

# Project(s) Proposal

Date Generated: February 14, 2014

## **California Department of Fish and Wildlife**

Wildlife Restoration Grants

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- [Project # 60010615 - BMP Wildlife Area O&M: CA-San Felipe Valley Wildlife Area \(SFWA\)](#)

## Project Statement Details

### Project Snapshot #60010615 - BMP Wildlife Area O&M: CA-San Felipe Valley Wildlife Area (SFWA)

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Primary Agency	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Start Date	July 1, 2012
End Date	June 30, 2013
Project Categories	Conservation/Management, Recreation, Administration

### Project Statement Details #60016641 - CA-San Felipe Valley Wildlife Area

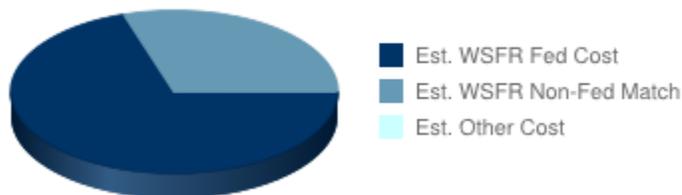
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#### Properties

Is Revision?	No
Grant Programs	Wildlife Restoration Grants

Project Statement Cost Breakdown	Estimated WSFR Federal Cost:	\$58,776
	Estimated WSFR Non-Federal Match:	\$25,793
	Estimated Other Cost:	\$0
	<b>Total Estimated Cost:</b>	<b>\$84,569</b>

Cost Breakdown Graph



#### Need Statement

The Department continues to expand the SFVWAC through additional acquisitions and has increased hunting and other wildlife dependent use opportunities for the public. In order to meet Department

and SFVWAC management and public use goals, a stable funding source such as the Wildlife Restoration Act (WRA) is needed. The WRA grant will provide the primary source of funding to support and/or implement projects that conserve and enhance mule deer, upland game, and listed species habitats and that provide for public use opportunities.

## **Approach**

The Department will use WRA funds on the SFVWAC to implement habitat management and facilities maintenance activities. These activities will be completed primarily by one half-time Fish and Wildlife Technician (FWT) and one seasonal aid consistent with the SFVWAC Land Management Plan (LMP) and Department's annual work plans. Non-federal fund sources will also be utilized to augment WR grant funding for temporary help, equipment purchases, equipment maintenance and the management activities described below.

### **A. Facility and Road Maintenance**

#### **1. Fence Maintenance**

Approximately 56 miles of perimeter and interior security fencing is maintained at the SFVWAC to prevent vehicle and livestock trespass. This fencing, along with existing access gates along Highways S-2 and 78 will be repaired and/or replaced as damage occurs from vehicle accidents, vandalism or emergency vehicle and personnel entry. Removal of existing interior barbed wire fencing determined to be a hazard to wildlife and the public will be completed. Interior gate repair and/or replacement required for security will be undertaken. Fencing repair and replacement will be undertaken by WRA grant funded personnel and/or through vendor contracts.

A priority outside of regular maintenance is the replacement of two access gates and fencing on the Oak Grove unit to improve site security along State Highway 79. The existing light-weight chain-link gates will be replaced with large diameter pipe gates that will also include pipe revetments to the sides of adjacent fencing. All proposed work will be conducted within the existing gate/fence alignment and will incorporate boundary and public information signage.

#### **2. Building Maintenance**

SFVWA contains a storage barn with enclosed office and water well system. Replacement of the barn roof and refurbishment of the office were recently undertaken; however, minor finish work and painting still need to be completed. WRA grant funding will be used to purchase required supplies to complete repair work. Two 8X20 foot roll-up doors on the storage barn have previously been identified for repair but work has yet to be accomplished. A priority facility maintenance activity is the repair of the roll-up doors through a vendor contract.

#### **3. Public Use, Access Roads and Parking Lots**

There are approximately 35 miles of internal roads on SFVWAC which support maintenance and management activities as well as several small parking areas on SFVWA. Existing roads and public parking areas would be maintained for safety and to assure use year round. As time permits, unwanted road segments will be made impassible by vehicles and manipulated to encourage natural re-vegetation. All work will occur during the non-nesting season (late summer through late winter) to avoid impacts to nesting species.

