



# HENRY'S FORK FOUNDATION

## NEWSLETTER

### Report Issued: Economic Analysis of Recreational Fishing and Boating on the Upper Snake

The results of an effort by the Henry's Fork Foundation and Trout Unlimited to quantify the recreational values of the Henry's Fork, the South Fork and the Snake River portion in Wyoming were made available in May with the publication of a report authored by Dr. John Loomis, Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics, Colorado State University, Colorado Springs. Loomis presented the findings of his study, "The Economic Value of Recreational Fishing and Boating to Visitors and Communities along the Upper Snake River," at a meeting of the Yellowstone Business Partnership in Jackson, WY in May.

The study quantifies the economic benefits, local employment and income effects resulting from current ecological conditions on the Upper Snake River in eastern Idaho and Teton County, Wyoming. A second objective of the study was to estimate how visitation, economic activity and net economic value would change with

improved catch of native/wild trout (e.g., number and/or size of fish).

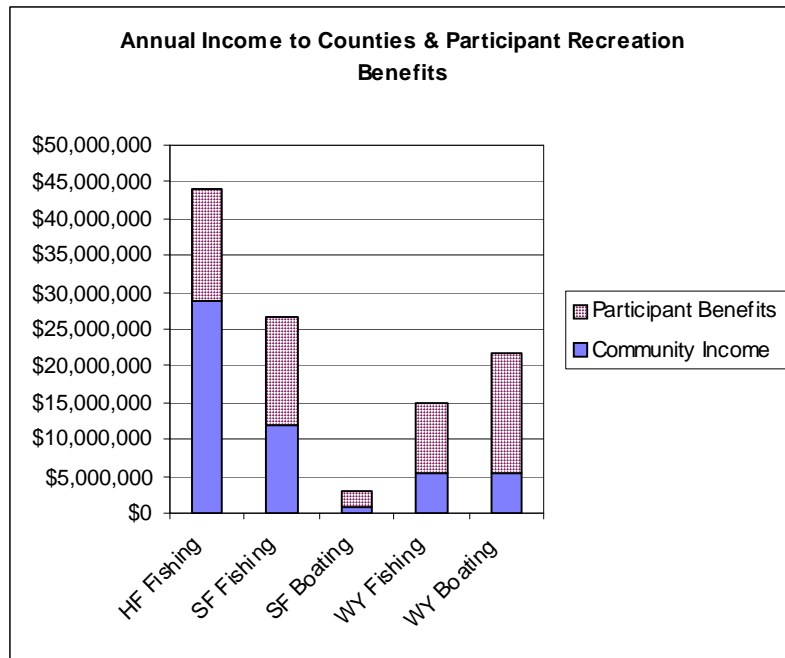
The study broke the Upper Snake into reaches from its headwaters in Wyoming to Palisades Reservoir, the South Fork from Palisades Dam to the confluence with the Henry's Fork, from Henry's Lake to the confluence of the Henry's Fork with the South Fork, and from that confluence to Blackfoot. Surveys were conducted in

summer 2004 and the data analysis was completed during the subsequent months.

Under current conditions, the Henry's Fork supports 851 jobs related to fishing, the South Fork 341, and together 22 related to boating and general recreation. Using the income and jobs multiplier effect for southeast Idaho, that works out to 5.4 jobs per 1,000 angler days on the Henry's Fork and 5.0 jobs per 1,000 angler days on the South Fork. If anglers were able to catch twice the number of fish they do now or catch 25 percent larger fish the number of jobs would increase to more than 1,400 on the Henry's Fork and 540 on the South Fork.

The current net economic value of angling and boating recreation on the Henry's Fork is estimated to be slightly less than \$45 million, while on the South Fork it is approximately \$26 million. According to the U. S. Water Resources Council, net dollar recreation

values are comparable to the net economic values of irrigated agriculture and hydropower. The report concludes: "Though it may be challenging, it is possible to implement river operations that provide for irrigated agriculture, hydropower and flood control while supporting ecological conditions for strong native fisheries. The long term combined benefits of supporting natural resources and traditional water uses will strengthen the



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((Continued on page 8))

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**Introducing the Interim Executive Director**

by **John Hoagland**



Webster defines interim as “an intervening time.” My “intervening time” with HFF is simply an extension of a lifelong interest in the Henry’s Fork River, some time (six years) on the HFF Board of Directors, a family residence on the river and a great love of fly fishing. So, when asked by the Board to consider the interim executive director’s job I considered the possibility of “an intervening time” from my recent retirement and pursuit of a quality lifestyle. I believe I made a good decision.

