

The Cutthroat Chronicles

Official Newsletter of the Snake River Cutthroats

3rd Quarter, 2022

A Message from the President

President's Message, Third Quarter, 2022

Fellow Cutthroats, I hope you all had a great summer and had some great fishing. For those of you in the "hook and cook" group I hope you left a little room in freezer for ice fishing bounty this winter. Your board didn't quit for the summer. We have arranged new meeting places for the coming year. The monthly meetings will be on the second Wednesday of the month at the Fairbridge Inn, home of Bee's Knees Restaurant, on Lindsey Blvd in Idaho Falls. In addition, the monthly board meeting on the first Wednesday of the month are being held at Papa Tom's Pizza on South Woodruff. Both meetings start at 6:30.

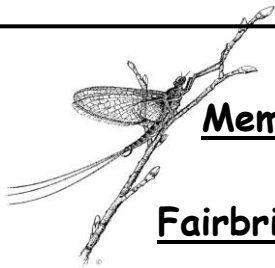
It has been a good summer for funding our new irrigation fish screen on Rainey Creek. We were successful at receiving our Embrace A Stream grant from Trout Unlimited and a grant from Cabela's/Bass Pro Shop. We also completed some successful raffles. So it's been a busy Spring-Summer for some members of the Club. We have submitted an Embrace and Stream Grant application, attended the State TU Council meeting in Boise, picked up trash along Hwy 26 near Swan Valley, had another successful online raffle this summer. Marv Stucki won the Lamson Speedster S Reel with Rio Line. Congrats also goes to Jeff Armstrong for winning the Airflow line.

The club was also busy constructing fence during this summer. We continued constructing fence around a South Fork Coalition stream rehab project on Third Creek and we plan to finish the project the second Saturday in October. We continued screen cleaning and will be doing our semiannual trash pickup on Hwy 26 near Swan Valley.

Keep taking those kids fishing. Remember in getting kids started it doesn't matter how they catch a fish, it's that they catch some.

Well, have a good fall. Wet a line, stay safe and healthy and see you at the general meetings or a volunteer project.

Arn

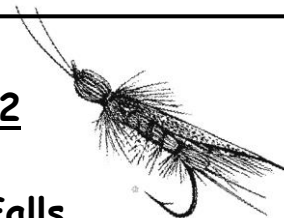


UPCOMING EVENT

Membership Meeting, October 12th, 2022

Guest: Paul Bowen

Fairbridge Inn, 850 Lindsay Blvd, Idaho Falls



2023 East Idaho Fly Tying and Fly Fishing Expo

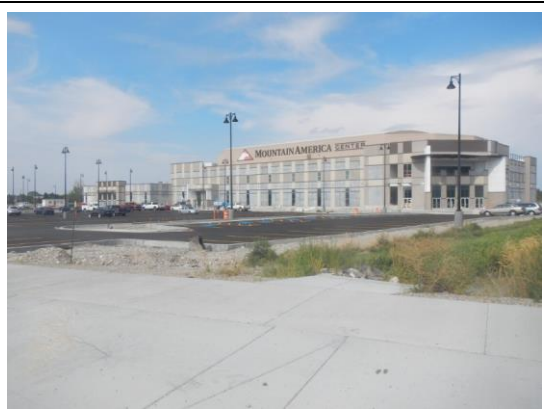


Paul and Friend

Fly Fishing: How I Do It Now, Where When and Now With Another Hobby

The South Fork is essentially in Paul's back yard, and this is where he grew up on the family property. Yes, the river is full of salmonids, but its shores teem with wildlife, and its riparian zone is a thing of beauty. But fly fishing was the first big attraction for Paul. He pursued it here and eventually went to try regional waters and beyond. Not far along the way he entered fly tying. Eventually there was not a food form for gamefish he could not simulate through using the fly tying vise with appropriate materials. Through talent and generosity he received the Western Rocky Mountain Council of the FFI's Fly Tier of the Year award. Later, realizing the natural beauty of the many fishing locations, he added outdoor photography to fishing outings.

Accumulating accomplishments such as these takes decades for any fly fisher. And time takes its toll. So Paul will offer his current fly fishing strategy of where, when and how with photography included.



