## HOMEWATERS REFLECT HOPES NATIVE FISH SOCIETY 2013 ANNUAL REPORT





# YOUR DEDICATION TO WILD, NATIVE FISH & THEIR HOMEWATERS REFLECTS HOPE

Dear Friends,

Standing on the river's edge, you might be lucky enough to see a redside rise to his next meal, or catch a glimpse of an adipose fin as it slices through a riffle. You may cast a fly, or just stand in wonder. But a deep breath caught somewhere between your heart and your stomach feels just the same whether its' your first time or your hundredth. It's why we keep coming back to our homewaters for more. It's what gives us hope.

At Native Fish Society we don't take that hope for granted, it drives us and motivates us. In 2013, we achieved inspiring successes in all corners of the West due to the passion and talent of our River Stewards, our staff and board, and you our supporters.

In 2014, we not only hope, we know, the health of wild fish will benefit from our efforts. Your NFS will:

- 1. Increase River Steward presence on watersheds across the West, using the most effective form of place-based advocacy and coupling it with the breadth, depth and diversity of programs and tools at NFS's disposal.
- Expand the success of the Save the Sandy campaign and hatchery reform to other key watersheds, such as The McKenzie River, Puget Sound, and Northern California's Smith, Eel and Trinity Rivers.
- Ensure that the wild fish measures in the Coastal Management Plan are fully funded and implemented, including monitoring, and continue to fight back on the proposed compromises that harm wild coastal salmon and steelhead.

This isn't our job, this is our home. Wild, native fish have made our homewaters great and it's our responsibility to ensure their future abundance. Thank you for your support!

For the love of wild + native fish,

Kaitlin Lovell Board Co-Chair

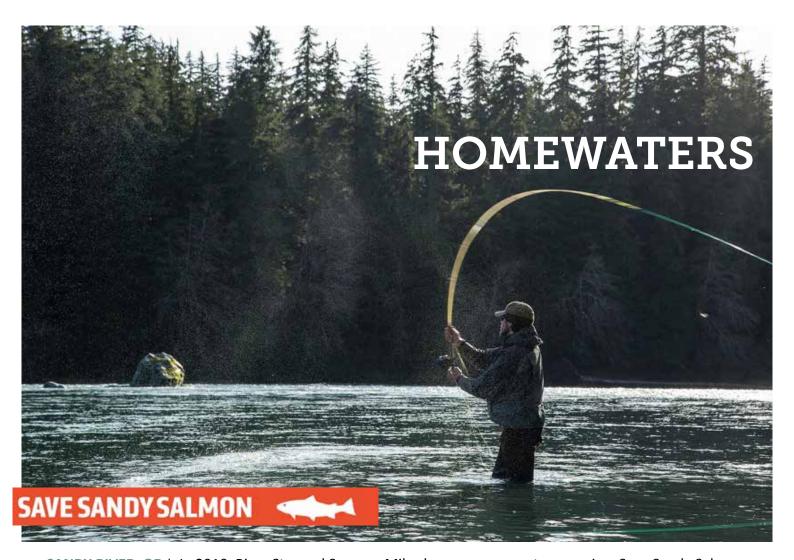
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Rob Elam Board Co-Chair

## 2013 HIGHLIGHTS

Thanks to the dedication and passion of our River Stewards, members, supporters, volunteers and staff we are pleased to report on an expansive and successful 2013.

- 18 new watersheds benefitted from a locally based River Steward advocate.
   In 2013 the River Steward Program supported a total of 68 volunteers safeguarding nearly 75 watersheds in Northern California, Oregon, Washington and Idaho.
- Sandy and Willamette River wild spring Chinook and winter steelhead were protected and allowed to spawn in the wild, when the Native Fish Society pressured the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to cease their illegal collection, artificial spawning, and killing of these threatened fish.
- Restored habitat on the North Fork Molalla River for wild salmon, trout and steelhead by placing 300 trees and root wads and 480 tons of boulders.
- Encouraged student stewardship of local watersheds and wild, native fish populations in Blaine, WA and Tiller, OR through water quality testing and the adoption of spring chinook index pools.
- Oregon's wild, native fish benefited from policy changes to safeguard wild fish habitat, specifically new legislation that protected instream wood from removal and tightened regulations to limit suction dredge mining in Oregon Rivers.
- Wild winter and summer steelhead were permanently protected in SW Washington's East Fork Lewis, North Fork Toutle, Green and Wind rivers thanks to the work of our members and River Stewards advocating for Wild Steelhead Gene Banks.
- Organized 65 volunteers and students participating in 720hrs of work and citizen monitoring on the Mid-Oregon Coast.



