



Wyoming Game and Fish Department

Sheridan Region

October 2015 Newsletter

October Means Hunting in the Sheridan Region

Sheridan Region

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Regional Fisheries Supervisor:

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Clerical Specialists:

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Game Wardens:

Dayton: Dustin Shorma
Sheridan: Bruce Scigliano
Buffalo: Jim Seeman
Kaycee: Grant Gerharter
N. Gillette: Jackie Otto
S. Gillette: Dustin Kirsch
Moorcroft: J.D. Davis
Investigator: Scott Adell
Damage Tech: Joe Weyant

Public Information Specialist:

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Wildlife Biologists :

Wildlife Management Coordinator:
Lynn Jahnke
Sheridan: Tim Thomas
Buffalo: Dan Thiele
Gillette: Erika Peckham
Terrestrial Habitat: Todd Caltrider

PLPW Program Coordinator:

Troy Tobiasson

Fish Biologists:

Bill Bradshaw
Andrew Nikirk
Aquatic Habitat: Travis Cundy

Habitat and Access Coordinator:

Seth Roseberry

Aquatic Invasive Species:

Greg Downey

Story Fish Hatchery:

Superintendent: Steve Diekema
Senior Fish Culturist: Brad Hughes
Culturist: Jennifer Meineke

Sheridan Bird Farm:

Supervisor: Darrell Meineke
Biologist: Nate Brown
Technician: Kurt Heiser



Kevin Rodriguez (on left) and his son Konnor were successful early on October 1 with this great mule deer which had an outside spread of just over 31 inches.

Early October proved to be a great month for numerous successful big game hunters in the Sheridan Region. Wyoming residents and nonresidents alike enjoyed hunts with family and friends. Memories made during these hunts will last a lifetime.



Brothers Matthew (on left) and Cody (on right) Bower traveled from Michigan with their parents to hunt antelope in the Buffalo area.



Corey Peper, from Springfield, MO received a Wyoming deer and antelope hunt from his father for his 16th birthday. Peper's mule deer had an outside spread of 31 1/4 inches.



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Ft. Mackenzie Students Help Stock Fish in Mavrakis Pond



Story Hatchery Senior Fish Culturist Brad Hughes nets fish into a tub so Ft. Mackenzie students can carry them to the water.



Ft. Mackenzie Aquatic Biology students release golden trout and lake trout into Mavrakis Pond in Sheridan.

On October 26 students from the Fort Mackenzie High School Aquatic Biology class helped Game and Fish stock 275 golden trout and 21 lake trout into Mavrakis Pond in Sheridan. The fish were brood culls, fish that were no longer needed for spawning purposes at Story Fish Hatchery.

Finescale Dace Moved into Rehabilitated Habitat



Finescale dace were captured and moved upstream into a newly rehabilitated wetland habitat on Middle Redwater Creek.

In the September 2015 Sheridan Regional Newsletter, it was reported that a wetland in the headwaters of Middle Redwater Creek on the Black Hills National Forest had been rehabilitated to enhance habitat for finescale dace, a fish species of greatest conservation need. In October, Aquatic Habitat Biologist Travis Cundy and Fisheries Biologist Bill Bradshaw captured about 100 finescale dace downstream of the rehabilitated wetland and moved them into the newly created habitat.



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Hunting Season Marred by Violations

Buffalo

Buffalo Game Warden Jim Seeman indicated he saw numerous waste cases this year, including edible portions of meat being left on big game carcasses in the field or even whole animals left with only heads removed.

Gillette

South Gillette Game Warden Dustin Kirsch documented cases of waste of edible portions, wanton destruction, fail to tag, no conservation stamps, shooting from the road, trespass, over limits, wrong area, closed season, no hunter orange, wrong gender of animal, camping on state land, off road travel on state land, Walk-In Area violations, no evidence of sex, and littering.

Sheridan

Sheridan Game Warden Bruce Scigliano reported on a case that illustrates how teamwork between G&F Department personnel and the public can result in the detection of wildlife violations. A member of the public saw two teenagers shooting turkeys with a shotgun in an area open only to archery hunting near the Story Fish Hatchery and contacted hatchery personnel. When confronted by hatchery personnel the young couple had two turkeys in their possession. The boy claimed that both birds had been shot with a bow and denied that the girl had shot a gun. Hatchery personnel contacted Scigliano and reported what had happened, including giving him the license plate number of the vehicle the teenagers were driving.

Scigliano attempted to find the pair in the Story area, but was unsuccessful. However, he did find a turkey stuffed under a fallen tree limb where they had been observed shooting the turkeys. The license plate number revealed the vehicle was owned by a Gillette man, so Scigliano contacted South Gillette Game Warden Dustin Kirsch and asked him to watch for the vehicle. About an hour later Kirsch contacted the hunters on I-90, west of Gillette. After an extensive interview, Kirsch confirmed Scigliano's suspicions as the girl admitted that she had shot a shotgun at the turkeys, killing three. The boy tagged one of the turkeys, the girl tagged a second bird and the third turkey was hidden to conceal the over limit violation.

Kirsch had previous information that this same girl was involved in poaching activities southwest of Gillette. Further investigation not only confirmed this, but also led to evidence that that the girl had killed a deer without a license in 2014, south of Sheridan. Further investigation uncovered several other violations that had been committed by the boy's associates in Crook, Campbell and Johnson counties.

The girl was charged with Over-limit of Game Birds, Violation of Commission Regulations (using a firearm in a signed "Archery Only" area) and Waste of Game Birds. She was also cited for taking a Deer Without a License (stemming from the 2014 violation). The boy was cited for Transfer of License, Accessory to Over-limit and Waste of Game Birds. Investigation continues on the multitude of other violations.

Kaycee

Kaycee Game Warden Grant Gerharter and Buffalo Wildlife Biologist Dan Thiele patrolled a Walk-In Area southwest of Kaycee and discovered a couple violations. Hunters on the Walk-In Area had shot two antelope does and tagged the animals with white-tailed deer doe/fawn deer licenses. The subjects thought it was a bit funny to tag antelope with deer licenses, but their friend, who had hunted in Wyoming before, said it was OK, so they did it.



Buffalo Wildlife Biologist Dan Thiele (photo at right) checks white-tailed doe/fawn licenses that were placed on doe antelope.



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Injured Short-Eared Owl Rescued



Gillette Wildlife Biologist Erika Peckham responded to a call of a short-eared owl that had been stuck in a barbed wire fence south of Gillette. The owl had an injured wing, but was not losing blood. Ironside Bird Rescue in Cody was contacted and agreed to accept the owl. North Gillette Game Warden Jackie Otto was headed to the Cody area on personal business so the owl was transported to Ironside the day it was found. The owl's wing had to be amputated as it was severely damaged. Currently the owl is being used in Ironside's raptor education programs.

Hunters Witness Bull Elk Getting Gored to Death



The bull shown above was gored to death during a fight with another bull elk.

A group of hunters watching two bull elk fighting west of Kaycee witnessed something few people ever see. As they were watching the elk spar on an alfalfa field near the Barnum Road, one bull suddenly dropped dead. The hunters investigated and found the elk had been gored to death. The hunters notified Kaycee Game Warden Grant Gerharter. With the help of the hunters, Gerharter field dressed the elk and salvaged the meat. Gerharter indicated a tine from the other bull elk had penetrated one lung of the dead elk. The puncture wound resembled a bullet wound, but with less trauma.



The puncture wound (red arrow in above photo) resembled a bullet wound, but with less trauma.