It's official, the 2023 East Idaho Fly Tying and Fly Fishing Expo (EIFTE) will be held at the Mountain America Center now nearing completion just off Snake River Parkway. Friday March 24th and Saturday, March 25th, 2023 are the EIFTE dates. The Center is a total state of the art facility in an electronic as well as a service and design sense. Banquet and meeting rooms are separate from the main arena floor. That floor has the capability of hosting events from hockey matches and basketball tournaments to social events such as trade shows, concerts, and Expos such as ours. Concession stands ring the arena's exterior floor, and locker rooms are adjacent. The Snake River Cutthroats are beginning organizational meetings for the EIFTE and a call for volunteers for various activities is coming.

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 carolastaples@gmail.com

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



Movement and Habitat Use of Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout and Nonnative Utah Chub in Henry's Lake

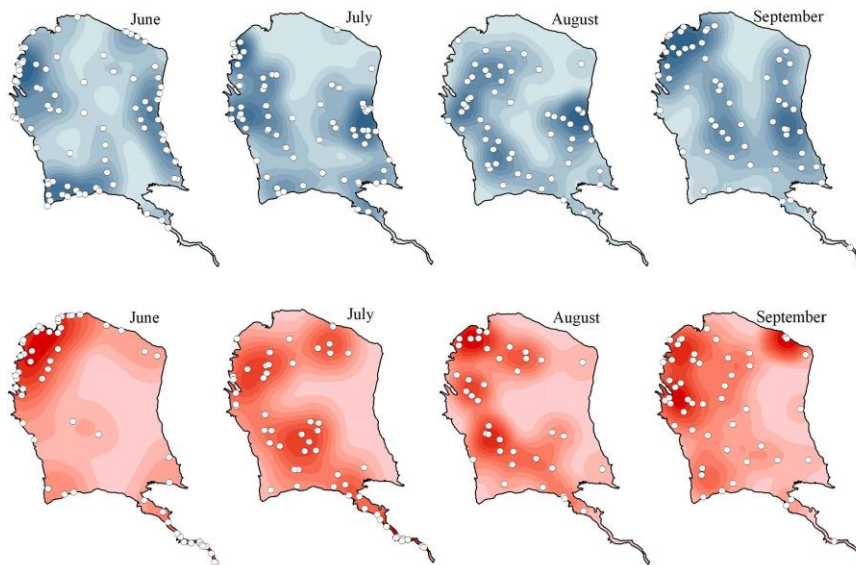
Yellowstone cutthroat trout and Utah chub were surgically implanted with radio transmitters and released so their movements could be tracked. Scientists used an antenna on a boat or plane to detect tagged fish.

Researchers also radio-tagged 94 Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout and 95 Utah chub in spring 2019 and 2020 to better understand potential interactions between Yellowstone cutthroat trout and UTC in Henry's Lake. Fish were located via mobile tracking and fixed receivers from June to December, 2019 and 2020.

In June of both years, Yellowstone cutthroat trout and cutthroat trout were concentrated near shore (Figure 4). As water temperatures increased in July, Utah chub moved into deeper water and Yellowstone cutthroat trout concentrated more in cold water sources like the mouth of Targhee Creek and Staley Springs. Utah chub were consistently observed schooled together (presumably for spawning) in July and August.

Schools of fish were documented near the Idaho Fish and Game hatchery, Henry's Lake State Park, and most frequently down the outlet towards the dam (Figure 4). Yellowstone cutthroat trout were detected in Duck, Howard, Targhee, and Timber creeks during the summer.

Trout are likely using the creeks as thermal refuge during warm summer temperatures. No Utah chub were detected in the tributaries. In September and October, both species were widely distributed throughout the lake. By late fall (November–December), Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout were located along the shoreline and Utah chub in the middle of the lake.



