

WATER LINES

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED BY FRIENDS OF THE TETON RIVER VOL. 6 NO. 2 SUMMER 2006

"We're testing your drinking water!"



50 wells have been sampled through U of I/FTR groundwater quality study

Friends of the Teton River is working with the University of Idaho to conduct a groundwater quality study in Teton Valley this summer. A field crew comprised of FTR and UI personnel recently completed the field sampling of 50 wells scattered across the valley. Many of our loyal supporters offered their wells for the study—thanks!

The study follows up on a similar study conducted by FTR and the USGS in 2002, which also involved a random sampling and analysis of 50 wells across the valley. Several water quality parameters were measured in the field during the sampling process, including pH, specific conductivity, dissolved oxy-

gen, temperature, and alkalinity. Numerous other parameters, including nitrate and a range of inorganic constituents, are being laboratory analyzed at UI's Idaho Falls facilities. The work is being conducted at the request of the Teton County Commissioners, who asked that additional studies of groundwater quality in Teton Valley be completed before they reconsidered the possible need for an ordinance(s) to protect groundwater quality, particularly for nitrate, due to the rapid increase in domestic septic systems across the valley associated with rapid development. We expect to have the laboratory results back by mid September—stay tuned.



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FTR hydrologists enlisted to help manage irrigation diversions

FTR is now into our second year of working with the Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR) to help manage the diversion of irrigation water in Teton Valley. Our



Mike Lien installs a staff flow gauge measurement device on Trail Creek.

work last year initially involved getting rapidly oriented to the network of diversions, canals and ditches scattered across the valley. This was a very busy time because as soon as we determined where a diversion was located we had to immediately add it to the growing list of places where we needed to periodically measure flows, which change throughout the season. And, on top of that, we had to assess the condition of each diversion structure and, in many cases, get them outfitted with useable measuring devices.

Since the beginning of the project, FTR has installed about 30 measuring devices known as staff gauges, which look like a metal ruler mounted on a post or on the headgate of an irrigation ditch. At the beginning of this year, IDWR thanked FTR for our efforts during 2005, and asked that we continue to work with them in 2006.

This spring we continued the task of locating minor diversions not measured in 2005 and installing staff gauges where appropriate. The staff gauges allow us to quickly see the depth of water in a ditch. By periodically measuring the actual flow volume in a ditch at different flow levels, we can create a rating curve for each staff gauge that relates the height of the water

on the gauge to the flow in the ditch. This allows us to quickly approximate actual ditch flows by simply reading the height of the water on the staff gauge. We also installed a series of gauges on bridges at various intervals along the lengths of Trail and Teton Creeks in order to collect flow data to help us better understand their hydrology and changing flow conditions during the irrigation season.

FTR geared up for this season's field work by hiring several interns to work with us this summer. Leanna Knight and Josh Wise, both Teton Valley High School Students, joined our crew in May, and Kimberly Peterson, a recent graduate of Idaho State University with a degree in mathematics, joined us in June. Working with John Rice, our interns proceeded to attack with gusto the task of increasing the frequency of diversion measurements across Teton Valley. Kim's math background came in particularly handy in helping us to develop accurate rating curves for the numerous staff gauges installed to date.

The interns helped to manage the data and also produced data tables for each diversion that showed flows (in cubic feet per second) for the range of possible staff gauge heights. This data has proven invaluable to the new watermaster, as he needs to be able to accurately reset headgate flows in numerous ditches across the valley as water-right priority dates change throughout the season. Previously a lot of the resetting of headgates was done by best guess.

Speaking of the new Teton Valley Deputy Watermaster, that position was filled this spring by Denny Thomas, formerly of the Teton County Assessor's office. FTR has greatly appreciated the opportunity to work with Denny, as he knows Teton Valley like the back of his hand, and because he has a friendly and helpful demeanor, which has helped to make the sometime contentious task of regulating irrigation diversions in Teton Valley just a little easier to deal with.

