

ANNUAL REPORT 2022

A LOOK AT THE YEAR'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS

THE VOICE OF THE RIVER

SINCE



1984

HENRY'S FORK
FOUNDATION

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A Message from the Executive Director

*Brandon Hoffner,
HFF Executive Director*



More than any year in recent memory, I have a hard time remembering early 2022. I had to read through past HFF newsletters to remember that we started the year with an above-average snowpack. Then it turned exceptionally dry for ten weeks. After that, the extremes just kept coming as we had an icy spring, followed by Yellowstone flooding, and then record high temps late in the summer.

I highlight this weather yo-yo because weather plays a significant role in the day-to-day talk around HFF. Weather weaves itself in and out of the conversations regarding precision water management, fishing conditions, water quality, and more. Weather, and the water and temperatures it brings, may be out of anyone's control, but it presents one of the major challenges to achieving our mission.

HFF's response is to run the most technical, science-based, and collaborative programs possible. HFF gathers data, runs models, talks to other stakeholders, and plans innovative projects. The result is a set of conditions—from fish and aquatic insect populations to the amount of water in, and flowing out of, Island Park Reservoir—that exceed expectations given the climatic conditions. That is no small feat and your support makes it possible. Thank you! 🐟

HFF Staff Anniversaries



JULIE MAURER
10 YEARS



DARCY JANSSEN
5 YEARS



JACK MCLAREN
5 YEARS



CHRISTINA MORRISETT
5 YEARS

Voice of the River

Stories Around the Watershed



Ashton Elementary and Island Park Charter School visited the HFF campus to learn about the river and water quality in the Interpretive Center.



Volunteers, staff, and interns collected trash at Henry's Fork access sites in July and August.



Youth on the Fly returned in August, with students learning about casting, aquatic insects, and more at Warm River.



HFF met Island Park Charter School, a cub scout group from Rigby, and Madison Junior High for field trips at the Buffalo Fish Ladder and Harriman State Park.



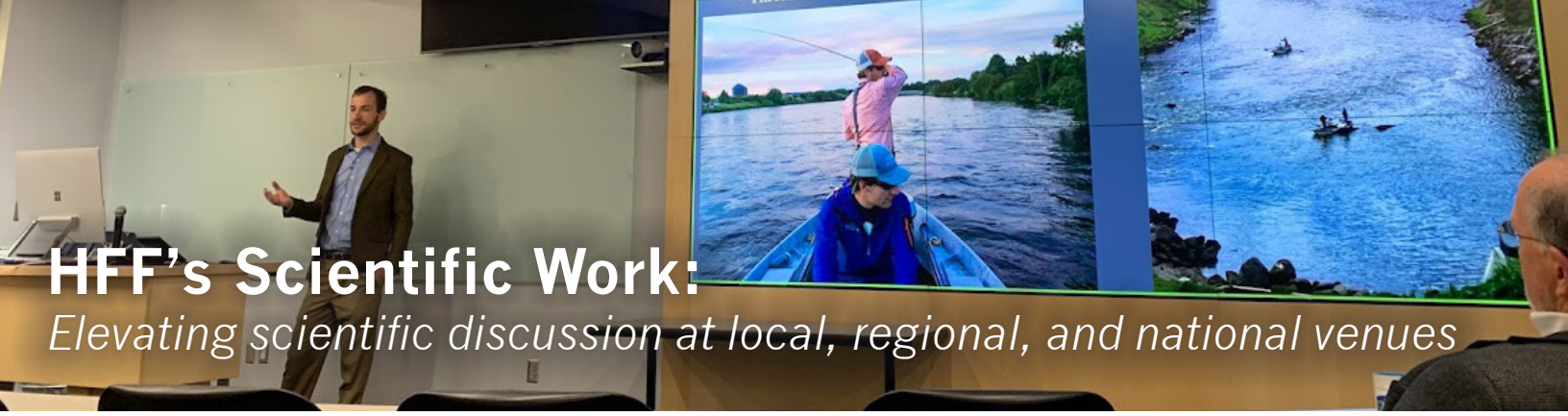
TroutHunter guides, anglers, and local residents relocated over 100 stranded fish in nearly 1 mile of canal this fall.



