

*Friends of the Teton River*

# water lines

Winter 2010

*New Frontiers for the Teton Watershed*





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Newsletter design by  
 Powder Mountain Press LLC  
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## A message from Tom Fenger



*"I want to thank you for your passion, your support, and your dedication to our work for a healthy Teton Watershed."*

Ten years ago, a diverse group of citizens who understood the needs to restore and protect the water resources in Teton Valley determined that the best way to address these issues was to form an organization called Friends of the Teton River. With the decision made, Lyn Benjamin and I took it upon ourselves to do what it actually takes to build a non-profit like the one we envisioned.

First, we sought out people with an uncommon passion and dedication for the resource to be board members; we wrote by-laws, filed for a non-profit tax status, solicited start-up money, rented office space, and crafted a mission statement. It was also decided at that time that to best direct our efforts, we would operate on a base of sound science—which there was very little at the time!

In the first few years, a small board and staff were intimately involved with all the details on a short list of very important projects. As support grew and funding increased, Lyn showed tenacity for building a strong organization and collaborative partnerships. Lyn's proactive talents led FTR to take a watershed-wide approach. Under this approach, many pieces of the puzzle still needed to be identified and put together, and she was able to lead this charge.

Now, a decade later, I find myself as the Interim Executive Director at the helm of an organization full of success stories—many untold. Up until this October (when I accepted this role), I have been the longest serving board member. And though I've been intimately involved with the organization all these years, I am simply amazed at the work

that has been accomplished, the talents of our hard-working staff, and the details of our strategic plan to further our mission in the next ten years.

Like me, many of you have been with us since the beginning. For those of you who have, and for those of you who are "new" to FTR, I want to thank you for your passion, your support, and your dedication to our work for a healthy Teton Watershed.

From where I'm sitting—whether in the FTR office, or in the rower's seat of my drift boat—the Teton River and its tributaries, the fishery, our water, our community, and the watershed we're leaving for our children, have all been improved through the efforts we started ten years ago.

I look forward to serving in my role as Interim Executive Director, knowing that it will bring both challenges and rewards. Over the coming months, I will be working together with FTR's Board, staff, members, and partners to continue our important work and to develop a process for seeking out and hiring the best possible person to serve as FTR's next permanent Executive Director. And while we will remain true to our mission for a cleaner and healthier watershed, we also look forward to forging new relationships and expanding our frontiers to accomplish this goal.

*Tom*

Tom Fenger  
 Interim Executive Director

## Recognizing 10 Years of Service to the Teton Watershed

As the founding Executive Director of FTR, Lyn Benjamin left an indelible mark on the Teton Watershed. While working as a hydrology graduate student and technical advisor to the Henry's Fork Watershed Council, Lyn realized that the hydrology of the Teton Basin



was poorly understood, despite its being a major tributary within the Upper Snake River system. Drawing upon relationships she had built in the Teton Basin, Lyn helped to convene a group of conservationists, farmers, guides and outfitters, research scientists, agency representatives, and citizens concerned about the future of the Teton River. This group of more than 30 individuals worked together to identify the need for additional research in the Teton Basin, and defined a set of action steps that became the mission statement for the new non-profit Friends of the Teton River. "I was deeply influenced by my work with the Henry's Fork Watershed Council," says Lyn. "I was so impressed by this model of collaborative watershed management, where irrigators were willing to work together with conservation groups for the betterment of the watershed."



Lyn's vision of creating a healthy watershed through science-based action and collaboration has been realized in many ways over the past 10 years. The organization has made significant strides in restoring stream habitat conditions, monitoring and protecting water quality, providing educational programs for adults and children, and understanding the status of Yellowstone cutthroat trout populations. Thanks to Lyn's bridge-building efforts with the irrigation community, former Idaho Department of Water Resources Director Ron Carlson appointed FTR as the hydrographer for the Teton Basin in 2006. Following five years of intensive work with the Bonneville Environmental Foundation, Lyn and staff garnered the prestigious Model Watershed designation for the Teton Basin in 2009. Perhaps most importantly, says Lyn, "Water has become a household conversation. We used to operate from Mark Twain's quote that 'Whiskey is for drinking and water is for fighting over.' But we have found that, at least here in the Teton Watershed, water can truly bring people together."



