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The Friends of the Teton River is dedicated to understanding and improving ground and surface water resources in the Teton Basin, including the Teton River, its tributaries and wetlands. We will further this mission by conducting scientific research about the Teton watershed, effectively communicating this information to the public, and implementing on-the-ground improvement projects. In carrying out this mission we will actively cooperate and collaborate with all other groups, agencies and individuals working for the welfare of the Teton Basin.

Friends of the Teton River

WATER LINES

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED BY FRIENDS OF THE TETON RIVER

FTR turns Five in 2005



Thank you for helping Friends of the Teton River reach our fifth year anniversary so successfully! With your financial support, volunteer time and valuable input, FTR has been flourishing on a variety of fronts. Since its inception, FTR has grown to a membership of over 600, received several large grants and a Congressional Appropriation and increased staff to five individuals.

All of these achievements have led to a comprehensive scientific understanding of local watershed

conditions as well as the completion of thousands of linear feet of restoration work. Some of the past highlights include:

1. Collection of four years of water quality data which has provided important baseline information and identified bacteria and nutrient hot spots.

2. Completion of restoration on 2,505 linear feet of the Teton River and 2,200 linear feet of Fox Creek to

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improve trout habitat and enhance water quality.

3. A first of its kind recharge demonstration project to better understand groundwater resources.

4. Habitat assessment of the Teton River from Fox Creek to Highway 33.

5. Field trips and educational events for over 500 local elementary, middle and high school students.

As FTR approaches five years, staff and board recently met with local agency folks and scientists to plan for the near future. We reviewed the past and asked, "Where do we go from here?" From these gatherings, the focus has been narrowed to the following four categories:

1. Since bacteria in Woods Creek could affect the health and welfare of the community, it is critical to continue water quality testing and locate funds to identify the bacteria source.

2. Dramatic declines in native Yellowstone cutthroat trout have resulted in a prioritization of native fish recovery.

3. Due to the degradation of local stream banks and resulting siltation, FTR will continue to perform restoration projects on important spawning tributaries.

4. As more local teachers participate in water education programs, FTR will increase field trips, offer a summer scholarship and finalize a Teton Valley based watershed curriculum.

Though the meetings determined a rough outline of important projects, the plan is far from finalized. At this point, we want to hear your input!

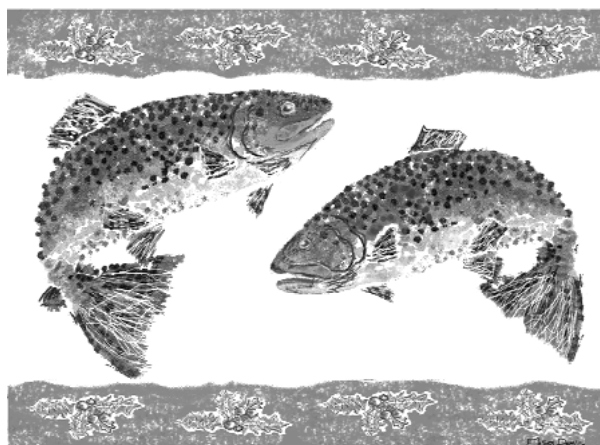
Five years ago, the Teton River Forum, comprised of local farmers, fishing guides, government officials, educators and concerned citizens, created FTR. During winter 2005, staff will organize similar meetings to find out your opinions on how we are doing and where we should go from here. As friends of the Teton River, you have an important stake in these decisions.

Whatever future programs are finalized from the public meetings, one thing is very clear. In order to keep enhancing the Teton Watershed, there is still a lot of work to be done. Since you have helped FTR come this far, we ask you to continue your financial and moral support to maintain the momentum. Without your contributions, FTR would never have been so successful in its first four years. Only with your membership, time and assistance, can we continue as effectively into the future.

With gratitude,
FTR Board & Staff

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

Wednesday, December 15, 5-7 pm



Join FTR staff and friends for a Holiday Open House, hosted at the FTR office on 36 East Little Avenue in Driggs, Idaho. Stop by for goodies and beverages, a holiday raffle or to just say hello! All the public is welcome to attend.

