

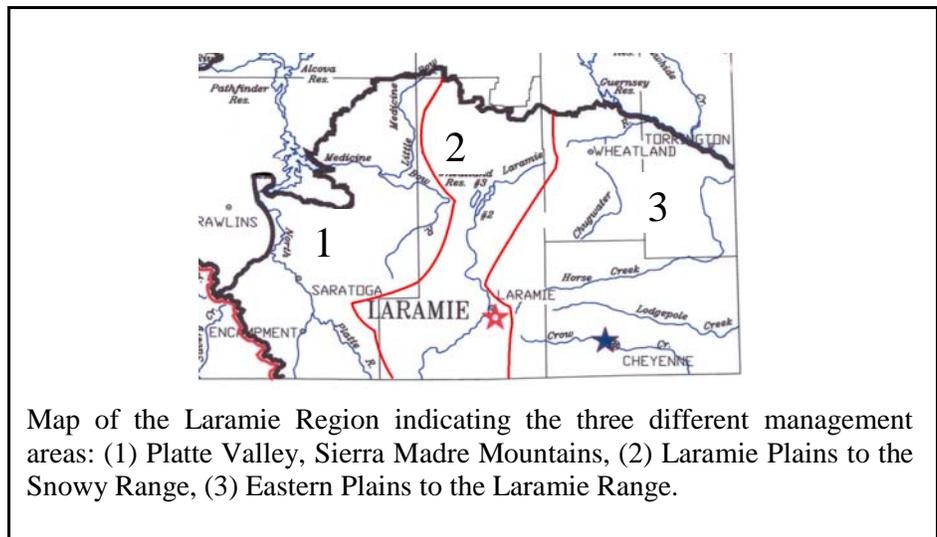


LARAMIE REGION ANGLER UPDATE



“Conserving Wildlife—Serving People”

The Laramie Region



Map of the Laramie Region indicating the three different management areas: (1) Platte Valley, Sierra Madre Mountains, (2) Laramie Plains to the Snowy Range, (3) Eastern Plains to the Laramie Range.

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Special points of interest:

- Wyoming’s Free Fishing day is Saturday June 6, 2009!
- Summary of last year’s activities
- River and floating etiquette
- Splake vs. brook trout identification
- Don’t forget to pick up the 2008-2009 fishing regulations!

Pole Mountain Beaver Pond Stocking

The Pole Mountain area, located between Cheyenne and Laramie, is dotted with hundreds of beaver ponds teeming with brook trout. These ponds offer fast action for anglers. Many portions of streams in the Pole Mountain area do not have the habitat conducive to trout spawning. In order for these ponds to support high fishing pressure, they are stocked annually with 20,000 fingerling brook trout on the first Saturday in June. Effectively stocking hundreds of ponds scattered over thousands of acres is a labor intensive job, requiring a lot of people. To accomplish this, we solicit the help of dozens of volunteers. Volunteering for this project is a good way to find some new fishing hole

and makes for a great family outing. If you are interested in volunteering on this project, **Saturday, June 6, 2009**, contact us at the Laramie Regional Office, (307) 745-4046.



Aquatic Invasive Species



Don't Move A Mussel
Aquatic Invasive Species in Wyoming

Aquatic invasive species (AIS) threaten the ecological stability of water bodies, as well as the commercial, agricultural, aquacultural and recreational activities dependent on such waters. These threats come from fish, mollusks, amphibians, crustaceans, plants and pathogens. This is an important problem in Wyoming, and throughout the western states. Illegal fish movement and stocking has been the most immediate and prevalent AIS problem in Wyoming for several years. The Wyoming Game & Fish Department has a long tradition of a strong fisheries program aimed at fish health and preventing the introduction of unwanted species. However, new invasive species are on the horizon.

The recent and rapid spread of zebra, and the closely related quagga, mussels has changed the setting with respect to AIS risks in Wyoming. We are now faced with imminent threats from these species, which are currently present in our neighboring states. According to the United States Geological Service, zebra and quagga mussels now occur west of the 100th Meridian as they were recently found in Colorado, Utah, Nebraska, Kansas, Nevada, Arizona, and California. In 2008, Colorado detected the presence of zebra and quagga mussels in Pueblo Reservoir and has since found them in six other Colorado reservoirs.

