

2008 Edition



Wyoming Game and Fish Department

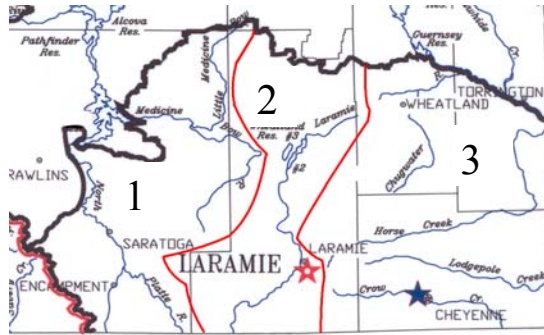


"Conserving Wildlife—Serving People"

Inside this issue:

<i>Eastern Plains and Laramie Range</i>	2
<i>Grayrocks Reservoir: future of walleye stocking</i>	3
<i>Laramie Plains and Snowy Range</i>	4
<i>Meeboer Lake aeration system and PLPW program</i>	5
<i>Splake management</i>	6
<i>Platte Valley and Sierra Madre</i>	7
<i>Encampment River study</i>	8-9
<i>New Bass Regulations and Pole Mountain Stocking</i>	10
<i>Community Fisheries</i>	11

The Laramie Region



Map of the Laramie Region indicating the three different management areas: (1) Platte Valley Sierra Madre Mountains, (2) Laramie Plains to the Snowy Range, (3) Eastern Plains to the Laramie Range.

New Regional changes to Fishing Regulations in effect for 2008-2009

Special points of interest:

- Wyoming's Free Fishing day is Saturday June 7, 2008!
- New 2008-2009 Fishing Regulations.
- Summary of last year's activities
- Interested in volunteering to help our fisheries management crew?
- Don't forget to pick up the 2008-2009 fishing regulations!

- Crow Creek, Dale Creek, Horse Creek and Lodgepole Creek Drainages on the Medicine Bow-Routt National Forest (Pole Mountain District) upstream from the forest boundary in Albany County. The creel limit on brook trout shall be six (6) per day or in possession.
- Encampment River, from Colorado-Wyoming State line downstream to Highway 230 at Riverside in Carbon County. The creel limit on trout shall be three (3) per day or in possession. No more than one (1) trout shall exceed sixteen (16) inches.
- Encampment River, from Highway 230 at Riverside downstream to its confluence with the North Platte River in Carbon County. The creel limit on trout shall be three (3) per day or in possession. No more than one (1) trout shall exceed sixteen (16) inches. Fishing is permitted by the use of artificial flies and lures only.
- Laramie River from Colorado-Wyoming State line downstream to its confluence with the North Platte River in Albany, Goshen and Platte counties. The creel limit on trout shall be three (3) per day or

in possession. No more than one (1) trout shall exceed sixteen (16) inches.

- North Platte River from Colorado-Wyoming State line downstream to the Saratoga Inn Bridge in Carbon County. The creel limit on trout shall be three (3) per day or in possession. No more than one (1) trout shall exceed sixteen (16) inches. Fishing is permitted by the use of artificial flies and lures only.

- North Platte River from the Saratoga Inn Bridge downstream to Seminoe Reservoir in Carbon County. The creel limit on trout shall be three (3) per day or in possession. No more than one (1) trout shall exceed sixteen (16) inches.

- New Bass Regulation on Absaraca Lake and Sloans Lake in Laramie County, Festo Lake, Grayrocks Reservoir, and Rock Lake in Platte County, Hawk Springs Reservoir and Packers Lake in Goshen County. All bass less than fifteen (15) inches shall be released to the water immediately.

