



October 2015 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:

In cooperation with Tribal Fish & Game and Wyoming Game & Fish, we assessed the sauger population in the Little Wind River using an electroshocking raft. This has been done annually for nearly the last 10 years. During the 2-day survey, we observed a substantial increase in the number of sauger, especially fish less than 3 years old – a very good sign.



Using an electroshocking raft to capture and release sauger on the Little Wind River.

Stocked Bull Lake (26,700 rainbow trout) and Dinwoody lakes (11,300 rainbow and 11,700 Snake River cutthroat trout) with 8 inch catachables to support recreational fishery. Fish were from the Jones Hole and Jackson National Fish Hatcheries.

In cooperation with Tribal F&G and Wyoming G&F, we assessed the trout population in the Popo Agie River from Wypo Bridge to Ruby's Ranch. This survey is conducted every 5 years. This is an excellent fishery with many 1 to 2 pound rainbow and brown trout observed.



A nice rainbow trout to be released back into the Popo Agie River.

In cooperation with Trout Unlimited, the Tribes, and the Riverton Wyoming Middle School, we helped conduct an Adopt-A-Trout education program on Bull Lake Creek. Over 160 6th graders had an excellent time getting up-close and personal with 30 brown trout that were implanted with tracking transmitters. Over the next year, students will help monitor movements and survival, while providing meaningful scientific data. It was a fun 2 days that was well-received by teachers, kids and biologists alike.

Removed entrained native fish within Dinwoody Canal during water shutdown. Only a few trout and burbot over 12 inches were observed. These were captured and returned to Dinwoody Lake.

Attended coordination meeting for the Jones Hole National Fish Hatchery and plan stocking for 2016. Rainbow and tiger trout from Jones Hole are stocked into waters of the Wind River Reservation.



6th graders learning about fish first-hand during Adopt-A-Trout along Bull Lake Creek.

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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. Our special thanks go to the Tribal Fish and Game Department: Ben Snyder, Western Thayer, Art Lawson, Lynelle Shakespeare, Sherilyn Heba, Lynette Ferris and Darsyl Posey without whose cooperation we could not accomplish our mission.

October 29, 2015

Completed a report of bobcat harvested during the 2014/15 season. Fewer trappers afield resulted in the lowest reported harvest (total of 15 bobcats) since 1999.

November 2015 proposed activities:

Check Bull Lake Creek below Bull Lake Dam for brown trout spawning activity.

Conduct 3-day netting survey of native burbot at Bull Lake to assess abundance. We were not able to conduct this survey in October as planned due to other activities.

Develop partnerships and potential projects to construct fish passage structures. Water diversions and elevated culverts can act as barriers and prevent fish from moving upstream. Structures are constructed at these sites to allow fish to pass the barrier. We will be seeking potential projects from across Wyoming.

Replace outlet structures on Goose Pond and Marsh (Mark Hogan, Partners Program). Due to high alkalinity of the soil, structures have begun to degrade.

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

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.

Attend the Interagency Grizzly Bear Study Team meeting (11/3) and Yellowstone Subcommittee meeting of the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee (11/3 1pm-5pm & 11/4 8a-12pm) at Hotel Terra, Teton Village, WY.

Determine areas of use of radio-collared wolves in the St. Lawrence area by listening and locating their signals from the ground and air.

In cooperation with the Tribal F&G and Wyoming G&F, install remote camera traps and bait sites for detection of wolverines at 3 locations on Wind River. Sites will be at 10,000+ feet in elevation in the Wind River and Owl Creek mountains. This effort continues the project begun in March 2015, and is a part of a larger regional effort to assess wolverine occurrence in Wyoming, Montana, Idaho and Washington.

December 2015 proposed activities:

Capture, assess body condition and pregnancy, and release 7 bighorn sheep ewes that were captured this past March on or near Sacagawea Ridge.

Continue to develop partnerships and potential projects to construct fish passage structures, see November section above.

Revisit wolverine camera sites to resupply with fresh bait and lure.

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

Survey wintering trumpeter swans on Dinwoody and Bull Lake creeks.