

THE VOICE OF THE



RIVER

Henry's Fork Foundation

FALL 2015



Students from Ashton Elementary released their classroom-grown rainbow trout during a special field trip to Thurmon Creek in late May. The fifth-graders had watched as the fish hatched from eggs provided by Idaho Fish and Game and observed their development until they were ready to be released into the wild. It is all part of the Henry's Fork Foundation's Trout in the Classroom program. (Photo by Madison Hyde)

Purchase at Stone Bridge Ensures Continued Access

By Brandon Hoffner
HFF Executive Director

The first half of 2015 brought river access to the forefront on the Henry's Fork. As an angler, it is easy to take for granted access to our great Idaho rivers, but step into other states such as Wyoming or Colorado, and it quickly becomes apparent how fortunate we are to have both friendly river access laws and an abundance of real estate open for the public to freely enjoy Idaho rivers, including the Henry's Fork.

Even with great access laws and numerous access points, it is worth mentioning there are still parcels of

property not open for angler access. The Henry's Fork near Ashton Dam and the top of Ashton Reservoir have been posted for quite some time. Local landowners had to aggressively repost the property this spring due to rampant disregard for the law.

Please be careful to respect private property to ensure that landowner relations along the Henry's Fork remain amicable.

Additional landowner/public situations cropped up near the Fun Farm Bridge, and a parcel once open to the wandering angler is now posted with "no trespassing" signs.

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The Times and HFF Are Changing *Vigilance More Important Than Ever*

Henry's Fork Day 2015 was our first Henry's Fork Day in the fourth decade of the existence of HFF, and it was a great success in terms of both attendance and fundraising. It was great to see long-time friends and supporters (I've quit using the adjective "old") including former board members, and to tell stories and catch up.

The HFF has clearly come into its own as a major force in the Henry's Fork watershed and as a well-managed, professional non-profit organization. Evidence of this is our ability to positively influence water management decisions in this low-water year and to continue to broaden support for the Foundation. Growing our endowment ensures the ability of the HFF to be the Voice of the River in the long-term.

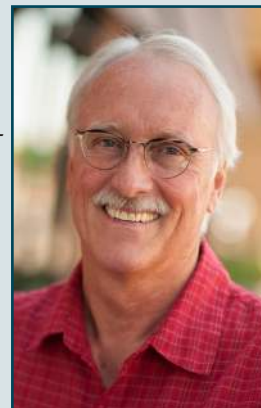
I was re-reading some of the newsletter articles from last year as we approached the 30th anniversary of HFF, describing the changes that have occurred since the days when the HFF "squeaked by to fund salaries and support a handful of projects in the watershed." The HFF of today is a sophisticated and well-managed organization that is setting the bar for the science of the Henry's Fork watershed, that has effectively branded itself and is "selling" that brand, and that is attracting major donors and legacy gifts in addition to the loyal support of long-time donors and supporters. This is a big change from 10 or 15 years ago when the HFF was "squeaking by."

My professional life for the past 20 or so years has focused on helping communities plan for the future. When I ask long-time residents of a community what their vision for the ideal future is, they frequently refer to "20 years ago." Change is not easy. Organizations, like communities, run a risk of alienating long-term members and supporters if they appear to be moving on to greener pastures.

As my father used to say, we all need to remember where we came from. The passion and commitment that led to the creation of HFF and energized our collective work for the last 30 years still lives in the people I talked with at Henry's Fork Days and folks I've talked with since then. We, as an organization, need to remember where we came from and who brought us to the wonderful place we are now.

In the coming months, I will be working with the Board and staff to ensure there continues to be a place under the big tent of the HFF for all of us to do the important work of conservation, protection, and restoration of this place we all love.

—Jim Carter
HFF Board Chairman



"Angling is extremely time consuming.
That's sort of the whole point."

— Thomas McGuane

Stone Bridge Access . . .

Continued from page 1

The Henry's Fork Foundation will continue to talk with the landowners in the hope that access can be restored at some point in the future.

