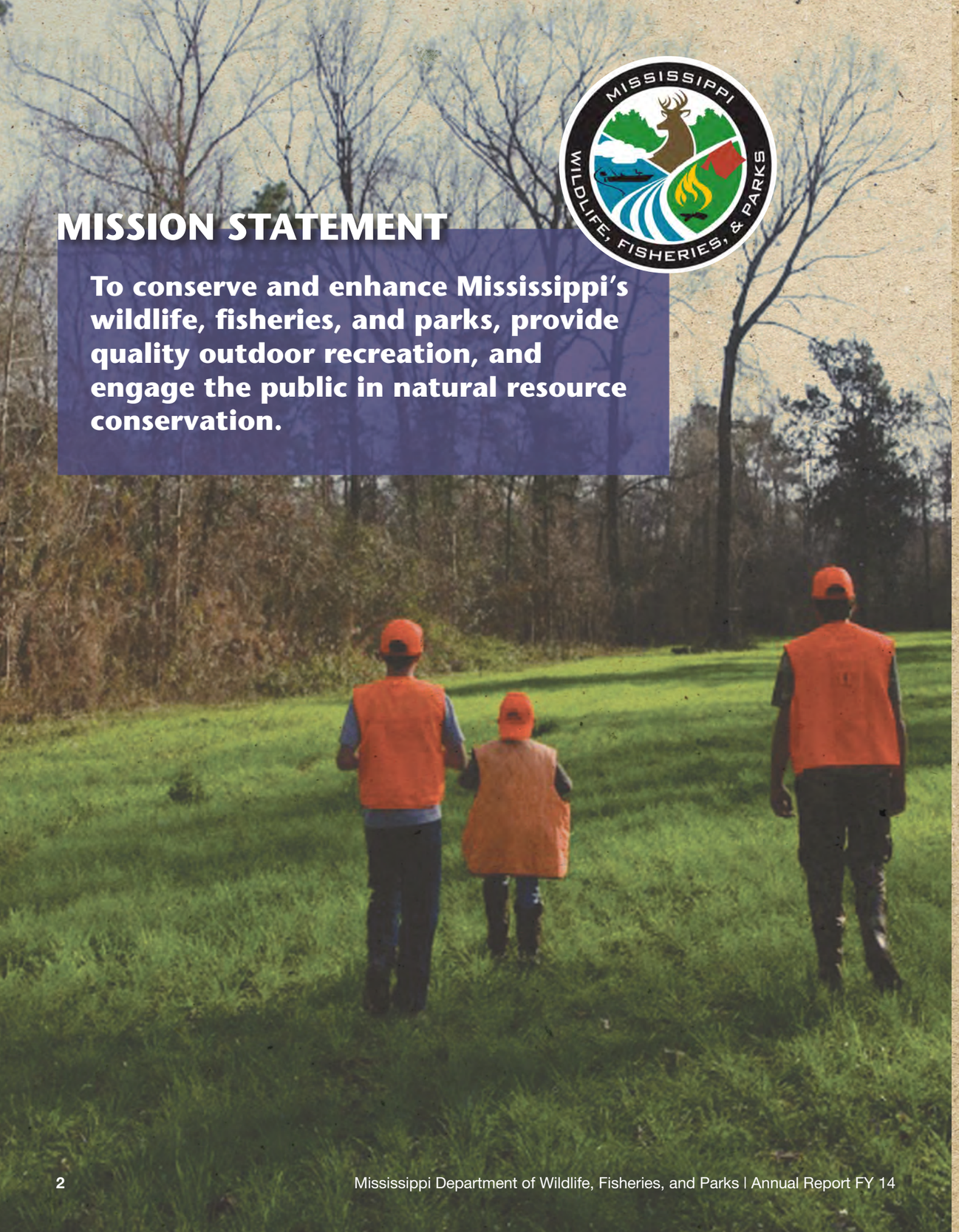
MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE, FISHERIES, AND PARKS

ANNUAL REPORT FY 2014

MISSION STATEMENT

To conserve and enhance Mississippi's wildlife, fisheries, and parks, provide quality outdoor recreation, and engage the public in natural resource conservation.



STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
PHIL BRYANT
GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE, FISHERIES, AND PARKS
SAM POLLES, PH.D, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

December 31, 2014

Honorable Phil Bryant
Governor of Mississippi
550 High Street
Sillers Building, 19th floor
Jackson, Mississippi 39201

Dear Governor Bryant:

I am pleased to provide you with the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks' (MDWFP) 2014 Annual Report. The accomplishments highlighted in this report enable us to showcase MDWFP's conservation efforts of Mississippi's abundant natural resources and our law enforcement/public safety service to all citizens of Mississippi.

Furthermore, we continue our mission to provide quality outdoor recreational opportunities and engage the public in natural resource conservation for the citizens and visitors of this great state.

As always, thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Sam G. Polles, Ph.D.
Executive Director

cc: Honorable Tate Reeves, Lieutenant Governor
Honorable Philip Gunn, Speaker of the House of Representatives

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PHIL BRYANT
GOVERNOR OF MISSISSIPPI

