

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

A LOOK AT THE YEAR'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS



THE VOICE OF THE RIVER

SINCE



1984

HENRY'S FORK
FOUNDATION

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Voice of the River

Stories Around the Watershed

In late July, the US Forest Service notified HFF of a significant amount of canned corn dumped into Big Springs. A big thank you to the staff and volunteers who hopped in the river with nets to clean it out.



Photo credit: USFS



Five crews of river clean up volunteers, HFF staff, and interns collected enough trash from access sites along the Henry's Fork in July, that it overflowed HFF's previously empty dumpster – including one abandoned couch! Thank you to all the volunteers who contributed over 430 hours to the Henry's Fork Foundation's work in 2021!

In 2021, HFF added a permanent, real-time water-quality station at Big Springs, bringing the total number of permanent stations on the South Fork and Henry's Fork to 14. View live data [here](#).



We owe a huge thank you to the HFF Board of Directors and the many members, and even family members, who provided thoughtful feedback on a new website design.

HFF's Executive Director, Brandon Hoffner celebrated 10 years with the Foundation in September of 2021. Under Brandon's leadership, the organization has leaned into a culture of "thinking big" and has developed an expert and intrepid staff unafraid to blaze the trail and defy expectations of what a "small nonprofit" can achieve.





A Message from the Executive Director

*Brandon Hoffner,
HFF Executive Director*

This past year I was fortunate enough to celebrate 10 years as the Executive Director of the Henry's Fork Foundation. The annual report is a good time to highlight not only the past year, but a few of the long-term items that make the Henry's Fork Foundation successful at conserving wild trout within this watershed - a watershed that is also supplying so much benefit to the communities of eastern Idaho.

It is obvious that HFF is guided by a mission of conservation. It is purpose-driven work that inspires our members and staff to give generously and work hard for the river. Since I started, I have also encouraged the HFF board of directors and empowered the HFF staff to *think big*. Here are a few of the items that HFF has accomplished or is working on that falls under the auspices of thinking big.

Water Quality Monitoring Program - Rewinding the clock to 2013, I am not sure that anyone envisioned how important the water quality monitoring program would become. We knew the information would be helpful and it was necessary to properly steward the river, but it became pivotal in how we viewed water management in the Upper Snake and how that management impacts the Henry's Fork. After eight years and hundreds of thousands of dollars invested, this program is the bedrock of the HFF Science and Technology program. The network of sondes deployed up and down the Henry's Fork and South Fork measuring water temperature, dissolved oxygen, turbidity, etc., set the baseline for many of HFF's projects. The work continues on as new questions are asked and new situations

arise each year that the water quality monitoring network assists HFF staff in answering and addressing.

HFF Community Campus - The bricks and mortar of the Foundation continues to pay dividends each year. The Campus provided us the space necessary to safely navigate Covid-19, the lab necessary to run our water quality monitoring network and support graduate research projects, and the framework to educate our community and those that visit the area. We are very fortunate to have such a functional asset at HFF!

Precision Management - Born out of necessity and the data gathered by the water quality monitoring network (plus a few other sources that Dr. Rob Van Kirk utilizes for his predictive models), precision management is the key to Henry's Fork fishery health now and into the future. Working in conjunction with Fremont-Madison Irrigation District and other partners, a more precise management of irrigation delivery through forecasting and remote control is making a difference for our members. More water in Island Park Reservoir (20,000 acre-feet annually) equals enhanced water quality and additional winter flow.

Since I am running out of space I cannot highlight the Farms and Fish Program and South Fork Initiative, both endeavors also born of thinking big! I am proud of the 10 years here at the Henry's Fork Foundation, but I also can't adequately express my gratitude to all of those along the way who made our success possible.

All I can say is *Thank You!* 🐟

HFF Expands Scientific Data Collection of River Use



More and more anglers are telling us that their fishing day is looking a bit different these past few years. On some of their favorite stretches, solitude is getting harder and harder to find. What many of us love about fly-fishing is the connection to nature, and the serenity and peace it can provide. It's understandable then, that a flotilla of other anglers, or of tubes, kayaks or paddleboards, or your favorite wading spot being filled with other anglers, can be disappointing or frustrating. It's a universal problem which, on the river, pits two values against one another: a desire for peace and solitude vs free, public access to a one-of-a-kind natural resource. We value both, as anglers, and we benefit from both. We're lucky enough to have public access to a world-class fishery to experience that solitude, but so is everyone else. It's a human dilemma, with no simple solution.

