



Green River Region Angler Newsletter

2018

Volume 13

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Fish Management in the Green River Region

Welcome to the this year's issue of the Green River Region Angler Newsletter. This years edition features a variety of fishing updates from Flaming Gorge Reservoir to how to fish the Hams Fork River, an update on the AIS program, an introduction to an upcoming Kokanee project, and other insightful reads about our region.

The Green River Fisheries Region spans from Fontenelle Reservoir in the north to Flaming Gorge in the south, from the Bear River in the west to the Little Snake in the east, and includes all the lakes, reservoirs, rivers, and streams in between. Ours is the largest fisheries region in the state, and one of the most diverse! From trophy Lake Trout to native Colorado River Cutthroat Trout, Smallmouth Bass, Kokanee salmon, Tiger Trout and more, Green River has a little something for everyone.

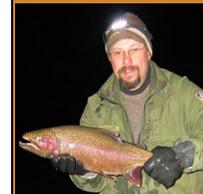
We manage aquatic resources for *you*, the people of Wyoming, so your input is very important and we appreciate your comments. Please feel free to contact us at 307-875-3223, or using the information provided on the last page of the newsletter. Happy fishing!

Kokanee microchemistry

The preferred fishery in Flaming Gorge Reservoir has transitioned from Rainbow Trout to Kokanee salmon. This past year, nearly 2 million Kokanee were stocked in the reservoir. Though Kokanee are stocked, they also reproduce naturally. Unfortunately, little is known about the extent hatchery fish are contributing to the fishery. That's where this project comes in. We will be analyzing otoliths (fish ear bones) to determine whether they were produced in a hatchery or in the wild. Determining their origin will give us critical data on evaluating our future stocking program. We also want to know what anglers are catching. To help us answer this question, we need otoliths from Kokanee that were caught by anglers. So, don't be surprised if you see us stationed at popular boat ramps or on the water asking you if you'd be willing to allow us to collect some data from your catch. This is a multi-year study so if you don't see us this year, chances are you might the next.



Robb Keith
Fisheries Supervisor



Kevin Spence
Aquatic Habitat Biologist



John Walrath
Fisheries Biologist



Troy Laughlin
Fisheries Biologist



Wes Gordon
Green River AIS Specialist



Jessica Warner
Evanston AIS Specialist

Don't Move a Mussel – The Fight Against an Invasion

Zebra and Quagga mussels are an aquatic invasive species (AIS) of concern in Wyoming. Detection of invasive mussels in Wyoming lakes and reservoirs could result in temporary closures of waters like Flaming Gorge Reservoir, until containment infrastructure is in place. It is important for boaters to stay vigilant and to insure your watercraft and equipment is clean, drained, and dry before enjoying Wyoming waters.

With the 2018 boating season approaching in the Green River Region, it is important for boaters to be aware of the economical, ecological, and recreation impacts of AIS.

Wyoming law requires any conveyance entering the state by land between March 1st and November 30th to undergo a mandatory inspection before launching on Wyoming waters, year round if the conveyance was last used on a known infested water. Resident boaters, who have not left the state, are not required to have their boats inspected unless they encounter an open check station in route to their destination. In 2017 a revision to the AIS regulation requires watercraft users to remove all visible vegetation, bilge, ballast, and live-well plugs when leaving a water and those plugs must remain out while in transport. A list of known infested waters can be found on the Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD) website.

During the 2017 boating season, AIS technicians in the Green River Region performed over 16,500 watercraft inspections. Of those, 1,330 were considered high risk and 438 required decontamination. The majority of decontaminations

were performed on boats with standing water in the motor.

Wyoming watercraft check stations will continue to operate at port of entries and on a rotating basis at major waters during the peak boating season from April 28th through mid-September in 2018. A list of inspection locations can be found on the WGFD website.

Sampling and monitoring for Zebra and Quagga mussels and other AIS of concern is a major component of the Wyoming AIS Program. Plankton tow nets were used to sample for invasive mussels at Big Sandy, Flaming Gorge, Fontenelle, High Savery, Meeks Cabin, Sulphur Creek, Viva Naughton, and Woodruff Narrows reservoirs in July and October of 2017. All collected samples were sent to laboratories for analysis and results for all came back negative, indicating no presence of mussels.

