

Winter 2001



NEWSLETTER

*We Have a "Survivor"*

## Last Chance Telemetry Project Yielding Interesting Results

by Susan Steinman and Jim Gregory

It has been a perplexing question to scientists and anglers: What happens to juvenile fish in the Henry's Fork during the winter? As Jim Gregory said in his Spring 2000 newsletter article, radio telemetry technology has progressed to the point we could now start to address the question. Last fall researcher Gregory began the study with funding from the Jackson Hole One-Fly Foundation and individual HFF members who sponsored radio tags. Fish four to six inches long were captured in the Last Chance area by Jim Gregory and Matt Jaeger. Radio tags were surgically implanted by volunteers including Dr. Mick Mickelson, Dr. David Vanek, nurse Ruth Johnson, Nick Holmer and Matt Vanek. The fish were released upstream of the Last Chance boat launch, and the first tracking trip took place on December 7. To help fund the project, HFF devised a competition and solicited sponsors. The fish that traveled the furthest would be deemed the winner or "Survivor." The sponsor of the winning fish will receive HFF wear at Henry's Fork Day 2001. Sponsors named their fishes and could track their whereabouts on the HFF website on the Survivor page.

On December 14, a second tracking count was done from Island Park Dam to Osborne Bridge and select locations around Pinehaven and Riverside. Reltny, Fred II, Spence, and Ray were missing. On December 29, tracking was conducted through much of Box Canyon, all of Last Chance, and at accessible locations in Pinehaven and Riverside. Twelve fish, Reltny, A Fish Called Don, Chief, Fred, Fred II, Fizio Med, 3X, Spence, Kiwi, Piscator, Rudy and 371, were not located during that session. Ray, lost two weeks prior, was located. He either went downstream below Osborne Bridge and then returned or was just missed on the previous tracking trip.

When the tracking was done on January 15, none of the missing fish were found. In addition, Billy, Jim Peter, Admiral Jim and 252 could not be located, bringing the total number of missing fish to 16. Since the entire river is not tracked each time (specifically Harriman State Park and Cardiac Canyon) it is likely some of the fish were in one of those areas. The permanent tracking station information was downloaded and showed that nine fish had passed that point between December 14 - January 13.

Mountain Air Research flew the Henry's Fork from Ashton to Island Park Dam on January 23, 2001. Nine of the 16 missing fish were located. One surprise is that A Fish Called Don was located in Harriman State Park upstream from his former location at Riverside. After searching for A Fish Called Don to

determine if the tag was being transported in a predator, Gregory found Don in Thurmon Creek, along with a large number of juvenile fish that had also retreated to that location. Gregory considers this significant information, and the population will be monitored closely to see when they actually move out of the area back into the Henry's Fork.

An intensive search for the rest of the missing fish resulted in the location of four tags near the upstream boundary of Harriman State Park. These fish were not in good habitat, had not moved for a while, and were therefore suspected to be dead. The tags belonging to Chico and Oji-San were found on the substrate at their last location. Harry's tag was buried in 3-5 inches of gravel at its location, and Drake was found dead beneath 3-5 inches of substrate with the tag still in him.

So, what does happen to juvenile fish during the winter? Of course, the study is not finished so any speculation at this time would merely be just that, but we have always known that there is an over-winter survival dilemma here. We didn't know if the fish were going somewhere unknown or if they were being consumed by predators. Although it is still too early to know the answers to these questions, we now have some interesting information to work with.

The fact that three fish were found under 3-5 inches of substrate inspires speculation. Although this behavior has been observed before, it will have to be investigated further before any conclusions can be made. It could be possible that the fish were seeking concealment as adequate cover is limited in the area.

Given that nearly half of the radio tags are not guaranteed beyond the end of January because of battery size, the contest part of the study is over and a winner declared. Chammie, sponsored by Larry Kitchen of Westlake Village, CA swam the furthest. Mr. Kitchen will be presented with HFF wear at Henry's Fork Day in June. Thank you, Mr. Kitchen, and congratulations.

Thanks again to those who sponsored a fish and to the One-Fly Foundation which funded the remainder of the study. You can view all of the maps and sponsors on our website ([www.henrysfork.com](http://www.henrysfork.com)) on the Survivor page. Tracking will continue as long as the batteries last, which should be through mid-March for the fish with the larger tags. When the study is concluded, a full report will be available in the Henry's Fork Watershed library.

A map of the latest fish locations is on page 4. ♦

### Henry's Fork Foundation Board of Directors

(Numbers in parentheses indicate the year current term of service ends.)

#### Chair

Hugo Melvoin (02)  
Highland Park, IL

#### Vice-chair

John Hoagland (02)  
Salt Lake City, UT

#### Secretary

Brent Cameron (01)  
Salt Lake City, UT

#### Treasurer

Henry Poett (02)  
Osando, MT 59854

John Becker (03)  
Wilson, WY

Alan W. Bridwell (01)  
Rexburg, ID

John W. Champion Jr. (03)  
Park City, UT

Gail Dial (01)  
Pocatello, ID

Paul Dremann (03)  
Salt Lake City, UT

Paul Ginsburg (03)  
Ross, CA

Andy Goode (02)  
Brunswick, ME

Charlene Harvey (03)  
San Francisco, CA 94133

Dr. Edwin House (01)  
Pocatello, ID

Jim Kennedy (02)  
Logan, UT

Roger Lang (03)  
Concord, CA

Doug McClelland (01)  
Bozeman, MT

Dr. John McCosker (01)  
Mill Valley, CA

Martin McLellan (03)  
Idaho Falls, ID

Robert Springmeyer (01)  
Salt Lake City, UT

Dan Todd (03)  
Livingston, MT

## CONTENTS

### Features and Reports

<i>Last Chance Telemetry</i> .. by S. Steinman & J. Gregory.....	1
<i>Telemetry Map</i> .....	4
<i>HFF Springs Study Completed</i> .....	6
<i>Habitat Assessment Goal</i> .....	8
<i>Fall on the Fork With Family</i> ..by Dauchy Migel.....	9
<i>Special Publication on Henry's Fork Research</i> .....	10

