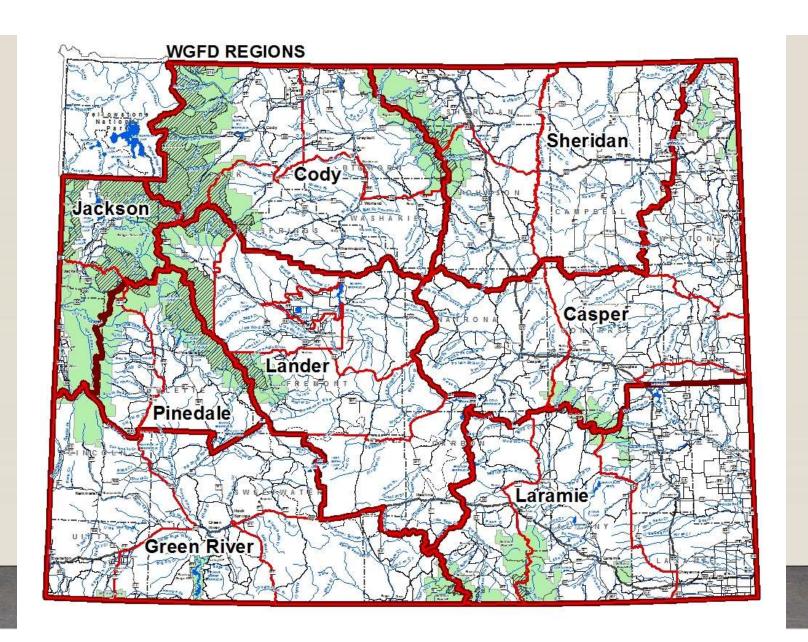
# Wyoming Game Wardens

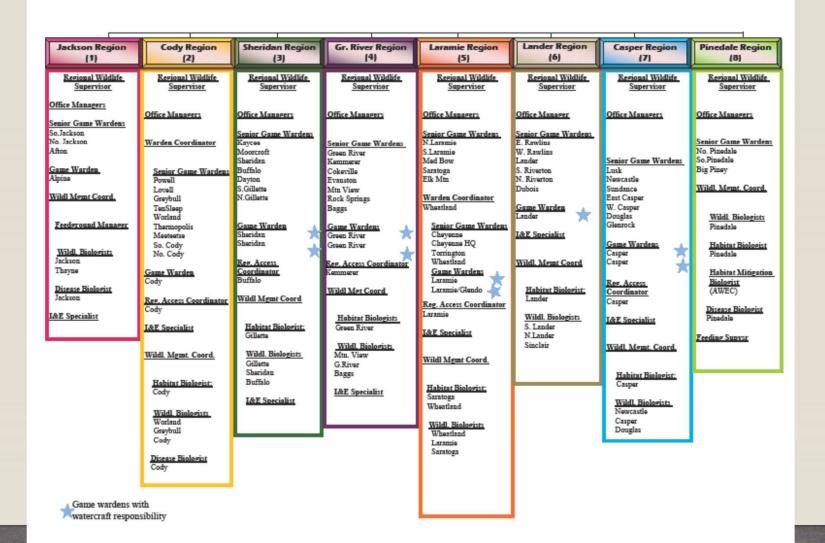
Conserving Wildlife – Serving People

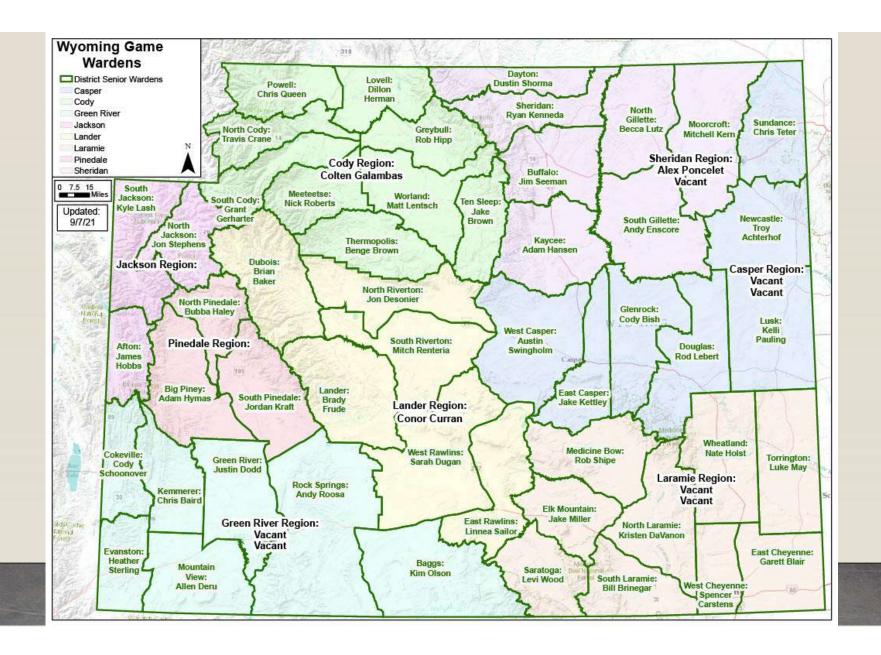


### Why Wyoming?

- More wildlife than people
- Work in environments from alpine tundra to desert basins
- Utilize traditional methods and techniques using state-of-the-art equipment
- Work with an array of wildlife from grizzly bears to sharp-tailed grouse, nongame species from boreal toads to lynx
- Diverse job duties from classifying mule deer to checking boaters
- Highly regarded, well-respected personnel







### Entry-Level Game Warden Job Description

- Law enforcement with an emphasis on watercraft (25-35%)
- Wildlife management data collection/management decisions (20-30%)
- Wildlife conflict/damage (15-20%)
- Daily contacts with a wide variety of external constituent groups and internal Department employees (10-15%)
- Training and other miscellaneous duties (5-10%)

#### Law Enforcement/ Watercraft Safety

- Work independently or with other officers to enforce/check compliance with hunting, fishing, trapping and watercraft statutes and regulations as well as littering and state land camping, open fires and off/closed road travel restrictions.
- Write enforcement reports, attend court, work with other enforcement agencies, conduct investigations, and collect intelligence.
- Conduct courtesy watercraft safety and registration inspections along with HIN,
   VIN and AIS inspections.
- Carry and maintain law enforcement weapons and gear

#### Wildlife Management

- Collect/summarize wildlife data, from both ground and air, to determine distribution, abundance, recruitment, hunter harvest and mortality causes of wildlife.
- Work with senior wildlife biologists and senior game wardens on hunting season strategies and recommendations.
- Assist with trapping, collecting, and sampling wildlife for research projects and disease surveillance. Assist with the trapping and transplanting of wildlife.

#### Wildlife Damage and Conflicts

- Assist senior game wardens and senior wildlife biologists with wildlife damage issues to include investigations, data collection and delivering damage materials to mitigate conflict.
- Respond to and appropriately handle injured and nuisance wildlife calls which may require euthanization of wildlife. Use chemical and mechanical immobilization equipment and techniques when necessary and appropriate.

