

Signs of the Times







▼ ELK HUNTER ATTACKED Man kills grizzly that mauled partner

RIVERTON, Wyo. (AP) — An elk hunter killed a sow grizzly bear on Togwotee Pass after the bear mauled his hunting partner.

Day Vanflagt was flown to Eastern

The victim, Pat Vanfleet, was flown to Eastern Ine vicini, rat vanueet, was nown to Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center in Idaho Falls. where he was treated for wounds to his hand, lower leg and abdomen. He was listed in stable condition.

The attack occurred about 7:45 a.m. Sunday. Everett Stiegelmeyer told authorities he unsuccessfully tried to use pepper spray to stop the bear.

The bear's three cubs, believed to be almost two years old, were not captured and are living on their

"We expect they will survive on their own," said Tim Eicher, special agent with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Cody.

The adult bear was taken to the state lab for analysis. Determining if the shooting was warranted will be part of the investigation, Eicher said. Grizzlies are protected as an threatened species under the Endangered Species Act.

Jennifer Bales wasn't sure about getting this close, but posed with the grizzly that slaughtered three of her sheep. The grizzly was

trapped Monday night at Bales' South Fork home and transported to the northwest corner of Yellowstone Park. (Courtesy photo)

Bears moving too close to home

It's time to consider the personal losses and costs associated with trophy animals listed under the Endangered Species Act, a local resource management coordinator

Bernie Spanogle, the Wapiti Ridge Coordinated Resource Management (CRM) coordinator, says there is a "human side" to the story of a grizzly killing Jennifer Bales' three sheep on the South Fork on Monday. (See related story on A-1.)

"Some people will say 'that's what bears do', but people like the Bales didn't just lose some livestock, they had some personal losses and were victimized," Spanogle

"One of these days, it's going to be a kid or an adult who steps out in the middle of the night to see limits. He questions what the response would be if such a predator was allowed to roam the city at night without any protection for people other than to move it after trouble and to repay people for damages.

"I don't think they realize that is already happening on the fringes of society and it's getting closer and closer, especially on the North and South Fork" he adds.

While many believe the people population is growing and moving into bear country, Spanogle says the opposite is true.

"The interface is not moving that fast," he says. "The bear population is growing and moving into the interface. People don't want any finger pointed at the bear, but its time we realize what predators

space and keep ranches "alive and viable," and still have wildlife, Spanogle explains. But, if ranchers are forced out of business because of predation and other problems, that open space will be converted to subdivisions and even more conflict will occur.

Spanogle says delisting the grizzly may be a step in the right direction, but it could also force regulations that are even more restrictive than the recovery requirements.

What is needed, he says, is more local control. One solution may be allowing the G&F to coordinate hunting problem bears - rather than moving them to a different

"The Game and Fish is trying, but their hands are tied, it's really a complicated situation for them count," Moody agus

There is no target number recovery of the population, ins there are targets for the num "unduplicated females with ca the year seen on an annual b he explains.

"The target is 15 and we've well above that for the las years," Moody adds.

The proposed habitat cri will include a five-year monit plan for bears.

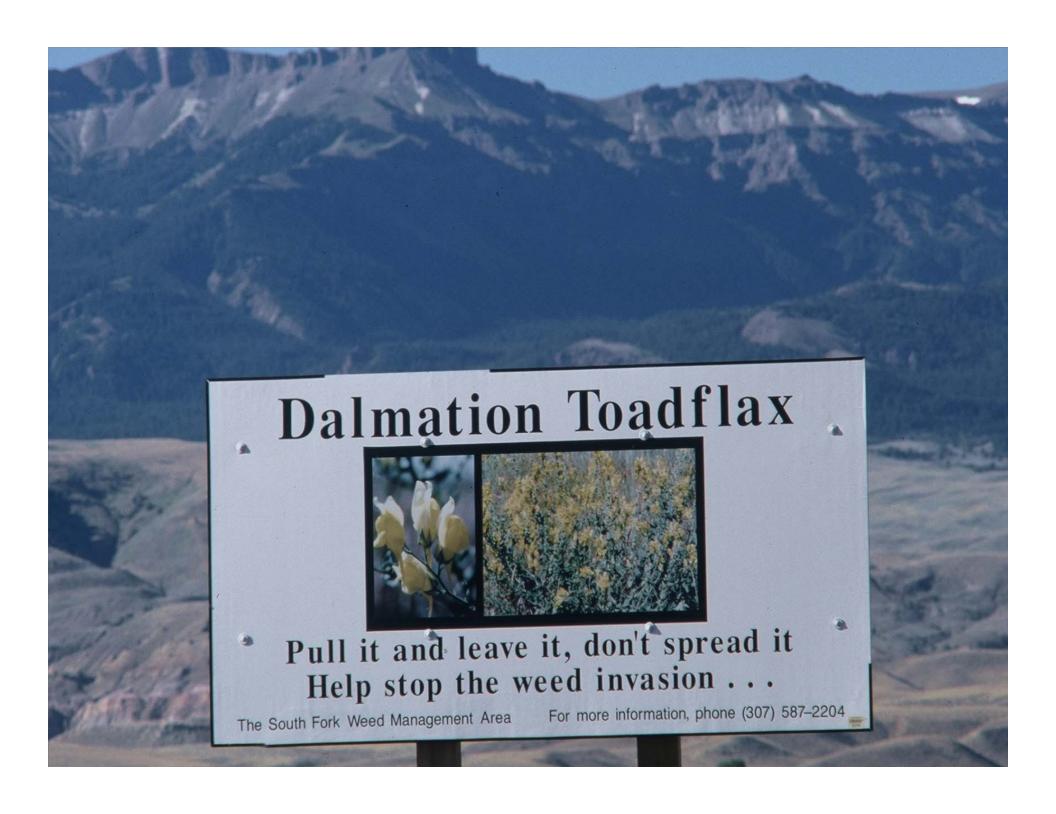
"I'm sure there's going to be ments of the public that a going to be happy and we'll p bly end up in litigation - that way business is done these d Moody says.

