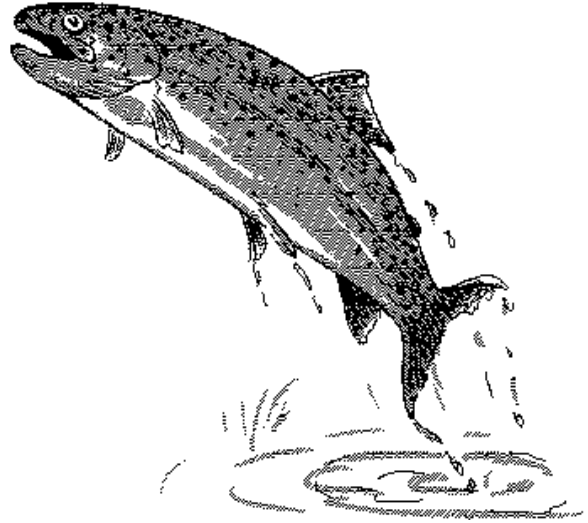


Electric

The Evergreen Trout



September 2001 The Newsletter of the Evergreen Chapter of Trout Unlimited Vol. 19 No. 9

From the Prez,

Just so we can all remember. Today is **Sept. 8**, and there's five inches of snow on the ground in Evergreen, Colorado. Keep in mind, it also snowed here **June 15th** this year, which amounts to less than three months of non - snow season. Bummer! "We can use the moisture," they always say, and it'll probably be 80 degrees again in a couple days. The snow and a good bit of rain this summer have kept Bear Creek's flows up, which is good news after the last couple years' droughts.

After some delays, the huge downtown Hwy. 73/74 project kicked off a couple weeks ago. After a shaky start, the contractor, Tarco, seems to be doing a pretty decent job of mitigating potential erosion/pollution into Bear Creek. Our mini task force is continuing to monitor construction. The initial problems stemmed from Tarco driving their excavator rig into the stream in order to demo the first two buildings. This was after an article in the local paper said they'd be installing stream barriers and silt fencing **before** any work proceeded. Being a builder, I can see that logistically it made sense to proceed as they did. Our initial response is to try to compliment them rather than be too critical and alienate them at this juncture. We could really use their help later, putting the stream back together with some potential improvements. It was interesting to see a couple of their men with huge fish nets grabbing up any stray debris that got loose. It seemed like maybe the steelhead and salmon were back judging by the size of their nets.

Saturday, August 18th, four of our own (Hugh

Gardner, Wayne Kosloske, Marc Masters, and Kevin Teaff) went to Georgetown Lake and helped with the Fishing Fest for Deaf and Hearing Impaired Kids. Approximately 150 kids were instructed and helped to fish for some trout that were really tough to catch. Thanks guys!

This Saturday we'll be helping with the "Splash for Trash" cleanup of Evergreen Lake. Unfortunately, we weren't notified about this until too late to hit last month's newsletter or general meeting. We're hurriedly trying to call a few of the "usual" ETU volunteers. If you are upset at not being contacted, we apologize. Maybe you'd be interested in helping set up a phone tree to help expedite these last minute communications. We've discussed it, but need someone to help set it up. **Please!** For those of you who miss the lake cleanup, we'll be doing our Fall stream cleanup, **Sat. Oct. 13 at 9am**. We plan to meet in downtown Evergreen again, although the "fee parking lot" may cause us to reposition our takeoff point.

We're also organizing some fishing trips, for which we'll have a sign-up sheet at the next meeting.

This month's program, Wednesday, September 19th, promises to be one of the most unusual ever, with ex- federal wildlife agent (and Evergreen resident) Terry Grosz, sharing years of interesting and hair-raising stories with us. You may have seen him on TV or read one of his two books. See you there.

Enjoy the snow,

Rich

The Evergreen Chapter of Trout Unlimited meets the third Wednesday of the month at Evergreen's Sports Grill in the Tanoa Center. Join us for Dinner/Chapter Business at 6:30pm followed by the program at ~7:30pm.

August and September Board Meetings

Attendees: Ron Belak, Randy Huiting, Hugh Gardner, Mike Uhes, Rich Reynolds, John Ellis, Wayne Kosloske, Steve Murray, Tim Haller, Mike Goldblatt, and Karen Chistopherson.

Upcoming Events:

Evergreen Lake "Splash for Trash", the community event involving professional divers removing trash from the bottom of Evergreen Lake, will take place at 10am on Saturday, September 15th. Volunteers are requested to help with removing the trash from shore.

Bear Creek Clean-up will occur on Saturday, October 13th, 2001 at 9am. Meet at the parking lot across from the Little Bear. We will meet for lunch at the Bear afterwards.

