

**DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
CODY REGIONAL OFFICE CONSTRUCTION
PARK COUNTY, WYOMING**



OCTOBER 2020

Prepared by:

WYOMING GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

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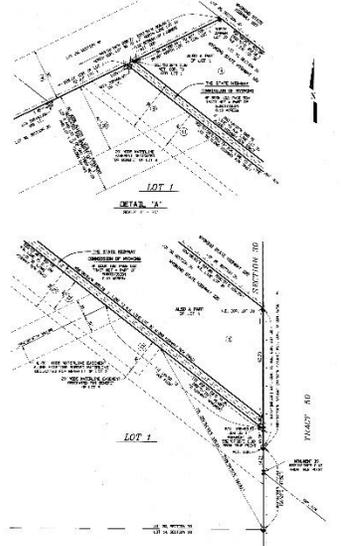
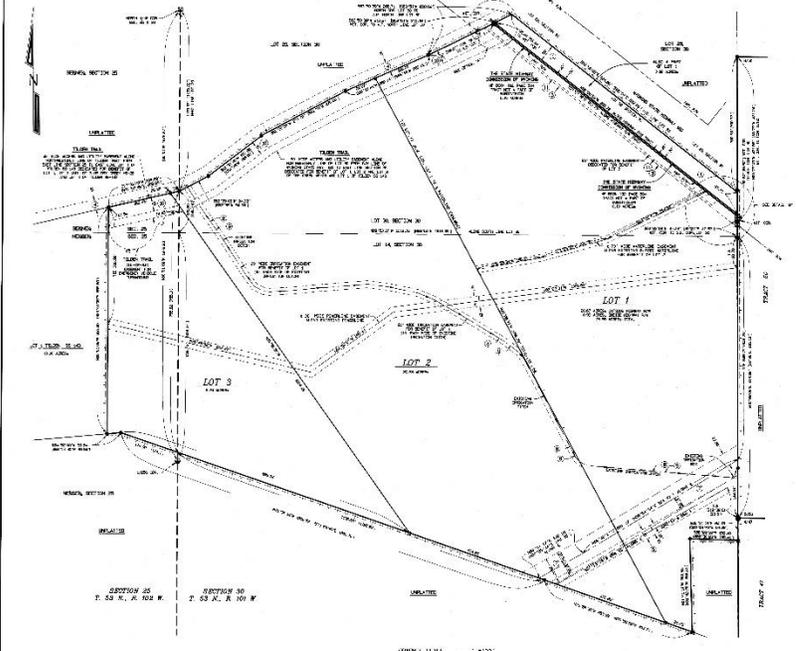
PURPOSE AND NEED FOR ACTION

The existing Cody Regional Office is currently located on land which is not owned by the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission (Commission) and does not have the capacity to meet the needs of the Wyoming Game and Fish Department (Agency) or the public. The current office is not ADA compliant, provides poor parking and accessibility, and requires substantial investment annually into maintenance and repair costs.

Phase 1 (grant #F20AF00196) of this project includes engineering, architecture and design of an office facility, which is anticipated to include approximately 20,000 square feet of office space and a 5,000 square foot outbuilding. The exact placement of the structure on the property has now been determined and is shown below. No construction activities were included in the phase 1 grant award. Environmental and Historic Preservation (Environmental Assessment) compliance, suitability testing and planning are currently in process. Upon completion of engineering, architecture, design and scoping of the project, the Agency will amend this grant application to include phase 2, actual construction with all required compliance documentation. The proposed future facility will enable the Agency to provide adequate workspace for personnel, public meeting space for Commission meetings, hunter education and other activities necessary to carry out the mission of the Agency and the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act

The Agency intends to competitively procure construction services for the actual construction of the facility in October and November of 2020 with construction to begin in spring of 2021.

PLAT SHOWING
DRY CREEK MS-28
 IN SECTION 26, T. 53 N., R. 101 W. AND SECTION 25, T. 53 N., R. 102 W. 6TH P.M.
 PARK COUNTY, WYOMING RESUBDIVISION



LEGEND

--- BOUNDARY OF ADJ. PROP.
 --- BOUNDARY OF THIS PROP.
 --- LOT FOR THE NAME
 --- TRACT BOUNDARY LINE
 --- TRACT "B" OF "B"
 --- CORNER
 --- UNRECORDED EASEMENT
 --- RECORD SECTION BOUNDARY
 --- UNRECORDED EASEMENT (SEE RECORDS FOR LOCATION)

SECTION 25
 T. 53 N., R. 102 W.

SECTION 26
 T. 53 N., R. 101 W.

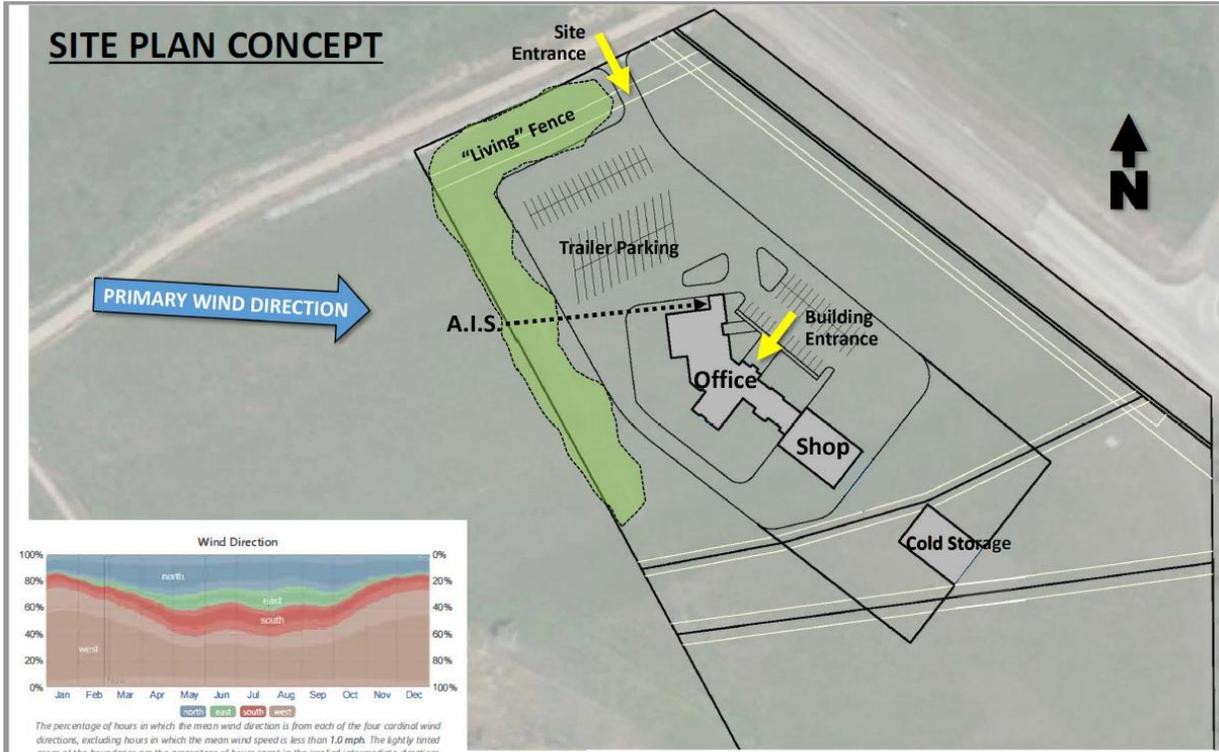
SECTION 25
 T. 53 N., R. 102 W.

SECTION 26
 T. 53 N., R. 101 W.



| | | | | | |
|-----------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|
| Morrison | | DATE | REVISION | DATE | REVISION |
| Maierle | | 10/15/2024 | 10/15/2024 | 10/15/2024 | 10/15/2024 |
| PROJECT NO. | DATE ACQUIRED | BY | DATE ACQUIRED | BY | DATE ACQUIRED |
| 2024-001 | 10/15/2024 | JK | 10/15/2024 | JK | 10/15/2024 |
| DRAWN BY | CHECKED BY | DATE | DATE | DATE | DATE |
| JK | JK | 10/15/2024 | 10/15/2024 | 10/15/2024 | 10/15/2024 |
| CHECKED BY | DATE | CHECKED BY | DATE | CHECKED BY | DATE |
| JK | 10/15/2024 | JK | 10/15/2024 | JK | 10/15/2024 |
| PROJECT NAME | PROJECT NO. | PROJECT NO. | PROJECT NO. | PROJECT NO. | PROJECT NO. |
| DRY CREEK MS-28 | 2024-001 | 2024-001 | 2024-001 | 2024-001 | 2024-001 |

PRELIMINARY SITE PLAN CONCEPT



WYOMING GAME & FISH
3D Massing Review

PLAN
plan one / architects

WYOMING GAME & FISH
3D Massing Review

PLAN
plan one / architects

2-Story Concept



ALTERNATIVES

Proposed Action

The proposed action is the design and construction of a new office facility on newly acquired Commission-owned property. The new facility will accommodate current personnel and include space for expansion for future personnel requirements.

The Cody Region is located in a portion of the State of Wyoming with significant large carnivore presence and interactions. The proposed facility will include an area of the shop to specifically accommodate operational needs of personnel and equipment dedicated to large carnivore activities. The proposed facility will also consolidate area efforts for Aquatic Invasive Species inspection and decontamination on-site which will prove to be convenient for both the public and Agency personnel. The Cody Region currently uses an off-site location undesirable for personnel, equipment and customers.

Additionally, the proposed facility will include a large meeting room to accommodate the Agency's need for meeting space to accommodate Commission meetings, sportsman education activities and community use as appropriate.

No Action

If no action is taken, the Agency will continue its mission with the current deteriorating facilities. However, the Agency will be required to invest heavily in the current infrastructure in order to continue with the status quo.

Alternatives Considered but Eliminated from Further Analysis

Alternatives considered include:

- A. Demolishing the existing building and building in the same location. The logistics to make this option viable were a deterrent. The current site has very poor soils that contribute to the poor condition of the existing facility. To reconstruct in this environment will cause a heavy investment in engineering and soil mitigation procedures. The Agency would also have to rent office space and storage to house maintenance materials, vehicles, water craft, and ATV's during construction.
- B. Purchase of an existing building in a different location. The Agency's Land Branch performed extensive research of the real estate in the Cody area and found no facilities to meet the needs of the Cody Region. Existing office space within Cody did not include adequate employee parking, nor adequate storage space for vehicles, supplies, watercraft, heavy equipment and ATVs.
- C. Constructing the new facility on a different piece of property.
- D. Constructing the new facility on a different piece of property. The Commission began a search for property several years ago as part of an analysis to determine the best course of

action for a new facility to meet the needs of the Agency, the region and the public. This 21.71 acre site was selected due to its convenient location; current and future capacity; accessibility and cost reasonableness. This location will allow for an optimal facility design including a wildlife check-in area, AIS decontamination station and check station, storage of heavy equipment, boats, trailers and building supplies. There will also be space to accommodate cold storage, horse corrals and large carnivore work. The selected location was determined to be the best option for the Agency and the public both in the immediate and distant future.

PUBLIC INPUT

The Commission and the Agency have been conducting discussions and business related to this project in a public forum from the beginning. Included in Appendix H is a compilation of Commission Meeting Minutes and newspaper publishings beginning with the property acquisition in July 2019. As a priority of the Commission and the Agency, public input will continue to be sought and business will be conducted during Commission meetings which are open to the public.

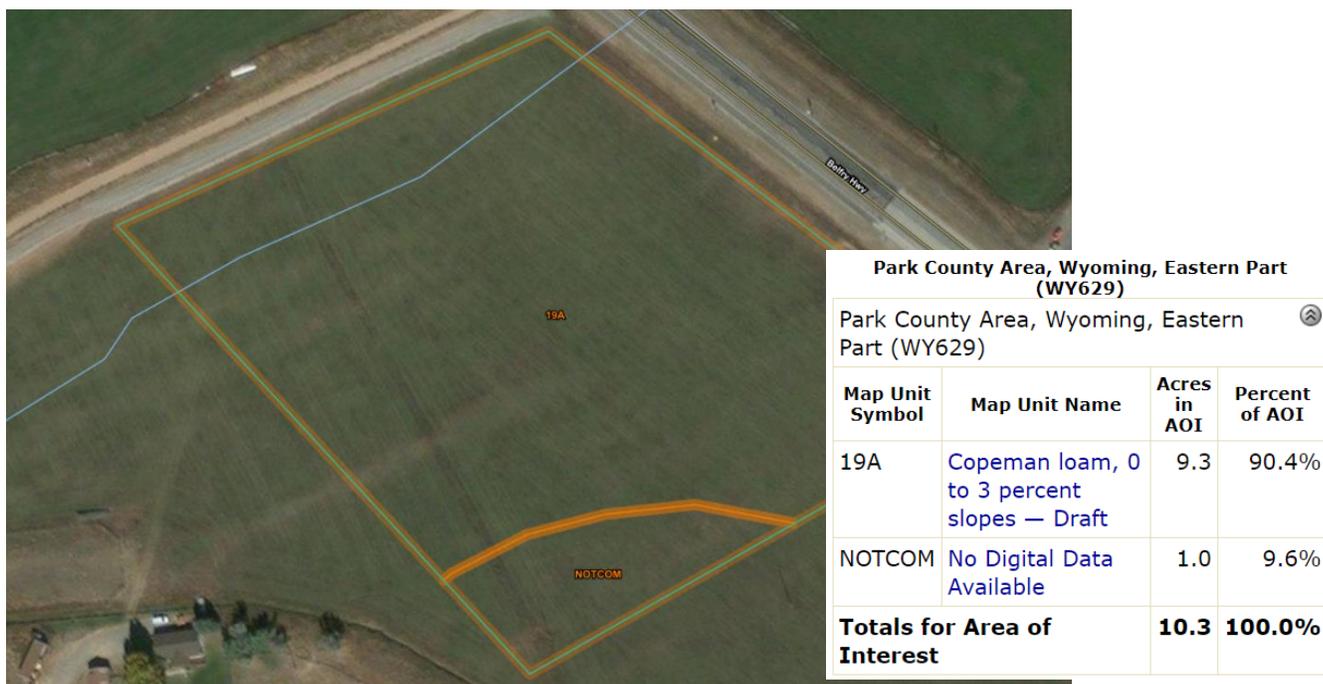
For complete public transparency, the Agency's Communications Division has created a website that is updated in real time as decisions are made in order to facilitate public involvement and input. See: <https://wgfd.wyo.gov/Regional-Offices/Cody-Region/cody-office>.

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

The location for the proposed facility development is located 0.8 miles North of Cody, Wyoming adjacent to State Highway 120 in the Big Horn Basin. The legal description is: Lots 14 and 30, Section 30, Township 53 North, Range 101 West of the 6th P.M., Park County, Wyoming.

Prime and Unique Farmlands

According to the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the main soil type within the proposed project location is Copeman loam which is not considered prime or unique farmland but may be considered farmland of statewide importance, if irrigated. However, the land capability classification for soil in this location is Class 7, meaning there are very severe limitations that make the soil unsuitable for cultivation and restrict the land use to mainly grazing, forestland or wildlife habitat. This location is no longer used agriculturally and is expected that the area will remain in non-agricultural use for the foreseeable future.



Surface disturbance caused by construction activities will result in the removal of vegetation from the soil surface. Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be implemented to minimize soil impacts such as re-seeding or erosion control. The use of heavy equipment may result in soil compaction. When soil is compacted, it decreases permeability and increases surface runoff, especially in silt and clay soils. In addition, soils may be impacted by mixing of soil horizons. Soil compaction and mixing of soil horizons would be minimized by topsoil segregation.

Construction activities have the potential to result in accidental spills or inadvertent leaks of vehicle or other fluids. As such, the Proposed Action Alternative may result in temporary, minor, indirect soil impacts due to fluid releases.

The complete NRCS Soil Resource Report is included in Appendix B and a Geotechnical Report prepared by DOWL is include in Appendix C.

Wetlands and Floodplains

According to information from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) National Wetlands Inventory website, the location for the proposed facility is not located in or near a wetland. Additionally, review of data from the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s (FEMA) Flood Map Service Center, the location of the proposed facility is in an area of minimal flood hazard (Zone X). The USFWS National Wetlands Inventory Map, a FEMA Firmette and FEMA National Flood Insurance Program Panel 2340D are included in Appendix C.

Vegetation

The Vegetation in this area is consistent with an irrigated hay meadow. The Vegetation consists of Alfalfa and cultivated grasses. Western Wheatgrass, Cheatgrass, and Crested Wheatgrass with small amounts of thistle, western salsify, and other weeds. Low Sagebrush and Prickly Pear Cactus also occur on the southern edge of the property. An overstory of Cottonwood trees occur on the eastern edge of the property.

Wildlife Resources

Due to the project location’s proximity to the City of Cody and State Highway 120, resident and migratory wildlife species are not expected to occur and/or be impacted with this project. The project location was once used as a cultivated hayfield and does not serve as critical habitat for any wildlife resources in the area.

Federally-listed Species

Review and consultation with USFWS’s Ecological Services Field Office in Wyoming identifies the following Federally-listed species which may occur in Park County, Wyoming:

- | | |
|--|---------------------|
| • Canada Lynx (<i>Lynx canadensis</i>) | Threatened |
| • Grizzly Bear (<i>Ursus arctos horribilis</i>) | Threatened |
| • Black-footed Ferret (<i>Mustela nigripes</i>) | Experimental |
| • North American Wolverine (<i>Gulo gulo luscus</i>) | Proposed Threatened |
| • Western Glacier Stonefly (<i>Zapada glacier</i>) | Threatened |
| • Ute Ladies’-tresses (<i>Spiranthes diluvialis</i>) | Threatened |

These species are not expected to occupy the project location and a determination of “may affect, not likely to adversely affect” has been provided by USFWS Ecological Services. The Official Species List, Ecological Services consultation request and response letters are included in Appendix D.

State Species of Special Concern

Consultation with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department's Habitat Protection Program indicates that the proposed project location is not within any big game crucial winter range and is located in sage-grouse non-core area greater than two (2) miles from any occupied leks. Preble's Meadow Jumping Mouse, a protected species in Wyoming, primarily reside in four (4) counties in southeast Wyoming, this species is not expected to reside in or near the project location.

Migratory Birds

There is a potential for migratory birds identified on the USFWS Birds of Conservation Concern (BCC) list could be present at the project location. There are no anticipated impacts to these species as a result of this project. However, if new information becomes available which identifies potential impacts to these species, respective breeding seasons, migration or habitat, the project will be re-analyzed in cooperation with USFWS Ecological Services.

Historic and Cultural Resources

In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and 36 CFR Part 800, consultation with the State of Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) resulted in concurrence that the proposed project at this location will not affect any historic properties. In August 2019, High Country Archaeology performed a Class III Cultural Resource Inventory of the project location in which no cultural resources were encountered. The Class III Cultural Resource Inventory, SHPO consultation request and response letters are included in Appendix E and F respectively.

Recreation

The proposed project location is a cultivated hayfield adjacent to State Highway 120 which sees substantial traffic from local residents and tourists particularly in the spring and summer months. This location provides little to no opportunity for hunting or wildlife related recreation.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

Summary of Impacts

Alternative 1 – Proposed Action

The proposed action will not have significant environmental consequences. The proposed construction will direct surface run-off into detention ponds and keep it contained to the current property. New landscaping around the proposed facility will have contain plantings that require low water consumption. A living snow fence along the northern and western sides of the property is proposed that will enhance the visual aspects of the project as well as help shield the new building from neighbors. The eastern half (approximately) of the property will remain irrigated pasture.

Alternative 2 – No Action

Under the no action alternative, the Environmental Consequences are minimal. The Agency will use the current facility as-is. This alternative requires monthly pumping of the septic tank as well as minor flooding of the office area during heavy rain events.

Cumulative Effects of the Proposed Action

The Commission acquired the identified piece of land with the intent of constructing a regional office facility that will meet the needs of the Agency and the public for the long term future. Proceeding with this action will enable the Agency to provide greater access to wildlife related information, education, and resources to the public while also accommodating personnel and equipment necessary to maintain a Regional Office.

Public Participation

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will accept all public comments related to this proposed action for thirty (30) days from the date the draft environmental assessment is published on the Service website. Additionally, legal notice will be printed in the Cody Enterprise newspaper.

EA Preparation

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Federal Aid Coordinator
Wyoming Game and Fish Department
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U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 6
Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program
134 Union Boulevard
Lakewood, CO 80228

**APPENDIX A: WGFD Environmental and Historic Preservation
Compliance Review**



WYOMING GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT
ENVIRONMENTAL & HISTORIC PRESERVATION
COMPLIANCE REVIEW WORKSHEET

1. PROJECT INFORMATION

Federal Grant Number: F20AF00196 State Grant Number: W-20-1
Employee Name: Loren Wooden Division: Services
Project Title: Cody Regional Office - phase 2: Construction
Project Location: Lots 14 and 30 - Section 30, T53N, R101W, 6th P.M, Park County, WY
Proposed Action(s): Construction of a two-story office facility, approximately 20,000 square feet in size to serve as the new Cody Regional Office.
Department Activity Code(s): 210

2. CATEGORICAL EXCLUSIONS (516 DM Section 8.5)

Categories or types of actions that present no significant individual or cumulative effect on the quality of the human environment are categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

Is this proposal/project completely covered under one or more Categorical Exclusions designated in by U.S. Fish and Wildlife?

Radio buttons for YES and NO, with NO selected.

If yes, please provide the applicable categorical exclusion:

Form fields A, B, C, E with text: N/A - No Category A Exclusion Applies. N/A - No Category B Exclusion Applies. N/A - No Category C Exclusion Applies. N/A - No Category E Exclusion Applies.

Other Project Notes:

Large empty rectangular box for other project notes.

If no, an Environmental Assessment must be prepared. Please complete this worksheet and contact the Federal Aid Coordinator.



**WYOMING GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT
ENVIRONMENTAL & HISTORIC PRESERVATION
COMPLIANCE REVIEW WORKSHEET**

3. EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES (43 CFR § 46.215)

Will this project/proposal:

YES

NO

Have significant adverse effects on public health or safety?

Have significant adverse effects on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds (Executive Order 13186); and other ecologically significant or critical areas under Federal ownership or jurisdiction?

Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources?

Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks?

Have a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects?

Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects?

Have significant adverse effects on properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau or office, the State Historic Preservation Officer, the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, or a consulting party under 36 CFR 800?

Have significant adverse effects on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant adverse effects on designated Critical Habitat for these species?

Have the possibility of violating a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment?

Have the possibility for a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898)?

Have the possibility to limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007)?

Have the possibility to significantly contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112)?

If you selected YES to any of the above extraordinary circumstances, an Environmental Assessment must be prepared.



WYOMING GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT
ENVIRONMENTAL & HISTORIC PRESERVATION
COMPLIANCE REVIEW WORKSHEET

4. COMPLIANCE

A. FLOODPLAINS AND WETLANDS (Executive Order 11990 & Executive Order 11988)

YES NO If N/A - leave blank

- Does the project take place in a floodplain or wetland?
Will the project indirectly affect the floodplain or wetland?
Will the project indirectly support other development in the floodplain or wetlands?
If the proposed action is the disposal or exchange of Federally Aid-acquired property, does the property include a floodplain area or wetland?

Source:

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Wetlands Inventory
Federal Emergency Management Agency Flood Map Service Center
Other:

B. PRIME AND UNIQUE FARMLAND (7 CFR § 657.5)

YES NO If N/A - leave blank

- Does prime/unique farmland occur at the project site?
If yes, will the proposed project have adverse effects on the prime/unique farmland?

If yes, attach a description of the adverse effects and an explanation of how these impacts will be avoided, minimized, or mitigated as established through consultation with the NRCS.

Source:

- U.S. Department of Agriculture Soil Surveys
National Resource Conservation Service, Prime and other Important Farmlands Surveys
Other:

C. ENDANGERED SPECIES (Endangered Species Act of 1973 - 50 CFR Part 17)

YES NO If N/A - leave blank

- Do any Federally-listed endangered or threatened species or designated critical habitat occur in or adjacent to the project area that could be directly or indirectly affected by the project?
If yes, will the proposed project activities affect any of these species or critical habitat?

If you selected YES to any of these questions, you must contact the Federal Aid Coordinator BEFORE the project may proceed.



WYOMING GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT
ENVIRONMENTAL & HISTORIC PRESERVATION
COMPLIANCE REVIEW WORKSHEET

D. HISTORIC AND/OR CULTURAL RESOURCES (National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 Section 106)

YES NO If N/A - leave blank

- Did SHPO conclude that the proposed action will not result in any adverse effects to cultural and historical resources?
Did SHPO conclude that the proposed action will result in adverse effects to properties listed or eligible for listing on the national Register of Historic Places?
Did SHPO include recommendations to avoid adverse impacts to resources? (If yes, how will the recommendations be implemented?)

See Environmental Appendix F, "If any cultural materials are discovered during construction, work in the area shall halt immediately, the federal agency and SHPO shall be contacted and the materials be evaluated by an archaeologist or historian meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards (48 FR22716, Sept. 1983)."

5. CERTIFICATION

I certify that the information provided in this form is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Preparer:

Signature Date

Federal Aid/Fiscal Division:

Casi Crites
Digitally signed by
Casi Crites
Date: 2020.08.17
14:45:30 -06'00'

08/17/2020
Date

For Fiscal Division Use Only

- Categorical Exclusion, No Further Action
Environmental Assessment Required

- Environmental Impact Statement Required
Other:

Empty text box for 'Other:'



WYOMING GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT ENVIRONMENTAL & HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMPLIANCE REVIEW WORKSHEET

Category A - Work Activities Covered by Categorical Exclusions

Pursuant to NEPA, The Council on Environmental Quality's Regulation for Implementing NEPA, the Department of Interior's (DOI) Categorical Exclusions, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (FWS) Categorical Exclusions, Department actions covered by the following Federal Aid-Eligible Activity Codes are determined to be categorically excluded:

| | | | |
|-----|--|-----|---|
| 001 | Legal Research | 299 | Other Misc. Public Facility Development |
| 002 | Drafting Bids | 410 | Facility Maintenance |
| 003 | Legal Pleadings | 430 | Aquatic Habitat Maintenance |
| 004 | Court Attendance | 433 | Motorboat Access Site Maintenance |
| 100 | Administration | 452 | Livestock Grazing - Area Maintenance |
| 105 | Clerical | 453 | Permanent Cover/Food Patches |
| 115 | Fiscal | 460 | Public Access Maintenance |
| 121 | Management Planning | 480 | Transport Facility Maintenance |
| 122 | Strategic Planning | 490 | Fence Maintenance |
| 125 | Procurement | 510 | Habitat Inventory/Population Evaluation |
| 130 | Season Setting | 511 | Habitat Inventory |
| 135 | Grant-In-Aid | 512 | Wildlife Population Studies |
| 140 | Interagency Communication | 520 | Public Use Inventory |
| 156 | Aquatic Education | 540 | Environmental Protection |
| 175 | Extension Services/Info to Landowners | 551 | Disease Investigation/Research |
| 180 | In-Service Training | 553 | Life History/Ecology |
| 181 | Conducting In-Service Training | 454 | Prescribed Burns - Habitat |
| 234 | Stream Develop - Stream Improvement | 571 | Economic Investigation |
| 235 | Reservoir/Lake Habitat Development | 576 | Investigation/Development of Techniques |
| 236 | Impoundment Development | 577 | Artificial Propagation Investigation |
| 240 | Riparian Habitat Develop/Habitat Mgmt. | 710 | Fish Wildlife Rearing |
| 250 | Terrestrial Habitat Develop/Habitat Mgmt. | 712 | Fish Egg Collection |
| 260 | Public Facility Develop/Habitat Mgmt. | 715 | Stocking Restoration |
| 270 | Cropland Development | 716 | Stocking Maintenance |
| 280 | Transport Facility Development - Trails/Access Roads | 717 | Stocking Put-and-Take |
| 290 | Fence Construction - Habitat Mgmt. | 720 | Wildlife Feeding |

Category B - Work Activities Subject to Further Review

Department actions covered by the following Activity Codes and planned for funding with Federal Aid will be evaluated via the above **COMPLIANCE REVIEW WORKSHEET** to determine if the action can be categorically excluded or if it requires the preparation of an environmental assessment, and to ensure compliance with other applicable environmental laws and regulations.

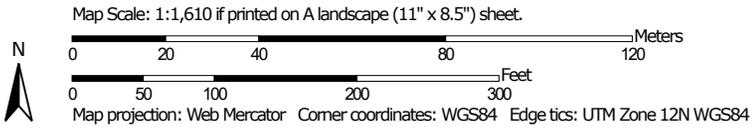
| | | | |
|-----|--|-----|--|
| 51 | Fee Title Acquisition /Disposal (Aquatic) | 233 | Motorboat Access Development |
| 52 | Fee Title Acquisition/Disposal (Riparian) | 23N | Stream Dev - Stream Improvement |
| 53 | Fee Title Acquisition/Disposal (Terrestrial) | 23Y | Reservoir/Lake Habitat Develop/Improvement |
| 54 | Fee Title Acquisition/Disposal Access (Boating) | 23Z | Impoundment Development |
| 55 | Fee Title Acquisition/Disposal Access (non-Boating) | 24N | Riparian Habitat Develop/Management |
| 61 | NonFee Title Acquisition/Disposal (Aquatic) | 25N | Terrestrial Habitat Develop/Management |
| 62 | NonFee Title Acquisition/Disposal (Riparian) | 26N | Public Facility Develop/Management |
| 63 | NonFee Title Acquisition/Disposal (Terrestrial) | 27N | Cropland Development |
| 64 | NonFee Title Acquisition/Disposal Access (Boating) | 28N | Transport Facility Development - Trails/Access Roads |
| 65 | NonFee Title Acquisition/Disposal Access (non-Boating) | 29N | Fence Construction - Habitat Management |
| 210 | Department & Support Facility Development | 29Z | Other Misc. Public Facility Development |
| 231 | Wildlife Rearing Facility Develop/Renovation | 45N | Prescribed Burns - Habitat |
| 232 | Water Facility Development Water for Wildlife | 718 | Stocking New Species Establishment |

APPENDIX B: NRCS Soil Reports and Land Classification

Farmland Classification—Park County Area, Wyoming, Eastern Part
(Cody Regional Office)



Soil Map may not be valid at this scale.



Farmland Classification—Park County Area, Wyoming, Eastern Part
(Cody Regional Office)

MAP LEGEND

Area of Interest (AOI)

 Area of Interest (AOI)

Soils

Soil Rating Polygons

-  Not prime farmland
-  All areas are prime farmland
-  Prime farmland if drained
-  Prime farmland if protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
-  Prime farmland if irrigated
-  Prime farmland if drained and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
-  Prime farmland if irrigated and drained
-  Prime farmland if irrigated and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season

-  Prime farmland if subsoiled, completely removing the root inhibiting soil layer
-  Prime farmland if irrigated and the product of I (soil erodibility) x C (climate factor) does not exceed 60
-  Prime farmland if irrigated and reclaimed of excess salts and sodium
-  Farmland of statewide importance
-  Farmland of statewide importance, if drained
-  Farmland of statewide importance, if protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
-  Farmland of statewide importance, if irrigated

-  Farmland of statewide importance, if drained and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
-  Farmland of statewide importance, if irrigated and drained
-  Farmland of statewide importance, if irrigated and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
-  Farmland of statewide importance, if subsoiled, completely removing the root inhibiting soil layer
-  Farmland of statewide importance, if irrigated and the product of I (soil erodibility) x C (climate factor) does not exceed 60

-  Farmland of statewide importance, if irrigated and reclaimed of excess salts and sodium
-  Farmland of statewide importance, if drained or either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
-  Farmland of statewide importance, if warm enough, and either drained or either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
-  Farmland of statewide importance, if warm enough
-  Farmland of statewide importance, if thawed
-  Farmland of local importance
-  Farmland of local importance, if irrigated

-  Farmland of unique importance
-  Not rated or not available

Soil Rating Lines

-  Not prime farmland
-  All areas are prime farmland
-  Prime farmland if drained
-  Prime farmland if protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
-  Prime farmland if irrigated
-  Prime farmland if drained and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
-  Prime farmland if irrigated and drained
-  Prime farmland if irrigated and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season

Farmland Classification—Park County Area, Wyoming, Eastern Part
(Cody Regional Office)

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|---|--|---|--|---|--|
|  | Prime farmland if subsoiled, completely removing the root inhibiting soil layer |  | Farmland of statewide importance, if drained and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season |  | Farmland of statewide importance, if irrigated and reclaimed of excess salts and sodium |  | Farmland of unique importance |  | Prime farmland if subsoiled, completely removing the root inhibiting soil layer |
|  | Prime farmland if irrigated and the product of I (soil erodibility) x C (climate factor) does not exceed 60 |  | Farmland of statewide importance, if irrigated and drained |  | Farmland of statewide importance, if drained or either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season |  | Not prime farmland |  | Prime farmland if irrigated and the product of I (soil erodibility) x C (climate factor) does not exceed 60 |
|  | Prime farmland if irrigated and reclaimed of excess salts and sodium |  | Farmland of statewide importance, if irrigated and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season |  | Farmland of statewide importance, if warm enough, and either drained or either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season |  | Prime farmland if drained |  | Prime farmland if irrigated and reclaimed of excess salts and sodium |
|  | Farmland of statewide importance |  | Farmland of statewide importance, if subsoiled, completely removing the root inhibiting soil layer |  | Farmland of statewide importance, if thawed |  | Prime farmland if protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season |  | Farmland of statewide importance |
|  | Farmland of statewide importance, if drained |  | Farmland of statewide importance, if irrigated and the product of I (soil erodibility) x C (climate factor) does not exceed 60 |  | Farmland of local importance |  | Prime farmland if irrigated |  | Farmland of statewide importance, if drained |
|  | Farmland of statewide importance, if protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season |  | |  | Farmland of local importance, if irrigated |  | Prime farmland if drained and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season |  | Farmland of statewide importance, if protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season |
|  | Farmland of statewide importance, if irrigated | | |  | |  | Prime farmland if irrigated and drained |  | Farmland of statewide importance, if irrigated |
| | | | |  | |  | Prime farmland if irrigated and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season | | |

Farmland Classification—Park County Area, Wyoming, Eastern Part
(Cody Regional Office)

| | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">  Farmland of statewide importance, if drained and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season  Farmland of statewide importance, if irrigated and drained  Farmland of statewide importance, if irrigated and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season  Farmland of statewide importance, if subsoiled, completely removing the root inhibiting soil layer  Farmland of statewide importance, if irrigated and the product of I (soil erodibility) x C (climate factor) does not exceed 60 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">  Farmland of statewide importance, if irrigated and reclaimed of excess salts and sodium  Farmland of statewide importance, if drained or either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season  Farmland of statewide importance, if warm enough, and either drained or either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season  Farmland of statewide importance, if warm enough  Farmland of statewide importance, if thawed  Farmland of local importance  Farmland of local importance, if irrigated | <ul style="list-style-type: none">  Farmland of unique importance  Not rated or not available <p>Water Features</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">  Streams and Canals <p>Transportation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">  Rails  Interstate Highways  US Routes  Major Roads  Local Roads <p>Background</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">  Aerial Photography | <p>The soil surveys that comprise your AOI were mapped at 1:24,000.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 5px 0;"> <p>Warning: Soil Map may not be valid at this scale.</p> <p>Enlargement of maps beyond the scale of mapping can cause misunderstanding of the detail of mapping and accuracy of soil line placement. The maps do not show the small areas of contrasting soils that could have been shown at a more detailed scale.</p> </div> <p>Please rely on the bar scale on each map sheet for map measurements.</p> <p>Source of Map: Natural Resources Conservation Service Web Soil Survey URL: Coordinate System: Web Mercator (EPSG:3857)</p> <p>Maps from the Web Soil Survey are based on the Web Mercator projection, which preserves direction and shape but distorts distance and area. A projection that preserves area, such as the Albers equal-area conic projection, should be used if more accurate calculations of distance or area are required.</p> <p>This product is generated from the USDA-NRCS certified data as of the version date(s) listed below.</p> <p>Soil Survey Area: Park County Area, Wyoming, Eastern Part Survey Area Data: Version 13, Jun 6, 2020</p> <p>Soil map units are labeled (as space allows) for map scales 1:50,000 or larger.</p> <p>Date(s) aerial images were photographed: Sep 24, 2014—Oct 1, 2016</p> <p>The orthophoto or other base map on which the soil lines were compiled and digitized probably differs from the background imagery displayed on these maps. As a result, some minor shifting of map unit boundaries may be evident.</p> |
|--|--|--|--|

Farmland Classification

| Map unit symbol | Map unit name | Rating | Acres in AOI | Percent of AOI |
|------------------------------------|---|--|--------------|----------------|
| 19A | Copeman loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes — Draft | Farmland of statewide importance, if irrigated | 4.0 | 80.8% |
| NOTCOM | No Digital Data Available | | 0.9 | 19.2% |
| Totals for Area of Interest | | | 4.9 | 100.0% |

Description

Farmland classification identifies map units as prime farmland, farmland of statewide importance, farmland of local importance, or unique farmland. It identifies the location and extent of the soils that are best suited to food, feed, fiber, forage, and oilseed crops. NRCS policy and procedures on prime and unique farmlands are published in the "Federal Register," Vol. 43, No. 21, January 31, 1978.

Rating Options

Aggregation Method: No Aggregation Necessary

Tie-break Rule: Lower

Land Capability Classification

The land capability classification of map units in the survey area is shown in this table. This classification shows, in a general way, the suitability of soils for most kinds of field crops (United States Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service, 1961). Crops that require special management are excluded. The soils are grouped according to their limitations for field crops, the risk of damage if they are used for crops, and the way they respond to management. The criteria used in grouping the soils do not include major and generally expensive landforming that would change slope, depth, or other characteristics of the soils, nor do they include possible but unlikely major reclamation projects. Capability classification is not a substitute for interpretations designed to show suitability and limitations of groups of soils for rangeland, for forestland, or for engineering purposes.

In the capability system, soils are generally grouped at three levels: capability class, subclass, and unit.

Capability classes, the broadest groups, are designated by the numbers 1 through 8. The numbers indicate progressively greater limitations and narrower choices for practical use. The classes are defined as follows:

- Class 1 soils have slight limitations that restrict their use.
- Class 2 soils have moderate limitations that restrict the choice of plants or that require moderate conservation practices.
- Class 3 soils have severe limitations that restrict the choice of plants or that require special conservation practices, or both.
- Class 4 soils have very severe limitations that restrict the choice of plants or that require very careful management, or both.
- Class 5 soils are subject to little or no erosion but have other limitations, impractical to remove, that restrict their use mainly to pasture, rangeland, forestland, or wildlife habitat.
- Class 6 soils have severe limitations that make them generally unsuitable for cultivation and that restrict their use mainly to pasture, rangeland, forestland, or wildlife habitat.
- Class 7 soils have very severe limitations that make them unsuitable for cultivation and that restrict their use mainly to grazing, forestland, or wildlife habitat.
- Class 8 soils and miscellaneous areas have limitations that preclude commercial plant production and that restrict their use to recreational purposes, wildlife habitat, watershed, or esthetic purposes.

Capability subclasses are soil groups within one class. They are designated by adding a small letter, *e*, *w*, *s*, or *c*, to the class numeral, for example, 2*e*. The letter *e* shows that the main hazard is the risk of erosion unless close-growing plant cover is maintained; *w* shows that water in or on the soil interferes with plant growth or cultivation (in some soils the wetness can be partly corrected by artificial drainage); *s* shows that the soil is limited mainly because it is shallow, droughty, or stony; and *c*, used in only some parts of the United States, shows that the chief limitation is climate that is very cold or very dry.

In class 1 there are no subclasses because the soils of this class have few limitations. Class 5 contains only the subclasses indicated by *w*, *s*, or *c* because the soils in class 5 are subject to little or no erosion.

Report—Land Capability Classification

| Land Capability Classification—Park County Area, Wyoming, Eastern Part | | | | |
|--|------------------|----------------|--------------------------|-----------|
| Map unit symbol and name | Pct. of map unit | Component name | Land Capability Subclass | |
| | | | Nonirrigated | Irrigated |
| 19A—Copeman loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes — Draft | | | | |
| | 80 | Copeman | 7s | 7s |
| NOTCOM—No Digital Data Available | | | | |
| | 100 | Notcom | — | — |

Data Source Information

Soil Survey Area: Park County Area, Wyoming, Eastern Part
Survey Area Data: Version 13, Jun 6, 2020

Chemical Soil Properties

This table shows estimates of some chemical characteristics and features that affect soil behavior. These estimates are given for the layers of each soil in the survey area. The estimates are based on field observations and on test data for these and similar soils.

Depth to the upper and lower boundaries of each layer is indicated.

Cation-exchange capacity is the total amount of extractable cations that can be held by the soil, expressed in terms of milliequivalents per 100 grams of soil at neutrality (pH 7.0) or at some other stated pH value. Soils having a low cation-exchange capacity hold fewer cations and may require more frequent applications of fertilizer than soils having a high cation-exchange capacity. The ability to retain cations reduces the hazard of ground-water pollution.

Effective cation-exchange capacity refers to the sum of extractable cations plus aluminum expressed in terms of milliequivalents per 100 grams of soil. It is determined for soils that have pH of less than 5.5.

Soil reaction is a measure of acidity or alkalinity. It is important in selecting crops and other plants, in evaluating soil amendments for fertility and stabilization, and in determining the risk of corrosion.

Calcium carbonate equivalent is the percent of carbonates, by weight, in the fraction of the soil less than 2 millimeters in size. The availability of plant nutrients is influenced by the amount of carbonates in the soil.

Gypsum is expressed as a percent, by weight, of hydrated calcium sulfates in the fraction of the soil less than 20 millimeters in size. Gypsum is partially soluble in water. Soils that have a high content of gypsum may collapse if the gypsum is removed by percolating water.

Salinity is a measure of soluble salts in the soil at saturation. It is expressed as the electrical conductivity of the saturation extract, in millimhos per centimeter at 25 degrees C. Estimates are based on field and laboratory measurements at representative sites of nonirrigated soils. The salinity of irrigated soils is affected by the quality of the irrigation water and by the frequency of water application. Hence, the salinity of soils in individual fields can differ greatly from the value given in the table. Salinity affects the suitability of a soil for crop production, the stability of soil if used as construction material, and the potential of the soil to corrode metal and concrete.

Sodium adsorption ratio (SAR) is a measure of the amount of sodium (Na) relative to calcium (Ca) and magnesium (Mg) in the water extract from saturated soil paste. It is the ratio of the Na concentration divided by the square root of one-half of the Ca + Mg concentration. Soils that have SAR values of 13 or more may be characterized by an increased dispersion of organic matter and clay particles, reduced saturated hydraulic conductivity and aeration, and a general degradation of soil structure.

Report—Chemical Soil Properties

| Chemical Soil Properties—Park County Area, Wyoming, Eastern Part | | | | | | | | |
|--|-----------|--------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------|-------------------|------------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| Map symbol and soil name | Depth | Cation-exchange capacity | Effective cation-exchange capacity | Soil reaction | Calcium carbonate | Gypsum | Salinity | Sodium adsorption ratio |
| | <i>In</i> | <i>meq/100g</i> | <i>meq/100g</i> | <i>pH</i> | <i>Pct</i> | <i>Pct</i> | <i>mmhos/cm</i> | |
| 19A—Copeman loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes — Draft | | | | | | | | |
| Copeman | 0-3 | 15-22 | — | 7.4-7.8 | 0 | 0 | 0.0-1.0 | 0-3 |
| | 3-13 | 18-25 | — | 8.5-9.0 | 0 | 0 | 0.0-1.0 | 5-10 |
| | 13-24 | 14-23 | — | 8.5-9.0 | 15-25 | 0-2 | 0.0-1.0 | 5-10 |
| | 24-40 | 17-23 | — | 8.5-9.0 | 15-25 | 0-2 | 0.0-1.0 | 5-10 |
| | 40-60 | 7.2-16 | — | 8.5-9.0 | 5-14 | 1-5 | 0.0-1.0 | 5-10 |
| NOTCOM—No Digital Data Available | | | | | | | | |
| Notcom | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |

Data Source Information

Soil Survey Area: Park County Area, Wyoming, Eastern Part
 Survey Area Data: Version 13, Jun 6, 2020

Physical Soil Properties

This table shows estimates of some physical characteristics and features that affect soil behavior. These estimates are given for the layers of each soil in the survey area. The estimates are based on field observations and on test data for these and similar soils.

Depth to the upper and lower boundaries of each layer is indicated.

Particle size is the effective diameter of a soil particle as measured by sedimentation, sieving, or micrometric methods. Particle sizes are expressed as classes with specific effective diameter class limits. The broad classes are sand, silt, and clay, ranging from the larger to the smaller.

Sand as a soil separate consists of mineral soil particles that are 0.05 millimeter to 2 millimeters in diameter. In this table, the estimated sand content of each soil layer is given as a percentage, by weight, of the soil material that is less than 2 millimeters in diameter.

Silt as a soil separate consists of mineral soil particles that are 0.002 to 0.05 millimeter in diameter. In this table, the estimated silt content of each soil layer is given as a percentage, by weight, of the soil material that is less than 2 millimeters in diameter.

Clay as a soil separate consists of mineral soil particles that are less than 0.002 millimeter in diameter. In this table, the estimated clay content of each soil layer is given as a percentage, by weight, of the soil material that is less than 2 millimeters in diameter.

The content of sand, silt, and clay affects the physical behavior of a soil. Particle size is important for engineering and agronomic interpretations, for determination of soil hydrologic qualities, and for soil classification.

The amount and kind of clay affect the fertility and physical condition of the soil and the ability of the soil to adsorb cations and to retain moisture. They influence shrink-swell potential, saturated hydraulic conductivity (K_{sat}), plasticity, the ease of soil dispersion, and other soil properties. The amount and kind of clay in a soil also affect tillage and earthmoving operations.

Moist bulk density is the weight of soil (oven-dry) per unit volume. Volume is measured when the soil is at field moisture capacity, that is, the moisture content at 1/3- or 1/10-bar (33kPa or 10kPa) moisture tension. Weight is determined after the soil is dried at 105 degrees C. In the table, the estimated moist bulk density of each soil horizon is expressed in grams per cubic centimeter of soil material that is less than 2 millimeters in diameter. Bulk density data are used to compute linear extensibility, shrink-swell potential, available water capacity, total pore space, and other soil properties. The moist bulk density of a soil indicates the pore space available for water and roots. Depending on soil texture, a bulk density of more than 1.4 can restrict water storage and root penetration. Moist bulk density is influenced by texture, kind of clay, content of organic matter, and soil structure.

Saturated hydraulic conductivity (Ksat) refers to the ease with which pores in a saturated soil transmit water. The estimates in the table are expressed in terms of micrometers per second. They are based on soil characteristics observed in the field, particularly structure, porosity, and texture. Saturated hydraulic conductivity (Ksat) is considered in the design of soil drainage systems and septic tank absorption fields.

Available water capacity refers to the quantity of water that the soil is capable of storing for use by plants. The capacity for water storage is given in inches of water per inch of soil for each soil layer. The capacity varies, depending on soil properties that affect retention of water. The most important properties are the content of organic matter, soil texture, bulk density, and soil structure. Available water capacity is an important factor in the choice of plants or crops to be grown and in the design and management of irrigation systems. Available water capacity is not an estimate of the quantity of water actually available to plants at any given time.

Linear extensibility refers to the change in length of an unconfined clod as moisture content is decreased from a moist to a dry state. It is an expression of the volume change between the water content of the clod at 1/3- or 1/10-bar tension (33kPa or 10kPa tension) and oven dryness. The volume change is reported in the table as percent change for the whole soil. The amount and type of clay minerals in the soil influence volume change.

Linear extensibility is used to determine the shrink-swell potential of soils. The shrink-swell potential is low if the soil has a linear extensibility of less than 3 percent; moderate if 3 to 6 percent; high if 6 to 9 percent; and very high if more than 9 percent. If the linear extensibility is more than 3, shrinking and swelling can cause damage to buildings, roads, and other structures and to plant roots. Special design commonly is needed.

Organic matter is the plant and animal residue in the soil at various stages of decomposition. In this table, the estimated content of organic matter is expressed as a percentage, by weight, of the soil material that is less than 2 millimeters in diameter. The content of organic matter in a soil can be maintained by returning crop residue to the soil.

Organic matter has a positive effect on available water capacity, water infiltration, soil organism activity, and tilth. It is a source of nitrogen and other nutrients for crops and soil organisms.

Erosion factors are shown in the table as the K factor (Kw and Kf) and the T factor. Erosion factor K indicates the susceptibility of a soil to sheet and rill erosion by water. Factor K is one of six factors used in the Universal Soil Loss Equation (USLE) and the Revised Universal Soil Loss Equation (RUSLE) to predict the average annual rate of soil loss by sheet and rill erosion in tons per acre per year. The estimates are based primarily on percentage of silt, sand, and organic matter and on soil structure and Ksat. Values of K range from 0.02 to 0.69. Other factors being equal, the higher the value, the more susceptible the soil is to sheet and rill erosion by water.

Erosion factor Kw indicates the erodibility of the whole soil. The estimates are modified by the presence of rock fragments.

Erosion factor Kf indicates the erodibility of the fine-earth fraction, or the material less than 2 millimeters in size.

Erosion factor T is an estimate of the maximum average annual rate of soil erosion by wind and/or water that can occur without affecting crop productivity over a sustained period. The rate is in tons per acre per year.

Wind erodibility groups are made up of soils that have similar properties affecting their susceptibility to wind erosion in cultivated areas. The soils assigned to group 1 are the most susceptible to wind erosion, and those assigned to group 8 are the least susceptible. The groups are described in the "National Soil Survey Handbook."

Wind erodibility index is a numerical value indicating the susceptibility of soil to wind erosion, or the tons per acre per year that can be expected to be lost to wind erosion. There is a close correlation between wind erosion and the texture of the surface layer, the size and durability of surface clods, rock fragments, organic matter, and a calcareous reaction. Soil moisture and frozen soil layers also influence wind erosion.

Reference:

United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service. National soil survey handbook, title 430-VI. (<http://soils.usda.gov>)

Report—Physical Soil Properties

Three values are provided to identify the expected Low (L), Representative Value (R), and High (H).

| Physical Soil Properties—Park County Area, Wyoming, Eastern Part | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-----------|------------|------------|------------|--------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|----------------|-----------------|-----|---|------------------------|------------------------|
| Map symbol and soil name | Depth | Sand | Silt | Clay | Moist bulk density | Saturated hydraulic conductivity | Available water capacity | Linear extensibility | Organic matter | Erosion factors | | | Wind erodibility group | Wind erodibility index |
| | | | | | | | | | | Kw | Kf | T | | |
| | <i>In</i> | <i>Pct</i> | <i>Pct</i> | <i>Pct</i> | <i>g/cc</i> | <i>micro m/sec</i> | <i>In/In</i> | <i>Pct</i> | <i>Pct</i> | | | | | |
| 19A—Copeman loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes — Draft | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Copeman | 0-3 | -40- | -34- | 19-26- 27 | -1.20- | 4.23-9.17-14.11 | 0.06-0.17-0.18 | 3.0- 4.5- 5.9 | 0.5- 0.8- 1.0 | .24 | .24 | 4 | 6 | 48 |
| | 3-13 | -35- | -35- | 22-30- 34 | -1.34- | 4.23-9.17-14.11 | 0.19-0.20-0.21 | 3.0- 4.5- 5.9 | 0.5- 0.8- 1.0 | .28 | .28 | | | |
| | 13-24 | -35- | -36- | 22-29- 34 | -1.34- | 4.23-9.17-14.11 | 0.19-0.20-0.21 | 3.0- 4.5- 5.9 | 0.0- 0.3- 0.5 | .32 | .32 | | | |
| | 24-40 | -35- | -36- | 28-29- 34 | -1.46- | 4.23-9.17-14.11 | 0.10-0.12-0.14 | 3.0- 4.5- 5.9 | 0.0- 0.3- 0.5 | .15 | .32 | | | |
| | 40-60 | -40- | -42- | 13-18- 25 | -1.46- | 14.11-28.23-42.34 | 0.04-0.05-0.07 | 0.0- 1.5- 2.9 | 0.0- 0.3- 0.3 | .05 | .37 | | | |
| NOTCOM—No Digital Data Available | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Notcom | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | | | | | |

Data Source Information

Soil Survey Area: Park County Area, Wyoming, Eastern Part

Survey Area Data: Version 13, Jun 6, 2020

Dwellings and Small Commercial Buildings

Soil properties influence the development of building sites, including the selection of the site, the design of the structure, construction, performance after construction, and maintenance. This table shows the degree and kind of soil limitations that affect dwellings and small commercial buildings.

The ratings in the table are both verbal and numerical. Rating class terms indicate the extent to which the soils are limited by all of the soil features that affect building site development. *Not limited* indicates that the soil has features that are very favorable for the specified use. Good performance and very low maintenance can be expected. *Somewhat limited* indicates that the soil has features that are moderately favorable for the specified use. The limitations can be overcome or minimized by special planning, design, or installation. Fair performance and moderate maintenance can be expected. *Very limited* indicates that the soil has one or more features that are unfavorable for the specified use. The limitations generally cannot be overcome without major soil reclamation, special design, or expensive installation procedures. Poor performance and high maintenance can be expected.

Numerical ratings in the table indicate the severity of individual limitations. The ratings are shown as decimal fractions ranging from 0.01 to 1.00. They indicate gradations between the point at which a soil feature has the greatest negative impact on the use (1.00) and the point at which the soil feature is not a limitation (0.00).

Dwellings are single-family houses of three stories or less. For dwellings without basements, the foundation is assumed to consist of spread footings of reinforced concrete built on undisturbed soil at a depth of 2 feet or at the depth of maximum frost penetration, whichever is deeper. For dwellings with basements, the foundation is assumed to consist of spread footings of reinforced concrete built on undisturbed soil at a depth of about 7 feet. The ratings for dwellings are based on the soil properties that affect the capacity of the soil to support a load without movement and on the properties that affect excavation and construction costs. The properties that affect the load-supporting capacity include depth to a water table, ponding, flooding, subsidence, linear extensibility (shrink-swell potential), and compressibility. Compressibility is inferred from the Unified classification. The properties that affect the ease and amount of excavation include depth to a water table, ponding, flooding, slope, depth to bedrock or a cemented pan, hardness of bedrock or a cemented pan, and the amount and size of rock fragments.

Small commercial buildings are structures that are less than three stories high and do not have basements. The foundation is assumed to consist of spread footings of reinforced concrete built on undisturbed soil at a depth of 2 feet or at the depth of maximum frost penetration, whichever is deeper. The ratings are based on the soil properties that affect the capacity of the soil to support a load without movement and on the properties that affect excavation and construction costs. The properties that affect the load-supporting capacity include depth to a water table, ponding, flooding, subsidence, linear extensibility (shrink-swell potential), and compressibility (which is inferred from the Unified classification). The properties that affect the ease and amount of excavation include flooding, depth to a water table, ponding, slope, depth to bedrock or a cemented pan, hardness of bedrock or a cemented pan, and the amount and size of rock fragments.

Information in this table is intended for land use planning, for evaluating land use alternatives, and for planning site investigations prior to design and construction. The information, however, has limitations. For example, estimates and other data generally apply only to that part of the soil between the surface and a depth of 5 to 7 feet. Because of the map scale, small areas of different soils may be included within the mapped areas of a specific soil.

The information is not site specific and does not eliminate the need for onsite investigation of the soils or for testing and analysis by personnel experienced in the design and construction of engineering works.

Government ordinances and regulations that restrict certain land uses or impose specific design criteria were not considered in preparing the information in this table. Local ordinances and regulations should be considered in planning, in site selection, and in design.

Report—Dwellings and Small Commercial Buildings

[Onsite investigation may be needed to validate the interpretations in this table and to confirm the identity of the soil on a given site. The numbers in the value columns range from 0.01 to 1.00. The larger the value, the greater the potential limitation. The table shows only the top five limitations for any given soil. The soil may have additional limitations]

| Dwellings and Small Commercial Buildings—Park County Area, Wyoming, Eastern Part | | | | | | | |
|--|------------------|------------------------------------|-------|------------------------------------|-------|------------------------------------|-------|
| Map symbol and soil name | Pct. of map unit | Dwellings without basements | | Dwellings with basements | | Small commercial buildings | |
| | | Rating class and limiting features | Value | Rating class and limiting features | Value | Rating class and limiting features | Value |
| 19A—Copeman loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes — Draft | | | | | | | |
| Copeman | 80 | Somewhat limited | | Somewhat limited | | Somewhat limited | |
| | | Shrink-swell | 0.50 | Shrink-swell | 0.03 | Shrink-swell | 0.50 |
| NOTCOM—No Digital Data Available | | | | | | | |
| Notcom | 100 | Not rated | | Not rated | | Not rated | |

Data Source Information

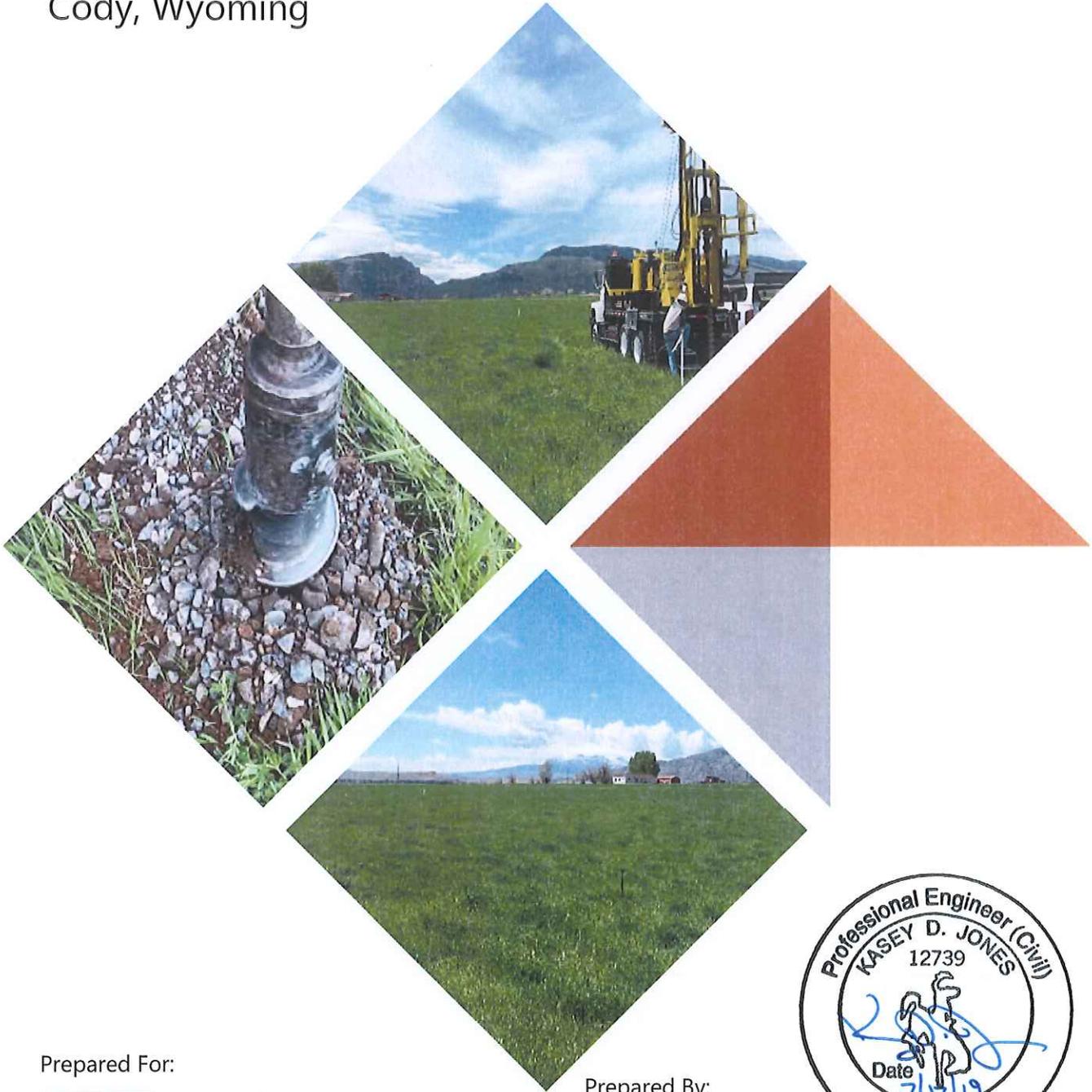
Soil Survey Area: Park County Area, Wyoming, Eastern Part
Survey Area Data: Version 13, Jun 6, 2020

APPENDIX C: Geotechnical Report - DOWL

July 2019

Cody Regional Office

Cody, Wyoming



Prepared For:



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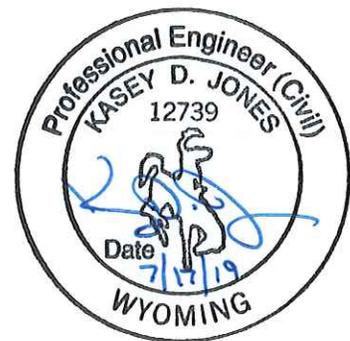


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APPENDICES

- Appendix A Figures
- Appendix B Borehole Logs
- Appendix C Laboratory Test Results

1.0 SUMMARY

DOWL conducted a geotechnical investigation for the proposed Cody Regional Office near Cody, Wyoming (Figure 1 – Appendix A).

The scope of services included drilling exploratory boreholes and field observations, laboratory testing, engineering analyses, and furnishing this geotechnical report. The purposes were to investigate soil and groundwater conditions, evaluate soil-engineering properties, and to provide recommendations to support design and construction of foundation and pavement elements. This report is consistent with the 2012 International Building Code (IBC) guidelines for soil and foundation investigations.

Soil conditions at the proposed location generally consist of topsoil overlying fine to coarse-grained alluvium. Foundations bearing directly on fine-grained alluvial soils or loose to medium dense coarse-grained alluvial soils are not recommended because of the potential risk of differential movement. We strongly recommend foundation subgrade improvement or foundation systems bearing entirely on dense to very dense coarse-grained alluvium.

The fine-grained and loose to medium dense coarse-grained alluvial soils present in the upper 5-feet typically provide poor to fair support for pavement sections depending on composition and are susceptible to environmental effects such as swelling and frost heave. In general, the soils encountered should provide suitable support for pavement providing adequate pavement structural sections and, when necessary, geotextile/geogrid reinforcement is utilized.

Two alternatives are recommended for foundation construction at the proposed site:

- Shallow foundation system utilizing conventional spread footings with either structural floors over crawl space or slab-on-grade floors; with subgrade improvement consisting of soil over-excavation, placement of a woven geotextile fabric, and replacement with structural fill. Foundation loads should be limited to 2,000 pounds per square foot (psf) on the structural fill.
- Deep foundation system consisting of pier and grade beams supporting a structural floor over a crawl space or slab-on-grade with prepared subgrade. Deep foundations should be considered for foundation loads in excess of 6,500 pounds per lineal foot (plf) or if estimated settlement of a shallow foundation system is not within acceptable ranges of the owner. Pier foundation elements should be founded in dense to very dense coarse-grained alluvium.

The owner should carefully evaluate the foundation options presented in this report and assess the feasibility and costs associated with construction of the proposed building plan. If properly constructed, the recommended subgrade improvements and foundation modifications should provide adequate support for the anticipated foundation loads and reduce the risk of potential differential movement of the structures.

This report, including engineering analyses, recommendations, figures, and design details are exclusive to the above referenced site. Under no circumstances shall the figures be separated from the text and used independently. Recommendations in this report are not applicable to other construction sites.

2.0 PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION

Proposed new construction for the Cody Regional Building facility includes a two-story 20,000 square-foot (sf) office building, a 7,500 sf shop, a wet lab, a boat washing area, a cold storage shed, paved parking areas, and a gravel surfaced lot.

Foundation loads were unavailable at the time of this report. Based on our experience with similar sized structures and data available for similar WGFD office buildings, we anticipate foundations loads ranging between 2,000 and 6,500 plf for wall footings, column loads up to 130 kips, and live loads for slabs up to 75 psf. It has been assumed that tolerable settlements associated with the structures are approximately ½ of an inch for differential settlement and 1-inch for total settlement. Likewise, finish floor elevations were unknown at the time of this report, however are anticipated to correspond closely with existing site elevations. When actual foundation loads are available and finish floor elevations are known, DOWL should be contacted to revise our recommendations as necessary.

At the time of the investigation, construction had not begun for the proposed structures.

3.0 INVESTIGATION PROCEDURE

3.1 FIELD INVESTIGATION

Fieldwork conducted on June 10 and 11, 2019 consisted of site observations and drilling seven (7) exploratory boreholes using a BK-81 truck mounted drill rig. Boreholes were drilled throughout the proposed facility to depths ranging between 5 and 20 feet in order to observe subgrade conditions and obtain representative samples. Drilling was performed using 4 ¼-inch inside diameter hollow-stem augers. Drilling and field sampling were performed in general accordance with the following standard specifications:

- "Standard Practice for Using Hollow-Stem Augers for Geotechnical Exploration and Soil Sampling," ASTM D 6151.
- Sampling with a two-inch O.D. split-barrel (split-spoon) per ASTM D 1586, "Penetration Test and Split-Barrel Sampling of Soils."
- "Standard Practice for Thin-Walled Tube Geotechnical Sampling of Soils", ASTM D 1587.

Soil type, thickness, consistency, and relative moisture content were observed and documented by a DOWL Geotechnical Engineer. Split-spoon samples, Shelby tube samples, and one bulk sample were collected. As the drilling progressed, soil samples were taken for field classification (ASTM D 2488) and groundwater levels were measured after drilling and sampling were complete. One

temporary standpipe piezometer was installed to monitor water levels within the office building footprint. All other soil borings were backfilled with drill cuttings. Soil samples were transported to the DOWL laboratory where index and engineering property tests were conducted. Approximate boring locations are shown on Figure 2 (Appendix A). Subsurface logs are attached in Appendix B.

Site conditions may be variable and actual soil conditions encountered in excavations may differ somewhat from those represented in the borehole logs. Final boring logs contain factual and interpretive information. On the final logs, horizontal lines, designating the interface between differing materials encountered, represent approximate boundaries. The transition between soil layers may be more gradual or abrupt. The soil and groundwater conditions depicted are only for the specific dates and locations reported, and therefore, are not necessarily representative of other locations or times.

