

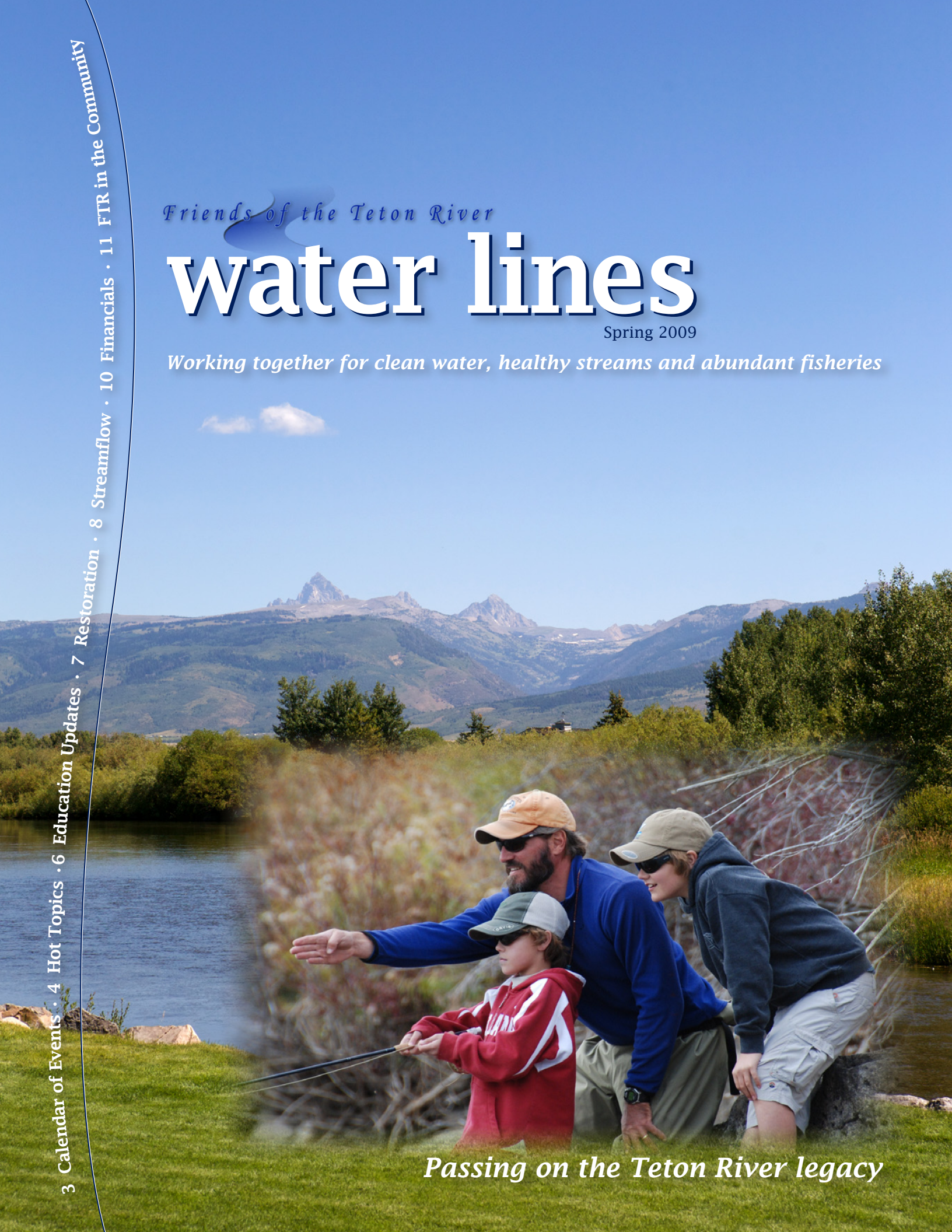
Friends of the Teton River

water lines

Spring 2009

Working together for clean water, healthy streams and abundant fisheries

Passing on the Teton River legacy



a message from the executive director



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Welcome to the spring issue of *Water Lines*!

As I write, streams filled with snowmelt water are rushing to the Teton River. This water is the lifeblood of Teton Valley's economy; it sustains Teton Valley's two leading sources of revenue: agriculture and tourism. The Teton River and its tributaries also add immeasurably to our quality of life by providing fish and wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities, and places for solitude and reflection. At Friends of the Teton River (FTR) we recognize that the economic and ecological health of Teton Valley are intimately entwined; by working to protect our water resources we also help to safeguard all of our livelihoods.

