

2006 Edition

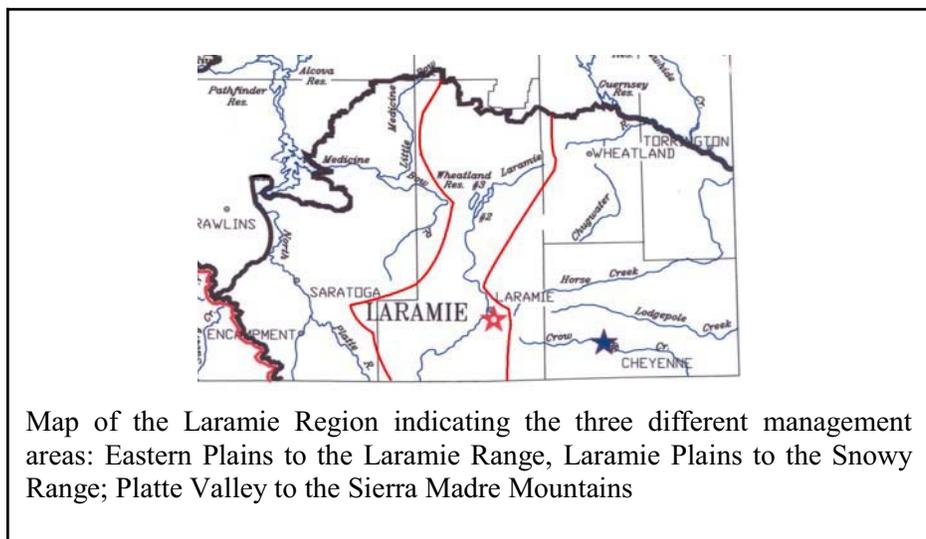


"Conserving Wildlife—Serving People"

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The Laramie Region



Map of the Laramie Region indicating the three different management areas: Eastern Plains to the Laramie Range, Laramie Plains to the Snowy Range; Platte Valley to the Sierra Madre Mountains

Fisheries and Fishing Outlook for 2006

Special points of interest:

- Wyoming's Free Fishing day is Saturday June 3, 2006!
- What fish are found in the Laramie Region?
- Summary of last year's activities
- Interested in volunteering to help our fisheries management crew?
- Don't forget to pick up the 2006 fishing regulations!

The fishing forecast for 2006 is looking good, as drought conditions that have impacted many major waters around the region, may be improving. As of March 27, the snowpack in the major drainage basins around the region varied from 100% to 117% of normal. There is a possibility that many of the reservoirs that have been decreasing in capacity, such as Lake Hattie, will see an increase come this spring. However, low water conditions will most likely persist on some of our reservoirs further downstream, such as Wheatland #3 and Grayrocks. The eastern plains are known for warmwater fishing opportunities. Grayrocks Reservoir has abundant walleye, catfish, smallmouth bass plus freshwater drum and black crappie. Try out Wheatland Reservoir #1 for catfish and some nice walleye and nearby Festo Lake has the only tiger muskies in the region. While there is less water in the Laramie Range, brook trout fishing can be good in small streams.

The Laramie plains lakes have a well-deserved reputation for growing nice trout. Most lakes have excellent rainbow trout fishing, however there are Bear River cutthroats in Lake Hattie, Meeboer and East Allen. The large fish in Meeboer and Gelatt survived another winter, so try one of these lakes for a trophy opportunity. The Snowy Range has many streams with brook trout as well as really good cutthroat and rainbow lakes. Golden trout are returning to the Snowy Range, fingerlings will be stocked into West Glacier Lake, as well as the Shelf lakes. Growing conditions are slow above 10,000 feet, so look for these fish to reach catchable size by 2008. The Platte River valley has one of the best-fishing waters in the country, the North Platte River. In addition to river fishing, Saratoga Lake, just north of Saratoga, has a healthy population of rainbow trout.

