

Monthly "tweet sheet" of activities assisting the Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho Tribes on the Wind River Reservation, WY - December 2019

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:

Retrieved a GPS collar from a mule deer mortality near Love Springs in the Owl Creek Mountains. A mountain lion had cached the deer carcass under sagebrush and snow at its kill site. Tracks in the area suggested it was a female lion with cubs.



Surveyed Bull Lake Creek for trumpeter swans observing 95 (71 adults, 24 juveniles), the most on record. Swans were primarily concentrated on open water portions of the Lily pond below Bull Lake.

Responded to a call regarding an injured trumpeter swan at Bull Lake. A worker at the dam observed the cygnet (juvenile) swan fly into a jersey barrier on the dam during a windstorm. We observed the swan on Bull Lake Creek, joined with other swans, with no apparent injuries. Subsequent swan counts indicated that the swan recovered.



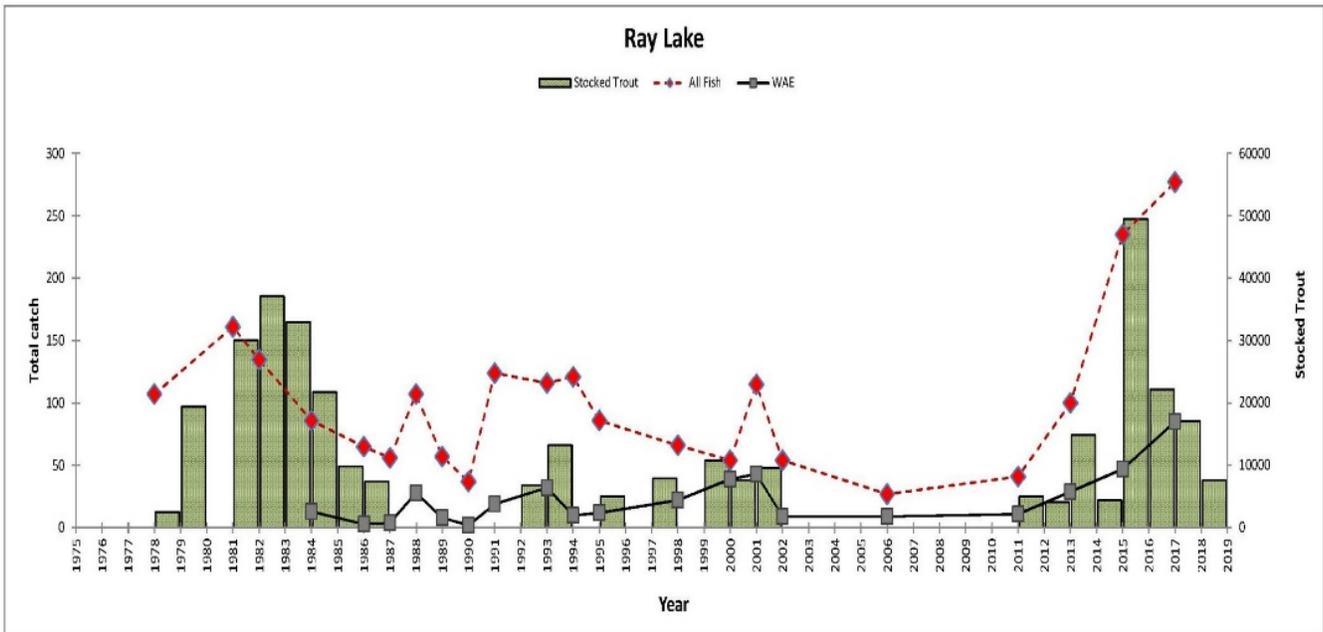
Plugged and registered 4 bighorn sheep harvested during the 2019 hunting season.

Completed the first draft of the Ray Lake fishery evaluation report, encompassing 40 years of netting and water elevation data, and investigating the roles of trout stocking and water elevations on the sport fisheries.

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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 lands, 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.

Ray Lake catch of all fish (red diamonds) and walleye (WAE, grey squares) by year. Number of stocked trout by year represented by the green bars.



January 2020 proposed activities:

- Conduct annual mid-winter bald and golden eagle count.

- Conduct aerial surveys of the elk in both the Wind River Mountain and Owl Creek Mountain herds.

- Install wolverine camera site at Blue Trail and Washakie Park.

- Utilize recent deer collar data to determine optimal aerial survey methods to assess population trend over time.

- Conduct monthly swan survey.

February 2020 proposed activities:

- Survey collared doe mule deer for fawn survival and winter range use.

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

- Continue monthly swan survey.

- Conduct ground surveys after fresh snow for potential pygmy rabbit presence.