Since 2001, FTR has led efforts to protect the Teton River and all of our valley's water resources. Although we live in times of tremendous economic uncertainty, FTR, with your support, continues to provide our community with a lasting legacy of clean water and healthy streams. We hope that you, in turn, will continue to support these efforts. Please contribute what you can, and know that whatever you contribute *does* make a difference.

In this edition of the newsletter we highlight one FTR member, fishing guide Derek Hutton, who is passing on his love of the Teton River to his two sons. Although Derek has fished throughout the western U.S., he and his family chose to make their home in Teton Valley partly because of the "authentic western fly fishing" offered by the Teton River. His story underscores something we at FTR believe strongly: that it is time for the Teton River to come out from behind the shadow of the South Fork and the Henry's Fork of the Snake, and to receive the recognition that it deserves.

In this newsletter we also highlight some of the great strides FTR has made toward restoring the Teton watershed and bringing together diverse water users. We had another winter season of exciting Wednesday Water Wise presentations that featured topics such as "*Threats*

to the West: Preparing for species invasion" and "Murder and Mayhem: An introduction

to Western Water Law." It was wonderful to see so many community members turn out for this educational series and participate in discussions that followed the presentations. Additionally, in this newsletter, FTR staff highlight program activities, which range from our tremendously successful educational programs, including a Watershed Teacher's Institute, to collecting drinking-water quality data, restoring tributary streamflows, and adding fish screens to irrigation structures. And we look forward to another busy summer that will see us starting restoration work on Teton Creek, sustaining flows on Trail Creek, and monitoring water quality and streamflow. We hope that you will join us for some of the activities highlighted on the following pages so we can share with you the joy that we find in our watershed.

As many of you know, in March, FTR moved into a new office on the third floor of the Coulter Building on Main Street in Driggs. Although it was a scary move for us given the economic climate, we could no longer meet our community's growing needs for clean water and healthy streams in our old location. Our new office allows us the space that we need to plan, strategize, and raise funds for our watershed; it also gives us a wonderful meeting place that has already been heavily utilized. Please come and visit us and let us know how you think we're doing.

As we move toward our tenth anniversary in 2010, we hope that you will join us in our work of restoring the Teton Watershed and passing on to future generations a legacy of clean water, healthy streams, and abundant fisheries.



Lyn Benjamin

Lyn Benjamin

ON THE COVER: Derek Hutton and sons by Margaret Hutton, FTR photo; Teton River photo by Kisa Koenig

calendar of events

FTR has a lot going on this summer! For more information or to RSVP to any of these events, visit www.tetonwater.org or call us at (208) 354-3871

Wildflower Walk
Wednesday, June 24
8:30–11:30 AM

Take a leisurely walk and celebrate early season wildflowers, as we 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.

Teton Watershed Natural History Hike
Wednesday, July 8
8 AM–2 PM

Gain a new perspective on the Teton Watershed by joining knowledgeable local naturalists for a hike in the Teton high country. Covering approximately six miles and gaining 500 feet of elevation, this hike requires a moderate fitness level.

9th Annual River Party and Adventure Auction
Saturday, July 11
5 PM to Sunset

Join Friends of the Teton River for an evening of food, music, and fun with friends alongside the beautiful Teton River. Bid on silent and live auction items, including 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.



Roger Snyder, winner of the 2008 FTR River Party driftboat raffle, poses with his dog after a morning of duck hunting.

Tin Cup Challenge
Saturday, July 18

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 dollar donated. The celebration of giving, and run/walk events for all ages and abilities, take place in and around the Driggs City Park. Visit www.cftetonvalley.org to learn more.

Full Moon Float
Wednesday, August 5
Potluck begins at 6:30 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.



Mosquitos didn't deter full moon floaters in July 2008!

Teton River Natural History Float
Wednesday, August 19
5:30–8:30 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.

Cutthroat Cup Golf Tournament & Fly Fishing Competition
Saturday, August 29

FTR and The Headwaters Club at Teton Springs host the 2nd Annual Cutthroat Cup. This charitable tournament combines two classic pastimes—fly fishing and golf—to benefit Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout habitat restoration in the upper Teton Watershed. Bring your fly rod and your golf clubs and experience the beauty of the world-class Headwaters Club Golf Course.

Birds and Fall Colors Float
Friday, September 18
7:30 AM–Noon

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



The Authentic Western Fly Fishing Experience

*One Angler's Perspective
on the Teton River*

by Amy Verbeten, *Education and Outreach Director*

Overshadowed by its Blue Ribbon neighbors the South Fork and the Henry's Fork, the Teton River is spoken about by those who know it in tones so hushed they are virtually inaudible. But as we work to protect the Teton River's legacy as a pristine cutthroat trout fishery, we believe it is time for this undiscovered gem to get a bit more recognition.

