is included as part of important agency decision making processes.
- ◆ Creating a positive employee environment that fosters both professionalism and personal development.

## 2004 LIST OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Accomplishments are listed under the following sub-sections: (1) agency-wide, (2) fisheries program, (3) wildlife program, and (4) parks program. Where applicable, credit is given to other divisions of FWP (e.g., Conservation Education, Field Services, Enforcement, etc.) who played an important role in the completion of a particular accomplishment.



### Agency-Wide Accomplishments

- Reported results from the 2003 Montana Resident License Fee Study which included six different surveys administered to resident hunters and anglers. (Agency contacts: Chris Smith, Rob Brooks, Mike Lewis, and Zoe King)
- Worked with the agency to design, implement, and report results from a 2004 Survey of Montana Residents Concerning Comprehensive Fish and Wildlife Planning Efforts. (Agency contacts: T.O. Smith and Mike Lewis)
- Assisted the agency complete its river recreation management policy. (Agency contacts: Charlie Sperry and Mike Lewis)
- Worked with the Enforcement Division, Region 6 staff, and the Fort Peck Tribes to complete data analysis and report results from the 2003 Survey of Upland Game Bird Hunters on the Fort Peck Reservation. (Agency contacts: Robbie Magnan – Fort Peck Tribes, Mike Herman, and Mike Lewis)
- Worked with Colorado State University and the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA) on efforts to design and implement a regional "Wildlife Values in the West" survey effort in which Montana is a partner. (Agency contacts: Rob Brooks and Mike Lewis)
- Worked with the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA) to implement and report results from the 2003 Issue Management Survey which was administered to agency employees within the Fisheries Division and the Wildlife Division. (Agency contacts: Rob Brooks and Zoe King)
- Liaison for the Montana Challenge project. This is a cooperative effort with the U.S. Forest Service that has gathered 30 years of social, economic, demographic, and recreational use data to help Montanans grasp the social and economic forces at work in Montana, and understand their impact on our fish and wildlife resources. (Agency contacts: Rob Brooks and Chris Smith)

- Represented Montana regarding possible updates to the National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, & Wildlife-Associated Recreation at a western states meeting. (Agency contacts: Mike Lewis)
- Assisted with the updating of the agency's strategic plan document. For the first time, included agency management as a program area along with the fish, wildlife and parks/recreation program areas. (Agency contacts: Rob Brooks and Chris Smith)
- Completed the fourth RMU Annual Report which documented RMU accomplishments from the previous year (2003). (Agency contacts: Rob Brooks, Mike Lewis, and Zoe King)



### Fisheries Program Accomplishments

- Worked with Region 2 Fisheries staff to design and implement the 2004 Survey of Montana Resident Anglers Concerning Rock Creek. (Agency contacts: Pat Saffel and Mike Lewis)
- Worked with Region 1 Fisheries staff to design, implement, and report results from the 2004 Survey of Resident Anglers Concerning the Management of Warm Water Fish in Northwest Montana. (Agency contacts: Jim Vashro and Mike Lewis)
- Worked with the Fisheries Division (along with the Parks Division) to design, implement, and report results from the 2004 Fishing Access Site Telephone Survey. (Agency contacts: Chris Hunter, Doug Monger, and Mike Lewis)
- Completed fact sheets which document fisheries management related survey question results from the 2003 Montana Resident License Fee Study. (Agency contacts: Rob Brooks and Zoe King)



### Wildlife Program Accomplishments

- Worked with the Conservation Education Division to design, implement, and report results from the 2004 Survey of Resident Big Game Hunters Concerning Paid Advertisement in Montana's Big Game Regulations. (Agency contacts: Ron Aasheim, Tom Palmer, Connie Mills, and Mike Lewis)

- Worked with the Field Services Division to implement and report results from the 2003 Block Management Landowner Evaluation Survey. (Agency contacts: Alan Charles, Mike Lewis, and Zoe King)
- Worked with the Field Services Division to implement and report results from the 2003 Block Management Hunter Evaluation Survey. (Agency contacts: Alan Charles, Mike Lewis, and Zoe King)
- Assisted Montana State University implement a 2003 Block Management Landowner Survey (a survey effort which complimented the agency's own internal 2003 Block Management Landowner Evaluation). (Agency contacts: Kelvin Johnson, and Mike Lewis)
- Assisted Montana State University implement a 2003 Block Management Hunter Survey (a survey effort which complimented the agency's own internal 2003 Block Management Hunter Evaluation). (Agency contacts: Kelvin Johnson and Mike Lewis)
- Completed fact sheets which document wildlife management related survey question results from the 2003 Resident License Fee Study. (Agency contacts: Rob Brooks and Zoe King)
- Completed two socio-economic assessments mandated by HB720 for habitat acquisitions using Habitat Montana funds. (Agency contact: Rob Brooks)



### **Parks Program Accomplishments**

- Worked with the Parks Division (along with the Fisheries Division) to design, implement and report results from a 2004 Fishing Access Site Telephone Survey. (Agency contacts: Doug Monger, Chris Hunter, and Mike Lewis)
- Worked with Region 4 river managers to complete data analysis and report results from the 2004 Smith River Float Log. (Agency contacts: Joe O'Neill and Mike Lewis)

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY OF HUMAN DIMENSIONS PUBLICATIONS COMPLETED DURING THE PAST YEAR**

**Brooks, R., M.S. Lewis, and Z. King.** 2003. *2003 RMU Annual Report.* A report submitted to FWP Division Administrators and Regional Supervisors. Helena, MT: Responsive Management Unit. Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks.

**Brooks, R. and Z. King.** 2004. *WAFWA Issue Management Committee Agency Employee Survey.* FWP Responsive Management Unit Research Summary No. 14. Helena, MT: Responsive Management Unit. Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks.

**Brooks, R., J. Duffield, and C. Neher.** 2004. *Montana Resident License Fee Study, A Descriptive and Empirical Analysis of Selected Resident License Fees.* A report submitted to the FWP Management Team. Helena, MT: Responsive Management Unit. Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks.

**Charles, A. and M.S. Lewis.** 2004. *Block Management Landowner and Hunter Evaluations: Survey Highlights From 2003 and Comparisons to 1996 Surveys.* FWP Responsive Management Unit Research Summary No. 13. Helena, MT: Responsive Management Unit. Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks.

**Lewis, M.S., R. Brooks, and Z. King.** 2004. *Highlights From the 2003 Montana Resident License Fee Study.* FWP Responsive Management Unit Research Summary No. 17. Helena, MT: Responsive Management Unit. Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks.

**Lewis, M.S. and J. Vashro.** 2004. *Selected Highlights: 2004 Survey of Resident Anglers Concerning the Management of Warm Water Fish in Northwest Montana.* FWP Responsive Management Unit Research Summary No. 16. Helena, MT: Responsive Management Unit. Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks.

**Lewis, M.S.** 2004. *Results of the 2004 Fishing Access Site Telephone Survey.* FWP Responsive Management Unit Research Summary No. 15. Helena, MT: Responsive Management Unit. Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks.



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