FTR's Board of Directors decided in September that they wanted a different management style going forward, and Lyn was asked to step down. She has embarked on a year-long sabbatical to travel and reconnect with the rivers and wild places that first inspired her work. Lyn will continue to reside in Driggs, and will return to work in hydrology when her sabbatical is finished. "I want to say a huge thank-you to all of the supporters, colleagues, members, and friends who made our work at FTR possible over the past 10 years," says Lyn, who can be contacted at [lynb@silverstar.com](mailto:lynb@silverstar.com).

PHOTOS: (TOP) LYN HIKES TO AN FTR WATER QUALITY SITE. (MIDDLE) ONE OF LYN'S EARLY FIELD DAYS ON THE TETON RIVER. (BOTTOM) LYN TELLS KIDS A "FISH TALE" AT THE 2003 OLD BILL'S FUN RUN.



# NEW FRONTIERS: Water Management & Supply

## Teton Dam & The Henry's Fork Special Study

By Sarah Rupp, FTR Streamflow Restoration Director

Teton Dam was originally constructed in the lower reach of Teton Canyon, about three miles northeast of Newdale, in the early 1970s; it was primarily intended to provide supplemental irrigation water for eastern Idaho. However, on the morning of June 5, 1976, just days away from being fully filled for the first time, Teton Dam ruptured, resulting in devastating tragedy. The towns of Sugar City and Rexburg were flooded, eleven people lost their lives, and more than 10,000 people were forced to leave their homes.

Now, more than thirty years since that devastating event occurred, the Idaho State Legislature has appropriated money to evaluate options for replacing Teton Dam. The \$400,000 allocated by the State of Idaho will be matched by an additional \$400,000 from the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) through its new WaterSMART program. WaterSMART is intended to encourage exploration of creative, forward-looking water strategies and solutions by recognizing a broad range of water needs, including agriculture use, residential use, and ecosystem health, while simultaneously examining how climate change, drought, and other factors could impact future water availability.

Originally the study was focused almost exclusively on replacing Teton Dam. Now, however, the scope has been broadened, and is being referred to as The Special Study on Water Supply on the Henry's Fork. The BOR is working collaboratively with the State of Idaho and a special working group to develop alternatives to improve water supply conditions in the Upper Snake River. The study will identify opportunities for development of water supplies (i.e., above-ground and aquifer storage) and improvement of water management (like conservation measures and optimization of resources) while sustaining environmental quality, according to the BOR website.

To kick off the study in June 2010, the BOR began working with the Henry's Fork Watershed Council

(HFWC), selected to serve as the study's special working group to provide input and direction on study objectives. HFWC was chosen because of its broad base of participants (including municipalities, irrigators, canal companies, federal and state agencies, and non-governmental organizations), and its history of collaborative decision-making.



PHOTO: JEFF POTTER (FTR PHOTO CONTEST ENTRY)

The special working group has met on a monthly basis, seeking to define the process by which the study will be conducted. In October, the BOR contracted with professional facilitator CH2M Hill, to ensure that the perspectives, priorities, and topics of import from all interested individuals are brought to light.

Meetings in the coming months will be critical to ensure that the study generates thoughtful solutions which address the various issues and needs associated with water supply and management in eastern Idaho.

By mid-November, the working group (with additional members) will finalize a list of issues, constraints, opportunities, and ideas pertaining to the study's purpose.

In January, the working group will discuss the goals, objectives, and criteria by which various solutions can be evaluated. In February, the group will identify potential water supply and management alternatives. Then, in March, the group will select

specific alternatives which will be routed to a technical team for research and feasibility analysis. The technical team will present their findings to the working group in July and August, 2011.

