

Monthly "tweet sheet" of activities assisting the Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho Tribes on the Wind River Reservation, WY - April 2020

US Fish & Wildlife Service, Lander Fish & Wildlife Conservation Office



In response to COVID-19, our agency directed us to suspended all fieldwork. All meetings and coordinations were done remotely. Pictures are from fieldwork conducted before COVID19.

Presented to Wind River Inter-tribal Council on monthly activities, upcoming access requests and other pertinent topics. Council members unanimously stated that they feel our fieldwork is essential and request that it resume as soon as possible.

Participated in National Resuming Operations team, providing a field perspective to the process.

Provided input and references to Pam Sponholtz regarding the contribution of terrestrial insect input into aquatic environments and the important cross-scale links from fish condition to population recruitment dynamics in lake environments.

Continued to analyze time series data regarding the Bull Lake fisheries community population dynamics.

Reviewed and provided comments on a draft report of sauger and walleye hybridization in the Bighorn and Wind River drainages of Wyoming.

Coordinated with the Wyoming Game & Fish Department regarding the direction of sauger management associated with the Wind River population.

Participated in annual meeting with local federal, state and county agencies on upcoming fieldwork and projects.

Continued assessment and computer monitoring of GPS collared elk, mule deer, and wolves. Updated spreadsheets and database and assessed degree of collared fawn/collared doe associations for generational learning aspect of mule deer migration study.

Tribal warden Ben Snyder displaying a native sauger



Mule Deer response to COVID19



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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 landscape, 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.

Attended inaugural meeting with variety of state and federal agencies to data share and assess chronic and excessive deer/vehicle collisions in the Dubois WY area.

Remotely responded to feral hog issue on Wind River and arranged collection and transport to state wildlife lab for necropsy. Invasive feral hogs are a huge problem in many states and at present have not been documented in Wyoming. Though visually appearing very “wild”, lab results indicate this specimen was a once-captive, castrated adult male.

Presented grizzly bear conflict occurrence and management responses from the Wind River Reservation in 2019 to the bi-annual meeting of the Yellowstone Ecosystem Subcommittee and public attendees.

Presented successes in fish and wildlife conservation to Central Wyoming College’s Tribal Natural Resources class.

Completed or initiated a multitude of on-line trainings, attended numerous regional calls, and ordered supplies for upcoming field season.

May 2020 proposed activities:

Fieldwork suspended due to COVID-19.

June 2020 proposed activities:

Assuming field activities will resume:

Conduct annual netting surveys of Ray, Bull and Dinwoody lakes to assess the fishery.

Collect fish for mercury contamination analysis in the South Fork Little Wind drainage.

Capture and collar one to two wolves in the St. Lawrence Pack. Having a collared wolf greatly enhances our ability to monitor pack distribution and help assess and address livestock depredations. 2018 was the last year that this pack had a collared wolf.

Retrieve wolverine monitoring cameras on Bold Mountain, St. Lawrence Ridge, Blue Trail, Trail Ridge, and Mount Shoshone to check cameras, remove storage cards to review pictures, and resupply with fresh bait and lure for grizzly bear & wolf survey.