

IDAHO TROUT

SPRING 2008

Efforts Underway to Resurrect Teton Dam

A legislative appropriation that will be spent studying the replacement of the ill-fated Teton Dam has conservationists, anglers and residents downstream from the dam's location deeply concerned.

For Idaho, June 5, 1976 is a day that will live on in infamy. On that day, the Teton Dam – a \$100 million federal project – collapsed. Eleven people died in the ensuing disaster and eastern Idaho suffered nearly a billion dollars in damage. Even though it has been more than 30 years since the tragedy happened, for many eastern Idahoans, especially those living below the dam, the event was so traumatic that it is still fresh in their thoughts and memories.

But what made the disaster even more tragic was that it did not have to happen. Prior to construction starting, a coalition of environmental interests, including Trout Unlimited, attempted to stop it from being built because the location was geologically unsuitable and better environmental studies needed to be completed. Unfortunately for those living below the dam, the court dismissed the complaint and denied the request for an injunction. Teton Dam blew out before it even filled.

Regrettably, a coalition of Idaho water users have secured a \$400,000 appropriation from the Idaho Legislature to be matched with federal tax dollars to study replacement of the dam. The coalition's first steps echo the efforts that secured the construction of the original Teton Dam. As then, they have proceeded with their plans without discussing their intent with the broader community, whose tax dollars, interests and lives will be potentially affected by such a project.

The interest in replacing Teton Dam is the most egregious example of the growing interest in building new dams in Idaho. The Twin Springs Dam on the Middle Fork of the Boise River and the Gal-loway Dam on the Weiser River are also attracting attention and dollars. "Trout Unlimited is not opposed to the construction of dams as long as they are well thought out, environmentally responsible, cost effective and safe. Unfortunately, Teton Dam was none of the above. Even studying the feasibility of rebuilding the failed structure is a waste of tax dollars," said Kim Goodman, the director of TU's Idaho Water Project.

Any plan to rebuild Teton Dam should be taken off the table and any other appropriation for water storage must require broad public participation from the outset, benefits to stream flows, fish and wildlife as a part of the project's purpose, and they must include investing in the most cost-effective and least environmentally damaging water supply options first—including groundwater recharge and off-stream storage. ■

Mores Creek Restoration Project Update

Trout Unlimited's (TU) signature Idaho Abandoned Mine Lands project is underway near Idaho City! Because damage from dredge mining activities has impacted almost all of the significant floodplain areas within the Mores Creek watershed, a watershed-wide scale must be taken to improve the fishery here. The Mores Creek Restoration Project consists of a phased approach over a five period, designed to restore riparian floodplain conditions and habitat in Mores, Elk, and Grimes Creeks, respectively.

Phase I started with restoration of a Demonstration Reach on US Forest Service (USFS) property along a ½ mile stretch of Mores Creek in 2006. Phase II, completed this past field season, restored another ½ mile of stream (also located on USFS land) immediately downstream of the Demonstration Reach. Concurrently, Phase III restora-

tion efforts were started along Elk Creek and private lands downstream on Mores Creek. Phase IV will restore Grimes Creek (the largest tributary to Mores Creek), and partial funding has been secured to start work in 2008. Funding has been particularly difficult, because there is no dedicated source to address legacy mining issues in the West. We have literally been "cobbling together" what we can.

Over 14,000 cubic yards of mine tailings have been removed from the banks of Mores Creek and a more natural floodplain area was created and vegetated. The plants will provide critically needed shade, as well as habitat for upland animals.

We have installed large woody debris structures and boulder complexes to the streams. Increasing the complexity and creating sinuosity through boulder placement will improve habitat for resident fish. (Continued on page 7)

Please see the highlighted box and card on page 12 to see how you can help prevent unwise storage proposals like rebuilding of Teton Dam.

TETON DAM COLLAPSE—JUNE 5, 1976



(Bureau of Reclamation photo)

CHAPTERS OF THE IDAHO COUNCIL

Hemingway

Magic Valley
Fly Fishers

Panhandle

Reed Gillespie

Snake River
Cutthroats

Southeast Idaho
Fly Fishers

Ted Trueblood

Teton Valley

Three Rivers



President's Message

"THANKS TO ALL THE VOLUNTEERS IN ITU AS WELL AS OUR TU NATIONAL STAFF FOLKS IN IDAHO FALLS AND BOISE, WE HAVE COMPLETED RESTORATION PROJECTS THROUGHOUT OUR STATE."

To quote Patt Morrison, columnist for the Los Angeles Times, "well, it looks like light at the end of the Bush tunnel." 2008 should prove to be an exciting year for our country and for Trout Unlimited (TU). I am hoping and praying that the next administration will work to restore our environment. We at Idaho Trout Unlimited (ITU) have our job cut out for us. The new Idaho Roadless Rule is under public comment at this time. Scott Stouder has worked hard to rally the troops to dialog with the U.S. Forest Service and let them know we treasure our Idaho wilderness and want to see the majority of our 9.3 million acres protected. We have some serious concerns about phosphate mining in Southeast Idaho,



CARMEN NORTHEN
ITU PRESIDENT

there's the proposed Atlanta gold mine on the Boise River, mercury in our waters, including Silver Creek, dams, salmon recovery, and other critical issues threatening our fisheries. Thanks to all the volunteers in ITU as

well as our TU national staff folks in Idaho Falls and Boise, we have completed restoration projects throughout our state. TU has worked successfully with Idaho Department of Fish and Game, landowners and other conservation groups to accomplish these goals. The race isn't over yet and with our chapters, ITU council members and TU staff help, I hope we can make this a great year for ITU and we can make a difference to our fish and wildlife habitat. Also, I hope we can expand our Trout in the Classroom programs and youth education to give our future TU members a love and passion for saving fish and the wild places we all love.

Let's get 'er done! ■
— Carmen Northen

TU Representing Fish and Wildlife Interests on Committee to Resolve Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer Water Conflicts

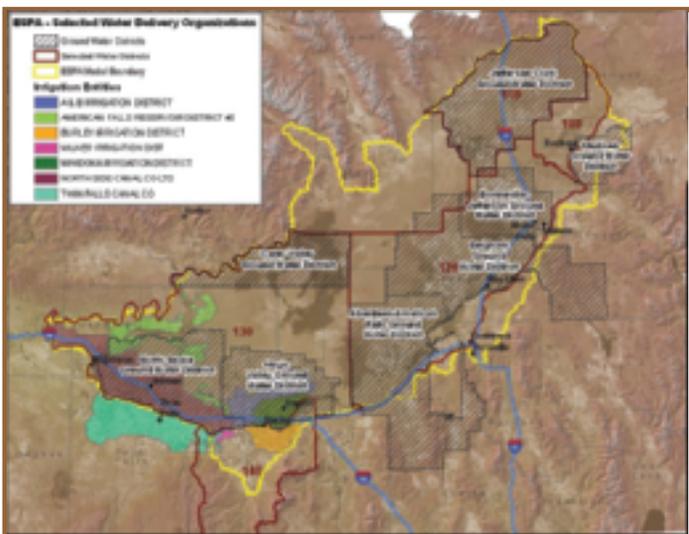
We are all familiar with budgeting from our homes and businesses—the process of projecting and balancing our income and expenses. The process can be as simple as a college student trying to get through the school year, or as complicated as a multi-national corporation preparing its annual budget. In the water and water rights field similar “water budgets” are established for hydrologic basins. The inflows and outflows of water in those basins, as affected by snow pack, groundwater storage, springs, reservoirs, evaporation, diversionary water uses, return flows and instream flows are measured and calculated to determine what water is available for all the various uses in a basin, including instream flows and fisheries.

