

# Colorado Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office



AUGUST 2019

## Who We Are/ Where We Are

### Lakewood, CO

*Pam Sponholtz,*  
Project Leader

*JoAnn Wise,*  
Budget Admin

### Buckley Air Force Base,

Aurora, CO  
*Dustin Casady,*  
Fish and Wildlife Biologist

### Peterson, Schriever, Cheyenne Mtn Air Force Bases,

Colorado Springs, CO  
*Clark Jones,*  
Wildlife Biologist

### US Air Force Academy,

Colorado Springs, CO  
*Brian Mihlbachler,*  
Biological Scientist

*Melissa Whittingslow,*  
Wildlife Biologist

*R. Joe Murphy III,*  
Forester

*Bryan Wilfong,*  
Forestry Technician

### Rocky Mountain National Park, Estes Park, CO

*Chris Kennedy,*  
Fish Biologist

### F.E. Warren Air Force Base,

Cheyenne, WY  
*Alex Schubert,*  
Fish and Wildlife Biologist

### McConnell Air Force Base,

Wichita, KS  
*Laura Mendenhall,*  
Fish and Wildlife Biologist

### Pueblo Chemical Depot,

Pueblo, CO  
*Rickey Jones*  
Wildlife Biologist

### Gunnison, CO

*Cole Brittain,*  
Aquatic Biotechnician  
*Dana Shellhorn,*  
Aquatic Biotechnician

### SCA Interns

*Brock Best*  
*Kyle Colburn*  
*Emily Frederick*

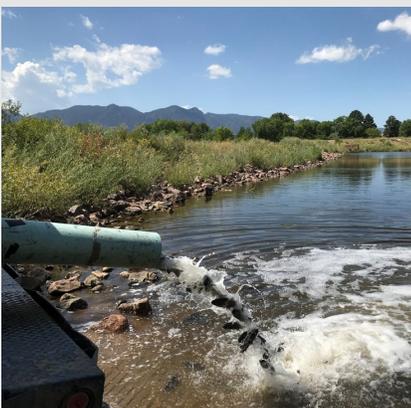
## Region 6 Priority Projects



### Hunting & Fishing

SCA Interns Kyle Colburn and Emily Frederick assisted with electrofishing North Pearson Lake at F.E. Warren AFB in support of the base fishing program. The survey turned up largemouth bass, brown trout, yellow perch and pumpkinseed sunfish.

The U.S. Air Force Academy recently held a salvage list sign-up to distribute salvageable meat from car accidents involving game animals. This year all deer and elk harvested from the Academy, including from vehicle strikes, will be tested for chronic wasting disease or CWD.



Melissa Whittingslow stocked 4 lakes at the US Air Force Academy and three lakes at Fairish Recreational Area with 9-11 inch rainbow trout. As a part of the Natural Resources recreational fishing program, the Fairish fishing lakes are stocked from May to September, and the Academy lakes are stocked from April to October.

### Black-Footed Ferret

Alex Schubert began trapping prairie dogs out of the F. E. Warren AFB black-footed ferret pens. The prairie dogs were placed in the pens in July in order to establish burrows for use by the black-footed ferrets that are expected to arrive on base in September.

### Greenback Cutthroat Trout

Chris Kennedy worked with the U. S. Forest Service to collect data prior to initiating the chemical removal of non-native trout. This work included determining the extent of fish in each drainage, collecting environmental DNA samples, collecting flow measurements, and conducting time of travel studies and is part of a project to restore a large section of the Upper Cache la Poudre River to the federally threatened greenback cutthroat trout

Chris Kennedy removed and relocated 92 non-native cutthroat trout using electrofishing from West Creek, Rocky Mountain National Park. The fish are being relocated

to open up habitat for the federally threatened greenback cutthroat trout.



Dana Shellhorn and Cole Brittain helped with the George Creek Reclamation project near RedFeather Lakes in Northwest Colorado and the Rock Creek project near Kenosha Pass outside of Fairplay. This project is part of a larger effort to reclaim the watershed for restoration of greenback cutthroat trout.



# Species Conservation & Management



- Clark Jones coordinated with Schriever AFB on plague testing and treatment of prairie dog colonies in cooperation with USDA and Colorado Parks and Wildlife. Routine prairie dog colony mapping in July detected mortality within a single colony that subsequently tested positive for plague. USDA staff have treated and closed specific areas to the public.
- Laura Mendenhall and a volunteer from the McConnell AFB Entomology Shop collected game cameras from the wooded riparian area on the south end of the McConnell AFB airfield. Mendenhall deployed these cameras to characterize the large mammals using this area. Cameras captured images of bobcats, white-tailed deer, coyotes, armadillo, opossum, fox squirrels, raccoons, wild turkey, and eastern cottontails utilizing this area throughout the past year.
- Kyle Colburn and Dana Shellhorn assisted Rickey Jones in mapping prairie dog colonies at PCD for 2019. Annual mapping helps keep track of active colonies that could be impacted by DOD projects, available burrowing owl habitat, encroachment of prairie dogs into restricted areas, and changes in extent and abundance due to previous plague events.
- Brian Mihlbachler and Melissa Whittingslow assisted Rob Schorr, Colorado Natural Heritage Program (CNHP), with Preble's Meadow Jumping Mouse trapping along Monument Creek on the U.S. Air Force Academy. Annual population monitoring conducted since 1998 by CNHP biologists provides the best long-term database available for Preble's throughout its range.

## Habitat Conservation & Management

- Bryan Wilfong developed sampling methodology for and installed 11 long term photo monitoring plots and collected basic forestry variables in fuel reduction units on the U.S. Air Force Academy. Monitoring plots will be used to assess the efficacy of fuel reduction treatment methods.
- Joe Murphy continues work with the AF Civil Engineering Center (AFCEC) to develop a standard operating procedure to detect beetle stressed pines utilizing unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV). Plans are to conduct a field study in late 2019 to calibrate the UAVs before fully engaging the project at the U.S. Air Force Academy in 2020. This work will assist in shaping UAV utilization for forest management DOD wide.
- Dustin Casady and the SCA interns initiated a project to support the Buckley AFB Stormwater Program by removing shrubs and trees from drainages. Many of the drainage systems on base have blockage issues that prevent water flow. Trees and shrubs were cut stump treated with herbicide to remove blockage and prevent regeneration.