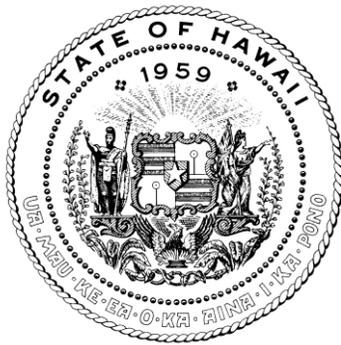


**REPORT TO THE TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2011**

**RELATING TO THE WILDLIFE REVOLVING FUND
FISCAL YEAR 2009-2010**



Prepared by

THE STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

In response to Section 183D-10.5, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

December 2010

**RELATING TO THE WILDLIFE REVOLVING FUND
FISCAL YEAR 2009-2010**

PURPOSE

The goal of the Wildlife Revolving Fund (WRF) is to provide funds to manage and enhance public hunting opportunities in Hawai‘i. Act 290, Session Laws of Hawai‘i 1991, amended Section 183D-10.5, Hawai‘i Revised Statutes (HRS) by adding a requirement for an annual report to be prepared by the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) on the status of WRF and transmitted to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to each regular session. The report is to include:

1. The source and application of monies deposited into WRF, including a description of the criteria and process used to determine funding priorities;
2. A description of programs and activities supported by WRF;
3. A summary of program highlights and accomplishments; and
4. A description of future program plans, including specific goals and objectives.

SOURCE OF FUNDS

Section 183D-10.5 (b), HRS, provides that the following proceeds shall be retained by or transmitted to the Department for deposit in WRF: fees for hunting licenses, game bird farmer and Commercial Hunting Preserve licenses and fees, hunting guide licenses, hunter education training programs and use of public target ranges, fines collected for hunting or wildlife law violations, bail forfeitures, sale of articles required before hunting, and related works of art. For Fiscal Year 2010 (FY 10), the major source of revenue was hunting license sales. Sources of revenues are detailed below:

FY 10 REVENUE

| | |
|--|-------------------------|
| Hunting License Sales | \$131,545 |
| Wildlife Conservation & Game Bird Stamps & Artwork (collectors) | 4,155 |
| Game Tags and Application Fees (suspended by court ruling) | 0 |
| Game Bird Farmer and Commercial Shooting Preserve License and Fees | 10,135 |
| Hunter Education Activities | 2,187 |
| Hunting Guide License Fees | 1,083 |
| Court Fines | 275 |
| Interest | 632 |
| TOTAL | <u>\$150,012</u> |

Revenue for FY 10 represented an approximately \$18,681 decrease (-11%) from comparable revenue from the previous fiscal year. Major reductions in revenues and available fees during the last two years are the result of an appellate court ruling on December 31, 2007 which had the effect of suspending sales of the Wildlife Conservation Stamp, the Game Bird Stamp, and all tags and application fees for special hunts.

Revenue did not meet the Department’s authorized budget ceiling for WRF of \$686,726. New expenditures totaled \$124,481. The cash balance at the end of FY 10 amounted to \$61,198, with outstanding encumbrances of \$10,861. Unencumbered cash available for carryover totaled \$50,337.

Status of WRF During FY 10 (S-10-343-C)

| | |
|---|------------------|
| Beginning Cash Balance of Fund on July 1, 2009: | \$ 35,666 |
| Add: Revenues during FY 10: | \$150,012 |
| Less: Expenditures during FY 10: | \$124,481 |
| Cash Balance as of June 30, 2010: | \$ 61,197 |

| | |
|--|------------------|
| Less: Unpaid encumbrances for FY 10 as of June 30, 2010: | \$ 10,861 |
| Less: Unpaid encumbered contracts for FY 10 as of June 30, 2010: | \$ 0 |
| Unencumbered Cash for carryover as of June 30, 2010: | \$ 50,336 |

FUNDING PRIORITIES

WRF has been an important portion of the overall budget to meet obligations of state match and operating and salary expenses for game and wildlife projects. Because the major sources of revenue for WRF come from direct charges to hunters, priority is given to expenditures which benefit this user group. As referred to above, an appellate court ruling has halted the sale of stamps, game tags, and application fees until a formal hunting rule change can reestablish these direct assessments to hunters by species, area, and season chosen to hunt.