Standard Penetration Tests (SPT) were performed using a 2-inch outside diameter split-spoon sampler driven with a 140-pound hammer in general accordance with ASTM D 1586. During the tests, samples were obtained by driving the sampler 18 inches into the soil with a hammer free falling 30-inches. The number of blows required for each 6-inches of penetration was recorded. The field N-value of the soil is recorded as the number of blows required for the final 12-inches of penetration. The field N-value provides a measure of relative density of granular soils and estimation of relative consistency of cohesive soils. It should be noted that the presence of cobbles or boulders may result in relatively high blow counts that may not properly characterize the in-situ relative density.

3.2 LABORATORY TESTING

“Disturbed” split-spoon and “Undisturbed” Shelby tube samples were collected during the field investigation along with one bulk sample. Laboratory testing was completed on select soil samples to assist in soil classification and to characterize soil engineering properties. Laboratory testing is summarized in the following table.

Laboratory tests were performed in general accordance with the most recent ASTM or other procedures standard to the industry. Results are discussed in the Soil Section below and shown on the subsurface boring logs in Appendix B. Laboratory test sheets are attached in Appendix C.

| TABLE 1 LABORATORY TESTING SUMMARY | |
|---|---|
| Test | Purpose of Test |
| Unified Soil Classification System ASTM D 2487 | Classifies soils based on general index testing. |
| Natural Moisture Content ASTM D 2216 | Provides a measure of natural (in-situ) water content. |
| Atterberg Limits ASTM D 4318 | Provides an indicator of the consistency and swell potential of clay soils. |
| Particle-Size Distribution ASTM C 117/136/D 421 | Provides a measure of grain sizes of the soils for classification and identification of physical characteristics. |
| Consolidation/ Swell ASTM D 2435 | Provides a measure of the magnitude at which a soil will compress when loaded and rebound when unloaded. |
| Moisture-Density Relationship (Standard Proctor) ASTM D 698 | Provides a measure of the relationship of water content to the density of soil during compaction. |
| California Bearing Ratio ASTM D 1883 | Provides a measure of the support characteristics for the soil. |
| Resistivity, pH, and SO ₄ | Provides a measure of deleterious effects of the soils on buried metals and concrete. |

3.3 REPORT PREPARATION

This report presents site and borehole location maps; geologic logs; geotechnical engineering analyses; and recommendations.

4.0 SITE CONDITIONS

4.1 SITE DESCRIPTION

4.1.1 Site Overview

The proposed site is located at 155 Belfry Highway, approximately 1-mile north of Cody in Lots 14 and 30, Section 30, T. 53 N., R.101 W., Park County, Wyoming (Figure 1 – Appendix A).

The subject property is currently used for agricultural purposes and serves as a hay/grass field as well as a horse pasture. The field currently has irrigation piping along the northern border and a wastewater collection ditch that parallels the highway.

4.1.2 Area Geology

The Cody area is situated near the western extents of the Big Horn Basin. The basin is bordered by the Absoroka Range and Bear Tooth Mountains to the west, Owl Creek Mountains to the South, and Big Horn Mountains to the east. The Shoshone River runs northeast through the basin and originates at the Buffalo Bill Reservoir, located west of Cody. The project site is located on a thin layer of Tertiary age alluvial and glacial deposits consisting of gravel, pediment, and fan deposits overlying bedrock of the Frontier Formation.

4.1.3 Site Topography

The site topography at the proposed site is gently sloping downward toward the southeast with approximately 9 feet of topographic relief across the site. Site elevations typically range from approximately 5,112 to 5,121 feet above sea level based on elevations available on Google Earth.

4.2 SOILS

Soil conditions at the proposed site generally consist of topsoil underlain by fine to coarse-grained alluvium. The fine-grained alluvium generally consists of combinations of silt, clay, and fine sand while the coarse-grained alluvium generally consists of combinations of sand and gravel.

Loose to medium dense coarse-grained alluvium in the form of silty to clayey sand was encountered immediately beneath the topsoil and extended to depths of approximately 2.5 to 7.5 feet below the existing ground surface. Occasional oxidation and trace organics were observed in this upper coarse-grained stratum.

The fine-grained alluvium was encountered immediately beneath the upper sand layer and extended to depths on the order of 7.5 to 11.75 feet below the existing ground surface. In the two shallow soil borings, the fine-grained alluvium extended to the boring termination depths of approximately 6.5 feet (BH-1 & BH-7). The fine-grained alluvium contained occasional oxidation and trace organics.

Coarse-grained alluvium in the form of poorly graded gravel with sand was encountered immediately beneath the fine-grained alluvium and extended to the termination depths of the soil borings (BH-2, BH-3, BH-4, BH-5, & BH-6). The gravels tend to transition from medium dense to very dense with depth. Trace cobbles were observed in the soil borings. Refer to the soil boring logs in Appendix B for graphical interpretations of the soil profiles.

The following describes the various soil types encountered during the subsurface exploration and associated laboratory testing results.

TABLE 2
SOIL TYPE DESCRIPTIONS¹

| Soil Type ² | USCS ³ Classification | Density/ consistency | Moist. | Color | SPT N Values, blows/ft | In-situ Moisture Content, % | Atterberg Limits ⁴ | Misc Engineering Properties ⁴ |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------|---|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| Coarse-grained Alluvium | SM/SC/GP | Loose to very dense | Dry to moist | Brown to brownish-gray to gray to greenish-gray | 4 to 50+ | 2.2 to 14.5 | LL = 25 PI = 10 | -- |
| Fine-grained Alluvium | CL | Firm to very stiff | Moist | Brown to grayish brown | 7 to 20 | 14.8 to 20.3 | LL = 31 to 43 PI = 16 to 26 | CBR = 6.3 Max Dry Density = 110.1 pcf Optimum Moisture = 17.3% $\gamma_{In-situ}$ = 100.9 pcf Cc = 0.14 Cs = 0.01 Collapse = 0.5% |

¹Typical properties and conditions encountered.

²Based on field observations and laboratory test results.

³SC = Clayey Sand/Clayey Sand with Gravel, SM = Silty Sand with Gravel, CL = Lean Clay, GP = Poorly Graded Gravel with Sand

⁴ LL = Liquid Limit, PI = Plasticity Index, CBR = California Bearing Ratio, Max Dry Density = Maximum dry unit weight (Standard proctor), Optimum Moisture Content (Standard proctor), $\gamma_{In-situ}$ = In-situ dry unit weight, Cc = Compression index, Cs = Swell Index

4.3 BEDROCK

Bedrock was not encountered during the subsurface exploration. Based on the published geologic map of Wyoming by Love and Christiansen (1985), the project site is underlain by bedrock of the Frontier Formation, consisting of sandstone and shale.

4.4 GROUNDWATER

Groundwater was not encountered during the subsurface exploration. Groundwater and soil moisture conditions will likely fluctuate in response to seasonal precipitation, runoff, snowmelt, and irrigation. Additionally, concrete slabs and pavement construction restricts air/soil moisture transfer (evapotranspiration) in arid climates and subsequently increases soil moisture.

One temporary standpipe piezometer was installed in boring BH-5. We recommend that the water levels in the piezometer be measured on a regular basis prior to and during construction, perhaps monthly to evaluate seasonal variations and to estimate “seasonal high” groundwater levels.

4.5 EARTHQUAKES AND SEISMICITY

4.5.1 Area Earthquakes and Seismicity

The Cody area is in an area of low to moderate seismic activity, however, Cody is in close proximity to Yellowstone National Park, which is known to have high seismic activity. No active faults have been identified in the project vicinity, however, numerous active faults exist west of Cody, throughout the Yellowstone area. Historically, twelve (12) earthquakes with magnitudes greater than 2.5 have been recorded in Park County; however, no epicenters have been located in the immediate project area (Case, 2002). The nearest earthquake recorded within the last 100 years in the vicinity of the project occurred on July 22, 2016 with a magnitude of 2.8 as measured on the Richter Scale (USGS, 2019). The event occurred approximately 13 miles west of the project site, north of Buffalo Bill Reservoir (USGS, 2019).

A maximum horizontal seismic acceleration k_h adjusted for site soils of 0.21g is predicted for this site with a uniform likelihood of exceedance of 2 percent in 50 years (SEACAL, 2019).

4.5.2 Design Response Spectrum

Site ground motion accelerations and a design response spectrum were derived in accordance with the general procedure defined in the 2012 International Building Code (IBC) and ASCE 7 – Minimum Design Loads for Buildings and Other Structures. The provisions of the building codes are intended to provide uniform levels of performance for structures, depending on their occupancy and use and the risk inherent to their failure.

The approach adopted in the building codes is intended to provide a uniform margin of safety

against collapse at the design ground motion. The design earthquake ground motion is selected at a ground shaking level that is 2/3 of the risk-targeted maximum considered earthquake (MCE_R) ground motion. The MCE_R ground motion is defined by a targeted risk of structural collapse equal to 1% in 50 years based upon generic structural integrity. The Site Ground Motion and Design Response Spectrum are presented below and in Figure 3 (Appendix A).

Earthquake Loads – Site Ground Motion and Design Response Spectrum 2012 International Building Code (IBC)*/ASCE 7

- Approximate Site Location: Latitude = N **44.543°** Longitude = W **109.075°**
- Mapped Maximum Considered Earthquake (MCE) Spectral Response Acceleration Parameters: [Figures 1613.3.1(1)-1613.3.1(2)]
 - a. Short Period (S_s) = **0.316**
 - b. 1-Sec Period (S_1) = **0.108**
- Site Class Definition: **D – Stiff Soil Profile** – Site Class Definitions (Table 20.3-1 ASCE-7)
- Site Coefficients and Adjusted MCE Spectral Response Acceleration Parameters: [Equations 16-37 and 16-38 and Tables 1613.3.3(1) and 1613.3.3(2)]
 - a. $S_{MS} = \mathbf{0.489}$ $F_a = \mathbf{1.547}$
 - b. $S_{M1} = \mathbf{0.255}$ $F_v = \mathbf{2.370}$
- Design Spectral Response Acceleration Parameters: [Equations 16-39 and 16-40]
 - a. $S_{DS} = \mathbf{0.326}$
 - b. $S_{D1} = \mathbf{0.170}$

*2012 International Building Code, Chapter 16, Section 1613 - Earthquake Loads – Site Ground Motion.

According to the 2012 IBC and ASCE 7, the Game and Fish Regional Office is a Risk Category II structure. Based on the accelerations determined for the site and the Risk Category classification, the structure is assigned to Seismic Design Category “C” as specified by the procedure outlined in Section 1613 of the 2012 IBC.

5.0 ENGINEERING ANALYSES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 FOUNDATIONS

The proposed site is underlain by fine to coarse-grained alluvium. The fine-grained alluvium and

loose to medium dense coarse-grained alluvial sands are potentially problematic and may undergo vertical soil movement with increases in loading and changes in soil moisture content.

The potentially problematic soils generally extend to depths of approximately 7.5 to 11.75 feet below the existing ground surface and are underlain by medium dense to very dense coarse-grained alluvial gravels. Subgrade improvement is recommended for shallow foundations and slab-on-grade construction.

Either dense to very dense alluvial gravels or imported structural fill should provide adequate support for shallow foundation systems. We strongly recommend shallow foundations bearing on either dense to very dense coarse-grained alluvium or improved subgrade. Alternatively, support may be derived from deep foundations bearing on undisturbed, dense to very dense, coarse-grained alluvium provided such systems are founded below the active zone where moisture content remains relatively constant.

Two alternatives are recommended for foundation construction at this site:

1. Shallow foundation system utilizing conventional spread footings with structural floors over crawl space or slab-on-grade floors; with subgrade improvement consisting of soil over-excavation, placement of a woven geotextile fabric, and replacement with structural fill. Foundation loads should be limited to 2,000 psf.
2. Deep foundation system consisting of pier and grade beams supporting structural floors over a crawl space or slab-on-grade with improved subgrade. Deep foundations should be considered for foundation loads in excess of 6,500 pounds per lineal foot (plf) or if estimated settlement of a shallow foundation system is not within acceptable ranges of the owner. Pier foundation elements should be founded in dense to very dense coarse-grained alluvium.

Footings, slabs, and foundation walls should be reinforced to resist differential movement. Consultation with a Structural Engineer to specify adequate reinforcement is recommended. Steel reinforcement is suggested longitudinally along the top of foundation stem walls. This may reduce cracking if minor settlement occurs.

Based on an in-depth site-specific analysis of frost depth and local building codes, footings should be a minimum of 4 feet below finished grade for frost protection. To minimize differential settlement, we recommend that interior footings also bear 4 feet below finished grade.

Even with foundation subgrade improvement and/or deep foundations, the Owner should anticipate some minor movement and cosmetic cracking over the life of the building.

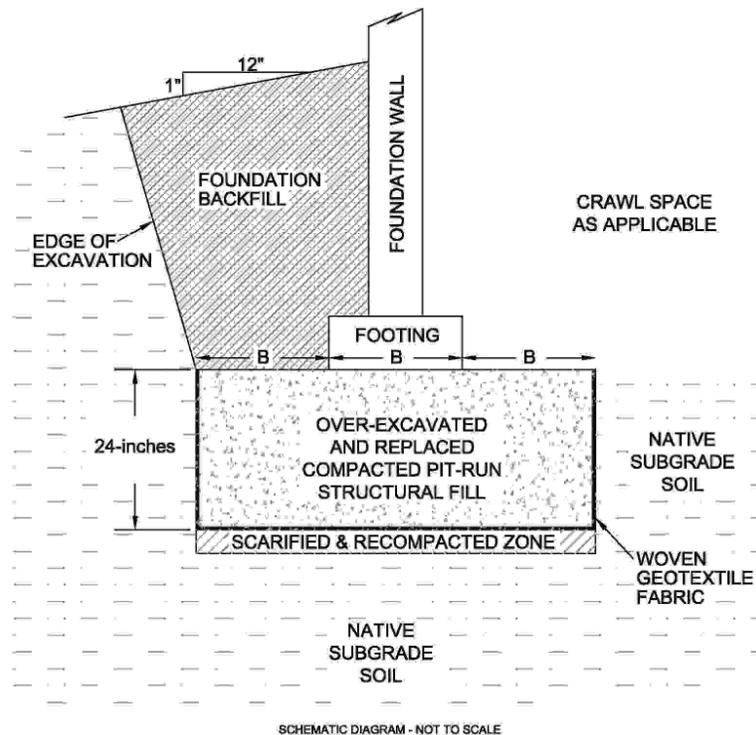
The following table summarizes foundation recommendations. Additional details and recommendations are provided in subsequent sections.

| TABLE 3 | | |
|--|--|---|
| FOUNDATION RECOMMENDATION SUMMARY | | |
| Footing Design Criteria | Recommendations | Notes |
| Perimeter Footings | Maximum Allowable Bearing Pressure | 24 inches minimum width, 48 inches minimum below grade |
| Static Loads (Dead & Sustained Live) | 2,000 psf | |
| Transient Loads (Wind & Seismic) | 2,660 psf | |
| Interior Column Footings | Maximum Allowable Bearing Pressure | Minimum width 36 inches square, 48 inches minimum below grade The resultant load is assumed to be in the middle 1/3 of the footing |
| Static Loads (Dead & Normal Live) | 2,000 psf | |
| Transient Loads (Wind & Seismic) | 2,660 psf | |
| Maximum Footing Settlement Estimate | Total (in) | Based on a maximum of 6,500 plf for wall footings and 8'x8' interior column footing with a maximum load of 130 kips |
| | Differential (in) | |
| | ¾ inch | ½ inch |
| Subgrade Improvement | 2-feet of subgrade improvement | Consists of soil over-excavation, placement of a woven geotextile fabric, and replacement with structural fill |
| Drilled Concrete Piers | Maximum Allowable Bearing Pressure | Piers to bear in dense to very dense gravels. |
| End Bearing | 24,000 psf | |
| Skin Friction | 250 psf - compression 140 psf - tension | |

5.2 SHALLOW FOUNDATION SYSTEM

5.2.1 Structural Fill

For cases where footings are not founded on dense to very dense coarse-grained alluvium, subgrade improvement will be required. For subgrade improvement, over-excavation and replacement with structural (engineered) fill is recommended. Over-excavation and replacement of the potentially problematic site soils with compacted structural fill may significantly reduce total and differential settlement of native subgrade materials. The following schematic illustrates the recommended shallow foundation system.



For shallow foundation elements, soils should be over-excavated under all foundation bearing elements to a minimum depth of 24-inches, and at least one footing width on the inside and outside of the footings. Alternatively, over-excavation and replacement with structural fill may be done under the entire building footprint, depending on practicality and economics.

For construction of load bearing slab on grade, we recommend that the entire area beneath the slab be over-excavated to a depth of 48-inches and replaced with structural fill. For construction of non-load bearing slab-on-grade, we recommend that the entire area beneath the interior floor slabs be over-excavated to a depth of 24-inches and replaced with structural fill.

If subgrade improvement depths greater than the footing width dimension are deemed necessary, the excavation bottom width should be increased by 1 foot on each side of the footing for every additional foot of subgrade improvement. Excavation widths must be such that proper backfill placement and compaction can be achieved.

For deep foundation elements consisting of piers and grade beams supporting structural floors over crawl space, limited subgrade preparation is anticipated. If deep foundations are used with non-load bearing slab-on-grade floors, then we recommend the entire area beneath the interior floor slabs be over-excavated to a depth of 24-inches and replaced with structural fill.

Structural fill placed beneath building foundations or floor slabs should be placed in maximum 8-inch loose lifts, moisture-conditioned to near optimum moisture content, and compacted to at least 98 percent of ASTM D 698. If density tests taken in the fill indicate compaction is not being achieved, fill should be scarified or removed, moisture conditioned to within ± 2 percent of the optimum moisture content, and re-compacted and re-tested.

All loose disturbed soil and/or fills in the base of the over-excavation should be removed from the foundation excavation prior to placement of structural fill. Footings should not be placed on either native clayey soils or loose coarse-grained soils, topsoil or soils with high organic content, or un-compacted imported fill. Qualified personnel should observe all foundation excavations to confirm subsoil conditions.

Imported (properly moisture conditioned and compacted) 2-inch minus pit run or structural fill may be used as backfill (less compactive effort and ease of constructability are inherent properties of structural fill vs. pit run). The granular material should be compacted using a smooth drum vibratory roller operated in vibratory mode. Wheel rolling with a bobcat or backhoe is not acceptable. Structural fill or pit run should conform to the requirements in Table 6 and Section 5.6.3.

A woven geotextile fabric (Propex 250ST or equivalent) is recommended between the native fine-grained soil exposed in the footing and slab excavations and structural fill or pit run gravel to reduce migration into the surrounding soil.

5.2.2 Bearing Capacity and Settlement

Allowable bearing capacity for spread footings bearing on either granular structural fill or dense to very dense coarse-grained alluvium is 2,000 psf. Additional subgrade improvement (beyond the amounts discussed previously) may be used to increase bearing capacity or decrease estimated settlements. In addition to the bearing capacity requirements, continuous footings should not be less than 24-inches in width. Isolated footing should not be less than 36-inches square.

Based on detailed settlement analysis, the anticipated total and differential settlement for the building is on the order of $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch and $\frac{1}{2}$ inch, respectively. Estimated settlements are based on maximum footing loads of 6,500 plf. If soils beneath structures become inundated, an additional $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ of an inch of movement in the form of collapse could occur. Actual settlement will depend on final loads and footing dimensions.

Allowable loads may include full dead load and design live load. Allowable bearing capacity may be increased by one-third when considering total loads that include wind or seismic loads. Qualified personnel should observe all footing excavations to confirm subsoil conditions.

5.3 DEEP FOUNDATION SYSTEM

Deep foundation systems consisting of reinforced concrete drilled piers may be used to support the structures. Pier foundation elements should support the structures directly on dense to very dense coarse-grained alluvium encountered approximately 15 to 20 feet below the existing ground surface. Grade beams should be supported by the piers. A structural floor over a crawl space should be supported by the grade beams. Non-load bearing slab-on-grade floors may be used with deep foundations, but subgrade improvement is recommended beneath floor slabs, as discussed above.

All piers should end-bear and be embedded into the dense to very dense alluvial gravels that underly the site. Installation lengths will vary depending on the planned footing elevation for the building. Refer to the Soil Boring Logs in Appendix B to approximate depth to bearing stratum and pier lengths. A Structural Engineer should determine pier spacing and design grade beam and structural floor reinforcement in consultation with our Geotechnical Engineer.

5.3.1 Concrete Piers

Holes for concrete drilled piers should be advanced a minimum of 5 feet into dense to very dense alluvial gravels and backfilled with, at minimum, 4,000 psi concrete. Concrete piers should be installed in accordance with ACI 336.1 – Specification for the Construction of Drilled Piers. The following are general suggestions for installation of concrete drilled piers:

1. Reinforced concrete, straight-shaft, drilled piers and grade beams may be used to support all wall, roof, and floor loads of the proposed building structure to limit potential vertical movement. Grade beams should be designed to span between pier locations while carrying the imposed loads.
2. Piers should be founded with a 5-foot minimum penetration into the dense to very dense alluvial gravels and be founded below the active zone (15 feet). Because of variable bearing stratum surface elevation, it is essential that adequate penetration depths be determined by the Geotechnical Engineer during drilling operations. Minimum overall pier lengths of 20 to 25 feet below existing site grade elevation are recommended.
3. Piers founded as recommended in Item 2, above, may be sized using a maximum allowable end bearing pressure of 24,000 pounds per square foot. A minimum diameter of 18 inches is recommended to facilitate proper cleaning and inspection of the pier excavations.
4. Additional vertical capacity through skin friction may be applied based on 250 psf in compression for sidewall surface area of the pier below 12-inches of embedment into

the prescribed bearing stratum. Vertical capacity through skin friction may be applied based on 140 psf in tension for sidewall surface area as described for compression.

5. We recommend a pier spacing of not less than 3.0 pier diameters measured from outside edge to outside edge of the piers. For pier spacing less than 3.0 pier diameters, piers will behave as a group and individual vertical pier capacities must be reduced. Vertical capacity reduction will depend upon pier spacing and the numbers of piers within the group. If closer spacings are required, DOWL should be notified so that appropriate reduction factors can be provided based on actual pier/pile layout. Group reductions for laterally loaded piers will depend on orientation of pier groups compared to direction of loading. Such reductions may be required for pier spacing less than 8.0 pier diameters.
6. Based on detailed settlement analysis utilizing a maximum anticipated total pier load of 130 kips and a corresponding pier diameter of 2.5 feet, the anticipated total and differential settlements are on the order of $\frac{3}{4}$ inch. For minimum diameter piers (18-inches) with an associated load of 48 kips, settlement is estimated to be on the order of $\frac{1}{2}$ of an inch. Final settlement will depend on actual foundation loads and pier diameters.
7. A 6-inch air void should be provided beneath all grade beams to prevent transfer of stresses to the beam and floors due to the freezing/heaving of the underlying soils, if beams do not extend a minimum of 4 feet below ground surface. Air voids beneath grade beams can be provided by using commercially available collapsible cardboard forms ("J voids"). Consequently, grade beams should be designed to carry all wall, roof, and floor loads imposed upon each span between pier foundations. If the slab-on-grade alternative is selected over the structural floor slab alternative, please refer to recommendations regarding concrete-slab-on grade.
8. The foundation driller should be equipped with appropriate drilling equipment and be prepared for any difficulties resulting from drilling into the coarse-grained alluvial strata as well as sloughing of granular soil. We anticipate that casing will be required on each hole. The length of casing should be sufficient to extend from slightly above the ground surface to a sufficient penetration into the underlying bearing stratum.
9. It is imperative that all loose slough is removed from the bottom of pier excavations. Loose material in the bottom of the hole will be compressible and may cause excessive settlement of the pier if not removed. The contractor shall use the appropriate sized cleaning bucket to ensure all slough is removed from the bottom of the excavation.

10. Cast-in-place concrete piers should fill the entire hole. Where casing is required, casing should be withdrawn as the concrete is poured while maintaining the casing bottom below the top of the concrete. Concrete should be directed so that it does not come in contact with the sidewall of the excavation and so that it has minimal contact with the reinforcing steel. Volume calculations should be conducted during concrete placement to double check placed volume relative to excavation volume. This is to confirm that caving of the excavation sidewall did not occur.
11. We anticipate that groundwater will not be encountered during drilling. If encountered, casing should be utilized. Casing should be sealed by turning and embedding the bottom rim into the bearing stratum and any standing water should be removed from the casing prior to completing the pier-hole. Concrete should not be poured into pier excavations in which more than 2-inches of standing water is present. If approved by a qualified Geotechnical Engineer, using alternate construction methods such as pumped or tremied concrete from pier bottom up, may be acceptable if proper pier bearing conditions can be verified.
12. Once drilling and cleaning is complete, each pier excavation should be observed by the Geotechnical Engineer or his representative. If any additional drilling, cleaning, and/or dewatering is recommended by the Geotechnical Engineer, it should be performed prior to concrete placement.
13. Once drilling, cleaning, and/or dewatering of the excavations are sufficiently complete according to Item 12, above, concrete should be placed immediately.
14. Concrete placed in pier excavations should have a slump of 4 to 6 inches, while at the same time maintaining minimum 28-day strength requirements. Concrete placed with temporary casing should have a slump of 6 to 8 inches. Concrete placed through tremie methods (wet condition) should have a slump of 8 to 9 inches to prevent voids from forming around reinforcing steel.
15. Based on field observations and detailed laboratory testing, the following design parameters have been established for input into the computer program LPILE Plus in order to facilitate pier design. The depths shown are for the average soil profile and may differ across the project site.

| TABLE 4 LPILE PLUS INPUT PARAMETERS | | | | |
|--|-------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| Layer No. | Depth | USCS Classification | Parameter | Recommended Value |
| 1 | 0.0 to 5.0 | SM/SC | Effective Unit Weight, γ | 110 pcf |
| | | | K-value | 25 pci |
| | | | Internal Friction Angle, ϕ | 30° |
| 2 | 5.0 to 10.5 | CL | Effective Unit Weight, γ | 120 pcf |
| | | | K-value | 100 pci (static) |
| | | | Strain, ϵ_{50} | 0.010 |
| | | | Undrained Shear Strength, S_u | 675 psf |
| 3 | 10.5+ | GP | Effective Unit Weight, γ | 130 pcf |
| | | | K-value | 225 pci |
| | | | Internal Friction Angle, ϕ | 35° |

5.4 SLAB-ON-GRADE

Cracking of slabs-on-grade is difficult to control and should be expected to occur with time. Cracking may be the result of many factors such as concrete shrinkage and daily and seasonal variability in temperature and humidity and not necessarily the result of soil movement.

Interior slabs-on-grade should be a minimum of 4 inches thick. A vapor barrier (usually plastic) is suggested beneath the slab, underlain by 4 inches of clean drain gravel. A choker layer such as fine-concrete aggregate (ASTM C 33 sand) may be used to prevent clean drain gravel from puncturing the vapor barrier. In the event of water accumulation below floor slabs, the gravel bed may also act as a drainage layer. Slab-on-grade construction should be consistent with local codes. A Structural Engineer may be consulted for recommendations to reduce the potential for concrete cracking.

Compacted structural fill is suggested below slabs as outlined in Section 5.2.1. Wall systems (load bearing and non-load bearing) should be separated and not directly tied to slabs-on-grade. Slabs constructed on properly compacted imported granular fill may be designed for a modulus of subgrade reaction of 175 psi per inch.

Exterior concrete flatwork often moves in response to changes in temperature and soil moisture,

or freeze/thaw cycles. At a minimum, soils beneath exterior concrete should be over-excavated and replaced with structural fill to a depth equal to the concrete thickness. As an alternate, over-excavation to a depth of 12 inches followed by replacement with structural fill may further reduce potential slab movement. For exterior sidewalks that overlap foundation backfill zones, care should be taken to avoid differing bearing conditions across the sidewalk. Granular materials placed below slabs should be graded to drain. Exterior slabs should be separated from foundation elements. Movement of exterior slabs may be transmitted to the foundation walls, resulting in damage. Additionally, exterior columns should not bear on exterior slabs to reduce slab movement being transferred to the structure. If supporting vehicles, slab-on-grade should be a minimum of 6-inches thick.

5.5 LATERAL LOADS ON FOUNDATION WALLS

Lateral pressures were calculated using methods suggested by Bowles (1996) and estimated strength parameters for structural fill used as backfill. As discussed above, the Cody area is potentially susceptible to low to moderate ground shaking from earthquakes. A maximum horizontal seismic acceleration k_h in site soils of 0.21g is predicted for this site with a uniform likelihood of exceedance of 2 percent in 50 years (SEACAL, 2019). One-half of the maximum acceleration, or 0.105g, was used to estimate lateral loads during an earthquake (Hynes and Franklin, 1984; Whitman, 1990). Equivalent fluid pressures (γK) were calculated for active, passive, and at-rest conditions for level ground adjacent to the foundation. It should be noted that the following lateral loads do not include a factor of safety and do not apply to submerged soils or hydrostatic loading.

| TABLE 5 LATERAL LOADS | | |
|--|-------------------------------|--|
| Condition | Coefficient of Earth Pressure | γK (equivalent fluid pressure) |
| Static Condition Level Backfill | $K_o = 0.44$ | 57 pcf |
| | $K_a = 0.28$ | 37 pcf |
| | $K_p = 3.54$ | 460 pcf |
| Earthquake Condition Level Backfill | $K_a = 0.34$ | 45 pcf |
| | $K_p = 3.33$ | 433 pcf |

**assumes soil unit weight of 130 pcf, internal friction angle 34°

The Mononobe-Okabe equations are often used to estimate dynamic forces against retaining walls. The Mononobe-Okabe equations were applied using one-half the maximum horizontal acceleration. The dynamic component is estimated as $\frac{1}{2}$ the difference of $\gamma K_{ae} - \gamma K_a$. This force would be in addition to static active earth pressure, and is equivalent to $4H^2$ pounds per horizontal foot of wall applied at 50% of the wall height ($H/2$) above the base.

5.5.1 Soil Friction Factor

Based on published data (NAVFAC, 1986), a maximum value of 30 degrees for the friction angle along a concrete base in granular soils is appropriate. Accordingly, a friction value of 0.58 is suggested. A friction factor of 0.30 is suggested to calculate soil friction for design of foundation walls in contact with any fine-grained soils in the subgrade. The friction value may be combined with the passive pressure to resist horizontal loads.

5.6 EARTHWORK

5.6.1 Site Clearing and Subgrade Preparation

Site preparation should consist of stripping the existing vegetation and loose surficial materials from the proposed site. This should include removal of all topsoil and other deleterious materials.

All exposed subgrade surfaces should be free of mounds and depressions which could prevent uniform compaction. If unexpected fills or obstructions are encountered during site clearing or excavation, such features should be removed and the excavation thoroughly cleaned prior to backfill placement and/or construction.

All exposed soils that will receive fill materials should be scarified to a minimum depth of 6 inches, conditioned to near optimum moisture content, and re-compacted to 95% of ASTM D 698. Materials which do not exhibit a typical well-defined moisture density curve, should be compacted to 70% relative density according to ASTM D 4253 and D 4254.

All excavations should be inspected by an approved observer prior to fill or concrete placement.

5.6.2 Excavation

Based on the materials encountered in the soil borings, conventional earthmoving equipment should be capable of excavating the site soils. Soft, wet soil conditions due to precipitation or irrigation of adjacent lands may make foundation construction difficult. To improve construction conditions, a woven geotextile such as Propex 250ST may be placed at the base of foundation excavations and beneath floor slabs. Structural fill should be placed over the fabric.

Temporary dewatering may be required during installation of structural fill. We strongly recommend dewatering prior to foundation construction if groundwater is present at the time of construction. Dewatering may require installation of sumps, shallow wells, or well points. The groundwater surface elevation should be controlled to a minimum of 2-feet below the bottom of all excavations to ensure proper compaction of natural subgrade and structural fill. All excavations should be approved by a qualified observer prior to backfill placement.

All excavations must conform to OSHA *Standards for Excavations*, 29 CFR Part 1926.652 Appendix B to Subpart P. Based on field observations and laboratory tests, the majority of the soils at the site are classified as Type C using the OSHA classification system, however soil types may vary over large project areas. Type C soils require excavation slope angles not to exceed 1 ½ H: 1 V (horizontal to vertical).

5.6.3 Fill Material

In general, onsite materials, including fine-grained alluvium, topsoil, fill, and random debris, are not acceptable as structural fill. Select site soils consisting of sand and gravel mixtures may be suitable as structural fill providing they meet the following requirements and are approved by the project Geotechnical Engineer. Suitable site soils tend to be located at elevations below anticipated excavation depths, and therefore may not be available for reuse. Cobbles and boulders will impede compaction and potentially damage foundation walls, and therefore are not suitable as structural fill. Fine-grained site soils, excluding organic topsoil and debris, may be used for general site grading only. Sandy site soils that do not meet structural fill requirements, but classify as SC, SM, or SC-SM may be utilized as non-structural backfill. Structural fill should consist of well-graded sand and gravel mixtures conforming to the following requirements or be approved by the project Geotechnical Engineer.

| TABLE 6 STRUCTURAL FILL RECOMMENDATIONS WYDOT GRADING J | |
|---|----------------------------|
| Gradation | Percent finer by weight |
| 2-inch | 100 |
| No. 4 Sieve | 35–75 |
| No. 200 Sieve | 15 maximum |
| Liquid Limit/Plasticity Index | 25/10 maximum |
| Uniformity Coefficient, Cu | ≥ 4 (Gravel) ≥ 6 (Sand) |
| Coefficient of Gradation, Cc | Between 1 & 3 |

Coarse-grained aggregate associated with structural fill should consist of hard, durable particles that do not breakdown when alternately frozen and thawed or due to moisture content increases.

5.6.4 Fill Placement and Compaction

Compaction requirements for imported material used as structural fill should conform to Section 5.2. Compaction recommendations are summarized in the following table.

| TABLE 7 COMPACTION RECOMMENDATIONS | | |
|---|--|-------------------------------|
| Application | Moisture Content (% of optimum) | Minimum Compaction |
| Subgrade | +/-2 | 95% ASTM D698 |
| Below Foundations | +/-2 | 98% ASTM D698 |
| Below Slabs-On-Grade | +/-2 | 98% ASTM D698 |
| Base and Subbase Courses | +/-2 | 95% ASTM D698 |
| Utility Trenches | +/-2 | 95% ASTM D698 |
| Site Grading Fill (non-structural) | +/-2 | 92% ASTM D698 |
| Foundation Backfill | +/-2 | 95% ASTM D698 |

Non-structural exterior backfill should be compacted to 92% of maximum dry density as per ASTM D 698. Site grading fills are not considered structural and do not typically require compaction tests if they are moisture conditioned in stockpile, placed in thin lifts, and a reasonable effort is made to compact the material to high density. It is important to keep all fills free of construction debris, organics, frozen lumps, and other deleterious materials. Fills should be observed during placement. Fills placed beneath adjacent sidewalks or hardscapes are considered structural and should be compacted in accordance with Section 5.2

Additionally, exterior backfill should be over-constructed to maintain required grading if minor settlement/consolidation of the fill occurs. Care should be taken adjacent to “green” foundation concrete. Over compaction adjacent to “green” concrete may lead to foundation damage and cracking. Under no circumstances shall fill be placed using “hydro-compaction” methods. Excessive water may damage foundation elements.

5.7 SITE GRADING AND SURFACE WATER CONTROL

Surface water should not be allowed to accumulate and infiltrate soil near foundations. It must be controlled and directed away from the structures.

Site grading is critical. A simple means of reducing moisture changes is to prevent surface water infiltration by sloping the ground away from the foundation. The recommended minimum slope within ten (10) feet of the structure is 1 inch vertical for 1 foot horizontal. The sloped ground should be initially constructed at a greater slope to account for settlement/consolidation of exterior backfill. Within ten feet of the foundation, the upper 12 to 18 inches of backfill should consist of less permeable, compacted fine-grained soil (silts and clays). The area around the foundation should be inspected regularly by the owner— particularly after a rainstorm – to determine if proper drainage away from the structure has been maintained. Post construction changes in site grading by landscapers or owners are a persistent and often damaging problem. It is the owner’s responsibility to control water and maintain the site to prevent infiltration near foundations.

Sprinklers should not spray closer than 5 feet from foundations and beyond backfill zones. Plantings near foundations should not trap surface runoff. Roof drainage should include gutters, downspouts, extensions, and splash blocks. The downspouts should discharge at least 5 feet away from foundation walls and beyond any backfill zones. Additionally, sidewalks or low-water consumption groundcover are recommended to further reduce the risk of water infiltration near the foundation walls.

Buried rain gutter discharge pipes are not recommended because of persistent, often undetected, seepage problems caused by clogging, crushing, and adverse grading of the pipes. Similarly, infiltration basins are not recommended adjacent to or up gradient of the structures. If detention is required by statute, infiltration basins should be located down gradient and at least 30 feet from foundations.

5.8 FOUNDATION DRAINS

Current building codes, such as the 2012 International Building Code (IBC), require perimeter drains in moderate to low permeability soils, for habitable space below grade. Depending on site specific conditions and construction techniques, case studies may be presented that show both positive and negative consequence of foundation drain installation. If installed correctly, drains may significantly reduce seepage and damage to foundation elements, and are likely to be significantly more costly to install following construction. Foundation drains are not required for buildings constructed over a crawl space. Adequate crawl space ventilation is recommended.

If installed, foundation drains may consist of a prefabricated composite drain or perforated PVC pipe encased in a gravel envelope encompassed in a non-woven geotextile. Foundation damp-proofing is recommended. Drains should be located at or below the area to be protected and the gravel envelope should extend a minimum of 1-foot beyond the foundation and 6 inches above the footing.

A properly installed foundation drain should be installed to drain the soil beneath the footing, follow the entire perimeter of the structure, and be sloped to either a sump or daylight down gradient from the structure to prevent saturation of subgrade soils in the vicinity of the footings.

A critical element of foundation drain construction includes proper drain pipe grading. Uneven pipe grades or “bellies” are typical defects that may cause water redistribution to unwanted locations. Discharge of an interior sump or daylighted pipe should be away from foundation elements and backfill zones.

5.9 PAVEMENT DESIGN

Multiple pavement section alternatives are provided for the proposed facility. Design criteria are based on soil boring observations and field and laboratory classification of soil types. Design methodologies are consistent with methods suggested in *AASHTO Guide for Design of Pavement*

Structures, 1993. The AASHTO Low Volume Roads method has been utilized in general parking areas while the more rigorous AASHTO procedures have been used in areas of heavy traffic (access lanes, drop-off lanes, delivery lanes, etc.).

If soil conditions vary from those observed in soil borings, DOWL should be notified and provided an opportunity to review design assumptions.

Subgrade soils encountered between 2 and 5 feet below the proposed parking lot elevation generally consist of combinations of clay, silt, and sand, which typically are poor to fair subgrade materials, depending on composition. California Bearing Ratio (CBR) values are on the order of 6.3. This value is considered fair strength for pavement subgrade. Based on the laboratory CBR results combined with empirical estimates for subgrade soils at each soil boring location, a value of 6.0 has been selected as the design CBR.

In addition to the strength and support characteristics exhibited by the subgrade soils, the native soils are susceptible to environmental effects such as swelling and frost heave. These environmental effects have been accounted for in the following designs and recommendations. The pavement section designs assume all organic topsoil will be stripped.

To develop pavement section recommendations for general parking areas, average daily traffic has been estimated based on a maximum of thirty (30) parking spaces, each generating four (4) trips per day. It is assumed that general parking areas will be used primarily by passenger cars and normal size pickups with occasional truck traffic, RVs, and boats/horsetrailer. In heavy traffic areas, it has been assumed that an additional 130 vehicle trips will be made each day in addition to the traffic generated from the general parking areas. It has been assumed that these vehicles will include garbage trucks and larger tractor-trailer vehicles. For gravel surfaced areas, it has been assumed that no more than 25 vehicles per day will use the areas and of those, one-fourth will be large truck traffic.

Pavement design parameters are based on laboratory test results, traffic assumptions, use of published data, and engineering judgment. Table 8 summarizes the design parameters utilized in conjunction with the previously presented traffic and soil data in the pavement section evaluations and designs.

| TABLE 8 PAVEMENT DESIGN PARAMETERS | | |
|---|---------------|---|
| Parameter | Value | Notes |
| <i>General</i> | | |
| Terminal Serviceability | 2.0 | AASHTO |
| Growth | 0% | |
| Swell Effects | | |
| Swell Rate Constant | 0.12 | Moderate moisture supply/moderate soil fabric |
| Potential Vertical Rise | 0.15 inches | Normal field moisture/density control |
| Swell Probability | 25% | |
| Frost Heave Effects | | |
| Frost Heave Rate | 6.0 mm/day | Clayey sand and lean clay soils |
| Frost Heave Probability | 75% | |
| Serviceability Loss | 1.25 | Ave Frost Penetration = 4 feet |
| Design Life | 20 years | Paved areas |
| | 10 years | Gravel Surfaced Areas |
| <i>Flexible Pavement</i> | | |
| Reliability | 75 | AASHTO |
| Standard Deviation | 0.45 | AASHTO |
| Flexible Layer Coefficients | | |
| Asphaltic Pavement | 0.44 | Class I & II PMP |
| Crushed Base | 0.14 | WYDOT Grading W |
| Subbase | 0.08 | Pit Run Sand and Gravel |
| Minimum Asphalt Thickness | 3 inches | |
| <i>Rigid Pavement</i> | | |
| Reliability | 75 | AASHTO |
| Standard Deviation | 0.35 | AASHTO |
| Load Transfer Coefficient | 3.2 | Jointed pavement with load transfer |
| Drainage Coefficient | 1.0 | Fair drainage |
| Concrete Modulus of Elasticity | 3,820,000 psi | Based on compressive strength |
| Concrete Modulus of Rupture | 650 psi | |
| Concrete Compressive Strength | 4,500 psi | |
| Minimum Thickness | 6 inches | Minimum construction thickness |
| <i>Low Volume Roads – General Parking Areas</i> | | |
| U.S. Climate Region | VI | Dry, hard freeze, spring thaw |
| Reliability | 75% | |
| Traffic Level | Low | 50,000 to 400,000 ESALs |
| <i>Gravel Surfacing</i> | | |
| Reliability | 60 | AASHTO |
| Standard Deviation | 0.45 | AASHTO |
| Serviceability Loss | 2.5 | |
| Aggregate Loss | None | |
| Allowable Rutting | 2.0 inches | |
| Minimum Gravel Thickness | 4 inches | Based on constructability |
| Geogrid LCR | 1.41 | CBR = 4 to 6 |

Based on the parameters summarized in Table 8, we estimate the following Equivalent Single Axle Loads (ESALs) and corresponding required structural numbers and thicknesses.

| TABLE 9 ESTIMATED ESALS | | | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| Description | Flexible Pavement | | Rigid Pavement | |
| | ESALs | Sn (req'd) | ESALs | Thickness (req'd) |
| Heavy Traffic Areas | 437,000 | 2.80 | 578,000 | 6.0 |
| General Parking Areas | 196,000 | 2.50 | NA | NA |

The recommended sections are presented in the following tables.

| TABLE 10 PAVEMENT DESIGN OPTIONS – GENERAL PARKING Required SN = 2.50 | | | | |
|--|------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Option | Material | Thickness (inches) | Structural Coefficient | Structural Number |
| 1 | Plant Mix Asphalt | 3 | 0.44 | 1.32 |
| | Crushed Aggregate Base | 9 | 0.14 | 1.26 |
| | Total Thickness | 12.00 | | 2.58 |
| 2 | Plant Mix Asphalt | 4 | 0.44 | 1.76 |
| | Crushed Aggregate Base | 6 | 0.14 | 0.84 |
| | Total Thickness | 10.00 | | 2.60 |

| TABLE 11 PAVEMENT DESIGN OPTIONS – HEAVY TRAFFIC AREAS Required SN = 2.80 | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Option | Material | Thickness (inches) | Structural Coefficient | Structural Number |
| 1 | Plant Mix Asphalt | 4 | 0.44 | 1.76 |
| | Crushed Aggregate Base | 8 | 0.14 | 1.12 |
| | Total Thickness | 12.00 | | 2.88 |
| 2 | Plant Mix Asphalt | 5 | 0.44 | 2.20 |
| | Crushed Aggregate Base | 6 | 0.14 | 0.84 |
| | Total Thickness | 11.00 | | 3.04 |
| 3 | Portland Cement Concrete | 6 | -- | -- |
| | Crushed Aggregate Base | 6 | -- | -- |
| | Total Thickness | 12.00 | | |

| TABLE 12 | | | | |
|--|--|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| PAVEMENT DESIGN OPTIONS – GRAVEL SURFACED AREAS | | | | |
| Required SN = 1.68 | | | | |
| Option | Material | Thickness (inches) | Structural Coefficient | Structural Number |
| 1 | Crushed Aggregate Base | 12 | 0.14 | 1.68 |
| | Total Thickness | 12.00 | | 1.68 |
| 2 | Crushed Aggregate Base | 6 | 0.14 | 0.84 |
| | Pit Run Subbase | 12 | 0.08 | 0.96 |
| | Total Thickness | 18.00 | | 1.80 |
| 3 | Crushed Aggregate Base With Geogrid | 9 | 0.20 | 1.80 |
| | Total Thickness | 9.00 | | 1.80 |

As gravel sections (Table 12) generally exceed design minimums, an option utilizing base course reduction through the use of geogrid reinforcement has been provided in addition to options without the base course reduction. Evaluations utilize Layer Coefficient Ratios (LCR), which are dependent on the soil subgrade strength. This approach is based on reducing the thickness of the base course by comparing reinforced base course with unreinforced base course.

Based on an in-depth analysis of potential swelling and frost heave of the native soils, it is anticipated that the performance period (time until terminal serviceability is reached) of the above recommended sections may be reduced due to vertical soil movement. We strongly recommend the following to facilitate reaching the desired performance period:

1. A separation/stabilization fabric is strongly recommended between the subgrade and base/subbase to both reduce the potential for fines migration into pit-run and crushed aggregate base and to provide an increased level of support for the pavement section. Due to the ability to provide high strength at small strains, a woven fabric such as Propex 250ST or equivalent is recommended.
2. An engineered maintenance program.
3. In areas that may experience prolonged periods of parked, idling vehicles, such as loading/unloading areas, vehicles may cause damage to flexible pavement sections in the form of rutting. Rutting may be caused by a variety of factors including engine heat, vibrations from idling engines, shoving due to frequent starting and stopping, and softening caused by dripping fuel/oil. For this reason, we highly recommend use of the rigid pavement sections presented in the above tables for such areas.
4. Turning movements by heavily loaded vehicles will drastically reduce the life expectancy of asphalt pavement. The design methodology of the recommended section is

predominantly based on the anticipated wheel loading of the pavement and not on turning movements by heavily loaded vehicles. If turning movements on the asphalt are anticipated at a high frequency, we strongly suggest selecting Option 2 for the heavy traffic areas or utilizing rigid pavement in order to reach the required design life.

5. Heavy construction equipment associated with construction of future phases within the facility may result in the terminal serviceability being reached prematurely. For this reason, it is recommended that construction traffic be diverted off of paved areas as much as possible.

Please note that use of geotextiles or geogrid does not allow for a reduction in the pavement section thickness unless specifically listed in the design option tables. Additionally, their use is intended to improve the load carrying capabilities of weak subgrade soils and strengthen the overall structure. The use of geotextiles and/or geogrids will result in a section that is difficult to remove should the need to cut or replace arise.

The above sections appear to be acceptable for use in the native site soils. Proper subgrade preparation should include scarifying, moisture conditioning, and re-compacting as discussed below.

Asphalt pavement materials should meet applicable requirements of Wyoming Department of Transportation Specifications, 2010 Edition, Sections 400 and 800. In-place density should be at least 92 percent of the theoretical maximum specific gravity (density) in accordance with AASHTO T209: Theoretical Maximum Specific Gravity and Density of Hot Mix Asphalt. It should be noted that theoretical maximum density is based on zero air voids whereas the Marshall design is based on compactive effort. Theoretical density requirements should not be confused with Marshall method of flexible pavement mix design. Marshall design criteria should meet the requirements in Table 13.

| TABLE 13 MARSHALL DESIGN CRITERIA | |
|--|---|
| Stability | 2000 pound minimum |
| Flow | 8 to 16 hundredths of an inch |
| Air Voids | 3 to 5 percent |
| Voids in Mineral Aggregate | $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch maximum size aggregate 12 to 15 percent (laboratory) 11 to 15 percent (production) $\frac{1}{2}$ inch maximum size aggregate 13 to 16 percent (laboratory) 12 to 16 percent (production) |

Portland Cement Concrete utilized for paved areas should, at a minimum, be sealed, contain fiber reinforcement such as Fibermesh 150 or an equivalent 100% virgin polypropylene fiber, have a

minimum 28-day compressive strength of 4,500 psi and have a 28-day flexural strength of 650 psi. Exterior concrete should contain 5% to 7% entrained air. In areas of heavy truck traffic, concrete pavement should be doweled along all transverse joints. It is recommended that joint spacing in feet should not exceed twice the slab thickness in inches.

5.9.1 Parking Lot Site Clearing and Subgrade Preparation

Based on the materials encountered in the soil borings, conventional earthmoving equipment should be capable of excavating the site soils.

Site preparation should consist of stripping the existing vegetation, topsoil, and loose surficial materials from the proposed parking lots. Low ground pressure equipment may be required depending on field conditions during the time of construction. Topsoil depth is estimated to be on the order of 6 to 9 inches. In some areas, the topsoil thickness may exceed 9 inches due to the agricultural nature of the property. Topsoil should be completely removed prior to placement of fill materials or pavement. All exposed subgrade surfaces should be free of mounds and depressions, which could prevent uniform compaction. If previously placed fills, obstructions, or deleterious materials are encountered during site clearing or grading, such features should be completely removed, and the excavation thoroughly cleaned prior to placement of fill.

Subgrade, pit-run, and crushed aggregate base should be graded to drain. Saturation of base materials will substantially reduce the pavement life expectancy. Additionally, a collection system with proper grading should be incorporated into the parking lots to collect and convey surface water and prevent ponding. We also strongly recommend site grading beyond the extents of the parking lots to minimize potential for surface water infiltration. Such areas should be graded to drain properly and prevent ponding near the pavement edge.

In areas exhibiting firm subgrade conditions, all exposed soils that will receive subbase or base materials should be scarified to a minimum depth of 6 inches, conditioned to near optimum moisture content, and re-compacted to 95% of ASTM D 698. Materials which do not exhibit a typical well-defined moisture density curve, should be compacted to 70% relative density according to ASTM D 4253 and D 4254. Proof rolling of prepared subgrade should be completed prior to geotextile placement. Fill or paving should not be placed on frozen or improperly moisture conditioned subgrade.

Depending on final grades, subgrade soils may be soft and moist to wet, particularly during times of elevated precipitation. In areas exhibiting weak subgrade conditions, the use of heavy equipment may cause rutting or pumping of the wet, fine-grained subsoils. If compaction or proof rolling (static wheel rolling to an unyielding state) of subgrade soils is not practical due to excessive moisture or if the contractor's use of excessively heavy equipment causes pumping/rutting or an otherwise "failed" subgrade, the subsoils should be over-excavated with low-ground pressure equipment to a depth of 2 feet and replaced with compacted pit-run type material. Note that proof rolling or scarifying the base of the excavation is not required. A geogrid

meeting the following specifications in conjunction with a woven separation/stabilization fabric such as Propex 250ST is recommended at the base of the 2-foot over-excavation to both provide increased support and to prevent fines migration into the pit-run gravel. Proof rolling should be completed following subgrade improvement and prior to geotextile placement. The recommended pavement section may be placed on the improved subgrade.

| TABLE 14 GEOGRID SPECIFICATIONS | | | |
|--|--------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Property | Test Method | MARV* (MD) | MARV* (CMD) |
| Ultimate Tensile Strength | ASTM D 6637 | 1,300 lb/ft | 1,900 lb/ft |
| Tensile Strength @ 2% Strain | ASTM D 6637 | 400 lb/ft | 600 lb/ft |
| Tensile Strength @ 5% Strain | ASTM D 6637 | 800 lb/ft | 1,300 lb/ft |
| Junction Strength | GRI GG2 | 850 lb/ft | 1,200 lb/ft |
| Flexural Rigidity (Stiffness) | ASTM D 5732-01 | 250,000 mg-cm | |
| Aperture Size | Measured | 0.5 to 3.0 inches | |
| UV Resistance (at 500 hrs) | ASTM D 4355 | 70% | |

*Minimum Average Roll Values, MD – machine direction, CMD – cross machine direction

When geogrid is utilized, installation should consist of placement of woven geotextile fabric directly on prepared subgrade followed by the geogrid and then the aggregate fill.

Liquidity Indices (LI) provide an indication if subgrade soil stability will be problematic during construction. Experience has shown that operation of construction equipment becomes inefficient if the Liquidity Index exceeds about 0.30 and may become unworkable when values greater than approximately 0.5 are encountered. Table 15 provides a summary of subgrade LI.

| TABLE 15 SUBGRADE LIQUIDITY INDICES | | | | | | |
|--|--------------|-------------|-------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| Boring | Depth | USCS | Moisture Content | Plastic Limit | Liquid Limit | Liquidity Index |
| BH-2 | 2.5-4' | SC | 12.4 | 15 | 25 | -0.26 |
| BH-2 | 7.5-9' | CL | 14.9 | 14 | 31 | 0.05 |
| BH-3 | 5-6.5' | CL | 19.4 | 17 | 43 | 0.09 |
| BH-5 | 5-7' | CL | 19.6 | 21 | 39 | -0.08 |
| BH-6 | 5-6.5' | CL | 20.3 | 15 | 31 | 0.33 |

The use of poor construction practices such as repeated wheel loading with heavy or over-sized equipment is not the responsibility of the Owner/Client or DOWL. Haul routes and heavy vehicle traffic shall be spread out across the site to help prevent “failed” subgrade. It is the contractor’s

responsibility to maintain site drainage during construction.

5.9.2 Parking Lot Fill Materials

In general, pit-run gravel composed of well-graded sand and gravel mixtures and free of organics and deleterious materials may be used as parking lot fill. Pit run sand and gravel should meet the requirements of Table 6 (Section 5.6.3). Particles larger than 2-inches in diameter will impede compaction and should be removed. As an alternative, site soils consisting of clay, silt, and sand may be used as fill material; however, use of these materials may reduce the life of the proposed paved areas due to vertical soil movement.

Crushed aggregate base should conform to the following requirements or be approved by the project Geotechnical Engineer:

| TABLE 16 CRUSHED AGGREGATE BASE SPECIFICATION WYDOT GRADING W | |
|--|--------------------------------|
| Sieve Size (inch) | Percent finer by weight |
| 1-1/2 | 100 |
| 1 | 90-100 |
| 1/2 | 60-85 |
| No. 4 | 45-65 |
| No. 8 | 33-53 |
| No. 200 | 3-12 |
| Liquid Limit/Plasticity Index | 25/3 maximum |
| Gravel Surfacing <i>Liquid Limit</i> <i>Plasticity Index</i> | 30 maximum 4 to 12 |

Coarse-grained aggregate associated with structural fill should consist of hard, durable particles that do not breakdown when alternately frozen and thawed or due to moisture content increases.

5.9.3 Parking Lot Fill Placement and Compaction

Fill material should be placed in 6 to 8-inch loose lifts, moisture-conditioned to near optimum moisture content, and compacted to at least 95% of ASTM D 698. If density tests taken in the fill indicate compaction is not being achieved, fill should be scarified or removed, moisture-conditioned to within ± 2 percent of optimum moisture content, and re-compacted and re-tested.

5.10 COLD WEATHER CONSTRUCTION

Do not place concrete, pavement, or fill on frozen soil. Do not use frozen soil as fill or backfill. Remove frozen soil, snow, and/or ice from the subgrade or fill soil prior to continuing with

construction. Limit winter excavations to areas small enough to be refilled to finished floor grade or higher on the same day. A DOWL representative must monitor fill placed during freezing conditions to reduce the potential for placing frozen material.

5.11 WET WEATHER CONSTRUCTION

- Ideally perform earthwork construction during dry weather conditions.
- If possible, do not perform earthwork immediately after rainfall or until soil can dry sufficiently to allow construction traffic without disturbing the subgrade.
- If the subgrade soil becomes wet, it may be necessary to complete earthwork with track-mounted equipment that reduces vehicular pressure applied to the soil if construction commences in wet areas or before soil can dry.
- Fill, footings, slabs, or pavement should not be placed on wet subgrade.

5.12 CORROSION POTENTIAL

5.12.1 Minimum Resistivity

Resistivity measurements obtained from soils encountered 2.5 to 6.5 feet below the existing ground surface and provided by Zedi of Riverton, WY, are summarized in the following table.

| TABLE 17 SOIL RESISTIVITY MEASUREMENTS | | | | | |
|---|------------|------|------|-----------------------------------|--|
| Borehole | Depth (ft) | USCS | pH | Saturated Resistivity (ohm-cm) | Anticipated Corrosion Activity to Metal |
| BH-2 | 5.0-6.5 | SC | 7.78 | 447 | Very Severe |
| BH-6 | 2.5-4.0 | SC | 7.94 | 449 | Very Severe |

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) criteria for anticipated corrosion activity to buried metal are:

| | |
|--------------------|---------------|
| Under 1,000 ohm-cm | Very Severe |
| 1,000-2,000 | Severe |
| 2,000-5,000 | Moderate |
| 5,000-10,000 | Slight |
| Over 10,000 | Non-corrosive |

Based on the test results, the native soils have very severe corrosion potential to buried metal. Any buried metal (i.e., pipe, valves, fittings, etc.) should be protected by means of cathodic protection or other approved protection methods.

5.12.2 Water Soluble Sulfates

Water-soluble sulfate tests were performed on the soil recovered from the subsurface exploration at depths of approximately 2.5 to 6.5 feet below the existing ground surface in order to determine corrosivity of the soil on concrete. Results provided by Zedi of Riverton, WY, are summarized in the following table.

| TABLE 18 WATER SOLUBLE SULFATES | | | | |
|------------------------------------|------------|------|---------|------------------|
| Borehole | Depth (ft) | USCS | Results | Sulfate Exposure |
| BH-2 | 5.0-6.5 | SC | 0.06% | Negligible |
| BH-6 | 2.5-5.0 | SC | 0.18% | Moderate |

The Portland Cement Association criteria for sulfate exposure to buried concrete are:

| | |
|--------------|-------------|
| 0 – 0.10% | Negligible |
| 0.10 – 0.20% | Moderate |
| 0.20 – 2.0% | Severe |
| Over 2.0% | Very Severe |

The test results show that the sulfate exposure from the majority of site soils is negligible to moderate. Based on the natural soil water-soluble sulfates, we recommend that Type II Portland cement be used for all concrete in contact with the natural soils.

5.13 CONSTRUCTION TESTING FREQUENCY

We recommend the following compaction testing frequencies:

Structural Fill below Footing and Subgrade - 1 compaction test every 50 linear feet (lf) of footing trench or 2 tests per wall line, whichever results in the greater number of tests, per each 1-foot lift of fill.

Foundation Wall Backfill - 1 compaction test every 100 linear feet of wall or 2 tests per wall line (interior and exterior sides), whichever results in the greater number of tests, per each 1-foot lift of backfill.

Interior and Exterior Slab Subgrade - 1 compaction test every 1,000 square feet (sf) of slab area or 2 tests per slab area, whichever results in the greater number of tests, per 1-foot lift of fill.

Pavements - 1 compaction test every 4,500 sf of pavement area on each subgrade, subbase,

and base course layer as applicable, per each 1-foot lift of backfill, in addition to proofrolling subgrade, subbase, and base.

Trenches - 1 compaction test every 100 linear feet or 2 per trench, whichever results in the greater number of tests, per each 1-foot lift of backfill

5.14 OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

We recommend structural concrete have a minimum 28-day compressive strength of 4,000 psi and all exterior concrete contain 5% to 7% entrained air to provide resistance to freeze-thaw deterioration. If constructed during cold weather, concrete should not be allowed to freeze until adequately cured and necessary strength is attained.

Subsurface conditions identified in this report are based on information gained from a limited number of exploratory boreholes and may vary significantly between soil borings. Additionally, past fill areas that are encountered during construction may create exceptions to the soil conditions identified herein.

6.0 GEOTECHNICAL DESIGN CONTINUITY

Geotechnical design continuity will be an important part of the successful completion of this project. In our opinion, geotechnical continuity can occur in three stages in the planning, design, and construction project aspects. Specifically, we recommend DOWL maintain the geotechnical design continuity in the following pieces:

- **Plan and Specification Review:** We recommend you retain DOWL to review final design and construction plans and specifications to verify our geotechnical recommendations are incorporated into construction documents as well as to provide additional recommendations based on the final design concepts. These efforts can help provide document continuity and reduce the potential for errors as the project concepts evolve.
- **Geotechnical Design Confirmation:** The potential soil variation may have a significant impact on foundation construction. As such, we recommend you retain DOWL to provide geotechnical engineering oversight during site grading and foundation excavation to observe the potential variability in the soil conditions and provide consultation regarding potential impacts on foundation construction.
- **Construction Observation and Testing:** We recommend you retain DOWL to provide observation and testing during site preparation, grading, structural fill placement and backfilling to verify compliance with the recommendations presented in this report. Having DOWL provide inspection and oversight during this process will reduce the potential for unforeseen construction errors, which may ultimately impact the project. If we are not retained to perform the recommended services, we cannot be responsible for related

construction errors or omissions. Recommendations in this report are contingent upon our involvement. If any unexpected soils or conditions are revealed during construction, Geotechnical personnel of DOWL should be notified immediately to observe conditions and make necessary modifications.

7.0 LIMITATIONS

The conclusions and recommendations presented in this report assume that the nature of the project is consistent with assumptions presented herein and that site conditions are not substantially different from those exposed by the explorations. If during construction, subsurface conditions are observed or appear to be present that are different from those encountered in the explorations, DOWL geotechnical staff should be advised promptly so that those conditions can be reviewed, and recommendations reevaluated. DOWL geotechnical personnel should review all final designs to verify that recommendations provided herein have been properly implemented.

If there is a substantial lapse of time between submission of this report and the start of work, and if conditions have changed due to natural causes or construction operations, DOWL should review this report to determine the applicability of the conclusions and recommendations considering the changed conditions.

This report was prepared for use by the owner and their representatives. It should be made available to prospective contractors for information on factual data only and not as a warranty of subsurface conditions.

This report, including engineering analyses, recommendations, figures, and design schematics are exclusive to the above referenced site. Under no circumstances shall the figures or subsurface logs be separated from the text and used independently. Recommendations in this report are not applicable to other construction sites.

These services have been performed in a manner consistent with the level of care and skill ordinarily exercised by members of the profession currently practicing in this area under similar time and budgetary constraints. No warranty is made or implied.

Any conclusions by a construction contractor or bidder relating to construction means, methods, techniques, sequences, or costs based upon the information provided in this report are not the responsibility of the Client or DOWL.

