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U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Lander Fish & Wildlife Management Office

Restoring America's Fisheries.

Wyoming



"The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people."

Fish And Wildlife Management Assistance (FWMA); Who We Are?

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Fish and Wildlife Management Assistance (FWMA) program is comprised of 64 field stations nationwide. These field stations are known by many different names. They include Fishery Resources, Fish and Wildlife Management Assistance, Fish and Wildlife Offices, River Coordinators, and Marine Mammals Management.

The Fish and Wildlife Management Assistance program fills a vital role in restoring and maintaining the health of the Nation's fish and wildlife resources. The program functions like a general practitioner in the medical field: its biologists monitor the health of fish and wildlife resources, diagnose ailments, prescribe remedies, refer specific problems to specialists, and coordinate diverse efforts to restore and maintain health. The program helps avoid listing actions under the *Endangered Species Act*—or in other words, keeps the patient out of the intensive care unit. The American people benefit from healthier ecosystems and resulting increases in fishing and other recreational opportunities.



(Left) Little Milky Lake is one of the many lakes managed by Lander FWMAO in the Bull Lake Creek drainage of the Wind River range.

(Right) In 2001, an irrigation diversion was removed and replaced with cross vein boulder structures which provide the needed head to the irrigation diversion while providing stabilization to the stream and improved fish passage. Mill Creek, WY.

In the Mountain - Prairie Region FWMA activities focus on:

Native Fish & Wildlife Conservation- Conserving imperiled fish and aquatic species and wildlife – i.e. those in serious decline or listed under the *Endangered Species Act* – by planning, coordinating, implementing, and evaluating activities such as habitat restoration and captive propagation.



Left-ling/burbot : top - suager

Native American Tribal Assistance- Fulfilling trust responsibilities to Native American tribal governments on reservations and in ceded territories. Including managing fish and wildlife resources; restoring native species; recovering Threatened and endangered species; and restoring habitats.

Federal Lands Assistance -Assisting Federal land managers (e.g. Department of Defense) in fish and wildlife management on Federal lands and assisting National Wildlife Refuges in planning, managing, and restoring fisheries and aquatic resources.

Fish Passage - Restoring fish passage in streams where dams or other structures have obstructed access to habitats. This includes restoring flows.



Interjurisdictional Fisheries Assistance - Providing services to regional, and interstate, fishery commissions and other organizations for Service trust species.

Aquatic Nuisance Species - Increasing public awareness of invasive species; and providing technical assistance to control and prevent invasive species.

FWMA works closely with other Service programs, States, Tribes, and private entities to complement habitat restoration and other resource management strategies for maintaining healthy ecosystems that support healthy fisheries. The American people benefit from healthier ecosystems and resulting increases in fishing and other recreational opportunities.

Overall FWMA influences fish and wildlife management on 20 million acres on 19 reservations. FWMA benefit 7 listed species and 24 recreational fish and 22 wildlife species.

Lander Fish and Wildlife Management Assistance Office (FWMAO), Wyoming

The FWMAO located in Lander, WY, provided fishery assistance to the tribes since 1941. In 1972, at the request of the Shoshone and Arapaho Tribes and supported through congressional action, the office was enlarged to provide both fish and wildlife management assistance.

Today, the Lander FWMAO provides fish and wildlife management assistance to the Wind River Reservation and National Wildlife Refuges in Wyoming. The 2.2 million acre Wind River Reservation contains some of the most pristine mountainous areas in the lower 48 states with over 250 lakes and reservoirs and over 1100 miles of rivers and streams most of which provide some of the highest quality trout fisheries in the lower 48 states.

Wildlife resources include six big game species (elk, mule deer, whitetail deer, pronghorn antelope, bighorn sheep and moose), and two trophy species (mountain lion and bear), waterfowl, upland game bird and furbearers. Lander FWMAO provides population and management recommendations to the Tribes annually for their fish and wildlife codes.

Activities include Wind River water rights negotiations, habitat protection, wild and stocked fish population management, recommendations for fish and wildlife

regulations, big game transplants, fish stocking, stream, wetland and riparian habitat restoration and providing youth and adult education opportunities.

(Left) Elk populations in the Wind River and Owl Creek Mountain Ranges have steadily increased since the early 1980s. (Right) Cooperative efforts of the Shoshone and Arapaho Tribes, WYGF and the Lander FWMAO have transplanted Bighorn Sheep to historic ranges in the Wind River Reservation



How we Help Major FWMAO conservation projects are:

Fish passage and stream restoration on Mill Creek where 5 instream structures will be removed and instream fish habitat enhancements will be installed. Other fish passage projects on the Popo Agie and Little Wind Rivers are currently in planning and permitting stages.

Native Fish Conservation for Yellowstone cutthroat, burbot, and sauger are currently listed as species of concern within Wyoming. Two studies will quantify populations, migration routes and evaluate over habitat conditions to provide resource managers some answers to why these populations are declining.

Sage Grouse populations have declined by 50 to 80 percent throughout the intermountain west in the past 15 years. Currently the States and Federal agency resource managers are cooperatively working on mapping habitats and monitoring populations in an effort to identify possible problems and solutions for this species decline.



Other Conservation activities include

Big game habitat monitoring and restoration;
In stream flow negotiations for fish and wildlife;
Fishery Management Consultation on National Wildlife Refuges.

Partnerships Make it Happen

The Lander FWMAO operates closely with Shoshone and Arapaho Tribes, Wyoming Game and Fish Department, Bureau of Indian Affairs, USGS, BLM, U.S. FS, USBOR, EPA and other Service to assist in the management of wildlife resources within the state of Wyoming. In addition, many local civic groups and volunteer citizens are actively involved with the resource operations, education, and outreach.

The many dedicated partners and volunteers keep the Lander FWMA operating to bring recreational angling opportunities and healthy aquatic ecosystems to you, your family, and future generations.



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

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<http://mountain-prairie.fws.gov/fisheries>

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