Pedestrian access will be improved along County Highway S-2 at the SFVWA unit. Staff will identify

appropriate locations along the existing Highway S-2 fence line where pedestrian openings can be installed to allow for safe public access. New access points will be created by installing narrow H-brace openings or gates made of metal pipe to facilitate easy public access while retaining security against vehicle trespass. All work will be done within the alignment of the existing fence and adjacent to the highway right-of-way.

#### B. Visitor and Recreation Management

##### Signs for Public Use

Approximately 200 existing boundary, informational and directional signs are maintained and replaced, as needed, within the SFVWAC. Most of this work is done during the late winter and early summer months prior to the opening of fall hunting seasons and periods of increased public use.

##### C. Equipment Maintenance and Repairs

Tractors, gators, chippers and other on-site mechanical equipment used on SFVWAC are regularly repaired and maintained. Routine maintenance activities are performed on-site while mechanical repairs are conducted at an authorized repair shop. Equipment parts and supplies are kept on-site and storage facilities are kept in a clean and organized condition. Many of the regularly used minor power equipment such as chain saws, weed whackers, etc. are aging and will likely need replacement during this grant funding cycle.

#### D. Habitat Management

##### 1. Habitat Maintenance for Recreational Hunting

Hand and mechanical weed abatement will continue in areas that are infested with noxious weeds to encourage re-vegetation of native plant species. Weed abatement is conducted during the fall and winter months in order to avoid wildlife breeding seasons and to remove weeds before they flower and set seed. Mechanical weed abatement includes mowing and weed whacking.

##### 2. Water Source Improvements

SFVWA has six active windmills that supply water to wildlife and are all being retrofitted with wildlife friendly water drinkers. The new drinkers are installed at or just above ground level to allow use by deer, upland game, migratory birds, and herptofauna. New watering devices are placed in the same location as the cisterns and troughs being replaced to avoid additional site disturbance. Large mammals such as mule deer and mountain lions as well as upland and non-game species have been documented using these refurbished systems. Windmills will be maintained to ensure sufficient water for wildlife during the summer months. SFVWAC has numerous natural springs which have been modified by previous land owners to benefit domestic livestock. These springs will be maintained and modified as needed to ensure safe use by wildlife. Maintenance activities undertaken at water sources include hand and mechanical weed abatement, pipeline repair/replacement, removal of wildlife hazards, and monitoring of water source integrity.

The repair of windmill pump mechanisms and general maintenance on four of the six windmills at SFVWA will be the priority activity for WRA grant funding. Repair and/or replacement of motors, fan blades, maintenance platforms, and water transport piping to external tanks on these windmills were previously undertaken. However, due to funding limitations needed repair and replacement of pump system parts was not undertaken resulting in diminished or no water flow to associated wildlife drinkers. All work including the temporary storage of materials and equipment will occur within

existing windmill site footprints. The two remaining windmills are in working order but require installation of water tank stands and replacement of existing cattle troughs with wildlife drinkers.

### **Expected Results**

Improved habitat quality (forage, nesting, breeding, and cover) and reliable water sources for game and non-game species on the SFVWAC will occur through the undertaking of restoration and enhancement projects. WRA grant funding will support dedicated staff, materials and equipment necessary to maintain area security assuring protection of wildlife habitat and species values. Wildlife dependent public use opportunities and access to the SFVWAC will be maintained and enhanced. WRA grant funds will ensure continued management of important and diverse habitat types to maintain and, to the extent feasible increase populations of game, non-game, migratory, and threatened and endangered species. Improved habitat quality (forage, nesting, breeding, and cover) and reliable water sources for game and non-game species on the SFVWAC will occur through the undertaking of restoration and enhancement projects. WRA grant funding will support dedicated staff, materials and equipment necessary to maintain area security assuring protection of wildlife habitat and species values. Wildlife dependent public use opportunities and access to the SFVWAC will be maintained and enhanced. WRA grant funds will ensure continued management of important and diverse habitat types to maintain and, to the extent feasible increase populations of game, non-game, migratory, and threatened and endangered species.