#### Public and Agency Contacts

- On a daily basis, develops and maintains effective working relationships and communicates/coordinates with Wyoming Game and Fish Department employees.
- Makes regular public contacts, both in the field and office setting, with landowners, sportsmen, boaters, public-at-large, conservation groups, government agencies and non-government organizations.
- Provide information and education on various wildlife topics and boating safety as well as the wide variety of other Department issues. Develop and present structured education and information programs related to watercraft safety and hunter education

#### Training

- Participate in law enforcement (including firearms and intermediate weapons),
  wildlife management, wildlife conflict resolution/damage, injured wildlife,
  immobilization of wildlife, equipment (motorized and non-motorized), dealing
  with the public and other training as assigned or deemed necessary.
- Required to attend and successfully complete/pass the Wyoming Law Enforcement Academy Peace Officer Basic.

# Housing

- Game Wardens (entry level)
  - No Department housing provided
  - Assigned duty station is in a Regional Office and work is conducted within the region
  - Possibility of transfer to another region to expand knowledge base
- Senior Game Warden (SGW)
  - Assigned to specific warden district
  - Department-owned warden stations provided in some remote SGW locations
    - No housing provided in Casper, Cheyenne, Green River, Lander, Laramie, Sheridan

## Opportunities for Advancement

- Senior Game Warden
  - Similar responsibilities as an entry level warden within a specific district
  - Broken down into 1/3 law enforcement, 1/3 wildlife management, and 1/3 public contacts
- Regional Access Coordinator
  - Administers the Access Yes Program to maintain and enhance public hunting and fishing, assists fellow wardens when necessary
- Wildlife Investigator
  - Handles more complex, long-term cases within each region

#### Minimum Qualifications

- A Bachelor's degree in wildlife management, range management, biology, zoology, ichthyology or other closely related field. Other Bachelor's degrees may be considered with at least 20 hours of wildlife-related coursework as evidenced on required transcripts.
- Must successfully complete a 14-week basic peace officer training course at WLEA and maintain a Wyoming peace officer certification as per the Wyoming Peace Officer Standards and Training requirements

