

The Cutthroat Chronicles

Official Newsletter of the Snake River Cutthroats

2nd Quarter, 2026

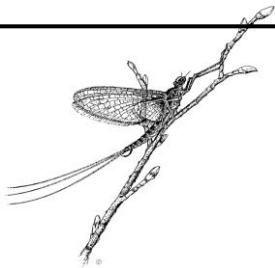
A Message from the President

President's Message, Second Quarter, 2026

Well, it seems like summer has officially arrived. We are in a serious drought after the warm abnormal winter, so we are all watching water levels and hoping for rain. That said, the fishing has been excellent. Reports are that the South Fork is producing fewer, but BIGGER fish. Get out there, throw some big foam, the fish are looking up. The Henry's Fork is living up to its reputation as having some of the best dry fly fishing anywhere. Yellowstone Park waters are waking up from winter and offering fishing with little man-made damage.

Our annual summer picnic is July 8th this year and will be again held at my home in Rigby. More details are below on directions, and the potluck. Keep your eyes on your email for outings and conservation opportunities throughout the summer.

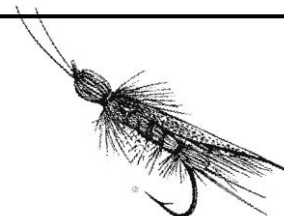
Lastly, I would like to welcome 3 new board members. Joy Bird, James Ryncarz, and Lauren Garduno. Thank you for stepping in and joining the board. If anyone else is looking to get more involved with either the club or the Expo, please let us know at snakerivercutthroats@gmail.com. There are always committees that need help and the Expo is always looking to expand its volunteer base.



UPCOMING EVENT

Annual Summer Picnic

Wednesday, July 8th, 6:00 PM



Annual Summer Picnic

At President Dan Smith's Home

**Wednesday July 8th, 6 PM
(Same location as last year)**

4439E 168 N Rigby, ID 83442

Exit Route 26 onto N 105 E. This is the road the Shelton Church is on.

After you cross Countyline Road (E145th N), 105 becomes N 4400 E.

Stay on N 4400 E for 1.5 miles and make a right onto E 150 N

In 0.3 miles make the first left onto 4433 E (Trailblazer Estates)

At the T Make the right onto E 168 N. I am the house on the left at the Cul-de-sac

**From Route 20 North or South
Take County Line Road Exit 318**

Head East on County Line Road for 5.9 miles and turn left onto N 4400 E (N 105 E).

Stay on N 4400 E for 1.5 miles and make a right onto E 150 N

In 0.3 miles make the first left onto 4433 E (Trailblazer Estates)

At the T Make the right onto E 168 N. I am the house on the left at the Cul-de-sac

Club Provides: Main dish, condiments, soft drinks (BYOB)

Last Name begins A-J: Bring a Salad

Last Name begins K-T: Bring a Desert

Last Name begins: U-Z: Bring a Main Dish

Sign up on line snakerivercutthroats.com

Bring your own chairs. Consider being a clean-up volunteer.

Lest We Forget



Electronic Newsletters Available

To receive this newsletter via email, please send your email address to Carol Staples, our membership chair, at carolastaples@gmail.com

Fewer mailings mean more dollars for conservation projects. The fish will appreciate you too.



TU Western Regional Report
by
Matt Woodard

- Fishing option or meet with Maggie and do some Macroinvertebrate and Water Monitoring Behind the Hotel. Friday-Sunday April 17th-19th 2026
- Friday afternoon evening. Happy hour networking. Chris Wood speaks. Chris is very concerned that the current administration is going to repeal the Roadless Rule.
- Friday Evening attend the second showing of Superfish-Salmon.
 - Pannel Consisting of Rick Rosenthal / Director, David James Duncan, Chrysten Rivard new TU VP for Pacific Conservation, and University of Montana / Chef Michael Fenter Missoula College of culinary arts and is a cartologist.
- Saturday Break Out sessions
 - Migratory Cutthroat are becoming imperiled in the Columbia River System. Looking at developing watershed specific plans for west slope and Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout (YCT).
- Drought is on everyone's mind. Lack of water everywhere is a huge issue. Following Hoot Owl regulations, careful handling of fish particularly YCT.
- Installation of Beaver Dam Analogs are cheap and becoming a more go to tool in stream restoration because they bring results. Barraging for water, voluntary drought plans, water is a community resource.
- Resource Legacy Fund / Hewlett Packard was implemented in the removal of the Rattlesnake Dam
- Trout Fest
 - Colorado Chapter rents out Coors Field. Live entertainment, fun free event. Recruited 150 new members. June 27th, looking to attract a diverse group of attendees.
 - Texas chapter cleared \$75,000 all money goes back into a community grant. Have around 150 vendors. Time of event is around the 21st of February.
 - These events are very similar to our own Fly Fishing / Fly Tying EXPO
- Chrysten Rivard. VP of Conservation for the Pacific Region
 - Still working on the protection of Bristol Bay. Pebble Mine is not dead yet but TU is confident that we will win this extremely important conservation battle.
 - All four dams now out on the Elwa River. Had spawning salmon come right back right after the dams were out. Fish have been observed in the headwaters. More than 20 years went into this effort
 - Enloc Damon the Similkameen River is coming out.
 - Seeing record returns of coho in California this spring.
 - Slow progress is coming with the 4 lower snake river dams. TU, in partnership with the Nez Perce tribe, are working diligently to make this a reality. The future of Salmon and Steelhead depend on it.
- Saturday
- Need to Marry Strategy with Tactics finding the right people
 - Educate, (inform and become informed) Organize, (build the army) Mobilize (deploy the army)
- Social media will be huge on the Roadless Rule, May 1st is release of the new rule. Only a 15-day comment period. Need to have all of TU to respond to this!!!
- Try coming up with new of different ideas. Example try having a Spring Social. Have lower priced events, concerts. Don't be afraid to try new things.
- One of TU Nationals new goals is recruiting the "Under 40" crowd of folks to add enthusiasm, bring new ideas, add diversity, and add more resiliency. The need for new younger leaders is important.

