

Paul Bailey

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Hello North Dakota Sportfishing Congress and thank you for the opportunity to introduce myself. I was born and raised in Bismarck and was lucky enough to have parents who loved to fish. Almost every spring and summer weekend was spent fishing the Missouri River, Lake Oahe, or some of the smaller area lakes. After my freshman year in college, I had the good fortune of being hired as a fisheries seasonal employee with the NDGF. I spent four summers working in Riverdale, loving every minute of it, and soon could not imagine myself working in any other profession.



After graduating from South Dakota State University (B.S. Wildlife & Fisheries Science) I moved to Laramie, WY to pursue my Master's Degree where my thesis research focused on high-mountain lake trout fisheries in the Bighorn Mountains. This was an amazing experience for a flatlander like myself; spending weeks at a time at 9,000-12,000 feet above sea level in the Cloud Peak Wilderness Area, leading a string of pack-llamas (yes, pack-llamas!), and not seeing another sole. After graduating from U of Wyoming, I was hired as a fisheries biologist with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department in Casper where my work primarily focused on trout and walleye fisheries in the North Platte River Drainage.

Despite all that Wyoming had to offer, I jumped at the chance to return to North Dakota when I was offered a fisheries biologist position with the NDGF in Riverdale. After living in a few different places, I can honestly say that there is no better place to live than in North Dakota if you enjoy fishing and hunting as much as I do. I was fortunate enough to become South Central District Fisheries Supervisor (Bismarck) in the spring of 2007 and now get to manage many of the fisheries I grew up fishing. Working here has given me the opportunity to work with everything from bluegill to paddlefish from Nygren Dam to Lake Oahe. This diversity is certainly one aspect of my job that I enjoy the most.

Please stop by and say hello if you ever find yourself in Bismarck or happen to see us on the water.