



Covering The Drift

Volume 6, Number 1

September, 2001

President's Message

By Jerry McBride

International Fly Fishing Show - I attended the show in Livingston, MT August 6-11 along with Bob Bates, Russ Brown and Ben Dennis from our council board. Last year FFF President Greg Pitts described the FFF as the "best of the best." Where else can you go and rub elbows with people like Joan Wulff, Jack Dennis, Tim Rajeff and John Bailey to name a few? The fly tiers are so impressive. If you tie your own flies it is so helpful to watch these experts and learn from them. I tie a lot of parachute patterns and was able to learn three different ways to tie off a parachute hackle.

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Washington State was well represented at the show. Here is the list from the program:

Bob Bates - Spokane, WA (our *Covering the Drift* newsletter editor) Fly Tier

Russ and Leila Brown - Richland, WA (Russ is WSCFFF Director of Education) Basic Fly Fishing for Women Program

Charles Cameron - Seaview, WA Fly Tier

Gary Grant - Richland, WA FFF National Secretary, Fly Tier

Scotty Howell - Bothell, WA Fly Tier

Alec Jackson - Kenmore, WA Fly Tier

John Newbury - Chewelah, WA Fly Tier

Tim Rajeff - Vancouver, WA Distance Casting Demonstration

Ted Rogowski - Lacey, WA Fly Tier

Jim Shearer - Kennewick, WA Fly Tier

Randy Swisher - Bainbridge Island, WA Casting Demonstration

Lory Watkins - Burien, WA Collecting Fly Fishing Books Program

FFF provided a booth at the show at no cost to the WSCFFF so we could give out information on our upcoming Fly Casting Exposition. Ben Dennis set up the booth and we got help from Richland, WA our newest

WSCFFF board member Len Zickler and his wife Dawn.

I attended the council president's meeting on Monday and Russ Brown, Bob Bates and I attended the board of directors meeting on Tuesday. The board of directors approved the elimination of the roster requirement for council clubs. This means that council clubs will no longer have to supply a roster of their members when they pay their annual dues.

A new fly plate series was introduced at the board of directors meeting. There is an important change in the new fly plate series program. If a council wants a fly plate, the council must supply the flies.

Bob Bates, Ben Dennis and I attended the Conservation Committee meeting on Wednesday. The FFF has some good projects going. I was very impressed with the concern for the environment and determination to do something about it that the committee has. Bob Shirley from our council is our national conservation council representative. He was unable to attend this year so Bob, Ben and I went in his place. Ben Dennis made a presentation on the spring creek spawning bed project that the Methow Valley Fly Fishers is working on.

All in all, the 2001 FFF Fly Fishing Show was a good one. I encourage everyone to attend next year's show, which will again be in Livingston.

Northwest Fly Casting Exposition September 29, 2001 - I encourage you

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all to get your registration in for this show. The deadline is September 7, 2001. Paul Quinnett, author of *Pavlov's Trout* and *Darwin's Bass* will be the featured speaker at the awards banquet. Paul is an outstanding speaker who will inspire and entertain you at the same time.

Dick Stearns from Washington State won the distance casting competition at the International Fly Fishing Show casting games with a 104-foot cast. He plans to attend the Northwest Fly Casting Exposition, so you know you will have some pretty tough competition. See you at the Trophy Lake Casting and Golf Club on September 29, 2001.

Fishing at Trophy Lake

By Larry Gibbs
Puget Sound FlyFishers Club

John Aker, fishing program manager, gave me the following information.

Big fish, I mean BIG FISH are there for catch and release fishing. The waters are stocked with Steelhead and Kamloops trout. In the competition pond the fish range in size from one pound and up to 15 pounds.

The fly fishing portion of the Northwest Fly Casting Exposition will

be held on a two-acre pond located near the Number 6 Tee. This pond is the reservoir that supplies water for the golf course. Every night new water is pumped in so the pond stays nice and cool for the fish. The bottom temperature of the pond is in the high 50's to low 60's year round.

There are two other fishing waters at Trophy Lake. The natural 12 acre lake is fishable with tubes, pontoons or rafts. There is a one acre pond that is used during the fall and winter months. Neither of these will be used during our competition.

You will fish with your own fly rods; the minimum rod size is a 5 weight. You can go larger. Your tippet needs to be in the 8 to 9 pound range (or stronger, Ed.), so plan your tapered leader accordingly. All fishing is catch and release, so land and release the fish quickly.