### Columns

<i>From the Chair</i> .. by Hugo Melvoin.....	3
<i>My Drift</i> ..by Fred Sica.....	7
<i>Retail Items</i> .....	11

The *Henry's Fork Foundation Newsletter* is published quarterly by the Henry's Fork Foundation. Articles, letters, opinions and photographs from the membership are welcomed. All correspondence should be directed to P.O. Box 550, Ashton, ID 83420, telephone number 208-652-3567, fax 208-652-3568.

E-mail: pat@henryfork.com

Web site: www.henryfork.com

This newsletter was edited and produced by Pat Feldsien.

## MEMBERSHIP and CONTRIBUTION FORM

Yes, I support the work of the Henry's Fork Foundation. Accept my contribution for your efforts to understand, restore, and protect the outstanding aesthetic, fishery, and wildlife qualities of the Henry's Fork River basin.

#### Membership Levels:

--- \$20	Individual
--- \$50	Family
--- \$100	Sponsor
--- \$300	Patron
--- \$1000	Advocate
--- \$5000+	Benefactor



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Return this form with your payment to:  
Henry's Fork Foundation  
PO Box 550  
Ashton, ID 83420

*A Note From the Chair:*

If you are in the mood to push winter's slow pace into a faster gait, consider starting a friendly argument by asking one of your angling partners when the new millennium began. Thousands celebrated on January 1, 2000. A smaller number celebrated on January 1, 2001, but in conformity with the practice followed in prior centuries. Who's right? Perhaps we'll only be able to agree only with the observation that reasonable people may disagree.

At most, there is only one weak correlation between the Henry's Fork Foundation and which millennium date is "correct." But there are three strong reasons why that last sentence in the paragraph above is relevant to HFF today. First, in a nutshell it explains why 100 percent of HFF members (all reasonable men and women, naturally) are likely never to agree on the merits of any specific project or policy decision. Second, it reflects the importance of selecting HFF's directors, since they are the persons who authorize and approve projects and policies. And third—you guessed it—board elections are coming.

Self-perpetuating boards fill vacancies solely by vote of the incumbent directors, but HFF members directly elect more than two-thirds of HFF directors. Nominee selection is a serious job. Members of the Nominating Committee work conscientiously in their effort each year to offer a slate of worthy candidates. Yet, even under our present system it is increasingly difficult for candidates to make their individual qualifications and philosophies known to an ever larger membership.

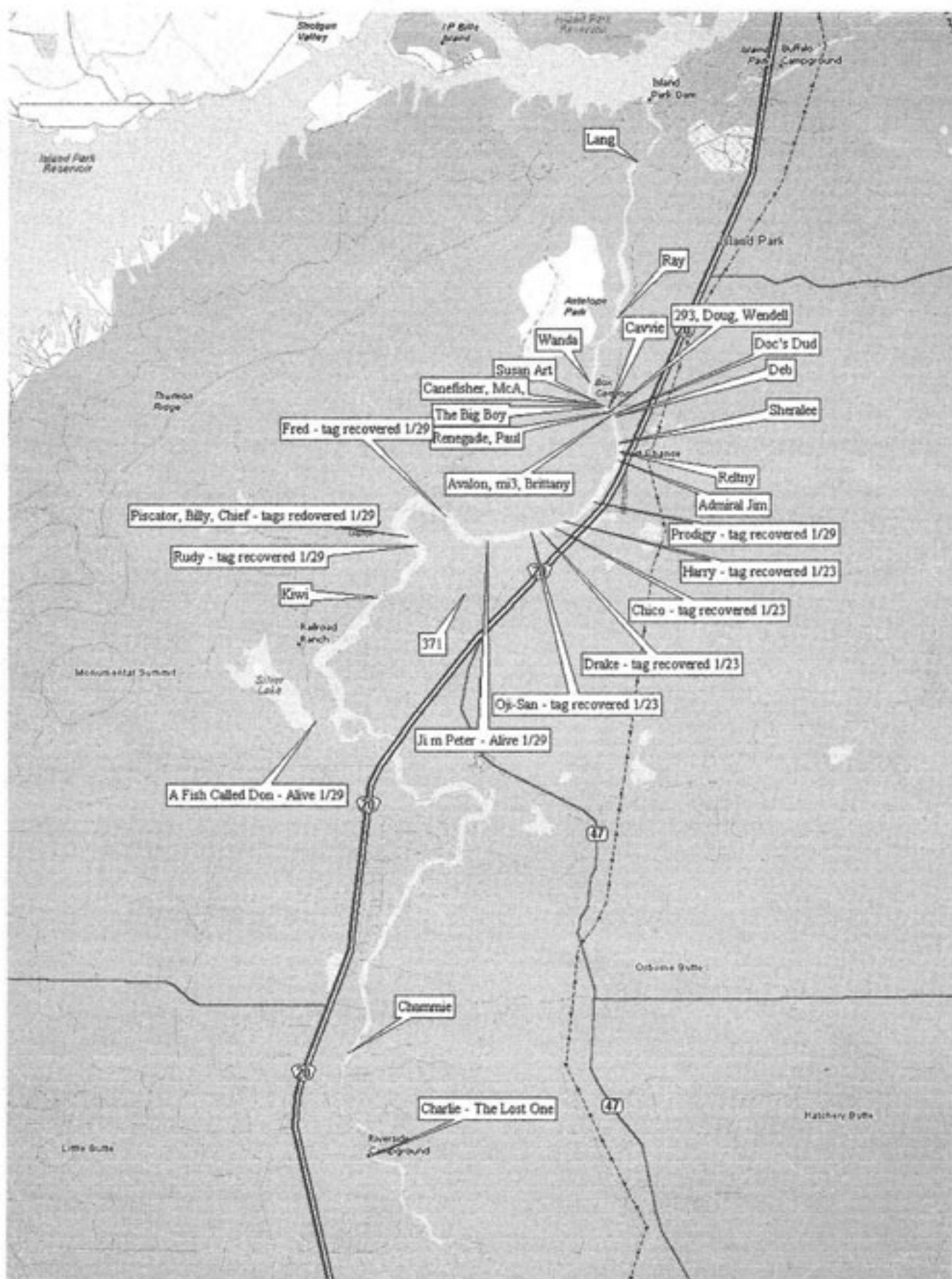
Is there a better way? Short of advocating any form of political campaign approach (one national election every four years is more than enough, thank you), what modifications might improve the system? The first step is to review the election process as it exists. Here is a quick summary of the current by-law provisions:

