



# Annual Law Enforcement Report





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## MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF



A favorite historical photo of mine shows Wyoming's first state game warden, Albert Nelson, cooking a backcountry meal over a small fire while his horses rest quietly. It is a tranquil scene and epitomizes what many of us envisioned a career in conservation law enforcement would look like as we embarked on the path to becoming a Wyoming game warden. While much has changed since Albert Nelson became the state's first game warden in 1899, the nature of the work and the requisite skills of the current modern-day officer are remarkably similar. Like Albert, today's Wyoming game warden must have a working knowledge of the life histories and ecology of Wyoming's diverse wildlife, an ability to work long hours, alone, in the outdoors with all that Wyoming's fickle weather can present, and the grit necessary to work through tough problems and challenges.

This summary of the 2023 law enforcement efforts of the Wyoming Game and Fish Department illustrates how game wardens today use their knowledge, skills, and training to help conserve your wildlife resources. I am proud of the work our wardens do for Wyoming's wildlife. They exemplify the same grit and determination as their predecessors as they carry out their unique role in conserving the state's wildlife and serving you.

I am grateful to live and work in a state where many people care deeply about wildlife. Thank you for your continued support and interest in the Wyoming Game and Fish Department's law enforcement program.

All the best,

**Rick King**  
Chief Game Warden

P.S.

In November of 2023, Albert Nelson was posthumously inducted into the Wyoming Outdoor Hall of Fame (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ym9G9czB34c>).





# INTRODUCTION

The Wyoming Game & Fish Department (Department) is responsible for conserving and managing over 800 species of wildlife in the state. Residents and visitors value Wyoming's world-class hunting, fishing and wildlife viewing opportunities. The Department is dedicated to conserving and protecting Wyoming's wildlife to ensure these opportunities for future generations. Enforcement of wildlife laws and apprehension of wildlife violators are critical components of the Department's overall wildlife management efforts.

Each year, Department law enforcement officers dedicate thousands of work hours, hundreds of thousands of vehicle miles (patrol vehicles, all-terrain vehicles and snowmobiles), thousands of watercraft hours and hundreds of horseback days patrolling Wyoming's vast landscapes to enforce the state's hunting, fishing, trapping, boating and general wildlife laws. Officers see their job as more than simply enforcing laws and regulations. They spend much of their time

educating the public to gain support for and ensure compliance with wildlife and watercraft safety laws. The public has consistently supported the Department's law enforcement officers and programs, giving high marks to game wardens and wildlife investigators for their professionalism and dedication. Department law enforcement officers investigate all types of wildlife crimes and work through the court system to ensure the successful prosecution of violators.

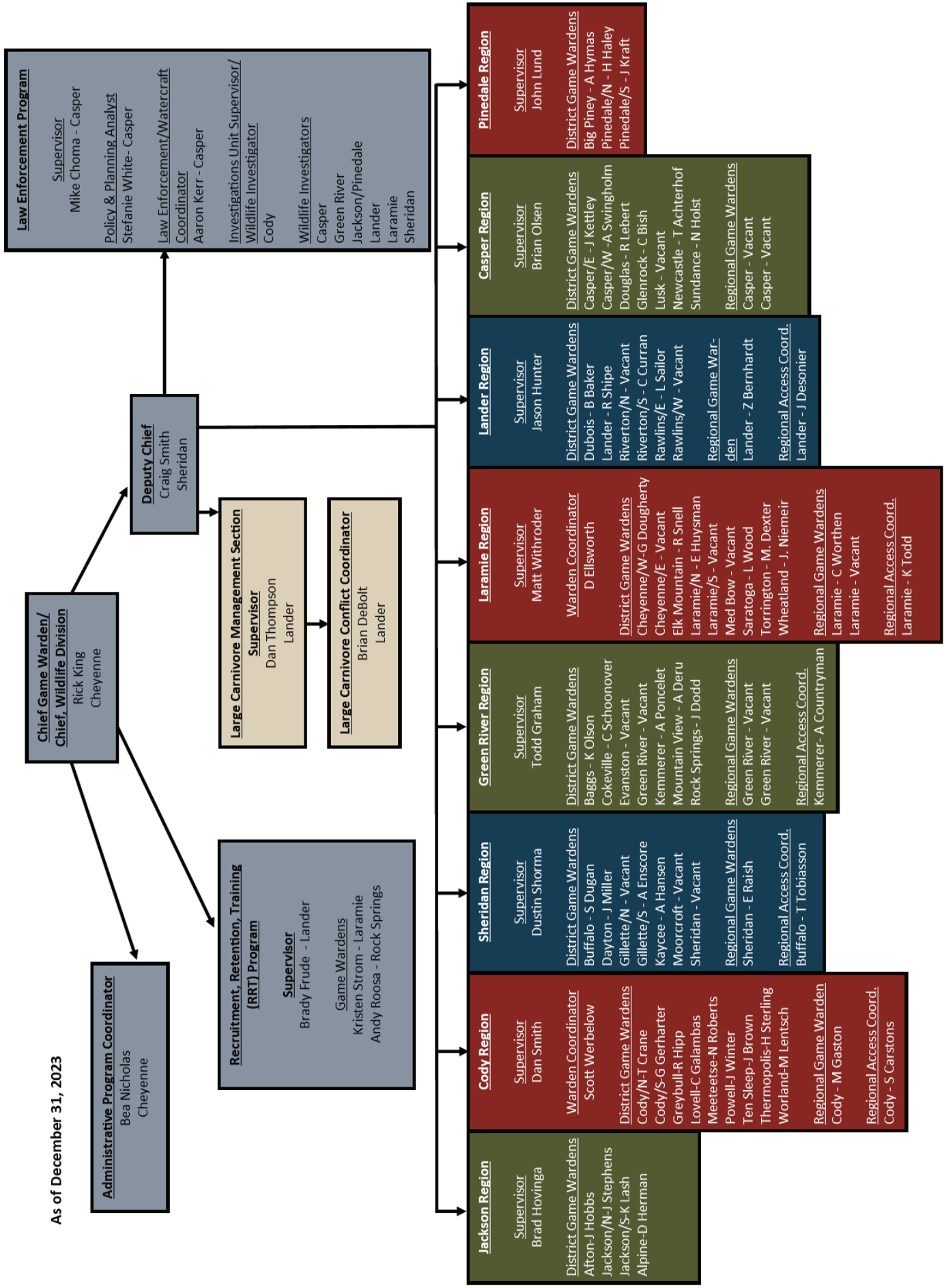
The following report details Department law enforcement efforts and highlights for calendar year 2023. It includes an organizational chart of law enforcement personnel, regional summaries, violation statistics, new game warden testing/hiring results, game warden training and new legislation affecting the law enforcement program. It also discusses Wyoming's Stop Poaching Program, Wildlife Investigations Unit efforts and other aspects of wildlife law enforcement in Wyoming.



*Firearms training in Sheridan Region*



# ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



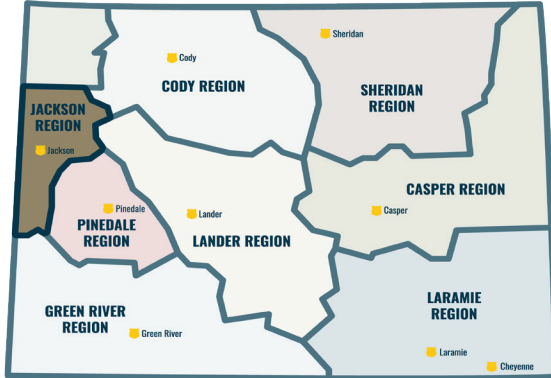
## District Boundaries / Regional Overview





# REGIONAL OVERVIEW

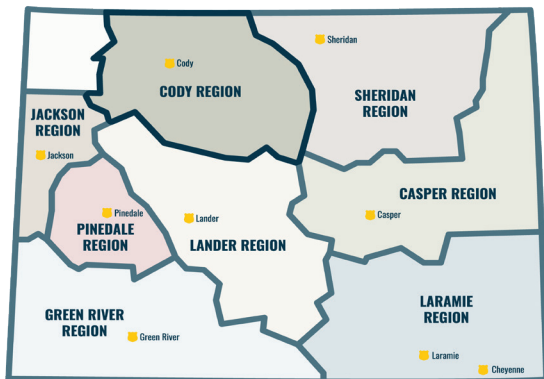
## JACKSON REGION



### Work Unit Overview

The Jackson Region has five law enforcement positions: four district game wardens and one regional wildlife supervisor. This is the first full year in recent history that the Alpine game warden district has been filled, significantly reducing the workload for the adjacent Afton and South Jackson game wardens. The Jackson Region is located south of Yellowstone National Park and game wardens patrol the Jackson Hole Valley, Gros Ventre Range and Star Valley, along with the Hoback and Greys River drainages.

## CODY REGION



### Work Unit Overview

The Cody Region has 12 law enforcement positions: nine district game wardens, one access coordinator, one game warden supervisor and one regional wildlife supervisor. The Cody Region is located in northwest Wyoming. Wardens patrol

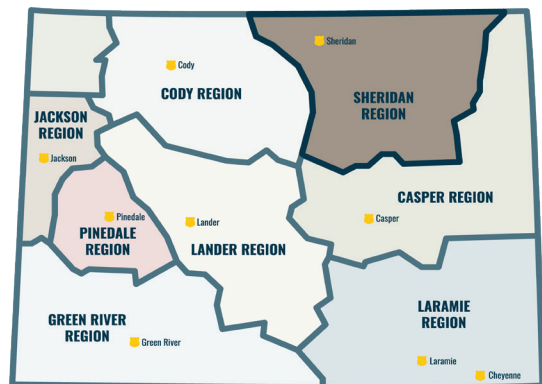
from the Montana state line south to Boysen Reservoir and from Yellowstone National Park east to the west slope of the Bighorn Mountains. The region includes the North Cody, South Cody, Powell, Lovell, Meeteetse, Greybull, Ten Sleep, Thermopolis and Worland game warden districts.



*Wardens moving bison*

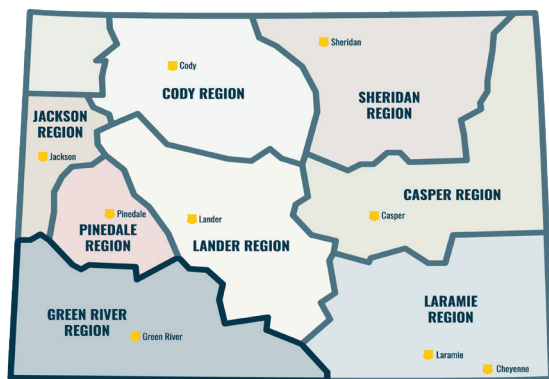
## SHERIDAN REGION

### Work Unit Overview



The Sheridan Region has nine law enforcement positions including seven district game wardens, one access coordinator and one regional wildlife supervisor. The Sheridan Region encompasses the east slope of the Bighorn Mountains, the Powder River Basin, the Rochelle Hills, portions of the Little Missouri River drainage and the western edge of the Black Hills. The region includes game warden districts in Dayton, Sheridan, Buffalo, Kayce, North Gillette, South Gillette and Moorcroft.