The BOR is looking for committed representatives from diverse interest groups to participate in the study through July 2012. Working group meetings will be held monthly at the SpringHill Marriott in Rexburg. Recognizing that it would be difficult for some to attend these meetings, Friends of the Teton River has put together an Upper Teton Valley Stakeholder group dedicated to ensure that the opinions, concerns, and ideas relevant to the Upper Teton Valley are adequately represented.

Rebuilding Teton Dam could decimate one of the last strongholds for Yellowstone cutthroat trout and dramatically impact the goals FTR is diligently working to achieve. Yet the Teton River sits at the headwaters of the Snake, providing

valuable water for downstream irrigators. Regardless of your perspective, be sure your voice is heard, because this study will dictate water-use priorities in Teton Valley for years to come.

For additional information about the Special Study on Water Supply on the Henry's Fork visit [www.usbr.gov/pn/programs/studies/idaho/henrysfork/index.html](http://www.usbr.gov/pn/programs/studies/idaho/henrysfork/index.html) or contact Sarah Rupp, FTR's Streamflow Restoration Director at (208) 354-3871.

## Streamflow Restoration Program Update

By Sarah Rupp

Since arriving at FTR earlier this year, I have had the opportunity to experience Teton Valley at its finest. In April, I skied some of the best snow of the season. As the snow melted, rivers rose, giving way to a beautiful summer. The landscape was rich and green, fed by generous rain the valley received throughout July, August, and September. As the weather cooled and mornings became brisk, Teton Valley gave way to the most stunning autumn I can recall.

Although amazing, the magnificent weather resulted in unpredictable streamflows. As a result of the mild 2009-10 winter, the summer began as a drought year. Reservoirs throughout Idaho were only partially filled, and irrigators who rely on storage water feared this would be a difficult year. As spring gave way to a summer punctuated by frequent rain showers, the surface flows in tributaries remained relatively high. Yet, as is the case nearly every year, all tributary streams in Teton Valley went dry at some point during the season.

I am hopeful this will not always be the case. FTR's streamflow restoration program aims to restore tributary flows utilizing cooperative solutions. By employing a variety of incentives—including market-based compensation, technical assistance, and expert advice—we can work with landowners to keep land productive and streams healthy.

It is not easy to reallocate our scarce water resources in a way that accommodates industry, agriculture, and the environment—yet by employing practical, collaborative solutions, it is possible.

As Teton Valley turns white and we put away our summer clothes, I will be hoping for above-average snowfall to help sustain Teton Valley streams and rivers next summer. Please feel free to contact me at the FTR office (208-354-3871) if you have ideas for a streamflow restoration project or if you would like more information on the incentives-based programs mentioned above.



PHOTO: BEN JOY (FTR PHOTO CONTEST ENTRY)



# FISHERY FRONTIERS

## A Model Watershed

In early 2010, the Bonneville Environmental Foundation (BEF) conferred upon FTR its prestigious Model Watershed designation. This program comes with a ten-year commitment of funding worth more than \$300,000. In addition to complementing FTR's current efforts to restore habitat, reconnect de-watered tributaries, and educate children and adults in our community, BEF is providing scientific and technical support as we develop a rigorous biological monitoring program to test the effects of our first ten years of watershed restoration. Additional funding for the 2010 fisheries monitoring work was provided by IDFG, WY Game and Fish, the USFWS, and Dr. John Short.



Intern Ben Davis and Robert Warren of BEF install an interrogation site on Warm Creek, funded by the Teton Springs Foundation.



Restoration Director Mike Lien makes a small incision to insert a pit tag in an upper Teton River YCT.

