

# WYOMING GAME AND FISH NEWS

Contact: Jared Rogerson (307) 367-4353  
Chris Colligan (307) 733-2321

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## **Grazing allowed on Half Moon WHMA**

Pinedale – For the first time since the mid 1990’s, the Wyoming Game and Fish Department is allowing grazing for up to 120 cow calf pairs on the Half Moon Wildlife Habitat Management Area (WHMA) east of Pinedale. The grazing will take place until September 15<sup>th</sup> as part of a rotation to rest a Bridger Teton National Forest grazing allotment near Soda Lake. The Soda Lake allotment is scheduled to be burned this fall, as part of a prescribed fire habitat improvement.

Habitat improvements such as this are an important tool for wildlife managers to improve habitat crucial for wildlife. The area surrounding Soda Lake is important transitional, calving, and winter range for elk.

The nutritional regrowth after fire is attractive to elk and may reduce the amount of time the animals spend on feedgrounds. This in turn, decreases potential disease transmission from density dependent diseases such as brucellosis.

Grazing cattle on WHMA’s can also be beneficial to wildlife. “Grazing stimulates new growth in grasses and reduces competition for important shrubs like bitterbrush and sagebrush,” says Jared Rogerson, Game & Fish Brucellosis Habitat Feedground Biologist. “If managed

### **Information and Education Services**

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Jackson Regional Office  
360 N. Cache, P.O. Box 67 • Jackson, Wyoming 83001  
Fax (307) 733-2276 • Web site: <http://gf.state.wy.us>

properly it's another tool that can be used to improve habitat for wildlife, just like prescribed fire.”