



Photo by Stan Harter

Under the water Macintosh No. 2 Reservoir



Abandoned Mine Land Program employees Carl Warren (left) and Harold Hutson with a brook trout and largemouth bass captured during Game and Fish sampling of MacIntosh No. 2 Reservoir in early May.

Netting in early May showed that an excellent sport fishery currently exists in the walk-in fishing area at McIntosh No. 2 Reservoir (formerly known as Western Nuclear Pond).

Brook trout over 3 lbs, largemouth bass up to 2.5 lbs, and rainbow trout over 1 lb were captured during the survey. The reservoir has traditionally been managed through the annual stocking of 1,500 rainbow trout and 500 brook trout. However, approximately 1,500 largemouth bass were stocked in 2011, 2014, and 2015 in an attempt to create more diverse angling opportunities in the area.



Woody debris provides good largemouth bass habitat.

Recent habitat improvements by the State of Wyoming Abandoned Mine Land Program have greatly contributed to the fishery. A soil-cement slurry wall was installed on the downstream side of the dam to reduce leakage and improve water retention, which means more water for fish. Large rock piles were also put in the reservoir for fish habitat, and a parking area was constructed for anglers. As mine reclamation work is ongoing in the area, anglers are asked to stay out of the construction area and within the limits of the walk-in fishing area for their safety.

McIntosh No. 2 Reservoir is located at the southwest base of Green Mountain, and can be accessed by taking the Big Eagle Road turnoff from Crooks Gap Road.

Under the Water, cont'd

Opening up fish habitat



Culvert impeding trout passage on Alkali Creek.

An upcoming project will open nearly ten miles of habitat for native trout. The project is anticipated to begin in 2017 and will focus on opening passage on Alkali and Castle Creek, tributaries of East Fork Wind River, outside of Dubois. These tributaries host native Yellowstone cutthroat trout and are key drainages for their survival and reproduction.

Currently, road culverts that are undersized and perched on each creek block upstream movement of fish to nearly ten miles of native habitat. In a recent planning meeting, project logistics, timelines, and design ideas were discussed with DOWL engineering who is contracted to collect survey data and develop designs to

improve these road crossings for fish passage. The partners on this project include Game and Fish, U.S. Forest Service, and Fremont County Road Department.

Sauger spawn success



Adult sauger captured from the Little Wind River for the 2016 spawn.

For the past four years, a cooperative effort involving Wyoming Game and Fish, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Shoshone and Arapahoe tribes has aimed to boost the sauger population in the Wind River drainage using a supplemental stocking program. Five years ago, these cooperative agencies decided that a short-term stocking operation was necessary to help recover the sauger population which had declined drastically over the past decade. Sauger catch

rates in Boysen Reservoir declined by 94%, and sauger numbers in the Little Wind and Popo Agie Rivers declined by 73% from 2002 to 2011. Data showed the decline was caused by very low natural reproduction. The purpose of the stocking operation is to supplement the natural reproduction that is currently lacking in the population.

The supplemental stocking operations consisted of capturing and spawning wild adult saugers from the Wind River drainage, hatching the eggs and raising the young saugers in a hatchery, and stocking them back into the wild. All sauger eggs are hatched at Game and Fish's Dan Speas Hatchery and Rearing Station near Casper. After hatching, the sauger fry are transported to Garrison National



Streamside sauger spawning.



Fish Hatchery in North Dakota to be raised in hatchery ponds. Once the fish reach 2.5 to 4 inches, they are stocked back into waters of the Wind River drainage. The cooperative agencies hope to stock as many as 250,000 from the 2016 spawning operation. The fish will be stocked into Boysen Reservoir and the Wind and Little Wind Rivers in late July.

Lander Regional Fish Supervisor Craig Amadio commented, "This sauger spawning operation and sauger management in general in the



Egg jars with sauger eggs.

Wind River drainage is the result of a collaborative effort among the tribes and numerous government agencies. It's an outstanding example of what can be accomplished when partners work together toward a common goal to preserve and enhance natural resources. Our data shows that the sauger population has already started to rebound and there's no doubt the effort from everyone involved in this project has played a key role".



Once the eggs and milt (sperm) are combined in a dish, the eggs are gently stirred with a feather to ensure fertilization.

Behind the Badge

Case unsolved



Turkey carcass dumped near Rawlins.

847411 (TIP411) with WGFD as the first word of the message, or on-line at wgfd.wyo.gov

Teal Joseph responded to a report of a turkey carcass that had been dumped on the south side of Rawlins. Joseph discovered a jake turkey that had been shot and dumped without any edible portions removed. With no leads and no other evidence left behind at the scene, Joseph interviewed several people who held turkey licenses, but has not closed the case yet.

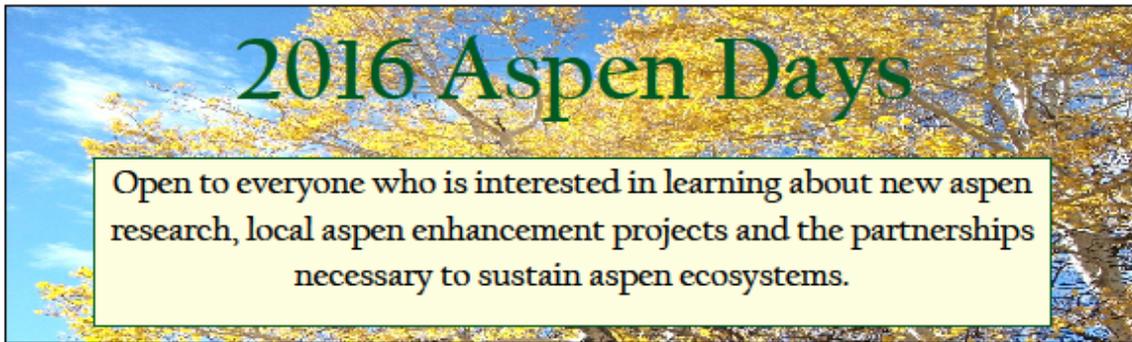
Anyone with information on this or any other poaching incident -even if it is second hand-can report it to the Stop Poaching Hotline at 1-877-WGFD-TIP (1-877-943-3847). Violations may also be reported at regional offices, by sending a **text to**