Eastern Plains and Laramie Range

EASTERN PLAINS

Sloan Lake

This lake was electrofished in May to evaluate the largemouth bass population. We found good numbers of bass averaging 10 inches and 0.6 pounds, but did not find many bass over 14 inches. There is plenty of food for the bass as the lake is teeming with small yellow perch and pumpkinseed sunfish. Additional sampling will be conducted this summer to evaluate our options for increasing the average size of bass in this lake. There are also good numbers of crappie, bullhead and rainbow trout available to anglers.

Rock Lake

This lake was evaluated in June using electrofishing and gillnetting. The walleye population is doing very well for a small water with an average size of 20 inches and average weight of 3



Rock Lake walleye

pounds. In addition, we captured 3 walleye over 5 pounds. Catfish averaged 14.6 inches and 1.4 pounds. We did not find as many crappie as we hoped but we did capture some respectable specimens in the 11 to 12 inch range. We are investigating the feasibility of adding woody structure (Christmas trees) to provide habitat for crappie and bass.

Wheatland Reservoir #1

Past sampling had shown this lake to have limited forage availability, so walleye and catfish growth and condition was less than optimal. In June, 2005 we stocked 100 large gizzard shad. The shad reproduced, resulting in large numbers of small shad available to the walleye and catfish. Sampling in September showed walleye condition had vastly improved since the addition of gizzard shad to the lake. The increased forage availability should

result in increased growth in walleye and ultimately a better walleye fishery.

Lake Absarraca

Electrofishing was conducted to evaluate the largemouth bass population. We found good numbers of bass averaging 12.2 inches and 1.3 pounds with several fish over 5 pounds captured. There are a lot of



Lake Absarraca largemouth bass

small pumpkinseed sunfish but it is noteworthy that we also captured 2 pumpkinseed that were nearly double the size of the existing state record fish.

Grayrocks Reservoir

Our annual sampling of this water was conducted in September 2005. Walleye averaged 18 inches and 2.2 pounds. Catfish averaged 18 inches and 1.7 pounds. We also caught some nice crappie and smallmouth bass. As of mid summer, 2005, none of the three boat ramps were useable due to low water conditions. Until water levels improve, launching boats on this lake will be difficult and likely to result in a stuck truck. The low water allowed the Habitat Maintenance Crew to extend and widen the two boat ramps on the west end of the lake.

How many fish will be stocked in the Laramie Region in 2006?

Brook trout	46,050
Brown trout	35,100
Bear River cutthroat	17,300
Golden trout	5,000
Rainbow trout	485,000
Splake	11,800
Walleye	259,500

EASTERN PLAINS continued...

Hawk Springs Reservoir

Analysis of angler interview data from February to September 2005, shows that 125 anglers fished a total of 567 hours and caught 233 fish for an overall catch rate of 0.4 fish per hour. Boat anglers enjoyed more success than shore anglers as they caught 0.5 fish per hour, as opposed to 0.1 fish per hour for shore anglers. February is the best time of the year for fast fishing, as anglers in 2005 caught 0.7 fish an hour. Walleye were in excellent condition in our 2005 sampling and averaged 14.5 inches and 1.4 pounds. Also caught were catfish, which averaged almost 15 inches and just over a pound, however catfish can grow to weigh over 10 pounds. Besides walleye and catfish, black crappie can be caught in good numbers in the spring time.



Festo Lake tiger muskie

LARAMIE RANGE

Granite Reservoir

Granite Reservoir, located in Curt Gowdy State Park, was sampled in 2005 to assess the status of the illegally



Granite Reservoir brown trout

introduced walleye population, which were first found in 2003. One 4-year old, 16.4 inch walleye was caught. The reservoir was netted in the spring and fall of 2004 and no walleye

were found, so it's unfortunate that walleye are still present. Other game fish caught during our sampling were brown and rainbow trout, both averaged around 11 inches and 0.5 pounds. However an abundant forage base, such as the healthy population of yellow perch, allow brown trout to grow to weigh over 10 pounds.

Laramie Peak Streams

Two streams in the Laramie Peak area were sampled last summer, Bear and Friend Creeks. Friend Creek offers a dense brook trout population in the headwaters, with rainbow and brown trout dominating the lower elevation reaches. Bear Creek, through the walk-in fishing area, had very high numbers of brook trout with individuals up to 10 inches, while the lower reach near the Friend Creek confluence was predominantly brown trout in the 6 to 10 inch range.

