



### Sheridan Region

#### Regional Wildlife Supervisor:

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#### Regional Fisheries Supervisor:

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#### Office Managers:

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#### 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  
Sheridan: Ryan Bagley  
Shieridan: Luke May  
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

#### 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

# Wyoming Game and Fish Department

## Sheridan Region

## February 2017 Newsletter



### Winter Hard on Wildlife in Sheridan Region

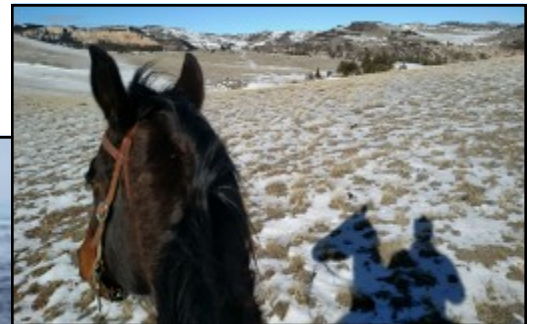


*Eight pronghorns hit by a vehicle when using a northern Campbell County road to avoid traveling in deep snow.*

Winter weather in the Sheridan Region is taking a toll on wildlife, especially big game species. December and January were very cold in north-central Wyoming. Sheridan had the 10th coldest December in the last 110 years and the coldest since 1992. The deepest and most persistent snow in the Bighorn Mountains appeared to be in the Sheridan and Dayton areas. Big game tried to move or migrate through crusty snow conditions. The Gillette, Buffalo and Kaycee areas received a limited number of big game mortality reports. In the Moorcroft area, where there were hard snow drifts, some deer mortality was reported, and antelope tried to migrate to areas with less snow. In the Sheridan and Dayton areas, deer mortality was on the rise, and elk moved away from some typical wintering areas. Wildlife managers are anticipating an impact on big game in specific areas of the region due to harsh winter conditions. *(Note: As this newsletter was being prepared in mid-February, a series of warmer days had reduced the snow cover, providing a reprieve for wildlife.)*



*The photo above, taken from a helicopter on January 27, while flying east down the Big Goose Creek drainage, shows snow cover as far as the eye can see in Sheridan County.*



*Areas near Kaycee (photo above) have not received heavy snows like areas further north in the Sheridan Region.*



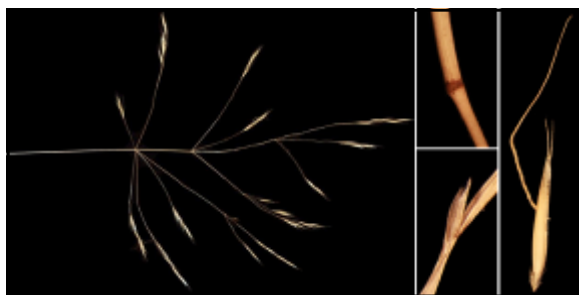
# Sheridan Region Monthly Newsletter

## February 2017

### New Invasive Grasses Discovered in Northeast Wyoming



*The photo above shows the Medusahead seed head on the left and plant parts on the right (photo courtesy UW Research & Extension Center).*



*The photo above shows the Ventanada seed head on the left and plant parts on the right (photo courtesy UW Research & Extension Center).*

Two new invasive grasses have been discovered in isolated areas in northeast Wyoming. Medusahead has been found in one area in Sheridan County and Ventanada has been identified in small areas in both Sheridan and Campbell Counties. These invasive grasses are extremely aggressive and can negatively affect rangelands by outcompeting desirable forage species and reducing forage by up to 70%. Rangeland managers have observed these two species out-competing and replacing cheatgrass.

Anyone seeking more information or suspecting they have observed these grasses, should contact their local county weed and pest district.

### Moose Survey Completed in Hunt Area 34

Buffalo Wildlife Biologist Dan Thiele recently conducted a winter moose survey in Hunt Area 34, west of Buffalo.

