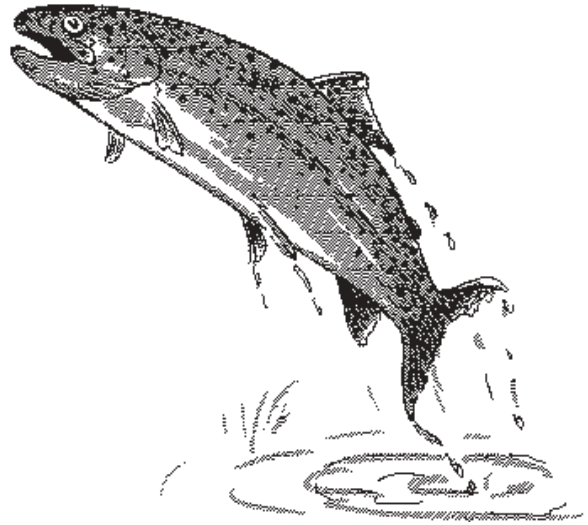


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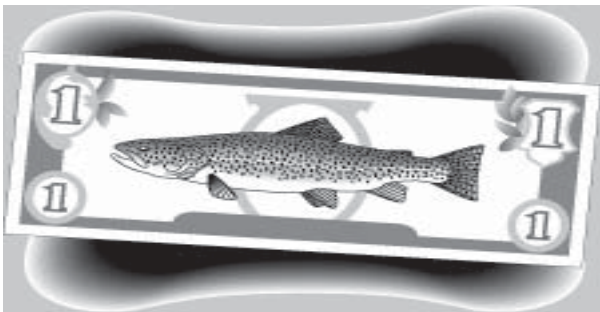
# The Evergreen Trout



May 2004 The Newsletter of the Evergreen Chapter of Trout Unlimited Vol. 22 No. 5

From The Prez,

Well, thank heaven it's over. The big auction that is. The event itself was enjoyable, but the work leading up to it was pretty taxing on a lot of us. Too bad for those of you who missed it. The food and service were both excellent, and the array of merchandise was outstanding, with many items going for attractive prices. We did have some very generous bidders though, who actually bid over retail just to help our cause. Craig Dunham's "Guess The Number Of Trout Fry In The Fish Tank" Contest (a 50 gallon, mirror-lined fish tank full of trout fry, for those who missed it) was probably the most interesting highlight. Thanks go out to all who helped including: the ETU Board, the auction committee, Terry Grosz for his fine program and generous donation, all of the donors/contributors, the bidders/buyers of all the goods, the raffle ticket purchasers, the Hiwan Country Club staff, and many others I'm unintentionally forgetting.



The results were great, and Steve Murray says that the initial figures show that we netted close to \$10,000 -- final figures still to be determined. We have yet to wrap up some final details including: individual thank you letters, a public ad/thank you in the Canyon Courier, etc.

The raffle prize winners were: 1st - the Orvis 4-weight rod outfit went to Hal Garwood, 2nd - the one day guided trip for two on Troublesome Creek went to Sue Goldblatt (I'm guessing Mike may get some use out of that), and 3rd - the signed set of five Terry Grosz books was won by Chip Allen. It was Chip's lucky night, as he won one of the bucket raffles too.

We'll continue to do some fund-raising throughout the next few months, and a John Fielder program is in the works for this Fall, but hopefully nothing as extensive as the auction for quite a while. We have lots of other activities coming up -- check the calendar, or elsewhere in the newsletter. Better yet, come to the next general meeting, Wednesday, May 19th, or the board meeting on Wednesday, May 26th.

**THANKS AGAIN!!!  
TO EVERYONE!!!**

Who supported ETU and Bear Creek.  
Rich

The Evergreen Chapter of Trout Unlimited meets the third Wednesday of the month at the Evergreen Hotel in downtown Evergreen (next to the Little Bear). Join us for Dinner/Chapter Business at 6:30pm followed by the program at ~7:30pm. We look forward to seeing YOU there!

