

Friends of the Teton River works for clean water, healthy streams and abundant fisheries in Teton Valley.

Friends of the Teton River WATER LINES

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED BY FRIENDS OF THE TETON RIVER VOL. 6 NO. 1 SPRING 2006



“Good Turn for America!”

Friends of the Teton River was recognized by the local Boy Scout's Grand Teton Council at an awards banquet on April 5th. The Teton District honored FTR with a “Good Turn for America” award for outstanding leadership and support in the areas of natural resource conservation and water education. Anna Lindstedt, Education Director, accepted the award and thanked the scouts for their efforts last spring to learn about their watershed. Their theme for 2006 projects is “Scouting for Waterways.” Look for local cub scout and boy scout troops cleaning up streams, irrigation canals, and the trout pond in Victor this spring.

“Open channels” create clean water, healthy streams & abundant fisheries

Building on five years of hydrologic and fishery research, Friends of the Teton River is excited to announce the inception of its visionary *Open Channels* Program. Because FTR recognizes that healthy tributaries ultimately mean a healthy Teton River, we will be focusing our work on restoring the streams that bring water and sediment to the Teton River. The *Open Channels* Program is comprised of three strategies: improving connectivity between the tributary headwaters and the Teton River; restoring streambanks to increase habitat and reduce sedimentation; and rewatering tributaries during critical native trout reproductive periods.

Over the past five years FTR has collab-

orated with many partners to produce a comprehensive assessment of Teton Valley's water resources including ground and surface water hydrology, water quality and fisheries. *Open Channels* is the result of this assessment and will address many of the problems that have been identified over the past five years including excess sediment, loss of habitat, impaired water quality and declining native trout populations. Over the years, streambanks on many Teton River tributaries have lost vegetation and eroded resulting in excess fine sediment that is eventually deposited in the Teton River. Dewatering of sections of tributary streams has led to critical trout habitat loss and inability of

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FTR helps Land Trust restore Six Springs trout habitat

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Meet local fishing legend Mike Lawson

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Arduous fish barrier assessment is completed

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Plan now to attend future FTR events

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Restoring critical habitat for Yellowstone cutthroat trout

Friends of the Teton River and Teton Regional Land Trust collaborate on Six Springs Creek restoration project

In October of 2005, FTR met with Teton Regional Land Trust (TRLT) to discuss the possibilities of streambank restoration and revegetation on Six Springs Creek as part of TRLT's Six Springs Project. The Six Springs Project is a collaborative effort between agencies, NGOs and consulting firms that are donating services to restore and enhance wetland and riparian habitat on the 848-acre Six Springs Ranch TRLT conservation easement property. As a component of the project, FTR and TRLT decided to plant willows and hawthorn along a 2,200 ft reach of Six Springs Creek that had been degraded by past agricultural practices. In November of 2005, FTR implemented and completed the restoration project.

Six Springs Creek is a small spring-fed creek that originates in the Six Springs complex 1.5 miles southwest of Driggs near the TRLT office. The creek flows into the perennial section of Teton Creek approximately one mile



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“OPEN CHANNELS”

FROM PAGE 1

trout to reach spawning grounds in upper sections of tributary streams. Although our wild game fish populations are the highest that they have been since 1987 (Idaho Department of Fish and Game, 2005), the fishery is now overwhelmingly comprised of non-native brook and rainbow trout with native Yellowstone cutthroat trout at 4.5% of the total trout population. We believe a balanced fishery with healthy populations of native and non-native trout is of great economic and ecologic value to the Teton Valley. The *Open Channels* program will bring back the balance in our fishery.

So how are we moving forward with *Open Channels*? FTR has received approximately \$200,000 from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to improve fish passage and connectivity on Trail and Badger Creeks by repairing irrigation diversions structures. We have also secured funding for large streambank restoration projects on Trail Creek that

will stabilize and revegetate eroding banks this summer and fall. Finally, we are working with Trail Creek Sprinkler Irrigation Company to better understand the water distribution on Trail Creek and identify opportunities to put surplus water back into Trail Creek.

Since *Open Channels* represents a significant increase in scale for FTR, we have been asking a select few of our members to consider a similar increase in their individual scale of giving. We have been gratified by the response of those members, as grants alone will not meet our funding needs for *Open Channels*. We will make more information available to all members as our plans are finalized.

