People and wildlife have habitat needs. People and wildlife use the same air, water, soil, plants, space, and solar energy. Each living species has unique habitat requirements – some can live in a wide array of habitats and are called “generalists,” while others have very specific or narrow habitat requirements and are called “specialists.” Unlike other living things, people can occupy almost any habitat found on earth. When people occupy areas used by wildlife, they can and often do compete for resources such as food, shelter, water, or space with wildlife.

Wyoming has about 600 species of birds, mammals, fish, amphibians, mollusks, and crustaceans. These species occupy virtually every nook and cranny found in Wyoming’s aquatic and terrestrial environment. Wildlife management and wildlife stewardship is the practice of conserving habitat and populations of wildlife, as well as helping people better coexist and share habitat with wildlife. Wildlife management is an important part of environmental conservation, helping people coexist with wildlife and its broad array of habitats.

Education and communications outreach will play an increasing and expanding role in wildlife management for several reasons; perhaps the greatest reasons are that society will no longer accept management through legislative or court mandate as the major way of resolving problems, and that as human populations increase they place greater demand on finite natural resources and space, increasing competition. Because of this, as well as economy, the emphasis will change to grassroots problem solving of environmental conflicts. This means people will have to communicate, build trust, share ideas and learn from each other, resolve problems, and set goals that are more beneficial to all interests. This means that our thrust in wildlife education is changing with an emphasis on providing life-long learning opportunities which includes the following:

- Learning and action in the concepts and techniques of wildlife stewardship and human behaviors important to positive coexistence with wildlife;
- Learning the skills and ethics associated with recreational activities in the outdoors;
- Learning and nurturing ethical conduct of hunters, anglers, and all wildlife enthusiasts for the purpose of recruiting responsible wildlife conservation supporters while improving their land ethics and stewardship behaviors;
- Providing learning, viewing, and participation opportunities to all wildlife enthusiasts;
- Resolving wildlife conflicts to achieve mutually beneficial solutions based on good natural resource stewardship concepts.

So what education programs and facilities does the Wyoming Game and Fish Department offer to teachers and citizens to meet the needs of wildlife, a changing human society, and a changing landscape?
Available Resources from the Wyoming Game and Fish Department

The following resources are available for your use in your classroom or other educational activity. Contact your Regional Game and Fish Office or the Education Services Branch in Cheyenne for more information on any activities, to check out or receive the items mentioned below, or to request Game and Fish personnel to do programs on various wildlife-related subjects. Some items may not be available in all regions; call to find out availability.

Directory of WGFD Information and Education Personnel

Cheyenne Headquarters- 5400 Bishop Blvd., Cheyenne, WY 82006

Education Staff
Conservation Education Supervisor: 777-4542
Conservation Education and Project WILD Coordinator: 777-4552
Hunter and Outdoor Skills Education Coordinator: 777-4531
Outdoor Recreation Education Opportunities (O.R.E.O.) Coordinator: 777-4536
Aquatic Education Coordinator: 233-6404
Education Secretary: 777-4538

Publications and Information
Information Manager: 777-4547
Magazine Editor: 777-4544
News Editor: 777-4547
Publications Specialist: 777-4537
Graphic Designer. 777-4629
Customer Service Supervisor: 777-4621
Information Specialist: 777-4532

Regional Information & Education Offices
Jackson Region Specialist: 733-2321; 420 Cache, Jackson, WY 83001
Cody Region Specialist: 527-7125; 2820 State Hwy 120, Cody, WY 82414
Sheridan Region Specialist: 672-7418; 700 Valley View, Sheridan, WY 82801
Green River Region Specialist: 875-3223; 351 Astle, Green River, WY 82935
Lander Region Specialist: 332-2688; 260 Buena Vista, Lander, WY 82520
Casper Region Specialist: 473-3409; 3030 Energy Lane, Suite 100, Casper, WY 82604
Laramie Region Specialist: 745-4046; 528 S. Adams, Laramie, WY 82070

Wildlife Education Publications
These publications are available, free-of-charge in classroom quantities.

