

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

Provided information regarding Jones Hole National Fish Hatchery stocking history on Wind River to our regional office and the Inter-Tribal Council as part of an information request from Congressman Bishop of Utah.

Installed wolverine camera monitoring sites at Blue Trail & Washakie Park in the Wind River Mountains.

Retrieved GPS collars from two mule deer mortalities. One deer died of an unknown cause near Steamboat Rock on Dry Creek. The other was killed by a solitary mountain lion on Government Slope above N.F. Popo Agie Canyon.

Retrieved GPS collars from two elk mortalities. Wolves killed one near Bobs Creek, and the other died from unknown causes above Countryman Basin. Annual survival of collared cow elk is high (at 92%). Of 5 total mortalities for which cause was determinable, 1 was non-predatory, 1 by wolf, 1 by mountain lion and 2 by hunters.

Counted the number of trumpeter swans present on Wind River. The most seen on-record occurred in early January (102 total).

Conducted annual mid-winter survey of bald and golden eagles wintering on Wind River.

Responded to a call regarding an owl that died near a power pole, and retrieved a golden eagle that was struck by a vehicle along the Gas Hills road.

Conducted a 2-day aerial trend count of elk in the Wind River Mountain herd. Used GPS-collared elk as marks in a mark/resight method to estimate population size.

Participated in a discussion of elk migration routes and historic use of areas with Professor Todd Gunther of Central Wyoming College, Tribal Fish & Game, and Wyoming Game & Fish personnel. Discussed potential student projects investigating paleo-cultures' hunting methods along elk migration routes.

Hanging a deer carcass at Blue Trail wolverine site



Winter at Washakie Park

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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.

February 2020 proposed activities:

Conduct aerial survey of elk in the Owl Creek Mountain herds.

Install wolverine camera sites on St. Lawrence Ridge, Trail Ridge & Bold Mountain.

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

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

Meet with Wyoming Game & Fish regarding management of Wind River sauger.

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

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

Conduct monthly swan survey.

March 2020 proposed activities:

Capture and collar juvenile off-spring of collared mule deer does to assess the degree of generational learning of migration routes.

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

Continue monthly swan survey.

Recapture GPS collared bighorn ewes in the Red Creek area to collect disease, body condition and pregnancy data as part of on-going nutritional and lamb survival study headed by University of Wyoming.

Begin lek surveys for sage grouse.

