

# Colorado Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office



MAY 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 Vacant

### 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

*Clark Jones,*  
Wildlife Biologist

### Gunnison, CO

*Cole Brittain,*  
Aquatic Biotechnician

### SCA Interns

Brock Best  
Emily Frederick  
Kyle Colburn

## Region 6 Priority Projects

### Hunting & Fishing

Brian Mihlbachler provided a television interview to KOAA-5 News concerning USAFA's deer hunting program, wildlife-vehicle accidents, and alternatives for deer population control. Colorado Parks and Wildlife and the City of Colorado Springs are discussing how to address a growing deer problem in the city, and USAFA's hunting program is often cited as a model program on the effective and efficient use of hunting to control deer numbers.

[Watch Brian's interview here!](#)

Alex Schubert coordinated with Liley Fisheries to arrange the delivery of 954 pounds of 9-14" rainbow trout to F. E. Warren AFB North and South Pearson Lakes in support of the base fishing program.

### Cutthroat Trout Recovery

Chris Kennedy spent three weeks working at the Leadville National Fish Hatchery working with the Federally threatened greenback cutthroat trout. Work focused on preparing for spawning, spawning and developing a broodstock through genetic matrixing.

### Pollinator Conservation

Laura Mendenhall removed inva-

sive plants from the pollinator gardens and grassland restoration plot on McConnell AFB. Wildflower seeds collected from these gardens were passed out at the annual Outdoor Recreation Open House.



*Showy milkweed (Asclepias speciosa) at McConnell AFB.*

## Species Conservation & Management

- Clark Jones led a field trip for employees on Pueblo Chemical Depot to commemorate migratory bird day. The trip included stops to wetland areas and prairie dog colonies on the depot to see several species of resident and migratory birds. Pueblo Chemical Depot is primarily shortgrass prairie habitat, but many species use the ponds, wetlands, and creek corridor as a migratory stopover. Nearly 200 species of birds have been documented on Pueblo Chemical Depot.
- The COFWCO has partnered with the Bird Conservancy of the Rockies (BCR) to complete spring migratory bird surveys on Buckley AFB. Partnering with the BCR will dramatically increase the value of this survey by combining the data with a much broader survey effort across the Midwest. The resulting population estimates will allow Dustin Casady to assess the efficacy of habitat modifications on the base. SCA interns, Emily Frederick and Kyle Colburn also assisted the BCR staff in completing the surveys.



# Partnerships & Accountability



- Chris Kennedy participated in Leadville National Fish Hatchery's Pathway to Fishing event. With partners from USFS, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Trout Unlimited and Friends of the Leadville National Fish Hatchery, the hatchery hosted 75 fifth grade students from the Lake County Intermediate School. Students learned about fish anatomy and habitat, fly casting, spin casting, knot tying, fish handling, aquatic entomology and Leave No Trace ethics. After a snowy picnic lunch, each student walked away with a new fishing pole and the basics of ethical angling.



- Brian Mihlbachler assisted Saratoga National Fish Hatchery staff with preparing and transporting Wyoming toads for release at four locations near Laramie, Wyoming. The Wyoming Toad is the most endangered amphibian in North America. All toads are PIT-tagged and some have telemetry collars so dispersal, survival, and hopefully reproduction can be monitored. The greatest threat to the species is chytrid fungus.
- Welcome Student Conservation Association (SCA) interns, Emily Frederick and Kyle Colburn! These SCA interns will assist the COFWCO with a variety of projects across Colorado, Wyoming, and Kansas. Emily Frederick came from Georgia, where she recently graduated from Georgia Southern University with a Bachelor of Science in Biology. Kyle Colburn came from Wisconsin where he graduated in 2018 from the University of Wisconsin-Madison with a Bachelor of Science in Geology and Geophysics. Both interns are eager to learn and are excited to work with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.



student  
conservation  
association