The Henry's Fork Foundation's Invertebrate Technical Report for 2025

After our 11th year of sampling in 2025, we had a set of 56 independent observations of macroinvertebrates collected at different sites on the river over an 11-year period, each accompanied by a full suite of water-quality and streamflow variables. The six sites—Flat Rock, Last Chance, Osborne Bridge, Marysville, Ashton Dam, and St. Anthony—represent conditions over the 80 miles of river most popular among anglers.



Through 2025, our primary conclusions are:

1. Invertebrate communities in the Henry's Fork are abundant, diverse, and dominated by mayflies, stoneflies and caddisflies; are as good or better than on other western trout streams; and are as good or better than they were on the Henry's Fork decades ago. HBI indicates good to excellent water quality from headwaters to St. Anthony, with little evidence of pollutants.
2. Abundance and %non-insects showed no variability across location along the river and no dependence on any of the streamflow or water quality variables.
3. The other seven responses were best explained by location on the river, with little to no dependence on streamflow or water quality, after accounting for location.
4. Total invertebrate abundance and Pale Morning Dun abundance have decreased significantly since 2015, with marginal evidence for decreases in %non-insects and community diversity.
5. However, HBI, %EPT, and EPT taxa richness have all improved significantly since 2015, indicating overall improvement in water quality and aquatic habitat and possible replacement of non-insect and other degradation-tolerant species with more sensitive and desirable EPT species.
6. There is no evidence that trout populations are limited by invertebrate numbers.
7. It is possible that large changes in PMD abundance and community metrics occurred at Last Chance prior to this study, as a result of increasing temperatures relative to previous decades.
8. However, decreased dry-fly fishing quality at Last Chance/upper Ranch over the past decade is likely due to a combination of lower trout populations, increased turbidity, and altered mayfly emergence behavior due to warmer temperatures, not to decreased insect numbers.

Trout in the Classroom
By
Ashley Sagrero



The youth of our community are the future when it comes to appreciation and protection of the outdoor activities and what they offer in chances for enjoyment and accomplishment. The Snake River Cutthroats (SRC) therefore strives to introduce youth to the satisfying and pleasant outdoor activity of fly fishing. From placing and maintaining tanks in classrooms for holding trout developing from eggs to fry then released in local water to instruction in all facets of fly fishing, the SRC promotes and offers all.

We wrapped up our third year of Trout in the Classroom with three local schools including Madison Elementary, Ririe Junior High/High School and our newest addition Eagle Rock Middle. While we had one new school this year, we had all new teachers and their students learning the ropes of raising trout from eggs to fry. Each year proves to be an engaging way for students to learn about conservation in an accessible way

We're looking forward to adding a new tank and new teacher and greater impact next school year. This year a total of 213 students had access and learned from the tank. The trout in the classroom program culminates with the release of the fish in a local release location permitted through Idaho Fish and Game. A special extra thank you to our teachers who our so much into our community Tricia Galer, John Hogge and Camron Sego - thank you for always going above and beyond for our young community members!

Who Thinks Yellowstone Lake Cutthroat Trout Are Not
an Important Part of the Yellowstone Lake Ecosystem?

