

Friends of the Teton River

water lines

Spring 2010

Working together for clean water, healthy streams and abundant fisheries

*Celebrating ten years of conservation
and our future as a “Model Watershed”*

Artwork by Dan Burr



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

John Siverd, *President*
 Kay McIlroy, *Vice President*
 Tim Watters, *Treasurer*
 Eric Spitzer, *Secretary*
 Mo Brown
 Dan Burr
 Tom Fenger
 Jim Reinertsen
 Bruce Smithhammer
 Linda Unland
 Diane Temple
 Diane Murphy
 Rich Berg
 Derek Hutton
 Kim Keeley

ADVISORY BOARD

Greater Yellowstone Coalition
 High Country Resource & Development
 Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts
 Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
 Idaho Department of Fish & Game
 Idaho National Laboratory
 Idaho Rivers United
 Idaho State University
 Intermountain Aquatics
 Natural Resources Conservation Service
 Teton Conservation District, WY
 Teton County Planning & Zoning Commission
 Teton County Planning Department
 Teton Soil Conservation District
 Trout Unlimited, Teton Valley Chapter
 U.S. Bureau of Land Management
 U.S. Forest Service, Caribou-Targhee National Forest
 U.S. Geological Survey

STAFF

Lyn Benjamin, *Executive Director*
 Anna Lindstedt, *Development Director*
 Amy Verbeten,
Education & Outreach Director
 Mike Lien, *Restoration Director*
 Sarah Rupp,
Streamflow Restoration Director
 Megan Hatch,
Development and Outreach Associate

Newsletter design by
 Powder Mountain Press LLC
www.powdermountainpress.com

18 N. Main St. Suite 310
 PO Box 768
 Driggs, ID 83422
 (208) 354-3871
info@tetonwater.org
www.tetonwater.org

Welcome to our spring 2010 issue of *Water Lines!*

Please join us this summer to celebrate Friends of the Teton River's tenth birthday! It's hard to believe it was ten years ago that Katie Salsbury, Barbara Morey, and Susie Work organized FTR's first Annual River Party; many of the supporters who came to that first gathering are still an active part of FTR. In June 2001 none of us would have dreamt that the organization would grow the way it has. It is thanks to all of your support that Teton Valley's streams are in better shape than they've been in a long time.

Looking back over the past ten years, it is so exciting to see how much effort has gone into restoring Teton Valley waterways and streambanks. Incredible stream restoration projects have taken place on Teton, Fox, South Leigh, Trail, and Badger creeks and the Teton River. Phenomenal partnerships and collaboration with private landowners; with other nonprofit organizations like Trout Unlimited, Teton Regional Land Trust, and Ducks Unlimited; with restoration firms like Intermountain Aquatics, Biota, Confluence, Scott Gillilan, and Mainstream Inc; and with the government agencies that have facilitated these projects. The results are cleaner water, healthier riparian vegetation, and higher quality fish and wildlife habitat.

Looking forward to the next ten years, FTR is proud to report that, as a result of hard work and an engaged community, the Bonneville Environmental Foundation has designated the upper Teton a "Model Watershed" and committed ten years of funding and technical support to FTR to continue and expand our work. We are thrilled to celebrate our tenth anniversary with this ten-year vote of confidence!

This summer we're launching two important new initiatives. First, we will be

establishing a rigorous biological monitoring program to assess the efficacy of stream and flow restoration efforts and provide a scientific basis for designing future restoration strategies (read more about this program on page 7). Second, in partnership with the cities of Driggs and Victor, we will be kicking off the "WaterSmart Teton Valley" water conservation campaign.

As we move into the second decade of the twenty-first century, we recognize that clean, fresh water is perhaps the world's most limited resource; closer to home, we are currently experiencing the third lowest snowpack (snow water equivalent) on record. We believe that simple conservation measures like those described on the back page of this newsletter will go a long way in helping limited supplies of water last longer and meet our diverse needs.

One final piece of good news is the recent announcement by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

to broaden what has been called the Teton Dam feasibility study into an assessment of storage, conservation, and efficiency alternatives in the upper Henry's Fork Basin. They are currently looking for individuals to be involved in working groups. For more information go to www.usbr.gov/pn/programs/studies/idaho/henrysfork/index.html.

We hope you'll all come down to the Teton River on July 10th to dance to Ben Winship and friends, and help us celebrate a decade of restoring the Teton Watershed. We also hope to see you this summer at some of Teton Valley's other wonderful social events, on the river, and/or at the FTR office.

Thank you so much for ten years of support, and we hope that you will join us for the next ten.