Ask an angler how he or she discovered the Teton River, and the story is likely to be similar to Derek Hutton's. "I wasn't even aware of the Teton" Hutton says. "My wife and I had been visiting the area for years, fishing the Snake and the Henry's Fork, and visiting Jackson and the national parks. But the Teton was never even spoken about. Even with people who knew the area, the fly fishing conversations were all about the South Fork and Henry's Fork."

The Huttons discovered Teton Valley almost by accident—they had been fishing the Henry's Fork, and had a late afternoon flight out of Salt Lake City. Rather than driving the interstate, they decided to take back roads. "When we came out of the Warm River, we saw the Tetons in the distance. We looked at the map, and saw that we could drive through the Teton Valley—a place we didn't even know existed. I know it sounds silly, but it never even occurred to us that the back side of the Tetons would be so extraordinary." Enamored with the area, the Huttons moved their family to Teton Valley just a few years later.

Derek now works for WorldCast Anglers, guiding the Teton as well as its better known neighbors. Asked which he prefers, he doesn't even stop to consider. "The Teton River is authentic western fly fishing," he says. "You're out there with few other people around, casting a dry fly to a native fish on a scenic, pristine river. It's difficult—there's an element of adventure, and you have to time it right. But that's what distinguishes it. When someone closes their eyes and has the fly fishing dream, they're dreaming of the Teton."

Yet, most anglers don't know the name of this river that the visions in their dream represent, or where to find it on a map. And that means a missed opportunity for both anglers and the community surrounding the Teton River.

A 2005 study investigated the economic benefits of fishing-related recreation on the Henry's Fork, South Fork, and Snake River from Grand Teton National Park to Palisades Reservoir. Researchers from Colorado State University found that the fishing industry was directly responsible for 1,460 jobs, and \$46 million dollars in income, for the communities surrounding these rivers. Through interviews with anglers, the researchers calculated that if the fishing experience on these rivers were improved, the economic benefits would be even greater. This is consistent with what Hutton has observed in his boat.

"When someone closes their eyes and has the fly fishing dream, they're dreaming of the Teton."

"The destination angler has a major economic impact," Hutton says; "they spend thousands of dollars for plane tickets, thousands of dollars for accommodation, [and] thousands of dollars for tackle, all because they have this desire to catch Yellowstone cutthroat trout in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. The well-traveled angler has a great deal of sophistication in what they're looking for in a fishing experience. They know the fish, and they want to catch the native fish in the native stream. They find great satisfaction in catching that fish, and they're willing to pay for that satisfaction."

It is the draw of catching a native fish on a dry fly that sets the Teton apart from its neighbors to the north and southwest. Both the Henry's Fork and the South Fork are best known for rainbow trout, which is an introduced species in this region. Although trophy-sized rainbows can at times be coaxed to rise to a dry fly, much of the fishing for them is done beneath the surface of the water. As Hutton says, "Box Canyon, the signature stretch on the Henry's Fork, is primarily a wet fly fishery, where you're fishing weighted flies under an indicator. You spend most of the day just watching a floating bobber. Most of your casts are short little roll and flip casts, not the long, artistic cast you think of as fly fishing."

Hutton believes that efforts to restore Yellowstone cutthroat will provide a significant and lasting boost to the economy. "Destination anglers are willing to spend a lot of money," he says, "and to support a rural, isolated area with their time and their resources, because they have an intimate connection with that area, and with a technique. In *A River Runs Through It*, the Presbyterian minister father likens fly fishing to going to church—it's a time for solitude and introspection. But dry fly fishing is High Church. That's when you get really spiritual."

It is time to turn that spirituality into funding for schools, roads, and other vital services in our community. Protecting and restoring the Teton River's native Yellowstone cutthroat fishery, and promoting the opportunity to fish it, represents an important economic development opportunity. As deserved notoriety increases usage of the Teton, pressure on the river will need to be carefully managed so that the authenticity of the experience, and the environment that supports it, are not diminished. But the benefits of attracting destination fly fishing anglers cannot be ignored or overstated. It is time for the Teton River to shed its cloak of obscurity, and to receive the recognition it deserves as the "Authentic Western Fly Fishing Experience."

program updates

Education Updates

By Amy Verbeten, *Education and Outreach Director*

Basin High School Students Release Trout Raised in Classroom

In early April, students from Basin High School, the Teton County School District (TCSD) alternative high school program, braved cold and snowy weather to release tiny trout into Connie's Pond in Victor. The release marked the end of a semester-long class, in which students raised the fish from eggs as part of the Trout in the Classroom program. The fish served as a context for studying biological concepts such as genetics, evolution, anatomy and physiology, cell biology, and population dynamics, which were taught by me, Amy Verbeten, FTR's Education and Outreach Director.

