

History and Overview of the Navajo Nation Department of Fish and Wildlife



Navajo Training Program

- Cooperative Agreement between US Fish and Wildlife Service, Predator and Rodent Control and Navajo Tribe - 1956
 - Obj. 1: USFWS will familiarize themselves with predator and rodent problems...
 - Obj. 2: Train two members of the Navajo Tribe in predator control and rodent control methods, practices and procedures = Mammal Control Agents
 - Obj. 3: Plan and develop public relations program

Navajo Training Program

- Program was slow to start due to traditions, cultural beliefs, language barriers, semi-nomadic condition, isolation and primitiveness of people
- Use of interpreters and color programs to explain the program at Chapter and Grazing Committee meetings
- Navajo stockmen became acquainted and learned of free service – interest increased.
- Trainee program – people not interested

Navajo Trainees

1957

- Freeman Taber, Supervisor
- Fred Berland
- Leo Dejolie
- Thomas Mark, St. Michaels
- Ambrose Martinez
- Jeffrey Bahe
- Kenneth Foster – stayed with the Program and eventually became a supervisor
- Stanley Ashley
- Paul Mitchell
- Mike Ford

After 1961

- Alex Riggs – eventually elected to Tribal Council
- Monroe Ashley
- Leslie Goy
- George Begaye – may have been long term employee
- Wallace E. Begay
- Willie Kellywood
- Perry Garnenez
- Harvey Jim
- Richard Mike
- Tony Becenti
- Ernest Laughter
- Tom Ranger
- Jack H. Hatathlie
- Andson Blatchford
- Henry B. Joe
- Frank P. Jones
- Wayne Day Zahnley
- Edison Shirley
- Elizabeth Billy – first Department Secretary

Predator and Rodent Control

- 645 Compound 1080 bait stations were placed over 23,220 square miles
 - 7,500 predators removed
- 1,084 predators removed by trapping and coyote getters
- Large scale rodent control of 4,478 acres
 - Issue poison grain to individual cooperators without training or supervision

1961 Fish and Wildlife Department Plan of Operation - Mammal Control Districts

- District 1 – Fort Defiance – GD 7, 14, 17 and 18
- District 2 – Chinle – GD 4, 10 and 11
- District 3 – Tuba City – GD 1, 3 and 5
- District 4 – Kayenta – GD 2, 8 and McKracken Mesa
- District 5 – Shiprock – GD 9, 12 and 13
- District 6 – Crownpoint – checkerboard areas and acquisition lands