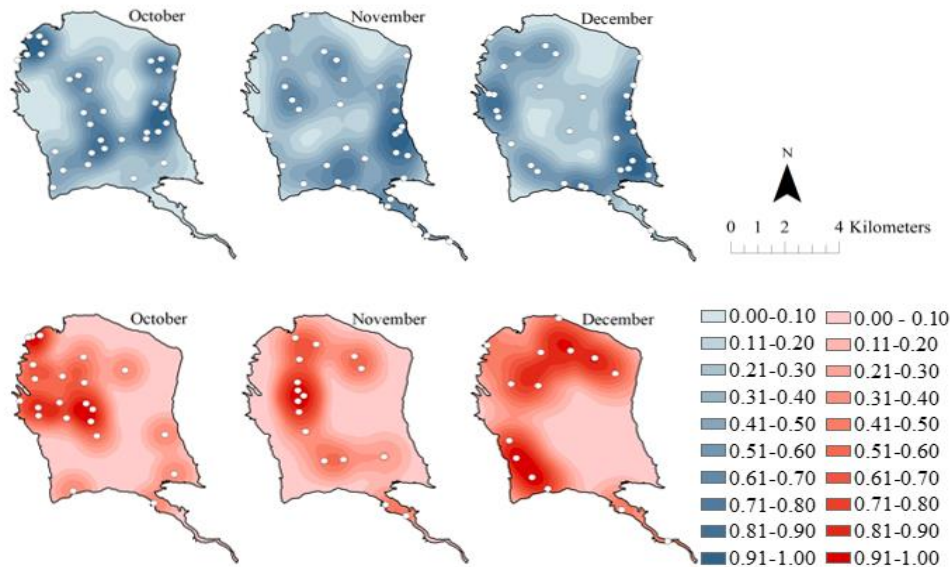


Figure 4

Monthly distribution maps of Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout (top row in blue) and Utah Chub (bottom row in red) in Henrys Lake, Idaho (2019–2020). Individual fish locations are indicated by white circles. The darker shading indicates higher probability and lighter shade indicates low probability of use

Movement and habitat data further support the assertion that Utah chub are not having a direct effect on the Yellowstone cutthroat trout population. Spatial distribution patterns and resource selection indicate minimal overlap between Yellowstone cutthroat trout and Utah chub.

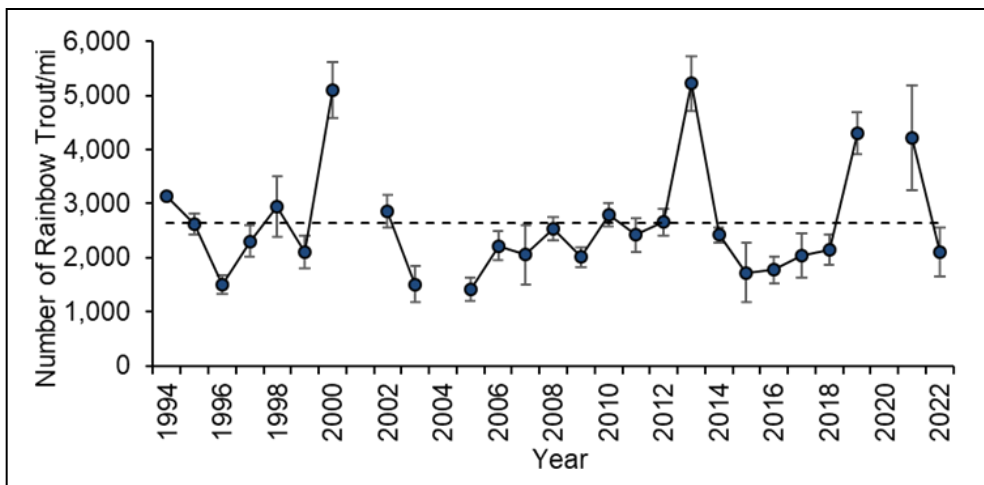
Although the results do not indicate a population-level response of Yellowstone cutthroat trout to Utah chub, continued monitoring is critical because a response may emerge as Utah chub become more abundant. Additionally, water temperature appears to be an important factor in Yellowstone cutthroat trout behavior, but does not seem to be adversely affecting Yellowstone cutthroat trout growth or abundance.

Idaho Fish and Game personnel will continue to monitor the Utah chub population in Henrys Lake and potential responses of trout species to changing numbers of Utah chub. However, there are additional concerns facing Henrys Lake that also warrant investigation in the coming years.

