

# SUMMER 2013 Strong Runs Semi-Annual Newsletter of the Native Fish Society



THE VOICE FOR WILD NATIVE FISH



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### **STRONG RUNS**

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Nature is not a place to visit. It is home. Gary Snyder

COVER PHOTO: MARK CAFFEE River Steward Conrad Gowell goes for a nighttime swim looking for juvenile salmon.



LAST MONTH, OUR CONTINUING CAMPAIGN ON THE Sandy River was buoyed by no less than two serendipitous events.

First, is a formal opinion from a U.S. District Court Judge which said that National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) may have violated the Endangered Species Act and National Environmental Policy Act, and that the Native Fish Society were "...likely to succeed on the merits of their....claims against federal defendant."

Then, no sooner was the ink dry on that opinion when Rob Jones, NMFS chief of hatcheries and inland fisheries, made these astonishing comments:

- "When hatchery fish spawn with wild fish, the offspring are less fit."
- "....(NMFS) believes it's risky to rely too much on hatcheries and that some areas that are important to steelhead should not be planted with hatchery fish."
- "...hatchery steelhead are spawning with wild steelhead jeopardizing survival of the wild fish."
- "Research beginning in the 1970s on the Kalama River showed that hatchery summer steelhead are less fit and survive at a lesser rate than wild fish."

The 1970s? NMFS was aware of this back then? Excuse me, but forty years later Mr. Jones stunningly and needlessly finds his agency in the woodshed precisely over those very facts. Thank you, Mr. & Mrs. American taxpayer, for unwittingly funding forty more years of failed hatchery operations. Note: 85% of Oregonians don't fish.

During this same period the likes of Bill Bakke, Jim Lichatowich and Bill McMillan were screaming these very same conclusions at the top of their collective lungs. No one paid them heed. Thank you, Bill, Jim and Bill, that you were given strong lungs.

As a result of our steadfast commitment to reforming Sandy

River hatchery operations and regulations harmful to wild fish, the Native Fish Society has come under increasing pressure and intimidation. Surely, this is a good sign.

For NFS, it's not about fishing. It's about the fish. We are not trying to close down fishing but rather ensure recovery of wild fish. Period! That's what we do.

We expect push back. We're okay with that. We are challenging something that turns a common misconception on its head. We expect more resentment because every conflict must have its scapegoat. NFS is perceived an easier target than going after federal or state agencies that make these policies. Unfortunately that vitriol is misinformed and misdirected.

For, in one of life's little ironies, some of the most significant studies that conclude hatcheries are harmful to wild fish were authored by past and current employees of, that's right, the Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife.

Why are these wild fish so important? They are an indicator of a far larger picture, which includes clean water, clean air and a healthy planet.

In salmon country, these fish provide us with a vital sign of how well we're doing. Right now, we are failing because these fish cannot perpetuate the species and because of this they cannot feed the ecosystem. And, if they're not doing well, how does that speak for the planet we're leaving our children and grandchildren?

Yet, a strident group of fishermen are disinclined to consider the overwhelming evidence demonstrating that everyone can no longer catch all the fish they want. Left to their own devices, this group will fish these fish into extinction.

The time has come when we can no longer have a hatchery program on every watershed while also recovering wild fish.

Today, the planet is simply too small for any group to be unwilling to compromise.



IT WAS A FRIDAY IN FEBRUARY AND MY THERMOMETER claimed the air was sixty-two degrees. I tried to talk myself out of it: I had several days of guiding coming up and plenty of prep to do, and I had promised to pick up my daughters from school in just under four hours. But warm air and perfect river conditions...A better man would have stayed in town.

I hid my 4-Runner up a skid road, pulled on my waders, and started through the monoculture of a twenty-year old clear-cut. The divots of elk tracks lead the way. Across a bog, over some ancient fallen cedars, through a thicket of salmonberry—and there was the run, Radar, my go-to spot when the conditions align.

You fish Radar from river right. It has a sharp seam at the top that extends halfway down the run, deepening as it goes. Just where that seam stalls out, ledge structure begins to protrude along the far bank. These ledges require a long line and a quick mend, but they become increasingly fishy the farther you go into the tailout. I was nearing the prime ledge when my casting went to crap.

The sun was warm on my coat, and I took a moment to wade to shore, strip off a layer, and collect myself. The sunlight had turned the river to electric green, and I could see the ledges on the far bank, alder limbs throwing tendrils of shade across them. Sometimes you just know you're about to get grabbed.

A snake-roll delivered my fly to the cobbles on the far bank, and a flick of a mend positioned the line. The fly went broadside, the line curved into a smooth C, and I tried to forget how badly I wanted a fish. For three full seconds, a pull felt ordained. But then the line swung into its hangdown, untouched.

I climbed onto a favorite casting boulder and sent out a new cast. Same flick-mend, same high rod lowering into the swing. The fly was broadside and swinging half as fast as the current speed. All you can do is fish good water well.

Sometimes you get grabbed. Other times you get lit up.

The fish was airborne before I registered anything: thick and chrome, contorting end over end. The Hardy woke up, and I saw the line arcing toward the tailout. Another jump, this one on the lip of the pool. Then another, the biggest one yet, this one closer. I stripped frantically to make up the slack. When the fish passed me on its way upstream, the line that had accumulated in the water began to jump in big curls. One such curl leapt over my neck, and my reel and face slammed together in an awkward embrace. Somehow the line freed itself before the leader popped.

When she came in close, I saw just how big she really was, so thick in fact she wouldn't roll on her side in the shallows. She hard-charged off the cobbles and back into the middle of the run, pushing a wave before her. Two more big jumps, and I thought: this is the best fish of my year. It's all downhill from here.

Finally, she tired and came close. I swung the rod downstream and then toward shore and she slid into the shallows with disorienting speed. I seized her tail before she could reclaim herself.

And that's when I realized two things: she was a three-salt hen with sea lice and she was a hatchery fish with a clipped adipose fin.

The steelheader in me wanted nothing more than to slide the hook free and turn her lose. I would cradle her for a moment, letting the water pass through her gills, and then she would kick and be gone, and we'd both be the better for it. But the conservationist in me knew that a hen like this would end up in the headwaters; she would use her size to bully prime redd space from the native hens. Her offspring would be markedly less fit than those of the native hens and they would compete for limited habitat. By turning her loose, I would be in essence killing wild steelhead.

I held her by the tail in the green water, feeling her power return, feeling the weight of my responsibilities.