## TU "Jumps" On Federal Salmon Policy

North America's largest trout and salmon organization, Trout Unlimited (TU), today criticized a proposal by the federal government to count hatchery fish in determining whether to protect salmon and steelhead under the Endangered Species Act.

"This policy circumvents the most basic tenets of the Endangered Species Act and effectively lets the federal government off the hook for any responsibility to recover salmon and healthy habitat up and down the West Coast and inland to Idaho," said Jeff Curtis, western conservation director for Trout Unlimited. "Hatchery fish certainly have a role in restoring salmon runs and mitigating some of the damage inflicted by salmon declines, but they have no place in determining federal protections."

Section 2 of the Endangered Species Act states the law's purpose as providing "a means whereby the ecosystems upon which endangered species and threatened species depend may be conserved."

Chris Wood, vice president of conservation for TU, said, "Production of hundreds of millions of hatchery fish reared in plastic buckets and raised in concrete tanks cannot mask the fact that wild salmon need clean water, healthy habitat and rivers that allow them passage to the ocean. The administration's proposal is, at best, an overly simplistic solution to complex ecological problems. At worst, it abuses science and common sense in a cynical effort to get out from under the habitat protection requirements of the Endangered Species Act."

TU Press Release - 4/29/2004

{The opening line of a May 3, 2004 editorial in *The Oregonian* sums it up quite nicely, IMHO. "Concrete is not salmon habitat." - Ed.}

## TU Wins Initial Victory On Black Canyon

Last year, the Department of the Interior agreed to settle its reserved water rights claim for the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park under terms that would provide only a minimum flow of 300 cfs year round -- far less than is needed to maintain a healthy fishery and ecosystem. While some water users and the State of Colorado celebrated the settlement as a great victory, it was a serious blow to those who care about the river. TU and several conservation groups challenged the settlement in federal district court, charging that the agreement with the state violates several provisions of federal law, including the National Park Service's duty to preserve the Black Canyon's unique environment.

The US Department of Justice responded to our federal claims with a motion to dismiss our case. This month the court denied the Justice Department's motion, allowing our case to proceed. This decision is very promising -- we have always felt that our case had great merit and could prevail if it was given the opportunity for a full and fair hearing. We now know that we will indeed get that opportunity.

TU will continue to fight the Interior Department's efforts to negotiate away the public's valuable water rights for the Black Canyon, so that the Gunnison's remarkable fishery is not sacrificed for the sake of ill-advised, out-of-basin diversion projects like Union Park. For more information on our efforts, contact Colorado Water Project staff attorney Drew Peternell at [dpeternell@tu.org](mailto:dpeternell@tu.org).

CTU Currents - April 2004

## The Evergreen Trout

### Introduced Trout Key To Frog Recovery

A new study published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Science has found that "introduced trout have devastated native frog populations over the past 50 years in formerly fish-free high Sierra lakes", says UC Berkeley 5/12/04. The research indicates that the mountain yellow-legged frog, once "one of the most common inhabitants of the high Sierras," is now on the endangered species list but "removing the fish can allow the frogs to flourish once more."

GREENLines - 5/13/2004

### Rarest Trout Recovery Plan Approved

The Forest Service has approved a plan to "restore what wildlife officials call 'the rarest trout in America' to 11 miles of a Sierra Nevada creek after first removing nonnative fish" says the North County Times, AP 5/5/04. The planned use of chemicals to remove the non-native fish prompted a lawsuit "that delayed the process for a year while a federal environmental impact statement was prepared." The new plan would use "a less-damaging formulation of the fish poison Rotenone" to remove non-native fish and restore Paiute cutthroat trout, a reintroduction that the USFWS contends would "also help the rare mountain yellow-legged frog and Yosemite toad."

GREENLines - 5/6/2004

### Recovery Benefits Deleted

The Bush administration "deleted information from a recently released economic analysis of bull trout recovery that showed \$215 million in benefits associated with a healthy bull trout fishery" says the Missoulian 4/15/04. The half-baked analysis "reported only costs" and cut "55 pages extolling the potential benefits of bull trout recovery; a robust sport fishery, reduced drinking water costs, irrigation and in-stream flow benefits, improved quality of life and benefits to other fish species." The USFWS Denver office, "could not explain the decision" and said, "The removal was a policy decision made at the Washington level."