The largest and most complicated water budget in Idaho is that of the Snake River Basin. The Snake River Basin stretches across Idaho from the continental divide in the east to the port of Lewiston in the west. The water of the Snake River includes flows from the vanishing rivers such as Big Lost and Little Lost Rivers, runoff from the snows of the Rocky Mountains in Wyoming, and the wondrous Salmon, Clearwater and Payette Rivers emptying into Idaho's great central batholith.

Those flows carry Idaho's salmon to the ocean and maintain the fisheries in many of Idaho's fishing jewels—the South Fork of the Snake, Henry's Fork, Big Wood, and South Fork of the Boise—and the Payette and Salmon Rivers. Snake River Basin rivers are dammed to provide water for irrigation and hydropower. They are used by Idaho's towns and industries. They make Idaho the whitewater state. And lying at the heart of the Snake River Basin and its water budget, with innumerable inflows and outflows is the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer (ESPA).

The ESPA in southern Idaho covers more than 10,000 square miles and may contain as much as 500 million acre-feet of water. Water flows into it from the vanishing streams, precipitation, the Snake River and irriga-

(Continued on page 3)



ESPA WATER DELIVERY SYSTEM

ESPA (cont'd)

(Continued from page 2)

tion return flows. The aquifer discharges to the Snake River through springs in several locations, including near American Falls and west of Twin Falls at Thousand Springs. Most importantly, for our purposes, the "subaccount" for the ESPA in the great Snake River Basin water budget is out of balance.

In the early 1900s flood irrigation on a massive scale and winter flows being pushed through newly built irrigation canals began charging the ESPA with huge volumes of water. That water raised the groundwater elevation in the ESPA and increased spring discharge at Thousand Springs by 50%. But after World War II, with technological advances and cheap power costs, groundwater pumping from the ESPA for irrigation ballooned. A huge agricultural economy and agriculturally-based society were built upon that groundwater pumping. At the same time increasing sprinkler irrigation reduced return flows, and wintertime canal flows were phased out, reducing the amount of water charging the aquifer. Surface water outflows from the aquifer at springs declined and water users who also relied upon the charged up aquifer received less water. By the 1980s the ESPA water budget was broken and huge water allocation conflicts broke out. The drought Idaho experienced for many of the last 20 years has only exacerbated these conflicts.

The issues surrounding management of the ESPA water budget have been the driving force behind the majority of changes in Idaho water law for the last 20 years. The Snake River Basin Adjudication, the development of groundwater and groundwater management districts, the ESPA groundwater model and the implementation of conjunctive management rules all arose from the ESPA conflicts. The State's most recent effort to tame this dispute has been a several-year effort to create a Comprehensive Aquifer Management Plan (CAMP) for the ESPA. The CAMP will implicate all aspects of the entire Snake River Basin water budget, including salmon flow augmentation; use of water on the Boise, Payette and Weiser Rivers; storage on the South Fork of the Snake and Henry's Fork; spring flows in the Hagerman Valley; flows in the mainstem of the Snake; and on and on.

Last Spring the Idaho Water Resource Board concluded the first year of the effort to create the CAMP by asking the State to create an advisory committee to assist in developing the plan. TU and the Idaho Water Project received a huge vote of confidence from the State when Kim Goodman was nominated by the Idaho Water Resources Board and appointed by Governor Otter as the only conservation organization to sit on the advisory committee. Will Whelan of the Nature Conservancy was appointed as the alternate. The advisory committee has already spent a year examining quantitative targets for aquifer management and developing recommendations for initial management actions to reach these targets. Over the next year the committee will consider a suite of management alternatives that both reduce water demand from and increase the supply of water reaching the ESPA; recommending funding mechanisms to implement the management actions; and developing recommendations for adaptive management and assessments. The ESPA CAMP will also serve as a model for conjunctive management for other basins throughout the state.

Some of the currently proposed alternatives, including additional storage and upstream water exchanges, could significantly impact Idaho's priority fisheries. TU, as the only conservation or fisheries member on the panel that is developing recommendations for the CAMP, is proposing alternatives that can benefit water users and Idaho's fisheries. TU is working on a mitigation banking alternative that would shepherd water down critical headwater reaches for recharge and mitigation. Additionally, TU is advocating for overall demand reduction on the ESPA's water resources by advocating for taking irrigable acreage out of production through long-term water leases and voluntary buy-outs, fallowing agricultural land on alternate years, and limiting water use by metering water usage by groundwater users and municipalities. By encouraging wise water use, more water could be left instream for recreational and environmental uses while meeting the needs of Idaho's water users. TU is also actively working to defeat, or come up with alternatives to, harmful proposals, such as new mainstem storage projects and upstream exchanges that could dewater significant sections of the Snake River. ■

— Peter Anderson

2007 TU Annual Meeting Highlights Boise Area Projects



ANDY BRUNELLE DISCUSSES THE ISLAND CREEK PROJECT, A BOISE RIVER TRIBUTARY ON EAGLE ISLAND, WEST OF BOISE

Trueblood served as the host chapter for the Trout Unlimited 2007 Annual Meeting. Over 50 guests were taken fishing on the South Fork of the Boise River, Middle Fork of the Boise River, Owyhee River, and other area waters. The Conservation Tour visited past and present project sites including an Eagle Island tributary to the Boise River, the Harris Ranch Side Channel Project and Pam Smolczynski's Mores Creek project site in Idaho City. With the help of other chapters and the State Council, the nightly Hospitality Suite was a huge success. The silent auction at the Saturday night banquet raised several thousand dollars for the State Council. ■

— James Piotrowski



PAM SMOLCZYNSKI DESCRIBES THE DETAILS OF THE MORES CREEK PROJECT



Bull Trout Recovery in the Little Lost Basin: Proving Partnerships Can Make the Difference.

Late last August, amid the chaos and smoke from two historic fires in central Idaho, Undersecretary of Interior Mark Rey was on his cell phone, getting debriefed on the newest cost estimates of a fire threatening Sun Valley before losing cell coverage for the rest of the day. Although most people assumed he was in the area to survey the damage from the fires, Rey joined Senator Mike Crapo and other dignitaries from county, state, and federal agencies in the Little Lost to acknowledge Trout Unlimited (TU), landowners, and agencies for some of the best bull trout recovery projects in the State of Idaho. These restoration projects completed by TU, the Salmon-Challis National Forest, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and other key partners received national acclaim in 2007 for their strong partnerships and successful recovery efforts.

The cooperative partnership between irrigators, federal and state agencies and conservation organizations on the Little Lost River is an example of how these relationships can function for mutual benefit. The relationships, which have been forged over the past few years, have resulted in major strides in not only protecting bull trout, a species listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), but in helping to ensure the interests of local agricultural producers are met as well. The work in the Little Lost River drainage serves as a model for how threatened resources can be protected through careful planning, coordination and cooperation.

The Little Lost River has been a priority area for the TU Idaho Water Project's stream flow protection and restoration efforts since the USFWS listed bull trout in the Little Lost River basin as a threatened species in June 1998.

Shortly after bull trout were listed, teams of qualified professionals were assembled to develop recovery plans for bull trout including bull trout in the Little Lost River basin. The goal of these plans was to ensure the long-term persistence of self-sustaining, complex, interacting groups of bull trout distributed throughout the species' native range so that the species can be delisted.

The Little Lost Bull Trout Recovery Unit Team (Recovery Team) developed a detailed plan that would protect and restore bull trout populations in the Little Lost River basin. Among other things, the draft plan called for protecting, restoring and maintaining suitable habitat conditions for bull trout and identifying and eliminating barriers to migration. It was estimated it could take three to five bull trout generations (15 to 25 years) or longer before bull trout may be considered eligible for delisting, and recovery efforts in the Little Lost River basin could cost about \$1 million spread over 25 years.