If I harvested her, she would offer eight or ten healthy dinners for my wife and young kids. My children would bare witness to the sacred relationship between predator and prey. We would cherish her and we would respect her, and she would make us richer people.

But if I harvested this fish, I'd have to mark her on my tag, and the state fishery managers would see another customer for their hatchery program. I would become part of the statistical support for the very program I've spent years advocating against.

She kicked. She was ready to be free. Could I kill her? Could I let her go?

The broodstock program on this river has an abysmal straying rate, and I have witnessed the effects. As a boy and then a young man, when the old hatchery program was in place, I fished every winter on the upper river. In those years of angling, I averaged one hatchery steelhead for every ten or twelve wild steelhead. But then the broodstock program began. Suddenly I was catching more hatchery steelhead than wild steelhead. Ten years later, the wild returns are on the decline and the peak of their run timing has shifted by three months—to the very window of time when the broodstock fish are rare.

I wanted to blame this beautiful hen for all the problems of the hatchery programs. But I couldn't. She might have spent her first two years in cement tanks eating pellets and being protected from predation and environmental shifts, but she became herself by the grace of the untamed sea. Here she was, as close to where she belonged as she would ever be.

We are alike in that way maybe. I might buy my food in a grocery store and be protected from predation and the elements by the walls of my house, but I have been shaped by this untamable Northwest. And it is while on this river that I feel closest to belonging.

So my decision to lift her forever from those waters was made not in anger or confusion or joy. It grew from a place of unity—both of us doing the best we knew how.

John Larison is an Oregon steelhead guide and author. In reviewing his latest novel, Holding Lies, the Oregonian said, "Larison is Norman Maclean two generations along."



## SUCTION DREDGE MINING: A BATTLE OVER SOUTH UMPQUA RESOURCES WORDS BY STAN PETROWSKI

#### The Original 49ers

In 1849 *gold* was discovered in the western United States. As a result, major changes took place in population demographics and natural resources management. The records give accounts of the slaughter of Native Americans when gold was found on lands allocated to them. It is a blight on human history that some called progress. Prior to that time also the western United States sported spectacular native fish runs.

It wasn't long after gold's discovery that severe hydraulic mining practices began to take place. Once flourishing streams were transformed into mud slurry ditches. Entire watersheds were left ravaged and overturned. Entire fish runs were extirpated. Lamprey and salmon alike took a major hit up and down the coast.

In the 1850s gold was discovered in the South Umpgua basin. The tribes were allocated 800 square miles of reservation land as long as they did not go to war. With the discovery of gold on these lands, miners were want to take what they pleased and claim what they could. War soon ensued. The greater majority of the area's tribal members were decimated in the Rogue/Umpgua Indian Wars. The rest were rounded up and relegated to small reservation lands that could not sustain their inhabitants. Mining claims abounded. The rivers and streams suffered under the weight of human intervention. The fish took a hit.

#### The 1872 Mining Act

Shortly after that time a law was put in place called the 1872 Mining Act. Through it, liberal license was given to innovative mining endeavors to claim and develop mining operations wherever possible. We were a growing nation and industriousness was respected and often paid off. There were no restrictions with regard to the impact of these operations on fisheries or other natural ecological processes. The development and settlement of the west was a top priority for our nation. The mining act was an instrument devised to inspire national territorial expansion through natural resource extraction. Just like the trapping of the beavers in the 1700s, the legacy of which we have yet to recover from ecologically, mining became a magnet to the west.

With the increase in populations, mechanical fishing with fish wheels and large sines at the mouths of rivers were set up. They supplied the new burgeoning need for food and a new open market from Europe with Pacific salmon. The wild fish took another serious hit in their capacity to survive.

#### The Hatchery Program

By the late 1800s and early 1900s Pacific fisheries had dramatically fallen to a fraction of its former glory. The proposed solution at the time was to attempt, through extensive investments in hatchery programs and artificial rearing, to compensate for the diminished wild fish runs. This also included importing exotic species from the east coast of the US. Wild fisheries took another serious hit by the weakening of its genetics through human breeding programs and the introduction of exotic invasive species.

#### The ESA

Post World War II was an era of unprecedented development. A lot of industrial logging began in earnest. It really started during the war, but post war timber harvest excelled into the billions of board feet annually by the late 1980's and early 1990's. Clear cutting and road building on private industrial lands and on millions of acres of public lands heavily impacted stream ecology. Native fisheries took another severe hit. We began to see wild salmon listed under the Endangered Species Act. The entire process began to be politicized and polarized.

The good news is that people from every walk of life cared. An awareness of the practices that were damaging fisheries became common awareness in many places. Organizations like the Native Fish Society came to the fore to guard what remained of our aquatic national treasures. Organizations like the Native Fish Society came to the fore to guard what remained of our aquatic national treasures.

#### The New 49ers

That brings us to the present and the cause for the long introduction to this missive. With the long strong recession that started in 2008, the price of gold skyrocketed. Folks all along the west coast began investing in mining and dredging equipment. Old mines were reopened and new mines were prospected for. Who isn't amazed at the current spot price for gold? With hard times at hand and the potential for an income through dredge mining, west coast streams and rivers were once again being heavily disturbed. Only this time it wasn't the pristine untouched waterways that once laced our watersheds that were being hammered. The fragile ecology of challenged riverine systems was once again being assailed.

In our present day the situation is considerably different. In California the Karuk Tribe sued for a moratorium on dredge mining. It was basically a battle in the courts between the 1872 Mining Act and the Endangered Species Act. California ruled that there was to be a moratorium on dredge mining. The system was working. The fisheries of the State would have a reprieve of history repeating itself on the



downward slide of adverse impacts on salmon populations. The group, the New 49ers weren't going to take it sitting down. They submitted an appeal to the Supreme Court regarding the matter. The Supreme Court upheld the initial ruling.

#### From California to Oregon

The year the court ruling was instituted, hundreds of California dredge mining operations moved to Oregon. Southwestern Oregon was hit hard. The permits are inexpensive and rarely even examined by the State. As soon as the dredges started cranking up, the levels of mercury embedded in the crevices of bedrock and gravel bars started rising in the water. Long laying sediment bars were disturbed. The nightmare for native fish was started all over again in Oregon. Conservation organizations began to meet to address the challenge. Would the strategy that worked in California work here?

