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Interior Region 5 Missouri River FWCO

BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA



JUNE 2020

RECOVERY

Population Assessment Update

- During the second week of June, Bobby Weiland and Ryan Wilson traveled to Williston to conduct a telemetry sweep of segment 4 and assist USGS and MTFWP in relocating mature wild adult pallid sturgeon. Over a 3 day period they tracked nearly 100 river miles below the confluence as well as upstream in the Yellowstone River. Over 50 hatchery origin pallid sturgeon (HOPS) that have radios implanted, were relocated as well as 8 wild adults including 2 black egged females. The females were projected to spawn around June 15.



Sunrise over the Missouri River near the
Yellowstone River confluence.

RESTORATION

- Efforts are nearing completion for the updated Strategic Plan and the updated website for the Great Plains Fish Habitat Partnership. Yvette Converse (Science Apps) and Mary McFadzen (Montana Institute on Ecosystems, Montana State University - Bozeman) have been a tremendous lift on this effort. It would not have gotten to this stage without them.

PARTNERSHIPS

Sikes Act - Grand Forks AFB's

- Continued vane trapping of bumblebees, and trained technicians on trapping technique.
- Scouted and established three monitoring plots for monarch milkweed monitoring.
- Completed two final frog calling surveys for the season.
- Herpetological presence/absence visual and vocalization surveys were conducted.
- Conducted passive light trap capture of moths.
- Coordinated with DEQ to select a site for an aquatic inventory of the Turtle River on GFAFB, with sampling scheduled to occur in July.
- A full day was spent brush hogging invasive weeds and opening up the trail in the Prairie View natural area as part of an effort to impede their spread. Thanks to the staff at White Horse Hill NWR for the use of the equipment that was used for the effort. Weed mapping continues.
- Documented a new orchid species for GFAFB, showy lady's slipper (*Cypripedium reginae*).

Ecological Services

- Tait Ronningen lead Melissa Martin and Kelsey Loverink to a known piping plover hotspot as part of training for Ecological Services. Tait, Melissa, and Kelsey observed 26 piping plovers along the shoreline of the alkali lake! The object of the training was familiarize Melissa and Kelsey on piping plover critical habitat and increase their ability to rapidly identify piping plovers by sight and sound. This work is assisting Ecological Services in assessing critical habitat on prairie potholes and alkali lakes.



Interpretive sign along nature trail at Grand Forks AFB



Collecting bee samples from vane trap.



Processing bees for later identification.



Lake access for Lake Darling on Upper Souris NWR



Showy lady's slipper orchid discovered at Grand Forks AFB.



Deploying a moth trap for the evening.

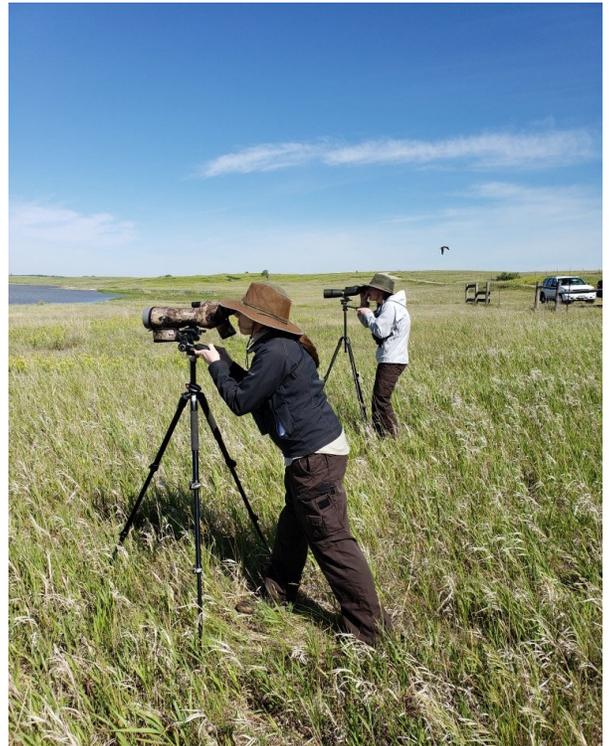


Wood Frog

Canadian Toad



Leopard frog observed during herpetology survey at Grand Forks AFB.



Melissa and Kelsey surveying for piping plovers on critical habitat areas managed by The Nature Conservancy at Williams Lake using social distancing.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- Sikes Act work at Minot and Grand Forks AFB
- Pallid sturgeon telemetry and sampling in Segment 4 of the Missouri River
- Continue building on the partnership to develop an Asian carp eDNA sampling strategy for Eastern Dakotas..