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BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA



APRIL 2020

RECOVERY

- New data collection tablets are being readied for deployment.
- Boats and other field gear ready for field season.
- Pallid sturgeon tagging data from April stockings from Gavins Point NFH has been entered into the National Pallid Sturgeon Database.
- Working with our state and federal partners to get them the data they need for field work this spring as well designing a priority list of hatchery origin pallid sturgeon that need radios re-implanted.
- Working from home and home-schooling at the same time is not fun!!



Social Distancing



Kid's Workstation

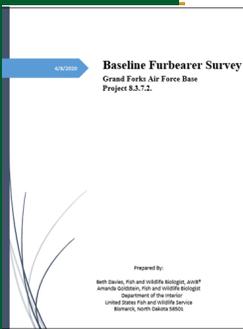


Ryan's Workstation

RESTORATION

- Project selections were finalized for FY20 Great Plains FHP funding. Projects were selected in North Dakota, Montana, & Colorado.
- Work with the Upper Sheyenne Joint Water Resource Board continues. They are developing a pilot project in cooperation with the ND Water Commission to implement a watershed approach to water projects with a potential to put \$1 million into projects in the next couple of years.
- An application was coordinated for a culvert replacement in collaboration with the Partners for Wildlife.

Spring is Here and Frogs are calling.



“And don’t be scared,
just enjoy your ride”
C. Ledoux

PARTNERSHIPS

Sikes Act - Minot and Grand Forks AFB’s

- Draft reports were completed and submitted for review for the Grand Forks Air Force Base Plant Species of Concern and the Baseline Furbearer Survey.
- Project coordination continued for both Minot and Grand Forks Air Force Bases to develop project descriptions and cost estimates as part of a five-year management plan.
- Coordination with North Dakota State University staff to collaborate on bee and moth specimen identification for specimens collected during surveys.
- Learning how to work with Survey 123 and Collector to develop data sheets for use during the anticipated field season to streamline data collection and entry.
- Frog Call Loggers acquired from the Dept. of Navy have been received and will be deployed in the coming weeks.
- Data reviewed and input from trail cameras.

COVID 19 Innovation

Data collection for most projects were put on hold for the near future but thanks to a coordinated effort, the trail camera data from February through April was able to be retrieved. The USDA Wildlife Services biologist on Minot AFB, Nick Suzda, was able to retrieve the memory cards to collect the data from the trail cameras that are being used as part of a baseline furbearer survey and mail the information which will allow our crews to review the information and prevent data from being lost due to it being over-written. We are very grateful for his help so our project can continue despite the current travel situation.

Contributing

Did you know the United States Fish and Wildlife Service is nearing their 150th year of aquatic conservation? To celebrate the 150th anniversary of aquatic conservation, the USFWS is publishing a book highlighting the agency's aquatic conservation milestones. A writing team of USFWS employees from across the nation are in the final stages of crafting this historic document. The Missouri River FWCO is assisting with the final touches by producing maps that highlight past and present fish hatcheries, co-op units, and Fish and Wildlife Conservation Offices. The manuscript will be finalized by the first of June and the publisher will start marketing the book during July.

EMPLOYEE DEVELOPMENT

Staff took advantage of several of the opportunities to attend virtual classrooms and webinars.

- Perspectives from the Center for Environmental Management of Military Lands (CEMML). Presented by CEMML staff
- Federal policy and planning for invasive species. Presented by National Invasive Species Counsel (NISC) staff
- Grant Solutions Training
- Continued improvement in utilizing the technologies to communicate and share information
- Discussions on the continuation of MOCC courses scheduled for this summer are ongoing



Credit: Dan O'Keefe, Michigan Sea Grant

Invasive Carp

United States Fish and Wildlife Service fisheries offices across multiple regions have banded together to solve a mystery; Where are silver and bighead carp located within the Missouri River Watershed? To solve this mystery the team is planning on using a multi-sampling gear approach to hone in on a robust sampling design. Whitney Genetics Lab, a renowned lab known for their expertise in environmental DNA sampling, has partnered with the team to pass on their perfected techniques. Filling knowledge gaps of detection probabilities of eDNA is critical in solving this mystery within this novel watershed. A multi-gear approach has been discussed to first determine eDNA detection probabilities. Additionally, a mapping effort was completed this month which identified areas of likely occurrence based on the United States Geological Nonindigenous Aquatic Species distribution data. The mapping effort also identified areas between the first two upstream dams of known bighead and silver carp locations. Although specific details of who, where, when, and how haven't been forged, progress continuous towards this common goal.

On-line Pallid Sturgeon library is now available

The on-line library of Pallid Sturgeon-related literature is up and running on the Pallid Sturgeon Recovery website. Go to <http://pallidsturgeon.org/> and select “Library” from the menu bar. Entries may be searched by author, date and subject using the drop-down menus. Once displayed, a document can be downloaded or printed.

The goal of this project is to create a complete and easily searchable collection of all Pallid Sturgeon-related scientific and grey literature. Funding for the construction and maintenance of the on-line library comes from Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) and Missouri River Natural Resources Committee (MRNRC).



UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

SIKES Act—Anticipated May field work pending USFWS & DOD reopening guidelines including Min-ot AFB weed monitoring transects, bee surveys and bird point count surveys while Grand Forks AFB includes bee surveys, butterfly transects, moth surveys, frog call surveys, herptile visual surveys and macroinvertebrate sampling.

Recovery—Depending on the situation, potentially be able to assist with pallid sturgeon broodstock collections for a spawning event at Garrison Dam NFH as well as initiate telemetry tracking runs to document movement and location information.

Seasonal Biological Technician Onboarding—May will begin to see some staffing additions and will require careful consideration of the onboarding transition process.

Intake Screening literature review for developing consistent recommendations on water projects will continue.