

The Cutthroat Chronicles

Official Newsletter of the Snake River Cutthroats

May, 2013

A Message from the President *by Gary Barnes*

Well another expo has come and gone, it was a lot of fun. It is always nice to see friends you might only get to see once a year, and is always great to make new friends. I would like to thank all the people who put the expo together, and all the volunteers it takes to make this a great show.

We have a couple of director positions open for the board of directors for the Snake River Cutthroats, if you are interested in helping out and becoming part of a great club let me know. If you care about your fisheries and want to give back this is the club for you.

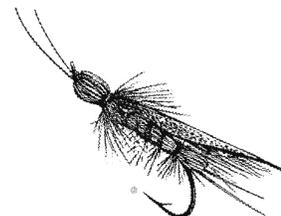
We have a great line up of outings for this summer fishing season, check out the website for more details. If you want to come on one of the outings you can email Ron or one of the board members and we would love to have you join us. We do have a lot of fun on our trips. let's all get out and enjoy the great outdoors, spend some time on the water, and let all the stress from daily life go. Just like in the movie field of dreams, if we conserve it the fish will come, so do your part and keep our rivers clean, and the fish healthy. That way our kids and grandkids can enjoy the rivers for years to come.



UPCOMING EVENTS

*Annual Business Meeting
Papa Tom's*

1830 South Woodruff, Idaho Falls
Wednesday May 8th, 6:30 PM



Annual Business Meeting and Pizza Pig-Out

**Papa Tom's
1830 South Woodruff
(Southwest Corner of Woodruff & 17th)**

Wednesday May 8th 6:30 PM

Besides gooey pizza and drinks of varying strength, one of the actions at this meeting is nomination of officers. We have a few vacancies on the Snake River Cutthroats Board of Directors.

Want to become involved in a club that puts back into the cold water resource we love so much?

Come to the meeting and offer to be part of the Board!

**BLM South Fork Projects Update
by
Monica Zimmerman**

The maintenance person that cleans the toilets at the fee sites is paid for from the fee program. We have received approval to fill that position only. Our hosts and seasonal workers for cleaning along the river are paid for out of BLM appropriated funds. Because of the sequestration we cannot fill those positions at this time.

I am scheduling the spring outfitter for the beginning of May, at that time I will brief the outfitters of our capabilities on the river and see where they can help out.

The new Lorenzo access is now under construction. The contractor is focusing on everything on the north side of the levee. We will have a second contract start this summer to complete the parking area, roadway, and remove the existing access. So that means that users will need to use the existing Lorenzo access. It is questionable as to whether we can continue to do so another summer. Unfortunately, that ramp has some damage due to high water happening several years ago.

Electronic Newsletters Available

For those still receiving hard copies of the newsletter via standard mail, but would prefer to receive it via email, please send your email address to Carol Staples, our membership chair at casbas@ida.net.

Fewer mailings mean more dollars for conservation projects. The fish will appreciate your cost saving efforts.

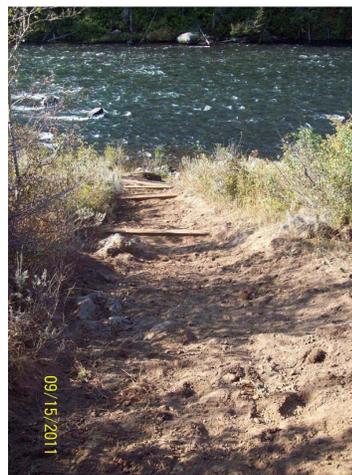


Damage Potential to the Henry's Fork at the Grandview Access

Anglers treasure the reach beginning just below Lower Mesa Falls Campground and ending at the Stone Bridge below the Warm River confluence. Waters of the reach host bountiful rainbow and a few brown trout with individuals ranging to several pounds. During springtime large stonefly emergences one of the most popular float and fly-fish trips on the Henry's Fork is through here. From here also begins a water trip to experience one of the most remote reaches of the Henry's Fork. This reach of the Henry's Fork is also much valued by wildlife photographers, rafting enthusiasts, and sightseeing tourists. For several decades, beginning in the mid twentieth century, its use has been a significant part of Fremont County economy. Users rent lodging and vehicles, hire guides, and patronize eateries and other retail outlets within the County.