## Tagging and Tracking Trout

During the electrofishing survey this summer, FTR's Fish Survey Crew installed passive integrated responder (PIT) tags in more than 300 individual fish. PIT tags, similar to a microchip implanted in a pet, provide a unique identifying number for each tagged fish associated with its size, condition, and location of capture. The Fish Survey Crew also worked with BEF's Program Director Robert Warren to install six PIT-tag interrogation sites on Teton, Trail, Warm, and Fox creeks. An additional four sites will be installed during summer 2011. An interrogation site records PIT-tag data whenever a tagged fish passes beneath it,

providing realtime information about fish movement. Having a large number of PIT-tagged fish, combined with tributary interrogation sites, will provide a longterm understanding of Yellowstone cutthroat trout migration patterns, as well as important information about whether fish are spawning, hatching, and surviving to adulthood in each of our tributary streams. Many thanks to John Short, who committed funding for three years to establish interrogation sites on major Teton River tributaries, and to Teton Springs, which funded the installation of the Warm Creek interrogation site.

## Shocking Discoveries

From May through September, FTR's Fisheries Survey Crew walked each of the Teton River's tributaries, repeating an extensive electrofishing survey performed five years ago. The 2005 study established important baseline data about Yellowstone cutthroat trout population numbers and migration patterns. By repeating this study every five years, we will be able to track YCT numbers over time, and collect important information about fish survival and movement in each of our tributary streams. This data will be used by FTR staff and the Science Review Committee to inform and improve our Restoration and Streamflow programs in the future. Results of the summer 2010 electrofishing survey will be discussed in the Water Wise presentation "Something Fishy" in April (see back cover for complete Water Wise schedule).



FTR Interns and volunteer Chuck Lossi electroshock on Warm Creek.



FTR Interns, Wyoming Game & Fish, and volunteers Jon Fenn and Rusty Vest span Bitch Creek to capture electroshocked trout.

## Input from the Experts

With BEF's support, FTR held our first Science Review Committee meeting in May to plan the research agenda for summer 2010. Composed of representatives from the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, U.S. Forest Service, Wyoming Game and Fish Department, Humboldt State University, and the U.S. Geological Survey, the Science Review Committee will convene again in late November to review the data and make recommendations for future work.



The interrogation site crew show off their handiwork at a completed site on Fox Creek.



The BEF Science Review Committee gets oriented to the issues while taking a tour of the watershed in May.



## Exploring Frontiers Outside the Classroom

By Amy Verbeten, FTR Education & Outreach Director

The fall of 2010 has been the busiest season yet for the Education Program of the Friends of the Teton River. Since August, more than two hundred students and twenty teachers from Teton County School District #401, the Teton Valley Community School, and the Learning Academy have participated in K-12 Teton Watershed Education field trips, classroom activities, and professional development for teachers.



Fourth graders in Barb Agnew's class at Teton Elementary use Stream Study curriculum to practice measuring and math skills, and to provide an engaging topic for writing. Agnew's students have been partnering with FTR to study local streams since 2001.



For the past three years, fifth graders from Victor Elementary have engaged in an inquiry-based science project to track the health of aquatic insects in Trail Creek.



Students in Kristin Johnson's third-to-sixth grade class at The Learning Academy kicked off a year-long study of water with a field exploration of Teton Creek.



Idaho Science Standards for fifth grade emphasize geology, so Driggs Elementary teachers Kara Donnelley and Jill Davis, and Victor Elementary teacher Sharon Gusa, partnered with FTR and the Grand Targhee Resort to provide students with the opportunity for hands-on exploration. In this photo, Driggs Elementary students explore the role of water in shaping landscapes.



Victor Elementary teachers Megan Gaz and Andrea McKee wanted science to come alive for their second graders. They partnered with FTR and the Teton Regional Land Trust, using the Woods Creek Fen as an outdoor classroom to study plant and insect habitats.



Basin High School students, as part of a quarter-long "Trout in the Classroom" unit taught by FTR's Amy Verbeten, investigate nutrient cycling in an aquatic environment.

### WaterSmart Teton Valley

The Teton Region now has its first water-wise demonstration garden, thanks to funding from 1% for the Tetons, support from the City of Victor, and the landscaping expertise of MD Nursery. Water-wise landscaping (also known as xeriscaping) is an approach to landscaping that reduces the need for water, maintenance, and other resources. The WaterSmart Teton Valley demonstration garden can be viewed at the entrance to the City of Victor's new transportation center, at the south end of Pioneer Park.

