

THE VOICE OF THE RIVER



Henry's Fork Foundation

SUMMER 2013

Wild Trout and the Fishing Experience

New study will investigate habitat-use by adult rainbow trout in Harriman State Park

This summer, an exciting new study aims to provide the ultimate link between the trout population and the fishing experience in the Harriman State Park section of the Henry's Fork. For decades, fisheries research, restoration, and management on the river reach from Island Park Dam to Riverside Campground have focused on the population side of the equation.

These studies asked what limits the population and how can we increase it? This important question puts the behavior of juvenile trout* under the microscope, because their survival determines how many adult trout are present in the fishable population.* But the angling experience depends on the behavior of the adult trout—what types of habitat they use, when they use it, and why they use it. This summer's study will help to answer these questions.

Juvenile Trout and the Fishable Population

HFF first sponsored fisheries research in the 1980s, when Dr. Jack Griffith and his students at Idaho State University (ISU) conducted a broad range of investigations that provided a wealth of basic information on the rainbow trout population in what we now refer to as the Caldera reach of the river. By the mid-1990s, this work identified winter survival of young-of-year rainbow trout* as the single factor limiting the population in this reach. Griffith and his students found that young trout survived best in the presence of cover provided by cobble-boulder substrate* and woody debris along the banks.

In the Caldera reach, this type of habitat is present primarily in Box Canyon and to a lesser extent in the Pinehaven to Riverside area. Subsequent researchers quantified the dependence of this preferred winter habitat on streamflow. Higher flows below Island Park Dam lead directly to an increase in the amount of bank habitat, which leads directly to an increase in the number of young trout that survive through the winter.

Meanwhile, work on the tributaries showed that winter survival was higher in spring-fed streams such as the Buffalo River. As a result, HFF and its partners have implemented a two-pronged strategy to increase winter survival of young-of-year trout. The first prong is to

The habitat use study in Harriman State Park will help establish the ultimate link between the wild trout population and the fishing experience.

negotiate higher winter flows through the Island Park Reservoir Drought Management Planning process (see Riffles on page six). The second prong is to provide fish passage* between the Henry's Fork and spring-fed tributaries* such as the Buffalo River, so that juvenile trout can have access to high-quality winter habitat there. Allowing a larger portion of each cohort* to winter in places other than Box Canyon reduces the dependence of the population on winter flows and increases the overall carrying capacity* of the population. The success of this strategy has been reflected in higher trout population numbers in recent years.

So now that we know how to help more juvenile fish to survive to adulthood, what becomes of the adults? This is an important question as we don't fish for juvenile trout!

Discovering How Adult Trout Use Habitat

Through a variety of research and monitoring efforts, some of which date back to the mid-1990s, when HFF first installed a video camera in the old Buffalo River fish ladder, we have learned that rainbow trout in the Henry's Fork move around a lot. Adult fish migrate upstream to the base of Island Park Dam and into the Buffalo River and other tributaries to spawn. Juvenile fish migrate downstream

*See "Fisheries Terms Defined" on the bottom of page five to learn more about technical terms in this article.

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Your Membership is Essential

By Jeff Roberts, HFF Board of Directors

Dear HFF members,

I'm winding up a six year term on the Henry's Fork Foundation Board of Directors. As someone who has visited the Island Park area for over 20 years, and seen the benefits of the Foundation's work in the river and on its banks, I want to share with you my perspective.

The Henry's Fork Foundation is a model conservation organization, one that you should feel proud to be a member of. Fulfilling the mission of the Foundation continues to bear fruit for those who value the Henry's Fork, meeting one threat to the river after another. For many years in a row, HFF has helped ensure adequate flow in the Henry's Fork during the most critical time for juvenile trout—the dead cold of winter (see Riffles on page six). Targeted winter flows, along with the Buffalo River fish ladder and rehabilitation of some of its tributaries, allows for the Henry's Fork to give its young-of-year trout a chance to become part of the fishable population in the future. Now the Foundation is linking that research to the fishing experience in Harriman State Park. Read the cover article "Wild Trout" to learn more.

The Foundation has negotiated with water rights holders to return a portion of the Henry's Lake Outlet to its natural stream bed, thereby reducing the sediment that makes its way down through Mack's Inn and the Coffee Pot Rapids into the Island Park Reservoir. Sediment could even travel as far down as the Ranch if the Island Park Reservoir is drawn down to low levels, as occurred in 1992. This sedimentation is presumed to choke out spawning beds and gravel bottoms, vegetation and trout habitat, negatively affecting the fisheries of the upper river. These are just two examples of how the Foundation takes a big-picture approach to preserving the Henry's Fork fisheries, and the tangible results of your membership in HFF.

