

VOICE OF THE RIVER

2017 WINTER NEWSLETTER

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Meet Our Members: Doug and Lauri Siddoway

When did you first visit and fish the Henry's Fork? What do you remember most about it?

Doug grew up near Teton and his grandmother had a cabin at Macks Inn. He started fishing on the Henry's Fork in the early 1960s with his dad. Both of them were "garden hacklers" and their favorite spots were the bathtub area, where the Henry's Fork Outlet joins the river, and Wood Road 11. I took up fly fishing in the late 1980s, after Doug and I moved back out West from New York City. We mainly fished the lower Teton, which was only a mile or so from his parents' farm house, but we also spent a lot of time in Box Canyon and the stretch below the Ashton dam.

How long have you been a member of HFF? How were you introduced to HFF?

We have been members of HFF for a long time. I don't remember when we joined, but I think it was at least 15 years ago. We were introduced by word of mouth. Doug and I have always appreciated the HFF's collaborative approach to resolving problems that affect the river. We farm in the area—this is addition to being in the law business—and recognize the Henry's Fork's importance to all of its stakeholders, farmers and fly fishers alike.


Briefly, some background. Career choice, family, interests?

I grew up in Salt Lake City, toyed with the idea of teaching philosophy, and then went to law school, where I met Doug, who was a year ahead of me. We married after what should have been a cautionary brief courtship, and he worked in the oil and gas business until I graduated in 1979. We then packed up and moved to New York, where we both practiced law until 1985, when we moved to Spokane. Doug is still in private practice, specializing in corporation finance and commercial litigation. I was a trial lawyer at the same firm until 2010, when I was appointed as a judge on the Washington Court of Appeals. We have three grown sons, all of whom know how to handle a fly rod. Our interests are similar: reading, music, skiing, gardening, fishing, staying abreast of the political scene, and, when time allows, traveling.

Best fishing story?

We bought a day of fishing with Mike Lawson at an HFF fundraiser a couple of years ago and spent a beautiful Fall day floating with him from South Bates to Bates on the upper Teton. I don't know how many fish I landed, but they included every species in the watershed. Mike jokingly suggested to Doug at least three times that he should put down his rod and watch me if he wanted to learn how to catch and land trout. I have vision issues that will never make me the fisher that Doug is, but I appreciated the productive fishing day and Mike's teasing of my husband.

What do you do when you aren't fishing?

Work and speculating on just how lucky we are to be able to spend as much time as we do on our farm in Squirrel and to be a part of HFF. As Doug puts it, "Our law work subsidizes our farm, and our farm subsidizes our mental health so that we can continue to do law work." 



How Much is a Day of Fishing Worth?

By Dr. Cliff Nowell, Professor of Economics, Weber State University

Flying from Houston to Bozeman: \$380, renting a car and travelling to Island Park: \$260, catching a 20-inch rainbow trout on a size 18 PMD spinner: priceless. If only life were so simple.

For most of us, the experiences we have on the river are measured not in dollars, but in memories. For the decision-makers who are charged with managing public resources to maximize economic benefits, however, it is important to be able to quantify the value of dedicating resources to enhance recreation experiences. It is vital that HFF can articulate the positive impact that recreational angling has on the region and how economic contribution depends on the quality of the fishery and related resources.

The Henry's Fork Foundation has a long history of documenting the economic contribution of recreational angling to the Upper Snake region of Idaho and Montana. Twenty years ago HFF interns began gathering data on the spending patterns of anglers to the region; this type of study was repeated in 2005 when the HFF and Trout Unlimited sponsored a report detailing the economic impact to the region.

Over the past few years, it became apparent that these data needed to be updated. During the summer of 2016, HFF interns began working with the Idaho Fish and Game to collect information on angler spending, persistence and success at Henry's Lake, and during the summer of 2017 the project moved to the Henry's Fork and South Fork of the Snake. In 2018 this project will continue on the Teton River, with final reporting scheduled for 2019.

Maybe you were one of over 400 people who provided us economic information over the past two years, and, if so, we thank you for contributing to the project. Now that we are at the midpoint of a four-year project, it is time to report some of our findings.

In order to understand the economic impact of recreational

angling, we asked people how much they spent getting to the upper Snake River area and how much they spent once here. On average, residents of the upper Snake River region—eastern Idaho and adjacent areas of western Wyoming—spent \$133.33 on each outing, and people from outside the region spent \$456.78. Average over all survey respondents was \$355.85 per day, a bit higher than the \$304 per day estimated by Idaho Department of Fish and Game in 2003. Overall, 72 percent of the respondents identified as residing outside the region, and on average they made slightly more than one trip to the region each year. The average length of their trips was 8.86 days. The local population represents only 28 percent of the people surveyed. On average, this group spent 17.29 days per year recreating in the area, and almost 10 percent of those surveyed spent more than 50 days per year on the river.

As you can imagine, the impact of any dollar spent inside the region will vary according to what item is purchased. When a person spends \$10 in a local fly shop, a large portion of that money is earned by someone in the community, particularly if the materials purchased were created by a person in the community. The greater the proportion of the initial spending that stays in the community, the greater the impact of the spending. When a person spends \$10 on gasoline, it also benefits the local community, but because most of this \$10 goes to those who produce and transport the gasoline to the region, a dollar spent on a gasoline does not have the same “multiplier” effect as a dollar spent in the fly shop. To estimate the economic impact of spending in the region we must query people not only on total spending, but on all of the categories of spending. When we have these totals, the total spending in each sub-category is increased by a factor that represents the multiplier effect of the additional spending by locals that stems from the injection of “new” money. Thus, the initial \$456.78 of spending by a person making a trip to the area turns into an economic benefit of far more than this initial amount, depending exactly on what items the person is purchasing.