In budgeting for WRF, a policy of allotting at least 85% of the budget for the Hunting Program has been in place and followed. Up to 15% of the budget may be used for nongame and wildlife sanctuary management, for projects that may have dual benefits to game species and nongame species. Typical examples are the predator and weed control efforts to benefit game birds in the Kapapala Cooperative Game Management Area (CGMA) and the Kīpuka ‘Āinahou Nēnē Sanctuary on the Big Island, which also benefit Nēnē. Predator control activities in Kuaokalā GMA on O’ahu were carried out with WRF monies to benefit game birds, and these activities also benefited pueo and mōlī.

Section 183D-10.5(e), HRS, also requires that the State first use WRF monies to "maximize the State's participation to secure federal funds under the Pittman-Robertson Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act." Consequently, a priority was given to those expenditures that provided the state match for Pittman-Robertson (PR) projects.

The allocation of operating funds to the Department's Division of Forestry and Wildlife’s (DOFAW) Branch Offices was done on a lump sum basis to be used on eligible projects.

With the decline in hunting fee revenue, the funding available for salaries has been reduced and all recruitment for WRF funded positions has been frozen. The

operating funds were allotted to the Branches based on the respective Branch wildlife program size and complexity, and amount of revenue generated from license fees. Discussions among wildlife staff had continued on the possible conversion of WRF-supported General Laborer's to Forestry & Wildlife Technicians, but became a moot point with substantial loss of funds.

PROCESS USED

1. The Department's Fiscal Office and DOFAW coordinated to determine the amount of monies from WRF available for allocation to DOFAW's Branch Offices.
2. At the beginning of each fiscal year, a portion of WRF budget is allocated to each DOFAW Branch Office, to Honolulu Administrative Staff for Statewide projects and to the Hunter Education Program of the Department's Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement. A portion of funds are allocated for temporary personnel to maintain wildlife program functions, and to pay budgeted add-on salary costs to assist with wildlife projects.
3. Each Branch Office collaborates in the development of the overall annual WRF budget, to benefit the resources and resource users, all within the criteria of compliance with the purpose of WRF and the necessity to provide state-match requirements for PR projects.
4. An emphasis was placed on using WRF for essential expenditures to provide support for public hunting opportunities.
5. All expenditures are identified and coded as "WILDLIFE REVOLVING FUND: S-10-343" to facilitate tracking and accountability.
6. Expenditures complied with approved categories of expenditures for WRF as established by The Board of Land and Natural Resources on August 13, 1993 (see Attachment 1, appended).

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS, ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND FUTURE PLANS

KAUA'I BRANCH

Hunting Season Management

Objectives: Provide hunting information to the public and other districts through announcements and news releases. Manage public hunting seasons.

Accomplishments: WRF monies were not used due to the budget shortfall this year

Game Operations and Maintenance (O & M)

Objectives: Maintain and expand the capacity to manage water units, fences, hunter checking stations, and other infrastructure necessary for hunting. Improve game operations and maintenance through additional field staffing, adequate equipment and supplies.

Accomplishments: WRF monies were not used due to the budget shortfall this year.

Motor Vehicle Repairs and Purchase

Objectives: To maintain the District's Wildlife Management Section motor vehicle fleet in good running condition and expand transportation backup and capacity.

Accomplishments: Due to the budget shortfall this year, expenditures to repair and maintain the Kauai motor vehicle fleet were reduced. No vehicles purchases were made during the project period.

Commission on Hunting License Sales

Objective: To pay the Kaua'i hunting license vendors for their commission on the sale of the 2009-10 Hawai'i Hunting Licenses.

Accomplishments: Hunting licenses were available and sold by five vendors.

