

**Central
Wyoming
Chapter**



CENTRAL WYOMING CHAPTER
SAFARI CLUB INTERNATIONAL
September 2009

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Volume 6, Number 7

Next Meeting : **When** : **Thursday, September 10, 2009 at 6:30 PM**
Where : **Casper Petroleum Club Sunroom**

Presentation : Chapter member Derek Dodge will give a presentation on his recent elephant hunt in Namibia.

Agenda :
1) Welcome members and visitors.
2) President's remarks.
3) Chapter business.
4) Presentation.

FUTURE MEETING SCHEDULE

Thursday, October 8, 2009. Speaker to be announced.

Thursday, November 5, 2009. Speaker to be announced.

Please note that the September and October meetings have been moved to the SECOND Thursday in each respective month.




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PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

From the perspective of Tory and Meredith Taylor, Wyoming is in a state of denial concerning predation of our elk herds. I think that it is time that we set the record straight and the Clark's Fork herd mentioned in the "Perspective" that appeared in the Casper Star-Tribune on July 11, 2009 is a prime example of what is happening to elk populations in the Greater Yellowstone area and more specifically to those elk that summer in Yellowstone National Park and winter outside of the park.

The Clark's Fork Herd Unit encompasses hunt areas 50-54, 65, and 121 and includes two elk sub-populations: a migratory herd as described above and a resident herd that became established in the Heart Mountain area in the mid 1990's. The migratory herd winters primarily in the Crandall and Sunlight areas west of WY 120 while the resident herd permanently occupies an area of private and BLM lands between the forest boundary and Heart Mountain on both sides of WY 120.

The herd objective for the Clarks' Fork Herd Unit is 3,000 elk and the overall elk population within the herd unit is well above objective; however, one needs to separate the data for each sub-population (herd) to understand what is happening. In looking at the population data for the two herds, recruitment levels in the migratory herd peaked ca 1994 with approximately 43 calves per 100 cows and has basically been in decline since wolf reintroduction, with recruitment declining to 9 calves/100 cows in 2008. Unit wide, recruitment is hovering around 23 calves/100 cows - which is reflective of the strong recruitment (\approx 32 calves/100 cows in 2007) in the resident herd, which is not subject to intensive wolf predation.

Clearly, wolves are not 100% responsible for the precipitous decline in elk numbers in the migratory herds in the Greater Yellowstone area. Based on extant research, black and grizzly bears are responsible for 69% of elk calf mortality within 30 days of birth, with wolves accounting for 12% of calf mortality during this same period. The difference is that bear predation declines significantly after 30 days, yet wolf predation continues year round, with wolves targeting elk of all ages - particularly mature bulls following the rut.

The other variable in elk recruitment involves pregnancy rates, with the migratory elk experiencing decreased pregnancy rates compared to the resident elk. Pregnancy rates for cows two plus years of age in the migratory herd averages 59 - 73 %, while the cows in the resident herd exhibit pregnancy rates averaging 84 - 94%. Yearling cow pregnancy rates in the migratory herd is 0% as compared to 50% in the resident herd. These differences in pregnancy rates may be due to a combination of poor nutrition (displacement from preferred habitats), abortion following conception, or the inability to breed as a result of continuous wolf harassment during the rut. Wolf attacks on domestic livestock in Montana have been shown to result in dry cows, abortion in heifers, significant weight loss (particularly in calves), and displacement of animals from preferred grazing habitat. These observations would be consistent with the reproductive decline in the migratory elk herd. Considering that the migratory elk in the Clark's Fork Herd Unit must contend with four separate wolf packs between their summer and winter ranges, these animals are subjected to continuous wolf harassment.

So, while wolves may not be entirely responsible for the decline of the migratory elk herd, the cumulative impact of increased bear predation following the 1988 fires combined with the reintroduction of wolves into the park in 1995 has created a scenario of increased predation that has fostered a precipitous decline in recruitment within the migratory elk population. As the elk population ages and recruitment declines, a point will be reached where the herd is no longer sustainable and the population will crash - unless the predator populations (primarily wolves) outside of the park are controlled. Had wolves not been reintroduced into the park, predation levels on the migratory elk would not have resulted in a significant

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reduction in recruitment rates - thereby allowing for a continued and sustainable harvest of surplus elk by both resident and non-resident hunters.

