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Hello Everyone! I was born and raised in a small town in southwest Minnesota called Westbrook. We didn't have many lakes where I grew up, but my parents didn't have much trouble getting me hooked on fishing at a very young age. My brothers and I would catch bullheads for hours and hours. Eventually, I found out there were other kinds of fish too!

After high school graduation in 1998, I attended MSU-Bottineau and received an Associate Degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences. From there, I transferred to South Dakota State University and received a Bachelor's Degree. My first job in the fisheries field was as a summer creel clerk on Lake Sakakawea and Devils Lake. Over the course of two summers, I got to see a lot of North Dakota and meet a lot of nice people. That's when I decided I wanted to stay here. In 2002 I got my first job with the North Dakota Game and Fish as a seasonal fisheries aide in Devils Lake. Since then I have also worked in Riverdale and Jamestown. In August of 2008, I was hired as the Fisheries Technician for the Southwest District located in Dickinson.

Throughout the year my responsibilities as a Fisheries Technician change. In the spring, I assist with trapping and transporting fish from lake to lake, fish stocking, rough fish removal projects, and sometimes winterkill assessments. In the summer, we spend a lot of our time test netting lakes as well as electrofishing, and fish stocking. In the fall, we do more test netting and get equipment ready for the winter. The winter months give me time to fix and maintain equipment as well as monitor oxygen levels in our lakes and plan for the upcoming field season.

I would have to say the best part of my job is that I am seldom doing the same thing. Throughout the year, we always have different tasks to work on, whether it's electrofishing for bass on a warm summer night, or sewing up a net in the middle of winter. Either way, fishing has been a passion of mine since I caught my first fish, and now I get to work closely with that passion every day.

If you're in the southwest, stop by and say hello. I might be able to tell you where the fish are biting.....or at least a good fish story!