Future Program Plans

1. Restore revenue from the sale of hunting tags, stamps, and fees and fill vacant WRF funded General Laborer position on Kau' ai Branch.
2. Provide for the administrative costs, such as printing and publishing of game tags, permits, announcements of hunting seasons and additions of new hunting areas. - \$10,000 (100% WRF)
3. Continue incremental development of the proposed Hanahanapuni Public Shooting/Archery Range \$20,000 (50% WRF)
4. Continue the artificial game bird release project in the Kekaha and Wailua GMAs. Plan, design, and purchase building materials, equipment and supplies for the complete construction of a game bird rearing facility - \$20,000 (100% WRF)
5. Purchase a four-wheel drive vehicle to be added to the game program to support all aspects of operations, management, and surveys. \$15,000 (50% WRF)
6. Continue to maintain all wildlife vehicles and equipment used under the Kaua'i Game Management Program. \$20,000 (100% WRF)
7. Purchase of construction materials and supplies to maintain existing game management facilities, including fences, gates, water units, feeding sites, restrooms, storage buildings, and hunter checking stations. \$20,000 (50% WRF)
8. Provide air logistical support to conduct surveys, operations and maintenance of the Kaua'i Game Management Program. \$15,000 (50% WRF)

O‘AHU BRANCH

Game Management

Objectives: To maintain and enhance wildlife habitat and facilities on O‘ahu Public Hunting Areas (PHA’s), GMA’s, and Wildlife Sanctuaries; and to improve game bird and game mammal hunting opportunities on O‘ahu.

Accomplishments: Funding was used to provide game birds and manage habitat for game bird hunting on Oahu

- Facilitated the game bird release program, which provided 200 Ring-Necked Pheasants and 22 Erkel’s Francolins
- Spread 2000 lbs. of wild bird feed on in the Kuaoakalā GMA during the game bird hunting season to attract birds into the hunting area and provide supplemental feed for released game birds.

Future Program Plans

1. Restore revenue from the sale of hunting tags, stamps, and fees and fill vacant WRF funded General Laborer position in O‘ahu Branch.
2. Fund a WRF Wildlife Technician position to perform tasks targeted towards ongoing management of O‘ahu District wildlife management areas - \$45,000 (100% WRF).
3. Purchase game birds from farmers and day-old chicks from mainland hatcheries to release into GMA’s - \$6,000 (100% WRF).
4. Purchase equipment and supplies needed for ongoing O & M in O‘ahu Wildlife Management Areas - \$15,000 (100% WRF).

MAUI BRANCH

Lease of Cooperative GMA-Lanai

Objective: Provide 30,000 acres of land on Lanai for sport hunting and wildlife management.

Accomplishment: The entire annual lease rental for the Lanai Cooperative GMA (CGMA) was paid via WRF monies. This area provided hunters the opportunity to pursue Axis Deer, Mouflon Sheep, and game birds.

Game Mammal Aerial Survey:

Objective: Annual game mammal survey of the Lanai CGMA and private portions of Lanai Island.

Accomplishments: Due to budget restrictions, no aerial survey was conducted.

Contract Services-Data/Lanai Hunts

Objective: With the shortage of clerical staff, coupled with high interest and participation in the Lanai Axis Deer and Mouflon Sheep hunts on Lanai, it became necessary to

contract outside support to assure all lottery and non-lottery hunt applications were processed in a timely manner.

Accomplishment: A total of 6,000 hunter applications were received for the two Lanai hunts, all applicant data was entered and duplicate applications identified and deleted. Due to the assistance of contract services, all applications for the Axis Deer and Mouflon Sheep hunts were properly processed, lotteries conducted and results compiled and disseminated in a timely manner.

Full time/ Temporary General Laborer-Lanai

Objective: To assist the Lanai Forestry and Wildlife (FW) Technician with the upkeep and maintenance of 30 miles of water unit pipeline and 54 miles of access roads in the CGMA.

Accomplishment: Funding through federal grants (PR) to facilitate work in Unit 3 (Game bird hunting only) and other work enhanced game bird habitat and game bird hunting conditions.

Management of the Lottery Hunts-Lanai

Objective: Process and print documents for the Axis deer and Mouflon sheep hunts on Lanai. Ship instruction sheets and applications for the two hunts to the outer districts. Meet with the Lanai Company to review current and future plans within the hunting area.

Accomplishment: Application cards, instruction sheets, and addendums were printed and distributed to all districts and lotteries conducted. Meeting with the Lanai Company was conducted at the end of September. Current and future management plans were discussed.

