2013

Wyoming Game and Fish Department-Sheridan Region

Sheridan Region Angler Newsletter

"From the Bighorns to the Black Hills"

# *Tiger Muskie*

Inside this issue:



***Special Points of Interest:***

- ***Mercury Advisories for some WY waters and fish***
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Tiger muskie, a hybrid cross between a northern pike and a muskellunge, were once again stocked in the Sheridan Region in 2012. The last stocking of tiger muskie was in 2006 at LAK Reservoir near Newcastle. Why the hiatus? The Wyoming Game and Fish Department doesn't raise species such as walleye, channel catfish, crappie, pike, and tiger muskie thus we rely on other states for these fish. Previously, our source for tiger muskie was in Pennsylvania but in 2007 a nationwide moratorium preventing the transportation of fish east of the Mississippi River was enacted to prevent the spread of the fish disease VHS, viral hemorrhagic septicemia. With this moratorium, Wyoming and other western states were stuck with no tiger muskie for several years. However, in 2012, we were lucky enough to get tiger muskie from Nebraska and Washington.

Two waters in the Sheridan Region were stocked with the tiger muskie in 2012; LAK Reservoir and Healy Reservoir near Buffalo. Why would we stock tiger muskie in these two waters? Several reasons in fact: 1), tiger muskie are a sterile hybrid (although they can backcross when in the presence of northern pike or muskellunge) so we can control their numbers by how many we stock (i.e., they won't over populate). 2) tiger muskie are generally used as a biological control, preying upon small, overpopulated, or undesirable species. 3), by stocking tiger muskie in waters with such conditions, we don't have to spend an exorbitant amount of time and money chemically rehabilitating that water (the muskie will hopefully do the job for us). 4), if the tiger muskie do as we hope and heavily prey upon fish, they end up growing large, creating a "trophy component" to that fishery. Lastly, with the tiger muskie controlling over abundant fishes, we often see an improvement in the number, size, and condition of the remaining game fish; improving the fishery as a whole.

**Tiger muskie continued on page 3**

6 to 8 inch tiger muskie that stocked fall 2012 in Healy and LAK reservoirs.

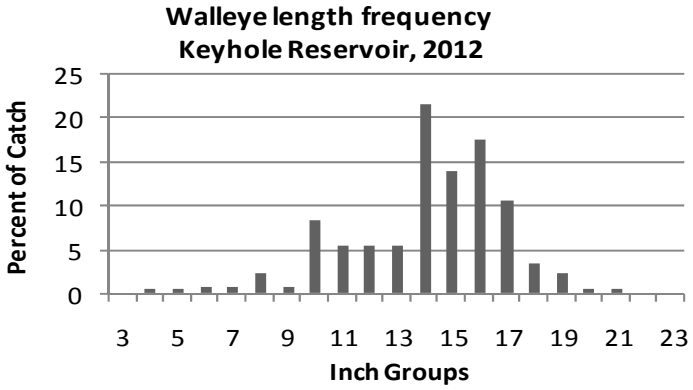
# *Keyhole Reservoir Rises*

Water levels increased at Keyhole Reservoir once again in 2012. In fact, water topped the spillway for only the third time in Keyhole's history. Even with the dry conditions this summer and irrigation releases, Keyhole is still at nearly 80% of capacity.

Along with the rising water levels in Keyhole, productivity within the reservoir has risen as well. What does productivity mean? In a "nutshell", productivity is essentially every component of a system and how they interact, to grow plants and animals. In Keyhole's case over the last few years, higher water levels equals increased nutrients. Higher nutrients equals an increase in phytoplankton (microscopic algae). An increase in phytoplankton equals an increase in zooplankton (microscopic invertebrates that eat the phytoplankton). An increase in zooplankton results in more food for many small fish (both game and nongame fish). More food for small fish equates to more food for bigger fish (i.e., the game fish that anglers target). To go along with productivity, an increase in water levels (available habitat) usually equates to increased spawning habitat. More spawning habitat, with increased productivity, equals good year classes of fish, and ultimately good fishing.

Nice catfish and crappie from Keyhole.

All fish have benefited from the increased water levels and increased productivity over the last three or four years at Keyhole. For the third consecutive year we saw a large increase in our catch rate (number of fish captured/hours net was in the water) for walleye. In fact, it was the highest catch rate in the last 22 years!! Of the walleye captured, 49% were 15 inches or greater (see adjacent graph). We saw an increase in other game fish as well. Northern pike, perch, crappie, freshwater drum, channel catfish, and smallmouth bass were found to be quite abundant and healthy.




