

# Hi-Desert Flyfishers



Volume 7, Issue 6

June 14, 2011

## Club Officers

<b>President:</b>	Randy Kelly
<b>Vice President:</b>	
<b>Secretary:</b>	Craig Bullock
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<b>FFF/PHW:</b>	Randy Kelly
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<b>Safety:</b>	Paul Sinclair
<b>Fly of the Month:</b>	Robert Gomez
<b>Website:</b>	Chris Hynes
<b>Newsletter:</b>	Gary Applebee

**Send Articles to:** [glapplebee@gmail.com](mailto:glapplebee@gmail.com)



## **President's Message**

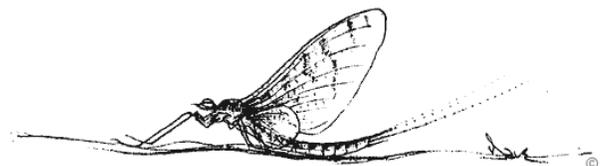
Its June and that means summer is upon us! Vacation trips, fishing trips to faraway places like British Columbia, Henrys fork , High country of Colorado, well for some lucky ones, but rather we travel far way or cast a line in local waters or on local beaches , take time to enjoy the experience of being with friends, family. The High Desert Flyfishers can and should be a resource of friends that enjoy a common hobby, so if you are looking for someone to share a fishing experience with (not to mention fuel cost) pick up your roster and call a member or two. The true richness of this sport is the wonderful people we meet and friendships we develop.

See you on the stream,

Randy Kelly

## General Meeting Notice

<b>Date:</b>	Tuesday; June 14, 2011
<b>Time:</b>	7:00 pm
<b>Place:</b>	<b>County Fire Station</b>
<b>Address:</b>	19235 Yucca Loma Rd. Apple Valley
<b>Website:</b>	<a href="http://www.hidesertflyfishers.com">www.hidesertflyfishers.com</a>



# Hi-Desert Flyfishers



## HD Club Discount Locations

**Arizona Flyfishers:** [www.azflyfishing.net](http://www.azflyfishing.net)

**Sierra Trading Post:** [www.sierratradingpost.com](http://www.sierratradingpost.com)

**Flymen Fishing:** [www.flymenfishingcompany.com](http://www.flymenfishingcompany.com)

**Sierra Stream:**  
[www.stillwaterflyfishingadventures.com](http://www.stillwaterflyfishingadventures.com)

**Sierra Trout Magnet:** Dave D'beaupre, owner  
(760) 873-0010 10%  
[www.sierratroutmagnet.com](http://www.sierratroutmagnet.com)



First step is to apply the bead and start your thread about two bead lengths away. Secure shimmer to about the barb.

## Orange Shimmer Soft Hackle Fly

Well, I hadn't done a soft hackle fly for the fly of the month, so I wanted to give one a whirl before I did any variations of previous patterns. The advantage with soft hackles is that you can fish them dead drift, swing, or by retrieving them. There are many different feathers and materials you can use to vary this simple, yet effective fly. Soft hackles don't have to be large either, just remove the bead and use a small ball of dubbing to help flare out the feather.

### Material list:

TMC 9300 size 14, 7/64 gold bead

Sulky holoshimmer (this stuff is pretty strong for being so thin and it comes in many colors at Jo-Ann's fabrics)

India hen back feather (natural)

140 d. black thread



Wrap the shimmer half way around the bend, creating a tapered look. Bring shimmer to tie in point and secure. Don't cut it. You will use it as the rib.

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Next tie in a couple strands of peacock herl. Take it back to the beginning of the shimmer and wrap it around your thread to give it strength.

Jump over the bead with the thread and lay a base layer of thread. Find a feather that will reach the back of the hook or just go past it. Strip the side you are going to be winding on.



Apply a thin amount of super glue to the hook shank and wind the peacock herl forward, but do not pass the thread base. Secure and cut off excess herl (not thread). Apply a thin coat of super glue to the shimmer and wind it on the opposite way the herl was tied in. Secure shimmer and whip finish. Push bead back onto herl.

Wind feather onto hook. You only need about a turn and half to maybe two turns. Remember, less is more. Once feather is secure, cut the excess and build a nice prominent head on the fly and apply a small amount of super glue to the head



# Hi-Desert Flyfishers

## SWCFFF NEWS



Each time I sit down to write this quarterly message, I am reminded how fast the months goes by. We were just planning the Fly-Buy II event and now we are almost into summer and all the fishing opportunities it has to offer. On top of that, we are working on the Evening with Joan Wulff event in October, another SWCFFF Interclub tournament on the Kern in November, and we have the Rush Creek Clean-up in June.