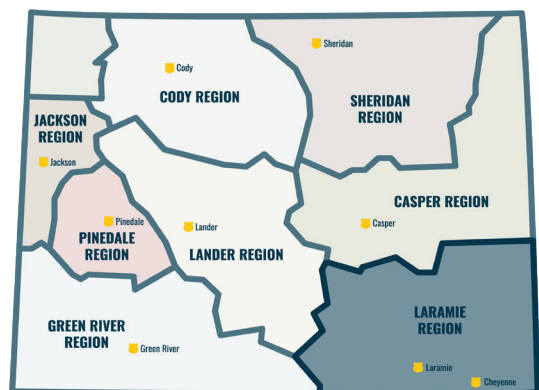
## GREEN RIVER REGION



### Work Unit Overview

The Green River Region has 11 law enforcement officers including seven district game wardens, two regional game wardens, one access coordinator and one regional wildlife supervisor. The Green River Region covers southwest and south central Wyoming, including the Baggs, Rock Springs, Green River, Mountain View, Evanston, Kemmerer and Cokeville warden districts. Several personnel changes occurred in the region during 2023 and a number of districts remained vacant throughout the majority of the year.

## LARAMIE REGION



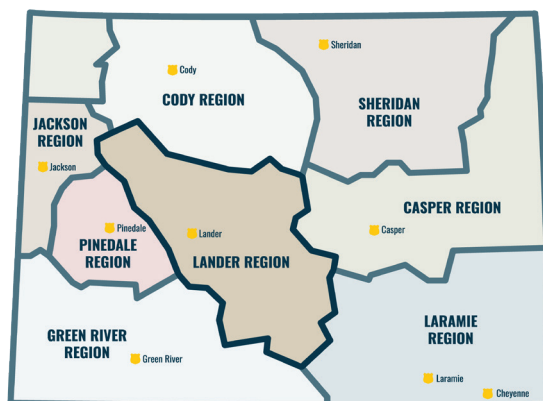
### Work Unit Overview

The Laramie Region has 14 law enforcement officers, including nine district game wardens, two regional game wardens, one access

coordinator, one game warden supervisor and one regional wildlife supervisor. The Laramie Region covers southeast Wyoming, including the eastern Sierra Madre Mountains, Snowy Range, Shirley Basin, Laramie Range and eastern plains to the Nebraska state line. The region includes the East Cheyenne, West Cheyenne, Torrington, Wheatland, Medicine Bow, North Laramie, South Laramie, Elk Mountain and Saratoga game warden districts. In addition, the two regional game wardens have regional responsibilities while stationed in Laramie and Cheyenne.

As in recent years, the Laramie Region experienced a significant turnover in personnel in 2023, specifically in the Torrington, West Cheyenne, Wheatland, North Laramie, South Laramie, Medicine Bow, and Elk Mountain game warden districts as well as the regional game warden positions. This turnover had a profound impact on law enforcement efforts.

## LANDER REGION



### Work Unit Overview

The Lander Region has seven law enforcement officers, including six district game wardens and one regional wildlife supervisor. District game wardens are stationed in Dubois, North Riverton, South Riverton, Lander, West Rawlins and East Rawlins. The Lander Region is located in central Wyoming and game wardens patrol from the Red Desert north to the Owl Creek Mountains and from the Gas Hills west to the Wind River Range and southern Absaroka Mountains.

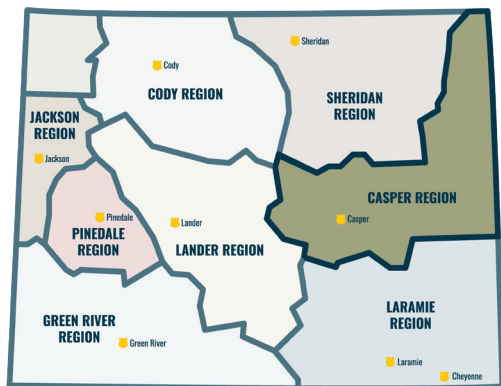


One district in the region was vacant for over six months of the year and another position became vacant in December. However, the region gained an access coordinator position in December.



*Game warden conducting an investigation*

## CASPER REGION

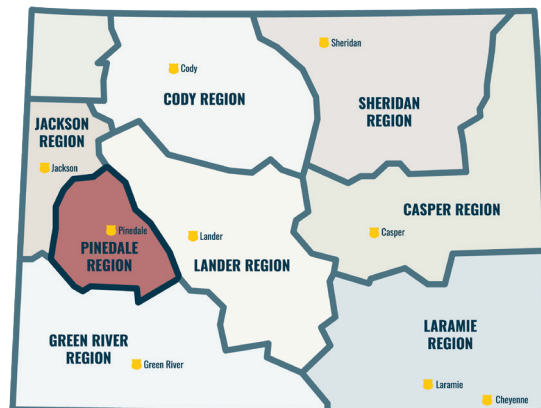


### Work Unit Overview

The Casper Region consists of 10 law enforcement officers, including seven district game wardens, one access coordinator, one regional game warden, and one regional wildlife supervisor. The Casper Region is in east-central Wyoming with game wardens patrolling from the Rattlesnake Hills and southern Big Horn Mountains, east to the Nebraska and South Dakota state lines, along with a portion of the Thunder Basin National Grasslands and the

Black Hills. The Casper Region has district game wardens stationed in Glenrock, Douglas, Lusk, Newcastle, Sundance, East Casper and West Casper.

## PINEDALE REGION



### Work Unit Overview

The Pinedale Region has four law enforcement officers, including three district game wardens and a regional wildlife supervisor. The region is in western Wyoming and covers Sublette County from the west slope of the Wind River Range to the east slope of the Wyoming Range. The Pinedale Region includes the North Pinedale, South Pinedale and Big Piney warden districts. The regional wildlife supervisor and the Green River access coordinator also assist with enforcement efforts in the region.



*Wardens on horse patrol*

## 2023 LAW ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS

Wyoming game wardens have many responsibilities, several of which fall outside of the law enforcement realm. These include gathering information on wildlife populations, investigating and mitigating damage caused by wildlife, responding to reports of sick or injured wildlife and educating the public about wildlife management issues. In their law enforcement role, game wardens throughout Wyoming spend as much time as possible proactively patrolling in their districts checking sportspersons who are hunting, fishing or boating. They also answer calls for service and investigate tips received through the Stop Poaching program. In addition to routine law enforcement duties, in 2023, wardens focused on particular areas of concern, including protecting big game on their winter ranges, monitoring areas closed to shed antler collection and improving compliance with aquatic invasive species (AIS) requirements.

The 2022-23 winter was one of the most severe on record in most of Wyoming. Antelope and deer populations were hit hard and game wardens in many districts spent most of their time working to evaluate and prevent damage and elk/livestock commingling. As a result, they had little time for anything else, including law enforcement. Several wardens from less-affected areas of the state traveled to districts in western Wyoming to assist their counterparts with wildlife damage issues and additional patrols of winter range areas to protect wintering big game herds.

The enforcement of shed antler collection closures on public lands in western Wyoming continued to be a priority and was especially important this year. Disturbance of big game animals in the late winter and early spring can lead to increased

mortality of animals with limited fat reserves. Over the past several years, there has been increased public interest in shed antler collection and the Department regularly receives complaints regarding antler collection during closed periods or on private lands without permission. Due to the severe winter and longer period of snow cover, the opening of the shed antler collection season was postponed from May 1 to May 15 for 2023. The Department deployed a task force of several game wardens in the Green River region near Baggs to ensure compliance with the extended closure. Wardens in the Lander and Jackson Regions also spent considerable time monitoring antler collection area closures, the Alpine antler sale, National Elk Refuge / Boy Scout Antler auction and associated antler sales.

In recent years, neighboring states have discovered new infestations of zebra and quagga mussels in their waterways, most notably Lake Pactola in South Dakota and the Snake River near Twin Falls, Idaho. These mussels spread rapidly and can cause considerable problems with other wildlife and infrastructure in and around the waterways they inhabit. The

Department places a high priority on inspecting and decontaminating watercraft entering the state to prevent the spread of these and other AIS. In 2023, much of this effort was focused at the busiest AIS check stations, on I-80 near Evanston and I-25 in Cheyenne. The Evanston Port of Entry AIS check station remained the busiest in the state and the number of people failing to stop at the check station continued to be a focus. Extra help was brought in from other regions on the summer holiday weekends to work the check station, documenting 25 violations for failing to stop at the check station in just two weekends. Throughout June and July, game wardens working at the



*Seized antlers*



Cheyenne I-25 AIS check station intercepted 92 watercraft owners entering the state without stopping for an inspection. Statewide, game wardens documented 347 violations of AIS regulations. Of these, 41 were watercraft that had already been launched without a required AIS inspection.

In total, game wardens documented 2,906 violations, up slightly from 2,838 in 2022. Due to the winter die-off, antelope and deer license quotas were reduced and deer seasons were shortened in many hunt areas during the season-setting process. Throughout much of the fall season, the



Warden on ATV patrol

weather remained mild, in contrast to conditions in 2022. These factors led to fewer hunters afield and reduced big game harvest in many parts of the state. Several wardens reported encountering fewer violations in their hunting season patrols.

Additionally, several game warden districts remained vacant during part or all of the year, resulting in less overall patrol time by Department law enforcement officers. Several game wardens were hired in 2023 and will move into these vacant positions once they complete their training programs. However, based on current trends, it may take several years before the Department is at full staff within the law enforcement ranks.

## NOTABLE CASES

The cases in this section were some of the more unique or interesting cases encountered by game wardens in 2023. Whether a major investigation or a more common violation with a unique aspect to it, these cases were highlighted by the game wardens who worked them.

### Twice in One Day – Rob Roy Reservoir Watercraft Enforcement

On July 3rd, the Elk Mountain and North Laramie game wardens were patrolling for watercraft and fishing violations on Rob Roy Reservoir in the Snowy Range. The wardens saw a boat on the water returning to the boat ramp and contacted the occupants onboard to perform a watercraft safety inspection, where they noted multiple registration and safety violations. The wardens issued warnings for the violations and told the operator that he could not go back out on the water until he fixed his registration and had all the required watercraft safety equipment.

About two hours later, the wardens saw the same boat operating on Rob Roy Reservoir. They contacted the operator and discovered that he had not fixed any of the violations that he had

been warned for mere hours before. The wardens escorted the occupants to shore and the operator was issued citations for failing to properly number his watercraft and failing to provide adequate flotation devices. The operator failed to appear for his court date, which resulted in the issuance of a warrant for his arrest. A few days after the warrant was issued, he was arrested on the warrant when he went to the local sheriff's office for a VIN inspection on his vehicle. Ultimately, he paid \$200 in fines for the citations he had been issued.

### Mountain Lion Poaching in the Platte Valley

In December 2021, the Saratoga game warden received a report of individuals trespassing on private property near Saratoga to hunt mountain lions. The reporting party was able to provide

descriptions of the violators and their vehicle, which allowed the warden to respond and locate them.

One member of the hunting party had harvested a mountain lion with a proper license. However, it was determined that the individual had crossed onto private property without permission to harvest the animal and had not properly tagged it at the kill site. That violator was issued a citation for trespassing and a warning for failure to properly tag the animal. This violator pled guilty to the trespassing charge and received a \$450 fine.