## Stream Restoration Continues with Multi-year Projects

By Mike Lien, FTR Restoration Program Director

After years of planning, collaboration, and fundraising, FTR has started Phase II of the Teton Creek Restoration Project and Phase I of the Trail Creek Restoration Project.

Both projects are designed to provide the following benefits to the Teton River Watershed:

- Improve water quality in Teton and Trail creeks and the Teton River by reducing sediment loads, improving water temperatures by shading the streams, and capturing sediment during flood events.

- Increase Yellowstone cutthroat trout (YCT) populations in Teton and Trail creeks and subsequently in the Teton River by improving water quality, fish habitat, and fish passage.

- Increase wildlife habitat by establishing native vegetation.

- Reduce the risk of flooding and subsequent loss of property.

- Provide a forum for dialogue, education, and consensus-building among stakeholders.

### Teton Creek Phase II

The second phase of the \$2.4 million Teton Creek Project is construction designed to stabilize a mile of Teton Creek east of Driggs that was illegally channelized by a developer so that homes could be built on the floodplain. Phase II is part of a collaborative process with numerous partners including landowners along the creek, Jeff Potter, MD Landscaping, Aqua Terra Excavation, Teton County, the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, and the Idaho Office of Species Conservation (OSC).

### Before



Teton Creek side channel adjacent to the Aspens subdivision before construction.

### During



Restoration crews used buried logs to stabilize the stream banks and dissipate stream energy naturally.

### After



Completed work and revegetation on the side channel.

This phase of the project will stabilize 2,000 feet of rapidly eroding stream banks and protect infrastructure, using bio-engineering techniques consisting of rock and vegetation. Phase II will also improve channel capacity to help contain floodwaters that used to spread across the floodplain where homes now exist.

### Trail Creek Phase I

The Trail Creek Project is also a collaborative effort, with partners including the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Aqua Terra Excavation, Teton Regional Land Trust, Trout Unlimited, Silver Star Communications, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Idaho OSC, and landowner Travis Thompson.

Channelization work completed in the 1970s on Trail Creek has, in effect, created a water cannon, located adjacent to Victory Ranches, that is causing bank erosion and habitat loss for miles downstream.

The project involves reconstructing 2,200 linear feet of the channelized reach and stabilizing 4,400 feet of associated stream banks. Stream bends will be created and floodplain benches will be built along the banks and planted with native vegetation. Pools and riffles will be constructed in the stream channel and stabilized with rock weirs and hardened riffles. Stream banks will be stabilized using bio-engineering techniques, including willow clump transplanting.

FTR would like to thank all of the partners, sponsors, and volunteers that have helped to make these projects possible.



## In Memorial



**Rob Merrill**

We at FTR extend our deepest sympathies to the friends and family of Rob Merrill, manager of the Three Rivers Ranch fly shop in Driggs and long-time Teton Valley fishing guide. Rob died doing what he loved: guiding others on the South Fork of the Snake River. Those who stopped by his shop knew immediately how deeply his passion for this region's rivers ran; it was virtually impossible to avoid being drawn into a conversation about protection of our local water resources. He was especially fond of talking about the Teton River, and tirelessly petitioned the State of Idaho, pushing forward his idea for a fly-fishing-only designation for the river.

"Many of FTR's members received their first introduction to the Teton River or fly fishing through Rob," says FTR Development Director Anna Lindstedt. "He shared his passion every chance he got, whether mentoring budding young fly tiers or with patrons that walked through the shop door. His love for the river touched many of our lives and he will be greatly missed."

On Saturday, September 11, family and friends gathered for a celebration of Rob's life at the Timberline Bar and Grill in Victor. A memorial fund for Rob has been established at the Wells Fargo Bank branches in Driggs and Jackson.



**Noel Benjamin**

Noel Benjamin's life-long dedication to conservation set an example that extended far beyond his home in London, England. Noel's work to place a seven-acre native woodland in the center of London into the Hampstead Garden Suburb Trust made a deep impression on his daughter, Lyn. "The support and generosity of my parents was instrumental as I worked to found FTR," Lyn says. "For me to go on and work in conservation was incredibly important to my father. One of our last conversations was about how proud he was of the work I've done to protect natural resources here in Idaho."

