

THE VOICE OF THE RIVER



Henry's Fork Foundation

SPRING 2012

HFF Takes Trout to School

Students Learn the Difficulty of Mimicking a River

The Henry's Fork Foundation and the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) partnered with Ashton Elementary last fall to bring the nationally recognized Trout in the Classroom (TIC) program to the North Fremont fifth grade curriculum. For Ashton Elementary, the program provides students with an observable, hands-on learning project that reinforces class themes while sparking students' interest. For the Foundation, Trout in the Classroom educates future generations about the importance of the Henry's Fork and its trout.

How It Works

TIC is a national environmental education program in which students raise trout from egg to fry while learning about ecosystems, water resources, and conservation. HFF's Conservation Education Coordinator, Anne Marie Emery, designed a Henry's Fork specific TIC program, which debuted in January at Ashton Elementary School. Emery works with fifth grade teacher, Matt Lyon (previously the store manager at Henry's Fork Anglers) to incorporate trout into science, math, writing, and art lessons—and most importantly—to foster a conservation ethic in the next generation.

The students received 100 eyed rainbow trout eggs in early January, and quickly became diligent caretakers. The fifth-graders were immediately engaged in the program, with parents relating stories of children jumping out of bed in the morning, excited to see what the trout would do next.

Each morning during roll call, two students visit the 40-gallon classroom aquarium to assess water temperature, water quality, and to observe the trout. Students write their trout observations in their daily



Fifth grade students learn about the life cycle of trout through Trout in the Classroom, a nationally recognized environmental education program that debuted this year at Ashton Elementary School.

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From the Board

Rich Paini

Winter in Yellowstone Country, although severe, is often a quiet time of reflection for its human inhabitants. I would venture to guess that the same is true to some extent everywhere, and that every one of you reading this has spent some time thinking about the Henry's Fork during the past few months.

As the snow has fallen, I've spent a fair amount of time thinking about our Foundation. HFF is nearly 30 years old, and during that time, a lot of dedicated people made huge strides in the kind of progress we all value—the protection and restoration of a legendary river. Thirty years ago, fisheries management was absent from the conversation over how Island Park Reservoir water was released during the winter. Today, there is a considerable amount of attention focused on winter water flows.

Why the change? HFF helped initiate, sponsor, and conduct research during the past three decades that showed winter flows are critical for juvenile rainbow trout survival. HFF now works with stakeholders to ensure that trout are considered along with other water needs in drought management planning. This process yields tangible results. This past winter, water releases from Island Park Dam were the highest we've enjoyed in many years, which should equal greater numbers of catchable trout in the near future.

As I enter my final two months of six consecutive years of board service, I am struck with an overwhelming sense of confidence that the river and it's voice are both in very capable hands. As a board member, I know that our donations are well spent.

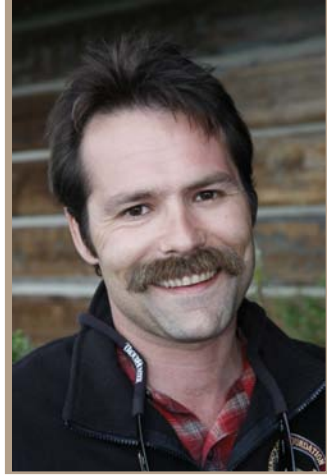
If the Henry's Fork has given to you, consider returning the favor. The watershed needs the Henry's Fork Foundation. In turn, our Foundation needs support from all of us.

Thank you for all that you do. *You* are what makes the Henry's Fork Foundation.

Best Regards,

Rich Paini

Board Member and co-owner of TroutHunter



Cast Your Vote

HFF is a member-based organization and all members have the opportunity to vote for those who will fill the spots on the HFF governing board. You can learn more about the board candidates and place your vote on our website: www.henrysfork.org/board-election.

You can also request a paper ballot by contacting us at 208-652-3567 or by sending an email to hff@henrysfork.org. The board election closes on May 15, 2012 at 5 p.m.



R&R Raffle Supports Key Projects

Support Research & Restoration in 2012

Research and restoration projects that conserve and improve the legendary fisheries of the Henry's Fork are the heart of HFF's mission. Keep the HFF Research and Restoration Team on the ground by supporting the R&R Raffle.