Additionally, zebra and quagga mussels are not the only AIS of concern in the state; new populations of Asian Clam (Keyhole Reservoir) and

Brook Stickleback (North Tongue River) were detected in Wyoming in 2017. Remember, you, the watercraft users, are the first line of defense against an invasion.

Simply clean, drain, and dry your watercraft and equipment after every use and have your boat inspected when required to do so. We really do appreciate your time and vigilance. If you see any suspicious plants or animals on your equipment, or while you are out enjoying Wyoming waters, please let us know!



All water must be drained prior to transport.

How to report AIS

Phone: 1-877-WGFD AIS

Email: ReportAIS@wyo.gov



Zebra mussel



Quagga mussel

List of known suspect or positive waters available at:

https://wgfd.wyo.gov/WGFD/media/content/PDF/Fishing/AIS_INFESTED_WATER.pdf

List of inspection locations available at:

<https://wgfd.wyo.gov/Fishing-and-Boating/Aquatic-Invasive-Species-Prevention/AIS-Inspection-Locations>

'Healthy' Management of Lake Trout

The word is out, Flaming Gorge Reservoir is a destination fishery and for good reason. How many other reservoirs allow you to harvest four trout (three of which can be Kokanee), eight Lake Trout (one over 28 inches), and an unlimited number of Burbot? Some might say they would wake up sore the next morning from catching that many fish in a trip. Lake Trout creel limits were not always this high; in fact, they use to be combined in the aggregate trout limit of four. Biologists use regulations to allow anglers to harvest the surplus portion of a population, so under a typical scenario the higher a creel limit the greater the surplus and need for harvest to maintain a 'healthy' population. This is exactly the case with small Lake Trout (<28 inches) in Flaming Gorge Reservoir.

Biologists have standardized netting data going back 30 years in the reservoir and it shows that the abundance of small Lake Trout has increased, while the abundance of trophy Lake Trout (>28 inches) has decreased (Figure 1). Small Lake Trout catch rates the last few years have been two to three times greater than they were in the early 1990s. Additionally, since the early 1990s, trophy Lake Trout catch rates have decreased roughly 50%.

Anglers have also experienced, first hand, the increased abundance of small Lake Trout. More reports come in every year from anglers fishing for Rainbow Trout, Smallmouth Bass, Kokanee, even trophy Lake Trout that they are catching small Lake Trout. The netting data and angler observations are in part why WGFD in collaboration with the UDWR are proposing to increase the Lake Trout creel limit and possession to: **twelve (12) per day and twenty-four (24) in possession. No more than one (1) lake trout in possession shall exceed twenty-eight (28) inches.** Anglers are a powerful tool in the toolbox when it comes to attempting to maintain a 'healthy' fishery.



Successful morning for three anglers.

In the past many anglers have been reluctant to harvest small Lake Trout as they thought every released Lake Trout would eventually grow and become 30+ pounds. This notion can work only when there's a small population size and ample food for fish to maintain fast growth rates. However, in some circumstances, the catch and release philosophy can have unintended consequences. Lake Trout less than 28 inches in Flaming Gorge Reservoir is a good example of this circumstance. The abundance small Lake Trout have slower growth rates because there is not enough food to go around.

Everyone has their own opinions on what tastes good to them. Many people enjoy the taste of small Lake Trout and the fish provide substantial fillets that are tasty and healthy. The small Lake Trout anglers are being encouraged to harvest are eating predominately zooplankton, the same thing as Kokanee salmon and Rainbow Trout in the reservoir. Since they are primarily eating zooplankton, their fillets contain low levels of mercury. During late summer and fall algae blooms can blanket the north end of the reservoir. Lake Trout living within these blooms can taste a little



For some lip smacking recipes and supplemental information on
Flaming Gorge Reservoir, scan the code or visit our link:

<https://wgfd.wyo.gov/Regional-Offices/Green-River-Region/Flaming-Gorge-Management>

'Healthy' Management of Lake Trout

'musty' but fish living further down lake well away from the blooms are still delicious.