Swan Valley School and Madison High School students planted 638 native trees along Rainey Creek that they grew in their school's greenhouses.



Volunteers notified HFF about canned corn that had been dumped at Big Springs, and helped staff to clean it out.



HFF's Scientific Work:

Elevating scientific discussion at local, regional, and national venues

Professional presentations and publications in 2022:

- McLaren, J.S., P.E. Budy, S. Brothers, R.W. Van Kirk. The role of fish habitat in modulating the disconnect between fisheries and fishing. Wild Trout Symposium XIII, West Yellowstone, MT.
- McLaren, J.S., P.E. Budy, S. Brothers, R. W. Van Kirk. An Osprey's View: Aerial imagery reveals how submerged macrophytes create trout habitat. American Fisheries Society Annual Meeting, Spokane, WA.
- McLaren, J.S., R. Van Kirk, S. Brothers, P. Budy. A living Substrate: The scale-dependent role of submerged macrophytes on trout habitat. Joint Aquatic Sciences Meeting, Grand Rapids, MI.
- McLaren, J.S., R. Van Kirk, S. Brothers, P. Budy. Reservoir Drawdown vs. Kokanee in the Henry's Fork. Idaho Chapter of the American Fisheries Society Annual Meeting, Ft Hall.
- Morrisett, C. Optimizing watershed management in Idaho's Henry's Fork: Using and assessing a collaborative modeling approach. Water in the West: Toward Convergent Solutions for Water Security, Bozeman, MT.

- Morrisett, C., R. Van Kirk, and S.E. Null. Low flow in the lower Henry's Fork, Snake River: Investigating streamflowhabitat relationships to inform water management. Idaho Chapter of the American Fisheries Society, Ft. Hall.
- Oldemeyer, B. Understanding the relationship between Palisades Reservoir storage and sediment mobilization in the South Fork Snake River. Idaho Water Quality Workshop, Boise, ID.
- R. Van Kirk. Water management in the upper Snake River basin. Water in the Rural West, Eccles Family Rural West Conference, Pocatello.
- R.W. Van Kirk. "Reservoir storage and accounting in the upper Snake River basin." October 2022 issue of AgProud Idaho magazine, Jerome.
- R. Van Kirk, 2022. Hydrology of the Henry's Fork: How climate, geology, and management, and water rights administration determine streamflow. Harriman in Retrospective Speaker Series, Harriman State Park.

View past HFF publications at:

<https://www.henrysfork.org/reports-publications>. 



TAKE THE NEXT STEP.

Join the group that is ensuring the future of wild trout!

The HFF Legacy Society members have included HFF as a beneficiary of their trust, will, retirement account or another type of legacy gift.


It's a popular, easy, flexible way to be a hero for wild trout. For more information about the Legacy Society visit www.HFFLegacy.org.

Gordon L. Nelson, CPA, CFP®
Planned Giving Specialist
Email: legacy@henrysfork.org
Phone: 435-213-9986

Grant Funding Helps Your Donations Go Farther

HFF received nearly \$500,000 in grant funding this year for specific projects, including restoration on Rainey Creek via the South Fork Initiative, long-term water quality monitoring, river clean ups, and youth education.

We owe a special thank you to:

Cross Charitable Foundation
Crystal Springs Foundation
Jackson Hole One-Fly
Jackson FlyFishing Film Tour (WorldCast Anglers)
Lightfoot Foundation
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
Trout and Salmon Foundation
USBR WaterSMART Programs
Voigt Foundation
Western Native Trout Initiative
Willard Eccles Family Foundation 



Water Conservation for Farms and Fish

The Upper Snake Collaborative “Farms and Fish” Program is a unique partnership with the Friends of the Teton River, Trout Unlimited and The Nature Conservancy. Farms and Fish projects have worked to conserve water, improve soil health, and reduce wind erosion and sediment runoff, all of which benefit water quality. Projects include winter wheat conversion, irrigation deferment, soil testing, use of cover crops, irrigation scheduling, and satellite imagery, affecting nearly 4500 acres of farmland. In 2022,

the program conserved 2,300 acre-feet of Island Park Reservoir storage! New this year is a collaboration to line a portion of Conant Creek Canal that will conserve water not only in Conant Creek, but all the way up to Island Park Dam. The project was awarded a USBR WaterSMART Grant for \$1.095 million and your support through HFF’s “Catch the Match” campaign raised crucial matching funds for the project. Thank you! 