Meet your native fish



Hornyhead chub

The hornyhead chub is native to Wyoming and it is also one of our species of concern. Hornyhead chubs are a small minnow, 6 inches max. They are only found in two isolated sections in the North Laramie and lower Laramie Rivers. They once had a wider distribution in Wyoming, but have been declining in recent years likely due to declining habitat and stream flows. Conservation of this species is important to help maintain the diversity of native fishes in Wyoming.

Laramie Plains and Snowy Range



Something Different To Fish For...

Splake are a hybrid between lake trout and brook trout. Because they are sterile, fisheries managers can control their numbers making them an ideal predator species. Splake are stocked to control undesirable species such as longnose and white suckers in coldwater reservoirs, as well as stunted brook trout populations in alpine lakes. Currently, the Laramie Region has the most waters in Wyoming stocked with splake. The current state record (30.5 inch, 12.7 pounds) was caught from Libby Lake in 2004, and the previous state record (30 inch, 11.5 pounds) was caught from Hog Park Reservoir in 1999. Remember when fishing for splake, general trout daily creel and possession limits apply.

LARAMIE PLAINS LAKES

Lake Hattie

The fishery is still in good shape despite continued low water levels. Our spring 2005 netting



Perch caught on Lake Hattie by ice fishermen

showed rainbows averaged 18 inches and 2.5 pounds, while brown trout averaged 19.5 inches and 3 pounds. Kokanee salmon numbers looked good with high numbers of 2-year-old fish in the sample (8 to 10 inches) meaning there should be a strong year class of 16 inch kokanee available to anglers this summer. The perch population is doing exceptional, averaging 8 inches and 0.3 pounds. Several perch were captured in the 10 to 13 inch range with weights up to 1.5 pounds.

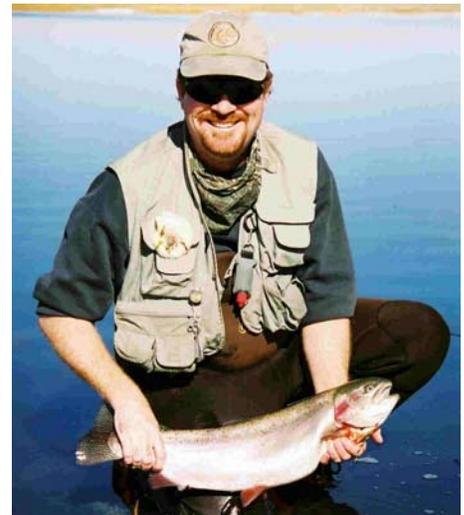
Twin Buttes Reservoir

Spring 2005 netting showed a strong population of nice sized fish. Rainbow trout are the dominant species in this lake. Average size of rainbows in the sample was 18.1 inches and 2.4 pounds. Brown trout aver-

aged 20 inches and 3.2 pounds. Last fall we extended the boat ramp and put in new rest rooms.

Meeboer Lake

This lake consistently produces some of the largest fish of any of the plains lakes. Rainbows average 19 inches and 2 pounds with individuals up to 10 pounds having been caught in the past. In addition to rainbows, Bear River cutthroat were stocked in fall 2004.



Meeboer Lake rainbow

Species of fish found in the Laramie Plains Lakes

	Rainbow	Brown	Cutthroat	Brook Trout	Lake Trout	Perch
Hattie	X	X	X		X	X
Twin Buttes	X	X				X
Meeboer	X		X			
Gelatt	X		X			
Leazenby	X		X	X		
East Allen	X		X			
Toltec	X					

Gelatt Lake

Rainbow trout average 20 inches and 4.2 pounds. The aeration systems were once again successful in preventing winterkill, meaning large fish are available. We plan on stocking some sterile grass carp this summer to boost the population. If you catch one, please release it as these fish remove some of the aquatic vegetation and help us prevent annual winterkill on this shallow lake.