We'd love to visit with you about our new directions; please stop by and visit us at 36 E. Little Avenue or give us a call and let us know what you think.

-Lyn Benjamin, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TROUT HABITAT

FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

west of Highway 33. Six Springs Creek was determined to have some of the most important Yellowstone cutthroat trout (YCT) spawning and rearing habitat in the upper Teton watershed by FTR/ Idaho Department of Fish and Game graduate student Martin Koenig. Most of Six Springs Creek is owned by Lewis Mithun and is administered by the TRLT under terms of a conservation easement.

The goal of the Six Springs Creek Restoration Project was to restore woody riparian vegetation along the creek. Woody riparian vegetation provides forage and shelter for birds and wildlife, provides cover for fish, lowers stream temperatures, stabilizes stream banks, narrows the stream channel, and improves water quality. A total of 330 willows and 50 hawthorns were planted in 33 planting sites. Geyer and Drummond willow were planted close to the stream and in wet areas. Bebb willow and Douglas hawthorn were planted in dry areas.

All planting sites were fenced using 2 x 4 gauge 6-foot tall by 50 foot-long game fence. To monitor the project, photos were taken of each planting site and of each section. Photos will be reviewed at the end of each growing season to monitor project success.

The project took eight field days to complete. Crews averaged 2-6 people per day with the bulk of the work being completed in 5 days. A total of 34 volunteers helped complete the project including members of the public, staff from FTR, TRLT, Grand Targhee Resort, Snake River Cutthroats, and 17 students from the Teton Valley Community School. The students enjoyed “stomping” the plants into the ground and getting covered in mud. Hopefully there weren’t too many upset parents out there!

Many thanks to all the funders of the restoration project including One Fly, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation; Idaho Fish and Wildlife Foundation; Teton Valley Trout Unlimited; Wildlife Forever; and Arthur B. Schultz Foundation. FTR would also like to thank Lewis Mithun and TRLT for providing the opportunity to participate in their Six Springs Project. The following organizations provided valuable input during the design phase: TRLT; Intermountain Aquatics; Idaho Dept. Fish and Game; the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service; US Army Corps of Engineers; Idaho Department of Water Resources; and Rocky Mountain Native Plants. Finally, FTR would like to thank all the volunteers who helped during project implementation. Without their hard work and willingness to be out in the rain and snow the project would not have been possible!

-Mike Lien, FTR RESTORATION DIRECTOR



Andy Steele, Phyllis Anderson, and Cynthia Stoetzer work hard to plant willows and hawthorn.



Ryan Colyer clears the way for the auger



Tom Fenger, Adam Taylor, and Art Svejda install fencing to protect plants from moose and deer.

Teton River Folk

BOOKS, ARTICLES & VIDEOS

Mike Lawson's first book, *Fly Fishing the Henrys Fork*, was published in 2000. Co-authored by Gary LaFontaine, it is the most comprehensive work on how and when to fish this great trout stream. Mile by mile, Mike explains how to fish the Henry's Fork through seasons, hatches, and species.

Spring Creeks, published in 2003, is a complete look at fly-fishing spring creeks and tailwaters.

Mike has written many articles on fly-fishing in several magazines including *Fly Fisherman*, *Fly Fishing for Trout*, *the Fly Fisher*, *Trout Magazine* and the *American Angler*.

Mike is also featured in several fly fishing videos including: *Tying Western Dry Flies with Mike Lawson and Jack Dennis*, *Tying and Fishing Caddisflies with Gary LaFontaine and Jack Dennis* and *Tying Flies for Spring Creeks and Tailwaters*.

Mike enjoys most outdoor sports, especially bird hunting. He loves turkey hunting as much as fly fishing! In the winter months he enjoys playing on a basketball team.

In the next few issues of Water Lines FTR will be talking to individuals who have made a difference in the world of water and fisheries. Our first conversation is with MIKE LAWSON, local fishing legend who grew up fishing the tributaries and canyon of the Teton River.

Mike Lawson has spent his entire life in proximity to the waters of southeastern Idaho. Mike was raised in Sugar City and has spent his time on the local trout streams in this area; fishing the Henry's Fork, South Fork of the Snake, the Teton River, and their many tributaries. He began his career teaching school in St. Anthony for 6 years and worked as a fly-fishing guide during the summer months. In 1977 he opened Henry's Fork Anglers fly shop at Last Chance, Idaho. After selling his business, he currently works as the general manager of the outfitters at the Henry's Fork Angler and the South Fork Lodge.

