



Trail News

November 8th, 2019

From the

Meeteetse Conservation District

www.meeteetse-conservey.net

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

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CWD FOUND IN A NEW DEER HUNT AREA IN NORTHERN WYOMING

The Wyoming Game and Fish Department confirmed that several deer tested positive for chronic wasting disease (CWD) in Deer Hunt Area 105. The positive tests come from hunter-harvested mule deer and white-tailed bucks and road-killed mule deer. All positive deer were located north and northeast of Clark in the Badger Basin and Big Sand Coulee areas. The deer were harvested in early November. Deer Hunt Area 105 is one of the areas with increased CWD monitoring this hunting season. Game and Fish aimed to collect samples from at least 200 adult mule deer bucks from both the Clarks Fork the Shoshone deer herds. Continued monitoring of CWD over time is important to understand the potential impacts of the disease as well as evaluate future management actions. To ensure that hunters are informed, Game and Fish announces when CWD is found in a new hunt area. The Centers for Disease Control recommends hunters do not consume any animal that is obviously ill or tests positive for CWD. A map of [CWD endemic areas](#) is available on the Game and Fish website. The disease is fatal to deer, elk and moose. The Game and Fish is concerned about CWD and how it may affect the future of Wyoming's wildlife. The department is currently [working to update](#)

[its CWD management plan](#) through a collaborative public process. In 2018, Game and Fish personnel tested 5,280 CWD samples during the hunting seasons; a significant increase from past years, and continues to evaluate new recommendations for trying to manage the disease. Over 3,000 samples have been tested so far this hunting season. Please visit the Game and Fish website for [more information on chronic wasting disease transmission and regulations on transportation and disposal of carcasses](#).



ANTITRUST LAWSUIT FILED

Four major U.S. beef companies controlling 80 percent of the nation's beef at wholesale are being accused of antitrust violations since 2015 by a California-based beef products distributor. Pacific Agri-Products Inc. accused Cargill Inc., JBS USA, National Beef Packing and Tyson Foods, among others, of allegedly conspiring to control beef prices in a lawsuit filed Oct. 16 in a federal court in Minnesota. The suit in the Eighth district court for the District of Minnesota claims the defendants "Publicly signaled" their collective intent to reduce slaughter volumes by closing or idling beef processing plants or by halting expansion plans and that the moves artificially pushed beef prices higher as supplies were subsequently reduced. Other companies named in the latest filing – which came on the heels of other litigation accusing beef processors of manipulating prices – include Swift Beef Co. and Marfrig Global Foods. It's the first legal action by distributors against large U.S. beef processors and echoes similar, separate accusations filed against chicken and pork processors in the last year.



SHELTER AND BEDDING FOR CATTLE GRAZING IN WINTER

If you're thinking about leaving your cattle out to graze this winter, you might be wondering what kind of shelter they'll need to protect them from the cold, wind and snow. You have a lot of options, as the ranchers in this [5:00 minute video](#) from Alberta Agriculture and Forestry demonstrate. Some ranchers have found that their cattle don't use shelters much, others put up movable fence shelters, or snow fence. You'll even see how you can lay out your bales to provide all the windbreak the cattle will need. We hope it will get you thinking creatively about what you can do on your own place. This video is part of a series showing how Alberta ranchers approach winter grazing. We're sharing some of the videos this fall to help you think about how this might work for you too, and to learn from some old hands at the practice. If you're ready for more, [head here to check out the whole video series](#).

