



# Jackson Region Fisheries Newsletter

## Exploring the Teton Wilderness West of the Continental Divide

The Teton Wilderness was set aside as a Primitive Area in 1934 and was designated as a Wilderness Area when the Wilderness Act was passed in 1964. The Teton Wilderness is bordered by Grand Teton National Park (to the west), Yellowstone National Park (to the north), and the Washakie Wilderness (to the east), making it one of most remote locations in the lower 48 states. Despite the isolation of this beautiful country, it provides a variety of recreational opportunities for those willing to expend some effort. This issue of the Jackson Region Newsletter provides some of the highlights of the Teton Wilderness, west of the Continental Divide, from a fisheries perspective.



Mystery Lake

## 18th Annual Kids Fishing Day



Blake Lewis with his cutthroat trout at kids fishing day. Photo by: Mark Gocke.

Mark your calendars! This year, kids fishing day is the 7th of June. Don't miss this opportunity to spend the day learning about angling in the Jackson area. All kids 13 and under are encouraged to participate while parents can listen in on all activities. Registration begins at 10:30 and the event concludes at 3:00. A free lunch is provided by the Jackson Jaycees.

Activities include fish habitat, fish biology, fish handling, aquatic insects, fishing safety, knot tying, and fishing in the pond. Kids fishing day will be held at the Jackson National Fish Hatchery Pond, just north of the town of Jackson. Fishing rods will be provided, but kids are encouraged to bring their own.

If you would like to volunteer or learn more about the event, please contact Tracy Stephens at the Wyoming Game and Fish Department at 733-2321.

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## Wilderness Safety

There are several items that you should always carry when traveling in the backcountry. These items should be in your pack at all times and should be easily accessible.



Divide Lake

Backcountry **MUST** have list:

- Fully stocked first-aid kit
- Compass
- Map of the area
- Potable water
- Snacks (granola bars, etc.)
- Flashlight
- Emergency blanket
- Pocket knife
- EPA registered bear pepper spray (if in bear country)

**“These items should be in your pack at all times and should be easily accessible.”**

When exploring the Teton Wilderness, you are sharing the space with a variety of different wildlife species, including grizzly bears and mountain lions. Generally these animals will not disturb you if you do not disturb them. In order to minimize contact with wildlife and ensure your safety, please follow these simple steps:

- Never travel alone
- Don't travel in the dark
- Make noise on a regular basis
- Don't block an animal's line of travel
- Properly store food and scented toiletries in bear-proof containers or at least 10 vertical feet off of the ground and 4 horizontal feet from any side supports
- Set up tent away from the camp cooking area
- Keep camp clean of food items, trash, and toiletries
- Set up camp away from streams or areas that are highly traveled by wildlife
- Dispose of fish carcasses and entrails away from camping areas
- Avoid getting fish odors on cloths and/or personal gear
- Carry EPA registered bear pepper spray



## Know Your Natives: Minnow Series (part 1)

Minnows may not be well known, but they are very important to the dynamics of stream systems. There are over 1,600 species of minnows, making it the largest family of fishes. These species often serve as the most important food source for game species and are often used as bait by anglers. In order to better understand the minnows in your favorite stream, we are giving you a look at the species that you may find in this area. Welcome to “Know Your Natives: Minnow Series (part 1).”

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### Speckled Dace

The speckled dace is found in lakes and streams within the Snake River drainage. It feeds upon both plant and animal matter, including aquatic bugs and algae.

Speckled dace are generally only 3-5 inches long. The body of the speckled dace is elongate with rounded fins and small eyes. A groove separates the upper lip from the snout of this species. This feature most easily separates it from the longnose dace.



Speckled dace. Photo by: LuRay Parker

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**The speckled dace and longnose dace are most easily distinguished from each other by the presence of a groove between the upper lip and snout of the speckled dace.**

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### Longnose Dace

The longnose dace is usually found within the riffles of streams but may also use rocky shorelines of lakes within the Snake River drainage. They feed upon both plant and animal matter, however, the bulk of their diet consists of insects.

Longnose dace are generally 3-6 inches long. The body of the longnose dace is elongate and slender with rounded fins and moderate sized eyes. The upper lip and the snout is continuous in this species. This feature most easily separates it from the speckled dace.



Longnose dace. Photo by: LuRay Parker

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!  
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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, restorations, and control to provide diverse, quality fisheries resources and angling opportunities. Our efforts will balance the productive capacity of habitats with public desires.”

**“Conserving Wildlife - Serving People”**

Visit the Jackson/Pinedale regional news website at: <http://gf.state.wy.us/services/news/RegionalNews/JacksonPinedale/index.asp>

**New Zealand Mudsnails**



New Zealand Mudsnails. Photo by: Mark Gocke.

The New Zealand Mudsnail is not native to the United States but was found within the Snake River in the 1980’s and has moved across the west. This introduced snail is often found in very high densities (over 500,000 individuals per square meter have been documented in the Jackson area) and may compete with invertebrates for food and habitat, which may directly impact fish populations. The New Zealand Mudsnail is very small (often less than 5mm long; smaller than a pencil eraser) and will attach itself to clothing and other equipment. This has been a problem for anglers and other water users when wearing felt-soled waders which are particularly conducive to picking up and transporting mudsnails. Mudsnails may live for weeks out of water, which has aided in their expansion. In order to reduce the spread of the Mudsnail, please complete one or both of the following steps after entering a waterbody that is known to contain Mudsnails:

- Physical Removal: freeze gear for a minimum of 4 hours or soak gear in hot water (125°F) for 5 minutes.
- Chemical Treatment: soak gear in 1:1 solution of Formula 409® Cleaner Degreaser Disinfectant and water for at least 5 minutes.

Thanks to this years newsletter contributors: , Tracy Stephens, Mark Gocke, Bob Hall, and Rob Gipson.