



Wyoming Game and Fish Department

Pinedale Region

July 2015 Newsletter



Checking on the Groceries

Pinedale Habitat Biologist Jill Randall organized a multi-agency team to conduct monitoring of tall forb sites in the Wyoming Range. A team of personnel from the Game and Fish, Bridger Teton National Forest and Sublette County Conservation District conducted the annual monitoring of the Wyoming Range Allotment Complex and Triple Peak Forage Reserves.



These sites are important for summer mule deer and provide significant value for watershed health. When in good condition, these sites act as a sponge, soaking up precipitation and snow melt that would otherwise run downstream and potentially contribute to erosion and stream sedimentation issues.



Managers seek to maintain 80% ground cover with a mix of perennial forbs that provide high quality nutrition for summering wildlife including deer, elk and moose.

In 2015, personnel monitored long-term sites in Dead Cow and Roaring Fork drainages. The site in Dead Cow has been monitored five times since 1968 and the one in Roaring Fork has been monitored five times since 1984.





Pinedale Region Monthly Newsletter

July 2015

Pinedale Fish News

The Pinedale fish crew conducted a population estimate on North Piney Lake. The estimated number of Colorado River cutthroat trout was approximately 1,200, which is considerably lower than previous estimates. However, the average size of fish was much higher at around 15" for adults.

Pinedale Fish Biologist Pete Cavalli sampled fish populations in Fayette Lake. This fishery receives little angling pressure, but it



Biologist Darren Rhea, Technician Cyndi Nau, and Volunteer Garret Berger pose for the "hero shot" at North Piney Lake.



Pinedale Fish Technician, Cynthia Nau, with a typical brown trout from Fayette Lake.

provides anglers with good fishing for brown trout, rainbow trout, brook trout and lake trout.

Pete Cavalli hiked into Travis Lake in the headwaters of the Hobble Creek drainage to look for amphibians. Larval and adult tiger salamanders were observed.



An adult tiger salamander from Travis Lake.

Angler Numbers up?

It seems there is an increased public perception that the number of boats, and especially guided anglers, has increased drastically on the Green River in recent years, negatively affecting fishing. The Pinedale fish personnel set up some remote cameras to monitor numbers. The cameras showed that there is no measurable increase from 2013 when cameras were previously used. Fish biologists also report that fish numbers in the river are as strong as ever.



A remote camera photos of anglers floating the Green River just upstream of Huston's Access.



Pinedale Region Monthly Newsletter

July 2015

Education & Outreach

Pinedale fisheries personnel participated in the parade and several other events during the annual Mountain Man Rendezvous weekend celebration (Below). The Game & Fish booth had over 230 visitors, providing opportunities to visit with many people who would not have been contacted during routine duties. Fisheries staff also assisted with the Chamber of Commerce kids fishing derby.

Jackson-Pinedale Information and Education Specialist Mark Gocke gave a wildlife talk to kids at the Pinedale Children’s Discovery Center (Right), talked to teachers at the American Wilderness Leadership School and represented the Game & Fish on a field tour at an easement property in a major mule deer migration corridor near Fremont Lake.



Protecting Burrowing Owls

South Pinedale Game Warden Jordan Kraft assisted the non-game section with burrowing owl surveys in the Jonah Oil Field and assisted with signing to protect a pair of burrowing owls that nested near a busy road on the Mesa gas field.



Photos by Jordan Kraft



Pinedale Region Monthly Newsletter

July 2015

Bench Corral Gets a Makeover

The Pinedale Habitat & Access crew made several improvements to the road into Bench Corral elk feedground.



Installed 9 culverts on 4.2 miles of road



Reclaimed gravel pit and hauled and spread 952 yards of gravel on road surface. (3500 yards in 2014)



Installed cattle guard and gate on BLM allotment fence.



Following Fish

The Pinedale fish crew assisted former Pinedale Fish Technician Alex LeCheminant, who is now a University of Wyoming graduate student, with fin clipping and PIT tagging Colorado River cutthroat trout for his research project studying the movement dynamics of stocked fish.





Pinedale Region Monthly Newsletter

July 2015

Out at the Boulder Hatchery...

Boulder Rearing Station welcomed Matt Joki, who began his new assignment as the Boulder Fish Culturist. Matt transferred to Boulder from the Tensleep Hatchery. In July, personnel stocked 3,715 fish from Boulder to the Green River and also assisted with the helicopter stocking of area Wilderness lakes based out of the Daniel Fish Hatchery. Joe Gillis and Matt assisted Speas Hatchery personnel with Colorado River cutthroat stocking at Middle Piney Lake in the Wyoming Range. Boulder had 46 visitors during July.



BFH Crew Activities

The Brucellosis-Feedground-Habitat (BFH) crew was involved in a variety of activities including hauling a portable elk trap to the National Elk Refuge and erecting it in two days in preparation for captures this winter. BFH Biologist Jared Rogerson retrieved the last elk vaginal implant transmitter of 2015 from an

elk that calved on July 6th near the elbow of the Sawtooths in the Gros Ventre Range. BFH Supervisor Brandon Scurlock and his pointing dogs assisted South Jackson wildlife biologist Gary Fralick with the annual sage grouse brood surveys near Big Piney (Left).



Habitat Mitigation Work

Game and Fish Habitat Mitigation Biologist Dylan Bergman, working out of the Jonah Interagency Office (JIO) in Pinedale, helped develop wildlife friendly fence conversions on approximately eight miles of private property fences on Cottonwood Ranches. Bergman also developed and installed two flushing bars on tractors used for haying in order to reduce sage-grouse and songbird mortalities (Right). The JIO worked with the Upper Green River Basin Local Sage-grouse Working Group to develop several new projects including installation of water guzzlers and weed management in the Boulder Lake areas. Additional upcoming projects include fence marking, experimental fence modifications to reduce sage-grouse mortalities and a windmill removal from Bench Corral.





Pinedale Region Monthly Newsletter

July 2015

Behind the Badge

Jordan Kraft patrolled lakes and rivers in the district and issued six citations and four warnings. Violations detected included fishing without a license, violation of bear baiting regulations, operating an un-numbered boat, failure to purchase AIS decal, and failing to provide adequate number of life jackets.

One notable case involved a boater who was operating a motor boat with expired registration and no AIS decal. The boat operator claimed that he understood that he could operate without current registration as long as within 30 days from date of purchase on his bill of sale since he claimed to have just purchased the boat. Closer inspection of the notarized bill of sale showed that the man had falsified and changed the dates on the bill of sale. The man was cited for operating an unregistered boat and for failing to purchase an AIS decal.



Backcountry Angling

Pinedale Game Warden Jordan Kraft packed into the Middle Fork of Boulder Creek in the Wind River Range with Fish Biologist Darren Rhea and reported excellent compliance and good fishing reports from anglers.



Photos by Jordan Kraft. (Clockwise from left) 1) Dream Lake 2) a happy angler 3) Middle Fork of Boulder Creek Basin 4) Angler at Middle Fork Lake in the Wind River Range.