"The feeling of raising rainbow trout was a very neat one, and a very educational experience," said Basin High student Jony Castillo. "We learned the different stages that fish go through, and how to care for them and test the quality of the water. We also learned that there are a lot of good jobs out there because of fish." For many of the students, the highlights were field trips and hands-on activities such as dissecting trout and visiting the Henry's Lake Fish Hatchery. "It's always fun to try something new and learn at the same time" said Basin High student Charlin Wilkerson.

Basin High's Trout in the Classroom program was made possible by the generosity of numerous community partners. Trout Unlimited's (TU) Teton Valley chapter donated all aquarium supplies, and TU board member Bill Pew assisted students in setting up the equipment. Idaho Department of Fish and Game staff, including Brad Dredge, Brett High, Damon Keene, and Lauren Wendt, assisted with dissections and field trips, and donated fish eggs, food, and curriculum resources. The Henry's Lake Foundation sponsored the field trip to the Henry's Lake Fish Hatchery, and the TCSD helped to support my salary for teaching the class.



Basin High School students release their trout into an icy Connie's pond.



Clockwise from top left: BHS student Drake McCreight learns how to spawn cutthroat trout; BHS student Brandon Hartshorn studies fish anatomy; BHS student Charlin Wilkerson spawning trout; BHS students Taylor Shrock and Michael Acuna inspect fish scales up close.

Local Teachers Use Watershed Concepts to Improve Science and Literacy Achievement

Thanks to a partnership between FTR, the TCSD, the Intermountain Center for Educational Effectiveness (ICEE) at Idaho State University, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), twelve Teton County teachers are participating in the Watershed Teacher Institute during the spring and summer of 2009. The institute is an ongoing professional development workshop designed to help teachers increase knowledge in watershed science concepts, and to enhance teaching skills that promote student inquiry, critical thinking, and increased achievement in science and literacy.

Taught by me and designed with the input of TCSD Curriculum Director Jo Haddox, the course includes classroom and field sessions, an online discussion group, classroom observations, and a series of projects and assignments. As the final product for the class, each teacher will design a series of inquiry-based lessons to be used during the 2009-10 school year. Lessons will integrate science, math, and literacy standards, and will use the local watershed as a context for teaching concepts. Each participating teacher will receive two Continuing Education Credits awarded through the ICEE, as well as a \$500 professional development stipend. Materials, stipends, and instruction for the Watershed Teacher Institute are supported by a grant from the EPA.

Project on South Leigh Creek Provides a Win-Win for Farmers and Fish!

This spring, two new fish-friendly diversion structures on South Leigh Creek will provide an efficient way for farmers to fulfill their water rights while protecting fish from being washed into irrigation canals. Collaboration between local landowners, irrigators, fish biologists, and FTR produced a first-of-its-kind partnership, which results in a victory for all stakeholders—including the fish!

FTR and landowner Boyd Smith partnered to install irrigation structures with fish screens on the Hog Canal and the Kilpack Diversion, along South Leigh Creek in Wyoming just east of the state line. FTR secured over \$200,000 in federal, private, and State of Wyoming funds from Mr. Smith, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's One Fly Foundation, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National Fish Passage Program, and the Teton Conservation District (Wyoming) to rebuild the Hog Canal diversion structure. And Mr. Smith rebuilt the Kilpack Diversion as part of his important conservation effort in the South Leigh Creek corridor.

Historically, loss of trout in irrigation canals has been very high. As diversion headgates open to provide water for agriculture, fish are frequently swept ("entrained") into the canal and lateral ditches, and they end up in fields rather than streams. This is a significant problem on Hog Canal: as high flows are diverted into the canal, it is easily accessed by fish, which find it attractive because it contains high-quality habitat (Rice, 2005). FTR has estimated that between 5 and 10 percent of the total South Leigh Creek Yellowstone cutthroat trout population is lost to irrigation canals annually. Numerous studies have shown that very young, small fish are the most likely to be entrained; the loss of this age class has a significant impact on the total population in subsequent years. By placing fish screens on the Hog Canal and Kilpack diversions, FTR estimates that 150 trout per year will be saved from suffocation in fields or dried-out ditches.

