

## Monthly "tweet sheet" of activities assisting the Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho Tribes on the Wind River Reservation, WY – June & July 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:*

Assessed roadless area fisheries at Squaw Lake & South Fork Little Wind River below the confluence with Mary's Creek.

Stocked Moccasin Lake with 10,000 catchable Snake River Cutthroat Trout from the Jackson National Fish Hatchery.

Helicopter-stocked roadless area lakes with Yellowstone cutthroat trout, tiger trout, and grayling to support tribal fisheries. Fish from Jones Hole and Saratoga NFHs, and Dubois and Tensleep Wyoming Hatcheries.

Conducted gillnet survey of Ray Lake and Bull Lake fisheries. Record number and size of walleye at Ray Lake. Assistance provided by Tribal Fish & Game and BIA.

Met with the new Tribal Water Engineer (TWE) and discussed fish screen and ladder operations and instream flow guidelines in association with the Tribal Water Code and Tribal Irrigation System.

Conducted a tour of wetland construction projects underway on the Wind River Reservation with the TWE, BIA Range Department, and the BIA Wind River superintendent. Discussed water rights associated with wetlands and feral horse concerns.

Retrieved wolverine camera monitoring sites at Bold Mountain, Washakie Park, St. Lawrence Ridge, and Trail Ridge. No wolverines detected during winter of 2020 surveys.

Installed a camera monitoring site for wolves in the Blue Trail area. Recent wolf tracks and scat was observed in the area.

Retrieved GPS collars from mule deer carcasses at Steamboat Rock, Bull Ridge, & Crooked Creek Ridge. Two of the three deer mortalities were mountain lion kills.

Attended meetings with Wy Game & Fish, Wy Dept Transportation, and The Nature Conservancy to assess severe wildlife/vehicle collisions on US Hwy 26, and provided GPS-collar movement data from mule deer to help plan abatements.

View of Mary's Creek Valley from a saddle on Mount Cross



Grizzly Bear on Trail Ridge camera



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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.

Coordinated with the University of Wyoming Migration Initiative personnel and developed funding proposal regarding the next steps involved in the current generational deer migration study on Wind River.

Assisted with a cheatgrass assessment of Torrey Rim for potential control burn to improve big horn sheep habitat for the Whiskey Mtn big horn sheep herd.

Assessed habitat along Temple Peak sheep migration route over Mount Cross enroot to summer range.

Attended meetings with ranch owners, Inter-tribal Council and other concerned parties regarding co-mingling of domestic sheep and wild bighorn sheep in the Owl Creek Mtns and potential die-off of bighorns due to transmission of pneumonia-causing bacteria.

Installed and retrieved sonogram bat monitoring stations located in the Owl Creek Mountains as part of a National Monitoring effort.

Met with BIA Range Department and cattle leaseholders to discuss potential fencing project along Bull Lake Creek to protect sensitive riparian habitat.



Bat monitoring site at Shotgun Reservoir

## August 2020 proposed activities:

Conduct high lake surveys of Raft, Movo, and Twin Lakes.

Conduct big horn sheep survey of Wind River Mountain herds.

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

Conduct annual white bark pinecone survey on Bold Mountain as part of Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem monitoring of grizzly bear foods.

Stock Washakie Reservoir with catchable Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout.

Conduct monthly trumpeter swan survey.

## September 2020 proposed activities:

Conduct high lake fish surveys of Polaris, Moraine, Little Moraine, Solitude, & the Ice Lakes.

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

Conduct trammel net survey of Bull Lake and Dinwoody Lakes to assess burbot.