On the positive side, two projects driven by the Foundation will provide permanent access to the Henry's Fork. Working with partners such as Fremont County, Idaho Fish and Game, the Harris G. Moon family, David and Claire Larson, Henry's Fork Anglers, and Hyde Drift Boats, the Foundation was able to secure access sites at the Del Rio Bridge near St. Anthony and to expand the Stone Bridge access site to include the existing boat ramp. Since we touched on the Del Rio project in a previous newsletter, let's focus on the expanded Stone Bridge.

The initial Stone Bridge access site was purchased by the Foundation in 2006 with broad financial support from the HFF membership. A new, recently completed Stone Bridge on Fishermen's Drive and a strong partnership with Fremont County led to discussions that Fishermen's Drive was too close to the boat ramp for future angler safety.

Additionally, it was discovered we could not place a permanent boat ramp at Stone Bridge in the current ramp location because it was owned by the Larson family.

A hardened boat ramp is necessary to stop erosion and hold up to the heavy use of this recreational site. Fortunately, landowners David and Claire Larson were willing to work with HFF and sold the boat ramp property for permanent recreational use at a bargain price.

In the next year HFF will transfer the property to Fremont County and then partner with the county to place concrete slabs on the boat ramp.

Simultaneously, Fremont County will use the new real estate to relocate Fishermen's Drive away from the river and boat ramp to protect the river and recreationists. The ability of HFF to quickly react to the threats and opportunities

on the Henry's Fork is a testament to the passion and generosity of

our members!

Thanks again for your support.

Wild Trout Club

Planned Giving www.henrysfork.planmylegacy.org

The Wild Trout Club was formed in 2013 to recognize Henry's Fork Foundation members who have given cumulative gifts of \$10,000 or more. Many of these members have been with the Foundation since its beginning.

In its short existence, the Wild Trout Club has already grown from 130 members to 160 members.

Thank you for supporting the work of the Henry's Fork Foundation!

Four new members were inducted into the Wild Trout Club during the Henry's Fork Days celebration in June. Club plaques were presented by Brady Taylor, HFF conservation fund director, to Pond's Lodge, Patagonia River Ranch, Hyde Drift Boats, and Rainbow King Lodge. Their generous donations of cash and auction items have helped the Foundation raise thousands of dollars to fund research and restoration projects throughout the watershed.



Pond's Lodge, Carl Solden



Patagonia River Ranch, Kay Jones



Hyde Drift Boats, LaMoyne Hyde



Rainbow King Lodge, Rodger Glaspey

Member Profile: Amelie Kappes

My most enduring memories come from time spent outdoors. Although I'm a California native, I now feel comfortable and honored to call the Henry's Fork my home water. I started fly fishing here in 2002 when, in search of a summer 'experience,' I came to Island Park. Nelson Ishiyama hired me to work at the Henry's Fork Lodge as a server, and I rented Alice Owsley's old cabin along the Buffalo. Needless to say, it was an epic summer, and one that changed me forever.

It was here that I came to understand that standing knee-deep in a river with a fly rod in hand could fundamentally change one's perspective on things. It was here, too, that I fell in love.

My love for this place not only kept me coming back year after year, it's also what led me to the Henry's Fork Foundation. For me, simply loving fishing was not enough. Conservation has always been a priority to me and has driven my career; I feel an obligation to give back to the people and places I value most.

I met my husband, Dan, here. We built a house together here and benefitted from the seasonal fly fishing economy--Dan as a fishing guide for Mike Lawson and I as the manager of the Henry's Fork Lodge. Together, we feel an obligation to give back to this place that has given us so much. The richness that binds our family to all aspects of the Henry's Fork community has greatly influenced our commitment to maintain it for future generations. We embrace the obligation to pass the torch to the anglers and conservationists who will enjoy its inherent beauty long after we are gone.



HFF board member Amelie Kappes; husband, Dan, and children Ben, 4, and James, 2, return often to their Idaho home because of the magic and mystery of the Henry's Fork.

No matter how you look at it, the trout in the Henry's Fork face a precarious future due to drought, climate change, and other pressures. The Henry's Fork Foundation is the only organization whose sole purpose is to conserve, protect, and restore the unique fisheries, wildlife, and aesthetic qualities of the Henry's Fork and its watershed. I am proud to be a member of the board of directors of the Henry's Fork Foundation and honored to work with the smart, dedicated staff and fellow board members who make up this organization.