Leazenby Lake

Rainbow trout average 16 inches and 2 pounds from this water. There has historically been a small brook trout population that enters via the spring creeks that feed the lake. Starting this summer we will stock 5,000 fingerling brook trout annually to supplement the existing population and provide diversity to the fishery. These fish should reach catchable size by 2007.

Wheatland Reservoir #3

The water level continues to drop approximately 3 vertical feet per year in this lake. Luckily, some warm, windy weather in January opened significant portions of both the north and south lakes, keeping the water well oxygenated and preventing winterkill. While the fishing was slow this past winter, most of the fish caught though the ice were between 5 and 9 pounds.

Toltec Reservoir

This lake was netted in April. Rainbow trout averaged 16.8 inches and 1.8 pounds with the largest fish sampled being 21 inches and 3.2 pounds.

Walker Jenkins Lake

Walker Jenkins Lake continues to provide a decent rainbow trout fishery in Shirley Basin. In 2004, a creel box was placed at the parking area to gauge catch rates and overall angler satisfaction. Nineteen anglers reported an overall catch rate of 3.05 fish per hour, releasing 120 rainbow trout and keeping 26. Rainbow trout collected during the 2005 sampling averaged 12.2 inches. However, there are some concerns with the condition of the fish, as most rainbows appear skinny. A study is going to be implemented in 2006 to determine what is limiting trout growth in Walker Jenkins Lake.

Laramie River

We conducted electrofishing population estimates through the town of Laramie and the Monolith Access Area in



Laramie River brown trout

May. The population is in good shape with an estimated 152 browns and 34 rainbows per mile. Browns averaged 12 inches and 0.8 pounds with several fish over 20 inches sampled. Rainbows averaged 11 inches and 0.6 pounds with some individuals up to 17 inches.

SNOWY RANGE

Bear and Silver Run Lakes

Bear Lake was historically stocked with golden trout, but stocking of golden trout ceased after 1993 due to the loss of the brood source. Bear River cutthroat have been stocked since 1998 to replace golden trout. Bear River cutthroat, averaging 8.7 inches in length, and a wild brook trout population are present in the lake. Silver Run Lake, just to the south of Bear



A cutthroat from Bear Lake

Lake is a productive, high elevation lake. Currently there is an abundant wild brook trout population, which average 10.1 inches in length.

Rob Roy Reservoir

Rainbows average 13.6 inches, browns average 13.6 inches and splake average 11.9 inches. In 2004 we noticed that our nets in the middle of the lake caught more fish than nets close to shore, also boat anglers caught more fish than shore anglers. We determined that we needed to stock a fish species that may increase the success of shore anglers. Bear River cutthroat are a shore oriented species and will be stocked starting in 2007. Shore anglers should expect to see an increase in the number of fish caught per hour. We will closely monitor the success of this management change.



Electrofishing the Laramie River



Wood frog

Have you ever wondered how frogs and toads survive the cold Wyoming winters? Some frogs hide in the mud at the bottom of ponds. Some toads hide in burrows. Spade-foots dig deep into the ground, but one species of frog simply freezes or at least partially freezes. The wood frog, *Rana sylvatica*, can survive after even 30% of its body is frozen. In order to survive, wood frogs make a special protein-based chemical that is thought to prevent their cell membranes from rupturing, which causes tissue damage. This adaptation allows these frogs to live north of the arctic circle. In Wyoming they live in the Big Horn Mountain Range and the Medicine Bow Mountain Range. They are distinctively “masked” and have a white stripe down their backs. They breed in the early spring and their eggs are generally found floating and covered in green algae on the surface of ponds. Data on the distribution of this species is scarce, so if you see one of these animals take note of the location and contact your local Wyoming Game and Fish Department Office.