I am very pleased to report that the current slate of SWC officers has agreed to stay on for another two-year term. That is, of course, subject to approval of the membership... YOU! We will be conducting an electronic election in the next month, so please look for that and exercise your right to vote. When I came into office two years ago, we knew there was work to be done to connect up this network of clubs we call the SWC. What I could not have anticipated was the great response from clubs and individuals. We are now more involved with conservation issues than in the past. We are extending our outreach and presence at fishing shows and media outlets like Western Outdoor News, California Fly Fisher and

various blogs and bulletin boards on the web. So much of this would not be happening without the support of people like you who are reading this newsletter. I thank you and the Board thanks you. And, we wonder if we might ask each of you to think of doing one more little thing. If each of you could get a friend or two to join, it would help expand the Federation on the National level and within the Councils nationwide. Our National office is run by paid staff for the most part (the president and BOD are volunteers) and most of that funding comes from your dues. As a Council President, I take your concerns and ideas to National and they act on them as best they can. But when someone says "what does the Federation do for me" part of that answer is that they could do more with additional funding and staffing. And in turn, each club could benefit in the same way. FFF is the ONLY National fly fishing group that represents your interests in All Fishes, All Waters. If you were a hunter, you would belong to the NRA. Help us become better able to serve your needs. 35.00 per year (25.00 if over 65!) is less than .10 per day to make this happen. Also, please join us this year in West Yellowstone for the National FFF Expo and Conclave, August 29-September 03. You can take lesson from guides ON THE WATER! Learn to fish streamers better. It is the summer camp/vacation for fly fishers! (after you've taken one with the family, of course) Find out the nuances of nymphing in any type of water. Improve your casting and tying. It is a one week university of everything fly fishing and is set in the heart of troutland. More details in the newsletter and on the National website, June 01.

**ED.** You can read the whole newsletter that John Rose put out for the SWCFFF by going online to the SWCFFF's website:

<http://www.southwestcouncilfff.org/Newsletters/2nd%20Quarter%202011%20Newsletter.pdf>

As always copy and paste this URL in your browser.

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## Rush Creek Clean-Up

**June 25, 2011**



**Sponsored by the Silver Lake Lodge  
and  
the Southwest Council of the  
Federation of Fly Fishers**

- When:** June 25, 2011
- What time:** 8:00am to noon
- Where:** Meet at the Silver Lake boat ramp for sign up at 8:00 am
- Bring:** Gloves, hat and waders if you have them

**Trash bags will be provided.**

**Bar-B-Que lunch provided by Silver Lake Resort after clean-up.**

Contact Michael if you are interested in camping. The council has reserved campsites;

[msangler@earthlink.net](mailto:msangler@earthlink.net) or 818.7573474

## An Evening With Joan Wulff

Supported by the R.L. Winston Rod Co., Sage and Redington.

The SWC FFF is hosting the legendary Joan Wulff for an evening devoted to all things fly-fishing. Joan and her husband, Ted Rogowski, will fly from New York to Los Angeles where she will speak, answer questions, mingle with guests and talk flycasting, fly-fishing, conservation and other aspects of the sport and her life.

- When:** Saturday, October 15, 2011; 6:00 p.m.
- Where:** The Olympic Collection  
11301 W Olympic Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90064
- Dinner:** \$75

Find out more in the SWCFFF newsletter: <http://www.southwestcouncilfff.org/Newsletters/2nd%20Quarter%202011%20Newsletter.pdf>

The SWCFFF is also joining up with CalTrout to put Trout in the Classroom in local schools.

Trout in the Classroom (TIC) is a hands-on environmental education program in which students in grades K through 12 raise trout from eggs to fry, learn to monitor tank water quality, engage in stream habitat study, learn to appreciate water resources, begin to foster a conservation ethic and grow to understand ecosystems.

”The enthusiasm of students and teachers involved in TIC is manifest in the amazing variety and number of activities and projects. Not only are teachers using TIC in the classroom, sometimes whole schools and even communities turn out for the release. Some have made release day a ‘mini-Earth Day,’ with educational booths, field projects, river clean-up and more,” said Nica Knite, CalTrout Regional Coordinator.

# Hi-Desert Flyfishers

We had an outing to the West Fork of the San Gabriel River. I didn't get an article, but Carmen sent me some photos. I can't put all of them in the newsletter. Here are some of them. Some of them have captions that Carmen put on the photos. Others I photoshoped out.