He believes there is a possi that the "adequacy" of the prewill be challenged.

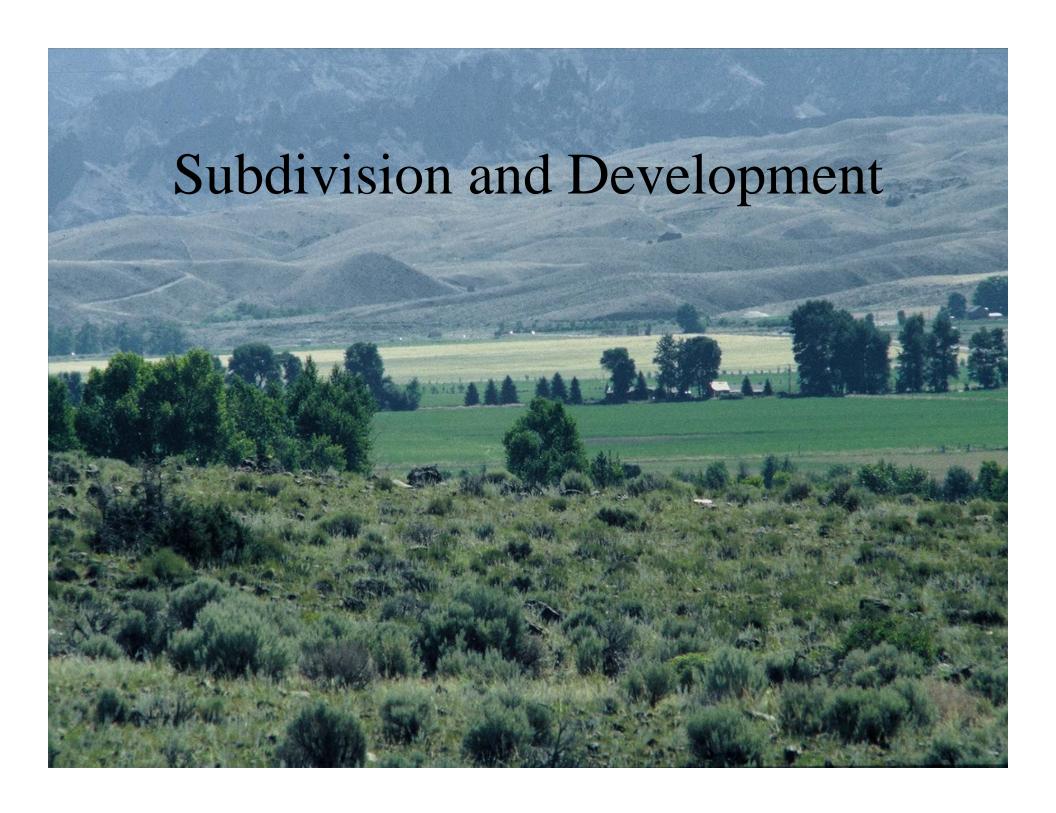
If the public is happy with criteria and review is complet next spring, any time after point someone could petitio delisting, Moody says.