#### The South Umpqua River

As River Steward of the South Fork of the Umpqua River, I became very alarmed at the number of dredging units I was seeing along the main stem. Areas that are arguably not properly designated by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife for ESH (Essential Salmon Habitat) along the main stem of the river were covered with dredging units. There was an estimated 400 to 500 dredging units on the river last summer. To boot – I personally saw riparian bank mining going on all over the place.

Vegetation often harbors gold in its root. These are dug up and washed to release their precious flakes. Mining equipment was being sold out of hardware stores. Web sites associated with gold dredging clubs and equipment sales were touting the South Umpqua River as the place to go. Then it really stoked the fires. I have been working with the Tiller Elementary School kids (5th. 6Th and 7th graders) doing a restoration project up river from the school. The school kids have adopted a threatened Spring Chinook run and decided to revitalize a very valuable slough for summer and winter refugia for the fish. The Springers are holed up in a series of "index" pools all summer. The run once sported many hundreds, if not thousands of fish. Now they were averaging 170 individuals. Some years only twenty Spring Chinook show up. The area is home to winter steelhead, coho and sea-run cutthroat.

The USFS hires a retired State Trooper yearly to guard the vulnerable fish. Before long the New 49ers had staked mining claims on each one of these index pools and also at the school restoration site! Alarms went off in my head. That section of the river is noted as the Upper South Umpqua.

I gained a guick education on agency turf wars and the ridiculous mishmash of laws associated with mining and mining claims. Although the claims were made within National Forest boundaries, they come under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management. The Department of Agriculture and the Department of the Interior are therefor in the mix. One had authority over the 1872 Mining Law and the other had been spending millions of dollars doing aquatic habitat restoration work in the area. What took hundreds of thousands of dollars to restore with large wood placing, boulder weirs and riparian planting could be undone with one hundred and fifty dollars - the cost of a mining claim permit. It was crazy.

Not only that, but the State of Oregon is spending millions of dollars addressing noxious invasive species that threaten to enter the State and further degrade aquatic habitat. Agency personnel are even restricted in the type of waders they use and are mandated to treat equipment used in the river systems to avoid spreading contamination. However - none of the mining equipment is inspected when permits are issued. There isn't enough money in state coffers to cover these matters.

Conservationists proceeded to challenge the invasion. Fishing guides and fishermen organizations jumped on board. Legislation on two fronts were introduced, one associated with the Wild and Scenic River designation and the other calling for a moratorium in Oregon. The Native Fish Society chimed in with a white paper clearly spelling out the impact of dredging on fisheries. Currently these bills are going through various mutations in the halls of Salem, Oregon. Essential Salmon Habitat is still vulnerable to these practices and fisheries minded folks need to take note.

With the ruling of the Supreme Court regarding California behind us, we are hoping that common sense will prevail in Oregon also. Sportsmen, scientists, academics and conservation minded folks are banding together to preserve and restore our rivers. We dare not let history repeat itself regarding gold fever and its adverse impact. Allowing the continuation of the practices is nothing but short term vision. Our wild fish runs are incalculably valuable and we know in our hearts that, "There are no sacrifice rivers."

Stan Petrowski is the Native Fish Society River Steward for the South Umpqua River. He serves on the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee of several NGOs associated with conservation and restoration of our wildlands and rivers. stanley@surcp.org



### WIND RIVER: WILD STEELHEAD MANAGEMENT ZONE

then as it was, then again it will be : WORDS BY PETER DONAHOWER

#### **History and Restoration**

After a year of stakeholder meetings held by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), the Wind River is on track to become a Wild Steelhead Management Zone for wild summer steelhead. If achieved, this status will prevent the stocking of hatchery steelhead in the Wind River. Wild winter steelhead in Hamilton Creek and other Lower Gorge tributaries are also safe from hatchery programs, though they are not designated as Wild Steelhead Management Zones at this time.

The Wind River hatchery steelhead program was suspended in 1997 after extensive efforts by such visionaries as Bill McMillan, Bill Bakke and Randy Stetzer. In 1998, naturally produced steelhead in the Lower Columbia Distinct Population Segment (DPS) were given Threatened status under the Endangered Species Act. The 2009 removal of Hemlock Dam opened the way to 15 miles of critical spawning habitat in Trout Creek, a primary Wind River spawning tributary, which had been dammed with poor fish passage since 1935. Extensive riparian and stream channel habitat restoration work followed. In the years since, the numbers of spawning wild steelhead and redd counts have steadily increased, and although still lower than pre-dam estimates, significant recovery is indicated.

#### **Rationale for Convening Stakeholders**

Despite the considerable effort and expense to recover the Wind River's wild summer steelhead, WDFW was under pressure by angling groups and locals to re-instate a steelhead hatchery program and/or steelhead kill fishery. The Gorge (Region 5) Steelhead Management Group was convened to set the course for policy and future status for wild steelhead within Washington's Lower (Gibbons Creek – Hamilton Creek) and Upper (Rock Creek – Wind River) Columbia River Gorge tributaries. Biologists (state and federal), landowners, sport fishermen, Yakama Nation, Clark-Skamania Flyfishers and wild salmonid advocates were represented in the stakeholder group.

WDFW solicited input from the group on the following:

- natural production
- · artificial production
- fisheries management
- regulatory compliance (enforcement issues)
- monitoring, evaluation & adaptive management
- research

BACHA

- outreach & education
- summary of recommended actions

#### **Current State of Columbia Gorge Steelhead**

At present, there are no hatchery steelhead planted in either the Washington or Oregon side of the Columbia River Gorge. Limited hatchery programs in Hamilton Creek and Rock Creek were discontinued in the 1990's. Any hatchery program initiated could potentially have widespread impacts on both Washington and Oregon wild populations, as Columbia Gorge steelhead tend to utilize watersheds on both banks of the river and the smolts planted would be outsourced from the Skamania Hatchery on the Washougal.

Lower Gorge winter steelhead populations are designated as Primary; meaning they are critical to recovery. Yet, little is known of actual population densities. In March of 2013, WDFW initiated spawning surveys on Hamilton Creek. If the population of wild winter steelhead in these small headwall tributaries can be determined as "selfsustaining" it may be possible to consider them as one population and establish them together as a Wild Steelhead Management Zone. Though not specifically recommended by the group, they will be managed as such. Due to the precarious nature of these runs, limited population data, extensive habitat restoration and the presence of chum salmon (Oncorhynchus keta), National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) will not issue permits for hatchery programs on any Lower Gorge stream. They are essentially off the table.

