



Sheridan Region

Regional Wildlife Supervisor:

Joe Gilbert

Regional Fisheries Supervisor:

Paul Mavrakis

Office Managers:

Lori Roe

Kathy Boyles

Shared position:

Wendy Balkenbush

Stephanie Bomar

Game Wardens:

Dayton: Dustin Shorma

Sheridan: Bruce Scigliano

Buffalo: Jim Seeman

Kaycee: Grant Gerharter

N. Gillette: Teal Joseph

S. Gillette: Dustin Kirsch

Moorcroft: J.D. Davis

Investigator: Scott Adell

Public Information Specialist:

Bud Stewart

Wildlife Biologists :

Wildlife Management Coordinator:

Lynn Jahnke

Sheridan: Tim Thomas

Buffalo: Dan Thiele

Gillette: Erika Peckham

Terrestrial Habitat: Todd Caltrider

Fish Biologists:

Bill Bradshaw

Andrew Nikirk

Aquatic Habitat: Travis Cundy

Habitat and Access Coordinator:

Seth Roseberry

Aquatic Invasive Species:

Greg Downey

Story Fish Hatchery:

Superintendent: Steve Diekema

Assistant Supr: Jared Smith

Culturist: Jennifer Meineke

Sheridan Bird Farm:

Coordinator: Darrell Meineke

Technicians: Kurt Heiser

Nate Brown

Wyoming Game and Fish Department

Sheridan Region

December 2014 Newsletter



Trout Unlimited Adopt-a-Trout Program

In October the Fish Division assisted with capturing and implanting radio telemetry tags in 30 trout for a Trout Unlimited Adopt-a-Trout program. Trout Unlimited is working with Tongue River Middle School 6th grade class to follow the radio tagged trout to determine fish movements within the Tongue River. In early December Sheridan Regional Office Manager Lori Roe had a opportunity to accompany Katie Taylor on a fish tracking trip. Katie, an employee of Grouse Mountain Consultants, has been contracted by Trout Unlimited to help the Middle School students with the fish tracking. The radio tagged fish will be located periodically during the 2014-2015 school year.



Sheridan Region Office Manager Lori Roe (on right) writes down fish location data as Grouse Mountain Environmental Consultant biologist Katie Taylor (on left) determines which tag frequency and therefore which tagged fish they have found.



Sheridan Region Monthly Newsletter

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Keyhole Reservoir Ice Fishing—Find Safe Ice, Then Fish

December was a troublesome month for ice anglers on Keyhole Reservoir. The ice on some parts of the lake was thick enough to allow ice anglers to get out on the ice; however other areas of Keyhole had open water. Moorcroft Game Warden J. D. Davis reported the events of three high school age ice anglers that wanted to reach a certain area on Keyhole which involved crossing the ice on Deer Creek Bay. One young angler was on a three wheeler while his two friends were in a Polaris Ranger. As they were crossing the ice the young man on the three wheeler noticed the ice cracking under him and turned around but his two friends in the Polaris Ranger drove past him and fell through the ice. The two young men made it to safety, but it took a heroic effort from the Weston County Search and Rescue divers to raise the Ranger from forty feet of water. The fishing poles and gear in the back of the Ranger were lost, but the ice auger and ice shelter that were attached to the vehicle were recovered.



Weston County Search and Rescue crew retrieve a Polaris Ranger from forty feet of water in Keyhole Reservoir in mid-December. Some areas of Keyhole had enough ice to allow anglers to fish while other areas had open water or ice that was too thin to support ATV type vehicles.

South Gillette Game Warden Dustin Kirsch spent several days in December patrolling Keyhole Reservoir conducting ice fishing compliance checks. Ice anglers reported catching and keeping considerably more northern pike over 30" (the minimum length required to harvest a northern pike) this year compared to the 2013-2014 ice fishing period. Northern pike over 40 inches and upwards of 20 pounds have been reported from Keyhole this year. Ice anglers were also reporting good catches of crappie and walleye just after the ice became safe enough to venture out upon.



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York Diversion Modified on Tongue River—Allows Fish Passage



Modifications at the York Irrigation Diversion on the Tongue River included adding an in-channel roughened ramp (at center of stream channel) to the existing vane structure. The ramp will allow fish to easily move upstream to access habitats in a 3.5 mile reach of river above the diversion.

Modifications at the York Irrigation Diversion on Tongue River were completed in December. The project is part of the Sheridan County Conservation District fish passage renovation block grant. The project reconnected 5.7 river miles below the diversion to 3.5 river miles above the diversion.

Fish Stocking at Lake DeSmet Completed for 2014



Fish Culturist Adam Liefermen uses a broom to help the Yellowstone Cutthroat trout find their way out the drain tube and into Lake DeSmet



One of 31,600 Yellowstone Cutthroat trout that were stocked into Lake DeSmet in early December.

The 2014 stocking of Lake DeSmet was completed in early December when 31,600 Yellowstone Cutthroat trout were released into the lake at the Monument Access area. In mid-October 70,000 rainbow trout were stocked into Lake Desmet. The stocked trout should provide anglers with abundant angling opportunities over the next several years.



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Buffalo Area Wildlife Biologist and Game Warden Help First Time Hunters Get Deer

In late December Buffalo Game Warden Jim Seeman and Wildlife Biologist Dan Thiele helped two youth hunters harvest their first deer. A plan to get youth involved in hunting was initiated by the priest of the local Catholic church in Buffalo. Seeman and Thiele, being members of this church, were recruited to help a young person who had taken hunter safety through the public school and expressed a desire to hunt, but unfortunately had no means or equipment to pursue the sport. The Department employees each chose a young person to mentor. Seeman and Thiele not only took the youngsters to the Buffalo shooting complex to practice (one of which had never shot a rifle), but also provided personal equipment, clothing and even purchased the deer license for one of the young people. Both hunters successfully harvested a doe white-tailed deer on private land that Seeman and Thiele had permission to access for the hunt. The local church had offered to pay the cost of processing the meat. Hopefully this effort helped recruit two new hunters to the sport of hunting.



Ian Cahoon mentored by Buffalo Game Warden Jim Seeman was successful on his first deer hunt.



Jordon Snyder mentored by Buffalo Wildlife Biologist Dan Thiele was successful on her first deer hunt.

Final Tally on Mule Deer Fawn Numbers, and it is Good News!

The fawn to doe ratios for the four mule deer herd units in the Sheridan Region have been finalized and the ratios look promising. The Pumpkin Buttes Herd Unit had a ratio of 85 fawns per 100 does, the highest observed in several years. The Powder River Herd Unit's ratio was 91:100, while the North Bighorn Herd Unit had a ratio of 87:100; both of these ratios are the highest recorded in numerous years. The champion herd unit however, was the Upper Powder River (UPR) Herd Unit which had a ratio of 90:100; the highest fawn to doe ratio ever recorded in the area. The previous high fawn to doe ratio in the UPR Herd Unit was 80:100 recorded 25 years ago in 1990. This increase can be attributed in part to the abundant precipitation during the fall of 2013 which allowed does to enter the breeding season in excellent condition and continued good moisture during the summer of 2014, which resulted in good to excellent mule deer forage and hiding cover for fawns.