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.
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.
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
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!