The Henry's Fork Foundation does not have authority to manage recreation on the river or decide who can or can't use it. What we do have is years and years of experience with a term you've probably heard from us a thousand times before – science-based collaboration. We are a trusted source of data and information, with decades of experience using science to inform decision making. That's why, when anglers shared their growing concerns over increasing recreational use in the watershed, HFF knew boots on the ground and collecting more data on river use, was a crucial role we could fill. In 2019, HFF

partnered with the U.S. Forest Service to monitor river use on the Big Springs Water Trail. In 2021, HFF expanded our assessments of river use to the Box Canyon and Stone Bridge reaches of the Henry's Fork. HFF also lent some technical assistance to Teton County when they wanted to repeat a 2018 assessment of river use on the upper Teton River this past year.

Aquatic Resource Coordinator, Matt Hively and recreational use intern, Melanie Crawford counted and surveyed river users over the Memorial Day-Labor Day season in 2021. Data analysis is wrapping up this spring, but preliminary findings show that during the summer season, 14,800 parties floated Box Canyon, and 15,500 parties floated the Stone Bridge to Ashton reach. By comparison, HFF estimated floater use on the Big Springs Water Trail in 2019 at over 37,000 parties. Of those who floated the Box Canyon from Memorial Day to Labor Day weekends in 2021, anglers made up 53 percent of all floaters, and non-anglers 47 percent. For the Stone Bridge reach, anglers accounted for 39 percent of all floaters, and non-anglers 61 percent.

We will share the full results of these surveys with our partners and in upcoming newsletters and blogs. HFF also plans to repeat use assessments every few years on key river reaches. 🐟



Upper Snake Collaborative Farms & Fish Program Highlights for 2021

As many know, the Upper Snake Collaborative Farms and Fish Program is a partnership between HFF, The Nature Conservancy, Trout Unlimited, and Friends of the Teton River that works with farmers on a voluntary basis to reduce irrigation demand through a variety of tools, including leasing land to defer irrigation, soil health initiatives, new markets, crop conversions, and installation of modeling and scheduling software on irrigation infrastructure.

In 2021, the Upper Snake Collaborative Farms and Fish Program:

- Engaged with more agricultural producers in-person, as well as virtually at workshops and field days.
- Reduced late season demand on Island Park Reservoir.
- Finalized voluntary contracts with agricultural

producers with increased participation in winter wheat conversions from spring planted grain, which allows irrigation to finish sooner and eliminates one or two irrigations in mid-late July.

- Was awarded over \$175,000 in grant funds during the fiscal year.
- Saw the beginning of a new soil health initiative with a focus on building up the soil organic matter percentage of our soils. A one percent increase of soil organic matter results in over 25,000 gallons of water holding capacity per acre.
- Is estimated to have conserved at least 1,200 acre-feet of water for the Henry's Fork.

In the years to come, the program is also looking to partner with breweries on a “Trout-Safe” beer, modeled after the “Salmon-Safe” program in the northwest. 🐟

HFF Members Give Back Through Estate Planning



“As we went through the estate planning process, we decided to include our Island Park community. Some of our best memories and moments occurred here. The river is central to this community. For us, the best way to give back to Island Park is through a legacy gift to the Henry’s Fork Foundation. Their collaborative, science-based approach to river management is the best assurance of long term river health. Healthy river....healthy community.”

~ Ray and Pat Ritari



Aquatic Insect Communities Improve

Hatches are not only a key aspect of fly-fishing, but are arguably one of the things that makes the Henry's Fork so special. Studying the aquatic insects in the Henry's Fork and South Fork, many of which become part of these world-renowned hatches, continues to be a crucial aspect of HFF's work.

There are a lot of things these insects (or macroinvertebrates) can tell us and, crucially, they can be indicators of water quality and overall health of the aquatic ecosystem. In 2021, HFF sampled aquatic macroinvertebrates at six locations on the Henry's Fork and three on the South Fork, marking the seventh consecutive year of this monitoring program. There is a great deal of data from this sampling, but three observations over the last two years were especially note-worthy.

1 - There was a significant increase in mayflies, stoneflies,

and caddisflies at Last Chance in 2020, likely in response to a springtime freshet flow in 2019 that moved an estimated 550 tons of sediment out of the Island Park-to-Pinehaven reach.

2 - There was also a significant improvement in habitat quality at the Lower South Fork and Canyon South Fork locations.

3 - We now have enough data to detect long-term trends on the Henry's Fork and found that nearly all macroinvertebrate and habitat metrics have improved over time, particularly since the early 1990s.

