# Conserving biological diversity of native fish and protecting their habitats

The Native Fish Society is a non-profit organization founded in 1995. Our goal is the conservation, preservation and restoration of wild fish in the Pacific Northwest. We work to establish effective fish management policies based on the latest scientific research, and we encourage the public to get involved in this process.



#### **Our Mission**

- To advocate scientifically sound conservation, protection and recovery actions for native fish and their habitats in the Pacific Northwest.
- To monitor and influence public agency management decisions in favor of native fish.
- To produce educational materials on native fish conservation through scientific reports, newsletters, action alerts, and the media.
- To inventory and monitor the status and health of native fish populations and improve our understanding of native fish ecosystem function.

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#### NATIVE FISH SOCIETY

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Dear Members and Friends.

The Native Fish Society aggressively expanded its efforts to help Northwest native fish in 2008. We ratcheted up our lobbying efforts in Salem and implemented recovery projects on the Deschutes and Molalla rivers, demonstrating that we can put people on the shovels as well as the courtroom or the halls of legislature.

Because we recognize that public support for native wild salmon and steelhead is strong but poorly organized and often misinformed, we expanded our River Steward Program by hiring a full-time program coordinator. We have great confidence in the "grass roots up" emphasis of our River Steward Program. We believe that an individual with a passion for his or her home river can best overcome government indifference or inertia. Indeed, the long march of conservation science has been forever changed by the perseverance of dedicated individuals who challenged the prevailing thinking. And with 40 years of wild fish advocacy and study, our staff provides the resources necessary for the growth and effectiveness of our Stewards.

The Native Fish Society today continues to advocate for science informing management. We participated in the development of the current Oregon Native Fish Conservation Policy and encourage full implementation for each watershed. We continue to serve on public advisory committees that work with state and federal agencies to write and implement wild fish conservation plans and policies. When native, wild fish populations are sustainable, the fish and the fishermen have a future.

Eighty percent of the Native Fish Society budget comes from donations – people that share our love of wild fish and their habitats and know that we are making a difference. We recognize that our donors have many choices for their conservation dollars and we thank all of you for your generosity and your confidence. We promise to spend your money wisely and effectively.

In A River Never Sleeps, published in 1946, Roderick Haig-Brown wrote: "And there will be salmon and more salmon to complete this cycle so long as they are allowed to enter the rivers to their spawning in sufficient numbers, so long as the way to the spawning beds is kept clear and easy and open and so long as the rivers are kept clean and fresh and pure. It is as simple as that." At the Native Fish Society, we keep our mission as simple as Haig-Brown suggested more than 60 years ago.

For wild, native fish,



Bill Bakke **Executive Director** 



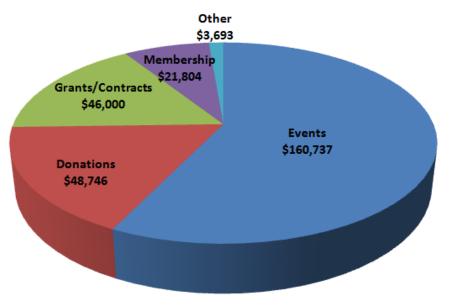
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## Financial Review

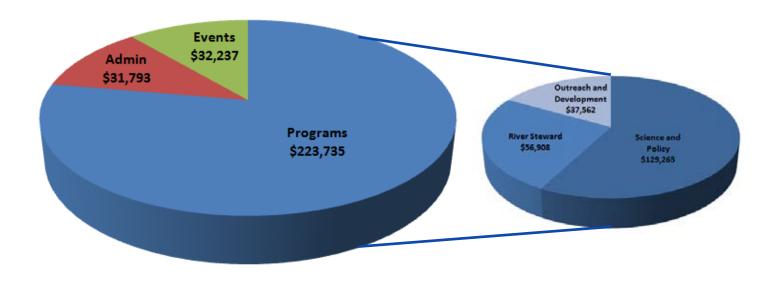
The Native Fish Society's total income for 2008 was \$280,980, a record year. Eighty-two percent came from individual and business donations, including spending at the annual Auction and Banquet, membership dues and gifts.

#### 2008 Income



#### 2008 Expenses

The Native Fish Society total expenses for 2008 were \$287,765. NFS expanded in 2008, adding a contract lobbyist and full-time River Steward Coordinator.



## 2008 Accomplishments/Highlights

Placed hatchery steelhead barriers on Deschutes tributaries: Recognizing the problem of stray hatchery steelhead spawning with native, wild steelhead, NFS facilitated construction of two hatchery fish exclusion weirs on Bakeoven and Buck Hollow creeks, two important steelhead tributaries of the Deschutes River. The project is in partnership with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Oregon Wildlife Heritage Foundation, and is supported by independent scientific evaluation through the Independent Scientific Review Group under the N.W. Power Planning and Conservation Council. These barriers to stray hatchery spawners began operation in January 2009.