Meet FTR's summer interns

This summer FTR has been extremely lucky to have three wonderful interns working with us. These young people have helped enormously with the FTR workload and have added their humour, talent and curiosity to our daily lives. Thank you Leanna, Josh and Kim. And so many thanks to Karen Schied for the scholarship opportunity.

Josh Wise

Hi, my name is Josh Wise. I will be a sophomore in high school next year. Some of my hobbies are running, snowboarding, and playing guitar. I started working for FTR as the recipient of the summer scholarship. My job includes everything from measuring irrigation diversions, water quality, to helping with the annual river party, and so much more in between. When my teachers started telling me about the job, I just knew it would be great fun, and it has been. Now I do admit there have been days with scorching heat, after noon rain showers, and possibly the worst biting mosquitoes. But even with all that, this is still the best summer job. I have met some great people; I love being outdoors, and learning different things everyday.

Kimberly Peterson

I am Kimberly Peterson and a senior at Idaho State University working on a bachelor in mathematics. I recently accepted a fellowship for a Ph. D. in biology that I will begin in the spring of 2007. Last summer Dr. Van Kirk from the math department at ISU and I put together a mathematical model of Teton Creek. This model was designed to project the amount of discharge on the creek at four different locations during a given water year under four irrigation practices: the natural scenario with no irrigation, historic flood irrigation, current sprinkler irrigation, and the hypothetical situation of pipelining all the canals. In doing this research we needed to collect some field data. Friends of the Teton River offered their time and equipment to help us gather this data and I developed an interest in the organization. I was offered a research internship in Driggs from FTR and gladly accepted. I spend most of my working hours reading staff gages and taking discharge measurements on diversions off the natural creeks. With this information I then construct functions that relate the two pieces of information. This allows our watermaster to easily adjust headgates to the appropriate flow in cubic feet per second by simply leveling water to the corresponding gage height. This work is very rewarding as I am aiding other people as well as the environment. I am impressed with the many grants FTR works on to benefit not only the ecosystems but the public

Leanna Knight

My name is Leanna Knight, I am 17 years old and have lived in Teton Valley most of my life. Some of my very first memories are of being packed on a goat in Teton Canyon, walking up to a secluded area to pick huckleberries, or sledding down a hill so fast it was hard to catch a breath. When I turned 7, I hiked up Table Rock for the first time. When I was about 9 years old my dad took me up the Middle Teton. At the age of 11 my Dad thought I was mature and strong enough to summit the Grand Teton. Being raised in a climate where winter consumes most of the year and my father anxious for his kids to enjoy the great outdoors, I learned to cross-country ski at a young age. I obtained great balance as I tried to go downhill on these "toothpicks". This summer I had an opportunity to go half way around the world to India! It was a big cultural shock, but a wonderful experience. I saw very simple people with very simple lives so happy it was contagious. I enjoyed learning about other people and how they live their lives.



Josh Wise running to an astonishing 6th place overall finish at the Jackson Snow King Hillclimb.



FTR interns Josh Wise and Kim Petersen on Trail Creek.



Leanna and the Ladakhi woman who helped fit her chuba (traditional dress) in India this summer.

2006 Teton Creek Assessment

In the spring of 2006, FTR launched a new project to assess Teton Creek between Stateline Road and Highway 33 (see Figure 1) at the request of Teton Creek landowners, developers and government agencies. The complex and historic issues concerning this section include: manipulation of the stream channels through channelization and filling-in of overflow channels; dewatering of the stream for agriculture; and development within the floodplain. One of the Teton Creek developers, Lynn Moses, was recently sentenced to eighteen months in jail for channelizing Teton Creek without permits. Over the past three months, FTR has hosted bi-monthly meetings to address the concerns of interested parties; raised funding for the project; provided a forum for landowners to meet with government agencies; and developed the 2006 Teton Creek Assessment.

