

# NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE

*Kenneth Mayer Director*

## *Purpose:*

- Preserve, protect, manage, enhance, and restore wildlife and its habitat within the state for its aesthetic, scientific, educational, recreational, and economic benefits. The department is also charged with promoting safety for persons and property in the operation of boats on the waters of the state.

## *Organizational Structure:*

- The department consists of seven divisions responsible for operations, game management, fisheries management, law enforcement, conservation education, habitat, and wildlife diversity. All division chiefs report to the Deputy Director, who is directly responsible to the Director. Divisions are responsible for both program and operational aspects of their specific disciplines statewide. The fiscal services section within the Directors Office added two positions in 2007 to enhance the accounting and business functions of the agency in response to state audit recommendations.

<b>STATUTORY AUTHORITY:</b>	NRS 488, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506
<b>NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES:</b>	223.725 FTE/2005
<b>TELEPHONE:</b>	775.688.1500
<b>WEB SITE ADDRESS:</b>	<a href="http://www.ndow.org">www.ndow.org</a>

## *Goal:*

- Evaluate desired outcomes of the 2004-2009 Comprehensive Strategic Plan.

## *Accomplishments:*

- The Comprehensive Strategic Plan (CSP), 2004-2009 is due for review in FY 10. The agency continues to remain committed to the strategic plan and its 10 product areas: Habitat Management and Enhancement, Wildlife Management and Conservation, Aquatic Species Management, Conservation of Wildlife Diversity, Information Delivery, Resource Protection and Public Safety, Internal Services, Funding, Customer Services, and Access. As part of the revision of this next CSP, NDOW will evaluate its current 38 desired outcomes, and develop comprehensive performance measures to effectively comply with reporting requirements of agency, state, and federal bodies.

***Goal:***

- Continue implementation of a Capital Improvements Program based on department's needs and priorities as presented in facilities assessment.

***Accomplishments:***

- Progress continues on the statewide hatchery refurbishment program. The Gallagher Hatchery will be completed in the fall of 2008. However, complications from discovery of Quagga mussels in the intake system of the Lake Mead Hatchery have delayed re-opening of that facility at this time.

***Goal:***

- Increase funding base by seeking new funding sources and building partnerships necessary to those sources.

***Accomplishments:***

- The agency continued to seek new funding sources in 2006-07. Changes to state regulations to allow advertising in publications allowed the agency to collect \$60,705 in advertising revenues during the FY 06-07 biennium. The Upland Game Stamp raised \$593,298, and the Habitat Conservation fee raised \$719,529 in new fees during the FY06-07 biennium.
- The agency enhanced partnerships with the sportsmen's community following disastrous wildfires that have destroyed more than 7.5 million acres of wildlife habitat since 1999. The Reno chapter of Nevada Bighorns Unlimited and the Coalition for Nevada Wildlife, in coordination with NDOW, established a private bank account for "Restoring Nevada Habitats" and as of June 2008, more than \$250,000 of private, sportsman group, and mining industry donations have been collected to conduct on the ground restoration activities.

***Goal:***

- Continue updates of policies and procedures manuals and make them accessible to all employees.

***Accomplishment:***

- The agency's policies and procedures are now reviewed periodically for their relevance, efficiency, and to ensure appropriate and current regulatory references. Updated policies are now available to staff via the Intranet.

***Goal:***

- Complete transition to the state Integrated Financial System (IFS).

***Accomplishment:***

- NDOW completed its transition to the state IFS in July 2006 All time reporting is now reported via NEATS, and all financial obligations and expenditures are now accounted for through the DAWN financial system. In addition, all Division chiefs have attended both Federal Aid grant training and DAWN Navigation training.

***Significant legislation or Executive Action Affecting the Agency:***

**Promote Family Fishing Hunting/Trapping**

- AB573 - Family Fishing Permit – (NDOW sponsored) Approved by the Governor, Effective 7-1-07. Summary - Establishes a 1-day group fishing permit for a discounted rate and permits group fishing for trout without obtaining a state trout stamp; cleanup to reduce nonresident antlerless elk tag fee, clarifies that anyone who hunts or fishes any wildlife without a license or permit is guilty of a misdemeanor, and further defines “wildlife” as any wild mammal, wild bird, fish, reptile, amphibian, mollusk or crustacean found naturally in a wild state.