### **General**

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE INFO:**

Listed, Proposed, and Candidate Species Present on SFVWAC: Least Bell's vireo (SFVWA); Arroyo toad and Quino checkerspot (OG)

The Department has made the determination that proposed projects under this grant will not negatively affect the continued existence of any federally-listed species. Work performed within all special status species habitat will occur outside of the breeding and nesting season. To ensure that no adverse affects to federally listed species occur from enhancement and restoration projects, the Department will consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service prior to implementation of projects in or adjacent to occupied habitat.

Potential habitat for federally listed species may occur on the OG unit. However, due to the relatively recent acquisition of the unit, there have been no focused species inventories or confirmed observations. Planned activities for the OG unit include only area security upgrades and maintenance to existing perimeter fencing and gates so no adverse impacts to federally listed species or their habitat are expected.

As the management needs for listed species change through implementation of this project, it will be necessary to modify existing management schemes to maintain and/or increase listed species values. Vegetation mapping and focused species inventories will be used to gauge the effectiveness of management actions and to determine what, if any modifications to those actions are warranted. Depending on the results of those efforts, additional Section 7 ESA consultation may be necessary.

#### **State Historic Preservation Act:**

It is the Department's policy to preserve, protect, and maintain cultural and historic resources found

on its properties. The preservation, protection, and management of cultural resources will be done in accordance with State and Federal laws and in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer.

In 2002, prior to development of the SFVWA LMP, a cultural Resource Management Plan (CRMP) was prepared by professional archaeologist Dr. Susan Hector. The CRMP includes avoidance and protection treatments for 40 identified cultural sites, as well as guidance on treatment of newly identified sites. The LMP incorporated the CRMP and other cultural resource identification/protection documents drafted to date as a plan element. In accordance with the LMP and incorporated CRMP, public use facilities have been located in areas that were surveyed and found not to contain cultural resources. All work conducted under the WRA grant at SFVWAC will be undertaken in strict accordance with the LMP. The location of all cultural sites is confidential and the individual sites are protected from vandalism and disturbance. During habitat enhancement and facility repair and maintenance activities, all known adjacent archaeological sites will be avoided. Prior to developing new facilities, the proposed project area will be surveyed by a qualified professional archaeologist to determine the presence and limits of any previously unidentified cultural or historic site. If additional resources are detected, they will be identified and recorded and measures taken to assure that impacts are avoided.

#### **Useful Life**

Proposed habitat management, facilities maintenance, and water restoration/enhancement projects described above do not constitute capital improvements.

#### **Program Income**

Program income will not be generated with this project

#### **Multipurpose Projects**

The proposed grant funded project does not involve multi-purpose funding.

#### **Relationship with Other Grants**

The Department is currently administering a three year (April 1, 2010 to March 31, 2013) Traditional Section 6 Threatened and Endangered Wildlife grant along a portion of San Felipe Creek on SFVWA. The goal of this three year project is to restore, through non-native vegetation removal natural water sources to benefit the federally endangered peninsular bighorn sheep and other special status species including least bell's vireo, southwestern willow flycatcher, yellow-billed cuckoo, desert pupfish, and unarmored three-spine stickleback. This effort is part of a multi-phase cooperative project being undertaken with BLM and CDPR in the greater San Felipe Creek watershed. The Section 6 grant specifically targets restoration of riparian habitat within San Felipe Creek specifically for the benefit of federally listed species. In contrast, this project specifically targets restoration and enhancement of diverse habitats and water sources to benefit game species and to support and enhance wildlife dependent public use opportunities on SFVWAC. However, both projects will result in enhancement of habitat benefiting a wide array of wildlife species on SFVWA.

#### **Timeline**

There are no significant milestones associated with this project. Grant funded work described above will be conducted during the life of this grant agreement.