1961 Expansion to Game and Fish

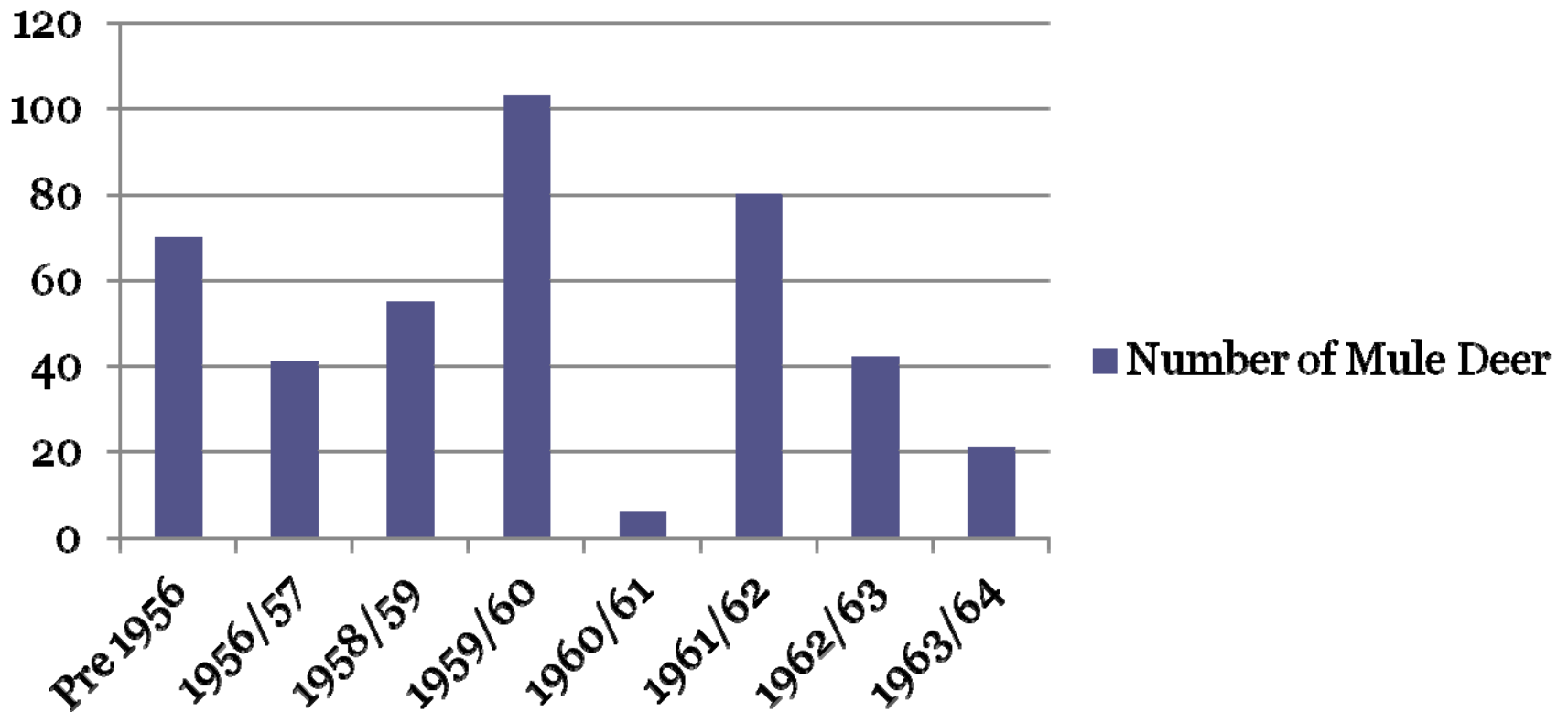
- Navajo leaders believed the coyote problem was under control – did not want to cause extinction
- Stocking efforts of fish and wild game animals began in 1961

Deer Stocking Records from 1962 Annual Report

- 1962 - 69 deer from Grand Canyon transplanted to Big Mountain, Nazlini Canyon and Fuzzy Mountain
- 1963 - 40 deer from Grand Canyon transplanted to Fuzzy Mountain, Nazlini Canyon and Carrizo Mountain

Deer Transplants

Number of Mule Deer



Fish Stocking Records - 1962

Fort Defiance Sub-Agency

- Ganado Lake
 - 11500 RBT, 25000 LMB, 1200 Brown Bull CF, 3000 CCF
- A-79 Reservoir – 1000 CCF, 900 LMB
- Hidden Lake – 3000 RBT
- Chuska – 20000 RBT
- Antelope Lake – 2000 RBT
- Scott Lake – 2600 RBT
- Little Whitecone – 30000 RBT
- Sawmill Lake – 2001 RBT
- Whiskey Creek – 500 RBT
- Many Farms Lake – 125 RBT

Chinle and Shiprock Sub-Agencies

- Lonnie Lake – 16000 RBT
- Cornfields Lake – 2000 CCF
- Fluted Rock – 2500 RBT
- Many Farms – 35040 LMB
- Wheatfields Lake – 100034 RBT
- Wheatfields Creek – 200 RBT
- Morgan Lake
 - 239563 RBT, 25000 CCF, 500 Threadfin Shad
- Captain Tom – 5000 RBT
- Toadlena Pond – 215 RBT
- Walker Creek – 5000 LMB
- Round Rock Lake – 500 TFS