Zebra and quagga mussels have spread rapidly due to a lack of natural predators, a high reproductive potential, their ability to adapt to available habitats, and being easily and unin-

tionally transported by humans. The mussels can be transported through aquatic activities such as boating and water delivery systems such as irrigation. Once AIS become established, elimination of these species is virtually impossible. Heavy zebra and quagga mussels infestations alter aquatic environments by filtering essential nutrients required by native species and sport fish from the water. This can lead to reduced productivity and a decline in fisheries.

The best defense against infestation is prevention. The Wyoming Game & Fish Department recommends draining, cleaning, and allowing equipment, including the engine and bilge tanks, to completely dry for 7 days in the summer, 18 days in the spring and fall or 3 days of freezing temperatures. Decontamination with a high-pressure wash with 140-degree water is also effective.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT THESE WEBSITES:

www.100thmeridian.org

www.protectyourwaters.net

<http://gf.state.wy.us/fish/AIS/index.asp>



Follow These Simple Steps:

Only you can stop the spread of these mussels. Before launching and before leaving please help us by following these simple steps:

✓ **DRAIN** Eliminate all water before leaving the area, including wells, ballast and engine cooling water.

✓ **CLEAN** Remove all plants, animals & mud from equipment and boats. Thoroughly wash everything, including all crevices and other hidden areas.

✓ **DRY** Allow time for your boat and gear to completely dry before launching or recreating in other waters.



Please contact the Wyoming Game and Fish Department if you observe quagga or zebra mussels on your equipment or in Wyoming waters. We can provide more information and assistance in removal.

Updates on selected waters in Laramie Region

Packers Lake

Packers Lake is an irrigation reservoir, but it actually fluctuates very little. It is located approximately 1.5 miles southwest of Lyman, Nebraska, in Goshen County, Wyoming. It is 80 surface acres in size and has a mean and maximum depth of 3.2 and 10 feet, respectively. Packers Lake was sampled in April of 2008 and continues to be a diverse quality warm water fishery. Walleye up to 22 inches were caught as well as largemouth bass up to 16 inches. Other game fish present and of interest to anglers are channel catfish, crappie, and yellow perch. In addition, catchable rainbow trout are stocked in the fall.

Alsop Lake

Alsop Lake is partially located on a State School Section and the rest is on private land. A public fishing easement has been obtained on the private land. The Alsop Lake Public Access Area is located about nine miles northwest of Laramie. Access is off a paved county road known as Herrick Lane. The lake was sampled in April 2008. Only rainbow trout were caught and they ranged from 11 to 18 inches. It has been stocked annually since 2006 with 5,000 rainbow trout, but in the future will be stocked with rainbow and cutthroat trout.



Aerial shot of Alsop Lake

Turpin Creek Reservoir

Turpin Creek Reservoir is about 99 surface acres and has a maximum depth of 27 feet. The reservoir is located in the Medicine Bow National Forest about 6 miles south of the Bow River Campground on Forest Road 100. Part of the reservoir is also located on a

State Land section and some of the shoreline is private property. Game fish species present in the lake include brook trout and splake. The reservoir was sampled in July 2008 and brook trout up to 12 inches were caught. Turpin Creek Reservoir has an abundant brook trout population, but because it is kept in check through predation by splake, larger brook trout can be caught by anglers. Splake up to 16 inches and almost 2 pounds were also caught in sampling gear.



Hog Park Reservoir

Hog Park Reservoir

Hog Park Reservoir is one of the Laramie Region's larger reservoirs located above 8,000 feet in the Sierra Madre Mountains in the Medicine Bow National Forest. It is managed for rainbow trout, but also includes wild brook and brown trout populations. Splake were inadvertently planted in the late 1980s and are still present. The reservoir was sampled in September of 2008. Rainbow and brook trout were caught along with splake. Rainbow trout ranged in length from 6 to 14 inches, brook trout 7 to 10 inches, and splake 10 to 17 inches.

Laramie River

The Laramie River follows the Greenbelt Park trail for almost 3 miles in the town of Laramie. The river in town offers the opportunity for anglers to catch a trophy size brown trout. A population estimate was conducted in May 2008 on the Greenbelt segment of the river. It was estimated there are 346 trout greater than 6 inches per mile. The largest brown trout caught was over 21 inches and weighed over 2.5 pounds. The limit on trout on the Laramie River is 3 and no more than 1 shall be over 16 inches.

