

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

A LOOK AT THE YEAR'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS



THE VOICE OF THE RIVER

SINCE



1984

HENRY'S FORK
FOUNDATION

Celebrating Staff Anniversaries

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Coordinator</i> |
| Shawn Holwegner
<i>Technical Coordinator</i> | |



BRADY TAYLOR
15 YEARS



PAIGE CAHOON
10 YEARS



KAMBERLEE ALLISON
5 YEARS



Dr. Rob Van Kirk's relationship with the Foundation spans 30 years and his relationship with the Henry's Fork spans 45! Rob first fished the Henry's Fork in 1977, worked for Henry's Fork Anglers for most of the 80s, then started as the Foundation's first research director in 1994. After a "break" teaching math and statistics as a university professor for 14 years, Rob returned to Henry's Fork country in 2013. Rob's early love of the Henry's Fork has turned into a career dedicated to protecting it. 🐟



A Message from the Executive Director

Brandon Hoffner, HFF Executive Director

Why does the Henry's Fork Foundation exist, and why are you a part of it? HFF members could answer these questions in numerous ways. However, I feel confident that many of your answers would involve the relationships strengthened by shared experiences on the river, the memories that come alive each time your windshield is framing a scenic landmark that identifies your favorite

river stretch, or the awe invoked when you tether yourself to the natural world through rod and line. From our most taxing day to our most epic day spent on trout water, we know the "why" is tied to the joy and peace that the waters of eastern Idaho bring to us.

The Henry's Fork Foundation exists for a community that gets up each morning and, more often than not, thinks about ways to ensure the experiences provided by our rivers live on. We can't get bogged down by the uncontrollable, such as an August deluge that transitions into the driest November on record, or any of the innumerable weather combinations that can ruin a day or week of angling. Because of our passion for the river, we might give harsh conditions a begrudging nod of acknowledgment, but then we refocus on the work. We strive for scientific understanding that translates to solutions. It is not easy or quick, but we have done that for 40 years. It is also our plan for another 40 years of mission accomplishment. That's why HFF continues to build knowledge, share that knowledge far and wide, and work with partners to innovate solutions.

Thank you for 40 years of friendship and support to make it all possible! 🐟

*Cheers to
40 years!*

Join us as we celebrate the Henry's Fork throughout the year.

Visit henrysfork.org/events-and-raffles to learn more.



EDUCATION CORNER



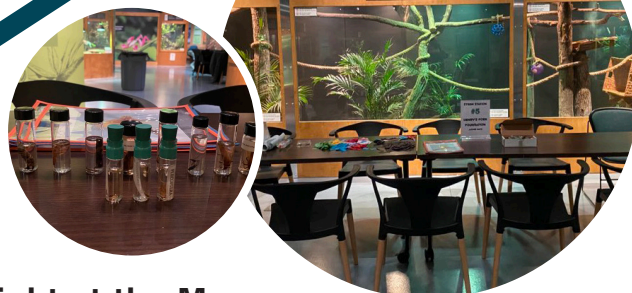
Watershed Festival

In July, over 50 participants learned how to cast on our casting course, participated in educational activities and crafts, and ate delicious food! Thank you to Idaho State University, Idaho Fish and Game, the Idaho Master Naturalists, the U.S. Forest Service, Harriman State Park, and Friends of the Teton River for helping to make this event possible!



Trout in the Classroom & Youth on the Fly

HFF continued to partner with Idaho Fish and Game to bring rainbow trout eggs to the 5th grade students of Ashton Elementary! 48 students learned a lesson every other week and raised trout from egg to fingerling. At the end of the school year, students went on an HFF hosted field trip to release the trout eggs into the Henry's Fork, and the program culminated with Youth on the Fly in August, where students learned how to cast and got to fish out on the river.



Night at the Museum

HFF was one of the organizations invited to the Museum of Idaho's Night at the Museum twice in 2023! Students get to participate in two STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art and math) stations at this event, then get to stay the night at the museum!