Lyn Benjamin

Lyn Benjamin



Tom Fenger and Dr. John Short have been key players in FTR's success over the past ten years; a recent commitment from John leads us into the next decade (see p. 7).

Please join us this summer for one or more of these events!

Waterwise Landscaping Seminar

Wednesdays, June 30, July 7, July 14, and July 21
 5-7 PM

Create your own water-wise landscape plan in this hands-on class, which will include classroom sessions, visits to local nurseries, and tours of successful local xeriscape projects. Space is limited, so please sign up in advance. The \$20 fee covers text and materials.

Wildflower Walk

Wednesday, June 23
 8:30-11:30 AM

Take a leisurely walk and celebrate early season wildflowers as you explore a little-known area of the Teton Watershed. The focus of the walk will be wildflower identification and watershed study. Appropriate for all ages.

10th Annual River Party & Adventure Auction

Saturday, July 10

5 PM to Sunset

Join Friends of the Teton River for an evening of food, music, and fun with friends by the beautiful Teton River. Bid on silent and live auction items, fishing trips, artwork, and more! This event is always a summertime family favorite, and "river folk" of all ages will be there. Tickets available in advance or at the door.



FTR staff paddle through the Teton River Canyon, late summer 2009.

Tin Cup Challenge

Saturday, July 17

Help Teton Valley nonprofits raise money! Donations will be matched by a pool of Community Challengers and Friends of the Match funds, enhancing the impact of every donation. A celebration of giving, and a run/walk event for all ages and abilities, will take place in the Driggs City Park on July 17.

Teton River Natural History Float

Wednesday, August 4
 3:30 PM

Gain a new perspective on the ecology and hydrology of the Teton River as you enjoy a leisurely evening float. Participants must provide their own watercraft or share with a friend. Appropriate for all ages.



Patagonia's founder Yvon Chouinard fishes in the Teton Canyon.

Full Moon Float

Tuesday, August 24

Potluck begins at 6:00 PM

Back by popular demand! Join Friends of the Teton River for our annual Full Moon Float and Potluck Dinner. Participants must provide their own watercraft or share with a friend. Appropriate for all ages.

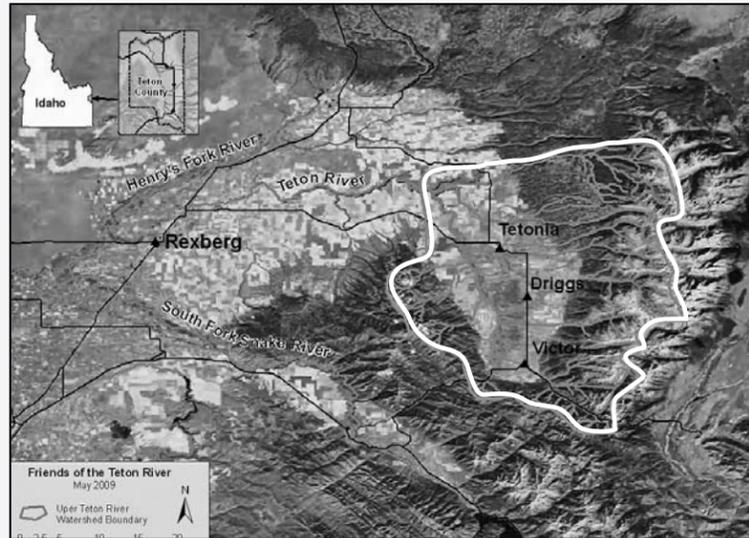
Birds and Fall Colors Float

Friday, September 17

7:30 AM-Noon

Enjoy an early-morning float down the Teton River, with colorful fall foliage providing a brilliant backdrop for the valley's migrating birds. Participants must provide their own watercraft or share with a friend. Appropriate for all ages.

Unless otherwise noted, all events are free for FTR members. For more information or to RSVP to any of these events, visit our website, www.tetonwater.org, or call the office at (208) 354-3871.



Left: The upper Teton watershed is the newest addition to BEF's Model Watershed program. Right & Bottom: Model Watershed funding and support will allow FTR to develop a long-term monitoring program.

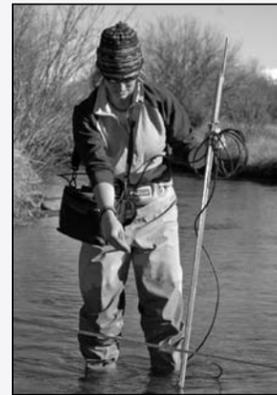
Building a Model Watershed

By Amy Verbeten, *Education and Outreach Director*

As we at Friends of the Teton River enter our second decade of protecting clean water, healthy streams, and abundant fisheries in the Teton Watershed, we are proud to announce that we are doing so with the support of a strong partner. The Bonneville Environmental Foundation (BEF) has conferred upon FTR its prestigious Model Watershed designation. This honor brings with it a ten-year commitment of funding worth over \$300,000, in addition to scientific and technical support from some of the field's top researchers. FTR looks forward to the next decade of working together with BEF and our community members to create and maintain a truly model watershed.