To read the full Henry's Fork aquatic insect monitoring report for 2020-2021, click [here](#). For the full South Fork insect monitoring report for 2020-2021, click [here](#). 🐟

Economic Value Report Complete

In early 2021, HFF completed analysis of data from a survey of angler use and expenditure that was conducted from 2016-2019. Anglers fishing Henrys Lake, the Henry's Fork and tributaries spend \$41 million per year in the immediate six-county region in eastern Idaho. The net annual economic gain from non-resident anglers is \$17

million, accounting for 11 percent of the region's total leisure and tourism sector. While angler effort on Henrys Lake and the Henry's Fork has remained relatively constant over recent decades, that on the Teton River has increased four-fold since 2003. You can view the complete Economic Value Report [here](#).





Making the Most of the First Drought Year Since 2016

By most measures, water year 2021 was worse than 2016, the last drought year in the watershed. Peak snow water equivalent (SWE), date of peak SWE, total precipitation, and April-September streamflow were all worse in 2021 than in 2016. June 2021 was the driest and hottest on record. Natural flow was 75 percent of average (or 25 percent below average), ranking 41st out of the last 44 years.

However, Island Park Reservoir ended the water year nearly average at 60,462 ac-ft (45 percent full; avg = 47 percent full) compared with a mere 26,739 ac-ft (20 percent full) in 2016. Poor water rights, lower-than-average diversion, and rain in July and August accounted for about 40 percent of the improved reservoir carryover, although at a cost to agricultural producers. The remaining 60 percent was due to HFF and partners' precision water management and "Farms and Fish" efforts—supported by new remote-controlled irrigation infrastructure and HFF's improved hydrologic information. HFF's efforts to improve our collection, analysis and communication of data and information that can help water managers more precisely manage water resources – plus efforts with partners like Friends of the Teton River, Trout Unlimited, and The Nature Conservancy to work with farmers to conserve

water – has saved about 20,000 acre-feet of water in Island Park Reservoir in each of the past four years. Put a more scientific way, over the past four years, end-of-season reservoir content has exceeded statistical expectations by 20,000 ac-ft, after accounting for available water supply. That's equivalent to a reduction in summertime outflow from the reservoir of 112 cfs and an increase in winter outflow of 84 cfs.

It can be difficult to think about these numbers in a meaningful way. 20,000 acre-feet of water in Island Park Reservoir is roughly the amount of water needed to cover 20,000 football fields in 1 foot of water. Or 100 football fields in 200 feet of water (picture 100, 20 story buildings with the footprint of a football field). No matter what we try, it's hard to picture; but it's an astounding amount of water. An amount of water that increases winter flow, and thereby trout survival, in a very meaningful way. It's an unprecedented water savings in a year where it is desperately needed. And, it can take a below average, or record dry year like this one, and make it "average" in its end results and impact on our fisheries. That's no small feat, and something that could make a significant difference as we face the water challenges ahead. 🐟



South Fork Initiative

A Banner Year for Restoration

Photo credit: Louis Wasniewski, USFS

Phase 1 of the Bridge-to-Bridge Rainey Creek restoration project was completed in early 2021 and is already showing positive improvements for the fishery. Anglers have spotted redds (trout spawning beds) and increased signs of Cutthroat Trout in the restored reach. The South Fork Initiative (SFI) also helped secure funds and coordinate volunteer efforts to put up fencing to protect the reach of Rainey Creek near the US Forest Service workstation. Listed to the right are some notable numbers on other SFI accomplishments this year.

These projects occurred in collaboration with, and made possible by, state, federal, and local non-governmental partners, as well as volunteers and landowners. HFF will continue to share SFI project progress, including monitoring reports in upcoming blogs and newsletters. 🐟



SFI Notable Numbers of 2021

5

Project summary reports made by SFI intern and BYU-Idaho student, Ethan Taylor to monitor and document restoration projects.

2

Number of restoration projects currently underway (one on Upper Third Creek and Phase 2 of Bridge-to-Bridge on Rainey Creek).

6

Number of temperature loggers installed in Rainey Creek, Third Creek, and Second Creek to monitor changes in water temperature after restoration efforts.

5

Number of education and outreach events the SFI hosted or participated in this year.

1

First ever SFI Story Map created by HFF's communications intern Sydney Schmitter, available [here](#).