**Financial**

- AB296 – Water Rights for Wildlife- Signed by the Governor, Effective June 4, 2007
- AB259 – Wildlife Financial Report -Signed by the Governor, Effective
- SB210 – Changes to State Per Diem - Signed by the Governor, Effective

**Boats/Watercraft**

- AB8 – No Bail Before Sobering up - Approved by the Governor, Effective October 1, 2007.
- AB13 –Life Preserver Age is 13 and under - Approved by the Governor, Effective October 1, 2007.
- AB176 – Automatic Boat Title Transfer - Approved by the Governor, Effective January 31, 2008.

- SB306 – Safety Standard Boats with Engine Cut-off Switch - Signed by the Governor, Effective 5-31-07.

#### **Land Management/Trespassing Notice**

- AB227 – Trespassing Warnings - Signed by Governor, Effective 10-1-07

#### **Public Records**

- SB123 – Public Records Requests - Signed by the Governor, Effective 10-1-07.

#### **Wildlife/Water**

- AB296 – Water Rights for Wildlife - Signed by the Governor, Effective June 4, 2007.

- *Publications/Videos: The agency's six regulation brochures, angler and hunter information guides, species by fishable waters maps, newsletters, status reports, and wildlife plans are all posted on the Internet at [www.ndow.org](http://www.ndow.org).*

### **OPERATIONS DIVISION**

*Robert Haughian, Chief*

#### ***Purpose:***

- This division is responsible for the majority of business affairs of the department. This includes the internal support services as well as the agency's customer service programs. Internal support services include Human Resources, land acquisition and engineering services, information technology, building maintenance and aviation operations. Customer service programs include hunting/fishing licensing and boating registration/titling (both consumer website services and counter services at seven regional offices); special licenses and permits; and management and oversight to various application hunts, to include the big game draw. The division also provides guidance and oversight to the State's 160+ license agents.

#### ***Goal:***

- Improve information delivery and information access for all employees, enhancing their job and public contact effectiveness.

#### ***Accomplishments:***

- Removed all but one old Novell File Servers and replaced with MS Windows servers and have brought 25% of agency employees into the Active Directory Domain;
- New Servers are now installed in Elko and Las Vegas;
- Continue to install/maintain the Wide Area Network and Local Area Networks with over 230 computers in almost 30 locations across the state, with a T-1, DSL and Satellite connection to the NDOW backbone and networks installed in Reno, Las Vegas, Elko, Minden, Winnemucca, Panaca, Ely, Fallon, Tonopah, Key Pittman, Steptoe, Eureka, and Henderson;
- Set up and installed new servers for statewide sharing of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) data. This technology will allow sharing of GIS and mapping data with NDOW employees statewide; and
- New server for Law Enforcement will enhance data sharing throughout the state.

***Goal:***

- Develop and maintain a progressive interactive data management program accessible to all internal and external customers.

***Accomplishments:***

- Continued to enhance the business processes by establishing infrastructure to bring an intranet service to the department, which has improved availability of information resources to agency staff.
- Continued the development of the new licensing system--Nevada Wildlife Data System (NWDS). Having previously delivered hunter education, boater education, on-line license sales and license sales at NDOW customer services to staff and the public, more recent accomplishments included:
  - implemented data entry process of manually sold license via NWDS
  - completed piloting of automated point of sales (POS) devices for select license agents, to be followed by state-wide implementation of POS systems at nearly half of our 160 license agents;
  - partially implemented the Citation and Revocation module, to include citations and field incidents tracking;
  - inventory accounting module near complete, to include full implementation of batch entry processing; and implemented consumer website process for hunter education class registration.
- Developed an interactive Internet Map Service to provide public access to agency's geographic information service resources.

***Key Long Term Goals:***

- Continue to increase data management capabilities to address the information and analytical needs of NDOW employees, other agencies, and the public;
- Continue to develop integrated fiscal systems that are fully compliant with external and internal audit requirements, and supply updated information to employees in a timely manner;
- Enhance the communication and coordination efforts between the Operations Division and the regional administrative staffs; and
- Continue evaluating and improving management practices to ensure efficient internal operations/processes and a common understanding of those operations/practices by all the NDOW personnel.