Who is BEF?

Founded in Portland, Oregon, in 1998, BEF is an entrepreneurial, nonprofit organization with a mission to transform the relationship between humans and the earth's energy and water resources. Toward this end, BEF supports the development of renewable energy and watershed restoration while empowering people to shrink their carbon footprint. Instrumental in the development of the carbon offset market, BEF generates revenue through the sale of green power and carbon offsets. Individuals and organizations voluntarily choosing to offset their business or personal carbon emissions purchase BEF Carbon Offsets. Revenue from these sales is used to fund the development of new renewable energy facilities, as well as to support BEF's Model Watershed and Solar 4R Schools programs.



Watershed restoration has been an important part of BEF's mission from the beginning. Shortly after receiving start-up funding in 1999, and making their first green-power sales, BEF selected their first watershed restoration projects in Washington and Oregon. Since that time, BEF has committed over \$1.6 million to support community-based initiatives that improve water quality, restore habitat, and bolster native trout and salmon populations throughout the Northwest.

Recently, BEF has broken new ground in the water restoration field. Expanding on the Carbon Offset model, BEF's first-of-its-kind Water Restoration Certificate allows businesses and individuals to offset the effects of their water consumption. Each BEF Water Restoration Certificate represents a thousand gallons of water. Revenue generated from Water Restoration Certificate sales is used to provide economic incentives for water-rights holders to leave this same amount of water in streams.

What is a Model Watershed?

In 1999, BEF designed a program that endeavored to promote restoration on a whole-watershed scale, rather than funding small

projects aimed at restoring only small segments of streams. In 2004, BEF performed a review of their grant program, seeking to determine whether they had been effective in promoting accountable, scientific watershed-scale restoration. Their findings were surprising. BEF found that the short funding period of their

grants (typically one to two years) meant that the vast majority of the funding was allotted to on-the-ground project implementation. Not surprisingly, without funding, a majority of the programs reviewed by BEF failed to track the ecological results of their projects, and to establish the feedback loops necessary for improving future restoration strategies.

As a result of their research findings, BEF determined that it was necessary to restructure their entire granting program. Thus began the Model Watershed Program. Rather than soliciting proposals for individual restoration projects and providing short-term funding on a one- to two-year basis, BEF began seeking established watershed groups with strong foundations of community support. Following a rigorous selection process, BEF established a ten-year commitment with the few groups that met their selection criteria. These Model Watershed groups enter into a long-term partnership with BEF, which provides funding not only for on-the-ground restoration, but for the previously missing links: long-term monitoring and evaluation, scientific consultation and oversight, and independent peer review of project effectiveness.

What does the Model Watershed partnership mean for Teton Valley?

The Teton Watershed was selected as the newest addition to the Model Watershed program because of the ecological importance of the Teton River and its tributaries, the opportunities for significant positive outcomes, and existing work that is being done by FTR. "FTR is an ideal partner for demonstrating the positive impact of Model Watershed projects," said Todd Reeve, Vice President of Watershed Programs for BEF.

Over the course of the past ten years, FTR has focused extensively on building baseline knowledge of the unique conditions and requirements of the Teton Basin habitat, while fostering positive relationships with our local community. Combined, these have enabled us to establish clear, achievable restoration goals, and to make a great deal of progress in working with the community to restore clean water, healthy streams, and abundant fisheries on a watershed scale.

Throughout this time period, however, there has been a significant missing piece in our work. Funding and staff capacity have limited our ability to do the rigorous post-project monitoring that would help us determine whether our restoration efforts have been successful, and to adapt our approach as we learn from our experience. Thanks to FTR's newly forged partnership with BEF, over the next ten years we will at last be able

to establish a credible, scientifically based, peer-reviewed monitoring program. This will allow us to answer questions we have been asking ourselves during our first ten years, such as: Have our restoration efforts been the best possible way to improve Yellowstone cutthroat trout habitat in the Teton Watershed? Have our



FTR's strong foundation of community support played an instrumental role in our selection as a Model Watershed.

projects resulted in a measurable increase in Yellowstone cutthroat trout populations? What can we do to make our restoration efforts even more effective? The answers to these questions will permit us to assess the effectiveness of our restoration strategies, adjust or validate our approach, provide increased accountability to donors and community stakeholders, and ensure appropriate use of limited resources.

