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WENBERT RETIRES FROM GAME AND FISH

GREEN RIVER— After working 36 years as a fisheries biologist with the Wyoming Game & Fish Department, Green River resident Bill Wengert is retiring. But, not from fishing; just the management!

Colleagues and friends said their farewells to Wengert at a December retirement ceremony held in Green River at the *Crazy Moose*. Wengert, a productive fixture in the Green River Region of the Game and Fish since 1977, ended his career as dedicated now as he was more than 30 years ago.

Wengert's skill and passion overseeing Wyoming's most high profile fishery – Flaming Gorge Reservoir earned him the department's 2005 Fish Division Employee of the Year Award. The Game and Fish veteran was also recognized for his efforts restoring Colorado River cutthroat trout in the Sierra Madre Mountains of south-central Wyoming. Wengert also received the Wyoming Wildlife Federation's Natural Resources Conservationist of the Year award twice, in 1988 and 1999.

Wengert was born and raised in Hamburg, Pa, where he graduated from Hamburg Area High School in 1964. His higher education began with an Associate's Degree in Wildlife Management from Casper College. In the summer of 1969, he worked as a seasonal fisheries biologist for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game on Kodiak Island. Wengert earned a Bachelor's Degree in Fisheries Biology from Colorado State University in 1970 and a Master's Degree in Fisheries Biology from Louisiana State University in 1973.

Wengert began his Game and Fish career as a seasonal fisheries biologist in Jackson. In October 1974, he started his permanent service as a federal aid administrator in Cheyenne. He was promoted to his current position of fisheries biologist in Green River in April 1977.

Throughout his career, Wengert has continued to maintain a positive, productive working relationship with the Utah Department of Wildlife Resources, through the joint management of

Flaming Gorge Reservoir. When ice-fishing season rolled around, Wengert, an avid angler himself, was a featured guest on *Outdoors with Doug Miller*.

Wengert was a member of the American Fisheries Society and the Wyoming Public Employee's Association.

"What a wonderful, satisfying career I have had with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department," Wengert said. "I have had the opportunity to work with some of the best fisheries biologists found anywhere. People who truly care about the fisheries resources of the State of Wyoming."

"But, I think the most satisfying part of my job was serving the anglers of Sweetwater and Carbon Counties. These anglers are among the most dedicated people one could work for. They are passionate and very knowledgeable of their fishery resources. It has been a pleasure to manage their fishery resources over the years and I will always treasure the moments I have had both on the waters of Flaming Gorge Reservoir and at public meetings trying to represent their interests. Now, it's time to do some serious fishing. See you all out there."

Wengert and his wife, Lyn, have two children, Katie and Michael and a trusty canine companion named "Daisy". He plans to fish, hunt, camp, garden and travel in his retirement.

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