

Conservation Land Steward		Agency/Program #: 5201-02-I1
		Division: Field Services
		Program: Land
Agency Name:	Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks	
Agency Contact:	Paul Sihler	444-3196
LFC Contact:	Rep. Ripley, Rep. Erickson	
LFD Liaison:	Barbara Smith	444-5347
OBPP Liaison:	James Chamberlain	444-1338

Program or Project Description:

The Field Services Division is responsible for implementing the department's lands program, construction projects, and landowner-sportsman's relations program. The aircraft unit, living with wildlife program, game damage program, and hunting access enhancement program, including the Block Management program and the Access Montana program, are under the jurisdiction of this division. Administration and implementation of disabled accessibility standards on department properties and the department's safety program are also a responsibility of this division.

Appropriation, Expenditure and Source					
Fund Name:	2008		2009		Approp & Expenditure numbers are as of April 15, 2007
	Approp.	Expended	Approp.	Expended	
General Fund					
State Special					
Federal Funds					Not Provided
Total:	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	

Legislative Goal(s):

Work cooperatively with private landowners to ensure delivery of the habitat conservation benefits and associated public recreational opportunities acquired through FWP conservation easements.

Legislative Performance Measures :

1. Monitor all conservation easements annually, completing field monitoring no later than October 15 of each year.
2. Review easement monitoring reports with appropriate Division staff (Wildlife, Fish or Parks), and send the reports and cover letters to all landowners no later than December 15 of each year.
3. Develop a chronological tracking log for all notices pertaining to landowner requests for approval of activities or operational changes, and send the landowner a letter of receipt no more than 10 days after the landowner's request is received. Provide case information to Division staff and, when appropriate, to the Legal Unit no more than 10 days after receipt of the landowner's notice, and resolve all requests within the time frame provided for in the conservation easement.
4. Coordinate with the landowner, Division staff and Legal staff to develop the department's position on all pending landowner requests for conservation easement amendments by August 1, 2008.
5. Work with Wildlife Division staff to refine, implement and document monitoring techniques for those conservation easement properties exceeding 5,000 acres in size and managed as commercial forestry operations.
6. Transition by October 2008 from a conservation easement monitoring program run by an FWP contractor to a program directed by the Conservation Easement Land Steward, with contract assistance on a limited, as-needed basis.
7. Develop by December 2008 an easement-by-easement list of public recreational rights on the easement property, along with the status of public recreational use of each easement property.

2009 Biennium Significant Milestones:	Completion Dates	
	Target	Actual
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		

Agency Performance Report:

Following the recruitment and interview process, a well-qualified, experienced land steward was hired in early April 2008. We were fortunate to hire someone who has developed stewardship programs at two other organizations, including one in Montana. He will relocate to Helena and begin work for FWP on June 2, 2008. Once he begins work, the land steward will spend the summer monitoring conservation easements in coordination with the existing contractor, reviewing and responding to easement reports and beginning to develop a conservation easement stewardship program for FWP.

LFD Narrative:

LFD ASSESSMENT:Critical
 DATA RELEVANCE: Not relevant.
 APPROPRIATION STATUS: The agency did not provide an estimate of appropriations and expenditures for this initiative. However, since the FTE was just hired, the expenditure level is more than likely zero.
 COMMENTS/ISSUE: The FTE was hired in April and is not scheduled to start until June 2. This puts the agency way behind in meeting the biennial performance measures. In addition, due to the delay in hiring, the FTE for FY 2008 was overappropriated by approximately 94%. A critical rating was provided as the agency can not demonstrate progress towards the goal, and are at risk for not meeting the biennial measures.
 OPTIONS for the committee:
 1) accept the ranking and receive another report, or 2) upgrade to warning and receive another report.

Version	Date	Author
5201-02-11	5/14/08	Smith

Change Description

