



From the

## Meeteetse Conservation District

[www.meeteetse-conservery.net](http://www.meeteetse-conservery.net)

P.O. Box 237 • 1906 State Street • Meeteetse, WY 82433

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*District Conservationist:*

Rory Karhu

## STATE LEGISLATORS CALL FOR DELISTING OF GRIZZLY BEARS

State Senator Ogden Driskill, R- Devils Tower, along with several other State legislatures, is adamant that Grizzly bears in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem should not be listed as endangered and nor should management of the species be in the federal government's hands. A joint resolution calling for the swift delisting of the bears and the return of the species' management to the State of Wyoming is working its way through the 2019 legislative session, remaining alive through two readings in the House thus far. Legislators are also requesting full federal funding for management of the species until delisting occurs. The resolution is the latest in a series of efforts and counter efforts that arose in the past year after the bears were removed from the Endangered Species Act (ESA) in June 2018. The bears were delisted as a result of a series of research studies conducted by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologists, which reportedly indicated the Grizzly population in the GYE far exceeded the carrying capacity for the ecosystem. The delisting of the Grizzly was hailed as a major victory for the ESA, which had done what it was designed to do by bringing the Grizzly population in the GYE

from just more than 100 to nearly 700 in a few decades. Management of the species, for a time, was turned over to Wyoming and several other states that were located in the Grizzly's natural historic range. This fall, Wyoming was preparing for the first Grizzly hunt in 40 years, but it never happened. Federal Court Judge Dana Christensen in Montana overturned the decision to delist the bears and placed them under the protection of the ESA in September 2018. Christensen ruled that federal officials failed to apply the best available science during their research efforts, but his decision faced immediate scrutiny from several high-ranking officials, including former Wyoming Governor Matt Mead, U.S. Senator Mike Enzi and U.S. Representative Liz Cheney. Mead called out the ESA, offering Christensen's decision as evidence of the act failing to act in the manner its drafters intended. "Congress should modernize the ESA, so we can celebrate successes and focus our efforts on species in need," Mead had said. Enzi, too, spoke against Christensen's decision, saying that as Wyoming's Grizzly population has increased, so too has the danger to livestock, property, and people. "It is disappointing that the State of Wyoming and the (FWS) have once again seen their well-researched attempts to delist a recovered species struck down by a federal judge," Enzi concluded. Cheney, however, took action by introducing the Grizzly Bear State Management Act, directing the U.S. Department of the Interior to delist the GYE Grizzly population. Cheney stated that Christensen's decision was an abuse of the court system and that it disregarded "important work done by the State of Wyoming to establish an effective grizzly bear management plan." The Grizzly Bear State Management Act sought to prevent a similar situation from arising by blocking further judicial review of any decision to delist the GYE Grizzlies. No new updates on the act have yet been announced, with the latest action reported on September 25, when the act was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources. The joint resolution expressing support for delisting the Grizzly bear still has to pass a third reading in the House, after which the resolution will be moved into the senate. If it sustains three readings in the Senate the resolution will go before Governor Mark **COUNTY 17** Gordon to be signed into law.

## ICE FISHING IS HERE! USE CAUTION ON ANY ICE!

Welcome to 2019! We hope you enjoy your fishing, hunting and wildlife watching experiences. Please make sure you pick up a free copy of the 2019 Wyoming Fishing Regulations because there are new regulations which took affect January 1, 2019. Ice fishing can be a lot of fun for the whole family and we recommend never going alone. We also recommend against taking any vehicle onto the ice. Take along plenty of warm clothes to layer and make sure the ice is at least 4 inches thick and is clear/hard. Thicker ice is better and safer! Please use caution on any ice. Keep your children and pets away from unsafe ice. Have fun but keep it safe and warm!



