

# *Great Plains Fish & Wildlife Conservation Office News*

March 2020



Cover photo: crews sometimes catch interesting things, such as this old bison skull, which could be hundreds of years old. The skull was 'released' back to the river.

# *Recovery and Restoration*

## **PALLID STURGEON POPULATION ASSESSMENT PROGRAM UPDATE: SEGMENTS 5 & 6**

**GREAT PLAINS FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION OFFICE  
PIERRE, SD**



Landon attended the Missouri River Upper Basin Pallid Sturgeon Workgroup meeting in Billings, MT to discuss pallid sturgeon recovery efforts, and presented the 2019 sampling summary for our 39 mile sampling reach.

Landon participated in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Missouri River Recovery Program Adaptive Management workshop.

# Recovery and Restoration



Jennifer and Jason sampled for pallid sturgeon in the Missouri River throughout a 59 mile reach from Gavins Point Dam, SD to Ponca, NE.

March sampling included:

- Over 21 hours of acoustic telemetry tracking
- 2,880 trot line hooks set
- 837 fish caught
- 18 pallid sturgeon caught, including 2 potential broodstock fish

# Partnerships and Employee Development



Jennifer and Jason received hands-on training in transmitter surgical implantation techniques



Jennifer and Jason transported five pallid sturgeon to Sioux City, IA from Gavins Point NFH, where fish were implanted with acoustic transmitters and data storage tags prior to release

Completed our Spring GPFWCO newsletter



Jennifer completed scientific integrity training  
Jennifer completed purchase card training

# *Upcoming Activities*

Offutt Air Force Base zebra mussel report.  
Ellsworth Air Force Base creel survey report.  
Wetland bathymetric map making.

## Personnel Transition

- Jennifer and Jason will transition to supervision by Gavins Point NFH beginning in April. It has been great working together as an office, and we look forward to working together in the future!

## **Staff**

### *Pierre*

Project Leader: Vacant (34 months)  
Acting Project Leader/Fish & Wildlife  
Biologist: Dan James  
Fish & Wildlife Biologist: Landon Pierce  
Administrative Officer: Kristen Grohs

### *Yankton*

Fish Biologist: Jennifer Johnson  
Fish Biologist: Jason Kral

# *Thank You!*



A special thank you to Connie Young-Dubovsky from the Regional Office for assisting with pallid sturgeon sampling!



A special thank you to Andrew Gilham from the Montana FWCO for assisting with pallid sturgeon sampling!

# *About Us*

*The Great Plains Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office provides fish and wildlife management technical assistance to Native American Tribes and federal agencies including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, Department of Defense, and National Wildlife Refuges within South Dakota, Nebraska, and Kansas.*

Sunset on the Missouri River

<https://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/fisheries/greatPlainsFWCO.php>