# *Gizzard Shad are back at Keyhole*

A shortage of suitable prey to maintain balanced predator populations is often a problem in reservoirs in the Western United States. Among others (spottail, red, emerald and, golden shiners), gizzard shad was one of the species selected for introduction to address poor forage quality in some Wyoming Reservoirs. Gizzard shad were stocked annually from 1979-2006 at Keyhole but in the winter of 2007-2008, the shad completely winterkilled. Our source for the shad was in Nebraska, however, Asian clam (an invasive species) were found to inhabit those waters. Not wanting to bring an invasive into Wyoming, a new source of gizzard shad was needed. In 2012 we identified Glendo Reservoir as a clean source of gizzard shad and 287 adult shad were transplanted to Keyhole.

Adult gizzard shad collected from Glendo and transplanted to Keyhole.

Some of the benefits of stocking gizzard shad include: 1)gizzard shad are the predominant prey for walleye and other game fish from July to the winter months, 2)one female shad can produce over 100,000 eggs and can spawn multiple times per year, 3)strong year classes of walleye with walleye feeding on small shad, 4)significant increases in relative weight and growth for adult walleye and other game fish, buffering other forage species from predation which allow increases in perch, emerald and spottail shiners. The benefits to game fish are quite clear. We will continue to transplant gizzard shad (if needed) as part of the management of Keyhole Reservoir.

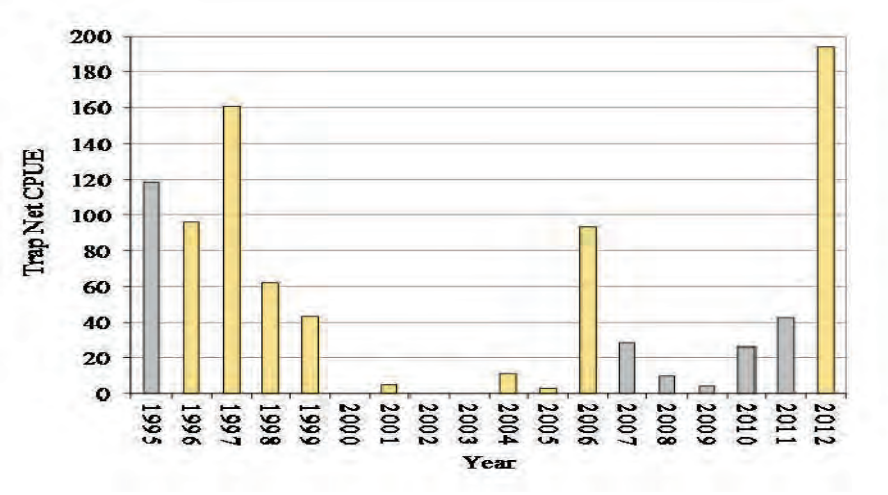
# *Tiger Muskie Cont.*

Stunted yellow perch from Healy Reservoir.

We know from past stockings of tiger muskie that stocking works. LAK Reservoir used to be overpopulated with white suckers and stunted green sunfish. In a matter of a few years after stocking tiger muskie, these undesirable fish essentially disappeared, creating a better fishery for walleye and smallmouth bass. In the five years since tiger muskie were not stocked (2007-2011), green sunfish have significantly increased.

In Healy Reservoir, the goal is to thin the overabundant yellow perch and white sucker populations. Healy is known for it's fast paced perch fishing, especially under the ice, however, most of these perch are on the small side. We don't want to eliminate perch, but we would like to improve their quality, while also adding the potential for a trophy muskie in a few years.

Large tiger muskie from Montana.




Number of green sunfish caught per hour in trap nets from 1995-2012 at LAK Reservoir. The yellow bars represent the years that tiger muskie were stocked. Note the decline in green sunfish from 1997 through 2006 and 2006 through 2009.

# *Hybrid Trout*

Splake from Sawmill Reservoir.

Tiger trout from Willow Park Res.

Tiger muskie weren't the only hybrids stocked in the Sheridan Region in 2012. Like the tiger muskie, tiger trout (brown x brook trout cross) and splake (brook x lake trout cross) are sterile hybrids designed to prey upon overabundant or undesirable species, grow to large sizes, and provide a trophy component to the fishery in where they are stocked. The difference with splake and tiger trout compared with tiger muskie is that the Wyoming Game and Fish Department's Fish Culture Section can produce these hybrids. We don't have to go out of state to find them, we have brood stocks of brown, brook, and lake trout already on hand.

