

## **District Wildlife Manager Lonnie Brown**

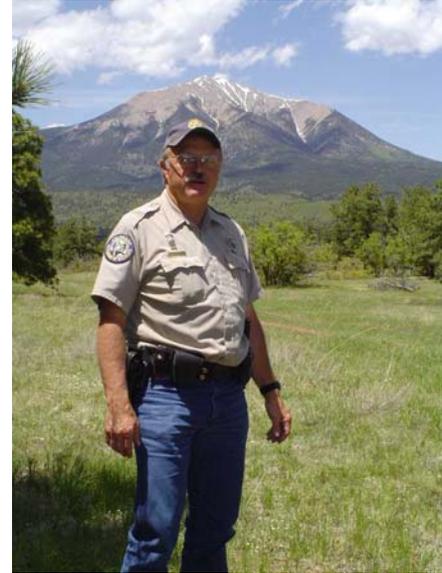
La Veta, Colorado

**Education:** Colorado State University, Bachelor's Degree in Wildlife Management

**Awards Received:** John D. Hart Officer of the Year – 2004; Safari Club International Outstanding District Wildlife Manager – 2000

**Temporary Work with the DOW or Field Related to Wildlife:** Student Assistant with Middle Park Deer Research 1971, 1972; Technician in Middle Park 1973, 1974

**Past Job Titles:** Wildlife Conservation Officer Trainee 1974, 1975



**Advice for Students:** Develop good study habits while in high school. Work hard at getting a good college education in a wildlife-related field. Set your career goal. Seek out and take advantage of volunteer and temporary employment opportunities. Don't be discouraged by set-backs. Expect strong competition, but those with the most determination usually succeed. The job requires perseverance.

**How I "Got my Foot in the Door":** Worked summer temp jobs with the DOW.

**Why I Enjoy My Job:** I get great personal satisfaction from the challenges of trying to protect and enhance wildlife populations, in part by habitat protection and improvement, and also be enforcing wildlife laws against flagrant violators.

**Best Day on the Job:** Any day that I can work with or for wild animals in a positive manner, or any day that I can enforce wildlife laws against flagrant violators.

**Worst Day on the Job:** Some people believe that wildlife numbers should be controlled by professionals (i.e. professional killers eliminating unwanted animals). The worst days on the job are those days when I am required to kill sick or injured wildlife, or those animals that can no longer be tolerated by an increasing human population.

## **District Wildlife Manager Crystal Petersen**

Littleton, Colorado

**Education:** Western State College, 2002 Bachelor's Degree in Biology

**Awards Received:** 2005 Rookie of the Year

### **Volunteer Work with the DOW or Field Related to Wildlife:**

In 2001, I volunteered for the USDA Forest Service to survey for northern goshawks in the Gunnison National Forest.



**Temporary Work with the DOW or Field Related to Wildlife:** Youth in Natural Resources Program in high school. USDA Forest Service temp performing various wildlife and timber surveys and mapping wildlife sightings and land acquisitions. I also received my wildland firefighter certification. Monitored Gunnison sage grouse using radio telemetry and assisted with ongoing deer and bighorn sheep studies as a temp out of the Gunnison CDOW office.

**Advice for Students:** Get experience however you can. Become a volunteer or a temp with the CDOW; this will give you a chance to learn about the agency, the job, and the people you will be working with. Focus on your education and take advantage of opportunities to advance your education and gain experience. Once you figure out what you want to do, go for it. Don't be discouraged by competition.

**Why I Enjoy My Job:** The thing that I love the most about my job is that I have the opportunity and challenge to protect the wildlife resources that I have enjoyed since I was little. The fact that the "protection" is done through a variety of ways (law enforcement, education, wildlife management, etc.) makes every day on the job completely different. The job of a DWM has so many important components that I can't imagine ever getting bored.

**Best Day on the Job:** My best days on the job are the days that I go home feeling like I made a positive difference for wildlife. It may have been through protecting wildlife by making a good law enforcement case or through instilling passion and respect for the outdoors by showing a kid how to fish.

**Worst Day on the Job:** My worst days on the job are the days that I have to put down sick or injured animals or animals that have learned bad habits because of people.

## **Area Wildlife Manager (DWM Supervisor) Dean Riggs**

Grand Junction, Colorado

**Education:** Colorado State University, Bachelor's Degree in Animal Science

**Past Job Titles and Work Locations:** District Wildlife Manager, Canon City North, District Wildlife Manager, Pueblo. Supervisor, Colorado Department of Corrections. Wild horse program, saddle shop, cow calf operation, piggery, sheep operation, feedlot, Canon City. Ranching industry for ten years previous to state employment.

**Advice for Students:** Get your college degree, take tests early to get used to the system, keep trying to get through the testing process. Now is a good time to go into Natural Resource Management as there are not as many people applying for jobs. Go into this career because you love the work, not because you intend to make a lot of money at it.

**How I "Got my Foot in the Door":** Transferred from the Colorado Department of Corrections, Correctional Industries, and took a voluntary demotion to do this. This is not the classic way to go to work for the organization, but I did get my foot in the door. I would suggest that working as a temporary employee is the best way to get to know those supervisors who may want to hire you in the future. It gives you the advantage of having shown what your work ethic is and how you can benefit the organization as a full-time employee. Seek out those who work for the DOW, ask questions and educate yourself on the mission, objectives, and culture of the agency.

**Why I Enjoy My Job:** Being part of a team that has goals of achieving good things for wildlife. Helping to preserve and enhance opportunities for future generations to enjoy wildlife. Working with others to share a common goal and passion for wildlife and management of an incredible resource.

**Best Day on the Job:** Any day that gets me to a new piece of Colorado that I have not seen before, particularly when it contains a massive buck or bull.

**Worst Day on the Job:** I expect it will be retirement day. Up until then it tends to be when others I have worked closely with retire or move on in some form or fashion.