8.0 REFERENCES

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Cody Regional Office

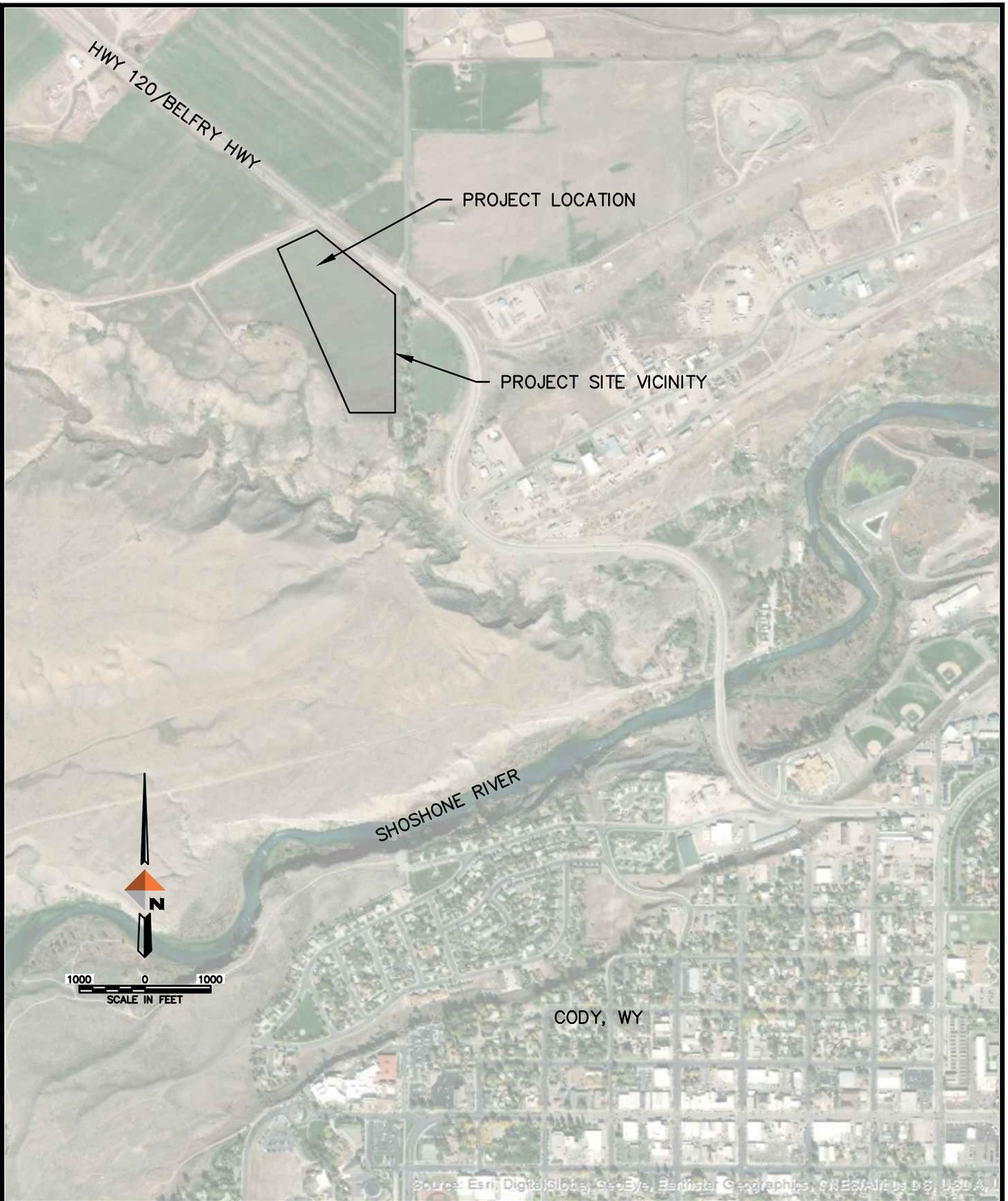
Cody, Wyoming

Appendix A

Figures



C:\31\26969-01\65CAD\SITE VICINITY-BOREHOLES.dwg PLOT DATE 2019-06-27 15:30 SAVED DATE 2019-06-27 13:59 USER: sbrown



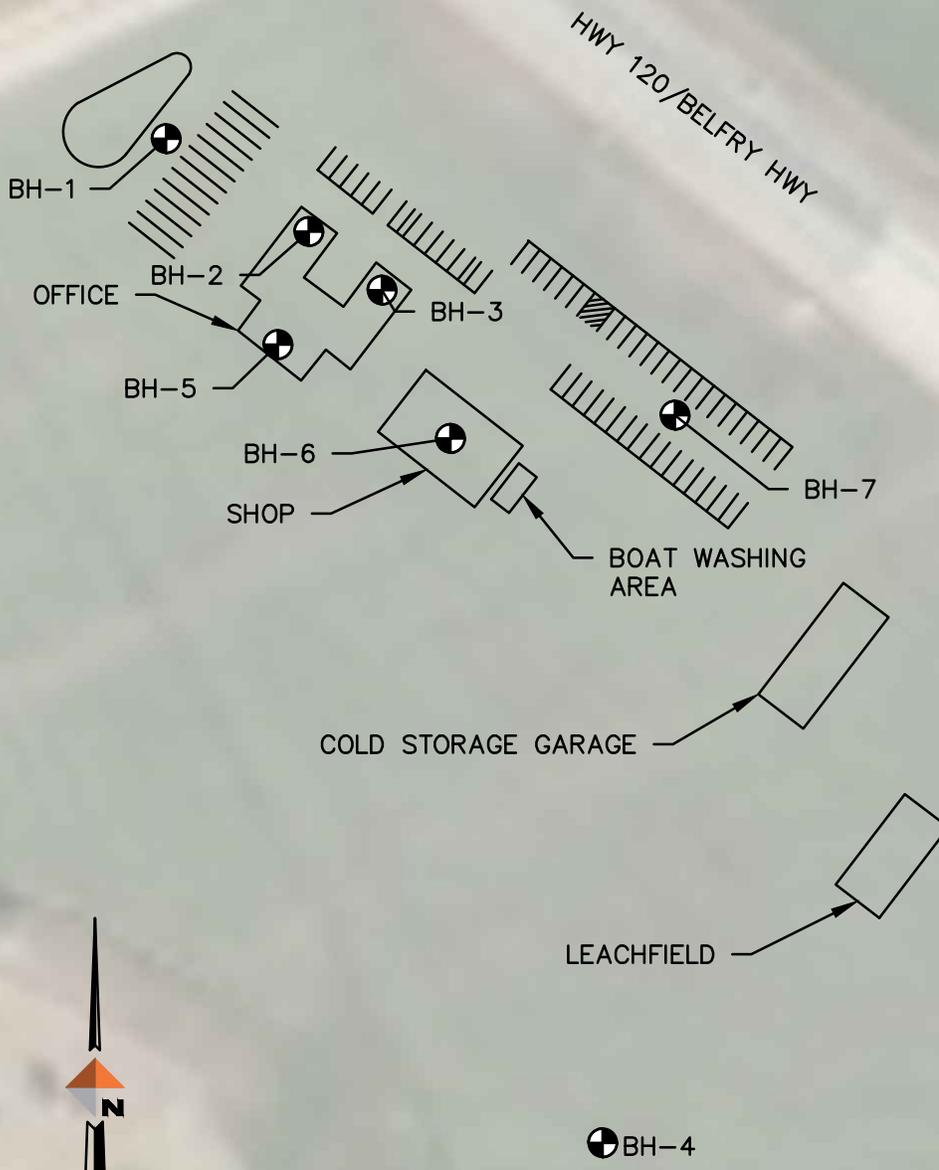
DOWL
www.dowl.com
945 Lincoln Street
Lander, Wyoming 82520
307-332-3285

2019 CODY REGIONAL OFFICE
GEOTECHNICAL INVESTIGATION
SITE VICINITY MAP

| | |
|---------|---------------|
| PROJECT | 5231.26969.01 |
| DATE | 06/25/2019 |

FIGURE 1

Q:\31\26969-01\65CAD\SITE VICINITY-BOREHOLES.dwg PLOT DATE 2019-06-27 14:00 SAVED DATE 2019-06-27 13:59 USER: sbrown



NOTE: BOREHOLE LOCATIONS ARE APPROXIMATE AND HAVE NOT BEEN SURVEYED.

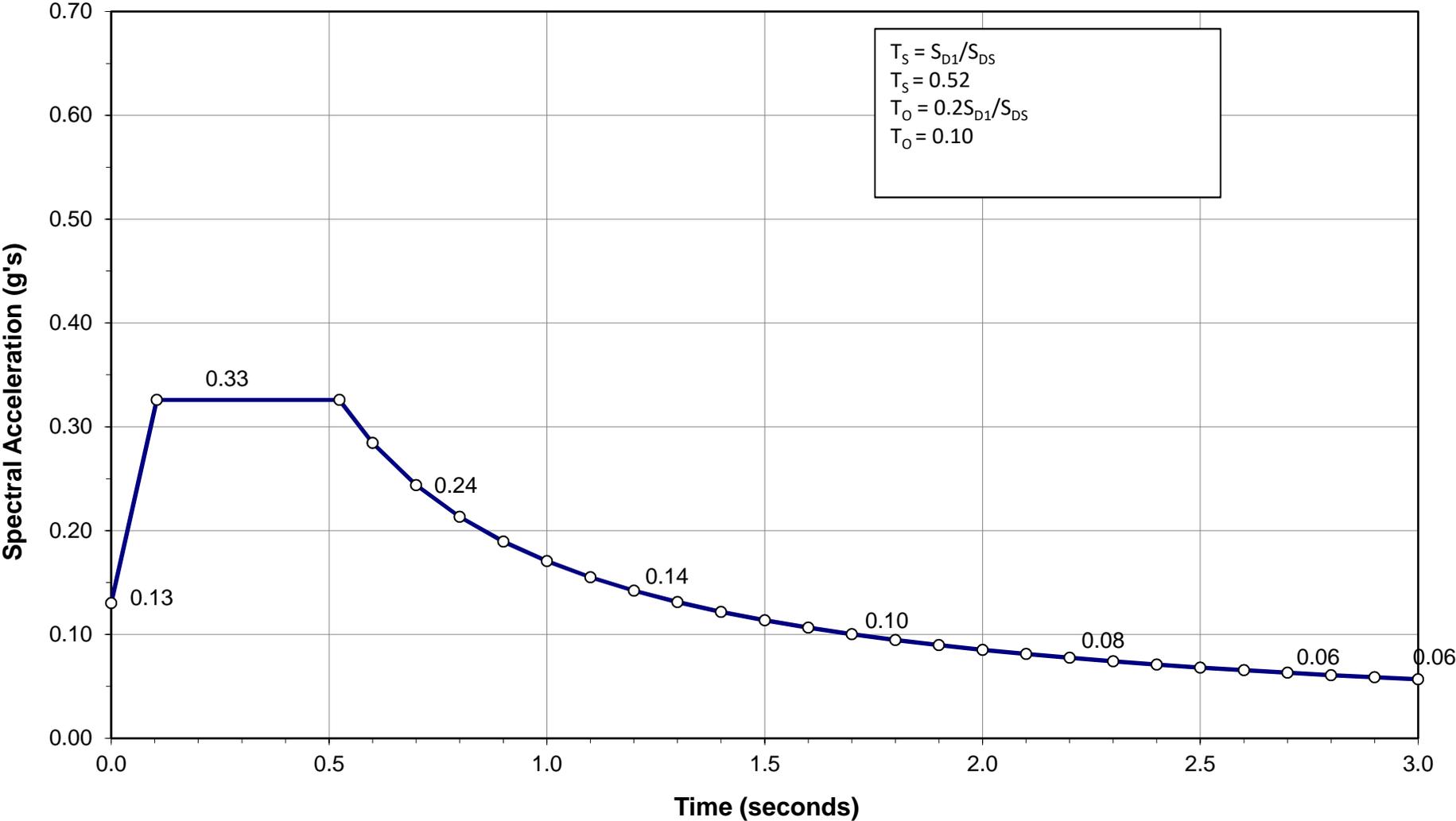
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 307-332-3285

2019 CODY REGIONAL OFFICE
 GEOTECHNICAL INVESTIGATION
 BOREHOLE LOCATIONS

| | |
|---------|---------------|
| PROJECT | 5231.26969.01 |
| DATE | 06/25/2019 |

FIGURE 2

Design Seismic Response Spectrum (2012 IBC/ASCE 7) - Site Class D
Cody Regional Office - Figure 3



Cody Regional Office

Cody, Wyoming

Appendix B

Borehole Logs



| | |
|--|---|
| CLIENT Wyoming Game and Fish | PROJECT Cody Regional Office |
| SITE Cody, Wyoming | BOREHOLE LOCATION See Figure - Parking Area |

Surface Elevation: 5119
 Notes/Remarks: 4 1/4" ID HSA Borehole Termination Depth (ft): **6.5 feet** Initial Water Depth: Final Water Depth:

| DEPTH (FT.) | MATERIAL DESCRIPTION | GRAPHIC LOG | ELEVATION (FT) | SAMPLES | | | | TESTS | | | | ADDITIONAL DATA/REMARKS | |
|-------------|---|-------------|----------------|-------------|--------------|------------|--------|--------------------------|---------------------------|---------|------------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| | | | | BULK DRIVEN | BLOWS PER 6" | N BLOWS/FT | NUMBER | IN. RECOVERED IN. DRIVEN | POCKET PENE-TROMETER, TSF | N VALUE | BLOWS/FOOT | | W.C. |
| 0 | Clayey SAND; loose, moist, brown, fine to medium grained with organics [Topsoil] | | | 3 | 6 | | | | | | | | |
| 0.5 | Clayey SAND; loose, moist, brown, fine to coarse grained, with occasional gravel [Alluvium] | | 5117 | 3 | | SS-1 | 9/18 | | | | | | |
| 3.5 | Grades medium dense with occasional oxidation below 2.5 feet | | | 5 | 16 | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | 7 | | SS-2 | 14/18 | | | | | | |
| | | | | 9 | | | 78% | | | | | | Moisture = 8.4% |
| 5.0 | Sandy CLAY; stiff, moist, brown [Alluvium] | | 5113.5 | 3 | 9 | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | 4 | | SS-3 | 12/18 | | | | | | |
| | | | | 5 | | | 67% | | | | | | |
| 6.5 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| | | | | | |
|--|----------------------------------|-----------|-----------|------------|-----------|
| | DOWL | STARTED | 6-11-19 | FINISHED | 6-11-19 |
| | 945 Lincoln Steet, P.O. Box 1655 | DRILL CO. | Haz Tech | DRILL RIG | BK-81 |
| | Lander, WY 82520 | DRILLER | Paul Bray | HAMMER | 140# Auto |
| | Telephone: (307) 332-3285 | LOGGED BY | B Roberts | CHECKED BY | K Jones |
| | Fax: (307) 332-5795 | | | | |

| | |
|--|---|
| CLIENT Wyoming Game and Fish | PROJECT Cody Regional Office |
| SITE Cody, Wyoming | BOREHOLE LOCATION See Figure - Building Footprint |

Surface Elevation: 5116
 Notes/Remarks: 4 1/4" ID HSA Borehole Termination Depth (ft): 21.5 feet Initial Water Depth: Final Water Depth:

| DEPTH (FT.) | MATERIAL DESCRIPTION | GRAPHIC LOG | ELEVATION (FT) | SAMPLES | | | | TESTS | | | | ADDITIONAL DATA/REMARKS | |
|-------------|--|-------------|----------------|-------------|--------------|------------|--------|--------------------------|---------------------------|---------|------|-------------------------|--|
| | | | | BULK DRIVEN | BLOWS PER 6" | N BLOWS/FT | NUMBER | IN. RECOVERED IN. DRIVEN | POCKET PENE-TROMETER, TSF | N VALUE | W.C. | | LL |
| 0 | Clayey SAND with Gravel; loose, moist, brown, fine grained with organics [Topsoil] | | | 3 | 6 | | | 6/18 | | | | | |
| 0.5 | | | | 3 | | | | 33% | | | | | |
| 3.5 | Clayey SAND (SC); loose, moist, brown, fine to coarse grained with occasional organics and gravel [Alluvium] Grades very loose below 2.5 feet | | 5113.5 | 4 | 4 | | | 10/18 | | | | | Moisture = 12.4% -200 = 45.2% LL = 25 PI = 10 |
| | Grades loose with trace gravel and organics below 5.0 feet | | 5110 | 3 | 9 | | | 9/18 | | | | | |
| 7 | | | | 4 | 5 | | | 50% | | | | | |
| 7.5 | Sandy Lean CLAY (CL); stiff, moist, brown with trace oxidation and occasional gravel [Alluvium] | | 5106.5 | 4 | 9 | | | 9/18 | | | | | Moisture = 14.9% -200 = 56.9% LL = 31 PI = 17 |
| | Grades with trace organics below 10.0 feet | | | 5 | 4 | | | 50% | | | | | |
| 10.5 | | | | 3 | 12 | | | 10/18 | | | | | |
| | Grades with trace organics below 10.0 feet | | | 5 | | | | 56% | | | | | |
| 11.5 | Poorly Graded GRAVEL with Sand; moist, gray, medium to coarse grained [Alluvium] | | 5103 | | | | | | | | | | Driller noted layer change at 11.5 feet |
| 14 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Grades dry below 15.0 feet | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 17.5 | | | | 11 | 26 | | | 6/18 | | | | | Moisture = 2.4% |
| | | | | 11 | | | | 33% | | | | | |
| | | | | 15 | | | | | | | | | |
| 21 | Grades dense with trace oxidation below 20.0 feet | | 5096 | 16 | 47 | | | 9/18 | | | | | |
| | | | | 21 | | | | 50% | | | | | |
| | | | | 26 | | | | | | | | | |

| | | | | | |
|--|---|-----------|-----------|------------|-----------|
| | DOWL 945 Lincoln Steet, P.O. Box 1655 Lander, WY 82520 Telephone: (307) 332-3285 Fax: (307) 332-5795 | STARTED | 6-10-19 | FINISHED | 6-10-19 |
| | | DRILL CO. | Haz Tech | DRILL RIG | BK-81 |
| | | DRILLER | Paul Bray | HAMMER | 140# Auto |
| | | LOGGED BY | B Roberts | CHECKED BY | K Jones |

| | |
|--|---|
| CLIENT Wyoming Game and Fish | PROJECT Cody Regional Office |
| SITE Cody, Wyoming | BOREHOLE LOCATION See Figure - Southeastern Portion of Site |

Surface Elevation: 5113

Notes/Remarks: 4 1/4" ID HSA Borehole Termination Depth (ft): 21.5 feet Initial Water Depth: Final Water Depth:

| DEPTH (FT.) | MATERIAL DESCRIPTION | GRAPHIC LOG | ELEVATION (FT) | SAMPLES | | | | TESTS | | | | ADDITIONAL DATA/REMARKS | | |
|-------------|--|-------------|----------------|-------------|--------------|------------|--------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------|------------|-------------------------|------|----------------------------------|
| | | | | BULK DRIVEN | BLOWS PER 6" | N BLOWS/FT | NUMBER | IN. RECOVERED IN. DRIVEN | POCKET PENETROMETER, TSF | N VALUE | BLOWS/FOOT | | W.C. | |
| 0 | Clayey SAND with Gravel; loose, moist, brown, fine to coarse grained with organics [Topsoil] | | | 4 | 7 | | | | | | | | | |
| 0.75 | | | | 3 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3.5 | Silty SAND with Gravel; loose, moist, brown, fine to coarse grained with occasional oxidation [Alluvium] Grades medium dense below 2.5 feet | | 5110 | 4 | 14 | | | | | | | | | Moisture = 7.9% -200 = 22.0% |
| 5.0 | | | | 7 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 7 | Sandy CLAY; very stiff, moist, brown [Alluvium] | | 5106.5 | 5 | 19 | | | | | | | | | Moisture = 15.5% -200 = 60.4% |
| 7.5 | | | | 6 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 10.5 | Poorly Graded GRAVEL with Sand; very dense, moist, gray, fine to coarse grained with occasional oxidation and cobbles [Alluvium] Grades dense and dry below 10.0 feet | | 5103 | 27 | 51 | | | | | | | | | |
| 10.5 | | | | 28 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 14 | | | | 23 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 10.5 | | | | 28 | 45 | | | | | | | | | Moisture = 2.9% |
| 14 | | | | 18 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 14 | | | | 27 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 14 | Grades very dense below 15.0 feet | | 5099.5 | 29 | 50 | | | | | | | | | |
| 17.5 | | | | 50/ | | | | | | | | | | |
| 17.5 | | | | 5 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 17.5 | | | | 5096 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 21 | | | | 39 | 63 | | | | | | | | | |
| 21 | | | | 31 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 21 | | | | 32 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 21 | | | | 5092.5 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 21 | | | | 21.5 | | | | | | | | | | |



DOWL
 945 Lincoln Steet, P.O. Box 1655
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 Telephone: (307) 332-3285
 Fax: (307) 332-5795

| | | | |
|-----------|-----------|------------|-----------|
| STARTED | 6-11-19 | FINISHED | 6-11-19 |
| DRILL CO. | Haz Tech | DRILL RIG | BK-81 |
| DRILLER | Paul Bray | HAMMER | 140# Auto |
| LOGGED BY | B Roberts | CHECKED BY | K Jones |

| | |
|--|---|
| CLIENT Wyoming Game and Fish | PROJECT Cody Regional Office |
| SITE Cody, Wyoming | BOREHOLE LOCATION See Figure - Building Footprint |

Surface Elevation: 5116

Notes/Remarks: 4 1/4" ID HSA Borehole Termination Depth (ft): 21.5 feet Initial Water Depth: Final Water Depth:

| DEPTH (FT.) | MATERIAL DESCRIPTION | GRAPHIC LOG | ELEVATION (FT) | SAMPLES | | | | TESTS | | | | ADDITIONAL DATA/REMARKS | |
|-------------|---|-------------|----------------|-------------|--------------|------------|--------|--------------------------|---------------------------|---------|--------------|-------------------------|------|
| | | | | BULK DRIVEN | BLOWS PER 6" | N BLOWS/FT | NUMBER | IN. RECOVERED IN. DRIVEN | POCKET PENE-TROMETER, TSF | N VALUE | □ BLOWS/FOOT | | W.C. |
| 0 | Clayey SAND; loose, moist, brown, fine to medium grained with organics and occasional gravel [Topsoil] | | | 3 | 5 | | | 9/18 | | | | | |
| 0.75 | | | | 3 | | | | 50% | | | | | |
| 3.5 | Clayey SAND with Gravel; loose, moist, brown, fine to medium grained with trace organics and occasional oxidation and minerals [Alluvium] | | 5113.5 | 5 | 7 | | | 16/18 | | | | | |
| | | | | 4 | | | | 89% | | | | | |
| 5.0 | Sandy Lean CLAY (CL); firm, moist, brown [Alluvium] | | 5110 | | | | | 19/24 | | | | | |
| 7 | Grades stiff with trace gravel below 7.0 feet | | | 4 | 9 | | | 79% | | | | | |
| | | | | 5 | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | 4 | | | | | | | | | |
| 10.5 | Grades firm with trace oxidation below 10.0 feet | | | 3 | 7 | | | 12/18 | | | | | |
| | | | | 4 | | | | 67% | | | | | |
| 11.75 | Poorly Graded GRAVEL with Silt and Sand; medium dense, moist, gray, medium to coarse grained [Alluvium] | | 5103 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 14 | | | | 20 | 24 | | | 0/18 | | | | | |
| | | | | 15 | | | | 0% | | | | | |
| | | | | 9 | | | | | | | | | |
| 17.5 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 21 | Grades very dense and dry below 20.0 feet | | 5096 | 10 | 57 | | | 9/18 | | | | | |
| | | | | 23 | | | | 50% | | | | | |
| | | | | 34 | | | | | | | | | |
| 21.5 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Moisture = 19.6%
 -200 = 75.4%
 LL = 39
 PI = 18
 Cc = 0.14
 Cs = 0.01
 Collapse = 0.5%
 Dry Unit Wt = 100.9 pcf

Moisture = 18.4%
 -200 = 68.1%
 Driller noted layer change at 11.75 feet

Piezometer completed as follows:
 - 0.0 - 15.0 feet bfg PVC
 - 15.0 - 20.0 feet bfg slotted PVC
 - 13.0 - 20.0 feet bfg sand
 - 11.5 - 13.0 feet bfg bentonite seal
 - Piezometer left 3.0 feet above grade and flagged

| | | | | | | |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|--|-----------|-----------|------------|-----------|
| | DOWL | | STARTED | 6-10-19 | FINISHED | 6-10-19 |
| | 945 Lincoln Steet, P.O. Box 1655 | | DRILL CO. | Haz Tech | DRILL RIG | BK-81 |
| | Lander, WY 82520 | | DRILLER | Paul Bray | HAMMER | 140# Auto |
| | Telephone: (307) 332-3285 | | LOGGED BY | B Roberts | CHECKED BY | K Jones |
| Fax: (307) 332-5795 | | | | | | |

| | |
|--|---|
| CLIENT Wyoming Game and Fish | PROJECT Cody Regional Office |
| SITE Cody, Wyoming | BOREHOLE LOCATION See Figure - Shop Footprint |

Surface Elevation: 5115

Notes/Remarks: 4 1/4" ID HSA Borehole Termination Depth (ft): 21.5 feet Initial Water Depth: Final Water Depth:

| DEPTH (FT.) | MATERIAL DESCRIPTION | GRAPHIC LOG | ELEVATION (FT) | SAMPLES | | | | TESTS | | | | ADDITIONAL DATA/REMARKS | | |
|-------------|--|-------------|----------------|-------------|--------------|------------|--------|--------------------------|---------------------------|---------|------|-------------------------|------------|--|
| | | | | BULK DRIVEN | BLOWS PER 6" | N BLOWS/FT | NUMBER | IN. RECOVERED IN. DRIVEN | POCKET PENE-TROMETER, TSF | N VALUE | W.C. | | BLOWS/FOOT | LL |
| 0 | Clayey SAND; loose, moist, brown, fine to medium grained, with organics and trace gravel [Topsoil] | | 5113.5 | 3 | 5 | | | 11/18 | | | | | | |
| 0.75 | | | | 2 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3.5 | Clayey SAND; loose, moist, brown, fine to medium grained with occasional gravel and trace organics and minerals [Alluvium] | | | 3 | 6 | | | 11/18 | | | | | | Moisture = 14.5% -200 = 45.7% |
| 5.0 | | | 5110 | 2 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 7 | Sandy Lean CLAY (CL); stiff, moist, brown with trace gravel [Alluvium] | | | 4 | 12 | | | 14/18 | | | | | | Moisture = 20.3% -200 = 76.0% LL = 31 PI = 16 |
| | | | | 5 | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Grades without gravel and trace oxidation below 7.5 feet | | 5106.5 | 3 | 9 | | | 14/18 | | | | | | |
| | | | | 4 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 10.5 | Grades very stiff below 10.0 feet | | | 2 | 20 | | | 12/18 | | | | | | Moisture = 17.7% |
| | | | | 4 | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | 16 | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Poorly Graded GRAVEL with Silt and Sand; medium dense, moist, greenish-gray, fine to medium grained [Alluvium] | | 5103 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 14 | | | | 32 | 92 | | | 12/18 | | | | | | Moisture = 2.2% -200 = 7.0% Sand = 42.0% Gravel = 51.0% |
| | Grades dry and very dense with trace cobbles below 15.0 feet | | 5099.5 | 42 | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | 50/ | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | 6 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 17.5 | | | 5096 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 21 | Grades dense below 20.0 feet | | | 20 | 43 | | | 12/18 | | | | | | |
| | | | | 18 | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | 25 | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | 21.5 | | | | | | | | | | | |



DOWL
 945 Lincoln Steet, P.O. Box 1655
 Lander, WY 82520
 Telephone: (307) 332-3285
 Fax: (307) 332-5795

| | | | |
|-----------|-----------|------------|-----------|
| STARTED | 6-10-19 | FINISHED | 6-10-19 |
| DRILL CO. | Haz Tech | DRILL RIG | BK-81 |
| DRILLER | Paul Bray | HAMMER | 140# Auto |
| LOGGED BY | B Roberts | CHECKED BY | K Jones |

| | |
|--|---|
| CLIENT Wyoming Game and Fish | PROJECT Cody Regional Office |
| SITE Cody, Wyoming | BOREHOLE LOCATION See Figure - Parking Area |

Surface Elevation: 5112
 Notes/Remarks: 4 1/4" ID HSA Borehole Termination Depth (ft): **6.5 feet** Initial Water Depth: Final Water Depth:

| DEPTH (FT.) | MATERIAL DESCRIPTION | GRAPHIC LOG | ELEVATION (FT) | SAMPLES | | | | TESTS | | | | ADDITIONAL DATA/REMARKS | |
|-------------|--|-------------|----------------|-------------|--------------|------------|--------|--------------------------|---------------------------|---------|------------|-------------------------|------|
| | | | | BULK DRIVEN | BLOWS PER 6" | N BLOWS/FT | NUMBER | IN. RECOVERED IN. DRIVEN | POCKET PENE-TROMETER, TSF | N VALUE | BLOWS/FOOT | | W.C. |
| 0 | Clayey SAND with Gravel; loose, moist, brown, fine to medium grained with organics [Topsoil] | | | 3 | 7 | | | | | | | | |
| 0.5 | | | 5110 | 3 | | | | 6/18 | | | | | |
| | Clayey SAND; loose, moist, brown, fine to medium grained with occasional gravel, trace oxidation, and severe mineralization [Alluvium] | | | 4 | | | | 33% | | | | | |
| 3.5 | | | | 3 | 9 | | | BK-1 | | | | | |
| | | | | 4 | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | 5 | | | | 12/18 | | | | | |
| | | | | 5 | | | | 67% | | | | | |
| 2.5 | | | | 3 | 13 | | | | | | | | |
| | Sandy CLAY; stiff, moist, brown [Alluvium] | | | 6 | | | | | | | | | |
| | Grades with occasional mineralization below 5.0 feet | | 5106.5 | 6 | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | 7 | | | | 13/18 | | | | | |
| | | | | 7 | | | | 72% | | | | | |

| | | | | | |
|--|----------------------------------|-----------|-----------|------------|-----------|
| | DOWL | STARTED | 6-11-19 | FINISHED | 6-11-19 |
| | 945 Lincoln Steet, P.O. Box 1655 | DRILL CO. | Haz Tech | DRILL RIG | BK-81 |
| | Lander, WY 82520 | DRILLER | Paul Bray | HAMMER | 140# Auto |
| | Telephone: (307) 332-3285 | LOGGED BY | B Roberts | CHECKED BY | K Jones |
| | Fax: (307) 332-5795 | | | | |



DOWL SOIL CLASSIFICATION/LEGEND

| Unified Soil Classification System | | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|--|------------------------|
| Criteria for Assigning Group Symbols and Names | | | Soil Classification | | |
| | | | Generalized Group Descriptions | | |
| COARSE-GRAINED SOILS More than 50% retained on No. 200 sieve | GRAVELS More than 50% of coarse fraction retained on No. 4 sieve | CLEAN GRAVELS Less than 5% fines | GW | Well-Graded gravels | |
| | | GRAVELS w/ FINES More than 12% fines | GP | Poorly graded gravels | |
| | | | GM | Gravel and silt mixtures | |
| | FINE-GRAINED SOILS 50% or more passes the No. 200 sieve | SANDS 50% or more of coarse fraction passes No. 4 sieve | CLEAN SANDS Less than 5% fines | GC | Gravel & clay mixtures |
| | | | SANDS with FINES More than 12% fines | SW | Well-graded sands |
| | | | | SP | Poorly-graded sands |
| SILTS & CLAYS Liquid limit less than 50 | | INORGANIC | INORGANIC | SM | Sand and silt mixtures |
| | | | | SC | Sand and clay mixtures |
| | | | CL | Low-plasticity clays | |
| SILTS & CLAYS Liquid limit Greater than 50 | ORGANIC | INORGANIC | ML | Non-plastic and low-plasticity silts | |
| | | | OL | Non-plastic and low-plasticity organic silts | |
| | | CH | High-plasticity clays | | |
| HIGHLY ORGANIC SOILS | Primarily organic matter, dark in color and organic odor | ORGANIC | MH | High-plasticity silts | |
| | | | OH | High-plasticity organic clays | |
| | | | PT | peat | |

| Component Definitions By Gradation | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Component | Size Range |
| Boulders | Larger than 12-in. |
| Cobbles | 3-in. to 12-in. |
| Gravel | 3-in. to No. 4 (4.75 mm) |
| Coarse gravel | 3-in. to ¾-in. |
| Fine gravel | ¾-in. to No. 4 (4.75 mm) |
| Sand | No. 4 (4.75 mm) to No. 200 (.075 mm) |
| Coarse sand | No. 4 (4.75 mm) to No. 10 (2.0 mm) |
| Medium sand | No. 10 (2.0 mm) to No. 40 (0.425 mm) |
| Fine sand | No. 40 (0.425 mm) to No. 200 (0.074 mm) |
| Silt and Clay | Smaller than No. 200 (0.075 mm) |

| Samples | |
|----------------|-------------------------------|
| SS | Split Spoon Sampler (2.0" OD) |
| LSS | Large Split Spoon (3.0" OD) |
| q _p | Pocket Penetrometer |
| SH | Shelby Tube |
| DM | Dames and Moore Sampler |
| Cut | Cuttings Sample |
| B | Bulk (BB or SB) |
| C | Cored |

Unless otherwise noted, drive samples advanced with 140-lb. hammer and 30-in. drop.

| Relative Density or Consistency Utilizing Standard Penetration Test Values | | | | | |
|---|---------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|---|
| Cohesionless Soils ^(a) | | | Cohesive Soils ^(b) | | |
| Density ^(c) | N blows/ft ^(c) | Relative Density (%) | Consistency | N blows/ft ^(c) | Undrained Shear Strength ^(d) (psf) |
| Very loose | 0 to 4 | 0 - 15 | Very soft | 0 to 2 | <250 |
| Loose | 4 to 10 | 15 - 35 | Soft | 2 to 4 | 250 - 500 |
| Medium Dense | 10 to 30 | 35 - 65 | Medium Stiff | 4 to 8 | 500 - 1000 |
| Dense | 30 to 50 | 65 - 85 | Stiff | 8 to 15 | 1000 - 2000 |
| Very Dense | Over 50 | >85 | Very Stiff | 15 to 30 | 2000 - 4000 |
| | | | Hard | Over 30 | >4000 |

- (a) Soils consisting of gravel, sand, and silt, either separately or in combination, possessing no characteristics of plasticity and exhibiting drained behavior.
- (b) Soils possessing the characteristics of plasticity, and exhibiting undrained behavior.
- (c) Undrained shear strength = ½ unconfined compressive strength.
- (d) Q_p - Denotes pocket penetrometer field measurement (tons per square foot) approximation to unconfined compressive strength.

| Laboratory Tests | |
|---------------------------------|----------------|
| Test | Designation |
| Moisture | M |
| Density | D |
| Grain Size | G |
| Hydrometer | H |
| Atterberg Limits | LL, PI |
| Consolidation | C |
| Unconfined | U |
| UU Triax | UU |
| CU Triax | CU |
| CD Triax | CD |
| Permeability | P |
| Unconfined Compressive Strength | Q _c |

| Descriptive Terminology Denoting Component Proportions | |
|--|-------------------------|
| Descriptive Terms | Range of Proportion (%) |
| Trace | 0 - 5 |
| Little | 5 - 12 |
| Some or Adjective ^(a) | 12 - 30 |
| And | 30 - 50 |

(a) Use gravelly, sandy or silty as appropriate.

| Silt and Clay Descriptions | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Description | Typical Unified Designation |
| Silt | ML (non-plastic) |
| Clayey Silt | CL-ML (low plasticity) |
| Silty Clay, Lean Clay | CL |
| Clay, Fat Clay | CH |
| Plastic Silt | MH |
| Organic Soils | OL, OH, Pt |

Cody Regional Office

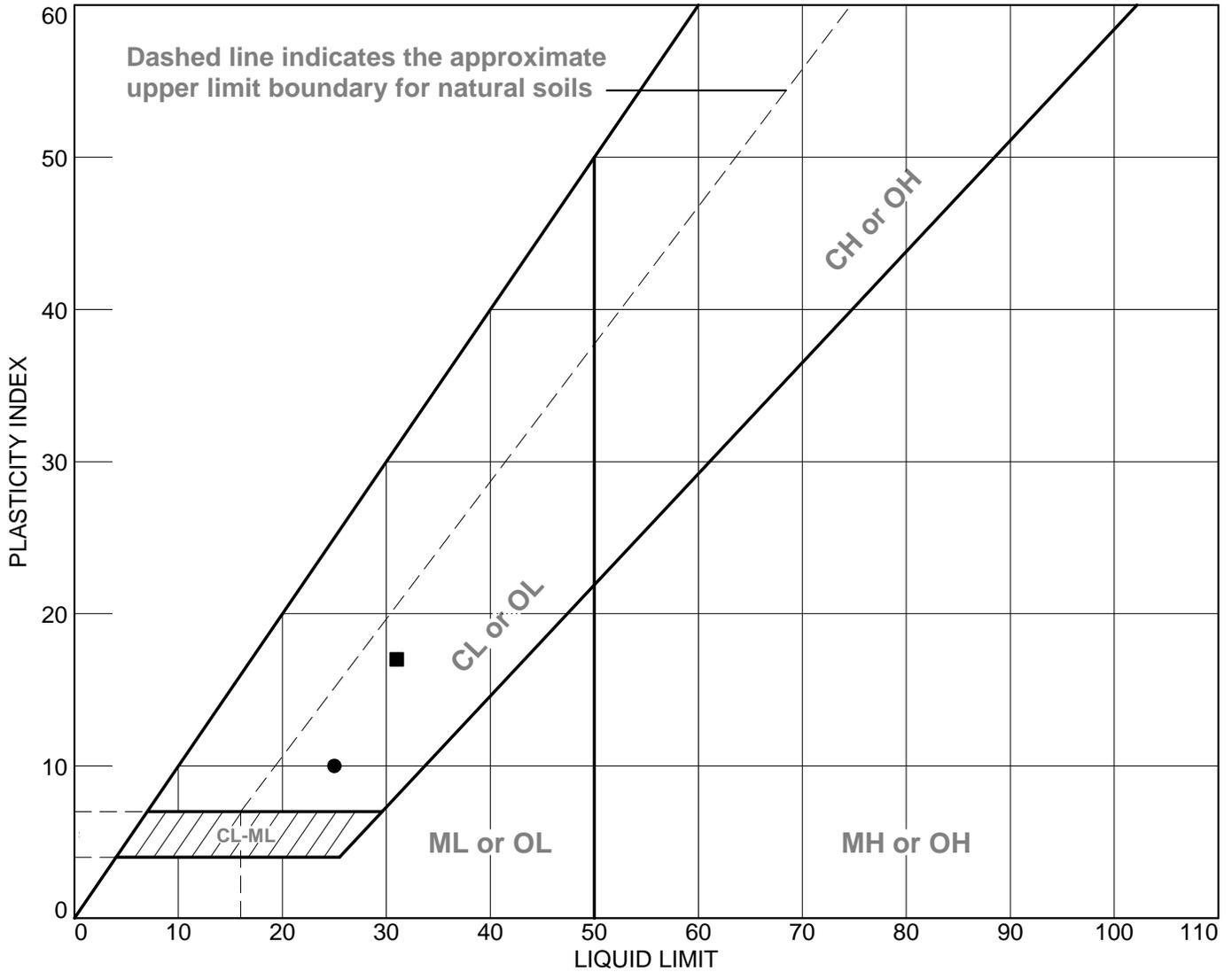
Cody, Wyoming

Appendix C

Laboratory Test Results



LIQUID AND PLASTIC LIMITS TEST REPORT



SOIL DATA

| SYMBOL | SOURCE | SAMPLE NO. | DEPTH | NATURAL WATER CONTENT (%) | PLASTIC LIMIT (%) | LIQUID LIMIT (%) | PLASTICITY INDEX (%) | USCS |
|--------|--------|------------|-------|---------------------------|-------------------|------------------|----------------------|------|
| ● | BH-2 | SS-2 | 2.5 | 12.4 | 15 | 25 | 10 | SC |
| ■ | BH-2 | SS-4 | 7.5 | 14.9 | 14 | 31 | 17 | CL |



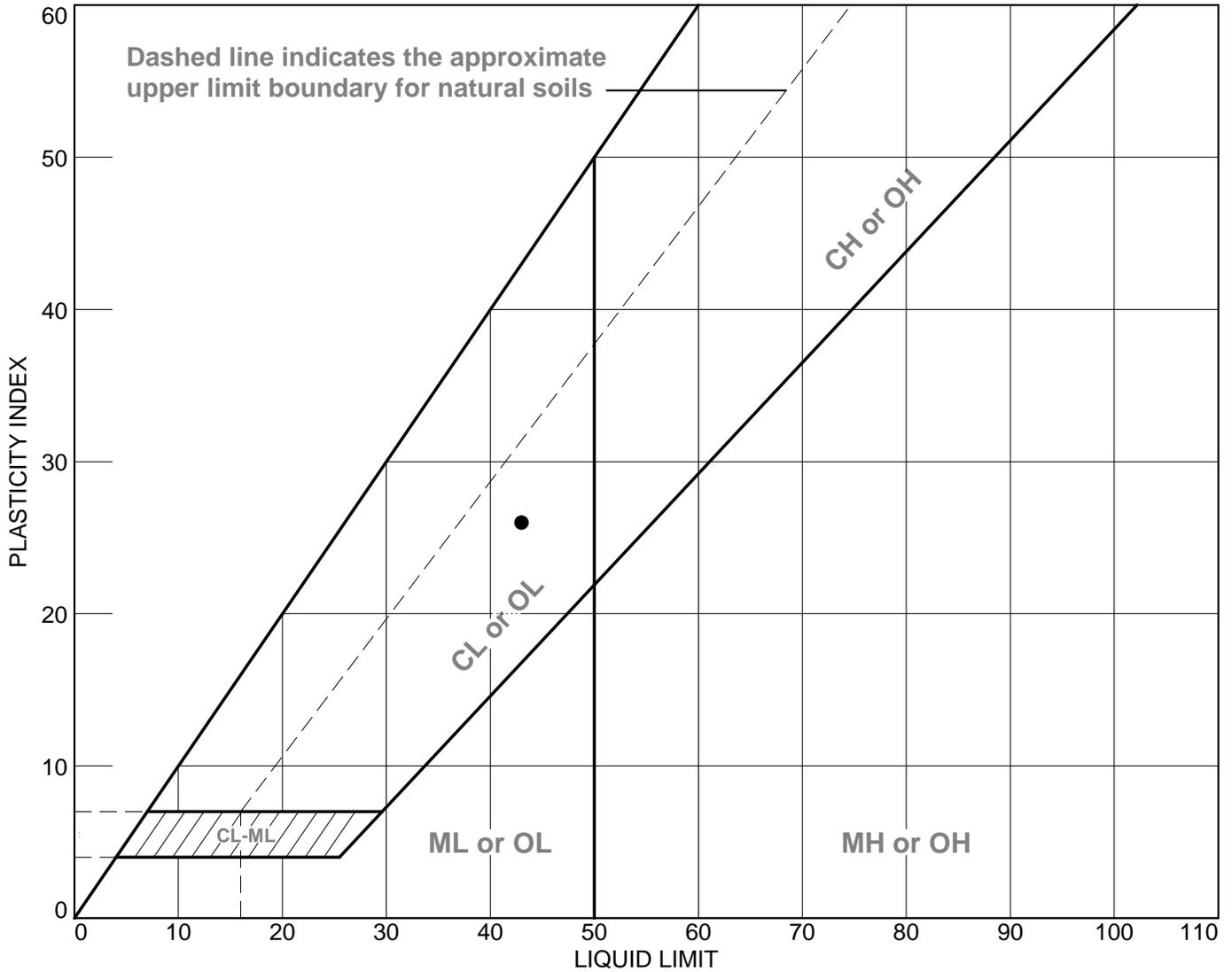
Client: Wyoming Game and Fish

Project: Cody Regional Office

Project No.: 5231.26969.01

Figure

LIQUID AND PLASTIC LIMITS TEST REPORT



SOIL DATA

| SYMBOL | SOURCE | SAMPLE NO. | DEPTH | NATURAL WATER CONTENT (%) | PLASTIC LIMIT (%) | LIQUID LIMIT (%) | PLASTICITY INDEX (%) | USCS |
|--------|--------|------------|-------|---------------------------|-------------------|------------------|----------------------|------|
| ● | BH-3 | SS-3 | 5.0 | 19.4 | 17 | 43 | 26 | CL |



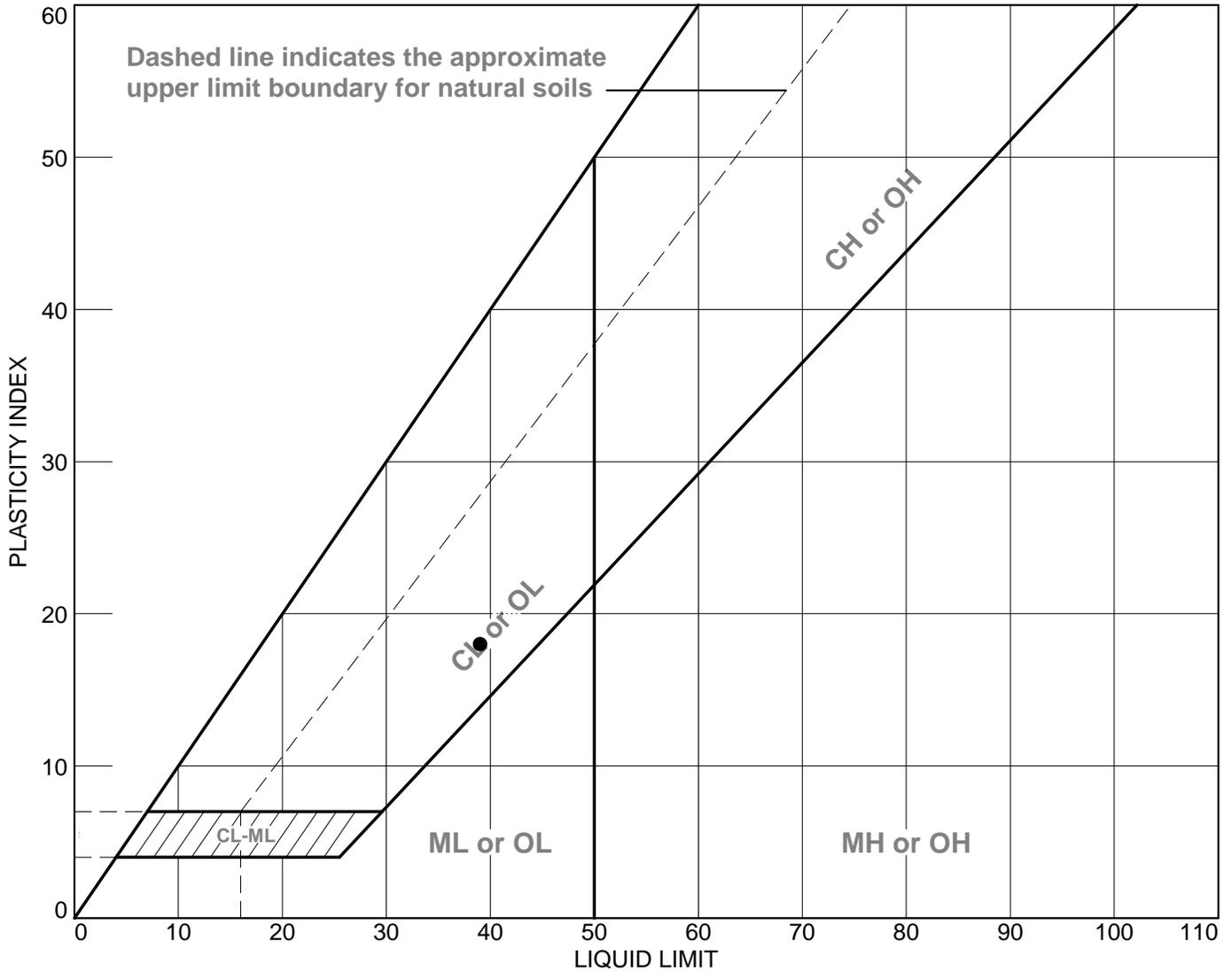
Client: Wyoming Game and Fish

Project: Cody Regional Office

Project No.: 5231.26969.01

Figure

LIQUID AND PLASTIC LIMITS TEST REPORT



SOIL DATA

| SYMBOL | SOURCE | SAMPLE NO. | DEPTH | NATURAL WATER CONTENT (%) | PLASTIC LIMIT (%) | LIQUID LIMIT (%) | PLASTICITY INDEX (%) | USCS |
|--------|--------|------------|-------|---------------------------|-------------------|------------------|----------------------|------|
| ● | BH-5 | SH-1 | 5.0 | 19.6 | 21 | 39 | 18 | CL |



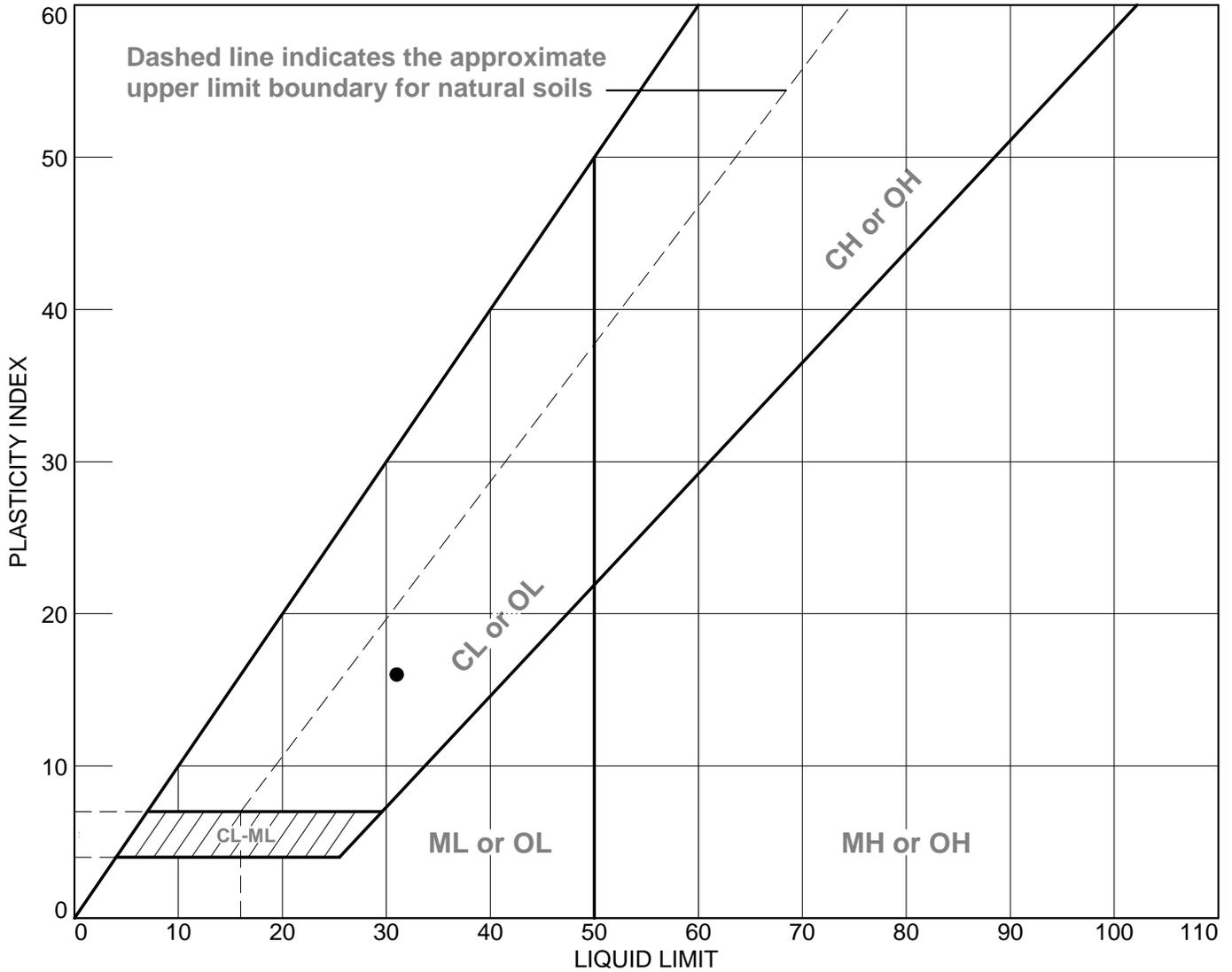
Client: Wyoming Game and Fish

Project: Cody Regional Office

Project No.: 5231.26969.01

Figure

LIQUID AND PLASTIC LIMITS TEST REPORT



SOIL DATA

| SYMBOL | SOURCE | SAMPLE NO. | DEPTH | NATURAL WATER CONTENT (%) | PLASTIC LIMIT (%) | LIQUID LIMIT (%) | PLASTICITY INDEX (%) | USCS |
|--------|--------|------------|-------|---------------------------|-------------------|------------------|----------------------|------|
| ● | BH-6 | SS-3 | 5.0 | 20.3 | 15 | 31 | 16 | CL |



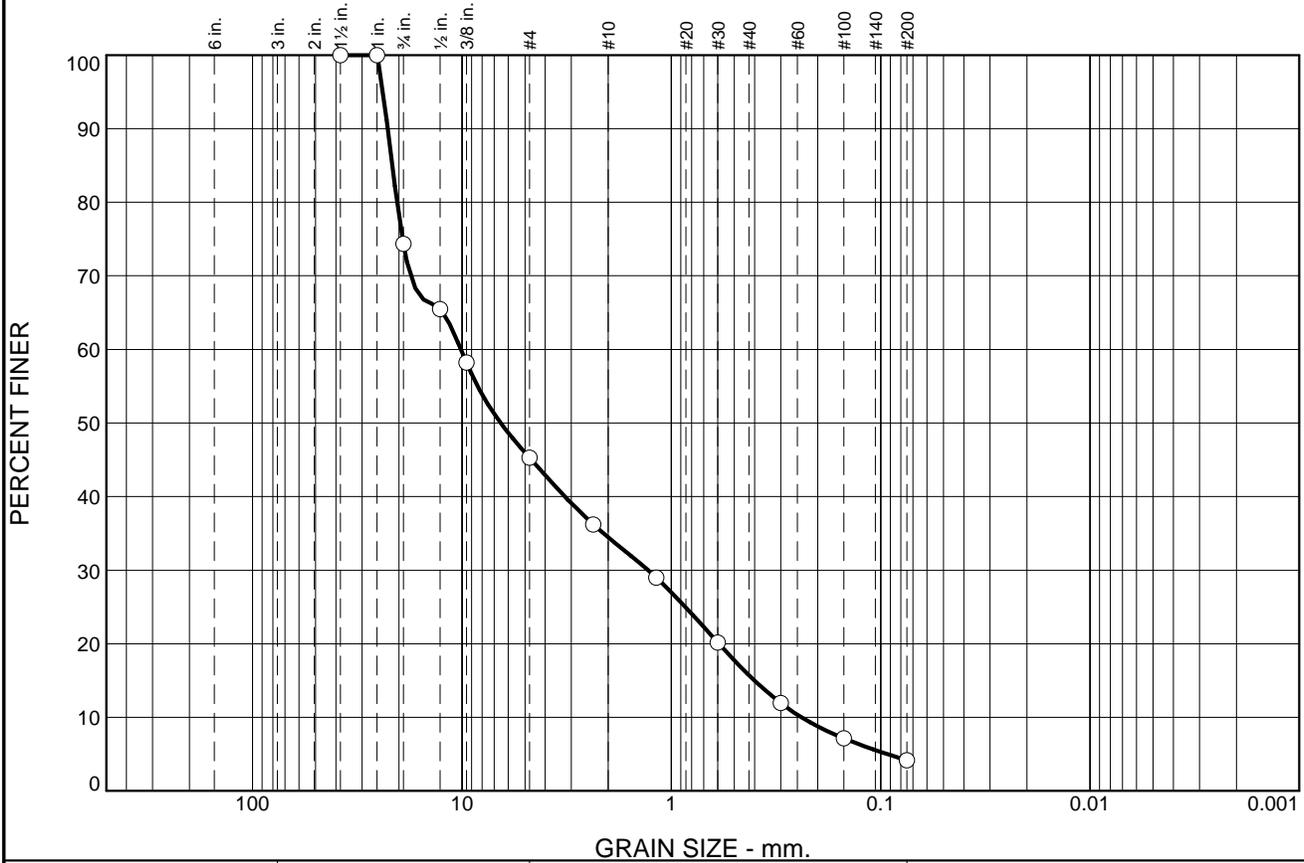
Client: Wyoming Game and Fish

Project: Cody Regional Office

Project No.: 5231.26969.01

Figure

Particle Size Distribution Report



| % +3" | % Gravel | | % Sand | | | % Fines | |
|-------|----------|------|--------|--------|------|---------|------|
| | Coarse | Fine | Coarse | Medium | Fine | Silt | Clay |
| 0 | 26 | 29 | 11 | 18 | 12 | 4 | |

| SIEVE SIZE | PERCENT FINER | SPEC.* PERCENT | PASS? (X=NO) |
|------------|---------------|----------------|--------------|
| 1-1/2" | 100 | | |
| 1" | 100 | | |
| 3/4" | 74 | | |
| 1/2" | 65 | | |
| 3/8" | 58 | | |
| #4 | 45 | | |
| #8 | 36 | | |
| #16 | 29 | | |
| #30 | 20 | | |
| #50 | 12 | | |
| #100 | 7 | | |
| #200 | 4.2 | | |

Material Description

Sand and gravel

Atterberg Limits

PL= LL= PI=

Coefficients

D₉₀= 22.5832 D₈₅= 21.4792 D₆₀= 10.1163
D₅₀= 6.5376 D₃₀= 1.2913 D₁₅= 0.4002
D₁₀= 0.2386 C_u= 42.40 C_c= 0.69

Classification

USCS= GP AASHTO=

Remarks

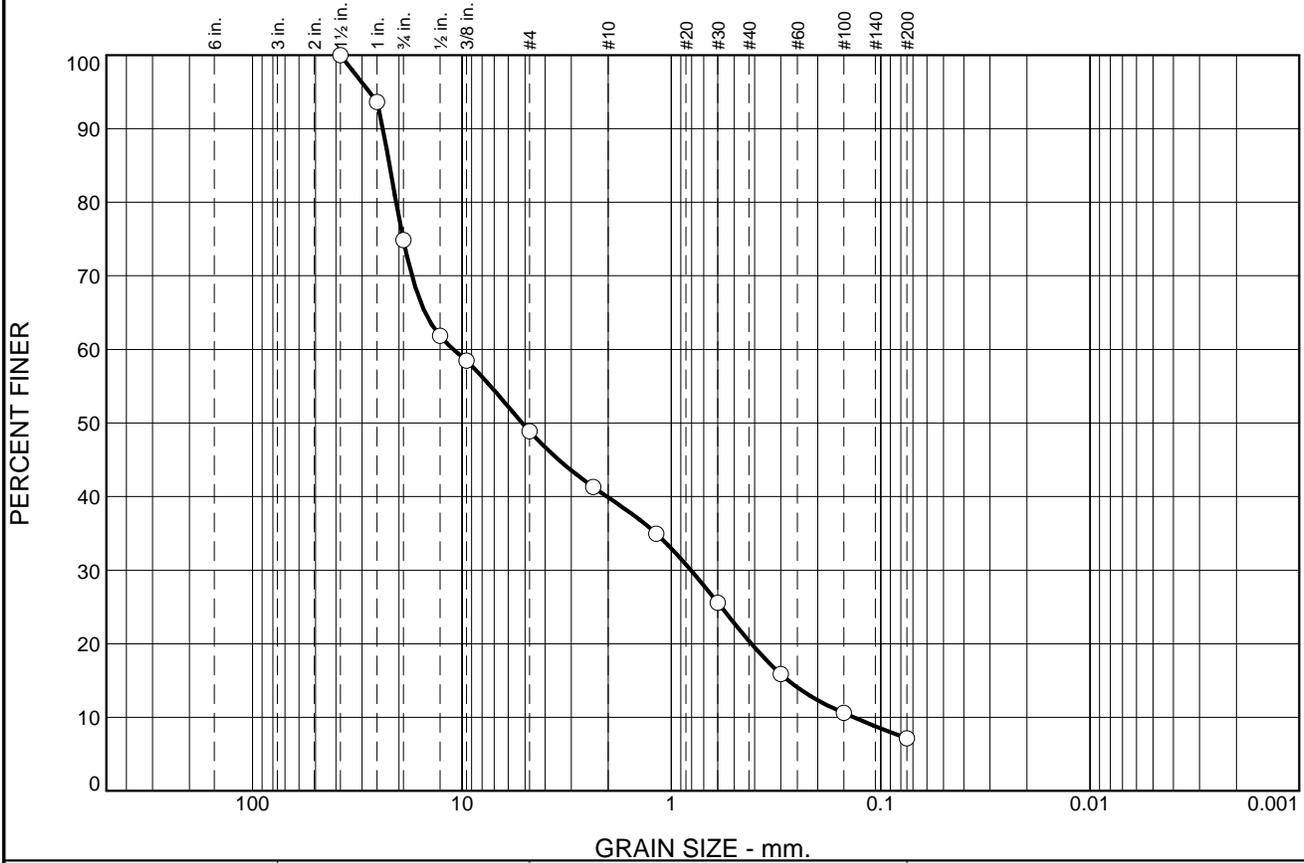
* (no specification provided)

Source of Sample: BH-3 **Depth:** 20-21.5' **Date:** 6/20/19
Sample Number: SS-6

| | |
|---------------|--------------------------------------|
| | Client: DOWL/ WGFD |
| | Project: Cody Regional Office |
| | Project No: 5231.26969.01 |
| Figure | |

Tested By: AJW **Checked By:** JAK

Particle Size Distribution Report



| % +3" | % Gravel | | % Sand | | | % Fines | |
|-------|----------|------|--------|--------|------|---------|------|
| | Coarse | Fine | Coarse | Medium | Fine | Silt | Clay |
| 0 | 25 | 26 | 9 | 20 | 13 | 7 | |

| SIEVE SIZE | PERCENT FINER | SPEC.* PERCENT | PASS? (X=NO) |
|------------|---------------|----------------|--------------|
| 1-1/2" | 100 | | |
| 1" | 94 | | |
| 3/4" | 75 | | |
| 1/2" | 62 | | |
| 3/8" | 58 | | |
| #4 | 49 | | |
| #8 | 41 | | |
| #16 | 35 | | |
| #30 | 26 | | |
| #50 | 16 | | |
| #100 | 11 | | |
| #200 | 7.1 | | |

Material Description

Sand and Gravel

Atterberg Limits

PL= LL= PI=

Coefficients

D₉₀= 23.8253 D₈₅= 22.1211 D₆₀= 10.9572
D₅₀= 5.1544 D₃₀= 0.8064 D₁₅= 0.2759
D₁₀= 0.1343 C_u= 81.57 C_c= 0.44

Classification

USCS= AASHTO=

Remarks

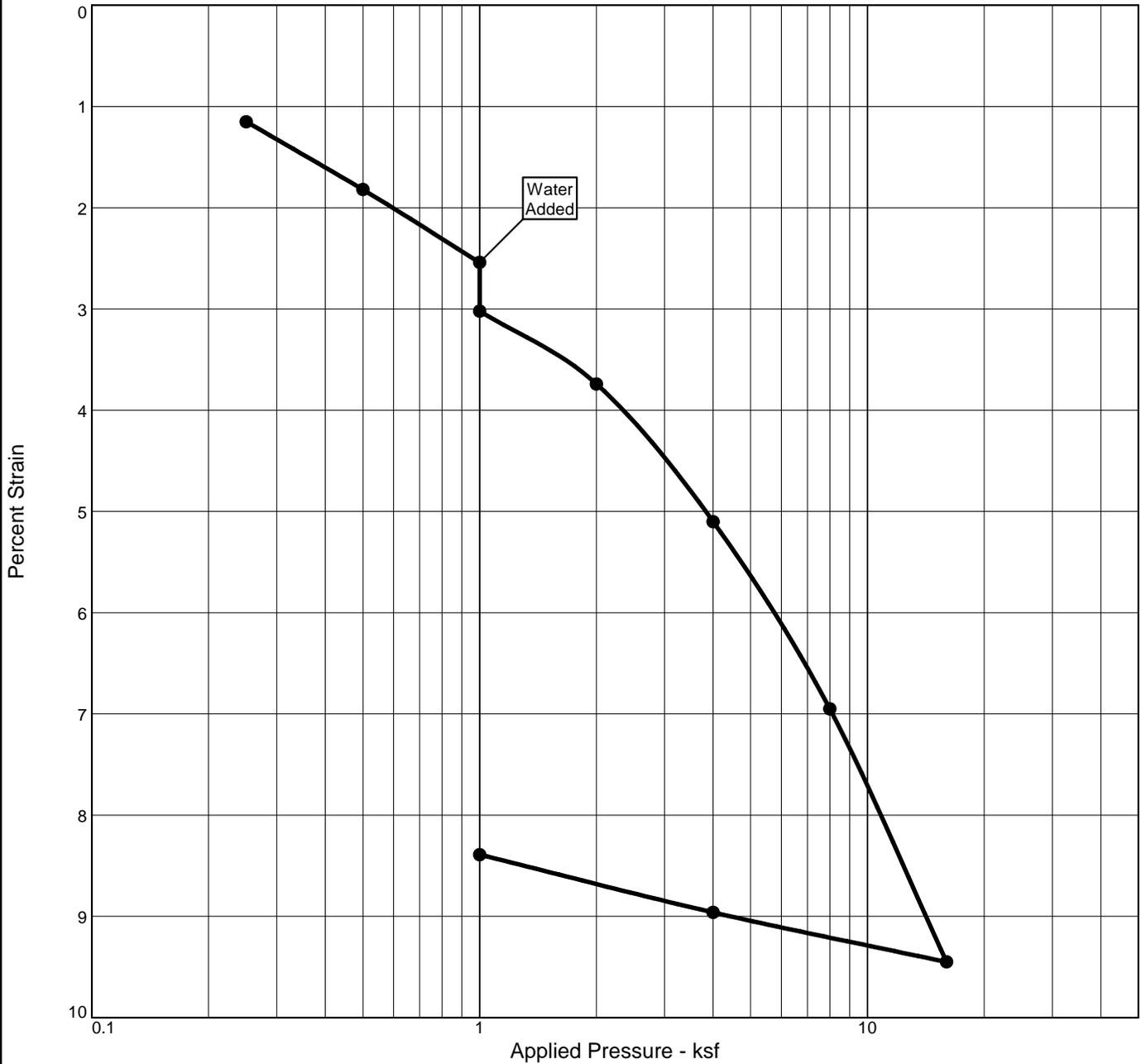
* (no specification provided)

Source of Sample: BH-6 **Depth:** 15-16.5' **Date:** 6/20
Sample Number: SS-6

| | | |
|---|---|---|
|  | Client: DOWL/ WGFD Project: Cody Regional Office | Project No: 5231.26969.01 Figure |
|---|---|---|

Tested By: AJW **Checked By:** JAK

CONSOLIDATION TEST REPORT



| Natural | | Dry Dens. (pcf) | LL | PI | Sp. Gr. | Overburden (ksf) | P _c (ksf) | C _c | C _s | Swell Press. (ksf) | Clpse. % | e ₀ |
|---------|--------|-----------------|----|----|---------|------------------|----------------------|----------------|----------------|--------------------|----------|----------------|
| Sat. | Moist. | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 77.5 % | 19.6 % | 99.0 | 39 | 18 | 2.65 | 0.71 | 3.8 | 0.14 | 0.01 | | 0.5 | 0.671 |

| MATERIAL DESCRIPTION | USCS | AASHTO |
|--|------|--------|
| Sandy CLAY (CL); firm, moist, brown [Alluvium] | CL | |

| | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| Project No. 5231.26969.01 Client: Wyoming Game and Fish Project: Cody Regional Office Source of Sample: BH-5 Depth: 5.0 Sample Number: SH-1 | Remarks: |
|---|-----------------------------|