Eastern Plains and Laramie Range

Wheatland Reservoir #1

This irrigation reservoir is operated by Wheatland Irrigation District. The reservoir is located about 7 miles southwest of the town of Wheatland on the Grange Road. Cottonwood trees on the south, east and west shores are a good place to set up camp. Fish species present are walleye, catfish, and some yellow perch. When Wheatland Reservoir #1 was sampled in 2004 the walleye and channel catfish exhibited poor body condition. Adult gizzard shad have been stocked annually since 2005 and have been successfully reproducing. The addition of young gizzard shad to the diets of walleye and channel catfish have improved their condition. In 2007, catfish averaged 16.6 inches and weighed 1.5 pounds. Walleye average length and weight was 15.5 inches and about 1.6 pounds. The length of walleye ranged from 11 to 23 inches. A detailed study of walleye and catfish age, growth and condition will continue until 2009. The Laramie Fisheries Management Crew will continue to stock 20,000 fingerling walleye and 2,500 channel catfish annually.



Young gizzard shad found inside Wheatland #1 channel catfish



East Kennedy Reservoir in the Laramie Range

East Kennedy Reservoir

East Kennedy is located in the Laramie Peak Wildlife Habitat Management Area (WHMA). This wildlife habitat area lies 15 miles south of Laramie Peak and 40 miles west of Wheatland where the Laramie Plains meet the southern end of the Laramie Range. Rainbow trout have been the species most commonly stocked. Rainbow trout up to 13 inches were caught in our gear in 2007. If the reservoir does not winter-kill, trout over 16 inches could be caught. Rainbow and cutthroat trout will be stocked in the future. Other trout fishing opportunities within the Laramie Peak WHMA are Duck Creek and Cherry Creek. There are private lands interspersed within the WHMA boundary, look for maps posted within the WHMA. Although there are no designated camping areas, camping is allowed. The Laramie Fish Management Crew will be installing a creel box to gauge angler catch statistics in 2008. Please fill out a creel card if you fish this water.

Grayrocks Reservoir: Status of walleye stocking program

Located just 14 miles east of Wheatland, Grayrocks Reservoir has been a popular fishing destination since it was filled in 1979. Anglers enjoy fishing for a number of species including black crappie, smallmouth bass, channel catfish, and walleye. An important management tool to maintain this fishery is fish stocking. The Laramie Fisheries Management Crew samples the reservoir annually. Data collected helps to determine population trends for each species, physical condition of fish, and average size of fish. Data may also be obtained on angler catch rates, harvest and satisfaction. All this information is used to make management decisions related to the management of the reservoir. Of particular importance is the evaluation of the fish stocking program. Wyoming's Fish Culture system does not produce warm or cool water species like walleye or catfish. These fish are obtained from other states or the Federal Hatchery System in trade for trout eggs from Wyoming's excellent disease free brood stocks. Grayrocks is stocked each year with 200,000 1-inch walleye and 6,500 5-inch channel catfish. It is difficult to determine the difference between stocked fish and fish from natural reproduction in the reservoir. Biologists have several tools to use in order to evaluate the success of fish stocking programs. Channel catfish stocked into Grayrocks Reservoir have their adipose fin clipped before stocking. Catfish will soon be large enough that when captured by anglers or biologists it will be easy to determine if the fish was stocked. This information will be used to evaluate the catfish stocking program. The walleye stocked into Grayrocks cannot be fin clipped because of their small size when stocked. These fish are marked using a chemical marker. Walleye fry at the hatchery are submerged in a solution of oxytetracycline (OTC) for a few minutes. The OTC stains a bone in the inner ear of

the fish called the otolith. When walleye are captured during netting operations the otolith is removed and later analyzed. In addition to the chemical marker that identifies stocked walleye rings on the otolith, like the rings on a tree, can be used to age individual fish. Walleye stocked into Grayrocks Reservoir have been marked with OTC

since 1999. Anglers are very interested in walleye from 15 to 19 inches in length. Walleye of these sizes are age 2, 3, and 4 year-old fish. Our analysis is that 78% of the walleye in Grayrocks Reservoir in this size range are stocked fish. Based on this research we have determined that natural reproduction in Grayrocks Reservoir is not sufficient to maintain walleye populations at desired levels and walleye stocking should continue. Grayrocks Reservoir has experienced very low water levels and associated habitat loss due to the severe drought for several years. Walleye populations will continue to be monitored and as water levels change we will continue to evaluate the need for stocked walleye and make management changes as necessary.