Lakes in the Sheridan area that have splake include Sawmill, Park, and Healy reservoirs, and Willow #1, Romeo, and Martin lakes in the Cloud Peak Wilderness. In 2011, tiger trout were first introduced into the Sheridan Region. Cook Lake in the Black Hills and Willow Park Reservoir in the Bighorn Mountains are the only two waters thus far, but we're investigating the feasibility of introducing them into others. Both species of trout, if they do as hoped, should grow to some impressive sizes as well. Stay tuned to future newsletters for updates about tiger muskie, tiger trout, and splake.

# *Mercury Advisories in Fish*

In conjunction with the Wyoming Department of Health (DOH), the WGFD released mercury consumption advisories for several species in several waters in 2012. Most mercury pollution is produced by energy consumption and production, and industrial processes. Mercury is also naturally occurring and some soil and geologic formations naturally have higher levels of mercury. Mercury contamination increases as fish get larger and older, a process known as bioaccumulation (the accumulation of toxic substances at a faster rate than what can be metabolized).

Most fish are good to eat and good for your health. Fish are high in protein and other nutrients, low in fat, and have omega-3 fatty acids needed for a healthy heart and brain development. Some fish contain high levels of mercury that pose human health risks. People, particularly children and some women, should avoid eating too many of those fish. At high levels, mercury can affect developing fetuses and the growing brains of children. To help you make the healthiest choices, the DOH, in cooperation with the WGFD, continues to update advisories and provide fish consumption guidelines as new mercury testing results become available. Women who are pregnant, who might become pregnant, nursing mothers and children under 15 should pay special attention to the mercury consumption guidelines below.

**Women and young children will receive the health benefits of eating fish without undue exposure to the harmful effects of mercury by eating up to 2 meals per week (8 ounces per meal before cooking) of a variety of fish and shellfish that are low in mercury. Some commonly eaten fish that are low in mercury are Wyoming caught rainbow trout, cutthroat trout, and kokanee salmon. Shrimp, canned light tuna, salmon, Pollock and catfish from stores and restaurants are also generally low in mercury. The 2 meals per week include fish from all sources, and should be the total of Wyoming caught fish and fish purchased at stores and restaurants. Mercury contamination increases as fish get larger and older, so as a general rule, keep smaller Wyoming caught fish for eating.**

Rainbow trout, cutthroat trout, and kokanee salmon contain less mercury than species that prey primarily on other fish, such as large walleye, brown trout, lake trout, catfish, and burbot. Some Wyoming waters contain these and other species that have been found to be higher in mercury. Tighter consumption guidelines for what is okay to eat have been provided for some of these species in the waters listed below. Visit the Fish Consumption Advisory website below for detailed and up-to-date consumption guidelines and additional fish consumption information.

## Specific waters by drainage area with consumption guidelines for some species and sizes of fish that are less than 2 meals/week for some people.

**Area 1:** Jackson Lake

**Area 2:** Big Horn Lake, Boysen Reservoir and Ocean Lake

**Area 3:** Buffalo Wetlands, Keyhole Reservoir, Lake DeSmet, LAK Reservoir and Muddy Guard Reservoir No. 1

**Area 4:** Big Sandy Reservoir, Boulder Lake, Burnt Lake, Flaming Gorge Reservoir, Fontenelle Reservoir, Halfmoon Lake, High Savery Reservoir and New Fork Lake

**Area 5:** Lake Hattie and Alcova, Glendo, Goldeneye, Grayrocks, Hawk Springs, Pathfinder, Rob Roy and Seminoe reservoirs

## Visit the Fish Consumption Advisory website for more information!

wgfd.wyo.gov/web2011/fishing-1001093.aspx

The DOH and WGF plan to continue working together on this important issue. Gaps remain in the fish sampling data that fishery biologists are working to fill. We will work collaboratively to provide information in an understandable format so the public can make informed decisions about eating fish. As we get more information the web site will be updated to reflect the best available information.

# *Smoked trout recipe*-*Andrew Nikirk*

After reading the previous article you may be a little reluctant to eat fish. Once again, we want to reiterate that eating fish is a healthy part of any diet and with a little caution and a little thought, we hope you continue to eat Wyoming fish.

One of my favorites, especially in the winter time, is smoked trout from Lake DeSmet. Rainbow and cutthroat trout are not only low in mercury, they are quite tasty as well. Below is the brine recipe and smoking methods that I use. Enjoy!!!

**Brine Ingredients**:

3 cups cold water

1/2 cup soy sauce

1/2 cup Kikkoman stir-fry sauce (green label)

1/3 cup brown sugar

1/3 cup white sugar

1/3 cup kosher salt

1/2 tsp onion powder

1/2 tsp black pepper

1/2 tsp garlic powder

After filleting your trout (leave skin side on), whisk together all ingredients in a large bowl. In a gallon sized zip-lock bag, add fish and brine squeezing out any air bubbles. Soak fish at least overnight and up to 24 hours for bigger fish. Once brined, rinse off brine and pat dry with paper towel and let sit on counter for 20 to 30 minutes to bring to room temperature. With the smoker, I smoke the fish, skin side down, at 200°F for approximately 2 hours using apple or alder wood (apple is my favorite). Smoking time will vary depending on desired doneness and brand of smoker.