School Trips

In 2023, HFF hosted 9 field trips and visited 7 classrooms! Students learned about water quality, macroinvertebrates, and the anatomy of trout. The more people who fall in love with the Henry's Fork, the more stewards it will have for its future.



Summer Intern Projects

Each year, the HFF campus is busy with the hustle and bustle of our summer interns! We hosted 6 interns from across the United States in 2023. For many of them, this was their first time ever being to the Henry's Fork watershed. To read more about their work, visit henrysfork.org/blog and click "Intern."



Water Year 2023



SNOWPACK

- 119% of average (19% above average) peak snow water equivalent (SWE)
- 8th highest since 1989
- "B+" letter grade

WATER SUPPLY

- 90 % of average (10% below avg) natural streamflow in the upper Henry's Fork



ISLAND PARK RESERVOIR

- 6th lowest winter inflow since 1934
- 62% full - reservoir minimum level (vs 45% on average)

AQUATIC INSECTS


- Major improvements in aquatic insect community at Last Chance and Osborne Bridge relative to 2021-22
- 70% - mayflies, stoneflies, and caddisflies at Last Chance (highest observed since 2015)



It was a year with unique challenges as even the above average snowpack last year couldn't make up the water supply deficit left by recent drought across the West. Over the past year, the programs you support have conserved unprecedented amounts of water, extensively tracked water quality, and conducted breakthrough research to make a measurable impact on fishery health and the fishing experience.

All measures of water quality were much better in 2023 than in 2022, thanks to above-average snowpack, very late melt of ice from Island Park Reservoir, moderate summer air temperatures, and cloudy, rainy weather from early August – October.



We're tracking water temperatures and insect populations, and studying Island Park Reservoir like never before. With the challenges brought by a changing climate, we may not be able to recreate the past, but we can give the Henry's Fork a healthy future. 

Sediment and Turbidity

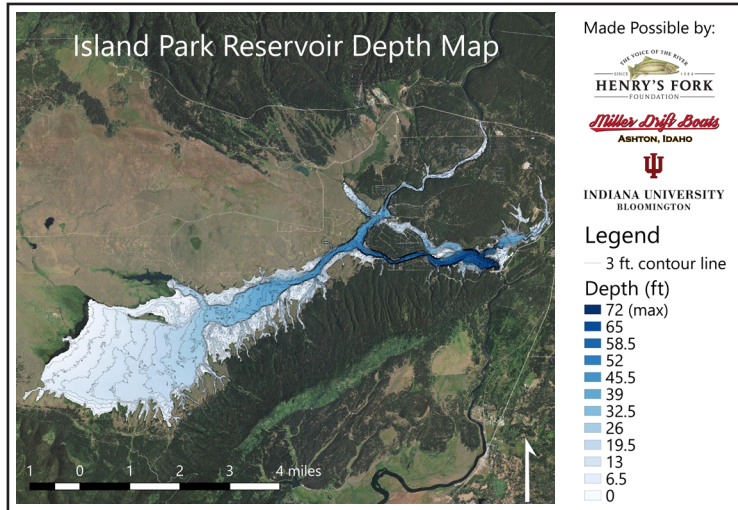
We've learned a lot about Island Park Reservoir in recent years. HFF's Aquatic Ecology Program Manager, Dr. Jack McLaren, studied aspects of the reservoir for both his Masters and PhD research.

Data indicates that sediment exiting Island Park Reservoir into the Henry's Fork are not from tributaries, as with some "aging" reservoirs. Sediment—which is made up of

both inorganic bottom sediments as well as dead algae—is instead being moved from the shallow west end through density currents caused by cold-front weather events.

Did You Know?

- The west end sits in a valley made of sediment, eroded off the Centennial Mountains over geologic time and then flooded upon the creation of the reservoir.
- HFF's work reduced sediment exiting the reservoir into the river downstream by 150 tons this year.



HFF just applied for a \$1 million grant to launch a new program called "DIRTT: Developing Infrastructure to Reduce Temperature and Turbidity." The program will assess potential projects that can reduce fishing-season sediment export from the reservoir into the river downstream, reduce water temperatures and benefit the fishery in the face of changing conditions

Learn more about Sediment and Turbidity on our website at henrysfork.org.