The objectives of the assessment are to:

1. Produce a HEC-RAS analysis (detailed topographical map) of Teton Creek from State Line Road to Highway 33 using predicted 100 year high flow event both with and without irrigation diversions.
2. Identify areas on this section of Teton Creek that are currently unstable or susceptible to future erosion or channel migration.
3. Provide summary descriptions of channel and bank stability, fish habitat and riparian vegetation in each of the designated reaches.
4. Provide potential restoration strategies for areas where streambank degradation has occurred.
5. Provide a guide to development in the Teton Creek corridor that will effectively protect valuable natural resources.
6. Establish a stream gauging network on Teton Creek to accurately measure streamflow, diversions and channel loss rates.

The products of the assessment will be:

1. A viable long-term plan for maintenance of a healthy stream corridor (including maintenance of the riparian cottonwood corridor and improvement of fishery habitat).
2. A guide to landowners for development in a riparian corridor that will effectively protect valuable natural resources.
3. An assessment that will highlight potentially problematic areas in high water scenarios and direct planning so as to avoid costly mitigation measures.
4. Long-term increase in property values resulting from enhanced wildlife and fisheries, stream and riparian values.

During the first part of summer, FTR began gathering existing topographical survey data for the HEC-RAS model; conducted hydrologic monitoring; and finished a Proper Functioning Condition survey (PFC) of the middle section. FTR determined that the middle section is rapidly degrading as a result of hydrologic alteration, channel manipulation and development in the floodplain.

Reconstruction of the hydrologic record indicates that this section of Teton Creek flowed year-round during wet years and much of the year during dry years. Today, the middle section flows for approximately two months a year during spring run-off. Manipulation of the stream channel and important overflow channels has reduced the ability of the stream to absorb the impacts of flood events and increased bank destabilization. Specifically, channelization has reduced sinuosity and restricted channel migration, increased stream power, degraded fish habitat, and increased sediment delivery. Due to excess sediment

deposition and reduced streamflows, riparian cottonwood stands are in decline resulting in delivery of excess large woody debris (LWD) to the stream, bank destabilization and channel widening.

The PFC survey was developed by the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management to assess stream, riparian and floodplain health. A PFC survey does not compare current conditions to desired conditions, but rather it evaluates the ability of the stream, riparian vegetation and floodplain to dissipate the effects of high water; filter and transport sediment; maintain stable banks; and provide fish and wildlife habitat. To complete the survey, FTR collected information concerning hydrology, vegetation and erosion/deposition for each stream reach with homogenous conditions. For the purpose of discussion, the results from the PFC survey have been broken down into six sections (see Figure 1).

In Section 1, the stream was determined to be in a proper functioning condition with the exception of two locations where the channel could breach the bank and flood one of the condos at Teton Creek Resort.

In Section 2, the stream was determined to be functional-at risk due to past channelization work and vegetation removal.

In Section 3, the stream was determined to be nonfunctional due to decades of channelization, streambed excavation, vegetation removal and development. This section was affected by the illegal activities of Lynn Moses. A headcut at the upstream end of the section appears to have migrated nearly a quarter of mile up stream from Moses' work. Excess sediment from Moses' work and the headcut are causing detrimental effects to Sections 4-6. The excess sediment is depositing in these sections and choking-up the channel, creating center gravel bars and redirecting stream

