



September 2017 activities assisting the Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho Tribes on the Wind River Reservation, WY - US FWS Lander Fish & Wildlife Conservation Office

To meet our trust responsibilities of assisting the Tribes with sensible fish and wildlife conservation, we performed the following activities:

Wildlife: In cooperation with Tribal Fish & Game and Wyoming Game & Fish, began multiple-week survey of swift fox using lure and trail cameras in the Lookout Butte, Shotgun Butte, Ega Draw and Bighorn Draw areas. Intent is to determine the presence of swift fox in these areas. First pickup of cameras will be in early October.

In cooperation with Tribal F&G, pulled camera traps at the Crooked and Crow Mountain sites. No additional grizzly bears were observed at either site.

Conducted survey of local trumpeter swans observing single pairs of adults at Dinwoody Marsh and Martins Ponds, and 3 adults at Ray Lake Marsh. One adult at Ray Lake Marsh had a yellow leg band (numbers were not discernible), though it was likely #F37 released as a cygnet in 2013 at Alkali Lake.

Due to livestock depredations in July and August, searched Washakie Park for wolf presence. No wolves or sign observed.

Registered 4 bighorn sheep pick-up heads that were brought in by tribal members.

Provided environmental review of the new construction of 2 homesites, a proposal for a 20-unit subdivision near Arapaho, and upgrades of waterline and septic systems at 4 existing homes. No significant fish and wildlife concerns with these projects.

Attended BOR tour with interested contractors for the proposed replacement of Bull Lake Dam's spillway. Over 60 contractors in attendance.

Met with landowners along Bull Lake Creek in order to address their concerns with potential impacts to their land due to upcoming BOR project that will replace the spillway on Bull Lake Dam.

Met with Preston Smith of BIA to discuss potential graduate project related to impacts from feral horses on big game and their habitat.

Fisheries: Stocked Arlee triploid rainbow trout reared at Saratoga National Fish Hatchery (NFH), Wyoming, were stocked at Ray Lake (10,000), Bull Lake (20,002), and Dinwoody (16,472). Additionally, Bull Lake was stocked with 21,310 Arlee triploid rainbow trout reared



October 16, 2017

at Garrison Dam NFH, North Dakota. The brood source for the sterile Arlee is housed at Ennis Montana at the Ennis NFH.

In recent years, the Kamloop Rainbow trout brood program has unfortunately ended across the Western US, and has made it impossible to continue stocking this popular strain of sport fish. As a result, this year is the first year of stocking the Arlee strain of triploid rainbow trout on Wind River. Popular in Montana, the Arlee will be evaluated in the next few years as to how well it has performed in lowland lakes and reservoirs on Wind River.

Attended a state-wide meeting in Ten Sleep to review current fish passage projects future potential projects. This is an annual meeting of federal, state, local, and non-profit groups that perform a variety of fish habitat work across Wyoming.

Outreach: Gave presentation on trumpeter swans to 10 adults at the Crowheart Cowboy Festival. Attendees were very engaged and asked many excellent questions.

Prepared article for the Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation's quarterly newsletter pertaining to radio-collaring and movements of bighorn sheep in the Crooked/Trout creek and Washakie Reservoir wintering areas. WWSF has provided significant funding toward this study.

October 2017 scheduled activities:

Continue swift fox survey using lure and trail cameras in the Bighorn Draw, Ega Draw and Shotgun Butte areas.

In cooperation with the Eastern Shoshone Tribe and the National Wildlife Federation, participate in the 2nd release of 10 bison at the 300 acre Boy-Zhan Bi-Den pasture near Pilot Butte Reservoir.

In cooperation with Tribal F&G and Wyoming G&F, conduct sauger population survey on the Little Wind River. This survey has been done annually for the last 11 years.

Conduct 3-day netting surveys of Bull Lake to assess abundance of native burbot.

Stock Dinwoody lakes with Snake River cutthroat trout to support recreational fishery. Stocked fish are from the Jackson NFH.

Remove entrained native fish within Dinwoody Canal during water shutdown.

Clip range cages near Dry Lakes, and on the north and south rims of Bull Lake to assess forage production and thus the amount available for wintering big game.

November 2017 scheduled activities:

Attend the Interagency Grizzly Bear Study Team meeting (11/29-30) and Yellowstone Grizzly Bear Coordinating Committee meeting (11/30-12/1) in Bozeman, MT.

Continue to register, measure and attach metal plugs to the horns of bighorn sheep harvested by hunters from Wind River.

Gather supplies and re-install remote trail cameras and bait sites for an on-going survey of wolverines in the Wind River and Owl Creek mountains. This is the 3rd year of the survey.

Conduct brown trout redd survey on Bull Lake Creek.

Develop potential fish passage projects across western Wyoming for funding in FY2018.

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Acknowledgements: *The Fish & Wildlife Conservation Office located in Lander, Wyoming, has assisted the Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho Tribes with fisheries conservation since 1941 and wildlife conservation since 1975. We greatly appreciate the opportunity to assist the Tribes with conserving and enhancing their 2.2 million acres of beautiful lands, and the abundant fish and wildlife that reside there. Special thanks go to the Tribal Fish and Game Department: Art Lawson, Ben Snyder, Justin Friday, and Wilma Wagon without whose cooperation we could not accomplish our mission.*