



Habitat is where it's at!

October 2015



We hope you enjoy reading about the adventures of the **Green River Region** personnel as they work to *Conserve Wildlife and Serve People!*

Special dates and points of interest:

- DON'T HAVE A COMPUTER? EVERY REGIONAL OFFICE OF THE GAME AND FISH HAS A COMPUTER AT THE FRONT COUNTER FOR PUBLIC USE.
- DON'T HAVE YOUR HUNTER SAFETY CERTIFICATE? CHECK FOR UPCOMING COURSES ONLINE AT [HTTP://WGFD.WYO.GOV](http://wgfd.wyo.gov).
- PREFERENCE POINT ONLY APPLICATION PERIOD NOW THROUGH NOVEMBER 2
- REMEMBER: YOU CAN BUY ALL YOUR HUNTING LICENSES, REQUIRED STAMPS AND MANY MORE PRODUCTS AT THE WGFD WEBSITE FROM THE COMFORT OF YOUR OWN COMPUTER!
- HARVEST INFORMATION PROGRAM (HIP) PERMITS ARE FREE BUT THEY ARE ONLY AVAILABLE ONLINE AT THE WGFD WEBSITE.
- LOST YOUR HUNTER EDUCATION CARD? YOU CAN PRINT AS MANY COPIES OF YOUR CARD AS YOU WANT, FOR FREE, AT THE WGFD WEBSITE.

IT'S HUNTIN' SEASON!
Game check stations in full-swing

Green River Wildlife Management Coordinator Mark Zornes pulls a tooth from a moose harvested in hunt area 26, while *Wildlife Division Deputy Chief Scott Smith* interviews the successful moose hunter Braxton Sabey. *(photos below)* Biologists, like Zornes and Smith, measure antler growth, collect teeth, hair, muscle tissue and other biological samples to determine such things as age composition of game animals and presence of disease. All hunters, trappers and anglers are required to stop at any established game check station, *even if they were unsuccessful.*



STOP Poaching Hotline Updates ~ Other enforcement efforts

Thanks to some alert and concerned sportsmen, Mountain View Game Warden Allen Deru is happy to report the case of a two-point mule deer poached in hunt area 132 has been solved.

"I am very thankful to the public for all of the phone calls and tips I received," Deru said. "Game wardens understand that anytime there is an antler point restriction in a hunt area we know there is a chance that a hunter might make a mistake when identifying the number of points on the antlers. A couple more common mistakes occur when the wrong gender or wrong species is killed. Sometimes, the bullet goes through one animal and hits another, creating an over limit. The best thing to do is field dress the animal so the meat does not go to waste and can be given to a family in need of the meat. Or, in some cases, to the person who made the mistake and called their game warden. Regardless of the mistake, if the hunter contacts us directly and lets us know they made a mistake, the situation will be handled in a positive and fair manner. Everybody makes mistakes and honesty is always the best policy."

Anyone with information on these or any wildlife violation may also call the Stop Poaching Hotline at 1-877-WGFD-TIP (1-877-943-3847). Tips may be reported to your local game warden or online at wgfd.wyo.gov Tips may also be reported to the Green River Game and Fish Office at-1-307-875-3223. Callers can remain anonymous and may be eligible for a cash reward of up to \$5,000 if the information leads to a conviction.

Evanston Game Warden Nick Roberts has been busy signing Evanston area Habitat Management Areas and checking archery hunters. "Unfortunately, it is an ongoing task to keep unnecessary and damaging roads closed on the HMAs," Robert said. "I put up fresh 'road closed' signs after this young man had to find out the hard way why the road needed to be closed." (photo right)



Poached two-point mule deer buck in hunt area 132.

Enforcement Happenings
There are unsolved poaching cases in the Green River Region. If you have any information about any wildlife violation please contact your local game warden or the **STOP Poaching Hotline at: 1-877-WGFD-TIP (1-877-943-3847)**

- You can also report a wildlife violation at the WGFD website <http://wgfd.wyo.gov>



Practice safe firearms handling at all times



On October 3, a young hunter was putting a rifle away into a scabbard loaded on the side of his four-wheeler. He assured his family that the gun was unloaded, but it was not. The young man accidentally hit the trigger and the 30.06 went off, destroying the gun scabbard, hitting the truck front seat, finally going through the passenger side window and the truck mirror. The bullet came within four inches of a passenger's shoulder. The owner of the gun scabbard was very shaken and fortunately no one was harmed. The man donated the scabbard to *Green River Regional Information and Education Specialist Lucy Wold* to be used as a visual aid when teaching safe firearms handling in hunter education classes.