Before



After

Access to float the river here begins just below Lower Mesa Falls Campground and requires portaging boats, rafts and such for a few hundred yards down a steep and erosion prone slope. Through decades of use over multiple descending routes the slope has suffered erosion to the degree that sediments from it threaten to enter the river to foul water quality and fish habitat. Finally observing damage to the slope through portaging all types of boats downward over these routes, but realizing the public popularity of its use, the United States National Forest Service (USFS) studied potential here for environmental impact. Results of the study indicated that a trail down the slope, not to quicken descent, but to establish a single pathway for portaging soft-sided boats only will minimize chances for sediment eroding into the river. Hard sided boats, usually weighing much more and being more rigid than soft sided boats, dig deeper into the slope and move down it more quickly thus increasing potential for erosion. The USFS, therefore, established the lowest impact pathway with maintainable water bars down the slope to the river. The USFS also provided soil for plant material to re-vegetate the slope that would provide a natural barrier for impeding sediment from entering the river. The USFS will monitor the effects of use on this pathway on the slope. Although this is a hazardous route to the river and not advocated by the USFS, plans are to keep it open after discussions with fishing guides and other users.

Despite establishment of the restrictive trail down the slope, it appears that some users are pioneering trails to portage hard sided boats down to the river. Such actions return the increased potential for sediments to enter the river. In an effort to prevent misuse down the slope, the Snake River Cutthroats and the Upper Snake River Fly-Fishers of Idaho Falls and Rexburg respectively are combining to establish signing at the top of the established pathway to indicate that restrictions are in place and the reasons for them being established. Members of these clubs and Trout Unlimited encourage other anglers and users to honor the restrictions here and to assist the USFS in policing the established trail. Any observed violation of this trail to the river should be reported to the USFS Ashton District Ranger Station: 208-652-7442.



South Fork 2012 Creel Survey

While we monitor fish population abundance on the South Fork Snake River annually, this is only part of the story. The fish population estimates and trends in abundance provide biological information pertaining to a fishery. Another important part of a fishery is how a fish population is utilized by anglers. Different fisheries are subjected to different amounts of angling pressure. Different fisheries also have different rates of catch and harvest, that though correlated with fish abundance, do not always track with population density changes. For example, in warm summer months, both catch and harvest rates may be lower due to warm water temperatures, not because of fewer fish. Thus, when managing a fishery through actions such as culling rainbow trout and hybrids from spawning runs into tributaries or through fishing regulations such as year round fishing seasons, managers need both biological data about the fish population as well as angling data pertaining to pressure, catch, and harvest rates in order to fully understand how to best manage a fishery.

The Idaho Department of Fish and Game conducted a creel survey on the South Fork Snake River throughout the 2012 calendar year. The most recent year-long creel survey previously conducted on the South Fork was in 2005, shortly after the current fishing regulations were put in place. The creel survey from 2012 indicated fishing pressure has increased on the South Fork as well as catch and harvest rates for all species (Table 1). While the total number of angler fishing hours increased between 2005 and 2012, the proportion of those hours that came from boat versus bank anglers were the same for both years. Anglers caught and harvested substantially more trout in 2012 than in 2005 (Table 2). However, simply comparing catch and harvest estimates between the years is misleading. Factors that have affected the increase include increased angling effort as well as increased trout abundance. When increased fishing pressure is accounted for by calculating a catch rate (catch/hour), the overall catch rate for 2012 was 0.92 trout/hour which was indeed higher than 2005. The other major factor affecting catch and harvest rates in 2012 was the increase in trout populations. Estimates of brown trout and rainbow trout have more than doubled between 2005 and 2012, and cutthroat trout have increased in abundance over this time period as well. While fishing pressure is higher than previously recorded on the South Fork, catch rates for trout have increased. Furthermore, harvest rates of rainbow and hybrid trout have substantially increased between 2005 and 2012 and may be part of the reason why rainbow trout densities in the upper river have remained constant from 2010 through 2012. The bottom line is both pieces of the fishery puzzle, the biological data and the angler data, indicate this is a great time to be an angler on the South Fork Snake River.

Block	Boat	Bank	TOTAL	2005 TOTAL
	hours	hours	hours	hours
January	753	3,678	4,431	2,077
February	1,313	2,782	4,095	3,940
March	2,020	7,484	9,504	7,870
April	1,304	3,766	5,071	6,952
May	15,887	3,905	19,792	13,353
June	38,672	6,291	44,964	55,130
July	59,106	8,751	67,856	35,446
August	81,292	4,434	85,726	46,420
September	96,957	5,058	102,015	29,294
October	29,679	4,910	34,590	22,598
November	4,364	971	5,335	9,035
December	0	1,774	1,774	894
TOTAL	331,347	53,804	385,153	233,009

Table 1. Monthly estimates of angling effort on the South Fork Snake River from the bank (including wading), from boats, and in combination, compared to monthly totals of fishing effort from the 2005 creel survey.



Table 2. Annual estimates of catch and harvest for Yellowstone cutthroat trout (YCT), rainbow trout and hybrids (RBT), brown trout (BNT), and mountain whitefish (MWF) for 2005 and 2012 on the South Fork Snake River.