New Education Director and kids jump in with both feet!

Anna Lindstedt joined FTR this September as the new Education and Outreach Director. She graduated from Montana State University in Bozeman with a degree in anthropology and an emphasis in outdoor education. Most recently, she moved from Estes Park, Colorado where she worked for the Rocky Mountain Nature Association and Rocky Mountain National Park. She coordinated efforts between the non-profit partner and the National Park Service to create a youth service and education program.

Before the wintry weather, Anna was able to get out into the field with some Teton Valley students. The Teton Community School learned about stream habitat and collected macroinvertebrates on Teton Creek at the end of September. The students

later returned to the site to do a clean-up, collecting an impressive seven garbage bags of trash.

She also helped Tetonia 4th grade teacher Barb Agnew with her annual stream study on Spring Creek. Students used the stream reach on the Egbert property to explore and record data for classroom work. The kids listened to the sounds of stream velocity through a flow meter headset, measured the stream channel, substrate and depth for a mapping activity, and collected macroinvertebrates with kick screens.

Anna also accompanied Agnew's class on a second field trip to Teton Creek so students could compare two streambeds. Students returned to the classroom to graph the data they found. They compiled the graph shown below comparing stream health as indicated by the macroinvertebrates they collected at each site. Students found both Spring Creek and Teton Creek to be healthy, with Teton Creek having more macroinvertebrate species indicating excellent water quality.

As a follow-up to water quality testing, Brett Graves' high school environmental science class used the Spring Creek site to participate in an electro-fishing demonstration led by Idaho Fish and Game scientists. They



Anna Lindstedt, FTR's new Education & Outreach Director, holds a flow meter in Spring Creek while a student listens to water velocity on a head set.

also identified macroinvertebrates and their specific adaptations to various stream qualities.

During the winter months, Anna will be writing an FTR water curriculum for selected grades Kindergarten-12. She will continue to do hands-on water lessons in the classroom until students can enter the field in the spring. As well as organizing for spring and summer field programs, Anna will be planning further opportunities for community outreach, education and involvement in our local watershed.

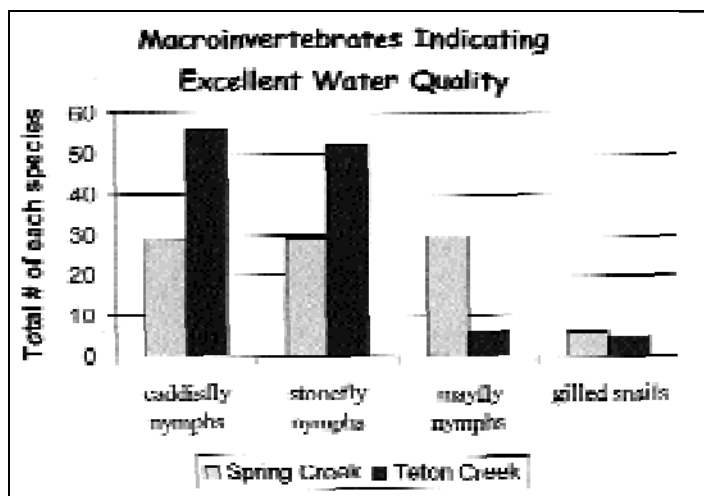
Many thanks to the Donald C. Brace Foundation and EPA Education Grant for funding this program.

