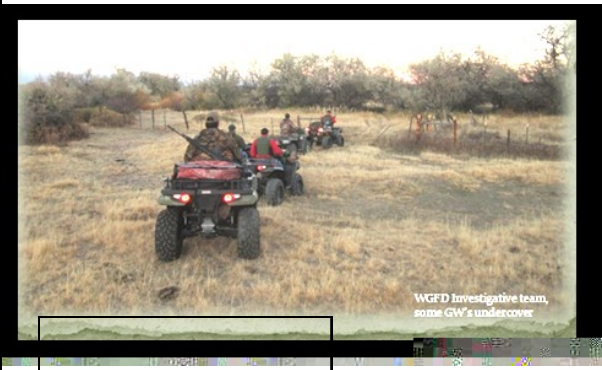
IT TAKES A VILLAGE ±HUDSON MOOSE CASE

On the evening of October 15, 2012, a landowner in the Hudson, Wyoming area heard a folly of 15 or 16 gunshots coming from a privately -owned river bottom property on the Popo Agie/Little Wind River. The landowner saw three individuals carrying rifles and driving a dark blue vehicle near the scene of the shooting. The following morning, the landowner reported the incident to South Riverton Game Warden Chris Daubin. The area is located within the boundaries of the Wind River Indian Reservation and involves complicated jurisdictional boundaries. Wildlife found on Indian -owned land falls under the jurisdiction of the Tribal Fish and Game Department (TFGD) and the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA); however, wildlife found on non-Indian owned lands within reservation boundaries falls under the jurisdiction of the State of Wyoming and the Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD).

Later that same afternoon, the landowner and Warden Daubin used ATVs to reach the location of the suspicious activity. Upon investigation, Daubin and the landowner discovered four dead moose (two bulls and two cows). The two bulls had been partially field dressed and the cows were left un-gutted. The weather was still fairly warm and the large animals had already begun to spoil. The scene revealed that both the shooters and moose they killed were entirely on non-Indian owned fee title land within the exterior boundary of the Wind River Indian Reservation. By Wyoming Game and Fish Commission regulations, this area was closed to moose hunting. Warden Daubin left the scene to call for assistance from other area wardens.

Warden Daubin returned just before sunset that evening and staked out the area in hopes the perpetrators would return. After waiting well into the evening and seeing no sign of the perpetrators, Warden Daubin decided to call it a night, as he knew he had his work cut out for him the next day.

With the help of Lander Region Wardens Brad Gibb, Brad Hovinga, Brian DeBolt, Jason Hunter, and Investigator Scott Browning, the task of gathering evidence began.