



Henry's Fork Foundation

FALL 2011

Meet Brandon Hoffner, HFF's New Executive Director

The Henry's Fork Foundation (HFF) is pleased to announce that Brandon Hoffner recently accepted the position of Executive Director, replacing Steve Trafton. Brandon has the perfect blend of experience and enthusiasm to forward HFF's mission of conserving, protecting, and restoring one of the most fragile and important watersheds in America. Brandon and his family just moved to Ashton, Idaho – a stone's throw from HFF's offices – where he took the reins of the Foundation on September 26.

Brandon joins us directly from his position as Lands Program Manager with the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF). In that role, he provided field-based leadership and management for RMEF's land-protection program in Colorado and New Mexico, including donated and purchased conservation easements, assembling land exchanges, and facilitating land donations.

Prior to working as Lands Program Manager with RMEF, Brandon's conservation efforts included working as the Wyoming Landscape Conservation Initiative Coordinator for the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, as Regional Director with RMEF in southern Idaho, as a bison ranch manager in Goshen County, Wyoming, and as a Fisheries Technician with Colorado State University.

Brandon graduated Cum Laude from Colorado State University in 2001, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Wildlife Biology. He's also completed extensive postgraduate work at a number of institutions, including GIS courses at Idaho State University in Pocatello, business courses for ranching through Ranch Management



Consultants, Inc. as well as numerous continuing education courses in conservation planning, environmental compliance, water quality, hydrology, and cultural resources.

Brandon is married to Rochelle Reed Hoffner, who was proudly raised in nearby Ririe, Idaho and graduated from Idaho State University with a degree in elementary education. After teaching in the Salida, Colorado school district for the past three years, Rochelle is looking forward to being a stay-at-home mom to daughters Mariya (age 7), Lily (age 3), and newborn Gracie. *See page 3 for more information about Brandon Hoffner.*

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hff@henrysfork.org
www.henrysfork.org

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Message From the Chair

For the past several months, the Foundation's Board of Directors has been actively engaged in the search for HFF's next Executive Director. The search task force utilized the talents and skill sets of three HFF Board members: Robert Dotson, John Hoagland, and Steve Born, each bringing their unique backgrounds and experiences to the process of identifying our new Director, Brandon Hoffner. Thanks to this special group for its dedicated efforts. (To learn more about Brandon, read Board member Margaret Kruke's interview with him on page 3 of this issue).

Brandon will be joining HFF at the end of September, beginning his new position with a full menu of ongoing activities. Fortunately, he'll have the benefit of our highly skilled staff, which has kept the Foundation operating smoothly during the absence of an Executive Director.

I'm pleased to report that HFF's financial situation is (in spite of these unpredictable economic times) very stable, which will help give Brandon time to focus on becoming acquainted with the stakeholders in the watershed as we move forward in a new chapter of Foundation work. You can rest assured that the HFF Board and Staff are fully confident of Brandon's abilities to lead the Foundation and meet the ongoing challenges, both immediate and those that lie ahead.

Under Brandon's leadership, HFF is poised to move to new and higher levels. Not only will HFF continue in a leadership role within the watershed, but you can expect to see serious growth in our membership base, which will equate to more capacity to conserve, protect, and restore the Henry's Fork Watershed.

If you haven't visited the Foundation's website, www.henrysfork.org, lately, please do so. I'm convinced that you'll recognize a new level of communication that your organization has achieved. Look forward to more meaningful information delivered to you via our website as we continue to develop its content and potential.

The HFF Board of Directors will be meeting at the end of September to begin the important work of crafting a 2012 annual operating plan, as well as drafting a financial budget that maximizes the use of our resources. You can trust that the Board, Staff, and new Executive Director are all on the same page in our efforts to make the Henry's Fork a better place for living and recreating.

Enjoy your time in the Watershed!

Layne Hepworth
Board Chair



Q & A With Brandon Hoffner

Continued from page 1

Q. What do you view as your biggest challenge as you take the helm at HFF?

A. There are several. The first will be to replace Steve Trafton, who did an amazing job, and certainly HFF's track record in recent years speaks to his leadership ability.

Another challenge will be stepping into a leadership position and coming up to speed on a variety of complex issues. Needless to say, I plan to do a lot of listening and learning about the watershed when I come on board, and I know that the staff will be there to provide the background I need to be successful.

The final challenge will be to integrate my family into the community and ensure that they are content while I'm juggling the demands of my new position. Once again, I'm fortunate to have so many people willing to help with this.



Brandon rowing his family down the Arkansas River.

Q. Based on your initial take, what appears to be the greatest opportunity?

A. The Henry's Fork is a unique and incredible resource that the local community, people across the country, and people across the world have a deep connection

to. Because the Henry's Fork is a working river, there are plenty of opportunities for improvement as well as numerous threats to the health of the watershed. It demands constant stewardship to maximize all of its uses. I think, too, that HFF is only beginning to scratch the surface when it comes to cultivating major donors to the foundation and then turning that investment into results for the health of the watershed.