Ultimately, we are losing our elk hunting opportunities to wolf predation - particularly in the wilderness areas surrounding Yellowstone National Park. Late season Any Elk quotas in Hunt Areas 51 and 52 have been systematically cut from 150 licenses to 20 licenses and the late season will be eliminated altogether in 2010. This hunt used to be one of the premier hunts for trophy bull elk in Wyoming, but will be eliminated due to low recruitment rates in the herd unit. This loss of hunting opportunity translates into a direct economic impact upon Wyoming, the communities and outfitters affected by the reduction in elk permits. More importantly, these economic losses will never be replaced by revenues generated from eco-tourism.

If you would like to view the newspaper article by Tory and Meredith Taylor that appeared in the Opinions section of the Casper Star-Tribune on Saturday, July 11, 2009 titled "Wyoming Continues It's State of Denial" go to www.trib.com/articles/2009/07/11/editorial/forum and click on the title of the article. The email forum following the article contains some interesting back and forth on the issue.

2010 WHITE ELEPHANT BAR-B-QUE

Our eighth annual White Elephant dinner event will be held on Saturday, April 10, 2010 at the Best Western Ramkota - please mark your calendars accordingly. I will begin the search for a speaker for our event next year here shortly. In the past four years we have had presentations from Guy Eastman (2006), Craig Boddington (2007), Mike Eastman (2008), and Garth Carter (2009). If you have any suggestions regarding a proposed speaker for next year, please feel free to contact me at 307-473-1268.

2010 ELECTIONS

The terms of our officers and directors will expire on February 4, 2010 and we will hold our elections for a new slate of officers and directors in conjunction with our January 2010 meeting. In the coming months, I will appoint a Nominating Committee who will be charged with selecting candidates for the upcoming election. We will be electing officers including President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer along with a minimum of 3 directors to be elected from the general membership. If you are interested in serving as an officer or director of the Central Wyoming Chapter, please feel free to give me a call and your name will be passed on to the Nominating Committee once appointed.

MEMBERSHIP

Our membership as of August 14, 2009 stands at 157 active members, with an additional 55 members who have allowed their memberships to lapse. If you have any questions concerning the current status of your membership or would be interested in contacting any of these lapsed members in an effort to secure their renewal, please contact Bob Anderson at 307-473-1268.

The strength of any organization lies in its members and we need to get the word out to our hunting friends and neighbors that they need to join SCI. The loss of our hunting rights affects ALL hunters, not just members of SCI, and the non-member needs to understand who we are and what we are really all about. Passion just doesn't always spring up over night - it takes an understanding of the issues and the realization that there is a very real threat to our hunting heritage out there. So, if you have a friend or neighbor that is not currently a member of SCI, bring them to the meeting on September 10th and introduce them to the Central Wyoming Chapter - we're really not all that bad!

SCI Membership Types and Fees include the following:

- Life Member \$1,500;
- Senior Life Member \$1,250;
- **National Member 3 Year \$150;** and
- National Member \$55.

For those individuals who are National Members, you can save \$15.00 by renewing your national membership for a three-year period and avoid the hassle of having to renew you membership on an annual basis.

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In addition to the above, there are two classes of membership that are not well advertised by SCI including the **Young Hunter** membership and the **Family** membership. The Young Hunter membership is available to youths under the age of 17 for an annual membership fee of \$15 - the Central Wyoming Chapter has waived our annual chapter dues for Young Hunter memberships in an attempt to encourage participation from our youth. Family memberships are available to families consisting of both spouses and any children under the age of 17 for an annual membership fee of \$95 (annual SCI dues are \$75 and the annual Chapter dues are \$20 for one adult family member).

SPORTSMEN AGAINST HUNGER

Bill Spicer, chairman of the Sportsmen Against Hunger (SAG) Committee, reports that over 10,000 pounds of processed game meat was donated to local charities by Dan's Meat Processing, Inc., Pearce Custom Butchering and Processing, and Tom's Game Processing in 2008. Each of our participating processors were recognized for their contributions to the SAG program during our Dinner Event on April 18, 2009 with a very nice gift and a certificate of appreciation. We appreciate their participation in the SAG program and will look forward to working with them in the future to help those in our community who are less fortunate than ourselves.

Bill has already started working on getting the program organized for the 2009 hunting season. If you are interested in serving on the committee and helping Bill with the program, feel free to give him a call at 307-472-2125.