Lake Trout are also healthy to eat. They are high in omega 3 fatty acids which are good for you. Lake trout are excellent for smoking because of the high levels of fat in their flesh. Put a limit of small Lake Trout in your favorite brine and then into your smoker – you will not be disappointed with the results. Another option is to bake them in the oven and substitute

them for chicken or beef in your favorite pasta dish. A few favorite recipes are available on our website and we are always looking for more so please share your favorite. The next time you are out on Flaming Gorge Reservoir, consider keeping the small Lake Trout that are tasty, healthy for you, and that make great table fare. You will not only be able to enjoy a tasty fillet, you will also be helping the fishery.

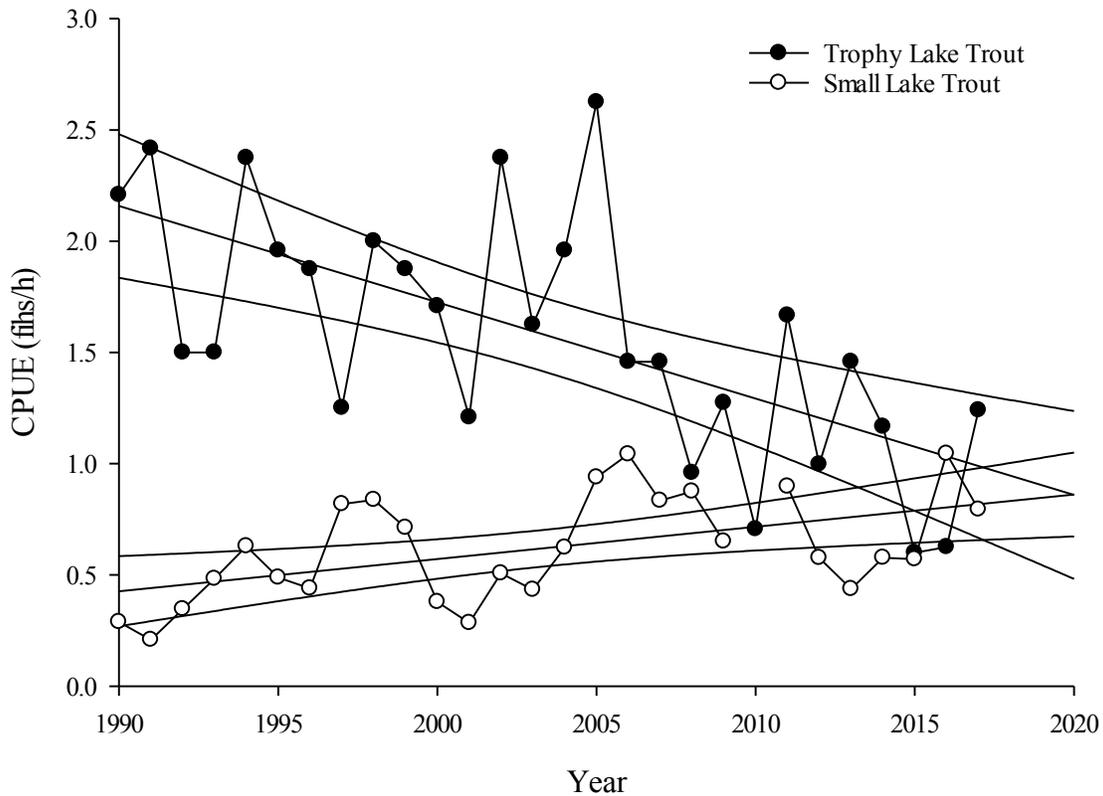


Figure 1. Average fish per hour for Trophy LAT ≥28 inches (●) and Small LAT <28 inches (○) in Wyoming since 1990. Curves around means represent 95% confidence intervals.