Q. What are you and your family anticipating with this move to Ashton?

A. We're especially excited about joining this community and living in town, without having to give up all the winter and summer activities we love. We want to belong to this community, and I love high school football, so I'm excited about getting to my first game in Ashton.

Q. What are you most looking forward to as you arrive at the Henry's Fork Foundation?

A. I'm looking forward to really getting to know the incredibly strong staff that's already in place at the Foundation. I'm also anxious to develop new opportunities and to build on the work that's already been done.

Q. What are some of the opportunities you are already thinking about?

A. I'm especially excited about growing our membership base. I also see a lot of opportunities to frame the river as part of a larger landscape. For example, how HFF can work with other organizations and other potential partners on issues where we haven't been active before, such as forest health and water quality. Needless to say, there are more opportunities than I can see right now, so I'm looking forward to getting to know the area, the people, and the landscape.

Q. What should we know about you that we don't know?

A. That I cry at patriotic movies, and that I'll be putting in for a permit to run the Middle Fork of the Salmon again as soon as I can!

Q. What do you like to do with your personal time? What are some of your interests?

A. After living in populous Colorado, I think we are looking for a little solitude, the kind of solitude Fremont County offers. As for activities, I have a lot – floating rivers, fishing, archery elk hunting, upland bird hunting, gardening, and reading.

Henry's Fork Day 2011 Donors

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Conservation Award:
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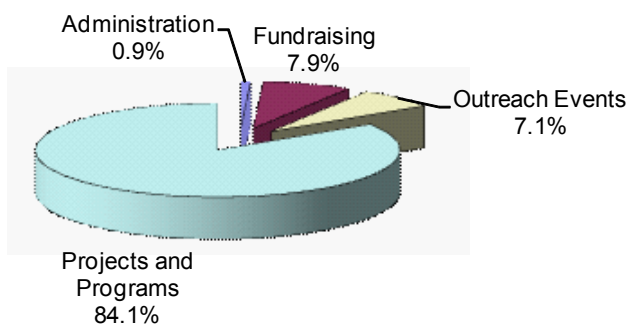
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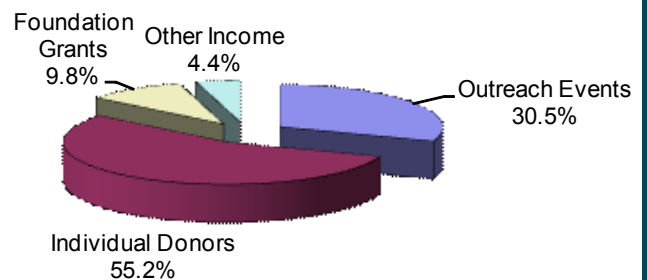
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2010 Financial Year in Review

2010 Expenditures



2010 Revenue



HFF Interns for 2011

Summer Reflections

Eli Chester

A. Paul Knight Scholarship
Washington and Lee University

Spending the summer of 2011 interning with the Henry's Fork Foundation was one of the most valuable experiences I could have ever had. In addition to checking the fish traps on Thurmon Creek and the Buffalo River, we did our fair share of electrofishing streams that flow into the Henry's Fork. Those were some of the longest days of this summer, but it's hard to complain when the nets and live wells are filled with fish.



Thomas Andrew

A. Paul Knight Scholarship
Washington and Lee University

Living in Island Park this summer was truly a memorable experience. One of my favorite responsibilities was checking the Buffalo Dam fish ladder as we would always pull out some good looking fish. I also enjoyed learning about the geological history of Island Park and surrounding area from former board member, Dr. Bill Hackett. Living in such a rural setting is what made this season different from my previous ones.

Heidi Trenhom

Bill Lane Center for the American West Internship
Stanford University

This summer was an amazing experience. When I came to Island Park, I knew very little about trout, water quality, riparian zones, or fishing. The highlight of my summer with the Foundation was the River Buddies program at the end of August. It was exciting to see the children get so excited about getting out on the river. The guides were fantastic and really made the kids' day. I am truly grateful to everyone who made my summer so amazing.



Katherine Johnescu

Rear Admiral James B. Greene Scholarship
Colgate University

My time spent interning for the Henry's Fork Foundation over this past summer turned out to be one of the most rewarding personal and educational experiences of my college career. I could not ask for an internship with an organization, and within a setting, more conducive to exploring what it means to work as a field researcher. While working with the Henry's Fork Foundation, I was able to apply the concepts which I had learned in my college classes.