You could have the chance to win the grand prize: a 6-day guided fly fishing trip on the Henry's Fork with three different outfitters. Other prizes include a day of guided fishing on the Teton River, two nights at the Elk Creek Ranch, a Sage rod, and a Waterworks-Lamson reel. Suggested donation: \$10/ticket or \$80/ten tickets.

The drawing closes Thursday, May 17, 2012. You should have already received your R&R Raffle tickets in the mail. To contribute, simply complete your tickets, and send them along with your donation back to us in the return envelope provided before May 17.

If you did not receive tickets, give us a call at 208-652-3567 or email hff@henrysfork.org. You can also purchase bundles of 10 tickets on HFF's website: www.henrysfork.org/rr-raffle.

Research & Restoration 2012 RAFFLE



Grand Prize
Six days fly fishing on the Henry's Fork
September 13-18, 2012
You and a guest will spend six days with an experienced guide from these outfitters: Three Rivers Ranch, Henry's Fork Anglers, and TroutHunter. Fishing with just one of these outfitters is the experience of a lifetime—just imagine fishing with all three. The trip includes meals and lodging, including nights at Three Rivers Ranch on the Warm River east of Ashton, TroutHunter Lodge on the banks of the Henry's Fork in Last Chance, and in a secluded, luxurious log cabin at The Pines at Island Park. The winner provides own transportation to the area, gear, and gratuities.

Second Prize
Two nights lodging/full day on the Teton River with WorldCast Anglers
With the majestic Teton Mountains rising to the eastern sky, the Teton River is one of the most scenic trout streams in North America. You and a guest will enjoy fishing this river with a guide from WorldCast Anglers while you float through beautiful Teton Valley. Trip provided by the WorldCast Anglers Island Park location. Meals and lodging for two nights included. Trip does not include the Teton Slide or Spring Hollow areas.



When you buy a ticket for the R&R Raffle, you directly support research and restoration projects that improve and restore the fisheries of the Henry's Fork. Please consider purchasing a ticket—or a bundle of 10 tickets.

Fishing Like Kings on the Fork

From the time we met our first guide on the Henry's Fork until the last hour on the South Fork, we were treated like kings. We fished from dawn until dark each day and each day it was dry fly heaven. Except for one hot day on the Henry's Fork, we caught as many fish as we wanted. Some were very nice and a couple of trophy fish met our net. During each day we encountered beavers, eagles, ospreys, various songbirds, moose, deer, elk and lots of trout. We caught dozens of nice cutthroat trout and some big rainbows.

The evening meals were particularly good, though we were always two hours late. I could not believe the menus and the good and cheerful kitchen help. They were always ready to serve us—though we came in late, unshaven, unbathed, bug-bitten, and sun-burned—to their exquisite table and fine cuisine.

—Russ Biaggne
Winner of the 2011 R&R Raffle Grand Prize

data logs and copy them to the classroom board. In addition to scientific data collection, each Friday the students have “trout time” in which they creatively respond to fun writing prompts given by Lyon and Emery.

A Trout Scene Investigation

A few unexpected challenges have given students greater insight into how difficult it is to mimic a river environment with a fish tank. Though the trout developed successfully from egg to alevin to advanced egg sac fry, they began dying when they reached the



Mr. Lyon incorporated Trout in the Classroom into science lessons on ecology and biology. Above, students learned about the importance of natural camouflage by decorating cookies to match a particular background.

feeding fry stage. Spikes in mortality are common when trout are transitioning from stage to stage, but the 100 classroom trout were quickly reduced to less than 20 in just two weeks, and by early March, all the trout had died.

In response, Lyon and Emery launched an emergency Trout Scene Investigation lesson with the students to assess what went wrong. Suspicions of hot lunch contamination and late night alien sabotages (offered by the students) quickly developed into well-formed theories regarding disease, power outages, and water quality problems. Students analyzed their daily data logs, created bar graphs correlating trout numbers with time, feeding schedules and tank water changes.

The students’ investigation revealed that trout death correlated with weekly tank water changes. A report from the city confirmed that ammonia, nitrates, and chlorine in the city drinking water are at levels too high for trout survival and the case was closed.