TU conducted the

Little Lost River Fish Barrier and Diversion Assessment in cooperation with Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG), U.S. Forest Service (USFS), U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and USFWS. Thirteen bull trout barriers were identified on the Little Lost River and its tributaries, seven of which were considered priority. To date, five of the seven barriers have been removed – three on the mainstem Little Lost River, one on Warm Creek and one on Wet Creek. The new diversions now allow bull trout and other fish species unimpeded passage to the headwaters of the Little Lost River.

Badger Creek, a spring-fed tributary with some of the coldest and cleanest water in the basin, is a stronghold for resident bull trout in the Little Lost River system. Previously, an irrigation diversion removed all flow from the lower stream reaches during the summer, effectively dewatering the natural channel and cutting off access to spawning and rearing areas for fluvial fish. This lack of stream flow, channelization and cattle grazing also impacted channel-forming processes. The result was an overly wide channel with increased sedimentation, limited riparian vegetation and, at times, flooding. Additionally, the irrigation diversion also served as a barrier to upstream migration of fish and therefore had to be modified or removed.

TU collaborated with the only private water right holder on Badger Creek to restructure their irrigation practices from flood to sprinkler irrigation. With a Natural Resources Conservation Service Environmental Quality Incentives Program grant, the landowner was able to change the irrigation point of diversion from Badger Creek to the Little Lost River and install three center pivots. This enabled warmer water (not suitable for bull trout) to be diverted from the Little Lost River for irrigation while leaving the cold, clean water (suitable for bull trout) from Badger Creek in the stream. TU raised money through the Columbia Basin Water Transactions Program to fund a 30-year non-diversion agreement with the family, which protects the full natural flow of Badger Creek from its headwaters to its confluence with the Little Lost River. In addition, TU removed the Badger Creek diversion, opening up 12 km of pristine and virtually undisturbed habitat. For migratory bull trout from the mainstem Little Lost River to use this spawning and rearing habitat, however, the lower migration corridor needed to be re-established.

An engineering firm specializing in stream design provided plans for a single channel capable of supporting bull trout migration. Heavy equipment redefined the stream channel and floodplain. The landowner installed riparian fencing to exclude livestock and planted local, native plants to help speed recovery of the banks and floodplain. Herbaceous wetland and shrub communities were planted in riparian zones and upland areas seeded to encourage quicker floodplain recovery. Only seven days after completion of the restoration project, USFS biologists witnessed rainbow trout spawning in the newly created Badger Creek channel.

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KIM GOODMAN DISCUSSES LITTLE LOST ACCOMPLISHMENTS WITH SENATOR MIKE CRAPO

Little Lost (cont'd)

(Continued from page 4)

In May 2007, Badger Creek was nominated by the USFWS as one of the nation's "Ten Waters to Watch" – an honorable designation by the Native Fish Habitat Board.

The Little Lost River bull trout recovery efforts are an excellent example of how watershed restoration activities coupled with revised land management practices have the potential to impact species recovery on multiple scales. Partnering diverse stakeholders to accomplish a long-term conservation goal is not always easy. The Little Lost River partnership has been successful because the partners trust each other, which in turn, has made the enterprise strong and lasting. Each understands and agrees that in the end by working together to make a productive change to the system everyone benefits – irrigators and fish alike.

The Little Lost River bull trout recovery effort is a collaborative endeavor that would not be possible without the commitment of all partners. TU would like to acknowledge the following partners for their extensive time and effort: U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, USDA Farm Service Agency, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Idaho Department of Fish & Game, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, Idaho Department of Water Resources, National Fish & Wildlife Foundation, Columbia Basin Water Transactions Program, Western Native Trout Initiative, Gregory Aquatics, Pass Creek Grazing Association, Jim Andreason, Daryl Andreason,

Pancheri, Inc., Keith Waymire, Ed Dumke, Idaho State University, Utah State University. ■

– Kim Goodman and Nancy Bradley



AT THE AUGUST 2007 EVENT, TU RECOGNIZED PROJECT PARTNERS WITH A CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

Oneida Narrows Dam Proposal Continues

The ill fated proposal by the Twin Lakes Canal Company to dam one of the crown jewels of the Bear River in the Southeast corner of Idaho, continues to work its way through the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) process. Twin Lakes is proposing to build a 100-foot-tall dam and a new, 6-mile-long reservoir on the Bear River, above the town of Preston in a deep canyon called the Oneida Narrows. The Narrows is a popular destination for anglers and hunters and one of the last best places for native Bonneville cutthroat trout in the lower Bear River between the Oneida Reservoir and Idaho-Utah state line. It supports a huge recreational tailwater fishery that includes rainbow and brown trout, as well as smallmouth bass and walleye that have washed through the existing dam at the Oneida Reservoir. The dam would drown the last free-flowing, road-accessible stretch of the Bear River in the state of Idaho.

In just the last five years, PacifiCorp, state agencies, sportsmen such as Trout Unlimited (TU), and other groups reached a settlement through exhaustive negotiations to allow the current hydro-



ONEIDA NARROWS

power projects on the Bear River to go forward. TU and the partners have invested almost \$500,000 to protect, preserve and enhance this fishery and the recreational opportunity Oneida Narrows provides. That settlement will be jeopardized by the Oneida Narrows Project.

TU's efforts to resolve this dispute short of outright opposition to Twin Lakes' proposal have been rejected. Twin Lakes argues the dam is required to supplement its existing irrigation system. But in reality, if more irrigation water was at the heart of the issue, the canal company might have considered a host of workable irrigation solutions short of building a destructive dam. For example, other area irrigation companies are working with Warren Colyer, TU's Project Coordinator for the Bear River Native Trout Program, to improve irrigation efficiencies while protecting native fish populations. Twin Lakes has refused a series of opportunities to consider similar options, which would mitigate the need for a destructive dam.

What's more, Franklin County residents have clearly expressed their opposition to the dam. In a non-binding referendum in November 2006, Franklin County voters rejected the Twin Lakes proposal. The vote demonstrated the people who currently use the river want to maintain the resource as is, for the benefit of future generations.

For these reasons TU national staff, including Warren Colyer, Kim Goodman and Peter Anderson have teamed up with the Idaho and Utah Councils to oppose the Oneida Narrows Project in the FERC proceedings. This year's activities included the filing of extensive comments and attending hearings on Twin Lakes' pre-application document and FERC's initial scoping analysis. We're building a record showing the Oneida Narrows Project is ill-conceived, under-funded and unnecessary. One early success was FERC's recognition that because of the major impacts of the project a superficial Environmental Assessment was not needed, but a complete Environmental Impact Statement would have to be prepared by Twin Lakes.

Warren Colyer submitted extensive comments to FERC regarding Twin Lakes' woeful study plans. In response, the FERC recently did require Twin Lakes to complete roughly \$1.5 million worth

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Conservation Groups Receive \$376K FRIMA Grant to Build Fish Ladder at Chester Dam on the Henry's Fork



CHESTER DAM ON THE HENRY'S FORK WITH THE CONFLUENCE OF THE HENRY'S FORK AND FALL RIVER UPSTREAM. THE CROSS-CUT CANAL (ABOVE THE RIVER IN PHOTO) AND THE LAST CHANCE CANAL (BELOW THE RIVER IN PHOTO) ARE TWO MAJOR DIVERSIONS FED FROM THE CHESTER DAM.