1. Size: Not less than 15 or more than 21 directors.
2. Qualifications: The only qualification is that a director be a member in good standing.
3. Composition: Fifteen directors are to be elected by HFF members using mail-in ballots. (Paper. No machines. No chads. And every vote is counted!) In addition up to six directors may be appointed by the board of directors.
4. Tenure: For elected directors, a three-year term. For appointed directors, one, two or three years, as determined by the board. No director may serve more than six consecutive years.
5. Nomination Process: Written nominations for both elected and appointed directors may be made by any member at any time. Members are welcome to nominate themselves. The Nominating Committee is responsible for reviewing all potential nominees and making recommendations to the board. Elections and appointments normally take place at the time of June board meeting.

Changes dictated by past election experience and thoughtfully-debated compromise are reflected in the current by-laws. As the Foundation continues to grow, what is a satisfactory system today may not meet our needs tomorrow. I firmly believe that seeking the views of those we are here to serve will help your directors and staff arrive at sound judgments. Knowing in advance we may disagree, your opinions, suggestions and comments nevertheless are always invited and welcome.

Now it's on to spring, with warm wishes for a good early angling season. And in just case you're wondering, I side with those who, pointing to a calendar system that starts with zero, say the millennium arrive on January 1, 2001. That's also the day our new Executive Director officially took office—we welcome him warmly.





Area covered by the Last Chance Telemetry Study. This map shows the locations of the radio-tagged fish during the January tracking sessions. Map prepared by Jim Gregory.

## Donor Honor Roll

The following have contributed \$100 or more since November 1. Thank you.

### 10,000+

General Service Foundation  
Jackson Hole One Fly Fdn  
S.J. and J.E. Quinney Fdn

### 5000+

Anonymous  
John & Rebecca Champion  
Donald C. Brace Fdn.  
William & Betsy Geiger  
Charlene Harvey  
Willard L. Eccles Charitable Fdn.

### 1000+

Anonymous  
Lyman H Casey  
Yvon Chouinard  
Gibbons Foundation  
Richard & Sallie Griffith  
David Grusin  
Walter Haas  
William Heaney  
Rodger & Teresa Nye  
Henry Poett III  
Jay & Kay Proops  
David & Shari Quinney  
Art & Mary Jo Shartsis  
Henry & Freda Swan  
Thomas Terrill  
Patrick Wilmerding

### 500+

Ernest Clark, Jr.  
James & Wendy Daverman  
J. Lynn Dougan  
Andy Goode

### 500+

Richard & Wendy Holin  
Preston B. Hotchkiss  
Edwin & Janet House  
E. Frederick & Roberta Hyde  
Intermountain Gas Industries  
Lawrence Kelly & Assoc.  
Tony & Peg Linden  
Douglas McClelland  
Shade & Ann Murray  
Fred H. Stitt  
Jeffrey A. Timmons  
Upper Snake River TU  
Parmer & Mary Van Fleet  
Kirby Williams  
David B. Wood

### 300+

Bat Conservation International  
Michael Bush  
Nancy Camacho  
William & Barbara Gibbons  
Michael Hampton  
John & Vicky Hoagland  
Charles & Jarmila Hrbek  
Ron Jelaco  
Anthony & Jaclyn Natoniewski  
Daryl & Sherrie Parker  
Bob & Susan Rosenberg  
Grant Schettler  
John & Nancy Snyder  
Peter & Rachel Taylor

### 100+

Ted Adachi  
American Express Fdn.  
AMFFA  
George & Kitty Anderson  
Steve & Daryl Barrett  
Pat Bennett  
Bill Bourgeois  
Barbara B. Brown  
Jack & Ruth Brown  
Lewis & Mary Brown  
Thomas R. Brown  
Dennis L. Butcher, M.D.  
Brent Cameron  
William J. Casazza  
Sandra Cederwall  
Lowell Chamberlain  
Herb Champ  
Brian Conner  
Drew Conway  
John Corson, M.D.  
Chris Curran  
Ed & Susan Cutler  
James & Molly Darcey  
Genevieve di San Faustino  
Carroll & Ruth Dolson  
Perry Donstein  
Paul Dreemann  
Marchelle Duncan  
Allen & Mary Eng  
Rick & Karen Farbanks  
Mark & Marcie Feldman  
William B. Galbraith, M.D.  
Randy & Kristy Geisler  
Mike & Jennifer Gibbons  
Patrick Gibbons

