2020

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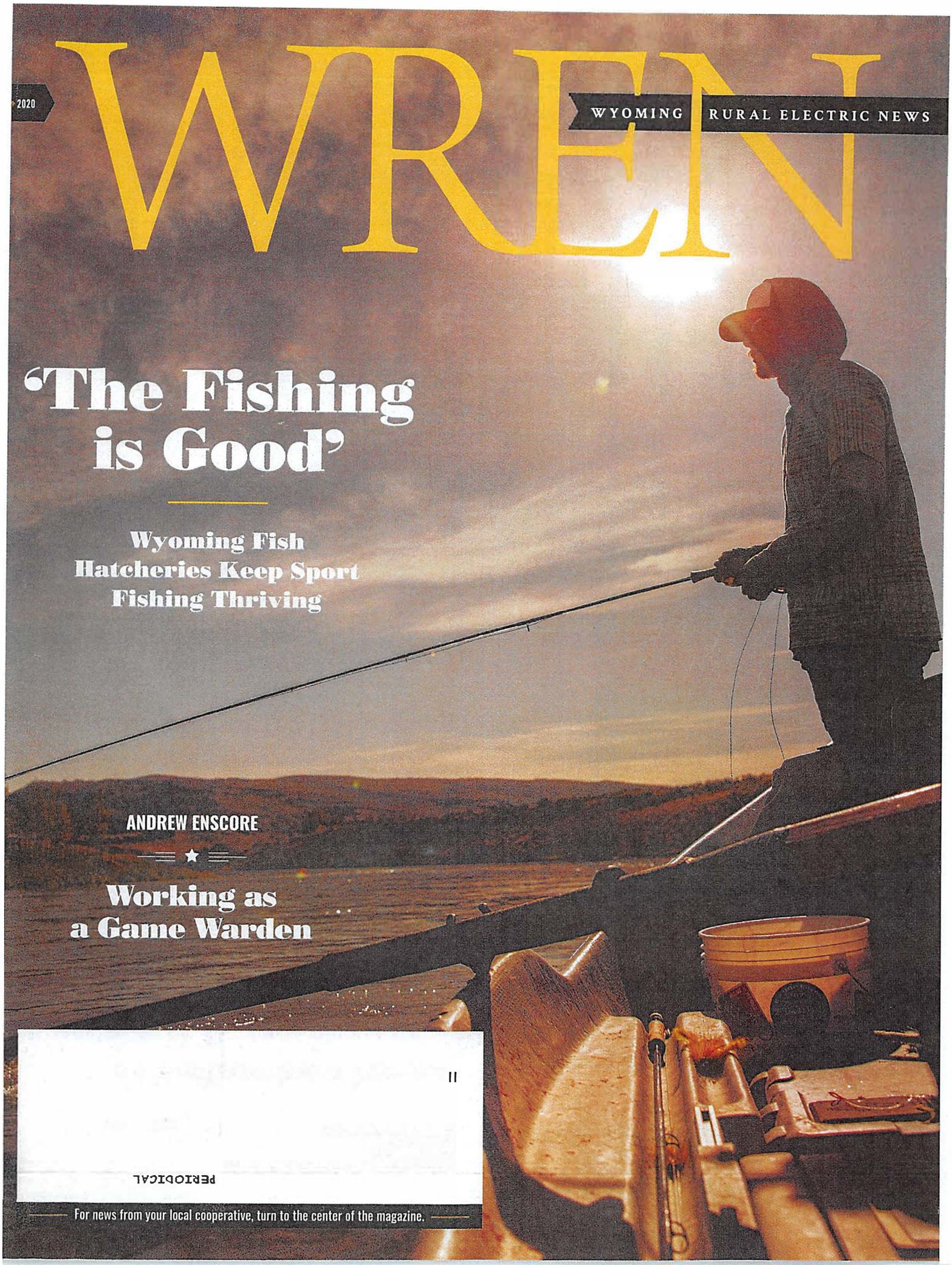


'The Fishing is Good'

Wyoming Fish Hatcheries Keep Sport Fishing Thriving

ANDREW ENSCORE

Working as a Game Warden

PERIODICAL

For news from your local cooperative, turn to the center of the magazine.

ANDREW ENSCORE

Working as a Game Warden

BY GAYLE M. IRWIN

"Variety is the spice of life," the old saying goes, and for Game Warden Andrew "Andy" Enscore, that diversity is what he most enjoys about his job. His work isn't just about finding poachers or writing citations.

"My days are all really different – that's one of my favorite parts of the job," he said. "I get up, and I set out to do what I need to accomplish that day, whether that's working on the water and checking fishermen or driving around and talking to landowners, building relationships with them. Sometimes I go out and look for critters and count animals. One day I can be out doing law enforcement and the next day I can be out counting sage grouse on their breeding ground. It's really awesome!"

Enscore serves Niobrara County as Wyoming Game and Fish's Lusk District Game Warden. He lives in Lusk, but he serves in Niobrara Electric Association's territory, as well as the entire state. He came to Lusk in March of this year after having worked as a warden in Casper since August 2019. Before that, he worked for Colorado Parks and Wildlife and graduated from Colorado State University with a degree in fish and wildlife biology. →

PHOTO COURTESY OF WYOMING GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

"I was on the science side of things [while in Colorado]," he said. "As soon as I saw an opening here with Wyoming Game and Fish, I jumped right on it."

Before college, Enscore served in the Army and worked construction, a skill he sometimes applies in his current job.

"A big part of my job is helping biologists on the research side of things, like going up in a helicopter and counting elk and doing population studies.

