

SRC 2018 Rainey Creek Fence Removal Project

by Paul Patterson



Fence deconstruction crew, celebrating at the end of a long and very productive work day.

With \$14,000 in funding from the Snake River Cutthroats—money raised at the East Idaho Fly Tying and Fly Fishing Expo, Matt Woodard (Trout Unlimited Project Manager) will be overseeing the replacement of approximately a mile of an existing fence and a water gap on lower Rainey Creek. The new fence will be set back further from the stream bank to allow riparian planting of willows, dogwoods and possibly other species. The bigger, longer term objective is to secure funding to restore the segment of Rainey Creek flowing through the Griffel ranch, basically narrowing the channel to provide deeper water, and to construct more riffle and pool sections – all more suitable habitat for fish.



Rory, removing the old wire.

Before the new fence can be built, the old one needed to be removed. To help keep costs down, the Snake River Cutthroats agreed to remove the old fence, which was a combination of 4- and 5-strand barb wire with a few sections of sheep fence, just to make things more interesting. In addition to the

wire, all the old fence posts (a combination of wood and steel) had to go as well.



Jim, pulling staples.

SRC volunteers left the parking lot at Matt's office at 7:30 and got back that evening around 7 p.m. It was definitely a long day.



Riley, rolling the old barb wire.

While most of the crew of 15 are retired, a couple of the younger crew members took time off work (Rory and Scott) or graduate school (Terrance) to help. Younger is a relative term with this group.



Matt, Brian and Terrance, picking up the old fence posts.



Arn and Rob discussing alternative wire rolling methods or maybe politics.



Rob, Scott, Rory and Bill pulling a wood fence post with a little assistance from a handyman jack.



Rory asking, "we have to go how far?"

Fortunately, we had a bigger turnout than I was anticipating. Otherwise, it would have been a multi-day effort. From the Snake River Cutthroats we had: Arn Berglund, Riley Chase, Rory Cullen, Bill Kelly, Brian King, Rob Knox, Scott Long, Jim Mathias, Ron Miller, Duane O'Reilly, Paul Patterson, Terrance Scott, Jerry Sehlke and Matt Woodard. And from High Country RC&D, Lori Ringle joined us for part of the day. High Country RC&D are also putting some money into this project.



Scott and Rory adjusting equipment with special incantations that small children should not hear.

More project Pictures