## SMART Objectives - Purpose/Targets

### Purpose/Target ID - San Felipe Valley Wildlife Area

Purpose/Target Description	The Department's overall purpose for the SFVWAC is to enhance and maintain 17,794 acres of riparian woodland, oak woodland, mixed hardwood-conifer forest, and native grassland vegetation communities to benefit mule deer, upland game, waterfowl, migratory birds, and state and federal listed plant and wildlife species. Also, the Department will maintain support facilities and equipment necessary to protect and enhance wildlife values and to provide for compatible wildlife associated public uses such as hunting, scientific research, wildlife viewing, and nature education.
Viability Status	Sustain
Viability Status Justification	Among many of the Department's goals for management of the WA for the benefit of game species are to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preserve and enhance mule deer foraging and fawning habitats in the WA;</li> <li>• Maintain mule deer access to and movement along riparian corridors, the valley floor, and higher elevation habitats in the WA;</li> <li>• Manage the size and health of the mule deer population through a combination of conservation actions and authorized hunting;</li> <li>• Maintain self-sustaining populations of native upland bird and small game species in the WA;</li> <li>• Enhance habitat to increase carrying capacity for native upland and small game species; and</li> <li>• Maintain the WA's function as foraging and sheltering habitat and a flyway for migratory bird game species.</li> </ul>

### Indirectly Benefited Habitats

Habitat Name	Habitat Level	Parent Habitat
Chaparral, Shrubland and Shrub Steppe	2	SHRUBLAND(temperate, non-desert)
Stream/Creek	2	RIVERINE
Mixed (Evergreen and Deciduous)	2	WOODLAND (variable, non-closed canopy; typically a mix of grass, forb and low shrub)

### Indirectly Benefited Species

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status
<i>Puma concolor</i>	Puma, mountain lion, Cougar	
<i>Lepus californicus</i>	Black-tailed Jackrabbit, black-tailed jack rabbit	
<i>Anniella pulchra</i>	California Legless Lizard	
<i>Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus</i>	Cactus Wren	
<i>Vireo bellii</i>	Bell's Vireo	
<i>Caulanthus simulans</i>	Payson's wild cabbage, Payson's jewelflower	
<i>Chaetodipus californicus</i>	California pocket mouse	
<i>Plecotus townsendii</i>	Townsend's big-eared bat	
<i>Dudleya saxosa</i>		

Odocoileus hemionus	mule deer	
Phrynosoma coronatum	Coast Horned Lizard	
Salvadora hexalepis	Western Patch-nosed Snake	
Accipiter cooperii	Cooper's Hawk	
Quercus engelmannii	Engelmann's oak	
Hulsea californica	San Diego alpinegold	

## Objectives

### Objective ID - New Access Gates

Objective Name	New Access Gates
Objective Statement	A priority outside of regular maintenance is the replacement of two access gates and fencing on the Oak Grove unit to improve site security along State Highway 79. The existing light-weight chain-link gates will be replaced with large diameter pipe gates that will also include pipe revetments to the sides of adjacent fencing. All proposed work will be conducted within the existing gate/fence alignment and will incorporate boundary and public information signage.

#### Custom Quantitative Indicators

Desired Future Value	Base Value	Output	Deadline
2	0	Number of New Gates	June 30, 2013

### Objective ID - Building Maintenance

Objective Name	Building Maintenance
Objective Statement	SFVWA contains a storage barn with enclosed office and water well system. Replacement of the barn roof and refurbishment of the office were recently undertaken; however, minor finish work and painting still need to be completed. WRA grant funding will be used to purchase required supplies to complete repair work. Two 8X20 foot roll-up doors on the storage barn have previously been identified for repair but work has yet to be accomplished. A priority facility maintenance activity is the repair of the roll-up doors through a vendor contract.

#### Custom Qualitative Indicators

Custom Output	Deadline
Maintain Buildings	June 30, 2013

### Objective ID - Public Use, Access Roads and Parking Lots

Objective Name	Public Use, Access Roads and Parking Lots
Objective Statement	There are approximately 35 miles of internal roads on SFVWAC which support maintenance and management activities as well as several small parking areas on SFVWA. Existing roads and public parking areas would be maintained for safety and to assure use year round.

As time permits, unwanted road segments will be made impassible by vehicles and manipulated to encourage natural re-vegetation. All work will occur during the non-nesting season (late summer through late winter) to avoid impacts to nesting species. Pedestrian access will be improved along County Highway S-2 at the SFVWA unit. Staff will identify appropriate locations along the existing Highway S-2 fence line where pedestrian openings can be installed to allow for safe public access. New access points will be created by installing narrow H-brace openings or gates made of metal pipe to facilitate easy public access while retaining security against vehicle trespass. All work will be done within the alignment of the existing fence and adjacent to the highway right-of-way.