Grayrocks walleye



Brassy minnow

Meet your native fish

The brassy minnow is native to the Niobrara, Powder, North Platte, and South Platte River drainages in Wyoming. It is a small minnow that can reach a maximum length of 3.5 inches. Its color is dark on the top with a dorsal stripe. Its sides are silvery to yellowish and turn a brassy color in breeding males. Brassy minnows are found in small, clear streams. They prefer cover in the form of aquatic vegetation and pool habitat. Brassy minnow is an important prey species for a variety of birds, mammals, and fish. Conservation of this species within its native range in Wyoming is important to help maintain the diversity of native fishes in the state.

Laramie Plains and Snowy Range

Lake Hattie

Lake Hattie, constructed in 1912, is among the oldest and largest of the Laramie Plains Lakes. Bureau of Land Management land located at the southeast corner of the reservoir provides access for public recreation. Recreational developments consist of a rest room and boat ramps. Due to the current low water conditions, launching a boat can be difficult. Lake Hattie was sampled on April 10, 2007. Drought continues to affect the water level at Lake Hattie, it declined another two vertical feet from 2006. Kokanee were in excellent condition in 2007 and many were greater than 16 inches. The largest kokanee caught was 18.4 inches. Yellow perch continue to do very well and are a favorite target of ice anglers. Almost half of the yellow perch caught in our sampling gear were greater than 8 inches. One highlight was a brown trout collected that was 25.1 inches and 7.6 pounds. Anglers, another species was added to Lake Hattie in 2003, look for Bear River cutthroat on the end of your line.



Successful anglers at Lake Hattie

Laramie River

A population estimate was conducted at the Jelm Access Area, May 1-4, 2007. A total of 648 trout were collected, all were brown trout. The largest brown trout captured was 19.9 inches and 2.7 pounds. It is estimated there are about 1,512 trout/per mile in this section of the Laramie River. Brown trout are in excellent condition for

a wild population. The estimated number of trout per mile has varied little over the years. This section of the Laramie River presents an excellent opportunity for anglers to fish for wild brown trout around 10 inches in length, with the chance to catch a trophy fish. The Wyoming Game and Fish Department has about 4 river miles of public access at the Jelm Access Area above Woods Landing through easements, deeded land, and leases.



Laramie River brown

Little Laramie River

On October 3rd, 2007 a population estimate was conducted at the Little Laramie River (State Land section). A total of 242 brown trout and 3 rainbow trout were captured. The population estimate indicates there are 1,971 brown trout ≥ 6 inches per mile. The size of brown trout ranged from 3 to 23 inches with an average just under 9 inches. The State Land section is one of the only places with public access to the Little Laramie River off the National Forest.



Sampling the Little Laramie River

New aeration system at Meeboer Lake

Meeboer Lake was sampled in March 2007. It was suspected the lake had winterkilled, due to extreme winter conditions in 2006-2007. The bottled oxygen aeration system could not break through the thick ice cover to create open water. The water smelled of sulfur by February indicating a lack of oxygen. It was thought maybe the lake had sustained only a partial winterkill. Sampling with various gears, confirmed a complete winterkill of game fish had occurred. Only fathead minnows were caught. Meeboer Lake is stocked annually with 30,000 subcatchable rainbows and in 2007 it was stocked on April 3rd. Based on angler interviews conducted October 2007, rainbow trout stocked on April 3rd at about 7 inches had already grown to over 15 inches. A new solar aeration system was purchased and installed at Meeboer Lake on November 14, 2007. Based on winter monitoring the new solar aeration system outperformed the old bottled oxygen aeration system. Meeboer Lake was again sampled in April 2008 and rainbow trout averaging about 16 inches were caught, so some fish did overwinter. The Laramie Fisheries Management

Crew also operates a bottled oxygen aeration system at Gelatt Lake. Gelatt Lake also winterkilled in 2007. Gelatt Lake is also stocked annually with about 8,000 rainbow or cutthroat trout. In addition, brook trout will also be stocked annually at Gelatt Lake. Gelatt Lake was sampled in April 2008 and it appears there was another winterkill. Plans are in place to install a solar aeration system at Gelatt in the fall of 2008.



