

# Colorado Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office



APRIL 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, Chey-

enne 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*



USFWS, Student Conservation Interns (SCA), and Buckley AFB helped the Marines stationed on base to restore a site they disturbed during an unplanned training activity that occurred after a snow event. USFWS, SCA, and the Marines worked together to level, cultivate, drill seed, and install an erosion barrier.

Dustin Casady received a coin award from the Commander of the Marines for going above and beyond in assisting with the restoration and helping them to avoid a large restoration bill.

## Region 6 Priority Projects

### Cutthroat Trout Recovery

Chris Kennedy completed a draft of the "Evaluation of Waters for Native Cutthroat Trout Restoration in Rocky Mountain National Park" report. The report compiles data on several variables for each body of water in the park that currently contain fish. Each waterbody, sub-drainage, and drainage are ranked on restoration potential.

### Hunting & Fishing

Alex Schubert coordinated with the Saratoga National Fish Hatchery to stock rainbow trout into North Pearson, South Pear-

son, and Lake Centennial at F. E. Warren AFB.

Melissa Whittingslow assisted with sign-ups and safety briefings for the turkey hunters selected for the second group of the USAFA Archery Only Spring Turkey Hunt.

Brian Mihlbachler is coordinating with the Royal Family Kids (RFK) organization to bring approximately 65-75 abused or neglected foster children to the Air Force Academy for three days of fishing. RFK contributes rainbow trout to supplement the Academy's normal hatchery stocking.

The same fishing event was held in 2018 and was well-received by participants.

### Pollinator Conservation

USFWS partnered with Buckley AFB Outdoor Recreation to hold an Earth Day event at the Family Camp on base. Volunteers were invited to help plant pollinator gardens, eat food, and enjoy some time in a bouncy house. USFWS provided native perennial pollinator plants for the event and talked about the importance of these plants and what they provide for the natural world.



Pollinator planting box at Buckley AFB.



Stream clean-up at F.E. Warren AFB.



Restoration site at Buckley AFB.

# Partnerships & Accountability



*Melissa Whittingslow presenting to elementary school students.*

- Melissa Whittingslow presented at the US Air Force Elementary School "Purple Up" Day. "Purple Up" Day is a celebration of military children. During "Purple Up" Day, members from the local community talk about their careers to expose the students to different careers and life experiences. Whittingslow talked about her career as a fish and wildlife biologist.
- The Natural Resources team at USAFA will again be assisting Team Rubicon in implementing saw training for their group and other interested parties. This upcoming training will be a field day where sawyers can come in and practice cutting trees of various difficulties. Participants will be removing trees in creeks to allow for proper stream flow, cutting down a variety of salt killed trees along I-25, and assisting in the thinning project in Jack's Valley.
- Alex Schubert coordinated with persons wanting to install bat houses at F.E. Warren AFB as a Boy Scout project. Schubert inspected different locations and coordinated with base personnel to arrange for the bat houses to be put in place.



*Goldeneye ducks at F.E. Warren AFB.*

# Habitat Conservation & Management



*Chipping trees at USAFA.*

- Bryan Wilfong monitored forest health and recorded the locations of mistletoe and beetle infestations on USAFA using a handheld GPS unit. Wilfong also checked tree health at the Godwin and Carlton Houses, and at the USAFA golf course.
- Joe Murphy performed a health check for the trees in recreation areas at USAFA's Farish Recreation Area in preparation for its opening in May. Murphy saw no major issues and Farish is ready to open for the season. Natural Resources will escort the US Forest Service's Forest Health Protection representatives for a more thorough examination in the late spring/early summer.
- Melissa Whittingslow along with SCA Intern Brock Best assisted Joe Murphy chipping trees in a thinning unit on the US Air Force Academy.