Historic Stocking

Fish stocking has taken place in Lake DeSmet for decades with the first reports of unofficial stocking dating prior to the 1900s.

By Christina Schmidt

In the office of Sheridan Fisheries Supervisor Paul Mavrakis is a pile of yellowed index cards. In neat, small handwriting on more than 45 years of service with the Game and Fish.

The earliest notation records that in 1937, brown and rainbow trout, perch and crappie were stocked in the lake, though numbers are absent. However, a 1936 article in the Buffalo Bulletin suggest that stocking of the lake began much earlier.

The May 1936 issue of Wyoming Wildlife suggests even earlier stockings that originated in an unofficial and by today’s standards, illegal and unfortunate manner, with local anglers transferring fish between waters.

The May 1936 issue of Wyoming Wildlife...