I am a Salt Lake City native and my wife, Vicky, and I still have a home there. Our two children, Noah and Sadie, are respectively pursuing legal and writing careers. I retired from the Forest Service in 2002, topping off my 28-year career, mostly in winter sports administration, as director for the agency’s 2002 Winter Olympics effort. I have degrees in economics (BS) and forest management (MS) and did my research on fishing use in wilderness areas.

My first two weeks with the Foundation were spent bugging Steve Trafton, trying to glean as much I could during our transition and staying out of the way during preparations for Henry’s Fork Day. Steve was very gracious and patient as he explained the myriad projects, grants, contracts and day-to-day operation of the Foundation. All the while, he was trying to tie up loose ends and coping with the stress of leaving his wife and children for military duty. In all, Steve is leaving a very tight ship and for that I am very grateful. The staff—Joan, Susan, Jim and Melanie —has been very helpful during the transition, and I have been impressed with how hard they all work and their dedication to the Foundation. This was evident in the resounding success of Henry’s Fork Day, which the staff runs with an elegant efficiency.

One of my first efforts with the Foundation was to ensure the timely completion of the Stone Bridge land acquisition. Kim Goodman, formerly with the Teton Regional Land Trust (and soon to be with Trout Unlimited), was awarded the contract. Her expertise is perfect for our needs to conclude the purchase, deed the gift, manage due diligence prior to closing and tie up all the other loose ends that I won’t mention here. In addition, Kim is helping to secure the last financial resources that are needed to complete the purchase and pay for closing. I should mention the incredible out-pouring of support we have had from local and national organizations as well as individuals from all over the country. To celebrate their generosity, HFF plans to honor them during a dedication ceremony at the Stone Bridge site later this fall or in the spring.

Since its completion, the new Vernon Bridge access site is meeting with widespread acceptance among anglers. Our partners in the project, Fremont County via Tamra Cikaitoga and Idaho Department of Fish and Game via Mel Sadecki, have worked hard to bring success to this win-win project on the lower river, and it has been a pleasure working with them. We are working on new information signs to be put up later this summer.

Challenges ahead include finishing the Henry’s Lake Outlet restoration project. This project, which is putting a half-mile of the outlet back into its historic channel, has the potential to significantly reduce sediment and improve habitat in the river reaches between the Flat Ranch and Island Park Reservoir. We hope to finish it in showcase fashion by late fall. The Nature Conservancy’s people at the Flat Ranch have been very patient and helpful, and special thanks goes to

**STAFF**

**John Hoagland—**  
Interim Executive Director

**Stephen D. Trafton—**  
Executive Director (on military leave of absence)

**Jim De Rito—**  
Conservation Director

**Susan Steinman—**  
Resource & Membership Mgr.

**Joan Rice—**  
Finance Manager

**Melanie Sessions –**  
Office Assistant

To contact the Henry’s Fork Foundation:  
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[www.henrysfork.org](http://www.henrysfork.org)

*Continued on page 8*



- A Note From The Chair -

We are approaching my favorite time of the year on the Henry's Fork – the autumn dance. Soon, southeastern Idaho will be a mixture of harvesting on farms, elk bugling in the distance and anglers faking patience as they chase trout in a race against winter's cabin fever. This fall, I hope you have saved room on your dance card for the Henry's Fork.

As newly-elected Chairman of the Board, I want to express my appreciation for your support of the Henry's Fork Foundation and the work we all do to protect the river and the watershed.

In a refreshing change from recent history, the summer of 2005 has been well-watered by winter snowmelt and rains into the late spring. It also has been a season of transition and progress for HFF.

Some highlights:

- We have welcomed John Hoagland as interim executive director while Steve Trafton completes his service in the U.S. Marine Corps. An experienced administrator with the U.S. Forest Service in his former career and longtime HFF member and former board director, John has deep roots at HFF and brings a steady hand to the office. Please reach out to him if you have any questions about our work or issues to report.
- Our annual Henry's Fork Day celebration was a huge financial success and the social event of the summer in Last Chance. Thanks to all of our business sponsors and personal donors. Thanks to staffers Steve, John, Susan, Joan, Melanie and Jim and special helpers Pat, Dawnie, Annie and interns Brice and Michael. Also, thanks to HF Day co-chairmen Rick Hansen and Marty McLellan and HFF board members who rolled up their sleeves. Congratulations to Manlove Award winner Jim Greene for long service to HFF and Conservation Award winner Rob Van Kirk for enabling better understanding of the river. And, thanks to Nancy Byers and her family for their continued support through the Don Byers scholarship award, which enables Sarah Shiley of Rexburg, ID to continue her conservation studies.
- Welcome to new members of the board of directors: Steve Born, of Madison, WI, formerly of the University of Wisconsin faculty and the board of Trout Unlimited; Kim Henrie, who has homes in Park City, UT and Island Park; Layne Hepworth, of Boise, ID and sharp-eyed denizen of the Ranch; and Greg Nau, of Lincoln, CA who makes bamboo rods in his off-hours. All have deep respect for the river and are dedicated to the mission of HFF.
- The capital campaign for acquisition of the Stone Bridge property at the confluence of Warm River is on track. This is the first step in a broader lower river research, restoration and stewardship commitment by HFF to ensure angler access and wise land use along the Henry's Fork.