Nice San Gabriel Pool



Steve and Randy



Alan



A place even for Carmen



# Hi-Desert Flyfishers



**Steve working a drift**

These are some photos of our quick fishing trip to the San Gabriel River. Although I am not in any of these photos, it was fun to take them. Randy, Steve Plantenga, Alan Rios and myself, met at the Ranger Station at the bottom of the Canyon and from there, went up to the River in my Jeep. We didn't exactly knock 'em dead. As I didn't even get a Strike on any Fly I put out there ! Steve and Alan hooked-up with a few little Bitty one's. All-in-all, we had a great time.

Carmen.

**ED.** After they went on this trip Tom, the Angeles Forest Coordinator, sent me a spreadsheet for the Angler Surveys in the Angeles National Forest. Here is brief summary of the last few months on the West Fork of the San Gabriel River.



**Nice Drift**

date	# of hrs. fished	fish released	size	# of fish
<b>1-2011</b>	54	92	under 6"	41
			6"-7.9"	38
			8"-9.9"	18
			10"-11.9"	10
			12"-13.9"	4
<b>2-2011</b>	47	136	under 6"	60
			6"-7.9"	41
			8"-9.9"	30
			10"-11.9"	4
			12"-13.9"	1
<b>3-2011</b>	no data yet			
<b>4-2011</b>	42	101	under 6"	44
			6"-7.9"	56
			8"-9.9"	1
			10"-11.9"	0
			12"-13.9"	0



This tells me that our guys caught the average fish in the West Fork.

# Hi-Desert Flyfishers



## Fly Fishing Math 101 - Fly Lines

**From: Mike's Gone Fishin'...again**  
mikesgonefishing.blogspot.com  
Tuesday, May 24, 2011

Good morning class. I'm Professor Mike, an adjunct instructor here at Fly Fishing University (FU), and today we will begin a series of lectures on the baffling mathematics of our chosen sport.

While it doesn't take a rocket scientist to be a fly fisherman, an advanced degree in math certainly doesn't hurt. The numerology imposed upon us is confusing, at best, and often downright diabolical. This lecture series is designed to help you sort your way through the math maze so that you might become a more knowledgeable angler. Upon completion, you still may not be able to catch a damn thing, but you should be able to talk a good game – which is, after all, the basis for a successful career in fly fishing.

In today's lecture, we will begin with the fly line.

There are many who believe that this curriculum should actually begin with the fly rod because it is widely held that fishermen, at least the male contingent, think about, and with, their rods first. We will carefully avoid that discussion here, but if you're interested in further studies, it's fully covered in Fly Fishing Biology 101.

As I was saying, we will begin with the fly line as it is what truly separates our sport from the barbarian

wasteland that is common fishing. In most of the fishing world, casting is accomplished by throwing weighty lures, or bait, into the water. The weight of these items allows lengthy tosses and the line is simply a way to stay connected to the deceit. In fly fishing, our temptations are typically concoctions of feathers and string that we couldn't throw two feet without a good wind at our backs. The line, then, provides the propelling mass.

Before the early 60s, lines came in three sizes – a sliding scale of too small, just right, and too big. Simple. So simple, in fact, that the fly fishing industry needed to do something about it and instituted the weight, or wt, numerical convention. As implied by the term weight, the system loosely correlates line designation, a numerical scale from 1-to-14, to how heavy the line is.

The move was genius. What self respecting gearhead fly fisherman would be satisfied with just three lines – one each too small, just right, too large – when he could have fourteen? Fly shop cash registers around the world chimed in unison.

But what, exactly, is a weight? What, for example, does having a 5wt line really mean? Lets look closer.

The weight of a line is determined by how heavy the first thirty feet, or head, of the line is. In ounces, you ask? That would be too easy. The industry chose grains. Leave it to fly fishing to define one nonsensical unit of measure by employing a second. At least it's not metric.

There is one theory of the measurement's origination that points to the odd coincidence that our pharmaceuticals are also often designated in grains. It was, after all, the early 60s and you know fly fishermen. To delve into that further, feel free to check out Fly Fishing Deviant Psychology 302 here at good ol'e FU.

But let's get back to the details.

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The head of a 1wt weighs 60 grains, give or take some non-standard margin of error. A 2wt weighs 80 grains, 3wt 100, and so on in 20-to-40 grain increments as we move up the scale, arriving at a 14wt of 455 grains. 1wt-to-14wt, equivalent to kite string-to-telephone cable.