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HFF Moves In: Your New Community Campus

The Henry's Fork Foundation (HFF) officially moved its offices into the new Community Campus in August 2017, but this community project has been more than three years in the making. We are passionate about this project because it provides a real opportunity for HFF to grow and achieve more for the Henry's Fork, but also because, by restoring this piece of Ashton history, it grounds and connects HFF to the Henry's Fork Community in a whole new way.

This building, located at 801 Main Street in Ashton, Idaho, was originally built as the Ashton Hospital in 1950.



Rendering of the completed exterior of the Community Campus.

In 1988, the hospital was converted into a nursing home and a few years later became storage units when the new senior living center was built across town. The building remained, used for storage, until June of 2016 when it was purchased by HFF.

With this project we are looking toward the future. Our new campus will increase our ability to fulfill our mission by educating future generations of anglers and farmers about the watershed; increase participation in regional and



state-wide water management issues to benefit the Henry's Fork; improve and increase water quality monitoring capabilities; and expand outreach and communication to inspire conservation on the Henry's Fork.

This building also gives us a greater capacity, through an interpretive center, collaborative conference center, laboratory, and housing for future scientists, to face the



Visitor's Lounge before and after.



Laboratory before and after:

challenges that lie ahead and take advantage of new and exciting opportunities in conservation.

Renovating the old Ashton Hospital building was always going to be a big project, but the Ashton and Henry's Fork communities have been incredibly supportive as we've moved through initial planning, assessment, cleaning and abatement, and finally construction to restore this Main



Staff member office before and after:

Street landmark. We are so grateful to all those who have contributed to this project so far – from private individuals, HFF members, and anglers to private foundations, including the M. J. Murdock Charitable Trust and the CHC Foundation.



Interpretive Center before and after:

These photos depict some of the great progress that has been made, but we still need your help to finish this one-of-a-kind project. Please consider the Community Campus as part of your charitable giving this season.

Also, don't hesitate to come visit us at 801 Main Street in Ashton for an in-person tour! 🐟



Collaborative Conference Center before and after:




Water Year 2018 Off to a Good Start

Six weeks into the new water year, water-supply indicators in the Henry’s Fork watershed are the best they have been in four years. The best news is that very little water was delivered from Island Park Reservoir during the 2017 irrigation season. As of November 14, Island Park Reservoir was 84 percent full, a value not achieved in an average year until early April. As a result, winter outflow from Island Park Reservoir will be equal to inflow, at around 420 cfs. This winter outflow will be the highest since 2011-2012.

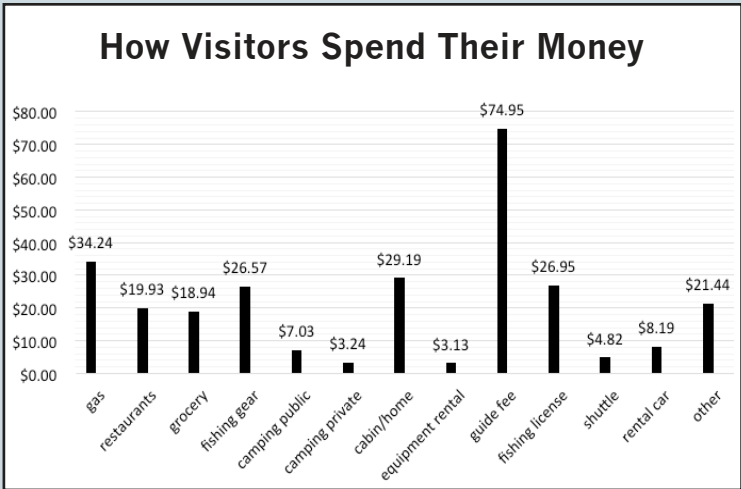
Meanwhile, watershed-total natural streamflow has been above average since October 1, led by above-average flow in Teton and Fall rivers. Although flow in the upper Henry’s Fork (upstream of Ashton) is still below average due to the effects of four years of drought on the deep

due to the effects of four years of drought on the deep Yellowstone Plateau aquifers, it has improved from 82% of average during July to 90 percent of average since October 1. Across the watershed, current streamflows indicate good recovery from the 2013-2016 drought due to well above-average precipitation during water year 2017.

The only weak spot is that accumulated precipitation since October 1 is only 78 percent of average in the upper Henry’s Fork subwatershed and 94 percent of average across the whole watershed. However, temperatures have been very cool since the middle of September, so most of this precipitation has already started to accumulate as snowpack in the mountains. Snow-water-equivalent is above average for the date, with generally wet weather forecast for the next few months. 






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Below is a summary of how the average out-of-area visitor spends dollars in the region for each day of fishing. As you can see, the majority of spending is directly related to fishing activities: guide fees, gasoline, fishing equipment and licenses. Spending on food and lodging is significant, although only 25.77 percent of visitors from outside of the reason spend money on hotels, motels, or other rentals.



More than a third of visitors from outside the region stay at a private residence, and 30 percent stay at campgrounds. Although almost all of the people surveyed were fishing, it

is clear that people are coming to the region and spending large sums of money not just to catch fish. The next table shows the self-reported catch rate of over 900 people who were surveyed in the past two years. Forty-four percent of people did not land a fish in their day of fishing, and slightly over half of the anglers either caught nothing or landed less than one fish in every two hours of fishing. Only twenty-eight percent of anglers surveyed caught at least one fish per hour, and only 7 percent reported catching more than 2 fish per hour.

Catch Rater (Fish per Hour)	% of Anglers Reporting
 +	7%
	21%
	21%
	6%
	45%

Over the next two years we will continue with this project and focus on how the quality of the resource influences visitation and economic impact. 



Contributions: July 1, 2017 - September 30, 2017

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In Memoriam

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Jim Dean
Neil Moss



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