Tetonia fourth graders write about the field days:

"We went to Dick and Alta Egbert's. We kicked the rocks to get macroinvertebrates. They're the coolest bugs I've ever seen before." -Dora

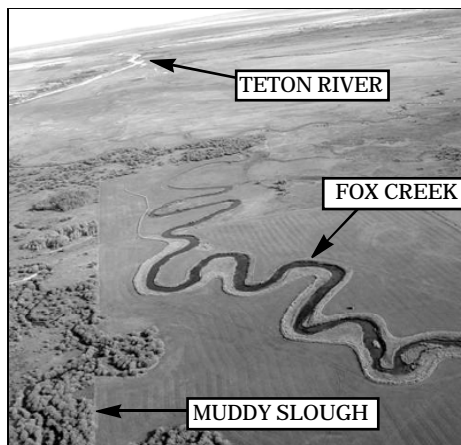
"My group got about 20 mayflies. When we were done, we had to turn them loose...it was fun!!!" -Blake

"Yesterday we hiked to Spring Creek...Our guide was Anna Lindstedt. She had a machine that let us hear how fast the water was going." -Shay



A group of Teton High School environmental science students identify macroinvertebrates with a dichotomous key.

Fox Creek Demonstration Res

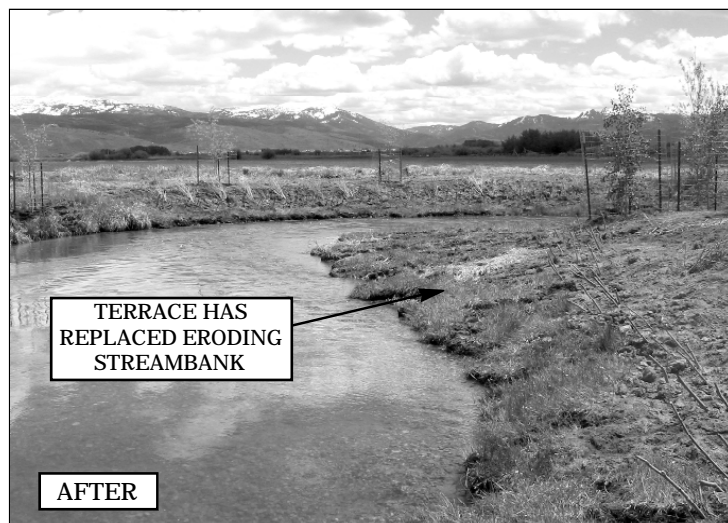


Muddy Slough shows unaltered riparian conditions.

Five year monitoring program will analyze success of different restoration strategies

As many of you know, the health of the Teton River and its native trout population is intimately tied to the condition of tributary streams. FTR is actively working with landowners to restore Teton Valley tributary streams and explore different ways to achieve streambank stabilization and habitat

improvement. In 2004, in collaboration with the Huntsman family, we were able to complete a demonstration restoration project on Fox Creek. Several organizations and individuals were responsible for the successful completion of the project and many thanks go out to all of them: Blaine and Nancy Huntsman and their family, Scott Gillilan and Martha Kaufman (Gillilan Associates), Gary Vecellio (Idaho Department of Fish and Game), Terry Blau (Idaho Department of Water Resources), Troy Saffle (Idaho Department of



A steep, eroding streambank is replaced by a terrace covered with wetland sod that constricts the channel and increases the velocity of the current.

Donor Form

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MEMBERSHIP LEVEL: ☐ Individual, \$25/year ☐ Corporate, \$100/year ☐ Additional Gift \$ _____
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Please send completed application form, with your check or credit card information, to:

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Restoration Project completed

Department Quality), Hollis Allen and Brayton Willis (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers), Mort MacMillan (HDR Engineering), U.S. Congress and the Environmental Protection Agency, Tom Fenger and the wonderful FTR volunteer crew.

The aerial photo (previous page) is a vivid illustration of changes that have taken place in Fox Creek over the past hundred years. The unaltered stream on the left, Muddy Slough, has a dense riparian zone of willows and sedges; Fox Creek, on the right, experienced reduced flows due to irrigation diversions, dredging of the stream channel and devegetation of the riparian area. Eroding streambanks, silted stream bottoms and lack of channel structure resulted from these changes.