SNOWY RANGE **continued**

Lake Owen

Lake Owen located south of Albany, receives heavy fishing pressure throughout the summer. Species present in Lake Owen are stocked rainbow and brook trout as well as brown trout that most likely enter the lake via the aqueduct. Aquatic insect and zooplankton data collected in 2005 points to Lake Owen being very unproductive. Currently there is an insufficient zooplankton community and a low density of aquatic invertebrates, which has resulted in less than optimal growth of rainbow trout. Rainbow trout sampled averaged 10 inches. On the other hand, brown trout do reach respectable size, although condition of these fish is less than desirable. The likely reason for enhanced growth of brown trout versus rainbow trout is the stocking of fingerling rainbow and brook trout providing a forage base. Given the low productive capacity of this water and relatively high fishing pressure, we will begin stocking catchable rainbow trout rather than the fingerlings in 2008.

Douglas Creek

Five population estimates were conducted on Douglas Creek in 2005, two above Rob Roy Reservoir and three below. Currently brook trout dominate Douglas Creek above the reservoir, whereas brown trout are the predominate fish below. The average size of brook trout above the reservoir is around 5 to 6 inches, whereas brown trout below the reservoir average about 6 to 7 inches. However, large brown and rainbow trout can be caught at the right time of year above and below the reservoir. Additionally, 41 other streams within the Douglas Creek drainage were sampled and overall the wild fish populations appear to be healthy.



Douglas Creek brown trout

East and West Glacier Lakes

East and West Glacier lakes were sampled to evaluate the inlet/outlet streams for potential habitat work to facilitate natural reproduction. At East Glacier Lake a total of nine Bear River cutthroats were caught, averaging around 10 inches and it was determined that establishing spawning gravel on this water would be unsuccessful. On the other hand, West Glacier Lake is managed as a wild brook trout fishery, but the population is low. Several inlet streams have potential for being used by spring spawners, but brook trout are fall spawners. Given this, golden trout are making their return to the Snowy Range. Golden trout fingerlings will be stocked into West Glacier Lake in 2006. Further sampling will be conducted to determine the reproductive potential of golden trout.



Grayrocks Reservoir, 25 years of fishing history

Grayrocks Reservoir located east of Wheatland turned 25 years old this past year. This fishery has a rich history and we are continuing to work hard to conserve this fishery and meet angler needs.

Grayrocks Dam, which impounds the Laramie River, was completed in 1980 and the reservoir was filled to capacity in 1983. The reservoir at full capacity is 3,547 acres and is located about 16 miles upstream from the confluence of the Laramie River and North Platte River.

The Missouri Basin Power Company constructed the reservoir to supply cooling water for a nearby coal-fired plant. Even though cooling the plant is the primary purpose of the reservoir, the impounded water created an opportunity to establish a fishery.

Rainbow and brown trout were first stocked into the reservoir to provide fishing opportunities, while more than 13 million fingerling walleye, stocked between 1980 and 1982, had an opportunity to grow. Some other game fish besides walleye currently present are channel catfish, black crappie, freshwater drum, smallmouth bass, yellow perch, and green sunfish.

Anglers started catching adult walleye in 1984 and these fish averaged just over 14 inches in length. In its first decade of existence the reservoir was highly productive and at times ranked as one of the first-class walleye fisheries in this part of the Rocky Mountain region. In 1989, anglers enjoyed a June catch rate of 0.97 walleyes per hour and harvested 9.1 walleyes per acre. This blew away average catch and harvest rates from other renowned walleye fisheries. However, the exceptional walleye fishing of the 1980's did not carry over into the 1990's. A one-month creel survey conducted in June 1994 showed anglers were still catching a respectable 0.5 walleye per hour, but only harvesting 3.7 fish per acre. Consequently, as angler catch and harvest rates declined, so did angling pressure. In 1984 anglers spent almost 50,000 hours in June fishing Grayrocks Reservoir, by June 1994 that number had dropped to about 21,000



hours and was down to 4,028 hours in June of 2004.

Wyoming Game and Fish data also indicated changes in walleye density during that time. Sampling gear, caught 2.7 walleyes an hour in 1989, but by 1994 only 0.8 walleyes were caught an hour.

Walleye density was also impacted by the

age of the reservoir. Newly created reservoirs are extremely productive as recently inundated soils release nutrients supplying food up the food chain. As a reservoir ages, its productivity naturally declines, limiting the number of fish it can sustain.