## **GAME DIVISION**

*Russ Mason, Chief*

### ***Purpose:***

Responsible for management, and protection of wildlife classified as game mammals, upland and migratory game birds and furbearing mammals. The Game Division has four program areas: avian and terrestrial game species management, game wildlife/depredation control and compensation, predation management and wildlife health and disease monitoring.

### ***Goal:***

Healthy and secure game and furbearer populations that provide the public with expanded recreational opportunities, including hunting, trapping, and viewing.

### ***Accomplishments:***

- Bighorn sheep and pronghorn antelope populations were augmented at multiple sites throughout the state;
- Mule deer management prescriptions for each of the 29 hunt areas were developed and are being implemented;
- Satellite telemetry studies of bighorn sheep, mule deer, pronghorn, and elk were initiated to investigate changes in habitat use associated with wildfire and to collect timelier, actionable information for predation management.
- A wildlife health program was implemented, including the recruitment of a wildlife veterinarian and development of a Nevada Wildlife Health Initiative in concert with the Department of Agriculture, University of Nevada, and Nevada woolgrowers.
- Upland game populations were augmented at multiple sites, including :mountain quail released in the Stillwater Range in Churchill County; California quail released at various sites in western and eastern Nevada;Chukar partridge released

at various locations in southern and western Nevada; ruffed grouse released in northeastern Nevada;

- An Upland Game Species Management Plan was prepared and is being implemented to benefit upland populations and improve/expand hunting opportunities;
- A host of management actions were implemented to improve waterfowl hunting opportunities; including the capture and subsequent release of 727 urban Canada geese on five wildlife management areas;
- Turkeys were captured in Texas and released to augment populations at several locations in Lincoln County;
- A Black Bear Management Plan, with specific guidance for the management of nuisance black bears in northwest Nevada was prepared and is being implemented;
- The process to obtain mountain lion tags was simplified and available information suggests that the sale of lion tags is up significantly.

***Goal:***

Healthy and secure populations of greater sage-grouse and other sage steppe obligates in concert with their environment.

***Accomplishments:***

- Sage-grouse lek counts were counted statewide, with more than 1,000 strutting grounds visited and just over 11,000 sage-grouse were observed on 545 active leks. Population estimates declined 13% from 2006 counts;
- Sage-grouse hunter surveys were conducted, showing that participation was down from the 2005-2006 period as about 3,400 hunters took part in the sage-grouse season annually down from 5,244 in 2004;
- Sage-grouse population demographics were evaluated by examining 2,813 hunter harvested sage grouse wings. Population recruitment was 1.13 juveniles/adult which is low for the species;
- Radio telemetry investigations were conducted in the Shoshone Population Management Unit (PMU) in Lander County, the Lincoln PMU in Lincoln County and the Spring/Snake Valley PMU in White Pine County;
- Radio telemetry investigations were initiated in the Tuscarora PMU in western Elko County to assess the impact of large scale wildfires on sage-grouse movements and survival;
- Participation continued in the 4 year Falcon to Gonder transmission line study in Eureka County, the purpose of which is to assess impacts of construction on sage grouse. Data suggest that increased raven numbers and increased raven predation on sage grouse are direct results of transmission line development; and

- The Governor's Sage-grouse Conservation Team continues to meet bi-monthly to review issues facing sage-grouse and provide assistance to local working groups.

***Goal:***

Prevent, reduce, or mitigate wildlife damage to agricultural crops and private land infrastructure to an acceptable level.

***Accomplishments:***

- The deer and antelope compensation program was reorganized and now is handled by two full-time employees; thereby increasing program standardization and uniformity and decreasing program cost without impacting service delivery.

***Goal:***

Manage predators to favor depressed game populations and species of special concern at localized levels.

***Accomplishments:***

- Seven predation management projects are ongoing, five explicitly devoted to mule deer protection. All projects are implemented in close cooperation with USDA Wildlife Services;
- The new Game Division Chief has extensive predation management experience, with over 18 year's employment previously with USDA Wildlife Services;
- A predation management position was created and a staff specialist hired to oversee predation management efforts for the Department; and
- The Game Division is cooperatively engaged with livestock producers to leverage the effectiveness of predation management efforts so that departmental efforts benefit both wildlife and livestock.