# *Fried perch recipe*-*Andrew Nikirk*

There are a million different ways to fry a fish. Below is what I do and it works very well for perch, crappie, and walleye. I don't use measurements, I just keep adding things until it looks about right. In a separate bowl, add flour and season with pepper, season-all salt, and cayenne pepper. In another bowl, beat 4 or 5 eggs with a little milk and season again with pepper and salt. In the third bowl, add flour, Italian seasoned bread crumbs, Corn Chex cereal (crushed), garlic salt, season-all salt, black and cayenne pepper (I go heavier with the cereal and bread crumbs than the flour here). Heat your skillet or fish fryer to 350°F. Set up an assembly line and first dredge your fish fillet in the flour mixture and coat well, then dip into the wet mixture, let the excess egg mixture drip off, then dredge your fillet into the final dry mixture, coating the fillet completely. This double dredge helps to add extra seasoning and creates a great crust. Fry for 3 to 4 minutes (depends on the size of the fish however) and enjoy!

# *Cloud Peak Wilderness*

Once the snow recedes, July and August are our chances to escape the heat in Sheridan and head to the high country for our alpine lake surveys in the Cloud Peak Wilderness (CPW). Due to the remoteness and number of lakes, management of these lakes differ quite greatly when compared to say, Lake DeSmet. The Sheridan Region covers the Bighorns from the hydrographic divide and everything that flows east. This large area encompasses 110 alpine lakes, and several hundred miles of creeks and streams. Our goal is to sample 10 to 12 lakes every summer, which usually gets us to each lake once every 10 years. Due to the time between surveys, keeping tabs on a particular lake can be tricky, thus management is more generalized. Unlike Lake DeSmet, where we are able to sample twice a year in order to make our management decisions, these alpine lakes are broken down into four management categories; fishless, self-sustainable, stocked every four years, and stocked every two years.

Most lakes within the CPW were historically fishless. After the arrival of European settlers and the railroad that trout stocking began in Bighorn Mountain lakes. Many fishless alpine lakes in the West were stocked by various entities near the end of the 19th Century to develop recreational fisheries. Beginning in the late 1800s, lakes and streams of the Bighorn Mountains were stocked by individual citizens, resort owners, and government agencies. Of the 110 lakes on the east side of the divide, 46 remain fishless, leaving 64 lakes in the CPW with at least one fish species.

Of the 64 lakes with fish, 32 lakes are currently self sustaining. Lakes in this category were stocked at one time, but there is enough spawning habitat (good inlet or outlet creeks) that natural reproduction keeps these fisheries going.

That leaves 32 lakes east of the divide that are stocked and these are broken down into two categories. Of the 32 lakes, 18 lakes are stocked on a 4-year rotation. Lakes on a 4-year rotation are off the "beaten path", receive less angling pressure, and/or have a little natural reproduction occurring (don't need to stock as often). The remaining 14 lakes with fish are stocked on a 2-year rotation. Lakes in this category are closer to trails, receive more angling pressure, and generally have unsuitable conditions for any natural reproduction to occur.

Lakes are stocked with a helicopter carrying a specialized tank. The tank has several individual compartments and after the fish are loaded, the pilot simply has to fly to the lake, press a button, and the fish are released from the bottom of the tank. For questions about lakes in the CPW, please feel free to give us a call.

# *Watercraft Inspections at Borders*

By now you've likely heard of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) and are well aware of the damaging effects invasive species such as zebra and quagga mussels could have on Wyoming's water resources. Just a few of the negative impacts invasive species can have include impeding water delivery, clogging pipes and pumps used to supply your drinking water, clogging water intakes on your boat which can destroy the motor, and removing the food source for many of the fish you like to catch.

Now for the part you may not have heard yet. The 2012 Wyoming State legislature passed a new statute. The statute requires a boat used out of state and transported back into Wyoming from March 1 through November 30, to be inspected for AIS before launched again in Wyoming. Additionally, any watercraft that has been in a water infested with zebra or quagga mussels within the last 30 days, is required to undergo a **mandatory inspection** before launching in Wyoming *during ALL months of the year*. While we realize that this may take some adjustment for boaters and is an added requirement when bringing your boat into Wyoming, it is a necessary step to keep our waters free of harmful invasive species.