Walleye fishing showed signs of improvement in 1999, however currently the walleye population is in decline. A one month creel survey conducted in June 1999 indicated the catch rate was 44% greater than in June 1994, but still less than the outstanding catch rate seen in June of 1989 (0.97 fish per hour). In June 1999, anglers caught 0.72 walleyes an hour and harvested 2.7 fish per acre. Current data shows a decline in angler success, a one month creel survey conducted in June 2004 resulted in a catch rate of 0.11 walleyes an hour and 0.38 harvested per acre. Angler satisfaction has also decreased since 1999. Even though the walleye population was not what it was in the late 1980's, 78% of anglers surveyed in June 1999 were satisfied with their angling experience, and of those 54% were "very satisfied". In June 2004, 36% of anglers surveyed were "satisfied" with their angling experience, while only 2% were "very satisfied".

The Fisheries Management crew in Laramie is working hard to improve the walleye fishing at Grayrocks. We have a long-term walleye stocking study underway to determine the contribution of stocked walleye to the overall population. The results will provide us with the necessary information to better manage the walleye population and hopefully improve fishing. With our continued management efforts we expect this fishery to continue to meet the needs of anglers now and in the future. So get out and fish Grayrocks Reservoir and celebrate a quarter century of fishing history.

Platte Valley and Sierra Madres

Saratoga Lake

Rainbow trout are still the most abundant game fish and provide the best year-round angling opportunities. Brown trout are not as abundant, but they are considerably larger. Rainbow trout caught during the 2005 sampling averaged 14.5 inches and almost 1.5 pounds. Brown trout averaged 20 inches and just over 3 pounds. Walleye continue to enter Saratoga Lake via an irrigation canal that originates from the North Platte River. Walleye caught during sampling averaged 20.5 inches and almost 4 pounds. Anglers interviewed from January 15, 2005 to May 28, 2005, reported an overall catch rate of 0.2 fish per hour. A management change will be taking place this year in order to improve survival of stocked rainbow trout. We adjusted the size of stocked fish from 20 per pound to 7 per pound. By stocking a larger fish, they will be better able to avoid predation and compete for food resources. Increased survival of stocked fish means more fish available to the angler. We will continue to monitor Saratoga Lake to provide the best fishery possible.

Hog Park Reservoir

Hog Park Reservoir rests above 8,000 feet and is surrounded by the southeastern Sierra Madre Mountains. It is one of the Laramie Region's larger reservoirs and it turned 40-years-old in 2005.

Construction was started on the now 695-acre impoundment of Hog Park Creek in 1965-1966. The reservoir was constructed as part of the Cheyenne Water Supply Project and was built as mitigation for Rob Roy Reservoir, which is the city of Cheyenne's water supply. Water is funneled through a complex system of collectors in the North Fork of the Little Snake River and piped into Hog Park Reservoir.



Hog Park brown

Hog Park Reservoir is managed for rainbow trout, but also holds splake, wild brook and brown trout populations. Colorado River cutthroat were stocked in the past,

but survival was low and stocking was discontinued. It is primarily known as a rainbow trout fishery and it is one of the few fisheries in the state that remains a salmonid-only water.

A creel survey conducted in 2002 indicated a high level of angler satisfaction. Anglers had an overall catch rate of 0.70 fish per hour. Catch rates were similar between boat and shore anglers. Rainbow trout caught during 2005 sampling averaged 10.5 inches and almost 0.5 pounds.

Large fish do lurk in Hog Park. The previous splake state record was caught from Hog Park Reservoir in 1999 (30 inches, 11.5 pounds) and a 24-inch, 6 pound brown trout was caught during our 2005 sampling.

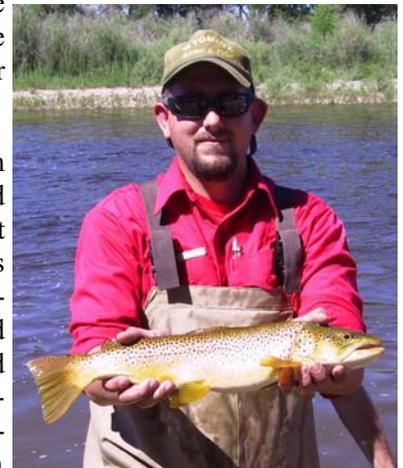
If you want a picturesque setting, respectable rainbow trout fishing, and the challenge of chasing large fish, try the time tested 40-year-old Hog Park Reservoir.