What Did the Year Bring?

Water Year 2022: Oct 1, 2021 - Sept 30, 2022

Climate: A cold, wet spring preserved our meager snowpack (29 percent below average and 3rd lowest since 1989), buying us some time early in the season. Air temperatures were well below expected values in the spring, but set numerous record highs in July, September and October.

Natural Flow: The total amount of water produced by the watershed, or natural streamflow, was 72 percent of average for the year (28 percent below average). This earned 2022 the ranking of driest water year since 1978. Water year 2022 ended where it began, in “moderate” drought, as categorized by the U.S. Drought Monitor. Natural flow in the Henry’s Fork Watershed has been above average in only 8 of the past 23 years (2000-2022) vs 12 of the 22 years prior (1978-1999).

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Water Quality: Below average water temperatures in April-June, led to delayed hatch timing and suppressed aquatic vegetation (macrophyte) growth for the whole

Data identifies the two key factors affecting fishing experience in the Ranch to be: 1) water management and 2) sediment export out of Island Park Reservoir.

summer. Also, turbidity from Island Park Dam to Pinehaven was above average for all of June and July, in part due to macrophyte abundance being too low early in the summer to trap suspended sediment, as the plants do in most years.


Fishing Experience: Low fish population, delayed hatch timing, continuously cold weather in the spring, continuously hot weather in the late summer and fall, low macrophyte abundance, low insect abundance, high streamflow, and high turbidity combined to produce poor fishing on the Ranch in 2022. Collaborative improvements in water management and conservation have quantifiably reduced negative effects of the 2020-2022 drought on fishing experience, and more investigation of sediment mobilization’s impact on insect abundance will be needed to develop additional strategies to maintain the quality of hatches anglers want to see. 🐟



What Did We Achieve in 2022?

Despite facing the driest water year in the upper Henry's Fork since 1937, you have made a meaningful difference for the Henry's Fork fisheries this year. Your support of collaborative programs like Precision Water Management and Farms and Fish has produced measurable results. In 2022, an astounding amount of water was saved, leading to improved trout survival, thanks to you.

The day-to-day work with partners includes installing remote-controlled headgates, maintaining stream gages, measuring flow, developing rating curves, making data available online, and providing water managers with data and reports that include short- and long-term predictions of water supply. All of these things together allow for more precise management and significant water savings to benefit Henry's Fork fisheries.

None of this would be possible without your support, and without a long list of partners including irrigation districts, Idaho Dept of Fish and Game, canal companies, Friends of the Teton River, The Nature Conservancy, Trout Unlimited, Utah State University, and many more. Take a moment this new year to appreciate the positive impact you've had for this beloved watershed. 

NOTABLE NUMBERS



112 cfs increase in winter flow from Island Park Dam



126 cfs reduction in summertime outflow



980 fish added to the Box Canyon population per year



25K ac-ft of water saved in Island Park Reservoir per year



South Fork Initiative 2022 Year Recap

For those who love the South Fork Snake, framed by cottonwoods and canyons, you know that the South Fork has faced very similar drought conditions and challenges this year. The good news is the South Fork Initiative continues to conduct crucial work throughout the South Fork Watershed to benefit the fishery there.

Water Quality Monitoring – Three sondes (in-river monitoring devices) collect data on water temperatures, turbidity and more and transmit that information to a website to view in real-time. View that data at henrysfork.org under “Resources—River Conditions”.

Restoration – Phase 2 of Rainey Creek Restoration is underway as of this fall. Since 2018, the critical work on Rainey Creek has restored 1.56 miles (8,200 feet) of



stream for Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout and other native species. Over 18 partners collaborated on this effort led by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game.