Almost every angler in Idaho has fished, or has dreamed of fishing, the famed Henry's Fork of the Snake River. Known for its spring-fed waters that grow large and smart rainbow trout high in the system, the lower river provides pristine habitat for rainbow, brown, and even Yellowstone cutthroat

trout. While the habitat is unsurpassed in places, entrainment into irrigation canals and large barriers prove detrimental to the wild fishery. One of the largest barriers in the system is at Chester Dam near St. Anthony, where fish haven't been able to migrate upstream since the diversion was built in 1938.

Chester Dam is also the site of a proposed hydroelectric facility. As part of a multi-year negotiation with the applicants of the facility, TU, the Henry's Fork Foundation (HFF), the Greater Yellowstone Coalition (GYC), Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG), Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation, the US Forest Service, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) negotiated a settlement agreement that is expected to be accepted by the Federal Energy Regulatory Com-

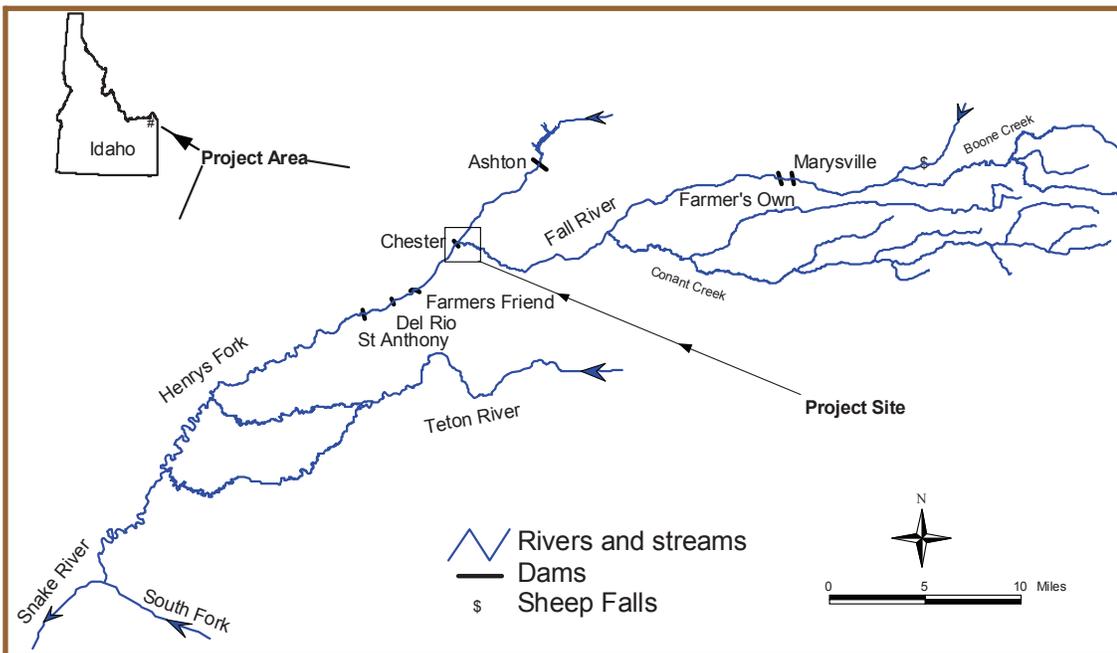
mission (FERC) into a long-term license. The settlement agreement spells out a plan for the applicants to install screens on the two major diversions and the proposed turbines. In turn, the conservation groups (TU, GYC, and HFF) are responsible for raising funds to design and install a fish ladder as part of the new facility, estimated at \$500,000.

In January, the USFWS awarded the partners \$376,000 through the Fisheries Restoration and Irrigation Mitigation Act (FRIMA) program to design and build the structure. Additionally, TU secured a \$10,000 donation from Orvis Company, a fishing retail company, as match for the project. The groups have also committed over \$118,000 of in-kind match to oversee the project to its completion. IDFG, the design engineers, and others have also committed in-kind donations to design and construct the facility. The conservation groups have committed to raise an additional \$61,000 by the end of 2008 to cover the design and construction costs for the ladder.

The fish ladder will essentially reconnect the entire lower Henry's Fork watershed (and the Teton River, South Fork of the Snake, and upper reaches of the main Snake River watershed) with at least 35 miles of upstream habitat in the mainstem Henry's Fork and the lower Fall River and about 100 miles of tributaries. Yellowstone cutthroat trout are found throughout all waterways above and below Chester Dam, including the Snake River, South Fork of the Snake River, Teton River and Fall River. Chester Dam is the only major barrier to connectivity that remains in the lower Henry's Fork and Fall River that can feasibly be modified to provide upstream fish passage. Given the biological importance of the Henry's Fork, not to mention the recreational and attendant economic value to the local community, the fish ladder proposed by the conservation groups is long overdue.

If you or your chapter would like to contribute to the fish ladder, please contact Kim Goodman at (208) 552-0891 x712. ■

— Kim Goodman



PROJECT AREA FOR THE CHESTER DAM FISH LADDER. UPSTREAM FISH PASSAGE AT CHESTER DAM WOULD CONNECT THE LOWER HENRY'S FORK, ALONG WITH THE TETON RIVER, SOUTH FORK, AND SNAKE RIVER, WITH ABOUT 35 MAINSTEM MILES OF THE HENRY'S FORK AND FALL RIVER AND ABOUT 100 TRIBUTARY MILES OF THE CONANT CREEK AND BOONE CREEK DRAINAGES.

(Map courtesy of the Henry's Fork Foundation)

Box Car Bend Work Days

The Hemingway Trout Unlimited (TU) Chapter in partnership with the Wood River Land Trust participates in a yearly project work day at Box Car Bend, a popular and highly visible fishing access along Hwy. 75 between Ketchum and Hailey. Approximately 14-20 people participate each year, mostly TU members. Our day is spent widening and spreading bark chips on the trail leading down to the river, repairing the wood steps, pulling knapweed, planting wildflower seed, and general cleanup. The day ends with a delightful BBQ. Please call Carmen Northen if you would like to volunteer for future work. ■

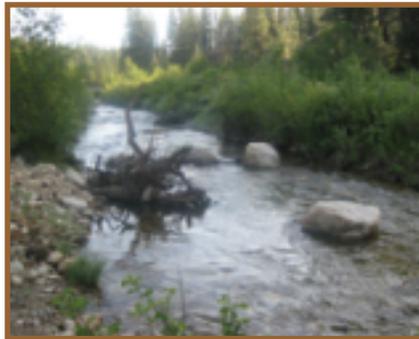
– Carmen Northen



VOLUNTEERS HELPING DURING THE BOX CAR BEND WORK DAY



Mores Creek (cont'd)



MORES CREEK BEFORE (LEFT) AND AFTER (RIGHT) RESTORATION PROJECT

(Continued from page 1)

Volunteers planted thousands of riparian plants along the Phase I site, and we'll be back to do the same to Phase II next year. All are invited to come spend a day with us planting cottonwoods along Mores Creek! If you would like to be added to the contact list, please e-mail Pam Smolczynski at psmolczynski@tu.org.

This project showcases a strong partnership between the USFS, West Central Highlands RC&D and TU. ■

– Pam Smolczynski

Oneida Narrows (cont'd)

(Continued from page 5)

of environmental and socio-economic impact studies to evaluate the potential impacts of the project. In so doing, however, FERC summarily dismissed a litany of concerns raised by state and federal agencies, tribes, and non-government organizations (NGOs). Most notably, FERC refused to require the applicant to study the feasibility of providing upstream fish passage at the facility, despite requests by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM), U.S. Forest Service, TU, and other NGOs. Similarly, FERC dismissed a formal dispute from the BLM on behalf of the Shoshone-Bannock tribes, who are concerned that historic burial grounds and grave sites will be inundated by the proposed project.