Fly patterns: In the morning Woolly Buzzer or leach patterns in black or green or a combination of those would be good in size 12 to 14. Depending on the weather, dry flies are good in the afternoon in size 16 to 18. Mayflies, dragonflies, mosquitoes and various emergers would be good. Bring a varied selection, you know how fickle fish can be.

You can fish Trophy Lake Golf and Casting Course on your own, call them

at 1-360-874-8337. Their rates are: \$12.50 per hour, \$50 for half a day or \$80 for a full day. Don't forget, we are talking BIG FISH here, Steelhead and Kamloops.



Just a Reminder

By Bob Shirley

Registration for the Casting Exposition will close on September 7th. If you, your club team, or independent team are going to compete, be sure to register and enclose your \$75.00 fee before the deadline. Your registration fee includes one boxed lunch and one place at the banquet on September 29th. Others interested in dining with us on the date of the competitions can reserve a boxed lunch and banquet for \$40.00 - either of these options must be in to us by the 7th of September.

This event is shaping up to be the biggest thing happening in fly fishing in Washington this year. The competition promises to be top notch and the chance to see and learn from the best of the best means everyone will be scrambling to make sure they will be included. Send in your completed registration form soon so you won't be left out.

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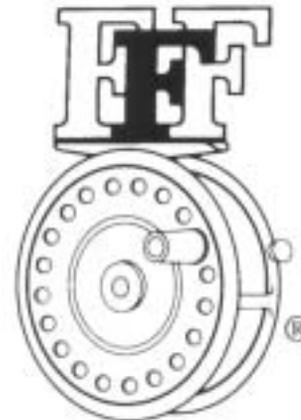
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WINTHROP/BELSBY SPRING CREEK STEELHEAD SPAWNING HABITAT RESTORATION COMPLETED

By Ben Dennis

After 2+ years effort and vision of the Methow Valley Fly Fishers to bring this project to fruition, it is completed.

What took only one month from start of project to finish was preceded by 2+ years and an arduous journey with many detours through the draconian systems of six government agencies to get permitted. The only agency that moved with any speed was Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife.

The Spring Creek restoration was totally, **privately** funded through the generosity of contributions by individuals, fly fishing clubs and organizations---Federation of Fly Fishers, Washington Council of the Federation of Fly Fishers, Northwest, Wenatchee Valley, Overlake, Fidalgo, Evergreen, Northwest Women Flyfishers, Methow Valley fly fishing clubs and Chelan-Douglas Sportsman Association.

Had it not been for the empathy, skill and generosity of time and effort by Bob Jateff, WDFW biologist's wading through the very complicated, required biological assessment of the Army Corps of Engineers, we wouldn't have come this far.



Placing gravel in Winthrop/Belsby Spring Creek

Hands-on/on-site observations by Chris Pasley, USFW's Winthrop National Fish Hatchery manager assured us we were doing the job correctly.

Thanks also to Ron Darcy for assisting and providing valuable input, Denny O'Callaghan, conservation chairman of the Methow Valley Fly Fishers, for coordinating the project with Brad Martin of the umbrella organization (Methow Conservancy) that allowed contributors the opportunity to make tax deductible contributions.

And to volunteers whose strong backs and handy shovels placed the gravel--- Dick Hamel, for back and backhoe, Doug Reiniko, Jim Johnson, Deva Harris, Jim Gaston, Dave Clawson and Dave Hoppens.

The result---after 61 years of uncared for water on this 600+ ft, pristine spring creek channel we now have a place for fall chinook and coho salmon, and next spring's returning steelhead to spawn.

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The Methow Valley Fly Fishers were determined when they took on the possibility of this project, to make it happen. Fed by springs and water from the Foghorn Ditch, this spring creek offers the potential of being the finest spawning habitat in the Methow Valley.

It doesn't freeze in winter, and stays cool in summer. Most importantly, spring floods do not affect it during runoff.

Steps of the restoration were: Placing 230 yards of washed gravel laid by chute from clean cement trucks, creating nine spawning riffles, 25 to 35 feet long. Placing 5" to 8" rock laid by trackho on the lower riffle faces to hold them. Root wads and rock placed between riffles to provide cover.

