

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

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:

Stocked Washakie Reservoir with 10,000 catchable Yellowstone cutthroat trout from Saratoga National Fish Hatchery.



Conducted a 3-day backcountry survey of Raft, Upper Twin and Lower Twin Lakes fisheries. The Twin Lakes fisheries were doing well with a variety of species and sizes observed. The fishery at Raft Lake was poor and likely reflects recent declines in rainbow trout stocking. Raft Lake is scheduled for stocking again in 2021.



Retrieved a GPS collar from a cow elk located on the south side of Crow Mountain, part of our ongoing investigation into migration patterns and survival of elk on Wind River. The elk appears to have died from the unusual circumstances of complications from a carotid artery worm. Lab results are pending.

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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 Ivan Brown without whose cooperation we could not accomplish our mission.

Conducted whitebark pinecone survey on Bold Mountain as part of a broader effort within the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. Cones are a very important food for grizzly bears. Cone production was above average at 55/tree.

Coordinated a helicopter survey of big horn sheep in the Owl Creek Mountains. This effort was part of a large-scale population estimate of bighorns in northwest Wyoming led by the Wyoming Game & Fish. Only 25 rams and 5 ewes were seen on the survey route by observer and Tribal Warden Justin Friday.

Completed annual reporting of our station's accomplishments for FY2020.

Completed submission of financial assistance documents for several fish passage projects in Wyoming.

Processed paperwork for new space lease for this office.



September 2020 proposed activities:

Conduct trammel net surveys of Bull and Dinwoody Lakes to assess burbot populations.

Conduct high lake survey of Sacajawea Lakes.

Stock Ray Lake with catchable Rainbow Trout.

Investigate mortality sites and retrieve deer & elk GPS collars as needed.

Retrieve remaining mule deer collars that went onto mortality during COVID shutdown.

Continue monthly swan survey.

October 2020 proposed activities:

Investigate mortality sites and retrieve deer & elk GPS collars as needed.

Continue monthly swan survey.