#### Wind River Wild Steelhead Management Zone

A summer steelhead Wild Steelhead Management Zone designation on the Wind precludes any further notions of re-instating a steelhead hatchery program in that watershed, winter or summer. There remains a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Spring Chinook program at the Carson Hatchery, which is subject to on-going scrutiny for potentially endangering naturally produced Wind River steelhead.

Rock Creek, which enters the Columbia in Stevenson, WA, has virtually no spawning habitat or vestigial steelhead populations due to a major barrier falls just up from the mouth. It has been selected by the group for a winter steelhead terminal fishery stocked with 20,000 Skamania winter steelhead smolts remaining from the segregated winter program on the White Salmon (the 24k summer steelhead that were planted in the White Salmon now go into Drano Lake), provided efforts are made to monitor/prevent stray hatchery fish from entering the Wind River. Net pens have been placed in Rock Creek lagoon to facilitate acclimation. PIT (passive integrated transponder) tagging these fish is not feasible at this time, but WDFW is confident that they will be able to identify strays at the Shipherd Falls trap (unless the trap is inundated with spring Chinook.)

#### Loss of Wind River steelhead in Bonneville Pool

Tracking data indicates a high loss of returning wild Wind River steelhead occurring in the Bonneville Pool. A percentage of outmigrating smolts are trapped on the Wind River each year and fitted with PIT tags. There is a PIT detection array at the Bonneville Dam fishway that records upstream passage of these fish as adults. As much as 60% of those fish never make it to Shipherd Falls, just 11 miles away. They do not turn up in any other watershed with PIT tag detectors, nor do they pass back below the dam or appear at other dams upriver.

This causes much consternation for WDFW. Possible explanations abound, including lethal water temperatures, incidental catch and release mortality in other fisheries, tribal fisheries or potential straying into streams not equipped with PIT tag arrays. WDFW is reviewing their research and monitoring methods to get a better handle on why this loss is occurring and determine if the 40 - 60% figure is accurate.

#### **Angling Regulations**

WDFW is adopting a "closed unless open" strategy for trout fishing in tributaries to protect juvenile steelhead statewide. It was the recommendation of the group that open status be limited to stream portions above barrier falls and all anadromous rearing waters remain closed for trout.

For steelhead, there were a variety of proposed management practices, largely dependent on the flawed notion that an escapement of 500 steelhead in the Wind constitutes "fully seeded", meaning that all available rearing habitat will be utilized. At present, the carrying capacity goal for the watershed is approximately 25,000 smolts, the notion being that whether 500 adults spawn or 1500; the total number of smolts the watershed will support is 25,000.

Considering the Wind River historically hosted populations of adult steelhead upwards of 2,500 fish, this goal seems myopic. Where this measurement is of special concern pertains to the proposed three tier system for providing fishing opportunity.

Under this system, Tier I occurs if there are less than 500 spawners, the river would remain closed to angling. Tier II occurs if more than 500 steelhead passed Shipherd Falls the catch and release season

would proceed with no kill provision. Tier III occurs when 750 – 1500 steelhead return indicating a "harvestable surplus" available for either an extension of the catch and release season, or a limited entry kill or trophy fishery. This Tier III strikes me as short-sighted and clearly places angler opportunity above the need to recover a wild steelhead population still listed as Threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act.

WDFW intends to conduct an analysis to further evaluate transitions between tiers and determine if 50% above seeding is sufficient to move from Tier II to Tier III. I suggested they look at historic numbers and shoot for a more natural carrying capacity figure five to six times higher than what they're currently considering "fully seeded." The caveat to this three tier notion is NMFS approval, which seems unlikely to be forthcoming. It is of critical importance that this proposal is met with strong opposition during the forthcoming public comment period.

At present, there is very little enforcement effort in the Lower Gorge and limited emphasis patrols on the Wind River. The group recommended extensive signage, particularly in campgrounds, pulloffs and boat ramps detailing hatchery vs. wild, seasons, boundaries and a poaching tip hotline. Signage should be linked to interpretive centers in campgrounds and appear on the camping reservation website. A landowner incentive program was highly recommended in addition to "stream watch" activities coordinated with law enforcement.

#### Winter Steelhead VSP Monitoring

One goal of WDFW is to increase Viable Salmonid Population (VSP) monitoring of wild winter steelhead, particularly in Hamilton Creek and Wind River. VSP determines abundance of adults and juveniles, diversity, productivity and spatial structure to measure long term status and trends. Evaluating hatchery strays and freshwater/ marine effects on the population are vital components of VSP and are of particular interest in the Lower Gorge tributaries where any presence of hatchery fish would present a clear threat to existing wild steelhead populations. In addition to VSP, WDFW is developing biological reference points (BRP) to re-evaluate current escapement goals in the Gorge stratum. One can hope this will lead WDFW away from their current belief that 500 fish constitutes a "fully seeded" Wind River and toward a more historically grounded measurement of abundance.



MAP COURTESY WDFW

#### Perseverance

The future of the Wind River and Lower Gorge tributaries lies in our public voice, our passionate and well-informed involvement in the continuing management process, the diligence of Native Fish Society members and volunteers in spawning outreach events, and increasing surveys, communications between conservation groups, wild salmonid advocates, political leaders and WDFW. Wild Steelhead Management Zone status for the Wind River would provide a long term anchor for Columbia Gorge wild steelhead. Extending this status for Lower Gorge tributaries, Hamilton Creek in particular, would be a bonus and well worth the effort. Thriving populations of wild steelhead are the vital bedrock of anadromous fish in our Gorge region and can be recovered to some shade of their former glory only through our persistence and dedication.



Peter Donahower is the Native Fish Society River Steward Regional Coordinator for the Mid-Columbia.

# **MOLALIA DIG OL' WOODY DEDIS** A SALMON HABITAT ENHANCEMENT PROJECT ~ WORDS BY MARK SCHMIDT

IN 2007 & 2008, WHILE PERFORMING SPAWNING SURVEYS AND nutrient enhancement projects, Native Fish Society River Stewards, Tom Derry & Mark Schmidt discovered the existence of sanctuary waters in the North Fork of the Molalla River. Weyerhaeuser Corporation, primary landowner of the North Fork watershed, had gated those properties, preventing motorized access, which essentially eliminated public access. As a result, the watershed enjoyed 40 years of healing following the 1960's era of intensive logging and road building operations. Once again, the streams were well shaded, and forest practice regulations had provided viable protections to ensure the continuation of the healing process. Healthy populations of wild winter steelhead and cutthroat trout were present in the North Fork. Spring chinook salmon were present, but depressed.