"But if it ends up in the co who knows how long it could t





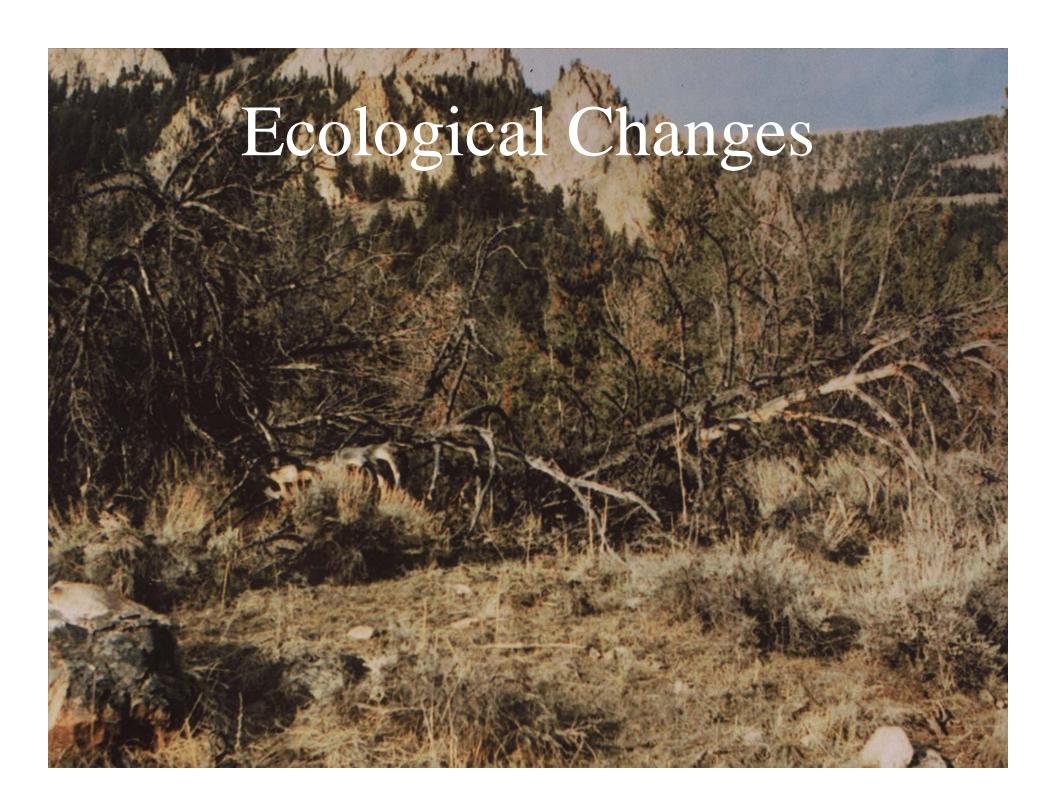
The Issues













Change in public values



On the run

Bozeman's Mandy Close is closing in on her goals of state titles. PrepsPlus 10

WYOMING EDITIC

19, 2002

The Source

riefing

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This week's set-Department of ty to house ate. 1B

e owners of a ave filed suit hane developer lany caused their land. 1B

IT: The comaft report on elopment in the

Cody cattle competing with elk

looks at wildlife

hungry

affect cattle operations

New study By MIKE STARK Gazette Wyoming Bureau

the ways bers of elk that regularly feed on sagebrush grasslands in the late CODY, Wyo. - Large numspring definitely are in competition with cattle operations west of town, according to a Montana State University study.

Results of the four-year study were presented this week to a group of ranchers, sportsmen and government officials teaming up to solve problems along the North Fork and South Fork.

Researchers are looking at reduce competition between elk and cattle should take a close look how competition between cattle and elk and deer affects ranching operations.

A portion of the study looking at the economics of the problem is expected this summer.

Jeff Mosley, a professor in the MSU animal and range sciences department, told members of the

Resource Management group that wildlife managers looking to

at what happens during the Aerial surveys showed that

about 1.500 elk frequented four ranches on the North and South forks each day during March, April and May.

Most were feeding in the same

Wapiti Ridge Coordinated sagebrush grasslands where ca are run during the summer : fall.

If that double use of the la keeps happening, Mosley sa "then you've got a problem."

Currently, about 60 percent the land and forage that elk use the spring is also where ca graze between June November, the study showed.

Please see Study,

Babbitt celebrates wolves' success

By JEFF TOLLEPSON

Gazette Wyoming Bureau

MAMMOTH HOT SPRINGS — The reintroduction of the gray wolf, representing a cultural reversal in how people see themselves and their relationship to nature, is more than a biological success story. Bruce Babbitt said Saturday during his last visit to Yellowstone National Park as Secretary of the Interior Department.

"It was only two or three generations ago that wolves were the embodiment of all that people feared in nature and themselves," Bubbitt said. "Within the span of a few generations, we've awakened to the reality that these creatures are part of God's creation."

Saturday marked the first auniversary of the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals' decision affirming the wolves' place in Yellowstone. Five years ago Friday, the first fourteen wolves exited their cages. Babbitt said the moment "calls for a little self-indulgent celebration" on everyone's part describing the ethical responsibility people have to recogniztheir own place within the naural landscore.

As he takes leave with the Clinton administration next week, Babbitt said he will remain in the public spotlight as a consultant in various environmental causes.

"My future consists of being a very public, private citizen ... as long as I can breathe and speak and advocute," he said.

Babbitt predicted that the place of animals like wolves. bears and bison will only solid-Ify in the heart of the American public. The rights of private landowners cannot be undermined he added, but the social shift will create new challenges as these animals move out of Yellowstone National Park. gradually usurping the historical reign of livestock. That movement will only push the interface between wildland forther toward society, along with the debates that it entails, he

"On public lands in the great Western ecosystem, of which this is first and foremost, livestock will not have priority."

- Bruce Babbitt.

Secretary of the Interior Department

noid.

"How do we wall with volues on the surrounding passed land? The rest of creation cannot be defined by a fence around a square that we call Yellowstone," he said. "On public lands in the great Western ecosystem of which this is first and foremost, livestock will not have priorits."

He said Yellowstone's crown upsides can coexist with livestock outside the park, but added that the ultimate choice rests with the livestock industry. If the nuchers push it, the American people will ultimately rule author livestock, he

said.

"If the 'iner: ... assustry may it also to se either/or, then the choice will be made for the wolves to the exclusion of live-stock," he said. "But it's the live-stock's industry's choice."

Acknowledging criticism from environmentalists who say that the recent bison management plan does the opposite. Babbitt later said the progress he describes is gradual but assured.

"It is not the ultimate plan, but it is a step forward," he said. "We're not there yet, but we have done the best we can on my watch." He later said the ultimate goal should be the establishment of winter range that a streeted for bison on both the "the and west sides of "allowstone. He said the concept of "multiple use," as advected by Western conserved in, will ultimately give was a "dominant public use" a fined by the shifting values of the American public.