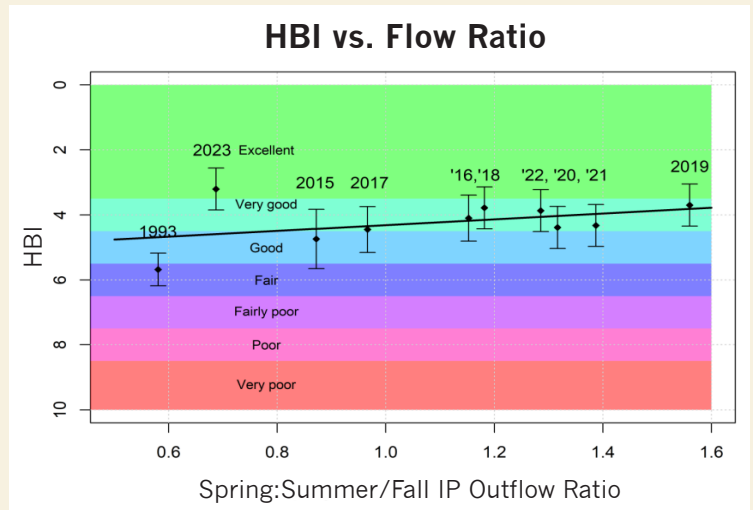


Aquatic Insects

HFF's Aquatic Insect Monitoring Program, AIM for Healthy Rivers, is nearing its 10th year of data collection, working with the premier invertebrate ecology consulting firm River Continuum Concepts, which helps collect and evaluate the samples. **HFF now has one of the most comprehensive and scientifically rigorous long-term invertebrate datasets on any trout stream in the western U.S.**

The Henry's Fork still boasts astonishing aquatic insect numbers and noteworthy hatches along much of its 100+ river miles, and 2023 showed a substantial improvement of the invertebrate community at Last Chance and Osborne Bridge. That being said, this doesn't minimize

the trends being seen across the globe and changes in timing, location, and size of insects seen by anglers on the Ranch. HFF's Ranch water temperature and aquatic insect monitoring programs will continue to dig into why anglers are seeing changes in their favorite hatches—just as scientists around the world try to determine what's behind these insect declines. View the 2023 results at henrysfork.org/river-conditions.



Hilsenhoff Biotic Index (HBI) at Last Chance and Osborne Bridge (averaged) vs. previous year's ratio of springtime to summer/fall streamflow at Island Park.

Thank you!

Voice of the River

Stories Around the Watershed




- HFF completed 3 river cleanups in 2023! Access sites from the Log Jam down through Red Road Bridge were cleaned of shotgun shell casings, nails, trash, and other debris.
- Volunteers from TroutHunter helped salvage stranded trout at the crosscut canal in the fall. Trout were gathered into buckets and placed back into the river.
- Volunteers helped clean canned corn out of Big Springs where the fish get fed. This included wading, using a net to gather the sediment, then sifting through to remove the corn, before returning the cleaned sediment back to the water.
- Friends of Harriman State Park (FHSP) organized a river cleanup at the Log Jam because tree roots, branches, and other debris were causing the canal to become less efficient and the trails waterlogged. To further mitigate this issue, HSP received funding and hired a contractor to help conduct routine canal maintenance.

Interested in volunteering? Visit henrysfork.org/voice-of-the-river to sign up.