The Model Watershed project will complement FTR's current efforts to restore habitat, reconnect tributaries that have been dewatered, foster the recovery of Yellowstone cutthroat trout populations, educate children and adults on the importance of watershed health, and develop community-based programs to promote water conservation. "We are grateful for the opportunity to work with the Bonneville Environmental Foundation," said Lyn Benjamin, FTR Executive Director. "By investing significant time and resources in our organization, BEF is truly contributing to the local economy and a bright future for our watershed."

We look forward to working with you, our members, to continue the work we've begun in our first ten years, and to create a truly model watershed here in Teton Valley.

For more information on the Bonneville Environmental Foundation, visit www.b-e-f.org

Education Update

By Amy Verbeten, *Education and Outreach Director*

With a theme of "Building Bridges in the Teton Watershed," this past winter's popular Water Wise community education series showcased the benefits we all can enjoy when we work together for water. The series began in November, with the executive directors of FTR and the Teton Regional Land Trust delivering a presentation entitled, *Working Together for Land and Water*. In December, Trout Unlimited's Peter Anderson offered up *Healthy Farms, Healthy Streams*, which detailed federal programs that help agricultural irrigators receive financial incentives for keeping water in streams. And in January, Teton Valley adults tested their watershed-science knowledge against that of Teton County School District #401 students by playing *Are You Smarter than a 5th Grader?*

In March, FTR joined together with the Teton Arts Council to showcase water-related photography, poetry, painting, prose, and music at the *Art of Water*, which drew record crowds. In April, in a partnership involving FTR, the University of Idaho Teton County Extension, Teton Soil Conservation District, and the University of Idaho Jefferson County Extension, local residents learned about *Weed Identification and Control*. The series cul-

minates in June and July, with a four-session *Waterwise Landscaping* seminar, in which participants will create their own plans for a water-efficient yard and garden.

We are grateful to the Targhee Protect Our Winters Foundation for sponsoring this year's Waterwise Series.

In other exciting Education news, this spring will see the initiation of the first public water conservation education campaign in the Teton region. The large-scale, multi-year WaterSmart Teton Valley program is designed to increase stewardship of water resources by offering high-quality water conservation education to community members of all ages. The poster depicted on the back page of this newsletter will be delivered to all city water customers in Driggs and Victor this spring. We encourage you to hang this poster in a visible place, and take a few simple steps to become a WaterSmart Teton Valley resident!

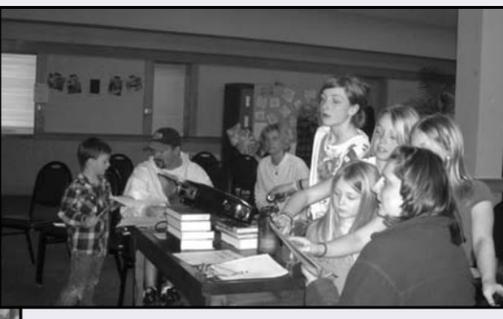
Many thanks to the cities of Victor and Driggs, and to 1% for the Tetons, the Laird Norton Family Foundation, and the Sand County Foundation Bradley Fund for the Environment for their support of this new program.



Kindergarten teacher Rachel Bates shares her students' work at the Jan 20 Water Wise Event.



FTR Board Member Tim Watters learns about water quality testing from Teton High School student Riley Olsen.



Participants in the Jan 20 Water Wise event find out whether they really are smarter than students in Sara Stevens' 5th grade class.



Riley Olsen, a student in Dan Romano's Environmental Science Class at Teton High School, shares knowledge with participants in the Jan 20 Water Wise event.



A young participant in the January 20 Water Wise event learn about the aquifer that supplies Teton Valley's drinking water.

Biological Monitoring: Are we really doing what we think we're doing?

By Amy Verbeten, *Education and Outreach Director*

Thanks to support from the Bonneville Environmental Foundation (BEF), this summer marks the beginning of an exciting new approach to research at FTR. Over the next ten years, we will be engaged in a biological monitoring program designed to rigorously test the effects of our first ten years of watershed restoration, and to gather information that will allow us to modify our approach to restoration so that it becomes even more effective.

The Missing Link

Scientific research has served as the basis of FTR's work since our inception. In our first five years of operation, we gathered important data about baseline trout populations, water quality, and stream habitat conditions. During the subsequent five years, we developed a watershed restoration program based directly on this research, and implemented many important projects, from stream-bank stabilization to fish-passage restoration.