A limiting factors assessment determined that a habitat enhancement project, including the placement of large woody debris, might aid in the recovery of all species. Inasmuch as this was an area void of hatchery interference, free of barriers from the headwaters to the Pacific Ocean, and also largely protected from human pressures, it was determined that this area was a prime candidate for the design and construction of structures which would divert stream flows to create rearing habitat, slow waters to trap spawning gravel and provide an opportunity to document project effectiveness.

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) provided funding for an in-stream habitat improvement project on the North Fork of the Molalla River. Weyerhaeuser Corporation, working in cooperation with Molalla River Watch and Native Fish Society, has recently completed the construction of "Large Wood Structures" along three side channels, between Horse Creek and Lukens Creek. These structures are designed to direct portions of the river's flow into natural side channels, forming protected cold water pools which function as rearing habitat for juvenile steelhead, and chinook salmon, rainbow and cutthroat trout. As an additional benefit, spawning gravel will collect in these areas as a result of the softer currents and structural barriers formed as the logs settle into the stream bed.

Three years of planning, permitting, engineering and funding processes have resulted in the placement of over 300 trees, root-wads and 480 tons of large boulders in a one-half mile section of the stream channel. The structures are designed and engineered to resist the forces of water flow through the use of gravitational loads, in the same way natural log jams and gravel bars are held in place. No artificial anchoring or cabling was employed in this project. John Dvorsky of Waterways Consulting designed the project and worked with the equipment operator as the structures were placed. The "stream friendly" excavator used vegetable oil for the hydraulic system to protect water quality and fish. All work was done from the side of the stream or gravel bars next to the side channels.

There were concerns that the dynamic river flows during winter flood events could feasibly destroy the structures. The project is being monitored to determine if indeed the structures remain in place and function in accordance to design. A flood event in early December of 2012 provided a test of the integrity of the diversion structures. The project not only remained in place and diverted river flows through the targeted side channels, but in addition they functioned to collect additional woody debris.

Mark Schmidt is a NFS Molalla River Steward. He resides at the confluence of the NF Molalla and the mainstem.





THESE FISH HAVE HOMEWATERS

SALMON AND STEELHEAD RETURN TO THEIR HOME STREAM TO reproduce and rely on the stream to rear their young as they have for generations over thousands of years. Each stream has its own unique characteristics and the salmonids that reproduce in those streams have adapted to those local conditions. Studies of steelhead genetics indicate that fish from adjacent watersheds are more closely linked than to populations further removed. Some streams, large and small, can have several subgroups of fish that have developed specific life history traits to tributaries or to portions of the mainstem.

A convenient example would be a stream that has both summer and winter steelhead. These two forms of steelhead are typically separate breeding populations due to water falls that prevent winter steelhead access to the stream above the falls. All this means that salmonids are diverse in genetic and life history traits that compose a remarkable tapestry of adaptation to our rivers. It is called natural selection and the fish are responding to the conditions of their home stream so that their reproductive success is optimized.

We have information dating back to 1854 making the claim that salmon are locally adapted. In that year Andrew Lang said, "...each river has its own peculiar race of fish...We have now shown that salmon undoubtedly return to the river where they have spawned, and where they belong to the race of fish that inhabit that particular river." (N.P Wilkins Atlantic Salmon Trust).

George Perkins Marsh in 1864 said, "Fish (salmon) are more affected than quadrupeds by slight and even imperceptible differences in their breeding places and feeding grounds. Every river, every brook, every lake stamps a special character upon its salmon...which is at once recognized by those who deal in or consume them..." (George Perkins Marsh, Man and Nature).

Alvin C. Anderson in 1880 was the inspector of fisheries in British Columbia, and he "... realized that the Pacific salmon are organized into separate local populations, with each river having its own distinct stock. He recognized that the supply of salmon in a river depended upon the number of spawners in that river. Anderson's

views reflected earlier recognition that Atlantic salmon faithfully returned to their home stream. Acceptance of the stock concept led managers of British Columbia's salmon fishery to limit fishing effort by restricting both the timing of fishing and the type of gear permitted." (David Montgomery, King of Fish, 2003, page 159)

But there were the doubters too. In 1902, the imminent ichthyologist, David Starr Jordon, agreed with Livingston Stone who believed that salmon return randomly to rivers to spawn. Stone developed the McCloud River Hatchery in the upper Sacramento River and shipped Pacific salmon eggs to the east coast for release and started the first salmon hatchery in the Columbia River basin on the Clackamas River in 1877. Pacific salmon are not locally adapted according to Stone and Livingston. Jordon said, "It is the prevailing impression that the Salmon have some special instinct which leads them to return to spawn on the same spawning grounds where they were originally hatched. We fail to find any evidence of this in the case of the Pacific Coast salmon, and we do not believe it to be true." (Jordan and Evermann 1902).

It wasn't until Willis Rich conducted his salmon tagging studies on the Columbia River that it was verified salmon did in fact return to the rivers of their birth. In a study published in 1939, Rich said, "It is obvious that the conservation of the species as a whole resolves into the conservation of every one of the component groups... Diverse evidence points so clearly to the existence of local, self-perpetuating populations in the Pacific salmon that...practical conservation measures be based upon the acceptance of the 'home stream theory' as an essentially correct statement. He also said, "It is apparent then that one of the first requirements of a sound conservation program must be the determination of the extent to which the species to be conserved is broken up into local populations. The defining of specific populations is concerned to a considerable extent with the determination of the geographical limits occupied by each." (Department of Research, Fish Commission of the State of Oregon, Contribution No.1, 1939)

Has the United States joined Canada and Europe after 84 years of debate by accepting that salmon are locally adapted to their home streams? Have the salmon and steelhead managers in Oregon embraced this biological fact? One would think so since Willis Rich was the first director of the Oregon fish research department. Something happened to stall the full implementation of this fact into management. Bonneville Dam began operating in 1938, Rock Island Dam preceded it in 1932, and in 1941 Grand Coulee Dam blocked over 1,200 miles of the upper Columbia to salmon and steelhead. At the time of Bonneville Dam and afterwards, the technicians working on salmon were convinced that they would disappear from the river above the dam. This concern and the passage of the Mitchell Act in 1938 to compensate for the dams and their impacts on salmon provided the funding for mitigation. The mitigation hatchery, paid for with public funds, was initiated. As a result salmon became interchangeable. With the threat of Grand Coulee Dam a huge effort was made to rescue the salmon that would be blocked by trapping them and moving them into tributaries below the dam. Salmon were no longer considered locally adapted. Dam construction on the



Willamette, Snake, Lewis, Cowlitz, White Salmon and more on the survived better in the hatchery than in the stream; that wild fish did Columbia and its tributaries along with the mitigation hatchery made local adaptation a quaint anachronism. Willis Rich's Home Stream Theory had a short life span. Scientists have always had a difficult time getting management to learn about the birds and bees.