Green Drake Society

Annual giving of \$2,500 or more

**New Life Members in 2021 are shown in boldface*

\$20,000 +

Susan N. Bales
George Borkow and Marilyn Volpe
Paul and Irene Buehner
Brad and Annette Elg
Jackson Hole One Fly Foundation
David and Sally Long
Steve Moore
Ron and Tammy Malone
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
Jack and Janet Roberts
Mark Rockefeller
Denny and Jane Shelton

\$10,000 – 19,999

Thomas and Joan Brown
Lyman and Carol Casey
Robert and Kelli Dotson
Larry and Pam Garlick
Gary and Cathy Gross
Ralph and Meggan Hamm III
JP Hayes
Scott and Mimi Hayes
Lee and Phyllis King
Steven and Brenda Lowe
Marcus and Amber McConnell
Steve Millham
Mark Moorman
Larry and Sue Myers
Paul and Martha Schmidt
Paul and Noreen Slivon
Allison Smoot
TU - Snake River Cutthroats
Tom and Doris Squeri
Sticker Mountain
Thomas Stredwick
The Lodge at Palisades Creek Inc.
The TE Foundation
David and Susan Wishney

\$5,000 – 9,999

Linda and Andrew Ach
Eric and Camie Adema
Christopher and Nathalie Brand
CHC Foundation
Yvon and Melinda Chouinard
Jim and Vicki Click
Toby and Leslie Cotton
Jack and Diana Coyle

Allan Craig
Crystal Springs Foundation
David L. Dieter
Mike and Erica Gatt
Gary Gigot and Tammy Jenkins
Larry and Shelley Green
Gary Grigg
John and Kelsie Gwin
Bill and Debby Hackett
Timothy Hamill and Emalee
Franson Hamill

Tom and Jenifer Hansen
Henry's Fork Anglers
Tom Hermstad
Ed and Cindy Hikida
John and Vicky Hoagland
Jon and Karyn Hodge
Richard Hodge
Elliot Hulet
James Kimmel
Paul and Darlene Lachowsky
Tim and Jan Lawson
Jesse and Whitney Lowe
Jeffrey and Martha Melvoin
Nick Melvoin
Ron and Mary Miller
Clay and Jillian Moorehead
Geoff Motlow and Elena Gates Motlow
Wesley and Janet Nelson
Jerry Nielsen
Rob and Pam Pannier
Eric Pauly
David and Shari Quinney
William Rabon
Tim Reynolds and Patty Isaef
Jeff and Amy Roberts
S.J. and Jessie E. Quinney Foundation
Art Shartsis
Douglas and Lauri Siddoway
Chris Simon
Stephen G. and Susan E. Denkers
Family Foundation
Greg Stephens
Seija and Pam Surr Davis
Marcene and Clay Taylor
Robert Timpany
Trout and Salmon Foundation
TroutHunter
Gary Vinagre

Voigt Foundation
Terry and Carolyn Walker
Brandon and Jill Warburton
Richard Welle
Oliver White
John Wilhelm
Tim Wood
David Woodyard
Randy and D'Andrea Worrall

\$2,500 - 4,999

Suann Adams
Robert and Sara Allen
Scott and Karen Amero
Bobbie Armor and James C. Poulton
Jeff and Karin Armstrong
Dwight N. Atchley
Jim Barbour
Frank Bell
Philip Jay and Wesley Brown
Shelaghmichael Brown
Lee Burke
Jim Carter and Jane Harrison
Phil and Cynthia Cohen
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Del and Judy Hodges
Brandon Hoffner
William B. Hurst
Scott Ingham
Patsy Ishiyama
George and Karen James

continued on pg 10

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Will and Lillias Johnston
Chuck and Roberta Katz
Gail Knight
Kent and Stefi Kuster
Sue Lang
Stuart and Frances Lange
Gary Lentz
LOOP
Jeff Ludlow
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Tom and Elizabeth McRae
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John and Cathy Monson
Cliff Nowell and Laura Anderson

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Brady Taylor
Peter and Rachel Taylor
Philip and Jane Taylor
Sara Timmons
Wade and Karen Tolman
Three Rivers Ranch
Lana Varney
Tyler Vaughey and Kate Milliken
Rick Wojahn
WorldCast Anglers
Val Zupsan