Game Mammal Facilities O & M-Lanai

Objective: Rental of dumpster(s) during the Axis Deer and Mouflon Sheep seasons for hunters to dispose of carcasses. Repairs to vehicles were needed to accomplish job requirements in the field.

Accomplishment: The State provided dumpsters for hunters to dispose of animal carcasses during both hunting seasons. Charges were made to WRF for vehicle maintenance on Lanai.

Overtime costs for manning Lanai Hunter Check Station:

Objective: Hunting activities and hunter check in on Lanai occurs after normal operating hours. Overtime is paid to the Lanai FW Technician to accommodate hunters.

Accomplishments: Due to budget cuts, the FW Technician on Lanai agreed to take compensatory time in lieu of pay.

Commissions on Hunting License Sales

Objective: WRF was used to pay commission to vendors for the sales of the 2009-2010 Hawaii hunting licenses.

Future Program Plans

1. Fund land rental on Lanai-\$35,000 (100% WRF)
2. Fund land rental on Maui-\$2,600 (25% WRF)
3. Fund Lanai Hunter Check Station overtime for FW Technician position-\$6,000 (100% WRF)
4. Fund General Laborer position for Lanai for facility upkeep and maintenance-\$45,000 (100% WRF)
5. Fund game mammal facilities development and O & M on Lanai-\$35,000 (100% WRF)
6. Fund game mammal surveys on Lanai -\$10,000 (100% WRF)
7. Fund purchase of vehicle for Lanai-\$50,000 (100% WRF)
8. Fund management of lottery hunts on Lanai; document printing, data input and drawings-\$15,000 (100% WRF)
9. Fund signage for areas closed to hunting-\$1,000 (100% WRF)
10. Fund General Laborer position for Lanai Hunter Check Station work-\$10,000 (100% WRF)

EAST HAWAI'I DISTRICT

General Laborer Position:

Objectives: Pursue duties pertaining to Hilo Watershed wild cattle control, hunter checking stations, and nēnē habitat renewal.

Accomplishments: This Section's work, game and non-game, was accomplished without a WRF budget.

Wildlife Habitat Management:

Objectives: Monitor Nēnē from Keaau Cooperative Nēnē Release Site along adjacent coastal areas where birds have settled.

Accomplishments: Banded and unbanded Nēnē are occupying public parks, Kings Landing (Watumull Estate) and adjacent areas. Nēnē at the Hilo Airport were relocated to the State Park.

Wildlife O & M:

Objectives: To maintain the Kīpuka 'Āinahou Lease.

Accomplishments: The lease for Kīpuka 'Āinahou with the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands was maintained. Gorse in the Hawaiian Home Lands lease area was removed before it seeded. Select portions of Kapapala and Kīpuka 'Āinahou game bird hunting areas were improved by fertilizing and renewal of bulldozed strips in the pastures

and removal of competitive vegetation. Little brown fire ants and mosquitoes were controlled at Kapapala CGMA, in game bird nesting areas and watering sites

Commissions on Hunting License Sales:

Objective: To pay commissions to vendors on the Island of Hawai‘i for sales of the 2009-2010 Hawai‘i Hunting Licenses.

Accomplishment: Hunting licenses were available at vendors and commissions were paid.

Motor Vehicle Repairs, Maintenance, and Equipment

Objective: To maintain trucks in service for WRF-related purposes.

Accomplishment: Vehicles remained functional without repairs being charged to WRF.

Future Program Plans

1. Remove gorse from Kīpuka ‘Āinahou lease area
2. Continue to employ a part-time General Laborer to help expand hunter checking station coverage, remove gorse from the Kīpuka ‘Āinahou lease: \$18,170

WEST HAWAI‘I DISTRICT

Equipment Purchase

No expenditures

Vehicle Purchase

No expenditures

Facilities Construction

No expenditures

Game Operations and Maintenance

Objective: Maintain predator control, the maintenance of game related facilities such as guzzlers, and increase road maintenance and habitat management capacity for the West Hawai‘i District. Maintained more than 60 miles of hunter access roads.

Accomplishment: All O & M activities were accomplished without use of WRF.

Game Program Coordination

Objective: District Staff assisted K-Mart and Wal-Mart stores in Kona with hunting license sales and training (these being the only outlets for the public to purchase hunting licenses in Kona other than the DOFAW Office 40 miles away in Kamuela).