Elsewhere in this newsletter, please see John Hoagland's introductory comments and Jim DeRito's update on conservation projects. We have a full plate, but we are ready to address any circumstance that might affect the health of the river and the watershed.

It has been my pleasure to succeed Marty McLellan as chairman, a great friend of the river and my friend, too. On Marty's watch, we found a terrific executive director in Steve, put the organization on solid financial footing, energized our on-the-ground conservation program through Jim, celebrated our 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary with another outstanding member-supported Henry's Fork Day, managed a smooth transition to an experienced interim executive director in John and positioned HFF for a bright future. Thanks, Marty, from all of us at HFF.

And thank you, and all HFF members, for your generous and continuing support.

Cheers,

*Gene Quinn*

## ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ HFF Events Highlight Summer ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

The middle of June is famous for several things in the Henry's Fork watershed—the annual opening of the Railroad Ranch stretch of the Henry's Fork to fly fishing and the arrival of the Green Drake hatch being two that bring a deluge of anglers full of high anticipation. For many years HFF has taken advantage of the fact that many members are in the area to host a variety of events, including a board meeting, annual membership meeting, a Green Drake reception and Henry's Fork Day. The pile of events is so intense it seems unlikely that HFF board members and staff have an odd moment to go fishing during those few days—but we have anecdotal evidence that they do manage to slip away for some quality time on the river in between commitments. For those readers unable to attend any or all of the happenings here is a short recap, with many thanks to all who contributed to the success of the week.



Nancy Byers and Gene Quinn introduce the 2005 Byers scholar, Sarah Shiley of Rexburg.

**Board meeting.** The summer board meeting took place at Elk Creek Ranch, Island Park on June 16 and 17. New board members seated at this meeting were Steve Born, Madison, WI, Layne Hepworth, Boise, ID, Kim Henrie, Park City, UT, and Greg Nau, Lincoln, CA. New officers also took over for the next year: Gene Quinn, chair, Bob Rosenberg, vice-chair, Bill Hackett, secretary, and Mike Gibbons, treasurer.

**Annual meeting.** The annual membership meeting was held June 17 at Elk Creek Ranch with about 45 persons in attendance. Executive Director Steve Trafton made a report to the membership on

the status of ongoing projects. Chair Gene Quinn introduced the summer interns, recognized retiring board member Henry Poett and introduced new board members.

**Green Drake Reception.** The annual meeting was quickly followed by a reception for members of the Green Drake Society at Hyde's Restaurant in Last Chance. Members who made a significant financial contribution to HFF during the previous year are given recognition at this annual event. About 45 Green Drake members were in attendance.

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Jamie Greene receives the 2005 Manlove Award on behalf of his father James B. Greene. Photo courtesy of Susan Quinn.

**Henry's Fork Day.** The culminating event of the week was, as always, Henry's Fork Day, HFF's annual major fundraiser. This year, the event netted about \$80,000 for HFF programs and operating expenses. The day began with a pancake breakfast with major ingredients donated and prepared by former board member Dan Todd. Throughout the day a parade of visitors checked out the silent auction and raffle items. In late afternoon a book signing drew many to converse with authors Bruce Staples, Craig Mathews, Mike Lawson and Rene Harrop. In the evening, a prime rib dinner was served to about 135, after which the Manlove and Conservation



Winner of the ClackaCraft driftboat, Gary Dawson, claims his prize.

awards were presented to James B. Greene and Rob Van Kirk, and Byers scholar Sarah Shiley was introduced. The live auction, emceed by auctioneer Gale Harding, proved to be lively, entertaining and lucrative. The evening was brought to a close by the drawing for the major raffle item, a ClackaCraft drift boat. The lucky winner was Gary Dawson of Mack's Inn. In sum, the consensus among board, staff and attendees was that the day was a glowing success, full of fun and good cheer. We look forward to seeing you next year.