The lower river, too, has faced challenges over its recent past. With the Ashton Dam remediation project finally over, we can breathe a sigh of relief knowing long term impacts to the lower fisheries are unlikely, and the threat to safety posed by the old dam has been removed. Farther downstream, the Foundation played a major role in the connection of the river above and below Chester Dam with a new fish ladder, as well as advocating for the installation of fish screens on the major canals fed by the Chester diversion. Both of these fish protection structures illustrate the benefit of collaborating with other stakeholders in the watershed. (Read about why René Harrop is drawn to the lower river to fish for brown trout on page eight.)

Though the threats to the Henry's Fork are ongoing, I'm confident that the longevity of the Foundation will be the best way to meet those threats and ensure the security of the river we love. Your membership and support are essential to that challenge, and a crucial investment in the scarcest of resources. Be assured that your trust in the Foundation will yield real dividends on the river.

Respectfully,

Jeff Roberts
Board of Directors



Let your voice be heard by casting a ballot in the 2013 HFF Board of Directors confirmation ballot. Visit www.henrysfork.org to vote online or call 208-652-3567 to request a paper ballot.

Fall on the Fork: The Raffle Delivers

Last year's R&R Raffle winner reports on his grand prize 6-day fishing trip

As anyone who regularly reads this newsletter knows, it doesn't take long for the Henry's Fork to grab your soul. On my first trip many years ago, the stars were aligned and we had spectacular evening hatches, memorable morning spinner falls, and a chance encounter with a flying ant hatch that still creeps into my daydreams.

It was on that first trip that I first heard about the HFF. What impressed me most was that the organization was equally praised by both local residents, whether they fished or not, all of the outfitters, and just about any visiting regular we came across while wandering the banks. Like many of you, I also belong to other national and local fly fishing and conservation advocacy groups and don't believe that any of those organizations can honestly claim that kind of widespread support.

So I'm more than happy to send in my yearly member contribution, as well as buy some tickets for a chance to win in the R&R Raffle. Last year, I had every expectation to continue my long standing record of never winning anything. When Brady called to tell me I won the grand prize, all I could think about was which one of my friends was responsible for this pretty clever prank.

You know you are in for a special treat as you first drive under the gate at **Three Rivers Ranch**. We were warmly greeted by Lonnie Allen, the owner of the ranch who generously put up with us for a few days. Equally gracious was Shelly, the ranch manager, who set us up to fish a few days with guide Nick Minor. The atmosphere at Three Rivers Ranch was as incredible as the food. It was tough to leave.

The next part of the trip found us with equally amazing accommodations in a luxury cabin at **The Pines in Island Park**, and this dream trip had quickly ruined me for sleeping in the backseat of my rental car again. We enjoyed some delicious ribeyes at **Phillips Lodge**, and the next day fished the lower river with Curt Barker of **Henry's Fork Anglers** as our guide. The next day, my fishing buddy Bob had his first taste of the Ranch with HFA guide John "Hootie" Mauldin.



Photo by Bill Crelin

Not surprisingly, Bob got a bad case of Ranch fever, so the next few days we chose to float, walk, and wade on the Ranch with guides from **TroutHunter** as we bid the Pines goodbye and settled into yet more luxury at the TroutHunter Lodge. The first morning we met up with Pat Gaffney, the first Boston lawyer I've ever been guided by, who was the penultimate Ranch tactician, and we both felt we left the river that day much better fly fishermen. Up next was Texan Ryan Loftice, who went above and beyond by splitting the day with a morning highlighted by our first real hatch of the trip—a couple of hours of mahoganies to play with—and finishing the day with a float on the lower river from Ora bridge. Unfortunately the take out at the end of the day also marked the end of our trip.

We couldn't possibly thank all the lodge owners and outfitters enough. This trip just confirmed my gut feeling all those many years ago that the Henry's Fork is special and the Henry's Fork Foundation is vital to the area. My friend Bob is also an enthusiastic new member of the HFF, and should he ever win the R&R Raffle Grand Prize, I sure hope he knows who he's bringing.