Channel Catfish in the Eastern Plains

The Laramie Region boasts several high quality channel catfish fisheries including Packers Lake, Wheatland Reservoir #1, Grayrocks Reservoir, and Hawk Springs Reservoir. Each produces fish averaging 17 inches long and range from 10 to 23 inches in length. Channel catfish are a popular game fish and prized for their quality as a food fish. In Wyoming, channel catfish are native to all the Missouri River drainages and have been distributed to the Little Snake and Green River drainages. The state record channel catfish was caught in Flaming Gorge Reservoir in 2005. It weighed 28 pounds and measured 38 inches.

Turbid waters are preferred by channel catfish and they live in both rivers and lakes. They spawn once each year in crevices or may burrow into a protected area under a boulder or submerged log. In eastern Wyoming many of the lakes don't have suitable spawning habitat so catfish are stocked to maintain fishable populations. Wyoming's hatchery system does not raise catfish or other warm water species. Instead, high quality trout eggs are traded with other states and the federal hatchery system to obtain needed catfish. Channel catfish are omnivores meaning they feed on both plants and other animals. They utilize aquatic invertebrates, live or dead fish on the bottom, or they can utilize plankton and even algae. They find their food in turbid waters using the sensitive whiskers that give them their name. Channel catfish grow slowly in Wyoming because of the short warm water period, but they will live up to twenty years. Channel catfish can be distinguished from other catfish found in Wyoming (stonecats and black bullheads) by their deeply forked tail.

A common method to fish for catfish is to fish at night using worms, dead minnows or stink baits fished on the bottom. Bass less than 15 inches are required to be released in all four waters discussed to the left of this article.



Places to Catch Catfish

Packers Lake is located 1.5 miles south from Lyman, Nebraska, off County Road 79C. Turn right (west) of the county road and continue 0.25 miles on an unnamed dirt road. In addition, largemouth bass, walleye and rainbow trout are also present. There is an unimproved boat ramp and toilet facilities at Packers Lake. Boating is restricted to boats with motors less than 15 hp.

Wheatland Reservoir #1 is another reservoir with an under utilized catfish fishery. Most anglers fish for walleye or perch, but quality catfish are also present. Follow Interstate 25 4 miles south from Wheatland, then turn right (west) and continue 4 miles on Wyoming 34. Turn right (north) on County Road 151 and continue 2 miles, then continue North on County Road 151A. Camping and boat ramps are available. Every spring adult gizzard shad are stocked in the reservoir. These stocked shad spawn and the resulting young fish produce forage for catfish and walleye.



Grayrocks Reservoir is well known for its walleye fishery, but channel catfish are often overlooked. The reservoir can be found by following Interstate 25 1 mile north from Wheatland, then turn right (east) and continue 0.5 miles on the Laramie River Road. Turn left (north) on Wyoming 320 and continue 2 miles north. Turn right (east) on County Road 647 and continue 14 miles east to the reservoir. Water levels improved in 2008 and may improve in 2009. Boating is less hazardous than during the extreme low water period, but caution should still be used. Camping facilities are available. Walleye, perch, freshwater drum, crappie and bass are present.

Hawk Springs Reservoir provides camping and boating and the facilities are managed by the Wyoming State Parks. To get to Hawk Springs Reservoir follow US Hwy 85 5 miles south from the town of Hawk Springs, then turn left (east) on County Road 186 and continue to the lake. Walleye, crappie, and bass are found in addition to catfish.