Future fishing trips for 2001/2002 were discussed. Possibilities include outings to the Green River, Monster Lake near Cody, Wyoming, several high mountain lakes, and the Big Horn.

Bear Creek:

The board voted 7 to 1 to provide \$1,000 to purchase thermographs and other equipment for monitoring temperature changes on Bear Creek. Last year's low flows and high temperatures killed significant numbers of trout in Bear Creek. Hugh Gardner and Karen Chistopherson are leading an effort to petition the Colorado Water Quality Division to list Bear Creek as thermally impaired. Such listing would then mandate safeguards (such as chillers be installed below major point sources of (thermal) pollution). CTU will be contacted for advice in placing the equipment.

Construction at the Highways 73 and 74 intersection is being monitored for sediment discharges by Mike Goldblatt, Karen Chistopherson, Wayne Kosloske, and Hugh Gardner. After a shaky start, silt barriers appear to be in place and effectively controlling sediment. Monitoring will continue.

Other Matters:

The board also discussed **future fund-raising activities** and decided upon a raffle, instead of an auction. Auctions continue to fall upon the same board members to plan and organize, taking hundreds of hours of their time. A raffle package consisting of rod, reel, and other gear is expected to raise about \$2,000 and will take much less effort.

Help is needed in coordinating our **youth education programs**, such as fly tying at Mt. Evans Outdoor Lab and fishing clinics. Call Rich Reynolds to volunteer.

Ron Belak

The South Platte Protection Plan

Only a decade ago, the South Platte was imperiled by the proposed Two Forks Dam, which would have inundated the river from below its confluence with the North Fork all the way into Cheeseman Canyon. Two Forks was blocked by the Environmental Protection Agency, and following EPA's "veto" the US Forest Service began a study of the river for potential designation under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Designation would provide important protections to the river, including a ban on any future dam-building.

Many water users and local governments opposed Wild and Scenic designation for the South Platte and began a process of developing a local alternative. Anglers, boaters, and conservationists were all invited to participate in developing this local plan. While most of these interests supported the idea of Wild and Scenic designation, such designation requires an act of Congress and the political prospects were questionable. Recognizing this challenge -- and the potential that a local plan could provide some benefits not available through Wild and Scenic designation -- CTU and others participated in the development of the South Platte Protection Plan.

In May, the South Platte Protection Plan was completed and submitted to the US Forest Service for consideration. In July, CTU's board voiced its support for the South Platte Protection Plan as a reasonable compromise among the varied interests on the Wild and Scenic issue. Denver Water also endorsed the Plan. Other water users, governments, and organizations are currently considering whether to support the Plan.

The South Platte Protection Plan and its accompanying Forest Plan Amendment now lie with the US Forest Service, who will make the final decision on whether to adopt the local plan or recommend Wild and Scenic designation. Along with its decision, the Forest Service will prepare a Final Environmental Impact Statement. A final decision will likely be announced at the end of 2001 or in early 2002.

CTU's efforts on the South Platte Protection Plan have been possible thanks to generous support from the General Service Foundation, the Compton Foundation, and REI.

To learn more about the South Platte Protection Plan, you can find numerous links at:

www.cotrout.org/south_platte_protection_plan.htm

CTU Press Release

Kudos...

...to **Jill Haller, Rich Reynolds, and Ron Belak** for their help with the newsletter.

...to **Master Printers Inc. of Evergreen** for copying and folding.

Ed.

Russian River Fish Finally Have a Way Home

T Trout Unlimited was represented at a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Healdsburg Dam Fishway Project on the Russian River, at the invitation of the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors, in Healdsburg, CA, on Friday, August 10th. Forty years ago, the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) approved construction of the fishway at Healdsburg Dam. Since that time, legal and bureaucratic entanglements have prevented its completion. TU now joins with local, state, and federal representatives in applauding the fishway's ability to allow upstream and downstream passage for Russian River salmon and steelhead, which are listed as threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act. The Healdsburg fishway will also allow passage for shad.

The Russian River flows 110 miles from its headwaters north of Ukiah, CA, to Jenner, CA, where the river empties into the Pacific Ocean. The Russian River flows through Sonoma County, one of the largest and fastest growing counties in the state. The Russian River's salmon and steelhead fisheries have substantially declined from their past numbers; historically, tens of thousands of fish returned yearly to the river. Russian River coho salmon stocks are listed as threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act, and are presently in danger of extinction. Today the numbers of wild steelhead in the Russian River is unknown, which is in stark contrast to the river's historical stature as a world-renowned steelhead fishing river.

