



Wyoming Game and Fish Department

Sheridan Region

May 2016 Newsletter

Sheridan Region

Regional Wildlife Supervisor:

Joe Gilbert (retired May 6)
Craig Smith

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: Vacant
S. Gillette: Dustin Kirsch
Moorcroft: J.D. Davis
Investigator: Scott Adell
Damage Tech: Vacant

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:

Mike Iconelli

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

Highland Park Elementary 4th Grade Penny Raffle

The Highland Park Elementary 4th grade classes in Sheridan studied endangered wildlife species around the world and within Wyoming. During their study of endangered species, the classes decided to hold a penny raffle to raise funds to support endangered species in Wyoming. After several weeks of fund raising and writing papers on endangered species, the classes took a field trip to the Sheridan Region Game and Fish Office on April 18. During their field trip a class spokesperson, Kyndal McFadden, presented the proceeds of the penny raffle to Regional Wildlife Supervisor Joe Gilbert. The \$192.36 raised will be placed in a permanent fund that will contribute monies to wildlife conservation in Wyoming for many years. During the field trip Garret Way was asked to read the paper he wrote about wildlife in Wyoming. Garret's paper is reprinted below.



Kyndal McFadden presents Sheridan Region Wildlife Supervisor Joe Gilbert the proceeds from their penny raffle.



Garret Way reads the paper he wrote on Wyoming and it's wildlife.

Garret Way's paper:

Can you imagine Wyoming without wild animals? I encourage you to donate your pennies to Game and Fish (G&F). First off, wild animals need more help than domestic animals do. Domestic animals are not in danger of being wiped off the earth or in other words, extinct. Wild animals are in danger of going extinct. If we don't have wild animals in Wyoming it wouldn't be Wyoming anymore.

Another reason why you should support G&F is because they do many good things for Wyoming's wildlife. For example, an expert from G&F told us that one way they can save a species is by captive breeding. One other example of them helping wildlife is by moving (road killed) deer off the road so eagles don't get hit by cars. They also patrol the countryside and have the right to pull anyone who is speeding or violating an animal's habitat.

Clearly, G&F deserves your coins. I also encourage you to help Wyoming's wildlife in other ways than this.

Garret Way (4th Grade, Highland Park Elementary, Sheridan, WY)



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Game and Fish has Displays at Wyoming Sportsman's Group Expo



With booths set up and ready to go, Game & Fish employees wait for the doors to open to the public at the Wyoming Sportsman's Expo in Gillette.

In photo above, Sheridan Region Office Manager Lori Roe (sitting at table) arranges publications as Sheridan Regional Fish Management Supervisor walks out to inspect the fish identification board.

In photo below, game wardens (left to right) Rod Liebert (Douglas), Dustin Kirsch (South Gillette) and Chris Teter (Sundance) discuss wildlife law enforcement issues before the public visits the Wyoming Game Warden Association booth.



Sheridan Region Habitat and Access Coordinator Seth Roseberry answers questions posed by Expo attendees.

The Wyoming Game and Fish Department Sheridan Region and the Wyoming Game Warden Association set up booths at the first annual Wyoming Sportsman's Group Expo held in Gillette April 15-17. Approximately 2,000 people attended the Expo, allowing Game and Fish employees to answer numerous questions on a wide variety of wildlife related topics. The displays contained photos showing habitat improvement projects, hides and furs of Wyoming mammals, mounted fish, as well as horns and antlers of big game animals.



In photo at left, the "Cutty Truck", a newly wrapped fish distribution unit sits in front of the Equality Hall during the Expo.



Expo attendees view the Poach Coach displayed at the Wyoming Game Warden Association booth.



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April Wildlife Surveys

Game and Fish biologists and game wardens spent considerable time in April conducting surveys for sage-grouse and other species. Preliminary results indicate 2016 may be another good year for sage-grouse. Lek surveys completed by the end of April showed numbers of male sage-grouse displaying on leks to be on par with 2015.