Working with Gillilan Associates, FTR and the Huntsman Family used several different restoration strategies to address problems on Fox Creek (all of them are illustrated in photos on these two pages): First, the lack of stream velocity and eroding banks have resulted in the deposition of fine silts over spawning gravels. To create improved spawning conditions we narrowed the channel by digging out deeper runs and holes and using the materials to construct new bars. Newly created bars were vegetated with wetland sod. Second, eroding streambanks were recontoured to an approximately 30 degree angle and revegetated with willows and wetland sod. Third, banks that were vulnerable to erosion were protected by christmas trees covered with sod. Finally, backwater areas for juvenile trout were created on the side of the stream.

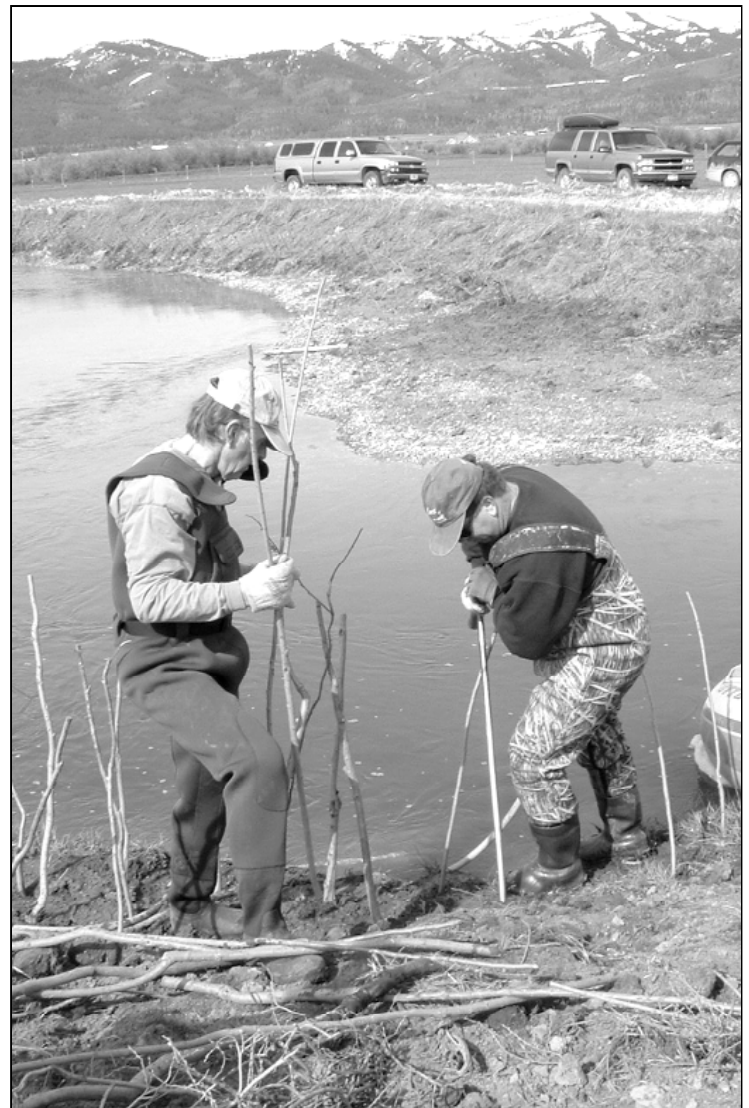
We planted willows on the streambanks in several different ways: large clumps of willows were transplanted from elsewhere on the property and willow cuttings were taken and planted either in vertical trenches or in holes made by the stinger (a large water gun).

Many volunteers participated in restoration work on Fox Creek, often in snowy, blowy spring weather. Many, many thanks to all of you; your hard work made this project possible.

Over the next five years, FTR will monitor vegetation and channel changes on the restoration section of Fox Creek to assess the success of different restoration strategies. The Huntsman family hopes to continue restoration work downstream to their property boundary.



- Large transplanted willow clumps
- Horizontal Christmas trees protecting streambanks
- Increased stream velocity cleans spawning gravels
- Wetland sod planted on newly created bars
- Backwater area for juvenile trout



Tom Talbot and John Siverd plant willows with the stinger.

New board members bring energy & experience

FTR welcomes six new board members who have joined us between June and November. We're excited to have such a wonderful influx of new energy. Here are short introductions to each of them.

