



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **For Immediate Release**

## **Executive Director Steve Trafton to Leave the HFF**

ASHTON, Idaho (March 25, 2011) – The Henry's Fork Foundation announces that Steve Trafton, Executive Director since 2002, will complete his service with the Foundation in April in order to take up a position with national coldwater conservation organization Trout Unlimited.

"This was a very, very tough decision to make," Trafton said. "I am excited about my new opportunity, but I love the Henry's Fork Foundation and I love living here, and it's going to be hard to leave. I couldn't possibly thank properly all of the people who have made my time here so happy, but there is no doubt that this organization works because of its members, staff, and Board, and because of all of our colleagues in the field and throughout the watershed. I am very grateful to all of our many supporters."

The nearly nine years that Trafton has led the HFF have been a period of remarkable success and growth for the organization. In late 2002, when Trafton arrived, the HFF had dwindled to a tiny and underfunded staff. Since then, the annual operating budget has doubled through revitalized support from HFF members, and the staff has been transformed into a team of six full-time and two part-time professionals, including fisheries and wildlife biologists who are experts in their fields. The scope of the HFF's work for the Henry's Fork today encompasses the entire watershed and its landscape.

HFF highlights of the past eight years under Trafton's leadership include well-known efforts such as the Box Canyon and Harriman State Park fisheries improvements resulting from the Henry's Fork drought management planning process (in cooperation with the local irrigation community and the Bureau of Reclamation) or the campaign to guarantee permanent protection of the angler access site at Stone Bridge on the lower Henry's Fork, but the success of the past eight years is best exemplified by the HFF's reaffirmed reputation as the leading conservation voice for the Henry's Fork.

According to HFF Board Chair Layne Hepworth, "There is no doubt Steve will be missed not only as the Executive Director of the Henry's Fork Foundation but by the entire community. He has been an extraordinary citizen." The Board of Directors has already begun a search for a new Executive Director.

Trafton's new job will be as the Managing Director of Trout Unlimited's Coldwater Conservation Fund, which supports the organization's conservation work nationwide. He will take up his new responsibilities on May 2.