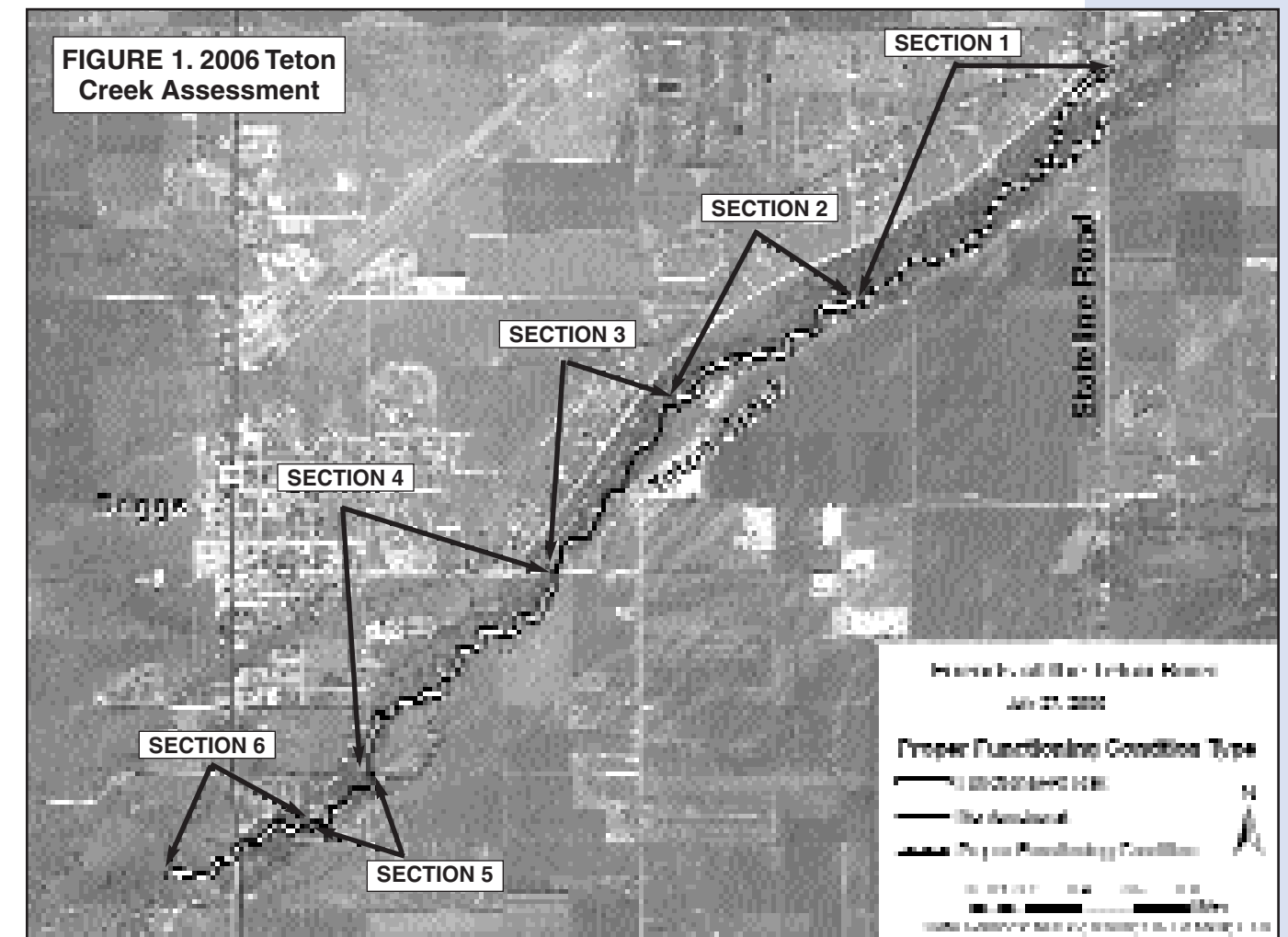
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“There are several bends in these sections where the stream could easily abandon the main channel and head-out across meadows towards the southern side of Driggs.”

This section of Teton Creek is functioning well.

Teton Creek at Creekside Meadows where the creek has been classified as functioning-at-risk.

This non-functional section of Teton Creek was excavated by Lynn Moses.



6th Annual Summer Picnic & Auction



Mothers and Daughters: LeAnn and Megan Talbot and Donna Brace Ogilvie and Karen Scheid.

A special thank you goes out to Jon and Karen Huntsman who have graciously provided FTR with the gorgeous site.