In the Habitat

2016 Aspen Days

A large habitat enhancement project in the South Pass area near Atlantic City begins it's second year. The primary focus of the project is restoring aging aspen stands where conifers are replacing aspen through natural forest succession. For more information, please attend the 2016 Aspen Days and look for more about the project in next month's newsletter.



Presentations, BBQ & Social Event
July 12th, 5-8pm
Red Canyon Ranch, Lander WY
(BYOB if you'd like; water and soda provided)

Field Trips
July 13th, 8am-5pm – South Pass
July 14th, 7am-12pm – Green Mountain
Departing from Wyoming Game & Fish Office
260 Buena Vista, Lander, WY



Research and Information
Presented by:
Dr. Paul Rogers,
Dr. Dale Bartos &
Dr. Richard Keigley

For More Information Contact:
Amy Anderson 307-332-7723 x223
amy.anderson@wyo.gov
Daryl Lutz 307-332-2688
daryl.lutz@wyo.gov
Please RSVP by: July 1st, 2016

Lodging Options

Holiday Inn Express
- Block of 15 rooms
"Aspen Days"
- 2 queen beds \$89.00
(Reserve by June 21st)
- 307-332-4005

Pronghorn Lodge
- \$77- \$95
- 307-332-3940

Inn at Lander
- 2 queen beds \$99
- 307-332-2847

Maverick Motel
- \$89.99- \$99.99
- 307-332-2300

Several Other Options Exist
Please check for rates & availability

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With the bears

Bear Wise prevention efforts

Not only are a great deal of visitors and tourists visiting the wilds of Wyoming this time of year, but there is also an entire workforce of seasonal workers and volunteers for multiple agencies and businesses that require and benefit from large carnivore awareness, ecology, and safety trainings. Large Carnivore Section personnel have been busy travelling the state with these education and preventative efforts which can reduce the potential for large carnivore conflicts.

In addition to these *Bear Wise* education efforts, personnel worked with private landowners, and producers to fortify apiaries, outbuildings, residences, and ranches in a preemptive fashion to reduce the potential for conflicts.

All of this conflict prevention work done by the Game and Fish, especially with black and grizzly bears at this time of year, is a vital component of managing and conserving these animals, and also is a great chance to work side by side with the residents of Wyoming in order to meet the needs of our constituents better.



Large Carnivore Biologists Justin Clapp and Brian Debolt put the finishing touches on an electric fence around a bee apiary.

Hunters help bear and lion management



Large Carnivore Biologist Phil Quick with a tooth extracted from a harvested black bear. Lab results from teeth allow us to accurately age these animals to provide insight into harvest and allow for evaluation of management strategies.

Black bear harvest increased as areas became more accessible due to snowmelt. The Large Carnivore Section is responsible for the data-based management of black bears and mountain lions and the primary management tool for these species is hunting. The hunting public that enjoys Wyoming's natural resources is a vital component allowing us to better understand the population dynamics and trends of all wildlife species.

For black bears specifically, during the mandatory check process, we gain valuable information on the sex and age composition of harvested bears that allow Game and Fish to evaluate population trend at the hunt area, bear management unit, and statewide levels.

The same is true for mountain lions, and as part of the adaptive management process, Large Carnivore Biologist Justin Clapp traveled around the state to meet with the

public and regional personnel to explain mountain lion harvest over the past three years and gather public input on proposed changes to mountain lion management .

The data obtained from harvested animals, public input, monitoring efforts, and hunter surveys allow managers to develop localized harvest strategies and management that ensure viable populations and opportunities into the future.



About the Education

4th grade outdoor education day



Above: 2016 4th Lander grade classes; Below right: 4th grader kissing a trout; Bottom left: Jason Hunter, regional wildlife supervisor teaching animal i.d.

Local agencies and organizations have joined together to plan and deliver the sixth annual Outdoor Education Day to connect kids and nature.

Approximately 130, 4th grade students, teachers, and parent volunteers from the Baldwin Creek Elementary School, Cornerstone Christian Academy and Lander Home-schoolers were in attendance. Students were pre-assigned to a small group of 10-12 students, led by a student leader from the Outdoor Education Program at Central Wyoming College (CWC).

Each student was provided a “passport” to inspire thoughtful learning as they rotate through a series of activity stations aimed at increasing their knowledge and awareness of the great outdoors. The CWC Sinks Canyon Center is the outdoor classroom for the event and professionals from local agencies and organizations instructed students at the following learning stations: leave no trace, wildlife i.d., wildlife ethics, plant and tree i.d., large carnivore awareness, geology, weather, birding, and fish i.d.



The intent of the Outdoor Education Day is to provide outdoor experiential education that encourages children to play in and explore nature. Staff and students had a blast again this year and were energized by the event. Another success!

Agencies and organizations who participated in this event include: CWC Sinks Canyon Center, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, Wyoming Game and Fish Department, National Weather Service, Audubon Society, Wyoming State Forestry, U.W. Extension, Popo Agie Conservation District, Central Wyoming College, National Outdoor Leadership School