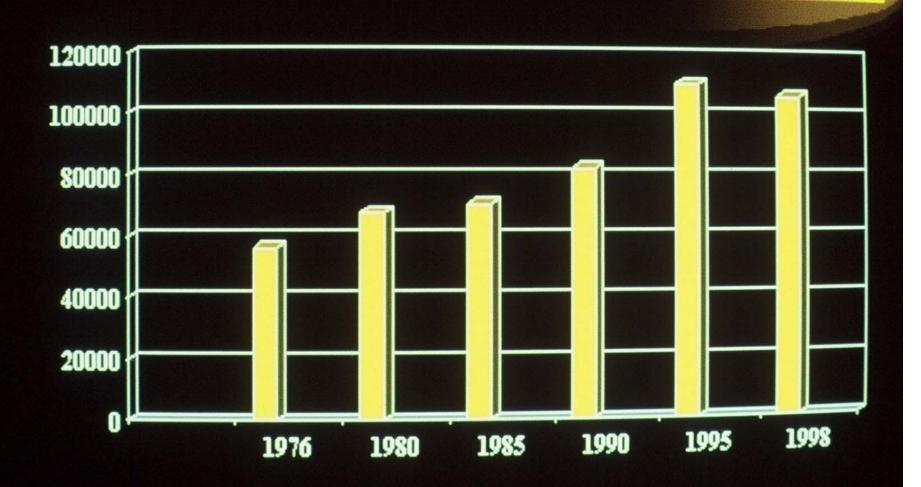
Ed Bangs, who coordinate the U.S. Fish and Wildlif Service's wolf racovery program, said the ultimate that lenge to wolf recovery with remain with people.

"Wolves have great heart They can survive just above anywhere if you give them has a chance," he said. "I think the one thing wolves aren't good a is avoiding human persecution."

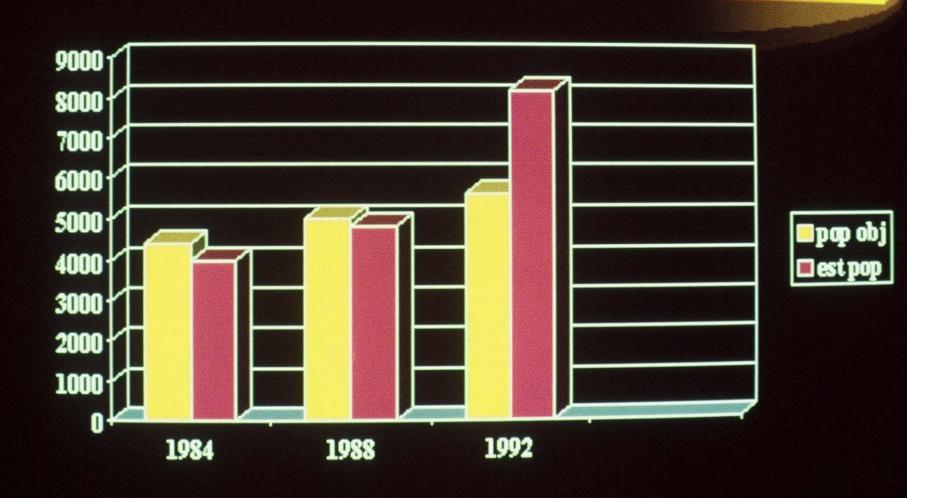
Based on current population growth in Yellowstone and he Idaho and Montana, Hangs predicted wolves would be roadto delist within five years. But

