

Deer Trapping: Winter of 2017

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For local biologist, Tony Mong, the winter months don't slow the work; they only bring out the more enjoyable of jobs, it seems. Many locals have come to know the joys and struggles of deer trapping when volunteering their time with the Game and Fish Department. Deer trapping is a safe and harmless way of capturing deer in order to attach trackers to them to gain migratory data. The trackers used are placed in collars that are then attached around the deer's neck. The Game and Fish use the trackers to learn about the migration paths of deer in our area. They want to know things like where the deer winter, if they go into Colorado often, and if they are staying here during our hunting seasons. They were also used to aid the building of the tall deer fence on Highway 789.

This year, a part time employee of the Game and Fish is baiting the deer to the trapping area. Please take note, any other baiting of deer is illegal in the state of Wyoming. Apple pulp is used to attract the deer to the area and lure them under

a net. When officials believe there are enough deer under the net, remote control magnets are turned off to drop the net onto the deer. Trapping volunteers then rush in to cover the eyes of the deer and hold them down so that they don't struggle. If a deer struggles for too long in the netting it could easily become tangled or injure itself. Collars are put on the bucks, while the does receive ear tags such as those used on local beef. They are assessed for any major health concerns, and samples are taken from a few deer to test for genetic issues.

The Game and Fish have been trapping deer in areas around Baggs for about four years now. They are planning to trap deer most days in January, weather permitting. Tony and Game Warden Kim Olson would like to thank their volunteers for contributing their time and efforts. During hunting seasons if anyone takes a deer that has a collar or ear tag, it has been asked that you contact Tony or Kim. This helps them continue tracking herds, and not the collars that are now out of use.

Good luck to anyone who keeps braving the cold for any reason. Dress warm!



Have you hugged your deer today? A University of Wyoming student came to help with trapping last January.