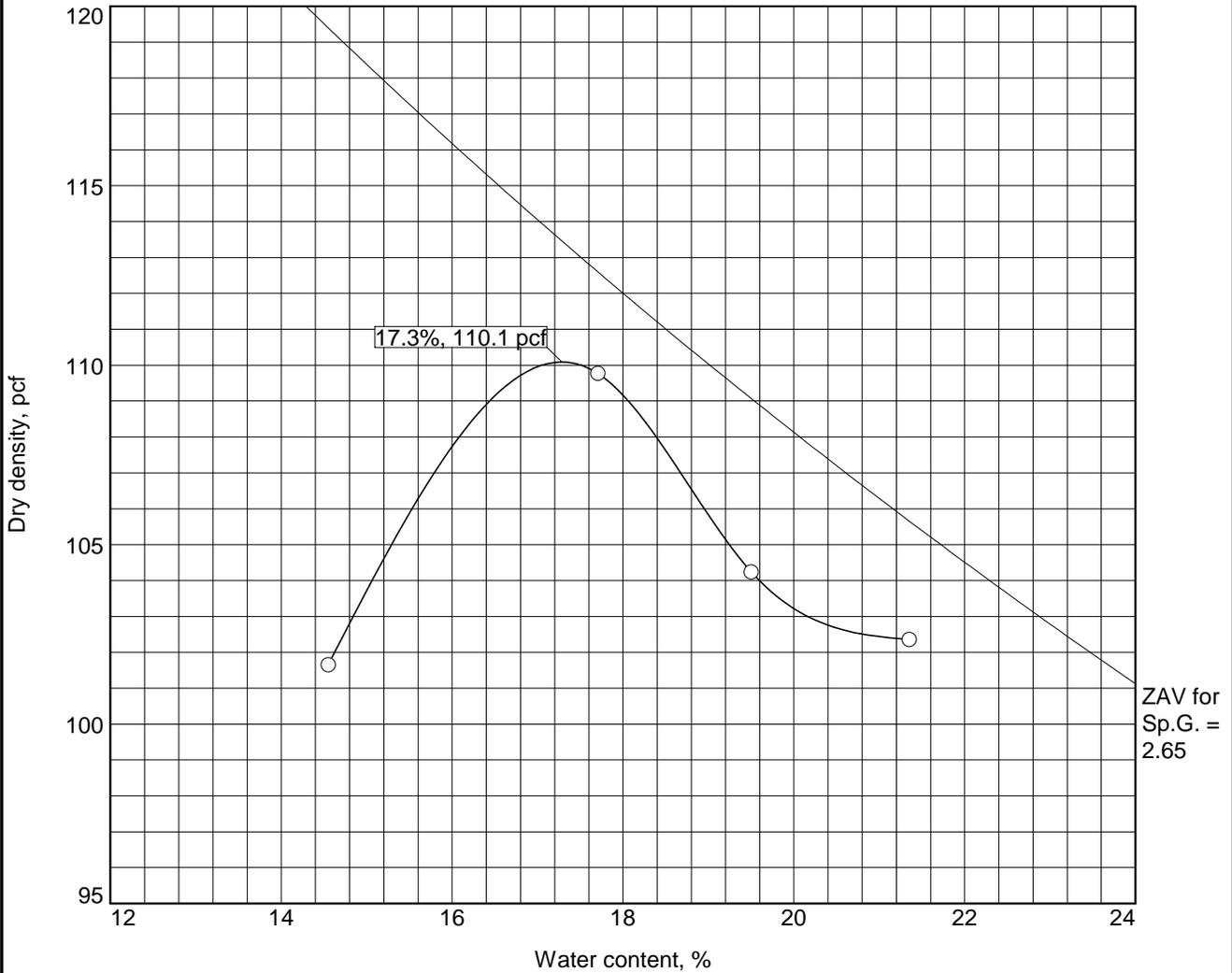


Figure

Tested By: S Brown

Checked By: K Jones

COMPACTION TEST REPORT



Test specification: ASTM D 698-12 Method A Standard

| Elev/ Depth | Classification | | Nat. Moist. | Sp.G. | LL | PI | % > #4 | % < No.200 |
|----------------|----------------|--------|----------------|-------|----|----|-----------|---------------|
| | USCS | AASHTO | | | | | | |
| 2-5' | | | | 2.65 | | | 0 | |

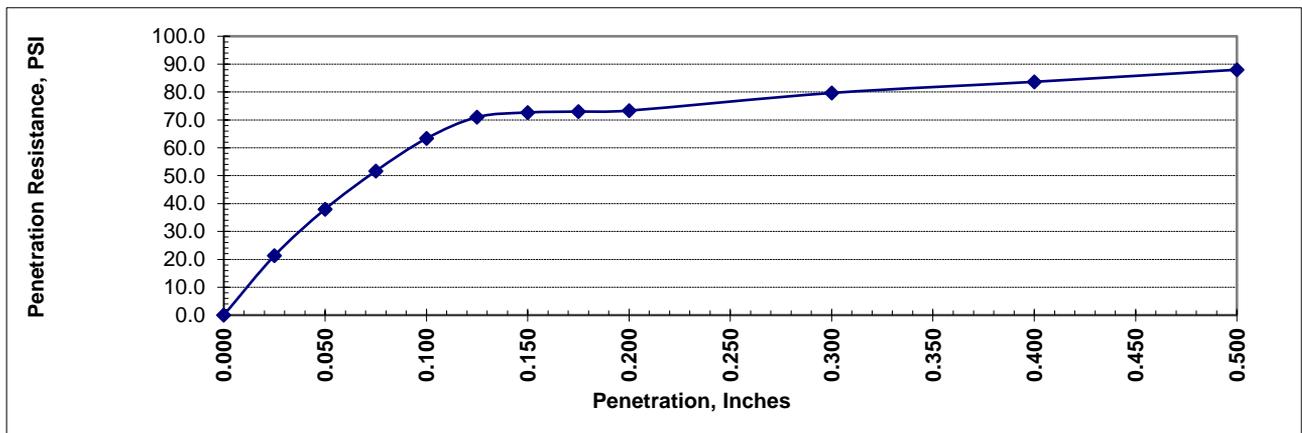
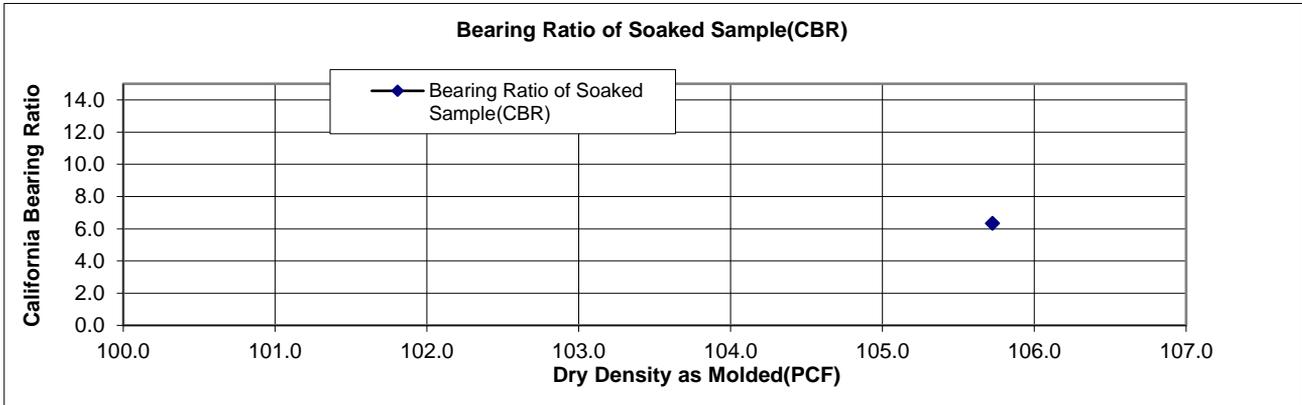
| TEST RESULTS | MATERIAL DESCRIPTION |
|---|----------------------|
| Maximum dry density = 110.1 pcf Optimum moisture = 17.3 % | Sandy Brown Clay |
| Project No. 5231.26969.0 Client: DOWL/ WGFD Project: Cody Regional Office <input type="radio"/> Source of Sample: BH-7 Sample Number: Bulk | Remarks: |
|  | |

Figure

Tested By: AJD

Checked By: JAK

CALIFORNIA BEARING RATIO



ASTM: D698

Maximum Dry Density: 110.1

Optimum Moisture: 17.3%

TEST RESULTS

Percent of Maximum Dry Density 96.0%
 Dry Density As Molded(pcf) 105.7
 Dry Density After 96 Hour Soak(pcf) 101.1
 Moisture Content(%):
 Before Compaction 18.7%
 After Compaction 16.1%
 Top 1" After Soak 24.1%
 Average After Soak 22.8%
 Swell(% of Initial Height) 0.4%
 Surcharge Amount(psf) 50.9
 Bearing Ratio of Soaked Sample(CBR) 6.3

| Point #1 | Point #2 | Point #3 | ATTERBERG LIMITS | |
|----------|----------|----------|------------------|--|
| 96.0% | | | LIQUID LIMIT | |
| 105.7 | | | PLASTIC LIMIT | |
| 101.1 | | | PLASTIC INDEX | |
| | | | CLASSIFICATION | |
| | | | USCS | |
| | | | AASHTO | |
| | | | DESCRIPTION | |
| | | | Brown Sandy Silt | |

Remarks:

PROJECT: Cody Regional Office
 PROJECT NO.: 5231.26969.01
 LOCATION: BH-7
 DEPTH: 5-7'
 SAMPLE NO.: Bulk

LAB NO.: 1437
 SAMPLED BY: DOWL
 DATE SAMPLED:
 DATE TESTED: 6/24/2019

ELEMENT MATERIALS TESTING

ALASKA

| | | |
|-----------|--------------|--|
| Anchorage | 907.562.2000 | 4041 B Street, Anchorage, AK 99503 |
| Fairbanks | 907.374.0275 | 1901 Airport Way, Suite 102, Fairbanks, AK 99701 |
| Juneau | 907.780.3533 | 368 Commercial Boulevard, Juneau, AK 99801 |
| Ketchikan | 907.220.0682 | 1225 Tongass Avenue, Suite 4A, Ketchikan, AK 99901 |
| Kodiak | 907.512.0519 | 104 Center Avenue, Suite 206, Kodiak, AK 99615 |
| Palmer | 907.746.7600 | 705 South Bailey, Suite 200, Palmer, AK 99645 |

ARIZONA

| | | |
|--------|--------------|---|
| Tempe | 480.753.0800 | 430 W. Warner Road, Suite B101, Tempe, AZ 85284 |
| Tucson | 520.882.8696 | 406 North Church Avenue, Tucson, AZ 85701 |

COLORADO

| | | |
|----------|--------------|--|
| Denver | 303.674.1256 | 1597 Cole Boulevard, Suite 320, Lakewood, CO 80401 |
| Montrose | 970.249.6828 | 222 South Park Avenue, Montrose, CO 81401 |

MONTANA

| | | |
|------------|--------------|---|
| Billings | 406.656.6399 | 222 N. 32nd Street, Suite 700, Billings, MT 59101 |
| Bozeman | 406.586.8834 | 2090 Stadium Drive, Bozeman, MT 59715 |
| Butte | 406.723.8213 | 130 North Main Street, Suite 100, Butte, MT 59701 |
| Helena | 406.442.0370 | 1300 Cedar Street, Helena, MT 59601 |
| Miles City | 406.234.6666 | 713 Pleasant, Miles City, MT 59301 |

OREGON

| | | |
|----------|--------------|--|
| Bend | 541.385.4772 | 963 SW Simpson Avenue, Suite 200, Bend, OR 97702 |
| Portland | 971.280.8641 | 720 SW Washington Street, Portland, OR 97205 |

WASHINGTON

| | | |
|---------|--------------|---|
| Redmond | 425.869.2670 | 8420 154th Avenue NE, Redmond, WA 98052 |
| Seattle | 206.946.8115 | 701 Fifth Avenue, Suite 4120, Seattle, WA 98104 |

WYOMING

| | | |
|----------|--------------|--|
| Gillette | 307.686.4181 | 1901 Energy Court, Suite 170, Gillette, WY 82718 |
| Lander | 307.332.3285 | 945 Lincoln Street, Lander, WY 82520 |
| Laramie | 307.742.3816 | 1575 N. 4th Street, Suite 105, Laramie, WY 82072 |
| Sheridan | 307.672.9006 | 16 W. 8th Street, Sheridan, WY 82801 |



945 Lincoln Street | Lander, WY 82520
307-332-3285

APPENDIX D: Wetlands and Floodplains



Source: Esri, Maxar, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community

July 9, 2020

Wetlands

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
|  Estuarine and Marine Deepwater |  Freshwater Emergent Wetland |  Lake |
|  Estuarine and Marine Wetland |  Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland |  Other |
| |  Freshwater Pond |  Riverine |

This map is for general reference only. The US Fish and Wildlife Service is not responsible for the accuracy or currentness of the base data shown on this map. All wetlands related data should be used in accordance with the layer metadata found on the Wetlands Mapper web site.

National Flood Hazard Layer FIRMMette



109°4'45"W 44°32'47"N



Legend

SEE FIS REPORT FOR DETAILED LEGEND AND INDEX MAP FOR FIRM PANEL LAYOUT

| | | |
|----------------------------|--|---|
| SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARD AREAS | | Without Base Flood Elevation (BFE) <i>Zone A, V, A99</i> |
| | | With BFE or Depth <i>Zone AE, AO, AH, VE, AR</i> |
| | | Regulatory Floodway |

| | | |
|-----------------------------|--|--|
| OTHER AREAS OF FLOOD HAZARD | | 0.2% Annual Chance Flood Hazard, Areas of 1% annual chance flood with average depth less than one foot or with drainage areas of less than one square mile <i>Zone X</i> |
| | | Future Conditions 1% Annual Chance Flood Hazard <i>Zone X</i> |
| | | Area with Reduced Flood Risk due to Levee. See Notes. <i>Zone X</i> |
| | | Area with Flood Risk due to Levee <i>Zone D</i> |

| | | |
|--------------------|--|--|
| OTHER AREAS | | NO SCREEN Area of Minimal Flood Hazard <i>Zone X</i> |
| | | Effective LOMRs |
| | | Area of Undetermined Flood Hazard <i>Zone D</i> |
| GENERAL STRUCTURES | | Channel, Culvert, or Storm Sewer |
| | | Levee, Dike, or Floodwall |

| | | |
|----------------|--|---|
| OTHER FEATURES | | 20.2 Cross Sections with 1% Annual Chance |
| | | 17.5 Water Surface Elevation |
| | | Coastal Transect |
| | | Base Flood Elevation Line (BFE) |
| | | Limit of Study |
| | | Jurisdiction Boundary |
| | | Coastal Transect Baseline |
| | | Profile Baseline |
| | | Hydrographic Feature |

| | | |
|------------|--|--|
| MAP PANELS | | Digital Data Available |
| | | No Digital Data Available |
| | | Unmapped |
| | | The pin displayed on the map is an approximate point selected by the user and does not represent an authoritative property location. |



This map complies with FEMA's standards for the use of digital flood maps if it is not void as described below. The basemap shown complies with FEMA's basemap accuracy standards

The flood hazard information is derived directly from the authoritative NFHL web services provided by FEMA. This map was exported on **7/9/2020 at 4:41 PM** and does not reflect changes or amendments subsequent to this date and time. The NFHL and effective information may change or become superseded by new data over time.

This map image is void if the one or more of the following map elements do not appear: basemap imagery, flood zone labels, legend, scale bar, map creation date, community identifiers, FIRM panel number, and FIRM effective date. Map images for unmapped and unmodernized areas cannot be used for regulatory purposes.

NOTES TO USERS

This map is for use in administering the National Flood Insurance Program. It does not necessarily identify all areas subject to flooding, particularly from local drainage sources of small size. The community map repository should be consulted for possible updates or additional flood hazard information.

To obtain more detailed information in areas where **Base Flood Elevations (BFEs)** and/or **Floodways** have been determined, users are encouraged to consult the Flood Profile and Floodway Data and/or a Floodway Study report that accompanies this FIRMA. Users should be aware that the FIRMA report that accompanies this FIRMA includes rounded whole-foot elevations. These BFEs are intended for flood insurance rating purposes only and should not be used as the sole source of flood elevation information. Accordingly, flood elevation data presented in the FIRMA should be utilized in conjunction with the FIRMA for purposes of construction and/or floodplain management.

Coastal Base Flood Elevations shown on this map apply only to landward of 100' North American Vertical Datum of 1988 (NAVD 88). Users of this FIRMA should be aware that coastal flood elevations are also provided in the Summary of Saltwater Elevations table in the Flood Insurance Study report for this jurisdiction. Elevations shown in the Summary of Saltwater Elevations table should be used for construction and/or floodplain management purposes when they are higher than the elevations shown on this FIRMA.

Boundaries of the Floodways were computed at cross sections and interpolated between cross sections. The floodways were based on hydraulic considerations with regard to requirements of the National Flood Insurance Program. Floodway width and other pertinent floodway data are provided in the Flood Insurance Study report for this jurisdiction.

Certain areas not in Special Flood Hazard Areas may be protected by flood control structures. Refer to Section 2.1 "Flood Protection Measures" of the Flood Insurance Study report for information on flood control structures for this jurisdiction.

The projection used in the preparation of this map was Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) zone 12. The horizontal datum was NAD83. GRS1980 spheroid. Differences in datum, spheroid, projection or UTM zone used in the production of FIRMA for adjacent jurisdictions may result in slight positional differences in map features across jurisdiction boundaries. These differences do not affect the accuracy of this FIRMA.

Flood elevations on this map are referenced to the North American Vertical Datum of 1988. These flood elevations must be compared to structure and ground elevations referenced to the same vertical datum. For information regarding conversions between the National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1955 and the North American Vertical Datum of 1988, visit the National Geodetic Survey website at <http://www.ngs.noaa.gov> or contact the National Geodetic Survey at the following address:

NGS Information Services
 NGA/NVNS12
 National Geodetic Survey
 SSMC-3, 62025
 1315 East-West Highway
 Silver Spring, MD 20910-2292

To obtain current elevation, description, and/or location information for bench marks shown on this map, please contact the Information Services Branch of the National Geodetic Survey at (301) 713-3042, or visit its website at <http://www.ngs.noaa.gov>.

Base map information shown on this FIRMA was provided by the Wyoming Geographic Information Science Center. The Base Map data is current as of 2006.

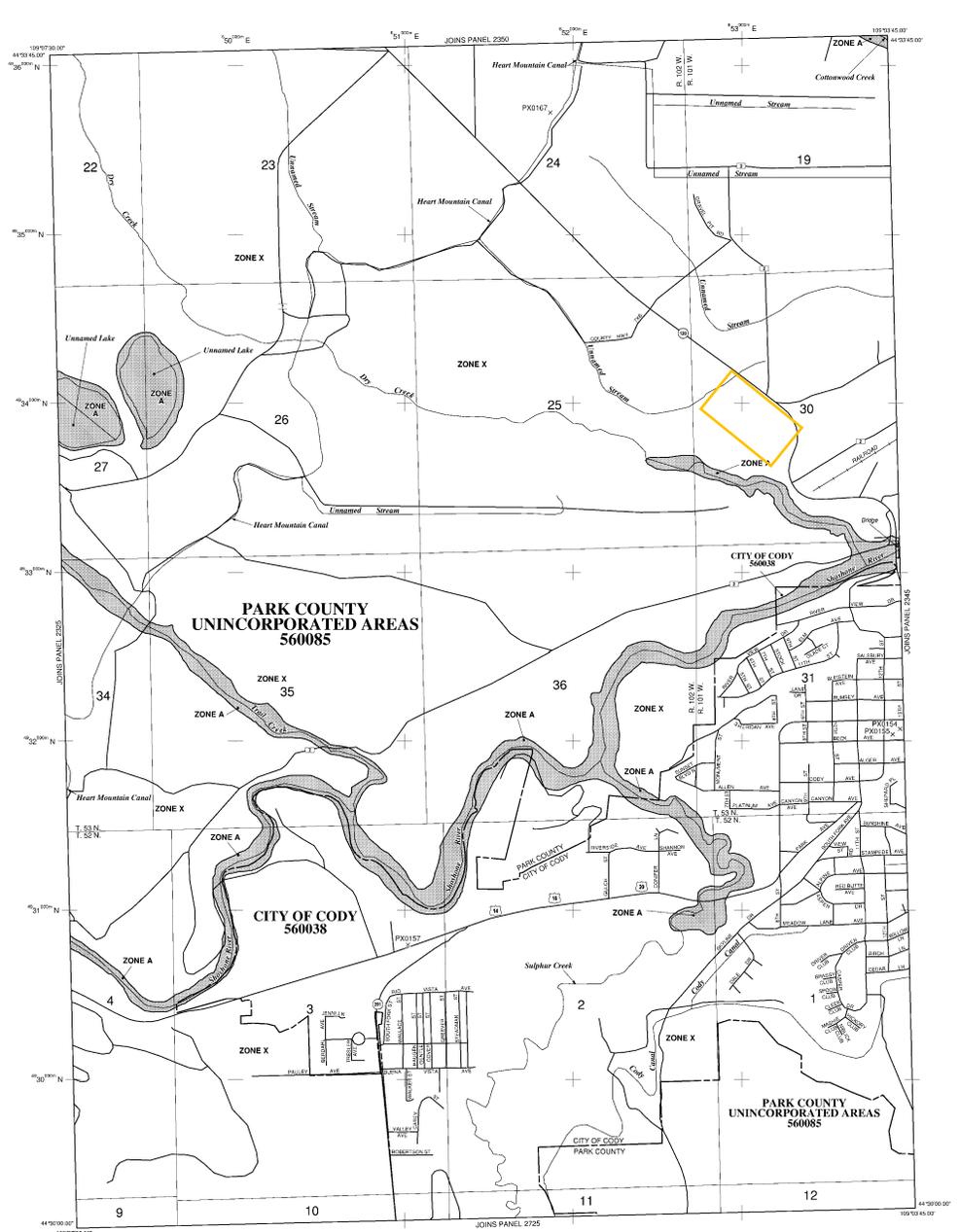
This map reflects more detailed and up-to-date stream channel configurations than those shown on the previous FIRMA for this jurisdiction. The floodways and floodways that were transferred from the previous FIRMA map have been adjusted to conform to these new stream channel configurations. As a result, the Flood Profile and Floodway Data tables on the Flood Insurance Study report (which contains authoritative hydraulic data) may reflect stream channel distances that differ from what is shown on this map.

Corporate limits shown on this map are based on the best data available at the time of publication. Because changes due to annexations or de-annexations may have occurred after this map was published, map users should contact appropriate community officials to verify current corporate limit locations.

Please refer to the separately printed **Map Index** for an overview map of the county showing the layout of map panels, community map repository addresses, and a listing of Communities table containing National Flood Insurance Program data for each community as well as a listing of the panels on which each community is located.

Contact the **FEMA Map Service Center** at 1-800-358-3615 for information on available products associated with this FIRMA. Available products may include previously issued Letters of Map Change, a Flood Insurance Study report, and/or digital versions of the map. The FEMA Map Service Center may also be reached by Fax at 1-800-358-9620 and its website at <http://www.fema.gov>.

If you have **questions** about this map or questions concerning the National Flood Insurance Program in general, please call 1-877-FEMA-MAP (1-877-364-6277) or visit the FEMA website at <http://www.fema.gov>.



LEGEND

- SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARD AREAS (SFHAs) SUBJECT TO FLOODING BY THE 1% ANNUAL CHANCE FLOOD**
 The 1% annual chance flood (100-year flood), also known as the base flood, is the flood that has a 1% chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year. The Special Flood Hazard Area is the area subject to flooding by the 1% annual chance flood. Areas of Special Flood Hazard include Zone A, Zone X, Zone D, Zone V, Zone VE, and Zone VI. The Base Flood Elevation is the water surface elevation of the 1% annual chance flood.
- ZONE A**
 No Base Flood Elevations determined.
- ZONE AE**
 Base Flood Elevation determined.
- ZONE AH**
 Flood depths of 1 to 3 feet (usually areas of ponds); Base Flood Elevation determined.
- ZONE AO**
 Flood depths of 1 to 3 feet (usually sheet flow on sloping terrain); average depths determined; Base Flood Elevation determined.
- ZONE AR**
 Special Flood Hazard Area formed by protection from the 1% annual chance flood by a flood control system that was subsequently determined to be inadequate. An area within the former flood control system is being returned to protection from the 1% annual chance or greater flood.
- ZONE AVS**
 Area to be protected from the 1% annual chance flood by a Federal flood control system under construction; no Base Flood Elevation determined.
- ZONE V**
 Coastal flood zone with velocity hazard (wave action); no Base Flood Elevation determined.
- ZONE VE**
 Coastal flood zone with velocity hazard (wave action); Base Flood Elevation determined.
- FLOODWAY AREAS IN ZONE AE**
 Floodway
- OTHER FLOOD AREAS**
 ZONE X
 Areas of 0.2% annual chance flood; areas of 1% annual chance flood with average depths of less than 1 foot or with changes in area less than 1 square mile; and areas protected by levees from 1% annual chance flood.
- OTHER AREAS**
 ZONE H
 Areas determined to be outside the 0.2% annual chance floodplain.
- ZONE D**
 Areas in which flood hazards are undetermined, but possible.
- COASTAL BARRIER RESOURCES SYSTEM (CBRS) AREAS**
 CBRS areas and CBRS are normally located within or adjacent to Special Flood Hazard Areas.
- OTHERWISE PROTECTED AREAS (OPAs)**
 CBRS areas and OPAs are normally located within or adjacent to Special Flood Hazard Areas.
- BOUNDARIES**
 Floodplain boundary
 Floodway boundary
 Zone A boundary
 Zone D boundary
 CBRS and OPA boundary
- BOUNDARY**
 Boundary defining Special Flood Hazard Areas of different Base Flood Elevation, Flood Depth, or Flood Velocity
- BASE FLOOD ELEVATION LINE AND VALUE, ELEVATION IN FEET**
 Base Flood Elevation line and value, elevation in feet
 Base Flood Elevation value where uniform within zone; elevation in feet
- BASE FLOOD ELEVATION VALUE UNIFORM WITHIN ZONE; ELEVATION IN FEET**
 * Referenced to the North American Vertical Datum of 1988 (NAVD 88)
- CROSS SECTION LINE**
 Cross section line
- TRANSIT LINE**
 91°07'30" W, 31°02'30" N
- COMMUNITY BOUNDARIES**
 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid lines, zone 12
 500-foot grid lines, New York State Plane coordinate system, east zone (PROJNAD 2011)
- BENCH MARK (SEE EXPLANATION IN NOTES TO USERS SECTION OF THIS FIRMA)**
 M 5.5
 River M&M
- MAP REVISION HISTORY**
 Refer to Map Repository or on Map Index
- EFFECTIVE DATE OF COUNTYWIDE FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAP**
 June 18, 2010
- EFFECTIVE DATES OF REVISIONS TO THIS PANEL**

For community map revision history prior to community mapping, refer to the Community Map History table located in the Flood Insurance Study report for this jurisdiction.

To determine if flood insurance is available in this community, contact your insurance agent or call the National Flood Insurance Program at 1-800-625-6620.

MAP SCALE 1" = 1000'
 0 100 200 300 FEET
 0 100 200 300 METERS

NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM

PANEL 2340D

FIRM FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAP

PARK COUNTY, WYOMING AND INCORPORATED AREAS

PANEL 2340 OF 4275
 (SEE MAP INDEX FOR FIRM PANEL LAYOUT)

CONTAINS:

| | | | |
|--------------|--------|-------|--------|
| COMMUNITY | NUMBER | PANEL | SUFFIX |
| PARK COUNTY | 06085 | 2340 | D |
| CODY CITY OF | 06038 | 2340 | D |

Note to User: The Map Number shown below should be used when placing map orders. The Community Number shown above should be used on insurance applications for the insured community.

MAP NUMBER 56028C2340D
EFFECTIVE DATE JUNE 18, 2010

Federal Emergency Management Agency

APPENDIX E: USFWS Ecological Services Consultation



WYOMING GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

5400 Bishop Blvd. Cheyenne, WY 82006

Phone: (307) 777-4600 Fax: (307) 777-4699

wgfd.wyo.gov

GOVERNOR
MARK GORDON

DIRECTOR
BRIAN R. NESVIK

COMMISSIONERS
DAVID RAEL – President
PETER J. DUBE – Vice President
RALPH BROKAW
GAY LYNN BYRD
PATRICK CRANK
RICHARD LADWIG
MIKE SCHMID

March 2, 2020

Mr. Tyler Abbott
Wyoming Ecological Services
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
334 Parsley Boulevard
Cheyenne, WY 82007

RE: Cody Regional Office Project Consultation

Mr. Abbott,

In compliance with the National Environmental Protection Agency and Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973 and its governing regulations (40 CFR Part 1500), the Wyoming Game and Fish Department is requesting your office to review a project that is in early stages of development.

The Wyoming Game and Fish Department (Department) intends to seek grant funding from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service for the purpose of constructing a Regional Office in Park County in late 2020. Our office has recently acquired a 21.7-acre parcel of land approximately 0.8 miles north of Cody adjacent to State Highway 120 in the Big Horn Basin where we intend to construct the facility.

Project Name:

Cody Regional Office

Project Description:

The design plans and engineering for the construction of an office facility is in the preliminary stages and is anticipated to include at least 20,000 square feet of office space and a 5,000 square foot outbuilding. The exact placement of the structure on the property has yet to be determined. Construction is expected to begin in spring of 2021.

Location:

Section 30, Township 53 North, Range 101 West of the 6th P.M. Park County.

Funding Agency:

At this time, only Department funds are being expended for this project. Other funding applications have not yet been submitted. At the conclusion of all of our data gathering

and planning, we intend to apply to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for funding to support this project.

Current Land Use:

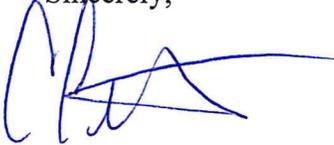
Agriculture – cultivated hayfield

Internally, we have consulted with Zack Walker, Statewide Nongame Bird and Mammal Program Supervisor; Corey Class, Cody Wildlife Management Coordinator; and Amanda Withroder, Habitat Protection Program. They responded stating, “the proposed building site is not within any big game crucial winter range, and is located in sage-grouse non-core area greater than two miles from any occupied leks.” Additionally, they do not have concerns or considerations regarding potential impacts to any Threatened or Endangered Species or nesting raptors.

We respectfully request your consideration for concurrence with the determination of no adverse effect to: threatened, endangered, proposed, or candidate species; critical habitat; and/or ecosystems regarding this project.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at 307-777-5345 or by email at casi.crites1@wyo.gov. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Casi Crites', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Casi Crites
Federal Aid Coordinator

Enclosures

cc: Files



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
334 Parsley Boulevard
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82007

In Reply Refer to:
06E13000-2020-I-0181

April 3, 2020

Casi Crites, Federal Aid Coordinator
Wyoming Game and Fish Department
5400 Bishop Boulevard
Cheyenne, Wyoming, 82006

Dear Ms. Crites:

Thank you for your letter of March 2, 2020, received in our office on March 17, regarding the proposed Cody Regional Office Project (Project). This Project will construct a 20,000 square foot office space with an additional 5,000 square foot out building. Construction is proposed to begin in the spring of 2021. This Project is located 0.8 mile from Cody adjacent to Highway 120, in Park County, Wyoming; Township 53 North, Range 101 West, Section 30.

We are writing in response to your inquiry related to species listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), species of special concern, or migratory birds. We have indicated the response we believe best meets your request using the checkboxes below.

- You requested a list of endangered, threatened, proposed, and/or candidate species, and designated or proposed critical habitat that may occur in the area of your Project. In an effort to expedite information sharing, we created an Information, Planning, and Conservation System (IPAC), available on-line at <http://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/>. IPAC can be used to identify any potential federally listed species or critical habitat in your Project area by using the "Initial Project Scoping" tool. For species identified by IPAC, you should review the recommendations and measures at http://www.fws.gov/wyominges/species_endangered.php.
- Based on information from your request, our understanding of the nature of the project, local conditions, and current information on federally listed species:
 - We have not identified any issues relative to species or critical habitat listed under the ESA.
 - The ESA does not require the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to concur with "no effect" determinations; however, we appreciate receiving the information used to support your conclusion.
 - We concur with your "may affect, not likely to adversely affect" determination for federally listed species and designated critical habitat.

INTERIOR REGION 5
MISSOURI BASIN

KANSAS, MONTANA*, NEBRASKA, NORTH DAKOTA,
SOUTH DAKOTA

*PARTIAL

INTERIOR REGION 7
UPPER COLORADO RIVER BASIN

COLORADO, NEW MEXICO, UTAH, WYOMING

- Your Project should be re-analyzed if Project plans change, if new information on the distribution of listed or proposed species or critical habitat becomes available, or if new information reveals effects to listed or proposed species or critical habitat not previously considered.

We appreciate your efforts to conserve endangered, threatened, and candidate species and migratory birds. If you have any questions regarding this letter or your responsibilities under the ESA or other authorities, please contact Lisa Solberg Schwab of my office at the letterhead address or phone (307) 367-5340.

Sincerely,

for Tyler A. Abbott
Field Supervisor
Wyoming Field Office

cc: WGFD, Federal Aid Coordinator, Cheyenne, WY (C. Crites (casi.crites1@wyo.gov)
WGFD, Statewide Habitat Protection Program, Cheyenne, WY (wgfd.hpp@wyo.gov)



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Wyoming Ecological Services Field Office
334 Parsley Boulevard
Cheyenne, WY 82007-4178
Phone: (307) 772-2374 Fax: (307) 772-2358
<http://www.fws.gov/wyominges/>

In Reply Refer To:

July 09, 2020

Consultation Code: 06E13000-2020-SLI-0002

Event Code: 06E13000-2020-E-00971

Project Name: Cody Regional Office

Subject: Updated list of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project location, and/or may be affected by your proposed project

To Whom It May Concern:

The enclosed species list identifies threatened, endangered, proposed and candidate species, as well as proposed and final designated critical habitat, that may occur within the boundary of your proposed project and/or may be affected by your proposed project. The species list fulfills the requirements of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) under section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

New information based on updated surveys, changes in the abundance and distribution of species, changed habitat conditions, or other factors could change this list. Please note that under 50 CFR 402.12(e) of the regulations implementing section 7 of the ESA, the accuracy of this species list should be verified after 90 days. This verification can be completed formally or informally as desired. The Service recommends that verification be completed by visiting the ECOS-IPaC website at regular intervals during project planning and implementation for updates to species lists and information. An updated list may be requested through the ECOS-IPaC system by completing the same process used to receive the enclosed list.

Please feel free to contact us if you need more information or assistance regarding the potential impacts to federally proposed, listed, and candidate species and federally designated and proposed critical habitat. We also encourage you to visit the Wyoming Ecological Services website at https://www.fws.gov/wyominges/species_endangered.php.

The purpose of the ESA is to provide a means whereby threatened and endangered species and the ecosystems upon which they depend may be conserved. Under sections 7(a)(1) and 7(a)(2) of the ESA and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 402 *et seq.*), federal agencies are required to utilize their authorities to carry out programs for the conservation of threatened and endangered

species and to determine whether projects may affect threatened and endangered species and/or designated critical habitat.

A Biological Assessment is required for construction projects (or other undertakings having similar physical impacts) that are major federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment as defined in the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(c)). For projects other than major construction activities, the Service suggests that a biological evaluation similar to a Biological Assessment be prepared to determine whether the project may affect listed or proposed species and/or designated or proposed critical habitat. Recommended contents of a Biological Assessment are described at 50 CFR 402.12.

If a federal agency determines, based on the Biological Assessment or biological evaluation, that listed species and/or designated critical habitat may be affected by the proposed project, the agency is required to consult with the Service pursuant to 50 CFR 402. In addition, the Service recommends that candidate species, proposed species and proposed critical habitat be addressed within the consultation. More information on the regulations and procedures for section 7 consultation, including the role of permit or license applicants, can be found in the "Endangered Species Consultation Handbook" at: <http://www.fws.gov/endangered/esa-library/pdf/TOC-GLOS.PDF>.

We also recommend you consider the following information when assessing impacts to federally listed species, as well as migratory birds, and other trust resources:

Colorado River and Platte River Systems: Federal agencies must consult with the Service under section 7 of the ESA for projects in Wyoming that may lead to water depletions or have the potential to impact water quality in the Colorado River system or the Platte River system, because these actions may affect threatened and endangered species inhabiting the downstream reaches of these river systems. In general, depletions include evaporative losses and/or consumptive use of surface or groundwater within the affected basin, often characterized as diversions minus return flows. Project elements that could be associated with depletions include, but are not limited to: ponds, lakes, and reservoirs (e.g., for detention, recreating, irrigation, storage, stock watering, municipal storage, and power generation); hydrostatic testing of pipelines; wells; dust abatement; diversion structures; and water treatment facilities. For more information on consultation requirements for the Platte River species, please visit <https://www.fws.gov/platteriver/>.

Migratory Birds: The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. 703-712; MBTA) prohibits the taking of any migratory birds, their parts, nests, or eggs except as permitted by regulations. Except for introduced species and some upland game birds, almost all birds occurring in the wild in the United States are protected (50 CFR 10.13). On December 22, 2017, the Department of the Interior Solicitor's Office issued an opinion that the MBTA's prohibitions on pursuing, hunting, taking, capturing, killing, or attempting to do the same apply only to affirmative actions that have as their purpose the taking or killing of migratory birds, their nests, or their eggs.

While the opinion (M-37050) states that the MBTA prohibition on the taking or killing of migratory birds applies only to deliberate acts, project activities should avoid, to the extent possible, sensitive periods and habitats to conserve healthy populations of migratory birds. See our website for more information and example conservation measures at https://www.fws.gov/wyominges/species_migratory.php. Guidance for minimizing impacts to migratory birds for projects that include communication towers can be found at <https://www.fws.gov/birds/management/project-assessment-tools-and-guidance/guidance-documents/communication-towers.php>.

The Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 668-668d; Eagle Act) prohibits knowingly taking, or taking with wanton disregard for the consequences of an activity, any bald or golden eagles or their body parts, nests, or eggs, which includes collection, molestation, disturbance, destruction, or killing. Eagle nests are protected whether they are active or inactive. Removal or destruction of nests, or causing abandonment of a nest could constitute a violation of the Eagle Act. Projects affecting eagles may require development of an eagle conservation plan (https://www.fws.gov/ecological-service/es-library/pdfs/Eagle_Conservation_Guidance-Module%201.pdf). Additionally, wind energy projects should follow the wind energy guidelines (<https://www.fws.gov/ecological-service/energy-development/wind.html>) for minimizing impacts to migratory birds and bats.

In addition to MBTA and the Eagle Act, Executive Order 13186: *Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds*, obligates all federal agencies that engage in or authorize activities that might affect migratory birds, to minimize those effects and encourage conservation measures that will improve bird populations. Executive Order 13186 provides for the protection of both migratory birds and migratory bird habitat. For information regarding the implementation of Executive Order 13186, please visit <https://www.fws.gov/birds/policies-and-regulations/executive-orders/e0-13186.php>.

We appreciate your concern for threatened and endangered species. The Service encourages federal agencies to include conservation of threatened and endangered species into their project planning to further the purposes of the ESA. Please include the Consultation Code in the header of this letter with any request for consultation or correspondence about your project that you submit to our office.

Attachment(s):

- Official Species List
 - USFWS National Wildlife Refuges and Fish Hatcheries
 - Migratory Birds
 - Wetlands
-

Official Species List

This list is provided pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and fulfills the requirement for Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary of the Interior information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of a proposed action".

This species list is provided by:

Wyoming Ecological Services Field Office

334 Parsley Boulevard

Cheyenne, WY 82007-4178

(307) 772-2374

Project Summary

Consultation Code: 06E13000-2020-SLI-0002

Event Code: 06E13000-2020-E-00971

Project Name: Cody Regional Office

Project Type: Federal Grant / Loan Related

Project Description: Cody Regional Office Construction

Project Location:

Approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/place/44.40387028992396N109.41428279975193W>



Counties: Park, WY

Endangered Species Act Species

There is a total of 7 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this species list.

Species on this list should be considered in an effects analysis for your project and could include species that exist in another geographic area. For example, certain fish may appear on the species list because a project could affect downstream species.

IPaC does not display listed species or critical habitats under the sole jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries¹, as USFWS does not have the authority to speak on behalf of NOAA and the Department of Commerce.

See the "Critical habitats" section below for those critical habitats that lie wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

-
1. [NOAA Fisheries](#), also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

Mammals

| NAME | STATUS |
|--|--|
| Black-footed Ferret <i>Mustela nigripes</i> Population: U.S.A. (WY and specified portions of AZ, CO, MT, SD, and UT, see 17.84(g)(9)) No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6953 | Experimental Population, Non- Essential |
| Canada Lynx <i>Lynx canadensis</i> Population: Wherever Found in Contiguous U.S. There is final critical habitat for this species. Your location overlaps the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3652 | Threatened |
| Grizzly Bear <i>Ursus arctos horribilis</i> Population: U.S.A., conterminous (lower 48) States, except where listed as an experimental population There is proposed critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/7642 | Threatened |
| North American Wolverine <i>Gulo gulo luscus</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5123 | Proposed Threatened |

Insects

| NAME | STATUS |
|---|------------|
| Western Glacier Stonefly <i>Zapada glacier</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9133 | Threatened |

Flowering Plants

| NAME | STATUS |
|---|------------|
| Ute Ladies'-tresses <i>Spiranthes diluvialis</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2159 | Threatened |

Conifers and Cycads

| NAME | STATUS |
|---|-----------|
| Whitebark Pine <i>Pinus albicaulis</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1748 | Candidate |

Critical habitats

There is 1 critical habitat wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction.

| NAME | STATUS |
|---|--------|
| Canada Lynx <i>Lynx canadensis</i> https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3652#crithab | Final |

USFWS National Wildlife Refuge Lands And Fish Hatcheries

Any activity proposed on lands managed by the [National Wildlife Refuge](#) system must undergo a 'Compatibility Determination' conducted by the Refuge. Please contact the individual Refuges to discuss any questions or concerns.

THERE ARE NO REFUGE LANDS OR FISH HATCHERIES WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA.

Migratory Birds

Certain birds are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act¹ and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act².

Any person or organization who plans or conducts activities that may result in impacts to migratory birds, eagles, and their habitats should follow appropriate regulations and consider implementing appropriate conservation measures, as described [below](#).

-
1. The [Migratory Birds Treaty Act](#) of 1918.
 2. The [Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act](#) of 1940.
 3. 50 C.F.R. Sec. 10.12 and 16 U.S.C. Sec. 668(a)

The birds listed below are birds of particular concern either because they occur on the [USFWS Birds of Conservation Concern](#) (BCC) list or warrant special attention in your project location. To learn more about the levels of concern for birds on your list and how this list is generated, see the FAQ [below](#). This is not a list of every bird you may find in this location, nor a guarantee that every bird on this list will be found in your project area. To see exact locations of where birders and the general public have sighted birds in and around your project area, visit the [E-bird data mapping tool](#) (Tip: enter your location, desired date range and a species on your list). For projects that occur off the Atlantic Coast, additional maps and models detailing the relative occurrence and abundance of bird species on your list are available. Links to additional information about Atlantic Coast birds, and other important information about your migratory bird list, including how to properly interpret and use your migratory bird report, can be found [below](#).

For guidance on when to schedule activities or implement avoidance and minimization measures to reduce impacts to migratory birds on your list, click on the PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY at the top of your list to see when these birds are most likely to be present and breeding in your project area.

| NAME | BREEDING SEASON |
|--|-------------------------|
| <p>Bald Eagle <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i></p> <p>This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities.</p> <p>https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1626</p> | Breeds Jan 1 to Aug 31 |
| <p>Black Rosy-finch <i>Leucosticte atrata</i></p> <p>This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.</p> <p>https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9460</p> | Breeds Jun 15 to Aug 31 |

| NAME | BREEDING SEASON |
|--|-------------------------|
| <p>Cassin's Finch <i>Carpodacus cassinii</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9462</p> | Breeds May 15 to Jul 15 |
| <p>Clark's Grebe <i>Aechmophorus clarkii</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.</p> | Breeds Jan 1 to Dec 31 |
| <p>Golden Eagle <i>Aquila chrysaetos</i> This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1680</p> | Breeds Jan 1 to Aug 31 |
| <p>Lesser Yellowlegs <i>Tringa flavipes</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9679</p> | Breeds elsewhere |
| <p>Long-billed Curlew <i>Numenius americanus</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5511</p> | Breeds Apr 1 to Jul 31 |
| <p>Marbled Godwit <i>Limosa fedoa</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9481</p> | Breeds May 1 to Jul 31 |
| <p>Mountain Plover <i>Charadrius montanus</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3638</p> | Breeds Apr 15 to Aug 15 |
| <p>Olive-sided Flycatcher <i>Contopus cooperi</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3914</p> | Breeds May 20 to Aug 31 |
| <p>Rufous Hummingbird <i>selasphorus rufus</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8002</p> | Breeds Apr 15 to Jul 15 |
| <p>Willet <i>Tringa semipalmata</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.</p> | Breeds Apr 20 to Aug 5 |

Probability Of Presence Summary

The graphs below provide our best understanding of when birds of concern are most likely to be present in your project area. This information can be used to tailor and schedule your project activities to avoid or minimize impacts to birds. Please make sure you read and understand the FAQ “Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report” before using or attempting to interpret this report.

Probability of Presence (■)

Each green bar represents the bird's relative probability of presence in the 10km grid cell(s) your project overlaps during a particular week of the year. (A year is represented as 12 4-week months.) A taller bar indicates a higher probability of species presence. The survey effort (see below) can be used to establish a level of confidence in the presence score. One can have higher confidence in the presence score if the corresponding survey effort is also high.

How is the probability of presence score calculated? The calculation is done in three steps:

1. The probability of presence for each week is calculated as the number of survey events in the week where the species was detected divided by the total number of survey events for that week. For example, if in week 12 there were 20 survey events and the Spotted Towhee was found in 5 of them, the probability of presence of the Spotted Towhee in week 12 is 0.25.
2. To properly present the pattern of presence across the year, the relative probability of presence is calculated. This is the probability of presence divided by the maximum probability of presence across all weeks. For example, imagine the probability of presence in week 20 for the Spotted Towhee is 0.05, and that the probability of presence at week 12 (0.25) is the maximum of any week of the year. The relative probability of presence on week 12 is $0.25/0.25 = 1$; at week 20 it is $0.05/0.25 = 0.2$.
3. The relative probability of presence calculated in the previous step undergoes a statistical conversion so that all possible values fall between 0 and 10, inclusive. This is the probability of presence score.

Breeding Season (■)

Yellow bars denote a very liberal estimate of the time-frame inside which the bird breeds across its entire range. If there are no yellow bars shown for a bird, it does not breed in your project area.

Survey Effort (|)

Vertical black lines superimposed on probability of presence bars indicate the number of surveys performed for that species in the 10km grid cell(s) your project area overlaps. The number of surveys is expressed as a range, for example, 33 to 64 surveys.

No Data (—)

A week is marked as having no data if there were no survey events for that week.

Survey Timeframe

Migratory Birds FAQ

Tell me more about conservation measures I can implement to avoid or minimize impacts to migratory birds.

[Nationwide Conservation Measures](#) describes measures that can help avoid and minimize impacts to all birds at any location year round. Implementation of these measures is particularly important when birds are most likely to occur in the project area. When birds may be breeding in the area, identifying the locations of any active nests and avoiding their destruction is a very helpful impact minimization measure. To see when birds are most likely to occur and be breeding in your project area, view the Probability of Presence Summary. [Additional measures](#) and/or [permits](#) may be advisable depending on the type of activity you are conducting and the type of infrastructure or bird species present on your project site.

What does IPaC use to generate the migratory birds potentially occurring in my specified location?

The Migratory Bird Resource List is comprised of USFWS [Birds of Conservation Concern \(BCC\)](#) and other species that may warrant special attention in your project location.

The migratory bird list generated for your project is derived from data provided by the [Avian Knowledge Network \(AKN\)](#). The AKN data is based on a growing collection of [survey, banding, and citizen science datasets](#) and is queried and filtered to return a list of those birds reported as occurring in the 10km grid cell(s) which your project intersects, and that have been identified as warranting special attention because they are a BCC species in that area, an eagle ([Eagle Act](#) requirements may apply), or a species that has a particular vulnerability to offshore activities or development.

Again, the Migratory Bird Resource list includes only a subset of birds that may occur in your project area. It is not representative of all birds that may occur in your project area. To get a list of all birds potentially present in your project area, please visit the [AKN Phenology Tool](#).

What does IPaC use to generate the probability of presence graphs for the migratory birds potentially occurring in my specified location?

The probability of presence graphs associated with your migratory bird list are based on data provided by the [Avian Knowledge Network \(AKN\)](#). This data is derived from a growing collection of [survey, banding, and citizen science datasets](#).

Probability of presence data is continuously being updated as new and better information becomes available. To learn more about how the probability of presence graphs are produced and how to interpret them, go the Probability of Presence Summary and then click on the "Tell me about these graphs" link.

How do I know if a bird is breeding, wintering, migrating or present year-round in my project area?

To see what part of a particular bird's range your project area falls within (i.e. breeding, wintering, migrating or year-round), you may refer to the following resources: [The Cornell Lab of Ornithology All About Birds Bird Guide](#), or (if you are unsuccessful in locating the bird of interest there), the [Cornell Lab of Ornithology Neotropical Birds guide](#). If a bird on your migratory bird species list has a breeding season associated with it, if that bird does occur in your project area, there may be nests present at some point within the timeframe specified. If "Breeds elsewhere" is indicated, then the bird likely does not breed in your project area.

What are the levels of concern for migratory birds?

Migratory birds delivered through IPaC fall into the following distinct categories of concern:

1. "BCC Rangewide" birds are [Birds of Conservation Concern](#) (BCC) that are of concern throughout their range anywhere within the USA (including Hawaii, the Pacific Islands, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands);
2. "BCC - BCR" birds are BCCs that are of concern only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA; and
3. "Non-BCC - Vulnerable" birds are not BCC species in your project area, but appear on your list either because of the [Eagle Act](#) requirements (for eagles) or (for non-eagles) potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities (e.g. offshore energy development or longline fishing).

Although it is important to try to avoid and minimize impacts to all birds, efforts should be made, in particular, to avoid and minimize impacts to the birds on this list, especially eagles and BCC species of rangewide concern. For more information on conservation measures you can implement to help avoid and minimize migratory bird impacts and requirements for eagles, please see the FAQs for these topics.

Details about birds that are potentially affected by offshore projects

For additional details about the relative occurrence and abundance of both individual bird species and groups of bird species within your project area off the Atlantic Coast, please visit the [Northeast Ocean Data Portal](#). The Portal also offers data and information about other taxa besides birds that may be helpful to you in your project review. Alternately, you may download the bird model results files underlying the portal maps through the [NOAA NCCOS Integrative Statistical Modeling and Predictive Mapping of Marine Bird Distributions and Abundance on the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf](#) project webpage.

Bird tracking data can also provide additional details about occurrence and habitat use throughout the year, including migration. Models relying on survey data may not include this information. For additional information on marine bird tracking data, see the [Diving Bird Study](#) and the [nanotag studies](#) or contact [Caleb Spiegel](#) or [Pam Loring](#).

What if I have eagles on my list?

If your project has the potential to disturb or kill eagles, you may need to [obtain a permit](#) to avoid violating the Eagle Act should such impacts occur.

Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report

The migratory bird list generated is not a list of all birds in your project area, only a subset of birds of priority concern. To learn more about how your list is generated, and see options for identifying what other birds may be in your project area, please see the FAQ “What does IPaC use to generate the migratory birds potentially occurring in my specified location”. Please be aware this report provides the “probability of presence” of birds within the 10 km grid cell(s) that overlap your project; not your exact project footprint. On the graphs provided, please also look carefully at the survey effort (indicated by the black vertical bar) and for the existence of the “no data” indicator (a red horizontal bar). A high survey effort is the key component. If the survey effort is high, then the probability of presence score can be viewed as more dependable. In contrast, a low survey effort bar or no data bar means a lack of data and, therefore, a lack of certainty about presence of the species. This list is not perfect; it is simply a starting point for identifying what birds of concern have the potential to be in your project area, when they might be there, and if they might be breeding (which means nests might be present). The list helps you know what to look for to confirm presence, and helps guide you in knowing when to implement conservation measures to avoid or minimize potential impacts from your project activities, should presence be confirmed. To learn more about conservation measures, visit the FAQ “Tell me about conservation measures I can implement to avoid or minimize impacts to migratory birds” at the bottom of your migratory bird trust resources page.

Wetlands

Impacts to [NWI wetlands](#) and other aquatic habitats may be subject to regulation under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, or other State/Federal statutes.

For more information please contact the Regulatory Program of the local [U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District](#).

Please note that the NWI data being shown may be out of date. We are currently working to update our NWI data set. We recommend you verify these results with a site visit to determine the actual extent of wetlands on site.

Due to your project's size, the list below may be incomplete, or the acreages reported may be inaccurate. For a full list, please contact the local U.S. Fish and Wildlife office or visit <https://www.fws.gov/wetlands/data/mapper.HTML>

FRESHWATER POND

- [PABF](#)

LAKE

- [L1ABH](#)
 - [L1UBH](#)
 - [L1UBHh](#)
 - [L1UBHx](#)
 - [L2ABF](#)
 - [L2ABFh](#)
 - [L2ABG](#)
 - [L2ABGb](#)
 - [L2ABGh](#)
 - [L2ABH](#)
 - [L2UBF](#)
 - [L2UBG](#)
 - [L2UBGh](#)
 - [L2UBH](#)
 - [L2USA](#)
 - [L2USAh](#)
 - [L2USC](#)
 - [L2USCh](#)
-

APPENDIX F: Class III Cultural Resource Inventory

| | |
|--|---|
| PROJECT NAME: Class III Cultural Resource Inventory of the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, Tilden Land Purchase, Park County, Wyoming | CLIENT: Wyoming Game and Fish Commission |
| CONSULTANT PROJECT NO.: HJ2019-12 | LEAD AGENCY NO.: |
| DBI NO.: DBI_WY_2019_1198 | |

PROJECT NAME: Class III Cultural Resource Inventory of the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, Tilden Land Purchase, Park County, Wyoming

LEAD AGENCY: Wyoming Game and Fish Commission

FIELD ORGANIZATION: High Country Archaeology

CLIENT: Wyoming Game and Fish Commission

AUTHOR: Patricia Carender Eggleston

REPORT TITLE: Class III Cultural Resource Inventory of the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission, Tilden Land Purchase, Park County, Wyoming

DATE OF REPORT: None

ACTIVITIES: Lit. Review (file search), Class III Survey

SURVEY SCOPE: All Resources

FIELDWORK DATES: 8/9/2019 to 8/9/2019

SUMMARY RESULTS: No cultural resources were encountered by the inventory. A finding of no historic properties affected is advanced. Cultural resource clearance is recommended for the proposed undertaking.

TYPE OF SITES REPORTED: Building, Site

SITE COUNT: 10

ISOLATED RESOURCE COUNT: 0

CREW CHIEF: Patricia Carender Eggleston

CREW MEMBERS:

SECTION LIST: Meridian Township Range Section
 Sixth Principal Meridian 53.00N 101.00W 30

| | | | | |
|-----------------|--------------|---------------------|-----------------|-------|
| ACREAGE: | | Intensive/Class III | Extensive/Other | Total |
| | Federal | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| | Other Public | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| | Private | 21.7 | 0.0 | 21.7 |
| | Total | 21.7 | 0.0 | |

Site Summary Table

| Smithsonian Number | Site Type | Time Period | Previous Eligibility | Contractor Eligibility | Agency Eligibility | SHPO Eligibility | Criteria | Effect | In APE | Collections | Agency Comments |
|--------------------|-----------|-------------|----------------------|------------------------|--------------------|------------------|----------|--------|--------|-------------|-----------------|
| PA 1770 | Building | Historic | Not Eligible | N/A | N/A | N/A | | N/A | No | | |
| PA 1771 | Building | Historic | Eligible | N/A | N/A | N/A | | N/A | No | | |
| PA 1772 | Building | Historic | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | | N/A | No | | |
| PA 2370 | Site | Historic | Not Eligible | N/A | N/A | N/A | | N/A | No | | |
| PA 226 | Site | Historic | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | | N/A | No | | |
| PA 2365 | Site | Historic | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | | N/A | No | | |
| PA 643 | Site | Historic | Eligible | N/A | N/A | N/A | | N/A | No | | |
| PA 1052 | Site | Historic | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | | N/A | No | | |
| PA 1729 | Site | Historic | Not Eligible | N/A | N/A | N/A | | N/A | No | | |
| PA 1728 | Building | Historic | Eligible | N/A | N/A | N/A | | N/A | No | | |

| Isolate Number | Resource Type | Landowner | Collections |
|----------------|---------------|-----------|-------------|
|----------------|---------------|-----------|-------------|

HIGH COUNTRY ARCHAEOLOGY

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**CLASS III CULTURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY OF
THE WYOMING GAME AND FISH COMMISSION,
TILDEN LAND PURCHASE,
PARK COUNTY, WYOMING**

August 2019

Project Tracking Numbers:

High Country Archaeology Project #HJ2019-12
WyoTrack Project #DBI_WY2019_1198

Prepared by Patricia Carender Eggleston,
For the Wyoming Game and Fish Department

For Official Use Only: Disclosure of site locations prohibited (43 CFR 7.18)

ABSTRACT

A Class III cultural resource inventory was conducted of the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission, Tilden Land Purchase in northwest Park County. Located only about 0.8 mile north of Cody, the project occurs in the northwestern Bighorn Basin. The proposed undertaking involves the acquisition of ca. 21.7 acres from Mr. Joseph Tilden for construction of a larger headquarters for the Game and Fish Department's Cody Regional Office. No cultural resources were detected by the inventory.

A determination of no historic properties affected is recommended for the proposed undertaking. Cultural resource clearance is suggested. No additional archaeological or historic work is believed necessary.

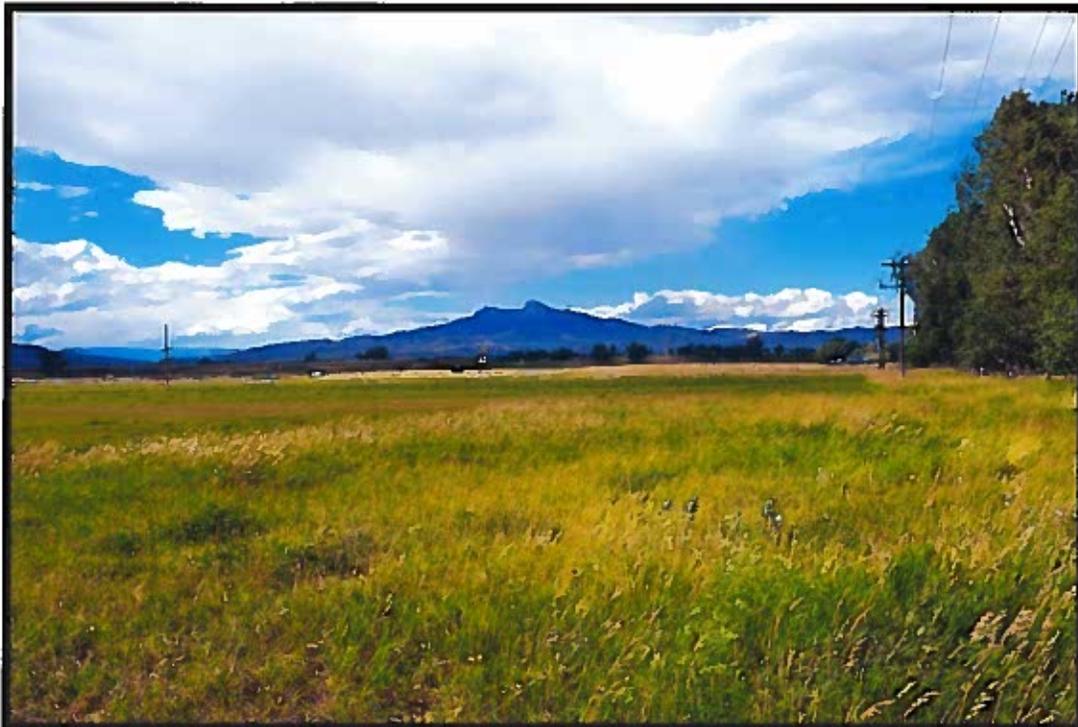
UNDERTAKING / PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Wyoming Game and Fish Commission plans to construct a new headquarters for the Cody Regional Office adjacent to State Highway 120 north of town. The current office was constructed about 40 years ago with work space for nine employees (Baker 2019). Reconfiguration of the structure was done over the years and a few modular buildings were also added resulting in space for 24 persons. However the facility now has 26 full time employees along with an additional five to ten temporary workers. The reception area is quite small; when the office is busy, people must stand outside in order to wait in line.

Design for the new headquarters is in the preliminary stages. The facility is anticipated to encompass at least 20,000 square feet of office space with an attached two story shop and a ca. 5,000 square foot outbuilding (Baker 2019). The APE was defined as the entire parcel which subsumes ca. 21.7 acres of land owned by Mr. Joseph Tilden, Park County Commissioner. Located in the W½ of Section 30 in T53N-R101W, the study largely coincides with a hayfield which has been cultivated for decades. Given the nature of the undertaking, anticipated new ground disruption will range from none to high. Photos of the study area presented on the following page.



Class III Cultural Resource Inventory of the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission, Tilden Land Purchase, Park County, Wyoming. Study area overviews. Top: Project vicinity seen south-southwest from gravel road. Bottom: APE observed northward with Heart Mountain in background. Photos taken on August 9, 2019 by Pat Eggleston. Digital files resized and edited using Smartfix function in Photoshop Elements 19 software.



ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Located in the northwest Bighorn Basin, the project lies upon a terrace or bench about 0.45 mile north and faintly west of the Shoshone River. Ecologically highly diverse, Wyoming contains seven Level III regions which are divided into 39 Level IV ecozones. According to *Ecoregions of Wyoming* (U.S. Environmental Agency, Western Ecology Division n.d.), the project lies in the Wyoming Basin, Bighorn Basin (18i) zone. This semi-arid depression lies in the rain shadow of the Beartooth Mountains, Absaroka Range, and Pryor Mountains. Utilized historically for farming and ranching operations, the region contains substantial oil and gas deposits.

The study is situated mainly on the terrace's gentle crest with only about two acres descending southward onto the landform's upper slope. Inclinations range from 0-2° on the gentle crest which is characterized by extensive hayfields. Gradients of 7-35° occur on the gradual rim and moderate to steep upper slope above the Dry Creek drainage. Elevation in the APE ranges from about 5,060 to 5,150 ft and averages roughly 5,125 ft above mean sea level. The terrace crest proffers panoramic views of hayfields, farms, and rural residences to the north and west with scenic Rattlesnake Mountain on the western horizon. Exhibiting two prominences upon a narrow crest, Heart Mountain is conspicuous at roughly eight miles to the north. The tall ridgeline ascends to 8,123 ft at the easterly peak. The town of Cody is briefly visible from the southern APE while looking southeast through the Dry Creek drainage.

Situated in the northern Shoshone River drainage, the project occurs only about 350 ft north of perennial Dry Creek. This water source continues winding southeast through a steep, U-shaped draw for about 0.3 mile to enter the Shoshone River which flows through a shallow canyon.

The study vicinity is characterized by Quaternary gravels, pediment, and fan deposits (Love and Coe Christiansen 1985). No bedrock outcrops were encountered in the APE. The terrace's rim and upper slope are armored with moderate to dense accumulations of lag gravels. Typically sub-angular to sub-rounded in morphology, these are dominated by andesite and basalt accompanied by minor quantities of quartzite and sandstone. Fluvially deposited clasts increase in frequency downslope.

Variably sheetwashed, sediments in the study area are comprised of alluvium derived from igneous, metamorphic, and sedimentary rocks (U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service n.d.). It is comprised largely of Copeman loam, 0-3% slope (U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service n.d.) which covers much of the terrace crest. Larim-Wapiti complex, 0-60% inclinations, gravelly loam and gravelly sandy loam occupy less than 15% of the APE. Associated annual precipitation for both types ranges from 10-14 inches. Sediments appear in the following shades: 10YR 5/3-5/4, brown to yellowish brown (Munsell Soil Color 1994); 10YR 4/2-4/3, dark grayish brown to brown; and 10YR 6/4, light yellowish brown.

Vegetation consists largely of cultivated grasses, western wheatgrass, cheatgrass, and crested wheatgrass with minor amounts of thistle, western salsify and other weeds, low sagebrush, and prickly pear cactus. An overstory of cottonwood trees flanks the eastern APE obscuring view of a narrow paved driveway. Ground surface visibility ranges from 15-80%

averages about 50% in the study vicinity. Previous surface disturbances amid the study include the hayfield and sprinklers, fencelines of assorted types (metal stake and buck and pole), tiny modern ditches, and a variably crowned, gravel road (6 m wide). The northeastern APE borders State Highway 120.

PRESENT BUILT ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The region has been utilized extensively for agricultural operations as evident from broad hayfields and rural residences with sheds, barns, and other outbuildings. Laterals and sub-laterals of the Heart Mountain Canal and an assortment of modern ditches irrigate the area. The project occurs largely in a hayfield just west of busy State Highway 120. Several overhead utility lines bisect the APE. The southeastern study area affords a brief glimpse of Cody along the Shoshone River's southerly terrace.

BACKGROUND RESEARCH

Cultural Records Office Data

On August 8, 2019, files search data was obtained from the Wyoming Cultural Records Office for the section encompassing the APE. Twelve prior cultural investigations are known which were performed between 1985 and 2014. Nine consist of Class III inventories with the majority associated with powerlines and roads. Two historic overviews were conducted for the Heart Mountain Canal and Western Area Power Administration facilities (i.e. powerlines, substations). An Historic American Builders Survey (HABS) was done for the Standard Oil Company Bulk Depot. Three of the intensive inventories bisect minor portions of the APE. Dating from 1985 to 1989, these are no longer considered valid due to advancements in fieldwork methodology and documentation standards. Furthermore, ongoing erosion over the past 30+ years and new ground disturbances can reveal cultural materials formerly hidden by vegetation or sediment. Discussed later, ten previously documented sites occur in the section; historic in affiliation, all are positioned beyond the current project.

In 1985, TRC Environmental Corporation conducted the Class III cultural resource inventory of the Buffalo Bill Powerline (SHPO #85-1013-0) proposed by the Western Area Power Administration. The linear survey passed through the SW¼ of Section 30, T53N-101W. No sites or isolates were encountered in this area by the project.

TRC Environmental Corporation performed the Class III cultural inventory of the Lovell-Heart Mountain-Big George Powerline for the Western Area Power Administration (SHPO #87-944-0). The linear study bisected the SW¼ of Section 30, T53N-101W. The investigation did not locate any cultural resources in this section.

In 1989, the Office of the Wyoming State Archaeologist conducted the Class III inventory of the PREB-033-3 Project (State Highway 120 improvements) for the Wyoming Highway Department (SHPO #89-174-0). Work occurred in the S½ NW and E½ SW of Section 30, T53N-R101W. No cultural resources were documented in this section by the study.

Historic in nature, ten previously recorded sites occur in the section subsuming the APE. Nine of these are situated at least 0.2 mile beyond the inventoried parcel and are summarized in Table 1 below.

