Fishers, hunters and wildlife watchers contribute more than $6.7 billion a year to Washington state's economy. Many of the dollars they spend support small businesses and rural communities, keeping cash registers ringing in restaurants, gas stations, convenience stores and sporting goods outlets.

More than one million people go fishing or hunting each year in Washington, buying meals and snacks, booking motel rooms, filling their gas tanks, chartering boats or hiring guides, and purchasing an array of outdoor gear. Commercial fishers, meanwhile, harvest catches totaling $3.8 billion by the time they are processed, distributed through wholesalers, sold in the retail market or served in restaurants.

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) is the agency responsible for protecting and managing the state's fish and wildlife populations—and providing opportunities for recreational and commercial fishing, wildlife viewing and hunting.

A team of some 1,550 WDFW employees across the state—biologists, lab technicians, enforcement officers, hatchery workers, land stewards, customer-service staff, business managers and others—manage Washington's fish and wildlife and provide opportunities to view or sustainably harvest them.

This publication offers details on WDFW's efforts to protect and manage these valuable resources for Washington citizens and future generations.

**By the numbers:**

Fish and wildlife generate annual economic benefits for Washington's economy:

- **$1.5 billion**  Wildlife viewing *
- **$1.1 billion**  Sport fishing *
- **$313 million**  Hunting *
- **$3.8 billion**  Commercial fishing +

+ Source: Fisheries Economics of the United States 2006 (NOAA)
WDFW’s financial overview

Where the money comes from

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife’s 2007-2009 biennial budget

Operating Budget $348.5 million
Capital Budget $84.6 million

2007-2009 revenue sources for combined Operating and Capital budgets

General Funds-State $110.4 million
Portion of state General Fund appropriated to WDFW.
Funds are derived from state tax dollars.

User fees $65.8 million
(State Wildlife Account)
Commercial and recreational fishing and hunting license fees,
fines and forfeitures, and miscellaneous revenue.

Federal $128.7 million

Local $57.2 million

Bonds $47.4 million
Funds are derived from the sale of general-obligation bonds.

Other funds $23.6 million
Funds in this category are dedicated to specific activities.

Where the money goes

GF-S = General Fund-State; WL-S = Wildlife Account-State; Other = Federal, local, and/or state funding,
SBCA-S=State Building Construction Account - State bonds

Fish Program
Protects and restores the state’s fish and shellfish species, while offering fishing opportunities on healthy stocks.

776.2 total FTEs

Of these, 235 are fish hatchery specialists, 193 are scientific technicians, and 176 are fish and wildlife biologists. The remaining employees are research and natural resources scientists, environmental specialists and planners, and administrative support staff.

- **Hatchery Management**
  Produces healthy, quality fish that meet the fish management objectives of the state.

  281.8 FTEs - All funding: $58.4 million
  ($11.9 million GF-S, $6.3 million WL-S, $40.2 million Other funds)

  Manages daily operations of 14 hatchery complexes with 88 hatchery facilities, of which 72 are dedicated to producing salmon and/or steelhead, 16 rear trout and other game fish exclusively.

- **Fish Management**
  Protects, recovers, enhances, plans and manages all marine and aquatic fish and shellfish within the state.

  266.9 FTEs - All funding: $46.7 million
  ($16.6 million GF-S, $4.4 million WL-S, $25.7 million Other funds)

  Manages resident and introduced species, and those that migrate past state borders. Collaborates with other resource-management agencies, tribal co-managers, and administrative jurisdictions to further protect and manage fish.

- **Science Management**
  Provides a sound, scientific basis for salmonid recovery planning to ensure the production and management of fish resources.

  194.4 FTEs - All funding: $28.2 million
  ($10.5 million GF-S, $1.1 million WL-S, $16.6 million Other funds)

- **Administration**
  Manages and directs the Fish Program.

  33.1 FTEs - All funding: $15.3 million
  ($4.6 million GF-S, $1.2 million WL-S, $9.5 million Other funds)
Wildlife Program

Promotes healthy ecosystems that protect wildlife and habitat, while offering hunting and viewing opportunities for species ranging from elk to waterfowl.