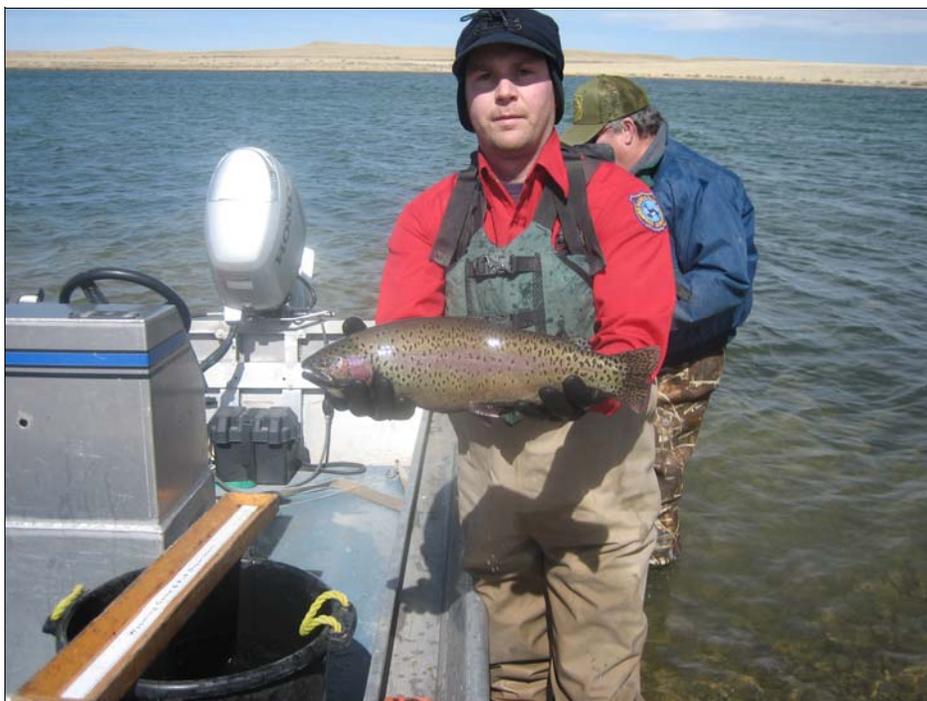
Solar aeration systems at Meeboer and Gelatt

Meeboer Lake was sampled in March 2009 and sampling indicated fish in Meeboer Lake survived for the second straight year. This overwinter survival is thanks to the solar aeration system installed in November of 2007. The lake last winterkilled during the harsh winter of 2006-2007. Meeboer Lake was stocked in March 2009 and is stocked annually with 30,000 sub-catchable (7-9 inches) rainbows. Rainbow trout caught during sampling this March ranged from 12 to 18 inches and weighed up to 3 pounds.

In previous years, the Laramie Fisheries Management Crew operated a bottled oxygen aeration system at Gelatt Lake, but installed a solar aeration system in October of 2008. Gelatt Lake winterkilled during the winters of 2006/2007 and 2007/2008.



Installation of solar aeration system at Gelatt Lake in 2008



2009 Meeboer Lake rainbow trout

Gelatt Lake is also stocked annually with about 8,000 rainbow or cutthroat trout. In addition, brook trout are stocked annually. Gelatt Lake was sampled in March 2009 and fish overwintered in the lake for the first time in two winters. Brook trout stocked at 3 inches in 2008 are now around 11 inches. We also caught Snake River cutthroat and rainbow trout from about 13 to 18 inches. Gelatt Lake was restocked on March 16, 2009.

The solar aeration systems at both lakes did an excellent job this last winter keeping portions of both lakes open. The Meeboer Lake and Gelatt Lake Public Access Areas are located approximately 11 miles from Laramie on Pahlow Lane off of Highway 230. These Public Access Areas can also be accessed from Highway 130 by taking the Big Hollow Road south and reconnecting with Pahlow Lane.

Laramie River Habitat Restoration Project

The Laramie River, through town, supports a wild brown trout fishery and several native, non-game species including brassy minnow and common shiner. Several habitat concerns have been identified in the Laramie River through Laramie including bank erosion, low summer flows, and lack of deep pools and cover for fish. In 2007, the Laramie Aquatic Habitat Biologist began working with local groups including the Laramie Rivers Conservation District, Laramie Beautification Committee, and the City of Laramie to develop project ideas to benefit habitat in the Laramie River.

The partners for the project included the City of Laramie, Laramie Rivers Conservation District, Laramie Community Foundation – Laramie Beatification Committee, Albany County Commissioners, Groathouse Construction, Laramie Rotary Club, University of Wyoming, and Wyoming Game and Fish. Funds raised by the group for the Laramie River project were used to hire consultants to design the habitat restoration project. In August 2008, the Laramie Beautification Committee hired Habitech, Inc. and WWC Engineering, local companies, for the design and permitting process of the project. The current focus area of the project includes approximately 3.5 stream miles from the I-80 bridge downstream to the water treatment facility.