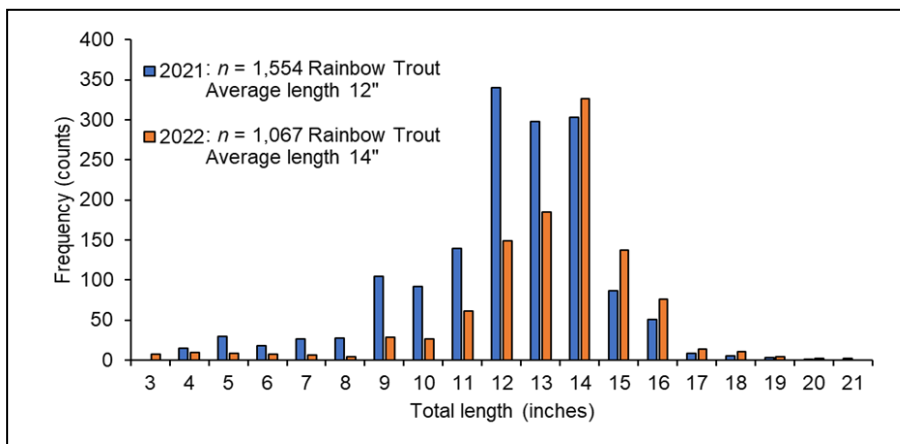
Rates of natural reproduction (non-hatchery) for Yellowstone cutthroat trout in Henrys Lake are low compared to historical estimates. Fish and Game is using genetic techniques to monitor natural reproduction in the major tributaries of Henrys Lake and is actively pursuing opportunities for habitat restoration projects that increase fish access to quality spawning habitat. Keep an eye out for the summer Henrys Lake Quarterly Newsletter for more information on projects happening this year.

Trout Density in the Henrys Fork of the Snake River
 by
John Heckel, Regional Fisheries Biologist

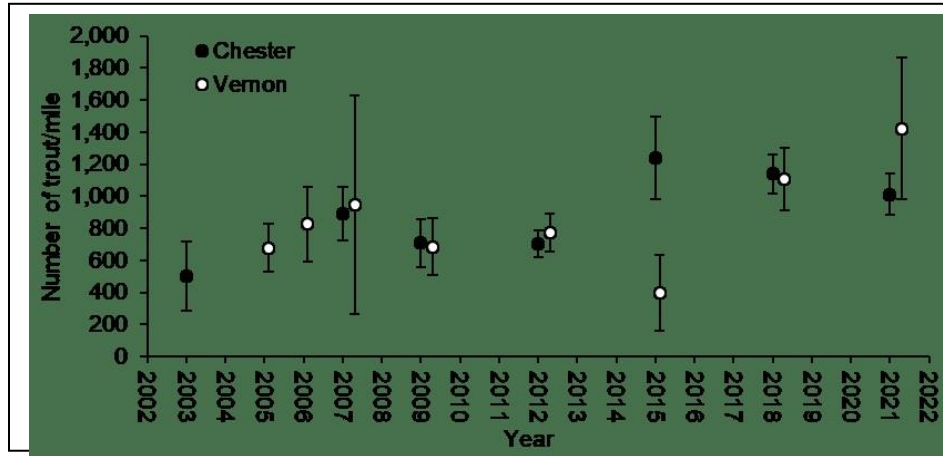
Wild trout populations are resilient and can fluctuate from year to year based on growth, recruitment, and mortality in the fish population. Environmental factors like streamflow can affect the amount of in-stream habitat for fish, which ultimately can affect the amount of spawning and rearing habitat, as well as the amount of overwinter habitat. Overwinter habitat is generally the [most limiting factor](#) in regulating wild trout populations, especially in the Henrys Fork of the Snake River. Following an exceptional snow year in 2017, reservoir storage and natural streamflow contributed to a few years of good water supply and above average overwinter streamflow. This was reflected in above average trout abundances in most reaches of the Henrys Fork estimated in 2021, particularly in Box Canyon (See below).



We experienced the second winter in a row of below average snowpack, which will affect the natural streamflow, reservoir storage, and trout abundances for a couple more years. As such, we are beginning to see a decline in trout abundance in Box Canyon that will persist and likely stabilize. Despite the decrease in trout abundance, the size structure of trout in Box Canyon has increased between 2021 and 2022: an average total length increase of Rainbow Trout in Box Canyon by two inches between 2021 and 2022, and an overall increase in abundance of fish greater than 14 inches (See below).



We also observed increases in the size structure of trout in the Vernon reach and an increase in trout abundance between 2018 and 2021.



The average total length of Brown Trout in the Vernon reach increased from 11.5 inches in 2018 up to 14 inches in 2021, and we captured more Brown Trout greater than 20 inches in the 2021 estimate. Additionally, the average total length of Rainbow Trout increased from 13 inches in 2018 up to 15 inches in 2021, but we captured fewer Rainbow Trout greater than 20 inches in 2021 compared to 2018. In the Chester to Fun Farm reach, we estimated a slight decline in abundance in 2021 compared to 2018, but the difference was not statistically significant and the trout abundance in Chester to Fun Farm has remained stable since 2015. The size structure of trout in the Chester reach has also changed. We calculated the average total length of Brown Trout in 2018 at 15 inches and at 14 inches in 2021, but the largest Brown Trout we sampled was 23 inches in both years. However, the average total length of Rainbow Trout remained the same between 2018 and 2021 at 14 inches, but the largest Rainbow Trout sampled in 2021 was 20 inches compared to 21 inches in 2018.