"I've always been drawn to wildlife, and, also at the same time, I've felt a strong draw to law enforcement," he added. "Being a game warden, I'm able to blend those fields into one single career, which is really a dream come true for me."

He also serves as a public relations officer, whether enforcing game laws, meeting people or giving presentations.

"I do a ton of public relations," he said. "I talk with landowners, and I've had the privilege to go and give talks to schools. As a game warden, I'm kind of the face of the Game and Fish Department out in the public, so their impression of Game and Fish oftentimes comes from interaction with the game warden. So, part of my job is building relationships with folks."

Just as his days are different, so are the seasons in which he works. Enscore expects to spend a lot of time at Alcova Reservoir near Casper this summer. There are no lakes or reservoirs in Niobrara County.

"Summer brings out the watercraft, and I'll do a lot fishing enforcement," Enscore said. "Alcova is kind of a busy area, so the more law enforcement presence we have out there, the better. We're a state agency, so we go anywhere we're needed."

That may include Glendo if he's called to go.

While summer brings out boaters and anglers, the fall season is often the busiest, Enscore said.

"Fall into winter is the busy season for us. That's when the big game seasons and small game and waterfowl seasons are open," he said. "We're almost always out in the field then."

Spring turkey season takes him back out into the field and provides catch-up time in the office.

Relocating to Lusk, Wyoming from Fort Collins, Colorado hasn't been difficult for Enscore. In fact, he said he's enjoying both his job and his new community.

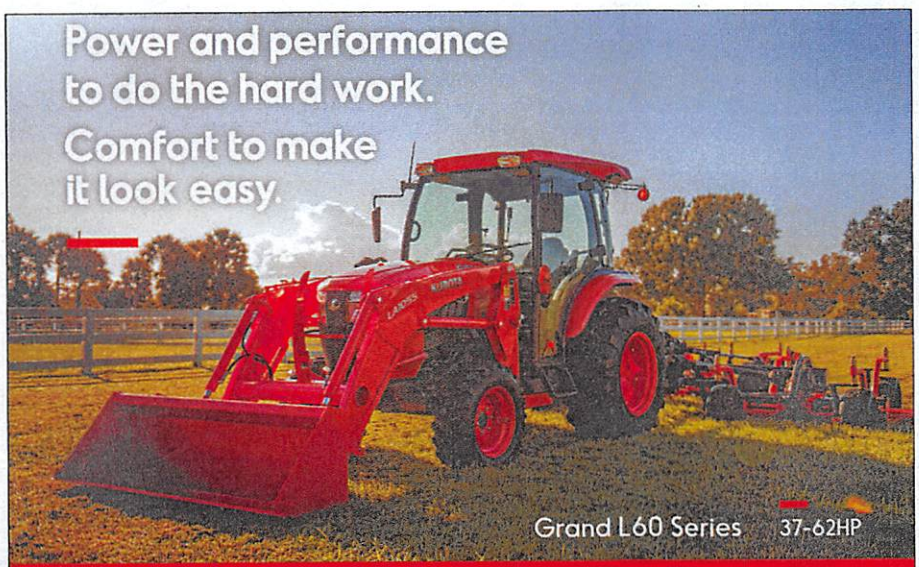
"I've spent some time up here in Wyoming. I have some friends here and did some fishing trips and other things," he said. "I like the landscape and the people up here. I like the culture around Wyoming.

"Growing up in a bigger city, you really don't get the same feeling as you do in Wyoming, and I'm really enjoying it, especially my placement in Lusk," he added. "It's a good community, a lot of great people. I love the small-town feel, and I really think I've found my calling here."

As his first anniversary as a Wyoming Game and Fish Department game warden nears, Enscore believes he made a positive choice accepting the position.

"I'm really excited to be working here in Wyoming," he said. "I've only been doing this a short while now, but I couldn't imagine myself doing anything else. It's a great agency. Everybody that works here is passionate about what they're doing, and they're great to work with. The public is really interested in fish and wildlife. I look forward to working with the people in Wyoming, and I'm really enjoying Lusk and Niobrara County – it's a good community of people. I'm excited to set my roots here and make a life here. I'm just happy to be here." W

Gayle M. Irwin is a freelance writer based in Casper.



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01

What do Biologists do?

Biologists study living things and how they interact with each other, the natural world and human-made habitats. Biologists may be interested in managing wildlife, understanding the soils and vegetation that support ranchers and wildlife, or illuminating the ways that organisms, including humans, fight disease. Many biologists work in laboratories, and some do fieldwork at least some of the time.

02

Biologists in Wyoming

Wyoming Workforce Services counted 490 biologists in Wyoming in March 2019 and reported their average wage at $32.50 per hour.

03

How to Become a Biologist

Because there are many kinds of biologists, there are many ways to become one, but usually at least a four-year degree is necessary. You may major in zoology, botany, entomology, agriculture, microbiology or ecology, depending on your interests, but all biology students take courses in each of these topics, plus genetics, molecular biology, cell biology, evolution and math.

04

Tools of the Trade

What does a biologist need to work every day?

Circle the correct items.

05

Biologist Quiz

Game Warden Andy Enscore has a degree in fish and wildlife biology. Read about him on pages 19-20, then answer these questions.

1. What does Andy do to help sage grouse?

A. Creates habitat
B. Counts them
C. Takes photographs
D. Feeds them birdseed

2. What vehicle does Andy travel in for Game and Fish?

A. A truck
B. A boat
C. A helicopter
D. All of the above

Answers: 1) B. 2) D.

Sources: Wyoming Department of Workforce Services, University of Wyoming Biodiversity Institute

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