GREENLines - 4/16/2004

GREENLines is produced by the GrassRoots Environmental Effectiveness Network of The Endangered Species Coalition. To subscribe to this free e-mail service of environmental news, visit their web site at: <http://www.defenders.org/grnhome.html>



### Kudos...

...to Rich Reynolds, Jill Haller, and Randy Huiting for their help with the newsletter.

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

Ed.

## The Evergreen Trout

### 2004 CTU Awards

At the 2004 Spring Rendezvous, CTU held its annual Awards Banquet and honored two long-standing contributors to trout conservation, Division of Wildlife biologist Rod Van Velson and Denver Post outdoor writer Charlie Meyers.

Rod Van Velson was selected as the 2004 Trout Conservation Award winner, in recognition of his contributions throughout his career to habitat conservation. Through the Division of Wildlife's aquatic research program, Rod has been the driving force behind an ongoing program for stream habitat restoration -- including extensive work on public waters in South Park and partnership with TU for work on the upper South Fork South Platte. He also has helped build a remarkable partnership with the Corrections Department to use inmate labor in stream improvement projects -- helping Colorado's fisheries and giving valuable skills that the prisoners can apply professionally after their release. The result has been healthier rivers and a near-zero recidivism rate among the prison workers trained under Rod's program.

Charlie Meyers received the 2004 Trout Communications Award. While Charlie has been a long-time voice on trout angling issues, the past year has been a true high point. His columns included features educating anglers about the effects of the Hayman Fire on the South Platte, TU's Cheesman Canyon Project, the impacts of drought, and the threat of State Park closures due to budget shortfalls. He has helped shine a spotlight on a number of issues, including the Shoshone power plant silt flush, bison grazing on the South Fork South Platte, and depleted flows in the upper Blue River. Most notably, he offered extensive and hard-hitting coverage of the Department of Natural Resource Core Mission Project, which many feared would lead to a weakened Division of Wildlife under ever-greater political control -- and with a percentage of all new license fee dollars diverted to a private contractor as payment for their work on the Core Mission Project. Charlie covered the issue with integrity and courage.

CTU also recognized outstanding achievements from chapters and individuals within Trout Unlimited. Chapters recognized as "Exemplary Chapters" included the revitalized Boulder Chapter which has established an outstanding youth program with Boulder schools; the Cheyenne Mountain Chapter which doubled its volunteer work days on conservation and education projects; the Cutthroat Chapter which spearheaded the Cheesman Canyon Restoration Project; and the Ferdinand Hayden Chapter which organizes the state's premier river cleanup event, the Roaring Fork Cleanup. Other award winners were:

Outstanding Chapter Communications: Boulder Flycasters, Cutthroat, Gunnison Gorge

Exemplary Youth Education Programs: Boulder Flycasters

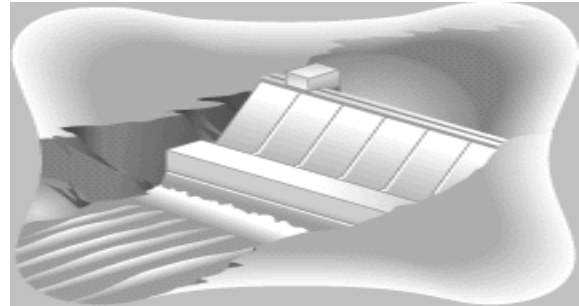
Exemplary Project: Five Rivers (Dolores River Restoration Project); Gore Range (Blue River Restoration Project); San Luis Valley (Beaver Creek Whirling Disease Rehabilitation Project)

Outstanding Volunteer: Jim Crawford (Cutthroat), Tim Haller (Evergreen), Marty Jones (San Luis Valley), Larry Quilling (Boulder), John Trammell (Grand Valley Anglers)

The Silver Trout Foundation also announced winners of the annual Silver Trout Award, recognizing lifetime contributions to the cause of trout conservation in Colorado. The Foundation presented an unprecedented three Silver Trout Awards to recognize the remarkable contributions over the years of Bob Bush, Steve Craig, and Ken McClatchy.