Funding and staffing constraints, however, have limited our capacity to gather the post-project data necessary to determine whether this restoration work has been effective in meeting the specific ecological outcomes it was designed to produce.

As discussed in the article on page 4 & 5, FTR is not alone in our struggle to secure funding for long-term project evaluation and monitoring. After finding that this is a pervasive issue in the field of watershed restoration, the BEF created the Model Watershed Program. Thanks to FTR's participation in the program, we are now receiving long-term funding and technical support to design and implement a biological monitoring program over the next ten years.

What is biological monitoring?

Biological monitoring is the use of indicator organisms to assess changes in the environment. The presence, condition, and numbers of different types of aquatic life can provide important information about the health of a river or stream. When similar measurements are taken in numerous streams and rivers, the cumulative information can be used to assess the health of an entire watershed.

In the case of FTR, biological monitoring will help us answer some important questions about our stream restoration work, including: "Has habitat and flow restora-

tion improved water quality and cutthroat trout populations?" Yellowstone cutthroat trout (YCT) will be used as an indicator species to assess whether our restoration efforts have improved the watershed. FTR is working closely with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, the state and federal agencies to design this Trout Population Monitoring Program. Monitoring will focus primarily on tributary streams where bank, channel, and flow restoration is taking place.

This Trout Population Monitoring Program will include annual electrofishing surveys in the upper, middle, and lower sections of tributary streams, which will help us assess YCT populations, FTR's Fish Survey Crew will also install PIT (passive integrated transponder) tags in individual fish, and install PIT tag readers at selected points on tributary streams. PIT tags provide a unique identifying number for each tagged fish. Having a large number of PIT-tagged fish will help provide a long-term understanding of YCT migration patterns, as well as important information about whether fish are spawning, hatching, and surviving to adulthood in each of our tributary streams.



When combined with physical monitoring criteria—such as site-specific water-quality monitoring, and pre- and post-project physical characterization of stream channels, banks, and riparian areas—biological monitoring will provide vital information for our organization. It will allow us to use our limited resources more effectively, and provide the means to be even more accountable to our members and funders.

It will allow us to use our limited resources more effectively, and provide the means to be even more accountable to our members and funders.

FTR is grateful to BEF for providing the resources and support necessary to make this vital addition to our work.

Many thanks to Dr. John Short, a long time contributor to FTR's research and restoration program, who recently added his support to our monitoring efforts. John has committed funding for three years to establish PIT tag interrogation sites on major Teton River tributaries. John's donation will be used to leverage grant funding and increase the efficacy of biological monitoring efforts in the Teton Basin. Since 2004 John's contributions to FTR have ensured that sound science has guided fishery restoration; with his recent commitment this legacy continues.

FTR Welcomes New Streamflow Restoration Program Director

FTR would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to Ty Mack for his hard work in creating the vision and direction for the Stream Flow Restoration program. Ty served as the inaugural director of the program since its inception in 2008. He is leaving to become a baker and co-owner of the new 460 Bread company in Driggs. Although we're sad to see Ty go, we are very pleased to welcome Sarah Rupp, who will serve as our new Streamflow Restoration Director.

Sarah was born and raised in Durango, Colorado, a town nestled deep in the heart of the San Juan Mountains, where the importance of water, and the role it plays in a mountain community, was ingrained in her from a young age. After earning a B.S. in Biology from Colorado College and a B.A. in Business Administration from Fort Lewis College, Sarah attended law school at Lewis and Clark Law School in Portland, Oregon, graduating in 2007. During the ensuing years she practiced law with a firm in Montana, working primarily out of the firm's Dillon office, where she represented a variety of clients in trans-

actional, administrative, and litigation matters. A large portion of Sarah's practice was devoted to the mediation and litigation of water right matters before the Montana Water Court and Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, as well as assisting clients with various stages of the state-wide water adjudication process.

Having been introduced to the grandeur and beauty of the Tetons earlier during a college ecology course, Sarah is excited to make Teton Valley her home. She spends her free time backcountry skiing and trail running, and can rarely be found without her faithful canine companions by her side.



Megan Hatch joins the Development Team



Megan Hatch joined the FTR staff as our new Development and Outreach Associate in December. Involved with FTR since her internship back in 2004, Megan has a passion for science and education that she is eager to apply to the mission of FTR. She has a B.S. in Zoology and Physiology from the University of Wyoming. After completing her bachelor's degree, she attended the Teton Science School in Kelly, Wyoming, and the University of Wyoming in 2008, to receive a dual master's degree in Natural Science and Environmental and Natural Resources. Megan loves spending time outdoors, whether it is hiking, floating, cross-country skiing, or camping. She also enjoys sharing her knowledge—from that of animal signs to wildflowers and geological formations—with any willing adventurer.