## Summertime in the Field: Data Collection and Aquatic Protection in the Henrys Fork watershed in 2005 by Jim De Rito, HFF Conservation Director

The HFF is busy this summer with aquatic monitoring, riparian protection, and fisheries surveys. A field crew of five is doing the necessary ground work to support the HFF's efforts to restore, protect, and conserve the unique fisheries of the Henry's Fork Watershed.

A task the crew has already completed this summer was the annual data collection at long-term aquatic monitoring sites. Of the eight monitoring sites, five are located on the Henry's Fork main stem and three are on tributaries: Henry's Lake outlet, Sheridan Creek, and the Fall River. This study was begun in 2000 to compare the physical, chemical, and biological properties of the river and its tributaries across sites and years. Data collected at these sites in the first few years included intensive mapping with a surveying machine, detailed habitat measurements, water quality sampling, macroinvertebrate collections, and electrofishing estimates of young-of-the-year trout. Data collected during the past three years was focused on water temperature, macroinvertebrates, and juvenile trout. A thorough evaluation of all data from these sites will be made this year to evaluate whether the methods and data collected are supporting the initial objectives of the monitoring.

Another task that the field crew has been charged with this year is the installation of electric fences along the river. A fence was put up on the west side of the river across from Last Chance from the "log jam" upstream to the bottom of the Box Canyon. This fence excludes cattle from the river during the early season grazing. In addition, the crew will install another electric fence that is nearly three miles in length

along East Harriman. When late summer grazing occurs in this area this fence protects the river section that is accessed from Wood Road 16. These fences have been annually maintained by HFF for about the past 20 years.

The final and most intensive field work for this summer has been conducting fisheries surveys on small streams throughout the Henry's Fork watershed. The primary objective of these surveys is to further define trout distribution in the watershed. This effort is focused on streams that have not been previously surveyed, many of which are relatively small and inaccessible. However, these streams have the potential to hold Yellowstone cutthroat trout, the only trout native to the watershed.



Part of the 2005 field crew (Michael Willson, Anne Marie Emery-Miller and Sarah Shiley) collects juvenile trout at the Mack's Inn monitoring site by electrofishing.

These surveys will also provide abundance estimates of trout, collect genetic samples, and refine our knowledge of non-game species (sculpin, dace, shiners, suckers, etc.) distributions in the watershed. This work is being undertaken in cooperation with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game and the U.S. Forest Service. In addition,

the methodology for these surveys was developed with Dr. Rob Van Kirk of Idaho State University and Friends of the Teton River. The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the Jackson Hole One Fly Foundation partnership are funding this survey work. The information collected will help the fish and game and land management agencies to better understand Yellowstone cutthroat trout and to prioritize management objectives, including on-the-ground restoration activities.

## Donor Acknowledgement

Thanks to all who have contributed \$100+ since our last newsletter. Henry's Fork Day in-kind donors are listed following cash donations. All cash donations (HF Day and other) are listed together.

### \$10,000

Mark Rockefeller  
Trout Unlimited

### \$5,000

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\*\* See note

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### Memorial Gifts Received For

Lydie Boyer  
Ruth Ponting  
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Ben Widmann  
Iona Widmann

\*\*Correction: In our last listing we inadvertently omitted the name of Charles G. Clark in conjunction with a gift from the Union Pacific Corporation.

### R & R Raffle Winners

Congratulations to the winners of the 2005 R&R Raffle. The drawing was held June 2. The first place winner wished to remain anonymous and donated the "Week on the Fork" to the silent auction on Henry's Fork Day. The Sage graphite rod went to Kai Anderson of Danville, CA; the Sage reel to Shade Murray of Nashville, TN; a stay at the Flat Ranch to Harold Wales of Salt Lake City; and HFF summer attire to Lawrence Krokes of Thousand Oaks, CA. A sincere thank you to all donors and participants.

## Meet the 2005 Summer Field Crew

The Henry's Fork Foundation is proud to announce a great field crew for the summer 2005. An experienced crew leader is supervising four interns who are working between two to three months to complete a variety of activities this summer (see article on page 5). Three different scholarship funds are supporting individual interns. The HFF is grateful to all the scholarship sponsors for their support of these interns who complete valuable field work and receive an invaluable experience.

**Anne Marie Emery-Miller** is in her third year with the Foundation as a field biologist and crew leader of the summer interns. She oversees the long-term monitoring stations, fisheries surveys, and other aquatic data collection throughout the watershed. She completed the initial channel assessment of the Henry's Lake Outlet restoration project and is continuing a rainbow trout telemetry study within the Box Canyon to Harriman State Park reach of the Henry's Fork. She graduated from Albertson College of Idaho with a B.S. in environmental studies and conservation biology. She enjoys all outdoor activities and resides in Island Park. Her new husband, Brad Miller, a fly fishing guide for TroutHunter, is avidly working to make her a respectable fly fisher.