Expanded River Steward Program: The River Steward Program was expanded in 2008 with the addition of six new volunteer Stewards and a full-time Steward Coordinator position. There are now 23 Stewards covering more than 50,000 square miles of Oregon and Washington watersheds. Some highlights of this program in 2008 include:

- Completed winter steelhead and spring Chinook spawning surveys of the Molalla River, and winter steelhead spawning survey on the Salmonberry River.
- Documented damage to Salmonberry River due to poor land-use practices and advocated against rebuilding the Tillamook Bay Railroad along the river.
- Extensive public outreach campaign ensured PacifiCorp was not able to delay fish passage at Soda Springs Dam on the North Umpqua.
- Placed more than 3,000 salmon carcasses in the Molalla River for nutrient enhancement.
- Participated in the public advisory committee for Oregon's South Coast Fall Chinook Conservation Plan, working to sustain and protect nine populations of wild, native fall Chinook, including five Rogue River populations.
- Mounted a strong defense of the Metolius Basin and support of legislation to prohibit large destination resorts in the basin, including an advanced public information and outreach campaign and filing a formal protest against the Oregon Water Resources Department's "Proposed Final Order" that would have allowed one of the destination resort developers to pump 3.7 times the



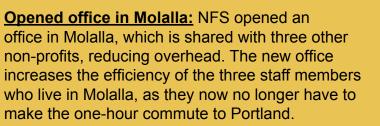
annual water use of the City of Sisters. Such pumping would deplete some of the most valuable spawning tributaries of the Metolius.

- Created draft spring Chinook reintroduction plan for the Molalla River in conjunction with ODFW, NOAA and a private fisheries consultant.
- Helped in the release of reintroduced steelhead in Whychus Creek as part of the \$300 million reintroduction and restoration effort above the Pelton Round Butte dam complex.
- Conducted watershed restoration and salmon recovery presentations and tours to over 600 people on Central Oregon Coast watersheds.

<u>Ensured native</u>, <u>wild fish have a strong voice in the Oregon Legislature</u>: NFS hired a full-time lobbyist in 2008 to ensure wild, native fish have a strong voice in the Oregon legislature.

<u>Provided comments that placed wild fish first:</u> NFS continued to fill its traditional role by giving wild fish a voice in the agency policy process. Here, we acted as a watchdog, reviewed new policy suggestions, assembled comments and attended meetings in both Washington and Oregon. Our comments, based on our long experience with the best available science, were made at both the state and federal agency level in 2008, encouraging these agencies to make natural production, wild spawner abundance, and water quality their top and over-arching priorities. Comments were made during the draft stages of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's Statewide Steelhead Management Plan,

the Northwest Power Planning and Conservation Council's Fish and Wildlife Plan, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's 25-Year Angling Enhancement Plan, the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality's Molalla-Pudding Sub Basin Water Quality Management Plan, and ODFW's Mid-Columbia Steelhead Recovery Plan, among many others.





NFS members helped form the Molalla River Alliance: In an effort to increase local involvement to solve Molalla River fish and environment problems, members of NFS brought together a diverse group of interested parties to establish the Molalla River Alliance. The Alliance includes residents of the watershed, government agencies, conservation organizations, law enforcement, and municipal leadership. The Alliance was the impetus for an increase of law enforcement in the Molalla River Recreation Corridor, which has greatly reduced litter, vandalism and riparian trampling. The Alliance is also pushing for federal Wild and Scenic status for the river.

Changing angling regulations to protect native fish: The Native Fish Society submitted more than a dozen conservation proposals for the 2009-2011 angling regulations. Our proposals to protect wild fish met with limited success. The majority of conservation proposals were rejected by the ODFW Commission in favor of proposals that increased harvest. NFS did have some success securing additional protection for Molalla River wild fish and protecting the wild winter steelhead catch-and-release regulations on the Umpqua River that we helped establish in 2007.

Assisted Dave Brown's Safe Harbor wild fish rescue work in SW Washington: The Native Fish Society is an advisor to Dave Brown, developer of the wild salmonid rescue program in SW Washington. We have helped to finance his operation, brought scientists into the project, and helped secure scientific evaluation of the project. This work is designed to rescue stranded juvenile salmonids from streams that are going dry in early summer, rear them in holding ponds for the summer and release them into the streams from which they were taken. The purpose is to improve the productivity of naturally produced fish from tributaries to rivers.

## Thank you to all our 2008 Members!

The following either renewed their membership or joined the Native Fish Society between Jan. 1, 2008 and April 1, 2009

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