Second Chances

At the time of this writing, students are preparing for a new batch of rainbow trout fry by prepping their classroom tank with local spring water from the Ashton fish hatchery. “It’s weird that the trout died from the water we drink, but I’m happy that we are getting clean water for them now,” one student said as he struggled to help Emery haul eight 5-gallon buckets of water into the school. He is joined by a half-dozen other kids who voluntarily sacrifice recess time to help with the portage. To these kids, the struggle for the trout is worth it.

The program’s success with students and parents is largely due to the diligence of HFF’s Anne Marie and to the welcoming response at Ashton Elementary. “Working for a non-profit organization in a small community allows HFF to integrate conservation more intimately with the community,” says Emery. The school’s principal, Neil Williams, says “Trout in the Classroom has brought an exciting element to our school. We appreciate the way Anne Marie encourages and inspires hands-on learning. Thank you Anne Marie and the Henry’s Fork Foundation for your invaluable contributions and for partnering with us in this great work of educating our future.”

TIC programs have been in place nationwide for more than 20 years, the result of numerous collaborations between teachers, volunteers, government agencies, and local organizations. In 2010, the Idaho Department of Fish and Game published an Idaho version of the TIC curriculum—co-written and edited by past HFF intern Elizabeth Crawford (A. Paul Knight Memorial Scholarship, 2003).

The Ashton Elementary TIC program is a cooperative effort between Ashton Elementary, The Henry’s Fork Foundation, and the Idaho Department of Fish and Game. Other supporters include the Targhee Women’s Club, Mike and Sheralee Lawson of Henry’s Fork Anglers, the Melvoin Family Education Fund, and the Byer’s Family Memorial Fund.

Riffles

Notes From the Field

Dam Reconstruction in Final Year

PacifiCorp Energy's Ashton Dam reconstruction project has started its third and final year of work. Many anglers were concerned about the reservoir drawdown and the occasionally murky river in the fall of 2011. But so far there is little evidence that the increased sediment has harmed the robust rainbow and brown trout populations downstream of the dam. Those anglers who braved the winter to fish below Vernon Bridge reported excellent fishing.

Ashton Reservoir was refilled last December and the entire flow of the Henry's Fork is now passing through the spillway. Work on the powerhouse necessitated dewatering the downstream side of the dam earlier this winter and, in February, over 4,000 adult trout were stranded in a deep pool below the dam. PacifiCorp and crews from the Idaho Department of Fish and Game salvaged the trout and released them back into the river downstream.

This year, PacifiCorp will draw down the reservoir in late May or early June. Both PacifiCorp and HFF do not anticipate sediment in the river to be as problematic as in 2011. The river will likely run

slightly off-color immediately after the drawdown is completed.

Construction this summer will involve replacing the rock fill above the dam, work that is separated from the river by a temporary sediment barrier. PacifiCorp anticipates completing the project and refilling the reservoir late this year. HFF continues to communicate regularly with PacifiCorp as this large project moves toward completion.



The Henry's Fork is now passing through the Ashton Dam spillway while PacificCorp completes work on the powerhouse.

Water Study Moves Slowly Forward

The Henry's Fork Watershed Council (co-facilitated by HFF and Fremont-Madison Irrigation District) continues to serve as the work group for the Henry's Fork Basin Water Supply Study. This long-range planning study originally began to identify new reservoir sites, including Teton Dam.

The study is evaluating 17 alternatives, including reservoirs, groundwater recharge, and water conservation. Research recently completed by Dr. Rob Van Kirk (a former staff member of HFF) is being used in comparing alternatives. The water study is funded by the Idaho Water Resources Board and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and is scheduled for completion in 2013.