Besides being a local fishing legend, Mike is also an active conservationist. He has served on the board of the Jackson One Fly Foundation and he was a founding member of the Henry's Fork Foundation, a partner and model organization for Friends of the Teton River. For dedicating his life and life's work to the rivers of southeastern Idaho, we are featuring Mike Lawson in our first "Teton River Folk" article.



In between his presentations at seminars and fly fishing expos, I was able to catch up with Mike during an afternoon at the shop. He relates everything from fishing stories and advice to the impacts of population growth and economics on the state of our rivers and streams. He speaks easily and articulately with the experience of a man who has an intimate knowledge of the fishing and the changes that have taken place here. - Anna Lindstedt,

EDUCATION & OUTREACH DIRECTOR

FTR: *What makes southeastern Idaho so special to fish?*

MIKE: Having this many good rivers and smaller tributaries so close together is quite unique. They are all quite different, geologically speaking. The Teton River is spring-fed, while the South Fork is a big

tail-water and the Fall River is what we call a free stone stream, getting its water mostly from snow.

FTR: *What was the first river you fished?*

MIKE: Beaver Creek by Spencer, Idaho.

FTR: *Who took you and what did you catch?*

MIKE: My dad and my granddad used to take me. I caught a Brook trout.

FTR: *Tell a childhood story about fishing on the Teton River.*

MIKE: My dad didn't fish the big rivers, so I didn't fish the Teton when I was a kid. We used to hike up into the tribs and fish Leigh Creek, Bitch Creek and the Teton River Canyon. Lots of Yellowstone Cutthroat trout up there in those days.

Teton River Folk

FTR: *What is a piece of advice you would give to young anglers?*

MIKE: I would tell them to get involved in taking care of the river as well as having fun because rivers are precious and we want to have them around for the next generation; for our children's children.

FTR: *What are the biggest changes you've seen in these rivers over the years?*

MIKE: Some of the things are still good. The quality of fishing is still good on the South Fork and good overall. The kinds of fish we catch has changed. The biggest change I've seen is the decline of the native cutthroat. The Teton River when I was a kid had all cutthroat, and the South Fork did too. Yes, the decline in what we always called natives is the biggest change.

FTR: *What do you see as the greatest benefit to having a healthy fishery?*

MIKE: I think there has to be more emphasis on the economic benefits of a healthy fishery. I see the benefits directly because I make a living from the river. There just aren't many places left like this, and people recognize it. Growth is happening in this area...economic growth is closely linked to the great places we live.

FTR: *What are your greatest concerns about the condition of rivers in southeastern Idaho?*

MIKE: I'm most concerned about the overall demand for water. Between all the development going on, population growth and irrigation, there is a great demand for water for all kinds of uses. Even though farmers and fisherman butt heads sometimes, we have more in common than people think. There is a lot in common



between agriculture and fishing and it has to do with the water in the streams.

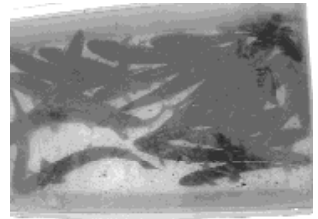
FTR: *Specifically, what are your concerns for the Teton River?*

MIKE: The Teton River is where I fished as a young man, hiking in the Canyon and in the tributaries. Looking at the upper reaches, the Teton is a very fragile river. Compared to the South Fork, the Teton is small. Smaller rivers are impacted a lot more, especially by the population growth you all have there. The Teton River needs some tender loving care.

"I think there has to be more emphasis on the economic benefits of a healthy fishery."



John Rice and Mike Lien electrofish to collect Yellowstone cutthroat trout from an isolated pool on Badger Creek. The trout are then transported in a cooler to upper reaches of Badger Creek and released. 911 YCT!!



Assessment of Barriers to Fish Passage

Last summer FTR tackled a comprehensive assessment of barriers to fish passage on all major tributaries of the upper Teton River in Teton Valley. The study posed a daunting challenge to FTR – how to cover all the streams in an efficient manner. Since it is legal to float navigable streams in Idaho, and because we needed a way to quickly move down each stream, a decision was made to float the streams during high water in a small kayak.