The rebuild of Hog Canal involved replacing leaky headgates, installing trash racks, and fitting the existing structure with solar-powered rotating fish screens. The self-cleaning fish screens prevent fish from entering the

canal, while ensuring that irrigators receive their water. The new trash racks will help prevent the headgates from being damaged or blocked by debris, while replacing the leaking headgates will keep more water in South Leigh Creek, thereby increasing flows—to the benefit of the fish, riparian vegetation, wildlife, and stream function. The existing headgates were difficult to manage due to their condition; the new headgates will allow for tighter control and can easily be locked. By collaborating with FTR on this project, the irrigators now have a partner to help maintain the diversion structure.

On Kilpack Diversion, Mr. Smith rebuilt the diversion structure, installed a Parschall Flume (for measuring the amount of water that is diverted), and installed fish screens that will protect even the smallest of trout fry.

Because South Leigh Creek contains Teton Valley's largest population of Yellowstone cutthroat trout, these projects are a tremendously important part of the recovery of Teton Valley's native trout fishery, which declined by 95 percent between 1999 and 2003. The Hog Canal and Kilpack Diversion rebuilds and screen installations are part of FTR's "Open Channels" program, which is designed to address the catastrophic decline in native trout by implementing collaborative, on-the-ground projects that restore eroding streambanks, provide late-season streamflow, and ensure safe migration routes for fish between the Teton River and tributary streams.

The total cost for the project is \$209,000. It would not have been possible without generous contributions from the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, the Jackson Hole One Fly Foundation, the Teton Conservation District, Boyd Smith, Owen-PC Construction, Majestic Mountain Iron, Creative Energies, Intralox Screens, Trail Creek Nursery, and numerous volunteers. FTR would also like to thank Jim Price and family for allowing

access to the project site, and the Hog Canal irrigators—including Verle Jardine, Bill Moulton, Lloyd and Veronica Fullmer, Zander Strong, and Lauren Sompayrac—for their support of the project.



From top to bottom: Paul Hood, Ned Corkran and James Reimer help assemble screen belts; Screens are hoisted into place; Screens up and running! Volunteers enjoy their handywork.

Restoring Flow to Teton River Tributaries

In Teton Valley, as in much of the western United States, many of our streams go dry each summer due to the cumulative effects of diverting water for agriculture and other uses.

The terrain of Teton Valley is a working landscape, where we all rely on water to sustain our lives. Food and hay production, lawns, golf courses, ponds, and toilets all require water—water that is also needed by our streams to maintain healthy fisheries and riparian corridors, some of the very resources that make Teton Valley such a wonderful place to live. FTR's streamflow restoration program seeks to find collaborative solutions to balancing human water use and living streams.

Stream dewatering during the late summer is not just an issue in tributaries of the Teton River; it is one of the most significant and widespread problems facing aquatic ecosystems throughout the western United States. The good news is that, over the past ten years, many creative approaches to stream dewatering have been developed. Many of these approaches involve market-based mechanisms where water rights holders are compensated for reducing the amount of water they divert from streams. The Lemhi Watershed in central Idaho has been the site of many such flow restoration transactions, including partial-season leases, point-of-diversion changes, and water conservation easements.

In Teton Valley, FTR is currently focusing most of our flow restoration energy on Trail Creek, where we are working with a diverse group of stakeholders in collaborative approaches to restoring late season flows. The group is working toward

more efficient and flexible water management and market-based strategies, and looking into the potential of switching from surface water to groundwater sources. In recognition that responsibility for stream dewatering lies with all water users, not just irrigating agriculturists, the Trail Creek group is exploring the possibility of municipal water conservation ordinances and programs to encourage efficient water use in subdivisions and resort communities. All the while, FTR is working hard to raise the funding needed to implement these collaborative solutions.

Solutions to complicated problems like stream dewatering will not be cheap, quick, or simple. Water-use behaviors and attitudes are deeply rooted and difficult to change. It is important to keep in mind that flow restoration in Teton Valley will be a gradual process, and that it does not have to be an "all or nothing" proposition. While the long-term goal of FTR is reconnecting key tributaries year-round to the Teton River in all but the driest years, even relatively modest increases in streamflow can provide significant benefits to the Teton River fishery. Extending tributary streamflows a few additional weeks later into the summer can allow more Yellowstone cutthroat trout fry (which hatch in late July and early August) to make it safely back to the Teton River. Cumulatively, many smaller flow restoration activities can have a significant benefit to native trout and overall stream health.