Bill Crelin, Winner of the 2012 R&R Raffle grand prize

Still Time to Enter the Raffle

Suggested Donation:

\$10 per ticket or \$80 for TEN tickets

Drawing takes place on Monday, May 20, 2013

Purchase tickets online at www.henrysfork.org or call us today at 208-652-3567 to purchase over the phone.

The Research & Restoration Raffle raises money for projects that improve the wild trout fisheries of the Henry's Fork. **This year we embark on new research to discover how wild rainbow trout use the available habitat in the famed Ranch section of the Henry's Fork in Harriman State Park.** See page five to find out how you can make a big difference by sponsoring this project with an additional donation.

from the Buffalo River into the Henry's Fork. Fish of all ages migrate out of the Harriman State Park reach during the late fall and early winter in search of better winter habitat. They then migrate back into this reach during the late spring and early summer, when submerged aquatic vegetation* begins growing and providing habitat.

Ultimately, our fishing experience in the Harriman reach is determined by habitat-use and behavior of adult rainbow trout during the fishing season, which happens to coincide with the seasonal growth cycle of aquatic vegetation and the seasonal emergence cycles of aquatic insects.

The study will address three questions. First, what habitat types do adult rainbow trout prefer during spring and summer in Harriman State Park? Second, how does habitat selection differ throughout the spring and summer? Third, how does habitat in the Harriman reach change through spring and summer as river flows, vegetation abundance, and insect hatches change?

This summer's research will be supervised by Dr. Eric Snyder, a biology professor at Grand Valley State University in Michigan and conducted by one of his graduate students. HFF staff, interns, and volunteers, and Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) personnel will provide assistance. Not only will Dr. Snyder's research link back to the ISU work of the 1980s, but Dr. Snyder himself has an ISU link; he received his Ph.D. from ISU in 2001, studying with the renowned stream ecologist Dr. Wayne Minshall.



Photo by HFF Staff

The habitat use study in Harriman State Park will help answer the question of what kind of habitat adult rainbow trout prefer in the spring and summer, and how habitat changes as river flows, macrophyte abundance, and insect hatches change.

The main research tool for answering these questions will be radio-tracking of adult rainbow trout. The study fish will be captured in May, in conjunction with IDFG's annual population monitoring, and will be implanted with radio transmitters. The fish will be followed throughout the season, and habitat variables such as aquatic vegetation cover, substrate type, depth, and velocity will be measured at each location where the fish are found. The amount of food in the form of drifting insects and other invertebrate* prey will also be measured at each location point in order to quantify the effect that food availability has on the habitat chosen by the adult trout.

The results of this study will provide a scientific basis for the types of habitat we should maintain, enhance, or create in the Harriman reach to increase the number of adult rainbow trout present there during the fishing season.

You can see a video on our website at www.henrysfork.org/ecological-and-restoration-projects that shows HFF staff performing surgery on trout to insert radio tags for a radio telemetry study in 2008.

The invertebrate samples will be preserved so that we can use them in future studies of the insect hatches in the Harriman reach. To determine whether the trout are actually choosing particular habitat or are simply using habitat randomly in proportion to its availability, the habitat present in the entire reach will be quantified through extensive surveys conducted throughout the summer. The habitat measured where the fish are found will then be statistically compared to the habitat available in the reach as a whole to determine if the trout actively seek certain types of habitat.

The results of this study will not only provide some data to explain things that long-time "Ranch"* anglers already know about trout behavior, but more importantly, will provide a scientific basis for the types of habitat we should maintain, enhance, or create in the Harriman reach to increase the numbers of adult rainbow trout present there during the fishing season. (See the opposite page to find out how you can support this ground-breaking research.)

So, if you see a group of students and HFF interns in Harriman State Park this summer using radio equipment to find a fish, or bent over in the water measuring rocks and insects, you will know that they are helping discover the link between the fish and the fishing—where the fish are and why they are there.

Rob Van Kirk

*See "Fisheries Terms Defined."

A Gift That Gives Back to The Ranch

Help us make history by sponsoring a habitat-use study in Harriman State Park



This summer, HFF and its partners will embark on groundbreaking research on the Henry's Fork in Harriman State Park. We will radio tag individual adult rainbow trout and follow them while they feed and seek cover. This study will provide important information about the life history of rainbow trout and give HFF and its partners the ultimate link between the rainbow trout population and the angling experience in the legendary Ranch.

But research of this kind is costly. We need your help!

