



June 30, 2016

Wyoming Game and Fish Department  
c/o Renny MacKay  
5400 Bishop Blvd  
Cheyenne, WY 82006

Dear Renny,

Thank you for the opportunity for the Wyoming Wildlife Federation to participate in the Casper meeting about the Wyoming Game and Fish Department's Education Plan. We are really encouraged about a more inclusive approach to wildlife and outdoor education with nonprofit organizations such as the Wyoming Wildlife Federation.

We feel implementation of this plan could be a win-win for all concerned, and for our collective efforts to better engage Wyoming's citizens in hunting and fishing and watchable wildlife opportunities. We also appreciate the idea of G&F providing more tools to stakeholders and through existing events and venues to garner such participation.

Below are WWF's comments on the plan as well as our suggested additions. With these comments in mind, you might consider assembling an Education Committee that could meet periodically via phone and in person to help facilitate and guide these activities and for optimal collaboration. WWF would be happy to serve on such a committee.

#### **Engagement**

- a. Staff with G&F personnel all sportsmen related expos (G&F participated in 2016 Gillette expo but could also consider Rock Springs and Cody expos).
- b. Provide G&F experts for wildlife events hosted by organizations, including volunteer field days for wildlife viewing and conservation. (Examples: WWF and G&F watchable wildlife tour on Aug. 27 in Sheridan; WWF, RMEF and Bowhunters of Wyoming wildlife fence day in Fremont County.)
- c. Consider a main calendar of activities by G&F and include key events by the organizations. (Also help promote these events via G&F your listserve and website.) An additional option is for an "opt-in" email via the G&F website in which people can sign up for specific information on upcoming events. G&F could also share this database with the organizations.
- d. Citizen science: Support and/or partner with organizations on their efforts to bring wildlife science and education programs to local communities.
- e. Offer again the Game and Fish Youth camp for teens, near Dubois, Wyo. This camp offered a great opportunity to engage our youth in outdoor skills, conservation ethics, shooting sports, fishing, hiking, canoeing, and camping fun. If brought back it can once again provide G&F with a great opportunity to work with kids and introduce them to some basic wildlife and habitat management practices.



### **Recruitment**

- a. Increase active recreation by partnering with nonprofits (and advertising via their membership) kids fishing derby events, fly fishing demos (with local shops), and shooting and archery range events (also in partnership with local clubs.)
- b. Consider a "Fishing Passport" program in which anglers can record their catches and species in waters across the state. Anglers who complete their passports win a prize.
- c. Youth education field days. Host various youth events to learn about the outdoors and fishing at various state parks and in collaboration with key groups and nonprofit organizations.

### **Education**

- a. Expand and provide incentivized funding for the "Worth the Watching" program. Organizations could apply for grants to support their watchable wildlife event and in partnership with G&F.
- b. Support a new approach to the Becoming an Outdoors Woman (BOW) skills program. Partner with WWF and other organizations for reinvigorating this program.
- c. Consider a coordinator position for Forever Wild. This program could become more successful if it had a dedicated person to help secure mentors and families to participate.

The Education Plan should be a guidance document and one that remains fluid for incorporating new activities and opportunities to engage sportsmen and women in hunting and fishing as well as for watchable wildlife enthusiasts. It will be important for G&F to have a dedicated staffer to help facilitate implementation of this plan and in cooperation with the organizations that you assembled in Casper for its development.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Please let us know if you have any questions. We also plan to attend the July Commission meeting in which we will provide supporting comments on the G&F Education Plan.

Sincerely,

Chamois Andersen  
Executive Director

Janet Marschner  
President