



Wyoming Game and Fish Department NEWSLETTER

Cody Region

WEBSITE: wgfd.wyo.gov

Oct. 2015

Bighorn sheep season

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G&F Calendar

Yellowtail youth-only pheasant hunt.....Nov. 21

Meeteetse Game Warden Jim Olson and his string of fine mules head across a high plateau deep in the heart of the Absaroka Wilderness during the 2015 bighorn sheep season.



Habitat and Access Biologist Eric Shorma with a ram harvested from Hunt Area 3.



A ram harvested from the Devils Canyon bighorn sheep herd, Hunt Area 12.

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Fish sampling the Wood and Greybull Rivers



A Yellowstone cutthroat trout captured as part of a sampling effort on the Greybull River.

Above: Fisheries Biologist Jason Burckhardt leads a crew up the Wood River to sample fish for population estimates. First, the population estimate station is delineated with block nets that stretch across the river to ensure no fish are moving into or out of the station. Next, using backpack electrofishers, an electrical current is sent through the water to temporarily stun fish while netters stand by to capture the fish. Captured fish are then weighed and measured to determine their condition, then released downstream of the station. The crew made four "depletion" passes and will use the number fish captured on each pass to derive population estimates.

Working together to improve access and habitat

Right: Habitat and Access Supervisor Brad Sorenson builds a foot bridge over a boggy spot in the trail at the Sulfer Creek access along the Shoshone River in Cody. The improvements were made as part of a collaborative effort with the Nature Conservancy, the Montana Conservation Core and the Bureau of Reclamation. The access area is located off of 2ABW.

Below: South Cody Game Warden Craig Smith assists the Cody BLM Field Office and other volunteers as part of National Public Lands Day to remove net-wire fencing from the YU Bench. The net-wire fence was replaced with smooth wire fence to benefit antelope.



South Cody Game Warden Craig Smith assists with removing fencing as part of National Public Lands Day.

Black bear trapped and relocated



Lovell Game Warden James Hobbs trapped and relocated a large adult male black bear that was frequenting Tillett Fish Rearing Station near Lovell. The bear was hanging around and attempting to eat the fish food. The bear, weighing in at 421 pounds, was trapped and relocated to the Bighorn Mountains.

Ethical behavior?

Access Coordinator Dan Smith investigated a shoot from the road complaint in antelope hunt area 78. The report indicated that hunters were shooting antelope from the highway right-of-way along Highway 14-16-20. Smith met with the reporting party, collected evidence from the scene and determined the identity of the hunters. In combination with the evidence and an interview with the hunters the following day, it was determined the hunters had actually crossed the fence to shoot, but just barely. The hunters indicated another person had stopped and told them they could not hunt from the road. The behavior of these hunters does not necessarily portray a good example for other hunters or the non hunting public. With all the places to hunt in Area 78, why hunt right along the busy highway for all to see? Please remember to hunt safety and wisely this fall!

Antelope numbers up

Worland Wildlife Biologist Bart Kroger reports a total of 3950 pronghorn were classified in the southern Bighorn Basin for 2015; about 1000 more than in 2014. Pronghorn number for most hunt areas and herd units appear to be on the rebound, mainly due to record high fawn ratios in both 2014 and 2015, with both years averaging about 80 fawns per 100 does.



Yellowtail youth only pheasant day Nov. 21

A youth only pheasant hunt will be conducted Saturday, Nov. 21 on all lands contained within the Yellowtail Wildlife Habitat Management Area north of the Shoshone River, near Lovell.

A youth is defined as anyone 17 years of age or younger. To participate, youth hunters must have successfully completed a hunter safety course or be enrolled in Wyoming's Hunter Mentor Program prior to hunting on youth hunt day. In addition,

youth over the age of 14 years must possess a valid game bird or a small game/game bird license, Wyoming Conservation Stamp, and a Pheasant Special Management Stamp. An adult must accompany hunters under the age of 14; adults may not take any pheasants on the Yellowtail area north of the Shoshone River during youth hunt day.



All pheasant hunters are required to wear one article of fluorescent orange clothing (hat, shirt, sweater, jacket, vest, or coat) while hunting pheasants on the Yellowtail Management Area. For more information regarding youth only hunts contact Game and Fish or visit wgfd.wyo.gov.



CODY REGION - 2820 State Hwy 120 - Cody, WY 82414



Reg. Wildlife Supervisor

Alan Osterland

Warden Coordinator

Scott Werbelow

Wildlife Management

Coordinator

Tim Woolley

Wildlife Investigator

Irah Leonetti

Office Managers

Karen Herburger

Michelle Parker

Reg. Fisheries Supervisor

Sam Hochhalter

Fisheries Biologist

Jason Burekhardt

Aquatic Habitat Biologist

Laura Burekhardt

Game Wardens

Benge Brown

Travis Crane

Tom DeSomber

James Hobbs

Matt Lentsch

Jim Olson

Chris Queen

Bill Robertson

Craig Smith

Information & Education

Tara Hodges

Access Coordinator

Dan Smith

Wildlife Biologists

Bart Kroger

Doug McWhirter

Leslie Schreiber

Habitat Biologist

Jerry Altermatt

Large Carnivore

Luke Ellsbury

Dusty Lasseter

Kyle Bales

Habitat & Access Supervisor

Brad Sorensen

Habitat & Access

Craig Swanson

Eric Shorma

Fish Passage

Erin Sobel

Regional AIS Coordinator

Greg Mayton