***Goal:***

Participate in collaborative efforts to address regional wildlife management issues.

***Accomplishments:***

- The director serves on the Pacific Flyway Council and a staff biologist serves on the Pacific Flyway Study Committee;
- Surveillance is continuing in waterfowl (primarily mallards, pintail, and Tundra swan) for highly pathogenic avian influenza in cooperation with USDA Wildlife Services and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service;
- The Division Chief serves as Vice-Chair of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Wind Power and Transmission Corridor Sub-Committee and the Climate Change Sub-Committee;

- The Division Chief was appointed by the Secretary of Interior to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Federal Advisory Committee (FACA) to revise the Fish and Wildlife Service Voluntary Guidelines for Wind Power Development;
- Division personnel actively participate in the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Mule Deer Working Group and the Bighorn Sheep Working Group;
- The Division Chief is leading Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agency's preparation of the WAFWA Mountain Lion Management Recommendations;
- Division personnel are leading state wildlife agency efforts to update the rangewide Greater Sage Grouse Conservation Assessment;
- The Division is cooperatively engaged with the Department of Agriculture, University of Nevada, and the Nevada Woolgrowers on issues of mutual concern; the Division has developed specific Memoranda of Agreement among the parties, the first of which specifies procedures regarding sheep, goats, and bighorn sheep that may vector disease, and the second which recognizes the risk of disease transmission between livestock and wildlife and steps that can be taken to minimize risk;
- The Division is cooperating with the Department of Agriculture, the University of Nevada, and state agricultural and wildlife personnel from Oregon, Idaho, and Utah to develop a Great Basin Wildlife Health Initiative to improve surveillance and management of existing and emerging diseases affecting both wildlife and livestock; and
- In close cooperation with Habitat Division staff, Game Division personnel are supporting efforts to restore habitats following wildfire, minimize cheatgrass conversion, and reduce pinon-juniper invasions that impact mule deer and other wildlife species.

***Key Long Term Goals:***

- In cooperation with the Habitat Division, Division personnel are developing and will implement a comprehensive monitoring plan to track habitat restoration efforts in relation to game species population health;
- The Division is improving upland game monitoring and inventory strategies, with special emphasis on species of concern such as sage-grouse and pygmy rabbit; and
- The Division is pursuing the identification of additional funding and promoting the acquisition of additional full-time positions to more adequately meet the emerging challenges and responsibility of the Department.

**FISHERIES DIVISION**  
*Rich Haskins, Chief*

***Purpose:***

- The division facilitates programs for fisheries throughout Nevada. The fisheries programs are designed to provide the state's angling public with recreational fishing opportunity and to conserve and protect our native fish, amphibians, mollusks, and crustaceans.

***Goal:***

- Provide fishing opportunities within the biological potential of wildlife populations.

***Accomplishments:***

- Over 2 million trout are planted annually in Nevada reservoirs, lakes and streams, along with more than one million warm water species, including wipers, black bass, walleye and catfish, supporting an estimated one million angler use days per year;
- Refurbishment work at Gallagher Hatchery, Elko County, has been completed and the facility is back in production.
- Urban fisheries continue to be a program emphasis, with some 14 waters in Clark, Washoe and Churchill counties. In cooperation with local government agencies and private entities, urban fishing opportunities have been developed in Douglas County and ongoing development of urban fishing ponds is occurring in Carson and Washoe counties. Urban fisheries were stocked annually with nearly 150,000 hatchery raised fish; and
- Managed Nevada's 100 lakes and reservoirs, and 500 streams and rivers applying fishery management concepts that provide for optimum quality, diversity and opportunity.

***Goal:***

- Remove and/or preclude Nevada's aquatic wildlife from threatened or endangered status.

