AUGUST 2015

"Conserving Wildlife - Serving People"

2015 Landowner of the Year

Mr. and Mrs. Doug Samuelson have been named the Laramie Region 2015 Landowner of the Year.

The Samuelsons own and manage more than 30,000 acres between Laramie and the eastern edge of the state. They demonstrate a strong wildlife conservation and land stewardship ethic and have allowed several terrestrial habitat restoration and enhancement projects on their land. More than 2,000 acres have been treated by prescribed fires and treatment is planned for 800 more acres this fall.

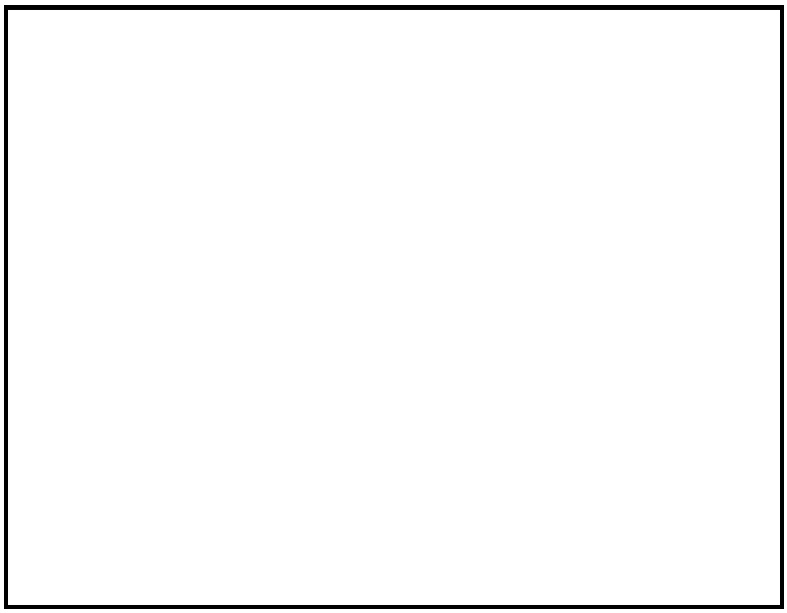
They also encourage and allow ethical hunting on their properties. In 2012 and 2013, the Samuelsons participated in the Iron Mountain Hunter Management Assistant Program to help increase elk harvest. Doug Samuelson and Ranch Manager Dennis Magnusson were incredibly helpful during these hunts, allowing for much better harvest success than anticipated. During these two seasons hunters harvested more than 200 cow and calf elk on their property. This harvest brought the Iron Mountain elk herd closer to its management objective.

The Samuelsons allow a great deal of wildlife and fisheries sampling and classification on their properties. They allowed Game and Fish access to capture bighorn sheep on their property for the past two years for disease surveillance purposes.

As generous philanthropists, the Samuelsons donate money to many conservation projects and hunting events that benefit wildlife and wyoming s hunting heritage.

The Wyoming Game and Fish Department thanks the Samuelsons for all they do for wildlife.

Thank you!



&KH\HQQH *DPH :DUGHQ 6KDZQ %ODMV]F]D Landowner of the Year Award to Doug and Susan Samuelson.

Teaching the next generation of hunters

Torrington Game Warden Rob Hipp taught a hunter safety class in Torrington at Eastern Wyoming College in August.

Twenty students signed up for the class, and 19 passed the exam and attended a range day that Saturday. The students completed a practical firearms handling course and participated in a live fire with .22 rifles.

Access Coordinator Jason Sherwood coordinated a hunter education class in Laramie and worked with Game Warden Jordan Winter to help him become a certified instructor.

For information about upcoming hunter education classes visit the Game and Fish website at wgfd.wyo.gov.

Habitat and Access crew maintains more than habitat

The primary duties of personnel in the Habitat and Access section is to provide places for wildlife to live and hunters and anglers to recreate.

But these employees also maintain buildings that belong to the Game and Fish Department. Yoder Habitat and Access Biologist Dericke Lavoine replaced damaged windows in our Yoder shop and Saratoga Habitat and Access Biologist Mark Cufaude installed a water line into the Saratoga shop.

Welcome to the Laramie Region

New coordinator at Downar Bird Farm

The Laramie Region welcomes Ben Milner as the new bird farm coordinator at the Downar Bird Farm.

Milner began caring for pheasants at the Sheridan Bird Farm as a temporary employee in 1998. He received a permanent position at the Tillett Springs Fish Rearing Station in 2003. He moved to Ten Sleep Hatchery in 2006 and was named the senior fish culturist at Boulder Fish Rearing Station in 2012.

Milner is a Wyoming native and attended the University of Wyoming and earned a bachelor in Fisheries Biology and Management in 2000.

He is excited by the new challenge of keeping the bird farm running smoothly. "My primary Downar Bird Farm with the disease free," he his wife, Teresa, and their three-year-old daughter, Emily.

New Habitat & Access biologist in Yoder

The Laramie Region welcomes Dericke Lavoine as the new Habitat and Access biologist in Yoder.

Lavoine comes to the department from Indiana. He was born in Indianapolis and grew up in a military family and has lived in many places, including Amsterdam, Netherlands, where he completed a semester of college. He later graduated from the University of Southern Indiana with a bachelor's degree i

In his new position he will care for the Springer/Bump Sullivan and Table Mountain Wildlife Management Habitat Areas, as well as h- Grayrocks, Packer Lake and Mac's 4 currently working on a water improvement plan at Table Mountain that will help provide forage for dabbling ducks by controlling water m levels and allowing for the growth of emergent vegetation.

Lavoine and his wife Robin reside near Yoder.

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Warden Kelly Todd received a call about a porcupine in a yard in Laramie. He responded to the residence and learned the homeowner's dog had got to the porcupine. The homeowner asked how far a porcupine can throw its quills. Warden Todd told her that it was only a wives tail that porcupine throw their quills. They do not throw their quills, but when they snap their tails (when something is trying to attack them) sometimes loose quills from their body will get dislodged and fly through the air.

Warden Todd caught the porcupine and released it on Pole Mountain.

Landowner provides home for bald eagle

Game Warden Kelly Todd was checking on elk damage on a private ranch when he saw a bald eagle that was trying to catch a meal by the shoreline of a reservoir next to the Esterbrook Road.

This was the first time he saw a bald eagle along this road. He mentioned it to the landowner who told him the eagle sometimes eats Todd said this was a nice reminder that when landowners are good stewards of the land they can supply a lot of food and cover for a number of species of wildlife. Many landowners enjoy the wildlife and do not mind feeding a few of them.

Wardens complete firearms training

Medicine Bow Game Warden Jake Kettley and Cheyenne Game Warden Shawn Blajszczak attended training at the Cheyenne Police Department shooting range in August. The training was sponsored by HIVIZ Shooting Systems and included rifle and pistol training, as well as tactics training and safety demonstrations.

Other sponsors include Kel-Tec, Hornady, The Safariland Group, Magpul Industries Corporation and several other companies. Blajszczak and Kettley would like to thank all the sponsors for the training.

Large carnivore training

Wildlife Division personnel from the Laramie and Lander regions completed a class on trophy game incidents in August.

Large Carnivore Conflict Coordinator Brian DeBolt and Large Carnivore Management Section Supervisor Dan Thompson provided instruction on identification of the cause of depredation, investigation of human interaction, and trapping techniques.

The Laramie Region has seen plenty of black bear activity this summer, with bears relocated from several communities across the region.

Photos: Above, Brian DeBolt shows how to set a bear trap. Below, Dan Thompson demonstrates how to catch a bear in a snare.

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