

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
Kyle Colburn
SCA intern

Peterson, Schriever, Cheyenne Mtn Air Force Bases,
Colorado Springs, CO
Katy Fitzgerald
Wildlife Biologist

US Air Force Academy,
Colorado Springs, CO
Brian Mhlbachler,
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
Mike Jungen,
Fish and Wildlife Biologist
Montanna Hayes, Theresa Wolff - SCA interns

Pueblo Chemical Depot,
Pueblo, CO
Rickey Jones,
Wildlife Biologist

Fort Collins, CO
Cole Brittain,
Aquatic Biotechnician

Gunnison, CO
Dana Shellhorn,
Aquatic Biotechnician

Colorado Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office



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Unified Regions 5/7 Priority Projects

Species Conservation & Management

Alex Schubert and Cole Brittain installed a modified “beaver deceiver” on F.E. Warren Air Force Base (AFB) in order to maintain beaver activity while preventing negative impacts on the surrounding area. The device will allow water to pass through the dam but will maintain water levels for the current beaver population, promote fish passage, and prevent excessive flooding to the nearby campground.



Alex Schubert next to the newly installed “beaver deceiver” device at F.E. Warren AFB.

Dana Shellhorn assisted Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) to electrofish Saguache Creek near Saguache, CO. CPW plans to stock hatchery raised Rio Grande suckers in this stream, and the survey aimed to determine population structure of the stream and remove white suckers to improve survival of stocked fish. The survey found white suckers, longnose dace, fathead chubs, and Rio Grande chubs.



Dana Shellhorn electrofishing Saguache Creek with CPW technician. Credit: Dan Cammack, CPW.



Chris Kennedy delivering a bag of Wyoming Toad tadpoles from the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo to the Leadville Hatchery.

Chris Kennedy is detailed to the Leadville National Fish Hatchery, spawning and developing broodstocks for the federally threatened greenback cutthroat trout and very rare Hayden Creek green lineage cutthroat trout. They collected 200,000 greenback and 23,000 Hayden Creek eggs to stock at restoration projects. Chris also delivered 102 federally threatened Wyoming Toad tadpoles from Cheyenne Mountain Zoo to the hatchery.

Leadership in Science and Technology



Rickey Jones and Pueblo Chemical Depot (PCD) initiated a research project with the biology department at CSU-Pueblo to identify how wildlife moves across the landscape at PCD. They will be using solar charging GSM telemetry to track movements of burrowing owls, badgers, coyote, bobcat, swift fox, desert cottontails, black-tailed jackrabbits, black-tailed prairie dogs, red-tailed hawks, Cassin’s sparrows, and scaled quail. This multi-trophic monitoring scheme will provide valuable insight into the movement patterns and habitat selection of wildlife at PCD, as well as identify potential human-wildlife conflict hotspots that are targeted for conflict management efforts.

Solar charging telemetry node used for wildlife movement research project at PCD.

Partnerships and Accountability



- Pam Sponholtz, Cole Brittain, and Dana Shellhorn hosted the annual Baca National Wildlife Refuge meeting virtually, continuing collaboration with USFWS Refuge Staff, U.S. Geological Survey, and Colorado Parks and Wildlife to promote resilience in the rare aboriginal populations of Rio Grande Suckers and Chubs on the refuge. The meeting shared research from 2019 including water temperature and intermittency, population abundance study, detection analysis, and general sampling. The meeting also discussed future sampling and management plans.
- Joe Murphy, US Air Force Academy (USAFA) Forester met with the Wildland Fire Support Module (WFSM) and the new Fire Management Officer to review prescribed fuels management projects on USAFA. WFSM just completed treatment of the seven acre Douglass Valley Ball Park unit to improve the health of the forest and reduce the chance of a crown driven wildfire in the urban area. The WFSM exceeded all standards for this highly visible area and will begin work on another larger mastication unit. The WFSM also rehabilitated two areas affected by wildfire by removing and mitigating the debris of multiple damaged trees.

Top: Meriam turkey hen and chicks at the USAFA. Bottom: Red tailed hawk encountered during raptor surveys at F.E. Warren AFB.

Habitat Conservation & Management

- Brian Mihlbachler, USAFA Natural Resources Manager, continues to monitor the Black Forest Creek channel stabilization and habitat restoration project. Recent rains have promoted the establishment and growth of native vegetation on the reseeded disturbed areas. No damage to the channel or grade control structures occurred during the recent runoff events.
- Bryan Wilfong, USAFA forestry technician, began developing sampling protocols to assess the effects of elk exclusion fences on forest community composition, structure and abundances. He removed fallen trees that damaged elk exclusion fences at Farish Recreation Area and cataloged fence repair needs.
- Katy Fitzgerald coordinated Russian olive removal on Peterson AFB with the Wildland Fire Branch, and Peterson's Natural Resources biologist. She also worked with Natural Resources staff on Schriever AFB to select a native forb seed mix appropriate for re-seeding post burn next spring.
- Mike Jungen, SCA interns Montanna Hayes and Theresa Wolff, and a team from Kansas State University met at McConnell AFB to install a red cedar revetment in McConnell Creek. The project uses grassland-encroaching red cedar trees from the base to stabilize the stream bank by strapping the trees into highly-eroded cut banks. After a rain event, the red cedar's thick foliage catches eroded sediment from up-stream and forms a new bank where vegetation can establish, which over time, becomes highly resistant to erosion.



From left to right: Black Forest Creek stabilization project. Red cedar revetment project on McConnell Creek. Pollinator garden at F.E. Warren AFB replanted and maintained by SCA interns Montanna Hayes and Theresa Wolff.