Meeboer Lake rainbow trout collected in April 2008

Private Lands/Public Wildlife (PLPW) Program

Several opportunities exist for anglers to take advantage of the excellent fishing on private properties through the Walk-In Area program under the Private Lands/Public Wildlife (PLPW) initiative. Under the program, the department leases access to private lands for a specific period of time for hunting certain species and/or fishing. Anglers are not required to seek permission from the landowner to access these areas as long as they are within the guidelines published in the current year's "Fishing Atlas". Anglers can find the current properties by picking up a 2008 *Walk-In Fishing Atlas* at any license agent or WGFD office, or by going to the PLPW website at: <http://gf.state.wy.us/wildlife/access/plpw/index.asp>. All Walk-In Areas have signs posted to mark their boundaries. People using PLPW properties in the Laramie Region are reminded to read the rules in the atlas and posted on the property, as well as treating the land and the landowner better than if it were their

own. Recently, a few incidents have resulted in the loss of access to excellent areas. **AccessYes!** is the funding mechanism for the department's access programs. When you purchase any hunting or fishing license in Wyoming, the license agent should ask if you would like to donate to the program. All donations made to the program are used strictly for securing access to private lands. When we each give a little, everyone gains a lot!



Splake: What is this fish and where is this fish

Splake are a hybrid cross between a brook trout male and a lake trout female. In Wyoming splake are produced at the Story Fish Hatchery and are the only hybrid fish produced in Wyoming. Splake are a sterile hybrid and their numbers can be controlled through stocking. Therefore they provide fisheries managers with an excellent tool to control other fish, because they are voracious predators. In the Laramie Region splake are used in several lakes to control brook trout numbers. Brook trout are very successful at reproducing and left unchecked through predation or angler harvest they can overpopulate a small lake and become small in size. Sucker species in the Laramie Region also are very successful at reproducing and can compete with trout for food resources, which is why splake are also used to control suckers numbers in several lakes. Splake can reach large sizes and are aggressive fighters making them excellent game fish. Stocking splake provides an additional species for anglers to pursue. They can be distinguished from brook trout by their deeply forked tail and from lake trout by the white border on the fins and tip of the tail. The current state record splake was caught from Libby Lake. This fish weighed 12.7 pounds and measured 30 ½ inches. Like lake trout, splake can live to be quite old and it is likely that the state record fish was nearly 30 years old.



Looking down at Lewis Lake

During the summer of 2007 Laramie Region Fisheries Biologists surveyed most of the lakes in the Snowy Range where splake are stocked. This work was done to evaluate the splake stocking program and determine if changes are necessary to their management. The average size of brook trout, size and abundance of splake and abundance of longnose suckers determine the

success of the splake management program. In the Brooklyn Lakes nice sized brook trout and splake were found. Splake seem to be controlling the longnose sucker population quite well. For lakes located so close to the road the size of brook trout in the Brooklyn Lakes is impressive.

Lewis Lake is stocked with splake that freely move down into Libby Lake. In both lakes brook trout up to 14 inches and splake to 18 inches were found. These



Mirror Lake splake

fish sizes are also impressive for lakes located at an elevation of 10,500 feet. Further up the Snowy Range highway are Mirror and Marie Lakes. These lakes receive heavy fishing pressure due to their proximity to the highway. The stocked trout are the primary fish caught here, but one very large splake was captured. North and South Carbon Twin Lakes are on the west side of the Snowy Range and each have very different fisheries. North Twin has nice sized wild brook trout, but splake are the only game fish present in South Twin. In South Twin splake are stocked to control an abundant sucker population. Turpin Creek Reservoir has an abundant brook trout population, but because it is kept in check through predation by splake the average size of brook trout is around 10 inches. Sand Lake continues to provide many challenges for the Laramie Fisheries Management Crew. The dam was repaired several years ago but the reservoir has not filled. Boat and angler access is very difficult. Longnose suckers dominate the fishery. Splake have been stocked for many years in order to control the longnose sucker population, but they do not seem to be keeping up.