The goal is to make it as easy as possible for nonresident boaters and resident boaters transporting their boat back into the state to get this mandatory inspection. The Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD) will staff check stations at key entrances into the state as frequently as possible during the boating season (April 15 through September) and we encourage all boaters to plan ahead to have their watercraft inspected at one of these locations. In the Sheridan Region, watercraft check stations will be operated at the Sheridan Interstate 90 Port of Entry seven days a week, the Sundance Interstate 90 Rest Area seven days a week, and at Keyhole Reservoir, Lake DeSmet, and other regional waters on a rotating basis. Hours and location information for each of these stations can be found on the WGFD webpage at wgfd.wyo.gov/AIS. If you require an inspection during other times, please contact your regional WGFD office or **1-877-WGFD-AIS (943-3247)** to schedule an inspection.

If you never boat outside of Wyoming this season or are not a boater at all, we encourage you to keep doing your part in preventing the spread of AIS in Wyoming by always remembering to Drain, Clean and Dry. **DRAIN** all water from your fishing gear and equipment including waders and boots. **CLEAN** all plants, mud, and debris from gear and equipment. Never move a plant or animal from one location to another. **DRY** your gear thoroughly. By doing this each and every time you fish or boat, you won't be the one that moves an invasive species to your favorite water.

There are no known populations of zebra or quagga mussels in Wyoming to date, but they have rapidly invaded waters across the country and are present in over 34 states including Colorado, Nebraska and Utah. They could be present in Wyoming waters before our monitoring can detect them, so even if you only boat or fish in Wyoming, it is important that you always Drain, Clean, and Dry. There are currently populations of other invasive species in Wyoming (Asian clam, New Zealand mudsnail, and curly pondweed) and we do not want these species moved to another water. You can report an aquatic invasive species sighting at ReportAIS@wyo.gov.

***Inspections are mandatory for nonresident boaters coming to Wyoming and Wyoming residents who travel out of state and plan to launch again in Wyoming.***

# *Aquatic Habitat Projects in the Sheridan Area*

Several aquatic habitat projects have been completed or are ongoing within the Sheridan Region. These projects range from addressing fish passage and fish entrainment (loss of fish in irrigation ditches), to riparian and stream bank repair, to improving stream functionality. Project scope and costs range from simple and fairly inexpensive to larger scale and more expensive projects. While WGFD often cost shares on projects, we are really fortunate to work with several great organizations, private landowners, and federal and state partners to fund most of these projects.

**Fish Passage and Diversion Screening**

Cost share assistance was provided through the WGFD's Habitat Trust Fund and fish passage program to help partners complete four water diversion rehabilitation projects. Each project included design elements to improve diversion infrastructure, and benefit aquatic wildlife and anglers by improving upstream fish passage or screening fish from the diversion ditches. Completed projects included two head gate replacement and fish screening projects on French Creek (Figure 1). Other completed projects were one upstream fish passage and diversion screening project on Clear Creek (Figure 2), and one upstream fish passage and diversion screening project on Big Goose Creek (Figure 3). Many thanks are extended to the landowners, ditch companies, and Sheridan County and Lake DeSmet Conservation Districts for participating in these project partnerships.

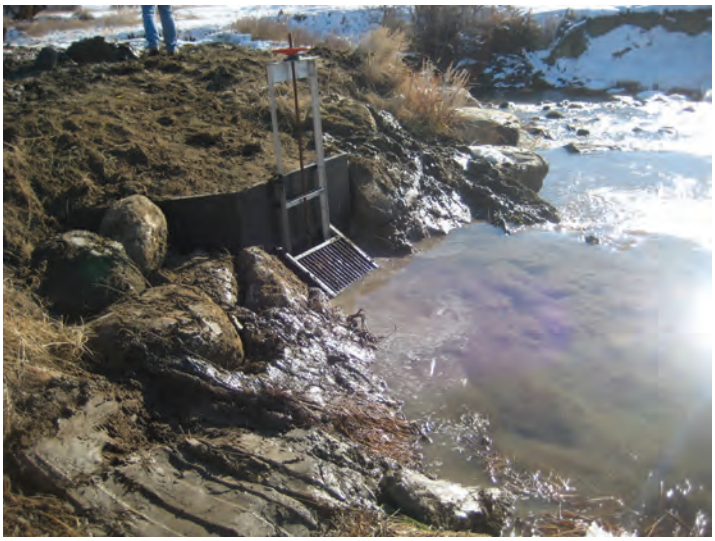


Figure 1. Fish screen added to an irrigation diversion on French Creek.

Figure 2. Coanda diversion screen and fish return channel serving a 29.5 cubic feet per second irrigation ditch on Clear Creek.

