



# Wyoming Game and Fish Department

## Sheridan Region

### September 2016 Newsletter



#### Sheridan Region

**Regional Wildlife Supervisor:**

Craig Smith

**Regional Fisheries Supervisor:**

Paul Mavrakis

**Office Managers:**

Lori Roe  
Kathy Boyles

**Clerical Specialists:**

Wendy Balkenbush  
Stephanie Bomar

**Game Wardens:**

Dayton: Dustin Shorma  
Sheridan: Bruce Scigliano  
Buffalo: Jim Seeman  
Kaycee: Cody Bish  
N. Gillette: Brooke Weaver  
S. Gillette: Dustin Kirsch  
Moorcroft: J.D. Davis  
Investigator: Daniel Beach  
Damage Tech: Cody Schoonover

**Public Information Specialist:**

Bud Stewart

**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  
Technician: Dan Thompson

**Fish Biologists:**

Bill Bradshaw  
Andrew Nikirk  
Aquatic Habitat: Travis Cundy

**Habitat and Access Coordinator:**

Seth Roseberry

**Aquatic Invasive Species:**

Mike Locatelli

**Story Fish Hatchery:**

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

**Sheridan Bird Farm:**

Supervisor: Darrell Meineke  
Biologist: Nate Brown  
Technician: Vacant

### Sheridan Region Has Booths at Local Events



*After stopping by the G&F booth at Sheridan's Third Thursday event to say "Hello", Senator Dave Kinskey (light blue shirt) visits with constituents.*



*Seth Roseberry, Sheridan Region Habitat and Access Coordinator, visits with a few of the people that stopped by the G&F booth at the Third Thursday event.*

During August, the Sheridan Region set up informational booths at three events: Sheridan's Third Thursday, the Wyoming Sportsman's Group Family Fun Day and Gillette's 125th Year Celebration. At these events Game and Fish personnel answered numerous questions relating to hunting season regulation changes, fishing and hunting access issues and many other wildlife related topics.



*Game & Fish booth set up (photo above) with furs and antlers/horns at the Wyoming Sportsman's Group Family Fun Day.*

*North Gillette Game Warden Brooke Weaver (photo below) helps a couple young ladies identify furs at Gillette's 125th Year Celebration.*





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### Fish Sampled at Outlaw Cave on the Middle Fork Powder River

The Sheridan Region Fish Management Crew sampled the Outlaw Cave survey station with electrofishing gear to monitor the fish population. The number of fish captured was 232, including 111 rainbow trout that ranged in size from 2.9 to 17.5 inches, and 121 brown trout that ranged in size from 3.0 to 20.1 inches.



### Game and Fish to Team Up With Forest Service to Monitor Willows



*Sheridan Region Aquatic Habitat Biologist Travis Cundy (in middle) discusses willow monitoring with Bighorn National Forest Range Conservationist Thad Barrett (on left) and Forest Service Technician Drew King (on right).*

Sheridan Region Aquatic Habitat Biologist Travis Cundy and Terrestrial Habitat Biologist Todd Caltrider assisted personnel from the Bighorn National Forest to establish willow live:dead index monitoring at existing willow use segregation monitoring sites in the Clear Creek and Crazy Woman Creek watersheds.

The Bighorn National Forest has initiated an intense willow monitoring program to get a better understanding of what type of animals are using willows as forage, when the heaviest use is occurring and how much browsing the willow communities are receiving.



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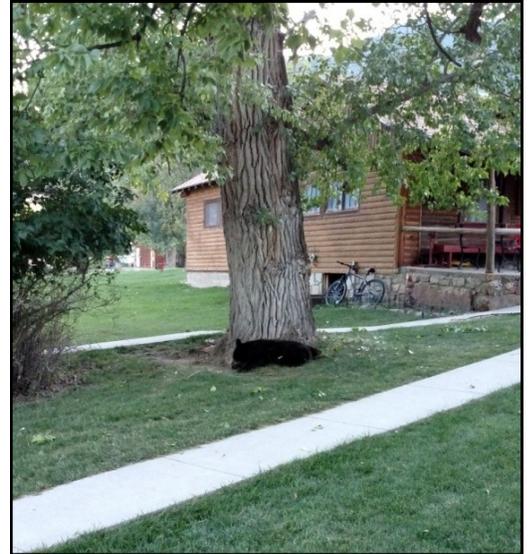
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### Cooperative Bear at Guest Ranch