**Sarah Shiley** is the 2005 recipient of the Don C. Byers Memorial Scholarship. Sarah recently graduated from Madison High School in Rexburg where she was active in soccer, softball and band. She previously studied many of the creeks in the Henry's Fork watershed in an environmental solutions class. She is an avid outdoorswoman and has traveled to Peru where she visited and photographed Incan ruins and local villages. She will be

attending Brigham Young University in Provo, UT this fall and hopes to pursue a degree in anthropology.

**Brice Chaney** is the 2005 recipient of the Rear Admiral James Greene Scholarship. Brice will be a senior at Colgate University during the fall of 2005. He is majoring in mathematical economics and pursuing a minor in environmental studies. He recently completed a term abroad in Florence, Italy. Brice has spent considerable amount of time in Jackson, WY with family and friends. He is an avid fly fisherman. Brice is originally from Dallas, TX.

**Michael Willson** is a 2005 recipient of the A. Paul Knight Memorial Scholarship. Michael is an environmental studies major at Washington and Lee University and will be entering his senior year during the fall 2005. Michael has studied abroad and traveled throughout Brazil. He is active outdoorsman and enjoys hiking, mountain biking, and kayaking. Michael is eager to catch some fish on a fly rod this summer. Michael is from Tallahassee, FL.



Summer interns (l. to r.) Sarah Shiley, Haynes King, Michael Willson and Brice Chaney take a break during a survey on Moose Creek.

**Joseph "Haynes" King** is a 2005 recipient of the A. Paul Knight Memorial Scholarship. Haynes completed his Bachelor's degree in German language from Washington and Lee University in June 2005. Thereafter, he spent some time in Belize where he became SCUBA certified. He is an avid backpacker and adventurer. He will begin a Fulbright teaching assistantship in Villach, Austria in September. Haynes is from Hickory, NC.

*(Hoagland...continued from page 1)*

Allen May, program manager for eastern Idaho. Other sections of the outlet in need of restoration will be evaluated for continuation of this important work. Jim De Rito, our conservation director, has a summary of other projects elsewhere in this newsletter.

As I settle into this position, I find myself reflecting on the changes I have seen over the years since I started coming to the watershed. The growth in the area, especially for recreational property along the rivers, seems exponential. The demands on the river's resources from fishermen, outfitters, farmers and floaters have expanded significantly, and numerous other recreational pursuits in the watershed have brought their impacts to bear. This makes the role of the HFF as relevant and important as it has ever been. One of the strengths of the Foundation has been its collaborative approach to solving problems. That approach is as important now as it has ever been, and I hope to carry on the tradition.

#### Staff News

**The cheerful countenance that greets visitors to the HFF office most afternoons belongs to Melanie Sessions who joined the staff as a part-time office assistant earlier this spring. Her husband Lynn and son Braide are guides for TroutHunter.**

**Jim De Rito and his spouse Amanda are proud parents of Kayla Mae who arrived on July 4, weighing in at 6 lbs, 11 oz. Congratulations .**

*(Economic study...continued from page 1)*

regional economies of Southeast Idaho and Southwest Wyoming.”

Counties positively impacted by the surveyed river recreational activities include Bingham, Bonneville, Fremont, Jefferson, Madison and Teton in southeastern Idaho. In Wyoming, Teton County is primarily benefited by these activities. The graph on page 1 illustrates the economic benefits to the area of river-based recreation activities.

The report summarizes the study's findings as follows:

These substantial economic benefits and community income are dependent on maintaining the physical habitat and other components of fisheries habitat such as water quality. Incompatible land uses, decreases in water flows at critical times and deterioration in water quality can put these substantial economic values at risk. Attention to these issues by private landowners, county and state officials as well as federal water and land management personnel is critical to protect the fishery and recreational resources of the Snake River. If properly managed, the river and its fisheries are a renewable resource that can continue to provide these benefits for decades to come. With increased attention and cooperation among landowners, county and state officials and federal land management personnel, these economic benefits can be increased.

Dr. Loomis prepared the report in cooperation with Dr. Don Reading of Ben Johnson Associates, Boise, ID and Dr. Lynne Koontz, Fort Collins, CO. The study was sponsored by the Henry's Fork Foundation and Trout Unlimited-Idaho office. Funding for data collection was provided by a grant from the Hewlett Foundation to the Henry's Fork Foundation. Financial support was provided by the Bureau of Reclamation for the economic analysis portion of the project. Data were collected by five Idaho State University students, HFF intern Ann Marie Emery and TU intern Connor Black. Input was also provided by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game and the Bureau of Land Management.

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