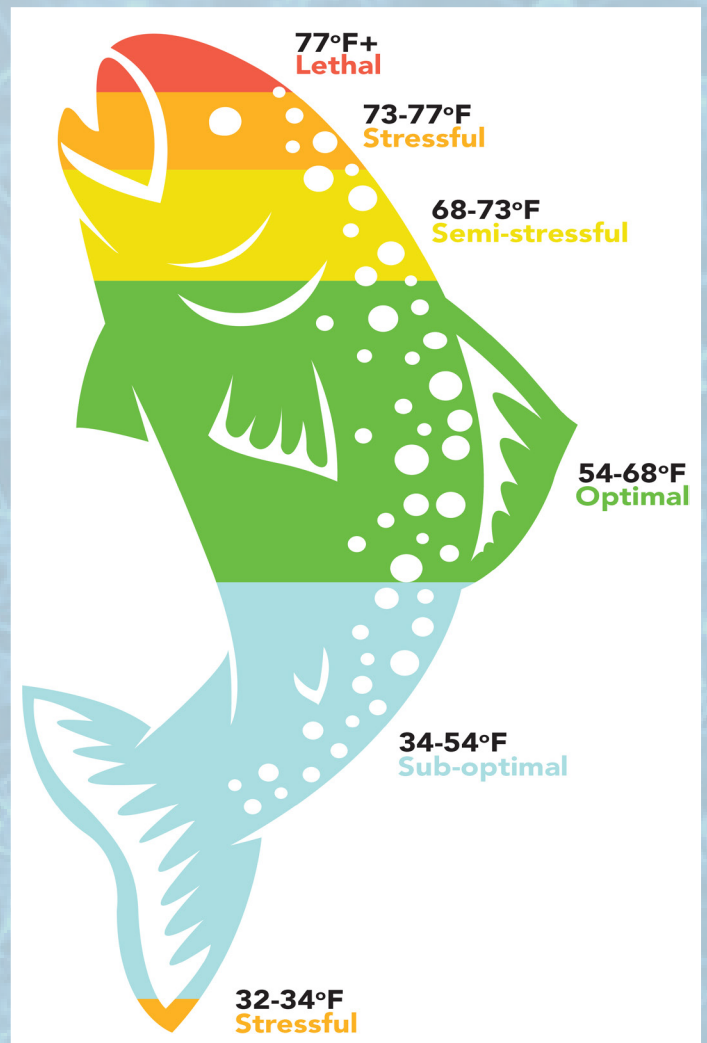
Water Temperatures in Harriman State Park

For anglers across the world, a sunrise walk in Harriman State Park is a spiritual experience. Among the many reasons “the Ranch” is cherished, its insect diversity and highly selective trout are at the top of the list. However, anglers have become concerned about water temperatures there, and the potential effects on the river’s aquatic life.

That’s why HFF asked anglers to help select 17 locations in the Ranch to monitor water temperature throughout the summer of 2023. Volunteers hiked to key Ranch sites and helped install the monitors. The data is now available online—henrysfork.org/river-conditions—and HFF is researching options to bolster the cool water refuges throughout the Ranch reach. 

Did You Know?

- The lower Island Park Reservoir outflows are, the less the reservoir drains, leading to lower water temperatures all the way to Last Chance.
- At these lower outflows, the cooling effect of groundwater is greater below Millionaire’s Pool.



Trout Populations




We can help the insect populations, address water temperatures, and clear out sediment, but none of it will make a difference without trout to rise to those bugs.

How can we boost winter flows to help the trout populations in some of our most storied reaches?

Two programs are achieving results envied across the West.

Precision Water Management and Farms & Fish may just be the future of fisheries conservation. Working with farmers and water managers to more precisely manage water, boost soil health, and conserve water, has made sure there is an additional 10,000 Olympic swimming pools worth of water in Island Park Reservoir at the start of the winter for better winter flows. This work has also made spring freshets possible, clearing out fine sediment and making more ideal habitat for insects.

Don't forget the multi-million-dollar Conant Creek Canal partnership improving trout habitat, reducing sediment runoff, and contributing to winter flows!

And on top of all of that, landmark research by HFF's Dr. Christina Morrisett is helping the water world consider how traditional flood irrigation may actually help increase groundwater return flows for trout habitat, and ponder the age-old question – is newer really better? 

2023 Accomplishments

- 100 cfs contributed to winter flow
- 550 additional adult trout in Box Canyon in 2025
- 1,100 hours of science staff time in the field

South Fork Initiative 2023 Year Recap



Aquatic Insect Monitoring: Each spring, data is collected in the upper, canyon, and lower reaches to track changes in populations.