***Accomplishments:***

- Statewide recovery efforts continued for threatened and endangered game fish and species of concern including Lahontan cutthroat trout, Bonneville cutthroat trout, Yellowstone cutthroat trout, redband trout and bull trout. Nevada's participation in the multi-agency Bull Trout Recovery Team has helped move this species closer to de-listing;
- Completed species management plans for Nevada's native rainbow trout the redband trout and the Yellowstone cutthroat trout;
- For those species already threatened or endangered, acted as lead and participated in recovery implementation activities. Continued our lead roles and participated in multi-agency conservation teams to proactively manage species of concern such as the Columbia spotted frog. Issues these teams deal with include threats of

- noxious weeds, introduced exotic species, habitat degradation and water management issues;
- Completed a Safe Harbor Agreement for the Upper Humboldt River Distinct Population Segment of Lahontan Cutthroat trout located primarily in Elko, Lander and Eureka counties;
  - Completed construction of a fish barrier on Upper Wall Canyon Creek to protect the native Wall Canyon sucker (a species of conservation priority) from encroachment of brown trout into the upper watershed, finalization of the Conservation Strategy for the continued protection of this fish is ongoing; cooperative efforts with the Duckwater Paiute Tribe for the Railroad Valley springfish are paving the way for the de-listing of this species; are examples of the ongoing conservation actions accomplished during this period;
  - Staff served in a leadership role for the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies sponsored Western Native Trout Initiative (WNTI), whose goal is to increase the awareness of the needs of and bring resources to inland trout species of the west. Nevada and neighboring states have already received several hundred thousand dollars for on the ground projects as the result of these efforts; and
  - A native fish poster was completed as part of a multi-agency effort to aid in the education of Nevadan's in the variety of native fish species found in this state.

***Goal:***

- Inform the public of available outdoor recreational opportunities.

***Accomplishments:***

- Developed, printed, and distributed three fishable waters maps, one for each region of the state, to provide fishing information to the angling public;
- Updated Angler Information Guides annually, in the spring, and distributed to regional offices and the public; and
- The How To Fish Book for gamefish species found in Nevada continues to be distributed.

***Goal:***

- Aquatic habitats free of Aquatic Nuisance Species.

***Accomplishments:***

- In response to the discovery of Quagga mussels in Lake Mead, a public information effort was initiated including signs and outreach materials encouraging boaters and anglers to "Clean, Drain and Dry" their equipment between visits to our lakes and reservoirs; and

- Internal controls have been implemented to ensure that our fish stocking and management activities are not a pathway for the distribution of aquatic invasive species.

***Key Long Term Goals:***

- Secure, stable, and diverse native aquatic wildlife populations;
- Aquatic habitats free of Aquatic Nuisance Species;
- Provide a variety of recreational fishing opportunities; within the potential of fish populations and their corresponding habitats.

**LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION**

***Rob Buonamici, Chief***

***Purpose:***

- Protect Nevada's wildlife resources; ensure safe boating on Nevada waters, and serve the sporting public, while providing a public safety presence in many of the most remote areas of Nevada.

***Goal:***

- Promote compliance with boating laws and improve boating safety through education and enforcement programs.

***Accomplishments:***

- Expanded formal online boating education program;
- Expanded boating education marketing program to promote voluntary compliance;
- Developed key informational materials for the public and shareholders to encourage support and compliance among key constituencies; and
- Conducted Operating Under the Influence check points

***Goal:***

- Increase game warden time in the field for purpose of deterring crime, apprehending violators and disseminating information to the public.

***Accomplishments:***

- Created Unit Watch program to focus community / game warden efforts on documented problem areas;
- Created an investigator position in Headquarters office to assist field wardens with complex investigations; and
- Conducted special uniformed patrols to assess and address impacts on wildlife associated with the collection of shed antlers

***Key Long Term Goals:***

- Promote and enhance officer recruitment, retention and training;
- Emphasize investigations of major wildlife crimes through Operation Game Thief and the conversion of one field game warden position to a wildlife criminal investigator; and
- Reduce boating accidents through increased boating patrols.

**HABITAT DIVISION**

***Dave Pulliam, Chief***

***Purpose:***

- Responsible for reviewing, assessing, and providing comments on all proposed land and water uses; providing fish and wildlife data to all entities for planning and decision-making purposes. The division is also responsible for planning, operating, and maintaining approximately 125,000 acres of state-owned lands on 11 Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs). The division is also responsible for administering the water development, rangeland, and wildfire rehabilitation efforts and Industrial Pond permitting operations (Nevada mines) for the department.

***Goal:***

- Promote wildlife habitats that are in good ecological condition, capable of supporting a diverse array of wildlife species.