Peter Anderson also recently filed with FERC a motion to join in PacifiCorp Energy's motion to dismiss, requesting FERC revoke Twin Lakes' preliminary permit and deny a license for the project. The basis for PacifiCorp's motion is the Oneida Narrows Project will conflict with the Settlement Agreement that so many parties worked so hard to achieve on PacifiCorp's projects. After TU filed its joinder, many other signers of that Settlement Agreement filed their own patterned after TU's work. The FERC has yet to rule on that motion, and there is some indication they will allow it to languish.

We are now sitting in a two-year quiet period, waiting for Twin Lakes to complete FERC's study plan. TU will monitor and participate in any action on the motion to dismiss. You can help by visiting and fishing in the Oneida Narrows, logging and photographing your fishing time there, and recording any Bonneville cutthroat trout you catch. Every bit of information we can provide to FERC will help us defeat this unfortunate project. ■

– Warren Coeyer and Peter Anderson

South Fork Snake Update—Rainey Creek

Rainey Creek, potentially one of the best spawning tributaries to the South Fork Snake River, is improving rapidly thanks to in-stream improvements put in place by Trout Unlimited's (TUS) Home Rivers Initiative and invaluable volunteer help from the Snake River Cutthroats chapter of TU.

The project is significant, perhaps not from a fishing standpoint, but from a big-picture perspective. Improving habitat along the stream from where it leaves U.S. Forest Service (USFS) land to where it connects with the river will do a lot to benefit the overall South Fork fishery and especially the river's native Yellowstone cutthroat trout (YCT). It's important to note, too, that Rainey Creek is an excellent fishery in its own right, beginning on USFS land and stretching for miles upstream into the roadless Idaho backcountry.

The basic idea on Rainey Creek is to improve a number of irrigation diversions so migrating YCT can move freely from the river into Rainey Creek's high-quality spawning habitat on public lands above Swan Valley. Much has been done, but much is left to do.

This year promises to be a big year for fish and for cooperating landowners along Rainey Creek. Thus far, the barrier and fish entrainment issues on the first two irrigation diversions (Griffel and Weeks) have been eliminated by installing fish screens and ladders on both diversions. A stretch of the stream has been relocated to its historic location and v-shaped rock weirs have been placed at the McGrath check/diversion, eliminating a barrier and providing several hundred feet of newly created fish-friendly stream habitat. The new fish screen has been built for the Walsh diversion and is ready for installation as soon as weather permits. A rock v-weir will also be installed at the Walsh diversion to ensure fish passage.

In 2008, TU will combine the Shurtleff and Gottsche diversions into one state-of-the-art diversion. This structure will include an imbedded screen in the bottom of the creek with three rock v-weirs below the structure and one above to maintain flow over the new screen. This particular screen will be nearly maintenance-free. The result will be the elimination of two barriers, and fish that might have been sucked into ditches will be able to continue their up and downstream migrations. We get rid of two problems for the price of one; economically, this is a good deal.

A fish barrier at the Caboose Culvert will also be eliminated in 2008. The large

culvert will be lowered to a proper elevation to provide fish passage. Velocity v-weirs will be installed in the bottom to help fish get through the structure.

Work on the Glen Bills diversion, which serves several landowners, is progressing. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is working to complete the design for this structure by spring. The current diversion is old and will not survive many more years of high water. With this diversion, as with the others, we intend to restore fish passage and eliminate fish loss.

The Belle Beam diversion designs are in progress. Over a mile a new riparian fence has already been installed on the Beam property, complete with a water gap for livestock. Removing livestock from this section of the creek will be critical to the long-term rehabilitation. Bank stabilization and native vegetation planting may be used to help speed the healing process.

At the Griffel Ditch, we are working on an agreement to channel the ditch into a pipe and solve a water-loss problem due to seepage and evaporation. Over half the water is being lost to seepage. Working with the landowner and NRCS, our goal is to reduce the loss and leave some of the conserved water in the stream for fish. This will be extremely beneficial for fish especially during irrigation season, when flows are at their lowest. It is also a big win for the landowner because it eliminates the water loss and all but eliminates the maintenance issues of the current ditch system. This is one of the longest

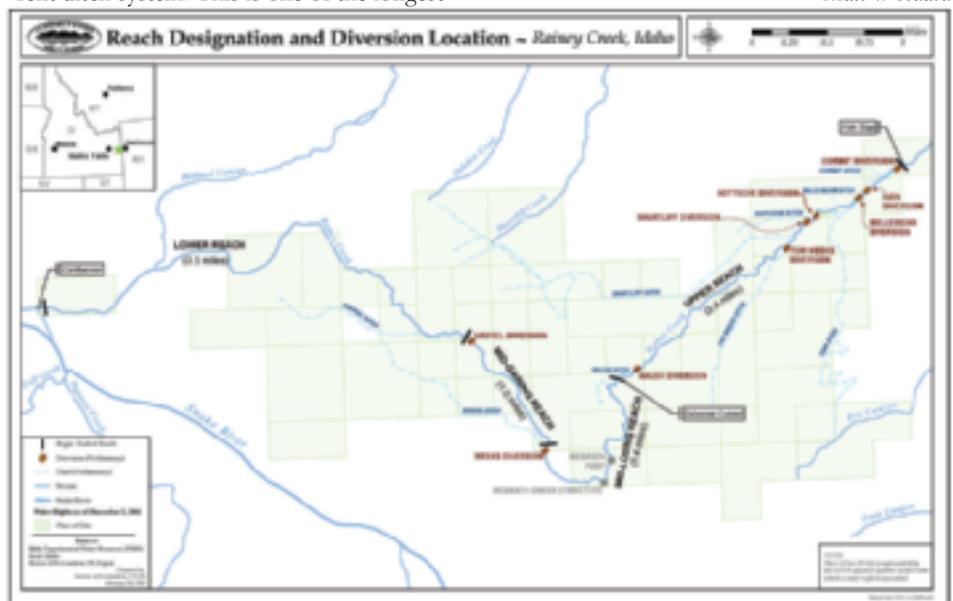
ditches in the Rainey Creek system and could likely lead to similar projects.

In 2009, it's hoped a new electric fish weir will be installed on Rainey Creek to keep rainbows and rainbow-cutthroat hybrids from migrating up Rainey Creek. The current picket weir is susceptible to being blown out during high water, thanks to the accumulation of floating debris. Idaho Department of Fish and Game and TU believe a new electrical weir, like one tested last season on Palisades Creek, offers the best solution. The electrical weir resolves the floating debris situation and ensures we maintain the genetic purity of spawning cutthroats in the South Fork system. In conjunction with that, we may screen the existing ditch that comes off the present fish weir to prevent any fish loss at this location.

The Rainey Creek work is the result of a lot of collaboration among multiple landowners, several agencies and others. One of the biggest supporters of this endeavor continues to be the Snake River Cutthroats, the local TU Chapter in Idaho Falls. Their support has been phenomenal, to say the least, from economic support to on-the-ground volunteer help, this amazing chapter makes it happen. We couldn't accomplish our goals on Rainey Creek without their important help.

In short, we are getting there. It just takes time, funding and effort to move forward. I am confident the end result will be one TU members can be proud of for a long time. ■

— Matt Woodard



RAINEY CREEK DIVERSION MAP

15th East Idaho Fly Tying & Fishing Expo

The 15th edition of the East Idaho Fly Tying & Fishing Expo will be held April 18 & 19, 2008, at the Shilo Inn in Idaho Falls, Idaho. Sponsored by the Snake River Cutthroats, the Expo features marquee level fly tiers, workshop and program presenters but the real purpose of the Expo is to have fun. Workshops, programs, vendors, a great youth program (we had bus loads in past), a wonderful two-day women's fly fishing course taught by women, and of course over 100 of the best tiers in the west and around the United States will be the featured attractions of the two-day event. General admission will again be free to one and all.