Dan and I hope that our children will grow to know this place the way we do: The connections to all things fly fishing, the deep and meaningful friendships, and the enduring value of this truly special place.



Photo by Madison Hyde

Three New Faces at HFF . . .

Comings and goings continue at the Henry's Fork Foundation office in Ashton. A new development coordinator has been named, a post-graduate research associate has been hired to assist in data analysis, and the new conservation and outreach coordinator position has been filled.

Paige Cahoon has moved into a part-time job, working from home as graphic designer and marketing coordinator.

Development Coordinator

Kristen Widdison joined the Foundation's team in June to coordinate HFF events. She is from eastern Idaho and now lives north of Rexburg in Salem. She succeeds Paige Cahoon. Before joining HFF, Kristen worked for Mela-leuca for nine years, managing different responsibilities, the most recent with a team specializing in events and recognition.

Kristen also has her own portrait photography business that keeps her busy evenings and weekends. In her free time, Kristen loves camping, fishing, traveling, or four-wheeling with her husband, Jake, and their two dogs, Marley and Macey.

Post-Graduate Research Associate

Melissa Muradian started work July 1 on a one-year appointment as post-graduate research associate. She will be working closely with the Foundation's senior scientist, Rob Van Kirk, on analysis of water-quality data.

Melissa obtained her B.S. in applied mathematics from Texas State University and then went directly into the Quantitative Ecology and Resource Management (QERM) interdisciplinary graduate program at University of Washington.

Her thesis work reformulated the stock assessment model used by Alaska Department of Fish and Game to manage Prince William Sound herring, and conducted a simulation study to explore the trade-off between the cost of running each data-collection survey and the relative return on the investment. Her general interests include statistical methods, data analysis, Bayesian methods, and modeling and management of marine, coastal, and inland aquatic resources.

She enjoys being outside and active with her dog, gardening, reading, and thinking about astronomy.

Conservation and Outreach Coordinator

Jamie Laatsch joined the Foundation in July as the conservation and outreach coordinator, a new position combining conservation technician, outreach, and education.

She is originally from northern Virginia but comes to the Henry's Fork from Chicago. Jamie has a B.S. degree from the University of Illinois in natural resources and environmental sciences and an M.S. degree from Utah State University in human dimensions of ecosystem science and management. During her graduate work, she was part of a fellowship that conducted research related to forest management in the Intermountain West and managing for resilience.

Jamie enjoys outdoor photography, hiking, biking, skiing, and reading, and she says she looks forward to adding fly fishing to that list.



Kristen Widdison



Melissa Muradian



Jamie Laatsch



Saying thanks to Paige Cahoon.

Membership Meeting Video

View the presentations made by Brandon Hoffner, our executive director; Brady Taylor, our fund-raising guru; and Rob Van Kirk, our senior scientist, during Henry's Fork Days in Island Park. You can see it all on video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y6D3jBK8ZY>



Green Drake Reception Friday evening



Student Reads Essay at Henry's Fork Day Banquet

By Ainslee Boyce, North Fremont Middle School

The water of the Henry's Fork tells a story differently to each of us whether we fish it, float it, look at it, listen to it, or use it to water the fields. The river doesn't discriminate. It treats us all the same. Sometimes rough and fast, harsh in action to challenge our skills. Other days slow and smooth, allowing us to melt away with the flow of the water and giving us a chance to see the hidden treasures that lie beneath its surface.

