

Colorado Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office



AUGUST 2018

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
Max Canestorp,
Wildlife Biologist

US Air Force Academy,
Colorado Springs, CO
Brian Mhlbachler,
Biological Scientist
Melissa Whittingslow,
Wildlife Biologist
R. Joe Murphy III,
Forester

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
Hannah Atkinson
Brock Best
Jessica Gorski

Region 6 Priority Projects



Black-Footed Ferret Recovery

Multiple military personnel from the F.E. Warren AFB helped with the arrival of 3 black-footed ferrets to the pre-conditioning pens on

base. The ferrets will be on base for approximately 30 days before they will be released into their historic habitat.

Cutthroat Trout Recovery

Chris Kennedy worked with Forest Service biologists on a fish movement study to determine whether a waterfall on the Cache la Poudre River is a barrier to fish passage. The waterfall is the downstream terminus of a large greenback cutthroat trout restoration project within Rocky Mountain National Park and the Arapahoe and Roose-

velt National Forest in the vicinity of Long Draw Reservoir.

Pollinator Conservation

Late August marks the return of migrating monarch butterflies to Kansas. Laura Mendenhall documented approximately 50 monarch butterfly caterpillars in 3 pollinator gardens at McConnell AFB. These gardens feature ample nectar sources for adult monarchs and 3 different species of milkweed for larvae.

Background Photo: A monarch butterfly chrysalis hangs from swamp milkweed planted in a pollinator garden at McConnell AFB.

Partnerships & Accountability

- Dustin Casady and John Callon (USDA) presented at the 2018 Bird Strike Committee USA Meeting in Baltimore, Maryland. The presentation highlighted projects that improve flight safety while also restoring native prairie.
- Max Canestorp, Brian Mhlbachler, Alex Schubert, Melissa Whittingslow, Joe Murphy, and Dustin Casady participated in a firearms recertification training.
- Clark Jones gave a presentation on the history of Pueblo Chemical Depot to the Beulah Historical Society. Pueblo Chemical Depot has a rich pre-history and history going back over 5,000 years when Native Americans occupied the region, up through World War II, to the present-day mission of the Depot of destroying one of the last stockpiles of chemical munitions in the United States.



Species Conservation & Management



- Brian Mihlbachler and Melissa Whittingslow held a sign-up for salvaging road-killed deer and elk on USAFA. Fourteen people were added to the salvage list. Ten to fifteen animals are typically salvageable each year on USAFA. Any salvaged animals must be accompanied by a Road Kill Wildlife Possession Permit from Colorado Parks and Wildlife.
- Wyoming Natural Diversity Database researchers Don Jones and Sam Mackenzie surveyed small mammals in search of Preble's meadow jumping mouse at F. E. Warren AFB. Brock Best and Alex Schubert assisted. One jumping mouse was captured this year during the surveys.
- Clark Jones and Jessica Gorski conducted fall avian migration monitoring at Pueblo Chemical Depot in August. Several species of shorebirds use ponds and wetlands on Pueblo Chemical Depot as stopover sites. Many of these species, such as Upland Sandpiper, are species of concern throughout much of their range in the United States.



Habitat Conservation & Management



- Dustin Casady mowed the Lake Williams lakebed on Buckley AFB. This lake was recently reduced to a small pond, however, the pond still provides water and makes the lakebed attractive to Bird/Wildlife Air Strike Hazard species. Mowing the lakebed reduces the habitat and discourages wildlife from using it.
- Laura Mendenhall collaborated with the McConnell AFB Entomology Shop to finalize a 5 year invasive Johnson grass control strategy. The team started work to control the invasive plant in 2017 and will continue in high priority areas using a multi-pronged cultural, mechanical, and chemical approach.



Background Photo: Student Conservation Association interns Brock Best and Hannah Atkinson take a break from evaluating the presence of fish in Baker Creek in Rocky Mountain National Park.