This year, we also conducted an abundance estimate in the Stonebridge reach of the Henrys Fork, which is also known as Warm River to Ashton. Trout abundance in this reach has remained stable since 2010 with minor increases and decreases among years. Similar to the Vernon and Box Canyon reaches, we estimated increases in the average total length of both Brown and Rainbow trout. The average total length of Brown Trout this year was 14 inches with a maximum of 27 inches, compared to a 13.5 inch average in 2019 and a maximum of 23 inches. The Rainbow Trout average total length also increased from 11 inches in 2019 up to 12 inches in 2022, but the maximum length was the same both years at 18 inches.

Fly of the Month

Western Coachman

This is a famed, easily tied pattern by Buz Buszek. It dates back into the early 1940s, but remains effective likely for one simple reason. That is because it uses a peacock herl body which makes extraordinarily attractive flies whether wet or dry. Think of all the famed, effective patterns using this material: Royal Wulff, Renegade, Prince nymph, Royal coachman streamer, etc.

- Hook:** Mustad 7957B, or equivalent, size 10-18
- Thread:** Black, 6/0
- Wing:** White deer flank hair
- Tail:** Golden pheasant tippet fibers
- Body:** Peacock herl
- Hackle:** Soft coachman brown



2022-2023 Calendar

Date	Activity
Wednesday, October 5 th , 2022	SRC Board Meeting 6:30 PM, Papa Tom's Pizza
Wednesday, October 12 th , 2022	Membership Meeting, Fairbridge Inn & Suites, 850 Lindsay Blvd, Idaho Falls
Tuesday, October 18 th , 2022	Tie One On, 6:30 PM, Tap & Fill
Saturday, October 22 nd , 2022	Daniels Reservoir Outing Contact Arn Berglund
Saturday, October 29 th , 2022	US Highway Clean-up Meet at Roadhouse Inn, Swan Valley 0830 AM Contact Andy Bosworth
Wednesday, November 2 nd , 2022	SRC Board Meeting 6:30 PM, Papa Tom's Pizza
Wednesday, November 9 th , 2022	Membership Meeting, 6:30 PM, Ice Fishing Primer, Fairbridge Inn & Suites, 850 Lindsay Blvd, Idaho Falls
Tuesday, November 15 th , 2022	Tie One On, 6:30 PM, Tap & Fill, Snake River Parkway
Wednesday, December 7 th , 2022	SRC Board Meeting 6:30 PM, Papa Tom's Pizza
Wednesday, December 14 th , 2022	Christmas Party, 6 PM More info later
Tuesday, December 20 th , 2022	Tie One On, 6:30 PM, Tap & Fill, Snake River Parkway
Wednesday, January 4 th , 2023	SRC Board Meeting 6:30 PM, Papa Tom's Pizza

Note: all board meetings are held at Papa Tom's Pizza with a ZOOM hook-up. Visit www.snakerivercutthroats.org or the Cutthroats Facebook page for a link to access membership meetings, outings, and other activities. .Board meetings are open to all members.



Snake River Cutthroats
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Snake River Cutthroats

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Ex. Vice President: TBA
VP Conservation: Myles Pawlaczyk (949-701-1767)
Treasurer: Jim Mathias (208-684-4200)
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1 Yr Directors: Wade Allen (208-390-3130), Brian King (530-310-0529), Charlie Allen (208-360-1302)

Committee Chairs

Membership: Carol Staples (208-522-9242)
Historian/Newsletter: Bruce Staples (208-522-9242) (new email bstaples9740@gmail.com)
Education: Jeff Armstrong (208-522-7005)
Expo: Scott Long (208-520-3750), Rory Cullen (208-419-8477)
Programs: Charlie Allen (208-360-1302)
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Outings: Marv Stucki (208-589-9677), Scott Long (520-3750), Rob Knox (760-419-1682)
Youth: Paul Stembridge (208-569-2890)
IT/Web Site: Myles Pawlaczyk (949-701-1767)