



the wyoming game and fish department

January 2016

# CODY REGION newsletter

## Vigil family recognized



**The Vigil family of Manderson.**

The Vigil family of Manderson was recently recognized as one of four recipients of this year's Access Recognition Program. The program honors landowners who provide access to or through their lands to hunters and anglers.

Each year, the Wyoming Board of Agriculture, the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission, and Wyoming Wildlife Foundation, partner together to recognize four landowners who contribute significantly to the hunting and fishing tradition of the Cowboy State. The Vigil family was recognized at the winter Stock Growers Association luncheon in December and will receive a check for \$2,000.

The Vigil family is one of the most prominent landowners in the Manderson/Worland area of the Big Horn Basin. They currently have 800 acres including 1.5 miles of river access, enrolled in the Wyoming Game and Fish Department's Private Land Public Wildlife Access Program as three different Walk-In Areas. These areas provide some of the best hunting and fishing access found in the Big Horn Basin. The Vigil family has been a great partner to the department and a strong contributor to sportsmen's access.

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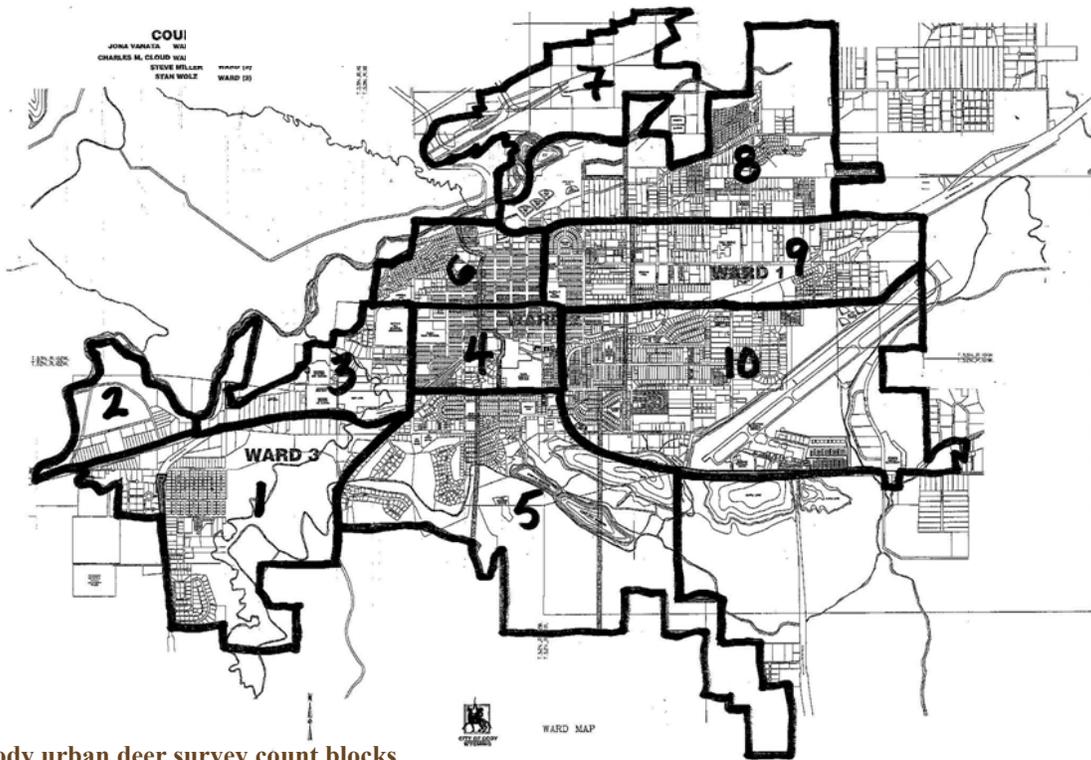
#### Of Interest

Drivers reminded of wildlife on  
Northfork Highway



# On the ground

## Cody deer population surveyed



**Figure 1. Cody urban deer survey count blocks**

Last month, Game and Fish personnel conducted a classification/trend survey of deer within the city limits of Cody. The survey has been conducted annually since 2011 for the purpose of monitoring deer numbers within the city to help inform city managers and the Urban Deer Task Force.

The city was broken out into ten count blocks (Figure 1), and all deer encountered were classified into sex/age categories (adult buck, yearling buck, doe, fawn). Areas out of, but adjacent to the City Limits of Cody were surveyed as well. These areas included the County Road 2ABN area immediately north of Cody, and the Cooper Lane and Sage Creek areas immediately to the east of Cody.

A total of 290 deer (283 mule deer and seven white-tailed deer) were observed within the City Limits of Cody, and an additional 331 deer (237 mule deer and 94 white-tailed deer) were observed in adjacent areas. Mule deer fawn:doe ratios were 76:100 in the City Limits and 39:100 outside the city limits. Total buck ratios were 30:100 in the city limits and 31:100 out of the city limits. Yearling buck ratios were 10:100 in the city limits and 19:100 out of the city limits.

Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Total deer	307	261	296	272	290

**Figure 2. The total number of deer observed in Cody City Limits from 2011 to 2015 has not varied substantially.**



## On the ground

### Deer classifications

Each year, biologists collect ratio data on deer populations through ground and aerial observations. In a given area, biologists observe deer and record the total number of deer and the age and sex class of each deer. From the total number of deer sampled, biologists evaluate the number of fawns per 100 does, the number of adult bucks per 100 does and the number of yearling bucks per 100 does. Tim Woolley Wildlife Management Coordinator said that this provides biologists with a “snapshot” of the population. “This information allows us to see how the population is doing and is used (in combination with other data) to evaluate hunting seasons, assess herd productivity and determine survival,” Woolley said. “The information, along with harvest and population data will be available in the 2015 Big Game Job Completion report at [wgfd.wyo.gov/Hunting/Job-Completion-Reports](http://wgfd.wyo.gov/Hunting/Job-Completion-Reports) in early summer.”



**Greybull Biologist Leslie Schreiber observed this mule deer buck north of Shell in Hunt Area 51 during a ground classification survey.**

### 2016 Cody Region Season Setting Meeting Schedule

### Get Involved!

Attend a meeting in  
your area.

Powell Open House	March 10, 2016	Park Co Fairgrounds	6-8 p.m.
Cody Open House	March 14, 2016	Bighorn Federal Bank	6-8 p.m.
Greybull Open House	March 15, 2016	Town Hall	6-8 p.m.
Meeteetse Open House	March 15, 2016	Senior Center	6-8 p.m.
Thermopolis Open House	March 16, 2016	Bighorn Federal Bank	6-8 p.m.
Lovell Open House	March 17, 2016	Fire Hall	6-8 p.m.
Worland, Final meeting	March 21, 2016	Washakie Co Fairgrounds	6-8 p.m.

## Of interest

### Drivers reminded of wildlife on the roadways



**North Cody Game Warden Travis Crane snapped this photo of a bison traveling along the North Fork Highway right after the messaging signs were placed.**

The Wyoming Department of Transportation recently installed two dynamic messaging signs on the North Fork Highway to remind motorists of the presence of bighorn sheep and other wildlife on the roadway. This is a good reminder for motorists to slow down to avoid potential wildlife-vehicle collisions.

During the fall and winter these large animals migrate to lower elevations where they often find themselves negotiating highways and the associated traffic. Motorists should be aware that while the frequency of wild animals crossing highways is more notable at dawn and dusk, some wildlife are foraging and crossing the highway at all times of the day and night.



**Bighorn sheep on the shoulder of the North Fork Highway near Wapiti Campground.**