SAM POLLES, Ph.D.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MDWFP

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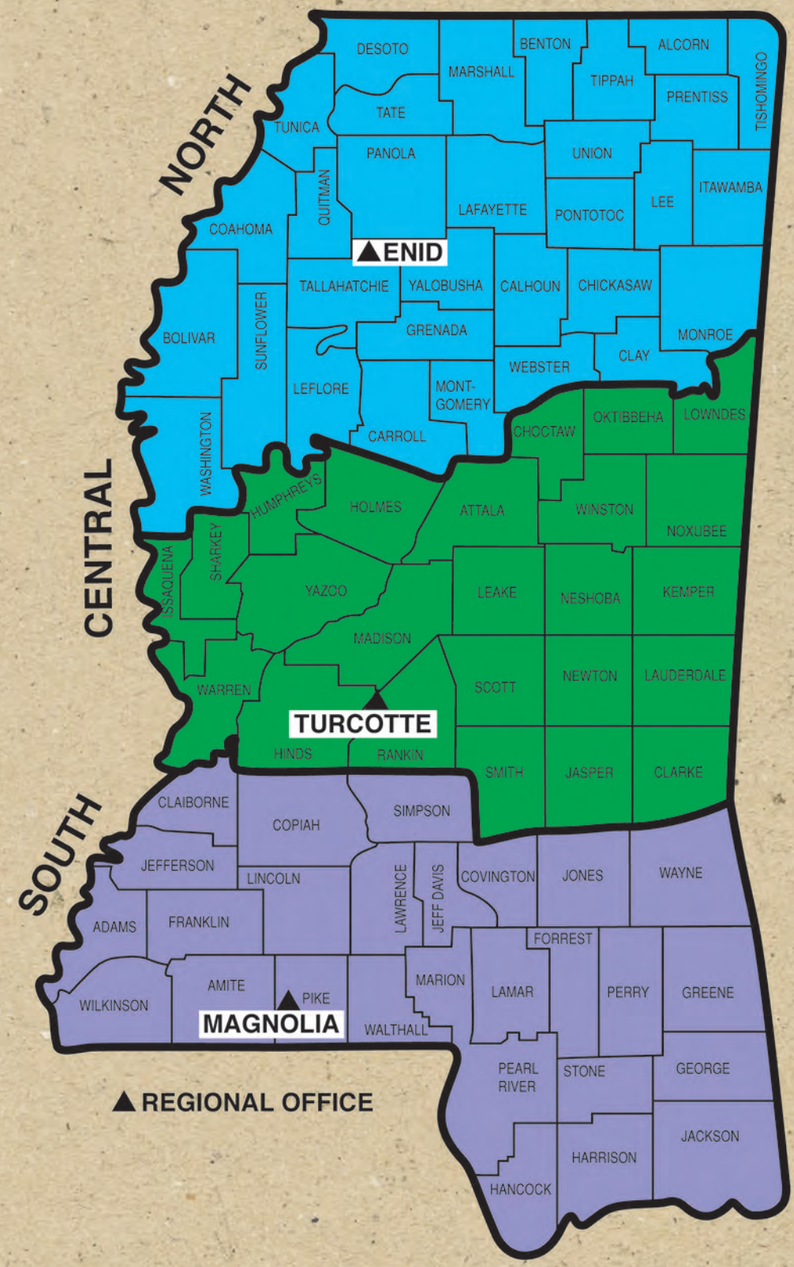
2014 COMMISIONERS

Bryan Jones, Chairman.....Yazoo City
Charles Rigdon, Vice-Chairman.....Columbus
Bill F. Cossar.....Charleston
Billy Deviney.....Jackson
Clay Wagner.....Gulfport

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE, FISHERIES, AND PARKS REGIONAL OFFICES



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2014 WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

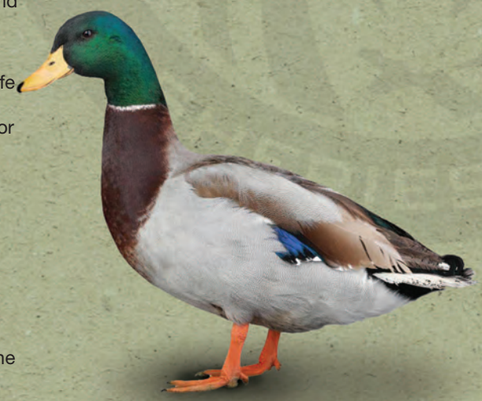
Summary of Accomplishments

Wildlife Management Areas (WMA)

- Operated and managed 52 WMAs encompassing 675,133 acres and 42 employees statewide.
- 114,972 acres are owned by the State of Mississippi.
- WMA users participated in 213,006 days hunting game and 5,495 days of non-consumptive use.
- 47,133 resident WMA user permits sold in FY14 generating $706,995 in revenue. 2,688 non-resident WMA user permits sold in FY14 generating for $80,640 in revenue.
- 13,200 acres are managed annually in permanent openings and food plots.
- All 52 WMAs provided special youth or handicapped hunting opportunities.
- Six youth squirrel hunts and four youth dove hunts were conducted on ten WMAs.
- 105 acres on two state-owned WMAs were managed by harvesting timber.
- 6,274 acres were managed by conducting controlled burns.
- Reforested 15 acres of bottomland hardwood on one WMA.
- Constructed equipment storage facilities on one WMA.
- Improved 41 miles of roads on thirteen WMAs.
- Installed one bridge, 31 low-water crossings and 13 culverts.

Private Lands Habitat Program

- Conducted 263 technical guidance site visits on private lands throughout Mississippi impacting nearly 100,000 acres. Of those technical guidance site visits, 196 were first-time site visits constituting more than 85,000 acres.
- Conducted 45 public presentations, including three prescribed fire workshops, where landowners were given the opportunity to participate in prescribed burning.
- Wrote 31 popular articles and press releases related to habitat management.
- Coordinated with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in administering of Mississippi Partners for Fish and Wildlife Uplands Subcommittee.
- Provided coordination and/or support for several habitat related groups including the The Lower Mississippi Valley Joint Venture LA/MS Conservation Delivery Network, MS/AR/LA Tri-State Conservation Committee, Mississippi Longleaf Implementation Team, and Mississippi Prescribed Fire Council.
- Coordinated with USFWS, Wildlife Mississippi, Mississippi Forestry Commission, National Wild Turkey Federation, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), and others on the “Fire on the Forty” campaign which has accounted for more than 30,000 acres of prescribed fire in the Black Belt Prairie and Piney Woods regions of the state.
- Coordinated with Wildlife Mississippi and NFWF on the Winter Water for Wildlife initiative to encourage rice farmers and others to hold water through the winter for migrating water birds.
- Coordinated with the Mississippi Forestry Commission on a Forest Stewardship grant to train County Foresters in incorporating wildlife management objectives into Forest Stewardship Plans.
- Maintained the Private Lands Program web pages to help inform and educate the public on habitat-related issues.



WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

• Assisted Wildlife Bureau with general tasks related to private lands conservation including dove and wood duck banding, white-tailed deer herd health evaluations, and bobwhite and wild turkey population monitoring efforts.

Wildlife Research Program

• Coordinated nine wildlife research projects with MDWFP staff and Mississippi State University faculty.

Monitored waterfowl populations via aerial surveys.