Concluding the Expo will be a great banquet featuring Charles Jardine as the guest speaker followed by a live auction with the legendary Will Godfrey as the auctioneer. The Expo has raised in the neighborhood of \$40,000 profit for conservation and education for a number of years now, and we are hoping to break the \$50,000 mark this year. So make your plans to join us for one of fly fishing and fly tying's premier events, and help us reach this historical goal while having one of the best times in your life! For more info go to www.srcexpo.com. ■

— Robert J Long



The State of Idaho's Roadless Areas

In November 2006, Idaho's governor Jim Risch presented the National Roadless Committee (RACNAC) with the state's petition for the management of the 9.3 million acres of National Forest roadless areas in Idaho. All of us who had been working on this issue were pleasantly surprised by his earnest presentation to protect Idaho's roadless areas. Over the past year, the Forest Service and the Idaho governor's office worked together to write a proposed draft of the state's proposed roadless rule. That draft was released in early January 2008, which triggered a 90-day comment period. Sixteen public input meetings were held around the state after the draft was released. Those meetings culminated with the last meeting in Boise on February 28, 2008.

Thanks to all the Idaho Trout Unlimited (ITU) members who attended this latest round of state roadless meetings or provided written testimony. Your input will make a difference.



THE HUNT KIDS FISH THE
GOSPEL HUMP WILDERNESS

Although Trout Unlimited (TU) has some problems with the draft rule, we have attempted to support this process because we believe that Lt. Governor Risch sincerely wishes for Idaho's roadless lands to receive more permanent protection than they currently enjoy.

The good parts of the draft we support are:

- Over 3 million acres of roadless lands would receive more protection
- 5.3 million acres will receive equal protection from future road building as compared to the 2001 Roadless Rule.

The bad parts of the draft we're trying to change are:

- Approximately 620,000 acres, primarily in the Caribou-Targhee National Forest, would be placed in a General Forest Management category and receive less protection than the 2001 rule.
- In addition problems stemming from language dealing with road building for fuel reduction projects have been identified.

The final rule will be written this spring and adjustments are being made both in the General Forest Management category (much of this deals with development of future phosphate mining leases in Southeast Idaho) and the language within the rule dealing with fuel reduction projects and associated road building within Backcountry Restoration areas to protect Wildland/Urban Interface communities as well as municipal watersheds from wildfire. This has been a long process, but TU believes it has the potential to deliver



RAPID RIVER ROADLESS AREA BULL TROUT

a widely supported final management rule early this summer that collectively will offer better management protection for the state's National Forest roadless areas (and the cold water fishery habitat those areas protect) than what is presently offered.

This is a very general overview of the Idaho roadless rule's present status and TU's involvement. I have purposefully stayed away from much of the minutia and specifics surrounding this issue, both because, as this piece is written, this issue is still very fluid, and because the details deserve, and are currently receiving, much more attention and space than we have room for in this newsletter. If any one wishes to discuss any of this in greater detail, please feel free to call or e-mail me.

Comments on the draft rule were due April 7, but the opportunity to shape the rule has not passed. When the rule is produced in its "final" form, Idahoans will have another opportunity for input. Stay tuned—we'll keep you posted.

Thanks for all you do. ■

— Scott Stouder

Short Casts . . .

Hemingway – Howard Preserve Planting Project

“IF WE TAKE CARE
OF THE FISH,
THE FISHING WILL
TAKE CARE OF
ITSELF.”



ED NORTHEN AND JOHN FINNELL PREP A PLANTING HOLE

In October 2007, the Hemingway Chapter teamed up with the Sun Valley Garden Club for a habitat restoration project on the Big Wood River. The presi-

dent of the Garden Club, Liz Warrick heard of concerns of higher water temperatures due to loss of trees along the river banks that provide shade and cover for the fish. Liz identified a section of the river that was on the Wood River Land Trust's Howard Preserve. The Garden



JOHN FINNELL AND OTHER VOLUNTEERS PLANT WILLOWS



ED NORTHEN, JOHN FINNELL, LIZ WARRICK AND OTHER VOLUNTEERS PLANT WILLOWS

Club purchased 50 native shrubs from a local nursery and enlisted Hemingway chapter members to plant them on the streambank. ■

SEIFF – Trout in the Classroom

The Southeast Idaho Fly Fishers (SEIFF) held a Trout in the Classroom (TIC) workshop on February 1 and 2, 2008.

Twenty-six participants attended, 18 of which were teachers. The teachers (grade 4 through high school) represented 10 schools throughout southeast Idaho from Marsh Valley, Blackfoot, Rockford, American Falls and Pocatello. One teacher had even made the trip over from Hailey. Of the 10 schools represented, 9 are new to the program. We have a commitment from all 9 schools to start TIC this year or next!! A drawing was held to give four teachers a complete classroom set up including chillers, aquarium and a commitment from Idaho Department of Fish & Game (IDFG) and SEIFF to help set the units up. All teachers

attending the workshop will get a set up for their use in their classroom and assistance in setting up the system.

Jennifer Jackson, Regional Conservation Educator from the IDFG and the instructor for the TIC workshop, received accolades from Senator Diane Bilyeu from Pocatello. The Senator had seen a presentation on Project WILD and WILD About Trout in the Classroom as well as our other outreach efforts/programs from our Department, and was impressed with IDFG's commitment to education and the wonderful opportunities we were providing teachers, kids, and the communities.

Donations have been received from Simplot and SEIFF. ■

– Darrell Brown



RICHARD SCULLY (IDFG) AND BUD SMALLEY (SEIFF) WORK WITH KIDS DURING THE TIC WORKSHOP



KIDS ENJOY LEARNING ABOUT TROUT DURING THE TIC WORKSHOP

Ted Trueblood – Julia Creek Daylighting Project Update

Trout Unlimited's (TU) stream restoration efforts in Idaho now include a project in the most urbanized place in the state: downtown Boise. In May 2007 Boise Mayor David Bieter joined with TU members and Meridian Academy to dedicate Julia Creek, a 320 foot long stream flowing in Julia Davis Park into the Boise River.

The Julia Creek Daylighting Project provides both wetland habitat mitigation for widening Five Mile Road and it also creates habitat for trout and other fish in the Boise River. The project is a partnership of Boise Parks and Recreation Department, Ada County Highway District (ACHD) and TU. Julia Creek is the latest of several habitat enhancement projects along the Boise River, part of the Ted Trueblood Chapter's urban stream restoration work in Idaho's Treasure Valley.

"Before the Treasure Valley was settled the Boise River had frequent sloughs and side channels ideal for fish rearing," said James Piotrowski, President of the Ted Trueblood Chapter of TU. "Over the years these channels disappeared, resulting in fewer fish reproducing and surviving to adulthood in the Boise River. Scientists say side channels like this one can help provide a productive Boise River fishery."

The Julia Creek Daylighting Project was developed over the winter of 2007 and was completed on Earth Day with a major stream planting effort by community volunteers. Julia Creek was created with the removal of an 80-foot portion of culvert that drains the pond in Julia Davis Park. The small channel provides potential spawning, rearing, and over-wintering habitat for trout and other fish and is an attractive stream with deep pools and shallow riffles, capable of moving fine sediments. TU and Boise Parks & Recreation managed the construction of the project with significant volunteer assistance from high school students from Meridian Academy.