Platte Valley and Sierra Madres



North Platte River brown trout

is one of several Game and Fish Access Areas. Others include Treasure Island, Foote, Sanger, and Rochelle. Check posted signs for a list of approved activities at each access area. You can purchase a North Platte River Float Map from the Game and Fish website (<https://gf.state.wy.us/ae/pc-55-31-upper-north-platte-river-float-map.aspx>).

North Platte River Pick Bridge Access Area

Each year a population estimate is obtained from one of five representative sections of the North Platte River, upstream from Seminole Reservoir. In 2007, the river section from the Pick Bridge Access Area downstream 4 river miles was sampled. The 2007 population estimate of trout larger than 6 inches was 1,173 fish per mile. Most of these trout were brown trout and the remainder were rainbow trout. Very few walleye were captured. The trout population estimate was much higher than the previous estimate obtained in 2003, a severe drought year. Both brown and rainbow trout averaged 10 inches and ranged from 5 to 20 inches in length. This river section is accessible from Highway 130 south of Saratoga. Follow the Game and Fish Access Area signs to the Pick Bridge Access Area. The Pick Bridge Access Area



*Sampling the North Platte River near the
Pick Bridge Access Area*



Emigrant Reservoir rainbow trout

Emigrant Reservoir

Emigrant Reservoir is located south of Rawlins on a Bureau of Land Management section of land. Rainbow trout have been the only species stocked in this reservoir since 1999. Rainbow trout up to almost 13 inches were caught in our sampling gear in August. Fishing for rainbow trout can at times be excellent. This reservoir is productive, however rainbow trout do not seem to be growing very large, although they are in excellent condition. Brown trout will be added to the reservoir in 2009 to take advantage of the large forage base of crayfish and minnows. It is expected that the brown trout will grow to large sizes, providing some trophy size fish for anglers.

Encampment River Research Project

The Encampment River originates in Colorado and flows northerly for approximately 24 miles within Wyoming where it enters the North Platte River. Nearly 10 miles of the Encampment River, once it crosses the Colorado state line and enters Wyoming, lie within the Encampment Wilderness Area established in 1984. The Encampment River is an important trout fishery and tributary to the North Platte River. In the upper North Platte River watershed, tributary streams are believed to be important to the long-term status of trout populations. Management for conditions in tributary watersheds that will improve trout movements, spawning, hatching success, and recruitment to the North Platte River is most important. Since about the early 1900s an irrigation diversion dam about a half-mile upstream from the confluence of the Encampment and North Platte rivers has been in place. Flows across the diversion dam range from >3,000 cfs during peak run-off to less than 20 cfs during peak irrigation periods in late summer. The diversion dam has most likely blocked migrating rainbow and brown trout from moving upstream the Encampment River from the North Platte River to spawn. Allowing passage upstream would open roughly 24 miles of the mainstem Encampment River in Wyoming, not to mention numerous tributaries. A fish ladder was installed in 1985 in the hope of allowing upstream movement of spawning trout over the diversion dam, but high spring flows in 1986 washed out the fish ladder and in October 1986 the fish ladder was filled in to



Encampment River Diversion Dam

prevent further structural damage to the diversion dam. This 1985 effort was probably one of the first attempts in Wyoming to facilitate upstream passage over a diversion dam, however, fish passage engineering was not as well