North Platte River

A population estimate was conducted on the stretch of river near Sinclair, WY, in 2005.

The trout population in this area has suffered from ongoing drought conditions. Low flows caused by drought conditions has decreased available habitat and increased summer temperatures. The estimated number of fish per mile in 2005 was significantly lower

than the estimated population in 2000. Currently, we estimate there are 157 trout per mile and a majority are brown trout, which are able to withstand higher stream temperatures than rainbow trout. Walleye are also present in low numbers in this stretch, given its proximity to Seminoe Reservoir. The largest walleye caught was 23.2 inches and 4.3 pounds. When water levels rebound we expect the trout population to do the same.



North Platte brown

Wyoming's Native Freshwater Mussels

Gordon Edwards
Aquatic Assessment Crew,
fisheries biologist

Wyoming is home to headwater drainages of the mighty Columbia, Missouri, and Colorado rivers and, thus, a unique group of seven freshwater mussel species. Little is known about the distribution of these species and others may be waiting for discovery in Wyoming. Unobtrusive and well camouflaged, Wyoming's freshwater mussels are largely unnoticed in our creek bottoms and lakeshores, although they have important ecological, cultural, and evolutionary values. Freshwater mussels are important "bioindicators," or species that reflect the quality of their habitats. Mussels filter the water in which they live and some species may live more than 100 years, potentially subjecting them to the long-term effects of pollution. They provide an important source of food for terrestrial wildlife, such as raccoons, bears, skunks, and shorebirds. Ancient and modern peoples, alike, have used freshwater mussels for food, buttons, jewelry, tools, and pearl "seeds" in oyster culture. Freshwater mussel shells are frequently found as cultural artifacts by modern archaeologists in Wyoming and provide a unique window into geologic history and evolution. The complex life cycles of freshwater mussels rely upon particular species of fish or amphibians as hosts and allow mussels to disperse into new areas. This is likely how the western pearlshell mussel crossed the continental divide with the westslope cutthroat trout long ago. Unfortunately, freshwater mussels are among the most imperiled species in the world.



The Wyoming freshwater mussel program is truly in the discovery phase, which is rare in the 21st century. If you find freshwater mussels, PLEASE DO NOT DISTURB THEM!

Instead:

- 1) Take good notes of the find. Record location coordinates (UTMs from your GPS are great!). How many were visible? Were they alive or empty shells? How big were they?
- 2) Take pictures, preferably with a digital camera.
- 3) Notify your local fisheries biologists with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department.

-OR-

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Web sites on Freshwater Mussels:

Wyoming's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy:

<http://gf.state.wy.us/wildlife/CompConvStrategy/Species/MollusksCrustaceans/index.asp>

Uniogallery:

<http://courses.missouristate.edu/mcb095f/gallery/>

Pacific Northwest Native Freshwater Mussel Workgroup:

<http://www.fws.gov/columbiariver/musselwg.htm>

Salmon in Wyoming?



Typical coloration of non-spawning kokanee

When one thinks of salmon, their first thought is of large runs of brightly colored fish swimming out of the ocean and up coastal streams in order to spawn. Their first thought is definitely not of Wyoming. However, salmon do live in Wyoming waters, and specifically in the Laramie Region they are stocked into Lake Hattie. At any one time in Lake Hattie you may catch kokanee from 7 inches up to 20 plus inches, with the average size being 12 to 14 inches. Kokanee, which are a landlocked form of sockeye salmon, are adapted

to freshwater habitats and do not require access to the ocean to complete their life cycle. Kokanee still retain many of the same color characteristics of sockeye salmon. They are silver most of the year and during the spawning season (October through January) adults turn bright red. During the spawning season, males typically have a hooked lower jaw. After spawning, kokanee die, providing food for eagles, bears, raccoons, etc. Fishing for kokanee is a year round activity at Lake Hattie and remember, daily creel and possession limits apply on trout and salmon.