For some lip smacking recipes and supplemental information on Flaming Gorge Reservoir, scan the code or visit our link: <https://wgfd.wyo.gov/Regional-Offices/Green-River-Region/Flaming-Gorge-Management>

Fly Fishing the Ham's Fork River

The "humble Ham's", as WY Wildlife dubbed it, is quite the fishery. In recent years, anglers have come to fish the Hams Fork River more frequently because fishing is good year round and they can expect to catch respectable sized Rainbow Trout and Brown Trout.

The number of fish per mile is dramatically higher the first five miles below Viva Naughton Reservoir, but anglers can still catch good numbers of fish further downstream. Anglers should bring their normal arsenal for trout and be aware of the artificial only section between the reservoirs (Viva Naughton and Kemmerer City reservoirs).

Many anglers have their favorite flies to use, but here are some suggestions to those who may not have fished the Hams Fork River before or are just getting into fly fishing. Firstly, anglers can get by with a four weight rod but it's recommended to not use anything smaller than a five weight. Additionally, you will want to have a net handy, as the river is dense with willows and landing fish without a net can be extremely difficult. Another question we get frequently is what to use. During spring, anglers can try trailing a rock worm behind any kind of beadhead or midge. When fishing during summer mayfly, stonefly, and caddis patterns in the morning

and switching to nymphs in the afternoon can be very productive. The angler who uses the "hopper/dropper" with large foam bodied terrestrials and small olive to iridescent green bead heads anytime time from midsummer

tion tailwater nature. However, anglers should be aware that if water levels drop during the heat of summer, this small river could warm up fast. When water temperatures rise, give fish a break to reduce their level of

stress. If big Brown Trout are what you are after, you will typically do better in the lower sections between Lyons Park and slightly below Kemmerer City Reservoir during fall. Should you decide to try your hand at fishing here this time of year, you should be cognizant of redds (spawning areas) in this relatively small river.



WGFD performs population estimates on many rivers and streams to assess current trout populations.

through the fall could also expect hookups. During winter, midges (zebra/disco white/red/black) and worm patterns (Rock/San Juan red or white) will work for those diehards who like snowshoes with their waders. Those skilled at stripping or drifting streamers through the deep holes will bring in good fish year round. Olive or earthy colors have worked well, as well as white, especially for Brown Trout in the fall. Both large articulated streamers and small simple streamers can produce good results.

Summertime water temperatures typically stay low thanks to its high eleva-

tion tailwater nature. However, anglers should be aware that if water levels drop during the heat of summer, this small river could warm up fast. When water temperatures rise, give fish a break to reduce their level of stress. If big Brown Trout are what you are after, you will typically do better in the lower sections between Lyons Park and slightly below Kemmerer City Reservoir during fall. Should you decide to try your hand at fishing here this time of year, you should be cognizant of redds (spawning areas) in this relatively small river. Access on the river is good. There are five well marked WGFD access sites starting about seven miles upstream from town. All of these are accessible with any vehicle outside of winter. There is also a marked public access above and below both reservoirs. The stretches between the BTNF boundary and Viva Naughton are harder to navigate but there are several fishable miles there as well, one just needs a good map or GPS to prevent trespassing. Unfortunately, there have been several cases regarding trespassing with anglers, so it is strongly advised that anglers be aware of the access status and rules of Walk-in/Public access areas and state lands.

Jim Bridger Pond—A Great Day Trip



Anglers enjoying a good day of fishing at Jim Bridger Pond, east of Rock Springs.

This pond is located approximately 30 miles east of Rock Springs, WY and is a popular fishery among locals. This community fishery provides excellent recreational opportunities for families and individuals of all ages. With ample shoreline for bank fishing and recent upgrades to the picnic facilities, Jim Bridger is a great place to enjoy the outdoors.

The best fishing in Jim Bridger Pond generally occurs in the spring. Anglers have success fishing from shore using a variety of techniques. For the active angler, casting spoons, crocodiles, and kastmasters typically produce great results. Panther Martin and Mepps spinners are also valuable tools to keep in your arsenal. For a more relaxed approach, anglers have reported having success suspending a nightcrawler and marshmallow off the bottom. Regardless of your technique, the abundant shoreline space provides plenty of elbow room for first time anglers to practice casting skills.