Restoration: Over 18 partners have collaborated to restore 2.2 miles (11,826 feet) of stream on Rainey Creek and its tributaries since 2018. In 2023, a fish screen was installed on Rainey Creek with the help of Trout Unlimited.

Water Quality Monitoring: In-river monitoring devices collect data on water temperatures, turbidity, and more

before transmitting it in realtime to the HFF website.

Education and Outreach: Local students from Madison High School have been contributing to the restoration of Rainey Creek and its tributaries by propagating native seedlings in their school greenhouses and planting the saplings in the fall. In 2023, ~800 trees were planted by students and volunteers. Also, Westminster College geology students participated in their 2nd year of restoration sampling, allowing students to learn new techniques and contributing valuable data.





Green Drake Society

Annual giving of \$2,500 or more

**New Life Members in 2023 are shown in boldface*

\$20,000 +

George Borkow and Marilyn Volpe
Conant Creek Canal Company
Cross Charitable Foundation Inc.
Shane and Lorre Fleming
Ralph and Meggan Hamm III
Steve Moore
Ruth Shea Estate
Tom and Doris Squeri
Greg Stephens
Keith and Julie Williams
Yellowstone Soil Conservation District

\$10,000 – 19,999

Kelly Barlow
Eric and Cynthia Baughman
Thomas and Joan Brown
Lyman and Carol Casey
Larry and Pam Garlick
Idaho Fish and Wildlife Foundation
Jackson Hole One Fly Foundation
James M. Cox Foundation
Amelie and Dan Kappes
Paul and Darlene Lachowsky
David and Sally Long
Steven and Brenda Lowe
Ron and Mary Miller
Larry and Sue Myers
Bradley Peterson
James C. Poulton and Bobbie Armor
Jon Riche
Steven Simper
Stephen G. and Susan E. Denkers
Family Foundation
Marcus and Amber McConnell
Sticker Mountain
Willard L. Eccles Charitable Foundation

\$5,000 – 9,999

Linda and Andrew Ach
Agparts Manufacturing Inc.
Shane and Sara Wootan
Ricardo J. Alfaro, II
American Fly Fishing Trade Association
Jeff and Karin Armstrong
David and Kathy Backman
Jim Barbour and Kathy Simpson
Jay and Kathleen Berlinsky
Tom and Shelley Botts
Philip Jay Brown
Shane Bryan
Yvon and Melinda Chouinard
Toby and Leslie Cotton
Jack and Diana Coyle
Crystal Springs Foundation
Josh and Maralee Cutler

Mike Denkers

Stephen E. Denkers
David L. Dieter
Robert and Kelli Dotson
Brad and Annette Elg
Elliott - Hall Company
Flat Rock Club
Patrick Gibbons
Grand Teton Brewing Company
Sallie Griffith

Kurt and Deborah Grimmelmann

Bill and Debby Hackett

George and Mary Hall

JP Hayes
Scott and Mimi Hayes

Scott Henson

Ed and Cindy Hikida
John and Vicky Hoagland

Vince and Tamera Hopkin

Rich Humphrey
Lee and Phyllis King
Matt Knickrehm
Stuart and Frances Lange
Jesse and Whitney Lowe
Luppe and Paula Luppen
Ron and Tammy Malone
Martin and Connie McLellan
Thomas and Beth McRae

Thomas McRae Jr.