Thank You for Your Contribution to HFF

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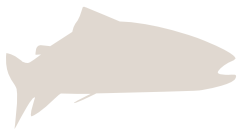
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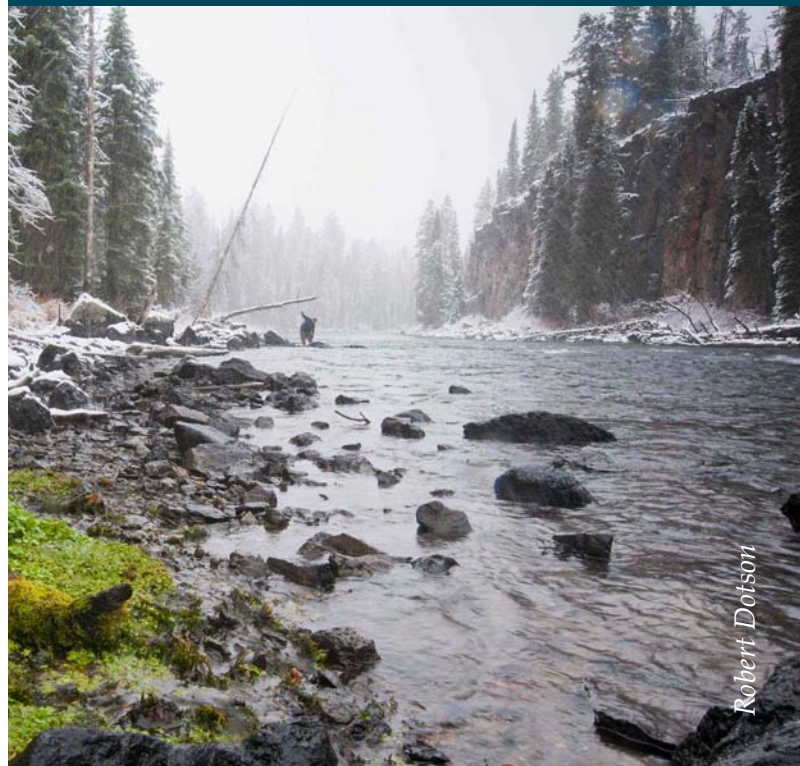
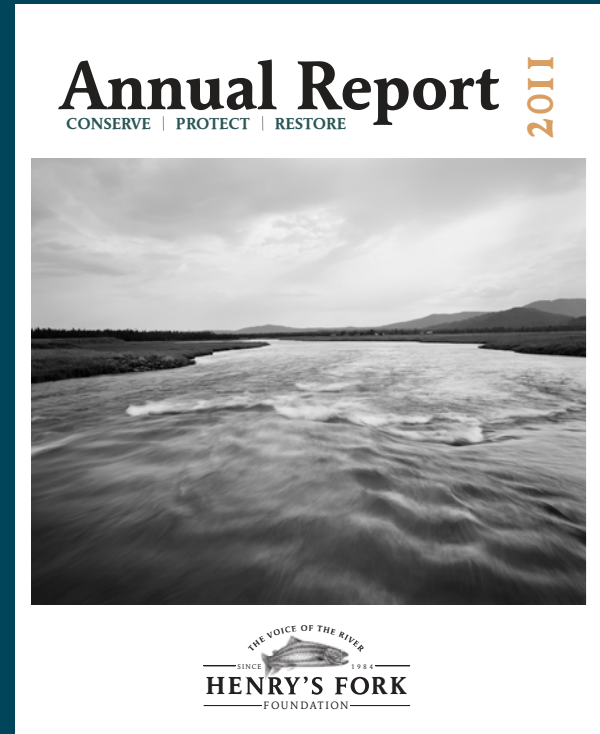
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2011 Annual Report Now Online

You can now find the Henry's Fork Foundation's Annual Report for the year 2011 on our website: www.henrysfork.org/annual-reports. Please contact HFF if you would like more information or would like a paper copy. Special thanks to Darren Clark for use of his breathtaking photographs of the Henry's Fork for the 2011 report.



Robert Dotson



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Ashton, ID 83420

Buffalo Fish Ladder Hits Milestone

HFF marked an important milestone for the Buffalo River fish ladder last year. More than 100,000 fish, including 11,000-plus rainbow trout younger than one year old, moved upstream through the Buffalo River fish ladder between 2006 and 2011. Most young-of-the-year rainbow trout would not have survived their first winter without the fish ladder and habitat upstream in the Buffalo River.

HFF also monitors downstream fish passage at the dam to determine the number of rainbow trout returning to the Henry's Fork, the ultimate goal of the fish passage improvements at the Buffalo River hydropower project. Fall River Electric Co-op, which owns the hydroelectric project, began monitoring in 2006. HFF took over monitoring the fish ladder three years ago, relying on interns, dedicated volunteers, and seasonal contractors.



HFF's Upcoming Events

Boise Reception
Riverside Hotel
April 14, 2012

Henry's Fork Day
Last Chance, ID
June 16, 2012

Caldera Symposium
Island Park, ID
July 12, 2012