### 100+

George & Barbara Gross  
James R. Griffith  
Christopher Guest  
Dan Gustafson  
John H. Hadley  
Jane D. Hampton  
Bryon & Linda Harris  
Charles M. Hart  
Layne M. Hipworth  
Nicholas Heber  
F. John & Pam Hill  
Cal & Dot Houston  
RAOM George A. Huchting  
J. Paul Huntsman  
Mr. Jan Janura  
Kenyon & Carol Johnson  
Stanley P. Johnson  
James & Joan Johnston  
Kelly & Elizabeth Klein  
Mike Kubicki  
James & Joan Lansche  
Thomas T. Lawson  
Bob & Pat Lay  
Jim & Polly Light  
Tom Loeb  
Alexander Macdonald  
Dominic & Kate Martin  
Craig & Jackie Matthews  
Jim & Maureen McFadden  
Gerry & Mary McGinley  
Jeffrey Melvoin  
Cregg B. Messel  
Rev. Peter Michaelson  
Phyllis Ann Miller  
James D. Mitchell

### 100+

Lew & Jill Mithun  
Jeffrey Morgan  
Thomas & Katherine Moriarty  
Bob & Sally Neill  
Jeff Neiswanger  
Franklin T. Osgood, Jr.  
Kenneth Oswald  
Scott Patton  
Carolyn Pedone/John Rose  
Timothy C. Pennell, M.D.  
Ken & Ann Piech  
Maunsel Pierce  
A. Bruce Porter  
Boyd J. Poulsen  
Dr. Gordon R. Putnam  
Lon & Zoe Richardson  
Shirley S. Robm  
Walt Rose  
Robert & Sally Roth  
Theodore R. Schrock  
Bill Scott  
R. Kay Snyder/Jim David  
Paul D. Stanley  
Stanley M. Stein  
Peter Talt  
Scott & Betsy Thornton  
Jane M. Timken  
Marshall Turner  
Tim Thomas  
A. Vance Vorndam  
Ned Washburn/Kate Wilson  
Bruce Weber  
Mark & Martha Weissman  
Wilderness Fly Fishers  
John E. Williams  
J. Barry & Dawn E. Wolf

## Winter Meeting and Member Reception

The HFF Board of Directors will hold its regular winter meeting on the campus of the University of Utah March 2 and 3.

A reception for Salt Lake area members will be held on Friday evening March 2 at the Old Mill Clubhouse from 6:30 to 8:30 P.M. The event will include socializing, a presentation and a silent auction.

For more information on the reception contact Tammy in the HFF office. ♦



## R & R Raffle

HFF's popular R&R Raffle fundraiser will begin in March with winners to be drawn on May 1. Look for your tickets in the mail.

The Grand Prize is once again a "Fall on the Fork" vacation consisting of six days of guided fishing and fine overnight accommodations at several area locations. Guide services will be provided by Truthhunter, Henry's Fork Anglers and Hyde Outfitters. Accommodations will be provided by Fish Creek Lodging, Pond's Lodge and the Shilo Inn, plus an overnight campout on the South Fork hosted by Hyde Outfitters.

The other four prizes include a Hi & Dri float tube by Buck's Bags, two days and nights at The Nature Conservancy's Flat Ranch near Henry's Lake, a Trident rod and Vortex reel from The Orvis Company, and a set of HFF fleece wear. ♦



## It's TAX TIME Again Don't Forget Gifts of Appreciated Stock

*If you have owned appreciated stock for at least one year, this gift to HFF can be more tax advantageous than an equivalent cash gift. This donation entitles you to a charitable income tax deduction for the full market value of the stock. In addition, you avoid paying capital gains tax. It is a win-win way to make a difference.*

*The two firms below have set up HFF accounts to handle transfers for us. We ask that either you or your broker notify Tammy at HFF of your donation, so we can give you proper credit.*

### EagleGate Securities

Electronic transfer:  
DTC #0221  
For the Henry's Fork Foundation  
Account #EU-05800  
Physical transfer:  
EagleGate Securities  
Attn: Lisa Byrne  
15 West S. Temple, Ste. 1050  
Salt Lake City, UT 84101

### Salomon Smith Barney

Electronic transfer:  
DTC #418  
For the Henry's Fork Foundation  
Account #522-17030-1-9-220  
Physical transfer:  
Salomon Smith Barney  
Attn: Ellen Kirch  
390 Greenwich St., 3rd Fl.  
New York, NY 10013

## Spring Water: Where Does It Begin?

### Tracing the Sources of the Henry's Fork

We could call the Henry's Fork "Ole Man River" with some accuracy thanks to research completed last year by Lyn Benjamin, former HFF research associate, and now an independent consulting hydrologist. Her studies indicate that the water that bubbles up at Big Springs—the headwaters of the Henry's Fork—is 50 to 60 years old, while the water at Warm River Springs is over 100 years old.

Benjamin began her research several years ago at the Henry's Fork Foundation to help answer water storage and flow management questions relevant to irrigation, fisheries/wildlife and recreation uses. For example, with the low snow pack right now it looks like we are beginning another dry spell in the basin. Does that mean that the flows in the Henry's Fork will drop precipitously this summer? Benjamin's research confirmed that winter precipitation is the dominant source of recharge for the springs. She looked at the recharge areas and underground aquifers that provide the water for the Henry's Fork springs in three different timescales: 1) the timing of peak discharge at the spring, reflecting the length of time it takes the snowmelt pressure pulse to be propagated through the aquifer; 2) the length of time taken for changes in recharge to be reflected in changes in discharge, e.g., how long it takes drought patterns to be seen in spring discharge; and 3) the residence time of water in the aquifer.

Water from the Henry's Fork springs provides 75 percent of the total baseflow in the Henry's Fork at Island Park Reservoir and 42 percent of the total discharge in the river at Ashton. Benjamin's study included five springs: Lucky Dog, Big Springs, Buffalo River, Chick Creek, Snow Creek and Warm River. These springs all lie on the eastern edge of the Island Park basin at the western edge of the Yellowstone Plateau volcanic field.