While doing sage-grouse surveys, biologists and wardens record sightings of other species, especially bird species that are classified as “Species of Greatest Conservation Need.”



This sage-grouse lek in Campbell County had over 70 males displaying. While 70 plus males on a lek may not be unusual in southwest Wyoming, it is a rare sight in northeast Wyoming.



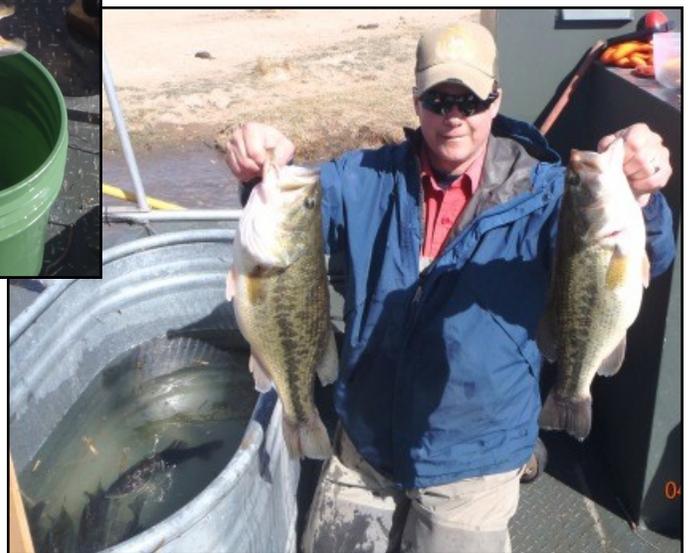
Gillette Wildlife Biologist Erika Peckham photographed this Wilson's snipe while doing wildlife surveys in April.

April Fish Survey—Healy Reservoir



One of several tiger muskie sampled in Healy Reservoir in April. The largest tiger muskie sampled was 35 inches long and weighed 10 pounds.

The Sheridan Region Fish Management Crew did some fish sampling in Healy Reservoir near Buffalo in April. The fish biologists used an electrofishing boat to collect over 150 largemouth bass that were between 12 and 15 inches, with the largest bass measuring 20 inches and weighing 5.7 pounds. Several tiger muskie over the 30 inch minimum size limit were sampled.



Sheridan Region Fish Management Biologist Andrew Nikirk holds two of the largemouth bass sampled in Healy Reservoir. Several bass sampled exceed five pounds.



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Willows and Cottonwoods Planted to Restore Riparian Habitats

Aquatic Habitat Biologist Travis Cundy, Terrestrial Habitat Biologist Todd Caltrider, and Fisheries Technician Reed Moore planted willows and cottonwood trees in two different riparian restoration projects in Campbell and Weston County. One hundred Plains Cottonwoods and 150 Coyote Willows were planted in two riparian areas that were enrolled in the Farm Service Agency CCRP (Continuous Conservation Reserve Program). The CCRP is a program that helps private landowners who want to restore habitat and hydrology to riparian areas by providing them cost share funding to install water and fences to help manage livestock use in riparian areas.

The Coyote Willow and Plains Cottonwood cuttings (4 to 6 foot sections of tree with all of the branches sheared off) were planted in the riparian areas using a water-stinger system. This system uses a long narrow pipe known as a stinger connected to a water pump and shoots high pressure water from two openings at the end of the stinger. The stinger creates a narrow deep hole so a cutting can be placed deep into the hole. Planting the cuttings deep enhances the survival of the woody tree species. The willows and cottonwoods will aid in restoring riparian habitat and stream hydrology.

Photo at right, a riparian area with woody species (red arrows) planted along the banks of the stream.



Photo at left, Sheridan Region Fisheries Technician Reed Moore prepares to plant several willow cuttings as Terrestrial Habitat Biologist Travis Cundy uses the water stinger system to create the hole for the cuttings.