**SANDY RIVER, OR** | In 2010, River Steward Spencer Miles began a grassroots campaign, Save Sandy Salmon, to raise awareness about hatchery practices that threatened the recovery of the Sandy River's wild, native salmon. Basin wide hatchery salmon accounted for nearly 70% of the spawning fish in the watershed! In one of the largest grassroots responses in the history of Native Fish Society, over 1,000 people mailed post cards to ODFW's Fish and Wildlife Commission and Governor Kitzhaber asking for reforms to the Sandy River's hatchery practices in light of the precarious state of the Sandy River's wild salmon.

Learn more about our Save Sandy Salmon Campaign at nativefishsociety.org Three years later, hatchery salmon represent less than 10% of the spawning salmon in the watershed, overall hatchery production has been reduced by half, hatchery programs no longer mine threatened wild fish to create their hatchery stocks and a precedent setting ruling in Oregon's U.S. District Court found that Sandy River Hatchery programs violated federal environmental laws.

In 2013, Spencer Miles was recognized as our River Steward of the Year for his efforts on behalf of the Sandy's wild, native fish. The court's ruling on our Sandy case has since been utilized to drive hatchery reform actions region-wide: on Washington's Elwha and Puget Sound Rivers as well as California's Mad and Trinity Rivers.

## PASSIONATE PLACE BASED ADVOCATES

(ABOVE)

River Steward Spencer Miles enjoys a clear winter morning. Photo: Ken Anderson

River Stewards come from all walks of life, with different skills, backgrounds and interests. Native Fish Society views the diversity within our program as a tremendous advantage. For instance, Spencer Miles utilized his skills as a software developer to update and improve our online Action Alert system. As a result, Washington and Oregon's wild, native fish benefitted when NFS leveraged the voices of our members to submit 1,200 letters through our Action Alert system to decision makers, including increased protections for Pacific forage fish; increasing cleanup efforts at the Hanford Nuclear site; tightening Oregon's regulations on suction dredge mining; supporting the EPA's actions to review Pebble Mine; and opposing open pit nickel mining in Oregon's Hunter Creek and Pistol River headwaters.



SOUTHWEST, WA | River Steward Steve Lent, Regional Coordinator Peter Donahower and NFS member and former board member Laura Hudson served for nearly two years on stakeholder groups convened by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife to establish watersheds in SW Washington that would be managed for the recovery and protection of threatened wild steelhead.

"As the pro-hatchery vitriol in the public seemed to increase, people inside the group became more moderate. After roughly thirty hours of meetings, compromises were made, minds were opened, and when all was said and done, the inescapable need to protect these wild fish prevailed."

Steve Lent, Washougal River Steward

The Wind, East Fork Lewis, North Fork Toutle and Green Rivers were selected as "Wild Steelhead Gene Bank" watersheds a designation formally adopted and implemented by state and federal agencies in 2014.

Our tireless advocates ensured wild steelhead benefitted from increased monitoring, conservation based angling regulations and the absence of hatchery steelhead in these watersheds. As a result of their diplomatic work, protections exceeded the minimums required by the fisheries agencies – adding additional protections for wild summer steelhead in the Washougal and East Fork Lewis Rivers.

#### **BUILDING A WILD FISH ARMY**



ASHLAND, OR | Our signature River Steward Program, grew by nearly 20 River Stewards in 2013. In total, the program supported nearly 70 River Stewards working on 75 rivers in 4 states. Our program's focus is boots-on-theground local advocates working watershed-by-watershed. It leverages the passion of advocates to solve the most difficult challenges faced by wild fish.

Ashland, Oregon-based Jake Crawford, formerly our Illinois River Steward, joined Native Fish Society staff as our new full-time Southern District Manager. Jake will lead the expansion of our River Steward Program throughout Southern Oregon and Northern California, empowering local citizens to become effective grassroots advocates for wild fish and their homewaters.

Peter Donahower and Conrad Gowell were both promoted into new Regional Coordinator positions, ensuring areas with many River Stewards, like the Northern Oregon Coast and the Mid-Columbia Regions, receive the support, coordination and knowledge necessary to maximize the efficacy of our volunteers. In 2013, the River Steward Program supported three Regional Coordinators, including Peter, Conrad and Paul Englemeyer on the Central Oregon Coast.



#### Revenue & Expenses for Fiscal Year 2013

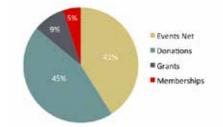
Financial results for fiscal year ending December 31, 2013.

- Total revenue from all sources increased 19%
- Total expenses increased 45%
- More than 85% of NFS revenues came from individual and business donors

For more specific details, please contact Mike Moody at mike@nativefishsociety.org or 503.496.0807.

Thank you!





#### **EXPENSES**



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The Evening Hatch

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