Richard and Bunny Melvoin
Ron Mittelstaedt
Clay and Jillian Moorehead
Geoff Motlow and Elena Gates Motlow
Wesley and Janet Nelson

Claire Olsen

Eric and Natalie Pauly
David and Shari Quinney
Bill Rabon and Suzanne Landis

Dan Richards

Roberts Foundation
Jeff and Amy Roberts
Bob and Susan Rosenberg
Nancy Rufener
S.J. and Jessie E. Quinney Foundation

Walt and Katherine Schlotfeldt

George and Leanne Sidney

Connor Simper

Scott and Joann Snowden

Bernie Spriggs

Tania and Michael Stepanian

Thomas Stredwick
Roselyne C. Swig
Susan Swig

Heidi Titus

Jason Tolliver
Trout & Salmon Foundation

Peter Turnbull and Zoe Grusky

Lana Varney

Voigt Foundation

Brandon and Jill Warburton

Glen Watkins and Christine Martindale

Western Association of Fish and Wildlife

Agencies

Matt and Debbie Woodard

Yellowstone Teton Territory Inc.

\$2,500 - 4,999

Ed and Teri Ahrens
Robert and Sara Allen
American Endowment Foundation
Jeremiah Antosch
William Arnold
Tim Bennett
Big Sky Anglers, LLC
John Borzma
Tony Cate and Erin Armstrong
Phil and Cynthia Cohen
Daniel and Amanda Conner
Peter and Missy Coombs
Vini Cousins
Allan and Terry Craig
Branch and Helen Craige
John and Patricia Davis
Devan Ence
Rick and Karen Fairbanks
Mike and Erica Gatt
John and JoAnne Gaynor
Willy and Lynne George
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Tim Hogan
Elliot Hulet
William B. Hurst
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Jeff Ludlow
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Michael and Michelle Menzia
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Robert Murdoch
Aaron Myers
Warren and Melissa Myers
Jerry Nielsen
Andrew Nowell
Cliff Nowell and Laura Anderson
Phil and Cyndie Osloond
Bruce Parker
Donald and Cathy Parker
Maunsel and Ann Pearce

continued from pg 9

Carolyn Pedone and John Rose
Kevin and Jennifer Peterson
Dr. James and Bonnie Pohl
Quinn Company
Bruce Raskin and Kathleen Boone
Tim Reynolds and Patty Iseff
Lon and Zoe Richardson
Paul and Martha Schmidt

Ken and Mei-Ling Shiroishi
Patrick Shooltz
Steve and Renata Shore
Douglas and Lauri Siddoway
Allison Smoot
Shaun Sparkman
Chuck Sundry and Gloria Beattie
Jerald and Heather Taylor

Les and Jeanie Thurmond
Marshall and Ann Turner
Tyler Vaughey and Kate Milliken
Brad White
Rick and Shauna Williams
David and Susan Wishney
Randy and D'Andrea Worrall
Val Zupsan



Wild Trout Club

Lifetime giving of \$10,000 or more

Celebrating new Wild Trout Club members or level advancements in 2023

Founder Level \$1,000,000 +

George Borkow and Marilyn Volpe

Heritage Level \$500,000 +

M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust

River Steward Level \$250,000 +

Thomas and Joan Brown
Conant Creek Canal Company

Rainbow Trout Level \$100,000 +

Yvon and Melinda Chouinard
Flat Rock Club
Bill and Debby Hackett
Shane and Lorre Fleming
Amelie and Dan Kappes
David and Shari Quinney
Ruth Shae Estate
Thomas and Doris Squeri
Stephen G. and Susan E. Denkers
Family Foundation
Keith and Julie Williams
Willard L. Eccles Charitable Foundation

Brown Trout Level \$50,000 +

Richard Dixon
Dave and Becky Hall
Jon and Karyn Hodge
William Hurst
Ron and Mary Miller
Geoff Motlow and Nina Gates-Motlow
Dr. James and Bonnie Pohl
James Poulton and Bobby Armor
Greg Stephens

Cutthroat Trout Level \$25,000 +

Linda and Andrew Ach
Richard Alfaro
Clen and Emma Atchley
Jack and Diana Coyle
Crystal Springs Foundation