The Madison and Pitchstone plateaus are the common recharge areas for the Henry's Fork springs and some of the thermal systems, such as the Upper Geyser Basin, in Yellowstone National Park. The study shows that while the aquifers of these systems are not directly connected, the Henry's Fork springs do interact indirectly with the "hot spot" under the earth's mantle. The Continental Divide lies between the Yellowstone thermal areas and the Henry's Fork springs, but the recharge area for the Henry's Fork springs extends east of the Divide, indicating that the groundwater divide does not follow topographic features.

To answer timescale questions 1 and 2, analysis of the data showed that the winter baseflows at Island Park Reservoir were related to the three previous years' annual precipitation and that annual discharge was related to the two previous years' precipitation. This finding can be incorporated into models of Island Park Reservoir operation because it provides a way to predict the response of spring-driven streamflow to changes in recharge.

Benjamin presented her findings at the Henry's Fork Watershed Council's "State of the Watershed Conference" last November, and the study also appears as an article in the Intermountain Journal of Science special Henry's Fork issue. Benjamin's research was funded by the Henry's Fork Foundation, the Henry's Fork Watershed Council, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, the U.S. Geological Survey, and the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory through a subcontract with Utah State University. A copy of the final report is available through the HFF library. ♦



Henry's Fork Springs Study Area

### Watershed Conference

Participants in the seventh annual State of the Watershed Conference sponsored by the Henry's Fork Watershed Council listened to a keynote address by Rod Sando, recently appointed Director of the Idaho Department of Fish and Game. Mr. Sando talked about the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and its ramifications in Idaho. He espouses "Preventive Conservation," a four-part approach to protecting resources so they will not be brought under the regulatory control of the ESA. Mr. Sando also praised the kind of "citizen science" modeled by presentations to the conference that interpret scientific findings in lay terms, enabling citizens to make informed judgments about resource issues.

The Henry's Fork Watershed Council, cofacilitated by the Henry's Fork Foundation and Fremont-Madison Irrigation District, meets eight times a year. The conference took place in November 2000 in Rexburg, with about 65 attendees.



Rod Sando

# my drift

by Fred Sica

HFF Executive Director

## — Fortunate Stewards —

My first month as Director of the Henry's fork Foundation was a whirlwind of new faces, new tasks, and a sense of gratitude. I was sitting at my desk reflecting my good fortune at having been named the Director of an organization that encompasses as its mission to "understand, restore and protect the unique fishery, wildlife and aesthetic qualities of the Henry's Fork of the Snake River." It was at that moment that the impact of this change in my life's work struck me.

It was over eight years ago that I was first introduced to the Henry's Fork. I was new to Idaho, having come from a place where flora and fauna was defined by a twenty-acre park in the middle of a housing development. You can imagine my wonder when I came up the hill from Idaho Falls to do something called "fish the stonefly hatch" from Warm River to Ashton. First of all, I had never fly fished before. I was told to practice in my back yard after receiving some basic lessons from a friend. As a result of two good hours of flogging around with a piece of yarn on the end of a borrowed fly rod I considered myself at best a feeble rookie. I asked my wife, Kathi, if she would like to go along with me. She loves the water and I sort of told her we would be going down the river in a wonderful mode of transportation new to us. It was called a drift boat. She asked how in the world we were going to get back to the launch area if we just floated down the river. I puffed up my chest and informed her that of course they were just called drift boats, I was sure that they had motors on them to effortlessly carry us back to our car. The next thing I must tell you is that my wife has a life-long loathing

of bugs. She just can't stand the things. She was reassured when I informed her that stoneflies were under the stones, she would not even lay eyes on any of the creatures.

I had won something called a "guided fishing trip" at a Trout Unlimited auction. A very nice young man picked Kathi and me up at one of our local fly shops. I had expected a grizzled "old man" for our guide. This fellow was about twenty-five years old, well dressed and, I found out later, a college grad. The trip from the fly shop to Warm River takes about one hour. During the ride our guide told us he was really looking forward to this trip. It seems we were hitting it at just the right time. He gave us some tips about casting and was very understanding of our questions.

The first hint that I might be in trouble was on the trip to the launch area. We left Ashton and were informed we were close to the river.

That's when it happened. This huge bug slapped against the window of the truck. Our guide was absolutely gleeful. "What in the world was that?" asked Kathi. Just then many more of the things were pelting the truck. "Those are what we are here for! Those are the stoneflies!" he answered with gusto. Kathi gave me a look somewhere between rage and sheer terror. If she lived through this she was going to kill me.

I was amazed at the speed with which our guide launched the boat. He helped us get in and the next thing I knew we were floating down the river. I looked at the back of the boat and noticed that there was nothing there but an anchor. "Go back, we forgot the motor!" I yelled. Our guide gently assured me that all was well. "You see", he informed us, "a drift boat does not have a motor." Boy was I confused; this young man could not possibly row us back to our car. The current was much too strong.

I felt something climbing on my arm and looked down to see a giant stonefly. I brushed it off and looked back at Kathi. To my surprise she was all

right. The bugs were crawling on her but she didn't seem to mind. I surmised that she was subduing a scream by planning some very bad things for me just as soon as we got out of this boat. She moved her hand slowly, brushing off the big bugs. It didn't seem to do much good; they just kept



landing on her. Our guide rowed the boat to a calm spot on the bank of the river and explained that a drift boat does not have a motor so we could float the river in peace. His truck would be waiting for us at the take out because a shuttle service would deliver it there. He also told us that the stonefly does not bite. It's quite harmless and is extremely important to the health of the fish in the river. He also informed

me that if I wanted to catch any fish I would have to cast the fly he tied on and get it onto the water.