Larry Williamson, general manager at Grand Targhee, thanks Anna Lindstedt for her successful fundraising for the new Targhee SNOTEL site.



Local trio, Turquoise Shade of Blue, sang the crowd into the evening with cool blues melodies.



FTR Outreach Director Anna Lindstedt and impromptu auctioneer Sandy Mason take a seat in the We-no-nah canoe that was auctioned later in the evening.



Phyllis Anderson and Sam Pole, FTR board members.

Thank You Picnic Donors and Volunteers!

Friends of the Teton River would like to sincerely thank all the individuals who attended the Sixth Annual River Party & Adventure Auction. Three hundred and twenty-five people enjoyed a beautiful evening by the Teton River and raised over \$9,200 in funds that will directly benefit programming for clean water, healthy streams and abundant fisheries in Teton Valley. Thank you to the many businesses and volunteers for their generous donations, auction items and time. The event continues to grow every year and wouldn't be possible without their generous support.

A-1 Rental
Alternative Timber Structures
Barton Art Supplies
Basin Auto Glass
The Beverage Shoppe
Bodywise
Broulim's
Bustle Creek Canoes
The Copy Cabin
Cosmic Apple Gardens
Custom Fishing Nets
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Sonya Berger
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Larry Williamson
Josh Wise
David and Susan Work
Ruth Young
Jen Zung



Silent auction volunteers: Volunteers (from left) Alice Finley, Lynn Sandmann and John Finley take care of the silent auction bids.



Larry Young (left), climbing pioneer and Patagonia clothing company founder Yvon Chouinard (center), and FTR Board member Charlie Ross socialize on the banks of the Teton River.



Party goers closely inspect items donated to the live auction, like this canoe paddle hand crafted by Alta resident Lou Gaylord.

TETON CREEK ASSESSMENT FROM PAGE 5

flow into the banks. The banks are eroding rapidly and cottonwoods are subsequently falling into the stream causing further channel destabilization. There are several bends in these sections where the stream could easily abandon the main channel and head-out across meadows towards the southern side of Driggs.



Here today ... 400' of the bike path along Teton Creek at Creekside Meadows was removed by high flows (approximately 700 cfs) in May and June.

ably abandon the main channel and head-out across meadows towards the southern side of Driggs.

In Section 5, the stream was determined to be nonfunctional due to the effects of excess sediment deposition, riprap-lined banks and cottonwood die-off. Most of the stream bends in this section have been lined with riprap which has limited flood-water access to the flood-

plain. At the down stream end of Section 6, a 300 foot-long log jam caused by excess LWD from up stream had to be removed by the landowner to prevent the stream from forming new channels. Growing zones necessary for cottonwood regeneration have

been compromised in Sections 2-6 due to the detrimental effects of excess sediment deposition; channel work; headcutting; development; and lack of summer time flow.

The PFC survey helped to highlight the problematic reaches, determine why the reaches are problematic, and helped to target restoration goals and strategies. The next stages in the assessment will be to build the HEC-RAS model; analyze the model for geomorphologic information; begin prioritizing and designing restoration and stabilization projects; and create a guide for development within the floodplain.

Collaborators on the project include: Teton Creek Resort, Ellen Bratlien, Harry Statter, Geordie Gillett, Brian Green, Floyd Hillman, Neil Griggs, Francis McKibbin, Travis Thompson, Val Christensen, Bruce Simon, Marshal McGinnis, Kent Hillman, Western Watersheds, Nelson Engineering, Harmony Engineering, Intermountain Aquatics, City of Driggs, Teton County, US Corps of Engineers, Federal Emergency Management Agency, US Environmental Protection Agency, Idaho Department of Water Resources.



Looking downstream along the Trail Creek fish ladder.



Current condition of the Town Canal weir on Trail Creek.



Current condition of the irrigation splitter on Badger Creek.