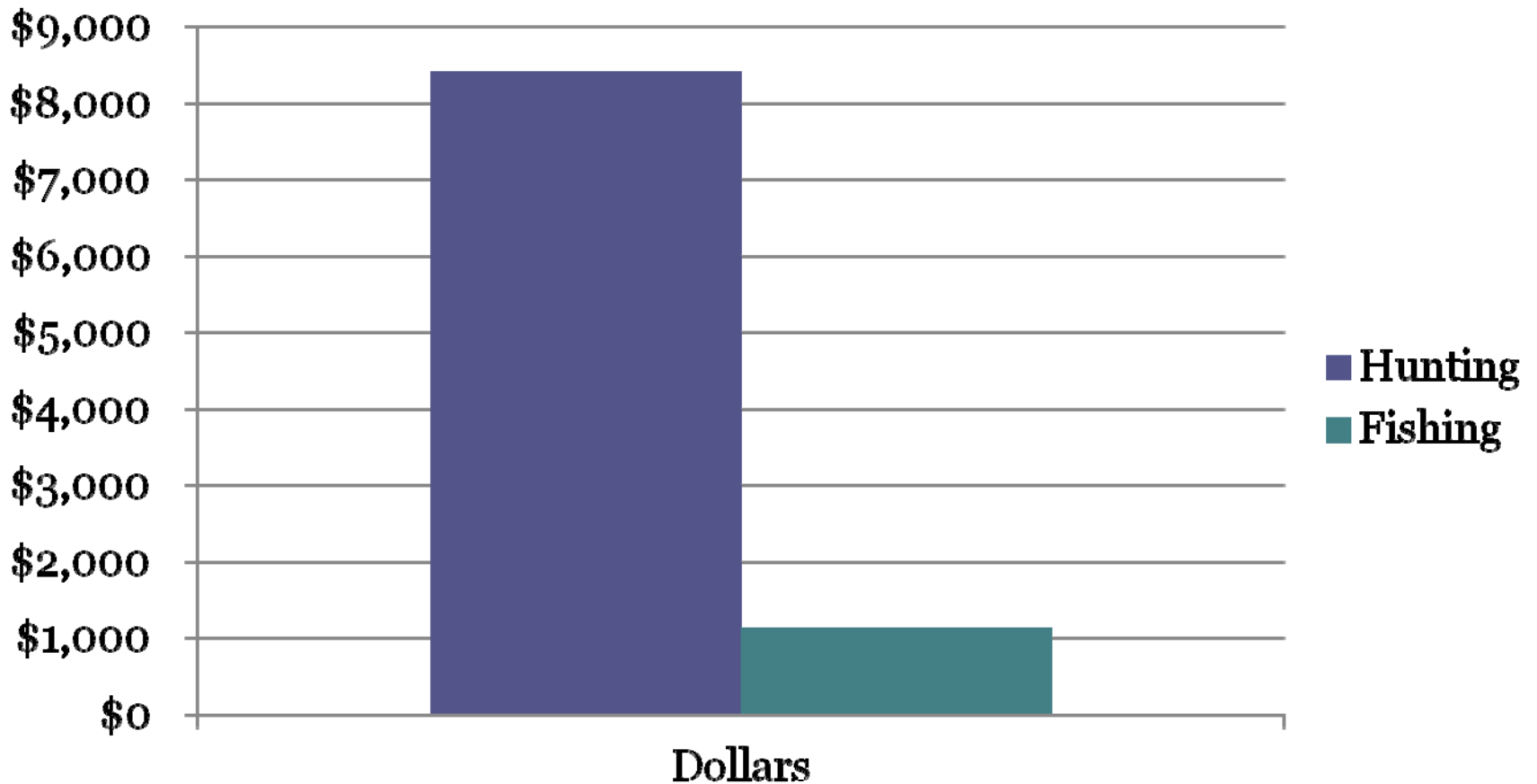
1962 Nuisance Wildlife

- 226 Coyote depredations
- 137 bobcat trouble
- 45 wild dog depredation
- 17 bear kills
- 6 wolf sightings
- 3 mountain lion
- 2 beaver damage
- 5 fox damage
- 3 skunk trouble
- 1 raccoon problem
- 1 porcupine in cornfield
- 2 jackrabbits in cornfield
- 100 rodent requests
- 9 prairie dog crop damage
- 5 pocket gopher trouble
- 25 crow/raven problems
- 2 eagle depredation on lambs
- 2 bird problems
- 11 reports of grasshopper/aphids
- 3 rattlesnake problems
- 2 red ant problems