developed then as it is now. By once again providing trout passage over the diversion dam trout populations could benefit in both the Encampment and North Platte rivers. Adult trout successfully migrating upstream into the Encampment River could increase trout numbers in that system. Also, juvenile trout migrating downstream to the North Platte River could increase recruitment and trout abundance in the mainstem North Platte River. Before such a major undertaking to provide fish passage to the Encampment River it is necessary to collect some information on the potential benefits of providing fish passage upstream the Encampment River. In 2007, 237 brown trout were collected directly below the diversion dam, tagged with an orange Floy tag with a unique identification number near their dorsal fin, and released about a half-mile upstream of the diversion dam. The hope was that anglers would catch the tagged fish as they moved upstream the Encampment River and let us know when and where they caught the tagged fish. As of February 2008, three tagged brown trout have been caught and reported by anglers. One fish was caught near the confluence of the North Platte River and Encampment River. One fish was caught in the Baggot Rocks area of the Encampment River, about 1 mile from its release site. The third fish was caught downstream of the confluence of the Encampment River and Hog Park Creek, which is about 23 river miles upstream from its release site. Additional brown trout will be Floy tagged in 2008. Also, 15 brown trout will be radio tagged and their movements will be tracked throughout the summer and fall of 2008. The movement information will provide us with potential upstream migration barriers, final spawning locations, post-spawn downstream migration barriers, and final winter locations. This information will help determine how much of the Encampment River drainage would be used if fish passage over the diversion dam was restored.



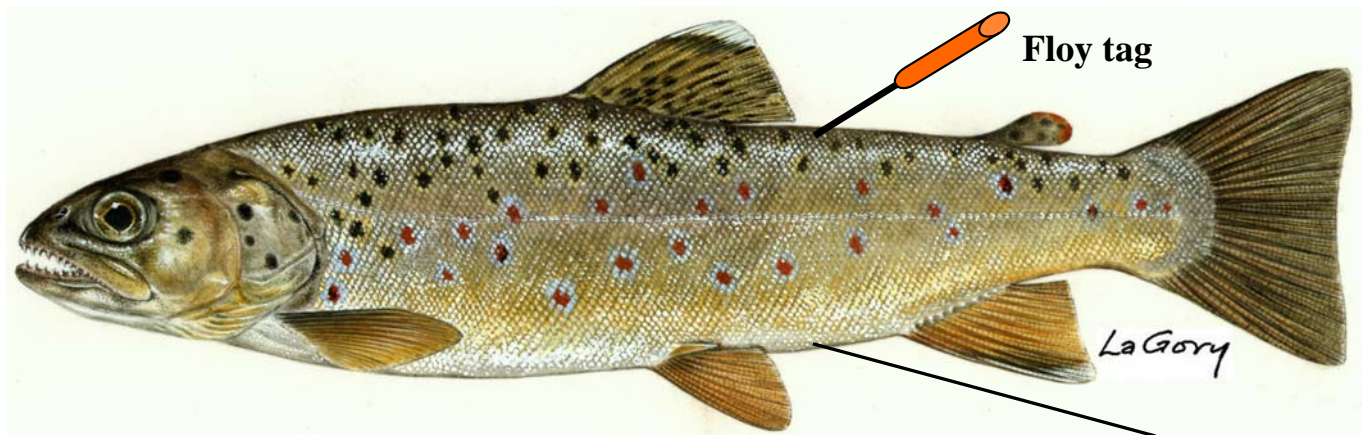
Floy tagged brown trout

!Attention Anglers!

Your participation is important to your future angling success

Please help determine trout spawning movements. The Wyoming Game and Fish Department is conducting a tagging study to learn about spawning movements of brown trout in the Encampment River drainage.

You are essential to the success of this study. Please inspect all brown trout for a Floy or radio tag. Floy tags are blaze orange in color and located directly behind the dorsal fin. Only the radio tag antennas are visible near the anal fin. **We encourage anglers to release radio tagged trout.**



Please do the following if you catch a Floy tagged brown trout:

- 1) If you plan to release the fish, record the Floy tag number and phone number to call; if you plan to harvest the fish, please clip the Floy tag from the fish.
- 2) Call (1-800-843-2352) and report the unique ID, location and date you caught the tagged fish.

Please do the following if you catch a Radio tagged brown trout:

- 1) Please note your location and date you caught the radio tagged fish and call the Wyoming Game & Fish Department with the information (1-800-843-2352).
- 2) We encourage you to release radio tagged fish, but if you do harvest a radio tagged fish, please call the number located on the radio tag within the fish's body cavity to report the location and date the fish was caught.

You can also mail the tag(s) to the Wyoming Game and Fish Department - 528 South Adams, Laramie, WY 82070. If you do mail the tag(s) remember to include the location and date you caught the fish.