Fish restoration projects funded by irrigation mitigation monies

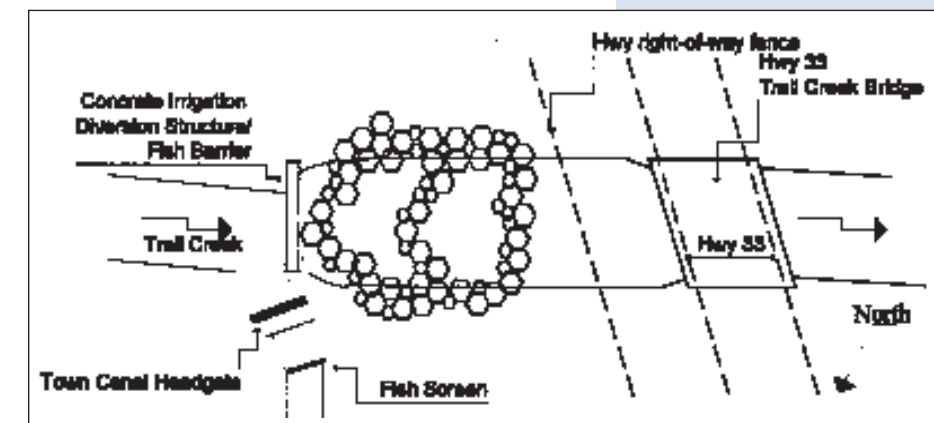
FTR continues to work on several projects this summer funded by Fish Restoration Irrigation Mitigation Act (FRIMA) monies. Two of these projects are located on Trail Creek. One involves the construction of a series of stepped rock weirs at the Town Canal irrigation diversion structure just upstream of Victor. The weirs will stabilize the deteriorating diversion structure while at the same time allowing for upstream movement of fish. The existing structure currently prevents upstream fish movement during periods of low flow.

The second project also involves the installation of a rock weir, this time to improve fish movement into an existing fish ladder on the main irrigation diversion structure on Trail Creek which provides water to the irrigation pipeline system that supplies the entire Victor area.

Lastly, we are continuing to design and

permit a replacement structure for a large irrigation splitter on Badger Creek. The new structure will include a fish screen to prevent fish from being entrained into the irrigation canal where numerous native Yellowstone cutthroat trout are lost each year.

Plans for the addition of two fish passage V-weirs at Town Canal, Trail Creek.



FTR receives EPA grant for watershed science education

Friends of the Teton River's Education Director Anna Lindstedt was the happy recipient of the 2006 EPA Environmental Education Grant. (The other Idaho recipients included the Palouse-Clearwater Environmental Institute and the University of Idaho). This is the second time FTR has garnered this grant for watershed education in Teton Valley. The last EPA grant for education was awarded to FTR to write the K-12 Teton Watershed Curriculum.

The 2006 award money will go towards implementing the curriculum at an outdoor site located on the Black-

foot Farms Property, just west of Driggs. The Blackfoot Farms Outdoor Classroom will enable six teachers and their students to study watershed and environmental science while performing projects in the field. Classes at the elementary, middle and high school levels will learn about the water, soils, vegetation and wildlife on the property, rehabilitate and monitor two wetland ponds and a creek, design interpretive signs for the site, and create a portfolio of their learning over the length of the project. Student work at Blackfoot Farms will occur over the 2006-2007 school year.

Curriculum Translation. With the help of local Spanish translators, Kathy Buxton and Zahan Billimoria, portions of the Teton Watershed Curriculum will be available to Spanish speakers by the beginning of the school year. The translated materials include the elementary and middle school level resources and the Stream Study Journal. As the Spanish materials become available, they will be posted with the English version of the curriculum on the FTR website: www.tetonwater.org under Education. This translation is being made possible through a grant by the Community Foundation of Jackson Hole.