Table 1. Summary of previously recorded sites in section 30 of T53N-R101W positioned at least 0.2 mile from the APE.

| Smithsonian Number | Aliquots | Site Type | National Register of Historic Places Eligibility Status | Approximate Distance From Nearest APE |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|--|---|--|
| 48.PA.226 | SE¼, NE SE SW | Toluca-Cody/Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy Railroad | Eligible overall with SHPO concurrence | 0.2 mile to nearest documented segment |
| 48.PA.643 | NW NW | Red Lodge Freight Road | Eligible | 0.28 mile |
| 48.PA.1728 | NE NE SE | Industrial buildings for railroad and Standard Oil | Eligible with SHPO concurrence | 0.55 mile; project area is beyond viewshed |
| 48.PA.1729 | SE NW SW NE SE | Trash scatter with historic foundations | Not eligible | 0.45 mile |
| 48.PA.1770 | NW NW NE NE SE | Cody Service Center Garage | Not eligible with SHPO concurrence | 0.6 mile; APE is past viewshed |
| 48.PA.1771 | C S S SE NE | Heart Mountain Division Warehouse | Eligible with SHPO concurrence | 0.6 mile; APE is beyond viewshed |
| 48.PA.1772 | C NE NE NE SE | Heart Mountain Division Laboratory | Eligible with SHPO concurrence | 0.6 mile; APE is past viewshed |
| 48.PA.2365 | SW NE, E NE | Lovell-North Cody Transmission Line | Not eligible with SHPO concurrence | 0.2 mile |
| 48.PA.2370 | SE SW SW SW NE, SW SE SW SW NE | North Cody Substation | Not eligible with SHPO concurrence | 0.2 mile |

A segment of site 48.PA.1052, the Heart Mountain Canal and associated waterworks, lies about 20-40 ft north of the APE. The linear resource is considered overall eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places, but numerous non-contributing and unevaluated segments occur. Lateral H-24 was previously evaluated by the University of Montana in 1996 as a non-contributing portion with SHPO concurrence. Regardless, the ditch is positioned beyond the APE and shall not be impacted. A finding of no effect is advanced.

The Cultural Records Office on-line map server and database were further examined to determine approximate site distribution in proportion to acreage inventoried for the study's

section and adjacent ones. Varying widely from around 3-70%, past survey in the region is generally moderate with most sections exhibiting roughly 7-20% coverage. Previous investigations suggest a low to moderate site density. Based on the background research and our prior experience, site types most probable to be encountered in the surrounding area consist of historic artifact scatters and structures along with lower frequencies of lithic scatters with or without fire-cracked rock.

General Land Office Plats

The General Land Office (GLO) Survey Plats were also studied for T53N-R101W. Dated March 17 of 1884, the original survey depicts two unnamed roads and the "Stinking Water River" which was renamed the Shoshone River in 1901 due to popular demand. Far more detailed, the resurvey (June 13, 1914) exhibits a drastic increase in roads and a variety of other developments; the plat displays the railroad, telegraph lines, a telephone line, patented lands, etc. Section 30 is bisected by a telegraph line and two spurs of the "Cody to Painter Road" which is actually the Red Lodge Freight Road (48.PA.643). A total of three branches of the route are shown on the plat, but no evidence of the historic road could be discerned in the study vicinity which is dominated by hayfields. It is suspected that the physical remnants amid the region were often obliterated by agricultural operations and waterworks for irrigation as well as road construction. The resurvey reveals the "Old Red Lodge Freight Road" winding east-west through northernmost two miles of the township. The route divided into the Cody to Corbett, Cody to Garland, etc. roads in Section 11. In short, there were no indications of any historic routes or structures in the APE vicinity. A finding of no effect is suggested for site 48.PA.643 which shall not be impacted.

SURVEY METHODOLOGY

An irregular block encompassing ca. 21.7 acres was inventoried for the project by Pat Eggleston on August 9, 2019. Methodology involved a series of parallel pedestrian transects spaced 20-30 meters apart. During fieldwork, all subsurface exposures such as modern ditches, eroded areas, were closely scrutinized. WAAS and GLONASS enabled, a Garmin GPS Map 64s (<5 meters error) ran continuously during fieldwork to log the study location and other attributes. Prior to commencing fieldwork, the unit was preloaded with the project's GIS data imposed on USG 7.5' Cody quadrangle base map. This allowed real-time positional tracking on the unit's screen. GIS information was later analyzed in the office using Terrain Navigator Pro software.

All photos were taken by Pat Eggleston utilizing a 24 megapixel Pentax DSLR camera. Original photographic images were captured in .jpeg files on a SD (HC) card which were stored on a computer with no modifications. Photos selected for the report were then copied and renamed according to location, etc. These were subsequently resized using Adobe Photoshop Elements 19 software and further processed with the Smart Fix function prior to insertion into text files.

No collections were made and no shovel tests were excavated. Rather warm, atmospheric conditions during inventory varied from partially to highly overcast with temperatures ranging from about 78-84° Fahrenheit. No snow cover was present in the study area during fieldwork.

INVENTORY RESULTS

No cultural resources were encountered by the cultural survey. A determination of no historic properties affected is recommended for the proposed undertaking.

CONCLUSIONS / SUMMARY

A Class III cultural resource inventory was conducted of the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission, Tilden Land Purchase in northwest Park County. Located near Cody, the project coincides largely with a hayfield. The planned undertaking involves the acquisition of ca. 21.7 acres for construction of a larger headquarters for the Cody Regional Office. No cultural resources were encountered by the study.

A determination of no historic properties affected is advanced. Cultural resource clearance is recommended for the planned undertaking. There is a high degree of confidence that the objectives of the inventory have been met. The vast majority of the study area has been cultivated for decades. The examination of subsurface disturbances failed to reveal any indications of buried cultural materials. Therefore the potential for buried or unlocated cultural deposits existing in the APE is considered quite low. No additional archaeological or historical work is believed necessary.

References Cited

- Baker, C.J.
2019 Game and Fish Planning New Office in Cody. *Powell Tribune*. 6 August. Powell, Wyoming.
- Love, J.D. and Anne Coe Christiansen (compilers)
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- Munsell Color, Macbeth Division of Kollmorgan Instruments Corporation
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- U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service
n.d. Web Soil Survey for eastern Park County, Wyoming available on-line at <https://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/WebSoilSurvey.aspx>
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Western Ecology Division
n.d. *Ecoregions of Wyoming (Level IV)*. Map found on internet website at ftp://ftp.epa.gov/wed/ecoregions/wy/wy_front.pdf

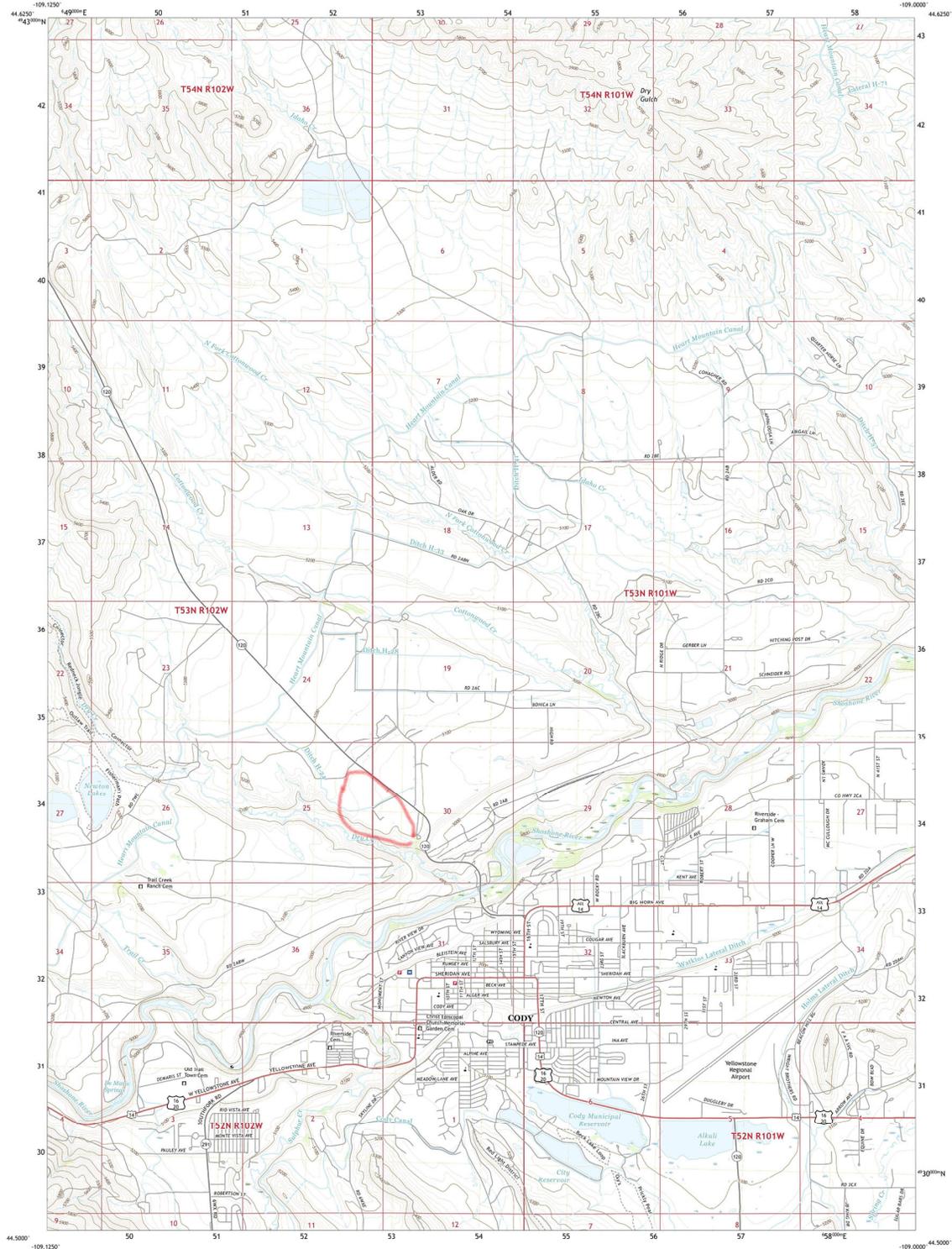
**APPENDIX G: Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office
Consultation**



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



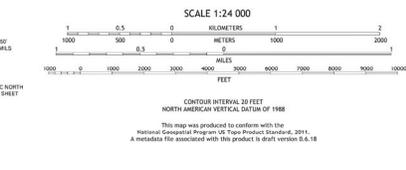
CODY QUADRANGLE
WYOMING - PARK COUNTY
7.5-MINUTE SERIES



Produced by the United States Geological Survey

North American Datum of 1983 (NAD83)
World Geodetic System of 1984 (WGS84) Projection and
1000-meter grid/contour interval
This map is not a legal document. Boundaries may be
generalized for this map scale. Private lands within government
reservations may not be shown. Obtain permission before
entering private lands.

Imagery: NADP, September 2015 - November 2015
Base: U.S. Census Bureau, 2017
Hydrography: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, 2016
Contour: National Hydrography Dataset, 2000
Boundaries: Multiple sources; see metadata file 2014 - 2016
Public Land Survey System: see metadata file BLM, 2017
Vegetation: FWS National Wetlands Inventory, 1981 - 1982



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

- Expressway
- Secondary Hwy
- Ramp
- Local Connector
- Local Road
- AWP
- US Route
- State Route

WYOMING

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 8 | 7 | 8 |

ADJOINING QUADRANGLES

- 1 Gulf Lake
- 2 Esplanade Basin
- 3 Vocation
- 4 Shoshone Canyon
- 5 Corbett Dam
- 6 Umoa Flats
- 7 Indian Pass
- 8 Oregon Basin

CODY, WY
2017





WYOMING GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

5400 Bishop Blvd. Cheyenne, WY 82006

Phone: (307) 777-4600 Fax: (307) 777-4699

wgfd.wyo.gov

GOVERNOR
MARK GORDON

DIRECTOR
BRIAN R. NESVIK

COMMISSIONERS
DAVID RAEL – President
PETER J. DUBE – Vice President
RALPH BROKAW
GAY LYNN BYRD
PATRICK CRANK
RICHARD LADWIG
MIKE SCHMID

December 18, 2019

Ms. Mary Hopkins
State Historic Preservation Officer
Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office
2301 Central Ave.
Barrett Building, Third Floor
Cheyenne, WY 82002

RE: Cody Regional Office Construction Project Section 106 Consultation

Ms. Hopkins,

In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966 and its governing regulations (36 CFR Part 800), the Wyoming Game and Fish Department is requesting your office to review a project that is in early stages of development.

The Wyoming Game and Fish Department intends to seek grant funding from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service for the purpose of constructing a Regional Office in Park County in late 2020. Our office has recently acquired a 21.7-acre parcel of land approximately 0.8 miles north of Cody adjacent to State Highway 120 in the Big Horn Basin where we intend to construct the facility.

Project Name:

Cody Regional Office

Project Description:

The design plans and engineering for the construction of an office facility is in the preliminary stages and is anticipated to include at least 20,000 square feet of office space and a 5,000 square foot outbuilding. The exact placement of the structure on the property has yet to be determined. Construction is expected to begin in spring of 2021.

Location:

Section 30, Township 53 North, Range 101 West of the 6th P.M. Park County.

Funding Agency:

At this time, only Department funds are being expended for this project. Other funding applications have not yet been submitted. At the conclusion of all of our data gathering

and planning, we intend to apply to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for funding to support this project.

Current Land Use:

Agriculture – cultivated hayfield

In August 2019, High Country Archaeology performed a Class III Cultural Resource Inventory of the property in which no cultural resources were encountered and a recommended finding of no historic properties affected was given. The Class III Cultural Resource Inventory, maps, and photos are included with this letter.

In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966 and its governing regulations (36 CFR Part 800), we respectfully request your consideration for concurrence with the determination of no adverse effect to historic properties regarding this project.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at 307-777-5345 or by email at casi.crites1@wyo.gov. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Casi Crites', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Casi Crites
Federal Aid Coordinator

Enclosures

cc: Files



Feb 26, 2020

Casi Crites
Federal Aid Coordinator
Wyoming Game and Fish
5400 Bishop Blvd.
Cheyenne, WY 82006

Re: Cody Regional Office Construction Project Section 106 Consultation

Dear Mrs Crites:

Thank you for consulting with the Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) regarding the above referenced undertaking. We have reviewed the associated report and find the documentation meets the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Archaeology and Historic Preservation (48 FR 44716-42). We concur with your finding that the undertaking will not affect any historic properties.

We recommend that Wyoming Game and Fish allow the undertaking to proceed in accordance with state and federal laws subject to the following stipulation:

If any cultural materials are discovered during construction, work in the area shall halt immediately, the federal agency and SHPO staff be contacted, and the materials be evaluated by an archaeologist or historian meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards (48 FR 22716, Sept. 1983).

This letter should be retained in your files as documentation of a SHPO concurrence with your finding of no historic properties adversely affected. If you have any questions, please contact Joseph Daniele at 307-777-8793.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joseph Daniele', written over a horizontal line.

Joseph Daniele

Mark Gordon | Governor
Darin J. Westby, P.E. | Director
Sara Needles | Administrator



ARTS. PARKS.
HISTORY.
Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office

**APPENDIX H: Public Input, Commission Meeting Minutes and
Newspaper Publications**

**Wyoming Game and Fish Commission
Meeting Minutes
Rock Springs, Wyoming**

July 18, 2019

| | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| David Rael, President | Wyoming Game and Fish Commission |
| Peter Dube, Vice President | Wyoming Game and Fish Commission |
| Gay Lynn Byrd, Member | Wyoming Game and Fish Commission |
| Ralph Brokaw, Member | Wyoming Game and Fish Commission |
| Patrick Crank, Member | Wyoming Game and Fish Commission |
| Richard Ladwig, Member | Wyoming Game and Fish Commission |
| Mike Schmid, Member | Wyoming Game and Fish Commission |
| Brian R. Nesvik, Director | Wyoming Game and Fish Department |

Staff Present:

John Kennedy, Angi Bruce, Rick King, Scott Edberg, Doug Brimeyer, Tracy Kupec, Dee Dee Hawk, Sean Bibbey, Alan Osterland, Dirk Miller, Meredith Wood, Jennifer Doering, Corey Johnson, Justin Joiner, Sarah Direnzo, Mike Choma, John Walrath, Troy Laughlin, Dan Thompson, Brad Hovinga, Justin Joiner, Robert Keith, Ray Bredehoft, Dan Smith, Justin Clapp, Ken Mills, Todd Graham, Sara DiRienzo, Jason Burkhardt, Sam Hochalter, Diana Miller, Joe Skorupski, Wes Gordon, Sheridan Todd, Wayne Cotton, Guy Reed, Samuel Jackson and Lucy Diggins-Wold

Legal Representation:

David DeWald, Senior Assistant Attorney General

Guests Present:

Lisa Robertson, Wyoming Untrapped; Jeff Smith, WYOGA; Jim Schell, Wyoming State Board Outfitter; Tyler Sims, WYOGA; Chris Rhode, BCG; Ryan Banigan, Bald Mountain Outfitters; Jerry Johnson, Department of Agriculture; Karin Mahona; Noelle Smith, Ducks Unlimited; Greg Nelson, Ducks Unlimited; John Freeman, House of Representatives; Jess Johnson, Wyoming Wildlife Federation; Andrea Volz, Wyoming Wildlife Federation; Kristin Combs, Wyoming Wildlife Advocates; Tina Chambers, Wyoming Wildlife Advocates; Rebekah Smith, Wyoming Women's Foundation; Clarette Bonomo; Shane Bonomo; Duane Kerr; Shawn Blajszczak, Mule Deer Foundation; Steve Gili; Leslie Petten; Penelope Maldonado, The Cougar Fund; Shelley Wolfe, Warrior for the Wolf; Mitchell Wolfe, Warrior for the Wolf; Mike Cyrus; Nycole Pollard, Bald Mountain Outfitters; Steve Martin, Bowhunters of Wyoming; Buzz Hettick; Todd Steve, WYOGA; Sy Gilliland, WYOGA; Rusty Bell, Campbell County Commissioners; Mary Silverness Campbell County Convention and Visitors Center; Bruce Shackleford; and Richard Lacy

Open Session began at 9:44 a.m.

1. Presenter: Commission President. Approval of Commission Meeting Minutes.

It was moved by Commissioner Dube to approve the minutes from the April Commission Meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Byrd. Motion carried.

2. Presenter: Brian R. Nesvik, Director. Director's Report.

Director Nesvik updated the Commission on several items of interest since the last Commission meeting. He said Commissioner Schmid recently attended the Muley Fanatics Banquet in Big Piney and rolled out a new idea of putting a wildlife wrap on a swab rig and committed part of the proceeds from that particular rig go toward wildlife crossings. Wildlife crossings are very important to Commissioner Schmid and this is an incredible example of taking action. Since that time, an oil company based out of Casper purchased wildlife conservation license plates for all their vehicles/trucks (approximately 50). Hopefully we will see other companies or groups taking similar action. He also debuted the WildLIVE web camera at the Speas Fish Hatchery feed tank with tiger muskie. WildLIVE will stream live on the Game and Fish website and give viewers an up-close look at the lives of wildlife. The Communications Division are identifying other potential sites where we can place cameras such as Sinks Canyon, Trappers Point, and an eagle nest.

3. Presenter: Mike Schmid, Commissioner. Work to Support a Wildlife Foundation.

Commissioner Schmid reported the Wildlife Foundation has finalized board members. They are hoping to have their first official board meeting in August. He introduced some of the board members who were in attendance. They are excited to get to work.

4. Department Awards

Director's Office Employee of the Year Award was presented to Sara DiRienzo, Public Information Officer.

Services Division Employee of the Year Award was presented to Ray Bredehoft, Habitat and Access Branch Chief.

Wildlife Division Employee of the Year Award was presented to Dan Thompson, Large Carnivore Section Supervisor.

Fish Division Employee of the Year Award was presented to Diana Miller, Fish Biologist, Jackson Region.

Team of the Year Award was presented to the Yellowstone Cutthroat Collaborative Team.

Special Recognition Award was presented to Wayne Cotton, IT Operations Supervisor, Services Division.

5. Presenters: John Kennedy, Deputy Director, and Rusty Bell, Campbell County Commissioner. Proposed Campbell County Visitor Center.

Deputy Director Kennedy introduced Campbell County Commissioner Rusty Bell. Mr. Bell provided information on a proposal to partner with the Campbell County Visitor Bureau for the Department to have a dedicated space for offices and conduct Hunter Education classes in the new Campbell County Visitor Center. The Commission supported the concept and asked for more details regarding the proposal.

28. Presenter: Jennifer Doering, License Section Manager, Fiscal Division. License Selling Agent Appointments.

Ms. Doering explained this item was on the agenda for July 19th; however, she will not be able to attend the meeting tomorrow so she is presenting today.

The following applications were received from non-sporting goods stores:

HF Bar Ranch in Saddlestring, WY. There are no license selling agents in Elk Mountain. The nearest agents are in Hanna, WY. Hanna's 2017 license sales totaled \$11,212.50.

Magee Homestead in Saratoga, WY. There are six agents located in Saratoga, WY. Saratoga's 2018 license sales totaled \$230,885.50.

French Creek Sportsmens Club in Saratoga, WY. There are six agents located in Saratoga, WY. Saratoga's 2018 license sales totaled \$230,885.50.

The following application was received from license selling agent requesting approval for ownership transfer:

Rapid Stop in Sundance, WY. Temporary approval of the transfer has been received by the local Game Warden, Regional Wildlife Supervisor and Commissioner Ladwig. This store's 2018 license sales totaled approximately \$40,378.50

Hack's Tackle and Outfitters in Saratoga, WY. Temporary approval of the transfer has been received by the local Game Warden, Regional Wildlife Supervisor and Commissioner Brokaw. This store's 2018 license sales totaled approximately \$88,721.50.

Aladdin General Store in Aladdin, WY. Temporary approval of the transfer has been received by the local Game Warden, Regional Wildlife Supervisor and Commissioner Ladwig. This store's 2018 license sales totaled approximately \$37,697.00.

The Outdoorsman in Worland, WY. Temporary approval of the transfer has been received by the local Game Warden, Regional Wildlife Supervisor and Commissioner Rael. This store's 2018 license sales totaled approximately \$55,511.00.

It was moved by Commissioner Dube to approve the license selling agents appointments as proposed by the Department. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Byrd. Motion carried.

6. Presenter: Scott Edberg, Deputy Chief, Wildlife Division. Chapter 4, Furbearing Animal Hunting or Trapping Seasons.

Deputy Chief Edberg and Game Warden Hovinga explained the proposed changes to Chapter 4, Furbearing Animal Hunting or Trapping Seasons:

Section 2, Definitions. The definitions of "Drainage" and "Trapping or Trap" are being modified to add clarity.

Section 3, Hunting or Trapping Seasons. Edits have been made to remove limited quota beaver trapping in trapping areas 101, 102, 103 and 104. Trapping area 605 has been added to the list of trapping areas closed to take of beaver.

Section 4, Furbearing Animal Hunting or Trapping Areas. Trapping areas 101, 102, 103 and 104 have been removed. Trapping Area 605, Green Mountain, has been added to the beaver trapping areas. Two additional areas (subsections (j) and (k)) have been added to the list of areas closed to the taking of all furbearing animals.

Section 6, Limited Quota Furbearing Animal Trapping Area Permits. Subsection (c) indicates a new application date for limited quota trapping permits which will begin in 2020.

Section 10, Mandatory Bobcat Registration. The "method of take" is being added as required information for mandatory bobcat registration.

Public Comments:

Lisa Robertson, Wyoming Untrapped

Ms. Robertson does not support trapping beavers; they are integral to the ecosystem. Hunt Area 104 has unlimited beaver trapping quotas and unlimited quotas are not acceptable.

Leslie Patten

Ms. Patten lives in Sunlight Basin. She said beaver populations in this area are extremely low. She said there are five areas within the Shoshone National Forest where beavers are being reintroduced. She recommended a three year moratorium be implemented in those reintroduction areas.

There was general discussion between the Department and the Commission regarding beaver trapping.

It was moved by Commissioner Crank to adopt Chapter 4, Furbearing Animal Hunting or Trapping Seasons as proposed by the Department. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Byrd. Motion carried.

7. Presenter: Scott Edberg, Deputy Chief, Wildlife Division. Chapter 25, Falconry and Raptor Propagation Regulation.

Mr. Edberg explained the proposed changes to Chapter 25, Falconry and Raptor Propagation Regulation. Edits include updating references to federal regulations and submission of necessary information to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Permit System.

Section 7, Raptor Capture Licenses. Edits have been incorporated to clarify that the allocation of golden eagles to be taken from designated depredation areas shall be in accordance with standards developed by the National Flyway Council and the adoption of Golden Eagle Allocation Procedures, which went into effect March 2019.

It was moved by Commissioner Dube to approve Chapter 25, Falconry and Raptor Propagation Regulation as proposed by the Department. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Byrd. Motion carried.

8. Presenter: Scott Edberg, Deputy Chief, Wildlife Division. Chapter 32, Regulation Governing Firearm Cartridges and Archery Equipment.

Mr. Edberg explained the proposed changes to Chapter 32, Regulation Governing Firearm Cartridges and Archery Equipment.

Section 3, Definitions. New definitions are being provided for the terms "Smart Firearm" and "Trackable Arrow Technology."

Section 4, Firearms, muzzle-loaders and cartridges that are legal for the taking of big or trophy game animals. Edits have been incorporated that delete reference to use of an "expanding point bullet" and to allow bullets designed with newer technology for the taking of big or trophy game animals.

Section 6, Archery equipment that is legal for the taking of big or trophy game animals. New language is provided in subsections (d) and (e) to clarify the permissible use of trackable arrow technology, magnifying sights, holographic sights and range finding sights while archery hunting.

Public Comments:

Chris Rhodes, BCG

Mr. Rhodes provided the Commission with information regarding advancements in bullet technology. He offered to give a demonstration to the Commission if they are interested.

Steve Martin, Bowhunters of Wyoming

Mr. Martin addressed advanced technologies related to Section 6. He does not support magnifying and holographic sights and trackable arrow technology.

It was moved by Commissioner Dube to approve Chapter 32, Regulation Governing Firearm Cartridges and Archery Equipment as proposed by the Department. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Byrd. All Commissioners voted aye, except for Commissioner Ladwig who voted nay. Motion carried.

9. Presenter: Jennifer Doering, License Section Manager, Fiscal Division. Chapter 44, Regulation for Issuance of Licenses, Permits, Stamps, Tags, Preference Points and Competitive Raffle Chances.

Ms. Doering explained the proposed changes to Chapter 44, Regulation for Issuance of Licenses, Permits, Stamps, Tags, Preference Points and Competitive Raffle Chances.

In Section 3, the definitions of "Duplicate License" and "Electronic Signature" have been modified for clarity.

In Section 5, edits and additions have been made in subsection (e)(i)(A) which outlines the process for organizations to apply for exclusive antelope hunt event licenses. Current regulations allow for antelope hunt event licenses to be issued to the One-Shot Antelope Club and the Wyoming Women's Foundation. Beginning for the 2020 antelope hunting season, the Commission shall accept applications from any organization interested in receiving these antelope hunt event licenses. Edits in subsection (e)(vi)(A) clarifies the issuance of mountain goat licenses. Edits in subsection (g)(iii) clarify an applicants' eligibility to apply for and receive wild bison hunting licenses. Edits in subsections (n) and (o) clarify the validity of licenses for which a duplicate license or replacement license is issued.

In Section 9, edits have been made to allow for electronic submission of landowner license applications.

In Section 10, the process for issuing a resident lifetime fishing license and conservation stamp to any resident who is permanently and totally disabled has been outlined.

In Section 19, clarification has been provided regarding proof of residency for resident permits and preference points.

In Section 20, numerous application dates have been modified and the deletion of the "Method of Submission" row will allow for electronic submission of landowner applications. More specifically, the application period and last date to modify or withdraw an application for nonresident elk licenses has been modified.

In Section 23, edits have been made to streamline the process to apply for a license reservation.

In Section 28, edits have been made for clarification of license and conservation stamp expiration dates.

Commissioner Crank questioned the disability ratings made by the Social Security Administration and the Veterans Administration. Ms. Doering advised there is a separate regulation regarding Veterans Administration disability. President Rael expressed his concern of the Department holding license application fees.

Public Comments:

Sy Gilliland, Wyoming Outfitters and Guides Association

Mr. Gilliland recommends the Department complete elk surveys/studies by the end of February so quotas can be posted in time for hunters to plan their trips.

There was general discussion between the Commission and the Department regarding language in Section 5 and the number of licenses. Commissioner Dube believes the language in Commission regulation should be the same language as approved by the Legislation. Senator Anselmi-Dalton explained the intent of the Legislature was to provide antelope licenses for women. Commissioner Crank explained the Commission sets seasons based on biological data. Director Nesvik explained if there was a biological reason for not issuing a certain number of licenses (160), it could be addressed through an emergency regulation.

Buzz Hettick

Mr. Hettick opposes setting aside any licenses for special hunts such as the antelope hunts. Nonresidents applying for a special hunt should pay the special nonresident application fee. If they are drawn for a special hunt they should not be allowed to apply for another license and they should lose their preference points.

Steve Martin, Bowhunters of Wyoming

Mr. Martin expressed his concern regarding the initial drawings of resident versus nonresident licenses. Nonresidents should not be issued more than 20 percent of license (initial draw and leftover draw).

Sy Gilliland, Wyoming Outfitters and Guides Association

Mr. Gilliland believes that lack of access is one of the main reasons why residents don't apply for the number of licenses allocated for them.

Steve Gili

Mr. Gili stated he does not support the timeline for nonresident elk applications. The deadline for nonresident elk applications is at the end of January and the drawing is held in May. The Department holds application fees until after the drawing. The Department does not hold application fees for deer and antelope licenses.

It was moved by Commissioner Byrd to approve changes to Chapter 44, Regulation for Issuance of Licenses, Permits, Stamps, Tags, Preference Points and Competitive Raffle Chances as proposed by the Department. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brokaw. Motion carried.

10. Presenter: Justin Clapp, Large Carnivore Biologist, Wildlife Division. Chapter 42, Mountain Lion Hunting Seasons.

Mr. Clapp explained the proposed changes to Chapter 42, Mountain Lion Hunting Seasons.

Section 3, Hunting Regulations. Mountain lion mortality limits have been modified for Hunt Areas 17, 19 and 23. New language is being added to address the harvest of a mountain lion that has been caught in a trap or snare.

Section 5, Hunt Area Description. Boundary descriptions have been modified for Hunt Areas 15 and 23.

Public Comments:

Leslie Patten

Ms. Patten lives in Zone 19 (Sunlight Basin). She does not support raising the quota. She suggested a mandatory class for new hunters on how to identify the sex of mountain lions and to teach fair chase standards.

Penny Maldonado, The Cougar Fund

Ms. Maldonado does not support mountain lion hunting seasons. She would like more protection for lactating females.

It was moved by Commissioner Dube to approve Chapter 42, Mountain Lion Hunting Seasons as proposed by the Department. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Byrd. Motion carried.

11. Presenter: Ken Mills, Large Carnivore Biologist, Wildlife Division.

Mr. Mills explained the proposed changes to Chapter 47, Gray Wolf Hunting Seasons.

Section 3. An edit has been made indicating there shall be an open season for the hunting of gray wolves as set forth in this regulation.

Section 4. Mortality limits and season dates have been modified to reflect the current population of gray wolves in Wyoming and future management through hunter harvest. Proposed hunt area mortality limits have been developed in conjunction with 2018 harvest data and to maintain a recovered gray wolf population.

Public Comments:

Karin Mahuna

Ms. Mahuna does not support wolf hunting seasons. She believes wolves should be left alone to self-regulate.

Leslie Patten

Ms. Patten lives in Zone 1 (Sunlight Basin). She recommends the Commission look at wolves as entities. She believes it would be beneficial for wolves to implement a later and shorter hunting season.

Kristin Combs, Wyoming Wildlife Advocates

Ms. Combs expressed her concern about the length of season. She also stated that wolves can detect animals infected with CWD; therefore, they may be useful in reducing CWD. She does not support randomly removing wolves; the Department should target the wolves who are causing predation.

Lisa Robertson, Wyoming Untrapped

Ms. Robertson thanked the Commission for not allowing the trapping of wolves. She believes the Commission is not living up to the expectation of managing all wildlife. Hunting seasons negatively impact wolves from fulfilling their ecological roles.

Shelley Wolfe, Warrior for the Wolf

Ms. Wolfe adamantly opposes extending the hunting season. The Department should implement boundaries around the Grand Teton National Park.

It was moved by Commissioner Byrd to approve Chapter 47, Gray Wolf Hunting Seasons, as recommended by the Department. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Schmid. Motion carried.

12. Presenter: Meredith Wood, Chief Financial Officer. Fiscal Feasibility Needs Assessment.

The fiscal systems feasibility study was conducted from January through May 2019 in order to identify options for the Department to improve efficiencies. The Department supports improvements suggested in option 3 of the study: Upgrade PPCAS; Leverage WOLFS; and implement other systems and tools.

Additionally, the Department will realize gains in employees' time as implementation progresses by spending less time working on financial requirements and more time for other missions. If approved by the Commission, up to \$270,000 would be added to the FY20 budget for securing the Department's financial platform, design development, data analysis and reporting, document management, and budgeting tool.

13. Presenter: Dirk Miller, Deputy Chief, Fish Division. Boulder Rearing Station Renovation Project Update.

Deputy Chief Miller provided the Commission with detailed information on the consulting engineer's report for the Boulder Rearing Station Renovation Project. He explained the various stages of the project. If approved by the Commission, \$1,206,000 would be added to the FY20 budget for construction costs (\$836,000) and electrical costs (\$370,000).

14. Presenter: Martin Grenier, Ducks Unlimited.

This agenda item will be postponed to another meeting.

15. Call to the public.

Tina Chambers, Wyoming Untrapped

Ms. Chambers addressed the Commission regarding Agenda Item #6, Chapter 4, Furbearing Animal Hunting or Trapping Seasons. She submitted written comments during the comment period, but wanted the Commission to know that she was born and raised in Wyoming and she enjoys being outdoors with her family. She does not support trapping of beavers until there has been population surveys.

Director Nesvik said during the lunch break he met with BackCountry Hunters and Anglers and they presented the Commission with a \$3,000 donation to Access Yes. He wanted to personally acknowledge their efforts and express his appreciation.

It was moved by Commissioner Crank to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Byrd. Motion carried.

The meeting ended at 5:16 p.m.

Friday, July 19, 2019

| | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| David Rael, President | Wyoming Game and Fish Commission |
| Peter Dube, Vice President | Wyoming Game and Fish Commission |
| Gay Lynn Byrd, Member | Wyoming Game and Fish Commission |
| Ralph Brokaw, Member | Wyoming Game and Fish Commission |
| Patrick Crank, Member | Wyoming Game and Fish Commission |
| Richard Ladwig, Member | Wyoming Game and Fish Commission |
| Mike Schmid, Member | Wyoming Game and Fish Commission |

Director Nesvik was absent and previously excused.

Staff Present:

John Kennedy, Angi Bruce, Rick King, Scott Edberg, Doug Brimeyer, Dee Dee Hawk, Sean Bibbey, Alan Osterland, Dirk Miller, Meredith Wood, Corey Johnson, Justin Joiner, Sarah Dizenzo, Tracy Kupec, Jerry Cowles, Andy Roosa, Todd Graham, Mark Zornes, Sheridan Todd, Wayne Cotton, Guy Reed, Samuel Jackson, Dan Smith and Lucy Diggins-Wold

Legal Representation:

David DeWald, Senior Assistant Attorney General

Guests Present:

Shawn Blajszczak, Mule Deer Foundation; Rob Joyce, Sierra Club; Jess Johnson, Wyoming Wildlife Federation; Kim Brown, Chris Colligan, Greater Yellowstone Coalition; Jan Brimeyer; Steve Martin, Bowhunters of Wyoming; Nick Dobric, Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partners; Jerry Johnson, Department of Agriculture; Kristin Combs, Wyoming Wildlife Advocates; Kristen Guntjher, Wyoming Outdoor Council; Penelope Maldonado, The Cougar Fund; Patti Slocki, Sierra Club; Wally Johnson; Andrew Volz, Wyoming Wildlife Federation; Josh Longwell; and Ken Nosich

Open Session began at 7:30 a.m.

16. Presenters: John Kennedy, Deputy Director, and Meredith Wood, Chief Financial Officer, Fiscal Division. Approval of the Commission's FY 2020 Budget.

Deputy Director Kennedy explained the Commission provided preliminary approval of the FY 2020 budget in March. Since that time, the budget team has made some adjustments to the proposed budget. One of the items identified is the Fiscal System Feasibility study implementation (Agenda

Item #12). This project has a \$270,000 impact to the FY 2020 budget (\$220,000 standard budget/\$50,000 one-time budget. The Boulder Rearing Station project has a budget implication of \$1,206,000. Other items discussed include CWD Sampling \$363,200 (\$270,000 standard budget /\$93,200 one-time budget); Moose Research, \$50,000 one-time budget; Pronghorn Research \$93,000 one-time budget; and Mule Deer Research \$30,000 one-time budget for a total of \$ 2,012,200. Also discussed were salary adjustments, vehicle budget adjustments, hay shed project (location TBD), Cody Land Acquisition, and the Glendo Warden Station. The Department asked for approval of the Standard Budget of \$83,283,512 and the One-time Budget of \$3,909,000.

Public Comment:

Bruce Shackelford

Mr. Shackelford explained he is a board member of the Foundation. He looks forward to working with the Commission and thanked them for the opportunity to do great things for wildlife.

It was moved by Commissioner Brokaw to approve the Commission's FY 2020 Budget as presented by the Department. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Byrd. Motion carried.

17. Presenter: Dr. Mary Wood, DVM, Wildlife Veterinarian, Wildlife Division. CWD Statewide Collaborative Process.

Dr. Wood provided the Commission with an update on CWD Statewide Collaborative Process and CWD resident and nonresident hunter survey results. She explained there were five public meetings held in Laramie, Casper, Sheridan, Worland and Pinedale. She explained the process used in the survey and the results:

- Hunters want WGFD to do something about CWD
- Hunters want WGFD to prioritize a balance between herd health and hunting opportunity with a greater emphasis on herd health
- As prevalence increases, hunters are more likely to hunt in different areas
- Management strategies focused on harvest are preferred – particularly if it does not reduce populations
- Most carcasses are disposed at the site of kill or through a processor

Public Comments:

Rob Joyce, Sierra Club

Mr. Joyce expressed his concern of feedgrounds being removed from discussions at the CWD Working Group. He believes it limits the effectiveness of moving forward with a plan. The Department should reconsider and put feedgrounds back on the table for discussions.

Kristin Combs, Wyoming Wildlife Advocates

Ms. Combs believes feedgrounds are a large component of CWD and should be part of discussions.

Ms. Wood explained the Department is not excluding feedgrounds. The Department is focusing on CWD at a statewide level first. The Department will delve into feedgrounds at a much deeper level.

18. Presenter: Scott Edberg, Deputy Chief, Wildlife Division. Kim Brown, Damage Claim Appeal #19070.

Deputy Chief Edberg summarized the damage claim appeal. He explained on 11/26/18, Mr. Brown filed a damage claim for damages by elk, deer, antelope, sandhill cranes and Canada geese to a 402 acre irrigated malt barley crop. Warden Roosa spoke with Mr. Brown on 8/20/2018 regarding a photo that was sent from Mr. Brown to Commissioner Anselmi of several elk in Mr. Brown's field. Warden Roosa and Mr. Brown discussed the number of elk and antelope frequenting Mr. Brown's barley field and the damage claim process but Mr. Brown did not indicate to Warden Roosa that he wished to file a damage claim at that time.

On 9/24/18 Mr. Brown notified Warden Roosa that he wished to file a damage claim. Warden Roosa said that damage had to be reported within 15 days and that a claim filed at that time could not cover damage caused more than 15 days earlier, or before 9/9/18 in this case. Mr. Brown reported that the damage ended on 9/30/18 in his affidavit making the damage period 22 days (9/9/18-9/30/18). Because the field was harvested on 8/26/18, the Department was only able to use animal counts to determine damage. Therefore AUMs were calculated to compensate for wildlife damage to the stubble from 9/9/18 through 9/30/18. Using a combination of the counts performed by Warden Roosa and the numbers provided by Mr. Brown the total damage was calculated in the amount of \$438.99. The field Mr. Brown used for comparison in calculating his damage amount is approximately 5 miles away from the damaged field. While the Department does not dispute that wildlife likely accounted for much of the difference in production of the two fields, this method takes into account damage by wildlife from the entire growing season and not just the damage period, as well as does not account for any difference in crop production from differing growing conditions such soils, irrigation, weather and fertilizer application.

Mr. Brown explained he is a life-time resident of Wyoming. He provided information regarding his farming operation. He stressed the damage is not how much the wildlife eats, rather it is the damage they cause to crops, fences, and haystacks. He provided the Commission with photos of his property and damage. Mr. Brown has never filed a damage claim before. He has always allowed hunting on his property.

Game Warden Roosa explained how he investigated the damage claim and how payment was calculated. There was general discussion between the Commission, Department and Mr. Brown regarding the Brown's farming operation, disparity of dates, and how the claim was investigated.

It was moved by Commissioner Crank to compensate Mr. Brown in the amount of \$10,522.15 for damage claim #19070. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Schmid.

Discussion:

Commissioner Crank believes there was a miscommunication between Mr. Brown, Commissioner Anselmi and Warden Roosa regarding the reporting of damage and the damage claim process. Commissioner Dube asked why it took so long to decide to file a claim. Mr. Brown explained that he did not want to cause problems; he tries to be a good neighbor and work with the Department. Commissioner Ladwig expressed his concern of following the handbook of wildlife depredation techniques. Does the Commission follow the established regulations and procedures or does the Commission make up our own?

Call for the question:

Commissioners Crank, Brokaw and Schmid voted aye. Commissioners Byrd, Dube and Ladwig voted naye. President Rael voted aye. Motion carried.

19. Presenter: Sean Bibbey, Lands Branch Chief, Services Division. Authorization to Proceed with Negotiations for Acquiring or Disposing of Fee Title and/or Less Than Fee Title Property Rights.

Line Item A: Bump Sullivan Water Rights Acquisition, Goshen County

The Department is proposing to acquire 69 shares of water rights associated with the Bump Sullivan Reservoir within the Springer/Bump Sullivan Wildlife Habitat Management Area (WHMA) from the Howard family. The acquisition consists of 69 shares of water with priority dates of (49 acres) 5/4/1911 and (20 acres) 1/11/1919. Each share equals 3.01 acre-feet of water with the reservoir holding a storage capacity for 641 total shares or 1929 acre-feet. The Howard family is asking \$103,500 for the water rights or \$1,500 per share.

The Commission acquired the rights to 64 shares or ten percent of the storage capacity in 2016 and is anticipating the acquisition of an additional 223 shares of water with final approval from the Commission of the Schamel property acquisition. With the purchase of the 69 shares from the Howard family, the Commission would control approximately 55.5% of the allocated storage capacity for Bump Sullivan.

Acquiring a significant interest in the Bump Sullivan Reservoir would provide the Department the ability to irrigate additional crop land within the WHMA and maintain water levels in the reservoir for waterfowl and the fishery. Hunting on the WHMA is increasing each year with sufficient water. It is estimated that over 36,000 Canada and snow geese utilized the WHMA over the winter months. Bump Sullivan Reservoir provides an opportunity for warm water fish species including crappie, channel catfish and perch. Fisheries personnel estimate the reservoir is receiving an average of 500 angler days per year.

It was moved by Commissioner Crank to authorize the Department to proceed with negotiations on the purchase of the water rights. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dube. Motion carried.

20. Presenter: Sean Bibbey, Lands Branch Chief, Services Division. Approval to Acquire or Dispose of Fee Title and/or Less than Fee Title Property Rights.

Line Item A: Afton Game Warden Station Disposal, Lincoln County

The Commission acquired a new Afton game warden station in November of 2017. The previous warden station, located at 441 Madison Street, has been vacated in favor of the new game warden station. The Department contracted a Certified Wyoming Residential appraiser who estimated the market value of the warden station to be \$195,000. In accordance with Commission Policy VIII, the Department advertised the home for sale through a sealed bid process within a Lincoln County and a statewide newspaper once per week for four consecutive weeks.

A bid was received on April 23, 2019 in the amount of \$201,000, with the Commission paying \$6,000 toward the buyer's closing costs, which would result in a net \$195,000 sales price. The buyer has provided the Department with a letter from their lender stating they are approved for a new mortgage in the amount of \$201,000 and are able to close by August 1, 2019. Costs for closing, pro rata taxes, and recording fees are estimated at \$1,770.

It was moved by Commissioner Crank to approve the sale of the vacated Afton Game Warden Station. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Byrd. Motion carried.

Line Item B: Schamel Property Acquisition, Goshen County

The Schamel property is located just south of Yoder, WY, near the Springer/Bump Sullivan Wildlife Habitat Management Area (WHMA). With the intention of securing the water rights associated with the land, Ducks Unlimited proposed to purchase the Schamel Property and transfer ownership to the Commission at a later date. The Commission granted authorization to proceed on this project in January of 2017.

Ducks Unlimited purchased the Schamel Property for \$650,000 in 2017 with the intention of conveying the property to the Commission upon full reimbursement of the purchase price. The acquisition perpetually conserves 342 acres that will become part of the Springer/Bump Sullivan WHMA and secures approximately 1/3 of the water rights associated with Bump Sullivan Reservoir or 223 shares. The water right is a combination of storage right at the reservoir and direct flow tied to the land for irrigation.

The Commission has already committed a portion of the funding for the acquisition at \$299,300 with Ducks Unlimited securing an additional \$200,000 through a NAWCA grant. Pheasants Forever has

contributed \$11,500 and the Goshen County 2-Shot Goose Club has agreed to allocate \$10,000 toward the purchase of the property.

It was moved by Commissioner to Dube to approve the proposed land purchase. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ladwig. Motion carried.

Line Item C: Tilden Property Acquisition, Park County

The current Game and Fish Cody Regional Office is located on approximately six acres of land that we have under a 99 year, no cost lease with Park County, with 58 years remaining. The office was originally constructed in 1979 with the intention of housing nine employees. The office was later reconfigured to accommodate 14 employees. As the need for services increased, two modular office buildings were added in 2011. Currently there are 26 full time employees and 5-10 temporary employees using 24 office spaces. This office no longer has the capacity to address the needs of employees or the public we serve.

Realizing that we would eventually outgrow the current office, the Department began planning for this around 10 years ago. The Department conducted a thorough analysis of all the options available, including demolition of the current building and building on site, buying an existing building at a different location, and building off site on a new property. Based on this analysis, building on a new property is the best option for the Department and the public financially and operationally.

The Tilden property is located less than one mile northwest of Cody directly off Highway 120. Mr. Tilden completed a subdivision of his property into three parcels and is under contract with the Commission to sell Lot 1 of the Dry Creek Subdivision, totaling 21.71 acres for \$350,000. The property will serve as the new location for the Cody Regional Office. The Department has obtained approval from the Park County Commission for the Special Use Permit required to construct the facility. The geotechnical survey has been completed and the property has been found to be adequate for construction.

It was moved by Commissioner Dube to approve the acquisition of the Tilden property. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Schmid. Motion carried.

21. Presenter: John Kennedy, Deputy Director. Pathfinder Ranch Conservation Easement.

Deputy Director Kennedy provided information regarding the acquisition through donation of a conservation easement on the Pathfinder Ranch. The proposed easement consists of approximately 5,000 acres in Carbon County.

It was moved by Commissioner Crank to approve the conservation easement on the Pathfinder Ranch. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Byrd. Motion carried.

22. Presenter: John Kennedy, Deputy Director. WGFD Operations in Teton County.

Deputy Director Kennedy addressed the Commission regarding the challenges associated with employee housing and operations in Jackson. Based on direction from the Commission, the Department has identified two potential courses of action:

1. Acquisition of property in Jackson through a stepped approach over time to maintain Department presence at its current levels in Jackson. This option is contingent upon the generation of revenue by selling or trading existing Commission-owned lands in Teton.
2. Decreasing Department presence in Jackson and moving most regional office personnel to Pinedale.

There was general discussion between the Commission and the Department regarding operations in Jackson. President Rael felt it is essential for the Department to have a strong presence in Jackson. Commissioner Crank believes it's the Commission's fiduciary obligation to manage wildlife; spending one million dollars on a house in Jackson does not improve our work. Any employee that works in Jackson needs to be able to have affordable housing for their family. The Jackson office is no more important than any other regional office. He encouraged the Department to explore other options such as the Jackson Hole Community Housing Trust and the possibility of the sale or trade of the acres on the backside of the elk refuge. Commissioner Dube supported the idea of a land trade of the Teton WHMA with the FWS but look for housing in other cities like Alpine and Pinedale. Commissioner Schmid requested the Jackson Hole Community Housing Trust to attend the next Commission meeting to provide additional information.

23. Presenter: Jerry Johnson, Wyoming Board of Agriculture. Animal Damage Management Board Projects.

In accordance with W.S. § 11-6-307, the Animal Damage Management Board (ADMB) is requesting \$100,000 from the Commission. The funds shall be used for accomplishing high-priority ADMB projects. Mr. Johnson explained the ADMB met on June 13, 2019 to review projects. The projects selected for funding were:

- Large Carnivore-Livestock Depredation Prevention and Control - \$25,000
- Effects of coyotes and coyote control on sympatric ungulates in SW Wyoming - \$30,000
- Absaroka Carnivore-Livestock Interaction Study - \$40,000
- Effects of Predation on Survival of Newborn Mule Deer in the Wyoming Range - \$5,000

Commissioner Dube said at the last meeting the Commission added an additional \$50,000 to the budget to fund ADMB projects. Deputy Chief Edberg said at the time the ADMB met (June) to approve projects the additional funding was not in place. Therefore, the ADMB will present projects for the additional \$50,000 funding at the next Commission meeting. Commissioner Schmid requested an itemized list regarding the four projects approved for funding.

It was moved by Commissioner Dube to approve funding of \$100,000 for the projects selected by the Animal Damage Management Board. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brokaw. Motion carried.

24. Presenter: Doug Brimeyer, Deputy Chief, Wildlife Division. Big Game Herd Unit Objectives Revisions.

Deputy Chief Brimeyer presented the Commission with proposals to adopt a mid-winter trend count objective for the Sierra Madre elk herd and update the Absaroka moose herd unit average age objective to be consistent with current statewide guidelines for moose limited opportunity objective.

It was moved by Commissioner Brokaw to approve the objective revisions for the Absaroka Moose Herd Unit and Sierra Madre elk herd unit as proposed by the Department. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Byrd. Motion carried.

25. Presenter: Mark Nelson, Records Custodian, Wildlife Division. Policy VI A, Public Records. The Commission will be asked to vote to approve Policy VI A, Public Records.

Legislation passed in 2019 requires all state agencies to designate a public records person and requires applications for public records be made to that person. The Department of Administration and Information (DA&I) is required to post contact information of the designated public records person on the DA&I website. The legislation requires the release of public records no later than thirty (30) calendar days from the date of acknowledged receipt of the request, unless good cause exists. The proposed policy addresses those legislative directives.

It was moved by Commissioner Brokaw to approve Policy VI A, Public Records as proposed by the Department. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Byrd. Motion carried.

Commissioner Brokaw was not in attendance during the afternoon session; however, there was still a quorum.

26. Presenter: Scott Edberg, Deputy Chief, Wildlife Division. Josh Longwell, Damage Claim Appeal #19114.

Deputy Chief Edberg summarized the damage claim appeal. He explained Josh Longwell, representing the HD Ranch, submitted damage claim #19114 in the amount of \$422,971.90 for damages to cattle (400 calves and 2 yearling steers) by grizzly bears and sheep (364 lambs, 42 ewes, and 3.5 yearling ewes) by grizzly bears and mountain lions.

The Department verified 20 calves as damaged by grizzly bears in an open range setting to which Longwell applied an unapproved multiplier of 20 for a total claim of 400 calves vs. the 70 calves (20 verified x 3.5 approved multiplier) as allowed by regulation.

The Department verified 95 lambs, 9 ewes, and 1 yearling ewe as damaged by grizzly bears and mountain lions in pasture settings. The Department also verified 9 lambs and 3 ewes as damaged by grizzly bears and mountain lions in an open range setting. Longwell applied the 3.5 multiplier to all sheep, regardless if a pasture or open range setting, for a total of 364 lambs, 42 ewes, and 3.5 yearling ewes vs. the 126.5 lambs, 19.5 ewes, and 1 yearling ewe allowed by regulation. Claimed grizzly bear damage to the 2 yearling steers was recommended to be paid in full by the Department and are not included in this appeal.

Mr. Longwell provided information regarding his cow/calf/sheep ranching operation. He also provided numerous photos of dead calves and lambs. His ranch is overrun with predators; last year alone they killed 27 wolves on their property. Wyoming needs to take a stand against the Federal Government. He can no longer support his family.

Luke Elsbury presented a summary of the damage claim, how it was investigated and how payment was calculated.

It was moved by Commissioner Crank to approve payment in the amount of \$89,498.24 to Mr. Longwell for damage claim #19114. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Schmid.

Discussion:

Commissioner Dube expressed his sympathy to Mr. Longwell and his frustration with the sportsmen having to incur costs associated with the grizzly bear but the state cannot manage them.

Call for the question. Motion carried.

27. Presenter: Angi Bruce, Deputy Director. Big Game Highway Crossing Project.

Deputy Director Bruce presented information on the Dry Piney Project on U.S. Highway 189 (RM 86-91). This area has one of the highest collision rates in Wyoming. It is also a school bus route with school busses traveling several times a day. The project consists of two underpasses and associated fencing to funnel wildlife to the underpasses. She provided cost estimates totaling \$5.5 million. She also provided information regarding possible grants and support from partners: WYDOT, NRCS, BLM and National Fish and Wildlife Association, Muley Fanatics, and Wyoming Wildlife Federation. The Commission expressed their concern regarding the grant/NEPA process timeline and the rising cost of construction.

It was moved by Commissioner Crank to approve Phase I of Dry Piney Project as proposed by the Department. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Schmid.

Public Comment:

Chris Colligan, Greater Yellowstone Coalition

Mr. Colligan supports the highway crossing project. Although his organization can't commit funds they can assist with fundraising; an example is a \$10 million ballot initiative for wildlife crossings in Teton County.

Jessi Johnson, Wyoming Wildlife Federation

Ms. Johnson is part of the Wildlife Crossing Implementation Team. She is also the legislation liaison for her organization. She said the Wyoming Legislature is very interested in this issue. There are three draft bills pertaining to wildlife crossings that will be introduced at the next Transportation Committee.

Call for the question. Motion carried.

28. Presenter: Jennifer Doering, License Section Manager, Fiscal Division. License Selling Agent Appointments.

This agenda item was presented to the Commission on July 18th.

29. Presenter: Kathryn Boswell, Hunter and Angler Participation Coordinator, Director's Office. 2019 Expo Update.

Ms. Boswell provided the Commission with information on the 2019 Expo recently held in Casper.

30. Presenter: John Kennedy, Deputy Director. Petition to Adopt a Regulation Requiring Hunters to Carry Bear Spray.

David DeWald explained to the Commission that Title 16 of Wyoming Statute allows for this type of petition. The statute requires a written response. If the Commission approves the petition and directs the Department to promulgate a rule it will go through the APA Process. If the Commission denies the request a letter will be sent advising.

Kristin Combs, Executive Director, Wyoming Wildlife Advocates

Ms. Combs advised she is a co-petitioner. She said human-caused mortality is the leading cause of grizzly bear deaths in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. Elk hunters encounter bears at especially high rates because elk seasons coincides with hyperphagia. Gut piles and carcasses left behind by hunters are attractants to grizzly bears. A simple, inexpensive, and proven solution shows that when hunters carry bear spray, have it immediately accessible and deploy it, bear spray can effectively and non-lethally deter bear attacks on hunters. Studies show that bear spray is more effective than firearms. She said the Commission has the authority and is obligated to protect hunters and bears. She strongly recommends the Commission approve the petition. Commissioner Dube asked why

this rule would only apply to hunters and not anglers or other outdoor recreationists. Ms. Combs said that studies have proven that conflicts with hunters are disproportionately involved and incidents are escalating.

Chris Colligan, Greater Yellowstone Coalition

Mr. Colligan advised the Greater Yellowstone Coalition is not a party of the petition. He wanted the Commission to know they are strong advocates of bear spray use; however, bear spray is only effective if you have been trained how to use it correctly.

Rob Joyce, Sierra Club

Mr. Joyce explained his organization is a co-petitioner. This is an opportunity to pass a bill to protect humans; the petition is not meant to replace firearms. Bear spray has been proven effective 98% of the time.

It was moved by Commissioner Crank to not propose a regulation requiring hunters to carry bear spray. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Byrd.

Discussion:

Commissioner Crank said the Commission has discretion to impose a regulation to require hunters to carry bear spray. He does not believe the Commission should exercise their discretion. The problem is not that humans are using areas occupied by bears. The problem is there are too many bears in unsuitable habitat. Grizzly bears have lost their natural fear of humans. There is no other wildlife population in the world that has been more studied than the yellowstone ecosystem grizzly bear; yet we are unable to manage bears. Environmental groups do great harm to the populations they seek to protect when they challenge a scientifically, incontestable conclusion that a population has recovered and should be delisted and managed consistent with other wildlife population. This decreases public support for that population and public support for that species ultimately eroded.

Commissioner Dube thinks we should encourage everyone to carry bear spray while in the backcountry, not just hunters. By supporting the motion it does not mean he doesn't support the use of bear spray. Bear spray should be encouraged, not regulated.

Commissioner Ladwig supports the motion. He believes grizzly bears have lost their fear of humans. He hunted game three years in Alaska which has a robust grizzly bear population. During that time he only encountered two grizzly bears. None of them came to the gut pile, in fact one of them ran away. They need to be managed.

Call for the question. Motion carried.

**31. Presenter: Justin Joiner, Communication and Outreach Supervisor, Director's Office.
Putting a Face on the Agency.**

Mr. Joiner presented the Commission with a short video, produced by the Communication team, highlighting Martin Hicks, Wildlife Biologist from Wheatland. The video focuses on why he chose to be a biologist and the important work he completes for the benefit of wildlife.

32. Call to the public.

None

It was moved by Commissioner Crank to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Byrd. Motion carried.

The meeting ended at 3:15 p.m.



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Game and Fish planning new office in Cody

Set to be built on commissioner's property



(/uploads/original/20190806-084027-Property.jpg)

The Wyoming Game and Fish Department plans to eventually build a new regional office at this property north of Cody. The Game and Fish Commission recently agreed to purchase just less than 22 acres of land for \$350,000. The property is currently owned by Park County Commissioner Joe Tilden.

PHOTO COURTESY PARK COUNTY PLANNING AND ZONING DEPARTMENT

Posted Tuesday, August 6, 2019 8:20 am

By **CJ Baker** (<mailto:cj@powelltribune.com>)

Having outgrown its current quarters, the Wyoming Game and Fish Department plans to leave its regional office south of Cody and build a new one on the north side of the city.

The department is purchasing a nearly 22-acre parcel of land along Wyo. Highway 120, not far from the highway's intersection with Road 2AB. Under a deal approved by the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission on July 19, the state will buy the property from Park County Commissioner Joe Tilden for \$350,000.

However, ground won't be broken until the spring of 2021 at the earliest, said Cody Regional Wildlife Supervisor Dan Smith.

"We're still a ways out and it's still very tentative at this time," Smith said Thursday.

The Game and Fish has yet to decide on a design for the new office — it hopes to seek bids from designers in the coming months — and the total budget has yet to be determined, he said.

"What we're going to look at it is best use of space and best use of sportsmen's dollars," Smith said, adding, "We want to be good stewards of that money."

The Cody Regional office serves as the department's headquarters in the Big Horn Basin. The Game and Fish's current office also sits on Wyo. 120, but south of Cody on Park County-owned land. It was built in 1979, with the thought that the office would house nine people, the department says. Through some reconfigurations and the addition of a couple modular buildings, the facility now houses 24 office spaces, but the Game and Fish has 26 full-time and five to 10 temporary employees working there.

"This office no longer has the capacity to address the needs of employees or the public we serve," Dee Dee Hawk, chief of the Game and Fish's services division, wrote in a memo to the Game and Fish Commission.

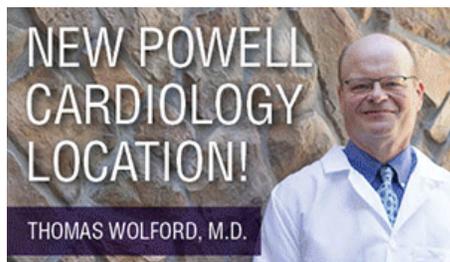
Smith specifically mentioned the small public reception area in the front of the building.

When the Game and Fish is busy — such as when hunters are registering bear baiting sites or purchasing leftover licenses — "people literally have to line up out the door to stand in line," he said. Further, the basement conference room is not ADA-compliant. That forces the department to hold most of its meetings at other locations.

In contrast, the new building is expected to include a larger lobby, handicap-accessible conference space for the public, a break room, storage rooms, a wet lab, restrooms and a four-bay shop.

It will also have space for about 30 full-time workers — allowing for some future growth in Cody — plus five to 10 temporary employees.

"We're planning for 20-plus years into the future of the Cody Regional office," Smith said.



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He sees advantages from the new location north of Cody, ranging from safer access from the highway to more parking space for folks towing trailers or boats. Smith also mentioned the department's desire to have its office on property it owns; the current building sits on land it's leased (for free) from the Park County government.

The Game and Fish says it looked at several other possibilities before choosing Tilden's property.

"The department conducted a thorough analysis of all options available, including demolition of the current building and building on site, buying an existing building at a different location, and building off-site on a new property," Hawk wrote in the memo. She said the agency concluded that building at a new location "is the best option for the department and the public financially and operationally."

Although the design has yet to be finalized, Game and Fish representatives say the plan is for the buildings "to blend into the natural surroundings and to be aesthetically appealing." The facility is expected to include at least 20,000 square feet of office space with an attached 7,500 square foot, two-story shop and a 5,000 square foot outbuilding.

County commissioners have cleared the way for the Game and Fish to build at the new site. In June, they unanimously approved Tilden's plans to split his 50.79-acre property into three different lots, creating the Dry Creek Minor Subdivision. After selling the 21.71-acre parcel to the Game and Fish, Tilden said he'll keep and continue to live on another 20.33-acre parcel while selling the third, 8.79-acre lot as a home site.

On July 16, county commissioners also approved a special use permit to allow the Game and Fish to build its regional office in the subdivision; special permission was needed for the "major community use" because the facilities are going to be larger than 5,000 square feet in size.

Commissioners Tilden and Jake Fulkerson — an appraiser whose done some work for the Game and Fish on the project — both recused themselves from the votes on the subdivision and the permit. Commissioners Lee Livingston, Dossie Overfield and Lloyd Thiel voted unanimously to approve both items — though not without giving Tilden a bit of a hard time.

"Come on, there's got to be something," Livingston joked when it appeared there were no issues with Tilden's subdivision.

After the vote, Tilden offered that, "Sitting on this side of that aisle [in the audience] is not an easy process."

No members of the general public raised any specific concerns about the project at the two county commission meetings.

One neighboring landowner, a limited liability company called Trail Creek Partners, sent a letter to the Game and Fish Commission supporting the department's plans to acquire the property.

Writing on the LLC's behalf, attorney Colin Simpson encouraged the department to develop the property "in an environmentally conscious manner that incorporates design elements that are aesthetically consistent with the natural features of the area and that contribute to the overall character of Cody." Simpson also asked if the department could plant some more trees along its border with the site before concluding that, "We look forward to the agency's continued growth and future success."

As for the Game and Fish's current office, its fate has yet to be determined. However, Smith said the most likely scenario is that the building will be turned over to the county.

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Powell Tribune
19 minutes ago

Local demand for COVID-19 vaccines is currently outpacing the limited supplies, Park County Health Officer Dr. Aaron Billin said Wednesday.

Although vaccines are only being offered to certain groups of people — such as healthcare workers and people 70 and older — public health officials have had to temporarily pause sign-ups for vaccination clinics.



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COVID-19

With supplies limited, vaccine sign-up paused

BY GJ BAKER
Tribune Deputy Editor

yes — 975 doses of Pfizer's vaccine — is expected to arrive on Monday, according to Wyoming Department of Health projections. The department expects to distribute roughly 17,000 initial doses of Pfizer's and Moderna's vaccines across the state by the end of the month.

For local updates on availability — and to sign up for the vaccine when they become available again — visit www.parkcounty.gov/covid-19.

As of Wednesday, there were 138 active cases and 1,275 deaths in Park County, according to the Wyoming Department of Health. Since the start of the month, the number of active cases in the county has been hovering between 118 and 151.

There were 11 patients hospitalized with the disease in Park County as of Wednesday, according to Park County Health Director Aaron Hillis said. That was down from 16 deaths another 1,875 doses this month. The largest shipment

NWC considers budget reductions

11 LAYOFFS PROPOSED

BY KEVIN KILGOUR
Tribune Area Editor

In the face of declining support from the State of Wyoming, the Northwest College Board of Trustees is considering a proposal that would cut \$2.6 million from its budget. It would involve the elimination of 24.5 positions — with 11 employees being laid off.

The sudden by the losses — There are just numbers on a sheet, but there are real people behind it," said NWC Interim President Lisa Watson.

The NWC board delayed voting on the proposed fiscal year 2022 budget at its Monday meeting, wanting time to consider the recommendations and get input from the community. Trustees will vote on the proposal in a special meeting on Thursday, Jan. 21.

If the budget reduction recommendations are approved, the college will close the Children's Learning and Care Center on Feb. 28 and eliminate four positions at the center.

The layoffs would include five faculty positions — one each from art, business and communications, one physical science and the visual performing arts and humanities. Another position will be eliminated in the physical science department through retroactive hiring.

Two more positions will be eliminated through retroactive hiring.

These include the vice president of student services and a second position in academic affairs. Another 11.5 positions will be eliminated through retroactive hiring, which include 4.5 from instructional support.

If the cuts are made as proposed, the college will operate approximately 17% more expensively in fiscal year 2022, which runs from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022. That's an increase from a projected \$204.4 million in local property taxes, collected through a mill levy.

Over the past 18 months, Watson explained, Gov. Mark Gordon has responded to projected revenue shortfalls at the state — arising from declining mineral extraction taxes and

comes from an increase in the employees' share of retirement contributions.

The NWC finance committee and Watson have been preparing the budget recommendations for some time. Watson said layoffs were a last resort, but after all other possible cuts were considered, they were insufficient to close the budget shortfall.

According to college officials, state support for NWC is projected to fall by \$2.6 million in fiscal year 2022, which runs from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022. That's an increase from a projected \$204.4 million in local property taxes, collected through a mill levy.

Over the past 18 months, Watson explained, Gov. Mark Gordon has responded to projected revenue shortfalls at the state — arising from declining mineral extraction taxes and



NWC Learning and Care Center teacher Stephanie Muller instructs students how to write their names Wednesday afternoon at the center. Seated around the table are Holly Peterson, Wagon Watson, Jasmine Lewis, Theodora Larkston, Roger Sager and Shante Larkston. NWC leaders are struggling to close the fiscal year 2022 budget as part of budget cuts. (Photo courtesy of Lisa Watson)

MENDING FENCES

New group working to help migrating wildlife, one fence at a time

BY MARK DAVIS
Tribune Staff Writer

When Ken and Kathy Lichtenkeldt bought their property near Clark in 2016, they didn't pay much mind to the fences built years or perhaps decades before.