Figure 3. Stepped diversion structure completed to provide upstream fish passage along a 3.5 mile long segment of Big Goose Creek.

# *Projects Cont.*

**Managing Beaver to Improve Riparian Habitat Function**

In recent years, beaver have been transplanted to headwater streams on both the Black Hills and Bighorn National forests. The ponds established by beaver colonies: hold water on the land and then slowly release the detained water as streamflows throughout the year, deposit sediments that allow new willow plants to develop through either seedling establishment or sprouting from branch segments partially buried in the sediments, and provide moist and diverse habitat conditions for a variety of fish and wildlife species. Recent aerial photos of transplanted beaver colonies are shown for Big Willow Creek (Figure 4) on the Bighorn National Forest west of Burgess Junction to illustrate how beaver ponds function to expand riparian water tables and keep water on the land longer.

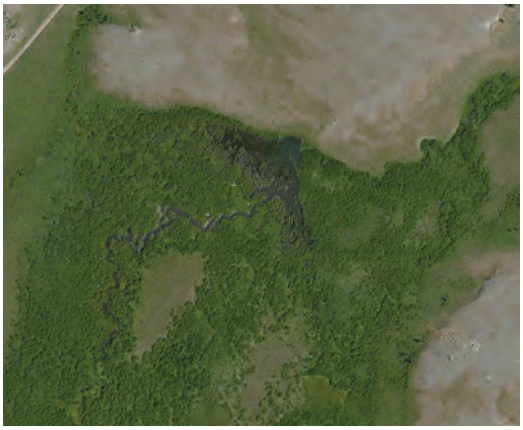


Figure 4. Aerial photo of Big Willow Creek showing beaver ponds from a recent beaver transplant.

Beaver transplanted into Big Willow Creek.

**Passive Stream and Riparian Corridor Rehabilitation**

Passive rehabilitation involves identifying land use management deficiencies that are causing declines in habitat values and improving management practices to trigger natural improvement processes. Improved management practices coupled with natural environmental resiliency may then allow desired habitat conditions to recover over time.

*North Tongue River*

Riparian plantings, which began in 2010, continued along segments of the North Tongue River under the lead of the Bighorn National Forest. Partners include the WGFD and volunteers from the Little Bighorn Chapter of Trout Unlimited. Goals are to use riparian plants to stabilize the channel margin and reduce sediment inputs into the stream over the long-term. Willow cuttings and sedge (streamside grasses) were planted along a 300 foot eroding segment of stream. Volunteers planted about 500 new willow cuttings and about 100 new sedge root stock cores. Photo comparisons over time indicated some of the largest and deepest-placed cuttings are surviving. Most of the sedge root stock cores are surviving as well.

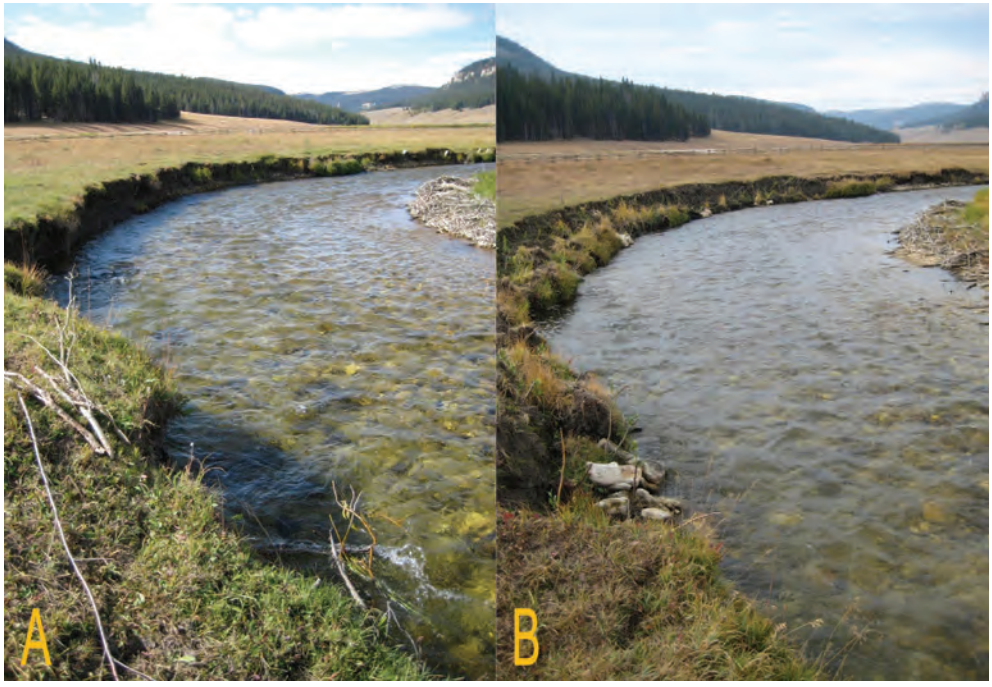



Figure 5. Riparian response occurring at the planting sites, A) Before, B) After.