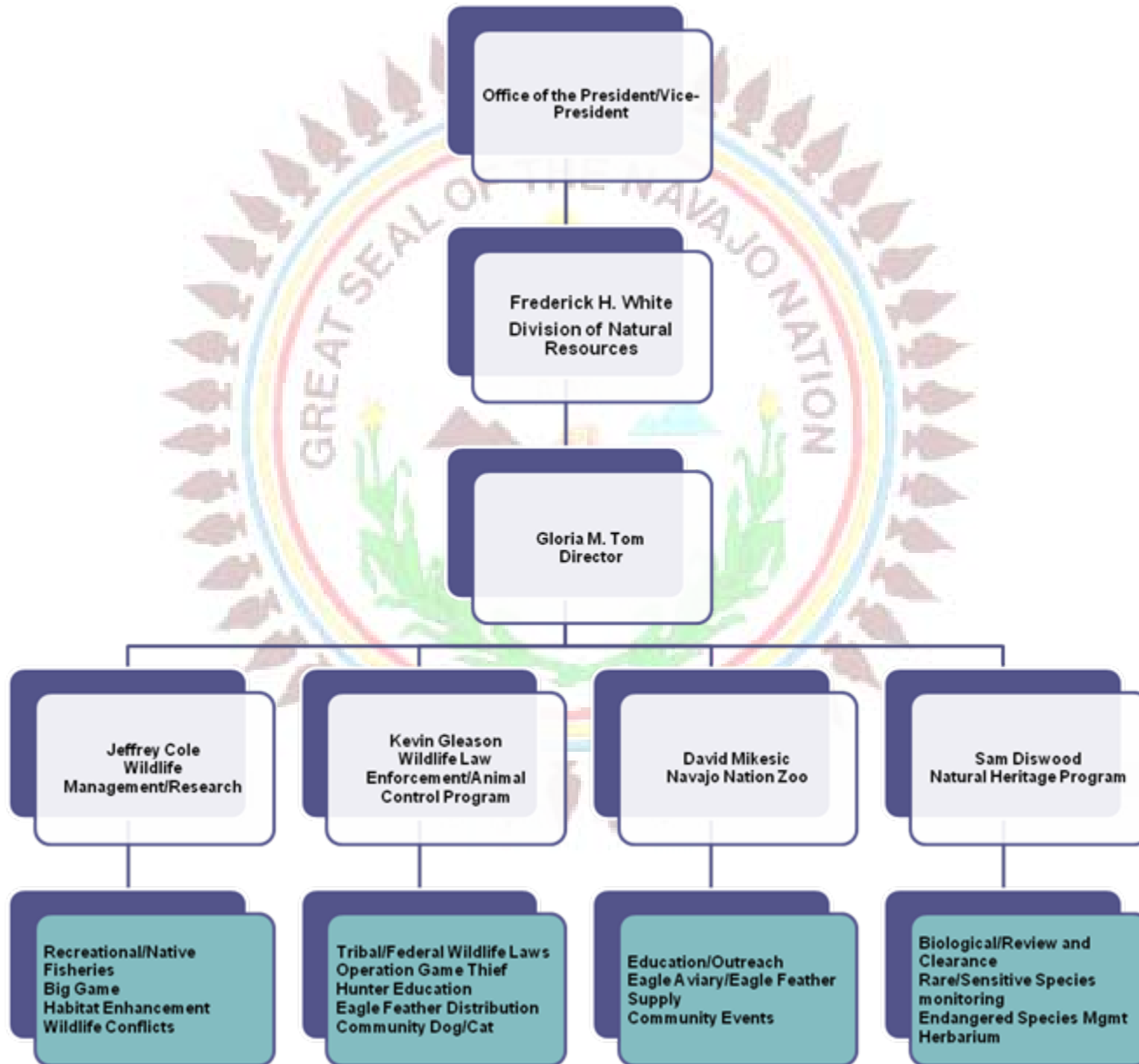
Wolves - 1962

- March 5: three reports of wolf in Shiprock area
- March 25: wolf sighted at new Sawmill at Navajo
- February 14, 1963 – large grey female wolf shot near Naschitti, NM