FTR and TRLT Partner to Sponsor a Summer AmeriCorps Member



This summer, AmeriCorps member **Andy Steinfeldt** will be assisting both FTR and the Teton Regional Land Trust (TRLT) with on-the-ground research and monitoring work. Andy will spend June and July assisting the stewardship department at TRLT with field surveys to collect natural resource information including vegetation type and wildlife use, ecological monitoring, restoration projects, and various land management/stewardship activities. He will also assist with stewardship database input and file maintenance.

In mid-July, Andy will join FTR's Fisheries Research team, collecting trout population data throughout the Teton Watershed, from the main stem of the Teton to the headwater tributaries. Andy is part of the Mobile Environmental Education Corps (MEEC), a team of fifteen environmental educators who each receive nine months of training in teaching, ecology, and leadership through the University of Idaho's McCall Outdoor Science School. This challenging and rewarding experience

prepares MEEC members for work in the environmental education and conservation fields. Following their nine months of training, MEEC members are placed with nonprofit and government agencies throughout Idaho, where they apply their training through work on conservation and environmental education projects. MEEC is made possible by an AmeriCorps grant through Serve Idaho, the Governor's Commission on Service, and is administered through the Palouse-Clearwater Environmental Institute's AmeriCorps Member Placement Program. For more information on AmeriCorps programs in Idaho, visit www.pcei.org.

Help FTR Welcome Our Summer Field Staff!

Each year, FTR's staff grows with the addition of summer interns, who assist with on-the-ground research and monitoring work. This summer will be a particularly busy one for FTR's field crews, as we host a team of six seasonal field staff. This group of interns, graduate students, and volunteers will play vital roles in collecting data ranging from streamflows to fish populations to residential irrigation water use. Please help us in welcoming each of our summer employees:

Anna Dwinnell will be FTR's seasonal Hydrology Technician. Anna is a student at the University of Minnesota studying Fisheries and Wildlife. Her primary job at FTR will be collecting flow information in streams, irrigation diversions, and Teton River tributaries, and providing this information to the local Deputy Watermaster.

Ben Davis, James Fraser, and Andy Steinfeldt will make up FTR's summer Fisheries Monitoring Crew. Ben, who will serve as the crew leader, is a student at Boise State University and worked as a high school intern in 2005 when FTR conducted our baseline Fisheries Monitoring study. James, an Environmental Studies Major at the University of Oregon, has previous experience working on an electroshocking crew with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. Andy an AmeriCorps member profiled on page 8 of this newsletter, has spent the past nine months training at the Palouse-Clearwater Environmental Institute. The Fisheries Monitoring Crew will spend the summer collecting trout population data throughout the Teton Watershed, from the main stem of the Teton to the headwater tributaries. Please see related article on page 7.

Riley Olsen will serve as FTR's summer high school intern. Currently a junior at Teton High School, Riley will assist Anna Dwinnell with hydrology data collection during the first half of the summer, and then join the Fisheries Monitoring Crew for the second half of the summer.

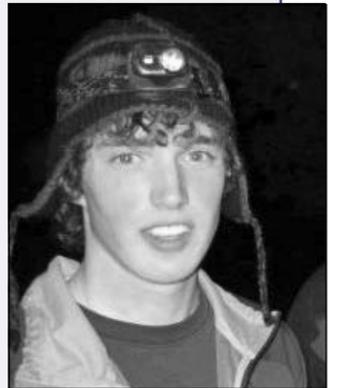
Lora Liegel will return for her second summer in Teton Valley. A graduate student from Humboldt State University in California, Lora is entering the second year of a three-year USDA-funded project. This summer, she'll examine land-use changes, demographic shifts, and water-use patterns throughout the broader Henry's Fork Watershed (of which the Teton is a sub-watershed). Part of her work will include quantifying the amount of irrigated agricultural land changing to non-agriculture uses, such as subdivisions and other types of housing developments. Lora will also be examining water rights and water rights transfers over time, and conducting in-depth stakeholder interviews to investigate factors affecting water use and management on/near developed lands.



Anna



Ben



James



Riley



Lora



Dear Friends, Members, and Supporters,

Looking through the pages of newsletters past, I find many articles reporting watershed science news, restoration and fisheries project accomplishments, the addition of staff members, and financial standings. However, what strikes me most are the pictures and mentions of you, our members and other supporters, throughout the past decade. I see you in photos of our annual summer picnic, school field trips, irrigators' meetings, public forums, and volunteer crews pulling weeds or planting willows in gloves and galoshes. And I see yours listed among the names of community members and others who've made us a part of their annual giving.