The challenges of flow restoration are considerable, but the potential rewards to the health of the Teton Basin watershed are tremendous.

How Safe is our Drinking Water?

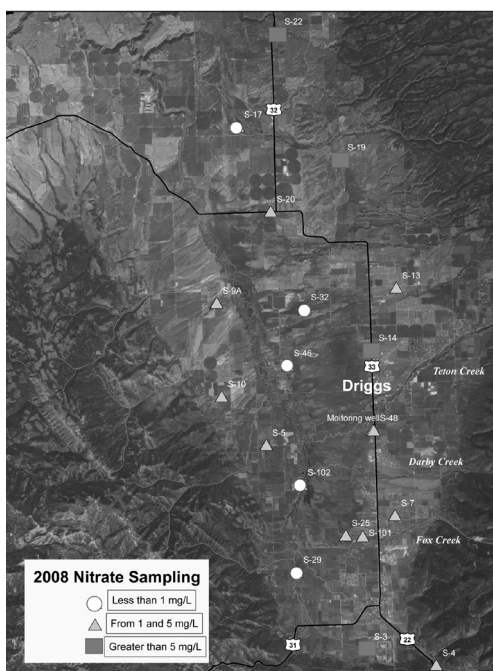
How safe is our drinking water? Outside of the communities of Victor, Driggs, and Teton, nearly everyone in Teton Valley gets their drinking water from individual wells, but relatively little is known about the quality of the water they produce. In order to answer this question, in the summer of 2008 FTR began a project to establish a long-term groundwater quality monitoring network. Developed in partnership with the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ), the project is

designed to understand baseline groundwater quality in Teton Valley and to evaluate impact on groundwater from residential and commercial growth. FTR and IDEQ sampled 20 wells in July and October for a host of field (temperature, pH, specific conductance) and laboratory (nitrate, chloride, phosphorus, sulfate, total dissolved solids) parameters.

Overall, initial sampling results show high water quality in area wells. The most significant potential concern was nitrate levels, with 3 sites showing elevated (greater than 5 mg/L) values. All sites were below the federal drinking water standard of 10 mg/L. High nitrate levels in drinking water have been linked to a health problem called methemoglobinemia, or "blue baby syndrome," an easily treatable blood disorder which primarily affects infants under 6 months of age. Common sources of nitrate in groundwater include fertilizers, septic systems, and manure storage or spreading operations.

To better understand the distribution of elevated nitrate levels in Teton Valley, FTR is in the planning stages of a community nitrate testing day which will provide Teton Valley residents the opportunity to have a sample of their well water tested. More details about this event will be available during the summer. Don't hesitate to contact FTR with any questions about the groundwater monitoring network, or to learn more about the initial results.

Unfortunately, FTR recently received word that IDEQ, due to the statewide budget shortfall, will not be able to continue funding Teton Valley's groundwater monitoring network. FTR is currently seeking supplementary funding to continue this important program.



Help FTR Welcome Our Summer Interns!

Each year, FTR's staff grows with the addition of several summer interns, who assist with on-the-ground research and monitoring work. A two-person team consisting of a graduate-level hydrology intern and a local high school student spend the summer workdays checking staff gauges and measuring flows in irrigation ditches throughout the valley, as well as measuring flows in Teton River tributaries and collecting water quality samples. For the summer of 2009, FTR will also have an additional intern, funded by the USDA Water Conservation Project. The USDA project is a collaborative partnership between FTR, Humboldt State University (Arcata, California), the Henry's Fork Foundation, and the Fremont-Madison Irrigation District. It is designed to improve the quality of surface water and groundwater resources, and to reflect input from stakeholder groups and organizations to improve water resources.

Please help us in welcoming this summer's interns: Hydrology Intern Anna Bramucci, USDA Intern Lora Liegel, and High School Intern Ashley Smith. Following is a brief introduction from each of them.

Hello, I am *Anna Bramucci*. I have always had a special place in my heart for the natural beauty of the Northwest. Over the years I have studied biology and chemistry in both Oregon and Montana; however, lately my love of the outdoors intensified when I began working with water and conservation. Strong desires to protect our natural treasures and clean water sources led me to Antarctica, where I worked for two seasons on Long-Term Ecological Projects. More recently, my goals and love of the western states pulled me back home, and I am now eager to work with the Friends of the Teton River and bring what I have learned abroad back to the states, where the protection of our precious resources is so vitally needed.