Noel and his wife, Haydene, were some of the original donors to FTR, and both were able to attend the organization's fifth-year anniversary party in 2005. The above photo was taken at the FTR River Party when Noel purchased a handmade quilt for his daughter during the live auction. This summer, FTR received a Tin Cup challenge donation in loving memory of Noel Benjamin, who passed away on May 30, 2010. "His generosity made all things possible," says Lyn.



**Stew Daniels**

Stew Daniels began coming to Teton Valley from St. Louis sometime in the late 1970s after local resident and fly fishing enthusiast Pres Cunningham convinced him that this is where Heaven meets Earth. And he returned several times every year since then, bringing first his sons in the mid 80s and then his grandsons beginning in 2001.

Steve loved the stillness of the Teton River being shattered by hungry cutthroats noisily slurping dinner, the surreal cacophony of sandhill cranes gliding overhead, ducks treading upstream and then inexplicably wheeling about and heading downstream, and watching juvenile ospreys swoop into the river time after time, only to come up empty-handed. He loved the people of the valley and the juxtaposition of production agriculture with the mountains.

A few weeks ago my brother Andy and I were out missing another hatch at sunset, just upstream from where Darby Creek flows in; as we spread some of Stew's ashes on the water and said a few prayers, we were reminded once again of what a special place this is in all of our lives.

*Chip Daniels and the Daniels family.*

### Daniels Memorial Gifts

*Joyce and Mike Boran · Fred Brothers  
Michael and Carol Dossdall · Grain Millers, Inc.  
Mr. and Mrs. Oscar P. Hampton III  
John and Diana Herman · Thomas J. Milliken  
Mindset Media · Mel and Carolyn Reichuber  
Joseph and Helen Sandza · Edward Taylor  
Teri and Tom Vannelli*

## Tin Cup Donor Thank You

*FTR would like to extend a huge thank you to all of our Tin Cup Challenge donors, who made 2010 our best year yet. Please look for a complete listing of our 2010 donors and donation income in our Annual Report, due out in the spring of 2011.*