Matt Cahoon

Don C. Byers Memorial Scholarship

One of my favorite parts of this summer was electrofishing in Harriman State Park. We did a lot of work maintaining the fish weir on the last reach of Thurman Creek. Another exciting area we worked in was The Nature Conservancy's Flat Ranch on the Henry's Lake Outlet Restoration Project. I feel especially fortunate to have not only worked in the field with the summer crew but also in the office doing GIS work. I've loved every day working in the Henry's Fork watershed. The memories, experiences and friendships I've developed this summer will always be something I carry with me and look back on with a smile.



Matt Gjukis

Grand Valley State Master's Program

Interning through the Henry's Fork Foundation this last summer has been a wonderful experience. I was able to help out with HFF field projects and do background research for my Master's thesis project I'll be starting this Fall at Grand Valley State University in Michigan. I feel very fortunate and privileged to be able to come back again for two seasons and conduct my thesis research on the Henry's Fork. The people and the local geography are unique and I'll be waiting in anticipation for my next season to start.





Please Support HFF's Education Program

Preparing Tomorrow's Conservation Leaders

Every year, countless connections are formed between the Henry's Fork and its visitors, made possible by the fulfillment of our mission to conserve and to protect the watershed. Think about how your own relationship with the river formed.

Your connection to the river evolved into a passion to protect these areas. Your generosity and commitment will help future generations to connect with and protect the Henry's Fork.

This year we are venturing into the classroom and taking classrooms into the field in order to ensure a vital, fundamental connection: YOUTH TO WATERSHED. We need your help! The 2011-2012 projects include: Trout in the Classroom, Chester Wetlands Day, Teachers' Tackle Box, HFF Internships, and River Buddies Fishing.

Please help us make this vital connection to youth by helping us raise \$20,000 for educational programs by making a gift now. We have included a return envelop in this publication for your convenience.

The connections nurtured today will have a ripple effect on the on the future of the river we all love. Thank you for your support!



River Buddies Takes Kids Fishing

The new River Buddies fishing program, envisioned by local fly-fishing guide Martin Reed, introduced eight at-risk kids from the Pocatello area to the transformative experience of fishing the Henry's Fork. Funds for the program came from sales of flies tied by fishing guides and packaged into "blister packs" donated by Key Med Long Pharmacy in Pocatello.

The participating kids were equipped with their own fly fishing gear, hats, and T-shirts. They caught (and released) trout while getting to know their volunteer River Buddies guides: Martin Reed (pictured at right), Travis Smith, Brad Miller, Zach Wheeler, Brandon Prince, and Eric Grigg.

As to why River Buddies is so important, Reed says "The kids are the future of the river. When

they learn to fish and enjoy the river, their next step is to want to protect it for themselves and future generations." The guides and HFF are committed to making this event an annual tradition with local area youth.



Riffles - Notes From the Field

Volunteer Makes Fence Crossing

Longtime HFF volunteer James Kemp (right, below) stands next to the new fence crossing that he built for the riparian fence along Wood Road 16. Matt Cahoon (left, below), the Byers intern, helped install the fence crossing in late August.



Ashton Dam Remediation Continues

Drawdown of the Ashton Reservoir began in August in preparation for the rebuild of Ashton Dam. For updates on the status of the project, visit “Latest News” at www.henrysfork.org.



Boy Scouts and Volunteers Remove Fence

A group of Boy Scouts removed about 1,000 feet of dilapidated barbed-wire fence from around the spring source of Big Bend Creek (tributary to the Henry’s Fork) in the Caribou-Targhee National Forest (CTNF) on August 13th. James Mullen completed his Eagle Scout project, leading a dozen Scouts and a similar number of adult volunteers to pull out the old fence in preparation for installation of a new fence.

The purpose of the fence is to keep cows from trampling the spring source area. This project is part of a larger effort to protect and to improve the spring-fed tributaries of the Henry’s Fork in the Caldera. These tributaries provide valuable over-wintering habitat for juvenile rainbow trout. Thanks to Brad Higginson, CTNF Hydrologist, for his work on the project and to Jim and Mary Mullen for hosting the Scouts and family members and for providing a great lunch that day!



Ashton, ID 83420
606 Main St
PO Box 550



Watershed Council Tours Projects

The Henry's Fork Watershed Council Summer Tour in August was well attended with over 45 participants. The group visited the Egin Lakes Aquifer Recharge site where Dale Swensen (Fremont-Madison Irrigation District) explained the recharge program. The next stop was the Chester Dam Hydroelectric Project where representatives from Fall River Electric, Symbiotics, FMID, and HFF explained the turbines, Crosscut Canal, fish ladder, and fish screens (pictured below). In the afternoon the group visited several potential surface storage sites being evaluated by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and Idaho Department of Water Resources as part of the Henry's Fork Basin Study.



Photo courtesy of Fall River Rural Electric Cooperative

HFF's Upcoming Events

San Francisco Reception
St. Francis Yacht Club
November 10, 2011

Salt Lake City Reception
Radisson Hotel Downtown
March 9, 2012

Henry's Fork Day
Last Chance, ID
June 16, 2012