David Deiter
Willy and Lynn George
Dick Greene and Barbara Kiesel
Elliot Hulet
Idaho Fish and Wildlife Foundation
Patsy Ishiyama
Matt Knickrehm
Steven and Brenda Lowe
Thomas and Elizabeth McRae
Rev. Peter and Wanda Michaelson
Robert Murdoch
Richard Ono and Anne Wagner
Eric and Natalie Pauly
Kevin and Jennifer Peterson
William Rabon and Suzanne Landis
Tim Reynolds and Patty Iseff
Jon Riche
Roberts Foundation
Paul and Noreen Slivon
Allison Smoot and Jamie Johnston
Thomas Stredwick
Greg Stephens
Sticker Mountain
Roselyn Swig
Rick and Shauna Williams
Randy and D'Andrea Worrall

Brook Trout Level \$10,000 +

David and Kathy Backman
Berni Bahro and Carolyn Sauer-Bahro
Jim Barbour and Kathy Simpson
Kelly Barlow
Eric and Cynthia Baughman
Terry Box
William Bradley
Phillip Jay Brown
Jan and Judith Brunvand
Tony Cate and Erin Armstrong
Toby Cotton
James M. Cox Foundation
Bill and Deb Crabtree

Gina Dalton
Jeff and Cathy Dufault
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William Rabon and Suzanne Landis
Jon Riche
Tom and Becky Schell
Walt and Katherine Schlorfeldt
John and Linda Seiter
Ken and Mei-Ling Shiroishi
Dwayne and Bonnie Speegle
Scott and Joann Snowden
Bernard and Jill Spriggs
The International Humanitarian
Wayne and Jane Thorpe
Jason Tolliver
Peter Turnbull
Marshall and Ann Turner
Upper Snake River Fly Fishers
Brandon and Jill Warburton
Shane and Sara Wootan



Legacy Society

Gifts through Estate Planning

Dale and Bet Ackels
Eric and Camie Adema
Frank Bell
Garth Blanchard
George Borkow and Marilyn Volpe
Stephen Born
Philip Jay Brown
Thomas and Joan Brown
Albert J. Campbell
Jim Carter and Jane Harrison
Carl Cooper
Gina Dalton
Robert and Kelli Dotson
Tom and Karen Duncan
Henry and Flory Ellis
Bob and Gaye Fields
Jimmy and Milli Gabettas
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Larry and Shelley Green
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Bill and Debby Hackett
Dave and Becky Hall

Terry and Sue Hall
James Hardie
Tom Henderson
John and Carol Hepworth
Layne and Mary Hepworth
Ed and Cindy Hikida
Brandon and Rochelle Hoffner
William B. Hurst
Andy and Amy Jenkins
Pamela Johnson
Lee and Phyllis King
Mark Klingerman
Fanny Krieger
Robert W. Lamm
David and Sally Long
Jim and Trudy Mann
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Jerry Nielsen

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Jerry and Robin Pulley
William and Cathe Quapp
Bruce Raskin and Kathleen Boone
Wim and Lynnae Ray
Tim Reynolds and Patty Isaeff
Ray and Pat Ritari
Jack and Janet Roberts
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A Message from the Board Chair, Nina Gates Motlow



This past year, many of you have shared your concerns about the challenges facing the Henry's Fork. Our recent years of drought, combined with warming temperatures, have had a profound impact on stream flow, fish populations, insect hatches and aquatic plant growth – all elements that we know are critical to sustaining a healthy fishery.

The science-based approach we take at the Henry's Fork Foundation continues to make important headway against these challenges and to support the resilience of our river and the larger upper Snake watershed. HFF scientists are at work not only collecting data but also interpreting what they see, disseminating their work, applying their findings to water management and training the next generation of environmental scientists. Two of our outstanding science staff recently completed their PhD work

right here on our river, and their discoveries are already having an impact.

I know that it sometimes can be difficult, as anglers, to appreciate the impact of the Foundation's work on the quality of our fishing experience. We have expanded our communication efforts in order to make interesting stories as well as critical information more easily available to all who are interested. To learn more, start by visiting our website at www.henrysfork.org.

We at the Foundation owe tremendous gratitude to all our supporters – volunteers, donors, advocates, and research and project funders. With your help, the Henry's Fork can continue to thrive as a healthy river and an exceptional fishery. 🐟

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