JOHN COURTNEY.

John Courtney has been entrapped by the fishing bug since his earliest years, when his Dad would throw him into "the old Model A" and trundle them off to fish "the salt" in Panama where John had been born. In 1979 John, his wife Helen, and their two young children arrived at Grand Teton National Park where he had accepted the position of Personnel Officer; a position that he held until December of 1999, when Helen and he retired to Alta. During his tenure at Grand Teton he volunteered as an EMT and in various roles in Structural and Wildland Fire-fighting. Over the past 25 years he has also volunteered in a wide variety of worker and leadership church roles. Living at Moose, little more than a stone's throw from the Snake gave him an unusual opportunity to personally observe and "be around" water resources issues. He hopes to use his past experiences and his strong back in support of FTR.



banks of the Snake River in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. Until recent years, Ross has been involved with rivers both as a hobby and a career, first as a fishing guide and then as a whitewater guide - a journey that took him to Zambia where he pioneered whitewater and canoe safaris on the Zambezi River. Eleven years ago, Ross returned to this area with his young family - he now splits his time between Wilson, Wyoming and Teton Valley, Idaho and he works for Sotheby's International Realty.

JOHN SIVERD.

John Siverd (age 58, retired) is a resident of Alta. Prior to living in Teton Valley, John and his wife traveled frequently in Wyoming and Montana, enjoying fishing, biking, hiking, and hunting. John received a BS in finance from the University of Notre Dame and an MBA from the University of Massachusetts. John's professional career was on Wall Street. He participated in community volunteer activities in New Jersey, such as the Jaycees (starting one of the first recycling centers in NJ) and the local volunteer ambulance corps (of which he was President and a volunteer EMT). John uses his previous professional and volunteer experience in his role on the FTR Board, and participates in "hands on" projects on the river.



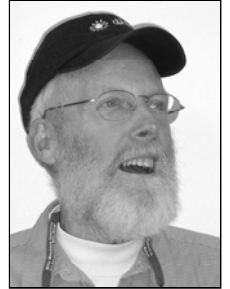
CHARLIE ROSS.

From birth until he left Wyoming in his early twenties to raft the world's other great rivers (in South America, Africa, Europe and Asia), Charlie Ross spent his summers on the



ANDY STEELE.

Andy first visited the Yellowstone Ecosystem as a Boy Scout going to the 1960 Jamboree. The experience of catching trout out of the Firehole River and the wildness of this region made a strong impression on Andy and he settled in Jackson after leaving the military in the early 1970's. Andy eventually started working summers for the Forest Service and found his avocation. After 25 years of working in timber, fire, resource, and recreation management with the Forest Service, he returned to the region he considers home and became a Naturalist at Grand Targhee. "I am embarrassed to call myself a Naturalist," says Andy, "but I am a curious ecologist and a concerned steward. Water issues and river health have been a long time interest to me and thus I am drawn to be involved in the Teton Basin watershed through the Friends of Teton River."



LEANN TALBOT.

Rivers have always been an important part of LeAnn Talbot's life since she grew up on the banks of the Mississippi in a small town north of Minneapolis. LeAnn and her husband, Tom, have been coming to their land in Teton Valley for 17 years. After her retirement as an executive for AT&T, the Talbot's decided Victor was home base and moved to their happy place next to the Teton River full time.



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LeAnn has a BA in Journalism and an MBA in Marketing and Management, and spent almost 25 years in telecommunications as a career with her last position leading AT&T cable operations in the Northwest. Her passion for volunteering led her to board positions with Gillette Children's Hospital Foundation in St. Paul and Ronald McDonald House Charities in Seattle. They have two children: Megan who is attending the University of Wyoming and Jeffrey, who is at Teton High School.

TIM WATTERS.

Tim and his wife Margot have owned a piece of land at the headwaters of the Teton River for a number of years. They recently moved to Teton Valley on a permanent basis with their five children. For the past eleven years Tim has owned a small business based out of the mid-west. Prior to that, he had worked for several financial institutions in both commercial and investment banking on the east coast and in the mid-west.