Year	Catch				Harvest				Effort
	YCT	RBT	BNT	MWF	YCT	RBT	BNT	MWF	
2005	68,718	25,524	64,792	37,304	23	6,718	1,883	788	233,009 h
2012	116,450	85,451	168,596	37,490	114	28,282	15,006	352	385,153 h
% Change	69%	235%	160%	0%	396%	321%	697%	-55%	65%

Canyon Creek Stream Restoration Conservation Project
Paul Patterson, Project Coordinator

Ronald Regan was in the White House, Buck Goodrich was a young man, Bruce Staple's hair was not white and I still had hair when the Snake River Cutthroats had our first conservation project on the Salmon National Forest., a quarter century ago. This year we are holding a work project as well as a celebration of a quarter century of conservation projects. For those who have worked on past projects, but are no longer physically able to swing a sledge hammer, please plan on attending to help us celebrate and so you can tell the young whippersnappers how hard things were on the first few projects when Bruce Smith was the fisheries biologist in charge. Tell them about the projects on Squaw Creek, the North Fork, Indian Creek, Wagonhammer Creek, and building the rock fish ladder up Pine Creek in the rain. Tell them about the sauna at Indianola. On second thought, maybe not the sauna.

The Cutthroat's spring conservation project is scheduled for Saturday June 1. This year we will be doing a stream restoration project on Canyon Creek in the Leadore Ranger District of the Salmon-Challis National Forest. The project site is approximately 8 miles northeast of Leadore, adjacent to Highway 29 (Railroad Canyon Road). This is the road to Dillon, Montana. The purpose of the project is to restore quantity and quality deep slow water for rearing and spawning habitat for steelhead, Chinook Salmon, bull trout and westslope cutthroat trout. Canyon Creek was recently reconnected to the Lemhi River for the first time in over a century and is a priority for restoration work.

The work will involve bank stabilization, anchoring some in-stream structures, placing small boulders (up to basketball size), and some willow planting. The logs on the banks and in the stream will be secured with rebar or duckbill anchors. There are 7 worksites or structures. Canyon Creek is a small stream, so the logs will be small, similar or a bit small than those used on Indian Creek or Wagonhammer Creek. This will not be like driving rebar on the North Fork. Hip boots will be adequate for those working in the stream, and not everyone will be working in-stream. You will need work gloves, sturdy footwear, and to be dressed appropriately for Leadore spring weather conditions, which could be rain, snow or sunshine. If you have a heavy-duty wheel barrow that is capable of hauling large rocks, or a utility trailer and 4-wheeler capable of hauling rock that you can bring, please give me a call. The Forest Service will be providing the remaining tools.

We will be staying at the BLM Smokey Cubs Campground, which is 4 miles northeast of Leadore off Highway 29. There is room for both tent campers and trailers. The Cutthroats will provide breakfast on Saturday and Sunday, lunch on Saturday and dinner on Saturday night. Dinner on Friday night is a sort of potluck. Bring something to grill for yourself (we will have a grill going) and something to share, even a big fish story. Friday is pretty informal with the grill going from 6 to 7 or so. The Cutthroats will also provide water and pop, as well as all the plates and utensils. We will meet at the work site at 9 o'clock on Saturday morning and we expect to serve dinner at 6 o'clock. There will be a sign along the highway marking the turnoff to the work site.

To prepare for the meals, I need to get an accurate head count. If you are interested in attending, please give me a call at 569-8031, or send an email to pattersn@uidaho.edu



2013 Class Schedule

Free Fly Casting Class - On Tuesday, May 7th and Thursday, May 9th 2013 starting at 6:30 pm there will be two free casting classes taught by FFF casting instructors. Classes will last for approximately 2 hours and are located at Tautphaus Park by the fountain (southeast corner of the park off Boulevard). This is open to everyone. The class is designed for beginners and intermediate casting levels. This is a great chance to start casting or improve you casting ability, and it is free. Contact Jeff Armstrong 522-7005 for more information. Some equipment can be provided for the students to use during the class. Attend one or both classes.

2013 Calendar	
Date	Activity
Tuesday April 30 th	SRC board meeting, 6:30 PM Shilo Inn, Idaho Falls
Tues. May 7 th	Public Fly Casting Clinic, host Buck Goodrich
Wednesday, May 8 th	SRC Business Meeting, Papa Tom's
Thursday May 9 th	Public Fly Casting Clinic, host Bob Jacklin
Saturday, June 1 st	Canyon Creek Conservation Project
Sometime in July	Summer Picnic; Place & date TBD

Upcoming Outings

May 11 **Henry's Fork Float Trip, from Stone Bridge to Ashton Take Out. (Host : Bob Blythe)**

At 8:30 am, Meet at Trails Inn, Ashton for breakfast. Visit with a guide from Henry's Fork Anglers about the river and what's working. Leave for the river at 9:30 am. Fish from Drift boats. Approximately a 7-8 hour trip with shuttles & float.