Jim Bridger Pond supports a variety of sport fish including Rainbow Trout, Snake River Cutthroat Trout, and more recently Tiger Trout. Approximately 3,000 Rainbow Trout and 500 Snake River Cutthroat Trout are stocked in the pond annually. Tiger Trout stocking began in 2014 and approximately 2,000 are stocked on even years. Recent netting results have shown that all three species are averaging around 17 inches.

Wyoming Welcomes Channel Catfish

Over 500 Channel Catfish were stocked in various ponds throughout the Green River region at the end of April. These waters included the 2 Fairgrounds Ponds in Rock Springs near the Sweetwater Events Complex, the Zehawi Pond in Green River, Lyman City Pond, and the Diamondville Pond. The catfish were in great condition and ranged from 3-12 inches in length.

Where did these catfish come from? Well believe it or not, Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD) hatchery personnel traveled all the way to Arkansas to collect approximately 50,000 Channel Catfish to be stocked throughout the state. These Arkansas catfish come from a hatchery source that is certified aquatic invasive species and disease free. The Arkansas hatchery trades WGFD for cold water species such as Rainbow Trout.

There are many techniques that you can use to catch catfish. Channel Catfish are essentially a swimming tongue, having taste buds all over their body. As such, using baits that give off a lot of scent will be your best bet. Chicken liver, blood baits, bait shrimp, and cut shad are great choices. Catfish also love nightcrawlers which are much less messy than some of the other baits mentioned. Fish these baits on or slightly suspended off the bottom. Remember to fish different areas of the ponds and periodically change your bait to keep it fresh and giving off as much scent as possible. If you have never eaten catfish before, you better give it a try! There is a reason why the Channel Catfish is the state fish of 5 different states!



Channel Catfish waiting anxiously in a hatchery truck to be stocked into their new homes.

Where have they gone? A story about Roundtail Chub

There are many fish species native to the Green River Region that you may not be aware of. Fish like the Bluehead Sucker, Flannelmouth Sucker, and Roundtail Chub were historically common in the lowland rivers of the region. Up higher in the drainage, Colorado River Cutthroat Trout and Mountain Sucker were the most common species. Native fish like these, while rarely targeted by anglers, are important components of our aquatic ecosystems. However, most native fish have experienced severe declines in their distribution throughout the Green and Colorado Rivers. Most of these declines are due to habitat alteration, such as overgrazing, water withdrawal, dam building, and nonnative species introductions. For example, Roundtail Chub have been lost from 55% of their historic range across the Colorado River basin and are currently only found in a few isolated

tributaries of the Green River and a handful of mountain lakes in Wyoming. In an effort to ensure the persistence of all of our native species, The Wyoming Game and Fish Department is responsible for monitoring and managing these species to

tail Chub throughout the Blacks Fork and Hams Fork drainages. Biologists will use electrofishing gear and several types of nets to capture and tag Roundtail Chub throughout the basin. Fish will be tagged in order to docu-

ment their movements throughout the drainage. Previous accounts of chubs in the basin suggest they are moving widely throughout the basin to spawn. Another aspect



Photo of an adult Roundtail Chub.

maintain healthy fisheries.

In 2018 the Wyoming Game and Fish Department will begin a new project to study the distribution, abundance, and movement of Round-

of this project is to monitor and remove Burbot. Burbot are an introduced predator known to consume many of our native species throughout the region. This project will allow biologists to document the current distribution and status of other native fish found in the basin, such as Flannelmouth Suckers, and provide important information that will help us to better manage these species and conserve important aquatic areas in the Green River region.



Bluehead Sucker



Flannelmouth Sucker

AIS Outreach and Education: Teaching to Protect

During the boating season you may encounter Wyoming Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) personnel inspecting watercraft or monitoring for AIS while you are out enjoying our waterways. However, an equally important aspect of the Wyoming Department of Game and Fish AIS program involves outreach efforts to various community groups.

