

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

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



In mid-March in response to COVID-19, we were directed by our agency to suspend all fieldwork. Beginning the week of May 25th, we resumed approved fieldwork. All meetings and coordination activities were done remotely.

Presented to the Wind River Inter-tribal Council on monthly activities, upcoming access requests and other pertinent topics.

Participated on National and Regional Resuming Operations teams, helping inform the process of resuming operations by providing thoughts and ideas from a field perspective.

Completed assessments of risk from COVID to justify resuming fieldwork and limited office operations.

Interviewed by a PhD student regarding elk ecology and on-going study of migration and survival occurring on Wind River.

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

Began extensive effort to provide responsive records to a FOIA request from the state of Wyoming for information related to our assistance provided to the Crow, Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho tribes.

Developed funding proposal for a high mountain lakes and stream assessment of Yellowstone cutthroat trout on Wind River.

Retrieved two GPS collars in mortality status. One inadvertently fell off a newly collared mule deer fawn. The second collar was on an adult doe that died of unknown causes.

S.F. Little Wind River below the rise



Mule Deer carcass North of Cedar Butte



1

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.

June 2020 proposed activities:

Retrieve 10 deer and elk GPS collars from mortalities that occurred during our office shutdown.

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.

July 2020 proposed activities:

Survey bats using echolocation monitoring equipment at four sites in the Owl Creek Mountains. This is the 3rd year of a national effort to identify the species and range of bats across the US.

Assist researchers from the University of Wyoming and Illinois with a survey of the distribution of crayfish in the Wind River drainage and other areas possibly containing crayfish on the Reservation.

Conduct fishery surveys of Little Bob, Yantie, Squaw, & Twin Lakes.

Conduct river otter survey of the Wind River.