Beating Brucellosis
Chronic Wasting Disease
Tropical Connections: Wyoming’s Migratory Birds
Wing and Talon Wyoming’s Eagles and Hawks
Wyoming Big Game Mammals
Wyoming Fishing Guide
Wyoming Mammal Checklist

Building with Fire
Antelope
Whirling Disease
Wildscape
Wyoming Bird Checklist
Wyoming Game Birds
Wyoming’s Wild Turkeys

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Publications Available for Purchase

Access to Wyoming’s Wildlife
The Ferret
The First Century: A Hundred Years of Wildlife Conservation in Wyoming
Fishes of Wyoming
Furbearers of Wyoming
History of Wildlife Management
Law Book
Rocky Mountain Wildflowers
Western Birds
Wyoming Stream Names
Wyoming Wildlife Viewing Tour Guide

Department Tabloids and Periodicals

Wyoming Wildlife News – a free-of-charge newspaper distributed to Wyoming’s newsstands
Wyoming Wildlife Magazine – a monthly subscription publication

Education Resources Available for Loan

Wildlife Trunks – These trunks contain a variety of information including books, videos, posters, and other hands-on activities for use in your classroom that help teach about each topic. Call your Regional Information & Education Specialist for availability.

Aquatic Habitats and Fish
Bats
Bears
Elk
Migratory Birds
Turkeys
Wolf

Stream Trailers - These trailers quickly and easily show how streams are formed, changes that occur over time, erosion, channelization, and how man-made and natural disturbances affect streams. A detailed curriculum accompanies the trailer and helps teachers easily demonstrate various concepts. Contact your Regional Information & Education Specialist to inquire about checking out a stream trailer.

Furs / Tracks / Skulls / Scat - A variety of Wyoming species are represented through their scat, fur, tracks, and skulls. These items can be used in conjunction with an education trunk or can stand alone. Teachers can use these items to discuss animal adaptations, diversity, and habitat/dietary needs.

Videos - Various wildlife subjects are available at the Cheyenne office. Contact the Education Secretary at 777-4538 for more information.

Education Programs

Project WILD and Aquatic WILD - These workshops provide teachers with a full repertoire of hands-on activities for learning about concepts of wildlife conservation. Teacher workshops are six hours long and participants receive both Project WILD and Aquatic WILD books, as well as

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participating in several activities to understand how they are set up and how they can be used in the classroom or the outdoors. Workshops are available upon request for elementary and secondary teachers, youth leaders, 4-H leaders, counselors, nature center personnel, and anyone who works with youth. To arrange for a workshop, contact your Regional Information & Education Specialist or the Conservation Education & Project WILD Coordinator at 777-4552.

**WILD about O.R.E.O. Youth Conservation Camp** – Annually, the Department conducts a five-day conservation camp for youth (15-18 years). The camp is designed to teach youth about a variety of outdoor recreation and skills, promote ethical land use and stewardship, and to acquaint them with careers in Conservation. Applications are available March 1st and attendee selection is made in April and May. For more information, call the Education Services Branch in Cheyenne, 777-4538.

**Hunter and Outdoor Skills Education** - More than 400 volunteer instructors conduct classes to certify over 5,000 students each year in Hunter Education. State Law requires Hunter Education for anyone born on or after January 1, 1966. The course is presently offered in a number of schools and we would be pleased to add more schools to the list. An alternative method of course delivery is available over the Internet. Take a look at our Website, [http://gf.state.wy.us](http://gf.state.wy.us) for information on the course, or call the Hunter Education and Outdoor Skills Education Coordinator, at 777-4531.

**Outdoor Recreation Education Opportunities (O.R.E.O.)** - The O.R.E.O. curriculum provides the framework for teaching over fifteen introductory outdoor skills areas and the ethical behavior for using those skills. A WILD about O.R.E.O. Camp (combination of Project WILD and O.R.E.O.) is held each summer for teachers and youth leaders interested in integrating these programs into physical education, outdoor living, other academic areas, and extracurricular programs. For more information, contact the O.R.E.O. Coordinator, at 777-4536.