You can be part of this ground-breaking research by sponsoring a trout in the study for \$500. Your sponsorship will help us raise the \$40,000 needed. As a thank you, this fall we'll send you a photo and description of your trout and a map showing where it spent the spring and summer. Visit www.henrysfork.org to make your donation, support the R&R Raffle, or *both!* You can also send your donation in the envelope provided (mark "habitat use study" on the outside) or donate over the phone by calling 208-652-3567.

Fisheries Terms Defined

Carrying capacity: Total number of individuals in a fish or wildlife population that can be supported by the available habitat.

Cohort: A group of fish that share the same birth year. Rainbow trout in the Henry's Fork all spawn within a relatively narrow time window each spring. As a result, all trout in a given cohort are the same age, to within a month or two.

Fish passage: The ability of fish to move freely throughout a river system without barriers such as dams, waterfalls, or dry stream reaches. The most common barriers in managed rivers are structures like dams and improperly designed culverts.

Fishable population: All fish of sufficient size to be routinely targeted and caught by anglers. This varies across rivers and species, but in the Henry's Fork, the fishable population of rainbow trout is defined to be all fish of age-2 or older.

Invertebrate: Any animal that does not have a vertebral column. The bulk of the rainbow trout diet in the Henry's Fork are invertebrates—mostly insects, leeches, snails, and freshwater shrimp.

Juvenile trout: The definition varies across different rivers and species, but in the Henry's Fork, a juvenile trout is a fish that has not yet reached its second birthday.

The Ranch: Prior to its donation to the state by the Harriman family, the area now known as Harriman State Park was called the Railroad Ranch. Anglers referred to it simply as "The Ranch," and that term is still in common use.

Spring-fed tributaries: All of the tributaries to the Henry's Fork between Island Park Dam and Riverside Campground are fed primarily by springs rather than directly by snowmelt, rainfall, or reservoir releases. Spring water emerging from the ground is warmer during the winter than water in the main Henry's Fork, and provides more favorable winter water temperatures for trout of all ages than the main river does.

Submerged aquatic vegetation: Vegetation that lives at or below the surface of the water in ponds, lakes, rivers, bays, and other types of water bodies.

Substrate: Physical material on the bottom of the stream channel, usually classified by its size: silt, sand, gravel, cobble, boulder, bedrock.

Young-of-year trout: A fish that has not yet reached its first birthday. For example, a trout that hatched in May of 2012 will be considered young-of-year until May 2013.

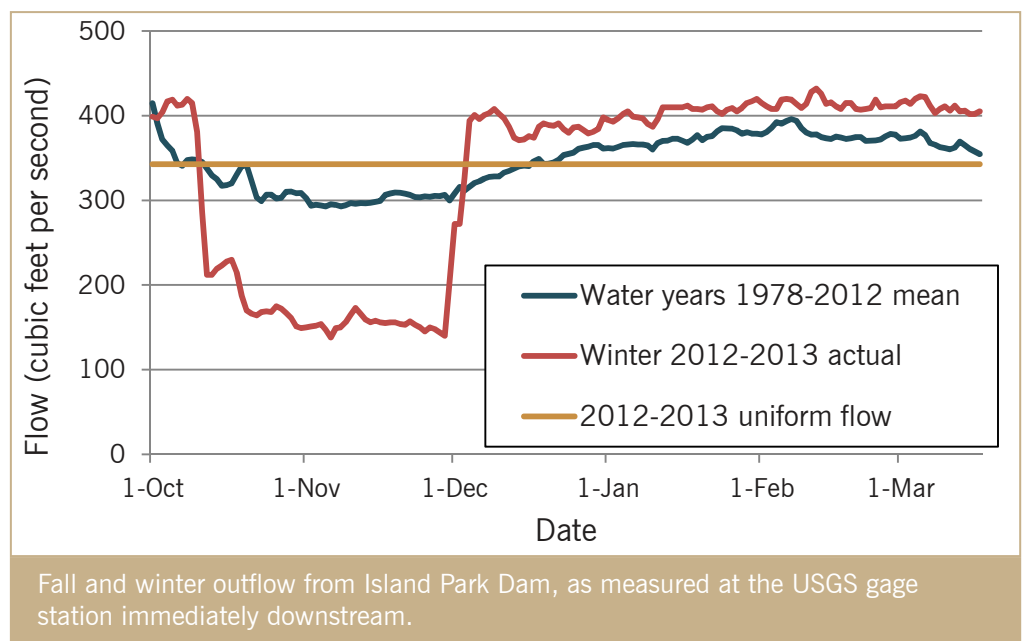


Island Park Dam Winter Outflow Above Average

Despite reservoir storage carryover and inflows that were both slightly below average, the drought management planning process resulted in above-average flows in the Henry's Fork below Island Park Reservoir during the critical December – February period for juvenile trout survival. HFF and the Idaho Department of Fish and Game negotiate with Fremont-Madison Irrigation District and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation each year to maximize outflow from Island Park Dam during December through February, under the constraint of filling the reservoir by irrigation season.

