

2018 Canyon Creek Conservation Project: 30 Years and Counting

by Paul Patterson



Forest Service biologist Dan Garcia welcoming everyone to Smokey Cub Campground on Saturday morning.

This year's conservation project with the Salmon-Challis National Forest was special in several ways. It was the 30th consecutive year that the Snake River Cutthroats have worked on the Salmon-Challis National Forest. And while it started out as one of the wettest work days, it ended with one of the more pleasant evenings that we've enjoyed. In addition, Idaho Brewing Company in Idaho Falls provided us with some of their wonderful Idaho Pale Ale to help us celebrate the occasion.



Securing logs with rebar.

The rain and hail started in earnest on Friday afternoon, but waited until we had set up the cook tent and rain fly. A steady rain started again around 2:30 Saturday morning but had mostly quit by the

time we had our meet and greet and safety meeting at 8:30. So, the dismal beginning in the morning turned into a gorgeous day and a very pleasant evening for our steak bbq on Saturday.

There were 20 sites identified for this year's project. Most sites required placing log structures in the stream. The logs are held in place with rebar. The logs were drilled and placed next to the stream before we arrived, saving us some time. But to keep the logs from floating off the rebar, the holes are undersized to ensure a tight fit. So, pounding the rebar through the logs was the first order of business. The rebar is driven into the logs with sledge hammers while they are still on the bank and finished once the log is properly placed.



Getting things to fit required perseverance.

We didn't have a record number of volunteers, but there were definitely some hard-working ones, ranging in age from 13 to 80. Thanks to everyone who helped on the setup, take down and cleanup, cooking and washing dishes. And thanks to Idaho Brewing Company for their support. The 36 project participants involved Snake River Cutthroat members, local volunteers, along with a few Forest Service personnel, and included: Wade Allen, Arn and Laura Berglund, Andy Bosworth, Jerry and Millie Bullock, Rick Cain, Rory Cullen, Candy and Dave Elliott, Dan and Nancy Garcia, Buck Goodrich, Cal and Carson Johnson, Bill Kelly, Brian King, Rob Knox,

Dave Kresge, Scott Long, Derek and Jamie Marin, Jim Mathias, Pat and Susan Marushia, Stephen Moss, Duane O'Reilly, Dave Pace, Paul Patterson, Bob and Mathew Polk, Curtis St. Michael, Chuck Sorrentino, John and Ryan Svoboda, and Matt Woodard.



Most of the crew at the end of the day

More project photos can be found in the Recent Updates or Conservation section of the Snake River Cutthroats website: snakerivercutthroats.org