

Great Plains Fish & Wildlife Conservation Office News

August 2020

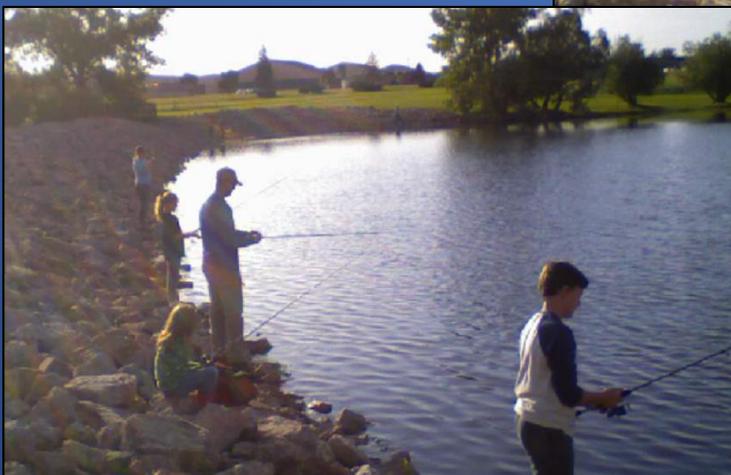
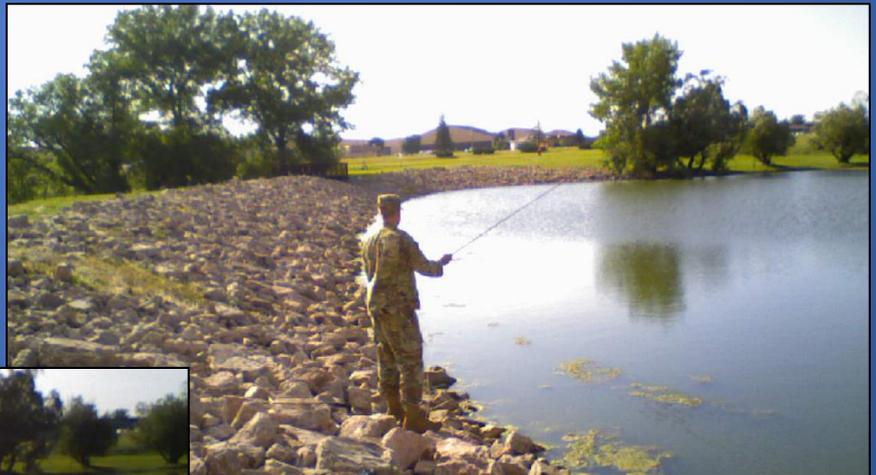


Image: A boat angler on Bandit Pond, one of the recreational fishing reservoirs at Ellsworth Air Force Base. The image was captured by a remote camera during our remote creel survey.

Sikes Act

Continued remote creel survey project

- Landon trained 3 more helpers. We now have 5 different helpers to assist with processing data from images – this is an enormous help!
- Thanks to the Montana, Colorado, and Missouri River FWCOs for offering assistance.
- We have now processed nearly 50,000 images.
- Images show that these small reservoirs are important to both families and military personnel taking breaks from their work day.



FWS HQ Outreach

Dan drafted new fish descriptions for the USFWS National website “Freshwater Fish of North America”. New information and inaccuracies were addressed for paddlefish and pallid sturgeon, with walleye to be completed soon. According to HQ, this website is one of their most popular web pages.

The screenshot shows the USFWS National website's 'Freshwater Fish of America' page. At the top, the USFWS logo and 'U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service' are displayed. Below this is the 'Fish and Aquatic Conservation' header. A search bar is present, followed by social media icons for Outreach Tools, Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube. A navigation menu includes links for Home, About Us, National Fish Hatchery System, Species & Habitat Conservation, Invasive Species, Recreation & Education, In The News, and You Can Help. The breadcrumb trail reads 'You Are Here: Fisheries Home » Freshwater Fish of America'. The main heading is 'Freshwater Fish of America'. The introductory text states: 'We've provided a look into 42 species of freshwater fish—including largemouth bass, walleye, catfish, crappie, northern pike, trout, and more! You can learn the natural history for each species as well as some cool facts.' It also mentions that posters and stickers are available for order and provides a link to the 'USFWS Publications Order Form'. Three ordering methods are listed: phone (303-236-7639/7642), fax (303) 236-0845, and email (BLM_OC_PMDS@blm.gov). The page features a grid of 12 fish species, each with a photograph and a caption: Alligator gar, American eel, American shad, Apache trout, Arctic grayling, Atlantic salmon, Atlantic sturgeon, Black crappie, and three more species partially visible at the bottom.

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Fish and Aquatic Conservation

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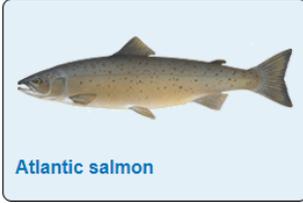
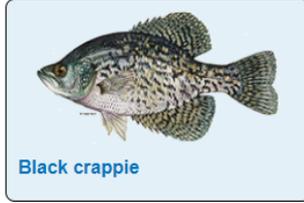
Freshwater Fish of America

We've provided a look into 42 species of freshwater fish—including largemouth bass, walleye, catfish, crappie, northern pike, trout, and more! You can learn the natural history for each species as well as some cool facts.

Freshwater Fish of the East and Freshwater Fish of the West posters and stickers are available to order. Whether you're interested in using for an event, enjoy fishing, or just someone that appreciates fish, these products might be of interest to you.

Download the [USFWS Publications Order Form](#), complete, and then send using the provided contact information on the form.

Three easy ways to order: Call 303-236-7639/7642, FAX (303) 236-0845 or Email BLM_OC_PMDS@blm.gov

 Alligator gar	 American eel	 American shad	 Apache trout
 Arctic grayling	 Atlantic salmon	 Atlantic sturgeon	 Black crappie
			

National Fish Hatchery Prioritization Project

Dan continued his work on the hatchery report for American shad.

- Finalized all but one section of the draft.
- Anticipating final draft completion in September.



Pallid Sturgeon Recovery

Pallid Sturgeon Technical Team

- Landon continued to represent FWS as a technical expert for the Missouri River Recovery Program.



Recovery coordination

- Landon participated in weekly coordination calls with the Pallid Sturgeon Recovery Coordinator to discuss issues related to pallid sturgeon recovery.
- Landon participated on the Upper Basin Pallid Sturgeon Workgroup Governing Board meeting.
- Landon participated in the August 2020 Missouri River Recovery Implementation Committee Plenary meeting.



Asian Carp Team

Preparations for sampling next year

- Landon participated in regional and national Asian carp calls to discuss sampling strategies for FY21.
- “Dozer trawl” gantry design was obtained, ready for welding.
- Worked with Gavins Point NFH staff to procure an electrofishing system: PR submitted and is going through the process.

Miscellaneous

Landon revised a manuscript evaluating the ability of species distribution models by using species distributions in the Missouri River basin to predict species distributions in the Colorado River basin. This manuscript will be submitted for peer-reviewed publication in the near future.

Dan completed FIS Accomplishments reporting.

Training:

Low-dose Copper for Zebra Mussel Suppression webinar (Dan)

EEO and Diversity training completion (Dan)

Firearms Accountability Course (Dan)

Dan received a STAR Award for his work on the American shad project.

Great Plains FWCO



Project Leader:
Vacant (3 years, 3 months)



Acting Project Leader (3 years, 3 months), Fish & Wildlife Biologist:
Dan James



Fish & Wildlife Biologist:
Landon Pierce



Terms/seasonal:
none