On Pasture

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OFFICIAL GRIZZLY BEAR POPULATION ESTIMATE UP SLIGHTLY

When an expert on grizzly bears broke the news last week that there are now officially 728 of the bruins in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem — up from 714 last year — not even he believed what he was saying told the full story. Population estimates are derived using a conservative method known as Chao 2. How conservative is the count? Many stakeholders have suggested there may be as many as 1,100 to 1,200 grizzlies in the ecosystem, but state and federal officials aren't willing to make a guess. What they will say is that conflicts are rising at an alarming rate due to population densities maxing out inside core habitat in and around Yellowstone National Park known as the demographic monitoring area (DMA). Grizzlies are territorial by nature, which forces them to spread out in search of suitable habitat as populations increase, Interagency Grizzly Bear Study Team leader Frank T. van Manen said at a Yellowstone Ecosystem Subcommittee meeting in Cody last week. More grizzlies are moving outside the DMA in search of their own piece of ground every year. Unfortunately, their expansion often means they end up in harm's way, van Manen said. So far in 2019, nine grizzlies have been euthanized inside the DMA to manage conflicts with another 11 put down outside the DMA. The figure is well below last year's pace, when a record 32 grizzly bears were lethally removed in Wyoming. While this may have been a better year for the federally protected species, conflicts are still a top concern, as grizzlies account for the vast majority of all predator conflicts. It was the main topic of the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee's Yellowstone Ecosystem Subcommittee stop in Cody last week. The meeting was set up differently this year, hoping to develop new ideas on how to decrease conflicts with the help of stakeholder input including the general public. Members of the public were invited to attend the meeting alongside subcommittee members, which included representatives from state and federal agencies with expertise on grizzly management. **A different way of counting?** When grizzlies were delisted in 2017, Chao 2 estimates were used in arguing for the change and setting future mortality limits. At the time, even talking about changing count methods would have been difficult, slowing the species' move off the endangered species list. Now that grizzlies are protected again, it may be easier to advocate for an official change in count methods, van Manen said. However, regardless of the political environment and lawsuits, he's never stopped his efforts to find the perfect combination of variables to more accurately estimate bear populations. A new proposal for counting will be rolled out next spring, van Manen said, and adopting the new method will take more time.

POWELL TRIBUNE

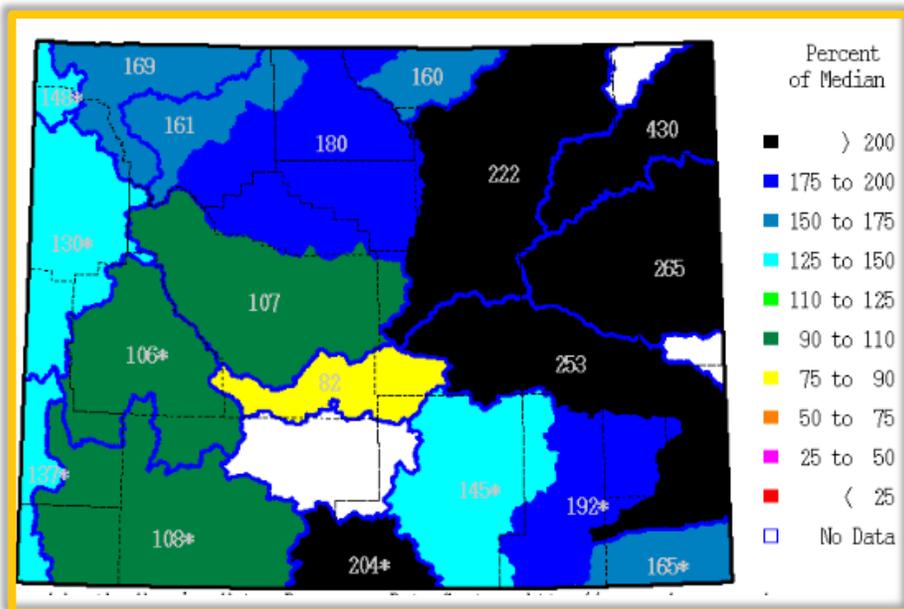
LOHR HEADLINES WACD CONVENTION

Matt Lohr, chief of the United State Department of Agriculture Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) will provide the keynote address at the Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts 74th annual convention. Lohr serves as the 16th chief of the agency and provides leadership for NRCS and its mission to support America's farmers, ranchers and forest landowners in their voluntary conservation efforts. The Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts (WACD) annual convention will be held Nov. 13-15 in Buffalo. "We are thrilled to be in Buffalo this year. We have never held convention in Buffalo and the community has been very welcoming. We are very excited and honored to have the NRCS Chief and the Governor join us during the conference," said Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts Executive Director Bobbie Frank.



PUBLICATION RELEASED

A new publication detailing the ecology and management of prairie dogs in Wyoming is available from the University of Wyoming Extension. Prairie Dog Ecology and Management in Wyoming, B-1346, presents a comprehensive assessment of prairie dogs and their distribution and populations, social behavior, influence of sylvatic plague, competition with livestock for



forage resources, role in structure, function and composition of rangeland ecosystems and management options available to land managers. The bulletin is available in pdf, HTML or ePub formats by going to uwyo.edu/uwe/index.html and clicking the Find a Publication button. Type in the bulletin title or number in the Search Publications field to access.



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