# Screening/Hiring

- Application
- Online Interviews
- LHQ and Background Forms
- In-Person Cheyenne Interviews
  - Polygraph Test
  - Law Enforcement Psychological Evaluation
  - Job Suitability Profile
  - Full Board Interview
  - Background Checks

## **Application**

- Applications will open October 1st and close November 18th.
- Must submit a State of Wyoming application as well as transcripts with your application
- Those applications chosen to move on will be scheduled for Google Interviews

#### Online Interviews

- All documents will be reviewed to determine if you will be offered an online interview.
- Google Meets Interviews are about 20 minutes long with a 2-member panel consisting of Wildlife Supervisors and Senior Game Wardens

#### Polygraph Test

- Those selected to continue in the process will be required to submit additional
  documents, including a Life History Questionnaire, Background Questionnaire
  and Job Suitability Profile. All documents are reviewed and those candidates
  selected to proceed to the in-person interviews will be offered an opportunity to
  come to Cheyenne to complete the process.
- The veracity of this information is verified through a polygraph test once in Cheyenne.

## Psychological Profile

- Psychological evaluation components include:
  - 3 psychological/personality tests
  - An interview with a board certified psychologist
  - Several of these components will be online before the in person interview

#### Full Board Interview

- Those who proceed past the polygraph and psychological profile move to a full in-person board interview.
- This interview is conducted with Wildlife Administration and various field personnel.
- If selected to continue, applicant will undergo various background checks.

## **Background Checks**

- Criminal History
- Credit History
- Previous employment (peers & supervisors)
  - Conducted by WGFD Investigators, typically in person; some may be via telephone or mail
- Family/Friends
- Prior Peace Officer Standards Training (POST) certifications

#### Training

- Wilderness First Aid

- Stress Management Ethics
  Leadership Development
  Dealing with the Media
  Writing Workshop
  Dealing with Difficult People
  Law Enforcement
- Immobilization
- Watercraft
- Human/Wildlife Conflict
- Wildlife Management WorkshopsBasic Horsemanship and Desensitization

# Equipment

- Transportation
- Law Enforcement Gear
- Vehicle Equipment
- Specialized Equipment

#### Transportation

- All Terrain Vehicle
- Boat (Depending on district)
- Camper (Depending on district)
- Horse (Up to 3, depending on district)
- Pickup (4X4, Domestic, ½ or ¾ ton, depending on area/use)
- Personal Watercraft (Depending on district)
- Snowmachine
- Remote mountain cabins (Depending on district)

#### Law enforcement Gear

- ASP Baton
- Binoculars
- Duty Leather (Brown)
- Glock Handgun (22C, .40 S&W, 15 round magazines (3)
- Handcuffs
- AR-10 (.308, 20 round magazines (2))
- Oleoresin Capsicum Spray (Stream)
- Pocket Recorder
- Remington 870P Shotgun (12 gauge)
- Uniform (Reimbursement/Issued Item Allowance of \$500/year—includes Gore-Tex jacket/coat, boots, insulated coveralls, etc.)

### Vehicle Equipment

- Cellular Phone
- Cold Weather Sleeping BagFlashlight (Streamlight)GPS Receiver

- Metal Detector
- Portable Radio
- Spotting Scope w/ Window Mount
- Still Camera
- Winches (Bumper and/or headache rack)

# Specialized equipment

- Night vision equipment/video cameras/remote cameras
- PIT tags/readers
- Unmarked vehicles
- Dog

#### Benefits

- Medical, Dental, Life and Vision Plans available with state contributions
- Peace Officer Retirement Program
  - Employees contribute 2.64% of pre-tax income, the state funds the remaining 26.8%
  - Employees become eligible for retirement once their age and years of service add up to 85 and must retire by 65
- Worker's Compensation
- Longevity Pay (every 5 years of service)

#### Already a Warden in Another State?

- Same process as entry level game wardens
  (i.e. interviews, polygraph, psychological evaluations, background checks).
- Hired into entry level game warden position.
- Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) certification
  - POST records are submitted to Wyoming POST for accreditation approval.
  - Warden completes the WLEA Challenge Exam/2-week academy training (instead of all 14 weeks).
- Openings for senior game warden districts are selected from entry level game wardens.
  - Game wardens with prior work experience have the ability to be extremely competitive for promotions to senior game warden, regional access coordinator, and wildlife investigator positions.

## Interested in Applying?

- Send an email to <a href="wgf.wildlife@wyo.gov">wgf.wildlife@wyo.gov</a> to express interest in the process or ask any questions you may have
- Visit <u>wgfd.wyo.gov/game-warden-process</u> for more information about the process