A total of 29 moose were counted and classified during this 2016-17 winter survey including 12 bulls, 14 cows and 3 calves. This compares to 24 moose in the 2015-16 survey and 33 moose in 2014-15 survey. The lower counts observed in recent years suggest the management goal to bring moose numbers to a level that is more compatible with willow habitats is being achieved. Some willow habitats are in poor condition, thereby providing reduced carrying capacity. The winter count is not a complete count of the population. Moose often occupy conifer habitat adjacent to willow habitats which makes them difficult or impossible to observe.

Survey results and other data will be used when setting the 2017 fall hunting season.



*A bull moose watches as the helicopter used to survey moose population trends flies overhead.*





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### Keyhole Reservoir Ice Fishing Derby



*Moorcroft Game Warden John Davis visits with an angler participating in the Keyhole Fishing Derby.*



*The majority of the fish caught during the fishing derby were crappie and yellow perch.*



Moorcroft Game Warden John Davis and North Gillette Game Warden Brooke Weaver checked ice anglers on Keyhole Reservoir that were participating in the Pine Haven Chamber of Commerce ice fishing derby. Most of the fish caught were crappie and yellow perch. The game wardens checked only a few walleye. Compliance with fishing regulations was 100%; game wardens recorded no violations.

The foggy day did not deter anglers, as young and older anglers alike, enjoyed the derby.



*Game Wardens Brooke Weaver (on left) and John Davis stop for a photo under a "fogbow" while checking anglers on Keyhole Reservoir.*



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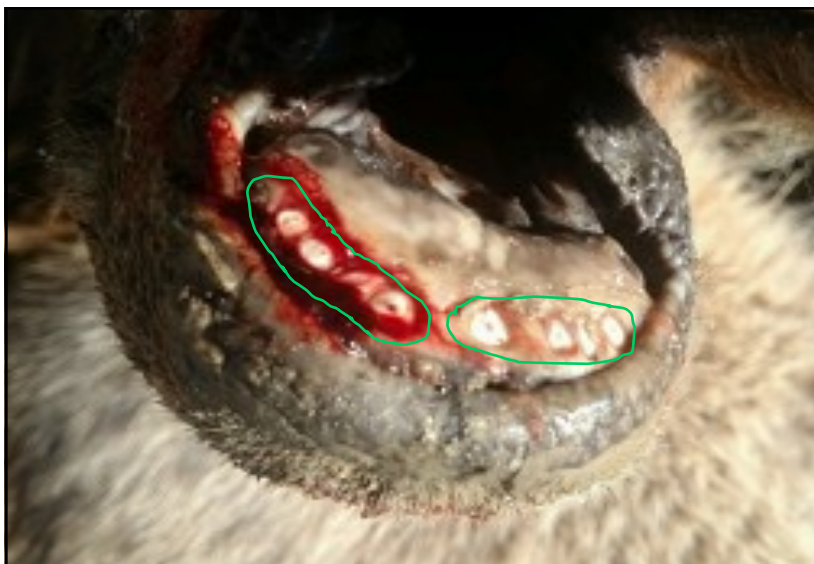
## February 2017

### Look What Was on the Bottom of Lake DeSmet

When Buffalo angler Rod Boldrey lowered his ice fishing camera into Lake DeSmet, he was not sure what he was seeing. After some adjustments he was able to capture the photo below; an old snow machine setting on the bottom in about 42 feet of water. Boldrey marked the location of the snow machine and in early February Johnson County Search and Rescue removed the snow machine from the lake. It is believed the snow machine sank in 1982.



### Was He Old Enough to Vote?



Kaycee Game Warden Cody Bish received a call about a sick bull elk. What Bish found was a very old bull elk that time had finally caught up with. The bull elk had incisors (green circles) that were practically below the gum line. It is unusual to see a cow elk with this much tooth wear, but very unusual to find a bull elk in a hunted population like the one Bish found.

Bish extracted teeth that he sent to the Wyoming Game and Fish Lab where they will be analyzed to determine the old bull's age.