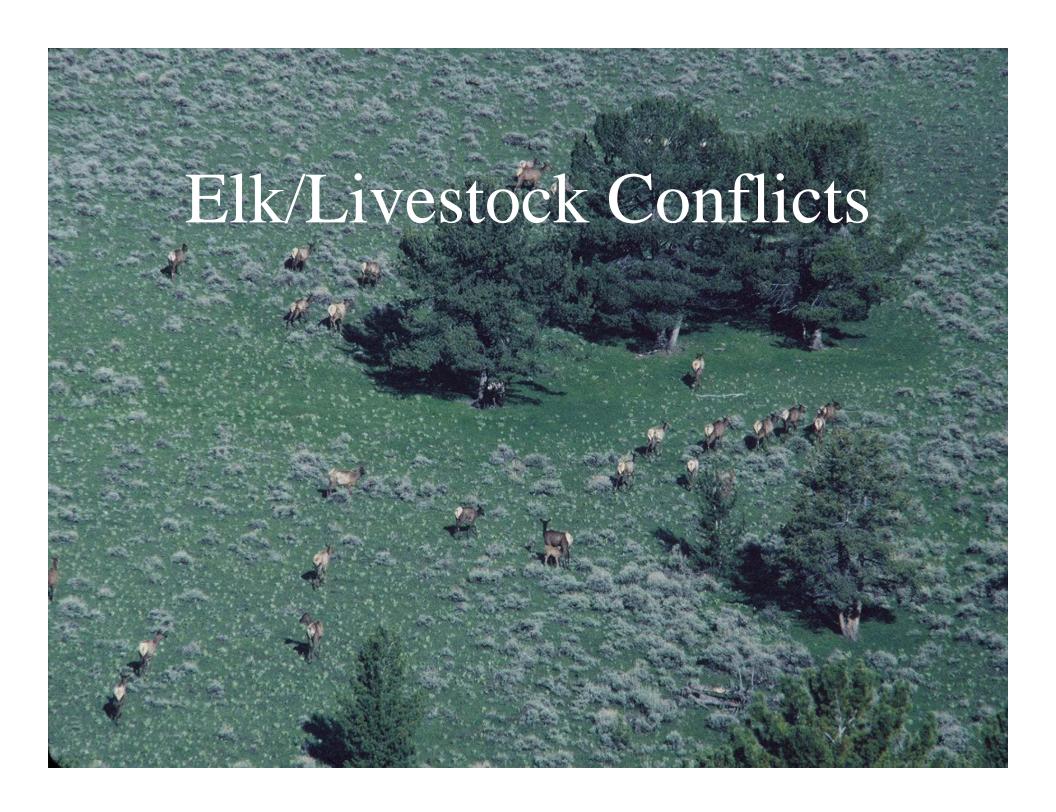
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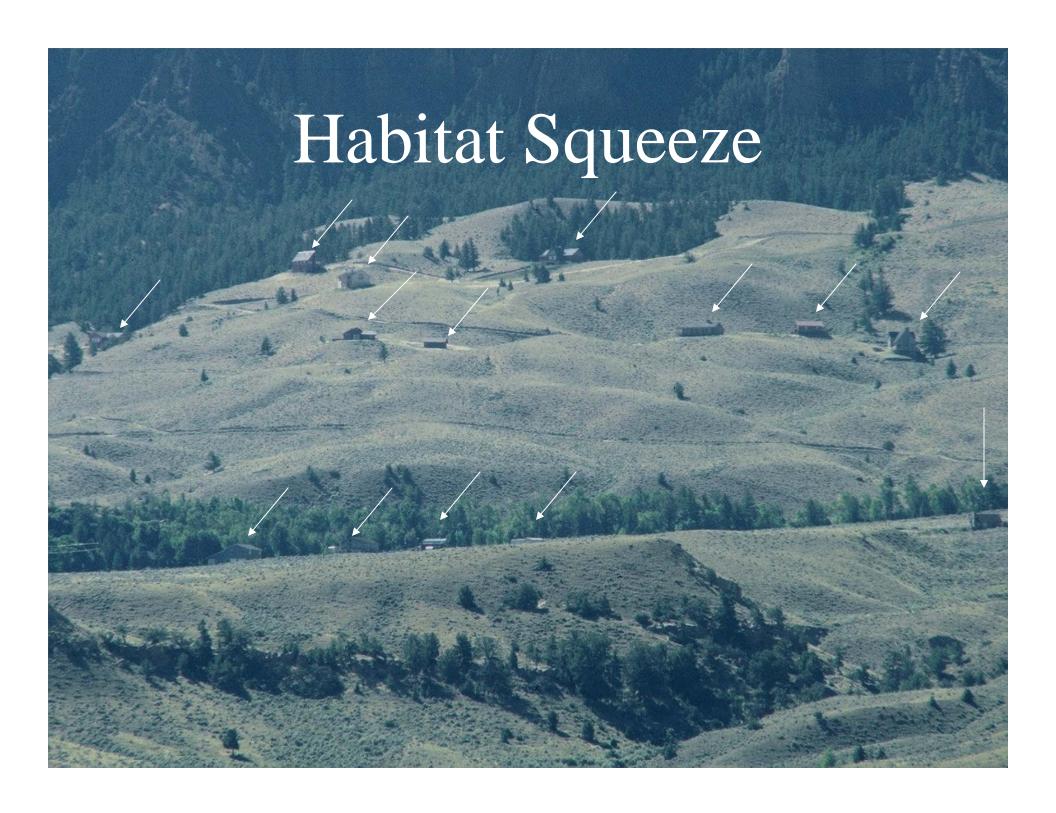
Wyoming Elk Population Trends



Cody Elk Herd







Need for finding common ground

Landowners started the Wapiti Ridge CRM
In 1995

CRM Process

- Natural resource concern exists
- Organize individuals that can deal with the concerns
- Establish common goals and objectives
- Identify problems and opportunities
- Implement action plans
- Monitor and evaluate

Landowner Representatives

- TE Ranch
- Bales Ranch
- Ballinger Ranch
- Siggins Polled Herefords Ranch
- J-9 Ranch
- Mooncrest Ranch
- Grizzly Ranch

Agency and Special Interest

- US Forest Service
- BLM
- NRCS
- Wyoming Game and Fish Dept
- University of Wyoming Extension Service
- Wyoming Department of Agriculture, CRM
- Cody Conservation District
- The Nature Conservancy
- Trout Unlimited
- South Fork Weed Association
- Sportsmen, Cody Shooting Complex
- Backcounty Horseman
- Breteche Creek Retreat

Wapiti Ridge Goals and Objectives

The Wapiti Ridge CRM has 3 goals and ll objectives with each objective having associated action items.