kokanee salmon in spawning colors



Popular Game Fish in the Laramie Region



Largest fish ever captured by Fisheries Management Crew in the Laramie Region

Species	Weight	Length	Location	County
brook trout	3.0	18.1	Good Reservoir	Carbon
black crappie	1.5	12.8	Hawk Springs Reservoir	Goshen
bluegill	0.5	8.4	Lake Absarraca	Laramie
brown trout	11.2	26.9	Granite Reservoir	Laramie
channel catfish	15.0	29.6	Laramie River	Platte
cutthroat trout	5.5	21.6	East Allen Lake	Carbon
kokanee salmon	2.5	20.2	Lake Hattie	Albany
largemouth bass	5.4	19.0	Lake Absarraca	Laramie
pumpkinseed	0.5	8.38	Lake Absarraca	Laramie
rainbow trout	12.2	26.0	Meeboer Lake	Albany
smallmouth bass	1.7	15.0	Grayrocks Reservoir	Platte
walleye	8.8	29.0	Rock Lake	Platte
yellow perch	2.0	12.3	Lake Hattie	Albany



Wyoming Game and Fish Department

Wyoming Game and Fish Department

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!

[HTTP://GF.STATE.WY.US/](http://gf.state.wy.us/)

"Conserving Wildlife — Serving People"



The Wyoming Game and Fish E-newsletter is now available for those who want to keep up with developments on line. If you are interested in signing up, go to: <http://gf.state.wy.us/newsview/frmSubscribe.aspx>.

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 capacity of habitats with public desires."

Many Thanks to Newsletter Contributors: Christina Barreineau, Gordon Edwards, Janet Milek, Bill Tuner, Mike Snigg, and Michelle Zitek. Color illustrations of gamefish used in this newsletter provided by artist Michelle LaGory.

The Laramie Region Fisheries Management Crew is composed of three full-time biologists: Mike Snigg, regional fisheries supervisor; Matt Hahn and Steve Gale, regional fisheries biologists.

Mike has been on the Laramie Fisheries Management Crew since 1985. He was promoted in August of 2003 from regional fisheries biologist to regional fisheries supervisor. Mike has over 30 years with the Department. After obtaining his Bachelor's from Simpson College in Iowa, he worked for the Department for several years, and received his Master's from UW.

Matt was hired as a regional fisheries biologist in August of 2003. He was raised in Riverton and worked as a seasonal fisheries technician for the Department while attending college. Matt received his Bachelor's in Wildlife and Fisheries Management from the University of Wyoming in 2000 and his Master's in Fish Ecology from the University of North Dakota in 2002.

Steve was hired as a regional fisheries biologist in June of 2005. He was raised in North Platte, Nebraska. Steve received his Bachelor's in Fisheries and Wildlife Management from the University of Nebraska in 2000. Upon graduating Steve worked three seasons in Yellowstone National Park gillnetting lake trout from Yellowstone Lake. He recently completed his Master's in Fisheries Management from Montana State University in 2005.

Pole Mountain Stocking

The Pole Mountain area, located between Cheyenne and Laramie, is dotted with hundreds of beaver ponds that are teeming with brook trout. These ponds offer fast action for novices and skilled anglers alike. Unlike similar areas in the Snowy or Sierra Madre ranges, the stream habitat in the Pole Mountain area is not conducive to brook trout spawning. In order for these ponds to support the high fishing pressure they receive, we stock these ponds annually with 20,000 fingerling brook trout on the first Saturday in June. Stocking hundreds of ponds scattered over thousands of acres is a labor intensive job, requiring a lot of people to do effectively. To accomplish this, we solicit the help of dozens of volunteers. Volunteering for this project is a good way to find some new fishing holes and makes for a great family outing. If you are interested in volunteering on this project, Saturday, June 3, 2006, contact us at the Laramie Regional Office, (307) 745-4046.