Through further investigation of the incident, the game warden determined that a second member of the group had recently killed a mountain lion without a license. A third member of the group had tagged the illegal mountain lion with their license and made false statements by registering it in their name. Additionally, the game warden was able to determine the third individual had pursued a separate mountain lion with hounds while not in possession of a valid license.

The second violator was cited for intentionally taking a mountain lion without a license and accessory to the illegal transfer of a license. In March 2023, that violator pled guilty to intentionally taking a trophy game animal without a license. This individual received a sentence of \$6,750 in fines and restitution and lost all hunting, trapping, fishing, and guiding privileges for five years.

In January 2023, the third violator pled guilty to hunting on private land without permission, taking a mountain lion without a license, transfer of a license, and accessory to taking a mountain lion without a license. This individual received a sentence of \$6,130 in fines and lost their hunting, fishing, and trapping privileges for 10 years.

## **Vehicle Running Down Deer & More – Cheyenne**

On April 14, 2023, game wardens received a report that someone had intentionally driven

their truck through a herd of mule deer near a quarry west of Cheyenne. Witnesses told the investigating officers that the suspect drove his truck at high speed and intentionally swerved into the wrong lane of travel toward a herd of eight deer, striking two does. He turned his truck around and stopped by the deer he hit. One of the does was still alive so the suspect got out with a hunting rifle and shot it. The suspect loaded both of the deer into the back seat of his quad cab truck and left the area. Game wardens collected blood samples from the road and video from a building security camera nearby that recorded the entire incident.

The suspect was identified and game wardens learned that he had an active warrant out of Nebraska for failing to appear in court on charges related to deer hunting violations there. Due to his previous violations, his license privileges were suspended and he had been entered into the wildlife violator compact. Department license records showed that the suspect had illegally purchased 18 licenses in Wyoming while his privileges were suspended. On April 24, several game wardens assisted by Laramie County sheriff's deputies served search warrants on the suspect's residence and truck used to strike the deer. Multiple deer and antelope heads, game meat and other wildlife parts were found on the property. Forensic examination of DNA evidence taken from the suspect's truck and residence matched blood samples from the two does taken at the original crime scene.

The suspect was charged with two counts of wanton destruction of big game, two counts of taking big game with a vehicle and 18 counts of procuring a license while under suspension. He was sentenced to \$10,000 in fines, 180 days in jail (suspended), two years probation and a five-year suspension of his hunting privileges.

## **Wheatland Wanton Destruction**

On the evening of October 16, the Wheatland game warden was heading home for the night when a local off-duty police officer flagged him down. The officer reported seeing a badly



wounded mule deer buck lying in the road and took the warden there to euthanize it. The warden saw that the deer had been shot twice in its legs and was unable to stand. A witness and his family reported hearing three gunshots earlier and described the only vehicle they had seen in the area that evening. The next day, the game warden was able to locate three spent rifle casings from a 7mm magnum in the road near where the buck had been found.

After speaking with several hunters and asking them to keep an eye out for the suspect vehicle, the warden received a tip as to where the suspect was camped. The following morning, game wardens went to the suspect camp. After interviewing everyone in the camp it was determined that two individuals were hunting with 7mm magnum rifles, both with ammunition matching the casings found at the crime scene. One of the suspects confessed that while driving back from town with his brother, he had shot the deer from the road on private land and then immediately fled out of fear they would be caught.



*Buck mule deer shot and left*

The suspect was issued a citation for wanton destruction of big game and warnings for shooting from the road and hunting on private land without permission. In December of 2023,

the suspect pled guilty and was ordered to pay a \$620 fine, \$4,000 in restitution and lost his hunting and trapping privileges for two years.

### **Wasted Geese**

On December 22, 2022, the Lovell game warden received a report of several Canada geese that were dumped near a bridge north of Lovell. The game warden investigated the scene and found that the meat from the geese had not been salvaged. He deployed trail cameras in case the violator returned with more geese.

On January 3, 2023, the game warden revisited the site and saw that more goose carcasses had been dumped there. He counted a total of 28 geese, only five of which had the breast meat removed from them. Trail camera photos showed a truck with welding equipment at the site. The warden knew of a local welder who had been hunting geese in the area. The game warden and a county sheriff's deputy interviewed him and he confessed to dumping the wasted geese. He also confessed to a separate violation of using the geese and some ducks as bait while trapping furbearers. The suspect was issued two citations for wasting edible portions of game birds as he had dumped geese at this location on two separate occasions. The suspect was fined \$700 and had his license privileges suspended for one year.

### **Illegal Fish Netting on the Snake River**

In August, a game warden in Jackson received a report from a local fishing guide that someone was fishing using a cast net in the Snake River under the Wilson Bridge, an illegal method of fishing in Wyoming.

On arriving at the Wilson Boat Ramp, the game warden observed the suspect with a net lying at his feet. The suspect explained he was using it in the Snake River to see if he could catch any fish while on break from construction work. He also explained he likes to fish with the net as a hobby back home in Florida and Georgia, but had not caught anything in the Snake River yet. The game

warden explained the regulations to the suspect, who also turned out to not have a fishing license.

The suspect was issued a citation for using an illegal net to fish or seine and a warning for unlawfully fishing without a license. He was fined \$100.

### **Antler Collection During Closed Season**

Due to severe winter range conditions in western Wyoming, the shed antler collection closure was extended to protect wintering wildlife. Seven days into that extended closure, the Alpine game warden received a Stop Poaching report of an individual who was observed hiking out of the Lost Creek Trailhead with a backpack full of antlers.

The warden went to the trailhead and saw a UTV parked there with no one around. He waited at the trailhead until the suspect came out just before dark. The game warden had posted a pink sign at the trailhead alerting people of the extended antler hunting closure in the area. The suspect claimed to know about the closure, but indicated he had looked at a map and believed Star Valley was not included in that extended closure.

The game warden seized 11 elk antlers and one 5x5 elk head from the suspect and cited him for antler hunting during a closed season. The court ordered the suspect to pay \$1,070 in fines.

In another case, a Jackson game warden received a complaint that a local snowmobile guide had illegally picked up a moose antler in mid-January during the closed period for collecting shed antlers in western Wyoming.

The guide was leading a tour along the lower Hatchet Road near Moran when he found a freshly shed moose paddle. According to the complaint, the guide picked up the antler and commented how rare it was to find one. He also commented that he hoped the Forest Service wasn't out because you really aren't supposed to pick them up. When contacted by the game warden, the guide claimed that he was unaware there was a

time when collecting shed antlers was prohibited.

He was cited for picking up shed antlers during the closure. He was fined \$450 and forfeited the moose antler.

### **Illegal Trap Tampering**

In May 2023, a suspect reached a plea agreement related to a violation from the fall of 2022. On the morning of November 22, 2022, the Rock Springs game warden received a report of a social media post indicating that a Sublette County resident had released a bobcat from a trap and in doing so had received multiple cuts on his face and arms. That same evening, the game warden received a call from a local trapper that he believed someone had released a bobcat from one of his traps south of town and had taken the trap.

The game warden investigated the trap site and found evidence of a struggle, including human and bobcat tracks, blood in the snow and a winter hat lying on the ground. The game warden was able to locate a unique rock formation seen in the bobcat photo on the social media post at the scene as well as tire tracks that matched tracks in the suspect's driveway in Sublette County.

Search warrants for the suspect's residence and his DNA were obtained and served. Evidence indicated that the suspect was indeed at the trap location on November 22. He was charged with releasing a furbearer from a legally set trap.

A Sweetwater County judge sentenced the violator to 180 days in jail with 177 days suspended, \$1,131.15 in fines and restitution and six months of unsupervised probation, during which he was not allowed to be within 500 yards of a legally set trap.

### **Know Your Target**

On October 8, 2022 the Evanston game warden received a report from a man who had observed odd behavior from two hunters whom he believed had just shot a bull moose. The game

warden responded to the area of the report at Medicine Butte in the Bear River Divide Hunter Management Area and located the suspects.

Both denied shooting or seeing a bull moose while hunting deer that morning. With assistance from witnesses, game wardens were able to locate and euthanize the wounded bull moose. The meat from the moose was salvaged and donated. A necropsy revealed a bullet wound and severe shoulder trauma to the bull moose. Further investigation and ballistics testing revealed that one of the suspects had shot the bull moose with his 8mm Mauser. Later, the suspect admitted to shooting the moose after having mistaken it for a mule deer.

The suspect was charged with taking a moose without a license and the waste or abandonment of edible portions of big game. On November 14, 2023, he plead no contest to taking a moose without a license and the charge of waste was dismissed without prejudice. He was ordered to pay \$1,860 in fines and court costs plus \$7,500 in restitution. In addition, he was placed on one year of unsupervised probation, ordered to retake a hunter safety course and his hunting privileges were suspended for five years. The shooter's companion was charged with being an accessory to taking a moose without a license and accessory to the waste or abandonment of edible portions of big game. The court ordered that if the second suspect completes three years of unsupervised probation and the terms of that probation, the charge of accessory to waste of edible portions of a big game animal will be dismissed. The accessory to taking game animals without a license was dismissed.

### **Baggs Deer Poacher**

This case began in July 2020 when a Baggs police officer received a report about some wildlife crimes that the reporting party had witnessed. She described an elk killed during a closed season, a bear killed illegally and a buck deer that the suspect killed and left to rot, returning to retrieve the head and antlers the next spring. The Saratoga and Baggs game wardens spent

an entire day driving the reporting party around to different sites to try and gather any evidence to corroborate her stories. From a photograph on her phone, the wardens identified the Horse Mountain area just east of Baggs as the location where the suspect killed the buck deer. The suspect had hung the deer's head in a tree in his yard.

On August 13, 2020, after several trips to the Horse Mountains, the Baggs game warden finally found the kill site of the deer and the remains of the headless carcass. Wardens served a search warrant on the suspect's residence, where the deer head and additional evidence were seized. Electronic evidence revealed numerous incidents of the suspect hunting and fishing on private land without permission. The man was charged with six counts of hunting and fishing on private land without permission, one count of fishing without a license, and one count of transportation of big game without a Wyoming interstate game tag.

During a jury trial in June 2023, the man was found guilty of hunting deer on private land without permission, two counts of fishing on private land without permission and fishing without a license. He was acquitted of the remaining charges. He was fined \$1,260 and his privileges to hunt, trap and guide were revoked for three years.

### **Residency Investigation Uncovers Deer Poaching**

This case began as a false oath violation after a Pinedale couple had purchased Wyoming resident licenses before meeting the one-year residency requirement. During this investigation, the Big Piney game warden discovered one of the individuals had committed other violations while hunting in Wyoming in 2021 and 2022. The warden learned that during each of the 2021 and 2022 hunting seasons, the man had legally harvested mule deer bucks in the Wyoming Range, but later took whitetail bucks in the Black Hills area without valid licenses. In both years, he tagged the whitetail bucks with doe/fawn licenses. Both individuals were cited for making



false statements to procure resident licenses. The man was also cited for taking a deer without a license and taking the wrong sex of deer. They were each fined \$820 for the false statement violations. The man was fined \$2,070 in fines and restitution for taking a deer without a license and taking the wrong sex of deer. His hunting privileges were also suspended for two years.