Through community outreach the Department is able to communicate the potential harms of AIS, as well as educate the public on measures they can take to prevent the introduction and spread of AIS to and within Wyoming. Outreach events are geared toward a wide variety of individuals and are conducted in a variety of venues. AIS outreach efforts in Southwest Wyoming and Northern Utah include presentations in schools, educational booths at community events, radio and newspaper ads, and watercraft inspector trainings.

In 2018, presentations will be held at various schools in Green River, Evanston, and Kemmerer with an anticipated youth reach of over 600 students. Additionally, field trips to local waters will provide opportunities for student to experience, first-hand, water monitoring methods and watercraft inspections. Hands-on experiences are a valuable component of outreach and can play an integral role in educating future generations of sportspeople, ranchers, and municipal water users.

Southwest Wyoming AIS personnel participate in various community events with the goal of providing awareness and



AIS technicians Drew Zech and Judy Steinau assist with education at the Uinta County Outdoor Recreation Festival.



AIS technician Josh Skaggs assists young anglers..

education for the program. Examples of these events include River Walk in Green River as well as the Uinta County Outdoor Recreation fair, Bear River Weed Pull, Safe Kid's Day, and the Uinta County Fair in Evanston. Beginning in 2018, Southwest Wyoming AIS personnel will participate in the Wasatch Fly Fishing Expo held in Sandy, Utah and the Ultimate Outdoor Expo held in Farmington, UT with a combined reach of several

thousand adults and youth. Additionally, Statewide AIS personnel are excited to be participating in this year's Wyoming Outdoor Expo held in Casper. This event will include hands-on activities as well as informational material for youth and adults.

In an effort to increase contacts with adult community members multiple information sessions will be held throughout Southwest Wyoming in 2018. These sessions will include the history,

biology, and impact of various aquatic invasive species as well as a look at the Wyoming AIS program. Finally, for those interested in more detailed information, or who would like to inspect watercraft themselves, multiple watercraft inspection training courses are being offered in Southwest Wyoming and Northern Utah. We look forward to seeing everyone out enjoying Wyoming's bountiful natural resources this year and, while doing so, we hope that you will take the time to do your part in preventing the spread of AIS.

Kokanee Fishing at Fontenelle Reservoir

Kokanee fishing on Flaming Gorge Reservoir should be good this year. For several years the WGFD and Utah Division of Wildlife Resources has been stocking nearly two million Kokanee measuring three inches in length to supplement the wild population. That said Kokanee fishing at Fontenelle Reservoir should be great this year. The Wyoming Game and Fish stocks nearly 70,000 three inch long Kokanee Salmon in Fontenelle annually. Yes, Fontenelle is a little out of the way, but with fishing that easily rivals the quality found in Flaming Gorge and a liberal 6 fish limit – the extra windshield time is worth

the effort. Furthermore, few anglers have discovered the Kokanee population in Fontenelle – few anglers mean fewer boats and less time dodging other anglers while trolling.

The Green River fisheries management crew nets Fontenelle Reservoir annually to evaluate the sport fish population and to monitor the stocking efforts. Sampling last June yielded very encouraging numbers of Kokanee in the gill nets set by the Department. Biologist track the number of fish caught per hour while the gill nets are in the water – known as catch rate (fish/hour). This information in addition

to length and weight data collected on the fish caught allows biologist to gage the health of the fishery and success of stocking efforts.

Catch rates for Kokanee during early June 2017 were over twice as high as any previous catch rate observed in the past 10 years at Fontenelle. Furthermore the fish caught were predominantly 13-14 inches in length – likely 2 year old fish. This means there should be good numbers of 3 year old Kokanee ranging from 16 to 19 inches available for anglers this spring and early summer. On top of that good news anglers were catching good numbers of 3 year old Kokanee last year. Although many of these fish will have matured and spawned, some will have held over and will provide anglers exciting action as fish over 20 inches hook up.

When you decide to head to Fontenelle for Kokanee don't bother taking your Flaming Gorge Kokanee play book. Kokanee in Fontenelle Reservoir just don't behave like Kokanee in Flaming Gorge. Simply put: Fontenelle Kokanee are shallow – they are found over deep water (river channel for example) but they tend to be shallow – typically only 5 to 12 feet below the surface. Last year all the limits caught from my boat where hooked no more than 3 feet below the surface.