Thank You to Old Bill's Fun Run 2004 Donors

Old Bill's Fun Run 2004 was another huge success for FTR. Thanks to individual contributions and the generosity of the event's co-challengers and friends, FTR received a total of \$62,147 this year. These funds are vital for protecting and restoring the Teton River and its associated watershed. FTR offers a special thanks to the staff and board of the Community Foundation of Jackson Hole for planning and orchestrating this amazing event. We deeply appreciate this wonderful fundraising opportunity and the support from the following individuals and businesses:

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Old Bill's Fun Run Co-Challengers | Judy & Thomas Fauntleroy | Ann Loyola & Wood Palmer | Rendezvous River Sports |
| Old Bill's Fun Run Friends | Thomas Fenger | Lucey Electric | Ms. Leslie S. Ryan |
| Anonymous (5) | Carol & Russell Ferris | Susan & Mayo Lykes | Robert & Mary Salsbury |
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| Megan & Travis Allen | Sharon & Andrew Griffin | Mary & Sandy Mason | Dana Richardson & Dave Joslyn |
| Alternative Timber Structures | Virginia Grosse | Tracy & Mike McFadin | Joann & Gary Rose |
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| Marge & Stan Edwards | | | Mr. & Mrs. John Young |
| Kathleen Falconer-Finnegan | | | |

Congratulations
to Bonnie and Doug
Self, who were
married October 9 at
Spring Creek Ranch;
shown here relaxing
after days of celebrat-
ing their wedding!



Please Continue Your Support in 2005

Thank you for all your time, energy and support during 2004! With your help, the office was hopping all spring, summer and fall with staff counting juvenile fish, analyzing habitat conditions, revegetating and irrigating restoration sites, testing water quality, educating local students and organizing a variety of informational events. Since all of these successes are dependent on individual funding, I cannot personally thank you enough.

As winter approaches and the snow begins to fly, the work at FTR may move inside but it rarely slows down. The Research Staff is busy finalizing and analyzing their data, the Education Director is teaching local students in the classroom and completing a Teton Watershed curriculum, the Board is strategizing future projects, and the administrative staff is working hard to fund 2005 programs. Though FTR came a long way towards reaching goals in 2004, considerable challenges and a multitude of work lie just around the corner.

With high bacteria levels in Woods Creek, FTR needs to

continue water quality testing to secure solid baseline data, identify bacteria sources, and protect the health and welfare of local residents. With a drastic decline in native trout, FTR plans to survey the headwater tributaries to assess native fish populations and work with Idaho Fish and Game to improve Yellowstone cutthroat trout populations on the Teton River. With continued siltation in the Teton River and its tributaries, FTR will continue important stream restoration projects. As FTR meets with concerned stakeholders and finalizes plans

for 2005, I realize that we need to raise close to \$300,000 to continue our efforts.

As 2004 draws to a close and you consider how you will direct your year-end charitable giving, please consider helping the Teton Watershed by sending a special, tax-deductible gift to FTR. FTR staff, board and volunteers are gearing up for a busy 2005, but it is the enthusiastic philosophical and financial support from our members and donors that make each project possible. Please help us on the road to another successful year!

WITH WARMEST REGARDS AND BEST WISHES FOR A
HAPPY AND HEALTHY HOLIDAY SEASON,

Bonnie Self

UPCOMING EVENTS

PUBLIC FORUM: STATE OF THE WATERSHED

February 23, 7pm at the
Teton High School cafeteria

FTR will host a public forum discussing the state of the Teton Basin watershed. The purpose is to present information learned by FTR during its existence, and to hear public comment and concern about water issues facing the valley.

PUBLIC FORUM: AQUIFER RECHARGE

March 16, 7pm at the
Teton High School cafeteria

In spring, 2004, FTR conducted an aquifer recharge project close to Fox Creek. This public forum will discuss the results of the aquifer recharge and how it can be used in other areas of the valley.

Friends of the Teton River

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