

## Monthly "tweet sheet" of activities assisting the Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho Tribes on the Wind River Reservation, WY – September 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 Ray Lake, Goose Pond, and Bull Lake with a total of 36,500 catchable rainbow trout from Saratoga National Fish Hatchery.

Backpack stocked 4,152 tiger trout into Moccasin, Little Moccasin, Long, and Shoe Lakes. This is the sixth year of this experimental annual effort. Evaluation of these fisheries is anticipated to occur over the next two years. Trout were reared at Jones Hole National Fish Hatchery.

Conducted annual trammel net survey for burbot (ling) in Bull Lake to determine relative catch and body condition.

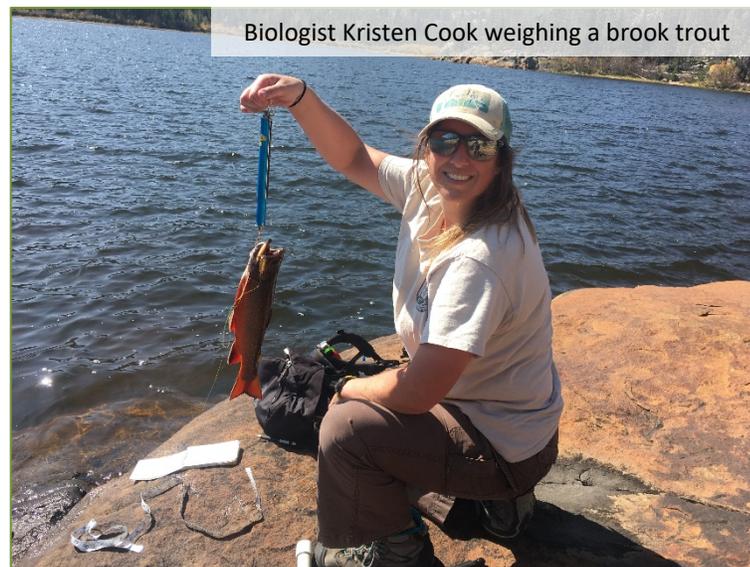
Surveyed Yantie Lake fishery to assess the impact of reduced stocking and presence of crayfish. Brook trout numbers were down but sizes and condition of captured trout was good. Future stocking decisions for this fishery will be discussed and determined.

Attended meeting with the Tribal Water Control Board to discuss issues related to irrigation and fish habitat.

Retrieved a wolf-monitoring camera along Blue Trail. Only one wolf was detected during July-September time period.

Assisted Special Agent and Tribal Fish & Game with investigation of a grizzly bear carcass in the Crow Creek area to help determine possible cause of mortality.

Conducted late summer pair survey of trumpeter swans. Three resident trumpeter swans were observed on Martin's Ponds. No swans were observed on Dinwoody Marsh or Goose Pond, typical areas that resident swans frequent.



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

Retrieved GPS collars from four doe mule deer located in Bull Lake Creek Canyon, Mud Creek, North Fork Sage Creek and the East Fork of Sheep Creek. Collar retrieval is part of our ongoing investigation into migration patterns and survival of mule deer on Wind River. The doe in Bull Lake Creek Canyon appears to have fallen off a cliff, the does in Mud Creek and Sage Creek were killed by mountain lions, and similarly, the doe from Sheep Creek likely was killed by a mountain lion, but evidence was not conclusive.

Provided input into Wind River/Sweetwater River Local Sage-grouse Working Group's decisions for distribution of \$75,000 of state funding for habitat and research projects that benefit sage-grouse in west-central Wyoming. Lander FWCO personnel have been a member of the group since its inception in 2004.



Deer collar retrieval, Bull Lake Creek Canyon

Presented virtually to Wyoming's Legislative Select Committee on Tribal Relations. Topic presented was elk movements and survival, and occurrence of brucellosis on the Wind River Reservation.

Prepared 150 brucellosis test kits for distribution by Tribal Fish & Game personnel to tribal hunters in hopes of acquiring additional samples from elk during the fall hunting season. Materials generously provided by the Wyoming Game & Fish.

## October 2020 proposed activities:

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

Stock Ray Lake with additional 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.

## November 2020 proposed activities:

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

Continue monthly swan survey.