While this sounded brilliant in theory, it proved to be bordering on insanity in practice. The advice of “don’t try this at home” applies more than you can imagine to the practice of attempting to float the Teton Valley’s streams for “fun”. Nevertheless, the task was accomplished by summer’s end. In all seriousness, with only a few exceptions nearly all of the tributary streams to the Teton River are not safe for floating, as they’re very swift when they carry enough water to float and they’re loaded with obstructions including abundant log jams, trees growing in the stream, fences, etc. I found myself out of my kayak and swimming on many occasions, and my boat and several pairs of waders will never be quite the same.

We located and classified about 60 structures that posed some level of barrier to fish passage. Most of these were associated with irrigation diversions, though some road culverts act as barriers as well. Fortunately, only 13 of these structures were classified as “high” barriers, i.e. a structure that would act as a major barrier to nearly all size classes

of fish at a range of flow levels. FTR is beginning to work with local canal companies and irrigators to evaluate options for modifying some of these barriers to make them more fish friendly, and we have already secured funding for reconstruction of several barriers on Trail Creek and Badger Creek.

We should note that on some streams, like Darby Creek and South Leigh Creek, existing barriers in certain key locations may actually be acting to protect the upstream pure populations of Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout (YCT) from invasion by non-native eastern Brook Trout. Brookies tend to completely replace native YCT over time once they enter a stream.

During our surveys this past summer we discovered a location on Badger Creek (another Teton Valley stream with a pure population of native YCT) where an irrigation diversion trapped fish as flows dwindled in late summer. FTR received permission from the landowner and IDF&G to conduct a “rescue” operation. Using electrofishing methods, we caught nearly 100 YCT one fine morning in August. We placed the fish in coolers filled with ice and water, and transported them about 4 miles upstream to a perennial section of Badger Creek near Teton Ridge Ranch. Despite difficulties catching the fish and very warm temperatures during the operation, all of the fish miraculously survived the ordeal and lived to swim another day in the pristine waters of upper Badger Creek. -John Rice, RESEARCH DIRECTOR

Nutrient-Pathogen evaluations can help protect groundwater

One of FTR's primary concerns related to water quality in Teton Valley involves nitrates in groundwater and groundwater-fed surface water streams (including the river). Nitrates are nitrogen-based nutrients that come from agricultural and lawn fertilizers, septic system effluent, and various natural processes. In much of the valley nitrates naturally disperse and dilute and therefore don't readily accumulate to problematic concentrations due to favorable hydrogeologic conditions (primarily related to high groundwater flow velocities). Nitrate buildup is more likely to occur in the lower elevation portions of the valley, where the groundwater table is relatively shallow, soils are "tighter" (lower permeability), and the groundwater tends to flow more slowly.

At the request of a Teton County Commissioner, FTR evaluated a tool that is being used elsewhere in Idaho to assess the risk of nitrate contamination associated with new subdivisions. This analytical technique is known as the Nutrient-Pathogen evaluation. FTR found the technique to be scientifically sound as long as appropriate input values are utilized. This requires a competent reviewer to check over each study, and the Idaho DEQ offered to fill that role here, as they do elsewhere. FTR was then asked to write a simple ordinance aimed at protecting groundwater using the N-P study tool. We wrote and submitted such an ordinance to the P&Z Commissioners this past fall. Our ordinance called for new subdivisions to perform an N-P study in locations where: 1) the groundwater table lies within 10 feet of the ground surface during any time of the year, and 2) the proposed subdivision is within one half mile of an area with a background concentration of nitrate greater than 5 mg/L (the Federal drinking water limit is 10 mg/L). After much discussion, P&Z recommended that the commissioners not adopt the ordinance as

proposed, largely basing their recommendation on the belief that the studies could be made to say whatever the developer wanted by using input parameters favorable to the result they wished to obtain (i.e. by using parameters that don't necessarily reflect true site conditions). In the end the Commissioners decided to table the issue until the September 11, 2006 meeting. They further asked that FTR, VARD, and DEQ collaborate on further studies to define the nature of the problem and the risks posed to water quality in more detail, and perhaps to develop maps showing appropriate ranges of values of several of the key N-P study input parameters spatially across the county. FTR will be working with VARD, the DEQ, and the University of Idaho to conduct these additional studies this summer and fall – stay tuned.