The design plan was completed in early 2009 and recommends treatments to add stability and diversity to the river system through the use of large wood and re-vegetation, with some large exposed rock (i.e., riprap) used only in the most unstable situations. Alternating rock deflectors will be used on long, straight sites to re-establish the low-flow meander pattern as well as narrow and deepen the wetted channel. Rootwad revet-

ments will also be used at other locations along the river to encourage bank healing and fine sediment deposition, which will promote riparian vegetation development. These revetments will also enhance pool habitats for fish.

The project will occur over 3 years and construction may begin this fall depending upon funding. Overall, the project will enhance aquatic and riparian habitat for numerous game and non-game species including brown trout, common shiner, Iowa darter, and boreal chorus frog. In addition, the project will protect important infrastructure such as the Laramie River Greenbelt Trail, improve aesthetics along the urban streamscape, provide information and education opportunities, and increase recreation use along the river corridor.



Bank erosion along Laramie River Greenbelt



Bigmouth shiner

Meet your native fish

The bigmouth shiner is native to the North and South Platte River drainages in Wyoming. It is a small minnow, reaching a maximum length of 3 inches. It has a slender body with large eyes. Its color is dusky above and silvery below, with a white belly. Above and below its lateral line are small dark spots that look like equal signs. The bigmouth shiner is similar in appearance to the sand shiner. Bigmouth shiner is found in small, clear streams with sand or small gravel. This species is an important forage species and a good indicator of stream health, where they are native. Conservation of the bigmouth shiner within its native range in Wyoming is important to help maintain the diversity of native fishes in the state.

Learn more about the Smooth Greensnake



The Smooth Greensnake is a non-venomous Wyoming native. The name “Smooth Greensnake” is quite literally a description of the animal. The back is unpatterned and green in color, while the belly is a creamy white. The scales of this species are smooth, as opposed to keeled. Keeled scales have a raised line splitting the scale evenly. Examples of snakes with keeled scales include Wyoming’s rattlesnakes and gophersnakes. The only confusing species for the Smooth Greensnake, in Wyoming, is the Yellow-

bellied Racer. Racers can appear light green in color, but have a yellow belly and grow to larger size (approximately four feet in length). Juvenile racers, which are around the same size as adult Smooth Greensnakes, have a patterned back that disappears in adulthood. Smooth Greensnakes typically grow to about two feet in length, and feed primarily on invertebrates and small amphibians. In Wyoming, the Smooth Greensnake has a widely scattered distribution. They may be found in the Black Hills, near Casper, Laramie Peak, Vedauwoo, and the Sierra Madre Mountains. They prefer grassy habitats ranging from low elevations to montane environments; and are found along stream borders, meadows, and other grassy openings. Their green coloration provides the perfect camouflage for lush vegetation. They are a secretive species and primarily remain on the ground under cover (rocks and logs), but will occasionally climb into low brush. If cornered, this snake will often “bluff strike” and may release a foul smelling musk. May through September is the best time to see these snakes in the wild.

Private Lands/Public Wildlife (PLPW) Program

Several opportunities exist for anglers to take advantage of the excellent fishing on private properties through the Walk-In Area program under the Private Lands/Public Wildlife (PLPW) initiative. Under the program, the department leases access to private lands for a specific period of time for hunting certain species and/or fishing. Anglers are not required to seek permission from the landowner to access these areas as long as they are within the guidelines published in the current year’s “Fishing Atlas”. Anglers can find the current properties by picking up a 2009 *Walk-In Fishing Atlas* at any license agent or WGFD office, or by going to the PLPW website at: <http://gf.state.wy.us/wildlife/access/plpw/index.asp>. All Walk-In Areas have signs posted to mark their boundaries. People using PLPW properties in the Laramie Region are reminded to read the rules in the atlas and posted on the property, as well as treating the land and the landowner with respect. Recently, a

few incidents have resulted in the loss of access to excellent areas. **AccessYes!** is the funding mechanism for the department’s access programs. When you purchase any hunting or fishing license in Wyoming, the license agent should ask if you would like to donate to the program. All donations made to the program are used strictly for securing access to private lands. When we each give a little, everyone gains a lot!