• Banded wood ducks and mourning doves.

• Supported the multi-state, multi-agency Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study Group.

• Coordinated the annual harvest survey for hunters and trappers.

• Evaluated environmental and genetic effects on deer antler production.

• Evaluated black bear habitat use and spatial ecology.

• Initiated a new study to evaluate wild turkey habitat suitability statewide.

• Completed the waterfowl hunt management and sanctuaries on WMAs study.

• Developed the 2014 Wildlife Research Program annual report.

• Hosted the sixth annual Wildlife Research Summit in cooperation with MSU.

Migratory Game Bird Program

• Conducted 93 waterfowl and wetland site visits on private and public lands throughout Mississippi.

• Conducted 18 public presentations.

• Provided private land technical guidance via 303 phone calls.

• Wrote 37 popular articles and press releases on migratory game birds and management of associated habitats.

• Participated in 23 telephone and radio media interviews related to migratory game birds.

• Coordinated with USFWS in administering of Mississippi Partners for Fish and Wildlife Wetland Subcommittee.

• Issued 581 Light Goose Conservation Order Permits and reported results of hunter surveys to USFWS.

• Facilitated a youth waterfowl hunt on a MDWFP Wildlife Management Area.

• Acquired funding and continued facilitation of Youth Waterfowl Hunting and Education Initiative.

• Administered North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) grant funding with the Foundation for Mississippi Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks for the Indianola WMA Wetland Habitat Enhancements project.

• Administered Indianola Wetland Habitat Enhancements State Wildlife Grant project.

• Cooperated with Ducks Unlimited to plan for implementation of the Mississippi Wetlands Conservation Initiative NAWCA grant.

• Conducted two winter aerial waterfowl surveys and posted reports on MDWFP web page.

• Represented Mississippi during professional meetings of the Mississippi Flyway Council Game Bird and Non-game Bird Technical Sections, Lower Mississippi Valley Joint Venture Waterfowl Working Group, and Gulf Coast Joint Venture Management Board.

• Provided recommendations to MDWFP Commission and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on migratory game bird hunting seasons and regulations.

• Maintained the Waterfowl Program and Dove Program web pages to help inform and educate the public on migratory game bird-related issues.

• Coordinated with MSU on waterfowl research projects to determine mallard habitat use in the Mississippi Alluvial Valley during winter.

• Banded 450 wood ducks and 667 mourning doves.

• Administered Private Lands Dove Field Program.

• Six fields enrolled with over 290 acres managed for dove hunting with 300 hunting permits available.

Black Bear Program

• Documented more than 250 black bear sightings across the state.

• Captured/handled 11 black bears. Captured bears included 4 previously collared females and four previously un-collared bears (one male / three females) that were tagged as cubs. New captures included one male and two females.

• Monitored 19 individual black bears via radio telemetry.

• Conducted aerial telemetry flights to monitor status of collared bears and to locate potential den locations.

• Responded to over 50 nuisance black bear reports.

• Provided 15 interviews about black bears.

• Developed and continually updated the MDWFP Black Bear Program web page.
  - 2014 winter den checks of eight females documented seven litters with a total of 12 cubs (four males, eight females).

• Recorded two confirmed mortalities:
  - 1) Male was struck and killed by a car on Hwy. 80 east of Newton in Newton County.
  - 2) Male was illegally killed by a hunter in Lauderdale County). Assisted USFWS and MDWFP Law Enforcement in investigation of one illegal killing of Lauderdale County bear; one illegal shooting of bear in Bolivar County; and one false report of illegal kill in Lawrence County.

• Updated “Mississippi Black Bear” brochure and “Black Bear Occurrence Report.”

• Began planning for hosting 2015 Eastern Black Bear Workshop.

• Attended Bear Attack Response Training Workshop in Gatlinburg, TN.

• Prepared and distributed “Know Your Target” hog/bear signs and postcards to WMAs, Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) clubs, and print publications.

• Conducted Black Bear SOP/Nuisance Bear Response training meeting with South Region Wildlife and Enforcement Bureaus.

• Assisted in setting up bear den cameras in Bolivar County.

• Updated statewide bear sightings/distribution map.

Wild Turkey Program

• Conducted 47 private land and 24 public land site visits.

• Conducted 24 public presentations on turkey ecology and management.

• Participated in three wild turkey related field days.

• Wrote 13 turkey-related articles and updated the MDWFP Wild Turkey web page to inform and educate the public.

• Provided technical guidance on turkey issues via more than 528 e-mails and phone calls.

• Conducted brood, disease, fall hunting, and spring Gobbler Hunter surveys.

• Assisted MSU with a wild turkey research project on population ecology and statewide habitat suitability.

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

- Provided recommendations to Commission on turkey hunting season dates and bag limit regulations.
- Published the 2014 Wild Turkey Program Report, "How are Turkeys in my Neck of the Woods?"

Small Game Program

- Conducted 45 private land site visits, and 15 public land site visits.
- Provided technical guidance through 146 e-mails and 193 phone calls.
- Cooperated with the MDWFP Private Lands Habitat Program to implement and track habitat practices that benefit bobwhite quail and other small game on private lands.
- Provided technical assistance to federal agencies (e.g., NRCS, FSA, etc.) in the implementation of federal Farm Bill Programs (e.g., WHIP, CRP, EQIP, WRP, etc.) at the local, county, and state levels, including serving on NRCS State Technical Committee.
- Conducted six small game-related public presentations.
- Wrote six publications on small game issues.
- Conducted quail call counts on public and private lands and small game hunter surveys.
- Assisted with implementing small game and other wildlife habitat manipulations (e.g., prescribed burning) on WMAs.
- Participated in National Bobwhite Technical Committee meeting and National Bobwhite Conservation Initiative planning.
- Provided recommendations on small game hunting season regulations.
- Supported seven youth squirrel hunting events involving more than 155 youth and 65 parental participants.