But the scientists did not give up on the salmon. In 1948 Fish Commission of Oregon scientists Johnson, Chapman, and Schoning evaluated the effect of restricting some commercial gear on wild salmon escapement to their spawning grounds, but found no improvement. They considered the decline of wild salmon spawners a "dire" problem that had to be corrected. They concluded that "Fishery regulations designed to increase the escapement must operate on all gear used to take salmon during their entire life cycle in both fresh and salt water."

In 1965 the great W. F. Thompson confirmed the home stream theory from his work on Fraser River sockeye when he said, "This principle applies to the salmon along our coasts. Each stream or lake has its own extremely complex characteristics, and if salmon live in one of them we find that these salmon are adapted in an equally complex way to that environment. We are far from understanding these two complexes, the fish and the environment, but we do know that in order to return to the place for which it has been fitted, the salmon returns from the sea to its home stream, there to meet and breed with its own kind. Thus it develops and perpetuates the genetic characteristics which fit it for survival in that stream. So we have a multitude of groups of salmon, each self-perpetuating which we loosely term races, and which the scientist calls gene pools, each fitted to survive in a particular home. If it leaves this home the race either dies off or readapts." W.F. Thompson, 1965. Science 150: 3705: 1785-1789.

The scientists continue to press the point that salmon are locally adapted to their home streams, but are the fishery managers listening? Salmon managers continue to move salmon and salmon eggs from one river to another in the hope that by ignoring the accumulating science the salmon fisheries will have more fish to catch. The fishery managers adopted the concept of manufacturing a product for consumption by the fishermen. For the new and growing hatchery program to work, locally adapted salmon had to be exchanged for the salmon of Jordan and Stone, fish that had no home. They were placeless and interchangeable. A salmon was not uniquely defined by its habitats; they were just a commodity with fins.

It wasn't until the study of hatchery and wild steelhead productivity on Oregon's Deschutes River by Reginald Reisnbichler and Jack McIntyre in 1978, that scientists began to think about differences between hatchery and wild salmonids and the impact that hatchery fish may have on wild fish. In that study, it was determined that hatchery fish

better in the stream than in the hatchery, and that hatchery and wild crosses were intermediate in both environments.

Over the next 35 years other scientists have determined that in order to have a sustainable hatchery program there must be abundant and healthy wild salmon available for an egg supply. Even though the hatchery salmon survival and reproductive success is lower than for wild fish and declines with each generation of captive rearing, hatchery salmonids from wild parents have a survival rate that is 80% that of the wild fish but higher than the 12% for fish from hatchery parents. Theoretically, the higher survival rate of hatchery fish derived from wild fish means there will be more fish for the fisheries and the cost of production will be less. But there is a problem, the wild fish are going extinct and are protected by the Endangered Species Act.

For 159 years naturalists and scientists have warned the fishery managers that salmon are locally adapted to their natal rivers, but the fishery managers continue to run hatchery programs as if this information did not exist. For example, Nestucca River steelhead are released into the Necanicum River and there is no effort to prevent them from spawning naturally with wild steelhead in the Necanicum. Non-native summer steelhead from the Washougal River in Washington are released each year into the Santiam, Sandy, and Clackamas rivers. On the Santiam they are used to mitigate for threatened native winter steelhead. On the Sandy and Clackamas they help sell more licenses. Yet, ODFW stopped releasing non-native summer steelhead in the Clackamas above North Fork Dam to protect and recover threatened wild winter steelhead. On the Grand Ronde River non-native spring chinook from Carson Hatchery on Wind River are no longer released in an effort to maintain the wild chinook genetic structure among numerous tributaries.

One cannot say that state, federal or tribal fishery managers are applying the science to management because it is so inconsistent. It is as if changes on a few rivers will be enough to guell the outrage of those advocating improved conservation management of salmonids. By pointing out the exceptions to the rule, the fishery managers can claim they are making reasonable progress while they continue to release over 125 million hatchery fish in the tributaries of the Columbia River each year, making the claim that hatcheries can recover wild salmonids, most of which are now threatened with extinction.

Bill Bakke is the Native Fish Society Director of Science & Conservation. Bill established Oregon's first wild fish management policy and led petitions to list Snake River Chinook, Oregon Coastal coho and Columbia River coho under the Federal Endangered Species Act.

#### Regardless of your Gear, Crush the Barb!

ANGLERS COMMITTED TO REDUCING FISH MORTALITY SHOULD support barbless hooks, which ease release and lessen handling time.

To that end, our applause was among the loudest for the recent decision by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Commission to ban barbed hooks on the lower Columbia and lower Willamette Rivers. As a long-outspoken critic of barbed hooks, we feel this policy is long overdue.

Oregon is late to the game. British Columbia long has required single barbless hooks. Washington requires single barbless hooks in areas designated as "fly fishing-only" or "selective gear rules." Recently, Washington extended its barbless regulations to cover Columbia salmon fisheries and most of its Columbia tributaries. Along California's North Coast regulations require barbless hooks and catch and release for wild Chinook and steelhead.

The continued use of barbed hooks in Oregon is no longer defensible. This is especially true when anglers encounter resident or juvenile fish which, as anglers know, tend to engulf lures and flies. Attempting to remove a deeply imbedded, barbed hook from a juvenile salmon most often results in the mishandling, injury or death of these young fish. It only makes sense to ensure the protection of ESA listed juvenile salmon and steelhead when considering the conservation merits of barbless angling regulations.

We encourage ODFW to finish their work. They need to expand the scope of the recently adopted barbless hook rule to include all of Oregon's Columbia tributaries and coastal streams.





#### PRESERVING WILD FISH & YOUR RETIREMENT REDUCE TAXES AND SUPPORT NATIVE FISH SOCIETY

By designating the Native Fish Society as a beneficiary of your estate you join a growing number of like-minded visionaries creating a visible legacy that confirms your enduring commitment to restoring wild salmon and steelhead.

Small or large estate, philanthropic minded people can reduce taxes and leave more for both family members and their favorite charitable organizations.