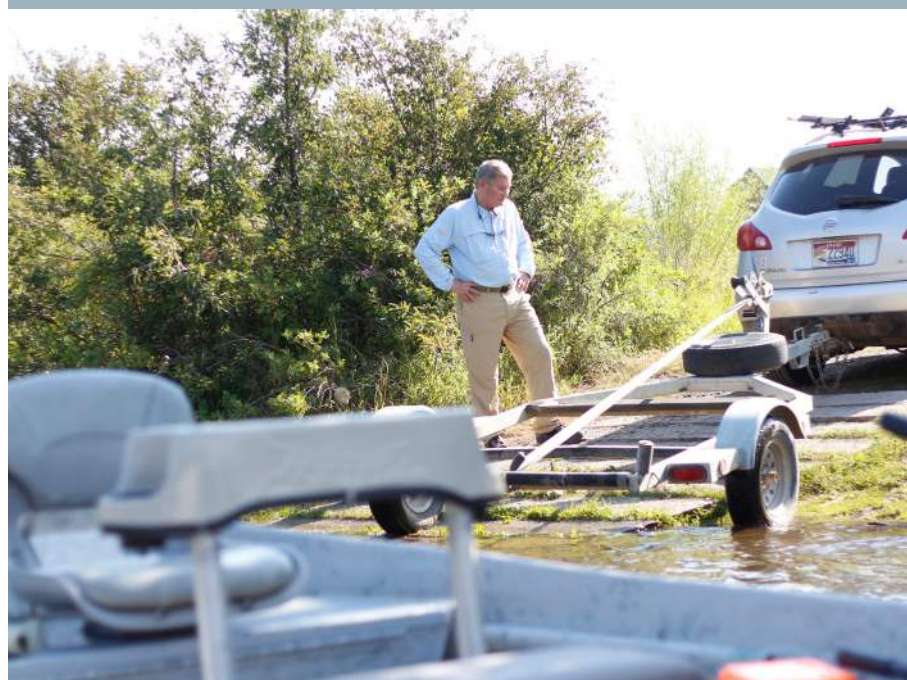
Having the aquarium as a new addition to North Fremont Middle School and High School will help us remember that the Henry's Fork is alive. It provides nourishment for us, as well as the fish, the insects, and all of the plants. My hope is to educate our community on the importance of caring for and protecting the waters that bring us joy. My hope for next year is to educate the school by having an information board. It would help the community to understand more about the great river we have in our backyards. I want to help people understand the life that is in the Henry's fork is amazing.

I want to thank Rob and Pam Pannier for taking me fishing and for teaching me so much about the river. I would also like to thank Anne Marie Emery for understanding our needs in education and leading the drive for the aquarium. Without donations from the Henry's Fork Foundation and the Voight Foundation, the aquarium would not have been possible.

Lastly, a big thanks to Mr. Dahle and Mr. Lyon for facilitating the construction! The education is so important in our community. I have learned so much about the river and its ecosystem.



Access i



Business issues were discussed at the annual members meeting on Friday morning.



Each year, the Henry's Fork Foundation presents three awards to honor individuals and organizations who go above and beyond in their support of the Foundation's mission to conserve, protect, and restore the Henry's Fork. They are recognized for their volunteerism, their conservation efforts, and their dedication to the Foundation. For 2015, the Volunteer of the Year award went to Matt Lyon (bottom photo), the Conservation award to the Cross Charitable Foundation and its founder, Charles Walker Cross (middle photo), and the Foundation's top award, the Manlove award, to Robert Dotson (top photo). For more information, logon to <http://henrysfork.org/hff-annual-awards>

Riffles: Notes From the Field

Ashton Assessment Update

The Henry's Fork Foundation is conducting a two-year assessment of the swale into which the city of Ashton's treated wastewater discharges, trying to characterize the hydrology and biology of the swale, referred to by regulatory agencies as the "receiving body" for the city's wastewater.

Data will be used to assess whether water-quality standards for the treated wastewater are overly stringent, relative to the biological resources supported by the receiving body. To date, HFF staff, interns, and volunteers have measured flow, conducted a vegetation survey, and collected samples of substrate and aquatic invertebrates.

Our measurements show that the primary source of flow through the swale is seepage from irrigation. At the upstream end of the city's treatment facility, there was no measurable flow in the swale for several weeks prior to irrigation season, indicating that at that point, the receiving body will most likely meet the definition of an intermittent stream,



There's no age limit when it comes to learning to cast with a fly rod. Photo by Madison Hyde

one of the questions the assessment set out to answer.