White-tailed Deer Program

- Conducted 132 private land site visits and 34 public land site visits.
- Provided 4,221 hours of technical guidance affecting over 820,838 acres.
- 597 properties were enrolled in Deer Management Assistance Program, totaling over two million acres.
- Conducted 14 spring herd health evaluations.
- Assisted with Magnolia Records scoring program scoring sessions.
- Regulated white-tailed deer herds within enclosures, which required 3,589 hours.
- Conducted 90 enclosure site visits and inspected four enclosures.
- Provided recommendations on deer hunting season dates and bag limit regulations.
- Completed portions of the 2014 Deer Program Report.
- Prepared and presented numerous presentations at hunting clubs and outdoor meetings.
- Wrote and submitted articles for the Clarion Ledger, Outdoors in Mississippi, MDWFP website, Mississippi Outdoors, and numerous assorted newspapers.
- Participated in several live radio talk shows.
- Assisted with teaching two MSU Cooperative Extension Short Courses.

Alligator Program

- Responded to approximately 230 nuisance alligator complaints.
- Licensed and monitored licensed alligator ranches.
- Conducted 235 miles of public waterway alligator survey routes.
- Facilitated 920 public water alligator hunting permits.
- Facilitated 246 private lands alligator hunting permits.
- Reported 671 alligators harvested on public waters and 108 on private lands.
- Made 25 public presentations.
- Made 42 media contacts.

Exotic Species Program

- Administered permitting program for inherently dangerous animals. Conducted inspections and issued three personal possession and five temporary exhibitor permits.
- Cooperated with Federal authorities on licensing/permitting investigations on permanent and temporary exhibitors.
- Provided exotic species technical guidance to local, state, and federal agencies and the general public.
- Provided support to MDWFP Enforcement Bureau on investigation of illegal wildlife sales.
- Provided training to one MDWFP Cadet Class on Inherently Dangerous Animals and Wildlife Forensics, including acquiring and assembling Wildlife Forensics Field Kits.

- Investigated sightings of big cats throughout the state including site visits, depredations, trail cam photos of animals and/or tracks, and plaster casts of tracks.
- Provided technical guidance to Museum of Natural Science on non-game mammal issues, including species identification

WMA Timer Program

- Trained Wildlife Bureau Technical Staff on timber marking, timber merchandizing, habitat inventorying, and desired forest conditions in the Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley and other geographical regions on Mississippi.
- Prepared WMA management plans for Copiah County, O'Keefe, and Yockanookany WMAs.
- Marked timber for sale on Copiah County WMA.
- Prepared timber sales for Copiah County, Charles Ray Nix, and O'Keefe WMAs.
- Prescribed burned over 6,274 acres on the following WMAs: Trim Cane, Black Prairie, Charles Ray Nix, Hell Creek, Copiah County, Marion County, Theodore A. Mars Jr., Pascagoula River, Sardis Waterfowl, Canal Section, and Divide Section.
- Represented the MDWFP on the Southern Hardwoods Working Group.
- Hosted Southern Hardwoods Working Group meeting on Canemount WMA.

2014 FRESHWATER FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

Summary of Accomplishments

Statewide Fisheries Management and Research

- Conducted fishery sampling in 53 public waters.
- Wrote or contributed to 32 popular articles, 34 press releases and nine peer-reviewed papers.
- Assisted with instruction and gave presentations at three Camp Fish events.
- Assisted with 57 fishing rodeos.
- Staff spoke to 107 people at 10 pond management workshops that were held across the state providing information for 209 ponds totaling 1,100 acres.
- Provided technical assistance to private water owners and other government agencies.
- Conducted 319 private waters assessments encompassing 3,873 acres.
- Investigated or consulted on two fish kills in public waters and 57 fish kills in private waters.
- Managed 15 Community Assistance Program ponds containing 105 acres.
- Keith Meals received the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (SEAFWA) Fisheries Biologist of the Year award.
- Continued funding research on inducing reproductive maturation and fall spawning in crappie with Mississippi State University.
- Managed the Freshwater Commercial Fishing and Paddlefish program. 657 freshwater commercial fishing licenses were sold.
- Paddlefish fishery – 22 people caught 3,066 paddlefish, harvested 823 paddlefish that produced 2,220 pounds of caviar with an estimated wholesale value (at $70.00 per pound) of $155,400.

State Fishing Lakes

- Anglers spent 38,637 man-days fishing on state lakes.
- Total number of State Fishing Lake users, including camping (man-days) - 66,997
- Management costs totaled $1,073,869. Renovations of the campground were completed at Neshoba County Lake.
- Construction of new equipment buildings began at Tippah County Lake and Calling Panther Lake.
- Completed construction of a new bath house at Lake Columbia.
- Lake Elvis Presley was closed in May 2014 due to extensive damage from a tornado.
- “Lure U to the Lake,” a marketing effort to increase lake use, was held at Lake Prentiss Walker in conjunction with a youth fishing rodeo.
- Kemper County Lake Manager Britt Harris received the Lake Manager of the Year Award.

Aquatic Education and Outreach

- Provided information and education services.
- Completed 60 public presentations and made 280 website/forum posts.
- Expended 60 man-days updating statewide fishing reports.
- Conducted 57 fishing rodeos involving 6,236 participants; purchased 27,550 catfish.
- North MS Fish Hatchery Visitor Education Center summary:
  - Coordinated 13 events, one exhibit, and 48 tours.
  - Attendance figures totaled 4,832 visitors.

FRESHWATER FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

Public Boating Access

- Developed an internet based interactive location map for boating access locations statewide.
- Built new boat ramp on the Mississippi River in Washington County at a cost of $81,465.
- Built new boat ramp on the Mississippi River in Bolivar County at a cost of $40,314.
- Built new boat ramp on Back Bay Biloxi in Harrison County at a cost of $36,671.
- Replaced five courtesy piers at a cost of $15,196.
- Repaired one boat ramp at a cost of $10,595.
- Completed routine maintenance throughout the year on 22 boat ramps.
- Completed a shelter for a fish cleaning station in Leake County at a cost of $4,440.
- Built six new fishing piers at State Fishing Lakes and one CAP lake at a cost of $42,764.
- Constructed a new handicapped access pier at the North Mississippi Fish Hatchery Visitor Center.
- Repaired an access road bridge at Pearl River Wildlife Management Area.
- Removed levees on duck ponds at Indianola W.M.A.
- Provided assistance with facility and equipment maintenance and construction to State Parks, WMAs, State Lakes, Law Enforcement, and the Museum of Natural Science and support Services.

