

## AMAZING SUMMER – The 2016 WYTWS Fellowship Program

The mission of the WYTWS program is to develop and mentor future wildlife professionals. Now in its fifth year, this paid summer program allows the selected Fellow to explore multiple career opportunities as he/she travels, networks, assists, learns, and interacts with the public around Wyoming.

Jace Cussins was selected as the 2016 Fellow. This three-month position provided him the unique opportunity to shadow seventeen different wildlife organizations including federal agencies, state agencies, universities, NGOs, and consultants – many of which were WYTWS members.

Some of these experiences included: hands-on work with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services and a University of Wyoming grad student on endangered Wyoming toads, bighorn sheep/pronghorn antelope/secretive marsh bird/black bear hair snare surveys with Wyoming Game and Fish Department, necropsies at the Wyoming State Vet Lab, fed and hatched trumpeter swans with the Wyoming Wetland Society, participated in the Western States Sage and Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse Workshop with Audubon Rockies, banded golden eagle fledglings and rabbit surveys with the Draper Museum, mist-netted and tracked bats with Wyoming Natural Diversity Database, and received a special invitation to attend the historic release of black-footed ferrets in Meteteetsee. Jealous yet? I am! If you're able to make it Cody for our joint meeting with Society for Range Management, you'll hear directly from Jace about his amazing summer made possible by our chapter!

Thank you to all of the mentors from this last summer. Your time (ranging from a few hours to a week), talking about your educational background and careers, gave him unique insight into our complex field and is helping to guide him as he develops a meaningful career. This program is one of the reasons that I'm really proud to be a member of WYTWS!

*D. Edmunds, WYTWS Fellowship Co-Coordinator*