What is most evident is that *your* contributions and support have been at the heart of this organization from the beginning!

FTR began as a group of concerned citizens—anglers, irrigators, conservationists, scientists—who wanted to understand the declines in the quality and quantity of their water resources and affect positive change so that future generations can enjoy a healthy watershed. This small group of people, who came together ten years ago, is symbolic of the greater community of watershed stakeholders that exists today.

Thanks to your commitment, we have grown into an organization that has received funding and recognition for our work on a regional and national scale, but we still need *your* help.

Here are the top three ways to make your donation count in 2010:

1) Contribute to the Teton Creek Restoration Project

Our work on Teton Creek gained recognition by appearing on the 2009 "10 Waters to Watch" list compiled by the National Fish Habitat Action Plan. The project is now in Phase 2 of a \$1.7 million restoration effort. FTR has received several large federal grants (and is applying for others) to complete this project, but the federal money must be matched with private funds. The FTR Board of Directors has created a matching-fund for the restoration work on Teton Creek and is challenging YOU to match their personal contributions to this project.

2) Participate in the Tin Cup Challenge

The Tin Cup Challenge offers a unique opportunity for your donation to be matched by a pool of Community Foundation of Teton Valley donors, making it FTR's single largest fundraising event of the year. Tin Cup Challenge donations represent 45 percent of the total annual individual giving to FTR. Contributions are accepted beginning May 15, and must be received no later than July 24, 2010. To make your donation online, visit www.cftetonvalley.org and select FTR as the recipient of your contribution.



3) Become a part of our "Model Watershed"

As we enter the next decade, we are grateful to have a ten-year funding commitment from the Bonneville Environmental Foundation, which has designated the Teton Basin as one of only seven "Model Watersheds" in the country. This foundation has made a long-term investment in our watershed, and we hope you will too. Please pledge your support for the future, by making a donation today.



Your donation, whether it's \$50 or \$5,000, doesn't stand alone, but is a part of a community effort—matched by regional and national partners—to restore the beautiful and ecologically important Teton Watershed. We sincerely thank you for a decade of support and look forward to a bright future with you and our many other friends.

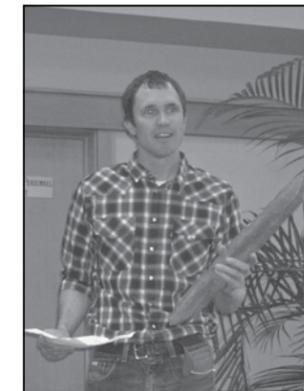
Sincerely,

Anna Lindstedt, Development Director

Anna's Adventures

| Winter 2010 |

After a three-month hiatus from FTR, which she spent in the Chilean Patagonia, Development Director Anna Lindstedt is back at her post here in Teton Valley. It wasn't all vacation for this avid fly fisherwoman, who was living in a very rural location and working part-time. Anna says her favorite things about the experience included the incredibly vast and dramatic landscape of Patagonia, the open-hearted Chilean people, the opportunity it gave her to improve her Spanish language skills, drinking the tea-like beverage maté, learning the ways of the campo (the countryside) from the gauchos (cowboys), and, of course, catching HUGE brown trout on her fly rod.



The Art of Water

| March 2010 |

FTR would like to extend a huge thanks to all of those who helped make the *Art of Water* celebration, held on March 24, such a huge success. Laughter, dancing, and lots of grins filled the room while we came together to celebrate two of our valleys most precious resources: fresh water and creative minds. Thanks to the generosity of local artists, we were able to showcase many fabulous works of art, which will hang in the Driggs City Center through early June. A special "thank you" goes out to Jennifer Moreland and the Teton Arts Council; 460 Bread; Phyllis Anderson; Rachel Bates and her kindergarten students; and performing artists, Charlie Otto, Garl Drake, Ty Mack (right), Thomas Sneed and Ted Wells (bottom left), and Bruce Smithhammer and Joe Lindsay. Also to Zoe Self (top left) for dancing!

Wine for Water

| April 2010 |

In April, a water- and wine-loving crowd turned out for our 2nd annual "Wine for Water" event, where they saluted western wines and raised \$5,000 for the Teton Watershed. The wine tasting featured seven wines from Idaho, Washington, Oregon, and California vintners. A trip for two to the Napa Valley was auctioned off, as were more than a hundred donated bottles of wine. Before the tasting, Development and Outreach Associate Megan Hatch introduced and explained how a vineyard's watershed influences the wine produced there. Thank you for helping to make the event a success, and we hope to see you next year!