**Custom Quantitative Indicators**

Desired Future Value	Base Value	Output	Deadline
35	0	Maintain 35 miles of Roads	June 30, 2013

**Objective ID - Signs for Public Use**

Objective Name                      Signs for Public Use

Objective Statement                Approximately 200 existing boundary, informational and directional signs are maintained and replaced, as needed, within the SFVWAC. Most of this work is done during the late winter and early summer months prior to the opening of fall hunting seasons and periods of increased public use.

**Custom Quantitative Indicators**

Desired Future Value	Base Value	Output	Deadline
200	0	Maintain 200 signs	June 30, 2013

**Objective ID - Equipment Maintenance and Repairs**

Objective Name                      Equipment Maintenance and Repairs

Objective Statement                Tractors, gators, chippers and other on-site mechanical equipment used on SFVWAC are regularly repaired and maintained. Routine maintenance activities are preformed on-site while mechanical repairs are conducted at an authorized repair shop. Equipment parts and supplies are kept on-site and storage facilities are kept in a clean and organized condition. Many of the regularly used minor power equipment such as chain saws, weed whackers, etc. are aging and will likely need replacement during this grant funding cycle.

**Custom Qualitative Indicators**

Custom Output	Deadline
Maintain Equipment	June 30, 2013

**Objective ID - Habitat Maintenance for Recreational Hunting**

Objective Name                      Habitat Maintenance for Recreational Hunting

Objective Statement      Hand and mechanical weed abatement will continue in areas that are infested with noxious weeds to encourage re-vegetation of native plant species. Weed abatement is conducted during the fall and winter months in order to avoid wildlife breeding seasons and to remove weeds before they flower and set seed. Mechanical weed abatement includes mowing and weed whacking.

**Custom Qualitative Indicators**

Custom Output	Deadline
Weed Abatement	June 30, 2013

**Objective ID - Water Source Improvements**

Objective Name              Water Source Improvements

Objective Statement      SFVWA has six active windmills that supply water to wildlife and are all being retrofitted with wildlife friendly water drinkers. The new drinkers are installed at or just above ground level to allow use by deer, upland game, migratory birds, and herptofauna. New watering devices are placed in the same location as the cisterns and troughs being replaced to avoid additional site disturbance. Large mammals such as mule deer and mountain lions as well as upland and non-game species have been documented using these refurbished systems. Windmills will be maintained to ensure sufficient water for wildlife during the summer months. SFVWAC has numerous natural springs which have been modified by previous land owners to benefit domestic livestock. These springs will be maintained and modified as needed to ensure safe use by wildlife. Maintenance activities undertaken at water sources include hand and mechanical weed abatement, pipeline repair/replacement, removal of wildlife hazards, and monitoring of water source integrity. The repair of windmill pump mechanisms and general maintenance on four of the six windmills at SFVWA will be the priority activity for WRA grant funding. Repair and/or replacement of motors, fan blades, maintenance platforms, and water transport piping to external tanks on these windmills were previously undertaken. However, due to funding limitations needed repair and replacement of pump system parts was not undertaken resulting in diminished or no water flow to associated wildlife drinkers. All work including the temporary storage of materials and equipment will occur within existing windmill site footprints. The two remaining windmills are in working order but require installation of water tank stands and replacement of existing cattle troughs with wildlife drinkers.

**Custom Quantitative Indicators**

Desired Future Value	Base Value	Output	Deadline
6	0	Water Srouces Maintained	June 30, 2013

**Objective ID - Facility and Road Maintenance**

Objective Name	Facility and Road Maintenance
Objective Statement	Approximately 56 miles of perimeter and interior security fencing is maintained at the SFVWAC to prevent vehicle and livestock trespass. This fencing, along with existing access gates along Highways S-2 and 78 will be repaired and/or replaced as damage occurs from vehicle accidents, vandalism or emergency vehicle and personnel entry. Removal of existing interior barbed wire fencing determined to be a hazard to wildlife and the public will be completed. Interior gate repair and/or replacement required for security will be undertaken. Fencing repair and replacement will be undertaken by WRA grant funded personnel and/or through vendor contracts.