1963 Revenue Report



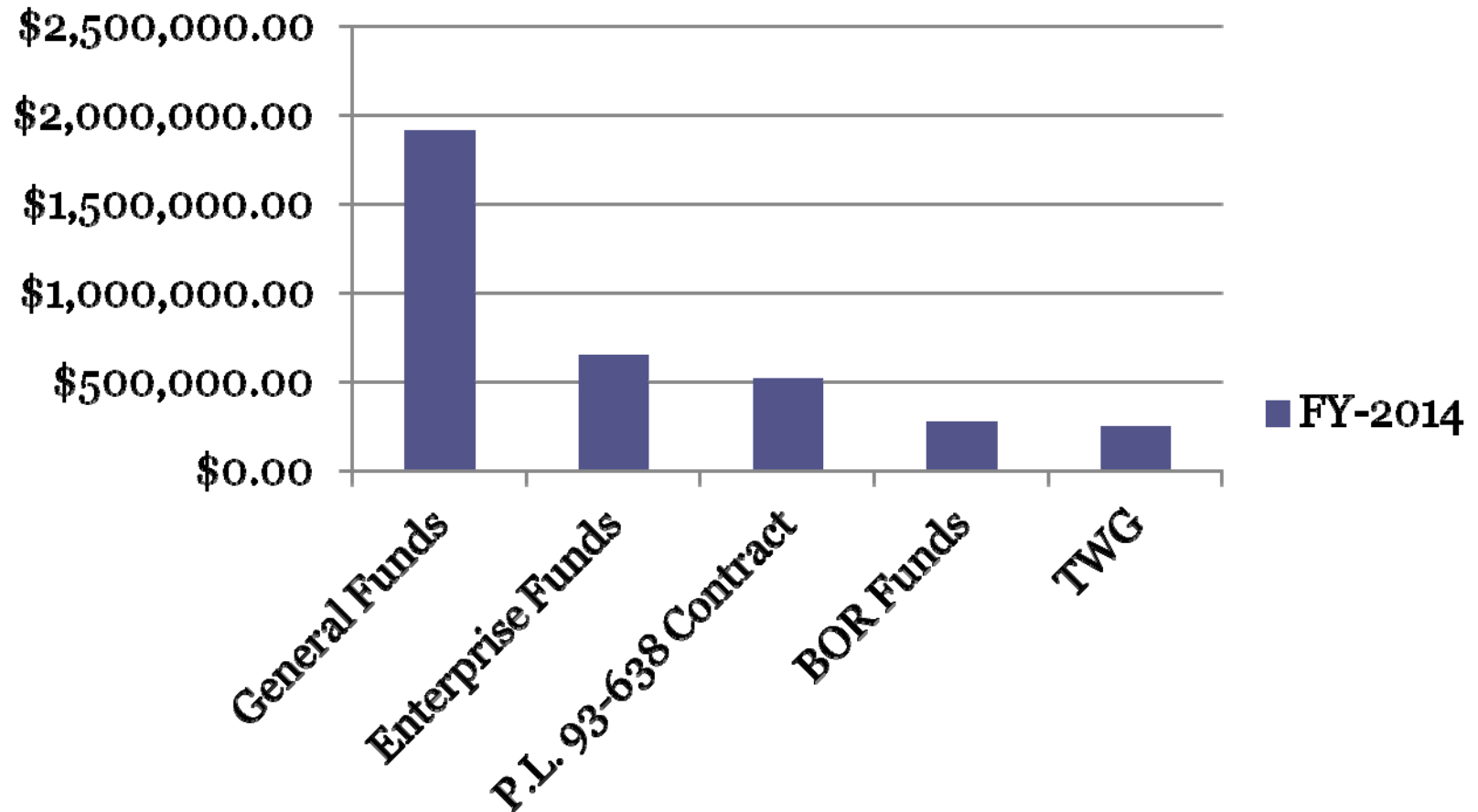
That was then, this is now.....