**Tin Cup Challenge 2010** · Boots Allen · Travis & Megan Allen · Jay Anderson · Phyllis Anderson · Anonymous · Suzanne & Tom Arden · Barbara & Gerald Aronowitz · Marilyn Couch & David Axelrod · Al & DeeAnn Baldwin · Bill & Ray Belk · Jeff Bender · Bob & Jean Benedict · Lyn Benjamin · Richard & Bev Berg · Keith & Cathy Bever · James Bjorken · Alice & Bill Boney · Ann Toy & Porter Broughton · Mo & Tammy Brown · Dr. D. Scott & Mary Dunson Burton · Arnold Byrd & Sharon Shopper · Cameron Holdings LLC · Kara Donnelly & Keith Cattabriga · August & Aaron Christensen · Dorry & Larry Clevenger · Susan Miller & Greg Collins · Michael Commins · Community Foundation of Teton Valley · Deb Adams & Joe Costello · Elizabeth Coulter · Dr. & Mrs. James A. Crabtree · Sam & Bud Crary · Chuck Iossi & Tina Culman · Nancy Curtes · Dana Richardson & Dave Joslyn; Spectrum Gems · Elisa & Tom Davis · Floyd & Janet Dean · Trevor & Laura Deighton · Tracy Delamater · Kathleen Martin & Skip Dempsey · Donald C. Brace Foundation · Katherine & Mark Dowson · Dr. Harold & Kaye Dunn · Joanie & John DuRoss · Dave Eddins · Christina & Richard Eller · Bud & Betty Elliott · Judy & Thomas Fauntleroy · Peter & Mollie Fenger · Tom Fenger · Alice & John Finley · Melanie & David Fischel · Kristi Meston & Mark Fisher · James & Judith Fitzgerald · Geno Forsythe · Janna Rankin & Art Frakt · Neil Gleichman · Gordon & Ann Goodell · Grand Teton Brewing Company · Georgina Worthington & John Greenwood · Virginia & Clint Grosse · Paul & Mary Lou Hansen · Susan Hansen · Janet Conway & Dr. Buol Heslin · High Peaks Health & Fitness · Kathy & Tom Hoffman · Dan & Virginia Hoke · Pam & Lee Holmes · Margot Bowie Hunt · Judith & James Jackson · Ron & Caroline Janney · Jeanne & Peter Anderson · James Johnson · Mr. & Mrs. Frederick Johnson · Carl Jordan · Susan Juvelier · Kim Keeley · Wes & Jean Keller · Bill Kelly · Mark & Doris Kelly · Susan Lincoln & Glenn Kerr · Jerry & Viesia Kirk · John & Rhonda Kjos · Jeff & Darcy Klausmann · Kimberly Day & James Kleine · Dieter Knecht · Emily & Carl Knobloch · Bonnie Krafchuk · Nancy & Corbin Lang · Cathy O'Connor & Chris Larson · Earle & Pattie Layser · Ron & Judy Lease · Leon & Ellen Lederman · Gayle & Ron Lien · Erica & AJ Linnell · Anna Lisette Davis · Linda Long · Janet & Guy Loomis · Lucey Electric · Susan & Mayo Lykes · Jane & Peter Mackay · Mr. & Mrs. Ted Major · Bob & Deborah Malheiro · Sandy & Mary Mason · Sue & Tim Mason · Nancy & Mike McCoy · Dr. Dick & Kay McIlroy · Ken & Barbara McIntosh · Amy & Matthew McKinlay · Stacy & Jesse Mead · Linda & Mike Merigiano · Carol & Arthur Merkle · Katie & David Middleton · Lew Mithun · Allison & Dave Monroe · Gene Morandi · Barbara & Mike Morey · Howard & Janis Morris · Jamie & Gary Moscovitz · Joan & George Mosher · Mary Mullaney & Ralph Mossman · Mike & Joy Sawyer Mulligan · K.C. & Diane Murphy · Kathi Myers · Dennis & Janet Nelson · Claire Vitucci & Luke Neraas · NOLS · Kathleen O'Neil & John Norton · Ben Morris & Deirdre O'Connell · Donna Brace Ogilvie · Larry & Corinne Orme · Charlie Otto · Joe & D.A. Palmer · Biba & Jon Parker · Dennis & Melissa Parker · Deb Rouleau & Daniel Pauroso · Debra Payne · Hoke Peacock · Drs. Carl & Jeanette Pergam · George & Leanna Peterson · Lois & Kenneth Peterson · Liz Pitcher · Donna Molinelli & Charles Ray Pond · Lynne Wolfe & Dan Powers · Sharon Gusa & Chuck Quint · Don & Susan Radkoski · Mary May & Chuck Reller · Babette Thorpe & John Rice · Molly Robertson · Teresa Meachum & Ned Rockwell · Kathleen Rodriguez · Ellen Rosenau · Jason Ruff · Susie Reuter & Jeff Russell · Lynn Sandmann · Iris Saxer · Dean Scheid · Karen Scheid · Mr. & Mrs. Gary Schroeder · Jim & Philbin Schultz · Sharon & Martin Scott · Chuck & Judy Shepard · Katharine Shepard · Margie Singleton · John & Nancy Siverd · Dick & Jean Smith · Bruce & Kat Smithhammer · Snake River Builders · Eric & Kathy Spitzer · Lorene & Robert Spoelhof · Mary Carol Staiger · Dr. John & Margaret Stanchfield · Georgie Stanley · Alice & Robert Stevenson · Sarah Stiger Ewing · Kathy & Jerry Stillman · Don & Jane Streubel · JoAnn Scoggin & John Sundheim · Megan Talbot · Teton Hearing Center, LLC · Elizabeth Thebaud · Wally & Leesa Thrall · Les & Jeanie Thurmond · Erica & George Tremblay · Molly & Andy Tyson · Linda & John Unland · Dan & Amy Verbeten · Lizz & Gerry Verbeten · Ray Wallace · Tom & Wynne Ann Walsh · Abigail & William Warner · Ted & Clarissa Wells · Robert & Genie Weppner · Virginia & Bill Wesley · Alan McKnight & Kate West · Rondo Weston · White Bridge Ranch · Betsy White · Liz Davy & Michael Whitfield · Anne & Gerry Williams · Becky & Gene Williams · Caroline Herter & Ben Winship · Shana & Ted Wood · Charlie Woodward · David & Susan Work · Anjali Tate & Greg Young · John & Rosemary Young · Joyce & Felix Zajac

