



Wyoming Game and Fish Department

Sheridan Region

December 2015 Newsletter



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

White-tailed Deer Rescued From Abandoned Underground Concrete Structure



The white-tailed buck deer peers up from the underground concrete structure.



Sheridan Bird Farm Biologist Nate Brown maneuvers the strap around the trapped white-tailed deer.

On Saturday November 7, 2015, a pheasant hunter reported a deer stuck in a hole near the old Acme town site to Sheridan Bird Farm Biologist Nate Brown. Brown contacted Sheridan Wildlife Biologist Tim Thomas, Access Yes Coordinator Troy Tobiasson, and Sheridan Game Warden Bruce Scigliano who responded with the needed equipment and manpower to get the white-tailed buck from the underground concrete structure. After a strap was placed around the animal, Thomas immobilized the deer and it was pulled from the pit. With the white-tailed deer hunting season still open in the general area, orange duck tape was placed on the deer's antlers and a tag was placed in it's ear instructing hunters to notify the Game and Fish Department if they harvested the deer. The ear tag is required as the meat from an immobilized animal is not suitable for human consumption for a period of time. The entrance to the pit was covered over so no other animals would fall into the structure.



Sheridan Wildlife Biologist Tim Thomas prepares to immobilize the deer with a jab stick.



Access Yes Coordinator Troy Tobiasson with the rescued white-tailed deer. Note orange duck tape on the deer's antlers.



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Devils Tower Game Check Station



The Devils Tower check station, located at the pullouts along Highway 24 south of Devils Tower National Monument, was operated by Wyoming Game and Fish Department personnel each weekend in November. During the nine days the check station was operated, hunters brought 30 mule deer, 270 white-tailed deer and ten turkeys through the check station.

Game and Fish regulations require all hunters, whether successful or not, to stop at game check stations.

Gillette Wildlife Biologist Erika Peckham visits with a successful deer hunter that stopped by the Devils Tower check station.

Mule Deer Population Surveys Started in Late November



Sheridan Region Wildlife Biologists and Game Wardens conducted several postseason mule deer aerial classification surveys in late November. Postseason classifications are used to determine herd fawn ratios and buck ratios. Fawn ratios provide managers an indication of fawn production and survival to early winter. Fawn production and survival is the key factor in mule deer population growth. Buck ratios show the percentage of bucks in each herd and provide an indication of the quality of the buck hunting opportunity. Bucks are classified as yearling bucks, Class I bucks (≤ 20 " antler spread), Class II bucks (20-25" antler spread) and Class III bucks (≥ 25 " antler spread). The yearling buck ratio indicates how well the previous year's fawns survived the winter. Classifications will continue through December with managers conducting ground surveys.





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Resident Youth Have A Great Hunting Season



Josh Cleveland, a young hunter from Kaycee, had a banner year big game hunting. In October Josh bagged a 6X6 elk and then in November he was successful in taking a great 8X9 white-tailed deer.



Terrance Monger of Gillette harvested his first deer on a parcel of public land that had been hunted hard for almost a month.

Kaycee Game Warden Grant Gerharter was able to snap the photos above of Josh Cleveland. Josh, along with his father Randy and brother Aaron are avid big game hunters.

In late November, Moorcroft Game Warden John Davis checked Terrance Monger and his grandfather Jim while on routine patrol in Deer Hunt Area 3. Terrance had harvested his first deer (photo on left) on a state section that had been hunted hard all season. The Mongers spotted a mule deer buck lying out in the sage brush away from the road traffic and stalked close enough for Terrance to make a one-shot kill.

Congratulations to these two young hunters!



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Story Fish Hatchery Transfers Eggs in November



Story Fish Hatchery Senior Fish Culturist Brad Hughes strips eggs from a brown trout.

This fall the Story Fish Hatchery spawned over 3.2 million eggs from the three (brook, brown and lake trout) fall spawning brood stocks maintained at the hatchery. By November the eggs were ready to be transferred to other fish hatcheries in Wyoming and across the country. The hatchery shipped 113,000 splake (lake trout X brook trout hybrid) eggs to Colorado and other fish hatcheries in Wyoming. Kentucky and Idaho received 135,000 brown trout eggs. Tennessee, Utah and other hatcheries in Wyoming received 100,000 brook trout eggs; while 130,000 lake trout eggs were shipped to Idaho. Story also shipped 286,000 tiger trout (brook trout X brown trout hybrid) eggs to Utah, Nebraska, South Dakota, Idaho, Colorado and other fish hatcheries in Wyoming.

In return for the trout eggs shipped to other states, Game and Fish receives fish species that are not raised in Wyoming fish hatcheries.

Photogenic Bobcats



While on foot patrol, Kaycee Game Warden Grant Gerharter observed a family of four bobcats and took the photos shown here. After a short time, one of the kittens saw Gerharter and ran away. The mother followed and made some interesting calls to her kittens. There is one bobcat in the photo on the upper left, three bobcats in the photo on the lower left, and all four bobcats are in the photo above. The bobcats blend in well with the surrounding trees and rocks!