### Hack Job

The South Gillette game warden worked an elk poaching case involving a repeat offender who had been found guilty of taking an over-limit of elk in 2016. In this case, the suspect shot a spike bull elk without a license while hunting deer. There was an elk season open in the area, so the suspect purchased a general license after the fact in an attempt to cover up his crime. The hunt area was open for antlerless elk only so the suspect cut off the antlers with a hatchet and tried to pass it off as a cow elk at a meat processor. The suspect was found guilty and was sentenced to fines and restitution totaling \$7,240, suspension of hunting privileges for 3 years, 180-day suspended jail sentence, one year of probation and a requirement to retake a hunter safety class.



*Spike elk with antlers removed*

Also, the suspect is prohibited from being in the field with anyone who is hunting during his suspension period. The entire elk was also forfeited and donated to the Food from the Field program.

### Wrong Place Wrong Time

On November 4th, 2023, the Dayton game warden responded to a report of a mule deer buck that was killed in deer hunt area 23. Hunt area 23 had been closed to mule deer harvest since October 14. When the game warden arrived at the suspect's residence, he saw a mule deer buck hanging in the garage and was greeted by the suspect's family. The family told him that the deer had been harvested that morning. A search of the licensing system showed that the suspect had not purchased a deer license in 2023. The game warden called the suspect to ask him to return home so they could talk about his deer hunt. The suspect said he had to run to Walmart first and then would be home. While waiting, the game warden kept tabs on the WGFD licensing system and saw that the suspect had purchased a deer license at Walmart while he waited.



*Mule deer taken without a license in a closed area*

When the suspect arrived home, the game warden confronted him about the license purchase and told him the deer was harvested in a closed area. The suspect was charged with taking a deer without a license. The deer was seized and the meat was later donated. The suspect was found guilty and was sentenced to a fine of \$350, restitution of \$4,000, and suspension of hunting and trapping privileges for two years.

## Hide and Seek

A long-term investigation in the Gillette area concluded in 2023. On Dec. 5, 2019, the North Gillette game warden responded to a poaching call from an anonymous informant that three violators had shot a buck mule deer during a closed season on private property and hid the deer behind a haystack. Later that night, with help from the landowner, the warden caught a Gillette resident and an accomplice from Georgia attempting to retrieve the illegally killed deer. The third suspect fled the scene and was not apprehended at the time but the warden was able to identify him as a Florida man.

As the investigation progressed, multiple wildlife violations for all three suspects were discovered dating back to December 2018, including eight buck mule deer and one bull elk taken out of season or wantonly destroyed.

Evidence showed the majority of violations occurred at night, with the suspects using thermal imaging rifle scopes and spotlights to find and poach mule deer and elk in Campbell and Johnson counties. However, in one daytime poaching instance, the trio shot and killed a buck mule deer in a Gillette subdivision, shooting long distance over a church playground, two roads and two homes. The animal was left to waste. The investigation also uncovered wildlife violations in six other states, some of which were past those states' statutes of limitations so could not be charged.

As violations were discovered during the investigation, the violators from Gillette and Georgia made multiple court appearances in 2020 and 2021 in Campbell County.

The Gillette resident received \$15,640 in fines and had his hunting, fishing and trapping privileges suspended for 20 years. The Georgia violator received \$40,165 in fines and had his hunting, fishing and trapping privileges suspended for 23 years. Both also served 30 days in jail.

Although the third suspect had returned to Florida in December 2019, Department investigators worked with Campbell County prosecutors to issue nationwide extraditable warrants for him. The suspect was apprehended in January 2023 following a high-speed vehicle pursuit with officers in Florida. He was arrested and extradited to Wyoming by the Campbell County Sheriff's Office.

In November 2023, the Florida violator agreed to plea agreements for taking big game out of season and wanton destruction of big game in Campbell and Johnson counties. He received a total of \$31,505.80 in fines and his hunting, fishing and trapping privileges were suspended for 27 years. He also served a 60-day jail sentence in the Campbell County Detention Center.

Combined, the suspects were also ordered to pay \$50,000 in restitution for the wildlife they killed, totaling more than \$137,000 in fines and restitution among the three violators.



# WILDLIFE INVESTIGATIONS UNIT

## Work Unit Overview

The Wildlife Investigations Unit (WIU) is comprised of six wildlife investigators stationed in Casper, Green River, Lander, Laramie, Jackson and Sheridan and one supervisor/investigator stationed in Cody.

The WIU is responsible for investigating large-scale, complex cases that often take a long time to complete and may involve covert work. The WIU places its highest priority on cases with commercial involvement, multiple suspects, multiple violations and wildlife violations taking place across several jurisdictions. Investigators also assist game wardens with larger enforcement cases, task forces and other special projects. The WIU maintains several intelligence databases. WIU members operate with unmarked vehicles and typically out of uniform. The WIU is equipped with digital media forensics, modern evidence collection and equipment for surveillance, tracking and covert operations. The WIU also works closely with other states' wildlife investigators and with several federal agencies, including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

## 2023 Law Enforcement Efforts

The WIU initiated at least 13 major investigations in 2023 and assisted game wardens throughout Wyoming and officers from other jurisdictions across the country with over 100 other cases. Investigators spent significant time in 2023 working ongoing investigations across Wyoming. A significant number of hours were spent working cases through hearings and trial in court during 2023 for numerous investigations.

The WIU continues to explore new technologies related to tracking suspect activity, covert operations and digital forensics. The WIU analyzes all cell phones, computers and other electronic devices seized from wildlife violators in Wyoming. 21 cell phones, 5 SD cards/flash drives, 1 computer, and several GPS units seized

by game wardens and investigators as evidence were forensically examined by WIU personnel in 2023. The WIU also coordinated forensic extractions of additional cell phones for other Wyoming law enforcement agencies in several cooperatively worked cases. These forensic extractions require hundreds of hours of analysis by investigators to produce forensic reports for case officers. The WIU wrote and executed cell phone, Google geofence and social media preservation letters and search warrants as well as search warrants for premises and property in 2023.

## Notable Cases

### Brothers Held Accountable

In the spring of 2020, an investigator with Colorado Parks and Wildlife contacted a Wyoming wildlife investigator regarding suspected Wyoming wildlife violations they recently discovered.

Through this shared information, the Wyoming investigator was able to identify substantial evidence in the case and bring thirteen charges across Natrona and Fremont Counties against two brothers from Colorado. Eight of the violations centered on taking big game animals during closed seasons or without licenses. Given these individuals were Colorado residents, arrest warrants were obtained in 2022 for both counties, with Fremont County requesting nationwide extradition.

By mid-winter 2023, both suspects had been arrested and through a series of plea agreements, the case was adjudicated. Collectively, the two brothers were convicted on eight charges and served 18 days in jail. They were further sentenced to pay \$57,480 in fines and restitution and had their hunting and fishing privileges suspended for 28 years.

## Desert Rebels

An investigation that began in 2018 finally culminated in December 2023 after five of six defendants pled guilty to a variety of charges with the sixth defendant from Wentzville, Missouri still having an active warrant for their arrest. The investigation showed that two landowners who own property in the coveted Wyoming elk area 100 northeast of Wamsutter had illegally transferred their area 100 type 1 landowner elk licenses to two other individuals. Through the course of this investigation, Department investigators and game wardens worked closely with their counterparts in South Dakota, Kansas, Missouri and Idaho to locate the suspects in this case. These game wardens assisted Wyoming with conducting multiple interviews and seizing evidence. South Dakota game wardens also executed a search warrant on a residence in Belle



*Suspects posing with elk*

Fourche, South Dakota and seized multiple wildlife mounts, along with other evidence. The investigation showed that multiple bull elk were illegally killed in Wyoming elk area 100 along with another bull elk illegally killed in Wyoming elk hunt area 6.

The suspects in this case were charged with a number of violations and each pled guilty to the following charges. A suspect from South Dakota was charged with three counts of making false statements to obtain Wyoming resident licenses and two counts of illegally killing bull elk without the proper licenses. This suspect pled guilty to three counts of making false statements to obtain Wyoming resident licenses and was ordered to pay \$13,009 in restitution, \$70 in fines and received a six-year hunting suspension.

A suspect from Idaho was charged with one count of killing a bull elk without the proper license and pled guilty to an amended charge of accessory to transferring an elk license. This suspect was ordered to pay a fine of \$1,070 and received a three-year suspension of any game and fish privilege.

A suspect from Kansas was charged with and pled guilty to one count of killing a bull elk without the proper license and was ordered to pay \$5,000 in restitution, a \$220 fine and received a 10-year hunting suspension.

The landowners in this case were each charged with three counts of being an accessory to the illegal killing of bull elk without the proper licenses and two counts of transferring their landowner elk licenses. One landowner pled guilty to one count of transferring a license and was ordered to pay a fine of \$1,070 and received a three-year hunting suspension. The other landowner pled guilty to one count of accessory to killing a bull elk without a proper license and one count of transferring a license and was ordered to pay a \$5,070 fine and received a three-year hunting suspension. The last suspect in this case, from Missouri, was charged with one count of

killing a bull elk without the proper license and has an active warrant for their arrest. Fines and restitution totaled \$25,509.



*Suspects posing with elk*

Cases like these highlight the relationships that Department investigators and game wardens have built across the country with

their counterparts from other states, who readily assist Wyoming investigations to protect Wyoming's resources.



# LARGE CARNIVORE SECTION

## Work Unit Overview

The Large Carnivore Section (LCS) is responsible for the management and conflict resolution of mountain lions, black bears, grizzly bears and wolves (where classified as trophy game animals) in Wyoming. The high-profile nature and inherent controversy associated with large carnivores requires a working knowledge of the species and their interactions with humans and other wildlife. One Department law enforcement officer stationed in Lander serves as the LCS Conflict Coordinator. The LCS conflict coordinator focuses on managing conflicts between humans and carnivores and law enforcement situations with these animals. The LCS conflict coordinator reviews all trophy game damage claims in the Pinedale, Lander, Cody, and Jackson regions and assists district game wardens and supervisors with trophy game damage claims throughout Wyoming. In addition, the LCS conflict coordinator serves as the lead of the Department's Predator Attack Team (PAT) and conductive electrical weapons (CEW) trainer. The LCS conflict coordinator works cooperatively with regional wardens and investigators, federal agency law enforcement officers, and LCS personnel on all human attacks by carnivores.

## 2023 Law Enforcement Efforts

The LCS conflict coordinator was active in investigating multiple reports of aggressive grizzly bear encounters, including investigations into grizzly bear-caused human injuries. He served as the lead contact to USFWS agents and game wardens in multiple ongoing grizzly bear enforcement cases. The LCS conflict coordinator assisted the USFWS and Wyoming counties in the closure of 40 grizzly bear shooting cases spanning over the last few years. Five of these resulted in federal or state prosecutions and the remaining 35 investigations resulted in

prosecution declinations because the grizzly bears were shot in self-defense. In addition to grizzly bear investigations, LCS personnel assisted with multiple wolf, mountain lion and black bear investigations. The LCS conflict coordinator concluded a variety of cases involving watercraft, black bear hunting, trespass, and other fish and



*Scene investigation in grizzly bear shooting case*

wildlife-related incidents. Although most cases are referred to local game wardens, the LCS conflict coordinator cited several individuals for these misdemeanor wildlife violations.