221.6 total FTEs

Of these, 118 are fish and wildlife biologists, 25 are natural resource scientists, and 16 are property and acquisition specialists. The remaining employees are maintenance mechanics, fish and wildlife research scientists, environmental planners and administrative support staff.

- **Game Management**
  Manages and conserves game animals to provide hunting opportunities.
  
  **44.0 FTEs - All funding: $13.1 million**
  ($0.7 million GF-S, $4.5 million WL-S, $7.9 million Other funds)
  Manages more than 50 species of game animals, including deer and elk, upland birds, waterfowl, bear, cougar, mountain goats and bighorn sheep, as well as furbearing animals such as beaver and mink.

- **Science Management**
  Provides technical information and quantitative analysis for management of wildlife.
  
  **28.9 FTEs - All funding: $6.6 million**
  ($0.9 million GF-S, $2.5 million WL-S, $3.2 million Other funds)
  Manages over 150 priority non-game wildlife species and over 50 game species to determine ecological needs, status, and trends, and population status, and limiting factors.

- **Land Management**
  Manages approximately 900,000 acres of land for wildlife needs and associated recreation, provides access to more than 600 recreation lake, river and marine access sites in Washington.
  
  **90.9 FTEs - All funding: $29.3 million**
  ($6.5 million GF-S, $5.1 million WL-S, $17.7 million Other funds)

- **Wildlife Diversity**
  Protects, restores, and perpetuates mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians and terrestrial invertebrates that are not hunted or fished.
  
  **43.3 FTEs - All funding: $9.6 million**
  ($0.8 million GF-S, $4.8 million WL-S, $4.0 million Other funds)
  Determines needs and writes recovery plans for 26 endangered, 11 threatened, and 7 sensitive species. Another 107 species are candidates for listing.

- **Administration**
  Manages and directs the Wildlife Program
  
  **14.5 FTEs - All funding: $3.1 million**
  ($0.4 million GF-S, $2.7 million WL-S)

Habitat Program

Preserves the land and water that fish and animals need for survival by providing sound scientific and technical expertise for the most effective protection and restoration of fish and wildlife habitats.

141.5 FTEs total

Of these, 83 are fish and wildlife biologists. The remaining employees are environmental planners, environmental engineers, environmental specialists, research scientists, scientific technicians and administrative support staff.

- **Environmental Services**
  Provides baseline resource information and engages in planning and implementation activities with private landowners, local governments, tribes and state and federal agencies.
  
  **11.2 FTEs total – All funding: $1.7 million**
  ($1.6 million GF-S, $0.1 million Other funds)

- **Major Projects**
  Ensures that fish and wildlife habitat impacts caused by major energy development projects and oil spills are avoided, minimized or mitigated.
  
  **16 FTEs total – All funding: $2.7 million**
  ($1.4 million GF-S, $0.04 million WL-S, $1.3 million Other funds)

- **Regional Operations**
  Provides regulatory services, technical and policy assistance, economic analysis and environmental review to government agencies and the public, for habitat protection and restoration and environmental contamination.
  
  **71.3 FTEs total – All funding: $12.4 million**
  ($9.3 million GF-S, $9 million WL-S, $2.2 million Other funds)

- **Science**
  Develops scientific information and knowledge basis for management decisions relating to the state’s fish and wildlife habitats.
  
  **15.3 FTEs total – All funding: $2.4 million**
  ($2.2 million GF-S, $0.2 million Other funds)

- **Technical Applications**
  Provides statewide fish passage and habitat technical assistance contributing to fish protection and restoration, and administration of regulatory activities pertaining to the Hydraulic Project Approval program.
  
  **15.7 FTEs total – All funding: $5 million**
  ($2 million GF-S, $3 million Other funds)

- **Administration**
  Manages and directs the Habitat Program.
  