BYU-I Student Builds Computer Model of HF Rainbow Trout Populations

Earlier this year, potential changes to fishing regulations raised questions about the effects of fish mortality on rainbow trout population size

in the Henry's Fork. Answering these questions requires detailed computer models that simulate all aspects of the population, including reproduction, growth, environmental variability, and mortality.

For her senior research project, Brigham Young University-Idaho mathematics major Emily Giles constructed two such models of rainbow trout in the Henry's Fork—one for Box Canyon and another for the Ashton-Chester reach. Using the latest data from Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Emily's models showed that angling-related mortality accounts for only a small fraction of total mortality.

In the Ashton-Chester reach, annual population-level mortality was 1.2 percent from catch-and-release angling, 1.7 percent from harvest, and 41.1 percent from natural causes.

Emily's results were presented to the HFF board in June and, afterward, twice on campus.

After graduating next spring, she plans to pursue an advanced degree in mathematical biology. Emily's academic adviser is Dr. Paul Cox, a former student of Rob Van Kirk.



This year's summer interns at HFF were, from left, Abi Cano Perez, Christina Morrisett, Natalie Smith, and Maya Epelbaum. They worked hard on a variety of projects, including Henry's Fork Days, Ashton wastewater treatment plant assessment, Buffalo River fish passage, hydrologic analysis and modeling, water-quality monitoring, and status of native Yellowstone cutthroat trout in the Teton River drainage. Photo by Kristen Widdison

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Spring 2015 Third Driest in 80 Years

By Rob Van Kirk
HFF Senior Scientist and
Christina Morrisett
HFF Intern from Stanford University

If you arrived on the Henry's Fork in early June this year, you probably did not realize the watershed is in a drought as bad as any since the Dust Bowl years of the 1930s. The weather was cool and wet, vegetation was lush, and reservoirs were full. But only a few weeks later, 1,600 cfs of irrigation water was being released from Island Park Reservoir, and lower Fall River had been reduced to a trickle.

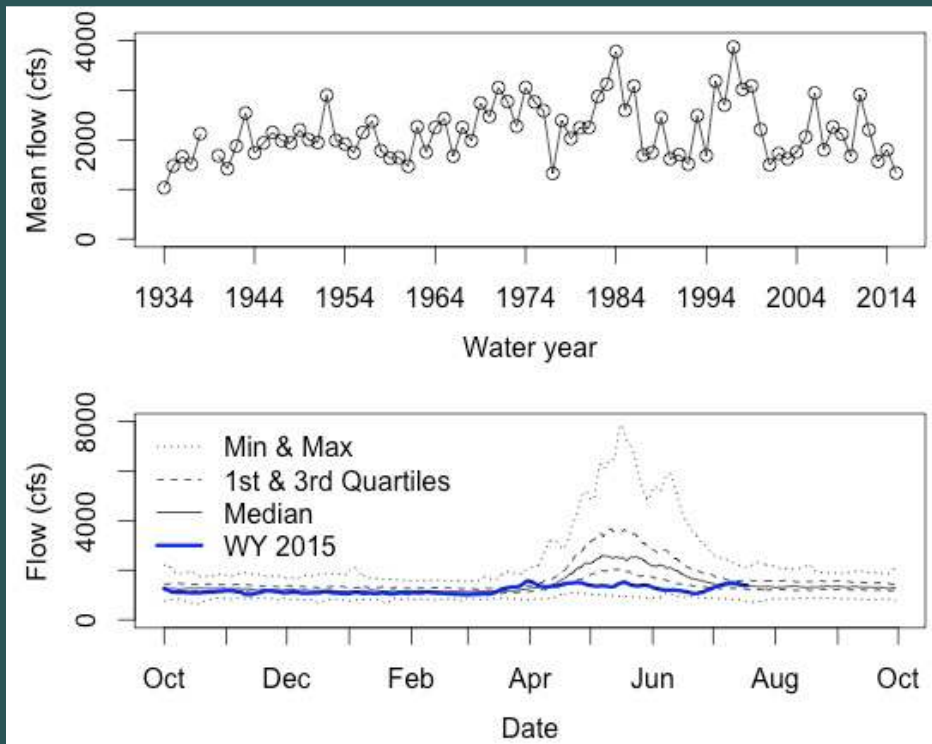
What happened?