Labor to install the riffles was the effort of the above volunteers who in shorts and wading shoes directed the placement of chute delivered gravel with shovels and rakes.

The rock faces and root wads were placed by trackho from the road that is adjacent to the spring creek.

The Methow Valley Fly Fishers will monitor the project this fall and next spring for spawning activity and next spring place willow shoots along the bank to increase cover.

The bottom line---permitting was long, complicated, frustrating and sometimes so incomprehensible that laughing was the only way to remain committed.

This project is beneficial, does not threaten biological impact and holds much promise.

For us who dreamed it and stuck to making it happen, we hope our effort makes it easier for others to find like waters and embark on similar projects.

We are happy to share our information with you. And when you begin the process, remind the agencies that they approved the successful Winthrop/Belsby Spring Creek Restoration project.

P.S. fish are already in the spring creek, making the riffles their personal bedrooms.

Ben Dennis, President Methow Valley Fly Fishers P.O. Box 101, Winthrop, WA 98862 flyrodbranch@mymethow.com

Summer Casting Clinics

By Dick Raisler

Ten casting clinics were held throughout the state of Washington this summer to introduce FFF club members and non FFF affiliated club members to the Northwest Fly Casting Exposition casting games.

Clinic goals were to expose casters to the competitive and noncompetitive fun games, train volunteers to help officiate the games, and to generate interest in the September 29th, Northwest Fly Casting Exposition.

Approximately eighty fly casters attended from the following clubs: Bainbridge

Island Fly Fishers, Clark Skamania Fly Fishers, Evergreen Fly Fishers, Fidalgo Fly Fishers, Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club, Kitsap Fly Anglers, Methow Valley Fly Fishers, Northwest Fly Anglers, Northwest Women's Fly Fishers, Puget Sound Fly Fishers, Washington Fly Club and Whidbey Island Fly Fishers.

The surprise of the summer? The casting games proved to be a tremendous teaching aid. The Certified Fly Casting Instructors, Bill and Peggy VanNatter, Don Simonson, Dick Stearn, and John Reid devoted much of their time to teaching casting skills. A

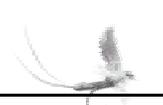
big hearty THANKS goes to these five volunteers!

Were the clinics successful? Yes they were! Those fly fishers that have never competed in a casting event got their "feet wet" and found that it is fun. We have thirty five volunteers helping with the September 29th games and interest in the coming Exposition was increased. The Federation of Fly Fishers is about Conservation, Restoration and Education. The summer casting clinics were certainly about education.



Livingston, MT 2001 Show

Russ Brown, far left, and his wife Leila, right, were instructors for the Woman's Basic Fly Fishing Program. They come from Richland, Washington where both are active in a kids program. Russ is a member of the Columbia Basin Fly Casters, Certified Caster and WSCFFF Director of Education.



Artificial Spawning Channels

Bill Van Natter, slowsnap@att.net, 425 486 5011, Box 1153, Bothell, WA 98041, is experimenting with 2- by 12-foot artificial trout spawning channels and needs to locate private lakes and ponds that are suitable for rainbow trout but have no natural spawning creek available.

He started a population of hatchery trout that are spawning and reproducing in a pond having a creek less than 2 feet wide in patches of gravel much smaller than 2 feet by 12 feet.

Now he wants to demonstrate that self sustaining populations of hatchery rainbow can become wild and perpetuate themselves without hatchery influence if a spawning channel is provided. These fish could form a reservoir of wild trout strains for the future.

His channels use a 1/2-horse septic tank circulating pump and the spawning channel can re-circulate lake water into the channel or use water from a stream which has no spawning gravel.

The channel can be wood or 6 feet of iron or plastic culvert pipe, split to form a 12-foot long channel. It can be built in shallow water, on the shore, or float on a simple raft.

Prizes For Fly Casting Expo Events

Some great prizes are available for participants. The Competition Events and Fun Games have separate collections of prizes.

Competition Events

To give everybody a fair chance at winning an event we separated the professionals from the rest of us skilled fly casters. Women are separated from men so we have four categories: Professional Men, Professional Women, Skilled Men and Skilled Women. 1st and 2nd prizes for professionals are cash/fishing trips and fly lines. 1st and 2nd prizes for skilled casters are rods and fly lines.