During average or below-average water years, this is accomplished by reducing flows during the fall in order to store as much water as possible before the critical mid-winter period, when flows are then increased. At the end of winter, reservoir content is the same as if water had been stored uniformly all winter, but storing water earlier has a greater benefit to trout survival than having uniform flows throughout the colder months.

The graph on right shows how this management resulted in flows during the winter of 2012–2013 that not only were higher than what could have occurred without the drought management planning process (the horizontal line), but were also higher than the mean during water years 1978–2012. The higher flows were especially beneficial this past winter because of very cold weather during December and January, and will yield a strong class of age 2 fish entering the fishable population in the year 2014.



Rob Van Kirk

Water Plan Revision Approved

The first update to the Idaho State Water Plan since 1996 was approved in March by a vote of 13-5 in the House Resources and Conservation Committee. The vote put to rest a challenge by a group of legislators that wanted to remove entire sections on planning for climate variability and protecting riparian habitat and wetlands, as well as weaken provisions for instream flows, stream channel restoration and collaboration. The Plan was approved by the Idaho Water Resources Board in November 2012 after an extensive public review process, and the committee vote reflected the strong support for the Plan among water users, conservation groups, and the public.

This revision of the State Water Plan is the first to contain explicit milestones and strategies for implementing the Water Resources Board policies and the first to reference Comprehensive Aquifer Management Plans for the state's major aquifers. The new plan is stronger than the previous version in policies related to planning for the effects of climate variability and finding collaborative solutions to maintaining instream flows for fisheries. But, this revision also reaffirms the state's desire to seek additional water storage in the Henry's Fork and Teton watersheds, as reflected in the ongoing Henry's Fork Basin Study currently being evaluated through the Henry's Fork Watershed Council. HFF is a key participant in the basin study and will continue to advocate for water management actions that enhance flows for fisheries while providing adequate supplies for agriculture in the watershed.

Rob Van Kirk

Kids, Bugs, and the Health of the Henry's Fork

On March 22, the fifth grade students at Ashton Elementary celebrated World Water Day by helping HFF biologists sort macroinvertebrates (aquatic bugs) collected below the Ashton Dam. Recent repairs on the dam caused a minor sediment release on the Lower Henry's Fork. HFF has been monitoring the sediment release to detect negative impacts on the river's health. Fine sediment is natural and even beneficial in stream systems, but can serve as a pollutant when released en masse during a short amount of time. By observing and sorting macroinvertebrate samples collected below the dam, students can learn the usefulness of aquatic insects as bio-indicators of increased fine sediment.

Working quickly with live samples, students sorted pollution-sensitive species such as mayflies, stoneflies, and caddis from pollution-tolerant species like leeches, snails, and black fly larvae. Although working in haste, students immediately observed the decline of golden stoneflies in their samples—learning which bugs suffer first from increased water temperatures, which can hold lower levels of dissolved oxygen.

Upon completion of sorting bugs, students found equal numbers of tolerant versus non-tolerant species, telling us the Henry's Fork is in good shape with sensitive species still plentiful. They further concluded that the Mother's Day caddis hatch should be a good one!

Anne Marie Emery



Photo by HFF Staff

A fifth grader at Ashton Elementary greets new rainbow trout eggs as part of HFF's Trout in the Classroom program. Ashton Elementary's principal credits last year's Trout in the Classroom program with raising student science test scores by 20 percentage points.



Photos by HFF Staff

Conservation Education Biologist Anne Marie Emery and Idaho Fish and Game's Jessica Beulow collect dissolved oxygen samples from Silver Lake in Harriman State Park.



Field Technician Matt Cahoon holds a spawning rainbow trout that moved up through the Buffalo River fish ladder early this spring. This wild trout measured 24 inches. The biggest trout yet seen at the ladder passed upstream in 2013. This trout may have been one of the first 2006 juveniles to take advantage of the reconnected waterways made possible by the fish ladder.