Although Kokanee will come up to



Unlike Flaming Gorge Reservoir, anglers can keep a limit of six Kokanee on Fontenelle Reservoir.

Kokanee Fishing at Fontenelle Reservoir

a lure they typically will not go down. This is a critical point. If the school is at 2 or 3 feet below the surface and your lure is 6 feet below the surface you will see little action. When fishing Fontenelle vary the depths of your lures until you find consistent action. But don't bother going below 12 feet. You will catch a Kokanee every once in a while but not near the numbers you will catch if you keep your gear shallow.

With the Kokanee shallow it is paramount to long line your lure 75 to 100 feet or more behind the boat. Long lining for shallow Kokanee is made easier with downriggers and planer boards – they help separate the lines and reduce lines crossing. Downriggers work great for dialing in how shallow the Kokanee are. Vary the depth of the downrigger ball starting 2 foot below the surface until you find the most action. Side planers excel at getting your lure away from the boat and in front of shallow Kokanee. Use a weighted dodger or put a bullet weight in front of your favorite dodger or cow bells. The addition of a little weight will keep the lure from rising to the surface. Vary the size of weight until you find the right depth.

All Kokanee are particular about the color they will hit on any given day. Start the day fishing as many

different colors as rods you can legally use. Once a pattern emerges switch to that color. Green wedding rings with a silver blade and red wedding rings with a brass blade are proven producers on Fontenelle. Varying the blade size at times can help. Larger blades seem to work better when the water is off color. Green wedding rings with Chartreuse blades also work well when the water is off color.

One of the biggest challenges about fishing Fontenelle Kokanee is finding them. They live so near the surface it makes them nearly impossible to detect with sonar. It is best

to start fishing the river channel and then check the flats. Sometimes they school near the surface over the big flats over 30 to 50 foot of water – especially when there is a good midge hatch going. Once you hook a Kokanee mark the location. Kokanee are rarely alone. Mark every KOE you hook once you locate a school. This will help define the boundaries of the school so you can keep circling back through it. The schools on Fontenelle tend to stay in the same area through the season and most set up in similar areas year after year. Keep a log of where you catch fish. It will come in handy in the future.



Satisfied angler proudly displays his Kokanee from Fontenelle Reservoir.

Reptile Surveys Surrounding Flaming Gorge



Plateau Fence Lizard (*Sceloporus tristichus*). Individuals in the Flaming Gorge area tend to be tan to pale pinkish-orange with indistinct dark mottling, while those in the Laramie Range have much more pronounced dark zigzag markings along the back.



Northern Tree Lizard (*Urosaurus ornatus wrighti*). The center strip of large scales bordered by tiny granular scales along the back differentiate this species from all other lizard species in Wyoming.

The unique landscape around the Flaming Gorge provides habitat for numerous reptile species, including some not found anywhere else in Wyoming. In May of 2017, WGFD herpetologists conducted surveys for reptile species along the west and northeast portions of the Flaming Gorge area. Four species of lizards and three species of snakes were detected. Plateau Fence Lizards, were among the most abundant lizard species (Photo Top). This feisty lizard has a limited distribution in Wyoming, occurring only in the Flaming Gorge area and along the eastern portion of the Laramie Range. The small shy Northern Tree Lizard (Photo Right) was also detected at a few locations in the northeastern portion of the study area. Contrary to its name, the Northern Tree Lizard is not associated with trees; rather, the species prefers canyons and areas with large rocks. Other species observed included Greater Short-horned Lizards, Northern Sagebrush Lizards, Great Basin Gophersnakes, Wandering Gartersnakes, and Midget Faded Rattlesnakes.