Now I hope the next breakdown doesn't confuse you. Skilled casters have one more place "Average." "Average" is a prize for persons who are closest to the average of distances and average of accuracy castings. Suppose there are a bunch of skilled casters who log in longest distance-casts between 95 and 50 feet. Say the average distance for the bunch is 76.4 feet. The skilled caster closest to 76.4 feet with his/her longest cast wins the "Average."

"Casting for Funds" and "Fish caught and released" 1st and 2nd place prizes are

available.

Team 1st place competitive event winners receive awards.

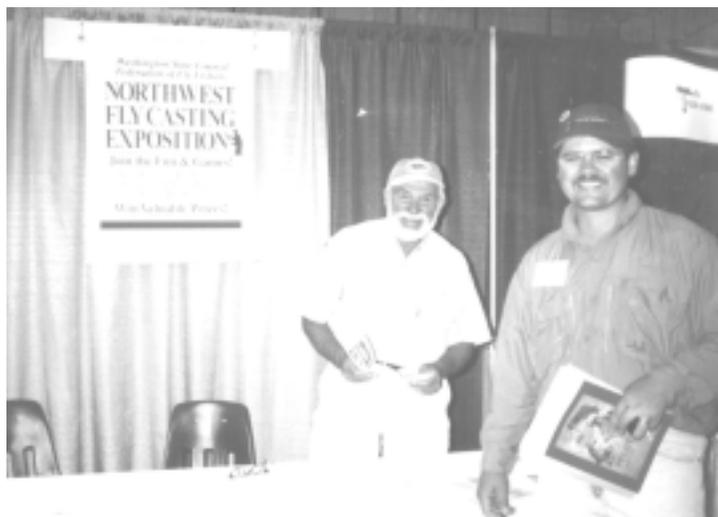
Fun Games and Others

"Fun Game" prizes are awarded by drawing. There will be at least one drawing for each fun game. When you enter a fun game your entrance ticket is placed in a bucket. (Be sure your name, address and phone number are on it.) When you win, another ticket with your name, etc. is placed in the bucket. Prizes include quality necks, magazine subscriptions, Amato books, fly lines, boxes of flies, etc.. You may play a fun game as many times as you like, but each time you need to add another ticket to the bucket.

"Blind Fly Tying" prizes are based on the two, 1st and 2nd, best looking flies tied in 10 minutes or less while you are blind folded. You may layout a hook and materials before being blind folded. Judges decision will be final. In case of a tie on quality, time will be used to make a decision. Prizes are high quality necks.

"Name the Flies" prizes include the book *Forgotten Flies*, etc..

Anyone owning or knowing of lakes or ponds suitable for Bill's experiments is asked to contact him by e-mail, phone or mail. This experiment is done without expense to the pond or lake owner.



Livingston, MT 2001 Show

WSCFFF booth with Ben Dennis and a visitor.



Livingston, MT 2001 Show

Bob Bates showing Parachute Adams to fly tier Jerry Smalley, Columbia Falls, MT



The Importance of Kid's Fishing Days

By Tom Wolf

Everyone,

This last Saturday, June 9, I was asked by Steve Pixler of the City Of Portland Parks Bureau to bring out some TU volunteers to help at a kid's clinic being held at Henry Hagg Lake. I've always enjoyed kids fishing clinics, so saying yes was no chore to me. Little did I realize that this was to be a very special clinic.

As I arrived at the site of the clinic, by Boat ramp C, I found everything organized and ready to go. There were scores of fishing outfits, life vests and many volunteers. After Steve gave a little welcoming speech, we all pitched in and prepared for the kids. As they began to arrive, I noticed there they were a very diverse mix of African-American, Hispanic, Asian-American and white kids. Two things struck me as odd: Most of them came with a white parent or guardian and each was given a piece of tape on their clothes, either black or red. I didn't have time to really wonder about it, I became immersed in a whirlwind of activities. Soon I was handing out equipment, instructing kids, untangling their lines or cleaning fish (200+).

After several hours, during lunch, I asked Steve why the pieces of tape. He told me that all these kids (300 plus) were part of a foster kids only fishing day. These kids were all in a foster program for special cases. They were either abused kids removed from their biological families or kids with special needs: Physically challenged, fetal alcohol, crack kids, etc. The tape was placed on them so that the event photographers would not take a picture of the ones with red tape for fear that biological parents would see the pictures and seize them, subjecting them to more abuse. As Steve told me this, I began to cry.