PAT personnel responded to several reports of aggressive grizzly bears and one human injury this year in Wyoming. These conflicts, when they occur, require an immediate response by trained, equipped law enforcement personnel. The LCS conflict coordinator provided PAT training for Department and Carbon County enforcement personnel in Saratoga on May 3. The Department will continue to prioritize reducing conflicts between grizzly bears and humans and maintain an immediate and efficient response in all wildlife/human attack situations.

The LCS conflict coordinator provided CEW training for the Laramie Region personnel and



again for statewide Department personnel. CEW deployments were conducted by Department personnel on one mountain lion and one mule deer in 2023.



*CEW Training in Laramie Region*

## Notable Cases

The LCS conflict coordinator spent significant time monitoring black bear conflicts in the Lander Region in 2023. Investigations of property damage, food rewards, and livestock damage resulted in over 60 conflicts being documented. Several black bears were lethally removed or relocated by Department personnel.



*One of the black bears causing conflict near Lander*

In the town of Atlantic City, multiple black bears were investigating developed sites and causing damage. Bear-resistant food and garbage storage containers previously given to homeowners in the town were either antiquated or simply not being utilized. One black bear was captured and relocated from the area.

One homeowner who raises chickens and rabbits has had many issues with black bears getting into their livestock feed in the past. The LCS conflict coordinator made contact with the homeowner, reminding her to store all of the feed and encouraging her to purchase a black bear license. Concerned neighbors reported hearing gunshots from this property several days later. Investigation of the incident revealed that upon hearing about bear sightings in the area, the homeowner armed herself and kept a lookout for any bears. As one black bear passed nearby on an adjacent property, she fired several rounds from a .38 special revolver at the bear. The bear was found dead by the LCS conflict coordinator the next day. There were no reports of damage or conflict from the homeowner and she did not report the shooting. She was cited for killing the bear without a license and fined \$1,070.



*Black bear found shot near Atlantic City*



# WATERCRAFT SAFETY PROGRAM

The Department is the state agency primarily responsible for watercraft safety education and enforcement. Each year, Wyoming game wardens spend much of their time patrolling water bodies. From major reservoirs to small ponds and streams, they enforce fishing and boating safety laws and regulations and promote safe boating activities.



## Wyoming

Game wardens worked 3,493 hours and contacted thousands of boaters during their watercraft safety enforcement and educational efforts. At full staff, the Department has eight regional game warden positions assigned primarily to watercraft duties between Memorial Day and Labor Day weekends. However, most of these positions were unfilled for much of the summer boating season due to turnover and retirements. District game wardens in many parts of the state worked additional watercraft safety enforcement along with their other duties to ensure an enforcement and safety presence on Wyoming waterways.

To accomplish the Department's boating safety mission, game wardens work in partnership with county sheriff's offices, municipal police departments, local fire departments and volunteer search and rescue organizations. The Department also partners with the United States Coast Guard (USCG) and other boating safety organizations

nationwide to work toward consistent regulations and education messaging among the states. According to USCG statistics, on average, drowning accounts for nearly 70% of all boating-related fatalities nationwide in a given year. In approximately 85% of these cases, the victims were not wearing life jackets. Many of these deaths could have been prevented with life jacket wear. For this reason, game wardens emphasize the importance of carrying and wearing properly fitting life jackets aboard watercraft when contacting the boating public.

Watercraft incidents that occur in the state are investigated by game wardens. To develop the skills necessary for these investigations, the Department sends game wardens to advanced training in watercraft incident investigation techniques. This week-long course aids wardens in conducting thorough, professional investigations to determine the causes of watercraft accidents ranging from those involving minor property damage to incidents involving serious injuries or death. Six game wardens attended incident investigation training hosted by the Nevada Department of Wildlife.



*Warden patrolling the North Platte River*



In 2023, game wardens investigated 10 reportable boat incidents, up from five in 2022. These included one boating-related fatality on Ocean Lake near Pavillion in July. In this incident, a kayaker was caught in a thunderstorm and drowned after his kayak capsized. Unfortunately, the kayaker was not wearing or carrying a life jacket aboard the kayak. Incidents on Glendo Reservoir, Lake DeSmet and Hawk Springs Reservoir resulted in injuries to seven individuals. The remaining incidents involved boats that suffered damage in excess of \$500.



*Boat patrol on Alcova*

The Department again participated in Operation Dry Water, a nationwide effort to educate the public about the dangers of boating under the influence of alcohol and drugs (BUI) and encourage boaters to designate a sober operator. Alcohol and drug use have contributed to many of the most serious watercraft accidents in Wyoming over the past several years, including a 2023 crash at Glendo Reservoir where an intoxicated operator crashed his boat into another boat at high speed. The impact launched his boat over the second boat and onto the rocks

of the Glendo dam. Fortunately, no one was seriously injured but both boats were significantly damaged. The intoxicated operator was arrested for BUI and careless operation of a watercraft. Three other boat operators were also arrested for BUI in 2023 due to alcohol use, one each at Glendo, Keyhole and Alcova Reservoirs.

The Department remained involved in national and regional associations dedicated to safe boating. The Department's Law Enforcement Coordinator Aaron Kerr served on the executive board of the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators and participated on the association's Enforcement and Training Committee, which is dedicated to developing and providing training resources to marine law enforcement officers nationwide.



*Boat patrol on Half Moon Lake*

## STATE LAND ENFORCEMENT

The Department assists the Wyoming Office of State Lands and Investments by enforcing certain statutes applying to Wyoming State Trust Land (state land). Game wardens have the authority to enforce prohibitions of off-road travel, overnight camping, open fires and littering on state land. Wardens detect most state land violations during their hunting and fishing patrols.

On many state land parcels throughout Wyoming, off-road travel is an ongoing issue and has caused considerable resource damage to some areas. Much of this off-road use occurs in the early spring or fall when soils are wet or when roads are blocked by snow and people attempt to drive around the drifts.



*Camping on state land*

Illegal overnight camping on state lands occurs throughout the year and can contribute to resource damage and littering. Many of the state land violations discovered by game wardens were handled with verbal or written warnings to educate the violators, although several more serious violations causing resource damage were addressed with citations.



*Litter from camping on state land*

State Land Violations			
Violation	Written Warnings	Citations	Total
Off-Road Travel	16	14	30
Camping	26	8	34
Open Fires	1	0	1
Littering on State Land	2	4	6
<b>Total 2023</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>71</b>
<b>Total 2022</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>47</b>
<b>Total 2021</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>59</b>

# REGIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT STATISTICS

## JACKSON REGION - 5 ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL

Activity	Hours	Watercraft Hours	Miles
Wildlife Enforcement	2,295	0	25,695
Watercraft Enforcement	220	47	2,169
<b>Total 2023</b>	<b>2,515</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>27,864</b>
<b>2022</b>	<b>2,788</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31,899</b>
<b>2021</b>	<b>2,475</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>27,444</b>

Program Enforcement	Warnings	Citations	Unknown Suspects	Total Law Enforcement Actions
Terrestrial Wildlife	75	33	2	110
Sport Fish	33	36	0	69
Non-Wildlife	22	9	0	31
Aquatic Invasive Species	11	1	0	12
<b>Total 2023</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>222</b>
<b>2022</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>208</b>
<b>2021</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>203</b>

## CODY REGION - 12 ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL

Activity	Hours	Watercraft Hours	Miles
Wildlife Enforcement	6,418	0	98,297
Watercraft Enforcement	313	28	4,389
<b>Total 2023</b>	<b>6,731</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>102,686</b>
<b>2022</b>	<b>6,289</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>95,582</b>
<b>2021</b>	<b>6,938</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>102,767</b>

Program Enforcement	Warnings	Citations	Unknown Suspects	Total Law Enforcement Actions
Terrestrial Wildlife	143	88	3	234
Sport Fish	17	34	0	51
Non-Wildlife	17	5	0	22
Aquatic Invasive Species	20	5	0	25
<b>Total 2023</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>332</b>
<b>2022</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>283</b>
<b>2021</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>292</b>



**SHERIDAN REGION - 9 ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL**

Activity	Hours	Watercraft Hours	Miles
<b>Wildlife Enforcement</b>	<b>4,986</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>73,236</b>
<b>Watercraft Enforcement</b>	<b>585</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>5,175</b>
<b>Total 2023</b>	<b>5,571</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>78,411</b>
<b>2022</b>	<b>6,018</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>86,123</b>
<b>2021</b>	<b>6,254</b>	<b>324</b>	<b>92,124</b>

Program Enforcement	Warnings	Citations	Unknown Suspects	Total Law Enforcement Actions
<b>Terrestrial Wildlife</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>426</b>
<b>Sport Fish</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>Non-Wildlife</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>145</b>
<b>Aquatic Invasive Species</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>93</b>
<b>Total 2023</b>	<b>444</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>704</b>
<b>2022</b>	<b>422</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>725</b>
<b>2021</b>	<b>458</b>	<b>243</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>782</b>

**GREEN RIVER REGION - 11 ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL**

Activity	Hours	Watercraft Hours	Miles
<b>Wildlife Enforcement</b>	<b>3,620</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>63,195</b>
<b>Watercraft Enforcement</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>3,439</b>
<b>Total 2023</b>	<b>3,857</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>66,634</b>
<b>2022</b>	<b>5,501</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>86,306</b>
<b>2021</b>	<b>5,410</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>76,528</b>

Program Enforcement	Warnings	Citations	Unknown Suspects	Total Law Enforcement Actions
<b>Terrestrial Wildlife</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>132</b>
<b>Sport Fish</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>Non-Wildlife</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Aquatic Invasive Species</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>Total 2023</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>236</b>
<b>2022</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>282</b>
<b>2021</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>281</b>

**LARAMIE REGION - 14 ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL**

Activity	Hours	Watercraft Hours	Miles
Wildlife Enforcement	3,945	8	67,077
Watercraft Enforcement	683	37	12,196
<b>Total 2023</b>	<b>4,628</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>79,273</b>
<b>2022</b>	<b>5,927</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>104,992</b>
<b>2021</b>	<b>6,678</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>113,091</b>

Program Enforcement	Warnings	Citations	Unknown Suspects	Total Law Enforcement Actions
Terrestrial Wildlife	210	96	7	313
Sport Fish	40	21	0	61
Non-Wildlife	37	16	0	53
Aquatic Invasive Species	108	17	0	125
<b>Total 2023</b>	<b>395</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>552</b>
<b>2022</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>371</b>
<b>2021</b>	<b>397</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>577</b>

**LANDER REGION - 7 ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL**

Activity	Hours	Watercraft Hours	Miles
Wildlife Enforcement	3,867	8	45,703
Watercraft Enforcement	273	56	3,064
<b>Total 2023</b>	<b>4,140</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>48,767</b>
<b>2022</b>	<b>4,119</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>59,284</b>
<b>2021</b>	<b>3,389</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>54,730</b>

Program Enforcement	Warnings	Citations	Unknown Suspects	Total Law Enforcement Actions
Terrestrial Wildlife	56	43	12	111
Sport Fish	10	6	0	16
Non-Wildlife	19	9	0	28
Aquatic Invasive Species	14	0	0	14
<b>Total 2023</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>169</b>
<b>2022</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>256</b>
<b>2021</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>258</b>