Goal # 1

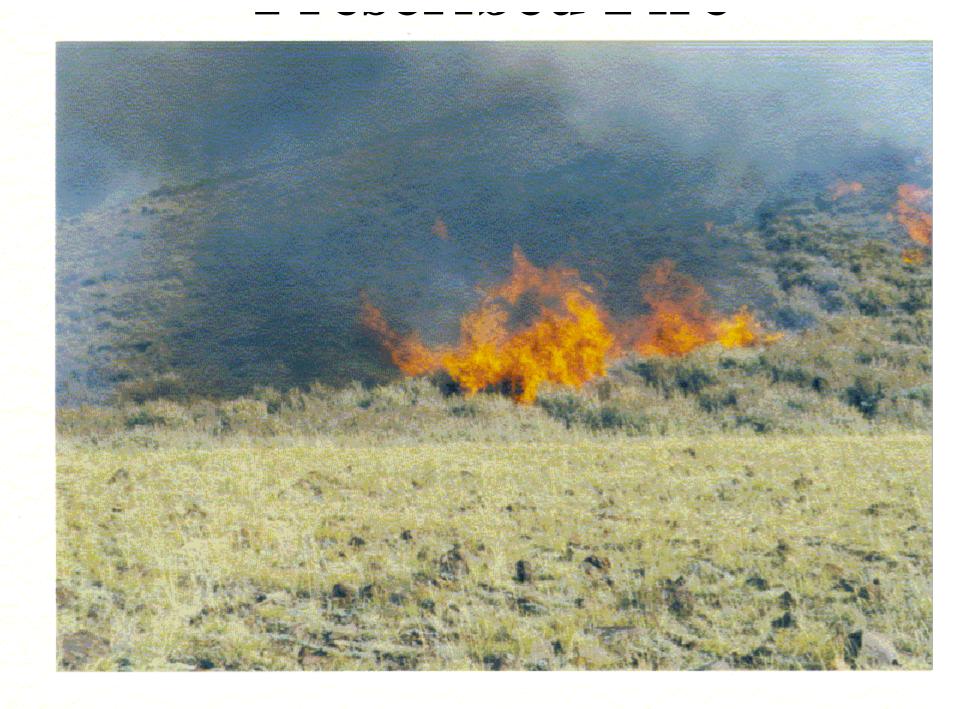
To manage for a diversity of fish, wildlife and recreational opportunities compatible with domestic livestock operations.



Objective # 2

Develop and integrated management plan for desired ungulate populations and distribution













ING VERDICT: A jury convicted Ku Klux Klansman, Thomas Ir., on murder charges Tuesday

63 church bombing that killed k girls in Birmingham, Ala, 5A

World

AL POWERS: Philippine

a "state of rebellion"

rters of jailed former

LANE: U.S. technicians

t Gloria Macapagal Arroyo

assuming special powers to

eadly protests after thousands

t Joseph Estrada stormed the

n the southern Chinese island

n on Tuesday to figure out

etrieve a damaged Navy spy

anded since colliding with a

t. The team from Lockheed

he main builder of the EP-3E

e, will inspect the aircraft on

the presidential palace. 6A

Deer graze on an irrigated field near Wapiti, Wyo., in the North Fork. Some Wyoming ranchers would like the Wyoming Game and Fish Department to pay for crops and forage eaten by wildlife.

Wyoming ranchers want state aid for losses caused by wildlife grazing

By JEFF TOLLEFSON

Gazette Wyoming Bureau

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range won't support as many cattle as in the past, he says.

Some area ranchers and agricultural organizations want the state of Wyoming to begin reimbursing for wildlife forage. The Legislature's Joint Interim

"The state is quick to claim the wildlife is theirs, but not as quick to take care of their needs," Bales told the interim

Wildlife is public, and private landowners are losing money because wildlife forages on their land. Therefore, the public specifically, the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, funded primarily by sportsmen should help pay lands feeding wildlife.

Kim Floyd, executive director of the Wyoming Wildlife Federation, said he is afraid that the discussion would ultimately turn into Chother attempt to a

Please see Wildlife, 10A

"The state is quick to claim the wildlife is theirs, but not as quick to take care of their needs. It's time the state pays their fair share."

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"If they want to play this game, then let's get the real money out of the cattle that are eating the wildlife's forage. They graze livestock on public lands all summer.

> - Kim Floyd. Wyoming Wildlife Federation

Weather

lay. 8A



of chilly weather. Cloudy w showers, 10C

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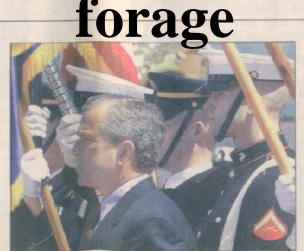
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Knight Ridder News

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Budget bargainer: agree on tax cuts

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For more on the tax and spend ing



Ranchers, hunters get together

By BECKY SHAY

It was hard to tell who was appier at the Wapiti Ridge coordinated Resource Managenent sportsmen's forum last Friay - the sportsmen who were aining access to private lands r the landowners who were llowing it.

About 120 people attended the reeting, which Provide educational ork. It was also an open house travel and phinting around referees the tough side of it," ar sportsmen to nemptro velipuble awareness crawled a sign up for access to "It's just common sense," Her-Bernie Spanogle said. reir lands.

Tom Herzog of Powell was mong the hunters who gained cess. He will be able to hunt on e TE Ranch this year and is on ne waiting list for Siggins' olled Hereford Ranch

The landowners went "above nd beyond" to go public with eir offer of access, he said. erzog, who grew up ranching southeast Montana, has huntpublic lands since moving to yoming. He saw the forum as a ance to gain early permission access private lands and also a sign of "real cooperation" tween sportsmen ndowners.

"This raises awareness for

sportsmen and allows ranchers some spiting interaction," he added. "Express feels they are the landowners are looping to the port old of le his continuous in the landowners are looping to the port old of le his continuous interaction in the land with it."

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Like many of the sportsmen who attended the meeting, Herzog doesn't have any problems with meeting the landowners'

esource Management units hunting, no off-road motorized

zog said. "Some sportsmen give all sportsmen a bad name, doing things like trespassing and cutting fence. Some of it is blatant ignorance and some of it is accidental - people don't know boundaries or are so busy looking for game they don't see (no trespassing) signs."

The Wapiti Ridge CRM covers private land on the North Fork and South Fork and is one of the largest management units in the state, CRM member Dennis Sun said.