They had a lot of cows and horses moving freely on their land from neighboring ranches and worried about the impact on the delicate ecosystem. "It just didn't seem like their own," Kathy said.

Wyoming is a free-range state for livestock, meaning that landowners who don't want to fence their property are responsible for keeping it out. Conservation-minded, the Lichtenkeldts were keenly aware of the natural resources near their home and wanted to protect the region's delicate ecosystem.

Then, as they settled in, they started to realize the actual damage fences do to the environment. They were out for a property check when they found a dead rick calf, its back leg caught in the two strands of barbed wire on the edge of the couple's property.

"The long story is that we've revised the fence line of a great hundred acre that had been owned by her father while driving for years," Kathy said. "We realized we needed to make some changes."

Much of the land surrounding the Lichtenkeldts is still being used for grazing, so simply removing the fence wasn't an option. After research-

Board renews Jay Curtis' contract as superintendent

BY CONNIE BURKHAM
Tribune Managing Editor

Although it may seem surprising, the January 10 meeting of the Board of Education began by renewing the contract for Superintendent Jay Curtis. Curtis has been superintendent since 2017 and had experience as Monticello superintendent prior to joining Powell in 2016.

The board met in executive session early in its meeting to discuss personnel matters. When it came to the discussion of extending Curtis' contract, the motion was short and to the point. Trustee Tom Gillman made the motion to extend his contract through the end of the 2023 school year with a compensation increase to be held "later in the spring."

It was quickly seconded and passed unanimously. Curtis is currently paid \$344,363 annually, a 3% increase from \$334,363.

"I'm proud of what we've accomplished as a board and superintendent," Curtis attended the meeting via telephone.

"Words are difficult to come by to express how grateful I am for the support of the board."

See Curtis, Page 3

LOOKING FOR ANSWERS

Corey Williams, manager of the North Park's Trout Creek Ranch, has been working with wildlife biologists for the better part of a decade to assist with the wildlife on their managed lands.

Williams said:

"It's a long, long story short, a lot of people started coming to the table saying, 'gosh, if we get this person involved, or that person involved, we could get some real data-driven perspectives,'" Williams said.

Meanwhile, Wyoming Game and Fish Department Tanya Mong was attempting the same thing. Being diverse groups coming together, he sought to combine people and resources to create a more holistic approach to the problem, rather than working on the same problem in silos.

Recently, the need for change has become a priority. The Lichtenkeldts

Commission enters 2021 with new member, leader

BY GJ BAKER
Tribune Deputy Editor

The Park County Commission welcomed a new member and a new leader last week. Scott Mangold officially joined the five-member board, while Commissioner Lee Livingston stepped in as chairman for 2021. Commissioner Donnie Dierdick was selected as vice chair.

Both Mangold and Livingston started new four-year terms at the Jan. 5 meeting. It's the third time for Livingston, who had previously served as commissioner. Jake Pullerton is last year's primary candidate.

"Hopefully there's not a lot of eye rolls when I talk redundant questions," Mangold stepped to his peers at the start of the meeting. "While new to the commission, Mangold brings extensive experience in government, serving as both the mayor of Denver and as a city commissioner."

In his first meeting as chairman, he held the position in 2017. The chairman on the board's agenda, runs its meetings and sets the commission's agenda. The chairman generally does not vote unless there's a tie between the other four commissioners.

See Commission, Page 3

INSIDE

ON-CAMPUS TESTING AT NWC: PAGE 9

BOTT IS TEACHER OF THE YEAR: PAGE 13



Volunteers, including Alex Fero and her 2-year-old daughter, Kala Caldwell (left), work on the Lichtenkeldt fence project on Dec. 5. (Photo courtesy of Kathy Lichtenkeldt)

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**Wyoming Game and Fish Commission
Meeting Minutes
Pinedale, Wyoming**

September 16, 2019

| | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| David Rael, President | Wyoming Game and Fish Commission |
| Peter Dube, Vice President | Wyoming Game and Fish Commission |
| Gay Lynn Byrd, Member | Wyoming Game and Fish Commission |
| Ralph Brokaw, Member | Wyoming Game and Fish Commission |
| Patrick Crank, Member | Wyoming Game and Fish Commission |
| Richard Ladwig, Member | Wyoming Game and Fish Commission |
| Mike Schmid, Member | Wyoming Game and Fish Commission |
| Brian R. Nesvik, Director | Wyoming Game and Fish Department |

Staff Present:

John Kennedy, Angi Bruce, Rick King, Doug Brimeyer, Dee Hawk, Sean Bibbey, Alan Osterland, Dirk Miller, Greg Phipps, Meredith Wood, Rebekah Fitzgerald, Sara DiRienzo, Pete Cavalli, Dave Zafft, Anna Senecal, Leslie Schreiber, Brian Olsen, Pete Feck, Luke Schultz, Natasha Howe, Brad Hovinga, Ken Mills, Samuel Jackson, Mark Gocke, Guy Reed, and Sheridan Todd

Legal Representation:

David DeWald, Senior Assistant Attorney General

Guests Present:

Steve Martin, Bowhunters of Wyoming; Jenny DeSarro, Greater Yellowstone Coalition; Sy Gilliland, Wyoming Outfitters and Guides Association; Todd Steve, Wyoming Outfitters and Guides Association; Julia Stuble, The Wilderness Society; Dan Smitherton, The Wilderness Society; Dan Stanton; Kristen Gunther, Wyoming Outdoor Council; Elizabeth Baumgartner; Joshua Coursey, Muley Fanatics Foundation; Joey Faigl, Muley Fanatics Foundation; Elaine Crumplet, CURED; Pete Arambal, Midland Live Stock Co.; Rep, Mike Gierau, Wyoming Legislation; Carmel Kail; Richard Kail; Vic Dana; David McKnight, SNS Outfitters; Joy Ufford, Sublette Examiner/Pinedale Roundup; Penelope Maldonado, The Cougar Fund; Dwayne Meadows, Wyoming Wildlife Federation; Jim Magagna, Wyoming Stock Growers Association; Kenny Becker; Derrick Farmer, WYHAA; Rep. Albert Sommers, Wyoming Legislation;

Open Session began at 2:47 p.m.

1. Presenter: Commission President. Approval of Commission Meeting Minutes.

It was moved by Commissioner Ladwig to approve the July 2019 Commission Meeting Minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Byrd. Motion carried.

2. Presenter: Brian R. Nesvik, Director. Director's Report.

Director Nesvik said this year will mark the 20th Anniversary of the Access Yes program. This is an important program that facilitates partnership between private landowners to create free public hunting and fishing access on private land and inaccessible public land. More information about this important anniversary will come soon. He, and Commissioner Crank, met with the Transportation Commission to discuss wildlife crossings; they passed a resolution to commit \$1.25 million for wildlife crossings. He also briefed the Commission on the AIS response plan, CWD working group, carcass disposal, Outdoor Hall of Fame and WildLIVE cameras. The Department continues to be engaged with other states regarding grizzly bears. The appeal is still pending and the court will likely render a decision in the next year.

3. Presenter: Mike Schmid, Commissioner. Work to Support a Wildlife Foundation.

Commissioner Schmid briefed the Commission regarding the status of the new wildlife foundation. Board members are working on by-laws and they will recruit a Director soon. The next meeting is scheduled in October in Casper.

4. Awards and Recognition

Department Awards:

Director Nesvik presented Dave Zafft, Fisheries Management Coordinator, Fish Division with the prestigious Director's Award. Dave has worked tirelessly over the last 28 years to ensure conservation of native species and promote excellent sport fishing opportunities within the state.

Alan Osterland presented Greg Anderson, Daniel Fish Hatchery Supervisor with his retirement plaque. He thanked him for his many years of dedicated service.

Other Awards:

Alan Osterland presented Christina Barrineau, Fish Biologist, with the Rise to the Future Award. This is a joint award with the Department, Trout Unlimited, Saratoga Encampment Rawlins Conservation District and the Brush Creek-Hayden Ranger District on the Medicine Bow-Routt National Forest and Thunder Basin National Grassland for their work to improve recreational fishing by reconnecting and improving fish habitat on a total of 109 miles of the North Platte and Encampment Rivers and their tributaries. Christina was an integral part of this team.

Rebekah Fitzgerald said hunter education instructors are a very important partner of the Department. In Wyoming, there are over 150 volunteer instructors, training over 5,000 graduates each year. These volunteers donate their time, ability, and effort to share their knowledge and experience with students of all ages. She recognized 10 hunter education volunteers that have earned 1,000 points for the number of hours and number of students taught. Commissioner Dube donated a Commission license to Muley Fanatics who worked to provide the instructors with a firearm for their service to

the program and Wyoming's hunting heritage. The instructors are:

- Bill Daniels
- Joan Eisemann
- Gail Fanelli
- Richard Johnson
- Jim Johnson
- Patrick Malson
- Patricia Mann
- Brian Mann
- Ron Miller
- Roger Warner

5. Presenter: John Kennedy, Deputy Director. WGFD Operations in Teton County.

Deputy Director Kennedy addressed the Commission regarding the challenges associated with employee housing and operations in Jackson. Based on direction from the Commission, the Department have identified three options:

1. Status Quo - Stay in Jackson; provide housing for certain positions;
2. Stay in Jackson - No housing provided for employees (no different than other regions);
3. Move Regional Office to Pinedale - maintain some level of presence in Jackson.

There was general discussion between the Commission and the Department regarding operations in Jackson. Some of the discussion included Jackson Hole Community Housing Trust, building on Commission-owned property or WYDOT property, selling property or exchanging property. Commissioner Crank would like action taken by January. More information will be provided and discussed during the Commission work session in November.

Public Comment:

Kristen Gunther, Wyoming Outdoor Council

Ms. Gunther supports having a Department presence in the Jackson area.

Senator Mike Gieraur, Senate District 17

Sen. Gieraur advised he has been a business owner in Jackson for 40 years; he understands the challenges with recruitment and housing. He supports keeping the Department in Jackson. He recommended the Commission take time to explore all options and opportunities such as the Jackson Hole Housing Trust.

Representative Andy Schwartz, House District 23

Rep. Schwartz felt it is important to keep the Department in Jackson to continue to expose and educate the public about wildlife. He said the Department may not have monetary value but the Department is very valuable to the public.

Commissioner Crank thanked the public for their support of the Department. He said they have a

unique fiduciary obligation which they need to fulfill as a Commission. Game and Fish is different than other state agencies because it is funded by sportsman's dollars and not general funds.

6. Presenter: Angi Bruce, Deputy Director. Governor Gordon's Migration Corridor Advisory Committee.

Deputy Director Bruce said the Migration Corridor Advisory Committee was tasked with developing recommendations to the Governor to improve the state's policies related to big game migration on lands that are also suitable for mineral development. The group included representatives from the oil and gas, mining and agriculture sectors, as well as conservation, recreation and sportsmen groups and a county commissioner. Commissioner Schmid did an excellent job of representing the Commission on the group. The final document was submitted to the Governor last week in which the group recommended the Governor issue an Executive Order to codify a state-based set of policies. They also recommended modifications to the designation process and changes to the law that would require commercial solar and wind energy development proposals to go through the Industrial Siting Council process as well as individual corridor working groups.

Commissioner Schmid expressed his support for the proposed changes for designating a corridor. The group recommended the Department complete a biological risk assessment prior to designation; previously the risk assessment followed the designation. He also spoke in favor of the working groups. The working groups would be corridor-specific and comprised of locally-based individuals such as landowners and various members of the industry.

There was a general discussion between the Commission and the Department regarding the language in the recommendations. Commissioner Crank asked for clarification on the designation process. Deputy Director Bruce explained the Department will continue to make recommendations (biological risk assessment) on a case-by-case basis for proposed development projects. Those recommendations will go to the Governor's Office for final decision instead of the BLM. Commissioner Dube said the Department should have considerable latitude when completing biological risk assessments. The recommendations/risk assessments will be made by experts using the best available science. Political and economic factors do not have any bearing on the scientific data. Commissioner Crank agreed and said it is troubling to think the Governor's Office may veto the Department's expertise. The Commission has no regulatory authority to tell state lands, private landowners, BLM, or industry what to do. The Department is the voice for wildlife and it needs to be heard.

Public Comments:

Dan Stanton

Mr. Stanton was appointed by Governor Gordon as a member of the Governor's Migration Advisory Group. He thanked the Department, specifically Angi Bruce, Doug Brimeyer and Meghan Lockwood, for providing valuable information and assistance during the meetings.

Kristen Gunther, Wyoming Outdoor Council

Ms Gunther also participated in the Governor's Migration Advisory Group. She said the group did a great job of disseminating information and working well together by compromising and offering sensible solutions.

7. Call to the public.

Representative Albert Sommers, House District 20

Rep. Sommers addressed the Commission regarding a draft bill designed to regulate commercially guided fishing boats. He said commercial fishing activity on rivers is increasing expeditiously; we need to protect and manage this resource responsibly. The draft bill has been assigned to TRW as an interim topic. Commissioner Crank asked him who would be responsible for the administration and regulation of the bill. Rep. Sommers said the current draft bill directs the Commission to provide regulation and administration of the program,; however, he is in the process of drafting two other bills that would give the Outfitters and Guides Board the authority to regulate. He discussed several options for funding. He also provided an update regarding the draft bill for sage-grouse mitigation banking.

Peter Arambel, Midland Livestock Company

Mr. Arambel said he owns property in Sublette and Sweetwater Counties. His property lies in the southern half of the migration corridor. Deer have migrated through his property for a hundred years without any problem. If he loses development and/or mineral rights on his property because of a corridor designation he wants to receive monetary compensation. Commissioner Crank explained the Department's role is to complete a biological risk assessment based on the best available science; we have no authority over what the BLM decides. Landowners are an integral partner with the Department.

The meeting adjourned for the day at 4:32 p.m.

September 17, 2019

| | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| David Rael, President | Wyoming Game and Fish Commission |
| Peter Dube, Vice President | Wyoming Game and Fish Commission |
| Gay Lynn Byrd, Member | Wyoming Game and Fish Commission |
| Ralph Brokaw, Member | Wyoming Game and Fish Commission |
| Patrick Crank, Member | Wyoming Game and Fish Commission |
| Richard Ladwig, Member | Wyoming Game and Fish Commission |
| Mike Schmid, Member | Wyoming Game and Fish Commission |
| Brian R. Nesvik, Director | Wyoming Game and Fish Department |

Staff Present:

John Kennedy, Angi Bruce, Rick King, Doug Brimeyer, Dee Hawk, Sean Bibbey, Alan Osterland, Dirk Miller, Greg Phipps, Meredith Wood, Rebekah Fitzgerald, Sara DiRienzo, Pete Cavalli, Guy Campbell, Pete Cavalli, Diane Miller, Anna Senecal, Darren Rhea, Leslie Schreiber, Dave Zafft, Troy Fieseler, Mark Gocke, Samuel Jackson, Guy Reed, and Sheridan Todd

Legal Representation:

David DeWald, Senior Assistant Attorney General

Guests Present:

Martin Grenier, Ducks Unlimited; Steve Kilpatrick, Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation; Marlo Barreto, Wyoming Wildlife Federation; Richard Garrett, The Nature Conservancy; Ellen Burkart, University of Colorado; Steve Martin, Bowhunters of Wyoming; Rep. Winter, Wyoming Legislation; D. Farmer WYHAA; Jennie Rael; Joy Ufford, Sublette Examiner/Pinedale Roundup; Greg Nelson, Ducks Unlimited; Penelope Maldonado, The Cougar Fund; Kevin Monteith, University of Wyoming

Open Session began at 8:02 a.m.

8. Presenter: Sean Bibbey, Lands Branch Chief, Services Division. Authorization to Proceed with Negotiations for Acquiring or Disposing of Fee Title and/or Less Than Fee Title Property Rights.

Line Item A: Lander Front Conservation Easement Donations, Fremont County

Carl Asbell is a Fremont County landowner, who in 2018, donated a conservation easement to the Commission on his 396 acre property along the Lander front. Mr. Asbell approached the Department about a potential donation of a conservation easement on property he recently acquired along the Lander front. The property consists of one parcel totaling 64.08+/- acres. It is located within the Popo Agie Crucial Habitat Area and similarly provides high value ungulate habitat, including crucial winter range for mule deer, elk, and summer range for mule deer. The property also has high value habitat for upland bird species including Chukar and Hungarian partridge. Mr. Asbell will donate a conservation easement restricting future development of the 64.08+/- acres.

Carolyn Orr is a Fremont County landowner that has approached the Department to discuss the donation of a conservation easement on property she owns along the Lander front. The property consists of two adjacent parcels totaling 84.79+/- acres within the Popo Agie Crucial Habitat Area and provides high value ungulate habitat, including crucial winter range for mule deer, elk, and summer range for mule deer. Mrs. Orr will donate a conservation easement restricting future development of the 84.79+/- acres and allowing one building envelope for the existing residential dwelling and associated outbuildings. The property adjoins the conservation easement donated by Carl Asbell in 2018. These proposed conservation easements will further the protection of these natural areas from poorly planned residential growth for future generations. The Department will seek assistance from partners to cover the appraisal cost for the proposed Asbell donation. The Orr conservation easement has a zero fiscal impact.

It was moved by Commissioner Dube to authorize the Department to proceed with negotiations with Mr. Asbell and Mrs. Orr for the proposed conservation easement donations. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Schmid.

Line Item B: Renner Wildlife Habitat Management Area Easement Exchange, Big Horn County

Within the Renner Wildlife Habitat Management Area (WHMA), there is a 120 acre private in-holding which recently sold to a new owner. The previous owner had a temporary road permit that did not provide an automatic transfer to the new landowner. In speaking with the new landowner, LeAn Heath, she expressed her desire to acquire a permanent easement through the Commission owned lands to access her dwelling and property. There is also a portion of an existing two track road for public travel between the Renner WHMA and the adjoining BLM land traversing the Heath private land. Informal discussions with Mrs. Heath led to the possibility of an easement exchange. A survey will need to be completed by a professional land surveyor to verify the locations and lengths of each road. All aspects of the easement exchange project can be performed by Department personnel with no fiscal impact to the Department.

It was moved by Commissioner Dube to authorize the Department exchange access easements with Ms. Heath for the proposed project. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Byrd. Motion carried.

9. Presenter: Sean Bibbey, Lands Branch Chief, Services Division. Approval to Acquire or Dispose of Fee Title and/or Less than Fee Title Property Rights.

Line Item A: Tippetts Property Acquisition, Big Horn County

The Tippetts family recently offered 86 acres of land in Big Horn County for sale to the Commission. This parcel of land borders the Yellowtail Wildlife Habitat Management Area (WHMA) on the north, east, and a portion of the west property line. The majority of the property is in irrigated crop ground with adjudicated water rights that will contribute to the management of the Yellowtail WHMA including forage and cover for wildlife. The land has been historically used as farm land, producing hay annually. The land is well drained and is flood irrigated through a series of

gated pipe and ditches.

The 86 acres is easily accessible and would provide the Department additional acreage to manage for upland bird habitat. Bordering the Yellowtail WHMA, the parcel will also provide additional public hunting access and wildlife viewing. The parcel is listed for \$240,000, or \$2,800/acre which includes water rights and irrigation improvements.

It was moved by Commissioner Schmid to authorize the Department to acquire the proposed fee title land acquisition. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dube. Motion carried.

10. Presenter: John Kennedy, Deputy Director. Proposed Campbell County Visitor Center.

Deputy Director Kennedy provided the Commission with an update on the Campbell County Visitor Center. There was a general discussion between the Commission and the Department regarding funding and the benefits of partnering with Campbell County on the visitor center. Several Commissioners thought having office space at the visitor center was more of a convenience than a need and the funds could be used elsewhere. The Department could rent office space if deemed necessary at a later time.

It was moved by Commissioner Crank not to proceed with funding for the proposed Campbell County Visitor Center. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Byrd. Motion carried.

11. Presenter: Greg Phipps, Chief, Fiscal Division. License Selling Agent Appointments.

Mr. Phipps briefed the Commission on the electronic funds transfer for license selling agents. Our programmers are analyzing the file from Wells Fargo Bank to see if it's compatible with our system. Although the programmers still need to complete the analysis it looks promising.

Mr. Phipps explained that due to the closing of Shopko in Wheatland, two new applications were received from non-sporting goods stores:

Interstate Gas, A Wyoming Corporation in Wheatland, WY. The Game Warden's evaluation and recommendation is attached. There are two license selling agents in Wheatland. Their 2018 license sales totaled \$103,459.50

Cowboy Drug in Wheatland, WY. The Game Warden's evaluation and recommendation is attached. There are two license selling agents in Wheatland. Their 2018 license sales totaled \$103,459.50.

Commissioner Crank asked about the status of the Cheyenne Walmart Store whose account was in arrears. Mr. Phipps said the situation has been resolved; a payment was not applied correctly.

It was moved by Commissioner Dube to approve the two new license selling agent applications. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brokaw.

Mr. Phipps further explained the Department received an application from a license selling agent requesting approval for the transfer of ownership from The Story Store, Story, WY. Temporary approval of the transfer has been received by the local Game Warden, Regional Wildlife Supervisor and Commissioner Dube. This store's 2018 license sales totaled approximately \$16,036.00.

It was moved by Commissioner Dube to withdraw his previous motion. The motion to withdraw was seconded by Commissioner Brokaw. It was moved by Commissioner Dube to approve two new applications for license selling agents Interstate Gas and Cowboy Drug, and the transfer of ownership for The Story Store. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brokaw. Motion carried.

12. Presenter: DeeDee Hawk, Chief, Services Division. Cody Regional Office Update.

Ms. Hawk provided the Commission with a briefing regarding the Cody Regional Office. The project is progressing well. The property has been purchased, the final plat for a subdivision has been filed and recorded and the request for architecture qualifications has been dispatched. Final selection of architects will take place in November. We are in the process of contacting the City of Cody to determine if we can connect to city sewer and water. She will continue to provide updates at Commission meetings.

Commissioner Crank requested the Department provide an update on the Dubois land exchange project and the CM Ranch at the next Commission meeting.

13. Presenter: John Kennedy, Deputy Director. Animal Damage Management Board Projects.

Deputy Director Kennedy said at the July 2019 Commission meeting, the Commission authorized \$100,000 in funding for the Animal Damage Management Board to accomplish high-priority projects. During the meeting the Commission authorized an additional \$50,000 in funding to accomplish projects. He provided a list of three proposed projects: 1.) Effects of predation on survival of newborn mule deer in the Wyoming Range, \$15,000; 2.) Absaroka Carnivore-Livestock Interaction study, \$40,000; and 3.) Bighorn Sheep lamb survival study, \$15,000.

It was moved by Commissioner Dube to approve the three projects as proposed by the Animal Damage Management Board. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ladwig. Director Nesvik added that at the time the Animal Damage Management Board approved the initial list of projects the additional \$50,000 funding was not in place; that's why the additional list of projects is being presented now. Call for the question. Motion carried.

14. Presenters: John Kennedy, Deputy Director and Martin Grenier, Ducks Unlimited. Ducks Unlimited Work in Wyoming.

Martin Grenier explained Ducks Unlimited's mission is to conserve, restore and manage wetlands and associated habitats for North America's waterfowl. These habitats also benefit other wildlife.

He provided information on recent projects completed. He thanked the Department for their partnership and presented Director Nesvik with the "Rescue our Wetlands Champion" award.

15. Presenter: Leslie Schreiber, Statewide Sage-grouse/Sagebrush Biologist, Wildlife Division. Pinedale Sage-grouse Research.

Ms. Schreiber said about 1,000 sage-grouse congregate south of Pinedale during the winter in the only designated winter concentration area in Wyoming. To better understand the distribution, movements, and habitat selection of these birds throughout the year, the Department and the University of Wyoming initiated a research project. They deployed 28 GPS transmitters on wintering female sage-grouse. During the spring 2019, the birds spread out to the north, attending various leks up to 43 miles away. Entering the breeding season, 22 of the 28 sage-grouse were still alive. Those 22 females initiated 26 nests including nine re-nests with two nests successfully hatching. After nesting, females made relatively small movements to late summer habitats. The next phase of the research project is to evaluate winter survival rate, nest success compared to other 2019 in Wyoming and to capture 72 grouse in early winter 2019/2020.

16. Presenter: Alan Osterland, Chief, Fisheries. Fish Division Updates.

- Presenter: Guy Campbell, Fish Culture Supervisor, Fish Division. Statewide Kokanee Program. The Commission will be provided with an overview of the Department's statewide kokanee program, including the wild trapping and spawning locations as well as their own captive brook stock.
- Presenter: Pete Cavalli, Pinedale Regional Fisheries Biologist, Fish Division. Roundtail Chub. The Commission will be provided with a summary of an ongoing project designed to better understand the spawning habits of Roundtail Chub in the Pinedale finger lakes.
- Presenter: Darren Rhea, Pinedale Regional Fisheries Biologist, Fish Division. Chemical Rehabilitation of Dollar Lake. The Commission will be provided with a summary of the chemical rehabilitation project, why it was needed, public outreach, and preliminary results.
- Presenter: Luke Schultz, Aquatic Habitat Biologist, Fish Division. New Fork River Restoration Project. The Commission will be provided with an overview of the ongoing project to restore the New Fork River.

17. Presenter: Diana Miller, Jackson Regional Fisheries Biologist, Fish Division. "The Return".

The Commission was presented with a video illustrating the return of Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout to the Thorofare region of Northwest Wyoming. The video showcases the story of Diana Sweet Miller and her father, Dave Sweet, who spent over a decade helping to bring back the Yellowstone Cutthroat from the brink of extinction.

18. Presenter: Teal Cufaude, Wyoming Game Wardens Association. Wyoming Game Wardens Association.

Ms. Cufaude provided the Commission with information regarding the Wyoming Game Wardens Association.

19. Presenters: Doug Brimeyer, Deputy Chief, Wildlife Division and Dr. Kevin Montieth, Assistant Professor, University of Wyoming. Bighorn Sheep Research Update.

Dr. Montieth provided the Commission with an update on bighorn sheep research in Wyoming. The project was initiated in 2015, with the second phase of the work starting this spring. Current efforts are focused on understanding what factors are responsible for the poor lamb recruitment of sheep in the Whiskey Mountain herd, with underlying components focused on predation, disease, and summer nutrition. This research project will help managers understand how nutrition and disease influence the overall health of bighorn sheep in western Wyoming.

20. Presenter: Rebekah Fitzgerald, Communications Director, Director's Office. Wyoming Wildlife Photos.

The Commission was provided with a presentation showing photos of Wyoming's Wildlife.

21. Call to the public.

Steve Kilpatrick, Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation

Mr. Kilpatrick briefed the Commission regarding the Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation. He also provided the Commission with a video on Camp Bighorn.

Commissioner Rael thanked Dr. Montieth for his excellent work.

It was moved by Commissioner Dube to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Schmid. Motion carried.

The meeting ended at 12:26 p.m.



Commission President

https://billingsgazette.com/outdoors/new-wyoming-game-and-fish-office-planned-in-cody/article_3efab2f7-3701-50f7-acca-65c1e93bea3e.html

New Wyoming Game and Fish office planned in Cody

Sep 23, 2019



The Wyoming Game and Fish Commission discusses plans during a September meeting.

Photo courtesy Wyoming Game and Fish Commission

CHEYENNE — The Wyoming Game and Fish Commission is moving forward with the next steps to build a new regional office in Cody.

The Wyoming Game and Fish Department recently finalized the purchase of 21.71 acres, less than one mile northwest of Cody off the Belfry Highway. The new office is closer to Cody than the current location and will offer more services to the public with

increased space for license sales, public assistance and parking, as well as an ADA accessible meeting location. **New Wyoming Game and Fish office planned in Cody** SHARE THIS

Information on the new facility was part of the commission's September meeting in Pinedale.

The Commission also continued discussions on how to address employee housing in Teton County where rents and housing costs are the highest in the state.

“For fairness to our employees and the public, we need to take action,” said commissioner Pat Crank.

The commission plans to hold a work session meeting in November, with the goal of determining final decisions by January. The commission, alongside department staff, will review in-depth the most cost-efficient actions, such as purchasing homes, building homes and working with affordable housing organizations or moving the regional office and some employees to another location, such as Pinedale. The Commission will also consider opportunities to generate revenue, such as selling certain commission-owned lands in the area. The work session will be open to the public; more details will be available when the meeting date is set.

An informational presentation was provided to the commission on sage grouse research south of Pinedale. One year after collaring 28 sage grouse hens in the only designated sage grouse winter concentration area in the state, Game and Fish has started to learn about the bird's winter movements, nesting and survival.

About 1,000 sage grouse congregate south of Pinedale during the winter, and research showed during spring of 2019 birds spread out to the north occupying leks up to 43 miles away. Entering the breeding season, 22 of the 28 collared sage grouse were still alive. Those 22 hens initiated 26 nests including nine re-nests with two nests successfully hatching. After nesting, the hens made relatively small movements to late summer habitats. The study will continue during the 2019-20 season, where biologists will collar 72 more birds.

The Commission's next meeting is Nov. 19-20 in Powell.

New Wyoming Game and Fish office planned in Cody [SHARE THIS](#)

**Wyoming Game and Fish Commission
Meeting Minutes
Powell, Wyoming**

November 19, 2019

| | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| David Rael, President | Wyoming Game and Fish Commission |
| Peter Dube, Vice President | Wyoming Game and Fish Commission |
| Gay Lynn Byrd, Member | Wyoming Game and Fish Commission |
| Ralph Brokaw, Member | Wyoming Game and Fish Commission |
| Patrick Crank, Member | Wyoming Game and Fish Commission |
| Richard Ladwig, Member | Wyoming Game and Fish Commission |
| Mike Schmid, Member | Wyoming Game and Fish Commission |
| Brian R. Nesvik, Director | Wyoming Game and Fish Department |

Staff Present:

Angi Bruce, Rick King, Doug Brimeyer, Scott Edberg Dee Hawk, Sean Bibbey, Alan Osterland,, Greg Phipps, Meredith Wood, Rebekah Fitzgerald, Sara DiRienzo, Samuel Jackson, Tara Hodges, Wayne Cotton, Meghan Lockwood, Ray Bredehoft, Lara Gertsch, Don Smith, Alex LeCheminant, Jason Hunter, Jennifer Doering, Brad Hovinga, Todd Grosskopf, Joe Skorupski, Sam Hochlatter, Jason Burckhardt, Jessica Beecham Ian Tator, Beth Bear, Kevin Gelwicks, and Sheridan Todd

Legal Representation:

David DeWald, Senior Assistant Attorney General

Guests Present:

Mike Gierau, Senate District 17; Steve Martin, Bowhunters of Wyoming; Jake Clark, Wyoming Wilderness Outfitters; Jenny DeSarro, Greater Yellowstone Coalition; Emily Reed, Greater Yellowstone Coalition; Tom Chambers, Backcountry Hunters and Anglers; Mike Koshmil, Jackson Hole News and Guides; Colton Curtis, NWC; Tony Enerva, NWC; Rob Coe, Wyoming Wildlife Federation; Tom Chambers, BHA; Grant Gertsch, Retired Outfitter; Rebekah Smith, Wyoming Women's Foundation; Tim Metzler; Mick Duff; Plane One/Architects; Taylor Lee, Plan One/Architects; Dan Odasz, Plane One/Architects; Mary Rumsey, Meeteetse Moose; Virginia Dubony, National Park Service; Pedge Fulton, WWNRT; Shawn Blajszczak, Mule Deer Foundation; Lew Freedman, Cody Enterprise; Joan Eisemann, National Wild Turkey Federation; Jennifer Fernandez, Senator Enzi's Office; Lindy Linn, Representative Cheney's Office; Kamila Kudelska, WPM; Jessi Johnson, Wyoming Wildlife Federation; Pat Slater, Big Horn Basin Chapter Walleyes Unlimited; Sara Domek, National Bighorn Sheep Center; Bruce Shackelford, Wyldlife Fund; Bob McLaws; Mark David, Powell Tribune; Steve Belinda, Mule Deer Foundation; John Rode, Wyoming Outdoors Council; Loren Grosskopf, Retired County Commissioner; Kristin Tilley, Shoshone Conservation District; Lee Livingston; and Alex Livingston

Open Session began at 9:58 a.m.

1. Presenter: Commission President. Approval of Commission Meeting Minutes.

It was moved by Commissioner Brokaw to approve the September 2019 Commission Meeting Minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Byrd. Motion carried.

2. Presenter: Brian R. Nesvik, Director. Director's Report.

Director Nesvik briefed the Commission on various items of interest. The Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant for \$14.5 million federal dollars for the Dry Piney wildlife crossing project has been approved. This is the first grant of its kind to be allocated to a wildlife related project. He presented the "Inspire a Kid" webpage and provided an update to the WildLive video on the web page. He also explained the Department is partnering with the Department of Corrections to have inmates assemble CWD and brucellosis sampling kits.

3. Presenter: Scott Edberg, Deputy Chief, Wildlife Division. Policy VII F, Terrestrial Wildlife Furnished to Others.

Deputy Chief Edberg explained the proposed changes to Policy VII F, Terrestrial Wildlife Furnished to Others. The changes to the Policy are specifically related to relocation of and furnishing of grizzly bears to other agencies.

It was moved by Commissioner Dube to approve revisions to Policy VII F, Terrestrial Wildlife Furnished to Others as proposed by the Department. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Crank. Motion carried.

4. Presenter: Angi Bruce, Deputy Director. 2020 Commission Meeting Dates and Locations.

Deputy Director Bruce presented the proposed dates and locations for the 2020 Commission Meetings:

January 15-16 - Cheyenne

March 19-20 - Cody (will include Outdoor Hall of Fame)

April 20-21 - Riverton

July 7-9 - Rawlins (will include a tour)

September 9-10 - Thermopolis (will include Landowner of the Year Banquet)

November 7-9 - Buffalo

It was moved by Commissioner Ladwig to approve the dates and locations as presented by the Department. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Byrd.

Discussion:

Commissioner Brokaw advised he had a conflict with the July 7-9 date. After general discussion the Commission agreed to change the date for the July Commission meeting to July 15-17.

Commissioners Ladwig and Byrd agreed to the modification to the motion. Motion carried.

5. Presenter: Mike Schmid, Commissioner. Work to Support a new Wildlife Foundation.

Commissioner Schmid gave an update on the Wyldlife Fund. The Board held a meeting on November 18th. They are in the process of accepting applications for the Executive Director position and hope to have the position filled by February.

Public Comments:

Bruce Shackleford, Wyldlife Fund

Mr. Shackleford is a board member for the Wyldlife Fund. He has been in contact with other state agencies and NGOs on effective fundraising and is in the process of developing specific tasks for the Executive Director.

6. Awards and Recognition

Alan Osterland, Chief, Fish Division, presented Lara Gertsch, Aquatic Habitat Biologist Supervisor, with a 20-year service award.

Alan Osterland, Chief, Fish Division, presented Jason Burckhardt, Cody Region Fish Biologist, with a 20-year service award.

Rick King, Chief, Wildlife Division, introduced Joan Eisemann, from the Wyoming National Wild Turkey Federation Chapter. Ms. Eisemann presented Jessica Beecham, North Riverton Game Warden, with the 2019 WY-NWTF Wildlife Officer of the Year Award.

Pidge Fulton, Board Member, Wyoming Wildlife and Natural Resource Trust, presented Ian Tator, Statewide Terrestrial Habitat Manager, with the Wyoming Wildlife and Natural Resource Trust Partner of the Year Award.

7. Presenter: Angi Bruce, Deputy Director. WGFD Operations in Teton County.

Deputy Director Bruce facilitated discussions between the Commission and the Department regarding operations in Teton County. The Commission provided specific guidance and things to consider including:

- Maintain a presence in Jackson
- Look at options to build Department houses on Southpark, Bondurant, and Alpine (the Teton, Camp Creek and Horse Creek WHMAs are not suitable for housing)
- Costs (water, electricity, gas, septic, county fees and permits /restrictions) for single family vs. townhome, modular vs. stick
- Conservative layout of homes
- Favor building options that are on our properties

- Investigate current houses in Jackson that are for sale
- Spread out housing options
- Figure out how many houses are needed immediately and long-term
- Explore cost saving options by working with other state agencies
- Department should take the lead at the December 16 meeting with other agencies and work together to utilize resources efficiently
- Determine positions that do not need to be in Jackson (address when they turnover)
- Consider fairness amongst Department employees
- Look at all options to generate revenue from Teton WHMA (trade, sell, etc)

Public Comments:

Mike Gierau, Senate District 17

Sen. Gierau supports maintaining a Department presence in Jackson. He will attend the joint agency meeting in December. He also congratulated the Department on the BUILD wildlife crossing grant.

8. Presenter: Sean Bibbey, Lands Branch Chief, Services Division. Authorization to Proceed with Negotiations for Acquiring or Disposing of Fee Title and/or Less Than Fee Title Property Rights.

Raymond Mountain Public Access Easement Acquisition, Lincoln County

Mr. Kim Clark recently acquired the land that separates the Groo Canyon access trail from US Highway 30 north of Cokeville. He has expressed an interest in selling the Department a permanent public roadway easement and an associated parking area to the Groo Canyon trail. This would provide access to over 32,000 acres of BLM property known as the Raymond Mountain Wilderness Study Area. This would create the only public access to the southern half of Raymond Mountain on the western side of the range. Access in the area has been limited to late season elk hunts on the Thoman Ranch property which is approximately 25 miles to the southwest.

This area has been identified by the Green River region as the highest priority for acquiring hunter access for elk, deer, moose, mountain lions, and black bears. Increased public hunting access for these species will improve the Department's ability to attain population management objectives along with improving hunter opportunity. The Sublette Range is adjacent to the Idaho state line where elk population management has been particularly challenging due primarily to limited public access. The entire west side of the range is not currently accessible to the public because of adjoining private lands with the exception of the Raymond Canyon county road. An appraisal will need to be completed prior to authorization.

It was moved by Commissioner Crank to authorize the Department to proceed with negotiations with Mr. Clark for a permanent public access easement. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dube. Motion carried.

Commissioner Dube commended the Department for working to create public access.

9. Presenter: Dee Dee Hawk, Chief, Services Division. Cody Regional Office Update.

Ms. Hawk provided an update on the Cody Regional office. Interviews with architectural firms were held last month and Plan One/Architects was selected. The firm will meet with personnel from the Cody region in January to discuss preliminary plans.

Dan Ortiz, President, and Taylor Lee, Vice President, Plan One/Architects, briefed the Commission on their architectural firm. Commissioner Crank said his expectation of their firm is to provide the Commission with an accurate estimate of costs and to have minimal, if any, change orders.

10. Presenter: Greg Phipps, Chief, Fiscal Division. License Selling Agent Appointments.

The following application was received from a sporting goods stores:

JAX Outdoor Gear Farm and Ranch in Cheyenne. The Game Warden's evaluation and recommendation is included in the notebook. There are five license selling agents in Cheyenne. Their 2018 license sales totaled \$664,815.50.

The following applications were received from license selling agents requesting transfer of ownership:

Blair's Market, in Greybull. Temporary approval of the transfer has been received by the local Game Warden, Regional Wildlife Supervisor and Commissioner Rael. This store's 2018 license sales totaled approximately \$51,199.50.

Stage Stop General Store in Baggs. Temporary approval of the transfer has been received by the local Game Warden, Regional Wildlife Supervisor and Commissioner Brokaw. This store's 2018 license sales totaled approximately \$39,024.00.

It was moved by Commissioner Crank to approve new license selling agents JAX Outdoor Gear Farm and Ranch, and the transfer of ownerships for Blair's Market in Greybull and Stage Stop General Store in Baggs. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dube. Motion carried.

11. Presenter: Greg Phipps, Chief, Fiscal Division. Special Antelope Hunt Licenses.

Jennifer Doering briefed the Commission on the history of special antelope hunt licenses. She explained the Department received two applications for antelope hunt event licenses for the 2020 antelope season. Both of the applicants requested approval for three years.

The One Shot Antelope Hunt is hosted in Lander. The One Shot Antelope Hunt is comprised of three organizations working cooperatively including The One Shot Hunt Club, the Past Shooters Club and The Water for Wildlife Foundation. The One Shot Antelope Hunt is requesting type 1 antelope license in areas 65, 66, 67, 68 and 106.

The Wyoming Women's Foundation. The Wyoming Women's Foundation is a priority fund of the Wyoming Community Foundation and operates under the same legal nonprofit designation. The Wyoming Women's Foundation is requesting type 1 antelope licenses in areas 10, 15, 16, 17, and 109.

All licenses are sold to customers based on their residency at the time of purchase. Commissioner Crank said he was uncomfortable in approving licenses for the next three years. He asked how the Department would handle license allocation to address population issues in certain hunt areas. Director Nesvik said the number of licenses could be addressed through Emergency Regulation. He also said the Department could provide specific language in Chapter 44. David DeWald said the language in the legislation requires approval for special antelope hunts on an annual basis.

Public Comments:

Rebekah Smith, Wyoming Women's Foundation

Ms. Smith provided an overview of their request for 80 licenses for the Wyoming Women's Antelope Hunt; last year they used 46 licenses.

It was moved by Commissioner Crank to approve The One Shot Antelope Hunt and the Wyoming Women's Foundation to receive up to eighty (80) special antelope hunt licenses per year for three (3) years. The motion was not specific to the number of licenses allocated. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Byrd. Motion carried.

President Rael stressed the importance of not taking away opportunity from residents or nonresidents for these special hunts.

Commissioner Crank was not present during the afternoon session; therefore, he did not vote on the following agenda items.

12. Presenter: Ian Tator, Statewide Terrestrial Habitat Manager, Wildlife Division. Statewide Mule Deer Initiative Projects.

Mr. Tator explained the statewide mule deer projects are a collaborative effort among federal and state agencies, Department personnel, non-governmental organizations, landowners and members of the public. Prior to submission to the Commission, the applications were reviewed by an Inter-Agency team consisting of personnel from within the Department and Wyoming Wildlife and Natural Resource Trust.

The project applications, if approved by the Commission, will provide funding to directly enhance or study approximately 1,250,342 acres of important mule deer habitats including aspen, riparian, mixed mountain shrub and sagebrush habitats in mule deer transition range. One mule deer migration project is proposed for the Powder River and Pumpkin Buttes herd unit(s). This project will assist in determining migration corridors, stopover sites and seasonal habitat use which will direct future connectivity work with WYDOT and habitat enhancement projects. One mule deer epidemiology project is proposed for the Bates Hole/Hat Six herd unit. This project will allow an

examination of the influence of Chronic Wasting Disease on seasonal habitat selection, potential migration and population dynamics within the herd unit. In total, requested Commission funds will be matched 4.4 : 1 by other funding sources, resulting in total project funding of \$3,025,884 for mule deer habitat improvement and migration work.

If approved by the Commission, \$560,000 from the Commission's Operating Fund will be expended. This represents year five of five and the total cumulative request equates to 100% of the \$2.5 million previously authorized by the Commission for statewide Mule Deer Initiative projects.

- Chronic Wasting Disease Epidemiology in Mule Deer, MDI request = \$50,000
- Crazy Woman Watershed Project, MDI request = \$75,000
- Gooseberry and Cottonwood Habitat Enhancement II, MDI request = \$80,000
- Grant Ranch Fence Modifications, MDI request = \$40,000
- Grizzly WHMA Wildlife Friendly Fence Conversions, MDI request = \$55,000
- Hoback Cheatgrass, MDI request = \$75,000
- Jackson Fork Ranch Bison Fence Modifications, MDI request = \$15,000
- Pine Creek and Loop Road Aspen Enhancement, MDI request = \$100,000
- Powder River & Pumpkin Buttes Mule Deer Movement and Habitat Selection, MDI request = \$20,000
- Southern Big Horn Mountains Curl-Leaf Mahogany Restoration II. MDI request = \$50,000

It was moved by Commissioner Dube to approve the statewide Mule Deer Initiative projects as proposed by the Department. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Byrd.

Public Comments:

Steve Belinda, Mule Deer Foundation

Mr. Belinda supports the projects as proposed. He provided the Commission with an update on the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grant agreement.

Call for the question. Motion carried.

13. Presenter: Todd Grosskopf, Habitat and Access Statewide Team Supervisor, Services Division. Mule Deer Initiative Work and Savery Creek Restoration.

Mr. Grosskopf explained the Habitat and Access Statewide Team's mission is to conserve and enhance wildlife habitat on Commission-owned, public and private lands to maximize habitat potential and achieve wildlife management goals. He explained how projects are selected and completed. He provided information on several projects to improve habitat as part of the mule deer initiative program and restoration work on Savery Creek.

14. Scott Edberg, Deputy Chief, Wildlife Division. Chronic Wasting Disease Statewide Collaborative Process and 2019 Surveillance and Management Plan Revision Update.

Deputy Chief Edberg provided the Commission with an update on the Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) statewide collaborative process pertaining to the Department's CWD management plan revision and 2019 surveillance efforts. The CWD Working Group met over the summer of 2019 and developed recommendations (with 43 sub-recommendations) for the draft revised plan.

The draft revised CWD plan will be posted online December 2 through January 15 for public review and commenting. It will also be presented by Department personnel and CWD Working Group members through a series of five public meetings across the state. Comments will be reviewed by the Department and working group for consideration into the final revised CWD plan in February. The final plan will be presented to the Commission for review and approval in the spring of 2020.

Director Nesvik added information regarding carcass disposal. A separate state agency group has formed to address carcass disposal options. There will be a Carcass Disposal Summit on December 17 in Casper to disseminate information. Invitees include county commissioners, municipalities, working group members, taxidermists, meat processors, other state agencies, other Western states, and more.

Commissioner Schmid asked if the Department had knowledge about the use of tetracycline and doxycycline in treating CWD. Scott Edberg and Brian Nesvik said no.

15. Presenter: Dustin Shorma, Dayton Game Warden, Wildlife Division. Lambdin Deer Case.

This agenda item will be presented at another Commission meeting.

16. Presenter: Beth Bear, Aquatic Assessment Crew Supervisor, Fish Division. Aquatic Invasive Species Program.

An aquatic invasive species (AIS) is any nonnative organism that causes harm when it is introduced into a new environment. The AIS program was initiated by the passing of the Wyoming AIS Act in 2010. This legislation provided for interdiction authority. It also requires any watercraft that was used on waters infected with mussels in the last 30 days to have an inspection before launching in Wyoming. The legislature requires an annual boater fee in the form of an AIS decal, to help offset the cost of the program. This law was amended in 2012 to require a mandatory inspection prior to contacting or entering a Wyoming water of all conveyances when entering the state by land from March through November. In 2019 over 51,513 inspections were completed; 4,197 watercraft were identified as high risk, and 539 watercrafts were decontaminated. 710 watercrafts from Lake Powell were inspected and mussels were found on 20 boats. Future challenges include staffing, enforcement and public awareness.

17. Presenter: Beth Bear, Aquatic Assessment Crew Supervisor, Fish Division. Use of Dogs in the Detection of Aquatic Invasive Species on Watercraft.

Ms. Bear provided the Commission with information related to the use of dogs to detect AIS on watercraft. There are currently two primary organizations that train mussel detection dogs. The dogs are deployed along with a human handler. The dogs search (sniff) outside of the boat and alert the handler when a scent is found. After the dog displays an alert the handler inspects the area. Dogs can detect adult zebra/quagga mussels and early indications of veligers in open water. She discussed the various advantages and challenges of using dogs. Before the Department commits to detection dogs they recommend a pilot project, potentially in Evanston. Commissioner Dube found this information very interesting and committed the proceeds of a Commissioner license to help fund the pilot project.

18. Presenter: Kevin Gelwicks, Assistant Fisheries Management Coordinator, Fish Division. Aquatic Invasive Species Rapid Response Plans.

Kevin Gelwicks provided the Commission with updates on the development of Rapid Response Plans in relation to Aquatic Invasive Species. He explained what a rapid response plan is, how waters are prioritized (Dreissenid mussel risk assessment), and plan development timeline (8 top priority waters, with 15 more to be looked at next year).

Wyoming has 20 high risk waters (which are sampled twice a year) and about 50 lower risk waters. There are minimum criteria for detection. He explained the response process for any water that is suspected to have invasive mussels, as well as the communication and outreach plans to address positive AIS detections.

Challenges with the plan are: water availability to decontaminate boats, recruiting inspectors, rapid hiring and purchasing when detection occurs, downstream impacts, cooperation from other agencies, and regulations (including current AIS statutes and regulation, authority for closures, exit inspection requirements, and the local boater program). Conclusions are that this is a valuable process, the first detection will be traumatic, and planning is key.

Commissioner Schmid asked about the possibility of introducing a different organism to prey on mussels should an infestation occur? Mr. Gelwicks said there is nothing known at this time. Director Nesvik asked if there has been any research around changing the water chemistry to make waters inhospitable for mussels? Beth Bear responded that calcium and pH are the primary factors that affect populations; unfortunately our waters have a lot of calcium and we don't want to risk the water being inhospitable for other organisms as well.

19. Presenter: Sara Domek, Executive Director, National Bighorn Sheep Center. National Bighorn Sheep Center.

Deputy Director Bruce introduced Sara Domek of the National Bighorn Sheep Center (Center). Sara presented the Commission with an update in the fundraising efforts as well as the design and

construction progress of their classroom expansion project. So far in 2019, the Center has reached 11,000 students. The Center faces space limitations, as their programs have expanded, but their facility has not. The new Bighorn Classroom will be donated to the Department. The Commission contributed \$100,000 for the project in 2018. After bids are received, the final fundraising need will be determined. The Board is requesting consideration of an additional \$100,000 from the Commission to finish the expansion. Commissioner Dube suggested to table discussion/action until the total cost is determined.

20. Presenter: Jessi Johnson, Legislative Liaison and Advocacy Coordinator, Wyoming Wildlife Federation. Wyoming Wildlife Federation.

Deputy Director Bruce introduced Jessi Johnson from the Wyoming Wildlife Federation (Federation). Ms. Johnson presented the Commission with an overview of the Federation's work. She explained the Federation is committed to advocating for wildlife and will have a strong presence during the upcoming legislative session. The Foundation is invested in migration corridors and will work with the Governor's Office when the Executive Order is announced.

21. Presenter: Rebekah Fitzgerald, Communications Director, Director's Office. Wyoming Wildlife Photos.

Ms. Fitzgerald presented a trail cam video from a remote area in Wyoming that captured many species utilizing a trail during the summer.

22. Call to the public.

Director Nesvik said during the workshop the Commission expressed interest in increasing activities at the Whiskey Mountain Conservation Camp. He said the Department can work within the existing budget this year to accomplish this goal.

Tony Euerva, Northwest College

Mr. Euerva is a professor at Northwest College. He provided the Commission with information on the Conservation Law Enforcement program that he teaches. He asked the Department to consider the degree requirement for wardens to include Conservation Law, Criminal Justice, or 2 year degrees.

It was moved by Commissioner Dube to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Schmid. Motion carried.

The meeting ended at 4:45 p.m.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Commission President

**Wyoming Game and Fish Commission
Meeting Minutes
Cheyenne, Wyoming**

January 15, 2020

| | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| David Rael, President | Wyoming Game and Fish Commission |
| Peter Dube, Vice President | Wyoming Game and Fish Commission |
| Gay Lynn Byrd, Member | Wyoming Game and Fish Commission |
| Ralph Brokaw, Member | Wyoming Game and Fish Commission |
| Patrick Crank, Member | Wyoming Game and Fish Commission |
| Richard Ladwig, Member | Wyoming Game and Fish Commission |
| Mike Schmid, Member | Wyoming Game and Fish Commission |
| Brian R. Nesvik, Director | Wyoming Game and Fish Department |

Staff Present:

John Kennedy, Angi Bruce, Rebekah Fitzgerald, Rick King, Doug Brimeyer, Scott Edberg Dee Dee Hawk, Sean Bibbey, Alan Osterland, Dirk Miller, Greg Phipps, Meredith Wood, Dan Thompson, Ashley Daffron, Kathryn Boswell, Matt Withroder, Del Lobb, Mike Choma, Jessica Baker, Dan Bjornlie, Leslie Schreiber, Nichole Bjornlie, Ian Tator, Ray Bredehoft, Sheridan Todd, Wayne Cotton, Larry Kidwell, and Robin Kepple

Legal Representation:

David DeWald, Senior Assistant Attorney General

Guests Present:

Kristen Gunther, Wyoming Outdoor Council; Rich Lewis; Tyler Sims, WYOGA; Harvey L. Dalton, Bowhunters of Wyoming; Blain McCee; Dennis Megussa; Gregg and Toni Arthur; Jenny DeSarro, Greater Yellowstone Coalition; Jennie Rael; Shawn Blajszczak, Mule Deer Foundation; Jeff Smith, WYOGA; Jim Schell, WYOGA; Codee Augustin, Wyoming Wildlife Federation; Blaine and Julie McCallister; Penelope Maldonado, The Cougar Fund; Steve Martin, Bowhunters of Wyoming; Bruce Shackelford, The Wyldlife Fund; Tim Mallon, Bowhunters of Wyoming; Tom Chambers, BHA; James Rinehart, Wyoming Wild Sheep; Rep. Bill Haley, H.D. 46; Rep. John Winter, H.D. 28; Rep. Glenn Moniz, S.D. 10; and Jess Johnson, Wyoming Wildlife Federation

It was moved by Commissioner Crank to go into Open Session. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ladwig. Motion carried.

Open Session began at 9:55 a.m.

Shawn Blajszczak, Mule Deer Foundation, presented a \$5,000 donation to the Wyldlife Fund.

1. Presenter: Commission President. Approval of Commission Meeting Minutes.

It was moved by Commissioner Dube to approve the November 2019 Commission Meeting Minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Byrd. Motion carried.

2. Presenter: Brian R. Nesvik, Director. Director's Report.

Director Nesvik commended the Department on their hard work in completing the AIS Rapid Response Plans. He also briefed the Commission on discussions regarding the National Elk Refuge Step-Down Plan and presentations made at the Joint Appropriations Committee meeting. In December, he and Deputy Director Bruce, traveled to DC to testify before the U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works regarding a bill to create a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Chronic Wasting Disease Task Force.

3. Presenter: Mike Schmid, Commissioner. Work to Support a New Wildlife Foundation.

Commissioner Schmid said The Wyldlife Fund Board recently held interviews for the Executive Director position. They have narrowed their search down to two candidates and will conduct a final interview tomorrow.

4. Presenter: John Kennedy, Deputy Director. WGFD Housing and Operations in Teton County.

Deputy Director Kennedy explained the Department has conducted extensive site evaluations and had numerous meetings and discussions since the last Commission meeting with the regional leadership team, WYDOT, Lower Valley Energy, and Jackson/Teton County Affordable Housing Department. He provided information regarding the positions in Jackson, number of houses needed (short and long-term), type and size of houses, building costs, associated fees and permits, locations, and various construction costs. There was considerable discussion between the Commission and the Department. Commissioner Crank said he was not comfortable making a decision on a property today; the Department has conducted extensive research and he wants time to review the information.

It was moved by Commissioner Crank that wherever the Department ultimately decides to build, the Department should own the land and structure. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Schmid. Motion carried.

Deputy Director Kennedy said there will be an allstate agency meeting on January 28 to discuss housing. The Department will continue to analyze positions and collaborate with other state agencies and work together to utilize resources efficiently. The Department will provide updates to the Commission on a regular basis.

5. Presenter: Dee Dee Hawk, Chief, Services Division. Cody Regional Office Update.

Chief Hawk briefed the Commission on the Cody Regional office. She explained there will be a “kick-off” meeting in Cody on January 21 and 22 to ascertain requirements for the design and functionality of the facility. Among those included in the meeting will be the Director’s Office, architects, civil, electrical and mechanical engineers. The Department will conduct interviews for a Commissioning agent to oversee the project. She will continue to provide updates to the Commission as the project progresses.

6. Presenter: Angi Bruce, Deputy Director. Department’s Strategic Plan - 2019-2020 Implementation Plan Update.

Deputy Director Bruce provided an overview of the Strategic Plan and provided specific information regarding the 2019-2020 Implementation Plan. Items discussed included the law enforcement program, management of Commission-owned/administered lands, Chronic Wasting Disease, stream restoration and fish passage, Access Yes, migration corridor work, Mule Deer Initiative, fiscal process improvements, AIS rapid response plan development and terrestrial habitat program. The draft 2020-2022 implementation plan will be presented for Commission approval at the March meeting. Commissioner Crank inquired about the CWD study on feedgrounds. The Department will provide information on this effort at the March meeting.

7. Presenter: Sean Bibbey, Lands Branch Chief, Services Division. Authorization to Proceed with Negotiations for Acquiring or Disposing of Fee Title and/or Less Than Fee Title Property Rights.

Mr. Bibbey requested table discussions on the Munger Mountain Conservation Easement in Teton County at this time.

8. Presenter: Meredith Wood, Chief Fiscal Officer, Fiscal Division. Employee Insurance.

Ms. Wood explained the State of Wyoming, Department of Administration and Information, notified all state agencies the cost of health insurance premiums increased on January 1, 2020. The current budget does not have sufficient funds for the increase. The Department recommends the Commission increase the FY20 budget in the amount of \$260,000 to cover the increase in cost for health insurance premiums. The annual cost will be included in the FY21 budget request presented in March.

It was moved by Commissioner Dube to increase the FY20 budget in the amount of \$260,000 to cover the increase cost for health insurance premiums. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ladwig. Motion carried.

9. Presenter: Greg Phipps, Chief, Fiscal Division. License Selling Agent Appointments.

The following application was received from a sporting goods store. Sundance Hardware and Sporting Goods, LLC, Sundance. The Game Warden's evaluation and recommendation is included in this packet. There is one other license selling agent in Sundance. There were two license selling agents in 2019 and their total 2018 sales were \$91,719.00.

It was moved by Commissioner Schmid to approve the new license selling agent for Sundance Hardware and Sporting Goods. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ladwig. Motion carried.

The following application was received from a license selling agent requesting approval for ownership transfer. Buckboard Marina, Green River. Temporary approval of the transfer has been received by the local Game Warden, Regional Wildlife Supervisor and Commissioner Brokaw. This store's 2018 license sales totaled approximately \$7,778.00.

It was moved by Commissioner Brokaw to approve the transfer of ownership for Buckboard Marina in Green River. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Byrd. Motion carried.

Per W.S. 23-1-701(a), bond payments are due on or before December 1. License selling agents are required to reapply to the Commission if they do not meet this deadline. Walmart #1457 Riverton in Riverton was late in remitting their annual bond renewal application and payment. This store's license sales totaled \$148,237.50 in 2018.

It was moved by Commissioner Schmid to approve the renewal of Walmart #1457 Riverton. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Byrd. All Commissioners voted yea, except for Commissioner Crank who voted nay. Motion carried.

10. Presenter: Greg Phipps, Chief, Fiscal Division. Electronic Payment Capability for License Selling Agents.

Chief Phipps briefed the Commission on the status of electronic payments for license selling agents. The Department attended several meetings with the State Auditor's Office and Wyoming State Bank. Testing of the system is slated for February and the Department hopes to be able to process actual transactions in March. The Department will continue to keep the Commission updated.

11. Presenter: Dan Bjornlie, Large Carnivore Biologist, Wildlife Division. Chapter 3, Black Bear Hunting Seasons.

Mr. Bjornlie explained the proposed changes to Chapter 3, Black Bear Hunting Seasons:

Section 3. Language has been modified in the first paragraph for clarity of this section.

Section 4. Edits have been incorporated into subsection (b) to clarify the registration and reporting

periods for black bear kills is seventy-two (72) hours. Subsection (c) has been edited to remove a punishment statement since that occurs by application of Title 23.

Section 5. Edits have been made in subsection (a)(ii) to clarify provisions that shall be met in order for a person to have preference to register the same bait site for the immediately following year. A person shall have placed a bear bait, and provided the bear bait site GPS coordinates to the Department during the previous calendar year in accordance with Commission regulation. In subsection (d), proposed edits also permit an individual to use their sportsperson identification number to properly identify their bear bait container. A sportsperson identification number is specific to each licensed hunter, does not change from year to year and will simplify the bear bait container identification process.

Section 6. Subsections (b) and (c) have been modified and reformatted for clarity.

Section 8. Edits to this section deleted a reference to chemical attractants since they are already addressed in Section 6.

Section 10. The previous three (3) year black bear harvest information has been analyzed to prepare draft season proposals. Proposed black bear hunt area season date changes or annual female mortality limits were made available to the public for comment during all public meetings held around the state.

Section 13. The boundary between Hunt Areas 1 and 32 is being modified to better utilize hunter harvest as a management tool and to mitigate black bear conflicts. Department personnel have removed several conflict bears in the Lower Shoshone and Crooked Creek drainages near Lovell in Hunt Area 1, which is proposed to become part of Hunt Area 32. The Department is also proposing to modify the boundary description for Hunt Area 7 because of previous public comments.

Public Comment:

Jim Schell, Rough Country Outfitters

Mr. Schell distributed a letter to the Commission regarding spring/fall quotas. He recommended splitting the spring and fall quotas. If the total number of a quota is an odd number then the spring quota should be increased by one. If the spring quota does not get filled, then the unfilled quota could roll into the fall season. When asked if there was a biological impact in implementing this change Dan Thompson said no; it's simply a matter of hunter opportunity. Mr. Schell also suggested having standardized season dates.

James Rinehart

Mr. Rinehart said he supports increasing the spring quota.

It was moved by Commissioner Byrd to approve Chapter 3, Black Bear Hunting Seasons as proposed with the following amendments. In Hunt Area 8, female mortality limit set at 9 for spring season and 8 for fall season. In Hunt Area 9, female mortality limit set at 10 for spring

season and 9 for fall season. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Schmid. Motion carried.

12. Presenter: Rick King, Chief, Wildlife Division. Chapter 61, Collection of Shed Antlers and Horns.

Chief King provided the Commission with the history of shed antler collection. The intent of the regulation is to minimize disturbance of wintering big game animals. He explained the proposed changes:

Section 2. Language in the first paragraph has been modified for clarity of this section.

Section 3. A new boundary description has been proposed for regulating the collection of shed antlers and horns from big game animals on public lands. This is in response to the 65th Legislature of the State of Wyoming 2019 General Session House Enrolled Act 64, which expanded the area within the Commission's authority to regulate such activity. The added area of regulation is designed to protect critical wintering big game areas on public lands. A map of the new proposed shed antler and horn collection area was discussed.

Section 4. Edits have been incorporated to clarify the intent of this section by using the defined term "collect" rather than "take", and to correct the Commission policy number referenced within the section.

Director Nesvik said the Department worked closely with the Legislature to develop the recommendations. It's important for the Department to have the ability to make recommendations on a case-by-case and region-by-region basis as needed. Commissioner Dube felt the boundary map was confusing. Commissioner Brokaw suggested changing the boundary lines on the map to match I-80. Commissioner Brokaw asked if the Department has met the intent of the Legislature. Director Nesvik felt the Department has done a good job of finding a balance by identifying conflict areas and making adjustments. Commissioner Brokaw also expressed his concern regarding opening dates; he felt the opening times are a safety factor.

It was moved by Commission Brokaw to approve Chapter 61, Collection of Shed Antlers and Horns, with adjustments to the map and to change the opening date to May 1, at 8:00 a.m. Commissioner Schmid suggested changing the time from 8:00 a.m to 12:00 p.m. Commissioner Brokaw accepted this amendment.

The Department recommended tabling action on this item so they can amend the boundaries in Section 3 and on the associated map. The Commission agreed.

Chief King presented the Commission with a revised map showing the new boundaries as outlined in Section 3. Language was also modified to reflect an opening date of May 1 at 12:00 p.m.

It was moved by Commissioner Brokaw to approve Chapter 61, Collection of Shed Antlers and Horns as amended by the Department. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Schmid.

Public Comments:

John Rinehart

Mr. Rinehart agrees there is a safety concern and supports a later start time (12:00 p.m.).

Call for the question. Motion carried.

13. Presenter: Scott Edberg, Deputy Chief, Wildlife Division. Chapter 32, Regulation Governing Firearm Cartridges and Archery Equipment.

Deputy Chief Edberg explained the proposed changes to Chapter 32, Regulation Governing Firearm Cartridges and Archery Equipment.

Section 2. Edits to this section removed unnecessary language.

Section 3. A new definition is being provided for the term “Expanding Point Bullet” to mean any bullet designed by its manufacturer to create a wound channel larger than the bullet’s diameter. The Department is making this proposed regulation edit to address public comments and advances in hunting bullet technology.

Section 4. The term “expanding point bullet” is being added to existing regulation language to clarify the legality of newer bullet technology used to develop hunting bullets for big and trophy game animals. Several suitable hunting bullets are currently manufactured that create a wound channel larger than the bullet’s diameter but are not identified as “expanding point” by their manufacturers.

There was general discussion between the Commission and the Department regarding the various bullet types.

It was moved by Commissioner Ladwig to approve Chapter 32, Regulation Governing Firearm Cartridges and Archery Equipment, as recommended. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Byrd. Motion carried.

14. Presenter: Leslie Schreiber, Statewide Sagebrush/Sage-Grouse Biologist, Wildlife Division. Sage-Grouse Translocations.

Ms. Schreiber explained in 2016 the Commission approved translocating sage-grouse to North Dakota for purposes of preventing extirpation in that state and assisting in the development of

improved sage-grouse translocation protocols for range-wide use. In exchange, North Dakota agreed to provide Wyoming with wild rooster pheasants to bolster the genetics of the Department's bird farm. Jesse Kolar, from North Dakota Game and Fish, provided additional information regarding topography.

As of July 1, 2019, 120 adult sage-grouse have been translocated to North Dakota from the capture location north of Rawlins. Preliminary results from 2019 are summarized as:

- 15 out of 20 males survived
- 9 out of 10 brooding hens survived
- Determine the efficacy of hen and brood translocation to improve overall success of grouse translocation.
- Utah State University is also studying the impacts of translocation to the source (Rawlins) population.
- The research associated with this project is being coordinated with similar projects being carried out in California/Nevada and Utah.

The Department has also contributed approximately \$20,000 in aircraft and vehicle support to the research component of the project. When North Dakota is able to reciprocate with rooster pheasants, additional personnel time and vehicle use will be required.

It was moved by Commissioner Dube to approve the continuation of sage-grouse translocations to North Dakota. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Byrd. Motion carried.