**CASPER REGION - 10 ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL**

Activity	Hours	Watercraft Hours	Miles
<b>Wildlife Enforcement</b>	<b>3,810</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>55,872</b>
<b>Watercraft Enforcement</b>	<b>617</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>6,303</b>
<b>Total 2023</b>	<b>4,427</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>62,175</b>
<b>2022</b>	<b>5,073</b>	<b>285</b>	<b>65,214</b>
<b>2021</b>	<b>5,643</b>	<b>248</b>	<b>74,012</b>

Program Enforcement	Warnings	Citations	Unknown Suspects	Total Law Enforcement Actions
<b>Terrestrial Wildlife</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>300</b>
<b>Sport Fish</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>80</b>
<b>Non-Wildlife</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>73</b>
<b>Aquatic Invasive Species</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Total 2023</b>	<b>267</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>465</b>
<b>2022</b>	<b>333</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>522</b>
<b>2021</b>	<b>369</b>	<b>254</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>651</b>

**PINEDALE REGION - 4 ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL**

Activity	Hours	Watercraft Hours	Miles
<b>Wildlife Enforcement</b>	<b>1,379</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14,274</b>
<b>Watercraft Enforcement</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>683</b>
<b>Total 2023</b>	<b>1,442</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>14,957</b>
<b>2022</b>	<b>1,969</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>29,301</b>
<b>2021</b>	<b>1,909</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>25,065</b>

Program Enforcement	Warnings	Citations	Unknown Suspects	Total Law Enforcement Actions
<b>Terrestrial Wildlife</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>89</b>
<b>Sport Fish</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Non-Wildlife</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Aquatic Invasive Species</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Total 2023</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>112</b>
<b>2022</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>141</b>
<b>2021</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>139</b>



**LAW ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION**

Activity	Hours	Watercraft Hours	Miles
Wildlife Enforcement	1,780	6	24,219
Watercraft Enforcement	502	48	3,424
Total 2023	2,282	54	27,643
2022	1,349	31	8,080
2021	1,372	14	8,410

**WILDLIFE INVESTIGATIONS UNIT - 7 ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL**

Activity	Hours	Miles
Wildlife Enforcement	9,255	64,050
Total 2023	9,255	64,050
2022	10,044	66,424
2021	11,469	67,864

**LAW ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION/ WILDLIFE INVESTIGATIONS UNIT STATISTICS**

Program Enforcement	Warnings	Citations	Unknown Suspects	Total Law Enforcement Actions
Terrestrial Wildlife	42	12	11	65
Sport Fish	5	8	0	13
Non-Wildlife	13	5	0	18
Aquatic Invasive Species	17	1	0	18
Total 2023	77	26	11	114
2022	37	11	2	50
2021	53	20	2	75

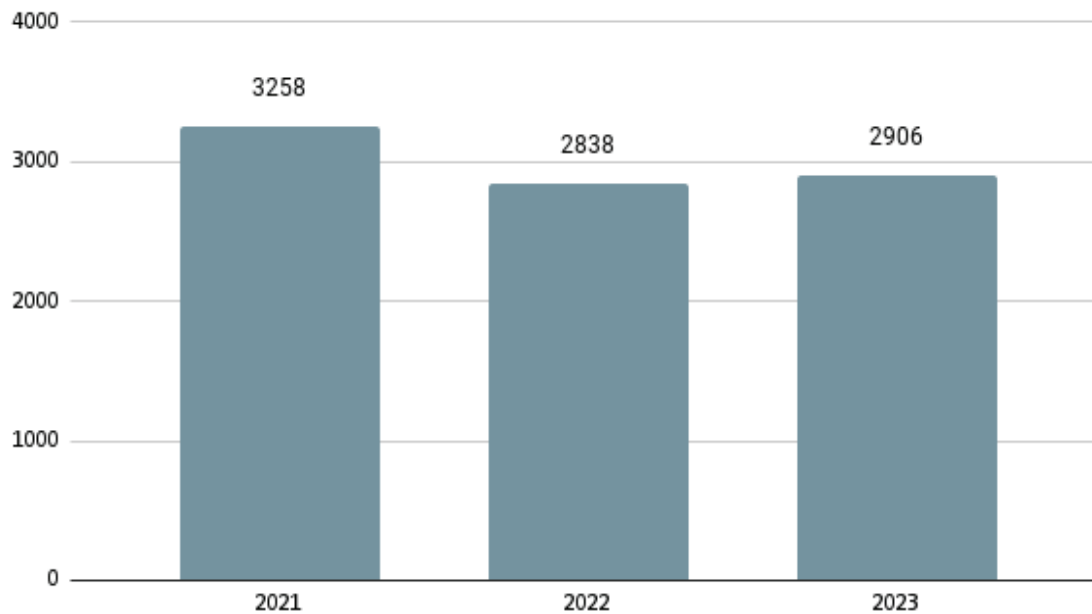
## STATEWIDE LAW ENFORCEMENT STATISTICS

Activity	Hours	Watercraft Hours	Miles
Wildlife Enforcement	41,355	45	531,618
Watercraft Enforcement	3,493	558	40,842
<b>Total 2023</b>	<b>44,848</b>	<b>603</b>	<b>572,460</b>
<b>2022</b>	<b>48,804</b>	<b>947</b>	<b>626,375</b>
<b>2021</b>	<b>51,537</b>	<b>998</b>	<b>574,171</b>

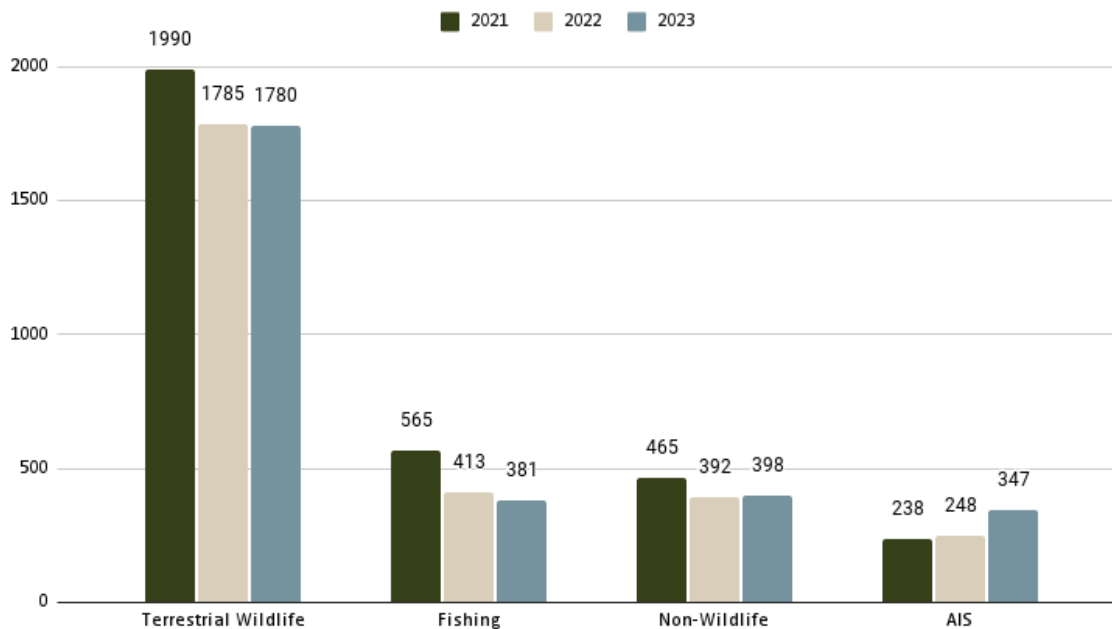
Program Enforcement	Warnings	Citations	Unknown Suspects	Total Law Enforcement Actions
Terrestrial Wildlife	1,039	594	147	1,780
Sport Fish	193	187	1	381
Non-Wildlife	282	116	0	398
Aquatic Invasive Species	309	38	0	347
<b>Total 2023</b>	<b>1,823</b>	<b>935</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>2,906</b>
<b>2022</b>	<b>1,693</b>	<b>937</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>2,838</b>
<b>2021</b>	<b>1,957</b>	<b>1,089</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>3,258</b>

Fines Levied by Courts	
Fines for Violations	\$401,694
Restitution to the Department	\$203,811
<b>Total 2023</b>	<b>\$605,505</b>
<b>2022</b>	<b>\$427,179</b>
<b>2021</b>	<b>\$597,739</b>

## Violations by Year

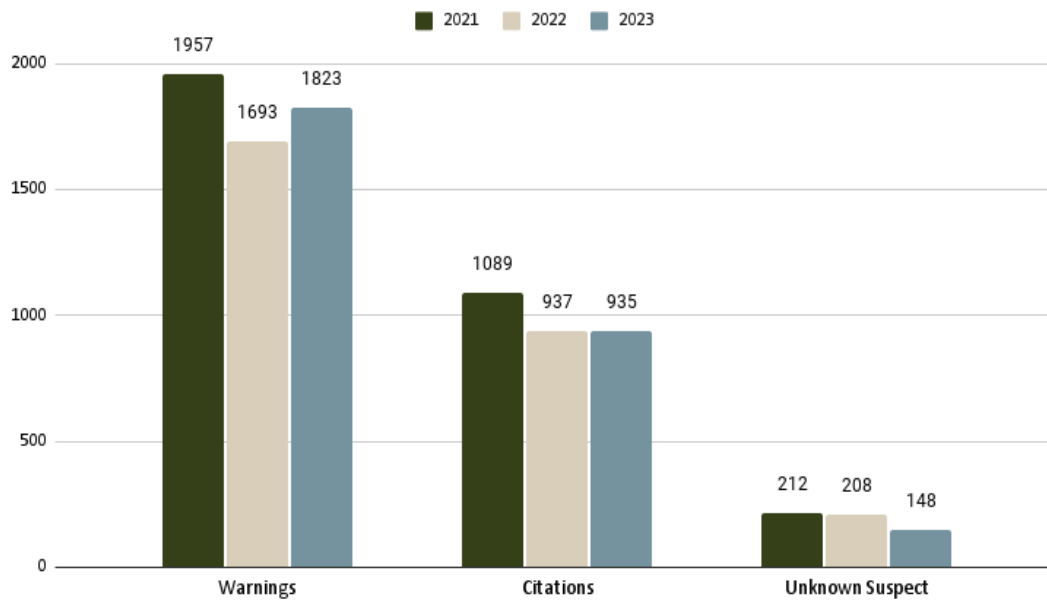


## Violations by Category

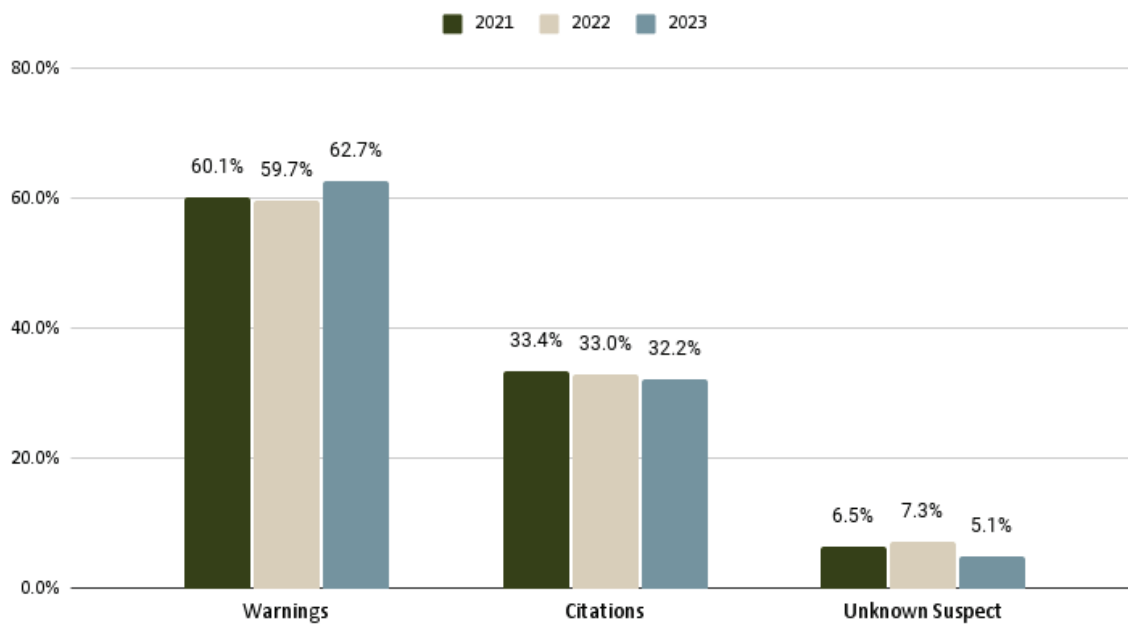




## Law Enforcement Actions



## Percentage of Law Enforcement Actions



## TOP 10 VIOLATIONS

In 2023, the top ten violations documented by Department law enforcement officers accounted for approximately 45% of all violations encountered. With few exceptions, the most common violations have not changed over the past several years and much of the Department's enforcement effort is geared toward these violations.

