



the wyoming game & fish department

# CASPER REGION newsletter

## Hunting Update

### Outdoor Dream Foundation. Elk Season

Many people from Newcastle, Wyoming teamed together to provide an Outdoor Dream Foundation hunt for Kaleb Buck. Kaleb has been battling cancer for over four years. Between his latest rounds of treatments the Outdoor Dream Foundation was able to send him and his family to



Newcastle on his dream hunt. WGFD biologist Joe Sandrini organized the hunt and Dick Terry of Wyoming State Forestry helped with the guiding. Special thanks to all the landowners who allowed Kaleb to hunt on their ranches, C&A Meats in Sundance for donating the processing of Kaleb's game and Kim's Art Wild Taxidermy in Lander for mounting his trophies. Thank you Outdoor Dream Foundation for making Kaleb's dream hunt come true.



The hunt started off with Kaleb harvesting his first pronghorn, a trophy at nearly 15 inches. The pronghorn was harvested on the YT Ranch, thank you Shirley Mendenhall ! A couple of days later, after a number of unsuccessful stalks, Kaleb harvested a bull elk (356 points Boone

and Crockett) on the edge of the timber, 275 yards across a windblown meadow on Plum Creek Ranch LLC. -Thank you Liza Millett !

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Kaleb’s hunting success didn’t stop there. He harvested his first mule deer, a great 4-point at only 50 yards. His mule deer was taken on the Angle N Ranch -Thank you Jason Nahrgang !

Upon returning home Kaleb posted to Facebook, “Just landed in Indiana, glad to be back, but miss everyone that made us feel at home and made my dreams come true in Wyoming.”



Hunting seasons for elk remain open in some areas during December, including Areas 7 and 19. Elk were more difficult to find on public and PLPW lands during the first part of the season. One very large group of mostly cows and calves was observed just to the west of the Muddy Mountain Hunter Management Area (HMA) and would occasionally spill onto the HMA and provide opportunity for hunters with HMA permits. Solitary bulls remained accessible in places, as evidenced by the success of this youth hunter on opening day.

By mid-November, the elk began to move and disperse to more accessible areas on the eastern side of Muddy Mountain and associated drainages. Cow hunters have since had good success as elk have spread out over a wider area, including accessible public and PLPW lands.

## December Fishing 2016 Fishing Regulations

As the snow starts to fly and the ice begins to form, anglers should be aware of the special winter ice fishing provisions and also be aware of regulations concerning fishing with live minnows. Live baitfish shall not be transported out of the designated use area as listed by the WGFD on the live baitfish receipt. More information about the use of live baitfish and the special winter ice fishing provisions can be found in the 2016 Wyoming Fishing Regulations and online at [wgfd.wyo.gov](http://wgfd.wyo.gov).



## On the Ground

### Insta-dams, Mule Deer Classifications

Fisheries Biologist Matt Hahn assisted Tracy Wendt to collect longitudinal profile data on Bolton Creek. The data will be used to evaluate sediment collection associated with the insta-dams (manmade beaver dams) placed in the stream. Beaver introductions were not as successful as hoped, we believe due to lack of food availability food in the winter



Casper Biologists and Game Wardens conducted extensive mule deer surveys by helicopter during mid-November. Deer are counted and classified into sex and age classes in each hunt area using both aerial and ground survey methods. The results of these surveys are then used in computer models to make decisions regarding next year's license numbers and seasons. Nearly 4,000 deer were surveyed between hunt areas 89, 34, and 66 this year. Fawn numbers were particularly high in Area 34, buck to doe ratios were high in Area 89, and the highest number of mule deer since 2005 were surveyed in Area 66. Overall, managers are very optimistic about mule deer herd health and numbers going into 2016.

## In the Water

### North Platte River Construction Continues

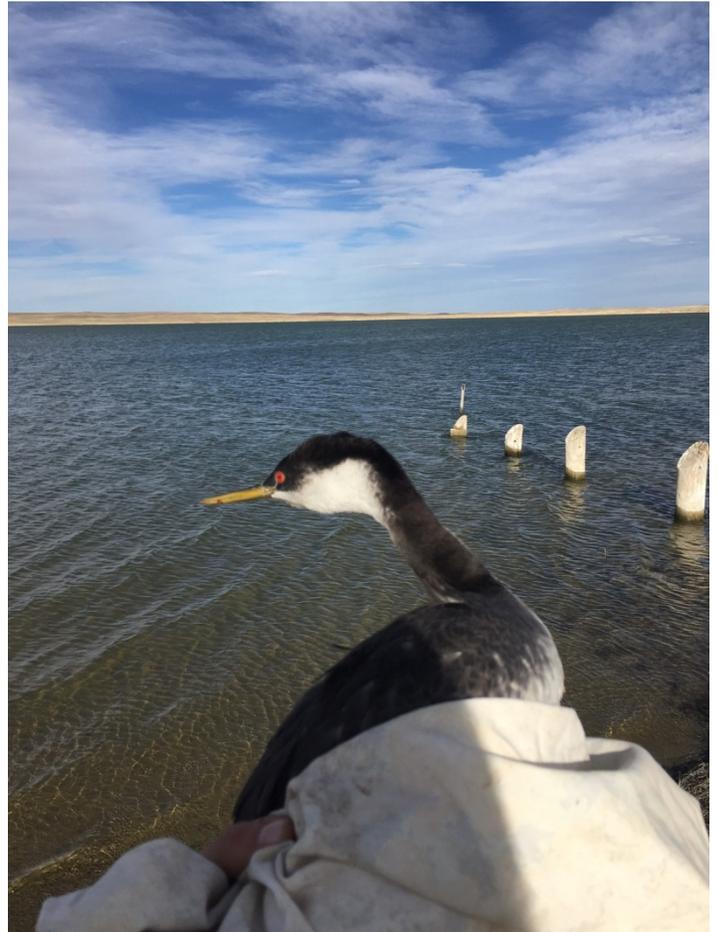
The weather has been very kind to the contractors working on the North Platte River in Casper this fall and early winter. After nearly a three-week starting delay, RiverWorks nearly completed work in Morad Park. Ice will prevent completing all activities this fall and they will return in the spring of 2016 to complete the project. Shamrock Environmental is working on the second phase along Wyoming Boulevard and also made very good progress in the short window for construction in the fall. Shamrock plans to work on bank grading for two weeks into December and return in the fall of 2016 to complete their section of the river.



## Of Interest

### Grebe, Education

Casper Wildlife Biologist Heather O'Brien was contacted by Casper Metro Animal Control regarding an unidentified injured waterfowl. The bird turned out to be a western grebe – a species of water bird whose legs are so far back on its body, it cannot walk on dry land. These birds occasionally mistake wet concrete for water and attempt to land, but then need to be on a large body of water in order to take off into the air. This grebe had done just that and was found in the parking lot of a local business. Landing on the hard concrete caused some minor injuries to the bird's feet. These injuries were treated with topical antibiotic and the grebe was released onto Goldeneye Reservoir, where it quickly found another western grebe.



Game Wardens Adam Parks and Cody Bish visited Paradise Valley Elementary School in Natrona County to help generate excitement and kick off a new animal science unit for the first grade students. Wardens Parks and Bish spoke to the students about animal adaptations in relationship to winter in Wyoming, specifically camouflage, migration and hibernation.

After the presentation, students were invited to come to the front and get some hands on experience with some furs and skulls from a variety of Wyoming wildlife.