Accomplishment: District’s Secretary assisted with training of K-Mart and Wal-Mart store staff in hunting license sales. During anticipated increase in hunting license sales

traffic at these establishments, the Secretary assisted with license sales and dissemination of information pertinent with upcoming seasons.

Temporary Hire of ½-Time General Laborer

Objective: To assist the Districts Wildlife Staff in the operations and maintenance of projects. To provide predator control at various locations.

Accomplishment: A part-time General Labor position was paid for out of WRF, and assisted in predator control, trapping of mongooses, feral cats, and feral dogs, maintained water units and water supply facilities, assisted with invasive plant control. The General Laborer also assisted with predator control at the Big Island Country Club and Puu Waawaa Ranch for Nēnē enhancement. Five thousand silver oak trees were removed.

Future Program Plans

1. Restore equipment purchase, vehicle purchase and maintenance, and facilities construction functions from WRF, as monies accrue from the sale of hunting licenses, stamps, tags and fees.
2. Continue funding part-time General Laborer position -\$32,000

STATEWIDE ADMINISTRATIVE SEGMENT

Hunting License, Wildlife Conservation Stamp, and Game Bird Stamp Production, Program Sales, and Management:

Objective: To produce and distribute required hunting licenses, duplicate licenses, stamps, and vendor booklets. A portion of the production costs were paid with WRF monies.

Accomplishment: Produced and distributed vendor booklets, hunting licenses, and duplicate hunting licenses. Produced Wildlife Conservation Stamps in the event that stamp sales could be resumed. Game Bird Stamp production is on hold until established by new rules.

Notification of Hunting Season Openings and Changes:

Objective: Communicate any changes in repetitive hunting seasons and announce new or special hunting opportunities as required by rules.

Accomplishment: Several legal notices announcing new animal control opportunities for hunters were produced and a series of announcements and news releases were produced for hunting seasons.

Future Program Plans

1. Produce and distribute required hunting licenses, duplicate licenses, stamps, and vendor booklets.
2. Restore revenue from the sale of hunting tags, stamps, and fees to support the statewide game program.

3. Publish notification of game bird hunting season announcement - \$700 (100% WRF)

ATTACHMENT I, WILDLIFE REVOLVING FUND EXPENDITURE CATEGORIES

1. Development, improvement and management of existing and new public hunting and game management facilities including installing or maintaining hunter access roads, checking stations, fences, gates, stiles, cattle guards, entry/safety/boundary signs and markers, parking lots, sanitary facilities, water tanks, and campsites.
2. Development, improvement and management of existing and new wildlife sanctuary facilities including fences, moats, water control structures, pumps, ditches, nesting sites, holding pens, boardwalks, viewing kiosks, watering devices, parking lots, sanitary facilities and entry and interpretive signs.
3. Wildlife habitat improvements including game bird and mammal watering units, food plots, vegetation clearing and mowing; non-game/endangered species enclosures, exclosures, noxious weed control, mowing and nest sites; and wildlife predator control, water quality testing and rehabilitation.
4. Personnel hires for wildlife management and hunter education including Wildlife Management Assistants and General Laborers (for hunter checking station operation, public hunting area management, pest plant control, predator control, habitat development, and posting signs and markers) computer technicians (for public hunting lotteries) and hunter education specialists.
5. Wildlife management equipment including tractors, bulldozers, all-terrain vehicles, collecting arms, radios, outboard motors, small boats, binoculars, trucks and 4-wheel drive vehicles.
6. Development and operation of public shooting ranges in conjunction with the Hunter Education Program.
7. Research, surveys and inventories for game and non-game/endangered species, including rental of helicopters, infrared technology, temporary hires, equipment rental, materials and supplies, and contracts for studies (game birds, forest birds, waterbirds, seabirds, Hawaiian bat, owls, disease, genetics, food habits, ungulates, limiting factors, etc.).
8. Public education on wildlife management including development of the "Wilderness Watch" program, providing maps and area informational leaflets, interpretive facilities at game management areas and wildlife sanctuaries, and technical assistance to the public on wildlife management.
9. Rental of land for public hunting and wildlife management.
10. Law enforcement.