## NITRATE POISONING

According to Alberta Agriculture and Forestry (AAF), nitrate poisoning occurs when less toxic nitrates ( $\text{NO}_3$ ) are converted to nitrites ( $\text{NO}_2$ ) by bacteria in the rumen. Nitrate then turns into ammonia, and excessive ammonia is absorbed into the blood and is then passed into the urine. This only occurs when the nitrate breakdown system is in balance with no surplus of nitrites. Nitrate poisoning only occurs when there is an excess level of nitrite in the rumen that cannot be converted fast enough by bacteria in the rumen. The excess nitrite will combine with hemoglobin to form methemoglobin. While hemoglobin can carry oxygen to body tissue, methemoglobin cannot. An increased level of methemoglobin will eventually cause oxygen starvation. Chronic nitrate poisoning can cause serious issues with symptoms ranging from decreased appetites to abortions in the first 100 days of pregnancy. Calves born with the condition are often born premature and typically die within the first 24 hours of birth or suffer from convulsions and seizures. Acute poisoning occurs much more rapidly and animals typically die within hours of birth or suffer from convulsions and seizures. Acute poisoning occurs much more rapidly and animals typically die within hours of ingesting a high nitrate feed. AAF reports animals are typically found in a lying position or dead before any signs can be observed. Excessive nitrate levels occur when plants are under stress attributed to extreme weather conditions such as drought or hot winds put plants under water stress and can increase nitrate production. Damage caused by hail or frost can inhibit photosynthesis and also cause excess nitrates. AAF encourages producers to test their feed to ensure quality and remove any doubt surrounding the possibility of nitrate poisoning.



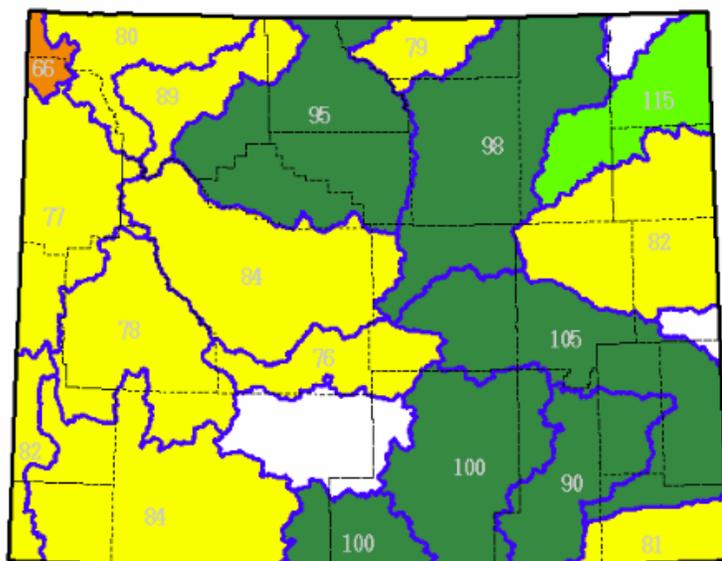
## LICENSE CHANGE HELPS ANGLERS, SMALL GAME HUNTERS HEAD AFIELD YEAR-ROUND

In a season packed full of resolutions, you can rest a little easier this year. Now, no matter when you buy a fishing, small game, game bird or furbearers license as well as conservation stamp, it will be valid for 12 months from the purchase date. This gives you a whole year to enjoy recreation and wildlife no matter when you buy your licenses. “This change gives you a longer opportunity to fish and hunt with the same license,” said Jennifer Doering, Wyoming Game and Fish Department license section manager. “For example, if you buy a fishing license on July 4, you can fish through July 4 of the next year, instead of our previous system where the license was only good through the calendar year.” With these new changes, expiration dates for license and stamps will be printed on the licenses to easily keep track of when you need to purchase next. And, if you renew early, the start date for the new license will begin the day after your current license expires. An exception to this change is fishing privileges for non-resident elk hunters with full price licenses; those licenses are valid for the calendar year of the elk hunting license. The 12-month license is one of several new licensing changes that benefit hunters and anglers. In 2017, Game and Fish offered, thanks to the Wyoming Legislature, a new five-day fishing license for nonresidents. Also, game wardens checking licenses started accepting electronic versions of fishing licenses, small game, bird licenses and conservation stamps on mobile devices as proof in the field.



Snow Water Equivalent 1/18/19

**SWE:** *Is the amount of water contained within the snowpack*



## REMINDERS & UPDATES

**WESTI Ag Days**  
February 12-13 in Worland

**NEXT MCD BOARD MEETING**  
**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13<sup>TH</sup>**  
**1:00 P.M. 1906 STATE STREET**  
**MEETEETSE**  
**~PUBLIC IS WELCOME~**

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