# *Technology and Fish Tracking*

A shovelnose sturgeon captured in Clear Creek below Kendrick Dam.

In previous newsletters we've written about the Kendrick Dam fish bypass channel on lower Clear Creek. Since first opening the channel around the dam in 2009, we've documented 21 species moving upstream past the dam for the first time in 100 years. Several of those species, including channel catfish, have been captured upstream almost as far as Clearmont. This is very exciting news, but so far, we haven't been able to document sauger or shovelnose sturgeon using the bypass channel.

Large channel catfish from Clear Creek.

Sauger and sturgeon from the Yellowstone River migrate every spring up the Powder River some 260 miles to spawn in lower Clear Creek below Kendrick Dam. Sauger were also found near Clearmont in the late 1800s. Because of their historic and current use of Clear Creek, we are still very interested in finding out if they are able to find and use the bypass channel at Kendrick Dam.

A PIT tag ready for implanting in a fish.

Because we aren't able to sample the bypass channel during the high flows when sauger and sturgeon are most likely to move upstream, we began using PIT tag technology in 2012, to see if we could document them using the bypass channel. Passive Integrated Transponder or PIT tags are about an inch long and can be implanted in large fish. When a tagged fish swims through a battery powered antennae loop, a tag reading device is activated, and the fish's passage is logged. Because each PIT tag has a unique identifying number, we can tell the fish species and tagging location of individual fish.

We captured sauger, sturgeon (and channel catfish because we are interested in tracking their movements too) in the Powder River and Clear Creek below Kendrick Dam, implanted them with PIT tags, and waited to see if the tag readers set up in the bypass channel detected any tagged fish moving past them. Unfortunately, we waited in vain for tagged sauger and sturgeon to swim past the tag readers, but two channel catfish were detected. One (5.3 lbs) was tagged near Moorhead, Montana some 33 miles downstream of the bypass channel and another (2.9 lbs) was tagged about 3 miles downstream in Clear Creek.

2012 was an experimental year during which we figured out how and where to catch sauger and sturgeon, but it was a very unusual low water year, which may have led to small runs of fish from Montana. We are going to try it again in 2013 which is shaping up to be a more typical water year. If that turns out to be the case, we anticipate getting more tagged fish into the system and increasing the odds that some of them will move into the bypass channel past the tag readers. We'll report the results in the next Angler Newsletter.

PIT tag antennae installed in the by-pass channel.

Of course none of this work would be possible without the consent of the landowners, and we thank the folks at the Pee Gee Ranch for their cooperation with this unique project.

# 2012 Fish Stocking in the Sheridan Region

The fish culture section of the Wyoming Game and Fish Department is always busy stocking fish across this great state and in the Sheridan Region. 2012 was no exception, with approximately 800,000 fish stocked into 85 Sheridan Region waters including; walleye, northern pike, tiger muskie, tiger trout, splake, rainbow, brown, brook, Yellowstone cutthroat, Snake River cutthroat, and lake trout. The following table is a list of our more popular waters stocked in 2012 including alpine lakes, reservoirs, and streams. If you get a chance, make sure to thank the guys and gals who work so hard to raise and stock all of these fish. Without them, many of our waters wouldn't have fish!