Hello, I'm *Lora Liegel*. In fall 2008, I began my first year of graduate school in the Environment and Community M.A. in Social Science Program at Humboldt State University. I earned my undergraduate degree at Oregon State University in Corvallis, Oregon, where I grew up. My broad interdisciplinary undergraduate coursework in geography and Spanish helped spur my interests in studying the connections between humans, water, and land use. I'll be spending this summer in the Henry's Fork and Teton watersheds, initiating work for the USDA water conservation project. I will be examining land-use change and demographic patterns; I will also be researching water rights and water rights transfers over time. As part of this work, I am looking forward to conversing with landowners, watershed stakeholders, county and municipal planners, land developers, and other residents of the region.



My name is *Ashley Smith*. I am 16 years old, and will be a junior at Teton High School in the fall. I was born in Driggs and have lived in Teton Valley all my life. I enjoy taking pictures, drawing, painting, listening to music, reading, long distance running, snowboarding, spending time with friends, and soaking up the sun. I applied for this position because I think it will be very interesting and educational. I am looking forward to working outdoors, and to learning more about fish and the rivers and streams of Teton Valley.



financial report

Support Friends of the Teton River at the 2nd annual Tin Cup Challenge



Dear Friends,

In times of uncertainty, we all decide what's most important to us. The Tin Cup Challenge offers a chance to support the organizations and causes that positively impact our lives and that make Teton Valley a special place to visit or call home. Your participation in the Tin Cup Challenge is more important than ever. Friends of the Teton River will put your donation to work to protect the clean water and healthy streams that are important to you.

Protecting your water is our job.

At Friends of the Teton River, providing clean water and healthy streams for you and your family is our top priority. FTR is the leading organization protecting and improving water in Teton Basin—for you, your children, and your grandchildren. FTR believes that a healthy watershed helps maintain our quality of life, benefits the local economy, and is an important legacy to leave for the next generation.

FTR is the voice for water in Teton Valley.

FTR has been the "voice" for Teton Valley water for almost a decade. Since 2001, we have led watershed research, restoration, and protection efforts in the Teton Basin—and we are committed to being here for the long term. FTR has brought regional and national attention to the water-related issues we are facing here in Teton Valley, including declines in our native Yellowstone cutthroat trout population, limited stream flows, water quality concerns, and loss of our riparian ecosystems. While we're a small, locally based group, FTR is bringing millions of dollars in grants to the watershed and the local economy.

Collaboration is the cornerstone of our work.

It takes strong partnerships, collaboration, and a supportive community to accomplish our goals for a healthy watershed. For nearly ten years, FTR has built bridges in our community, working with a diverse cross section of stakeholders to restore our streams, improve our drinking water, and educate kids and adults about pertinent watershed issues. In light of the current economy, we are actively working with local partners in the conservation community, such as the Teton Regional Land Trust and Trout Unlimited, to more effectively address the protection of our most critical land and water resources. As always, we work closely with local government and state agencies to better manage our water resources through protective ordinances, policies, and on-the-ground improvements.

Why should I give to the Tin Cup Challenge?

Your support will keep FTR working for water.

Your Tin Cup Challenge donation will go directly toward FTR programs that improve water quality, provide fish habitat, restore stream banks and stream flows, and educate the next generation of watershed stewards. In a time of rapid change, we're working to protect and improve our water resources for the future.

Your donation makes a difference.

FTR is counting on your philanthropic leadership during these challenging times. For FTR and other local nonprofits, the Tin Cup Challenge is the single largest fundraising event of the year. In 2008, your Tin Cup donations represented 45 percent of individual donations to FTR for the year. The contributions of our individual members are still the backbone of this organization—a real testament to the importance of clean water and healthy streams to the people of this valley.

Your donation will go even farther because it is matched!

The philanthropic spirit of the Tin Cup matching campaign generates a momentum of giving unparalleled by any other fundraising event for local nonprofits. The Community Foundation of Teton Valley works hard to provide a pool of donors who match your individual gift. Last year, the match percentage was an astounding 50 percent.

To make your donation through the Tin Cup Challenge...

Please visit the Community Foundation of Teton Valley's website at www.cftetonvalley.org and select Friends of the Teton River as the recipient of your donation. Teton area residents can look for the Tin Cup Challenge brochure, donation form, and race registration in their mailboxes, around town, or at the FTR office. Contributions are accepted beginning May 16, and must be received by no later than a week after the July 18 event (by **July 24, 2009**).