Director Nesvik briefed the Commission on the National Park Service's (NPS) plan to remove mountain goats from the Grand Teton National Park by aerial gunning. While the Department appreciates the NPS's efforts to address the expansion of mountain goat populations in the Teton Range, we adamantly oppose the method of removal. The Department strongly urges the use of skilled volunteer hunters to lethally remove mountain goats from the affected area. The Department previously commented on their plans and recommended the use of relocation, skilled volunteers or other methods versus aerial gunning. The Director has recently spoken with the acting Superintendent of Grand Teton National Park and asked him to reconsider their plan. The Director will be sending the acting Superintendent a letter reiterating our opposition to the use of aerial gunning.

The Commission asked if it would be helpful for the Commission to issue a resolution. Director Nesvik thought it would help.

It was moved by Commissioner Schmid to issue a resolution urging the NPS to stop plans to kill the mountain goats via aerial gunning and implement a plan allowing the mountain goats to be removed by skilled volunteers. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ladwig.

**A roll call vote was conducted:
Commissioner Brokaw voted aye.**

Commissioner Byrd voted aye.

Commissioner Schmid voted aye.

Commissioner Dube voted aye.

Commissioner Ladwig voted aye.

Commissioner Crank voted aye.

President Rael voted aye.

Motion carried.

15. Nicole Bjornlie, Nongame Mammal Biologist, Wildlife Division and Zack Walker, Statewide Nongame Bird and Mammal Program Supervisor, Wildlife Division. Pygmy Rabbit Translocations.

In 2013, the Department approved translocating up to 30 pygmy rabbits (Species of Greatest Conservation Need – NSS3) to Washington for the purpose of augmenting the Columbia Basin pygmy rabbit population in eastern Washington. The Columbia Basin pygmy rabbit population is a federally endangered Distinct Population Segment and a state endangered species in Washington. Since 2011, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife has used semi-wild breeding enclosures to produce juveniles for intensive reintroduction efforts in central Washington. Translocated individuals have increased Washington's genetic diversity, productivity, and survival, resulting in >2,000 juveniles produced from 2012-2018.

Despite these successes, disease and wildfire has set back the program, and translocations from the single large wild population in Washington for breeding purposes can no longer be sustained, resulting in <20 rabbits available for semi-captive breeding. Washington is coordinating with states within the pygmy rabbit range to acquire an additional 30-40 rabbits to augment the program; depending on availability of rabbits from other areas of the range, Washington will likely need fewer individuals requested on the permit. Minimal personnel time to provide potential trapping locations and coordinate efforts is required. All capture and translocation personnel and materials will be provided by Washington.

It was moved by Commissioner Dube to approve the translocation of up to 40 pygmy rabbits to Washington. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brokaw. Motion carried.

16. Presenters: Ian Tator, Statewide Terrestrial Habitat Manager, Wildlife Division and Ray Bredehoft, Chief, Habitat and Access Branch, Services Division. Annual Invasive Grass: An Imminent Threat to Wyoming's Future.

Mr. Tator and Mr. Bredehoft provided the Commission with information on the Department's Cheatgrass Implementation Plan. They provided general information regarding annual invasive grasses, their impact on wildlife and habitat, and available treatment options. Director Nesvik advised that annual invasive grasses is a significant concern. This topic was discussed at great lengths at the Winter WAFWA meeting last week.

17. Presenter: Rebekah Fitzgerald, Communications Director, Director's Office. Volunteer Projects.

Ms. Fitzgerald explained that pursuant to Commission policy and W.S. § 27-14-108 (e)(x), Department volunteers can only work on projects approved by the Commission. Therefore, on an annual basis, the Commission reviews and approves a list of eligible projects at its first meeting of the year. She provided the Commission with the list of eligible volunteer projects for 2020.

It was moved by Commission Brokaw to approve the list of eligible volunteer projects for 2020. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dube. Motion carried.

18. Presenter: Scott Edberg, Deputy Chief, Wildlife Division. The 2019 Wyoming Hunting Seasons – A Look Back.

The Commission was provided with a PowerPoint presentation on hunter harvest success and participation during the Wyoming's 2019 hunting seasons.

19. Presenter: Rebekah Fitzgerald, Communications Director, Director's Office. Wyoming Wildlife Photos.

The Commission was provided a presentation showing photos and videos of Wyoming's Wildlife.

20. Call to the public.

Julie McCallister

Ms. McCallister supports the Commission in their decision of splitting licenses for Chapter 3, Black Bear Season. She also proposed to lower the hunting age and increase the number of companion hunters for disabled hunters.

It was moved by Commissioner Crank to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Byrd. Motion carried.

The meeting ended at 4:25 p.m.

Commission President

**Wyoming Game and Fish Commission
Teleconference Minutes**

March 19, 2020

| | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| David Rael, President, via telephone | Wyoming Game and Fish Commission |
| Peter Dube, Vice President, via telephone | Wyoming Game and Fish Commission |
| Gay Lynn Byrd, Member, via telephone | Wyoming Game and Fish Commission |
| Ralph Brokaw, Member, via telephone | Wyoming Game and Fish Commission |
| Patrick Crank, Member | Wyoming Game and Fish Commission |
| Richard Ladwig, Member, via telephone | Wyoming Game and Fish Commission |
| Mike Schmid, Member, via telephone | Wyoming Game and Fish Commission |
| Brian R. Nesvik, Director | Wyoming Game and Fish Department |

Staff Present:

John Kennedy, Angi Bruce, Rick King, Dee Dee Hawk, Alan Osterland, Greg Phipps, Meredith Wood, Millissa Raner, Dirk Miller, Loren Wooden and Sheridan Todd

Legal Representation:

David DeWald, Senior Assistant Attorney General

Guests Present:

Chris McBarnes, The Wyldlife Fund, via telephone and Bob Kroft, via telephone

It was moved by Commissioner Crank to go into Open Session. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Byrd. A roll call vote was conducted. Motion carried unanimously.

Open Session began at 9:24 a.m.

Commissioner Rael began the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. He also expressed his gratitude to all the men and women who serve our country, particularly at this challenging time.

1. Presenters: Wyoming Game and Fish Commissioners. Election of Officers.

It was moved by Commissioner Brokaw to nominate Peter Dube as Commission President. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Crank. A roll call vote was conducted. Motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Commissioner Rael to nominate Patrick Crank as Commission Vice President. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ladwig. A roll call vote was conducted. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Dube thanked Commissioner Rael for his leadership and guidance this past year. He looks forward to his role as President.

2. Presenter: Commission President. Approval of Commission Meeting Minutes.

It was moved by Commissioner Brokaw to approve the January 2020 Commission Meeting Minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ladwig. A roll call vote was conducted. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Presenter: Brian R. Nesvik, Director. Director's Report.

Director Nesvik provided the Commission with an update on the Covid-19 pandemic. The Lander Regional Office is closed until further notice after some employees demonstrated symptoms of the virus. The Department is committed to continue to provide services to the citizens of the state while at the same time adhering to federal and state guidance to minimize contact between people. We are making plans to allow some employees to telework. We are limiting the number of people in meetings to less than ten people and in most cases conducting meetings via video or teleconferencing. The season setting public meetings will be conducted online. The Commission discussed plans for the upcoming April Commission meeting. The Commission agreed to conduct the meeting via webinar and to allow the public to provide comments. There are several logistics to work out, but in order to facilitate public comments we may need to implement an advanced blue sheet process. Director Nesvik recommended the CWD Management plan be presented in person at the July Commission meeting. He also explained there are two statutes approved by the legislature that require rule promulgation by July 1; therefore, we may need to hold another meeting in June. Commissioner Dube agreed that critical agenda items should be addressed through normal public meetings when possible. Director Nesvik also recommended canceling the Expo this year. At this time it's uncertain if schools will be back in session by May and we don't know what the federal and state guidance regarding social distances may be.

It was moved by Commissioner Crank to cancel the 2020 Expo due to Covid-19. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Schmid. A roll call vote was conducted. Motion carried unanimously.

Director Nesvik thanked the Commission for their support and flexibility during this challenging time. We will continue to keep the Commission updated.

4. Presenter: Mike Schmid, Commissioner. The Wyldlife Fund.

Commissioner Schmid briefed the Commission on The Wyldlife Fund. He introduced Chris McBarnes, who officially started his duties on March 9 as the Executive Director of The Wyldlife Fund. Mr. McBarnes said he looks forward to working with the Commission. He is committed and stands ready to make a difference for wildlife. He was pleased to report The

Wyldlife Fund is making a \$10,000 donation toward the Access Yes program and \$10,000 earmarked for a wildlife friendly fencing project at the Red Rim WHMA.

5. Presenters: Meredith Wood, CFO, and Millissa Raner, General Accounting Manager, Fiscal Division. Preliminary Approval of the Commission's FY 2021 Budget.

Ms. Wood explained the FY21 Operating Fund Balance Projections. Commissioner Crank said the Commission budget sub-committee discussed increasing the reserve from 6 months to 7 months. Ms. Wood said to keep in mind that if the Commission decides to change the reserve it will decrease the operating fund balance.

It was moved by Commissioner Crank to increase the reserve to cover operating expenses for 7 months. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brokaw. A roll call vote was conducted. Motion carried unanimously.

Millissa Raner provided a detailed explanation of each division's standard budget items (Administration, Fiscal, Services Fish and Wildlife). There was general discussion between the Commission and the Department regarding the budget. Commissioner Crank stated he was not comfortable with approving funds for the Buffalo Game Warden Station and housing at the Auburn Fish Hatchery.

It was moved by Commissioner Crank to approve the standard budget except for \$395,000 for housing at the Auburn Fish Hatchery and \$350,000 for the Buffalo Game Warden Station, pending additional detailed information to costs and needs. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Rael.

Discussion:

Commissioner Crank believes it's prudent for the Commission to carefully examine construction projects to minimize change orders and to have a finite estimate of costs. Commissioner Ladwig agreed and stated the Commission should have standardized housing specs. Director Nesvik advised the Department has established a team to create 2 or 3 pre-designed specs for housing. He also said the Department prefers to buy existing houses, but at times new construction may be needed, especially at fish hatcheries. Commissioner Crank commended the Game and Fish Administration for their quick action regarding the Newcastle game warden station.

A roll call vote was conducted. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Raner provided information on the Wildlife Trust Fund Projects, State Wildlife Grants, and reimbursable grants. Ms. Wood provided additional information regarding the corpus of the Wildlife Trust Fund.

Ms. Raner briefed the Commission on the FY21 One-time projects. Discussion included projects previously approved and new requests for one-time projects. Director Nesvik explained five years ago the Commission committed \$500,000 each year to fund mule deer projects. Chief King will provide in depth information on the mule deer projects (amounts allocated and expended) at the Commission meeting in April.

Ms. Hawk explained the funds allocated for the Spence and Moriarty WHMA is a continuation of the 10-year plan which was implemented in January 2012. Improvements slated for the WHMA include irrigation, maintaining structures, weed control, fertilizer and improving the hay meadows. The Commission inquired if there were any cost share opportunities with the NRCS. Ms. Hawk said that according to NRCS guidelines, that was not an option.

Dirk Miller provided information regarding several issues with the existing well at the Dubois fish hatchery. The Department recommends hiring a consultant to research and drill a new well at the CM Ranch. Commissioner Crank did not support approving this project without more information on the current well, such as the depth, details on aquifer and availability of other filters. The Commission agreed to table action on this project pending more detailed information at the April Commission meeting.

Two other one-time projects were discussed and tabled until additional information could be provided was the Baggs and Pinedale Migration Study and Cheatgrass Imaging/Mapping. Presentations for these items are scheduled for the April Commission meeting. Commissioner Crank also suggested discussing the WY Range project and D.E.E.R. projects in more detail at the April Commission meeting.

Public Comment:
None

It was moved by Commissioner Brokaw to approve the FY 2021 preliminary one-time projects budget as presented by the Department with the exclusion of the Dubois Hatchery/CM Ranch well test, Baggs and Pinedale Migration Study, and the Cheatgrass Imaging/Mapping projects. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ladwig. A roll call vote was conducted. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Presenter: John Kennedy, Deputy Director. WGFD Housing in Jackson.

Deputy Director Kennedy reaffirmed the Commission's previous direction to focus on building employee housing on land owned by the Commission. With this direction, the Department recommends moving forward with developing a plan and budget for constructing houses on the the Commission's South Park WHMA. The Department recommends moving forward with the consulting firm that WYDOT used to develop their employee housing plan in Jackson. This

company will be able to use some of the data already obtained and can commit to have the work completed in a cost effective and timely manner.

It was moved by Commissioner Crank to authorize the Department to retain the consulting company to complete work at the South Park WHMA for \$15,000 as proposed by the Department. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Schmid.

Discussion:

There was general discussion between the Commission and the Department regarding housing. Discussions included lot sizes, the number of houses and the possibility of duplexes or 4-plexes.

Call for the question. A roll call vote was conducted. Motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Commissioner Rael to approve planning for housing at the South Park WHMA of 5 houses within a 10-house footprint. A roll call vote was conducted. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Presenter: John Kennedy, Deputy Director. Cody Regional Office Project.

Deputy Director briefed the Commission regarding the Cody Regional Office project. He provided an initial architectural concept report. The next step of the project is a detailed site survey which will cost \$3,500. The Department is working with the City of Cody on the annexation process. We are working closely with the city regarding sewer and electrical; no problems are anticipated with these utilities. Water has been identified as a concern for the project. It's estimated it will take 3-5 years for the city to get water to the property. There is currently a water source at the property through Northwest Rural Water District. If we get water through the district we will need to purchase a cistern which is estimated at \$75,000. If we are able to get water through annexation at a later date we would not need the cistern. There was general discussion between the Commission and the Department regarding the benefits of annexation, obtaining water through Northwest Rural Water District, sewer/septic systems, drilling a well and whether to construct a one story or two story building. Loren Wooden helped answer questions.

It was moved by Commissioner Crank to approve a two story design for the Cody Regional Office. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Rael.

Discussion:

Director Nesvik realizes it may be problematic given the current Covid-19 crisis, but he would like the public to have an opportunity to provide input on the building. Commissioner Crank felt it is important for the architectural firm to have direction now as construction costs continually increase; we can't wait for the Covid-19 crisis to be over.

Call for the question. A roll call vote was conducted. Motion carried unanimously.

Deputy Director Kennedy said we are working with Plan One Architects and have a contract with them for \$749,000. The Department will report to the Commission as Plan One Architects completes different elements of the contract. The Department is requesting approval for stage one of the project for programmatic and planning at \$37,456.25 and schematic design phase work at \$74,912.50 for a total of \$112,368.75. The Department is also requesting approval for a detailed site survey in the amount of \$3,500.

It was moved by Commissioner Rael to approve funding to Plan One Architects as recommended by the Department. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brokaw. A roll call vote was conducted. Motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Commissioner Crank that any change orders on construction projects that exceed \$1,000.00 needs to be presented to the Commission for approval. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Rael.

Discussion:

Commissioner Rael asked if the new change order policy would delay construction. Director Nesvik said the policy would not delay construction. It's important these projects are completed on time, on budget and with no change orders.

Call for the question. A roll call vote was conducted. Motion carried unanimously.

Commission Dube recommended to move forward with plans for a Commissioner retreat later this spring.

8. Call to the Public.

Bob Kroft, Lovell, WY

Mr. Kroft expressed his concerns regarding fishing in the Lovell area. He believes fishing opportunities can be improved by stocking more fish in Big Horn County. The Department will pass his comments along to the Fish Division.

It was moved by Commissioner Crank to end the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Schmid. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting ended at 12:30 p.m.



Peter J. Dube, President

**Wyoming Game and Fish Commission
Meeting Minutes
Cheyenne, WY**

Due to COVID-19 Staff attendance was minimal. The meeting was conducted via ZOOM video conference system.

April 20, 2020

Members Present:

| | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Peter Dube, President | Wyoming Game and Fish Commission |
| Patrick Crank, Vice President | Wyoming Game and Fish Commission |
| Ralph Brokaw, Member | Wyoming Game and Fish Commission |
| Richard Ladwig, Member | Wyoming Game and Fish Commission |
| David Rael, Member | Wyoming Game and Fish Commission |
| Mike Schmid, Member | Wyoming Game and Fish Commission |
| Brian R. Nesvik, Director | Wyoming Game and Fish Department |

Staff Present:

John Kennedy, Angi Bruce (via telephone), Rick King, Doug Brimeyer, Scott Edberg (via telephone), Dee Dee Hawk, Sean Bibbey, Alan Osterland, Dirk Miller, Greg Phipps, Meredith Wood, Rebekah Fitzgerald (via telephone), Meghan Lockwood, Justin Joiner, and Sheridan Todd

Legal Representation:

David DeWald, Senior Assistant Attorney General

Guests Present:

None

Open Session began at 10:01 a.m.

President Dube began the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Presenter: Commission President. Approval of Commission Meeting Minutes.

It was moved by Commissioner Schmid to approve the March 2020 Commission meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Byrd. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Presenter: Brian R. Nesvik, Director. Director's Report.

Director Nesvik provided the Commission with an overview on the Covid-19 pandemic in relation to Department activities. The Department continues to provide service to the public in a

modified manner. He explained the status of office managers, employees teleworking from home, and the significant work being completed in the field. Two emergency regulations were implemented: bear bait registration and suspension of selling nonresident one and five day fishing licenses. He asked the Commission for guidance regarding changing/extending dates for bear hunting seasons, turkey seasons and shed antler hunting seasons. The Commission supported extending the turkey season by nine days. The Commission did not support changes to the bear hunting season or shed antler season.

To address revenue shortfalls the Governor has directed state agencies to impose a hiring freeze and not approve contracts over \$100,000. Director Nesvik said the Commission will be presented with preliminary approval of the budget during this meeting. He recommended the Commission move forward with preliminary approval of the budget. Final approval of the budget will be requested at the July Commission meeting and we can adjust the budget, if needed.

There was also discussion regarding the Expo and the possibility of changing locations. This year's Expo was canceled due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The Department is proposing to hold the 2021 Expo in Casper and then look at different locations where we may have better opportunities to reach out to youth. The Commission supported this idea.

Director Nesvik thanked the Commission for their support and flexibility in conducting the meeting over the ZOOM video conference system. He said public involvement is very important to the Commission and we will do our best to engage the public. He explained the various opportunities for the public to provide comments during the meeting.

3. Presenter: Doug Brimeyer, Deputy Chief, Wildlife Division. General Hunting Regulation, Big Game, Wild Bison, Wild Turkey, Upland Game Bird, Small Game and Migratory Game Bird Hunting Seasons and Light Goose Conservation Order.

Deputy Chief Brimeyer explained that following federal and state guidance on public meetings due to the Covid-19 pandemic, all scheduled public season setting meetings were canceled. In place of public meetings, the Department posted online presentations covering the proposed 2020 hunting season regulations. From March 23-April 3 there were 2,763 public online page views for the eight regions. The Department received a total of 217 online comments and 6 written comments.

Chapter 2, General Hunting Regulation

Mr. Brimeyer explained that Chapter 2 outlines general hunting definitions, license types, shooting hours, bag limits, validation of carcass coupons and other general hunting information. He explained the proposed regulation.

Section 2. Edits to provide better clarification to definitions.

Section 12. No person shall use any aircraft to spot, locate and aid in the taking of trophy game.

Section 20. Language added to prohibit: Use of thermal or infrared image attached to a firearm with the intent to spot, locate and aid in the taking of any big game animal, trophy game animal or wild bison. Real-time video or thermal infrared imaging capable of transmitting images to spot, locate and aid in taking of big or trophy game or wild bison. Sell or barter geographic location information to aid in taking. Regulation does allow the use of trail cameras that do not transmit images in real-time.

Public Comments:
None

It was moved by Commissioner Brokaw to approve Chapter 2, General Hunting Regulations as proposed by the Department. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Schmid. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried unanimously.

Chapter 5, Antelope Hunting Seasons

Mr. Brimeyer provided a map that detailed the various hunting regions. He explained the general management direction, proposed season changes, and the various issues raised during public engagement as it pertained to each region.

Public Comments:
Steve Martin, Bowhunters of Wyoming (via telephone)

Mr. Martin said he supports the regulation as proposed by the Department pertaining to the archery opening dates. He also supports the regulation as proposed for Chapters 6, 7, 8, and 9.

Commissioner Crank questioned the population surveys and quotas. He noticed there were some areas where the population increased; however, the Department did not increase quotas. Raising quotas in those areas would increase hunter opportunity. Commissioners Rael and Brokaw agreed.

It was moved by Commissioner Crank to approve Chapter 5, Antelope Hunting Seasons as proposed by the Department with the following changes: Hunt Area 61, Type 1; increase quota from 50 to 150. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Rael. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried unanimously.

Chapter 6, Deer Hunting Season

Mr. Brimeyer provided a map that detailed the various hunting regions. He explained the general management direction, proposed season changes, and the various issues raised during public

engagement as it pertained to each region. He also summarized proposed changes to the draft regulation regarding Hunt Areas 121 and 122.

Public Comments:
None

It was moved by Commissioner Rael to approve Chapter 6, Deer Hunting Season and the amendments as proposed by the Department. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Byrd.

Discussion:
There was general discussion between the Commission and the Department regarding the seasons. Justin Binfet helped field questions.

Call for the question. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried unanimously.

Chapter 7, Elk Hunting Seasons

Mr. Brimeyer provided a map that detailed the various hunting regions. He explained the general management direction, proposed season changes, and the various issues raised during public engagement as it pertained to each region. He also summarized proposed changes to the draft regulation.

Public Comments:
John Burd (via telephone)
Mr. Burd suggested specialized elk hunts on the National Elk Refuge for disabled individuals and veterans. He also suggested hunting wolves on the refuge.

It was moved by Commissioner Crank to approve Chapter 7, Elk Hunting Regulations with amendments as proposed by the Department and with the following changes: Hunt Area 24, Type 1, 175 quota; Hunt Area 24, Type 4, 75 quota; Hunt Area 24, Type 5, 175 quota; Hunt Area 66, Type 6, 175 quota; and Hunt Area 66, Type 6, 350 quota. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brokaw. Commissioner Brokaw suggested modifying the ending season date for Hunt Area 114, Type 1 from November 30 to December 31. Commissioner Crank accepted the amendment. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried unanimously.

Chapter 8, Moose Hunting Seasons

Mr. Brimeyer provided a map that detailed the various hunting regions. He explained the general management direction, proposed season changes, and the various issues raised during public engagement as it pertained to each region.

Public Comments:

Mary Rumsey (via telephone)

Ms. Rumsey thanked the Commission for their hard work in maintaining moose populations. She supports the Department's recommendation of keeping the quota of 3 for Hunt Area 9.

It was moved by Commissioner Schmid to approve Chapter 8, Moose Hunting Seasons as proposed by the Department. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Byrd. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried unanimously.

Chapter 9, Bighorn Sheep and Mountain Goats

Mr. Brimeyer provided a map that detailed the various hunting regions. He explained the general management direction, proposed season changes, and the various issues raised during public engagement as it pertained to each region. He also summarized proposed changes to the draft regulation.

Public Comments:

John Burd (via telephone)

Mr. Burd asked about aerial hunting of mountain goats in the Grand Teton National Park. Director Nesvik explained the culling was completed by the National Park Service. The Commission and Department vehemently opposed the action.

It was moved by Commissioner Brokaw to approve Chapter 9, Bighorn Sheep and Mountain Goats as proposed by the Department. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Byrd. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried unanimously.

Chapter 11, Upland Game Bird, Small Game Hunting Seasons

Mr. Brimeyer explained this regulation establishes hunting season dates, bag and possession limits and specific shooting hours for all upland game bird and small game species. The Springer permit pheasant and Glendo permit pheasant seasons are also included as part of this regulation.

Commissioner Crank suggested extending the application period for the special Springer/Glendo hunt. Scott Edberg thought this was a good suggestion and said they will consider this next year. There was also discussion regarding chukar season dates.

Public Comments:

None

It was moved by Commissioner Byrd to approve Chapter 11, Upland Game Bird, Small Game Hunting Seasons as proposed by the Department. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Rael. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried unanimously.

Chapter 14, Migratory Game Bird Hunting Season

Mr. Brimeyer provided a map that detailed the various hunting regions. He explained the general management direction, proposed season changes, and the various issues raised during public engagement as it pertained to each region.

Public Comments:
None

It was moved by Commissioner Crank to approve Chapter 14, Migratory Game Bird Hunting Seasons as proposed by the Department. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Byrd. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried unanimously.

Chapter 15, Wild Bison Recreational Hunting Season

Mr. Brimeyer provided a map that detailed the various hunting regions. He explained the general management direction, proposed season changes, and the various issues raised during public engagement as it pertained to each region.

Public Comments:
None

It was moved by Commissioner Byrd to approve Chapter 15, Wild Bison Season as proposed by the Department. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Rael. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried unanimously.

Chapter 20, Wild Turkey Fall 2020/Spring 2021 Hunting Seasons

Mr. Brimeyer provided a map that detailed the various hunting regions. He explained the general management direction, proposed season changes, and the various issues raised during public engagement as it pertained to each region.

Public Comments:
Jeff Smith, Wyoming Outfitters and Guides Association (via telephone)
Mr. Smith supports extending the spring turkey hunting season.

It was moved by Commissioner Rael to approve Chapter 20, Wild Turkey Fall 2020/Spring 2021 Hunting Seasons as proposed by the Department. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Byrd. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Call to the public.

Gary Koltiska (via telephone)

Mr. Koltiska operates a pumpkin patch outside of Sheridan. He has experienced damage to fields by deer for several years. He has worked with the Department on numerous techniques to deter deer with no success. He would like to have his fields fenced off. He estimated the fields to be 30-40 acres. He would construct the fence if the Commission provided fencing materials. The Commission directed the Department to contact Mr. Koltiska.

5. Presenter: Sean Bibbey, Lands Branch Chief, Services Division. Authorization to Proceed with Negotiations for Acquiring Less than Fee Title Property Rights.

Note: This agenda item was originally planned to be presented on April 21.

Line Item A: Begley Ranch Conservation Easement, Natrona County

The Begley Ranch is located in northwestern Natrona County adjacent to the Flying 'A' Public Access Area and near the Badwater Ranch (PAA), which provide hunting opportunities to the public for big game, trophy game and game bird species. The Begley family is interested in selling a conservation easement to the Commission that would include public access for hunting and fishing to their deeded property adjacent to BLM and Office of State Land and Investments property along Sanchez Creek.

The Begley Ranch contains approximately 1,280 acres of deeded property that would directly connect and create contiguity to the Flying 'A' PAA. The property is legally accessible through the Flying 'A' PAA from the Bighorn Mountain Road (County Road 109) and Buffalo Creek Road (County Road 105).

The Department plans to conduct habitat improvement projects on the Begley Ranch as well as adjacent public and private land. Project components include installing riparian protection fencing, improving riparian habitat with low-tech stream restoration methods, and addressing conifer encroachment. Total project costs are estimated at \$540,000. The Department received substantial in-kind contributions including steel for jack fencing from Tuboscope in Casper. The Department recently secured \$50,000 from the WGFD Trust Fund, \$10,000 from RMEF, \$100,000 from NRCS VPA-HIP, and have funding requests pending with WWNRT, MFF, BLM, and Bates Hole/Shirley Basin SGLWG. Implementation will begin in the summer of 2020 with completion in 2023.

Public Comments:

None

It was moved by Commissioner Brokaw to authorize the Department to proceed with negotiations on the Begley Ranch Conservation Easement in Natrona County. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Rael. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried unanimously.

Line Item B: Ogalalla Land & Cattle Public Access Easement, Converse County

Josh Moore, owner of Ogalalla Land & Cattle, is proposing to donate a permanent public access easement for hunting to his deeded land adjacent to BLM and Office of State Land and Investments property along the Ross Road (Converse County Road 31).

The property is located in the northwestern corner of Converse County and would consist of approximately 3,700 acres included in the proposed easement. Mr. Moore is currently in negotiations with Converse County to voluntarily abandon and re-route a portion of Ross Road in order to eliminate heavy truck traffic in front of the family home. The approval of this easement is contingent upon the Converse County Commission approving the abandonment. Commissioner Byrd advised she is familiar with this property and supports the acquisition.

It was moved by Commissioner Rael for the Department to proceed with negotiations with Mr. Moore for the proposed public access easement. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Byrd. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Presenter: Sean Bibbey, Lands Branch Chief, Services Division. Approval to Acquire Less than Fee Title Property Rights.

Note: This agenda item was originally planned to be presented on April 21.

Line Item A: Bump Sullivan Water Rights Acquisition, Goshen County

The Department is proposing to acquire 69 shares of water rights associated with the Bump Sullivan Reservoir within the Springer/Bump Sullivan Wildlife Habitat Management Area (WHMA) from the Howard family. The acquisition consists of 69 shares of water with priority dates of 5/4/1911 (49 acres) and 1/11/1919 (20 acres). Each share equals 3.01 acre-feet of water with the reservoir holding a storage capacity for 641 total shares or 1929 acre-feet. The Howard family is asking \$103,500 for the water rights or \$1,500 per share.

The Commission acquired the rights to 64 shares, or ten percent of the storage capacity in 2016, and will acquire an additional 223 shares of water upon the transfer of the Schamel property from Ducks Unlimited to the Commission. With the purchase of 69 shares from the Howard family, the Commission would control approximately 55.5% of the allocated storage capacity for Bump Sullivan.

Acquiring a significant interest in the Bump Sullivan Reservoir would provide the Department the ability to irrigate additional crop land within the WHMA and maintain water levels in the reservoir for waterfowl and fishery. Hunting on the WHMA is increasing each year with sufficient water. It is estimated that over 36,000 Canada and snow geese utilized the WHMA over the winter months. Bump Sullivan Reservoir also provides an opportunity for warm water fish species including crappie, channel catfish and perch. Fisheries personnel estimate the reservoir is receiving an average of 500 angler days per year. The purchase price of the water rights is \$1,500 per share or \$103,500.

It was moved by Commissioner Crank to approve the acquisition of water rights at Bump Sullivan in Goshen County. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Rael. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried unanimously.

Item B: Carolyn Orr Conservation Easement Donation, Fremont County

Carolyn Orr is a Fremont County landowner that approached the Department to discuss the donation of a conservation easement on property she owns along the Lander Front. The property consists of two adjacent parcels totaling 84.79+/- acres within the Popo Agie Crucial Habitat Area and provides high value ungulate habitat, including crucial winter range for mule deer, elk, and summer range for mule deer. Mrs. Orr will donate a conservation easement restricting future development of the 84.79+/- acres and allowing one building envelope for the existing residential dwelling and associated outbuildings. The property adjoins the conservation easement donated by Carl Asbell in 2018. These proposed conservation easements will further add to the protection of these natural areas from poorly planned residential growth for future generations.

It was moved by Commissioner Rael to approve the Carolyn Orr Conservation Easement Donation in Fremont County. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Byrd. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried unanimously.

18. Presenter: Greg Phipps, Chief, Fiscal Division. License Selling Agent Appointments.

Note: This agenda item was originally planned to be presented on April 21.

All Around Hardware is a sporting goods store in Hulett, WY. Temporary approval has been received by the local Game Warden, Regional Wildlife Supervisor and Commissioner Ladwig. There is one agent located in Hulett. Hulett's 2018 license sales totaled \$81,900.50.

The following application was received from non-sporting goods stores:

Frontier Supply is a non-sporting goods store in Newcastle, WY. The Game Warden's evaluation is included in this packet. There are two agents located in Newcastle. Newcastle's 2018 license sales totaled \$95,114.00.

The following application was received from a license selling agent requesting approval for ownership transfer:

Joe's Food Center in Upton, WY. Temporary approval of the transfer has been received by the local Game Warden, Regional Wildlife Supervisor and Commissioner Ladwig. This store's 2018 license sales totaled approximately \$51,070.50.

It was moved by Commissioner Ladwig to approve All Around Hardware in Hulett and Frontier Supply in Newcastle and the transfer of ownership for Joe's Food Center in Upton. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Byrd. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Phipps also provided an update on Off-the-Grid Sports in Sundance, who is in arrears of \$22,008.

The meeting adjourned for the day.

April 21, 2020

Members Present:

| | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Peter Dube, President | Wyoming Game and Fish Commission |
| Patrick Crank, Vice President | Wyoming Game and Fish Commission |
| Ralph Brokaw, Member | Wyoming Game and Fish Commission |
| Richard Ladwig, Member | Wyoming Game and Fish Commission |
| David Rael, Member | Wyoming Game and Fish Commission |
| Mike Schmid, Member | Wyoming Game and Fish Commission |
| Brian R. Nesvik, Director | Wyoming Game and Fish Department |

Staff Present:

John Kennedy, Angi Bruce, Rick King, Doug Brimeyer, Scott Edberg (via telephone), Dee Dee Hawk, Sean Bibbey, Alan Osterland, Dirk Miller, Greg Phipps, Meredith Wood, Rebekah Fitzgerald (via telephone), Millissa Raner (via telephone), Meghan Lockwood, Justin Joiner, and Sheridan Todd, Ian Tator

Legal Representation:

David DeWald, Senior Assistant Attorney General

Guests Present:

Dr. Kevin Montieth, Assistant Professor, University of Wyoming

President Dube began the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

7. Presenter: Ian Tator, Statewide Terrestrial Habitat Manager, Wildlife Division. Mule Deer Initiative.

Mr. Tator provided the Commission with information on the statewide Mule Deer Initiative a(MDI) accomplishments and expenditures. The Department has initiated 45 projects to benefit mule deer since 2016. These projects come in two forms: habitat projects and studies that form future habitat work. Of the 45 projects, 15 projects are complete, 15 projects are scheduled to be completed summer/fall 2020 and 15 projects have reserved partial funding for winter 2020 / field season and 2021 implementation costs (recapture costs, collar data fees, herbicide retreatments). Commission money has been leveraged 5.5/1. To date we've spent \$1.2M of the \$2.5M awarded (48% spent). We have also developed plans and executed contracts/grant agreements to utilize an additional \$1.1M of Commission MDI funds this summer (92% of total). This results in a projected balance of \$200K for planned expenditures in 2021. Commissioner Schmid thanked the team for their hard work in completing projects. President Dube said he would like to see the two objectives continue to meld together.

8. Presenters: Doug Brimeyer, Deputy Chief, Wildlife Division and Dr. Kevin Montieth, Assistant Professor, University of Wyoming. Mule Deer and Pronghorn Research in Wyoming.

Dr. Montieth provided information on mule deer and pronghorn research in Wyoming. He provided details of buck/doe ratio, age and size of bucks, and the effects of hunting. The presentation included current research on ungulate migration including the Rose Petal Hypothesis. Researchers are trying to determine whether migration is learned from mothers, and what the ramifications are of learning to migrate from mothers. He also briefed the Commission on the affect of climate change and drought in regard to moose.

Commissioner Crank said he knows the Wyoming Range Mule Deer Study in coming to a close and asked if there was value in continuing the study. Dr. Montieth felt researchers are at the cusp of understanding the ecology of mule deer. A lot of time, effort and money has been expended in the project and he would like it to come to fruition. The best studies are those over long periods of time, unfortunately that is not always possible. Commissioner Crank also asked about the possibility of conducting a study similar to the Wyoming Range Mule Deer Study in eastern Wyoming. Commissioner Schmid found this presentation very interesting. He thought it would be helpful if Dr. Montieth could present this information at an informal meeting so the public can better understand.

9. Presenters: Doug Brimeyer, Deputy Chief, Wildlife Division and Hall Sawyer, Research Biologist/Project Manager, Western EcoSystems Technology. Migratory Disturbance Thresholds with Mule Deer and Energy Development.

Mr. Sawyer (via telephone) provided the Commission with information on migration distribution thresholds with mule deer and energy development. This study was intended to help the Department better understand the relationship between development and mule deer migration and how much development can migratory corridors withstand. By using GPS-collar data researchers can identify the footprint of the corridor and stopover habitat. Results of the data show that mule deer have rigid migratory behaviors and migratory use sharply declined when surface disturbance exceeded 3%. Future research will concentrate on seasons, species and disturbance types.

10. Presenters: Doug Brimeyer, Deputy Chief, Wildlife Division and Dr. Jarod Merkle, Assistant Professor, University of Wyoming. Analysis of Pronghorn Distribution and Development.

Dr. Merkle (via telephone) provided the Commission with information on how surface disturbance affects pronghorn migration. The purpose of the study is to have a broader understanding of development thresholds. The presentation included information on distribution during winter on the mesa, during migration and in relation to the development of wells. The next steps of the study will be to examine winter migration, different types of development, and how development affects other species. Commissioner Brokaw asked if there was a study in relation to residential areas. Dr. Merkle said studies have been centered around energy development.

It was moved by Commissioner Crank for the budget team to include \$50,000 in the Commission's FY 21 budget to fund research on pronghorn and mule deer distribution and development. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ladwig. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried unanimously.

11. Presenter: Ian Tator, Statewide Terrestrial Habitat Manager, Wildlife Division. Aerial Imagery of Cheatgrass.

Mr. Tator provided the Commission with a history of invasive grasses (cheatgrass, medusahead, ventenata) in Wyoming and the devastating effects it has on habitat, livestock, and wildlife. The Department works closely with partners to provide information regarding invasive grasses. Imagery is a very useful tool to map grasses to help in making better decisions for on the ground projects. The goal is to map the entire state using Lidar combined with Color Infrared Imagery data from a project that FEMA completed. The cost of the project is ~\$600,000 and the Commission was asked to provide \$250,000 to get started. WLCI has committed \$40,000 per year for five years. Other funds will come from state, federal and private sources. There was considerable discussion between the Commission and the Department regarding the project, expected outcomes of the project and funding. Commissioner Crank said he was not comfortable supporting this project at this time. There are too many unknowns right now; the Commission needs more information before investing this amount of money.

Public Comments:

Linda Baker (via telephone)

Ms. Baker asked what maps are available for the public. Mr. Tator said we have an assortment of maps but they are not very accurate for mapping invasive annual grasses.

12. Presenters: Dirk Miller, Deputy Chief, Fish Division and Guy Campbell, Culture Section Supervisor, Fish Division. Options for Addressing Problems with Water at the Dubois Hatchery.

Mr. Campbell briefed the Commission on the history water system at the Dubois Fish Hatchery. He also provided information on the current water problems associated with the hatchery. The Department has been in consultation with engineering firms who propose drilling a deeper production well into the Madison formation. Estimates for this project are: hydrology report \$15,000; well drilling \$240,000 (cemented all the way down); and construction management \$35,000 for a total cost of \$295,000. He also discussed filter and UV applications. The Department recommends hiring a hydrologist to develop a hydrology report to evaluate the well and water treatment alternatives. After the report is finalized the Department will be able to present a refined proposal.

It was moved by Commissioner Schmid to approve the Department to hire a hydrologist to complete a hydrology report for the Dubois Hatchery. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Byrd. A roll call vote was taken. Commissioner Rael was not in attendance during the presentation of the agenda item and did not vote. Motion carried unanimously.

13. Presenters: Dirk Miller, Deputy Chief, Fish Division and Guy Campbell, Culture Section Supervisor, Fish Division. Boulder Rearing Station Project.

Mr. Miller briefed the Commission on bids received to complete the Boulder Rearing Station flood mitigation project. The project is intended to address the high biosecurity risks associated with the brood facility and settling pond when water levels are high. This project is included in the approved Commissions FY 2020 budget so no action was needed on the presentation.

14. Presenter: Millissa Raner, General Accounting Manager, Fiscal Division. Preliminary Approval of Specific Projects for the Commission's FY 2021 Budget.

Deputy Director Kennedy presented information on the Commission's FY 2021 budget regarding Department housing. The house at the Auburn Fish Hatchery was built in 1941. The estimate for new construction is \$395,000. There are two warden stations that are in need of being replaced. The Buffalo game warden station was built in 1959. The estimate to buy a new house is \$350,000. The north Gillette game warden station is also in poor condition. Factors involved when identifying houses that need replaced are employee/family health and safety, energy efficiencies, and customer service. Director Nesvik explained the Department has gone decades,

in some cases, without addressing some of the housing issues. There are over 50 game warden stations and close to 50 other housing units across the state. On average a typical house lasts 60-70 years. In order to keep up with housing demands you have to replace a house in each region every year. In 2009, the Commission authorized the Department to include funding each year designated to housing.

Millissa Raner (via telephone) provided a recap of the Commission's FY 2021 budget.

Mule Deer Initiative

Funding for this project was approved in March. No action needed today.

Mule deer and pronghorn research in Wyoming

Funding for this project was approved by the Commission yesterday.

Aerial imagery of cheatgrass

It was moved by Commissioner Schmid to approve funding in the amount of \$250,000 for aerial imagery of cheatgrass. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Rael.

Discussion:

Commissioner Crank does not support this project. The Department needs to find partners for funding.

A roll call vote was taken. Commissioners Schmid, Ladwig, Brokaw, Rael and Byrd voted aye. Commissioner Crank voted nay. Motion carried.

Dubois Hatchery

The Commission approved \$15,000 for a hydrology report earlier in the day.

Department Housing

It was moved by Commissioner Brokaw to approve funding in the amount of \$395,00 for the Auburn Fish Hatchery and \$350,000 for the Buffalo or Gillette game warden station. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Rael. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Raner said she will incorporate these changes into the FY 2021 budget request. The final budget will be presented at the July Commission meeting.

15. Presenter: Meredith Wood, Chief Fiscal Officer, Fiscal Division. FY 2020 Revenue Transfers.

Ms. Wood stated, per Statute, the Commission has the authority to transfer up to 6% of the lifetime license fund balance and the net revenue earned from the sale of alternative enterprise merchandise during the fiscal year into the Commission's operating fund. This amount is estimated to be \$384,900 at the end of May. If the Commission does not transfer the money, it will stay in the lifetime license account. The Commission cannot spend money from the lifetime license account, but the money will earn interest. There was general discussion between the Commission and the Department regarding the accounts.

It was moved by Commissioner Brokaw to approve the transfer of up to 6% of the lifetime license fund balance and the net revenue earned from the sale of alternative enterprise merchandise during the fiscal year into the Commission's operating fund. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Byrd.

Discussion:

Commissioner Crank expressed his concern that money in the operating fund account may not be secure; in these uncertain times the state may need to access these funds. If the funds were left in the lifetime license account they cannot be touched but would still earn interest.

A roll call vote was taken. Commissioner Rael was not in attendance during discussion of this agenda item and did not vote. Commissioners Schmid, Ladwig, Brokaw and Byrd voted aye. Commissioner Crank voted nay. Motion carried.

16. Presenter: John Kennedy, Deputy Director. Cody Regional Office Project.

Deputy Director Kennedy provided the Commission with the cost analysis and schedule for the Cody Regional Office project. T.O. Engineering (via teleconference) helped answer questions. Several options were discussed for providing utilities to the property. Commissioner Crank said he was uncomfortable waiting on a government entity to annex the property. The Commission directed the Department to proceed with Water Option #2 - NRWD and Cistern, Sewer Option #2 - Leach Field, and Power Option #2 - Rocky Mountain Power. There was general discussion regarding the project area, a potential easement and concerns with some adjacent landowners regarding a 2-story structure. Construction is slated from 2/2021-2/2022. Deputy Director Kennedy will be travelling to Cody in May to meet with the affected landowners and other stakeholders to resolve any outstanding issues.

17. Presenter: Scott Edberg, Deputy Chief, Wildlife Division. Damage Claim Appeal #20078.

Mr. Edberg (via telephone) explained on December 5, 2019, Christian Peterson of Crandall Creek Ranch filed a damage claim (Claim #20078) for damages to 18 yearling steers by grizzly bears and gray wolves for a total amount of \$20,856.60. The Department investigated the claim and recommended payment for damages to 6 yearling steers by grizzly bear and gray wolves for a total amount of \$6,952.20. The total difference in payment between Peterson's claim amount and Department's partial payment recommendation is \$13,904.40

Mr. Peterson (via telephone) provided information on his ranching operation and how he calculated damages in the amount of \$20,856.60. He said the Department confirmed six steerlings killed by grizzly bear and gray wolves. He also said there were two additional steerlings that he believes died as a result of grizzly bears. In June they saw a grizzly bear chasing yearlings in the Lodgepole drainage. The next day they found a yearling with a broken leg as a result from being chased and the steer was put down. They also discovered a dead steer with a broken back in the brush in close proximity to a confirmed killing. There were also 10 steerlings that were unaccounted for at the end of the grazing season. Mr. Peterson feels it's unfair to producers that they cannot use the same multiplier for steers that you can use for calves.

Luke Ellsberry (via telephone) explained how the claim was investigated and payment was calculated. He said the Department verified two yearling steers as killed by wolves and four yearling steers as injured by grizzly bears during the 2019 grazing season. In addition, the claimant reported missing 12 yearling steers at the conclusion of the grazing season. The claimant used an unlawful multiplier (3X). Chapter 28 Section 3(a) only allows a multiplier to be used for missing calves and not yearlings. Based on the regulatory requirement, the Department recommended payment for six confirmed yearling steers damaged by grizzly bears and gray wolves for \$6,952.20.

Commissioner Brokaw asked why the other two dead steers were not included in the damage claim. Mr. Ellsberry said the Department was not notified of the steerling with the broken leg and he could not confirm the other steerling was attacked by grizzly bear; it was probably killed by some other sort of predator.

It was moved by Commissioner Crank to compensate for one additional steer for a total amount of \$8,110.90. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Byrd. Commissioner Rael was not in attendance during this agenda item and did not vote. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Peterson thanked the Commission for their consideration and said he will appeal this decision. He also said he would be in contact with the Commission regarding an opportunity in the Sunlight Basin.

18. Presenter: Greg Phipps, Chief, Fiscal Division. License Selling Agent Appointments.

Note: This agenda item was presented on April 20.

19. Presenter: Greg Phipps, Chief, Fiscal Division. License Selling Agent Cancellation.

Mr. Phipps provided the Commission with payment history on Rooch's Marina in Glendo. On September 6, 2019, the license section received approval from Commissioner Crank and Deputy Director Kennedy to suspend Rooch's Marina in Glendo as a license selling agent for failing to submit account payments and the iPOS sales terminal was deactivated. Rooch's Marina has requested a hearing before the Commission.

Ms. Bodily explained late payments were due to a clerical error. They purchased the marina in 2017 along with another partner. In 2018 their partner left the business. Since they were not familiar with the iPOS system, they sent their clerk to Cheyenne for a refresher course. The clerk ran the reports incorrectly which resulted in underpayments. As soon as they became aware of the situation they overnighted the late payments and have corrected their system.

It was moved by Commissioner Brokaw to reinstate Rooch's Marina as a license selling agent. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ladwig.

Discussion:

Director Nesvik commented the location is very convenient for our constituents.

A roll call vote was taken. Commissioners Schmid, Ladwig, Rael, Brokaw and Byrd voted aye. Commissioner Crank voted nay. Motion carried.

20. Presenters: Dan Thompson, Supervisor, Large Carnivore Section and Brian DeBolt, Conflict Coordinator, Large Carnivore Section, Wildlife Division. Large Carnivore Update.

Note: This agenda item was postponed and will be presented at another Commission meeting.

21. Presenter: Nichole Bjornlie, Nongame Mammal Biologist, Wildlife Division. Request for Swift Fox.

Ms. Bjornlie (via telephone) provided basic information on the ecology of swift fox. Swift fox populations in Wyoming have been expanding in recent years. Swift fox have been extirpated from Fort Belknap. The intent of the translocation is for cultural significance and to connect existing populations. The five year reintroduction effort will include foxes translocated from Wyoming, Colorado, and Kansas. Fort Belknap Indian Reservation, in collaboration with the

Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute, has developed a reintroduction plan, including a feasibility assessment, implementation protocols, and success monitoring.

Public Comments:

Chamois Andersen, Defenders of Wildlife (via telephone)

Ms. Andersen explained their organization supports the project as it will help in recovery efforts of the Swift fox. Defenders of Wildlife will donate \$20,000 toward radio collars.

Dr. Shila Shamon, Smithsonian Institution (via telephone)

Dr. Shamon provided information regarding trapping and the translocation process of the foxes.

Lisa Robertson, Wyoming Untrapped (via telephone)

Ms. Robertson questioned the type of traps that will be used. Ms. Bjornlie said Ft. Belknap and the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute will conduct all trapping. Best management practices will be followed.

It was moved by Commissioner Crank to approve the translocation of Swift fox to Ft. Belknap. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Byrd. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried unanimously.

22. Presenter: Angi Bruce, Deputy Director, Director's Office. Legislative Update.

Deputy Director Bruce provided the Commission with a summary of the 2020 legislative session. She said this year was a budget session which lasted 24 days. Of the 399 bills filed the Department monitored or tracked 78 bills and 31 bills were enrolled. She briefed the Commission on potential impacts of some of the enrolled bills.

23. Presenter: Rick King, Chief, Wildlife Division. Petition to Amend Chapter 4, Furbearing Animal Trapping Regulation.

Rick King presented two petitions to the Commission regarding Chapter 4, Furbearing Animal Trapping Regulation. Trapping regulation changes are made every three years and aren't scheduled to open for review until 2022; however, Wyoming Untrapped and WY FREE-mont County request the trapping regulation be opened for review this year.

Public Comments:

Lisa Robertson, Wyoming Untrapped (via telephone)

Ms. Robertson explained their organization would like trapping regulations reviewed this year instead of 2022, to address increasing land-use conflicts, specifically in Teton and Fremont Counties. She recommended trapping closures on specific highly used recreation areas.

Karen Zoller, WY TRAP FREE-mont County (via telephone)

Ms. Zoller petitioned the state after her dog was caught and killed in a snare on BLM property. She is advocating for trap-free areas across the state, a ban on spring-loaded snares, trapping area signage, set-backs from public trails, and a 24-hour trap check rule.

Scott Johnson (via telephone)

Mr. Johnson owns a ranch in Wyoming. He recreates on public land with his family and dogs. He does not think the public is aware of trapping on public lands and the risk to children and dogs. He believes public land should be for what the vast majority want.

Whitney Royster (via telephone)

Ms. Royster said trapping on public lands is a safety concern; she supports the petition for review of trapping regulations.

Jack Mercer, President, Quail Creek Airgun Club (via telephone)

President Dube read a statement on behalf of Mr. Mercer who supports trapping and does not support the petition for review of trapping regulations.

Jeff Johnson (via telephone)

Mr. Johnson believes the current regulations are science based and the comments he is hearing are emotional based.

Craig Larson (via telephone)

President Dube read a statement on behalf of Mr. Larson who supports trapping and does not support the petition for review of trapping regulations.

Diana Holcomb, WY TRAP FREE-mont County (via telephone)

Ms. Holcomb said what one person believes to be a safe area to trap another person may believe it to be a safe area to recreate. Their organization is requesting specific high traffic areas in Fremont and Teton County and to be designated trap free. She also requested bans on specific types of traps.

Kenny Broadhead (via telephone)

Mr. Broadhead does not support the petition for review of trapping regulations.

Laramie Wigington (via telephone)

Mr. Wigington believes the trapping regulations are good and does not support the petition for review of trapping regulations.

Christi Chapman (via telephone)

Ms. Chapman is a professional dog trainer in the Pavillion area. She said the public would like designated areas or trap free dates where people can safely recreate without fear for their dogs.

Daniel Vuletich (via telephone)

Mr. Vuletich does not support changing trapping regulations. Trapping is a great management tool; unfortunately, sometimes there are accidents.

Tom Krause, Wyoming State Trappers Association (via telephone)

Mr. Krause does not support the petition for review of the regulation.

Commissioners Byrd and Brokaw do not support the petition for review at this time; additional information is needed.

It was moved by Commissioner Crank to deny the petition to modify trapping regulations contained in Chapter 4, Furbearing Animal Trapping Regulation at this time. He added the Commission needs more input from landowners, weed and pest control as well as the general public. The petitions contain specific recommendations. In order for the Commission to address the recommendations identified in the petitions more information is needed. In addition, the Commission needs to determine if they have statutory authority to make some of these changes. It's important for the Commission to proceed in a thoughtful, deliberate information-based process. They will revisit the issue in July or September. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Schmid.

Discussion:

Commissioner Schmid feels there are two sides to this issue. Currently, one group is regulated and the other is not. He cautions the Department not to be one-sided when making recommendations.

Call for the question. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Crank said as we move forward through this process we need to be sure all comments and discussions are civil, thoughtful and fact-based. The Commission directed the Department to explore educational opportunities for trappers and the public, contact other parties such as landowners, weed and pest control, recreationists, pet owners and research possible set-back policies, limitations on equipment, signage, authority on public and BLM land.

24. Presenters: Angie Bruce, Deputy Director and Rebekah Fitzgerald, Communications Director, Director's Office. Wildlife Crossing Initiative.

Deputy Director Bruce briefed the Commission on the Wildlife Crossing Initiative. Ms. Fitzgerald (via telephone) provided information on the messaging and marketing of the initiative.

25. Call to the public.

Karen Zoller, WY TRAP-FREEmont County (via telephone)

Ms. Zoller was upset the Commission did not take action on trapping amendments. President Dube said the Commission did not dismiss the issue, they directed the Department to provide more information so the Commission can make an informed decision. Commissioner Crank assured her the Commission will proceed in a thoughtful, intelligent manner once they are presented with all the information.

Director Nesvik closed the meeting by providing additional information regarding the change in regulation for bear bait registration. Due to COVID-19 the Wildlife Division was tasked with implementing an emergency rule for bear bait registration. Previously, hundreds of constituents would camp overnight and stand in line waiting for the Department to open to register bear bait. This year the Wildlife Division took eight days to initiate a process to accept online registrations only. There were 865 sites registered for 496 people. The new procedure went off without a hitch.

He thanked Commissioner Schmid for all his hard work in getting the Wyldlife Fund organized. His work is coming to fruition with the hiring of the Executive Director, Chris McBarnes. Commissioner Schmid said it was a team effort and he is excited to have Mr. McBarnes make a presentation to the Commission; he is hitting the ground running.

Director Nesvik also explained this is the last Commission meeting for DeeDee Hawk as Services Division Chief. After a long and accomplished career with the Department she has announced her decision to retire. DeeDee has spent the majority of her career in Laramie supervising the lab and the team of professionals that have done incredible work for wildlife for several decades. DeeDee has served as the Services Division Chief over the past 2.5 years and has dealt with issues related to Commission-owned lands, IT, major construction projects, conservation engineering and a myriad of other important projects. DeeDee will go back to her roots in the lab and provide the Quality Assurance/Quality Control function for the new accreditation of the lab. There is no one more qualified to provide this service than DeeDee Hawk and her help with this will ensure we set the conditions for a newly accredited lab.

It was moved by Commissioner Ladwig to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Schmid. Motion carried.

The meeting ended at 5:22 p.m.

Peter J. Dube, President

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(/)

MAIN MENU



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Game and Fish offering updates on new Cody office

Posted Thursday, May 28, 2020 8:05 am

Anyone interested in tracking the progress of the Wyoming Game and Fish Department's plans for a new regional office in Cody can visit a special webpage or sign up for email updates.

Department officials say they're "committed to keeping you informed about this construction project."

The Game and Fish says it will offer regular updates through the list and online at www.tinyurl.com/yav3ojoh (<http://www.tinyurl.com/yav3ojoh>).

The department has outgrown its current office south of Cody and is planning to build a new, larger facility just north of the city on Wyo. Highway 120. The new building "will add value to the community and allow us to provide better services to the public," the Game and Fish said. The commission that oversees the department recently voted to move forward with a two-story office, but things are still "in the preliminary planning stages of designing," according to the department.

The early plans for the building include:

- A large Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)-compliant community meeting room that can be used for public meetings, hunter education courses, workshops and other non-profit events;
- An Aquatic Invasive Species check station, which will replace the current North Cody check station near Newton Lake Road;
- Easier and safer location and parking for the public; and
- More space at the front counter to accommodate customers.

The Game and Fish encourages anyone with question or suggestions about the project to email wgf-cody-office@wyo.gov (<mailto:wgf-cody-office@wyo.gov>) or call 307-527-7125.

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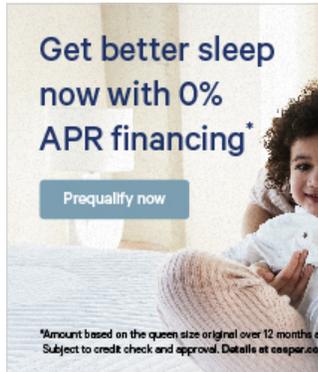
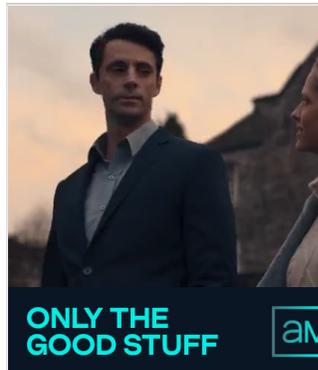
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Powell Tribune
20 minutes ago

Local demand for COVID-19 vaccines is currently outpacing the limited supplies, Park County Health Officer Dr. Aaron Billin said Wednesday.

Although vaccines are only being offered to certain groups of people — such as healthcare workers and people 70 and older — public health officials have had to temporarily pause sign-ups for vaccination clinics.



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COVID-19

With supplies limited, vaccine sign-up paused

BY GJ BAKER
Tribune Deputy Editor

Yes — 975 doses of Pfizer's vaccine — is expected to arrive on Monday, according to Wyoming Department of Health projections. The department expects to distribute roughly 17,000 initial doses of Pfizer's and Moderna's vaccines across the state by the end of the month.

For local updates on availability — and to sign up for the vaccine when they become available again — visit www.parkcountyhealth.com.

As of Wednesday, there were 138 active cases and 10 deaths in Park County, according to the health department. Since the start of the month, the number of active cases in the county has been hovering between 118 and 131.

There were 11 patients hospitalized with the disease in Park County as of Wednesday, said Dr. Aaron Hillis, county health officer.

Supply will eventually catch up with demand, though federal health officials have suggested it might not be until the summer and more cases will be avoided in the process.

Park County received 1,275 doses in the second half of December and is to receive another 1,875 doses this month. The largest shipment

NWC considers budget reductions

11 LAYOFFS PROPOSED

BY KEVIN KILGOUR
Tribune Area Editor

In the face of declining support from the State of Wyoming, the Northwest College Board of Trustees is considering a proposal that would cut \$2.6 million from its budget. It would involve the elimination of 24.5 positions — with 11 employees being laid off.

NWC Learning and Care Center teacher Stephanie Muller instructs students how to write their names Wednesday afternoon at the center. Seated around the table are Holly Peterson, Wagon Walton, Jasmine Lewis, Trevaun Larkston, Roger Sager and Shante Larkston. NWC leaders are preparing to close the facility next month as part of budget cuts.

The NWC board approved a budget for its Monday meeting, waiting time to consider the recommendations and get input from the community. Trustees will vote on the proposal in a special meeting on Thursday, Jan. 21.

If the budget reduction recommendations are approved, the college will close the Children's Learning and Care Center on Feb. 28 and eliminate four positions at the facility.

The layoffs would include five faculty positions — one each from art, business and communications, one physical science and the visual performing arts and humanities. Another position will be eliminated in the physical science, social science and the visual performing arts and humanities. Two more positions will be eliminated through retrofits.

These include the vice president of student services and a second position in academic affairs. Another 11.5 positions will be eliminated through retrofits, which include 4.5 from instructional support.

If the cuts are made as recommended, the college will operate approximately 175 employees, down from 196 in fiscal year 2020. In recent years, the college employed as many as 245 people.

If approved, the college's \$1.9 million deficit will come from the eliminated positions. Some of the money saved

comes from an increase in the employees' share of retirement contributions.

The NWC board continues and Walton have been preparing the budget recommendations for some time. Walton said layoffs were a last resort, but after all other possible cuts were considered, they were insufficient to close the budget shortfall.

According to college officials, state support for NWC is projected to fall by \$2.4 million in fiscal year 2022, which runs from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022. That's on top of a projected \$20.4 million in local property taxes, collected through a mill levy.

Over the past 18 months, Walton explained, Gov. Mark Gordon has responded to projected revenue shortfalls at the state — arising from declining mineral extraction taxes and

the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic — with a total of 151 cuts to state budgets across the board.

Originally, the governor asked for 20% reductions. Walton said there is continuing uncertainty in the projections and said it's possible more cuts could come down the pipeline.

OTHER CUTS

Non-personnel cuts shared off \$256,629 from the budget. These include operating budget reductions and the elimination of two doctoral scholarships, which provide tuition reductions for students attending the college. The Northwest College Foundation will provide funding to continue offering some of those scholarships.

See NWC, Page 7

MENDING FENCES

New group working to help migrating wildlife, one fence at a time

BY MARK DAVIS
Tribune Staff Writer

When Ken and Kathy Lichtenscheid bought their property near Clark in 2010, they didn't pay much mind to the fences built years or perhaps decades before.

They had a lot of corn and beans growing freely on their land from neighboring ranches and worried about the impact on the delicate ecosystem. "It was like a time bomb," Kathy said.

Wyoming is a free-range state for livestock, meaning that landowners who don't maintain stock on their property are responsible for keeping it out of Conservation Easement. The Lichtenscheids were keenly aware of the natural resources near their home and wanted to protect the region's delicate ecosystem.

Then, as they settled in, they started to realize the actual damage fences do to the environment. They were out for a property check when they found a dead rick cat, a buck leg caught in the top two strands of barbed wire on the edge of the couple's property.

"The long a-f,"

Volunteers, including Alex Fero and her 2-year-old daughter, Kala Caldwell-Dick, work on the Lichtenscheid fence project on Dec. 5.

tractables were part of many individuals and organizations looking for like-minded folks to assist the wildlife on their seasonal routes.

LOOKING FOR ANSWERS

Corey Williams, manager of the North Park's Trout Creek Ranch, has been working with wildlife biologists for the better part of a decade to assist all wildlife, from the fish in the creek and river to prairie dogs and prey affected by the ranch's equine operation. He approached The Nature Conservancy's Abby Saut looking for solutions. Together they decided to bring more people into the conversation, and it was about

ing the best practices, the couple took down fences where they could and replaced much of it with a wildlife friendly option.

Essentially, the human strand was raised to 14 inches and barbed wire was removed. It allows prairie dogs and rick to crawl under the fence without injury. They also lowered the top strand to 42 inches and migrated the distance between it and the second strand to help ensure animals jumping over didn't get entangled in the strands. There are several equations for changes based on wildlife needs and the type of livestock for which the fences were built.

Prior to the arrival of European settlers, fences were almost non-existent in America, she said in a recent edition of her podcast, "What I do all day."

Since then, wildlife has struggled to make their way on their long migrations, eventually categorized by a multitude of obstacles — including major highways and growing communities. Populations of ungulates like deer, rick and prairie dogs suffered as a result.

Recently, the need for change has become a priority. The Lichtenscheids

Board renews Jay Curtis' contract as superintendent

BY CONNIE BURCHAM
Tribune Managing Editor

Although it may seem surprising, January is usually the time of year when school districts begin to

renew contracts and look for teachers for the upcoming year to fill job vacancies, unanimously. Curtis is currently paid \$344,363 annually, a 3% increase from \$334,363.

"I appreciate Jay Curtis," Dillon said after the vote.

"The priorities what we as a board prioritize, which is student achievement, student health and student safety," Curtis attended the meeting to express how grateful he was by to express how grateful he was

See Curtis, Page 3

Commission enters 2021 with new member, leader

BY GJ BAKER
Tribune Deputy Editor

The Park County Commission welcomed a new member and a new leader last week. Scott Mangold officially joined the five-member board, while Commissioner Lee Livingston stepped in as chairman for 2021. Commissioner Donnie Dierdick was selected as vice chair.

Both Mangold and Livingston started new four-year terms at the Jan. 5 meeting. It's the third time for Livingston, who has also served as chairman. Commissioner Jake Pullman is last year's primary candidate.

"Hopefully there's not a lot of

See Commission, Page 3

INSIDE ▶ ON-CAMPUS TESTING AT NWC: PAGE 9 ▶ BOTT IS TEACHER OF THE YEAR: PAGE 13

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**Wyoming Game and Fish Commission
Meeting Minutes
Whiskey Mountain Conservation Camp, WY**

June 2, 2020

Members Present:

| | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Peter Dube, President | Wyoming Game and Fish Commission |
| Patrick Crank, Vice President | Wyoming Game and Fish Commission |
| Ralph Brokaw, Member | Wyoming Game and Fish Commission |
| Richard Ladwig, Member | Wyoming Game and Fish Commission |
| David Rael, Member | Wyoming Game and Fish Commission |
| Mike Schmid, Member | Wyoming Game and Fish Commission |
| Brian R. Nesvik, Director | Wyoming Game and Fish Department |

Commissioner Byrd was not in attendance.

Staff Present:

John Kennedy, Deputy Director; Angi Bruce, Deputy Director; Rick King, Chief, Wildlife Division, Alan Osterland, Chief, Fisheries, and Greg Phipps, Chief, Fiscal Division.

Legal Representation:

David DeWald, Senior Assistant Attorney General

Guests Present:

None

Open Session began at 8:30 a.m.

The Commission and Department leadership discussed potential ways to improve communications between the Department and the Commission on important issues, including ways to improve future new Commissioner Orientation. The Commission generally supported improving the orientation by changing the format from PowerPoint presentations to a retreat venue with more open dialogue between Commissioners and Department leadership. Attendees also discussed potential improvements to the season setting process, including increased public engagement. Commissioner Crank encouraged his fellow Commissioners to engage the Department when season setting proposals are brought forth, and noted that region to region proposals should be treated consistently. Attendees also discussed the pros and cons of changing the season setting process to a multi-year process.

Wyoming Game and Fish Commission Meeting Minutes
Page 2

Attendees discussed the problems presented by Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD), and the Commission's prior direction to engage the public on CWD issues and try to identify management tools that might be employed to potentially mitigate the spread of the disease. Department leadership provided the Commission with an update regarding the public engagement process and the role various federal agencies might play in a synergistic approach. The Department will continue to update the Commission on the public engagement process at future public meetings.

Alan Osterland gave a summary on issues related to Aquatic Invasive Species, including the Department's extensive work on emergency response planning, as well as issues presented by COVID-19 federal decontamination shutdowns resulting in infested boats traveling into Wyoming from adjacent states. Response plans will be brought before the Commission at a future public meeting. Funding of the AIS program was also discussed.

Wildlife crossings were discussed and the Department recounted successful efforts to engage WYDOT to partner to reduce vehicle collisions on various projects. The Commission commended the Department's efforts and encouraged the Department to work with partners, including insurance companies, to secure funding to address future projects.

The Commission did not take any action on these issues.

The meeting ended at 11:30 a.m.