Students from *Lincoln Middle School* recently came to the Green River Region Office to complete their firearms proficiency field test with their teacher Malcolm Robb. (*photo above*) Husband and wife volunteer hunter education instructors Brian and Sandy Taylor assist area students with their firearms proficiency field test at the Green River Office. (*photos above right and below right.*)

Deer tests positive for CWD in hunt area 100

The Wyoming Game and Fish Department's **chronic wasting disease (CWD)** surveillance program has found the disease in a new deer hunt area. CWD is a fatal neurological disease of deer, elk and moose.

Staff at the Game and Fish Department's **wildlife disease laboratory in Laramie** confirmed the presence of CWD in a buck mule deer harvested on Oct. 2 near Flat Top Mountain, in deer hunt area 100, which lies about 15 miles northwest of Baggs. Deer hunt area 100 is bordered by CWD positive deer hunt areas 82 and 84 to the east and 98 to the northeast.

"This is our **first new positive** hunt area this year. We again appreciate the help of hunters who help with the surveillance program. We do recommend people not eat deer, elk or moose that test positive for CWD," Deputy Chief of the Wyoming Game and Fish Department Wildlife Division, Scott Edberg said.

Green River region personnel continue to collect samples of deer, elk and moose through hunter field checks and at CWD sampling stations. WGFD personnel collect and analyze more than 1,600 CWD samples annually throughout the state.

Hunters who wish to have their deer, elk or moose tested for CWD outside of the department's CWD surveillance program can do so by contacting the Wyoming State Veterinary Lab at (307) 766-9925. Hunters should be aware that it may take a few weeks after their animal is sampled to get their test results.

For more information on chronic wasting disease transmission and regulations on transportation and disposal of carcasses please visit the Game and Fish website at: <https://wgfd.wyo.gov/Wildlife-in-Wyoming/More-Wildlife/Wildlife-Disease/Chronic-Wasting-Disease/CWD-Disease-Info>.



Game and Fish personnel take lymph nodes from mule deer at a check station in Kemmerer to test them for the presence of Chronic Wasting Disease.





Office managers Sheila Watts (left) and Regina Dickson (right) remind folks that there is no watercraft registration during the month of October. The ladies have been busy selling hunting licenses and answering many questions about hunting, fishing, trapping, and.....the occasional weird stuff.

<http://wgfd.wyo.gov>
 Office Phone: 307-875-3223
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Conserving Wildlife-Serving People

We are on the web! <http://wgfd.wyo.gov>



stay connected



~Critter Spotlight~
Muskrat
 By Mark Zornes a.k.a. Leopold



- **An important furbearer** in Wyoming and North America, this species has contributed heavily to the economies of rural America since settlement and before. Muskrats, due to their prized fur and abundance, are often considered a "bread and butter" fur by trappers in the US and Canada, and are often an entry level species for young trappers.
- **Muskrats** have been an important source of fur and food for Americans throughout our history, including the earliest Americans. The word muskrat may be an Anglicized version of an Abenaki or Algonquian word for this species, and its genera name of Ondatra is a Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) name for this semi aquatic mammal.
- **Often confused** with a small beaver, muskrats are much smaller than this species, and are most closely related to voles and lemmings.
- **Muskrats always** are associated with wetland habitats and rely on water as a source of food and escape. Muskrats build two kinds of dens associated with water (the entrances are usually below the water line). Dens can consist of bank dens (holes dug well into a bank) or small huts made of emergent vegetation (usually cattails).
- **Primarily vegetarians** eating grasses, young cattail shoots, and tubers, muskrats will eat some animal matter, especially freshwater mussels and other mollusks. Muskrats are prey of numerous other animals, including mink, larger birds of prey, coyotes, foxes, bobcats, and even northern pike.