Congratulations to all of the award winners, and thank you for your dedication to TU!

CTU Currents - April 2004



### Bypass Flows Case Decided

Trout Unlimited (TU) applauded a decision by a federal court in Wyoming, which ruled that the US Forest Service has not only the authority, but also the duty, to minimize harm to fish and wildlife when issuing or re-issuing a permit for dams and diversions on federal lands.

Trout Unlimited filed the case almost 10 years ago after the Forest Service failed to require the owner of Long Draw Reservoir on La Poudre Pass Creek to release some water from the dam to maintain the downstream fishery. La Poudre Pass Creek forms the border of Rocky Mountain National Park and flows into the Cache La Poudre River in the section that is designated as a scenic river under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

Based on a review of the information before the Forest Supervisor at the time, the judge ruled that the failure to impose a "bypass flow" was arbitrary and capricious.

"This is a significant victory for Colorado's rivers and fisheries," said Melinda Kassen, Director of the Colorado Water Project for Trout Unlimited.

Trout Unlimited argued that the Forest Service has a responsibility under federal law to protect aquatic species, and when water developers on federal lands will not voluntarily leave some water instream, the agency must require minimum flows.

David Nickum, Executive Director of Colorado Trout Unlimited, a co-plaintiff in the case, added, "We hope now that this ruling will silence those who have asserted that the Forest Service does not have the authority to protect rivers on National Forest lands."

"While this decision reinforces the fundamental responsibility of federal agencies to protect fish and wildlife on public lands," said Charles Gauvin, TU President, "it also should reinforce to all concerned parties that they can avoid reaching crises on water issues by collaborating on ways to ensure healthy rivers and vibrant rural economies."

Trout Unlimited expects either the federal government or its allies in the case, including the State of Colorado and some water rights holders, to appeal.

CTU Press Release - 5/3/2004



??? What's Happening ???

May 2004

- 19th (W) ETU Chapter Meeting  
Evergreen Hotel - 6:30p  
Shilo Mathill - Fishing the North Platte  
and Encampment Rivers
- 26th (W) ETU Board Meeting  
Call Rich for location - 6:30p
- 28th (F) ETU FREE fishing day at Buchanan Ponds  
Sign in at the new Rec Center.
- 29th (Sa) Trappers Lake "Ice Out" trip  
Call Peggy Linn for info

June 2004

- 16th (W) ETU Chapter Meeting  
Evergreen Hotel - 6:30p  
Program TBA
- 23rd (W) ETU Board Meeting  
Call Rich for location - 6:30p
- 28th (F) ETU FREE fishing day at Buchanan Ponds  
Sign in at the new Rec Center.
- 26th (Sa) Camp Comfort  
Easter Seals Camp near Georgetown.  
Volunteers needed! Contact Rich, John, or  
Randy if you can help.

New Members

Please join me in welcoming **Brian Eaton, Roy Arcuri, Louis Wilson, Steven Brown, Meredith David, Les Lindauer, and Wil Leochner** 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: 315

Randy Huiting

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CTU Office	Various nice folks	440-2937

On the web - [www.tu.org](http://www.tu.org); [www.cotrout.org](http://www.cotrout.org); [www.evergreentroutrout.org](http://www.evergreentroutrout.org)  
Contact any of us with questions, suggestions, or spare time.

Editorial Policy

All submissions to the newsletter must be received by the Editor by the **1st Friday of the month**. Submissions may be on 3 1/2" disc or e-mailed. All items are subject to editing/space limitations. Articles are copyrighted by the author unless otherwise noted. **All phone numbers are Area Code 303 unless otherwise noted.** Call me for additional information.

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2000 Outstanding Youth Education Program Award



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