All of a sudden, the fear of adults some of them exhibited made sense. And it reminded me that fishing is much more than a physical sport. It is a pastime of

healing, where kids could come to forget the torments that plagued them and experience for a few hours the simple joy of catching a fish. As I watched the kids bringing up fish they caught, most of them their first ever, I saw genuine happiness perhaps the only one many of them had ever known. It made my task of cleaning fish much easier.

As I drove home that night, I thought about what I had just done. So much of what I do with Trout Unlimited is to protect the resource which is of great importance. I don't regret for a moment all the time I have spent doing this. But I sometimes forget that the mission of TU is more than restoring native fish and their habitat. It is introducing young people to the joy that is fishing. It is taking part in the Free Fishing Weekend clinics, as I know many TU members did. It is taking children, yours and others, out to a lake or river for a day of fishing. It is a moment spent teaching kids about a sport we all love, a gentle, kind sport full of many subtle pleasures and rewards. It is teaching a future generation that there are many benefits to this activity we call fishing.

As my truck moved along, deep in my meditation, I remembered a little girl who brought me her string of hatchery trout, full of pride. As I began to clean them, she told me how fun it was and how she had never been fishing before, never even left the city before. She watched with fascination as I gutted, cleaned and washed the fish. After I put her trout in a bag of ice, she motioned at me to bend down. After I did so, she surprised me by hugging me and kissing me on the cheek. Then she smiled at me and walked away with her bag of fish. As I thought of this, in my car, I began to cry. I finally had to stop the vehicle until the tears stopped. May I never forget that in my life of tranquility there are others in great pain, and may I never forget that fishing is a simple joy meant to be shared with kids.

Take a kid fishing! Tom



A BIG THANK YOU TO PATRICK'S FLY SHOP

By Don Simonson

On behalf of the WSCFFF I want to thank Jim Lemert of Patrick's Fly Shop and Sage for donating the use of two Sage XP rods for the upcoming WSCFFF casting games.

Patrick's also donated two Cortland 444SL WF-6F along with leaders. Because of their generosity the competition events will be using top of the line equipment.



Livingston, MT 2001 Show

Master Fly Tier John Newbury, Chewelah, WA at lunch. His exotic birds supply hackles for his personal and demonstration tying. Tiers from all over also look to John for their quality exotic feathers. He is a fly tying demonstrator at every FFF show and has assisted with fly tying workshops.

John originated many different flies. If you are going steelhead fishing this year you should take a few of his Peacock Spiders along. See page 146 in *FFF Fly Pattern Encyclopedia*. He has 22 other patterns in the book.

When you go to the International Fly Fishing Center in Livingston, MT look for three of John's flies there. They are in fly plates with flies tied by other well known tiers. Also he received the Virginia Buszek Perry Assistance Award in 1998.

Lewis River, East Fork Endangered Fishery — Press Release

AMERICA'S MOST ENDANGERED FISHERIES ANNOUNCED

August 08, 2001

LIVINGSTON, MONTANA - With hundreds of rivers and lakes imperiled by neglect and abuse, the Federation of Fly Fishers (FFF) today announced its annual list of the nation's most endangered fisheries. From watersheds in West Virginia's scenic highlands to the rivers of the Pacific Northwest, some of America's most beloved resources are facing unparalleled devastation.

These four U. S. fisheries were determined by the FFF to face immediate danger, with each confronting an impending issue of staggering importance to its survival.

1. Lewis River, East Fork, Washington
2. Strawberry River, Ozark Mountains, Arkansas
3. Blackwater River, Tucker County, West Virginia
4. Kansas River, North Central Kansas

"For the economic benefit of a select few, we are destroying many of America's most magnificent resources," said FFF Endangered Fisheries

Coordinator Bob Molzahn. "Protecting our environmental riches is, in economic terms alone, far more important than putting more money into the pockets of a few companies."

The usual list of culprits is to blame for the poor condition of scores of our nation's rivers, lakes and streams. Among these are careless and rampant: development, agricultural runoff, logging, coal and gravel mining, and cattle grazing

"No matter what the basis, no outfit deserves to extract more from the land than it can sustain, especially not when it effects invaluable public resources such as clean water, flood control, fish and aquatic health," said Molzahn. "Unfortunately, where resource conservation is concerned, we seem to be stuck in the Dark Ages."