I spent the rest of the day trying to learn the fine art of mending and setting the hook. I did have some success and even landed a nice rainbow. What I remember most was the wonderful and stunning beauty of the river. I remember the bald eagle and the osprey. I knew that I had discovered something special that day. I had fallen in love with the Henry's Fork, and wanted to share this place with others and to learn all I could about it. Since that day of discovery on the Henry's Fork I have become a dedicated angler, and the circle of life has brought me to the Henry's Fork Foundation.

Kathi never did say a word about those nasty stoneflies. You see, she fell in love with the river too. She is my favorite fishing partner and has learned to row and fly fish. I have spent the last eight years with my eyes and ears open. I have made countless trips down the legendary stretches of river with names like Box Canyon, WoodRoad 16 to Riverside, The Ranch, Ora to Chester, Coffee Pot Rapids and, of course, Warm River to Ashton.

How lucky we are to have such places to spend the time of our lives. How fortunate we all are to be stewards of a place like the Henry's Fork. Thanks to all of you for being a part of the Henry's Fork Foundation.

— Fred Sica

## Habitat Assessment Goal Completed

In 1995 the Henry's Fork Foundation launched a major five-year program to assess the aquatic habitats of the whole watershed. Thanks to a two-year \$170,000 grant from the M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust of Vancouver, WA, we were able to complete the final phase of the program this past fall.

The Murdock grant covered the final two seasons of field work, 1999 and 2000, which concentrated on the streams below Warm River. The final report on this phase of the habitat assessment is being prepared and will be available in the HFF library by late spring. Some of the results of the research accomplished over the two seasons are summarized below:

HFF seasonal crews completed stream and fish habitat assessments in the Fall River drainage and the Henry's Fork below Warm River. They are the first steps in building an understanding of the physical system and quality and connectivity of fish habitat. These surveys, including water quality studies, provide basic data for assessments by agencies responsible for land and water quality management and rules—such as Idaho Department of Fish and Game as it deals with native trout issues. These extensive data sets are the scientific basis for HFF's participation in Watershed Council discussions of water management and development issues, and they give HFF the credibility it needs to dialogue effectively with agencies.

Also completed was a large river assessment of the mainstem Henry's Fork through a contract with the U.S. Geological Survey. The data collected, along with our water quality data, place HFF in a good position to participate in the up-coming TMDL process on the lower Henry's Fork. The TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) process is an effort by the federal government to enforce minimum water quality standards on selected streams and can have far-reaching effects on water management and uses.

HFF benchmarked eight long-term reference sites on the lower Henry's Fork to track trends in water quality, channel characteristics, and habitat conditions. HFF's goal is to provide a framework for understanding fish population changes over time. These sites will be complemented with two more permanent sites (three already exist) on the upper river during the 2001 season.

During the hot, dry 2000 spring and summer seasons one of the important tasks we accomplished was to monitor the low flows on the lower river. River management for irrigation and hydropower water supplies during this period caused extreme low flows in some river sections and stimulated many questions and complaints from anglers. The results of our monitoring indicate that extreme flow fluctuations can be attributed, in part, to inadequate communication among water managers and a lack of biologically based instream flow requirements. We were able to function as a catalyst as the issues arose, helping to focus questions at correct targets and distinguish real from imagined resource prob-



Signs of spring along the Henry's Fork. Photo by Nick Ifft.

lems. Our ability to spend the time analyzing flows, interviewing water managers about their criteria for management as well as their flexibilities and limitations, allowed us to bring an educated perspective to bear on what might have been a divisive set of issues. Working with water managers we were able to identify the need for a process to improve flow management through a low-flow communications protocol. HFF anticipates that the progress in working cooperatively with the irrigators this past summer

will lead to closer cooperation with canal companies, with work on fish escapement from canals, protection from toxic chemicals and abrupt flow reductions as possible mutual projects. We believe this is significant progress toward the goal of community collaboration to improve the fishery and sustain irrigated agriculture in the face of substantial external water demands.

When HFF launched the Henry's Fork Watershed Initiative in 1994, our goal was to provide sound scientific data on which to base resource management decisions in the basin. Thanks to the support of major funders like the M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Northwest Area Foundation, General Service Foundation, Brainerd Foundation, Bullitt Foundation, and numerous private donations we have taken a giant step in that direction. The Foundation has established itself as a credible player in the water issues arena and we have established a firm and positive direction in which to move as we fulfill our mission to "understand, restore and protect the unique fishery, wildlife and aesthetic qualities of the Henry's Fork." ♦

## Fall on the Fork is a Family Affair

by Dauchy Migel, HFF Member

Last March I sent a contribution to the Henry's Fork Foundation that went to buy some raffle tickets. Imagine my surprise when in May I received a phone call from Tammy Hallenberg that I was the Grand Prize winner of a "fabulous week of guided fishing and superb accommodations." Special thanks to Cookie Thomas who drew my ticket out of the box in the HFF office.

As a boy I had done some bait fishing in salt and fresh water with my parents in Rhode Island. After World War II I located in Idaho Falls where I married Fran, started a surgical practice and set about learning how to fly fish. I was asked to do surgery in many of the surrounding communities so that on many afternoons I found myself on the Henry's Fork, the Lemhi, the Persimeroi, Birch Creek, or the Big Lost River. Then I was asked by Aetna Insurance to be the "dam doctor," so while the Palisades Dam was being built in the 1950s I would attend to injured industrial workers at the dam site in the morning and in the afternoon fished the South Fork where Palisades Reservoir is now. In recent years my fishing has been mostly while floating the South Fork in a small Avon inflatable. In the fall I try to be there once a week.