**Becoming an Outdoors Woman (BOW)** - This program is a three-day hands-on workshop that introduces women to outdoor skills, including hunting, fishing, camping, canoeing, backpacking, campfire cooking, and wildlife watching, just to name a few. Each year a workshop is held for 50 women with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department personnel and volunteer instructors. A nominal fee is charged and scholarships are available. The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Foundation for North American Wild Sheep, North American Pronghorn Foundation, Trout Unlimited, and others co-sponsor these workshops. For more information about BOW contact the BOW Coordinator, at 233-6404.

**Wyoming Hunting and Fishing Heritage Expo** – This annual Expo teaches conservation education, outdoor skills, ethics, and stewardship that stress the safe and responsible use of Wyoming’s wildlife and wild lands. People enjoy canoeing, fly-fishing and spin casting with experts, shoot archery, receive a safety orientation and shoot a shotgun, .22, and air rifle, as well as explore many educational exhibits, demonstrations, and hands-on activities. The Expo is the weekend following Labor Day in September. Teachers are encouraged to bring their classes to the Expo the Friday of the Expo weekend. For more information contact the Expo Planning Office at 1-888-EXPO-WYO.

**“Wyoming’s Wildlife – Worth The Watching” Interpretive Services** - Interpretive Services is an integral part of the “Wyoming’s Wildlife – Worth the Watching” program. This program was designed to provide all citizens more opportunity to enjoy wildlife as well as providing an important mechanism for wildlife and wild land stewardship education. Interpretive facilities and written materials identify wildlife and wild land values found in Wyoming and the concepts important to wildlife management and public stewardship of wildlife and habitat. Our facilities relate to wild, free-ranging populations of wildlife and do not emphasize zoos or wildlife in captivity and enclosures for the purpose of viewing. A state wildlife viewing tour guide and a public access guide are

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available to purchase which provide information on Wildlife Habitat Management Areas, refuges, and sites throughout Wyoming that can be used as outdoor classrooms and resources for learning by schools, youth groups, and adult groups.

Facilities already developed include the following visitor centers and habitat demonstration areas:

- Story Fish Hatchery Visitor Center- 683-2234; P.O. Box 160, Story, WY  82842
- Sheridan Visitor Center- 672-7418; 700 Valley View Drive, Sheridan, WY  82801
- Lander Visitor Center- 332-2688; 260 Buena Vista, Lander, WY  82520
- National Bighorn Sheep Interpretive Center - 455-3429; P.O. Box 1435, Dubois, WY  82513

The National bighorn Sheep Interpretive Center is an education facility managed and operated by citizens through the National Bighorn Sheep Interpretive Association along with the following joint partners: Wyoming Game & Fish Department, USFS, BLM, and the town of Dubois.

- Other facilities found throughout Wyoming include: signs at highway rest areas, exhibits and signs in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), nature trails and outdoor classrooms on Department lands, and nature trails and trail guides in cooperation with communities and youth groups. We provide information services, as well as occasional funding assistance, for wildlife interpretive structures and facilities to schools, local governments, USFS, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Wyoming Parks and Cultural Resources, and others.

For updated information on the following programs and events in your region refer to our website at: http://gf.state.wy.us

National Wildlife Week
International Migratory Bird Day
Becoming an Outdoors Woman in Wyoming
CONSEP Shooting Clinics
WILD about O.R.E.O. Youth Conservation Camp
WILD about O.R.E.O. Educator Camps
Wyoming Hunting & Fishing Heritage Expo (weekend following Labor Day in September)
Shooting Clinics
Fishing Clinics
Project WILD, Aquatic WILD Educator Workshops
Hunter and Outdoor Skills Education
Workshops on Living in Bear, Lion, and Wolf Country
Neotropical Migratory Bird Day
Elk Management
Big Game Management
Habitat Management
Predators and their role in the Ecosystem
Tradition of Hunting and History of Wildlife Conservation
Wetlands, Riparian and Aquatic Habitats
Monitoring Aquatic and Terrestrial Habitat Quality
4-H Habitat Evaluation Contest
4-H Shooting and Sport Fishing Clinics

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