Encampment River Research Project

The Encampment River is an important trout fishery and tributary to the North Platte River. In the upper North Platte River watershed, tributary streams are believed to be important to the long-term status of trout populations. Management for conditions in tributary watersheds that will improve trout movements, spawning, hatching success, and recruitment to the North Platte River is most important. An irrigation diversion dam about a half-mile upstream from the confluence of the Encampment and North Platte rivers has been in place since the early 1900s. This diversion dam has blocked most spawning migration upstream the Encampment River for rainbow and brown trout. Allowing passage upstream would open roughly 24 miles of the mainstem Encampment River in Wyoming, not to mention numerous tributaries. By providing trout passage over the diversion dam trout populations could benefit in both the Encampment and North Platte rivers.



Encampment River Diversion Dam

Before such a major undertaking to provide fish passage to the Encampment River, it was necessary to collect some information on the potential benefits of providing fish passage upstream the Encampment River. In 2007, 249 brown trout were collected directly below the diversion dam, tagged with an orange Floy tag with a unique identification number near their dorsal fin, and released about a half-mile upstream of the diversion dam. The hope was that anglers would catch the tagged fish and let us know when and where they were caught. The most surprising result was one fish was caught downstream of the confluence of the Encampment River and Hog Park Creek, about 23 river miles upstream from its release site.

In addition to the 2007 study, 32 brown trout were radio tagged and their movements were tracked throughout the summer, fall, and part of the winter in 2008.



Radio tagged brown trout

Movements were monitored by ground relocations and fixed-wing telemetry flights. The final fates of radio tagged fish were determined along with upstream and downstream migration barriers and spawning timing and locations. Spawning occurred from late September to late October and most occurred from the diversion dam upstream 8 river miles. No other upstream migration barriers were documented, but 41% of fish encountering the diversion dam while migrating downstream were trapped in the irrigation canal. The distance between the furthest upstream relocation and downstream relocation is over 85 river miles. Providing fish passage around the diversion dam would help restore and maintain the migratory life history of salmonids in the Encampment River watershed and enhance trout populations in the Upper North Platte River watershed. Work this summer will include obtaining preliminary designs for fish passage solutions.



River and Floating Etiquette

Floating down one of Wyoming's rivers is a unique experience, whether it is the Snake River, Green River, or North Platte River. Last year was an excellent float year for most of Wyoming's flowing waters and 2009 is shaping up to be another good year. As more and more people look to the scenic waterways of Wyoming for fishing or recreation there are some common sense rules anglers and floaters can keep in mind so everyone can have an enjoyable day on the water.



Whether it is your 100th float down a particular stretch of water or your first make sure you obtain, read, and understand any agency publications, topographical maps, and fishing regulations pertaining to the body of water you will be spending the day on. You need to be aware of private and public land property boundaries. Water is the property of the State of Wyoming and anyone can enjoy it, and any bordering public lands. If you float through private lands, however, you must stay in your boat at all times, unless advance permission has been obtained from the landowner. Wading or anchoring on private land is also prohibited. State law only allows you to leave your craft briefly to navigate obstacles. Some of Wyoming's rivers have signs that alert floaters to land status: red markers designate private land, blue markers indicate public. Check with the appropriate managing agency for any restrictions on public land.

Before launching make sure to double check your gear and remember your fishing license. Don't stage in a roadway that blocks entry or exit from the ramp. As you wait to launch, please be patient and courteous. If there is room at the ramp, mentally divide the ramp in half, so the other side can be utilized. Once it is your turn to put-in, do it as quickly as possible. Move your boat from the ramp to allow others to launch. Make sure to park your vehicle and trailer to conform to the parking space available.

Now you are on the water and ready for a great day floating or fishing, or a little of both. If you have more than one boat in your party try to keep together as much as possible. A good guideline is to try to stay within the river's width apart. River etiquette says that down river vessels have the right away. Please try to space your boat from others, to ensure a little solitude for each party. Slow down if you are getting too close or try to speed up to put a little distance behind you. If you are moving slowly, consider pulling over in an eddy or on public land to let the party behind you pass. Boats should always yield to wade anglers, unless the channel is narrow, then the wade angler should yield to the boat to allow safe passage. Please give wade anglers a wide berth, leaving plenty of room for them to fish. Limit your oar use as you pass and resist making a cast. As you approach please inform the wade angler of your intentions of passing, whether in front or behind them.

