



### Sheridan Region

**Regional Wildlife Supervisor:**

Joe Gilbert

**Regional Fisheries Supervisor:**

Paul Mavrakis

**Office Managers:**

Lori Roe  
Kathy Boyles

**Clerical Specialists:**

Wendy Balkenbush  
Stephanie Bomar

**Game Wardens:**

Dayton: Dustin Shorma  
Sheridan: Bruce Scigliano  
Buffalo: Jim Seeman  
Kaycee: Grant Gerharter  
N. Gillette: Jackie Otto  
S. Gillette: Dustin Kirsch  
Moorcroft: J.D. Davis  
Investigator: Scott Adell  
Damage Tech: Joe Weyant

**Public Information Specialist:**

Bud Stewart

**Wildlife Biologists :**

Wildlife Management Coordinator:  
Lynn Jahnke  
Sheridan: Tim Thomas  
Buffalo: Dan Thiele  
Gillette: Erika Peckham  
Terrestrial Habitat: Todd Caltrider

**PLPW Program Coordinator:**

Troy Tobiasson

**Fish Biologists:**

Bill Bradshaw  
Andrew Nikirk  
Aquatic Habitat: Travis Cundy

**Habitat and Access Coordinator:**

Seth Roseberry

**Aquatic Invasive Species:**

Greg Downey

**Story Fish Hatchery:**

Superintendent: Steve Diekema  
Senior Fish Culturist: Brad Hughes  
Culturist: Jennifer Meineke

**Sheridan Bird Farm:**

Supervisor: Darrell Meineke  
Biologist: Nate Brown  
Technician: Kurt Heiser

# Wyoming Game and Fish Department

## Sheridan Region July 2015 Newsletter



### What Drove Them Over The Cliff?



*Kaycee Game Warden Grant Gerharter stands on top of the cliff where 40 elk plunged to their death several years ago.*



*The view from the top of the cliff looking down at the bleached bones of the elk that went over the cliff.*

Buffalo Wildlife Biologist Dan Thiele and Kaycee Game Warden Grant Gerharter visited an area where a nonresident hunter had reported a number of dead elk below a cliff several years ago. The cliff is in the Poker Creek area a couple miles south of the Ed O. Taylor Wildlife Habitat Management Area. Thiele and Gerharter were able to determine from broken bones and a fractured skull that 40 elk had plunged over the 35 foot cliff to their death. The vast majority of the now bleached bones were concentrated just below the cliff in one location. However, a few bones were scattered indicating some of the elk may have traveled several yards before dying of injuries received during the ordeal.



# Sheridan Region Monthly Newsletter

## July 2015

### Hulett Strutters Hosts First Jakes Outdoor Youth Day Event



*Cheylla Coder of Hulett launches an arrow from her compound bow at a balloon attached to the target.*



*Kyle Smith holds two smallmouth bass he caught during the kids fishing derby. The 14 1/2 inch bass in Smith's right hand won him first prize.*



*Wyoming Game and Fish participated in the Jakes Event with the furs and antlers display.*

The Hulett Strutters Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation held their first Jakes Outdoor Youth Day event in late July at the Tower Valley Ranch just outside Hulett. Forty-five youth and 40 adults attended the inaugural event. Those attending had the option to participate in several activities including an early morning fishing derby, archery shooting, BB gun shooting and a turkey calling demonstration. The Wyoming Game and Fish Department participated in the event with Sheridan Region Public Information Specialist Bud Stewart displaying furs, horns and antlers of Wyoming mammals.



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### Frog Surveys in the Bighorn Mountains



*Northern Leopard Frog (Lithobates pipiens)*



*Wood Frog (Lithobates sylvaticus)*

The Sheridan Region Fish Division completed numerous frog surveys in the Bighorn Mountains during July. The surveys are conducted to help fill data gaps and better define distribution of the frog species that call the Bighorn National Forest (BNF) home. Frogs were found in seven of eight surveys done in the northern part of the BNF, but no frogs were found in three surveys completed on the southern part of the BNF. Three species of frogs inhabit the BNF, the northern leopard frog, the wood frog and the Columbia spotted frog; all three species were encountered during the surveys. Samples were also taken from the frogs captured to determine if chytrid fungus was present. This fungus, since it was first identified in 1998, has been responsible for the reduction of amphibians around the world.



*Columbia Spotted Frog (Rana luteiventris)*



*Frog egg mass (transparent spheres with black dot are eggs)*



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### Rangeland Inventory Done on Ed O. Taylor WHMA

In late June and early July, Terrestrial Habitat Biologist Todd Caltrider and Gillette Wildlife Biologist Erika Peckham performed a range inventory on the Ed O. Taylor Wildlife Habitat Management Area (WHMA). The last range inventory that was conducted on Ed O. Taylor occurred in 1981. The purpose of these range inventories is to measure rangeland plant diversity and health. These inventories provide WGFD with information regarding the changes to the rangeland condition on WGFD habitat management units and direct Game and Fish to areas that could benefit from habitat improvement practices. The data gathered from this inventory will be analyzed this fall and help direct future habitat treatments on Ed O. Taylor WHMA for mule deer and elk.



*Terrestrial Habitat Biologist Todd Caltrider performing a line point intercept transect on Ed O Taylor WHMA*



*Looking down a transect line at Ed O Taylor WHMA*

### New Way to Prevent Crop Damage



Buffalo Game Warden Jim Seeman was notified by a Buffalo area landowner that Canada geese were doing damage to his barley field. Seeman decided to try a technique used in other parts of Wyoming that has shown some success in reducing crop damage. **“Scary man” an inflatable ten foot high sock, that undulates up and down flopping its arms was placed near the barley field. Seeman indicated “Scary man” did not work as well as he had hoped.**

*The “Scary man” inflatable sock (photo at left) undulates near a barley field east of Buffalo.*