LEWIS RIVER, EAST FORK, WASHINGTON The East Fork of the Lewis River is one of the few remaining rivers in the Columbia River Basin that is unhindered by dams. Flowing out of the Gifford Pinchot National Forest along a 212-square-mile watershed, it is a spawning and rearing habitat for three scarce salmon species already listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. In the past, the East Fork has been

considered one of Washington's premier steelhead streams and despite degradation from past mining practices, will be a key river in helping to re-establish native anadromous fish stocks, especially steelhead.

Now only a shadow of its former self, the fishery is further threatened by a proposed 4,000 ton a day gravel mine expansion. For more than three decades Storedahl & Sons Inc. mining company, and their predecessors in ownership have gouged the landscape, obliterated prime spawning beds and degraded thousands of feet of critical habitat. Reckless mining has also destroyed the natural flow of the river. Approving the expansion would setback the millions of dollars and countless hours already spent on salmon restoration. State officials have stated that no measures exist that can adequately mitigate the significant environmental impacts that will be caused if the mining company is allowed to expand.

"We're not just talking about protecting a single species, we're talking about saving an entire ecosystem," says Molzahn. "We've only recently learned the staggering fact that more than 137 species of fish and wildlife depend on the Northwest salmon for their survival."

Federation of Fly Fishers Membership Application

Full Name _____
 Address _____
 City / State / Zip _____
 Phone home / work _____
 Club Affiliation _____
 Birth Date _____

Referred by: _____

Apply online at www.fedflyfishers.org

Please mail or call us at

Federation of Fly Fishers
 PO Box 1595 406 585 7592
 Bozeman MT 59771 406 585 7596 fax

Please check membership category

Canadian memberships add \$5 per year All other countries add \$10 per year

- (A) Individual Membership (\$29) (C) Sponsoring Contributor (\$64)
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- (O) Senior Membership (\$22) (L) Individual Life (\$465)
for those age 65 and over payment plans available
- (B) Family Membership (\$35) (T) Couple Life (\$696)
spouses and children under 14
- (H) 3-Year Family Member (\$82) (E) Retail Membership (\$70)
small fishing equipment stores
- (Y) Youth Membership (\$11) (S) Sustaining Membership (\$185)
for individual members under 14 commercial / manufacturing businesses

Check Enclosed (checks payable to F.F.F.) US Funds
 Credit Card Visa MasterCard Discover
 Card Number _____ Expiration Date _____

East Fork Lewis River Endangered Fishery Where Did It Start

By Bob Shirley
VP, West and Director of Conservation

Recently a group of concerned citizens in southwestern Washington decided to do something about a situation in their area. One of the best steelhead rivers around was being threatened by a commercial gravel operation. Everyone knew it could ruin the prospects for the already delicate balance in the river. Silt and sand would be released into the clear water, and flows would be adversely effected. So some one got mad and decided to do something about it. Richard Kennon of the Clark-Skamania Flyfishers called me to see what options were available through the Federation. I suggested he nominate the East Fork of the Lewis for the Federation's Endangered Fisheries Initiative program. This would help notify the rest of the country and fly

fishers in general about the problems on their river.

Richard started to talk to local experts and concerned groups in the area. He got Dick Dryland from Friends of the East Fork and Nick Gayeski from Washington Trout involved. Together they figured out the application for EFI nomination and submitted their river for inclusion in the program.

In Washington, two other Fisheries have, in the past, been nominated and both were included in the EFI program. The Lower Snake River was the first fishery to be awarded "Endangered" status by the Federation, and Searun Cutthroat was the next to be added a year later. The publicity which these nominations generate has helped to focus interest and attention on our dwindling fishery resources. When our

local fishery issues receive national media attention, it can only help in any argument we have about how these resources will be used and managed.

The efforts of the folks who nominated these three fisheries are appreciated and we thank them. In the future, the Federation of Fly Fishers will be able to serve the needs of the fisheries and fishers if individuals and groups continue to be involved and participate in the process. It takes your input to bring situations and issues to the attention of those who can help. Feel free to contact any Washington State Council FFF officer or board member to discuss fishery issues, to report dangerous situations, or to see if actions are being taken about specific fishery problems.

Get involved!



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Washington State Council**

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