2009 WYOMING HUNTING AND FISHING HERITAGE EXPO

The 2009 Wyoming Hunting and Fishing Heritage Expo is scheduled for Thursday, September 10 through Saturday, September 12 at the Casper Events Center. Once again this year, the Central Wyoming Chapter will sponsor the Sensory Safari Trailer from the Treasure Valley Chapter in Nampa, Idaho. Admission to the annual Expo is free and open to anyone interested in our outdoor and wildlife heritage, so I would encourage you to take a youngster and visit the Expo.

ADVERTISING

The Central Wyoming Chapter continues to accept paid advertising in the monthly newsletter. Whether you wish to advertise your business or have a personal item for sale, your advertisement will reach our entire membership and will help support the monthly production and mailing costs associated with the newsletter. Rates for personal advertising will be \$5.00 per item up to three lines. For business advertising, we have agreed to charge \$10.00 for a business card, \$50.00 for a full page insert, and \$10.00/column inch for any other ads. If you need additional information concerning advertising in our monthly newsletter, please contact Bob Anderson at 473-1268 or send an email to biologist@prodigy.net.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

A cash bar will be open and available during the evening for refreshments. For those of you who would like to come early and have dinner, you may order from either the bar menu (lighter fare) or from the regular dinner menu at your discretion - cash or check please for non-club members. Spouses are always welcome - be sure to bring your better half and introduce them to our chapter, some fantastic presentations, and the adventure of the great outdoors! Likewise, children are also welcome and are the future of hunting both in North America and elsewhere. We encourage you to bring your kids, introduce them to SCI and the Central Wyoming Chapter and promote our sport. As the SCI bumper sticker says: "Hunt with your kids, not for them". We encourage you to bring a friend, introduce them to Safari Club International, and help our new club continue to grow.

CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have questions or require information regarding SCI, the Central Wyoming Chapter, or the contents of this newsletter, please feel free to contact one of the officers listed below:

| Name | Title | Telephone |
|----------------|----------------|------------------|
| Bob Anderson | President | 307-473-1268 |
| Roger Green | Vice-President | 307-473-1112 |
| Vacant | Secretary | |
| Gail Zimmerman | Treasurer | 307-235-1173 |

NOTICE

If you have news or announcements that you would like included in future issues of the newsletter or if you would like to volunteer to help, please contact Bob Anderson at 307-473-1268 or send an email to: biologist@prodigy.net.

Just so you know, the mailed version of the newsletter is in black and white, while the electronic version is in color. If you have high-speed internet capabilities and wish to receive the newsletter electronically, please send an email message to biologist@prodigy.net expressing your desire to be added to the electronic newsletter mailing list. Likewise, if your email address has changed recently OR if you are no longer receiving your newsletter electronically as expected, you need to advise us of your new/revise email address. If you have changed your ISP (Internet Service Provider) and have not notified us of your change of address, you will no longer receive the newsletter. In most cases, we normally do not duplicate our mailings and those members who are receiving the newsletter electronically WILL NOT receive hard copies via regular mail UNLESS we have been instructed to send a hard copy as well.

Finally, if any of our members have experience with Desktop Publishing and would like to take a swing at upgrading our newsletter, we would be grateful for the help. The Central Wyoming Chapter has a real chance to win a major award from SCI in 2009 if we can take our chapter activities to the next step, so we would appreciate any help from our membership to enhance the newsletter or become more involved in SCI and SCIF programs to promote the mission of SCI locally and on a state-wide basis. So, if you have an interest in helping us to be all that we can be, please contact Bob to discuss these possibilities.

FOR SALE

Bob Anderson has the following items for sale:

- **Swarovski PH riflescope: 6-24 X 50 with Plex reticle and target turrets. Like new with very light ring mounts from previous mounting – glass perfect! \$1,350. New retail value = \$1,998.95 +S&H.**
- **Two unopened boxes of Swift “A” Frame bullets: .375 caliber – 300 grain. 50 bullets/box. Sell both for \$75 or \$40/box individually. Retail value = \$56.75/box + S&H.**
- **Partial box of Barnes Round Nose Solid bullets: .375 caliber – 300 grain. 39 bullets remaining in the box of 50. \$20. Retail value = \$46.49 + S&H.**
- **Two one pound canisters of Reloder 15 smokeless rifle powder – one unopened and one opened (about 500 grains light). Sell both for \$36.00 or \$20/canister individually. Retail value = \$27.99/canister + tax.**

The above items can be seen at 5315 East 21st Street in Casper. Call 307-473-1268 for additional information.