Despite intensive surveys, WGFD herpetologists were unable to confirm a report of a mysterious blue-tailed lizard seen in the area several weeks earlier. Because known lizards in the area do not have blue tails, the lizard seen was likely either a species of whiptail (*Aspidocelis* sp.) known to occur in western Colorado but which has never been documented in Wyoming or a Great Basin Skink. The WGFD will continue to search for the mystery lizard in 2018. Anyone who sees a blue-tailed lizard in the Flaming Gorge area is encouraged to take pictures and contact WGFD Herpetological Coordinator, Wendy Estes-Zumpf (Wendy.Estes-Zumpf@wyo.gov).



Great Basin Skink. Notice its bright blue tail that is rare to be seen in this part of Wyoming.

2018 Stocking Requests

Considerable effort, time, and money go into growing sport fish to be stocked into waters for anglers to catch. Stocking takes place primarily in standing waters (lakes and reservoirs), but some with flowing water such as the Green River are also stocked. Waters throughout the region are stocked based on availability of food for fish, sustainability of wild fisheries, public use, management strategy, and other factors. A few of the region's more popular fisheries and their stocking requests for this year are provided below. K=Thousand M=Millions

Reservoirs & Rivers	Brown Trout	Bear River Cut	Channel Catfish	Colorado River Cut	Rainbow Trout	Kokanee	Snake River Cut	Tiger Trout
Bear River		2.2 K						
Big Sandy Reservoir	22.5 K				8 K			
Big Sandy River	15 K				14.5 K			
Blacks Fork River	2 K			2 K				
Flaming Gorge Reservoir				200 K	330 K	1.1 M		
Fontenelle Reservoir		15 K			50 K	75 K	800	
Green River		15 K			35 K	100 K	25 K	
High Savery Reservoir				8 K		10 K		10 K
Kemmerer City Reservoir					10 K			
Murray Reservoir					2 K			
Robbers Gultch Reservoir					1 K			
Savery Creek & Little Savery Creek	17.5 K				4 K			
Sulphur Creek Reservoir		20 K						15K
Viva Naughton Reservoir					104 K			10 K
Ponds								
Diamondville Pond			100		100		600	
Evanston UP Ice Pond		4 K			3.6 K			
Herald's Slough Pond					1.2 K			
Jim Bridger Pond					3 K		500	2 K
Kemmerer Community Pond					500		1.2 K	
Lyman City Pond			100		800			
Mountain View Pond				900				
Rock Springs Pond					1.3 K			
Rock Springs Fairground Ponds			200					
Sweetwater Kids Pond-Jamestown					800			
Zehawi Pond-Green River			100					

16 — Located at the Rock Springs

Dates to Remember

Wyoming Outdoor EXPO May 17-19 — The Wyoming Game and Fish Department decided to reinvest in this fun event aimed at providing opportunities for kids to learn more about wildlife in their state, outdoor skills they can use, and of course fun!

Free Fishing Day June 2 — The Wyoming Game and Fish Commission has declared June 2 Free Fishing Day to coincide with the beginning of the National Fishing and Boating week. Residents and nonresidents may fish Wyoming waters (excluding Wind River Indian Reservation and Yellowstone National Park, which are not regulated by the State of Wyoming) without a fishing license or conservation stamp.

Kemmerer Kids Fishing Derby June 9 — Located at the Kemmerer Community Pond by the overpass. Fishing from 8 am to 12 pm. Lunch will be provide to families that participate. Sponsored by the City of Kemmerer.

Evanston Kids Fishing Day June 9 — Located at the UP Ice Ponds, Registration starts at 7:45, Fishing from 8 am to 1 pm. Sponsored by Upper Bear River TU Chapter.



Kid's Fishing Day—Photo by Lucy Wold.

Wyoming Game and Fish Department
Conserving Wildlife - Serving People

Wyoming Game and Fish Department
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Fish Division Mission Statement:

“As stewards of Wyoming’s aquatic resources, we are committed to conservation and enhancement of all aquatic wildlife and their habitats for future generations through scientific resource management and informed public participation. We will use an integrated program of protection, regulation, propagation, restoration and control to provide diverse, quality fisheries resources and angling opportunities. Our efforts will balance the productive capability of habitats with public desires.”

We’re on the web!
HTTP://WGFD.WYO.GOV