Bonnie Self and Tracy Delamater enjoy conversation with friends.



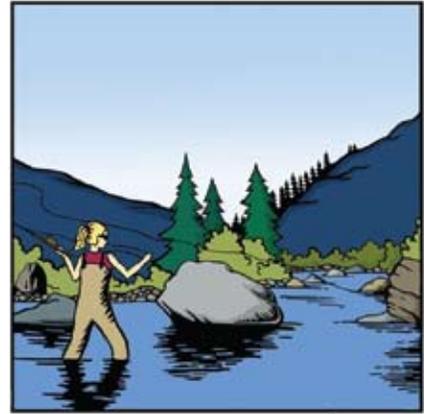
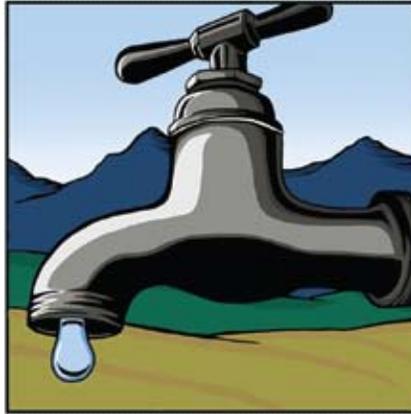
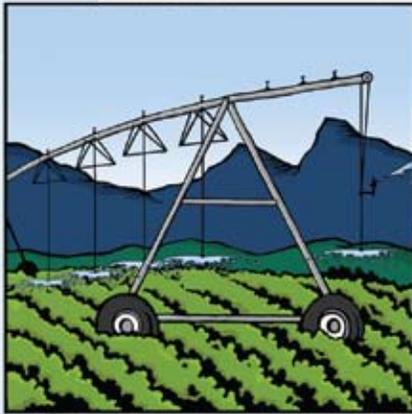
Development and Outreach Associate Megan Hatch introduces each wine selection.



Alpine Wines owner Mike Bowen pours wine for the tasting.

Working for clean water, healthy streams, and abundant fisheries in Teton Valley

WATERSMART TETON VALLEY



Water is our most precious natural resource.

Our community depends on plentiful water to support a **strong agricultural economy** and abundant **fish and wildlife**.

We enjoy some of the **cleanest drinking water** and **lowest water utility rates** in the nation. **It's important that we work to conserve water**, so we have a sustainable water supply now and in the future.

Be WaterSmart Outside Your Home

- ◆ Fix leaky sprinklers and save 140 gallons per week.
- ◆ Water **ONLY** when needed. The healthiest lawns receive a deep watering 2-3 days per week - not every day! Install an inexpensive timer and rain sensor, and set them to deliver 1" of water 2-3 days per week.
- ◆ Water between 8 pm and 8 am when it's cooler and there's less wind evaporation.
- ◆ Adjust your mower to its highest setting. Taller grass holds more moisture.
- ◆ Use drip irrigation for shrubs and trees. Use less water and get healthier plants by applying water directly to the roots where it's needed.
- ◆ Spread a layer of organic mulch around plants to prevent thirsty weeds and retain soil moisture.
- ◆ The next time you replace a flower, shrub, or lawn, choose native or low-water plants for year-round beauty that can save 550 gallons of water per year!

Be WaterSmart Inside Your Home

- ◆ Repair leaky faucets and save 50 gallons of water per day.
- ◆ Check for leaky toilets by putting food coloring in the tank. If it seeps into the bowl, you have a leak. Repairing it can save 1,000 gallons of water per month.
- ◆ Run the dishwasher and washing machine only when full and save 300-800 gallons of water per month.
- ◆ Use water-saving aerators on all of your faucets.
- ◆ When buying new appliances, look for Energy Star and Water Sense rated models.
- ◆ Use a water-efficient showerhead. They're inexpensive, easy to install, and can save up to 750 gallons of water per month.
- ◆ Use the garbage disposal sparingly. Compost fruit and vegetable scraps instead, and use them to create water-saving organic mulch for your garden.
- ◆ Don't use toilets as garbage cans! Use the garbage can for garbage, and flush toilets only when needed.

*For more information about saving water, energy, and money,
contact Friends of the Teton River at www.tetonwater.org or call 354-3871*

WaterSmart Teton Valley is a program of Friends of the Teton River, City of Victor, Idaho, City of Driggs, Idaho
This program is supported by 1% for the Tetons, the Laird Norton Foundation,
and the Sand County Foundation Bradley Fund for the Environment