  **12 FTEs total – All funding: $2.4 million**
  ($0.6 million GF-S, $0.4 million WL-S, $1.4 million Other funds)
Enforcement Program

Protects the state’s fish and wildlife and responds to public-safety issues such as dangerous wildlife conflicts, natural disasters (including floods, fires, and severe storms), critical incidents, and general law enforcement calls for service. Manages safety education for beginning hunters.

155.3 total FTEs

Of these, 137 are commissioned Fish and Wildlife Officers and 16 are non-commissioned employees. These include four Hunter Education staff, two aircraft pilots, two vessel/vehicle shop staff and eight administrative support and professional staff.

All funding: $38.8 million ($15.4 million GF-S, $17.7 million WL-S, $5.7 million)

Business Services Program

Provides policy and operational leadership and support to department-wide activities.

254.3 total FTEs

Includes Fish and Wildlife Commission staff, Director’s Office, Regional Operations, Information Services, Licensing, Financial Services, Capital Assets management, Engineering, Human Resources, other business needs.

- Fish and Wildlife Commission staff
  Provides administrative support to nine-member citizen commission appointed by the Governor. The commission establishes policy direction for WDFW, and monitors implementation of goals, policies and objectives.
  1.4 FTEs - All funding: $500,000
    ($3 million GF-S, $2 million WL-S)

- Director’s Office
  Provides strategic direction and administrative oversight to the department, including coordination of legislative affairs and public communications.
  20.1 FTEs - All funding: $4.5 million
    ($2.7 million GF-S, $1.8 million WL-S)

- Intergovernmental Resource Management
  Develops policies and coordinates key issues involving joint natural-resource management, working with Indian tribes, federal and state governments and other state agencies.
  32.3 FTEs - All funding: $7.5 million
    ($5 million GF-S, $3 million WL-S, $2.2 million Other funds)

- Regional Operations
  Six regional offices provide bases for biological field work and enforcement of hunting and fishing regulations. Each regional director works to implement WDFW policy and objectives locally and serve as a contact for local legislators, tribal authorities, county commissioners and other citizens.
  21.7 FTEs - All funding: $5.1 million
    ($3.1 million GF-S, $2 million WL-S)

- Human Resources
  Administers state rules, labor contracts and WDFW policy for hiring and retention of WDFW’s workforce.
  17.6 FTEs - All funding: $2.6 million
    ($1.4 million GF-S, $1 million WL-S, $2 million Other funds)

- Licensing
  Administers and collects over $60 million in license sales revenue from commercial and recreational licenses, permits, tags and stamps each biennium.
  32.2 FTEs - All funding: $5.6 million
    Include customer service specialists.
    ($1.1 million GF-S, $.7 million WL-S, $.8 million Other funds)

- Information Services
  Provides technical support to the agency’s information technology systems
  45.6 FTEs - All funding: $10.3 million
    ($6.4 million GF-S, $3.8 million WL-S, $.1 million Other funds)

- Financial Services
  Provides administrative support to the agency.
  57.4 FTEs - All funding: $8.1 million
    ($4.8 million GF-S, $3.2 million WL-S, $.1 million Other funds)
  Including Business Services administration, Fiscal Office, Contracts Office and Budget Office.

- Capital, Planning and Facilities Management
  Manages WDFW’s capital budget and provides engineering, construction, and maintenance of WDFW hatcheries and other infrastructure.
  Capital – 85.3 FTEs - All funding: $84.6 million
    ($47.4 million SBCA-S, $37.2 million Other funds)
  Engineering – 26.1 FTEs - All funding: $5.6 million
    ($2.4 million GF-S, $2.2 million WL-S, $1.0 million Other funds)
  Including construction and maintenance, engineers, equipment technicians, equipment operators, land surveyors, and maintenance mechanics.

- Revolving fund payments - All funding: $14.2 million
  ($10.2 million GF-S, $4.0 million WL-S)

- Indirect payments for federal funds; other federal/local spending authority - All funding: $8.8 million
  ($-12.4 million GF-S, -$7.2 million WL-S, $28.4 million Other funds)

GF-S = General Fund-State; WL-S = Wildlife Account-State; Other = Federal, local, and/or state funding; SBCA-S=State Building Construction Account - State bonds