

Colorado Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office



JUNE 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 Mihlbachler,
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

Pollinator Conservation

Laura Mendenhall applied for and received a Bayer “Feed-a-Bee” grant to fund the conversion of landscaping beds from non-native ornamental plants to native, pollinator-friendly plants in partnership with the Kansas Air National Guard on McConnell AFB.

Black-Footed Ferret Re-

covery Alex Schubert and Brock Best continued coordination with Tyler Tretten of the FWS National Black-footed Ferret Conservation

Center in Carr, CO regarding 2018 plans for pre-conditioning black-footed ferrets at F. E. Warren AFB. Prairie dogs will be placed in each of the pre-conditioning pens to establish burrows prior to the ferret’s arrival in August.

Cutthroat Trout Recovery

Chris Kennedy spent three weeks on detail at the Leadville National Fish Hatchery working with the Federally threatened greenback cutthroat trout. Work focused on spawning, developing a broodstock

through genetic matrixing and conducting an experiment to determine if the matrixing is working. Over 306,000 greenback eggs were collected to stock into restoration projects and 140 spawns were taken to develop the broodstock as part of the experiment. An additional 757,000 Carr Creek green lineage cutthroat trout eggs were also collected.

Background Photo: Band of pronghorn does with first fawns of 2018 on F.E. Warren AFB.

Partnerships & Accountability

- Alex Schubert and Andy McKinley (DoD) took photos with the F.E. Warren AFB newly received General Thomas D. White award trophy for the best small installation natural resources program in the entire Air Force from 2016-2017.
- Clark Jones completed the USFWS Stepping Up To Leadership program last month at the National Conservation Training Center. The program lasts six months and culminates with presentations of group work along with the development of individual leadership philosophies.
- Brian Mihlbachler continued discussions with the Colorado DOT and Copper Ridge Metro District about habitat mitigation and stormwater controls for a new interchange proposed for construction on USAFA property. Protecting downstream Federally threatened Preble’s Meadow Jumping Mouse habitat against damage from stormwater from planned full-spectrum detention basins is a key USAFA concern.



Species Conservation & Management



- Melissa Whittingslow is helping with nuisance and trapped animal reporting at USAFA. These reports included mallard fledglings trapped in a holding take, rattle and bull snake removal calls, and black bear sightings. Melissa educates residents on who they can call for wildlife concerns and about the importance of keeping dumpsters locked and recycling bins in garages until pickup day.
- Max Canestorp responded to a report of a juvenile great horned owl that had ventured out of its nest prior to being flight capable on Schriever AFB. The nest was located on an inaccessible ledge of a building, so Canestorp and others relocated the juvenile to a safe location out of the reach of coyotes on the roof of the building.
- Dustin Casady and Hannah Atkinson worked with USDA biologist, John Callon, to build waterers for Swedish goshawk traps. The traps were then set up in areas that were not previously being trapped on Buckley AFB to help manage airstrike risk. The waterers supply a week's worth of water for the pigeons that are used as bait to attract raptors to the traps.
- USAFA's Forests are now host to two formally unseen pests. This includes red ray rot (a fungus that grows on primarily dead wood) and the roundheaded pine beetle. The roundheaded pine beetle's northern most range normally only extends hundreds of miles to the south of USAFA. Extensive monitoring for these pests will commence.



Habitat Conservation & Management

- Max Canestorp mowed two large stands of Canada thistle on Schriever AFB in an experiment to reduce herbicide use on the installation. This treatment strategy calls for mowing the thistle every couple weeks to sap the weed of its nutrient reserves.
- Alex Schubert and Brock Best mechanically removed young invasive teasel plants from all ditches at F.E. Warren AFB containing the plant. This will be the third year that this effort has been conducted at F.E. Warren AFB and substantial progress has been made on reducing the distribution and abundance of this plant on base.