When I told Mike Lawson of my award, he jokingly said I should be completely worn out after a full week of fishing. Being an octogenarian for a few years, I resolved to relax and enjoy the experience on the back seat of a drift boat while a member of my family took the front and the primary attention of the guide.

On September 23 an arctic freeze descended on the area along with about a foot of snow. Phil Chavez of Hyde Outfitters called to ask if I would like to postpone our trip on the South Fork, but I had checked the weather fore-

cast, which promised good weather for the following week, and we went for it. My son Jim flew down from Spokane, and we were taken by Rod Bowden, our guide for the next two days, above Conant Valley to start our overnight float of 18 miles.



Our overnight camp was in a secluded clearing in an aspen and pine grove in the canyon of the South Fork, well equipped with tents and kitchen utilities. Our genial host greeted us with a warm open fire and his wife with hot cocoa. An ample supply of sleeping bags on cots provided a good night's sleep and we were reluctant to get back on the river until the sun came well down the canyon wall at 10 A.M. We had two great days of fishing in glorious fall weather, with pristine ambience. Jim left with the comment, "It was the best two days of my life."

On Wednesday, my daughter Ada, who is a junior high school counselor in Idaho Falls, joined me on our float with Trouthunter Outfitters. Our guide John Harrington took us down Box Canyon. Because of low water he had to walk the boat down the river with occasional use of the oars. Ada caught many fish but will probably longer

continued on page 12

2001

# R&R RAFFLE

**Drawings May 1, 2001**

**Watch for your tickets -  
they will be arriving soon!**



**Excellent Prizes  
including a week of guided fishing and accommodations  
in the Henry's Fork watershed.**

## Special Volume on HF Watershed Available

*Intermountain Journal of Science Publishes  
an Entire Issue on the Henry's Fork*

HFF members and newsletter readers will be interested to learn that a new source of scientifically documented information on the Henry's Fork watershed is now available. *Intermountain Journal of Sciences*, a regional journal published in Bozeman, Montana, has prepared a special issue devoted to aquatic resources of the Henry's Fork Watershed. The issue contains thirteen papers plus a semi-annotated bibliography, all devoted to some aspect of aquatic resources in the watershed. Research scientists from a variety of disciplines in the physical, biological and social sciences were invited to submit original research papers and review articles on their research in the watershed. Each paper was reviewed by two experts in the paper's subject area and subsequently revised to meet the substantive and technical standards required of peer-reviewed publication. The primary objectives of the special issue are to provide the opportunity for researchers to publish their Henry's Fork work in a peer-reviewed journal, to compile all known literature, particularly agency reports and other "gray" literature on aquatic resources of the Henry's Fork into a comprehensive bibliography, and to make this information available in a single volume to researchers and natural resource managers in the watershed. Much of the research reported on in the issue was conducted under the auspices of the Henry's Fork Foundation. Publication of the special issue is being supported by the donations of the organizations listed below. The volume was edited by Al Zale of the Montana Cooperative Fishery Research Unit at Montana State University and by Rob Van Kirk (former HFF Research Director) of the Department of Mathematics at Idaho State University.

Funders for this publication include:  
Henry's Fork Watershed Council  
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation  
American Fisheries Society, Western Division  
Montana Cooperative Fishery Research Unit  
Idaho Department of Fish and Game  
U.S. Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station  
Department of Mathematics, Idaho State University  
Henry's Fork Foundation

# Henry's Fork Day

Live Auctions, Silent Auctions, Raffles, Entertainment

**June 23, 2001**

The issue is 230+ pages, and the contents include:

- 1—Preface by Al Zale and Rob Van Kirk
- 2—Van Kirk, R. W., and L. Benjamin. Physical and human geography of the Henry's Fork watershed.
- 3—Benjamin, L. Groundwater hydrology of the Henry's Fork springs.
- 4—Simon, R. J. Observed geomorphic channel response to wildfire of Moose Creek, a spring-dominated stream.
- 5—Jankovsky-Jones, M., and N. C. Bezzerides. Riparian ecology in the Henry's Fork watershed.
- 6—Bressler, D., and J. Gregory. Influence of stream habitat and land use on macroinvertebrate assemblages of the Henry's Fork watershed.
- 7—Jaeger, M., R. W. Van Kirk, and T. Kellogg. Distribution and status of Yellowstone cutthroat trout in the Henry's Fork Watershed.
- 8—Gregory, J. S., and J. S. Griffith. First winter survival of caged wild and hatchery cutthroat trout in allopatry and in sympatry with brook trout.
- 9—Mitro, M. G., and A. V. Zale. Use of distance sampling to estimate rainbow trout redd abundances in the Henry's Fork of the Snake River, Idaho
- 10—Gregory, J. S. Winter fisheries research and habitat improvements on the Henry's Fork of the Snake River.
- 11—Van Kirk, R. W., and R. Martin. Interactions among aquatic vegetation, waterfowl, flows, and the fishery below Island Park Dam.
- 12—Van Kirk, R. W., and M. Gamblin. History of fisheries management in the upper Henry's Fork watershed
- 13—Nowell, C., and J. Kerkvliet. The economic value of the Henry's Fork fishery.
- 14—Weber, E. P. Cooperative watershed management and research: The case of the Henry's Fork Watershed Council
- 15—Van Kirk, R. W. Henry's Fork aquatic resources bibliography.

### Ordering Information

Price per copy is \$10 plus \$3.50 shipping via priority mail. There are a limited number of copies available. You can place your order via the HFF website at [www.henrysfork.com](http://www.henrysfork.com); by telephone to Susan at 208-652-3567; or by mail to HFF, PO Box 550, Ashton, ID 83420.