Aquatic Macroinvertebrate Monitoring – Each spring, aquatic insect monitoring takes place to collect baseline information and track changes in insect populations throughout the South Fork. Monitoring takes place in the upper, canyon, and lower reaches. View the most recent results by selecting the “South Fork” tab on the HFF blog (henrysfork.org/blog).

Education and Outreach – Local students have enjoyed field trips to restoration sites, learned about water quality and aquatic insect sampling, and have even contributed to restoration efforts through seedling propagation and planting of native willows grown in their school greenhouses. 🐟





Green Drake Society

Annual giving of \$2,500 or more

**New Life Members in 2022 are shown in boldface*

\$20,000 +

Bales Family Partnership
George Borkow and Marilyn Volpe
Thomas and Joan Brown
Lyman and Carol Casey
Cross Charitable Foundation
Friends of the Teton River
Gary and Cathy Gross
Jon and Karyn Hodge
Jackson Hole One Fly Foundation
David and Sally Long
M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
Sandy Pfisterer
Bill Rabon and Suzanne Landis
Jack and Janet Roberts
Paul and Martha Schmidt
Stephen G. and Susan E. Denkers
Family Foundation
Thomas Stredwick
Willard L. Eccles Char. Foundation

\$10,000 – 19,999

Toby and Leslie Cotton
Stephen E. Denkers
David L. Dieter
Robert and Kelli Dotson
Ralph and Meggan Hamm III
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Wild Trout Club

Lifetime giving of \$10,000 or more

Celebrating new Wild Trout Club members or level advancements in 2022

Founder Level \$1,000,000 +

George Borkow and Marilyn Volpe

Heritage Level \$250,000 +

M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust

River Steward Level \$250,000 +

Thomas and Joan Brown

Rainbow Trout Level \$100,000 +

Yvon and Melinda Chouinard
Flat Rock Club
Amelie and Dan Kappes
Stephen G. and Susan E. Denkers
Family Foundation
Willard L. Eccles Charitable Foundation

Brown Trout Level \$50,000 +

Richard Dixon
Dave and Becky Hall
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William Hurst
Geoff Motlow and Nina Gates-Motlow
James Poulton and Bobby Armor

Cutthroat Trout Level \$25,000 +

Linda and Andrew Ach

Richard Alfaro
Clen and Emma Atchley
David Deiter
Shane and Lorre Fleming
Willy and Lynn George
Elliot Hulet
Patsy Ishiyama
Matt Knickrehm
Steven and Brenda Lowe
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Richard Ono and Anne Wagner
Eric and Natalie Pauly
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Paul and Noreen Slivon
Allison Smoot and Jamie Johnston
Thomas and Sharlene Stredwick
Greg Stephens
Sticker Mountain
Rick and Shauna Williams
Randy and D'Andrea Worrall

Brook Trout Level \$10,000 +

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Toby Cotton
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Jimmy and Milli Gabettas
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The International Humanitarian
Wayne and Jane Thorpe
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Upper Snake River Fly Fishers
Brandon and Jill Warburton



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A Message from the Board Chair, Doug Siddoway



As I've gotten older I've come to the conclusion, like Aldo Leopold, that only two things really matter: the relation of people to each other, and the relation of people to the lands and waters that define their environment. One cannot live a healthy or happy life without the other. Understanding this interdependency, especially on a river as wondrous and complicated as the Henry's Fork, reveals the linkage of our present to our past—the dark pool of the soul, as Hemingway put it, that can be unlocked with a deftly placed fly. What is big is not the trout, but the chance. What is full is not the creel or the tally sheet, but the memory—the enduring timelessness of it all.

To be sure, the past year was a challenging one—both for the fishery and the farmers and other stakeholders who share our working river. Broader climate-induced changes in precipitation and summer temperature put our water management efforts to the test. Fortunately, our hard work, science-driven focus and collaboration have paid off. Storage behind Island Park Dam is consistent with prior years as of this writing, and winter flows have been sufficient to keep our trout populations healthy. This is a truly remarkable outcome, and would not have happened without your support.

I am humbled and gratified by your generosity and commitment, and thankful for the new friendships that were forged along the banks of our beloved resource. It has been a pleasure and an honor to serve you as Chairman of the Foundation these past two years.

Best to all of you. 🐟

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