Once at your take-out, stage your boat away from the boat ramp and wait. Once it is your turn, move onto the ramp to load your boat back onto the trailer. Aquatic invasive species may be present in the water you just recreated in, please make sure to drain, clean, and dry all your equipment, such as clothing, fishing and boating equipment, and trailers before entering another body of water (See page 2 of this newsletter for more information on aquatic invasive species). By following some of these simple rules of the river all users can be ensured of great days on the water.

Much of this information was taken from the publication "Fly Fishing Etiquette: A basic outline of etiquette rules to help the wade and float fishing angler" provided by the Colorado Cutthroat Chapter of Trout Unlimited (www.cutthroatctu.org).



Red and Blue North Platte River signs

Boaters on the North Platte River in the Laramie region should find it easier to navigate the waters, thanks to new signs recently installed by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department and members of the Platte Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited. New red and blue signs designating private and public land were installed late July on the North Platte River from the Bennett Peak BLM access put-in downstream to Treasure Island. The signs alert floaters to land status: red markers designate private land, blue markers indicate public and private land open for access downstream from the side of the river the sign is posted on. Anyone floating the North Platte River needs to understand Wyoming laws pertaining to floating through private lands before pushing off from shore (read article on page 9 for more information). Laramie Region Game and Fish employees spent the last two summers surveying the river to determine what signs needed replaced. Game and Fish provided the new signs, and volunteers from Platte Valley Trout Unlimited helped install them. The river is now correctly signed from the USFS boundary downstream to Saratoga. Additional replacement signs are planned in 2009 from Saratoga downstream to Interstate 80. The Wyoming Game and Fish Department wants to keep all the signs current and help boaters enjoy their float while following the rules and respecting land ownership. If you notice a sign is missing or needs replaced, please contact the Laramie Fisheries Management Crew at 307-745-4046.



2010-2011 Fishing Regulations

The Wyoming Game and Fish Department is considering changes to Fishing Regulations for 2010-2011. Our Fish Division mission states that we will provide diverse, quality fisheries resources and angling opportunities in balance with the productive capacity of habitats and public desires. Our current regulations and new proposed regulations for 2010-2011 were developed with that mission in mind. The rulemaking process will begin with an open public comment period starting on May 26, 2009 and ending July 9, 2009. Public meetings will be held the week of June 8 through June 11. The Laramie Region meeting will be held June 11th at the Albany County Library at 7 pm. After the comment period closes we will prepare our final recommendations and present them to the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission at their August meeting. We are very interested in public feedback on these proposals and encourage comment by whatever means is most convenient. All comments made during the public comment period will be provided to the Commission.



Is it a splake or brook trout?

SPLAKE



SPLAKE HAVE A FORKED TAIL

BROOK TROUT



BROOK TROUT HAVE A SQUARE TAIL

Splake are a brook trout x lake trout hybrid. The best way to differentiate a splake from a brook trout is by the tail. Waters in the Laramie Region with splake are Big Brooklyn Lake, Carbon South Twin Lake, Hog Park Reservoir, Lake Marie, Little Brooklyn Lake, Libby Lake, Lewis Lake, Mirror Lake, Sand Lake, Turpin Creek Reservoir, and Upper North Crow Reservoir.

**PLEASE REFER TO FISHING REGULATIONS
FOR SPECIFIC CREEL LIMITS**

Wyoming Game and Fish Department

Wyoming Game and Fish Department

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!

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: Steve Gale, Lee McDonald, Christina Barrineau, Mike Snigg, Jason Sherwood, Zack Walker, and Jeff Obrecht. Color illustrations of game fish used in this newsletter provided by artist Michelle LaGory.

Mike Snigg 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.



Mike Snigg

Steve Gale 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. He completed his Master's in Fisheries Management from Montana State University in 2005.



Lee McDonald

Lee McDonald transferred to the regional fisheries biologist position from the Fish Culture Section in June 2006. Prior to this assignment he was Superintendent of the Como Bluff Fish Hatchery in Rock River, Wyoming. Lee has over 30 years with the Department. Lee came to Wyoming from Pueblo, Colorado in 1975. He received his BS in Fishery Science from Colorado State University in 1978.



Christina Barrineau

Christina Barrineau was hired as the regional aquatic habitat biologist in August of 2004. She is originally from South Carolina and moved to Wyoming in 2000. Christina received her Bachelor of Science degree from Warren Wilson College in Asheville, North Carolina in 2000. She received a Master's in Zoology from the University of Wyoming in 2003.



Steve Gale