-John Rice, RESEARCH DIRECTOR

Nitrate buildup is more likely to occur in the lower elevations portions of the valley, where the groundwater table is relatively shallow, soils are "tighter" (lower permeability), and the groundwater tends to flow more slowly.

What is a Nutrient-Pathogen Evaluation?

It evaluates whether wastewater system effluent will cause groundwater contamination.

What do N-P Evaluations do?

They determine the appropriate number of wastewater systems for a property and direct placement of wastewater systems to protect groundwater.

What types of N-P Evaluations are performed?

A LEVEL 1 EVALUATION is a preliminary or screening study which uses mass-balance to predict nitrogen loads to groundwater, uses estimates of site conditions (aquifer permeability, groundwater gradient, background nitrate concentrations), and allows for adjustment of lot sizes and placement.

A LEVEL 2 EVALUATION is more detailed than Level 1 and requires collection of actual on-site data about groundwater conditions

Please remember Friends of the Teton River when creating your estate plan

Death and taxes have long been positioned as two things of which we can be certain. It's not much fun to talk about either event, but please bear with us as we do. We will be brief.

Since you're receiving *Water Lines*, you most likely have elected to benefit Friends of the Teton River (FTR) with some form of giving. For that, and for your interest in our mission, we thank you. We depend upon your support to work for Teton Valley's clean water, healthy streams and abundant fisheries.

Have you ever considered going beyond your current giving and also benefiting FTR at your death? Depending upon the size of your estate, there may be tax savings at death from such a bequest to FTR, generally deductible to the fullest extent permitted by law. There certainly would be benefits for FTR, as such a bequest could replace income we lose from your lifetime gifts.

Assuming you're interested, there are many vehicles available to most people for leaving such a bequest to FTR:

- YOUR WILL, simply leaving a dollar or percent amount to FTR;
- TRUST PROVISION;
- LIFE INSURANCE OR ANNUITY beneficiary designation;
- BENEFICIARY DESIGNATION of an IRA or other retirement plan; or
- OTHER GIFTS taking effect upon death.

Since that may be a little confusing, let's look at an example. In fact, let's look at my example. I have a rollover IRA, established with pension assets from a previous employer. Once I determined that my wife and son would be receiving sufficient other assets at my death (we're not trying to take from the basic needs of your surviving family members!), my goal became one of replacing my current giving to FTR for several years after my death, knowing that FTR depends upon that support.

In my situation, that meant contacting the bank holding the IRA assets and asking for a beneficiary change form. Once received, I simply designated FTR as beneficiary of a portion of those IRA rollover assets, and returned the form to the bank.

And, remember those inevitable death and taxes events? There's even a tax break to be had in this bequest. Normally, IRA and other retirement plan assets created with tax deductible dollars, when received at death, are taxable income to the recipient. But, since FTR is a 501c(3) charitable organization, income received is not subject to taxation and 100% of the beneficiary proceeds can go to work in FTR's hands (there is also an estate tax deduction from my estate for charitable bequests, so there can be estate taxes saved too).

So, if you'd like to fend off some of those otherwise inevitable taxes at your death, remember FTR in your estate plans. We appreciate your support!

-Mitch Felche, DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

FTR's Vision for the Future:

LEAD EFFORTS to provide clean water, healthy streams and abundant fisheries in the Teton Valley.

EXHIBIT A BIAS for action, using science as our platform.

BE THE VOICE for water in the Teton Valley.

BECOME A MODEL in the West for watershed research and management.

DELIVER RESULTS through core staff excellence and project expansions in collaboration with key partners.

Snow & water science with FTR

With rivers and streams too icy for wading, Teton Valley students explored water in its frozen form: snow! Students from 1st grade to 6th grade accompanied Education Director Anna Lindstedt during the winter months to learn about snowflake crystals, layers of snow, and how much water is in the snowpack.

Anna and the Teton Valley Community School measured the snowpack density near the Pine Creek Pass Snotel site, monitored by the Natural Resources Conservation Service in December, January and February. Students received a “tour” of the weather station on the site and practiced taking snowpack measurements with the NRCS “snow tubes.”