Fisheries Administration

- Interim Reports were completed for the following Federal grants:
  - F-3 Federal aid Grant for Fish Administration
  - F-68 Statewide Fisheries Management
  - F-70 Aquatic Education
  - F-71 Boating Access
  - F-106 State Lakes Management
  - F-143 Promoting Crappie Recruitment in Northwest Mississippi Reservoirs
  - F-149 Lake Jeff Davis Operation, Maintenance and Development
  - FW-12-C-1 Federal Assistance Fiscal Management System Enhancement
  - MS-Y-16 BIG Tier 2 Transient Boat Marina Construction at J.P. Coleman State Park
  - AP00175 Population Status of Pallid Sturgeon in Mississippi River
  - State Wildlife Grant Investigation of Paddlefish Populations in the Pascagoula River

- Documented new State Record Fish Rod and Reel records for the following:
  - Rainbow trout – 3.62 lbs
- Trophy records are those fish caught with gear other than conventional hook and line and included:
  - Shortnose gar – 8.74 lbs
- Documented new State Record Fish Fly Fishing category for the following:
  - White crappie – 0.86 lbs
- Provided Technical Advice or Assistance to 30 local, state and federal agencies including - Alabama Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries; American Fisheries Society; Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies; City of Byram; City of Carthage; City of Hazlehurst; City of Itta Bena; City of Sumner; City of Tupelo; Claiborne County Board of Supervisors; Gulf and South Atlantic Panel on Aquatic Invasive Species; Instream Flow Council; Louisiana Dept. Wildlife & Fisheries; Lower Delta Partnership; Lower Mississippi River Conservation Committee; Mississippi Bass Federation; Mississippi Interstate Cooperative Resource Association; Mississippi River Basin Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species; MS Department of Environmental Quality; MS State Department of Health; Mississippi State University; Pearl River Valley Water Supply District; Southeast Aquatic Resource Partnership; Southeastern Assoc. of Fish and Wildlife Agencies; States Organization for Boating Access; Truelight Baptist Church; US Air Force; US Army Corps of Engineers, Memphis District; US Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District; US Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District; US Dept. of Agriculture -Thad Cochran Warmwater Aquaculture Center; US Fish and Wildlife Service; and the US Forest Service.

Fish Hatcheries and Fish Stocking

- Managed two hatcheries totaling 29 surface acres of water. Hatchery project costs totaled $612,231.
- Produced 2,577,109 fish at a cost per fish of $0.24.

NUMBER	COUNTY	PUBLIC WATER
Florida Largemouth Bass		
235,000	Warren	Eagle Lake
27,500	Itawamba	Lock D, Tenn-Tom
3,750	Adams	Natchez State Park
134,000	Rankin	Ross Barnett Reservoir
38,000	Madison	Ross Barnett Reservoir
438,250T		
Largemouth Bass		
750	Lee	Tupelo Fish Hatchery
80	Desoto	Lee's Summit Park
57,040	Coahoma	Moon Lake
7,300	Oktibbeha	MSU Research Ponds
1,500	Hinds	Mayes Lake
93,220	Yazoo	Wolf Lake
40,700	Desoto	Arkabutla Lake
6,300	Marshall	Duck Pond
300	Yalobusha	Enid Hatchery Fishing Pond
1,000	Washington	Deer Creek
40,150	Grenada	Grenada Lake
75,910	Bolivar	Lake Bolivar
800	Grenada	North Abutment Lake
325,050T		
Bluegill		
28,500	Holmes	Bee Lake
4,440	Yalobusha	Enid Fishing Pond
145,750	Coahoma	Moon Lake
178,690T		
Coppernose Bluegill		
178,750	Holmes	Bee Lake
104,250	Coahoma	Moon Lake
283,000T		
Gulf Striped Bass		
333,700	Madison	Ross Barnett Reservoir
Alligator Gar		
188	Holmes	Bee Lake
Koi		
620,000	Madison	Turcotte Fish Hatchery

Redear Sunfish		
2,500	Bolivar	Charlie Capps WMA
46,000	Neshoba	Neshoba Lake
300	Desoto	Olive Branch CAP #1
200	Desoto	Olive Branch CAP #2
100	Desoto	Olive Branch CAP #3
4,500	Lee	Tombigbee State Park
53,600T		
Magnolia Crappie		
50	Hinds	Museum of Natural Science
14,773	Scott	Roosevelt State Park
37,264	Holmes	Bee Lake
2,500	Bolivar	Charlie Capps WMA
2,000	Lee	Tombigbee State Park
5,000	Jefferson Davis	Lake Jeff Davis
4,000	Covington	Lake Mike Conner
6,000	Simpson	Simpson County Lake
6,000	Smith	Lake Prentiss Walker
5,450	Tippah	Tippah County Lake
7,500	Lee	Lake Lamar Bruce
6,000	Jasper	Lake Claude Bennett
30,000	Kemper	Kemper County Lake
126,537T		
Walleye, Gulf Strain		
4,000	Alabama	Eastaboga Fish Hatchery
54,150	Monroe	Buttahatchie River
7,044	Marshall	Wall Doxey State Park
5,500	Yalobusha	Tillatoba Lake
70,694T		
White Crappie		
4,000	Alabama	Eastaboga Fish Hatchery
93,900	Warren	Eagle Lake
53,500	Holmes	Bee Lake
147,400T		

2014 LAW ENFORCEMENT

Summary of Accomplishments

- 13,000 customers utilized the Turcotte Shooting Facility.
- Officers investigated 26 hunting related accidents with two fatalities.
- Combined, over 1,066 hunter and boating education classes were held.
- Officers investigated over 850 cases involving problem Boat Registrations, and/or removed or missing hull numbers.
- 5,862 students were trained and certified in boating safety.
- Officers investigated 62 boating related accident/incidents with 13 fatalities and 17 drownings. Over 30 injuries recorded with estimated $131,800 in property damage.
- Officers issued over 7,035 citations:
  - No resident license was the highest - 1,113
  - Boating related citations were second - 940
  - Boating Under the Influence - 12
  - Hunting over bait - 572
  - Trespassing - 402
  - Hunting from public road - 440
  - No license by Non-residents - 363
  - Deer hunting without hunter orange - 298
  - Head lighting deer - 267
  - 2,628 other citations such as Littering and Hunting out of Season were issued

Cadet Class

The Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks, through Legislative action were able to obtain funds for a cadet class. With the retirement of officers and the County vacancies already present, this could not come at a better time for the State of Mississippi. The cadet class will complete 24 weeks of training. They will spend the first 12 weeks in a Basic Police Academy where upon completion, they will become certified as a law enforcement officer. An additional 12 weeks will be spent learning and training to be a Conservation Officer.