***Accomplishments:***

- Completed over 40,000 acres of wildfire restoration projects in important mule deer and sage grouse habitats. Cooperated with the US Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management in developing their fire rehabilitation projects and contributed \$600,000 of native seed to the restoration portions of their projects

when the BLM Washington D.C. headquarters office denied federal funding of the BLM's request for native seed for restoration.

- Installed 17 large volume and six small volume water developments (guzzlers), repaired/upgraded another 97 guzzlers, and inspected 650 to identify maintenance needs with the assistance of the Fraternity of the Desert Bighorn, Nevada Bighorns Unlimited and Safari Club International (both the Desert and Silver State Chapters); Purchased an additional 80 acre-feet of water rights from willing sellers for the Lahontan Valley wetlands through funding in the 1990 Park and Wildlife Bond.
- Worked with numerous private partners to restore wetlands and riparian areas at the Steptoe Valley Wildlife Management Area near Ely; and

***Goal:***

- Foster open, honest, and productive communication with wildlife partners ultimately resulting in management, protection and enhancement of wildlife habitat.

***Accomplishments:***

- Reviewed and provided comments on 2,650 environmental documents and project proposals with the potential to impact fish and wildlife resources. Participated as a cooperating agency on three Bureau of Land Management land use plans and several major project environmental impact statements.

***Key Long Term Goals:***

- Preserve and protect quality habitats and enhance deficient habitats by mapping habitat types and wildlife distribution with Geographic Information System (GIS) technology, completing long-range plans for all WMAs, and by acquiring wildlife habitat and water rights from willing sellers through the Question 5 and Question 1 Bond funds and other funding sources;
- Rehabilitate a minimum of 10,000 acres of critical big game habitat by 2009. Inventory, evaluate and apply maintenance where required to all constructed wildlife water developments in the state by 2009.

**WILDLIFE DIVERSITY DIVISION**

***Laura Richards, Chief***

***Purpose:***

- The Wildlife Diversity Division administers the Department's Question 1 Conservation Bond Program, the Geographical Information System (GIS) Section, the Landowner Incentive Program (LIP), NDOW's section of the Lake

Tahoe Environmental Improvement Program, and also coordinates the implementation of Nevada's Wildlife Action Plan. These programs are closely coordinated and integrated with other Division programs within NDOW and our partners in the conservation community.

***Goal:***

- Prevent wildlife from becoming endangered by keeping species and their habitats healthy through close coordination among the Departments' Divisions and a strong commitment for collaboration with our conservation partners.

***Accomplishments:***

- Species of Conservation Priority identified in Nevada's Wildlife Action Plan that have benefited from recent conservation projects include game species such as Greater Sage-grouse, mule deer, pygmy rabbit, and Lahontan cutthroat trout, and nongame species like Sage Sparrow, Peregrine Falcon, American pika, springfish, spotted frogs, Gila monsters, and dozens of other species. By working with species that are indicative of the diversity and health of the state's ecosystems, we are working to avoid additional formal protections; and
- Implemented Nevada's Landowner Incentive Program (LIP) to provide financial and technical support to landowners desiring to improve wildlife habitat on their private lands.

***Goal:***

- Healthy diverse wildlife populations and habitats within naturally functioning ecosystems.

***Accomplishments:***

- Developed protocols and conducted surveys for a number of non-game species including Northern goshawks, ferruginous hawks, prairie falcons, bald eagles, golden eagles, peregrine falcons, flammulated owl, white-faced ibis, herons, egrets, shorebirds, common loons, and sandhill cranes. Bat surveys were conducted statewide, as well as surveys for mountain beaver, kangaroo mice and 19 different reptile species.
- Conservation projects completed include the rehabilitation of sagebrush habitats following wildfire in eastern Nevada, the enhancement of aspen and riparian habitats in the Carson Range of western Nevada and the Jarbidge Mountains of eastern Nevada, the restoration of willow and marsh habitats in southern Nevada, and the restoration of other key habitats identified in Nevada's Wildlife Action Plan.

***Goal:***

- Effective conservation of priority wildlife species through the completion and implementation of cooperative planning products.