For a week in January, Anna and Targhee Institute teamed up at Grand Targhee Resort to put on a Snow Study Program for Teton Valley sixth graders. Andy Steele and Cindy Sebesta helped Anna teach these middle school science students a thing or two about the snow underneath their feet (skis or snowboards) at the resort. In small groups, students dug snow pits to find the different layers in the snow pack. They learned about the density of these layers and how to identify different snow crystal types. By melting some snow samples at lunchtime, students draw correlations between snow pack density and how much water will be running into our rivers and streams in the spring. Students also got a visit from the Grand Targhee Ski Patrol and an avalanche dog demonstration.

Alta School 1st and 2nd graders also participated in snow studies right in their own “back yard.” Jade Pittel’s students investigated the snow beneath the surface in the Alta schoolyard with shovels and magnifying lenses and were astounded to find so many different layers and snowflakes so close to home.

TETON WATERSHED CURRICULUM. Anna presented the curriculum on CD-ROM to a group of Teton Valley teachers during a workshop at the High School at the end of January. Completed curriculum materials are available at no charge and will soon be posted on the FTR website.

UPCOMING EVENTS. Look for Water Awareness Week activities during the second week in May, when local sixth graders join over 14,000 students statewide to learn about and celebrate their water resources. For the third year, FTR will host about 100 middle school students over two days. Each day’s activities include stations about water quality, riparian wildlife, plants, soils, fish and fly casting taught by representatives from the U.S. Forest Service, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality and FTR.

GRANT AWARDS. In March, Anna was awarded a grant by The Community Foundation of Jackson Hole for the translation of elementary school level sections of the Teton Watershed Curriculum into Spanish. The \$3,920 grant will pay for the translation costs, CD-ROM production and teacher trainings.

-Anna Lindstedt, EDUCATION & OUTREACH DIRECTOR



During the winter months Teton Valley Community School third, fourth and fifth grade teams joined Anna at the Pine Creek Pass SNOTEL (SNOW TELEmetry) site to measure water quality and quantity. Using Natural Resources Conservation Service snow tubes, students take the depth and weight of the snowpack to calculate the percent water content.

June 18, 2006

A celebration of fly fishing and fishery caretakers

On June 18, 2006 starting at 10 am the One Fly Foundation will host a celebration of fly fishing and the individuals and organizations that protect our fisheries. The event will be held at the Teton Science School's campus located between Wilson and Jackson. There will be talks about fly fishing in the region, casting classes and competitions, educational programs on entomology and fisheries, and a grand raffle! Although the day is free for attendees, proceeds from the raffle and donations will go towards the Elbow Boat Launch Project on the Snake River. The One Fly Foundation will pledge an additional \$10,000 towards the project.

Year-End 2005 and First Quarter 2006 Donors

Year end is always an interesting time for FTR. Like most nonprofits, we really depend upon our generous donors to close out our finances "in the black". Once again in 2005 members like you came through, and we are grateful. We also like to start off a new year on the right foot, and many of our members and some new additions to our membership list have helped us do that in 2006. Many thanks to those listed below who made year-end 2005 or first quarter 2006 gifts to FTR:

Phyllis Anderson	Skip Dempsey & Kathie Martin	Ann M. Mumford
David Axelrod & Marilyn Couch	Joe DiMarch	Doug Naylor
Gary & Toni Baugher	Billy DuPree	Wood Palmer & Ann Loyola
Ellen & Gerald Bogert	Dave Eddins	Peter & Anne Peterson
Jack & Megan Bogle	Bud & Betty Elliott	George Peterson
Susan Bradford	Jeff Engelman	Pike & Smith, P.A.
Jim Budge	Mitch & Dawn Felchle	Michael Potter
Katharine Butler	J. Christian Fenger	Jim Redmond & Ginger Howard
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	Trent Jones	Don & Jane Streubel
	John Kalivas & Lorie Juhl	Dr. David Theis
	Mark & Doris Kelly	Mrs. Jacqueline Theis
	Bobby & Joy Kirkpatrick	Jeri Thomson & David James
	Dr. Ivo Lucchitta	Bob & Debbie Whipple
	Bob Margulis	Becky & Gene Williams
	Patrick J. Markert	John Winger
	Richard & Carolyn Max	
	Richard Miller	
	David & Emmy Montanye	