Peter J. Dube, President

**Wyoming Game and Fish Commission
Meeting Minutes
Rawlins, Wyoming**

July 16, 2020

Members Present:

| | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Peter Dube, President | Wyoming Game and Fish Commission |
| Patrick Crank, Vice President | Wyoming Game and Fish Commission |
| Ralph Brokaw, Member | Wyoming Game and Fish Commission |
| GayLynn Byrd, Member | Wyoming Game and Fish Commission |
| Richard Ladwig, Member | Wyoming Game and Fish Commission |
| David Rael, Member | Wyoming Game and Fish Commission |
| Mike Schmid, Member | Wyoming Game and Fish Commission |
| Brian R. Nesvik, Director | Wyoming Game and Fish Department |

Staff Present:

John Kennedy, Angi Bruce, Rebekah Fitzgerald, Rick King, Doug Brimeyer, Scott Edberg, Alan Osterland, Dirk Miller, Greg Phipps, Meredith Wood, Sara DiRienzo, Wayne Cotton, Guy Reed, Sheridan Todd, Meghan Lockwood, Steve Gale, Dan Thompson, Mike Choma, Tracy Kupec, Jennifer Doering, Jill Randall, Millissa Raner, Brian Parker, Beth Bear, Kevin Gelwicks, Buff Burton, Parker Loew, Brad Hovinga, Matt Withroder, Todd Graham, Hank Edwards, Samantha Allen, Martin Hicks, Lee Knox, Amanda Roberts, Melissa Lavoto, Andrew Nikirk, Justin Binfet, Josh Leonard, Clark Johnson, Laura Burckhardt, Jason Hunter, Ken Mills, Ray Bredehoft, Matt Hahn, Brian Olsen, Janet Milek, Brad Hovinga, and Renee Schell

Legal Representation:

David DeWald, Senior Assistant Attorney General

Guests Present:

Jason Ridgeway; Libby Pennington; Scott Kerbs; Joshua Wood, Saratoga Sun; Zachary Key; Garret Falkenburg; Bruce Lawson; Joshua Coursey, Muley Fanatics Foundation; Dr. Dick Edwards; Jess Johnson, Wyoming Wildlife Federation; Kristin Gunther, Wyoming Outdoor Council; Shawn Blajszczak, Mule Deer Foundation; Teal Cufaude, Wyoming Game Wardens Association; Penelope Maldonado, the Cougar Fund and Wyoming Wyldlife Fund; Neil and Betty Hymas; Steve Page; Dr. Richard Wihera; Steve Martin, Bowhunters of Wyoming; Chris McBarnes, The Wyldlife Fund; Jeff Smith, Wyoming Outfitters and Guides Association; Jim Schell, Wyoming Outfitters and Guides Association; Sy Gilliland, Wyoming Outfitters and Guides Association

Open Session began at 8:25 a.m.

President Dube began the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. He also explained that Director Nesvik will be testifying at the virtual TRW Legislative meeting this morning so we will need to change the order of some agenda items. If an agenda item is time/date certain we will do our best to present that item as close to the estimated time as possible. He also provided information on how to provide public comments.

1. Presenter: Commission President. Approval of Commission Meeting Minutes.

It was moved by Commissioner Rael to approve the minutes from the April 2020 Commission meeting and the June 4, 2020 Commissioner Retreat. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Byrd. Motion carried.

2. Presenter: Brian R. Nesvik, Director. Director's Report.

Director Nesvik congratulated the Commission on being the recipient of the WAFWA Commission of the Year Award. He provided an update regarding teleworking out of regional offices and the Cheyenne headquarters. Following the Governor's directives the Department is slowly bringing employees back to the office. We received disappointing news from the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals affirming the district court's order that remanded the 2017 grizzly bear delisting rule to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for further consideration. He was pleased to report the Leadership Development class of 2019 graduated and the license draw was conducted without a hitch.

President Dube thanked the members of the Commission for their hard work serving on the Commission.

3. Presenter: Chris McBarnes, Executive Director, The WYldlife Fund. Update from The WYldlife Fund.

Mr. McBarnes introduced himself to the Commission. He provided information regarding The Wyldlife Fund (Fund). The Fund has been granted 501c3 tax-exempt status by the IRS and is registered as a non-profit corporation with the Wyoming Secretary of State. The purpose and goal of the Fund is to unite people to advance Wyoming wildlife habitat, research and education. He provided information on funds raised to date and several projects they're collaborating on.

4. Awards and Recognition

Service Award:

Rick King presented Biff Burton, Saratoga Game Warden, with his 40-Year Service Award.

Department Awards:

Director's Office Employee of the Year Award was presented to Sheridan Todd, Executive Assistant.

Services Division Employee of the Year Award was presented to Brian Parker, Habitat and Access Supervisor, Lander Region.

Wildlife Division Employee of the Year Award was presented to Janet Milek, Education and Information Specialist, Casper Region.

Fish Division Employee of the Year Award was presented to Laura Burckhardt, Habitat Biologist, Cody Region.

Fiscal Division Employee of the Year Award was presented to Melissa Lovato, Senior Accountant.

Team of the Year Award was presented to the the Department's Aquatic Invasive Species Program: Kevin Gelwicks, Robb Keith, Matt Hahn, Andrew Nikirk, Hilda Sexauer, Rob Gibson, Sam Hochhalter, Craig Amadio, Bobby Compton, Beth Bear, and Josh Leonard.

Special Recognition Award was presented to Dr. Richard Wihera, Senior Consulting Psychologist for Psychological Dimensions.

Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Neil Hymas, Retired Game Warden.

Director's Award was presented to Justin Binfet, Casper Region Wildlife Management Coordinator, Wildlife Division.

Congratulations to all the recipients!

5. Presenters: Doug Brimeyer, Deputy Chief, Wildlife Division and Ken Mills, Large Carnivore Biologist, Wildlife Division. Chapter 47, Gray Wolf Hunting Season.

Mr. Mills provided the Commission with information on the draft Chapter 47 Gray Wolf Hunting Season regulation and associated information in the Commission's Wolf Management Plan. He explained the wolf population estimates (wolf packs and breeding pairs) within and outside of the Wolf Trophy Game Management Areas. The plan ensures wolf population will meet or exceed delisting criteria. The proposed hunting seasons are consistent with the plan of seeking a stable population at an appropriate population objective. The plan uses applicable wolf population theory and data and an adaptive dual status management approach.

He explained that individual hunt area season dates have been modified. Hunt Areas 3 and 4, 6 and 7, and 8, 9, 11 are combined to share a collective mortality limit for each of those combined hunt areas. He explained mortality limits in other areas have been modified to meet management objectives and to maintain a recovered gray wolf population. Minor edits have been incorporated into Section 4, subsection (f) for consistency with other regulations requiring reporting and registering take of trophy game animals.

It was moved by Commissioner Brokaw to approve Chapter 47, Gray Wolf Hunting Season as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Byrd.

Public Comments:

Sy Gilliland, Wyoming Outfitters and Guides Association

Mr. Gilliland prefers a September 1 opening date. He feels there would be better opportunity by having a split quota so hunters can hunt in October. This proposal would not affect wolf populations.

Steve Martin, Bowhunters of Wyoming

Mr. Martin also supports a September 1 opening date; this will allow better opportunity for archery hunters. He also suggested developing an educational program so hunters can identify adult, subadult and juvenile wolves.

Karin Mahuna, via zoom

Ms. Mahuna does not support wolf hunting. There is no justifiable reason to harvest wolves; they benefit the ecosystem by keeping elk and deer populations stable.

Lisa Robertson, Wyoming Untrapped

Ms. Robertson inquired about fair chase and non-lethal alternatives to deter wolves. She does not support the September 15 opening date; she prefers the October 1 date.

Discussion:

Commissioner Rael thanked the large carnivore team for all their hard work and expertise.

Call for the question. Motion carried.

6. Presenter: Jennifer Doering, License Section Manager, Fiscal Division. Chapter 31, Authorized License Selling Agents.

House Enrolled Act No. 69 (HEA 69) allows for Department License Selling Agents to be considered representatives of the Department for the purpose of charging fees for the costs of processing payments for the sale of licenses, permits or stamps. HEA 69 also allows license selling agents to charge and collect a processing fee for sales in the same manner and amount as

established by Commission rule.

Section 17 (1) is being modified to clarify that license selling agents shall not charge fees for license sales other than those established by Commission regulation. Credit card processing fees for Department license sales are already addressed in Commission Regulation Chapter 44, Regulation Governing Issuance of Licenses, Permits, Stamps, Tags, Preference Points and Competitive Raffle Chances.

It was moved by Commissioner Byrd to approve Chapter 31, Authorized License Selling Agents as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ladwig. Motion carried.

7. Presenters: Angi Bruce, Deputy Director and Jill Randall, Big Game Migration Coordinator, Wildlife Division. Wildlife Crossing Update.

Deputy Director Bruce briefed the Commission on support that wildlife crossings have gained in the state during the last year. She introduced Jill Randall who provided the Commission with information on three priority wildlife crossing projects.

South Kemmerer WY-189. The project area is in the Green River Region, between I-80 and Kemmerer, between mileposts 8-26. This project has the potential to be completed in phases. The species affected are Uinta Mule Deer and Carter Lease Pronghorn. The project consists of six underpasses and one overpass with associated wildlife fence. The estimated budget is \$7 million.

Halleck Ridge I-80. The project area is in the Laramie Region, west of Elk Mountain between mileposts 247-257. The species affected are Platte Valley Mule Deer, Snowy Range Elk, Medicine Bow Elk and Elk Mountain Pronghorn. The project consists of underpasses and an overpass with associated wildlife fences. This will help to restore historic migrations and improve connectivity and access to seasonal ranges. The estimated budget is \$30 million.

Kacee I-25. The project area is in the Sheridan Region, between Kaycee and Buffalo and mileposts 255-270. The species affected are Upper Powder River and Pumpkin Buttes Mule Deer. The project consists of wildlife fence to funnel deer to existing underpasses to improve connectivity across the interstate, reduce collisions and impact to population. The estimated budget is \$2.5 million.

There was general discussion between the Commission and the Department regarding the projects. Deputy Director Bruce said she supported all three projects. Commissioner Crank expressed his concern of spreading ourselves too thin with three projects and felt the Kacee I-25 project would be his highest priority. However, he supported moving forward with all three.

It was moved by Commissioner Schmid to approve \$500,000 to support the completion of the wildlife crossing on I-25 from Kacee to Buffalo and for the Commission to match dollar-to-dollar for all private contributions up to \$250,000. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Crank.

Public Comments:

Jess Johnson, Wyoming Wildlife Federation

Ms. Johnson stated her support for the three projects as proposed by the Department.

Commissioner Rael commented that not only do these projects benefit wildlife, but there is also a human-safety factor that saves lives. President Dube encouraged other organizations, other than hunters and anglers, to help support these projects.

Chris McBarnes, The Wyldlife Fund

Mr. McBarnes said The Wyldlife Fund stands shoulder-to-shoulder with the Department on this important effort and committed \$25,000 toward the project.

Chris Colligan, Greater Yellowstone Coalition, via Zoom

Mr. Colligan advised their organization is committed to support wildlife crossing projects. They raised \$400,000 toward the Big Piney project and helped pass an excise tax in Teton County for funds to be earmarked for crossings.

Call for the question. Motion carried.

22. Presenter: Sean Bibbey, Acting Chief, Services Division. Acquisition and/or Disposal of Fee Title and/or Less than Fee Title Property Rights.

Mr. Bibbey said he was originally going to present two items to the Commission, but one of the properties has gone under contract with a seller. He presented the Commission with information regarding Alsop Lake in Albany County.

Alsop Lake is located approximately 10 miles northwest of Laramie off Herrick Lane. The Department holds a permanent public pedestrian access easement at 50' above high water line for fishing across private land and a permanent easement for public parking and boat launching on Office of State Lands and Investments property that encompasses the eastern quarter of the lake.

Alsop Lake serves a dual purpose of providing opportunities to the public and habitat for wildlife; it provides boating access as well as foot access at 50' above high waterline, and supports habitat for a variety of wildlife. The lake provides habitat for pronghorn, mule deer, small game, and waterfowl and is currently estimated to have 1,100 angler days of use per year.

The Butters family, who own the property surrounding Alsop Lake, contacted the Department about adding waterfowl hunting to the current permanent easement at no cost to the Department. The proposal will expand public access to an existing area already managed by the Department.

It was moved by Commissioner Crank to incorporate waterfowl hunting into the existing easement between Butters Family. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brokaw. Motion carried.

23. Presenter: John Kennedy, Deputy Director. Current Status of the Department's Website.

Deputy Director Kennedy said during the Commissioner's Retreat the Commission expressed concern regarding the Department's website. It's important for the public to have a user friendly, easy to understand website to access information. Rebekah Fitzgerald provided information regarding the public comment process and the design by using surveys and focus groups. Deputy Director Kennedy said the Department will also form a multi-divisional team to assist in the development. The Commission directed the Department to move forward with discussions regarding a new website. The Commission also agreed that recruitment of a webmaster is a high priority.

19. Presenter: Greg Phipps, Chief, Fiscal Division. License Selling Agent Appointments.

The following applications were received from non-sporting goods stores:

Sundance Travel Center, Sundance, WY. The Game Warden's evaluation is included in the notebook. There are two agents located in Sundance. Sundance 2019 license sales totaled \$22,563.00 from one agent as the other agent just opened.

Dubois Super Foods, Dubois, WY. The Game Warden's evaluation is included in the notebook. There are currently three agents in Dubois. Dubois' 2019 license sales totaled \$71,370.50.

National Bighorn Sheep Center, Dubois, WY. The Game Warden's evaluation is included in the notebook. There are currently three agents in Dubois. Dubois' 2019 license sales totaled \$71,370.50.

It was moved by Commissioner Rael to approve Sundance Travel Center in Sundance, Dubois Super Foods in Dubois and National Bighorn Sheep Center in Dubois as license selling agents. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ladwig. Motion carried.

8. Presenter: Millissa Raner, General Accounting Manager, Fiscal Division. Approval of the Commission's FY 2021 Budget.

Director Nesvik explained the Governor directed state agencies to reduce budgets by up to 10%. This directive applied to generally funded agencies; however, he felt it was prudent to address the financial uncertainty of future Department revenues and look for ways to reduce the budget. Deputy Director Kennedy explained the budget sub-committee group closely reviewed and analyzed the budget to identify areas where reductions could take place. The standard budget approved in March was \$84 million; we have reduced the standard budget to \$79.6 million. The one-time budget has been reduced to \$1,758,230.

Ms. Raner explained the preliminary budget presented at the March and April 2020 Commission meeting was \$83,998,488 for the standard budget and \$2,153,230 for the one-time budget. The Department has reduced the standard budget by \$4,419,627 and reduced the one-time projects budget in the amount of \$395,000. She provided the Commission with information on the proposed reductions. The final request for approval of the FY 21 standard budget is \$79,578,861 and the FY 21 one-time projects budget is \$1,758,230.

It was moved by Commissioner Crank to approve the FY21 standard budget of \$79,578,861 and the one-time projects budget of \$1,758,230. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Byrd.

Commissioner Crank said it's important to understand that since the Department is not funded by general fund dollars the reductions made in the budget will remain with the Department. He also stated the Commission stands unified in support of Department employees; the reason why the Department is so successful is due to the amazing, dedicated employees. Cutting employees will not benefit the state's budget shortfalls and the Commission will do everything in their power to support employees.

Call for the question. Motion carried.

9. Presenters: Brian R. Nesvik and Shane Mahoney, via Zoom. Wildlife Harvest Initiative.

Director Nesvik introduced Shane Mahoney to the Commission. Mr. Mahoney is an internationally renowned scientist, wildlife expert and conservationist. He lives in Canada and is unable to travel; therefore, he will participate in the meeting via Zoom.

Mr. Mahoney explained for many of us in modern society, access to grocery stores and restaurants has weakened our ancient connections to nature and the origins of our food. However, there are millions of citizens in the United States and Canada who embrace the opportunity to hunt and fish for their own food, and in doing so, contribute to the conservation of wildlife, wild lands and waters, the economy, and to their own food security and well-being.

The benefits of harvesting and consuming wild fish and game have never been calculated at a large scale in North America. He provided detailed information regarding the Wild Harvest Initiative® (Initiative). The initiative will maintain Wyoming's hunting and angler numbers; encourage increased hunting and angling participation and recruitment; generate increased public support for sustainable wildlife use activities; and help preserve and protect Wyoming's local culture and outdoor heritage.

Public Comments:

Dr. Dick Edwards

Dr. Edwards commented that hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation is also very beneficial to mental health. Outdoors is the best medicine.

Director Nesvik will visit with Mr. Mahoney to obtain additional information regarding costs and agreements from other entities and agencies that participate in the Initiative..

10. Presenter: Scott Edberg, Deputy Chief, Wildlife Division. 2019 Chronic Wasting Disease Surveillance and Chronic Wasting Disease Management Plan.

Hank Edwards provided the Commission with information on the 2019 Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) surveillance program. He explained CWD is a fatal disease affecting the nervous system of deer, elk, moose, and reindeer/caribou. There is no documented immunity, recovery or absolute resistance and most animals die within 2.5 years following infection. The disease is transmitted directly (animal to animal) or indirectly through the environment via contact with prions shed by other infected cervids. There were 5,067 samples tested in 2019. Unfortunately, CWD was identified in three new deer hunt areas: HA 50 (Bighorns), HA 105 (Clark), and HA 152 (Hoback). Mr. Edwards answered general questions from the Commission regarding the surveillance program.

Deputy Chief Edberg introduced Dr. Jessica Western. Dr. Western is a Senior Research Scientist with the Ruckelshaus Institute, Haub School of Environmental and Natural Resources with the University of Wyoming. She has been assessing, designing and facilitating collaborative public processes for 20 years.

Dr. Western explained the purpose of the collaborative process was to explore scientific information and public input to evaluate management options to minimize CWD in Wyoming's cervid populations. Members of the public were invited to apply to be working group members. In April 2019, Director Nesvik appointed 31 people from varied backgrounds, professions and interests from across Wyoming to the working group. The group was charged with developing recommendations to revise the Department's CWD management plan. The working group members met four times to develop the plan and to integrate comments from two public input periods. The draft plan received hundreds of written comments and in-person feedback from the public before being finalized and presented for Commission approval. The group also explored

scientific, social, economic and policy information related to CWD and deer and elk management, and ways to minimize CWD in these populations by studying research from national and state experts.

Joshua Coursey, Muley Fanatics Foundation, and Kristin Guenther, Wyoming Outdoors Council, were co-chairs of the working group.

Mr. Coursey thanked Director Nesvik for his proactive leadership in regards to this disease. He provided additional information regarding members of the working group. He stated the management plan is not perfect, but it is a good starting point; we have to start somewhere. One of the key components of the plan is that it is an adaptable plan and the Department will not proceed with any management actions unless broad and diverse public support exists. Public support is imperative.

Ms. Guenther commended the Department and the working group for their dedication to this project. She assured the public that every comment was taken to heart. As with any new plan, there are uncertainties, but it is a step in the right direction.

Justin Binfet provided information regarding the management plan. The plan addresses: surveillance and monitoring; disease management strategies; feedgrounds; human health, research and coordination; as well as communication and outreach. Brad Hovinga provided additional information regarding the feedground public engagement process that the Department is undertaking.

Public Comments:

Jess Johnson, Wyoming Wildlife Federation

Ms. Johnson said their organization supports the plan. She recognizes the plan is not perfect, but action is needed. We are stewards of the herd.

Jared Oakleaf, Backcountry Hunters and Anglers of Wyoming, via Zoom

Mr. Oakleaf supports the management plan. It's important to be consistent with the North American Conservation Model. He believes science should guide future recommendations.

Bruce Lawson

Mr. Lawson said he was a member of the working group. He encourages the Commission to approve the plan.

Steve Martin, Bowhunters of Wyoming

Mr. Martin said he was a member of the working group. He thanked everyone involved in the collaborative process and encouraged the Commission to adopt the plan.

Zachary Key

Mr. Key participated in the December public gathering meeting in Pinedale. He does not support approving the plan at this time. He proposes to keep it as a draft working plan until viable funds and realistic solutions are obtained. He thinks it's imperative to neutralize prions in the soil and not culling in the field. Instead of reducing the number of feedgrounds we should expand feedgrounds and watering holes to reduce the co-mingling of animals. He also expressed his concern the plan could be used as a legal tool against the Department at a later date.

Libby Lankford-Pennington

Ms. Lankford-Pennington was a member of the working group and is a rancher in southeast Wyoming. Her ranch borders the Sheep Mountain corridor area. She is a strong advocate of the plan. She said Director Nesvik called upon them to take action and this plan is their call to action. The plan is science-based and is a good beginning.

Shawn Blajszczak, Mule Deer Foundation

Mr. Blajszczak said his organization supports the plan and encourages the Commission to adopt it.

Martin Hicks, WGFD

Mr. Hicks explained he was on the working group. He supports the plan and encourages the Commission to approve it.

Dr. Dick Edwards

Dr. Edwards does not support the plan. He feels we need more research and money is the driving force behind that research. You can't stop the disease by culling animals.

Tony Lehner, Converse County Commissioner

Mr. Lehner was part of the working group. He supports the plan and the relationships cultivated within the group.

Scott Kerbs

Mr. Kerbs feels there are too many flaws in the plan. Culling is not the answer.

Brant Schumaker, University of Wyoming, via Zoom

Mr. Schumaker was a member of the working group and said this plan is 35 years in the making. It is an adaptive management plan which will allow us to learn about the disease. We cannot wait until we have all the answers.

It was moved by Commissioner Crank to approve the Chronic Wasting Disease Management Plan as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Rael.

Discussion:

Commissioner Crank thanked the working group for all their hard work, countless hours and courage in drafting the plan. There is currently no cure; however, it's unacceptable to do nothing. The plan is an adaptive management plan. Strategies will not be implemented unless there is broad and diverse public support. He also stressed it will take several years to study the effects.

Commissioner Byrd supported the plan saying culling would be the last resort.

Commissioner Schmid said he was honored to participate in the working group. He does not believe the plan meets the challenge that Director Nesvik presented to the group. He was very disappointed with the survey results. This plan is basically the same plan that WAFWA initiated; Wyoming can do better. We need to think out of the box. He expressed his concern that special interest groups could potentially use the plan to take legal action against the Commission at a later date. He urges the Commissioners to think about the long-term implications of adopting the plan.

Commissioner Rael said he appreciates Commissioner Schmid's concerns; however, we need to do something and this plan is a start.

Commissioner Crank believes the ultimate solution is funding resources. He has no doubt that our biologists are the best in the nation; however, it will take millions of dollars and nationwide-collaboration to complete the research. It is not acceptable to do nothing.

Commissioner Brokaw said he views the plan as a flowing and working document; it's not set in stone. It is an opportunity to learn more, try management strategies, and seek funding.

Commissioner Ladwig says the plan is based on the best-available science. The plan will, most likely, change over time. Some of the ideas will work, some will not work, but we won't know until we try.

President Dube said it's evident the Commission is passionate about wildlife. He agreed the plan is not flawless; there are some elements of the plan he questions. However, the plan is adaptive and can be modified as we conduct research and find out more information.

Commissioner Brokaw asked if the Commission could be at legal risk if we say in the plan we are going to do something and we don't? David DeWald felt discussions would be better addressed during the Executive Session. Director Nesvik agreed.

It was moved by Commissioner Crank to go into Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Byrd. Motion carried.

Open Session was adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Open Session was reconvened at 6:03 p.m.

Call for the question. A roll-call vote was taken. All Commissioners voted aye except for Commissioner Schmid who voted nay. Motion carried.

11. Call to the public.

Jason Ridgeway

Mr. Ridgeway inquired about the possibility of transferring licenses to another person, similar to the process used in Arizona. Director Nesvik explained that transferring of licenses is not allowed per Wyoming State Statute. This would require a legislative change.

It was moved by Commissioner Crank to adjourn the meeting for the day. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Rael. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned for the day at 6:08 p.m.

July 17, 2020

Members Present:

| | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Peter Dube, President | Wyoming Game and Fish Commission |
| Patrick Crank, Vice President | Wyoming Game and Fish Commission |
| Ralph Brokaw, Member | Wyoming Game and Fish Commission |
| GayLynn Byrd, Member | Wyoming Game and Fish Commission |
| Richard Ladwig, Member | Wyoming Game and Fish Commission |
| David Rael, Member | Wyoming Game and Fish Commission |
| Mike Schmid, Member | Wyoming Game and Fish Commission |
| Brian R. Nesvik, Director | Wyoming Game and Fish Department |

Staff Present:

John Kennedy, Angi Bruce, Rebekah Fitzgerald, Rick King, Doug Brimeyer, Scott Edberg, Alan Osterland, Dirk Miller, Greg Phipps, Meredith Wood, Sara DiRienzo, Wayne Cotton, Guy Reed, Sheridan Todd, Meghan Lockwood, Nichole Bjornlie, Tracey Kupek, Matt Pollock, Jason Hunter, Mark Cufaude, Ray Bredehoft, Melissa Lovato, Amanda Roberts, Jennifer Doering, Brad Hovinga,

Legal Representation:

David DeWald, Senior Assistant Attorney General

Guests Present:

Tom Chambers, Backcountry Hunters and Anglers; Jess Johnson, Wyoming Wildlife Foundation; Kristen Gunther, Wyoming Outdoor Council; Christi Chapman, Wyoming Trap Free-mont County; Karen Zoller, Wyoming Trap Free-mont County; ron Niziolek, Bowhunters of Wyoming; Mike Barrett; Joel Hoenk; Tyler Sims, Wyoming Outfitters and Guides Association; Sy Gilliland, Wyoming Outfitters and Guides Association; Jeff Smith, Wyoming Outfitters and Guides Association; Jim Schell, Wyoming Outfitters and Guides Association; Tenny Maldonado, The Cougar Fund; Steve and Melinda, Gili; James Pearce, Wyoming State Trappers Association; Kevin O'Dell; Chris McBarnes, The Wyldlife Fund; Buzz Hettick; Steve Martin, Bowhunters of Wyoming; and Jerald Johnson, Department of Agriculture

Open Session began at 9:02 a.m.

President Dube began the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. He also provided information on how to provide public comments.

Tom Chambers, Backcountry Hunters and Anglers

Mr. Chambers presented the Commission with a \$1,500 donation to AccessYes.

12. Presenter: John Kennedy, Deputy Director. Cody Regional Office Project.

Deputy Director Kennedy provided the Commission with an update on the Cody Regional Office Project. The selection process for a Commissioning Agent is complete. He recently traveled to Cody and met with local legislators, adjacent landowners, Mayor of Cody and other stakeholders regarding the project. The meetings were very productive. There were some concerns expressed regarding the height of the building. We were able to address this concern moving the site of the building to the north end of the property; this reduced the appearance of the height of the building. We also identified an opportunity with an adjacent landowner regarding a waterline. We are on schedule with Plan One Architects and anticipate the bidding process to be held in November. The total cost of the building is still on track at an estimated \$9.8 million.

13. Presenters: John Kennedy, Deputy Director and a Representative from the City of Cody. City of Cody Master Plan.

Deputy Director Kennedy reminded the Commission there have been several discussions regarding annexation with the City of Cody. The following people from the City of Cody participated in the meeting, via Zoom: Phillip Bowman, Public Works Director; Barry Cook, City Administrator; and Todd Stowell, City Planner. Mr. Bowman provided the Commission with information related to utility services and the estimated cost associated with those services. Mr. Cook explained the city has identified the property within its growth management plan for development outside the city limits. If the property were annexed it would provide cost savings (lower utility rates) for the Department and help provide growth for the city. Mr. Stowell

provided information regarding zoning regulations and extending urban development. He said the city is willing to work with the Department regarding these issues.

Commissioner Crank said it was difficult to hear the presenters and felt they should have addressed the Commission in person. He expressed his concern regarding costs for the fire suppression system. He questioned if the city has offered the Department any financial incentives for annexation. If it costs more money or cause delays for the project to be annexed then he is not in favor. Commissioner Rael agreed. The Commission directed the Department to proceed with negotiations.

14. Presenter: Rick King, Chief, Wildlife Division. Special Allocation of Antelope Licenses - One Shot Antelope Hunt and Women's Antelope Hunt.

Rick King briefed the Commission on the history of special antelope hunt licenses. The Department received two applications for antelope hunt event licenses, which were previously approved by the Commission.

The One Shot Antelope Hunt is hosted in Lander. The One Shot Antelope Hunt comprises three organizations working cooperatively including The One Shot Hunt Club, the Past Shooters Club and The Water for Wildlife Foundation.

| Hunt Area | License Quota Calculation |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Hunt Area 65 Type 1 | = 10 Licenses: $(150/1275) \times 80 = 9.4$ (10) *Rounded up |
| Hunt Area 66 Type 1 | = 9 Licenses: $(150/1275) \times 80 = 9.4$ (9) * Rounded down |
| Hunt Area 67 Type 1 | = 17 Licenses: $(275/1275) \times 80 = 17.25$ (17) |
| Hunt Area 68 Type 1 | = 31 Licenses: $(500/1275) \times 80 = 31.37$ (31) |
| Hunt Area 106 Type 1 | = 13 Licenses: $(200/1275) \times 80 = 12.54$ (13) |
| Total Allocation = 80 licenses | |

License allocation is based on the total number of Type 1 licenses for all the above hunt areas then taking a percentage for each hunt from that total and extrapolating that to the 80 available licenses (Individual Hunt Area Quota/Total Quota for all 5 Hunt Areas) x 80). This allocation process has been occurring for decades and is supported by Lander Region personnel. This process requires to +/- a license due to rounding in hunt areas with similar quotas. This year it was Hunt Areas 65 and 66 and a license was "added" the license to hunt area 65.

The Women's Antelope Hunt is hosted in Buffalo. They have requested the following licenses:

| | |
|---------------------|---------------|
| Hunt Area 10 Type 1 | = 15 Licenses |
| Hunt Area 15 Type 1 | = 24 Licenses |
| Hunt Area 16 Type 1 | = 25 Licenses |
| Hunt Area 17 Type 1 | = 8 Licenses |

Hunt Area 109 Type 1 = 8 Licenses
Total Allocation = 80 licenses

License allocation is based on what the Women's Antelope Hunt requested in their application. With the amount of private land in these hunt areas participants will have access secured through an outfitter. Sheridan Region personnel are comfortable with licenses requested and associated allocation; no negative impact or displacement to other hunters is anticipated.

It was moved by Commissioner Rael to approve the special allocation of antelope hunting licenses as proposed by the Department. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Crank.

Public Comments:

Buzz Hettick

Mr. Hettick opposes setting aside 56 licenses for the Past Shooters Club. These licenses take away opportunity for the public and are a conflict of the North American Conservation Model. He supports allocating 24 licenses for the One-Shot Hunt but not for the Past Shooters Club.

Steve Gilli

Mr. Gilli agreed with Mr. Hettick. The Past Shooters Club have special status and have hunted in pristine areas for at least 10 years. He does not support the allocation of 56 licenses.

Carl Alsbell, Lander One Shot Antelope Hunt, via Zoom

Mr. Alsbell briefed the Commission on the history of the One Shot Antelope Hunt. This hunt is a long-standing tradition dating back 80 years. He provided information regarding the allocation 24/56 for the One Shot Antelope Hunt and Past Shooters Club. He said the purpose of the Past Shooters Club is to encourage previous hunters to come back to Lander, help boost the local economy, and generate funds for projects, such as Water for Wildlife. They generally use all licenses allocated to them. A Past Shooter license may be transferred to another person.

There was general discussion between the Commission and the Department regarding the hunt and allocation of licenses. Rick King and Jason Hunter helped answer questions. Several Commissioners expressed their concern regarding the One Shot Antelope Hunt excluding women.

Joe Scott, via Zoom

Mr. Scott said there are numerous individuals who received multiple licenses through the Past Shooters Club; it is not limited to three years. This takes away opportunity for the public. He felt it was ludicrous to allocate licenses so wealthy people can hunt.

Commissioner Schmid said we can't make a change this year because the draw has already been conducted; however, he feels this issue needs to be resolved. Director Nesvik suggested this topic be addressed during the November Commission meeting. Commissioner Crank agreed.

Call for the question. A roll-call vote was conducted. Commissioners Ladwig, Byrd and Rael voted aye. Commissioners Brokaw, Crank and Schmid voted nay. This resulted in a tie vote. President Dube voted nay. Motion failed.

It was moved by Commissioner Crank to authorize up to 80 licenses for the One Shot Antelope Hunt and the Women's Antelope Hunt. These licenses will be issued at the discretion of both of the entities, however, they shall not have the ability to transfer licenses to another party. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brokaw.

Discussion:

Commissioner Rael said it's difficult to make these last minute kind of changes. Licenses have been drawn and hunters have made travel plans, etc. Commissioner Brokaw said he respects tradition; however, it needs to be fair for all constituents. Mr. Alsbell advised the Past Shooters Club list of licenses have been drawn. He also stated the licenses are set aside in statute. Greg Phipps provided additional information regarding how the licenses are issued.

Commissioner Crank withdrew his motion. Commissioner Brokaw approved.

Commissioner Crank moved to authorize up to 80 licenses for the One Shot Antelope Hunt and the Women's Antelope Hunt for the areas as identified and quantity as presented and to authorize the One Shot Antelope Hunt to allocate 56 licenses for the Past Shooter Club pursuant to existing statutes and regulations for the 2020 season. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Byrd. Motion carried.

Commissioner Rael requested the record to reflect that he supports the special antelope hunts, but he does not support the exclusion of women from the One Shot Antelope Hunt and the exclusion of men from the Women's Antelope Hunt.

15. Presenter: Doug Brimeyer, Deputy Chief, Wildlife Division. Wyoming Wolverine Management Plan.

Mr. Brimeyer introduced Nichole Bjornlie to the Commission. She explained wolverines are the largest member of the weasel family and historically were documented throughout the western U.S. as far south as California and New Mexico. Despite widespread distribution, wolverines were nearly eliminated from the contiguous U.S. by the mid-1920s. Wolverines began recolonizing their former range in the 1930s and have recently been documented as far south as Utah and Colorado.

During the winter of 2016-17, the Department in cooperation with the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, participated in a range-wide occupancy survey for wolverines. The survey confirmed the broad distribution of wolverines across the region and documented population recovery above their historic lows. For the first time ever, wolverines were detected in the Gros Ventre Mountains and the southern Wind River Range. The survey was planned to be repeated at five-year intervals.

The Wyoming wolverine management plan seeks to repeat the 2017 survey during the winter of 2021-22 to explore opportunities to conduct research, work with land managers and engage the public through outreach efforts.

It was moved by Commissioner Crank to approve the Wyoming Wolverine Management Plan as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Byrd. Motion carried. Commissioner Rael was not in attendance during the presentation of this agenda item and did not vote.

16. Presenters: Dan Thompson, Supervisor, Large Carnivore Section. Large Carnivore Update.

Dan Thompson provided the Commission with a large carnivore update. He explained there is a wide spectrum of viewpoints regarding large carnivores and their role on the landscape. The Department's role is to maintain viable populations of large carnivores on the landscape using a science based adaptive approach, include public desires and attitudes in setting harvest objectives and making management decisions, proactively manage to mitigate human/wildlife conflicts, and provide information and education on large carnivore management and safety. He provided information regarding monitoring efforts, population estimates, damage conflicts, and human/carnivore conflicts. The Department is committed to maintaining and managing large carnivores on the landscape by taking a multi-layered approach to the ever-changing dynamics of large carnivores in Wyoming and to maintain a vigilant conflict resolution and education program. Dr. Thompson fielded several questions from the Commission.

17. Presenter: Doug Brimeyer, Deputy Chief, Wildlife Division. Mule Deer Initiative.

This agenda item will be presented at another Commission meeting.

18. Presenters: Rick King, Chief, Wildlife Division and Jason Hunter, Lander Region Supervisor, Wildlife Division. Update on the Department's Evaluation of Trapping Issues.

Jason Hunter explained at the April Commission Meeting Wyoming Untrapped and WY Trap FREE-Mont County requested the Commission open Chapter 4, Trapping Regulation, prior to 2022. Following Commission direction, the Department formed an eight person committee to

research and compile relative information pertaining to trapping. The committee researched past efforts by the Department and comments, concerns and opportunities with a broad group of stakeholders. Hunter provided information regarding the regulation and statutes, furbearer license sales, harvest information, trapping violations, education and outreach programs, and public engagement process. Bryant White, Program Manager for Trapping Policies, Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, participated in the presentation via Zoom. He provided information on the best management practices, education and outreach workshops, and the importance of trapping for wildlife management.

Public Comments:

Lisa Robertson, Wyoming Untrapped, via Zoom

Ms. Robertson said trapping issues in the field are growing more contentious. Some of the factors contributing to this are an increasing number of people using public land, new trappers in the field with no mandatory education guidelines, and unattended traps. In addition to non-furbearing wildlife, 71 dogs have been caught in traps. We need to work together to come up with common sense solutions to make public land safer for members of the public.

Karen Zoller, WY Trap FREE-mont County

Ms. Zoller said her dog, Mac, was killed in a snare on public land. It was the most terrifying experience of her life. There was no signage for recreationalists to even know traps are out there. She is not asking to stop trapping. She is asking for signage or set back areas. She feels as though the small percentage of trappers over-rule the public. She believes that by working together, we can help reduce conflicts, and hopefully members of the public will not be injured and no one else's dog will die.

Kristi Chapman, WY Trap FREE-mont County

Ms. Chapman explained she is a professional dog trainer. She said the number of people on the landscape is increasing. There are ways to safely recreate in the outdoors with your dog. However, it is important to have educational programs, set back areas on designated trails and, in some cases, trap free areas or seasonal closures in specific areas.

James Pearce, Wyoming State Trappers Association

Mr. Pearce does not believe there is any scientific data to support regulatory change to trapping regulations. He said setbacks are not practical in many areas. Their organization is not opposed to limit trapping in certain areas, such as game bird hunting areas. Trapping is a safe and important tool for wildlife. Unfortunately, at times, there are incidents.

Scott Johnson, via Zoom

Mr. Johnson said the Commission's statement is "Conserving Wildlife-Serving People". Most of the trapping is conducted on public land. There are far more members of the public "people" that use the land and their voices need to be heard. He doesn't feel trapping should be allowed on public land. He questioned the cost to the Department associated with administering and

monitoring of trapping. He also believes trappers should pay for damages for non-targeted species.

Kevin O'Dell

Mr. O'Dell has been a trapper for 40 years, spending most of his time in Ohio. During that time he participated in many educational courses and worked with various animal activist groups. He said that advancements in trapping devices and education have improved significantly. With sound management practices trapping can continue to be a viable management tool.

Phil Pfisterer, President Wyoming State Trappers Association, via Zoom

Mr. Pfisterer said there are many uses for trapping, it is a benefit for wildlife. He does not believe we need more trapping regulations. Both groups need to take responsibility and exercise due diligence when using public land.

19. Presenter: Greg Phipps, Chief, Fiscal Division. License Selling Agent Appointments.

This agenda item was presented to the Commission on July 16, 2020.

20. Presenter: Jennifer Doering, License Section Manager, Fiscal Division. Antelope Limited Quota Draw.

Ms. Doering addressed the Commission regarding how the antelope limited quota draw is conducted. The presentation included detailed information regarding regulations, quotas (resident and nonresident), application process and the draw process. She also provided information regarding potential impacts of changing the antelope initial draw process. There was general discussion between the Commission and the Department regarding the complexities of the system. Ms. Doering helped answer questions.

Public Comments:

Joel Hoenk

Mr. Hoenk suggests limiting the nonresident draw to 20% total. He would like more opportunity for residents to draw leftover licenses.

Mike Barrett

Mr. Barrett believes the current system is not fair. There are too many residents that can't draw an antelope license.

Sy Gilliland, Wyoming Outfitters and Guides Association

Mr. Gilliland believes the draw process is fair. He feels it is more of an education issue. When applying, residents need to enter a back-up area or second choice area and they will receive a license. He thought it may be helpful for the Department to create a tutorial or make programming changes so applicants know when an area is not available when they are applying.

Ron Niziolek

Mr. Niziolek supported Mr. Hoenk's comments. He does not support the current 80/20 license allocation process.

21. Presenter: Ray Bredehoft, Habitat and Access Branch Chief, Services Division. 10-Year Grazing Plan for the Red Rim Daley Wildlife Habitat Management Area and 5-Year Grazing Plan for the Red Rim Grizzly Wildlife Habitat Management Area.

Mr. Bredehoft explained that Commission Regulation Governing Uses of Lands and Waters Acquired or Administered by the Commission (Chapter 23) allows the Department to manage wildlife and habitat on Commission-owned or administered lands and waters and to regulate public use and special use of such lands and waters. Long-term special uses (such as farming and grazing) are advanced to the Commission for discussion and action in accordance with the relevant statutes, regulations and/or policies. He provided information regarding the Red Red Daley and Red Rim Grizzly WHMAs. He explained the conservation criteria, wildlife and vegetation values.

It was moved by Commissioner Byrd to approve the 10-Year Grazing Plan for the Red Rim Daley and the 5-Year Grazing Plan for the Red Rim Grizzly Wildlife Habitat Management Areas. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ladwig. Motion carried.

22. Presenter: Sean Bibbey, Acting Chief, Services Division. Acquisition and/or Disposal of Fee Title and/or Less than Fee Title Property Rights.

This agenda item was presented to Commission on July 16, 2020.

23. Presenter: John Kennedy, Deputy Director. Current Status of the Department's Website.

This agenda item was presented to Commission on July 16, 2020.

24. Presenters: John Kennedy, Deputy Director and Jerald Johnson, Predator Management Coordinator, Department of Agriculture. Animal Damage Management Board Projects.

In accordance with W.S. § 11-6-307, the Animal Damage Management Board (ADMB) is requesting \$200,000 from the Commission. These funds shall be used for accomplishing high-priority ADMB projects. The Commission may provide recommendations to the ADMB regarding expenditure of these funds. Deputy Director Kennedy introduced Jerald Johnson to the Commission.

Mr. Johnson explained the projects selected for Game and Fish are:

1. Large Carnivore-Livestock Depredation Prevention and Control; \$25,000
2. Absaroka Carnivore-Livestock Interaction Study; \$40,000
3. Effects of Predation in the Wyoming Range; \$30,000
4. Gros Ventre Elk and Wolf Interaction Project, Phase 2; \$18,000
5. Summer Nutrition, Disease, or Predation, Quantifying Causes of Poor Lamb Survival in northwest Wyoming; \$45,000
6. Coyote Control targeted on mule deer fawning grounds to protect southwest Bighorn mule deer; \$12,000
7. Coyote Removal to Enhance Stove Gulch and Big Sulfur Mule Deer Fawn Survival; \$25,000
8. Coyote Removal to Enhance Bates Hole Mule Deer Fawn Survival; \$5,000 with the balance to be funded by ADMB funds

Commissioner Rael noted there was a discrepancy between the amounts referenced on the powerpoint and the amounts Mr. Johnson stated. Mr. Johnson said it appeared the powerpoint was incorrect. Director Nesvik said he is a co-chair of the Animal Damage Management Board and the amounts Mr. Johnson said were correct.

It was moved by Commissioner Rael to approve the Animal Damage Management Board projects as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Schmid. Motion carried.

25. Call to the public.

Chamois Andersen, Defenders of Wildlife

Ms. Andersen explained their organization supports the Wolverine Management Plan the Commission approved earlier in the meeting. She said it is a proactive science-based conservation plan.

It was moved by Commissioner Rael to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Schmid. Motion carried.

The meeting ended by 3:41 p.m.

**Wyoming Game and Fish Commission
September Meeting Minutes
Thermopolis, Wyoming**

September 9, 2020

Members Present:

| | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Peter Dube, President | Wyoming Game and Fish Commission |
| Patrick Crank, Vice President | Wyoming Game and Fish Commission |
| Ralph Brokaw, Member | Wyoming Game and Fish Commission |
| GayLynn Byrd, Member | Wyoming Game and Fish Commission |
| Richard Ladwig, Member | Wyoming Game and Fish Commission |
| David Rael, Member | Wyoming Game and Fish Commission |
| Mike Schmid, Member | Wyoming Game and Fish Commission |
| Brian R. Nesvik, Director | Wyoming Game and Fish Department |

Staff Present:

John Kennedy, Angi Bruce, Rebekah Fitzgerald, Sara DiRienzo, Doug Brimeyer, Scott Edberg, Alan Osterland, Dirk Miller, Greg Phipps, Meredith Wood, Eric Wiltanger, Sean Bibbey, Wayne Cotton, Samuel Jackson, Sheridan Todd, Meghan Lockwood, Tara Hodges, Dan Smith, Jim Seeman, Brian Olson, Scott Werebelow, Eric Maichak, Sam Hochhalter, Amy Anderson, Bengé Brown, Daryl Lutz, Embere Hall (via Zoom), Tim Thomas (via Zoom)

Legal Representation:

David DeWald, Senior Assistant Attorney General

Guests Present:

Jack Baird, Hot Springs County Commissioner; Dr. Montieth, University of Wyoming; Hunter Petsch, Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts; Lee Livingston, Park County Commissioner; Joe Hickey; Keith Culver; Bob Budd, WWNRT; Jim Magagna, Wyoming Stock Growers Association; Astrid Martinez, USDA, NRCS; Mary Rumse, Meeteetse Moose; Anna Kaufmann, Wyoming Wildlife Federation; Dillon Herman, Wyoming Game Warden's Association; Shawn Blajszczak, Mule Deer Foundation; Jennie Rael

Open Session began at 8:00 a.m.

President Dube began the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. He provided information on how to provide public comments. He also explained Commissioner Crank and Director Nesvik were testifying (virtually) before the U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works this morning regarding grizzly bears in Wyoming and would join the meeting later.

1. Presenter: Commission President. Approval of Commission Meeting Minutes.

It was moved by Commissioner Rael to approve the minutes from the July 2020 Commission meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Byrd. Motion carried. Commissioner Crank was not in attendance during the presentation of this agenda item; therefore, he did not vote.

2. Presenter: Sean Bibbey, Lands Branch Chief, Services Division. Disposal and Acquisition of Warden Stations.

Line Item A: Elk Mountain Warden Station Disposal, Carbon County

The Commission acquired a new Elk Mountain Warden Station in March, 2019. The previous warden station, located at 107 Seirson Avenue, has been vacated in favor of the new warden station. The Department contracted a certified Wyoming residential appraiser who estimates the market value of the vacated warden station to be \$115,000. In accordance with Commission Policy VIII, the Department advertised the home for sale through a sealed bid process in a Carbon County and a statewide newspaper once a week for four consecutive weeks. No bids were submitted.

The Department then listed the property on two national home sales websites: Trulia and Zillow. An offer on the property was submitted August 3, 2020 in the amount of \$115,000. The sale is contingent on the Department paying closing costs. The cost for closing and recording the property right transfer documents is estimated at \$768. The buyer agrees to pay in cash. The buyer has already accepted an offer on their current residence and is closing September 19, 2020.

It was moved by Commissioner Brokaw to approve the sale of the vacated Elk Mountain Warden Station in the amount of \$115,000. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ladwig. Motion carried. Commissioner Crank was not in attendance during the presentation of this agenda item; therefore, he did not vote.

Line Item B: Acquisition of a Warden Station in Gillette, Campbell County

The Department's Wildlife Division was given budget approval for FY 2021 to move forward with the purchase of a new warden station in Gillette as a replacement for the existing North Gillette Warden Station. The Department has located and negotiated a contract for a new property that meets the Department's needs, located at 3103 Knollwood Drive. The Department has the property under contract for \$286,000, contingent upon Commission approval. The Department has engaged local professionals to conduct inspections of the property, as well as an appraisal to support the purchase price. Upon approval and completion of the purchase, the Department would begin the process of selling the existing warden station.

President Dube directed the Department to re-evaluate the status of warden stations/Department housing across the state.

It was moved by Commissioner Byrd to approve the purchase of the Knollwood Drive property as proposed by the Department. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Rael. Motion carried. Commissioner Crank was not in attendance during the presentation of this agenda item; therefore, he did not vote.

3. Presenter: Doug Brimeyer, Deputy Chief, Wildlife Division. Mule Deer Initiative Projects.

Deputy Chief Brimeyer briefed the Commission on the Wyoming Mule Deer Initiative (MDI). He explained the MDI was formally adopted by the Commission in 2007. Since its inception, the initiative has been very successful in engaging the public and completing on-the-ground projects to improve mule deer management and habitat.

He provided detailed information on the Upper Powder River (MD 322), Powder River (MD 319), Pumpkin Buttes (MD 320), North Bighorn (MD 321), Owl Creek/Meeteetse Mule Deer Herd (MD 212), South Rock Springs (MD 424), Sheep Mountain, (MD 539), Platte Valley (MD 541), Bates Hole/Hat Six (MD 757), Wyoming Range (MD 131), and the Sublette (MD 104) mule deer herds.

There was general discussion between the Commission and the Department regarding the various mule deer herds. President Dube suggested the Department increase educational efforts regarding elk and deer. It is very difficult to obtain access to hunt elk in many of these areas and the elk are out-competing the deer.

4. Presenter: Doug Brimeyer, Deputy Chief, Wildlife Division. Big Game Herd Unit Objective Reviews.

Deputy Chief Brimeyer explained the process for evaluating big game herd unit objective reviews. He stated this is a planned/proactive management strategy versus a reactionary management strategy. The regions review objectives every five years by evaluating habitat, population status, and gauging public interest by conducting public meetings, open houses, and group discussions. Herd units with recommended updates are then presented to the Commission for final approval.

Three big game herd unit objective updates are proposed for Commission approval in 2020: Rattlesnake Pronghorn Herd Unit in the Casper Region, Ferris-Seminole Bighorn Sheep Herd Unit in the Lander Region, and Shirley Mountain Elk Herd Unit in the Laramie Region. Mr. Brimeyer explained the proposed recommendations.

It was moved by Commissioner Brokaw to approve the objectives in the Rattlesnake Pronghorn Herd, Ferris-Seminole Bighorn Sheep Herd, and the Shirley Mountain Elk Herd Unit as proposed by the Department. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Byrd.

Discussion:

President Dube questioned the management objective proposed for Elk Hunt Area 16. He stated his concern the Department is increasing the objective because hunters can't access the area and reduce the population. Embere Hall, WGFD, (via Zoom) explained the Department supports maintaining a liberal hunting season in Elk Hunt Area 16; but does recognize there is limited access in that area. President Dube said he believes that high elk numbers negatively affect deer numbers. We need to obtain access in those areas and bring the elk population down to manageable numbers.

Call for the question. Motion carried. Commissioner Crank was not in attendance during the presentation of this agenda item; therefore, he did not vote.

5. Presenters: Doug Brimeyer, Deputy Chief, Wildlife Division and Doug McWhirter, Wildlife Management Coordinator, Wildlife Division. Bighorn Sheep Management.

Mr. McWhirter briefed the Commission on the history of bighorn sheep in Wyoming. He provided detailed information on population and harvest trends, ongoing projects and coordination/partnerships with other entities. He also provided information regarding the Wyoming Bighorn Sheep-Domestic Sheep Interaction Working Group and the Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation. Commissioner Schmid asked about the potential impact on sheep with the increased recreational activity in the back-country (hikers, cross-country skiing, mountain climbing). Mr. McWhirter said repeated disturbance of lambing sites can be an issue.

6. Presenters: Doug Brimeyer, Deputy Chief, Wildlife Division and Tim Thomas, Wildlife Biologist, Wildlife Division. Moose Management.

Tim Thomas (via Zoom) presented the Commission with information on historic and current moose research in Wyoming. He said there is an estimated moose population of 3,620 in Wyoming with 10 herd units and 38 hunt areas. He explained how the population objectives are calculated, license and harvest information, management challenges, and current research. There was general discussion between the Commission and Department regarding population objectives and the various challenges associated with management of moose.

7. Presenter: Greg Phipps, Chief, Fiscal Division. License Selling Agent Appointments.

The Department received four license selling agent applications from sporting goods stores:

Thermopolis Fly Shop, in Thermopolis, applied as a fishing license agent only. There are four agents located in Thermopolis. Thermopolis' 2019 license sales totaled \$97,696.

Black Anchor Products in Moorcroft. There is currently one agent in Moorcroft. Moorcroft's 2019 license sales totaled \$16,256.

Sportsman's Warehouse in Laramie. There are currently seven agents in Laramie. Laramie's 2019 license sales totaled \$830,836.

Hooked Up Custom Tackle in Pine Haven. There is currently one agent in Pine Haven. Pine Haven's 2019 license sales totaled \$61,782.

The Department received a transfer of ownership request for one license selling agent; Rim Station in Pinedale. Temporary approval of the transfer has been received by the local Game Warden, Regional Wildlife Supervisor and Commissioner Schmid. This store's 2019 license sales totaled approximately \$6,508.

It was moved by Commissioner Schmid to approve Thermopolis Fly Shop, Black Anchor Products and Sportsman's Warehouse, and Hooked Up Custom Tackle as license selling agents and to approve the transfer of ownership for Rim Station as proposed by the Department. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brokaw. Motion carried.

8. Presenter: Brian R. Nesvik, Director. Director's Report.

Director Nesvik began by introducing Eric Wiltanger, the new Services Division Chief. Eric comes to the Game and Fish Department from the Division of Criminal Investigation where he served as Deputy Director for the Criminal Justice Information Services. Previously, he worked for DCI and the Department of Corrections following a 20 year career in the U.S. Air Force.

Director Nesvik said he's received numerous reports of damage in western Wyoming caused by a recent windstorm. It's too early to determine the extent of the damage, but it may affect hunting access in certain areas and it could alter the movement of wildlife. The boating season has come to an end. He thanked all Department employees who worked to prevent AIS from entering the state; it was a great team effort. He and Deputy Director Kennedy recently traveled to Cody and had a productive meeting with Plan One Architects regarding the new Cody regional office. Earlier this morning Commissioner Crank provided testimony to the U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works regarding a bill to delist the grizzly bear; he did an excellent job providing information and answering questions. The sage-grouse banking rules are near

completion. Lastly, he invited the Commission to attend the Landowners of the Year banquet that evening. This event is focussed on recognizing one of our most important partners -- landowners and ranchers across the state.

9. Awards and Recognition

Service Award:

Deputy Chief Edberg presented Scott Werebelow, Game Warden Coordinator, Cody Region, with his 25-year service award.

Recognition:

Deputy Chief Edberg presented Jim Seeman, Buffalo Game Warden, with the 2019 Shikar-Safari Club International Wildlife Officer of the Year Award.

Bob Budd, Executive Director, Wyoming Wildlife and Natural Resource Trust, presented Amy Anderson, Lander Regional Habitat Biologist, with the Partner of the Year Award for her habitat work in the Lander region.

10. Presenter: Sean Bibbey, Lands Branch Chief, Services Division. Acquisition and/or Disposal of Fee Title and/or Less than Fee Title Property Rights.

Line Item A: Gateway South Transmission Line, Carbon County

Rocky Mountain Power is proposing to construct and operate a new 500kv transmission line from the Aeolus substation in northeast Carbon County to the planned Clover substation near the town of Mona in Juab County, Utah. This project will be approximately 420 miles in length and will involve crossing Commission-owned land through the Red Rim Grizzly Wildlife Habitat Management Area and the Ft. Steele Public Access Area.

Rocky Mountain Power is intending to acquire the necessary easements in order to complete the project in the spring of 2021. They would like to enter into an option agreement with the Commission, offering \$14,816 which is 5% of the total offer of \$296,318 for the easement. An option agreement would grant Rocky Mountain Power the ability to execute an easement from the Commission at any given point throughout the term of the option. The option agreement, as currently written, would expire on June 30, 2021 with the right, but not the obligation, to extend the term for one calendar year.

It was moved by Commissioner Crank to authorize the Department to enter into an option agreement with Rocky Mountain Power on the Gateway South Transmission Line. the motion was seconded by Commissioner Byrd. Motion carried.

Line Item B: Munger Mountain Conservation Easement Donation

This property is located on Munger Mountain, approximately 10 miles south of Wilson, near the Commission's South Park Wildlife Habitat Management Area. The property is adjacent to the Munger Mountain Conservation Easement that was donated to the Commission in 2014.

The landowner has committed to donating a substantial portion of the value of the conservation easement. The Conservation Fund has been granted a Forest Legacy grant to fund the remaining portion of the acquisition. The Conservation Fund has approached the Department to discuss donating the conservation easement to the Commission. In January of 2020, the Commission voted to authorize the Department to move forward with negotiations with the Conservation Fund. There is no fiscal impact to the Department.

It was moved by Commissioner Byrd to authorize the Department to negotiate the terms of the proposed conservation easement for donation to the Commission. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brokaw. Motion carried.

Line Item C: Pilot Hill Wildlife Habitat Management Area, Albany County

The Pilot Hill Project is a community driven effort to work collaboratively with the Office of State Lands and Investments (OSLI) and Albany County to acquire 7,086 acres of land for recreation, habitat conservation and aquifer protection.

The design concept of the project divides the property into two sections: a recreation corridor on the northern section consisting of approximately 4,010 acres with many miles of developed recreational trails, and a Wildlife Habitat Management Area (WHMA) consisting of approximately 3,076 acres on the southern section with limited trail development. The property acquisition connects over 65,000 acres of National Forest and State Lands.

The purchase of the project area was completed in July via a Wyoming State Trust Lands Exchange. Albany County, acting for Pilot Hill Inc., a non-profit organization, currently leases the property from the OSLI under a Special Use Lease. The Special Use Lease is for a 25-year period starting at \$35,214 annually, with a 2.35% annual increase and a 5-year review period. The Department has identified the southern portion of the property (3,076 acres) as important wildlife habitat for pronghorn and elk, as well as a number of other priority conservation species.

The Department is proposing to manage the 3,076 acre portion of the property and has negotiated \$4,800 per year with a 2.35% annual increase to contribute to the overall lease amount. This amount is based on similar leases on the Commission's Laramie Peak WHMA and Red Rim Grizzly WHMA. Along with hiking, wildlife viewing and other recreational activities, management of the area will provide the public with hunting opportunities for pronghorn and

elk. The fiscal impact to the Department would be \$4,800 annually, with a 2.35% annual increase for a 25-year term.

It was moved by Commissioner Brokaw to approve management of the Pilot Hill Wildlife Habitat Management Area. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Byrd. Motion carried.

Line Item D: Hook Ranch Acquisition, Weston County

The Hook Ranch consists of approximately 612.12 acres and is located in the northeast corner of Weston County, 20 miles northeast of Newcastle. Rita Hook is offering the property to the Commission in two parcels. Highway 85 bi-sects the property with approximately 420 acres located on the west side of the road and the remaining 192.12 acres on the east side. Ms. Hook is proposing to sell the 420 acre parcel to the Department at an asking price of \$2,500 per acre or around \$1,050,000, with an agreement in place to donate the remaining 192.12 acres of property on the east side of the road upon her passing.

Cold Springs Creek traverses the western portion of the property and would provide fishing opportunity for brook trout and cutthroat trout. Department personnel have identified the property as having a viable opportunity to hunt elk, white-tailed deer and turkeys.

The portion of the property east of Highway 85 is adjacent to 80 acres of National Forest property, which is also adjacent to a narrow strip of OSLI property consisting of 280 acres running to the south to a block of 1,400 acres of additional National Forest Service Property. The fiscal impact to the Department is \$1,050,000.

Keith Culver, Former WGF Commissioner

Mr. Culver addressed the Commission in support of the project. The property has Cold Springs Creek running through it which is a rarity in that corner of the state. In addition to fishing opportunities, the property provides good habitat for turkey, deer, antelope and elk. The easement will also enhance harvest for Elk Hunt Area 117. He felt the asking price was fair.

It was moved by Commissioner Ladwig to authorize the Department to explore all options and proceed with negotiations with the Hook Ranch. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brokaw.

Discussion:

Commissioner Crank expressed his concern regarding the price per acre and felt he needed more information. Director Nesvik said the Department will exercise due diligence and will provide the Commission with detailed information regarding range-land appraisal, and appropriate values for a fee title acquisition, a conservation easement or a hunting easement.

Call for the question. Motion carried.

Line Item E: Ogallala Land and Cattle Public Access Easement, Converse County

Josh Moore, owner of Ogallala Land and Cattle, is proposing to donate a 25-year access easement to provide public hunting opportunities on his deeded land. The property is located in the northwestern corner of Converse County. The easement would include approximately 3,700 acres of private property adjacent to the Bureau of Land Management and OSLI property along Ross Road (Converse County Road 31).

Mr. Moore has been in negotiations with Converse County to voluntarily abandon and re-route a portion of Ross Road in order to eliminate heavy truck traffic in front of the family home. Converse County approved the abandonment and Mr. Moore is ready to proceed with the donation. There is no fiscal impact to the Department.

It was moved by Commissioner Byrd to approve the donation of the Public Access Easement from Mr. Moore. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brokaw. Motion carried.

11. Presenter: John Kennedy, Deputy Director. Cody Regional Office Project.

Deputy Director Kennedy explained he and Director Nesvik recently traveled to Cody and had a productive meeting with Plan One Architects regarding the Cody regional office project. He said, based on previous communications with the Commission, there appeared to be a consensus not to include a fire sprinkler system. The State Fire Marshal does not require a fire sprinkler system. The building will have a full fire alarm system and will be constructed with fire-safe, non-combustible materials.

It was moved by Commissioner Crank to approve the fire-safe design of the Cody Regional Office without a fire sprinkler system. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Rael. Motion carried.

There was general discussion between the Commission and the Department regarding the water supply to the office. Northwest Rural will not deviate from their standard set of 1” valves. Plan One Architects does not believe this size valve will meet the water demands of the building estimated at 55 gallons per minute. Director Kennedy said the engineers are meeting with each other to work out a solution; he will update the Commission.

The Commission also discussed the need for an emergency back-up generator which was estimated at \$250,000.

It was moved by Commissioner Crank to reject the addition of an emergency back-up generator. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brokaw.

Discussion:

Commissioner Rael said he supported the motion but would like the Department to look into other options. Commissioner Crank said it was his experience with construction projects that the more uncertainty there is during the planning process the more likely there will be change-orders and delays down the road. We need to commit to a decision and move forward.

Call for the question. Motion carried.

Lastly, Deputy Director Kennedy provided an estimated construction schedule and asked if the Commission was interested in being involved in the bid process. It was the consensus of the Commission they did not need to be involved in the actual bid process but directed the Department to keep them informed.

12. Presenters: Doug Brimeyer, Deputy Chief, Wildlife Division and Dr. Kevin Monteith, Assistant Professor, Natural Resource Science Haub School of Environment, University of Wyoming. Wyoming Range Deer Research.

Dr. Monteith explained the Wyoming Range mule deer herd is one of the largest deer herds in Wyoming and a premier destination for mule deer hunters throughout the country. Despite its importance and high profile nature, the population has undergone dynamic changes in abundance in recent decades, with much of the underlying reasons being unclear. Extensive research has been conducted on this herd. They have tracked individuals throughout their lives and have monitored female deer and their offspring over a five year period. He provided information and answered questions regarding migration patterns, winter survival, timing of migration and timing of births.

It was moved by Commissioner Crank to allocate up to \$300,000 per year for the next five years from the Commission's discretionary fund to continue Wyoming Range deer research. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Rael.

Discussion:

Commissioner Schmid had several questions regarding the amount of money the Commission has contributed toward research and the different types of research (same or new research, cross-generational studies, and predators).

Call for the question. Motion carried.

13. Presenters: Doug Brimeyer, Deputy Chief, Wildlife Division and Eric Maichak, Wildlife Biologist, Wildlife Division. Bighorn Basin and Bighorn Mountains Brucellosis Update.

Mr. Maichak provided the Commission with information on current research, monitoring and management of brucellosis within the Bighorn Basin and Bighorn Mountains. The presentation included transmission mode, contributing factors for transmission, and various management actions. Director Nesvik commented on the challenges of managing brucellosis in the Meeteetse area.

14. Presenter: Brian R. Nesvik, Director. Wildlife Harvest Initiative.

Director Nesvik opened the floor up for discussion regarding the Wildlife Harvest Initiative (Initiative) that Shane Mahoney presented to the Commission in July. The Initiative is a multi-year program designed to enhance the public's knowledge, through a messaging campaign, regarding the value that wildlife brings to the quality of life and quality of food. The Initiative will help maintain Wyoming's hunting and angler heritage; encourage increased hunting and angling participation and recruitment; generate increased public support for sustainable wildlife use activities; and help preserve and protect Wyoming's methods to responsibly manage wildlife. There was general discussion between the Commission regarding the many benefits of the program (recruitment and retention) and the coalition of partners.

It was moved by Commissioner Schmid to support the Wildlife Harvest Initiative in the amount of \$50,000 per year for 5 years. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Rael. Motion carried.

15. Presenter: Rebekah Fitzgerald, Communications Director. Volunteer Policy, IIC.

Ms. Fitzgerald said it's the Department's intent to simplify the volunteer process and increase volunteer participation. She explained the proposed changes to the Volunteer Policy.

It was moved by Commissioner Ladwig to approve Commission Volunteer Policy, IIC as proposed by the Department. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Byrd. Motion carried.

16. Presenter: Alan Osterland, Chief, Fish Division. Mussel Dog Pilot Project.

This agenda item will be presented to the Commission at another meeting.

17. Presenter: Chris McBarnes, Executive Director, The Wyldlife Fund.

Mr. McBarnes updated the Commission on the total funds raised and total grants issued to date. He also briefed the Commission on recent and upcoming activities including an adopt a highway clean up. He was pleased to announce The Wyldlife Fund is committing an additional \$10,000 toward the highway crossing initiative.

18. Call to the public.

None

It was moved by Commissioner Crank to go into Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Byrd. Motion carried.

Open Session ended at 3:37 p.m.

Peter J. Dube, President

https://billingsgazette.com/outdoors/new-cody-wyoming-game-and-fish-department-office-moves-forward/article_c5346779-ba37-5234-9f0a-29ef605228ce.html

New Cody Wyoming Game and Fish Department office moves forward

Billings Gazette
Dec 15, 2020

A \$209,755 payment to Plan One Architects was approved by the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission on Tuesday for completed architectural work for a new Cody regional office.

The Wyoming Game and Fish Department presented a brief overview of the bids received for construction of the Cody office — five in total. A Wyoming company, BHI Construction, Inc., of Rock Springs, submitted the lowest bid at \$8.8 million. The commission will assist the department with evaluating bids and announce a final decision at its January meeting.

“We will still be on track with our goal of breaking ground in May with a January selection,” said Brian Nesvik, WGFD director.

Preliminary plans for the office building include: a large ADA compliant community meeting room; an aquatic invasive species check station to replace the current North Cody check station near Newton Lake Road; easier and safer location and parking for the public; and more space at the front counter to accommodate customers.