***Accomplishments:***

- Nevada's Wildlife Action Plan, approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 2005, and is now being implemented throughout the state by NDOW and our conservation partners. Nevada's plan serves as a plan of action for state wildlife conservation and funding by targeting actions to support species of greatest conservation need and the key habitats on which they depend; and
- Participated in Partners in Flight at state and regional levels; the Shorebird and Water Bird Conservation Working Group, the Nevada Bat Working Group, the Partners for Amphibian and Reptile Conservation, and Intermountain West Joint Venture.

***Goal:***

- Increase the public's responsiveness to the agency mission and improve funding support.

***Accomplishments:***

- Federal legislation has been monitored, and where appropriate, constituent support has been encouraged for state wildlife grants funding; and
- Participated in workshops, conferences and gatherings of conservation organizations to support national requests for additional funding.

***Key Long Term Goals:***

- Develop strategies to support stable funding for science-based wildlife and habitat management programs identified in Nevada's Wildlife Action Plan;
- Complete the survey and inventory for species of conservation priority including distribution, habitats, and how best to manage those systems guided by the Nevada Wildlife Action Plan; and
- In collaboration with conservation partners and NDOW's Divisions, develop a climate change adaptation amendment to Nevada's Wildlife Action Plan.

**CONSERVATION EDUCATION DIVISION**  
***Kelly Clark, Chief***

***Purpose:***

- Inform and educate Nevadans about the state's wildlife resources. Responsible for educating the public about the value of wildlife in Nevada, and promoting ethical, safe and responsible use of the state's wildlife resources through hunter education, angler education, and wildlife education programs. Provides opportunities for citizens to be involved with wildlife and habitat improvement projects through the Preserving Our Wildlife Legacy (PROWL) Volunteer Program. Supports the agency's outreach to the public about where and how to recreate in the state via the agency's marketing and public affairs programs using television, radio, List Serv, Internet and print media.

***Goal:***

- Inform and educate the public about the values of wildlife and the outdoor recreational opportunities that are available; train the public in outdoor recreation skills.

***Accomplishments:***

- Distributed 201 news releases statewide, 520 programs on seven radio stations, and 104 weekly television news segments on northern Nevada's largest television station. The advertising equivalency value of the combined media coverage is estimated at \$939,353;
- Provided outdoor education training and programs to Nevadans, including 7,361 hunter education students, an estimated 18,170 youth and adult anglers, 8,580 elementary school students, and 328 teachers;;
- Visitation to the updated agency website at [www.ndow.org](http://www.ndow.org) nearly doubled to 3,351 users a day. Developed online "E-zine" formats for *Outdoor Journal*, *Nevada Wildlife Almanac*, and internal agency newsletter *The Wildside* to increase cost efficiency. Initiated five list serves to enhance customer communications via Internet;
- Trout in the Classroom continued in 165 schools statewide in 2006 and 2007, over the two years educating 9,350 4<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>-grade students about the trout's life cycle, natural history, and environmental requirements;
- Developed "Take Me Fishing" promotion in Reno and Las Vegas with radio spots, Free Fishing Day Poster Contest, bumper stickers, shelf messages and backlit posters at both major airports.
- Developed lesson plans for bats, mule deer, sage grouse, sandhill cranes and other sensitive species.
- Developed and distributed newsletters for educators and volunteers all three regions. Western region and southern region newsletters were distributed to teachers in the Clark, and Washoe County School Districts via email as well as being posted to the internet.
- Four Project WILD and five Aquatic WILD workshops were conducted in all three regions reaching a total of 115 teachers from kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

- Approximately 15,000 primary students visited the Oxbow Nature Study Area, Verdi Nature Trail and Washoe Lake wetlands in the western region. Students participated in interpretive tours, Trout in the Classroom releases and a variety of other activities.
- Eastern Region staff conducted more than 26 presentations reaching 761 students, 134 adults and 50 teachers.
- Project WILD and Aquatic WILD are now approved courses through the University of Nevada System for both graduate and undergraduate level credit.
- Approximately 500 volunteers participated in 34 different Department jobs or activities contributing more than 11,000 hours of time and driving more than 91,000 miles to meet Department goals.

***Key Long Term Goals:***

- Fully staff Lake Mead Hatchery Interpretive Center by FY 11;
- Complete Overton Interpretive Center at Overton Wildlife Management Area in southern Nevada by FY 10; and
- Complete interpretive kiosks at hatcheries and on state wildlife management areas by close of FY 09.