Fishing without a license is consistently the most common violation in the state and this year was no different. Recreational anglers are the largest user group that game wardens contact in the field during the year. Many of these violations are committed by individuals who simply forgot to purchase a license, while others fish without licenses intentionally and take their chances on getting caught. Even with the ease of obtaining fishing licenses online with a smartphone, fishing without a license accounted for approximately 8% of all violations detected.

Violations of the AIS regulations remained high in 2023. The Department continued heightened enforcement efforts at AIS check stations this year and stopped over 200 boaters who failed to stop for AIS inspections. Failing to purchase an AIS decal for a watercraft also remained prevalent. Many AIS violations are by non-

motorized watercraft users, who are not required to register their watercraft. Motorized watercraft owners tend to be more familiar with boating and AIS regulations because they receive a watercraft regulation brochure when they register their watercraft. The Department continues to expand awareness of the AIS program and the importance of preventing species like zebra mussels and invasive vegetation from becoming established in Wyoming waters. These two AIS violations combined comprised approximately 10% of total violations.

Responding to hunting, fishing, trapping and shed antler collection trespassing complaints is a common job duty for many game wardens. Several of the trespassing violations were unintentional by a suspect, but in many instances, the violators knew they were trespassing. Trespassing incidents accounted for approximately 7% of all violations.

The most common boating safety violation continues to be having inadequate life jackets aboard watercraft. Game wardens patrolling the water emphasize the enforcement of this requirement due to the life-saving potential of proper life jacket wear. Many of these violations occur early in the boating season. Additionally,

**Top 10 Violations Documented in 2023**

Top 10 Violations Documented in 2023	
1. Fishing without a license	231
2. Fail to stop at AIS check station for inspection	204
3. Hunt, fish, trap, collect shed antlers on private land without permission (trespassing)	192
4. Fail to provide life jackets aboard watercraft	133
5. Fail to purchase conservation stamp	108
6. Violation of rules governing use of Department-administered lands	103
7. Fail to purchase AIS decal	98
8. Accessory before or after the fact	86
9. Take wrong sex of animal	81
10. Fail to tag big or trophy game animal	78

game wardens encounter many watercraft with an adequate number of life jackets, but lacking life jackets of the proper size for everyone aboard. Of particular concern are children provided with adult-sized life jackets, which can easily slide off them in the water or be pushed up in their faces, making it difficult to breathe. These violations made up approximately 5% of the total.

Hunters and anglers, with some exceptions, are required to purchase a conservation stamp in addition to their license. The revenue generated from these sales is used to fund various Department projects, including the Access Yes program and wildlife habitat improvement projects. A conservation stamp fee increase implemented in 2021 provided funding dedicated to improving access to private lands or difficult-to-access public lands for hunting and fishing. Failing to purchase a conservation stamp made up almost 4% of all violations.

Department-administered lands include properties owned by the Wyoming Game & Fish Commission (Commission) and private lands enrolled in the Access Yes Program. Various regulations apply to these properties and are enforced by Department law enforcement officers. Several of the Commission-owned lands are closed to human presence during the winter months to protect wintering wildlife. Over the past few years, several individuals have been cited for entering these properties during closures, mostly to gather shed antlers. Other common violations on Department-administered lands include off-road travel, open fires in restricted areas, lighting fireworks, failing to obey regulatory signs and violations of “ranch rules” on Access Yes areas. Violations on Department lands made up approximately 3.5% of the total.

Often, wildlife violations involve groups of people with varying levels of involvement. For example, someone who shoots a deer out of season may have help from friends getting the carcass out of the field or covering up evidence of the crime. Individuals who aid or abet someone else in the commission of a wildlife violation can be charged as an accessory before or after the

fact. The penalties for an accessory charge are the same as those for the principal violation. In the example above, someone who helps the shooter of a deer out of season could be found guilty of a high misdemeanor and subject to up to \$10,000 in fines, up to one year in jail and have their license privileges suspended for up to six years. Accessory before or after the fact made up approximately 3% of all violations.

Hunting regulations specify limitations on the sex and species of animals that can be taken by a hunter holding a specific license. Each year, game wardens investigate incidents where a hunter has killed the wrong sex of animal. These typically involve taking an antlered or horned big game animal on a license valid only for antlerless animals. Most commonly, yearling buck antelope are taken by hunters with doe/fawn antelope licenses or spike deer or elk taken by hunters with doe/fawn or cow/calf licenses. The Stop Poaching hotline receives calls from multiple hunters each year who are reporting themselves for making this mistake in the field. Self-reported violations often result in reduced penalties imposed by the courts. Taking the wrong sex of animal made up approximately 3% of total violations.

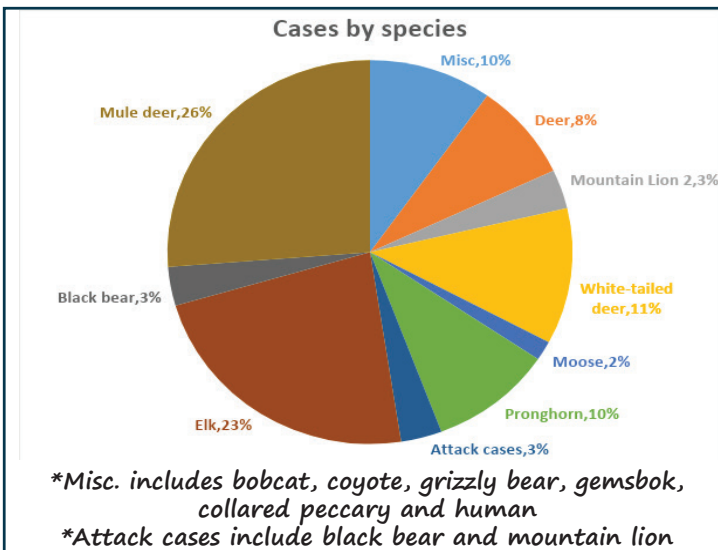
Failing to tag big game and trophy game animals continues to be a common violation. Licenses for these species contain carcass coupons, commonly referred to as tags. When one of these animals is harvested, the hunter is required to properly fill out the tag before leaving the site of the kill. Proper tagging entails detaching the carcass coupon from the license, signing the coupon and cutting out the month and day of harvest to show when the animal was killed. Game wardens often encounter hunters in transit from the kill site who have failed to take one or more of the steps to properly tag their animals. In these situations, it is difficult to know whether the tagging violation was simply an oversight or if the person was trying to get their animal home without tagging it so they could go hunting again using the same license. Fail to tag violations made up almost 3% of the total.



# WILDLIFE FORENSICS LAB

The forensic section of the Department's Wildlife Forensic and Fish Health Laboratory provides law enforcement analytical and technical forensic services to aid Wyoming wildlife law enforcement personnel, Wyoming biologists and wildlife managers in an additional twelve states.

Wyoming's forensic lab personnel employ a variety of techniques to test evidence items collected during investigations of wildlife crimes. Species determination, sex identification and DNA analyses are performed on blood, hair, saliva, tissue and bones. Analyses also include DNA matching of submitted samples and determining the minimum number of animals represented in submitted samples. A detailed report of each test is compiled and provided to the requesting officer. Lab personnel are often called upon to testify in court during trials of defendants charged with wildlife violations.



In 2023, various physical and biological properties were tested on 447 samples in response to 60 requests. A total of 14,669 tests were conducted on meat/tissue samples, skulls, drillings, heads, arrows, knives, saws, blood, hair, hide, gut piles, saliva, clothes, and numerous other sample types. Results from forensic tests were used to obtain guilty verdicts against suspects in several poaching cases. These verdicts led to a minimum of \$84,955.16 in fines and restitution, which does not include pending fines, restitution or forfeitures. Suspects in these cases were also assessed a combined 27 years of hunting and fishing license suspensions, 2 days in jail and

24 months of probation, as well as forfeiture of hunting equipment used in these crimes.

## Notable Cases

The largest case the lab processed in 2023 was interesting because of the types of evidence received and the mere number of animals that resulted from the testing. In April of 2023, lab personnel assisted the Laramie game warden in subsampling an F250 pickup truck. Items collected included twenty blood, hair and tissue samples located within the cab of the truck. Additionally, the officer submitted two male mule deer and seven male pronghorn samples along with multiple items of clothing with blood, bones, tissue, knives, crossbows and various other biological samples from the kill sites and the suspect's home. The lab was asked to determine species identification and sex identification on the unknown items and microsatellite matching on all items.

The testing took four months and the submitted items resulted in a minimum of fourteen animals; nine male pronghorn, one female pronghorn, two male mule deer and two female deer, most probably mule deer. The suspect in this case was charged with multiple counts of wanton destruction of big game, taking big game from a vehicle and taking game animals while under suspension. The suspect pled guilty to two charges of wanton destruction of big game, was fined \$10,000 and had all license privileges suspended for five years.



Biological evidence in the cab of the F250 pickup truck.

# GAME WARDEN APPLICANT TESTING

All game wardens are selected by competitive examination, per Wyoming statute. The first step to becoming a Wyoming game warden has traditionally been to earn a bachelor's degree in wildlife management, biology, zoology or a closely related field. Since 2019, applicants with other degrees, such as criminal justice, are also considered, as long as they have a minimum amount of college credits in wildlife fields. This change in the minimum qualifications allows the Department to consider applications from game wardens in other states who are looking to move to Wyoming. Many states do not require their game wardens to have a wildlife management degree as a prerequisite for hiring. Wyoming has benefitted from recruiting and hiring experienced game wardens from other states.