## 'Twas Almost December

*'Twas almost December and on Teton Creek  
Our restoration crew is still working,  
with rosy red cheeks.*

*They're using machines to move rocks about,  
And willows and logs—good habitat for trout!*

*Teton Valley kids are toasty inside their classrooms,  
Learning of stream health and why algae blooms.  
The children are doing their work in teams  
And graphing their data from fall  
field trips in-stream.*

*This year we tagged cutthroat to find out where they go,  
And worked with landowners to provide  
more stream flow.*

*We talk with our neighbors to find out what they think,  
And monitor your water so it's safe to drink.*

*Our projects and programs are too numerous to list,  
But from this short poem, you get the gist—  
Protecting and restoring our watershed for  
generations to come,  
We want our children to benefit from the  
work we have done.*

*From our Fisherman's Dinner to the  
Tin Cup you've shown  
Your support for the River, that in 10 years has grown  
A grass-roots nonprofit to a Model Watershed for the West.  
We've made a commitment to water, in which  
we hope you'll invest.*

*Our dear friends and members,  
we sincerely thank you  
For your contributions to each trout and slough.  
Celebrating at parties and floating the river,  
We are so thankful to each friend and giver,  
For volunteering on projects and helping us to be  
A voice for our water and our fishery.*

*Please consider a gift to us this December.  
We're making a request to each friend and member.  
At the end of this year, we hope the postman delivers  
Your contribution to us and the Teton River.*

**From all of us at Friends of the Teton River—  
Happy Holidays and a prosperous New Year!**

*To make your contribution, please  
mail a check to P.O. Box 768, Driggs,  
ID 83422, or make your gift via our  
website [www.tetonwater.org](http://www.tetonwater.org) using the  
"donate" button.*



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

## Are you Water Wise?

Join us for the popular Water Wise Community Education series in 2010/11

### **Teton Watershed Film Festival**

*Wednesday, January 19*

The first annual Teton Watershed Film Festival will feature short films and documentaries highlighting the role of water in our valley, our region, and our world.

### **The Voices of Teton Canyon**

**An evening of storytelling**

*Wednesday, February 16*

A night of fireside storytelling that chronicles local residents' experiences in Teton Canyon, past and present. An update on the Teton Dam/Henry's Fork Special Study will also be provided.

### **The Art of Water**

**Celebrating Fresh Water and Creative Minds**

*Wednesday, March 16*

Join FTR and the Teton Arts Council for a free exhibition by local artists to celebrate the beauty and role of water in the Teton Watershed and surrounding regions.

### **Something Fishy**

**"Shocking" data from the Teton Watershed**

*Wednesday, April 20*

FTR and Idaho Fish and Game staff will reveal the results of FTR's 2010 Fisheries Monitoring study. Find out what this electrofishing research reveals about the health of the Teton Watershed's valuable fishery.

For more information about Water Wise events, visit our website or call FTR at (208) 354-3871



Thank you to everyone who submitted a photograph for our first-ever Teton Watershed Photo Contest. We received and voted on more than 40 fantastic images. Congratulations to the newsletter cover-shot winner, Marion Yeager of Teton, Idaho, and to the "parting shot" from Tammy Brown of Tetonia. Keep those river "Kodak moments" coming!