"By putting the finishing touches on the fishway project, Sonoma County and the City of Healdsburg are lending a much-needed helping hand to these fish that need all the help they can get," said Stan Griffin, leading Russian River advocate, and Trout Unlimited Regional Vice President. "Not only will the project ease salmon and steelhead migration and allow it to happen faster, this fishway now widens the amount of spawning and rearing habitat available."

Available habitat is a precious commodity because of development throughout the Russian River watershed, particularly in its tributaries. The Healdsburg fishway, however, did not come free. Trout Unlimited began urging the CDFG to ensure fish passage at the dam in the late 1980s. The CDFG agreed, but Sonoma County did not. Trout Unlimited (and United Anglers) filed suit in state court in 1987 pursuing passage, because the dam was an artificial barrier that blocked fish movement in violation of Fish and Game Code. The County and the City of Healdsburg legally challenged the grounds for constructing the fishway in the early 1990s.

"Trout Unlimited has remained focused during a lengthy period of legal actions, administrative maneuverings, and funding requests with its eye on one goal -- fish passage at Healdsburg Dam," said Charlton Bonham, staff attorney for TU. "Restoring salmon and steelhead in the Russian River will lead to restored hope for the future of this great fishery and ecosystem."

The fishway is comprised of a ladder that will incorporate thirteen concrete steps or "weirs." The ladder structure will enable fish to migrate the 140-foot wide dam, and the sixteen foot change in elevation between upstream and downstream river levels. The design creates pools at the base of each step so that fish can rest before moving to the next level. An attraction flow released at a water pipe near the ladder's entrance will help fish find the structure.

"I am pleased to attend the ribbon cutting ceremony at the County's invitation," said Stan Griffin. "Although we might not have always seen eye to eye, Trout Unlimited applauds the County's commitment to the future of salmon and steelhead represented by this fishway. We look forward to working collaboratively with all local and state agencies to recover these precious fish."

TU Lines to leaders - September 2001



Suit Ties CO Flow To Diversity

A ccording to conservation groups "as the **Colorado River** flow to the ocean decreases, so does the ecological diversity" in the mighty river's delta, says the Yuma Daily Sun (8/25). Because US water diversions are largely responsible, 8 groups, led by the Center for Biological Diversity and Defenders of Wildlife have filed a lawsuit against 5 federal agencies, charging that they "need to **do more to protect listed species** and restore the ecosystem as required by the ESA." According to the Bureau of Reclamation, the **plight of imperiled species** such as the Colorado Delta clam, totoaba, desert pupfish, Yuma clapper rail, southwestern willow fly-catcher and vaquita porpoise "**isn't their problem.**"

Reprinted from the 8/31/01 issue of GREENLines, from the GrassRoots Environmental Effectiveness Network of The Endangered Species Coalition. To subscribe to this free e-mail service of environmental news, e-mail:

listproc@envirolink.org,

or visit their web site at:

<http://www.defenders.org/grnhome.html>

??? What's Happening ???

September 2001

- 15th (Sa) Splash for Trash - Help Divers with Cleanup
The shores of Evergreen Lake
10:00a
- 19th (W) ETU Chapter Meeting
Evergreen's Sports Grill - 6:30p
Terry Grosz - Tales of a Federal
Undercover Wildlife Agent
If you've read his book Wildlife
Wars, you won't want to miss this
program!
- 29th (Sa) CTU Fall Rendezvous
Colorado Springs
Call the CTU Office for details

October 2001

- 3rd (W) ETU Board Meeting
Rib Crib (Other Side) - 6:30p
- 13th (Sa) Fall Bear Creek Cleanup
Meet in Downtown Evergreen at 9:00a
Lunch at the Little Bear afterwards
- 17th (W) ETU Chapter Meeting
Evergreen's Sports Grill - 6:30p
Program TBA

New Members

Please join me in welcoming Jack Allen, James Bowron, Tim Forbert, Kieth Hall, Tom McNeill, Leslie Platt, Gail Ryan, and Miles Stasica to ETU.

If you need help with a membership problem of any kind, call me and I'll do my best to get it straightened out.

Creel count: 287

Randy Huiting

The Evergreen Trout

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Please feel free to contact any of us if you have any questions or suggestions, or to volunteer for a committee or project.

Editorial Policy

All submissions to the newsletter must be received by the Editor by the **1st Friday of the month**. All items are subject to editing/space limitations. Submissions may be on 3 1/2" disk (**UNFORMATTED ASCII TEXT ONLY, PLEASE**), or e-mailed to: **thaller@pcisys.net**. Your disk will be returned. Articles are copyrighted by the author unless otherwise noted. **All phone numbers are Area Code 303 unless otherwise noted**. For further information, call me at the number above.

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Working to protect America's streams.

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