*The young male bear in a cottonwood tree at Eaton's Guest Ranch. (photo at left).*

*After being administered immobilization drugs via a dart gun, the bear climbed down the tree and promptly went to sleep (photo at right).*



In late August, G&F received a report of a black bear at Eaton's Guest Ranch. Dayton Game Warden Dustin Shorma and Damage Technician Cody Schoonover responded and found a young male black bear in a cottonwood tree next to the guest ranch headquarters. Wildlife Biologist Tim Thomas was able to successfully administer immobilization drugs via a dart in the left rear thigh. The bear was very cooperative and voluntarily climbed down the tree just prior to going to sleep at the base of the tree. The bear was given a quick check up, watered down with a garden hose to cool off and loaded in a bear trap to spend the night. The next morning, the bear was relocated to a less populated location in the Bighorn Mountains.

### Cooperation Saves A Swift Fox Family

A pair of swift foxes dug a den at the Campbell County Airport (CCA) between the main taxiway and main runway and were roaming onto the runway. The CCA staff was legally allowed to lethally remove them due to safety issues, however, the staff knew swift fox are not abundant, so they wanted to try to live trap and



*Burrowing owl, an iconic prairie species that occurs on the Durham Buffalo Ranch. (Stan Harter photo)*

relocate the fox family to a safe location. The airport staff contacted Gillette Wildlife Biologist Erika Peckham and, with the cooperation of the airport staff, was able to live trap the adult pair of swift fox and their one pup. Peckham contacted the Durham Buffalo Ranch south of Gillette to obtain permission to relocate the swift fox family onto this large prairie habitat. The Durham Ranch was quite willing to be the destination for the relocated swift foxes. The swift foxes were released in a prairie dog town that contained another iconic prairie species, the burrowing owl. With the excellent cooperation of the Campbell Co. Airport staff and the Durham Buffalo Ranch, the swift foxes now roam a parcel of prairie habitat where they do not pose a threat to human safety.



*Two swift foxes in cages ready to be transported to the Durham Ranch.*



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### Pronghorn Classifications and Other Critters



Wildlife biologists and game wardens headed to the field in August to conduct the annual preseason pronghorn classification surveys. These surveys entail looking at a herd of pronghorn and classifying them as adult bucks, yearling bucks, does or fawns. The totals are then converted to herd ratios as the number of fawns observed for every 100 does observed and the number of bucks observed for every 100 does observed. The herd ratios enable managers to compare the annual survey results to prior year's results. In Hunt Areas 20, 21, 22, 102 and 113 nearly 6,100 pronghorn were classified. The fawn ratio averaged 84 fawns per 100 does indicating this year's fawn production and survival was very good. The ratio was down from 2015 when 90 fawns per 100 does were observed. The buck ratio averaged 79 bucks per 100 does indicating high buck numbers and older aged bucks in the population. A yearling buck ratio is also determined which provides an indication of how well the previous year's fawns survived the winter. The yearling buck ratio averaged 22 yearling bucks per 100 does reflecting the high 2015 fawn crop and high survival into 2016. In Hunt Areas 10, 15, 16 and 109 nearly 2,000 pronghorn were classified. The fawn to doe ratio averaged 63 this year compared to 75 in 2015, while the ratio of bucks per 100 does was 48 this year compared to 59 in 2015. The ratio of yearling bucks per 100 does was 15 this year compared to 22 in 2015. In Hunt Areas 1, 2, 3, 17, 18, 19, 23, 24, and that portion of Hunt Area 27 in the Sheridan Region nearly 8,000 pronghorn were classified. The fawn to doe ratio was 80 compared to 84 last year. The buck to doe ratio was 47 this year compared to 43 in 2015. The yearling buck to doe ratio was 18 this year, the same as a year ago. While some of the ratios vary from a year ago, pronghorn are doing well in northeast Wyoming.

While doing pronghorn classifications, biologists and wardens are on the lookout for other wildlife species, especially those that may not be commonly observed. Buffalo Game Warden Jim Seeman has a goal of documenting swift foxes during antelope classifications. Warden Seeman indicates he is usually successful in spotting a swift fox or two in an area south of Buffalo.

*A swift fox Buffalo Game Warden Jim Seeman saw through his spotting scope.*