



CODY REGION newsletter

Water guzzlers installed on Little Mountain



Game and Fish Habitat and Access crews recently assisted the BLM with installation of four guzzlers on Little Mountain.

Last month, the Wyoming Game and Fish Department assisted the BLM Cody Field office with the installation of guzzlers on Little Mountain northeast of Lovell. Game and Fish provided the heavy equipment and personnel to complete the installation of four guzzlers.

The guzzlers were installed to benefit mule deer and bighorn sheep in the area. Guzzlers work by collecting rainwater or snowmelt on a “deck” or apron. Water that is collected is then channeled to a reservoir that feeds a drinker that can be accessed by wildlife. The guzzlers may take up to a year to fill up.

Inside this month's issue:

On the ground

Medicine Lodge Kids Outdoor Day

2016 River Fest

Biologists classify antelope

Of interest

Greater short-horned lizards

Bliss Creek meadows



On the ground

Medicine Lodge Kids Outdoor Day a success

The Wyoming Game and Fish Department and Medicine Lodge State Parks recently teamed up to put on the 2016 Medicine Lodge Kids Outdoor Day. Seventy kids from across the Bighorn Basin participated in this exciting and fun filled day of outdoor activities. Thanks to all the community volunteers and sponsors who helped make this event a success!



An outdoor day participant practices techniques to store food properly while camping in bear country.



Outdoor day participants assist Aquatic Habitat Biologist Laura Burckhardt estimate bank erosion rates along Medicine Lodge Creek.



Greybull Game Warden Bill Robertson and Habitat and Access Supervisor Brad Sorensen teach firearms safety and shooting skills at the .22 rifle station.



Outdoor day participants trying out archery.



Right: Wildlife Damage Technician Jeff Abplanalp teaches participants to tie flies.

On the ground

2016 River Fest

Last month, Game and Fish personnel assisted with educational activities at the fourth annual Wild West River Fest in Cody. Educational activities took place along the Shoshone River at the Belfry Bridge access, which was the finish line for competitors in a downriver race.



Above: Terrestrial Habitat Biologist Jerry Altermatt explains how to identify common plants found along river corridors.



Left: Sydney Thompson maneuvers through the fish passage obstacle course where kids learn about potential obstacles fish can face as they migrate upstream.

Biologists classify antelope

Each August, biologists collect ratio data on pronghorn antelope populations through ground and aerial observations. In a given area, biologists and game wardens observe antelope and record the total number of antelope and the age and sex class of each individual. From the total number of antelope sampled, biologists calculate the number of fawns per 100 does, the number of adult bucks per 100 does and the number of yearling bucks per 100 does. Wildlife Management Coordinator Tim Woolley said that this provides biologists with a “snapshot” of the population. “This information allows us to see how the population is doing and is used (in combination with other data) to evaluate hunting seasons, assess herd productivity and determine survival,” Woolley said.



A pronghorn antelope buck in Hunt Area 79.

Of interest

Greater short-horned lizard



Greater short-horned lizard found east of Bighorn Lake.

Greybull Biologist Leslie Schreiber recently documented this greater short-horned lizard east of Bighorn Reservoir.

Herpetological Coordinator for Game and Fish, Wendy Estes-Zumpf said, “Horned lizards are often called horned toads or horny toads because their flat, pudgy body shape and blunt face resembles a toad. But they are not toads, which are amphibians, they are reptiles.”

“When threatened, they inflate their lungs and puff themselves up like a spiny balloon to appear bigger and more difficult to swallow,” Estes-Zumpf said. “When they feel really threatened, they can squirt blood from ducts at the corners of their eyes. This is meant to confuse and deter predators.”

Greater short-horned lizards range throughout Wyoming. Although identified as common, anecdotal evidence indicates many populations are in decline throughout this species’ range.

“Game and Fish herpetologists and zoologists from the Wyoming Natural Diversity Database have been conducting inventories for short-horned lizards and other amphibians and reptiles across Wyoming in the past several years to try to get a better understanding of their distribution,” Estes-Zumpf said.

Bliss Creek meadows

On an early August trip into the backcountry, South Fork Game Warden Grant Gerharter captured this image of Bliss Creek meadows near the headwaters of the South Fork of the Shoshone River.