#### Custom Quantitative Indicators

Desired Future Value	Base Value	Output	Deadline
56	0	Miles of Road Maintenance	June 30, 2013

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## Appendix A: Project Details

### Project Details #60010615 - BMP Wildlife Area O&M: CA-San Felipe Valley Wildlife Area (SFWA)

[\[top\]](#)



#### Properties

Status	Active
Primary Agency	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Primary Contact	Jason Williams
Start Date	July 1, 2012
End Date	June 30, 2013
Website	<a href="http://www.dfg.ca.gov/lands/wa/region5/sanfelope/">http://www.dfg.ca.gov/lands/wa/region5/sanfelope/</a>
Is Project Sensitive?	No
Project Categories	Conservation/Management,

Recreation,  
Administration

Action Categories      Facilities and Areas (Operations and Maintenance),  
Direct Management of Natural Resources,  
Data Collection and Analysis,  
Coordination and Administration

### **Project Description**

The California Department of Fish and Game (Department) established the San Felipe Valley Wildlife Area (SFVWA) in north-eastern San Diego County in 1995 to preserve and enhance key habitat for southern mule deer. Key habitats on SFVWA include riparian woodland, oak woodland, mixed hardwood-conifer forest, and native grassland. A secondary purpose for acquisition was to allow compatible wildlife dependant public use and access to approximately 19,800 acres of adjacent federal Bureau of Land Management lands. Expansion of the SFVWA has been on-going resulting in two separate management units currently totaling 17,794 acres. These include the 14,449+ acre SFVWA unit and 3,244+ acre Oak Grove (OG) unit collectively referred to as the San Felipe Valley Wildlife Area Complex (SFVWAC). Since the area was established, the Department and its partners have restored water sources, removed wildlife hazards, improved existing infrastructure, and enhanced habitats to benefit mule deer and other game and non-game species.

The Department continues to expand the SFVWAC through additional acquisitions and has increased hunting and other wildlife dependent use opportunities for the public. In order to meet Department and SFVWAC management and public use goals, a stable funding source such as the Wildlife Restoration Act (WRA) is needed. The WRA grant will provide the primary source of funding to support and/or implement projects that conserve and enhance mule deer, upland game, and listed species habitats and that provide for public use opportunities.

The Department's overall objective for the SFVWAC is to enhance and maintain 17,794 acres of riparian woodland, oak woodland, mixed hardwood-conifer forest, and native grassland vegetation communities to benefit mule deer, upland game, waterfowl, migratory birds, and state and federal listed plant and wildlife species. Also, the Department will maintain support facilities and equipment necessary to protect and enhance wildlife values and to provide for compatible wildlife associated public uses such as hunting, scientific research, wildlife viewing, and nature education.

Improved habitat quality (forage, nesting, breeding, and cover) and reliable water sources for game and non-game species on the SFVWAC will occur through the undertaking of restoration and enhancement projects. WRA grant funding will support dedicated staff, materials and equipment necessary to maintain area security assuring protection of wildlife habitat and species values. Wildlife dependent public use opportunities and access to the SFVWAC will be maintained and enhanced. WRA grant funds will ensure continued management of important and diverse habitat types to maintain and, to the extent feasible increase populations of game, non-game, migratory, and threatened and endangered species.

### **Location Details**

Is Statewide Project?      No

Acres                              14,428.18



States	Congressional Districts	Counties
California	Congressional District 49, Congressional District 52,	San Diego County ,

### Related Projects

#### Project - BMP Wildlife Area O&M: CA-Hollenbeck Canyon Wildlife Area (HCWA)

Start Date July 1, 2012

Reason for Relation Associated Wildlife Area in the same CDFW region and grant application

### Project Statement Summaries

#### Project Statement #60016641 - CA-San Felipe Valley Wildlife Area

[\[View Statement Details\]](#)

Grant Programs Wildlife Restoration Grants

### Action Summaries

#### Action # 60016683 - Final Project Performance Report 2012/2013

[\[View Action Details\]](#)

Start Date July 1, 2012

End Date June 30, 2013

Action Category Facilities and Areas (Operations and Maintenance)

Action Strategy Wildlife Management Areas

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