McHenry Shooting Range

Funding was provided through Federal (Wildlife Restoration Hunter Education 4C Grant) and State dollars to construct a Shooting Facility in South Mississippi. The new range located just outside of McHenry, Mississippi was constructed to meet the growing demand of the shooting public. It is home to three skeet ranges, trap range, five stands (AKA Duck Flush), pistol range, two rifle ranges, and archery range. McHenry range provides new and seasoned shooters with a new, safe, and affordable facility to partake in the shooting sports. The facility opened to the public on May 30.

Boats/Equipment

Through Federal Funds we were able to purchase four shallow water drive boats equipped with shallow water drive motors. In addition we were able to equip three of our larger boats with the 1199CIHD Side Scan Sonar. The new side scan sonar will be another useful tool that officers can use while working water related accidents.

Officer Training

Officers received training in Wilderness First Aid and Combat Trauma Casualty Care. The Combat Trauma Casualty Care was applied using an officer down training scenario. In addition, officers were provided with first aid field kits to assist them in case such an incident does occur.

2014 MUSEUM OF NATURAL SCIENCE

Summary of Accomplishments Public Programs (Education and Aquarium)

- Served a grand total of 320,420 people.
- Hosted 102,249 visitors at the Museum from all 82 Mississippi counties, 50 states, and 35 foreign countries.
- Conducted 486 in-house classroom presentations for grades Pre-K through College for over 26,235 students.
- Planned, organized and conducted 50 conservation education workshops. 925 educators participated.
- Conducted 10 Boy Scout, Cub Scout and Girl Scout programs with over 434 attendees.
- Planned, organized, and executed major events including Family Fun Science Night, Got Fish?, Fishy Friday, Fossil Road Show, NatureFEST!, International Migratory Bird Day, Snake Day, Fun Fridays, Back to School Night for Teachers, Make-A-Splash, Water Journey Festival, Fossil Friday, Park after Dark, Turkey Tuesday, Christmas for the Birds, Nature Made Christmas, and Merry Mammals.
- Hosted opening receptions for two new exhibits and held ten lectures.
- Conducted ten summer camp sessions for 254 children.
- Organized and executed seven Fun Friday programs for families.
- Conducted more than 150 interactive fish feeding sessions.

Outreach

- Served approximately 142,420 people through Museum outreach.
- Presented 908 interactive classroom programs to approximately 39298 students throughout Mississippi in their schools.
- Presented at 85 community events for 36273 participant.
- Partnered with Mississippi Wildlife Federation and Wal-Mart to host Katfishin' Kids event with 371 participants.
- Provided information, resources, videos, classroom object kits and technical guidance to approximately 75571 Mississippians.
- Provided objects and information to MDWFP Conservation Officers for use in programs.

Community Service

- Museum volunteers and groups contributed more than 5,602 hours of volunteer time, equivalent to a dollar value of $124,028.
- Eagle Scouts completed projects enhancing habitat on Museum grounds, introduced species removal, gardening, repair of educational maze and trash pick-up.
- Provided services including greeting visitors, gift shop assistance, exhibit interpretation and maintenance, informal programs, special event assistance, research assistance, collections assistance, trail, grounds and garden maintenance, library services, aquarium diving, special projects assistance, and general office functions.

Conservation Biology

- Provided technical assistance and identified specimens for organizations including the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, U. S. Navy, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Mississippi Department of Transportation, U.S. Forest Service, U. S. Geological Survey, regional state wildlife departments and universities, the Mississippi Nature Conservancy, Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, Mississippi Department of Marine Resources Coastal Preserves, MDWFP Law Enforcement Officers, private companies, and the general public.

MUSEUM OF NATURAL SCIENCE

- Consulted with numerous private landowners on species and habitat management.
- Responded to more than 12,271 requests for information about non-game species.
- Issued over 123 scientific collection permits.
- Accessioned/registered more than 258 new collections.
- Cataloged 20,415 new specimens.
- Maintained 1,172,184 specimens in the scientific collections.
- Loaned or transferred 51 specimens/tissue samples to outside agencies and institutions throughout the U.S.
- Completed more than 167 species surveys on state and private lands, utilizing more than $664,000 in federal funds.
- Generated 21 manuscripts or reports on research conducted using state and federal funds.
- Maintained over 40,000 species occurrences in Natural Heritage Database.

- Provided comments to 667 environmental review requests.
- Documented new state or county records for two fish and one butterfly.

Exhibits

- "Forest Journey & Nature's Numbers February 8, 2014 - April 27, 2014.
- "Animal Grossology" May 17, 2014 - December 30, 2014.

Awards

- Best Museum: Mississippi Magazine.
- Best Nature Attraction: Jackson Free Press newspaper's Best of Jackson Awards.
- Best Museum for Kids: Parents & Kids Magazine 2014 Family Favorite.
- Best Museum (2nd Place): Jackson Free Press newspaper's Best of Jackson Awards.
- "Certified Hospitality Specialist Property of the Year": Jackson Convention & Visitor Bureau.
- Megan Fedrick, Informal Science Teacher of the Year, Mississippi Science Teacher's Association.
- Angel Rohnke, Assistant Museum Director, was awarded the Mississippi Museums Association Scholarship to attend the Southeastern Museums Conference Jekyll Island Management Institute.
- Jonathan Harris, Conservation Educator, named Mississippi's Project WILD Facilitator of the Year.

2014 SUPPORT SERVICES

Summary of Accomplishments

• Monthly Commission meetings were conducted in a variety of locations throughout the State.

• The Agency's FY15 Budget Request was prepared and submitted as required by the Legislative Budget Office and the Department of Finance and Administration.

• The Department continues to seek new sources of revenue for implementing conservation programs and procure land for Wildlife Management Area conservation. Wildlife Car Tag sales totaled $544,320.

• Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) financial reports were compiled bi-annually and submitted to the Department of Finance and Administration to reflect the Agency's financial status on a modified accrual basis, as presented in the State's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report.

• Revenue, in excess of $21,000,000 from various grants, was provided through the Department of Interior, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Coast Guard, and U.S. Department of Agriculture.

• Special Fund Revenues in excess of $56,000,000 were documented by fund and revenue source, and deposited into the State Treasury. In-house revenue systems were maintained on hunting and fishing license sales, park user fees, and lake sales to provide additional information not maintained within the statewide accounting system or through the State Treasury.

• Boat registration is mandated by Section 59-21-1, Mississippi Boating Act of 1960, which requires MDWFP to register all motorized vessels and sailboats within the State. This year, more than $945,000 was collected from 60,376 boat registrations. In addition, over $40,000 was received from boat/motor titling.

• The Property Department utilizes a bar-code purchase requisition tracking system, in addition to an electronic filing/indexing system that includes purchasing, property, fleet and accounting documents. Property maintains records and submits all required reports on equipment, lands, and buildings charged to MDWFP by the State Auditor's Office-Bureau of Property Control. The value of all equipment, land, and buildings (16,756 items) as of June 30, 2014, was over $249,575,803. These items are periodically audited by the Property Division in conjunction with self-audits conducted at the District Offices.

• The Fleet Operations Division verified and maintained operational costs on all Agency vehicles. Costs included fuel usage totaling $1,769,092; processing of repair and maintenance invoices totaling $345,946; 53 new vehicles were purchased; 43 used vehicles were sold with no loans or transfers during the fiscal year; and 26 accidents or investigation reports were processed. The number of wrecker service calls totaled six. Fleet Operations is also responsible for acquiring and maintaining vehicle titles, overseeing and maintaining the Jackson office motor pool, ordering petroleum credit cards, and purchasing vehicle license plates.

• While many Mississippians enjoy our longstanding outdoor traditions, nationally, our society is trending away from participation in nature-based activities, which reduces awareness and appreciation of wildlife, outdoor recreation, and natural resource conservation. To proactively address this challenge, MDWFP's Marketing and Communications Department engages the public through information, education and advertising to foster greater awareness, understanding, and active stewardship of Mississippi's natural resources, their management, and outdoor recreational opportunities. We seek to broaden public understanding of MDWFP and its mission, increase support for MDWFP programs, inform the public on conservation issues and outdoor recreation opportunities, and expand our user base. We connect and engage with our customers through traditional advertising (TV, radio, and print), email marketing, and public relations. Additionally, social media provides us with an effective and cost-efficient way to communicate and interact with our Internet-savvy "customers." In addition, the hunting and fishing industries in Mississippi contribute a $2.7 billion economic impact to the Magnolia State annually as well as over 66,000 jobs generating over $1 billion in wages and salaries for Mississippians. Mississippi's natural resources and outdoor recreational opportunities are a vital part of our culture and economy. MDWFP's Marketing and Communications Department will continue its efforts to ensure this heritage and our resources are enjoyed for many generations to come.

CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

Youth Participation Initiative (YPI)

• To date, $996,239 has been awarded to help fund 125 projects
• 25 applications were received totaling $265,742 in requested funding. YPI was authorized to award up to $200,000.
• The YPI program provided a total of $164,956 to help fund 19 projects across Mississippi.
• Projects funded focused on youth recruitment, retention, and education in areas of wildlife conservation, white-tailed deer, squirrel, waterfowl, hunting and fishing opportunities, Archery in MS Schools, Marine Conservation, and Hunter and Boater Education.
• 5,665 youth were educated or introduced to the outdoors through YPI last year.
• The average cost per youth participant was $30.17.

Hunter Education

• 12,052 students were certified throughout the state.
• There were over 700 active volunteer instructors.
• 6,228 hours were contributed.
• Administered by four MDWFP personnel.

Archery in Mississippi Schools (AIMS)

• 38,426 student archers completed the training.
• 400 schools are active in the program.
• 1,326 archery instructors were active.
• Each school averages 96 students.
• 2,877 student archers participated in the 2014 State Archery Invitational Tournament.

FY 14 License Sales

LICENSE	NUMBER SOLD	REVENUE
Resident	344,623	$6,307,784
Non-Resident	135,856	$9,246,162
Other	4,416	$178,307
Lifetime	729	$525,500

2014 MISSISSIPPI STATE PARKS

Summary of Accomplishments Parks Operations

• Had approximately 1,016,000 visitors to MDWFP State Parks, with approximately 700,000 overnight visitors and 70,000 water-related visitors.

• Secured $285,000 in grants to restore two historic Civilian Conservation Corp cabins at Percy Quin State Park.

• Developed forest management plans at Leroy Percy, Holmes County, Tombigbee, and Wall Doxey State Parks.

• Advertised through multi-media outlets such as wildlife programs, fund raisers, fall festivals, organized nature hikes, Christmas events, hunter discounts, disc golf tournaments, music festivals, antique shows, and historical programs.

• Conducted six new special events and/or informational/educational seminars to promote park amenities, history or natural resources such as photo competitions, fall festivals, moonlight equestrian rides, antique shows, and historical programs.

• Hosted 20 public programs including hunter education, fishing rodeos, WMA public meetings, youth hunts, fish habitat events, boat safety training, control burn programs, game bird workshops, pond management workshops, and dam safety training.

• Provided professional development training for park managers and staff.

• Utilized alternative staffing at 15 state parks such as prison labor and camp hosts.

• Awarded $1,501,108 in Recreational Trails Program funds.

• Awarded $868,721 in Land & Water Conservation Funds.

• Promoted State Parks on Mississippi Outdoors Radio.

• Provided park operations training for park managers.

• Initiated the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreational Plan (SCORP) for the state of Mississippi.

Renovations & Repair Crew

Holmes County State Park
• Repaired group camp kitchen roof.
• Repaired dorm roof.
• Replaced ac/heat in dorms and kitchen.
• Replaced heating/cooling and duct work in manager's residence.
• Replaced roof on office building.
• Replaced columns and paint porch on manager's residence.