42 ANIMALS



Species **Known** or Suspected to prey
on Yellowstone cutthroat trout in
Yellowstone Lake:



Grizzly bear	White pelican
Black bear	Common merganser
Cougar	Blue heron
Bobcat	California gull
Coyote	Eared grebe
Wolverine	Loon
Badger	Caspian tern
Otter	Barrows goldeneye
Raccoon	Bufflehead
Striped skunk	Double crested commorant
Marten	Western grebe
Mink	Redtailed hawk
Longtailed weasel	Bald eagle
Ermine	Osprey
Muskrat	Belted kingfisher
Flying squirrel	Dipper
Uinta chipmunk	Gray jay
Red squirrel	Stellers jay
Deer mouse	Crow
Dusky shrew	Raven
Masked shrew	
Water shrew	

Conservation Update

By
Andy Bosworth

It's summer and I hope all of you are taking advantage of the long days to do some fishing. The Rainey Creek Screen Maintenance Crew is doing a great job! I want to say thank you to all of the volunteers who are helping with this effort. Matt Woodard and I continue our yearly maintenance. If you are interested in learning more about the screens and Rainey Creek please reach out to me. We completed our semiannual roadside cleanup in May. Our crew was able to finish the cleanup in about two hours and as reported this past fall the job site wasn't too trashy. If you keep an area clean it tends to stay clean. The tradition has become that we enjoy brats and dogs afterwards and again thanks to the crew for cooking. Earlier this spring SRC volunteers assisted Idaho Fish and Game fisheries staff on Henry's Lake with their spring gillnetting survey. While the weather wasn't cooperative they were able to complete the survey with some real brutes being captured. The club is continuing to work with Ryan Walker at Tex Creek WMA. Our late summer campaign is scheduled for August 28- 30. We will be assisting with BDA (beaver dam analogs) repair, enhancement and construction. There may be additional opportunities for volunteers as the summer progresses so check your email and watch your social media, and the SRC web site. Tree planting will continue this fall; Ririe High School has a bunch of trees that they are growing out for this effort. I am presently involved with discussions with Fish and Game and the Henry's Fork Foundation to see how we, SRC, can support additional water quality monitoring on Henry's Lake (water quality in the lake has diminished over the last several years). I will have more to report on this in the near future.

Hope to see you at the picnic.

Andrew Bosworth

Fly Pattern for the Quarter

Blue Dotter

Bing Lempke was a Dizzy Dean fan. He named this creation after Dizzy's term for a three-base hit (triple); Blue Dotter. It predates Bing's elegant extended body mayfly dun patterns. He used it to simulate PMDs, slate cream duns, and other mayfly duns.

Hook: TMC 100, size 10-16
Thread: Black, 6/0
Wing: Upright and divided mallard quill segments
Tail: Blue dun hackle fibers
Body: Pale yellow or cream dubbing
Hackle: Two medium blue dun hackles



2026 Calendar

Date	Activity
Wednesday, July 8th	Summer Picnic See details above
Friday, July 10th	Annual TU Teton Valley Tin Cup Challenge, Driggs Farmer's Market
Thursday July 16th	Teton Land Trust – TU Teton Riverbank Conservation Efforts Tour sign up on Teton Land Trust Web Site
Friday-Sunday July 18 th -20 th	South Fork Overnighter, Contact Dave Pace
Friday-Sunday August 28-30th	Tex Creek Project, Contact Curtis St. Michael
Tuesday, September 2nd	Board Meeting, The Zone 6:30 PM

Note: Board meetings can be accessed via ZOOM. Visit www.snakerivercutthroats.org or the Cutthroats Facebook page for a link to access membership meetings, outings, and other activities. .Board meetings held at The Zone are open to all members.

Snake River Cutthroats

Club Officers

President: Dan Smith
Past President: Matt Woodard
Ex. Vice President: TBA
VP Conservation: Andy Bosworth
Treasurer: Lane Mortensen
Secretary: Jeff Armstrong

Senior Advisors

Jim Mathias
Jimmy Gabettas
Buck Goodrich
Ron Hover
Scott Long
Dave Pace
Marv Stucki
Paul Patterson

Board of Directors

3 Yr Directors: James Ryncarz, Lauren Garduno, Joy Bird
2 Yr Directors: Tanner Gardner, Kat Villanueva, Steve Moss
1 Yr Directors: Josh Merkal, Kristina Organski (208-412-2305), Ashley Sagrero (208-501-5036)

Committee Chairs

Membership: Carol Staples (208-522-9242)
Historian/Newsletter: Bruce Staples (832-692-0763) (new email bstaples9740@gmail.com)
Education: Ashley Sagrero (208-501-5036)
Expo: Scott Long (208-520-3750), Dave Pace (208-360-5657)
Programs: Curtis St. Michael
Publicity: Stan Weise
Outings: Marv Stucki (208-589-9677)
Youth: Paul Stembridge (208-569-2890)
IT/Web Site: Myles Pawlaczyk (949-701-1767)