# HFF RETAIL

PROCEEDS OF ALL SALES GO TOWARDS  
THE OPERATING COSTS OF THE FOUNDATION

## HENRY'S FORK GIFT ITEMS

**HFF LOGO HAT PINS 5.00**  
full color metal pin for either a hat or a lapel

**WATERSHED POSTER 5.00**  
a colorful, topographical view of the Henry's Fork  
caldera, laminated 28x24

**NOTECARD SETS 10.00**  
four full-color scenes of memorable places in the  
watershed, 8 cards per set

**CANVAS TOTE BAGS 10.00**  
color is canvas with burgundy straps & letters

## BRAND NEW TO HFF

**FULL COLOR EMBROIDERED LOGO**  
**SIZES S, M, L, XL, XXL**

**KHAKI DRESS SHIRT 45.00**

100% cotton heavy brushed twill with button  
down collar, 2 chest pockets and cuffs. Great for  
casual days at the office or rugged days outside.

## STAFF FAVORITE

**FULL COLOR EMBROIDERED LOGO**  
**SIZES XS, S, M, L, XL**

**THE FLEECE VEST 45.00**  
what can we say, we all have at least one.  
full-zip front, two side-zip pockets, spandex  
waist. COLORS: BLACK, HUNTER,  
NATURAL, NAVY AND NEW GRAY

## HFF TRADITIONS

**FULL COLOR EMBROIDERED LOGO**  
**SIZES S, M, L, XL, XXL**

**BLUESTONE DENIM SHIRT 40.00**

100% cotton denim, pre-washed softness. Two  
chest pockets, adjustable button cuffs.

**LONG-SLEEVE TEE SHIRT 25.00**

heavyweight 100% cotton, garment-dyed and  
pre-washed, ribbed knit collar and cuffs  
COLORS: LODEN, NATURAL AND NEW  
COBALT BLUE AND MUSHROOM

**THE FLEECE PULLOVER 55.00**

New & Improved! half-zip pullover, two side  
pockets, chest-zip pocket, spandex waist  
COLORS: BLACK, HUNTER, NAVY

**FLEECE V-NECK PULLOVER 40.00**

quick-drying, full cut with relaxed waist and cuffs  
side seam vents. ONE COLOR: OXFORD

## BASEBALL CAPS

**HFF TOP SELLERS**  
**FULL COLOR EMBROIDERED LOGO**

**WASHED CANVAS 18.00**  
**LOW PROFILE**

SOLID DENIM  
SOLID BLACK  
SOLID RAGE (RED)  
SOLID SAGE  
SANDSTONE/BARK  
SANDSTONE/LODEN  
KHAKI/DENIM  
HUNTER/BARK

**HIGH PROFILE**  
SOLID HUNTER

**TO ORDER:** call 208-652-3567, fax 208-652-3568,  
email [tammy@henrysfork.com](mailto:tammy@henrysfork.com), or write to  
HFF, P.O. Box 550, Ashton, ID 83420.

Please add 10% to your order for shipping.  
Idaho residents please add 5% for sales tax.  
We accept VISA, Mastercard & Discover.

**Fall on the Fork**  
continued from page 9

remember the largest fish of the week that wouldn't come up. She also enjoyed the dinner at Henry's Fork Lodge, and then headed for home after being "sent off" by a nearby bugling elk.

On Thursday, my wife Fran joined me, and our guide was Kevin Sack of Henry's Fork Anglers. He took us on an interesting stretch of the Henry's Fork below St. Anthony that was new to me. While walking back to us from his parked trailer, he noticed some fish in an irrigation canal about 40 feet wide and bordered by rather dense trees and foliage. While I waded up the edge of the canal, Kevin guided my fly casting from higher on the bank. Eventually I brought out a 16-inch rainbow, which we had for dinner at the lodge. A new experience, fishing in a canal. Fran caught many fish and renewed her interest in fly fishing.

My oldest son, Tom, who teaches school in Rexburg, joined me on Friday to go with guide Bob Lamm of Henry's Fork Anglers to the west end of Island Park Reservoir. After beaching the boat, Bob instructed us in tubing and fitted us with fins and sinking lines which we trolled while kicking ourselves around the water. The big heavy rainbows were few but exciting as they "screamed" the line from our reels and made spectacular jumps. Another new experience for Tom and me.

On Saturday, my daughter-in-law Sharon Migel came from Boise to join me. We were taken by Fred Gomez, also a guide for Henry's Fork Anglers, on a float from Warm River to Ashton Reservoir. Fred gave excellent instruction to Sharon on nymph fishing and a strong arm to me as we waded out to seduce some rising trout with dry flies.

We were impressed the entire week by the expertise and patience of our guides, who knew the waters and could in a jiffy tie on small flies that I had given up using long ago. The accommodations for three nights at Henry's Fork

Lodge were luxurious, the personnel very friendly and helpful. They coordinated details very well with the outfitters. The chef is exceptional and it was difficult to choose from the many enticing choices on the dinner menu. Thanks to the managers Nina and Mary for the arrangements and help to all of us.

And thanks to Fran who managed the family transportation from home, meeting planes and commuting to the lodge several times so that everyone was there without a hitch. For me it was very enjoyable and relaxing week. I learned about new waters and new techniques for fishing. And it was great fun to share the experience and beauty of southeast Idaho with my family. ♦

visit the HFF website at  
[www.henrysfork.com](http://www.henrysfork.com)



Photos on pages 5, 8, 9 and 12 by Nick Ifft.

The Henry's Fork Foundation  
P.O. Box 550  
Ashton, ID 83420



**Address Service Requested**

Henry's Fork Watershed Library Copy  
604 Main St.  
Ashton, ID 83420  
208-652-3567

Nonprofit  
Organization  
Postage Paid

Permit #5  
Ashton, Idaho