Hugh White State Park
• Renovated assistant manager's residence.
• Installed metal roof on assistant manager's residence.
• Replaced six roofs on cabins.
• Repurposed swimming pool into green space.

J P Coleman State Park
• Replaced pool pumps and valves.
• Repaired all sheet rock and rotten siding and painted hotel and office building.
• Repaired outside breezeway sheetrock to hotel and office, pressure wash and paint.
• Painted 14 motel rooms inside.
• Installed new Astroturf on putt-putt course and repair framing.

John Kyle State Park
• Demolished pool and tennis courts.
• Replaced 10 showers in cabins.

John Kyle State Park Mallard Point Golf Course
• Replaced roof on clubhouse.

MISSISSIPPI STATE PARKS

Lake Lincoln State Park
- Replaced carpet in manager's residence.
- Replaced awning over front porch.
- Renovated two bathhouses.

Lake Lowndes State Park
- Replaced lighting in gymnasium.
- Replaced rotten beams on outside of office and gymnasium.
- Pressured wash and painted exterior of office and gymnasium.
- Replaced roof on marina.

LeFleur's Bluff State Park
- Repaved main road.
- Replaced glass store front in office.

Tishomingo State Park
- Replaced six roofs in group camp.
- Replaced kitchen floor and rotten walls.

Paul B Johnson State Park
- Replaced retaining wall at entrance.
- Installed steps and sidewalk to cottages.
- Replaced siding at group camp.
- Installed new flooring in cottage #1.
- Installed light pole at splash pad.
- Installed new flooring in office/lodge.
- Repaired outside windows of office/lodge.
- Replaced roof on group camp.
- Replaced air handler units and condenser in lodge.

Percy Quin State Park
- Replaced carpet in assistant manager's residence.
- Painted five cabins and build three screen porches.
- Installed new storm doors on 28 cabins.
- Replaced old culverts behind campground.
- Installed new sand on beach.
- Installed new floor in six cabins.
- Repaired assistant manager's residence.
- Replaced 12 bath and dining room floors in cabins.
- Painted eight cabins.

Quail Hollow Golf Course
- Replaced pumps and controls to irrigation system.
- Repaired drainage ditch at hole #1.
- Painted golf pro shop.

Roosevelt State Park
- Installed heat in dining area at group camp.
- Repaired overflow piping and rip rap at main road.
- Replaced roof on the lodge.

Wall Doxey State Park
- Painted interior of manager's residence.

Trace
- Repaired dam top and rip rap.
- Built porch and screen on manager's residence and flooring.

Tombigbee
- Replaced three cabin floors.

Clarkco State Park
- Replaced rotten deck behind office.

Statewide
- Replaced 21 RV pedestals.
- Repaired 31 underground electrical burnouts.
- Replaced 24 sewer lift pumps.
- Responded to 714 service calls.

Facilities & Grounds

Buccaneer State Park
- Completed construction of the Activity Center, Activity Center Pool, and Day Use East Pavilion #1. Replaced the wood piling support of the water main over Grand Bayou at Buccaneer State Park.
- Completed electrical repairs at Buccaneer State Park necessitated by Hurricane Isaac.
- Secured grant funding from the Department of Marine Resources to begin a master plan of development that includes a blueway, RV camping, trails, and an educational/recreational water feature (splash pad).

Great River Road State Park
- Completed construction of improvements to Day Use Facilities.
- Completed demolition of nine unused and previously flooded structures.

John Kyle State Park
- Completed construction of a new waste water treatment facility.

Roosevelt State Park
- Completed the renovation of the swimming pool and water slide.

Percy Quin State Park
- Began renovation of CCC Cabins 12 and 18 through a grant funded by the Mississippi Department of Archives and History.

Trace State Park
- Began construction of a new RV Campground --completion scheduled during first quarter of FY15.

Statewide
- Completed the purchase and installation of furniture and equipment at Buccaneer, Holmes County, J.P. Coleman, Lake Lowndes, Leroy Percy, Paul B. Johnson, Percy Quin, Roosevelt, Tishomingo, Trace, and Wall Doxey State Parks.

- Continued scanning of facility and infrastructure documents to digital format.

Bureau of Building Projects
- Developed the Bureau of Building Project List for FY15 which includes critical infrastructure improvements including bridges, roads, water, sewer, electrical and HVAC at park and administrative facilities.

Outdoor Grants

- Awarded $1,501,108 in Recreational Trails Program (RTP) Funds.
- Awarded $868,721 in Land & Water Conservation (LWCF) Funds.

Recreational Trails Program

- Awarded 16 RTP projects that consists of:
  - 5.6 Miles of trails (renovated or new construction)
  - 1 6,080 sq ft skate park
  - 1 Kayak / canoe launch
  - 11 Bike racks
  - 4 Exercise stations / Five Fitness stations
  - 2 Water fountains
  - 4 Rest pavilions
  - 2 Horse shelters
  - 10 Horse stalls
  - 15 Primitive camp sites
  - 20 Security lights
  - 50+ Informational signage

Land and Water Conservation Funds

- Awarded 15 LWCF projects that will consist of:
  - Three Tennis courts with fencing / lighting and two tennis courts with fencing / lighting / cover view / seating area.
  - Four Splash pads.
  - One Basketball court with fencing / lighting.
  - Five Playground areas.
  - One Inclusive ADA playground area.
  - One Pavilion.
  - 10 Lights for existing baseball field and basketball court.
  - One Kayak / Canoe Launch.
  - Two Ball field sites with Fencing / Scoreboard / Lighting, Concession Stands / Comfort Station / Bleachers / Parking.
  - 15-plus Informational signage.

SCORP

- To be eligible for LWCF grants, every State must prepare and regularly update a statewide recreation plan (called a SCORP). This plan address the demand for and supply of recreation resources (local, state and federal) within a state, identify needs and new opportunities for recreation improvements and set forth an implementation program to meet the goals identified by its citizens and recreational providers.

Current SCORP - "Making Strides: Mississippi Outdoor Recreation Plan 2015 - 2019" is the approved 5-year plan for outdoor recreation management, conservation, and development. Therefore, the State of Mississippi has continued eligibility to receive and distribute Federal funds from the Land and Water Conservation Fund (L&WCF) program until August 31, 2019.

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