On the Henry's Fork, where nearly every drop of water belongs to a water right, streamflow is a balance between supply and demand. Supply comes from the natural flow of springs and streams at higher elevations, and demand comes from irrigation in the lower elevations.

Water is diverted from the lower Henry's Fork and Fall River as needed for irrigation, up to the amount legally allowed under water rights. When natural flow cannot meet demand, storage is released from upstream reservoirs, but only enough to deliver water to the downstream-most user. The result is that streamflow will be very high between Island Park Reservoir and Ashton but very low downstream of St. Anthony. Somewhere in between, streamflow is "just right." On Fall River, the same principle applies, but the much smaller amount of storage there means that streamflow at a given point on the river is essentially just the difference between natural supply and cumulative diversion upstream.

Natural inflow to the upper Henry's Fork during April, May, and June was the third lowest since 1934 (see top panel of graphic). Spring runoff was lower only in 1934 and 1977.

Natural inflow to the Henry's Fork between Henry's Lake and Ashton for water years 1934-2015 (water year 1939 is omitted because of data limitations).



Top panel shows mean April-June flow, by water year. Bottom panel shows daily flow for water year 2015 in comparison to statistical summaries of all water years. (Graphic by Christina Morrisett.)

The bottom graph shows that natural streamflow was low all winter, but still higher than that in 25 percent of all water years.

Snowpack Near Record Low

In late March 2015, melt of a near-record low snowpack resulted in streamflow that was actually above-average, but only because snowmelt occurred so early, not because the amount of runoff was large. By mid-April, natural flow fell back to the 25th percentile, and by mid-June, flow was lower than that in all but the driest years on record. The situation on Fall River was similar.

As for demand, the warm, dry spring allowed farmers to plant crops nearly a month earlier than usual, resulting in high irrigation demand in April. The early snowmelt was sufficient to meet this demand. Then, just as the snowmelt was receding,

a month of rainy weather reduced irrigation demand. This allowed reservoirs to fill—not because supply increased but because demand decreased.

As soon as the rain quit in early June, demand increased at the same time that supply was decreasing. This occurs every year, but usually not until July. As a result, delivery of storage water from Island Park Reservoir began about three weeks earlier than average. The amount of delivery was not abnormally high for the middle of irrigation season, but it was extremely high for June.

Meanwhile, on Fall River, demand used 100 percent of supply; only a release of 75 cfs from Grassy Lake kept a little water in the lower few miles of the river.

This is a routine occurrence, but it happened this year about one month

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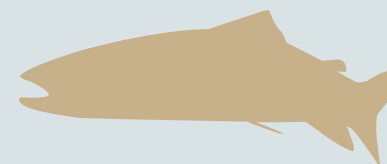
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WorldCast Anglers
Yellow Dog Flyfishing Adventures
2013-14 Trout in the Classroom
Students



In Memoriam

Members We Lost

Douglas Mitchell Williams, 32, of Austin, Texas, died May 25, 2015, of injuries he received in an automobile accident near Austin. He was a life member of HFF.

Dr. Vere Lloyd Lancaster II, 67, died from non-small cell lung cancer on April 16, 2015, in Salt Lake City, Utah. He was a long-time HFF member.

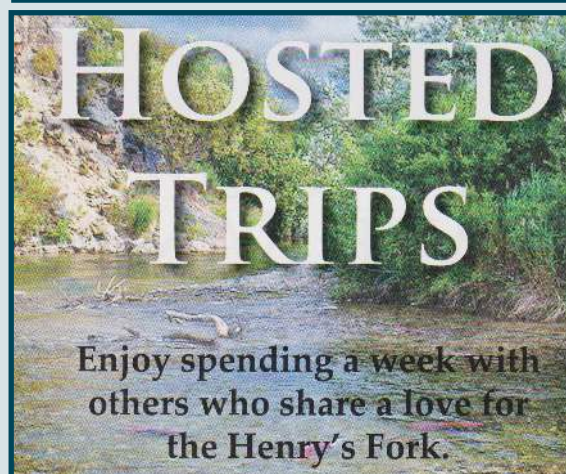
Lucretia Townsend Reeves

In Memory of John A. Wenisch
– From Tish Wenisch

Please send death notices of HFF members to cathy@henrysfork.org.

