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Project Leader
JoAnn Wise,
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Buckley Air Force Base,
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Kyle Colburn
SCA intern

Peterson, Schriever, Chey-
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Katy Fitzgerald
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US Air Force Academy,
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Brian Mihlbachler,
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Melissa Whittingslow,
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Bryan Wilfong,
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Rocky Mountain National
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Chris Kennedy,
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F.E. Warren Air Force Base,
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Alex Schubert,
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McConnell Air Force Base,
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Mike Jungen,
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Pueblo Chemical Depot,
Pueblo, CO
Rickey Jones,
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Fort Collins, CO
Cole Brittain,
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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

Melissa Whittingslow continues to coordinate the upcoming hunts on the US Air Force Academy (USAFA). This includes giving safety briefings to turkey hunters, signing up deer hunters for their weekend hunt, and discussing COVID-19 safety precautions. The archery only turkey hunt ends Oct 4, the guided elk hunt runs from Oct 1 to Jan 3, and the guided deer hunts will take place Dec 5 -6 and Dec 12 -13.



A hunter poses with a pronghorn buck harvested at F.E. Warren AFB. Four bucks have been harvested on the base to date during the ongoing pronghorn hunt.



Dana Shellhorn and volunteers electrofishing Ouzel creek to remove hybridized cutthroat trout.

Chris Kennedy worked with Dana Shellhorn, SCA intern Kyle Colburn, and several volunteers on the Ouzel Creek removal project in Rocky Mountain National Park. They mechanically removed a total of 338 hybridized cutthroat trout using electrofishing to open habitat for genetically pure Greenback cutthroats in the future. Some fish are still present, but mature fish have been removed which will decrease spawning in 2021.

Partnerships and Accountability

- Cole Brittain helped with a chemical reclamation project on Sand Creek in the northern portion of the Great Sand Dunes National Park. This was a cooperative effort by both state and federal agencies to restore native Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout to its indigenous range. The team battled weather, transportation and timing restraints to treat this system in preparation for the future reintroduction of native cutthroat trout.
- Brian Mihlbachler organized over 60 volunteers to participate in the Fountain Creek Watershed District's fall Creek Week cleanup. Six groups removed trash and other debris from seven creeks on USAFA.

Cole Brittain, SCA intern Keegan Delurey, and Alex Schubert surveyed the fisheries in both North and South Pearson lakes at F.E. Warren Air Force Base (AFB) with an electrofishing boat. The north lake had an abundance of large brown trout, rainbow trout, yellow perch, and largemouth bass. The south lake contained only small yellow perch, possibly due to the large flock of cormorants feeding in South Pearson Lake this summer.



Keegan Delurey and Cole Brittain netting fish from an electrofishing boat at F.E. Warren AFB.

Leadership in Science and Technology



Rickey Jones and Pueblo Chemical Depot (PCD) continues work on the research project with the biology department at CSU-Pueblo identifying how wildlife moves across the landscape at PCD and what resources they are utilizing on post. They are 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. In September they trapped, processed, and collard two badgers and one bobcat for the project.

Katy Fitzgerald has been helping to plan and coordinate ArcCollector Training for the COFWCO staff that will occur in late October. She sent out and compiled staff surveys for the goals of the training, and determined necessary resources for the training. She also created a meeting agenda and iPad set up directions for the staff in preparation.

Rickey Jones with a sedated bobcat. The bobcat will be fitted with a radio collar so that researchers can monitor movements of animals at PCD.

Habitat Conservation & Management

- Mike Jungen met with Kansas State University partners in early September to check the status of the red cedar revetment that was installed in June at McConnell AFB. Despite the late installation and dry conditions, the red cedar revetment seems to be catching sediment and mitigating erosion in McConnell Creek. Willow cuttings planted for bank stabilization are growing tall and fast.
- Bryan Wilfong conducted field monitoring at USAFA and Farish Rec Area to identify trees contributing to wildland fire fuel loads. He identified and documented trees with evidence of decline for further monitoring, collected basic forestry data on trees, and marked them for removal when necessary.
- Dustin Casady partnered with U.S. Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services and continued to remove juniper tree rows from the native prairie on Buckley Garrison Space Force Base. This project accomplishes natural resource and safety goals by restoring native prairie and reducing Bird Aircraft Strike Hazards. Juniper trees are not native to the area and increase the presence of species such as cottontail rabbit and magpies. Fifty trees were cut and chipped this month and the project is 70% complete with nearly 2000 juniper trees removed.



Red cedar revetment along McConnell Creek three months after installation.



From left to right: Swainson's hawk perches in a tree at FE Warren AFB. Black-tailed jack rabbit moves through the grasses at FE Warren AFB. Pronghorn buck watches from the shade at FE Warren AFB. Photos by Keagan Delurey.