REPORT to the 62nd MONTANA LEGISLATURE

SIKES ACT PROGRAM

Calendar years 2009 – 2010

Habitat Enhancement on Public Lands for Wildlife that are Fished, Hunted or Trapped

Prescribed Treatment - Remove Conifers from Aspen Clone

Wildlife Habitat Section
Montana Department Fish, Wildlife and Parks
January 2011

SIKES ACT

The Sikes Act of 1974(Public Law 92-452) is federal legislation which allows for memoranda of understanding between state fish and game and federal agencies to develop a funding source, and partner in projects, for the restoration of fish and wildlife habitat on public lands.

The program was originally conceived of as a means to implement a habitat stamp which would be required in order to recreate on federal lands. The money from the sale of the stamp would be directed back to state fish and game agencies for use on habitat restoration projects for those wildlife and fish species that are fished, hunted or trapped.

About 20 years ago, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks developed agreements with the U.S. Forest Service and U.S. Bureau of Land Management to cost share projects on a 50:50 basis for habitat restoration and improvement on public lands. Funds available to FWP have averaged $75,000 per year.

An Advisory Committee participates in project proposal review. The Committee currently includes Chris Marchion of Anaconda Sportsmen; John Gibson of Southeastern Sportsmen and Jim Olson of the Montana Wildlife Federation.

Agency representatives are Eric Tomasik for U.S. Forest Service; Jay Parks for U.S. Bureau of Land Management, and Steve Knapp for Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks. An annual meeting is typically conducted in January or February.

The majority of proposed projects are from the U.S. Forest Service. A project must have written endorsements of the field biologist from each agency. The number of proposed projects vary from 5 to 45 in any given year. Projects funded vary from 4 to 25.

The objective of the program is habitat enhancement on public lands targeting species that are fished, hunted or trapped.

SIKES ACT 2009 FUNDED PROJECTS

BEAVERHEAD-DEERLODGE NATIONAL FOREST

Dillon R.D. **Grasshopper Fuels Reduction**. Cut 100 acres of conifer colonization from within sagebrush parks, aspen clones and willow stands. Request: FWP $3,000/USFS $3,000.
FWP GRANT: $3,000.

Wisdom R.D. **McVey Park Restoration**. Cut 700 acres of conifer colonization from within sagebrush parks, aspen clones and willow stands. Request: FWP $3,000/USFS $15,000.
FWP GRANT: $3,000.

Wise River R.D. **Cat Creek Park Restoration**. Cut 200 acres of conifer colonization from within sagebrush parks, aspen clones and willow stands. Request: FWP $2,500/USFS $10,000.
FWP GRANT: $2,500.

Jefferson R.D. **North Tobacco Root Mountains Houndstongue Control**.
Weed control 80 acres. Request: FWP $2,400/USFS $2,400
FWP GRANT: $2,400.

Pintler R.D. **Stucky Ridge Complex Weed Treatment**
Weed control over 1,600 of bighorn sheep, mule deer habitat. Request: FWP $10,000/USFS $20,000 and other partners.
FWP GRANT: $10,000.

BITTERRROOT NATIONAL FOREST

Warm Springs Creek Bridge. Replace culvert with bridge. Request: FWP $8,000/USFS $72,000 and other partners.
FWP GRANT: $8,000.

CUSTER NATIONAL FOREST

Sioux R.D. **Ekalaka Hills Weed Control**. Treat 200 acres of spotted knapweed, Leafy spurge, and Canada thistle. In addition, reintroduce leafy spurge biocontrol beetles. Request: FWP $5,000/USFS $5,000.
FWP GRANT: $5,000

Ashland R.D. **Aspen/Woody Draw Restoration**. Cut conifers out of aspen clones and woody draws. Request: FWP $3,000/USFS $3,000.
FWP GRANT: $3,000.

Beartooth R.D. **Chrome Lake Inlet Restoration**. Restore the inlet and wetland vegetation to more natural conditions; reduce sediment into the lake, and stop illegal ATV traffic. Request: FWP $6,500/USFS $5,000 and partners.
FWP GRANT: $3,250.

GALLATIN/CUSTER NATIONAL FOREST

Absaroka Beartooth Wilderness Weed Control. Control knapweed, leafy spurge, toadflax, tansy, houndstongue and musk thistle. Request: FWP $5,000/USFS $10,000.
FWP GRANT: $4,200.

HELENA NATIONAL FOREST

Jefferson R.D. **South Elkhorns Noxious Weed Treatment**. Control 5 acres of Spotted knapweed, Houndstongue, and Dalmation toadflax. Request: FWP $2,500/USFS $2,500.
FWP GRANT: $2,500.

KOOTENAI FOREST

Rexford R.D. **Ural Creek Underburn.** Low intensity burn on 200 acres to remove encroaching conifers on east facing slope.
Request: FWP $4,500/USFS $4,500 plus partners.
FWP GRANT: $4,500.

Rexford R.D. **Lookout Creek Underburn**. Low intensity burn on 124 acres to remove small conifers and maintain an open west facing slope. Request: FWP $4,650/USFS $4,650.
FWP GRANT: $4,650.

FLATHEAD NATIONAL FOREST

Glacier View R.D. **Coal Creek Meadow Restoration**. Knapweed control.
Request: FWP$2,000/USFS$2,000.
FWP GRANT: $2,000.