The game warden hiring process changed somewhat in 2022. Traditionally, the first step was a written exam consisting of general wildlife management knowledge, wildlife identification, legal terminology and questions about Wyoming wildlife statutes and regulations. The exam was moved to later in the process to be used as a baseline metric of a candidate's knowledge and a training aid if the candidate is hired. Candidates who meet the education requirements and other initial employment qualifications were invited for a preliminary online interview. This determines which candidates will complete the game warden exam, in-person interview, personality profile testing, psychological testing and polygraph examination. Candidates offered a game warden job undergo a thorough background investigation and must successfully graduate from the Wyoming Law Enforcement Academy (WLEA)

14-week, 595-hour Peace Officer Basic (POB) course prior to working as a Department law enforcement officer. Individuals who successfully complete this hiring process can take great pride in achieving the high standards required to become a Wyoming game warden. 2023 also marked the beginning of an open application process for applicants who are currently certified law enforcement officers. This process allows the Department to recruit and hire qualified, experienced individuals and get them in place in a shorter time frame. Nationwide, law enforcement agencies have been struggling to recruit and retain qualified individuals for a number of years. This open application process is intended to combat that issue.

**In 2023:**

**103** people submitted applications for game warden positions (65 met education qualifications based on transcripts)

**63** online interviews conducted

**21** attended in-person interviews

**5** candidates were hired into entry-level game warden positions

**1** candidate with prior law enforcement experience was hired into a senior game warden position

## GAME WARDEN TRAINING

To maintain their status as Wyoming peace officers, game wardens must meet training requirements established by the Wyoming Peace Officer Standards and Training Commission (POST). All officers must qualify with their duty handguns, rifles and shotguns twice a year. Officers must also demonstrate proficiency with non-deadly force weapons and skills used for

self-defense and controlling suspects, such as handcuffing and takedown techniques. Officers continued to utilize both online and in-person courses to complete other training and legal updates necessary to maintain their POST certification.

New game wardens attend three main training



sessions after completing their basic training at the WLEA. Training topics during spring training include watercraft accident investigation techniques, watercraft patrol, BUI detection, fishing enforcement and watercraft/fishing statutes and regulations. They receive practical training in officer water survival, cold-water immersion, boat handling and patrol scenarios. The wardens attend a late summer training session to prepare for the fall hunting seasons.



*Watercraft training on Alcovia*

Training topics include a review of Game and Fish statutes and regulations, patrol techniques, interstate game tag guidelines and issuance, game check stations, the Access Yes Program, general wildlife law enforcement, collection of evidence, crime scene investigation and various other game warden duties. During the winter training, the new game wardens are introduced to a wide variety of issues, including the Hunter Education program, media training, courtroom procedures, trophy game conflict resolution, wildlife damage evaluation and mitigation techniques, furbearers and trapping enforcement, snowmobile operations and maintenance, landowner relations, season setting process, winter survival and ice safety, and social media and cell phone search warrants. In addition to these intensive training sessions, new game wardens spend considerable time in their respective regions receiving on-the-job mentoring from other Department employees.

In order to better address the training and professional development needs of personnel, particularly new game wardens, the Department created a new unit. Lander Game Warden Brady Frude was promoted to head the Recruitment, Retention and Training Unit (RRT). North Laramie Game Warden Kristen Strom and Rock Springs Game Warden Andy Roosa transferred into the unit in March. The RRT Unit wrote and implemented a comprehensive field training evaluation program to standardize training for newly hired game wardens. This program consists of a six-phase Field Training Officer (FTO) program and several duty-related tasks, designed to guide new wardens through an all-inclusive development process, ensuring they attain the skills and competency required to successfully operate in their own districts.



*Simunition training*

The RRT Unit has also been working behind the scenes throughout the 2023 hiring process. They will continue this work into 2024 with an increased effort on recruitment. In particular, there will be a focus on researching strategies to recruit qualified applicants and retain those employees long-term once they are hired and trained.



## STOP POACHING

In 1980, the Stop Poaching Hotline was created to give the public an easier avenue to report suspected wildlife crimes in Wyoming. The hotline is answered 24/7 by dispatchers in a statewide law enforcement communications center in Cheyenne. In addition to the toll-free phone hotline, the public can report suspected violations via the Department website and a text tip line. The Stop Poaching Program is an excellent and necessary tool to aid game wardens in identifying and apprehending wildlife violators. People providing information regarding possible violations can remain anonymous. In 2023, 261 tips were received from members

of the public and game wardens followed up on all of them. In many cases, no violations could be determined. However, tips from the public were instrumental in identifying several specific violations and possible suspects. These tips led to 34 citations and 25 warnings being issued to violators. Defendants charged due to Stop Poaching tips paid \$20,440 in fines and restitution for this year, with 22 cases still under investigation or pending court disposition.

Without the public's help and support, game wardens would have a much more difficult job.



### WYOMING WILDLIFE PROTECTORS' ASSOCIATION

To encourage reporting of wildlife violations by the public, the Department has partnered with the Wyoming Wildlife Protectors Association (WWPA). The WWPA was started in 1983 as a registered non-profit organization. The sole purpose of the WWPA is to manage a reward account and provide monetary rewards to citizens who provide information leading to the apprehension and conviction of wildlife violators. The WWPA is funded by restitution payments as ordered by the courts at the sentencing of wildlife violators and from private donations.

Many of the successful investigations and prosecutions of wildlife violators in Wyoming would not have been possible without information provided by concerned citizens. Many informants show genuine concern for Wyoming's wildlife by turning in friends and family members. Department enforcement officers may submit a reward recommendation to the WWPA when a violator has been successfully prosecuted. In 2023, \$4,500 in rewards was paid to individuals who provided information leading to the conviction of wildlife violators.



# WILDLIFE VIOLATOR COMPACT

Wyoming joined the Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact (Compact) in 1996. The Compact is a reciprocal agreement between member states to honor suspensions of hunting, fishing and trapping privileges for convicted wildlife violators. Individuals suspended in one member state may also have their privileges suspended in the other member states. The Compact serves as an additional deterrent to violating wildlife laws and strengthens the consequences of illegal hunting, fishing or trapping activities. The Compact is also an effective tool to ensure that nonresident violators

meet their court obligations, as those who fail to do so have their privileges suspended until their case is resolved.



## Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact

There are now 49 member states and the last non-member state, Hawaii, is in the process of joining. This makes a suspension in one state effectively a nationwide loss of privileges. Nationally, 4,393 new license suspensions were entered in the Compact in 2023, including 56

from Wyoming. Several cases initiated in 2023 are awaiting court proceedings and may lead to further license suspensions once completed.



*Game wardens executing a search warrant*

# NEW LEGISLATION AFFECTING LAW ENFORCEMENT

## **HB0045 Peace Officer Retirement and Rehiring**

Signed into Law by the Governor 2/15/2023

Summary: This bill allows the rehiring of people who have retired under the Wyoming State Highway Patrol, Game and Fish Warden and Criminal Investigator Retirement Act and repeals the mandatory retirement age of this act. The passage of this bill allows the Department to implement a reserve officer program for retired game wardens to assist with wildlife law enforcement efforts as needed.

## **HB0106 Hunting of Predatory Animals - Amendments**

Signed into Law by the Governor 2/27/2023

Summary: This bill allows for the use of artificial light including thermal or infrared imaging or other imaging outside of the normal visible light spectrum while hunting predatory animals at night. The bill directs the Commission to establish regulations governing the use of artificial light and lighting devices on public land, including season dates or other necessary restrictions.

## **HB0123 Collection of Antlers or Horns by Residents and Nonresidents**

Signed into Law by the Governor 3/2/2023

Summary: This bill updates W.S. 23-1-302(xxxi), which gives the Commission the authority to regulate and establish seasons for the collection of shed antlers and horns on public lands in much of Wyoming. This bill directs that all seasons for the collection of shed antlers and horns begin for residents seven days before the start of the season for nonresidents.

## **HB0147 Unlawful Trespass Signage - Taking of Wildlife**

Signed into Law by the Governor 2/18/2023

Summary: This bill adds a subsection (a)(iii) to W.S. 23-3-405 (Interference with lawful taking of wildlife prohibited). The subsection states that no person shall with the intent to prevent or hinder the lawful taking of any wildlife knowingly or without authorization post or maintain in place signs that restrict access to or use of state or federal land on which the lawful taking of or the process of lawfully taking any wildlife is permitted. For purposes of this subsection, “knowingly” means the person has received prior notice from a peace officer that the sign is located on state or federal land.

## **HB0276 Shed Antlers and Horns Permit**

Signed into Law by the Governor 3/2/2023

Summary: This bill updates W.S. 23-1-1-3 (Ownership of Wildlife) to include that shed antlers or horns located on state or public lands are property of the state. It directs the Commission to establish by rule a requirement for nonresidents to obtain a conservation stamp for the collection of big game animal shed antlers or horns on designated state or public lands and dates when this requirement shall be applicable. A conservation stamp shall not be required for residents of Wyoming or any person under fifteen years of age.

## **SF0056 Prohibit Travel Across Private Land for Hunting Purposes**

Signed into Law by the Governor 2/27/2023

Summary: This bill updates W.S. 23-3-305(b) (Game and Fish Trespassing) to clarify that no person shall enter upon, travel through or return across the private property of any person to take wildlife, hunt, fish, collect antlers or horns, or trap without the permission of the owner...For purposes of this subsection “travel through our return across” requires physically touching or driving on the surface of the private property.



**SF0178 Mountain Lion Pursuit Season**

Signed into Law by the Governor 2/27/2023

**Summary:** This bill directs the Commission to consider establishing and regulating resident mountain lion pursuit seasons. In any areas of the state where mountain lion hunting has been authorized and during a mountain lion pursuit season, a resident may use dogs to pursue a mountain lion but no mountain lion shall be killed. The Commission by rule may require the purchase of a special management permit by any person participating in a mountain lion pursuit season.



*Evidence in a shed antler case*



*Night time firearms training*



*Wardens at ice rescue training*

## AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

### **2022 Wyoming Game Warden Association Officer of the Year Adam Parks**

Nominated by their peers, this award honors an officer for the previous year's service based on their law enforcement and wildlife management work ethic, public involvement and relationships, WGWA involvement, professionalism, morale contributions and other positive attributes.

### **2023 Shikar-Safari Wildlife Officer of the Year Kim Olson**

Presented annually by Shikar-Safari Club International, this award honors a wildlife officer in each state and Canadian province for outstanding performance and achievements.

### **North American Wildlife Enforcement Officers Association Torch Award Spencer Carstens**

Award presented to wildlife officers who have worked less than five years and demonstrated exceptional ability and initiative in protecting wildlife and developing professionally.

## PROMOTIONS

### **Game Warden to Senior Game Warden**

Elise Huysman - North Laramie  
Gavin Dougherty - West Cheyenne  
Jesse Niemeir - Wheatland  
Ryan Snell - Elk Mountain  
Connor Worthen - Medicine Bow  
Zach Bernhardt - North Riverton  
Emmalee Raish - South Laramie



## RETIREMENTS

**Jim Seeman, Buffalo Game Warden - 31  
years of service**



**Bill Brinegar, South Laramie Game  
Warden - 20 years of service**







# STOP POACHING

**1-877-WGFD-TIP**

**Help protect Wyoming's wildlife**

**Call the Stop Poaching Hotline or text TIP411  
(Text keyword WGFD and message)**