"This area has as many issues affecting it as any area in Wyoming," he added. "There are threatened and endangered species, wildlife, ranching ... you name it, this area is hit with it."

sportsmen, to solve conflicts. Those problems range from continued development wiping out winter range to managing cattle distribution on ranches to pre-

scape and much of the time agri-

He gave a slide show which featured the "signs of the times." including real estate signs that signal the shift from open spaces to development and the more positive change of "No Hunting" signs to "Hunting with Permission Only" signs.

The CRM landowners are working together and managing their lands by consensus. They have developed goals, objectives and action plans to solve problems, including elk-livestock conflicts.

"It's not someone in Chevenne telling you what to do," Spanogle explained. "We use the people who are accountable for that landscape."

The CRM has developed a livestock count on the ranches involved. The volunteers who run the surveys are helping validate Game and Fish Department counts. Montana State University is also involved and does its own aerial counts and studies on the ground, he added.

Improving hunter access will sopportunities to the growing elk herd, which goes hand-in-hand with G&F efforts to make more liberal seasons that yield population control, Spanogle added.

> Until the forum, Ron Soskowski, who moved to Cody from Cheyenne in May, didn't realize how game populations impact private lands.

> A hunter and fisherman. Soskowski was having trouble finding access before meeting with CRM landowners.

You drive down the road and there's private land all over and you don't know how to gain access," he said. "This is great to bring people together to discuss common issues."

Spanogle urges anvone interested to develop a relationship with landowners.

"They aren't monsters and they need your help," he added.



Goal #3

Explore economic options on private lands.

WYOMING GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT'S PRIVATE LANDS PUBLIC WILDLIFE ACCESS PROGRAM

FALL 2002 & SPRING 2003 WALK-IN AREAS HUNTING



ACCESS YES DONATIONS = HUNTING AND FISHING ACCESS

HUNTING
OPPORTUNITIES
ON WALK-IN AREAS
ARE PROVIDED FOR
YOUR ENJOYMENT



Sports/Outdoor

Elbow grease for entrance

Sportsmen join fencing party to 'repay'

Mert and Gin Ballinger have struck a rare partnership with the sportsmen who use their land at the base of Table Moun-

At a time when conflict rather than cooperation seems to be the norm in landowner-sportsmen access issues, the Ballingers are allowing a variety of people to use their land in exchange for a little help around the ranch.

During early summer of the last four years, a group of sportsmen have donated their time and braun for a weekend and helped the Ballingers maintain their fence line around the section of land on which they run cattle.

In exchange, the sportsmen hunters, hikers and wildlife enthusiasts - have access to the land, which is situated about five miles up Table Mountain, off county road 6FU.

About 50 people joined this year's "fencing party" on June 5-6. They worked, laughed quite a bit and enjoyed a prime rib dinner provided by the Ballingers.

The effort helps the Ballingers recoup losses from damage done

"The future is in working together," he explains, "This helps the sportsmen feel like this land and the wildlife is their responsibility, too."

Sportsmen like Steve Cresswell agree.

"If more people worked together, it would be better for everyone," he adds.

The party started as part of the Wapiti Ridge Coordinated Resource Management unit, to which the Ballingers belong. The united group of landowners are forging partnerships with hunters, state and federal agencies and environmentalists, in hopes of keeping agriculture, recreation and conservation all viable and working in concert.

"This is a way for the people who use that private land for hunting to give something back," Wapiti Ridge CRM coordinator Bernie Spanogle notes.

Working with the CRM, the Ballingers are identifying "hot spots" where elk congregate on



Program lends hand to disabled hunters

By BUZZY HASSRICK

Staff writer

Two hunters from Georgia flew into Cody early the afternoon of Dec. 1 and bagged two elk on the North Fork before sundown.

That's not unusual for non-resident sportsmen – but these men both use wheel-

chairs.

Dennis Knox, 33, and Tim Stanfield, 46, each shot their game on the Ballinger Ranch with the help of volunteers Don Brinkman and Michael

Spanogle, 16.

A sportsman for 50 years, Brinkman is a mechanical engineer retired from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in Maryland. He met rancher Merlyn Ballinger of Powell and joined him in the project for physically disabled hunters.

Ballinger had asked for help with the hunters from Spanogle, a complete the sophomore, the washing its his community service for the BETA Club.

"I never expected they'd be that independent," Spanogle said of the hunters. "I didn't think they'd do so much on their own.

"It was a good learning experience."

Spanogle and Brinkman picked up the hunters at the airport and proceeded straight to the hunting blind on the ranch. The heated,



Michael Spanogle, 16, (right) helps Tim Stanfield, 46, of Georgia with the elk he shot from a hunting blind on the North Fork. It's specially designed for and uses by I say I'd hunters. (Courtesy photo)

What is the CRM?

A The Waniti Ridge

two cows finally came within 200 yards, the men aimed and fired.

"One shot is all it took for both of them," he said.