Sincerely,

Anna Lindstedt
Development Director

We have made a commitment to clean water and healthy streams—and we hope you will too!

January-May Donations

Phyllis Anderson
Jeff Carter
Chip Daniels
Peter and Mary Fenger
George Geiges
Nicholas and MaryAnn Georges
Mark Harrington
Mark and Doris Kelly
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1% for the Tetons
CHC Foundation
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Targhee Environmental Foundation
Teton Conservation District (Wyoming)
U.S. Department of Agriculture

Here are the donors from last year (2007) who were inadvertently missed in the 2007 donor list in the Fall 2008 newsletter.

Mountain Driftboat
William and Patricia Marckhoff
Jim and Cheryl Reinertsen
Douglas and Colleen Kunz
John and Peggy Stanchfield
Wes and Jean Keller

FTR in the community

1st Annual Wine for Water Event | March 2009 |

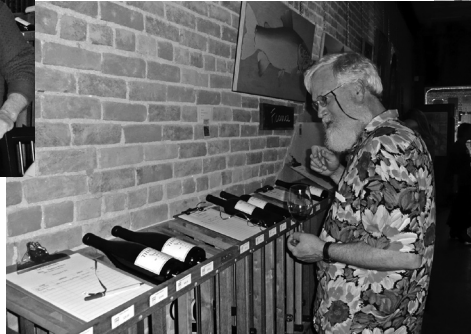
In March, FTR's first "Wine for Water" event raised a glass to western wines and \$5,000 for Teton Valley's water resources. The wine tasting featured 8 award-winning varietals from Idaho, Washington, and California vintners, while over 100 bottles were donated for the silent auction. Before the tasting, Education and Outreach Director Amy

Verbeten explained how soil, water and climate influence the character of each wine, and how these elements are directly connected to the watersheds they came from. We look forward to exploring regional wines and their watersheds again next year!

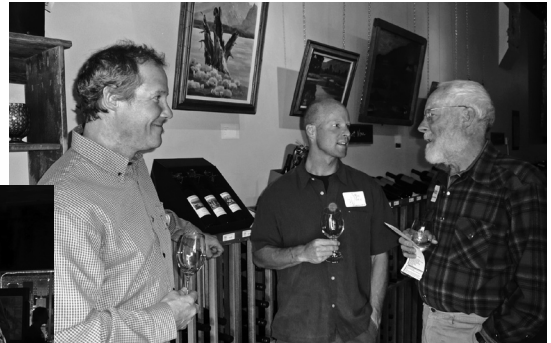


Robert Emerson pours FTR Board Member Linda Unland and John Finley a taste of red.

**Thanks to our donors
for their contributions
to these events!**



Sandy Mason peruses the 100 bottles of wine donated for auction.



Steve Meyer (left), founder of the Pend d'Oreille Winery in Sandpoint, Idaho discusses the finer points of becoming a vintner with FTR Restoration Director Mike Lien and Board Member Andy Steele. Meyer's 2005 Malbec was chosen as the favorite wine of the evening.

Fisherman's Dinner | May 2009 |

More than 100 Teton River friends and supporters joined us to celebrate the "Teton River Legacy" at the 2nd annual Fisherman's Dinner on May 22nd. Guests enjoyed the beautiful evening, socializing and dining on the edge of the Teton River canyon at Overlook Lodge at River Rim. The event featured the trout photography of local artist Jim Berkenfield, live and silent auctions, and a slide show by filmmaker, author, and conservationist Charlie

Craighead. Craighead presented the original slides from a river trip he took as a youth with his father, biologist Frank Craighead, and Patagonia founder Yvon Chouinard, down the Teton River canyon before the Teton Dam was built in the mid 1970s. We thank those who attended this successful fundraiser benefitting the restoration of our Teton Basin fishery, and we wish you a happy fishing season in 2009!



Mitch and Sloan Prissel and Tim Brune represent World Cast Anglers at the event.

Jim Berkenfield was the featured artist of the evening, with his trout photos on display.



Around the table from the left, Viviania and Skip Mullen, Martin Scott, Jim and Sue Berkenfield and Lonnie Allen enjoy a table with a view of the river canyon.

Join us for our Annual River Party on July 11th at 6pm,
just south of the Teton Valley Lodge!

Friends Of The Teton River



ninth annual
Teton River Celebration and Auction
Saturday, July 11th, 5:00pm 2009
Just south of the Teton Valley Lodge

POSTER ARTWORK BY DAN BURR

Friends of the Teton River

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