



The Native Fish Society is a forward-thinking organization guided by the best available science to advocate for historically abundant wild, native fish and promote the stewardship of the habitats that sustain them.

Dear Members and Friends,

For 16 years the Native Fish Society has been the voice for wild and native salmon, trout and steelhead. We believe in three principles: **Follow the law, protect the public interest and let the science lead.** As advocates for native wild fish there can be no compromise on these principles.

We know that our native salmon and steelhead populations hover around 3-10% of historic numbers since 1922 and have declined even more since 1850. This record suggests that native salmonids are rapidly going extinct and many populations are now protected as endangered species. We also know our rivers are starved of large wood and nutrients from abundant salmon carcasses both of which are fundamental to stream productivity. Most Oregon Rivers and their tributaries are seasonally too warm to support salmonids.

We know that hatcheries cannot mitigate for degraded salmonid habitat because they haven't. And we know that naturally spawning hatchery fish compete with wild salmonids for spawning and rearing space, and when they interbreed the reproductive success of the wild population is substantially reduced.

We know that harvest is not managed to deliver a spawner abundance goal by species in each watershed. What spawns is what is left over.

We know that the law requires the fish managers to prevent the serious depletion of native species, and that conservation is the primary purpose of management, and failing that there is a continuing depletion of social benefits and services from nature. Yet we also realize that the billions of dollars pumped into fish management and recovery efforts by well intentioned people have failed to reverse the decline. Have we gotten it all wrong for the last 150 years? **Yes**. For most of these years wild steelhead, salmon and trout have been under government management. The institutional emphasis on production for the market economy rather than for the natural productivity and resilience of salmonids has threatened the institutional goals of government and the future of salmon, trout and steelhead on the west coast.

The Native Fish Society has organized to solve this problem by representing the public interest in having viable, abundant, wild salmonids in healthy productive rivers. We have established the River Steward program so that people are taking action in their home watersheds and organizing their communities to expand conservation work on each river. We have a strong policy and science initiative that provides the public with information and gives them a voice before decision makers. We have generous donors and enjoy foundation support for our work because we are tackling the tough problems that need resolution. After all, the government is accountable to us, and it is up to us to hold it accountable to the law, to the public interest and to be responsive to the science. That is our role and it is working.



Bier Bath



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🚺 Bill Bakke. KEN ANDERSON. (left) Rob Elam. (middle) Kaitlin Lovell. (right)

2010 Financial Review

NFS Income in 2010



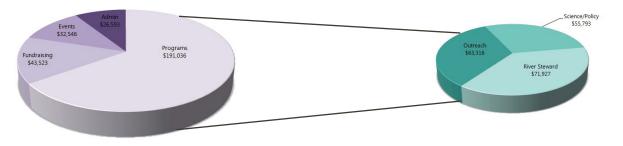
Native Fish Society's total income for 2010 was \$349,267 - a 16% increase from the previous year.

Eighty-three percent of the 2010 annual income came from individual and business donations; including the Auction and Banquet, membership dues and gifts.

NFS Expenses in 2010

The total amount of 2010 expenses for Native Fish Society was \$293,698.

NFS Programs amounted to sixty-five percent of the total expenses. The River Steward Program comprised thirty-eight percent of that total, Outreach and Development made up thirty-three percent and Science and Policy twenty-nine percent.



Native Fish Society 2010 Programs and Accomplishments



- River Steward Pat Dunham speaking with ODFW on the John Day.
- Stan Petrowski,
 River Steward on the South Umpqua, leading a river tour.



Policy Reform

Native Fish Society is also committed to working with our local, state and federal lawmakers. In addition to being a River Steward on the Crooked River, Jim Myron works closely with legislators to create policy that protects wild, native fish.

Highlights from his work include:

- Participated as a member of ODFW's External Budget Advisory Committee in the initial development of the agency's budget.
- Worked with Senator Frank Morse in the drafting of legislation that could lead to the creation of a Quality Fresh Waters Angling Program, patterned after the successful program in British Columbia. The intent of the program would be to market unique angling opportunities in Oregon to anglers outside of Oregon.
 The Native Fish Society has been successful in identifying a dedicated group of legislators who value and support our work for native fish. We plan to add to this group of supportive legislators as we implement our legislative priorities, including the reform of Oregon's hatchery system through our Hatchery Ac countability Project.