The hunters, again aided by the volunteers, were "pushed and pulled" to their

STAR-TRIBUNE EDITORIAL

License proposal favoring ranchers threatens wildlife

Use better methods prevent subdivision

he det of a k wing starche a to sell their landowner hunting licenses to hunters is a bad one — pilot project or not. It would inevitably lead to privatization of wildlife and eventually limit hunting opportunities for state residents.

programs to

compensate

Under the proposal, landowners who qualify would receive two licenses to hunt each of three species: elk, deer and antelope. These licenses can be sold.

andowners for forage

The rationale behind this proposal is that ranchers should be compensated for providing and maintaining wildlife habitat and hunter access to private lands. It is true that most ranchers are responsible stewards of the land and wildlife habitat, for which Wyoming citizens should be FREEH

of spying for Russia, 24

ING VERDICT: A jury convicted Ku Klux Klansman, Thomas Ir., on murder charges Tuesday 63 church bombing that killed k girls in Birmingham, Ala, 5A

World

AL POWERS: Philippine t Gloria Macapagal Arroyo a "state of rebellion" assuming special powers to eadly protests after thousands rters of jailed former t Joseph Estrada stormed the the presidential palace. 6A

LANE: U.S. technicians n the southern Chinese island n on Tuesday to figure out etrieve a damaged Navy spy anded since colliding with a t. The team from Lockheed he main builder of the EP-3E e, will inspect the aircraft on lay. 8A

Weather





of chilly weather. Cloudy w showers, 10C

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As in-flight laptop computer use grows. Boeing and other

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BOB ZELLAR/Gazette Staff

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"I think we're going get

For more on the tax and spend ing





Wildlife compensation pilot projection ce patience

Sponsored by: Joint Agriculture, Public Lands and Water

Involves compromise Involves persistence Out of our hands

AN ACT relating to wildlife; authorizing the establishment of pilot projects compensating landowners for damage caused by wildlife; specifying parameters of the projects; requiring a report; providing an appropriation; providing for sunset of the pilot project authorization; and

"It's not over till it's over"

Forum focuses on access, ranch problems

By BECKY SHAY

Cody hunters can sign up to gain access to local private lands while learning about the Wapiti Ridge Coordinated Resource Management group during a forum Friday at Cody Auditorium.

The sportsmen's forum starts at 6 p.m. with an ice cream social. Local banks have donated refreshments and will pay a

Many of the prizes, including the hunts, will be directed at kids, with the hope of helping youth hunters get an early start on developing relationships with landowners.

The forum is free and open to any interested sportsmen or others interested in being involved in conservation and management of the open spaces in the Cody foothills, Wapiti Ridge CRM coor-

Hunter meeting 6 p.m. Friday, Cody Auditorium

will give a slide show about the CRM. He will also outline the CRM's goals, which include mancialists, and federal, state and local agencies to accomplish those goals.

Among Wapiti Ridge objectives are to improve hunter distribution and access. Many of the landowners involved in the CRM allow special access for hunters.

The hunts help with land management. As an example, Spanogle points to elk-livestock conflicts for landowners. The

these landowners by helping various ways," Spanogle says.

The forum includes a quest and answer session with a pa of CRM landowners. The Wa Ridge CRM currently has ab 10 landowners from the No Fork and South Fork involvalthough not all are act Spanogle says.

People attending the for will also be able to visit one-

Agriculture foolishly 'ignored' by wildlife conservation agents

LARAMIE (AP) — Ranchers and farmers are often ignored when it comes to implementing the Endangered Species Act, according to many people at a meeting organized by the Albany County Stockgrowers.

Yet landowners are the greatest untapped resource for conservation, said Mike Brennan, a Jackson environmental attorney.

The stockgrowers put on the meeting Friday to coincide with the annual Wyoming County Commissioners Association meeting in Laramie.

Brennan, a former executive assistant to former U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Director John Turner, said conservation groups need to work with landowners — and both must

tor of the Wyoming office of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

"It's become clear to me that folks around here just don't like the federal government telling them what to do or how to do it," Long said.

That attitude can be useful for addressing potential habitat problems before the federal government is forced to get involved, he said, but it's counterproductive once the Endangered Species Act becomes a player.

Long pointed to the recent series of meetings about possibly listing the mountain ployer.

The meetings closely followed a decision to list the Preble's meadow jumping mouse as threatened. Both species are found on Wyoming farms and ranches. "At some point, we need to get beyond that stage and get on to cooperative agreements," he said. "(The Endangered Species Act) is there. We need to deal with it."

Panelists Con Lass, director of Wyoming's office of federal lands, and Joe Hiller, chairman of an Endangered Species Act panel recently appointed by Gov. Jim Geringer, said state officials hope to become more involved in endangered species issues and work more with local officials.

"We need to be cognizant and we need to work to ensure that those listings do not take place unless they are warranted," Lass said.

Goshen County Commissioner Lois Van Mark said "credible science" too often means scientists and researchers

DLIFE DEBATE

Elk vs. Wolves



Elk from the Northern Yellowstone herd browse near Gardiner in the winter of 1999. Outfitters and hunters in the Gardiner area believe the herd is at risk from predation by wolves introduced into Yellowstone National Park.

Wyoming extends hunting for elk east of park



Gray wolves, like this pair in Colorado, were reintroduced into Yellowstone National Park in 1995 and 191

They're going v an impact ever - we know the we're not seeir evidence of it We're seeing v kill elk, but w haven't seen it up in terms of reduced cow-

Summary

- There was a need for change
- There was a need to seek common ground
- CRM was an appropriate process
- Most problems were addressed
- People were educated

Wapiti Ridge CRM Benefits

- Improved fish and wildlife habitat
- Helping to maintain viable livestock industry
- Maintains open space and quality of life
- Improved recreational opportunities
- Increased understanding, communication and involvement

"There are two sides to everything but you can never see both sides until you get on the other side"

"Where there is no vision, the people will perish"

Questions?