Spring Challenge

FTR's Board of Directors is currently in the midst of its annual Spring Challenge Campaign. The Spring Challenge Campaign matches the personal financial commitment by every FTR Board member with a request for continued support by loyal FTR members. Led by the FTR Board Development & Fundraising Committee* the Spring Challenge builds on FTR's past accomplishments and current and future plans to maintain momentum with the support we value and need. A mailing has gone out to a large segment of our membership, followed by Board member contacts to answer any questions, seek input on our activities, and ask for support of this campaign. That financial support and advice will help us live out our mission on behalf of the Teton River and watershed. Thank you again for your past support. Our progress would not have been possible without you. We look forward to our continued partnership.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members,

FTR and its network of professional associates and community members has created a strong foundation for the understanding of our valley water and is leading the way to a community that works together for clean water, healthy streams, and abundant fisheries.

Trout population surveys, understanding of trout spawning behavior and stream flow relationships in our local streams, cataloging barriers to trout migration, ground water recharge studies, and measuring stream flows has built a comprehensive basis for protection and restoration of Teton Valley's fisheries and streams.

Our restoration and bank stabilization efforts have reduced silt in important trout spawning areas, improved streambanks, and increased fish and wildlife habitat along the Teton river and its tributary streams.

And bringing what we have learned, the science, to the community through education and outreach programs for both adults and schoolchildren is a meaningful expression of our desire to share this with everyone. This is our community, our home, and each of us will be richer for the stewardship of our valley's water ecosystems.

I hope you will join me in celebrating community by supporting Friends of Teton River and other organizations that are good stewards of the land. Your contributions are protecting water resources, wildlife habitat, and the quality of life we share in Teton Valley.

-Andy Steele, BOARD PRESIDENT

**For further information, contact
Charlie Ross, Chair of the Board
Development & Fundraising
Committee, 307-733-7449, or
Mitch Felchle, Development Director,
at 208-354-3871.*



PUBLIC FORUM: Teton Valley Fisheries

Wednesday, May 17 • 7pm at Teton High School. FTR will host a public forum discussing recent research on Teton Valley fisheries and the results of the FTR Tributary Assessment which gathered data on trout populations in the tributaries of the Upper Teton Basin. We will discuss options for native trout recovery.

RIVER CLEAN-UP

Saturday, May 20 • 8:30 am, meeting at the Driggs City Park. FTR teams up with Teton Telecom to sponsor the fourth annual community-wide city and river clean-up (Victor, Driggs, Alta, Tetonia). The river clean-up will begin at 9 am on the Teton River, with the city clean-up at 10 am. Those interested in the river portion of the spring clean-up should contact FTR to coordinate teams and drift boat shuttles. Participants are invited to a BBQ lunch afterwards. Show your pride in the community and our water resources by “pitching in” to pick up the Teton Valley.



BIG HOLES WATERSHED HIKE

Saturday, June 17 • 9am at the FTR office. FTR will host a watershed hike in the Big Hole Mountains. Join us for an early season outing in your hiking boots! The route will depend on trail conditions. Sign-up in advance. Contact Anna for more details at 208-354-3871.

6th ANNUAL RIVER PARTY & AUCTION **SAVE THE DATE******

Saturday, July 8. Join FTR for an evening of music, food, and fun with friends by the beautiful Teton River. Celebrate successes, hear about upcoming projects, and bid on fabulous auction items, trips, artwork and more! Look for a postcard with details to follow.

KIDS FLY FISHING DAY

Saturday, JULY 29 • Time & Location TBA. Come out with your kids and learn to fly cast, or show us how it's done! FTR will host a morning of fly fishing and fun for kids and their parents. You just might get “hooked” on fishing!



FULL MOON FLOAT

Tuesday, August 8 • 7pm at Rainey Fish and Game Access on the Teton River. Join your Friends at the River for a Full Moon Float and potluck dinner. Participants must provide their own watercraft or jump in a friends' boat for the evening. Please sign-up in advance to coordinate numbers of boats and shuttles.

HARVEST MOON & FALL COLORS FLOAT

Friday, October 6 • 5pm at Rainey Fish and Game Access on the Teton River. Join your Friends at the River for a Fall colors float and potluck dinner. Participants must provide their own watercraft or jump in a friends' boat for the evening. Please sign-up in advance to coordinate numbers of boats and shuttles.

Friends of the Teton River
P.O. Box 768 • Driggs, ID 83422

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