JEFF BARNEY OF THE TED TRUEBLOOD CHAPTER ASSISTS MERIDIAN ACADEMY STUDENTS WITH A FISH RELEASE AT THE DEDICATION OF JULIA CREEK

"The original idea for the project was to remove the culvert and have the water flow into the river on the same path," said Piotrowski. "Thanks to the ACHD funding we were able to redesign the channel and redirect the channel to parallel the river for more than 200 feet and create the additional side channel. The added riparian wetland enables ACHD to meet their mitigation duty and also creates fish habitat connected to the Boise River, and that's a classic win-win."

The participation by ACHD was spurred by plans to widen Five Mile Road when it became apparent that wetland mitigation would be necessary because of impacts to canal banks that would be covered. Rather than provide mitigation on site, the ACHD concluded it environmentally preferable to establish or enhance aquatic habitat functions and values in the Boise River corridor with funds from an in-lieu fee mitigation fund. An in-lieu fee agreement was made with TU to assist in planned work in the Boise River corridor for wetlands and habitat restoration.

Besides the ACHD contribution, funding for the project came from the Edwards Mother Earth Foundation and the EPA Five Star Restoration Program.

"Some credit for this project goes to Mayor Dave Bieter because he helped us navigate the bureaucracy and deal with a concern over construction liability and with ACHD funding a project in a city park at the time ACHD had sued the City of Boise over an unrelated issue," Piotrowski said. "The Mayor supported the project and the opportunity where all parties have common ground. We need to work together when these opportunities arise."

Piotrowski pointed out this project is an "Apollo 10" effort that points the way forward for an eventual daylighting of Cottonwood Creek, which enters the Boise River about 800 yards upstream. "When we were working with Boise Parks on the Cottonwood Creek concept in 2003 we had the drawings out and identified Julia Creek as a good project to learn the complexities of urban stream restoration. We hope to someday see Cottonwood Creek restored to daylight at the east end of Julia Davis Park." ■

– Andy Brunelle



MIKE TOALSON, TU MEMBER, PLANTS WILLOW CUTTINGS IN JULIA CREEK ON EARTH DAY

"BEFORE THE TREASURE VALLEY WAS SETTLED THE BOISE RIVER HAD FREQUENT SLOUGHS AND SIDE CHANNELS IDEAL FOR FISH REARING," SAID JAMES PIOTROWSKI



Magic Valley Fly Fishers – Henry’s Lake Hybrids at Home in Salmon Falls Creek

You can help make a difference

We need your help in preventing ill-conceived storage proposals! We are working to organize grassroots efforts in Idaho to oppose environmentally destructive, fiscally irresponsible, and unsafe storage proposals like Teton Dam. Please take the time to fill out and mail back the enclosed card. By doing so, we'll be able to contact you with information as to how you can get directly involved in helping us keep our fisheries in tact. We hope to hear from you!

To test a theory that hybrid trout fingerlings may produce a better survival rate from predation in Salmon Falls Creek Reservoir than standard varieties of hatchery raised rainbows, the Magic Valley Fly Fishers (MVFF) launched a project in 2006 in cooperation with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) and the University of Idaho (UofI) Fish Experiment Station in Hagerman. IDFG provided the Henry's Lake cutthroat eggs and the Hayspur Hatchery rainbow milt to fertilize them with. The hardened eggs were transported from the Henry's Lake Hatchery to the UofI hatchery in Hagerman for rearing. The MVFF paid for their food. The premise of the theory was to see if the "half-

wild" hybrids would be able to better evade predators (walleye) than their domestic cousins. IDFG's current policy is not to plant fingerlings in the reservoir because of the predation and they only consider planting catchables, which have a much better survival rate. As a matter of economic interest, fingerlings (3 to 5 inches) can be raised for about 10 cents each; catchables (9 to 12 inches) cost about 50 cents apiece. In September of 2006, approximately 30,000 hybrid fingerlings were transported by the IDFG Hagerman Hatchery and planted in Salmon Falls Creek Reservoir. In October of 2007, another 70,000 were planted in the reservoir. To check on their survival, members of the MVFF did a cursory creel

survey this fall to see if any of the 2006 hybrids would show up—no luck until Saturday, December 15th, when two members of the club braved close to freezing temperatures and caught six of the hybrids along with other rainbows. The 6 hybrids ranged from 13 inches to 14 inches—in just one year! They had the unmistakable orange throat slash and also the clipped adipose fin. Next spring, if it can be determined that the survival rate is significant, it may lead to IDFG considering adding hybrids to its annual planting as a cost-effective means of enhancing the trout fishery—especially if the October 2007 planting fares as well. ■

—Ben Collins

Ted Trueblood – Harris Ranch Side Channel

The Ted Trueblood Chapter continued its work on the Harris Ranch Side Channel creation project with volunteer labor from a variety of local schools and organizations, including the Ada County Sheriff's community service office. This year we have focused on riparian planting, and stabilization of banks near culverts.

Additional construction of the project is on hold while Andy Brunelle completes efforts to decommission a series of sewage holding ponds upstream of the channel project and occupying an area where the channel will be extended to reconnect the river to the holding pond behind Barber Dam. ■

—James Piotrowski



HARRIS RANCH SIDE CHANNEL

South East Idaho Fly Fishers – Portneuf River Project

The Portneuf River is a south-east Idaho tributary to the Snake River. It is home to native Yellowstone cutthroat trout as well as to introduced rainbow and brown trout. Up through the 1960s the upper Portneuf River was considered one of Idaho's best trout streams. By the mid-1980s, cumulative effects of agricultural practices changed the Portneuf River substrate from cobble-gravel to mainly fine sediment. The deterioration in the trout fishery soon fol-

lowed. Throughout the past 20 years of restoration of the upper Portneuf River, anglers and the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) have taken the opportunity to demonstrate the benefits of the riparian corridor fences to anglers, landowners and the general public.

Such an opportunity is now coming together on the Holbrook property. The South East Idaho Fly Fishers (SEIFF) chapter is organizing volunteers and, in conjunction with the

IDFG, is working to obtain funds for riparian corridor fence construction and maintenance (SEIFF received 2008 TU Embrace-A-Stream (EAS) funds). The Holbrook section lies within a five-mile river reach that IDFG manages for native cutthroat trout. For a complete copy of the EAS proposal, please see our website at www.seiff.org. ■

— Roger Thompson

Mark Your Calendar!!!

You're invited to the 49th Trout Unlimited Annual Meeting, September 10-14, 2008, at the Snowbird Resort near Salt Lake City Utah. For more information contact Nancy Bradley at 208-552-0891 ext. 711 or nbradley@tu.org.

Teton Valley – Teton River Stream Bank Restoration

The day dawned clear and cold as the November skies faded into the Tetons. I knew the day was going to be great and I had anxiously anticipated the start of our cooperative restoration work with the Teton Regional Land Trust (TRLT) on my favorite section of the Teton River.

The project was the start of a great partnership. Kim Goodman, Director of TU's Idaho Water Project, had arranged for the Teton Valley chapter to work in cooperation with TRLT in bank restoration on our local stream.

Our chapter secured a 2007 Embrace-A-Stream (EAS) grant, for which our project was ranked the #1 proposal in the nation, to help in stream bank restoration. The banks of the Teton River had been deteriorated by bovine trepidations, in the inevitable quest for water that all cows seem to hold dear to their hearts. TRLT had identified this bank as the start in a series of banks following the next three miles down river.

The restoration was to be performed in two parts, one the cutting of the native willow which turned out to be a biology lesson in itself and two the actual planting of these clippings in the degraded bank. Each part was to take much more time than expected, but the rewards will be reaped by many generations to come.