Hungary Horse R.D. **Fielding Meadow Restoration**. Knapweed, toadflax and Canada thistle control. Request: FWP $4,000/USFS $6,400.
FWP GRANT: $4,000.

Spotted Bear R.D. **Spotted Bear River Weed Removal**. Weed control.
Request: FWP $4,000/USFS $6,000.
FWP GRANT: $4,000.

SUBTOTAL of grant dollars to U.S.F.S. = $66,000

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Sikes Act funding pays annual water bills on two BLM Sikes Act properties:
Pompey's Pillar($6,720.82) and Sundance Lodge ($875.00)

Tools for Habitat Tech: $811.49

SUBTOTAL of grant dollars to B.L.M. - $8,407.31

SIKES ACT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Per Diem Costs: $554.35

TOTAL SIKES ACT 2009 COSTS: $74,961.66

BALANCE: $38.34

SIKES ACT 2010 FUNDED PROJECTS

BITTERROOT NATIONAL FOREST

Meadow Creek Drift Fence Extension. Extend the post and rail fence to exclude livestock from the banks of Meadow Creek, and prevent trampling of bull trout and Westslope Cutthroat trout spawning habitat. Request: FWP $1,000/USFS $1,000.
FWP GRANT: $1,000.

BEAVERHEAD-DEERLODGE NATIONAL FOREST

Dillon R.D. **Little Sheep Cr. Noxious Weed Control.** Reduce noxious weeds in and near riparian areas (45 to 50 acres). Request: FWP $3,000/USFS $4,000 plus partners.
FWP GRANT: $3,000.

Wise River R.D. **Trapper-Cherry Winter Range Weed Control**. Reduce noxious weeds in sagebrush-grasslands and riparian habitats on about 113 acres.
Request: FWP $3,000/USFS $3,500 plus partners.
FWP GRANT: $3,000

Wisdom R.D. **Arnold Creek Park Restoration**. Cut 280 acres of conifer colonization within sagebrush parks, aspen clones and willow stands.
Request: FWP $2,500/USFS $11,200.
FWP GRANT: $2,500.

Dillon R.D. **Grasshopper Hazardous Fuels Reduction**. Cut 100 acres of conifer colonization within sagebrush parks, aspen clones and willow stands.
Request: FWP $3,000/USFS $3,000.
FWP GRANT: $3,000.

Pintler R.D. **Stucky Ridge Complex Weed Treatments**. Spray 639 acres, most knapweed. Request: FWP $10,000/USFS $8,755 plus partners($10,000)
FWP GRANT: $10,000.

LOLO NATIONAL FOREST

Thompson Falls R.D. **Dry Cherry Elk Winter Range Habitat Improvement**. Use fire to kill conifers that are encroaching into winter forage areas. This is a multi-year project over 440 acres. Request: FWP $15,000/USFS $175,000 plus partners.
FWP GRANT: $15,000.

LEWIS AND CLARK NATIONAL FOREST

White Sulphur Springs R.D. **Sheep Creek Aspen Restoration**. A multi-year project to treat 31 aspen units over 600 acres. Purpose is to rejuvenate aspen clones. Request: FWP $10,000/USFS $45,000 plus partners.
FWP GRANT $5,000.

FLATHEAD NATIONAL FOREST

Hungry Horse R.D. **Fielding Meadow Restoration**. Killing noxious weeds, particularly spotted knapweed, Canada thistle, toadflax and sulfur cinquefoil. This is a multi-year project.
Request: FWP $3,000/USFS $3,000.
FWP GRANT: $3,000.

GALLATIN NATIONAL FOREST

Big Timber R.D. **West Bridger Aspen Fencing Project**. Fence as aspen stand within a riparian area in West Bridger Cr. Aspen resprouted after the 2006 Derby Fire. Request: FWP $4,110/USFS $5,000 plus partners.
FWP GRANT: $4,100.

Absaroka Beartooth Wilderness Weed Control. An on-going 10 year effort to control weed infestations. Request: FWP $5,000./USFS $10,000.
FWP GRANT: $5,000.

Gardiner R.D. **Northern Yellowstone Winter Range Weed Control**. Chemically treat about 200 acres, particularly for spotted knapweed and toadflax, in the Gardiner Basin. Request: FWP $5,000./USFS $11,500.
FWP GRANT: $5,000

CUSTER NATIONAL FOREST

Sioux R.D. **Noxious Weed Control in the Ekalaka Hills and Long Pines**. Treat 200 acres with herbicide to kill spotted knapweek,houndstongue,leafy spurge and Canada thistle. Biocontrol was released in 2009. Request: FWP $5,000/USFS $5,000.
FWP GRANT $4,738.

Ashland R.D. **Aspen/Woody Draw Habitat Enhancement**. Remove ponderosa pine from aspen clones and woody draws. Request: FWP $3,000/USFS $3,000 plus partners.
FWP GRANT $3,000.

SUBTOTAL of grant dollars to U.S.F.S. = $67,338.

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Sikes Act funding pays annual water bills on two BLM Sikes Act properties:
Pompey's Pillar($6,499.98) and Sundance Lodge ($500.00)

SUBTOTAL of grant dollars to B.L.M. = $6,999.98

SIKES ACT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Per Diem: $661.44

TOTAL SIKES ACT 2010 COSTS: $74,999.42

BALANCE: $0.58