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Hello everyone. I was born and raised in Bismarck and with the help of my dad, and the proximity of the Missouri River, I quickly became a “river rat”. I spent as much time fishing as possible, and still do. I also enjoy hunting and just being outdoors in general. With my older brother in the wildlife and fisheries field I got to see what the job was about, and thought that is what I also wanted to do.

After graduating from St. Mary’s Central High in Bismarck I went first to NDSU Bottineau and then South Dakota State University. Eventually I received a degree in Fisheries and Wildlife Biology. As I was going to college I got an opportunity to work as a fisheries summer seasonal for the North Dakota Game and Fish Department for four summers in Riverdale and after finishing school I got hired on as a long-term fisheries seasonal in July 2000. In April of 2007 I got hired as a full-time fisheries technician for the Northcentral District office in Riverdale.

As a fisheries technician I perform a large range of duties. Our season usually starts off in April, when we trap and transport fish from one lake to another, and help out with northern and walleye spawning around the state. Usually our summer months are spent collecting data from fish taken during our annual netting surveys. Also, monitoring water quality on our district lakes takes place during July. Some hauling of fish out of the hatcheries also happens during this time of the year. In the fall, we begin our reproduction netting surveys and also help out with the spawning of chinook salmon in Lake Sakakawea. During the winter months, I age otoliths (used in aging fish), work on maintenance of boats and trailers, repair nets and get ready for the next spring season to begin.

I would have to say that my favorite part of this job is being outdoors a lot, and doing a variety of different things. Just like a lot of people I am an avid fisherman and this job lets me see firsthand all that we are doing to hopefully improve fishing across our state. Hopefully fishing is good in years to come. If you come by the Riverdale office stop in and give me a shout.