



September 2016 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, began multiple-week survey of swift fox using lure and trail cameras in the Wise Flat, Countryman Basin and Bighorn Draw areas. Intent is to determine the presence of swift fox in these areas. At this time, no swift fox have been detected, though one washed-out night photo of a fox could not be positively identified as to species. Cameras have captured a variety of wildlife including pronghorn antelope, coyote, red fox, badger, short-eared owl and mountain lion.



Installed trail camera in the Washakie Park area to assess presence and abundance of wolves. None have been detected at this time. In previous years, wolves have been present in this area during August and September.

Assisted Eastern Shoshone Tribe with organizing upcoming restoration of bison from Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge, Iowa. Release of 10-12 bison in the 300 acre grazing unit near Pilot Butte is targeted for early November. Transported squeeze chute donated by the Rocky Mountain Arsenal NWR near Denver to Wind River.

Continued summer/fall surveys of local trumpeter swans in the Bighorn Draw, Ray Lake and Diversion Dam areas. Observed 3 to 5 swans. We're hopeful that nesting and successful reproduction will occur in 2017.

Surveyed the canyon-mouth of Crooked Creek in the hope of finding remnant Yellowstone cutthroat trout from the aboriginal population believed to have been destroyed during the South Fork Little Wind Fire in 2004. No fish were observed in the lower mile of the canyon.

Continued electrofishing surveys of Yellowstone cutthroat population in the South Fork Owl Creek. Acquired genetic samples from an additional location. Samples were sent to the University of Wyoming to determine whether these come from a unique strain.

Surveyed Yantie Lake. Brook trout were relatively abundant and large.

Attended Tribal Water Engineer & Wind River Water Resource Control Board meeting involving BIA irrigation and various water users and water user groups regarding upcoming operational and rate changes for 2017.



October 18, 2016

Attended and presented program on sage-grouse biology at the Crowheart Festival. Attended by 15 adults and children.

Continued oversight and funding of the Meadow Creek Fencing Project area near Crowheart (primary oversight by Mark Hogan, Partners Program). The fence will greatly reduce impacts from cattle grazing to sensitive and unique riparian habitats.

Provided environmental review of 1 proposed homesite. No significant fish and wildlife concerns with this project.

October 2016 upcoming activities:

In cooperation with Tribal F&G, continue conducting swift fox survey using lure and trail cameras in the Wise Flat, Countryman Basin and Bighorn Draw areas.

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.

Assist with roundup at Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge of bison slated for transport to Wind River for restoration effort. Enrolled member Dennis O'Neal, the new bison manager, will also attend.

In cooperation with Tribal F&G and Wyoming G&F, conduct sauger population survey on Little Wind River. This has been done annually for nearly the last 10 years.

In cooperation with Tribal F&G and Wyoming G&F, conduct trout survey of North Fork Popo Agie River near 2nd Street bridge and fishing access.

Stock Bull Lake (rainbow trout) and Dinwoody lakes (rainbow and Snake River cutthroat trout) to support recreational fishery. Fish are from the Jones Hole and Jackson National Fish Hatcheries.

Remove entrained native fish within Dinwoody Canal during water shutdown.

November 2016 upcoming activities:

Attend bison release event on 11/3 at 10am at the Owen Place near Pilot Butte Reservoir.

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 Teton Village, WY.

Track wolves using radio-collar signals for their locations.

In cooperation with the Tribal F&G and Wyoming G&F, install remote camera traps and bait sites for detection of wolverines in the Wind River and Owl Creek mountains.

Develop potential fish passage projects across western Wyoming for funding in FY2017.

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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, and Sherilyn Heba without whose cooperation we could not accomplish our mission.*