The Department will contact anglers who report catching a tagged trout to discuss the trout's spawning movements

New Bass Regulations

Special bass regulations went into effect on January 1, 2008 on specific waters in the Laramie Region. The lakes where this special regulation applies are Lake Absarraca, Sloans Lake, Festo Lake, Packers Lake, Rock Lake, Grayrocks Reservoir and Hawk Springs Reservoir. The regulation specifies that all bass less than 15 inches must be released to the water immediately. The new regulation is designed to increase the size of bass available to anglers. Because of the Wyoming climate, bass are at the edge of the range where they grow well. Bass prefer water temperatures above 75°F and don't grow at temperatures less than 50°F. This makes for a very short growing season in Wyoming. When bass are able to grow large enough to prey on other species like green sunfish or yellow perch, bass can obtain a decent size. Without special regulations bass tend to be harvested before reaching a size to become an efficient predator. The average size of the fish species bass prey on can also increase when bass thin their numbers. The Laramie Fisheries Management Crew will follow the changes in bass numbers and size as well as the size and abundance of other species of fish. We expect changes in these populations will take several years.



Largemouth bass



Smallmouth bass

Pole Mountain Stocking



The Pole Mountain area, located between Cheyenne and Laramie, is dotted with hundreds of beaver ponds teeming with brook trout. These ponds offer fast action for anglers. Many of the streams in the Pole Mountain area do not have the habitat conducive to trout spawning. In order for these ponds to support high fishing pressure, they are stocked annually with 20,000 fingerling brook trout on the first Saturday in June. Effectively stocking hundreds of ponds scattered over thousands of acres is a labor intensive job, requiring a lot of people. To accomplish this, we solicit the help of dozens of volunteers. Volunteering for this project is a good way to find some new fishing holes and makes for a great family outing. The Travelle Chapter of the Izaak Walton League provides a BBQ lunch for volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering on this project, **Saturday, June 7, 2008**, contact us at the Laramie Regional Office, (307) 745-4046.



Community fisheries in the Laramie Region

There are many opportunities for anglers, young or old, to fish for a variety of fish species at waters within or near various communities in the Laramie Region. In this article we list only a few of the places that anglers can easily access from their front door. However, there are many water bodies within 20-30 miles of various communities within the Laramie Region such as Cheyenne, Laramie, Wheatland, and Medicine Bow that offer excellent fishing opportunities. Whether you ride your bike, drive your car, walk, or take a bus, you can make it to the places listed below, just remember your rod, bait, fishing license, and a current copy of the fishing regulations. Most important, is that you get out and explore some of these spots that might be just outside your backdoor. Remember that the Wyoming Free Fishing Day is on June 7th in 2008.

Lake Absarraca (Country Club)

Absarraca Lake is located within Frontier Park in the City of Cheyenne. It has a maximum depth of 16 feet and abundant aquatic vegetation provides good fish habitat for various species. Interstate 25 bisects the lake. The west portion is located on private land and is not accessible to the public, other than by boat. The east portion is located within Frontier Park and access is controlled by the City of Cheyenne, Parks and Recreation. Boats are allowed and there is a dirt and gravel boat ramp, however motors are prohibited. Currently, the lake is stocked with 5,000 catchable (8.5 inch) rainbow trout every spring. Also, when available, broodcull cutthroat trout (16-18 inches) are stocked in the spring. When water temperatures start to drop about 1,500 catchable rainbow trout are stocked in September every year. Other naturally reproducing game fish species present are largemouth bass, yellow perch, black crappie, bluegill, and pumpkinseed.

Sloans Lake

Sloans Lake is also located within Frontier Park in the City of Cheyenne. This lake has a maximum depth of 14 feet and all areas of the lake can be accessed by the public. Access is controlled by the City of Cheyenne, Parks and Recreation. Motorboats 15hp and under allowed. Currently, the lake is stocked with 2,500 catchable (8.5 inch) rainbow trout in the fall each year and about 200 broodcull rainbow or cutthroat trout (16-18 inches) in November. Other naturally reproducing game fish species present are largemouth bass, yellow perch, black crappie, bluegill, and pumpkinseed.

