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Greetings everyone, I grew up on the family farm near St. Anthony, ND, where we raised a variety of animals and crops. When they weren't working on the farm, my parents were avid outdoors-people, and took my sister and me on hunting and fishing outings before we could even walk. Thus, the seed was planted early. After graduating from Mandan High, I attended Bismarck State College and South Dakota State University to obtain my Bachelor's degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences. I was at SDSU when I decided to focus on a career in fisheries myself. From there I went on to obtain my Master's degree in Fisheries at the University of Minnesota. While at the U of MN I researched walleye and sauger in the Mississippi River and in MN's ten large lakes.

My first "real" job after graduate school was working for the MN DNR as a biologist researching largemouth bass regulations around the twin cities. This was a temporary position that I left for permanent employment with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department in Casper. In WY, I was a reservoir research biologist, working on lakes and reservoirs throughout the state for five years. Although I did work with some walleye, most of my work dealt with various species of trout and kokanee salmon. After that, I transferred to a position as a regional fisheries biologist, similar to our district biologists in ND. My work and travels in Wyoming took me to some areas with breathtaking beauty, and I took full advantage of some fantastic hunting opportunities that I never had before. However, I yearned for the diversity that ND holds when it comes to fishing and fisheries management, and that brought me to my current position in 2006. My role as Fisheries Management Section Leader is to oversee fisheries management activities across the state. A few of my responsibilities include working with District fisheries personnel to develop lake management plans, overseeing annual sampling and reporting activities, working with Federal Aid to secure funding for fisheries management activities, and coordinating fisheries research activities with District personnel and other divisions and agencies.

I'm really happy to be back in North Dakota. My wife Ronda, an avid barrel racer, and I live on a few acres outside of town where we keep our horses and other animals. Although I'd like to spend more time fishing (who doesn't?), I do feel blessed by the diversity of outdoor experiences that I can partake in. From fantastic walleye fishing, to great bass, pike or trout fishing, I can do them all within an hour's drive from my home. That's what is great about my job, and living in North Dakota!

If you ever find yourself in the Bismarck office, please stop by and say hello. Even if you're not in Bismarck, feel free to call anytime with questions, comments, or (most importantly) reports on where the fish are biting!