Education and Outreach

Native Fish Society continued its outreach in 2010 as an active participant in the recovery and implementation planning processes. By contributing comments to these councils, committees and agencies we ensure that wild fish continue to have a strong voice. Additionally, we update our substantial catalogue of scientific research available online to provide the public with access to the best available science. An educated public understands the issues and joins as advocates for wild, native fish.

- Highlights from the 2010 Education and Outreach program include comments on: •Mitchell Act Hatchery DEIS
- •Northwest Power and Planning Council's Monitoring, Evaluation Research and Reporting Plan
- •Draft of the Upper Willamette Fish Recovery Plan
- •WDFW's 2010 Fish and Wildlife Strategic Plan
- Conservation Reports on the following topics:
- •Effects of hatcheries and environmental variation on threatened populations of wild salmon •Effects of hatchery strays on wild salmonids
- Development of the Hatchery Accountability Program

NFS River Steward Program

Six years ago the Native Fish Society River Steward Program consisted of a handful of passionate Molalla River volunteers who wanted to restore the wild fish in their homewaters. This original group has continued to advocate diligently for wild fish, collaborating with state and federal agencies, conducting spawning surveys and providing the Molalla with nutrient enhancement. Once forgotten, the Molalla now holds a rebounding population of wild winter steelhead and resident trout and Molalla Stewards continue to work toward establishing a viable population of wild spring chinook.

Drawing from this model of community involvement through dedicated volunteers the River Steward program hit its stride in 2010. The program is now 47 River Stewards strong, nearly doubling in number since 2009. Their collective effort covers more than a million acres of Pacific Northwest watersheds. A few of these rivers include the Clearwater, Illinois, Rogue, Crooked, Sandy, Nooksack, John Day and S. Umpqua. Specifically, in 2010 the highlights of our River Steward program include:

- Attaining critical habitat designation for bull trout across the Northwest
- Keeping wild fish advocates at the table in the planning and implementation process for wild salmonid recovery on the Lower and Mid-Columbia, Willamette and Snake Rivers.
- Publishing a detailed 70 page report on the status and recommended restoration actions for wild fish of the Upper-Deschutes.
- Publishing spawning surveys for spring chinook and winter steelhead, temperature monitoring and creel counts as well as participating in river clean up on the Molalla River.
- Bringing land into public ownership on the Oregon Coast.
- Serving on the public advisory committee and working in conjunction with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, to write a conservation plan for wild, fall chinook runs on the Rogue, Chetco and other south coast watersheds.
- Completing year one of a two year macro-invertebrate study on the Salmonberry River.
- Umpqua basin Stewards are taking a proactive approach to the ODF&W coastal conservation plan for salmon, steelhead and sea-run cutthroat. NFS is a member of a collaborative group that includes the Partnership for Umpqua Rivers, the Steamboaters, North Umpqua Foundation, Pacific Rivers Council and Umpqua Watersheds, with the intent to identify critical elements in the plan that will allow the Umpqua to achieve its full productive potential, with special emphasis on the North Umpqua.



River Steward Ian Fergusson and volunteers participating in a macro-invertebrate study on the Salmonberry river. Dead hatchery fish are used in a joint program effort with ODFW to enhance the nutrient base of the Molalla River. Mark Schmidt, River Steward on the Molalla, placing dead hatchery salmon in the river. (right)



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O Deschutes River. JEFF BRIGHT.



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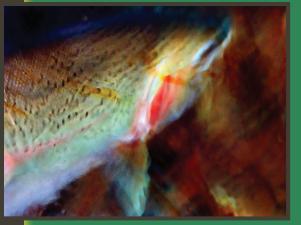
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Native Fish Society

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Steelhead, Trinity River, CA. JEFF BRIGHT. (left) Nooksack River. (right) Steelhead, Trinity River, CA. JEFF BRIGHT. (cover) Annual Report designed by Emily Sherwood.

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