#### HOW DO I ACCOMPLISH THIS?

The easiest way to donate retirement assets is to designate Native Fish Society as a beneficiary in your will or living trust. You can specify either a defined percentage or a specific dollar amount.

HOW WILL I BENEFIT FROM GIFTING A RETIREMENT ASSET TO NFS?

For those in a position to make gifts currently, it's possible to realize significant income tax savings. Strategic gifting of appreciated, and therefore highly taxed, retirement assets may reduce, even eliminate taxes.

WHAT TYPES OF ASSESTS CAN I DESIGNATE TO NFS?

Life Insurance ~ Common Stocks ~ IRAs ~ Real Property ~ Annuities ~ Retirement Plans

#### CONTACT US

For more information, please contact Executive Director Mike Moody at 503.496.0807 or mike@nativefishsociety.org

# from salem with love

WORDSBY JIM MYRON

The 2013 session of the Oregon Legislature is over. Some bills passed that will assist in the protection and recovery of naturally spawning wild fish. A number of bills that would have had the opposite effect have also been killed. Following is a summary of the more important ones.

#### BILLS PASSED & SIGNED BY THE GOVERNOR HB 2396, Protection of Instream Wood

After many years of effort, downed wood in streams, as well as wood placed in streams for habitat restoration purposes, will be protected from removal. Other than some exemptions for public health and safety, anyone wanting to remove wood from streams will need a permit from the Department of State Lands. NFS was successful in negotiating important amendments to the bill that provide assurances that the law will work as intended.

#### HB 3441, Oregon Hatchery Research Center Board

The bill provides statutory direction for the Oregon Hatchery Research Center and establishes a board to advise ODFW and OSU on the operation of the Center. Two spots on the board are reserved for wild fish advocates as well as one for an independent scientist. NFS is hopeful that these changes will focus attention on needed hatchery research that will actually lead to changes in the way Oregon operates its fish propagation program.

#### SB 830, Lower Columbia River Fishing Scheme

The bill passed in the final weekend of the session and will implement the lower Columbia River fishing plan adopted by the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission last December. Funding for the plan will come from Oregon taxpayers as well as an additional recreational angling license fee of \$9.50 per year for anglers who fish in the lower Columbia. The gillnetters still oppose the bill and it remains to be seen whether the plan will actually work.

#### SB 837, Permitting for In-conduit Hydro Projects

After two years of negotiations on this bill, NFS agreed to amendments that would allow an expedited process for the licensing of in-conduit hydro projects. Those are projects located within a water delivery system, such as a pipe or a canal. In order to qualify for this new

process, a hydro operator would need to agree to pay an annual fee to ODFW in lieu of providing fish passage at the location of the water diversion. Funds would go into a new account to be used to begin working on the large backlog of diversions that currently do not have adequate fish passage.

#### SB 838, Suction Dredge Mining Moratorium

The bill was substantially changed from the original version. A cap will be placed on the total number of mining permits, fees will be increased and regulations tightened while the agencies and the Governor's office design an improved regulatory process. If not adopted by the Legislature before 2015, a five year moratorium on suction mining will be adopted while additional studies are conducted on the effects of suction mining.

#### **BILLS THAT HAVE DIED**

#### HB 2530 & 3476, Banning GMO and Atlantic Salmon

Both of these bills have failed to gain approval due to opposition from the chemical industry and the fish processors lobby. The bill's sponsor is willing to make another run at passing this legislation next year.

### HJR 16, Referral to the Voters to Create Constitutional Right to Hunt & Fish

This very bad idea was sponsored by a new organization, the Oregon Outdoor Council, a local front group for the National Assembly of Sportsmen's Caucuses. If it had passed, it would have led to a question on the ballot in 2014 to create a constitutional right to fish, hunt, trap and take wildlife in Oregon.

### HB 3437, Restrict Appointments to the Oregon Fish & Wildlife Commission

Another bad idea from the Oregon Outdoor Council that would have required the governor to appoint only licensed anglers and hunters to the Fish & Wildlife Commission. This bill is a priority for this organization and will be discussed as part of the interim work plan of the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee prior to next February's legislative session.

Jim Myron is the Crooked River Steward and our Salem Legislative Advocate.



A BLUR OF BLUE AND WHITE STREAKS BY AS A KINGFISHER FLIES through the growing shadows reaching from the ridge-top trees. Fog enshrouds the canyon walls. I still haven't found a fish. It's a cold evening in February and this coastal stream has left me fishless and heart-full more days than not. Intuitively, I decide to fish a particular stretch for a second time and start moving down river. My boots crunch across the frozen grass of past autumn as I weave between flood-bent alder. Striding onto a black-pebbled shore, the desired water dances ahead of me. I step in.

At the head of this run, underlying basalt ledges create trailing pockets of smooth laminar flow. Cobbles fill its belly. Ancient Sitka reach overhead and at its end, a broad tail-out meets two miles of heavy whitewater. The convergence of these characteristics, along with past experience, suggests that a steelhead will be here if anywhere.

Confidently, I load my rod and cast, watching the line uncurl, setting the fly at the far side. I mend the line while taking two generous steps down. As the fly begins to descend through the cyan colored water, suddenly I know that this swing will result in the subsequent connection I've been searching for. I momentarily tense and then unquestionably feel the power of a steelhead on the end of my tightening line. With this tightness I feel as though I have somehow connected to the heart of the river. And to me, this is what this fish represents, utter wildness.

A silhouette of silver contrasts the brush of the distant bank as the steelhead jumps at its edge. Water erupts as the bright fish reunites with its medium and then races cross-stream gliding at my feet. The dance continues as darkness falls. Eventually the steelhead exhausted, rolls onto its side and drifts towards me. I bend down and gently grasp its tail. I'm caught kneeling on the black pebbles holding a beautiful wild steelhead, watching it regain vital strength while I bow.

These are the secrets of my home waters. A love of its wildness and native residents is what has brought me to the last moments of this winter day. Experiences like these epitomize why I am a River Steward. Rivers connect me to something I feel is vastly profound.

The need for this deep, wild connection is what garners my desire for stewardship of this special place.

While wandering this watershed, I have discovered many of its secrets. Speckled sea runs in late summer, ghastly Coho and Chinook spawning in fall, and shimmering steelhead finning through winter and spring. This river produces much, but despite this fecundity the continuation of the stream's wildness has many obstacles. Inadequate culverts block fish passage, high water temperatures exist in the lower river during summer months, illegal dumping continues, thirsty cities divert precious water, dikes divide marshland, and shameless poaching threatens its wild salmon. I find the river's future health swayed by these notable difficulties.

