

Great Plains Fish & Wildlife Conservation Office



Photo: Sunrise on the Missouri River

Recovery & Restoration

- Completed “2019 Pallid Sturgeon Population Assessment Program Annual Report: Segments 5 and 6”.
- Reviewed three documents related to pallid sturgeon recovery and the Missouri River Recovery Program.

2019 Pallid Sturgeon Population Assessment Program Annual Report: Segments 5 and 6



Prepared for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Missouri River Recovery Program

By:

Landon L. Pierce, Daniel A. James, and Dylan R. Turner

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Great Plains Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office

Pierre, SD

December 2019

Recovery & Restoration



- Practiced surgical suturing techniques on excess hatchery broodstock as training for “real world” acoustic tag implantation this spring.

Recreation

- Collected data from 9 time-lapse video cameras from 3 fishing lakes at Ellsworth AFB, SD. Cameras were set to record an image every 10 minutes to document fishing activity at each lake as part of a remote creel survey.



Partnerships & Employee Development

Great Plains Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office News

SCHOOLING BEHAVIOR

In this edition of our newsletter, we highlight training activities we participated in this year.

U.S. Fish and
Wildlife Service
Pierre, SD

Winter 2019

Shocking Good Time

Great Plains FWCO staff attended "Principles and Techniques of Electrofishing" training in Spearfish, SD. The classroom portion of this course taught us about the scientific foundation of electrofishing and how to safely and effectively electrofish. The field portions of the course applied the concepts discussed in

the classroom to real-world situations.

This training provided GPFWCO staff with additional knowledge and experience to safely and effectively complete a variety of electrofishing surveys.

Great Plains FWCO staff electrofish Spearfish Creek (top) and learn about boat electrofishing (bottom).



Becoming Sturgeon Surgeons

Jason Kral and Jennifer Johnson traveled to Columbia, MO to learn how to surgically implant telemetry tags into sturgeon, identify sex and reproductive stage, perform ultrasounds, and take blood samples and egg biopsies.

During this training, they also learned how to actively track sturgeon in the lower Missouri River.

This training will enable us to complete the telemetry component of the U.S.

Army Corps of Engineers funded Pallid Sturgeon Population Assessment Program. This project is intended to provide information on fish movement, behavior, habitat use, spawning locations, and spawning cues.

Thank you to USGS Columbia Environmental Research Center for providing this training opportunity.

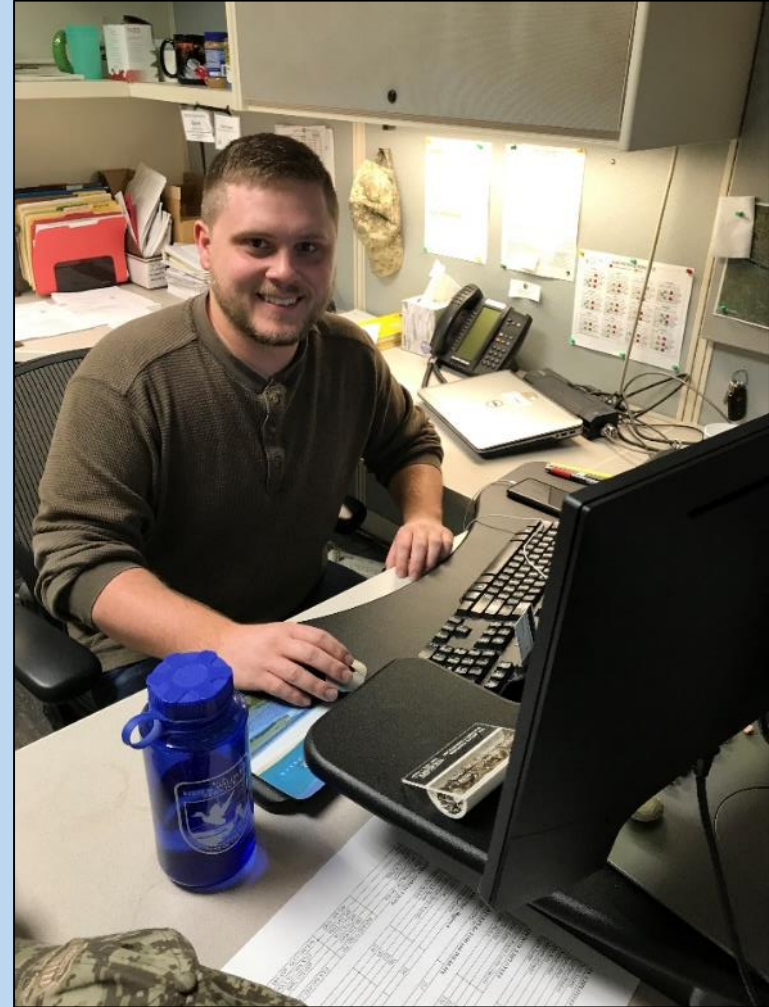
Jennifer Johnson practices surgery on a shovelnose sturgeon



- Landon attended Vidyo training
- Published winter GPFWCO newsletter
- Landon served as a peer reviewer for Transactions of the American Fisheries Society

Station News

- Dylan Turner's last day with the GPFWCO was December 6. He started a permanent biologist position with Ecological Services in Pierre, SD on December 9.



Upcoming Activities & Staff

- Conference prep: Dakota AFS abstracts, data analyses, & presentations
- Report finalization and submission
 - 2019 Pallid Sturgeon Population Assessment Program Annual Report: Segment 7
 - Offutt AFB Base Lake Fish Survey & Management Plan
- Report writing
 - Ellsworth AFB Fish Management Plan, Wetland Monitoring, Remote Creel Survey
 - Offutt AFB Zebra Mussel

Staff

Pierre

Project Leader: Vacant (31 months)

Acting Project Leader/

Fish & Wildlife Biologist: Dan James

Fish & Wildlife Biologist: Landon Pierce

Administrative Officer: Kristen Grohs

Bio. Science Technician: Vacant (<1 month)

Yankton

Fish Biologist: Jennifer Johnson

Fish Biologist: Jason Kral