



the wyoming game & fish department

CASPER REGION newsletter

Youth Fishing Pond

Newcastle

Many anglers, especially kids, in Newcastle were excited in August as construction on the newest kids' fishing pond was started. This has been a community project for the town of Newcastle.

Thanks go to all the people involved for their time and efforts. Stay tuned to see the completed pond, learn about the fish that will be stocked and hear how the fishing is!



In This Month's Issue:

On the Ground
Cheatgrass Treatments

In the Water
Glendo Trend Surveys

Of Interest
Tularemia Unusually Active in Wyoming This Year

In the News
Hunters and Anglers and Bear Safety



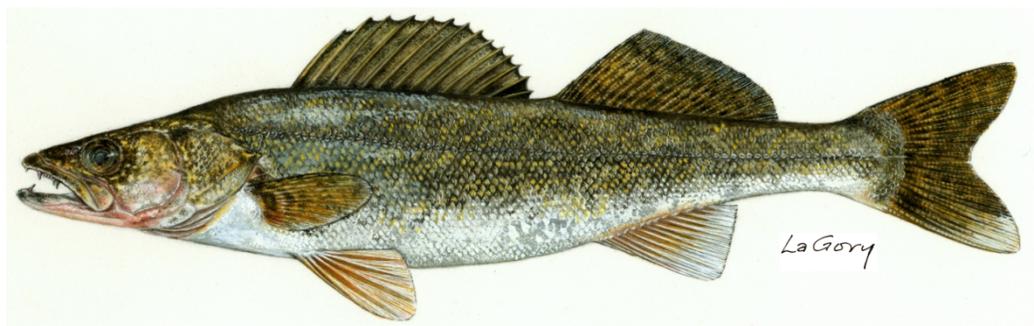
On the Ground Cheatgrass Treatments

Terrestrial Habitat Biologist Keith Schoup worked to treat 9,518 acres of cheatgrass infested big sagebrush communities with Plateau® herbicide. Cheatgrass is a non-native annual grass that quickly dominates a site after disturbance, and can turn native rangelands into unproductive biological deserts. The presence of cheatgrass can increase the fire frequency of an area once established, which can have a detrimental effect on forage production for wildlife and livestock alike.



In the Water Glendo Trend Surveys

Annual gill netting was completed in Glendo Reservoir and Game and Fish is happy to report juvenile gizzard shad were abundant and were feeding many of the walleye sampled. You may recall Casper Fisheries Biologist Gordon Edwards and Sheridan Fisheries Biologist Andrew Nikirk traveled to



Nebraska in May to "borrow" adult gizzard shad to be stocked in Glendo and Keyhole reservoirs. Gizzard shad cannot tolerate long winters and we were very concerned when we were unable to find gizzard shad in Glendo in 2014 after the winter of 2013 and 2014. Why the concern? Walleye eat about 10 pounds of forage to produce one pound of walleye and gizzard shad are an extremely important forage species in Glendo. The generosity shown from Nebraska Game and Parks employees, both biologists and fish culturists, in North Platte made the effort a success.



continued...

Walleye abundance in the 12 to 14 inch groups (age two) and 17-19 groups (primarily age four to age five) inch groups was strong. Age one (≤ 11 inches) and age three (15-16 inch groups) cohorts appeared weak. We expect better walleye condition and faster growth with the return of abundant gizzard shad in Glendo. Game and Fish thanks our neighbors in the Cornhusker State because their generosity and gizzard shad are an extremely important part of the success of our walleye management program in Wyoming.



Of Interest

Tularmeia Unusually Active in Wyoming This Year

Tularemia has been unusually active this year with 14 human cases of the disease and one fatality in Bighorn County so far. Tularemia is relatively common across the entire state, but we normally see only two to three human cases of the disease each year. Below are some quick facts about tularemia:

- Agent: *Francisella tularensis* – A hardy bacteria that survives well in damp/wet soil
- Hosts: Rabbits, muskrats, beavers and squirrels are the primary carriers; however, many species can become infected.
- Transmission: Bites from infected ticks and biting flies are the most common method of transmission. Other methods of transmission include: ingesting contaminated water, or undercooked meat, direct contact with an infected animal, or inhaling bacteria that may be present in contaminated dust or animal material.
- Human Health: Symptoms include: swollen and painful lymph glands, fever, chills, headache, muscle aches, joint pain, dry cough, and progressive weakness. A skin ulcer commonly forms at the site of the insect bite and is frequently accompanied by swelling of regional lymph glands, usually in the armpit or groin.
- Prevention for Hunters:
 - Use an insect repellent that is effective against ticks, biting flies and mosquitoes (e.g. DEET), and wear light colored clothing so that ticks are easier to spot.
 - Avoid handling sick wildlife.
 - Avoid drinking unpurified water from streams or lakes.
 - Wear gloves when field dressing any harvested animal.
 - Cook meat thoroughly before consumption, especially rabbits, muskrats, beaver or other rodents.



Additional sources of information on Tularmia:

Field Guide to Diseases of Wyoming Wildlife Page 176-178

CDC website: <http://www.cdc.gov/tularemia/index.html>



In the News

Hunters and Anglers and Bear Safety

While you are out enjoying Wyoming's great outdoors this fall, please remember the following tips to help reduce the risk of bear encounters. No tool or technique can replace common sense. Use of your brain when recreating in bear country.

How hunters can avoid bear encounters:

- Hunt or call with a partner and stay within sight of each other.
- Remain alert and watchful for bear activity; avoid "tunnel vision" while pursuing game.
- Learn to recognize bear sign such as scat, tracks, and diggings.
- Know where seasonal food sources are present and either avoid or be especially cautious in those areas.
- Be aware that the presence of ravens and other scavengers is a good indication that carcasses or gut piles are nearby and a bear may be in the area.
- Carry a defense readily accessible. The knowledge of how to use your defense should be automatic.
- Carry bear spray and make sure it is readily accessible. Make sure to bring an extra can of spray.



Proper handling and retrieval of game:

- The best way to minimize conflicts over a carcass is to pack and remove the game meat out of the field as quickly as possible. The longer game is in the field, at camp, or in the back of a vehicle, the more likely it is to be discovered by a bear.
- Separate the carcass from the gut pile with as much distance as possible.
- Quarter and hang the carcass in a tree at least ten to 15 feet from the ground and four feet from the tree trunk.
- If you must leave the carcass on the ground, place it in plain view so when you return, you can see if a bear is present or if it has been disturbed prior to making your approach. Placing something conspicuous on the carcass may help you detect if there has been a bear at the carcass. For example branches or an article of clothing that can easily be seen from a long distance.
- When returning to a carcass that has been left overnight, use caution. Stop and view the carcass from a distance with binoculars. Approach the carcass upwind and make sufficient noise to alert a bear of your presence.
- If you detect disturbance from a distance or if the carcass has been buried, a bear has probably been to the carcass or may be bedded nearby.
- Never attempt to scare a bear off of a carcass it has claimed.
- In camp, store game meat, capes, and dirty tools/clothes at least 100 yards from your sleeping area and preferably down wind.
- Clean fish at designated cleaning station or at home. Wash all your gear to ensure there are no desirable odors for future use.