Andy Steele,
FTR Board President

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Friends of the Teton River took on a new meaning for me this summer. It began with the power and excitement of the spring runoff. The FTR staff was as pumped with energy as the rivers and creeks. Was there anyone who could not feel and see the valley come alive with the winters snow pack cascading and percolating to fill the valley with life? There was hope that maybe this year the Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout fingerlings would be able to make it back to the mainstream. There was hope that the stream channels would be cleansed to provide cleaner gravels for spawning. Each of us became aware of the forces of history as the streams coursed their way beyond man's confines in the warming days of spring.

The Board met last month at the Community School to handle the business of FTR. I realized this was no ordinary board meeting, this was a group of Friends. Each person brought to the group their special skills and their passion for the waters and fisheries of Teton valley. Each person sharing their time, fortune, and talents for a common good. Each person caring for the community and one another. I was deeply moved.

And then on a warm evening in July, the community gathered by the banks of the Teton River in celebration—a celebration of water and fish and friends. A celebration of the good work that is being done by dedicated

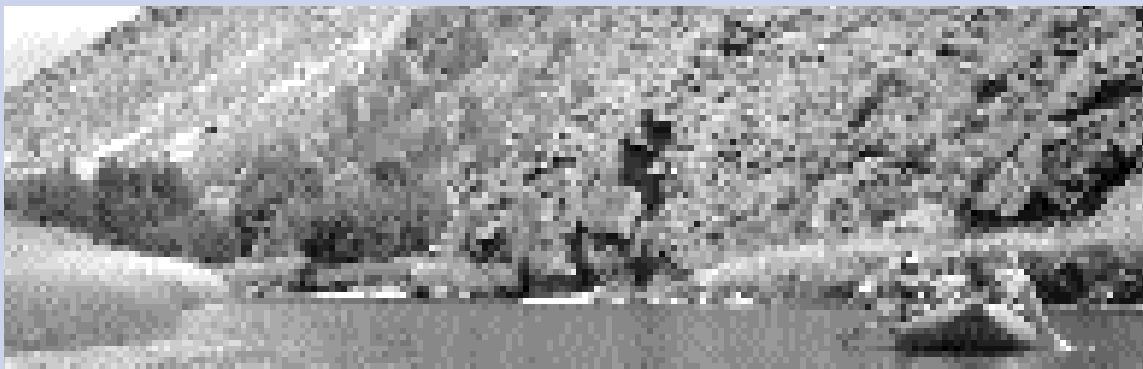
and talented scientists, lay people, and volunteers. A celebration for the many friends of the Teton River who give each in their own way in the support of healthy streams, abundant fisheries, and clean water. Thank you for being a friend of the Teton River. I look forward to seeing you around the Valley and on the River. Sincerely,

Andy Steele, BOARD PRESIDENT

Second Quarter 2006 Donors

Thanks to the following second quarter donors to FTR. We appreciate your support.

Community Foundation of Jackson Hole	Ron & Sandy Balsey	Floyd Hill & Virginia Griggs	Charlie & Bo Ross
Potter Clinton Development, Inc	Hendrika Cantwell	Robert Russell Howison	Margie Singleton & Ron Weston
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	Geordie & Kim Gillett	Elizabeth Miner	Timothy & Margot Watters
	Brian & Maria Hendrickson	Janna Rankin & Art Frakt	Charlie Woodward
		Dr. Jim & Cheryl Reinertsen	



FTR staff enjoy a retreat day in the Lower Teton Canyon exploring the remarkable changes that occurred following the catastrophic failure of the Teton Dam. Many, many thanks to Yostmark Mountain Equipment, Driggs, for sponsoring the day.

Your Old Bill's gift will keep FTR working

We are well on our way to making 2006 the biggest year yet for Friends of the Teton River! With the help of generous supporters like you, in our first five years we completed groundbreaking scientific research, formed key relationships with government, private and nonprofit leaders; and acquired additional knowledge of the Teton watershed best learned by hands-on projects on the Teton River and its tributaries. Now we're using this information to implement programs driven by FTR's Mission to work for clean water, healthy streams and abundant fisheries in Teton Valley. In this article we want to briefly tell you about those programs and ask for your continued support through Old Bill's 2006.