Our Apologies

Susan Wishney's name was listed incorrectly in the program for Henry's Fork Days. She and husband David were among the sponsors and auction item donors. Our apologies for the error and for any embarrassment it may have caused them.



For information or to register, logon to
<http://henrysfork.org/hff-hosted-trips>

Third Driest . . .

Continued from page 9

earlier than usual. In the lower Henry's Fork, demand increased faster than releases from Island Park Reservoir could keep up, and streamflow dropped to near-record lows.

Irrigation Demand Drops

Fortunately, the hot, dry weather lasted only a few weeks. Cooler temperatures and rain showers lowered demand. Early planting also meant that irrigation of most grain crops stopped several weeks earlier than normal.

By mid-July, irrigation delivery from Island Park Reservoir had dropped substantially, and streamflows throughout the lower part of the watershed returned to average.

Climate-change models predict less snow, earlier runoff, and warmer temperatures for the Henry's Fork region. Although it is impossible to link specific conditions in any particular year to climate change, we have experienced all of these conditions during each of the past three years.

If this is an indication of the future, HFF and its partners must develop and implement new strategies for managing our rivers and fisheries if we are going to maintain the wild trout angling opportunities we have come to expect.

New Board Member . . .

The newest addition to the Henry's Fork Foundation board of directors is Bruce Elliston of Asheville, N.C., a life member of the Foundation. He also belongs to the Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy, Land of Sky TU Club, and Big Hole River Foundation. He hosts a retreat for the Coldwater Conservation Fund, Casting for Recovery, Wounded Warriors, and The Nature Conservancy.

He has made numerous trips to Congress, especially regarding clear-water protection for BLM lands in the 14 Western states. He is interested in the scientific measurement of clear water and data being collected from GPS studies of trout mobility and spawning habitat.

"My first visit to the Railroad Ranch occurred in 1972 at the time of celebration after four vigorous years in graduate school," Bruce says. "I have followed the development of the Foundation from its beginning and have been fortunate to attend more than 12 opening-day celebrations. The remarkable growth and quality of the work in the last few years shows continued strength from the board and staff."

Bruce is a founding partner of the Asheville Family Health Center and a member of the North Carolina Medical Society, North Carolina Academy of Family Physicians, and the American Academy of Family Physicians. He received his M.D. from Loma Linda University Medical Center and served his residency at Duke University.



Bruce Elliston

Please Reply . . .

We are trying to update membership information, in particular, contact information. Please help us by filling out the form below and sending it to us in the envelope included with this issue of the newsletter. Or email the information to hff@henrysfork.org. If you have moved, changed email servers, or otherwise changed your email address or phone number, please let us know. Each one of you is important to us. We want to stay in touch.

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

Email Address _____

Phone Number _____

Have you been getting The Monthly Hatch by email?

Yes _____

No _____

Have you been getting our quarterly newsletter Voice of the River by mail?

Yes _____

No _____

Thank you for taking the time to help us by filling out and returning this form.

THE VOICE OF THE RIVER
SINCE 1984
HENRY'S FORK
FOUNDATION
PO Box 550
Ashton, ID 83420
www.henrysfork.org



And The Winner Is . . .

Michael Fosmark of Layton, Utah, won the custom-built Hyde Drift Boat given away at the Henry's Fork Days raffle. Sales were limited to just 100 tickets, and Mike's name was drawn following the Henry's Fork Days dinner and auction on June 20 at the Last Chance Fisherman Access.

Upcoming Events

San Francisco Reception

Friday, November 6, 2015
San Francisco, California

Giving Tuesday

Tuesday, December 1, 2015

Salt Lake Reception

February 26, 2016

Boise Reception

April 1, 2016

Henry's Fork Days

June 16-18, 2016

San Francisco Reception

November 4, 2016
San Francisco, California

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