The first morning we had a hardy cutting force. With the instruction of Tamara Sperber, Associate Director of Stewardship for TRLT, we were instructed on the cutting and selection project. Ten clippings at most from any one willow as we wanted the new bank to be as genetically diverse as possible.

The Branch/Arm could only be about the size of your big toe,

and you had to make sure the end facing the sky was cut blunt and end facing the center of the universe was at a 45 degree angle. This facilitated two things, one – you knew which end to plant in the ground, and two – the sap of the tree only knows one direction to flow, so if you planted it upside down it was a dead arm – not the name of our game.

We finished the cuttings around noon, loaded them in a car and headed for the put in. We transferred all clippings by boat to our restoration site, and gently placed all 500 clippings in the water so they did not dry overnight. We were then introduced to the site and



TRANSFERRING WILLOW CLIPPINGS TO RESTORATION SITE

(photo courtesy of Teton Regional Land Trust)

enjoyed a float down the remaining section with ample wildlife sightings and a great talk by Tamara about our Teton River.

Morning arrived and the big day of planting. We had 12 member volunteers, two of whom had decided to become board members as well to fulfill our criteria for the grant. We slipped our boats into the river with frost on the grass as it was the second of November and were on our way to saving the Teton River.

We arrived at the site and transported the remaining

gear to the bank and “tried” to fire up the machines. The generators would go, but the water boring tools to get the arms down into the water table for the winter would not suck nor dispel water. Of course they had frozen because it was very cold. With many ingenious ideas and a couple hours of natural warming we had a go on the devices.

After that things went smooth, we had about 20 volunteers between the two organizations and a lot of positive attitudes. We enjoyed a barbecue lunch provided by TU of hot dogs/hamburgers, chips and soda. We had many youngsters involved who work hard all day and were very inquisitive about what this will look like next year.

I am very excited as well to hopefully see the buds and greening that spring will bring on our sprigs and I am also looking forward to the five other banks that can reap the benefits of our conservation. Thanks again to TU for the foresight and funding for our project. We put a smile on many a cutthroats face. ■

– Quincy Becker

THE 2007 TETON VALLEY EAS PROPOSAL WAS RANKED NUMBER 1 IN THE NATION FOR THEIR EFFORTS ON THE TETON RIVER.



VOLUNTEERS PLANT WILLOW CLIPPINGS AT THE TETON RIVER RESTORATION SITE

(photo courtesy of Teton Regional Land Trust)

Magic Valley Fly Fishers – Women’s Only Fly-Casting and Fly-Fishing Class



FLY CASTING CLINIC

The Magic Valley Fly Fishers (MVFF) held a free woman’s fly-casting and fly-fishing class on Saturday, June 16th. Morgan Buckert, professional fishing guide with Lost River Outfitters in Ketchum, Idaho, was the featured guest and instructor. Just like the

class that was held in 2006, this year’s class was a big success. There were about 22 women on hand, and all of them had a great time and picked up a lot of new information. In addition to instruction on knot-tying, entomology, fly selection, and a little bit of fly fishing history, Morgan had all of the women casting before the class hit the half-way mark! An added bonus to this year’s class was that Terry Patterson at the College of Southern Idaho Fish Hatchery donated approximately 150 rainbow trout, which the women made a valiant attempt at catching. While the catching wasn’t great (it was too hot!), the fishing was, and we look forward to another “Women’s Only” class in 2008. Thanks again to Morgan for her instruction, all the MVFF

members who were on hand to help (Dennis and Tucker Brauer, Scott Stanton, Connie Herbert, Ron Quesnell, Chad Chorney, Wilson Gray, and Bob Coverdale), and to all the ladies who attended! ■

– Chad Chorney



“FISH IN HAND,” INSTRUCTION PAYS OFF

Magic Valley Fly Fishers – Little Wood River cleanup

About 15 Magic Valley Fly Fishers (MVFF) members, as well as several members of the MVFF youth group, the Ducktails, attended the Little Wood River clean-up on April 28, 2007. We cleaned the area of the Bear Tracks Williams access (and a little more), and came away with two pickup truck loads full of trash. We picked up more old bottles and cans than you can count, as well as a tire or two, an old truck gas tank, and parts of an air conditioner! And, we managed to avoid the rattlesnakes in the process. After the work was done, we had a great lunch, and some even got in a little fishing. Thanks to all members who participated! Also, special thanks to Dennis Brauer for cooking lunch and Dennis and Ben Collins for hauling away the trash. ■

– Chad Chorney



VOLUNTEERS LOAD A TRUCK WITH TRASH

Ted Trueblood – Dutch Creek and Middle Fork of the Boise

For the second year the Ted Trueblood chapter has entered into an in-kind arrangement with the Idaho City Ranger District of the Boise National Forest. Trueblood provides volunteer labor for maintenance work on the District’s Dutch Creek Forest Station and receives use of the station’s cabins. This year Trueblood sponsored a joint outing with the local chapter of the Sierra Club, paid for with funding from a Sierra Club. Volunteers did grounds work and stain-

ing of the two cabins, preserving the Ranger District’s property and budget. In addition, Trueblood volunteers led a fly casting lesson while Sierra Club volunteers led nature hikes and put on a Saturday night BBQ. The weekend long outing helped strengthen ties between the sporting and environmental communities, ties that have helped advance Trueblood’s and TU’s advocacy work on 1872 Mining Law Reform, and specific stream restoration projects. ■

– James Piotrowski

Ted Trueblood – South Fork Boise

On November 15, the Ted Trueblood chapter co-hosted, along with Boise Valley Fly Fishers a meeting of interested parties to discuss the status and future of the South Fork of the Boise River with a focus on the tailwater section below Anderson Dam. Attendees discussed current fishery population and use trends, attempted to identify population limiting factors, if any, and determined that additional study of the spawning habits and source of the South Fork’s rainbow population was necessary. As a result of the

meeting, Trueblood has applied for an Embrace-A-Stream grant to help support a planned study of the genetics of South Fork trout to be carried out by TU population geneticist Helen Neville. Helen expects to be able to determine whether the South Fork’s rainbows are spawning locally or are being recruited from elsewhere in the Boise watershed. This information will then be used to drive future conservation efforts. ■

– James Piotrowski

Magic Valley Fly Fishers – Rock Creek Park Handicapped Fishing Access

The Magic Valley Fly Fishers (MVFF), in partnership with a Trout Unlimited mini-grant and funds and labor from the Twin Falls County Department of Parks and Waterways (TFCDPW), is seeing the completion of the Rock Creek Handicapped Fishing Access. The MVFF donated \$1000 to the project, and TU donated another \$500. TFCDPW has donated a considerable amount in materials and labor. Work began in the spring of 2007, and the access has recently been completed, with the exception of an additional railing, and a commemorative sign. It's our hope that this access will see signifi-

cant use, and we are contemplating a formal dedication ceremony. Special thanks must be made to MVFF member Ben Collins, who oversaw the project on behalf of the MVFF, and also to TFCDPW, for their generous donation of materials and labor. ■

– Chad Chorney



ROCK CREEK PARK – BEFORE



ROCK CREEK PARK – AFTER

WITH THE NEW HANDICAPPED FISHING ACCESS, DISABLED FOLKS FROM AROUND THE AREA WILL ENJOY THE SPORT FOR YEARS TO COME.

TU Membership Application /Renewal Form

YES! I want to help protect Idaho's trout and the waters they swim in. Please begin or renew my one-year membership with Trout Unlimited. I understand my dues payment entitles me to all regular membership benefits, including a TU decal, personal membership card, and quarterly issues of TROUT magazine. If I do not indicate a specific chapter, the national TU office will choose the nearest one to me according to my zip code.

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ENHANCE THE WATERSHEDS
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