Charities is critically important to FTR's financial health. Not only do donations to Old Bill's cover about 20% of FTR's annual operating costs, but the Old Bill's match on the first \$25,000 raised amounts to a gift that is a once-a-year opportunity for FTR to

supplement regular donations.

Here's how Old Bill's works. Old Bill's 2006 is the tenth year that an anonymous couple in Jackson—"Mr. & Mrs. Old Bill"—has put up a fund of \$500,000 for the Old Bill's community event that is used to match gifts to FTR and other nonprofit organizations in Teton County, WY and Teton Valley, ID. Old Bill's is administered through the Community Foundation of Jackson Hole.

While the match varies annually depending upon the amount available from Mr. & Mrs. Old Bill and other co-challengers, compared to the amount raised by all participating nonprofits, let's assume for our purposes here it's 40% for 2006. This means every dollar donated by you to FTR would result in \$1.40 going to FTR for matched funds (the match applies to the first \$25,000 raised by FTR, after which FTR receives every dollar you donate, without an additional match). You can see that your gifts to FTR during Old Bill's Fun Run are leveraged for FTR's benefit.

To donate to FTR through Old Bill's, use the Old Bill's donor form (contact FTR if you don't have one), designating FTR under the "Organization" column, plus the amount you choose to give. The Community Foundation of Jackson Hole records your gift, mails you a tax receipt and passes along 100% of your contribution to FTR. The match is determined when all contributions through Old Bill's have been made. You may also make a contribution on-line through the Community Foundation's website: www.cfjacksonhole.org.

Please don't delay—all contributions must be received by the Community Foundation of Jackson Hole by September 15, 2006.

Thank you for your support during Old Bill's and throughout the year.

FTR WORKS

FTR works for clean water. One of FTR's key strategies for 2006 is to monitor and improve surface and ground water quality in Teton Valley.

FTR works for Open Channels. Open Channels is FTR's largest program ever, building upon five years of hydrologic and fishery research, recognizing that healthy tributaries ultimately mean a healthy Teton River. Open Channels involves three strategies: improving connectivity between tributary headwaters and the Teton River, restoring streambanks to increase fish and wildlife habitat and reduce sedimentation and rewating tributaries during critical native trout reproductive periods.

FTR works for watershed education. FTR's watershed education program for Teton Valley schools fills a key need for classroom and hands-on education about the Teton watershed, without further extending limited teacher and school resources.

FTR works with all who support stewardship of Teton Valley water resources. On a typical day FTR may work with a dozen or more organizational and individual collaborators, all in a day's work for an organization that pledges to collaborate with all who work for the benefit of the Teton watershed.

Make your dollars work harder. the Old Bill's opportunity—Old Bill's Fun Run for

Spring Challenge 2006

Each year the members of the FTR Board of Directors launch their own financial support for FTR with a pledge of support by every Board member, followed by a challenge to FTR members to match Board contributions. This Spring Challenge totaled over \$35,000 in 2006, providing a base of support for further fundraising efforts. As a nonprofit organization, FTR depends upon the support of its members and the community to accomplish its mission. Thanks to the FTR Board for jump starting our 2006 efforts!

FTR WORKS.

Friends of the Teton River works for...

Don't forget to
join us for:

HARVEST MOON & FALL COLORS FLOAT

5 pm, Friday,
October 6

Rainey Fish & 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.



Clean Water



Healthy Streams



Watershed Education



Abundant Fisheries

Make your dollars work harder
for the Teton Watershed by giving to
Friends of the Teton River through Old Bill's.

PICK UP AN OLD BILL'S REGISTRATION FORM
at the FTR office in Driggs at 36 East Little Avenue
or register on-line at www.cfjackonhole.org

*If you have questions about how you can
contribute to FTR's work call 208-354-3871.*



Friends of the Teton River

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