Wild Trout Club

Lifetime giving of \$10,000 or more

Celebrating new Wild Trout Club members or level advancements in 2021

Founder Level \$500,000 +

George Borkow and Marilyn Volpe

River Steward Level \$250,000 +

C. Walker Cross Charitable

Foundation

Denny and Jane Shelton

Rainbow Trout Level \$100,000 +

Jackson Hole One Fly

Brown Trout Level \$50,000 +

Bales Family Partnership

Brad and Annette Elg

Ralph and Megan Hamm

Scott and Mimi Hayes

Henry's Fork Anglers

Ron and Tammy Malone

Jeff and Amy Roberts

Paul and Martha Schmidt

Sara Timmons

TroutHunter

Trout and Salmon Foundation

Voigt Foundation

Cutthroat Trout Level \$25,000 +

Ed and Cindy Hikida

Chris LaTour and Sally Patrick

Jesse and Whitney Lowe

Ron and Mary Miller

Steve Millham and Anne-Ferrel Millham

Kim and Jeff Montag

Mark Moorman

Cliff Nowell and Laura Anderson

Marcene and Clay Taylor

David and Susan Wishney

Brook Trout Level 10,000 +

Suann Adams

Tim and Patty Clark

Jim and Vicki Click

Jane and Tom Collins

Daniel and Amanda Conner

Allan Craig

Branch and Helen Craige

Larry and Shelley Green

Timothy Hamill and Emalee Fronson Hamill

Marv Heilesen

Noah and Anne Hoagland

Steven and Brenda Lowe

Randy and Lisa McAllister

John and Cathy Monson

Mark and Mindy Odom

William and Melanie Peche

Mitch and Melissa Rumsey

Philip and Lisa Sawyer

John Skidmore

Allison Smoot

Snake River Cutthroats

Gary and Lesa Stevenson

Sticker Mountain

Jack and Kristen Thomas

Tyler Vaughey and Kate Milliken

Bruce and Roxane Williams

Rick Wojahn



Legacy Society

Gifts through Estate Planning

Dale and Bet Ackels
Eric and Camie Adema
Frank Bell
Garth Blanchard
George Borkow and Marilyn Volpe
Stephen Born
Philip Jay and Wesley Brown
Thomas and Joan Brown
Albert J. Campbell
Jim Carter and Jane Harrison
Gina Dalton
Robert and Kelli Dotson
Tom and Karen Duncan
Henry and Flory Ellis
Bob and Gaye Fields
Jimmy and Milli Gabettas
John and JoAnne Gaynor
Larry and Shelley Green
Gary and Cathy Gross

Bill and Debby Hackett
Dave Hall
Terry and Sue Hall
James Hardie
Tom Henderson
John and Carol Hepworth
Layne and Mary Hepworth
Ed and Cindy Hikida
Brandon Hoffner
Andy Jenkins
Pamela Johnson
Lee and Phyllis King
Mark Klingerman
Fanny Krieger
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David and Sally Long
Jim and Trudy Mann
Scott Marboe
Kim Martin and Mary Maurer-Martin

Richard May
M.R. and Ruth Mickelson, M.D.
Jerry Nielsen
John Okada
Jerry and Robin Pulley
Bruce Raskin and Kathleen Boone
Wim and Lynnae Ray
Tim Reynolds and Patty Isaeff
Ray and Pat Ritari
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Terry and Carolyn Walker
Val Zupsan



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Hyde Drift Boats
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KKR
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Loon Outdoors
LOOP
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Madison Double R
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South Fork Lodge and Outfitters
Sticker Mountain
Stone Meadow Ranch
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Tight Lines Fishing - Jeff Helfrich
TroutHunter
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WorldCast
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A Message from the Board Chair, Doug Siddoway



We rely on a number of metrics to gauge the efficacy of our work on the Henry's Fork and the interconnected watersheds in the Upper Snake River basin. Those of you who read Dr. Rob Van Kirk's daily water report are familiar with most of them—things like snow water equivalent, fill and discharge rates at Island Park Reservoir, macroinvertebrate (aquatic insect) populations, and acre feet of water saved through precision management and the Farms and Fish Program. They are the vital signs that inform us about the health of the river and fishery.

There are other important metrics that are just as vital to our work. It pleases me to report that our Foundation continues to be strong financially. Our unaudited revenue for the twelve-months ended December 31, 2021 was \$2,500,000, which compares favorably to the prior year. The Foundation also continues to hold its expenses in check. Total expenses for 2021 were approximately \$2,250,000, in keeping with the prior year. The 2021 end of year giving was particularly successful, raising a record \$259,000 from 288 members. At September 30, 2020 (our last audit date), the Foundation had total net assets (assets minus liabilities) of \$2,075,779. We expect this year's audited balance sheet will be just as strong.

We have 2,138 members as of the end of 2021, a slight decline from the prior year, but offset by increases in average donations. Life memberships have also increased, from 65 in 2020 to 90 in 2021. Additional financial information will be forthcoming on the website and in a future newsletter once our year end audit is completed. The Foundation is only as strong as the unselfish support of good people like you. The board and staff join me in thanking you for your contributions and look forward to seeing you on the river. 🐟

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