



November 2019 - activities assisting the Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho Tribes on the Wind River Reservation, WY- US Fish & Wildlife Service, 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:

Conducted the 7th annual Bull Lake Creek brown trout redd survey to track the number of egg nests (redds) constructed by spawning brown trout pairs in a distinct survey reach. The spawning ground was heavily used this year with the highest to date estimate of 57 brown trout redds observed, nearly double the average of 29.7 redds per year. Many of the redds were superimposed upon each other in the “best” locations confirming that more fish than usual had utilized the area for spawning.

Discussed potential changes to the 2020 Wind River fishing regulations with the Shoshone & Arapaho Fish & Game and attended Inter-Tribal Council meeting when these recommended changes were brought forward for review and approval.

At the request of the Shoshone & Arapaho Fish & Game Department, provided information to the Inter-Tribal Council on the current and historical fish stocking activities conducted on the Wind River Reservation by Jones Hole National Fish Hatchery. Jones Hole NFH provided fish for Wind River since its first production year in 1970 and was the primary source of Tribal stocked rainbow trout until 2017.

Retrieved GPS collars from 3 mule deer mortalities and attempted to determine cause of death. No clear cause of death was determined for these three incidents.

Plugged and registered 4 Bighorn sheep harvested during this fall’s hunting season.

Counted the number of Trumpeter and Tundra swans present on Wind River at the start of the winter season. Tundra swans are 30% smaller and typically stop-over on reservation waters before continuing south, whereas, dozens of Trumpeter swans spend the entire winter.



Brown Trout pair on a redd



Registration of a harvested bighorn sheep



Recovery of collar and investigation of a mule deer mortality

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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 Shoshone & Arapaho Fish & Game Department: Art Lawson, Ben Snyder, Justin Friday, Wilma Wagon, and Turk Brown without whose cooperation we could not accomplish our mission.

December 2019 proposed activities:

Re-capture GPS-collared ewes in the Red Rocks portion of the Whiskey Mtn. Bighorn sheep herd for health and body condition assessment. Target date of Monday 12/16

For mule deer and elk GPS collars on “mortality-mode”, retrieve collars and investigate the scene for cause of mortality.

Survey trumpeter swans at Bull and Dinwoody lakes.

January 2020 proposed activities:

Conduct a week-long aerial survey of elk and mule deer in both the Wind River Mountain and Owl Creek Mountain herds to collect herd composition (number of adult females and males, and juveniles), and estimate population trend and size.

Conduct annual mid-winter bald and golden eagle count.

Install wolverine monitoring cameras at sites located at Blue Trail, Mt. Shoshone, St. Lawrence, Bold Mtn and Trail Ridge, sites in the Wind River and Owl Creek Mountains to continue survey work begin in 2015.

Survey the Temple Peak Bighorn sheep herd above Washakie Reservoir, observe lamb and herd dynamics.

Survey collared doe mule deer for fawn survival and winter range use.