| Water Name | Species | Number Stocked |
|---|---|---|
| **Angeline Lake** | YSC | 2,600 |
| **Bard Lake** | YSC | 400 |
| Big Goose Ck | RBT | 490 |
| Black Hills P&L | RBT - LAT | 2,500 - 385 |
| **Brown Bear** | YSC | 960 |
| Buffalo Wetlands | RBT | 1,020 |
| Calvin Lake | YSC | 800 |
| Clear Creek | RBT | 1,200 |
| Cook Lake | RBT - TGT | 5,400 - 1,550 |
| Duncan Lake | YSC | 810 |
| Lake DeSmet | RBT - YSC | 113,000 - 50,000 |
| **Florence Lake** | YSC | 900 |
| Fool Creek | YSC | 360 |
| Gillette Fishing Lake | RBT | 3,470 |
| **Golden Lake** | YSC | 700 |
| Healy Reservoir | TIM | 58,800 |
| **Hope Lake** | YSC | 400 |
| Keyhole Reservoir | WAE - NOP | 193,200 - 201,350 |
| Kleenburn Ponds | CCF - RBT | 2,040 - 1,050 |
| LAK Reservoir | TIM - WAE | 10,720 - 8,480 |
| **Lame Deer Lake** | RBT | 3,030 |
| Little Bighorn River | YSC | 6,060 |
| **Long Lake** | YSC | 600 |
| **Loomis Lake** | YSC | 1,500 |
| **Lost Wilderness** | YSC | 800 |
| **Martin Lake #1** | YSC | 600 |
| Mavrakis Pond | RBT | 950 |
| **Mead Lake** | YSC | 1,300 |
| Medicine Lake | RBT | 2,000 |
| Muddy Guard #1 | RBT - SRC | 300 - 300 |
| Muddy Guard #2 | RBT - SRC | 2,300 - 1,000 |
| MW Reservoir | RBT - SRC | 5,000 - 2,500 |
| Owen Creek | YSC | 300 |
| Park Reservoir | SPK - RBT | 2,500 - 2,500 |
| **Powell Lake #1** | YSC | 525 |
| **Powell Lake #2** | YSC | 805 |
| Ranchester Pond | RBT | 950 |
| **Ringbone Lake** | YSC | 1,200 |
| **S. Piney Ck Lake 1** | YSC | 950 |
| **S. Piney Ck Lake 2** | YSC | 1,400 |
| **Sawmill Lake #1** | YSC | 2,000 |
| **Sawmill Lake #2** | YSC | 2,300 |
| **Sawmill Reservoir** | SPK | 3,000 |
| **Seven Bothers #1** | RBT | 1,050 |
| **Seven Brothers #2** | RBT | 1,700 |
| **Seven Brothers #3** | RBT | 1,270 |
| **Seven Brothers #4** | RBT | 2,160 |
| **Seven Brothers #5** | RBT | 1,550 |
| **Seven Brothers #6** | YSC | 600 |
| **Seven Brothers #7** | RBT | 550 |
| Sibley Lake | YSC | 10,440 |
| Sundance Fair-grounds Pond | RBT | 1,600 |
| Tie Hack Reservoir | RBT - BKT | 22,000 - 5,900 |
| Little Tongue River | YSC | 10,500 |
| North Tongue River | SRC | 2,000 |
| Turner Reservoir | RBT | 900 |
| Twin Lakes Res | YSC | 8,300 |
| **Willow Lake #1** | SPK | 1,975 |

Tandem axle distribution units are often used when large numbers of fish are stocked such as DeSmet.

Stocking Yellowstone cutthroat in the Little Tongue River.

Fingerling walleye for Keyhole and LAK reservoirs.

**Species Key:** **YSC** = Yellowstone cutthroat, **SRC** = Snake River cutthroat, **RBT** = Rainbow trout, **SPK** = Splake, **WAE** = Walleye, **TIM** = Tiger muskie, **TGT** = Tiger trout, **CCF** = Channel catfish, **LAT** = Lake trout, **BKT** = Brook trout

**Lake in Bold** = High mountain lake stocked with a helicopter.

Wyoming Game and Fish Department

"Conserving Wildlife-Serving People"

**Wyoming Game and Fish Department**

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We welcome your comments or suggestions on this newsletter. Please feel free to contact us or send an email at:

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**Important Date to Remember**

**June 1, 2013**

Wyoming's Free Fishing Day. Check the Wyoming Game and Fish website or your fishing regulations for additional details.

Paul Mavrakis

Bill Bradshaw

Travis Cundy

# *Upcoming Work for 2013*

Thanks for taking time to view our newsletter! Please feel free to stop by our office, give us a call, or catch us out in the field. Although we'll be very busy this summer with field work, we are always happy to answer questions about fishing and fishing opportunities within the Sheridan Region. Below is a list of projects upcoming for the 2013 field season. Stay tuned for updates on these waters in our next newsletter. Happy fishing!!

- Sampling on Keyhole, DeSmet, Healy, Cook Lake, Tie Hack, Upper Twin Lakes Reservoir, Willow Park, MW, LAK, Geier, and Muddy Guards #1 and #2.
- Sampling on Clear Creek through Buffalo, Sand Creek, West Fork South Tongue, and South Tongue rivers.
- Cloud Peak Wilderness sampling at Geddes, Shamrock, Alabi, Buffalo, Mirage lakes, Coney #1 and #2, Spear, Myrtle, and Elephanthead.
- Continued evaluation of the Kendrick Bypass channel on lower Clear Creek.
- Construction of a herbivore exclosure on the West Fork South Tongue River.

Andrew Nikirk