Henry's Fork Browns

Fishing the lower river's brown trout with René Harrop

Imagine broad, clear water meandering gently through open meadows ablaze with wildflowers harboring a host of nesting bird life. When copious hatches of aquatic insects and the presence of sizable rainbow trout are added to the picture, you arrive at the conventional perception of the Henry's Fork. But the 10 mile section that includes the Harriman Ranch portrays only a fraction of this world-renowned trout stream.

The Henry's Fork actually becomes a composite of several rivers and many smaller tributaries as it travels from its source at Big Springs to an appointment with the massive South Fork of the Snake, a distance of more than 60 miles. Changing constantly as it gathers volume and loses elevation, it is a river of multiple personalities that, to varying degrees, are attractive to the adventurous fly fisher. And no river in my experience displays greater diversity of character as it courses through canyons, forests, and meadows before entering the pastoral Snake River plain.

Though now mostly limited to its upper reaches, Yellowstone cutthroat is the native trout species. But for nearly a century the Henry's Fork has been known primarily as a rainbow fishery, and for most of my life these are the trout that have dominated my thoughts and attention. Like others who treasure the exceptional fly-only water, I am drawn to the extremely selective feeding behavior and spectacular fighting ability of trout that survive primarily on insects and live for a surprising span of time. But in relatively recent years a different adversary has entered the picture, and the big rainbows of the Henry's Fork now have serious competition for my attention.

Brown trout were among many personal discoveries that came as a result of expanding my fishing range during the late 1960s. Adventuring into the neighboring states of Montana and Wyoming placed me in contact with waters that possessed characteristics unfamiliar to a young angler who had spent most of his first 25 years in near complete loyalty to the Henry's Fork. Exploring the Fire Hole, Madison, and Montana spring creeks was a significant factor in gaining the ability to appreciate diversity in fly fishing, and each revelation was relished by a young angler with serious ambition in the sport. I remember with great clarity the first brown trout that accepted my fly, and the influence of that introduction is ongoing.

Distinctive in coloring and secretive in nature, browns can take on an almost menacing attitude when they grow to large size. With powerful jaws and the teeth of a formidable predator, browns are largely piscivorous as adults, which accounts for their ability to reach a size not often attained by other trout species. But in waters possessing substantial

insect life, browns are known to become a desirable target for a well presented dry fly.

It was these contrasting characteristics that inspired seasonal journeys

to more distant waters where brown trout were the primary objective. Summer hatches and the promise of big, rising browns led me to such notable destinations as the Missouri and Big Horn rivers in Montana. In late fall, when most dry fly fishing becomes relegated to a recent memory, streamer fishing expeditions to remote rivers like the upper Green in southern Wyoming brought contact with some of the most memorable browns I have ever encountered. Though distant travel and brown trout are no longer synonymous, the imprint of those venturesome trips into unfamiliar territory is a component of who I am as an angler, and they will be remembered always with fondness.

While details of the exact time and circumstances of their introduction are not clear, I recall that brown trout began to show up in the Henry's Fork in the 1970s. Barricaded from upstream expansion by the towering Mesa Falls, the brown trout population originated near the mouth of Warm River then gradually began to penetrate downstream. For more than a decade the new residents were only minor contributors to a trout population dominated by rainbows. But with insect numbers roughly equal to those present in the fly-only water 20 miles upstream, and abundant numbers of non-game fish as additional forage, the more voluminous lower river was perfectly suited for the fledgling colony of immigrants. By the end of the twentieth century, about one of every fine trout taken between Warm River and the town of St. Anthony was likely to be a brown, and that ratio continues to grow.

As is typical with the species, Henry's Fork browns generally prefer sheltered water during bright conditions. Structure along the edges in the form of large rocks or tangled snags are favored retreats for these unsociable fish that defy casual effort on the angler's part. Precise casting combined with a vigilant eye for an obscure target are mid-day requirements when the sun is high. And the most innocent surface disturbance can conceal a feeding brown of shocking size. An overcast day can lead to bolder behavior during a hatch, but otherwise low light times of morning and evening are the best times to find big brown trout in open water.

Late May through early July provides prime opportunity for surface action on this section of the river where the elevation is about 2,000 feet lower than at Island Park. Caddis of varying size and color are a staple throughout this period and they are usually joined by the giant salmon flies in





Photo by HFF Staff

early June. Pale morning duns start a list of mayflies that also include flavs as well as the green and gray drakes that almost guarantee the interest of big trout.