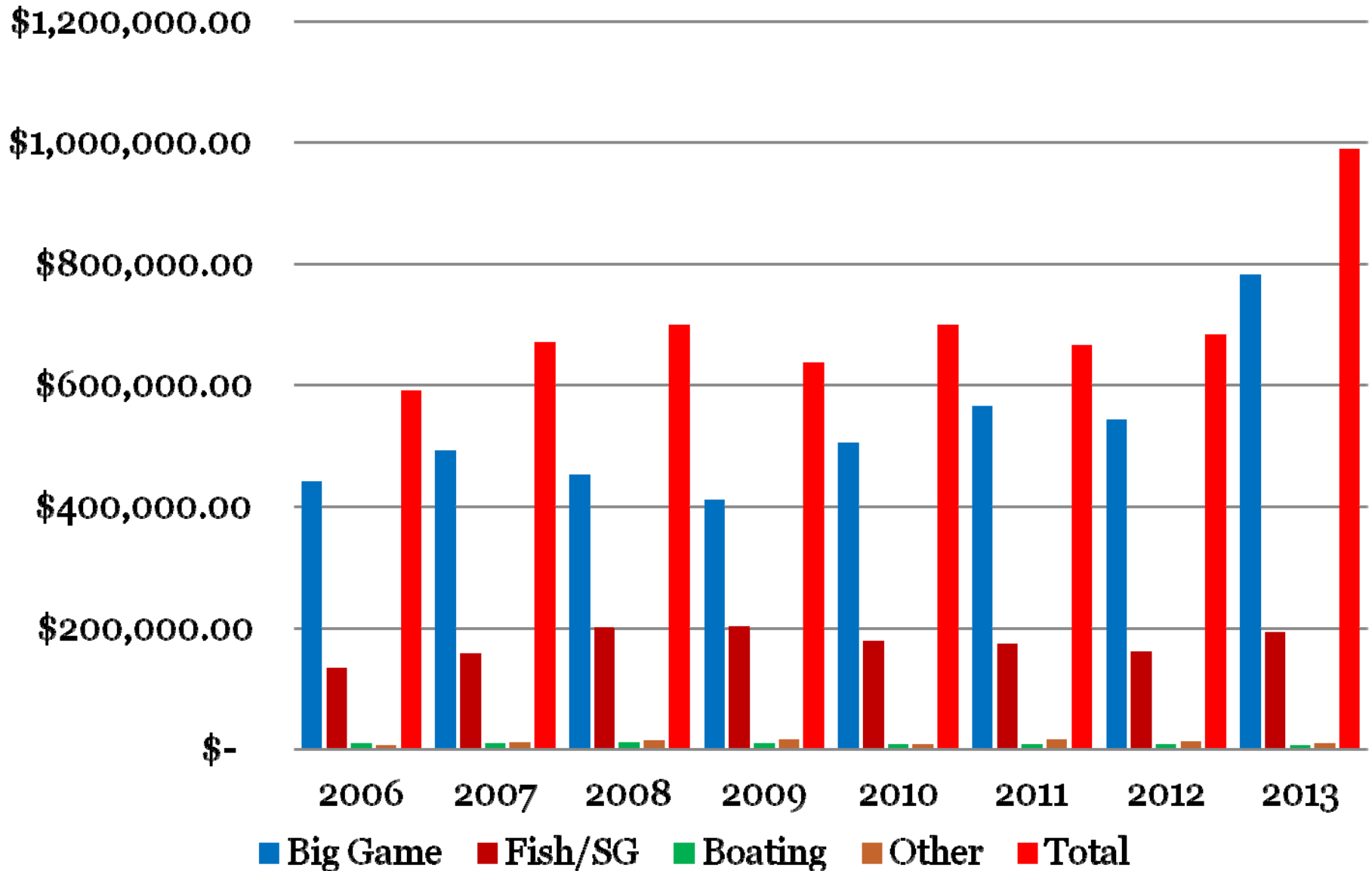
Mission

- The mission of the Navajo Nation Department of Fish and Wildlife is to conserve, protect and restore the Navajo Nation's fish, wildlife, plants and their habitat, through aggressive management programs for the spiritual, cultural and material benefit of present and future generations of the Navajo people; to operate and maintain the Navajo Nation Zoological and Botanical Park; and to enforce Navajo Nation animal control laws and regulations and provide animal control services within the Navajo Nation.

Funding Summary



Department Revenue Summary



Highlights



Golden Eagle Population Monitoring

- Department has completed over ten years of studying the Golden Eagle on the Navajo Nation
- Surveys acquire data on territories, active nests, hatching success, fledging success, and rabbit/prairie dog prey populations



Native Fish Stocking Program

- San Juan River endangered fish
 - Razorback Sucker
- 3 NAPI ponds managed to grow RBS and eventually stock into the San Juan River



Eagle Feather Distribution



Fort Defiance Animal Shelter Renovations

- BIA or Navajo Nation Property?
- Internal expertise in construction
- Result is a more professional, secure, sanitary facility



ZooBOO!



Thank You and Enjoy the 2014 Navajo Nation Wildlife Summit!!