Optimistically, I would like to say I have done all I can to nurture this watershed in equal magnitude with what it has gifted me. I want others to discover this place with as much wonder, beauty, and excitement. To me, being a river steward means to be an active participant in the continuation and proliferation of my home water's wildness. In pursuing these ideals, I realize that I alone cannot look after a river's wildness.

We are servants of our waters wildness. It takes our concerted efforts to sustain a stream's wild secrets. As stewards it is our collective responsibility to give to our watersheds and preserve our streams deep connections. We must continue to search out needs, and collaborate to meet those needs. With the future of our rivers and fish largely unknown, we cannot help but continue bowing to our home waters.

I'm still stooped when the steelhead finds its strength and darts back to the depths. The river gurgles and glides, reflecting the night sky in an iridescent black sheen. I stand and begin to return upriver. As I walk, I feel I'm still mysteriously connected to this amazing fish and imagine that it travels along with me. I am not alone.

Matt Lund is a Siletz River Steward. Matt took the photo on the left. Siletz River Steward Conrad Gowell took the photo on the right.

# 2012 Accomplishments

e are very pleased to report to you that the Native Fish Society enjoyed a very productive, expansive and successful year. The following list of accomplishments fuel the optimism we feel for the future, an optimism we want to pass on to you.

NFS accomplished a smooth transition in leadership with the Board of Directors appointment of Mike Moody as our new Executive Director

#### **RIVER STEWARD PROGRAM**

• Expanded the River Steward Program in 2012 by 10 River Stewards to 53 total working in 60 watersheds.

• Appointed Paul Engelmeyer the first River Steward Regional Coordinator for the Mid-Oregon Coast.

• Created electronic petition that delivered nearly 400 comments to WDFW supporting the Sol Duc River as Washington state's first Wild Steelhead Management Zone.

• Participated in the Columbia Gorge Wild Steelhead Stakeholder group to determine the region's next Wild Steelhead Management Zone.

• Joined the Hydropower Reform Coalition and collaborated in efforts to watchdog future dam construction on the Skykomish and Siletz Rivers.

• Organized and participated in river cleanups on the Molalla & Hood Rivers.

• Prevented the expansion of a gravel mine into sensitive spawning habitat for ESA listed spring chinook on the SF Nooksack River.

• Participated in the Rogue Fall Chinook SMU Conservation Planning Process.

• Monitored temperature and conducted spawning surveys on wild steelhead strongholds in the Oregon Coast and the Willamette Valley.

• Organized and co-funded multi-year rapid bio assessment on the Molalla River to determine fish abundance and prioritize habitat protection and restoration efforts.

• Initiated our Crush the Barb campaign.

• Tracked the development of the Oregon Coastal Multi-Species Management Plan.

• Collaborated in the effort to expand selective gear regulations for wild rainbow trout in the lower McKenzie River.

• Organized 65 volunteers and students participating in 720hrs of work and citizen monitoring on the Mid-Oregon Coast.

• Participated on the Mid-Coast Watershed Council Technical Team.

• Developed plan for central coast watersheds TMDL water quality standards.

• Participated in the 3rd Annual State of the Beaver Conference.

• Served on the Molalla River Alliance Science Advisory Committee.

• Served on the John Day River BLM Advisory Committee.

• Supported restoration efforts on Rock and Threemile Creek in the Wasco Co.

• Worked with the Tiller School in Tiller, OR on their salmon initiative to adopt ESA listed Chinook index pools on the SF Umpqua River.

• Blaine Middle School students in Blaine, WA participated in stewardship activities on Terrell Creek.

• Participated in the coalition to fight the recent growth of suction dredge mining in Oregon's watersheds.

• Organized and led two retreats for River Stewards on the N. Umpqua and Mid-Oregon Coast.

#### **SCIENCE & POLICY**

• Filed suit in federal court over illegal operations of the Sandy River Hatchery.

• Held the first hearing with the Oregon Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee to discuss our Hatchery Accountability Project.

• Prompted ODFW to cease their collection of ESA listed wild winter steelhead and spring chinook for use as hatchery broodstock in the Sandy River.

• Delivered hundreds of your comments to WDFW via our Action Alert Petition system regarding Lower Columbia HGMPs, asking for more protections for wild fish.

#### OUTREACH

• Tabled and spoke at more than a dozen events including at the Patagonia store in Portland, spey claves, music festivals, book signings and dinners.

2012 ANNUAL REPORT

#### Revenue & Expenses for Fiscal Year 2012

Financial results for fiscal year ending December 31, 2012.

- Total revenue from all sources increased 27%
- Total expenses increased 9.6%
- 87% of NFS revenues came from individual and business donors

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

Thank you!



#### Grants & Foundations

YVON & MALINDA CHOUINARD

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#### 2012 ANNUAL REPORT

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attempt to spell all names correctly. If you find an error, please let us know. Contact Tracy Buckner at 503.496.0807 or tracy @nativefishsociety. org.

> THANK YOU!

#### 2012 ANNUAL REPORT



NATIVE FISH SOCIETY 221 Molalla Ave., Suite 100 Oregon City, OR 97045





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#### John Appleton, Grand Ronde Ζ ⋗ < П П ഗ Paul Engelmeyer, Mid Oregor Т S 0 **C** Π -1 < Michael Mathis, Snake River ァ < П ᠵ ഗ ГП ٤ ⋗ ァ S



### PAT FURRER ANNUAL STEELHEAD EVENT AUGUST 17-19 ~ \$650 PER ANGLER ~ LIMITED TO 15

John and Amy Hazel of Deschutes Angler and Brian Silvey have rolled out the red carpet for our Steelhead Event and set the dates right on top of the summer steelheading sweet spot.

- •August 17<sup>th</sup>: Arrive in Maupin
- •August 18<sup>th</sup>: Drifting and swinging + hosted dinner
- •August 19<sup>th</sup>: Drifting and swinging

Come along for those magic pre-dawn hours swinging for steel in the canyon and talking story on warm summer evenings under the stars. Good friends, good fishing and all in support of wild fish. What could be better than that!? **To register call 503-496-0807.** 





#### Trip includes:

- Two days guided fishing on the Lower Deschute River and hosted dinne on August 18th
- Lunch Sunday and Monday
- Does not include
- lodging

#### 🛿 100% OF PROCEEDS GO TO WILD FISH