Jun 8 **Twin Lakes Fishing for Blue Gill. (Host: Jimmy Gabettas)**

At 7:30 am. Meet at Jimmy's All Seasons Angler. Travel to Twin Lakes (about 2 1/2 hours). This is primarily a boat fishing trip. Some float tubes have been used. Lunch provided by the Club. There is a \$5.00 entrance fee to the lake.



Recipe of the Month from Gregg Messel

Salmon Chowder

Ingredients

1-2 lbs of salmon (steaks or fillets)
2 lbs potatoes
3-4 stalks celery
Carrots
1 large Onion
5-6 pepper corns
White wine
Milk

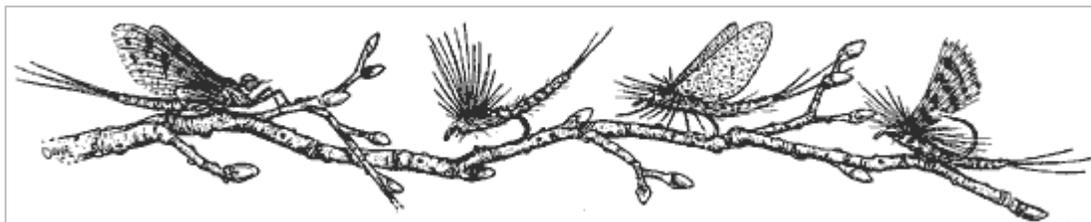
Place salmon fillets with the skin side down or steaks in a pan with one cup water and one cup white wine and simmer covered for one hour. Dice potatoes, carrots, onion, and celery and place in a large stockpot with water for one hour while the salmon is poaching. Drain the salmon, remove the skin, cut out the fat, and flake the meat after it has cooled to the touch. Drain water off of the vegetables. Combine the salmon and vegetables along with enough milk to cover the entire mixture. Add the peppercorns. Simmer for 2- 4 hours with a lid on the pot, stirring every few minutes. Feel free to add or detract any vegetables.

Fly of the Month

Red Fox Squirrel Hair Nymph Variation

Fred Petersen has a variation of this famed nymph that seems to out fish so many still water patterns. Fred's inspiration for this fly came from two sources: Dave Whitlock's squirrel tail nymph and large, eager rainbows in Fremont County, Idaho's Sand Creek Ponds. Fred tied a leaner body and used grouse hackle fibers to form a softer tail. He added a bead to get the fly a bit deeper around vegetation in these "off the beaten path" ponds. Imagine a bead placed behind the eye in the picture below. The result is an effective damselfly nymph pattern that should be effective anywhere damselflies are present.

Hook: #10-14 TMC 5263
Thread: Orange 3/0
Bead: Gold bead, 3/32 inch
Tail: Grouse neck hackle fibers
Rib: Fine gold wire
Body: Amber Whitlock SLR dubbing
Thorax: Grey Whitlock SLR dubbing
Hackle: Folded grouse neck hackle tied in by tip



Snake River Cutthroats
291 Dale Drive
Idaho Falls, ID 83402

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Permit no. 15

Snake River Cutthroats

Club Officers

President: Gary Barnes (208-538-7881)
Past President: Dave Pace (208-529-9290)
Vice President: Paul Patterson (208-524-4377)
VP Conservation: Bob Starck (208-589-9339)
VP Youth: Cloyd Bland (208-756-7304)
Membership: Carol Staples (208-522-9242)
Treasurer: Jim Mathias (208-684-4200)
Secretary: Logan Cutts (208-346-2066)
Historian/Newsletter: Bruce Staples (208-522-9242)
Education: Jeff Armstrong (208-522-7005)
Programs: Bob Blyth (208- 403-7681) & Marv Stucki (208-524-1825)
Outings: Ron Scott (208-745-7283)
Social Chair: Cloyd Bland (208-756-7304)

Senior Advisors

Allan Woolley
Jimmy Gabettas
Buck Goodrich
Scott Long
Jim Mathias
Bruce Staples
Marvin Stucki
Paul Patterson
Cal Johnson

Board of Directors

3 Yr Directors

Matt Woodard, John Lent, Roger Blew

2 Yr Directors

Wade Allen, Mike Towler, Bob Blythe

1 Yr Directors

Rory Cullen, Mike Miller, Casey Johnson