Access and size are limiting factors when fishing the lower Henry's Fork. Flowing through mostly private land, the water volume in this section of the river is about double that which flows upstream in the area known as Last Chance, and it is sometimes even greater. Public access points with boat launching facilities are generally spaced several miles apart, which makes floating the most practical means of covering a significant amount of water. Drift fishing from a moving boat is a popular method when targeting trout tucked deeply beneath overhanging vegetation and out of view of most predatory attention. Anchoring in water too deep to wade but showing visible activity on the surface is especially productive during the salmon fly emergence or when the slightly smaller golden stones become available. Often, however, a boat provides convenient transportation to wadeable water away from congested areas where access is less restricted.

Morning and evening are favored times to find Henry's Fork browns sipping mayfly spinners and caddis on broad flats or along shallow edges where concentration of these insects are strongest. Caution is a required element of wading any big water, and the lower Henry's Fork is no exception.

Hatching activity usually begins to slow in early July as the weather heats up and flows start to fluctuate due to the demands of farm irrigation and hydroelectric generation. But because the big browns are still there, Henry's Fork guides will continue to work nymphs and hoppers well into the summer months. And though the action seldom equals the earlier season, the potential for an exceptional fish is always present.

Fall brings a return to more stable flows as peak demands for a working river begin to subside. Baetis and midge fishing become the order of the day when the weather cools, if it is dry fly action you are looking for. By October however the interest of an adult brown shifts away from feeding toward a different mission just as critical to their survival. As the reproductive instinct begins to kick in, the personality of a big male brown takes on a combative attitude as it prepares for the annual ritual of autumn. And while the distance traveled is not nearly as far, the approach to fishing a fall run of brown trout resembles a technique applied to migrating steelhead. Methodical probing of likely holding water is an exercise in repetition as each section is thoroughly covered with a large streamer.

Daily numbers are seldom high in comparison to fishing a good hatch, but the average size of the catch is generally much greater when you are fishing a 6-inch fly. While no Henry's Fork brown I have ever hooked approaches the nearly 30 pound monster taken a few years back, some in this water have pushed a 7-weight to its full capacity. Retaining optimism through a hundred or more long and unrewarded casts can be a test of one's resolve, but the pull of the take and the weight of the heavy fish create a sensation that stands alone in fly fishing.

Because they differ in many aspects of behavior and appearance, brown trout are a proper companion species to rainbows, which continue to dominate the population of trout in the lower Henry's Fork. And though neither is valued above the other, I appreciate the elimination of travel as a requirement for enjoying the special pleasure that brown trout provide.

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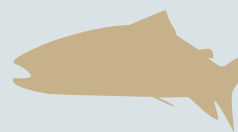
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Henry's Fork Days Line-Up

Friday, June 14

8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.	Breakfast on the Henry's Fork
9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	HFF projects update with HFF staff
6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.	Green Drake Reception and Dinner hosted by Pond's Lodge (<i>by invitation only</i>)

Saturday, June 15

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Best of the Henry's Fork Casting Competition
4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Fly casting demonstration by Bob Jacklin of Jacklin's Fly Shop in West Yellowstone
4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.	Silent auction, reception, and host bar
6:00 p.m.	Prime rib and grilled chicken dinner (\$50/ticket or \$500/table for 10)
	HFF awards
6:30 p.m.	Silent auction closes
	Live auction with Will Godfrey
	Hyde drift boat drawing
	Raffle drawing

New Henry's Fork Day RAFFLE

- 1st Prize:** Hyde Drift Boat (*retail \$9,000*)
Sponsored by Hyde Drift Boats
- 2nd Prize:** Sage ONE rod and reel combo of your choice from a 3wt to an 11 wt (\$1,000 to \$1,100 value)
Sponsored by Sage
- 3rd Prize:** Patagonia Boots and Waders (\$700-\$800 value)
Sponsored by Patagonia



Artwork by Mark "Smitty" Smith

Register for Henry's Fork Day and purchase raffle tickets online: www.henrysfork.org

Upcoming Events

Boise Reception
Saturday April 13, 2013
Riverside Hotel, Boise

Green Drake Reception
Friday, June 14, 2013
Pond's Lodge, Idaho

Henry's Fork Days
June 14 – 15, 2013
Last Chance, Idaho

San Francisco Reception
Friday, November 8, 2013
San Francisco, California



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