Huck Finn Pond

Huck Finn Pond is a youth fishing pond located within LaPrele Park in Laramie. It is currently unlawful for persons fourteen (14) years of age and older to fish at Huck Finn Pond. The ponds purpose is to provide a place for youth to fish and get hooked on fishing. The pond is stocked with catchable (8.5 inch) rainbow or catchable cutthroat trout. Huck Finn Pond is stocked with about 800 trout at five different times throughout the year from April to August.



Two young anglers pay close attention to their bobbers at Huck Finn Pond

Medicine Bow River

The Medicine Bow River starts in the Medicine Bow National Forest and then winds its way down to meander through the town of Elk Mountain. Every year about 500 catchable (8.5 inch) rainbow or cutthroat trout are stocked into the Medicine Bow River at the East Main Street Bridge in Elk Mountain. Please make sure that you are on public land or have permission to access private land while fishing the river.

Chugwater Creek

Chugwater Creek is a tributary of the Laramie River and flows through three counties in Wyoming (Albany, Laramie, and Platte). Near the town of Chugwater the creek flows just south and east of the town. There is a State Land section just east of town known as the Brown Ranch State Land section. The creek within this public access area is stocked every year with about 250 catchable (8.5 inch) rainbow trout in the spring (April-May). It is important to be aware of the State Land section boundaries.

Wyoming Game and Fish Department

Wyoming Game and Fish Department

Steve Gale and Lee McDonald

Regional Fisheries Biologists

528 South Adams

Laramie, Wyoming 82070

Phone: 307-745-4046

Fax: 307-745-8720

Email: steve.gale@wgf.state.wy.us

leland.mcdonald@wgf.state.wy.us

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

HTTP://GF.STATE.WY.US/

"Conserving Wildlife — Serving People"



The Wyoming Game and Fish E-newsletter is now available for those who want to keep up with developments on line. If you are interested in signing up, go to: <http://gf.state.wy.us/newsview/frmSubscribe.aspx>.

Mike Snigg has been on the Laramie Fisheries Management Crew since 1985. He was promoted in August of 2003 from regional fisheries biologist to regional fisheries supervisor. Mike has over 30 years with the Department. After obtaining his Bachelor's from Simpson College in Iowa, he worked for the Department for several years, and received his Master's from UW.

Steve Gale was hired as a regional fisheries biologist in June of 2005. He was raised in North Platte, Nebraska. Steve received his Bachelor's in Fisheries and Wildlife Management from the University of Nebraska in 2000. He completed his Master's in Fisheries Management from Montana State University in 2005.

Lee McDonald transferred to the regional fisheries biologist position from the Fish Culture Section in June 2006. Prior to this assignment he was Superintendent of the Como Bluff Fish Hatchery in Rock River, Wyoming. Lee has over 30 years with the Department. Lee came to Wyoming from Pueblo, Colorado in 1975. He received his BS in Fishery Science from Colorado State University in 1978.

Christina Barrineau was hired as the regional aquatic habitat biologist in August of 2004. She is originally from South Carolina and moved to Wyoming in 2000. Christina received her Bachelor of Science degree from Warren Wilson College in Asheville, North Carolina in 2000. She received a Master's in Zoology from the University of Wyoming in 2003.

FISH DIVISION MISSION STATEMENT

"As stewards of Wyoming's aquatic resources, we are committed to conservation and enhancement of all aquatic wildlife and their habitats for future generations through scientific resource management and informed public participation. We will use an integrated program of protection, regulation, propagation, restoration and control to provide diverse, quality fisheries resources and angling opportunities. Our efforts will balance the productive capacity of habitats with public desires."

Many Thanks to Newsletter Contributors: Steve Gale, Lee McDonald, Christina Barrineau, Mike Snigg, and Jason Sherwood. Color illustrations of game fish used in this newsletter provided by artist Michelle LaGory.



Mike Snigg



Lee McDonald



Christina Barrineau



Steve Gale