It should be noted that, to its credit, when designing the weight system, the industry had the good sense to associate the smallest standard line as a 1wt and then have the lines get heavier as the designation increased – a convention they would not adhere to very well, as we will see in future lectures. Assholes.

So the first 30 feet of a 5wt line weighs 140 grains. Great. But what does that mean to the fisherman? Well, unless you are into the hard physics of things, not much. Yes, you could begin hashing through the calculations of a particular line's weight, it's kinetic effect on flies of varying masses and wind resistance and begin factoring interactions with the fluid dynamics of atmosphere and bodies of water, but that's graduate level stuff here at FU, so don't worry about it just now. Just use the following scale to determine line weight – where to use – what to catch.

- 1wt – The kid's fishbowl – goldfish, guppies, clown loaches
- 2wt – Tiny trout streams – rhododendrons, ticks
- 3wt – Farm ponds – bluegill, sunfish
- 4wt – Medium trout streams – rainbows, browns, brookies
- 5wt – Classic trout streams - skunks
- 6wt – Big trout streams and rivers – bigger, more expensive skunks
- 7wt – Does anyone actually own a 7wt?
- 8wt – Bass water - smallmouths, largemouths, loudmouths
- 9wt – Saltwater – stripers, redfish, bluefish, seasickness
- 10wt – Saltier water – False Albacore, Mahi Mahi, Mai Tais
- 11-14wt – Are you kidding me?

Easy, right? Well, wait a minute. Weight isn't the whole story. There's also a whole series of sinking lines that do not use the wt numbering system at all. Instead, they are sold using their straight grain weight and/or a designation of how fast they sink, measured in feet/second. They may also be designated by Class, an additional layer of abstraction, exacerbated by the odd convention of using roman numerals – i.e. Class IV sinking. It all gets very confusing and we will blithely ignore them at this point in time. Unless you're a masochistic striper or stealhead fisherman it's merely academic anyway. Besides, it's more FU graduate level stuff – Fly Fishing Chuck and Duck 501.

Well, that's it for today. I hope that this class has been enlightening and that, by understanding the fly line and it's numerology, you have taken your first steps towards deciphering the code of fly fishing mathematics.

See you next class when we will examine our rods.

Please stop snickering.

## Setting Up Your Terminal Tackle

### From the Orvis News Blog

Posted by: Phil Monahan

Date: 06/07/11

Back in January, we featured a video by our friend Zach Matthews, editor of The Itinerant Angler website and host of the podcast of the same name, about how to set up a trout reel. Now he's back with a new video focused on the other end of the setup: the terminal tackle. If you're new to the sport or would like to get started, this is great stuff.

In this lesson, Zach explains how to add tippet to your leader, how to tie on a fly, how to add split shot, and how to attach a balloon strike indicator. In the process,

you'll learn the double surgeon's knot, the clinch knot, and a mid-leader slip loop.

If you're doing this for the first time, you'll need the following items:

1. a knotless tapered leader,
2. a spool of tippet material,
3. a fly,
4. some split shot, and
5. a small balloon or some Poly Yarn for an indicator.

A few notes on the techniques described here:

1. Although Zach is correct in saying that the easiest way to squeeze a split shot is to use your teeth, I agree with a dentist I once guided, who asked, "What fish is worth a chipped tooth?" I use my hemostat to squeeze split shot now.

2. The method that Zach uses to attach the balloon indicator will also work with Poly Yarn. You simply thread a piece of yarn through the loop, and tighten up the knot at the center of the yarn.

To see the video copy and paste in your browser:

<http://www.orvisnews.com/FlyFishing/Tuesday-Tip-Setting-Up-Your-Terminal-Tackle.aspx>

## **Guide Tip: 3 Ways to Find New Water**

**Orvis news Blog** Date: 05/19/11

Posted by: Nolan Bluntzer

Nolan Bluntzer is a guide at Breckenridge Outfitters, in Breckenridge, Colorado.

At the end of April, I and several hundred other Orvis-endorsed fishing guides headed to Casper, Wyoming, for a week's worth of fishing and camaraderie. As I made my steady descent out of the high country of the Colorado Rockies into the bustling metropolis of Denver, I stared in amazement at the sheer abundance of urban sprawl. I make the drive all the time, and I always find myself wondering where all these people came from and how many more are coming. For most of us in the lower 48, the last couple of decades have been a sobering realization that the good ol' days of uncrowded water and solitude are gone. That said, if

you know where to look and you're willing to work a little harder than the average Joe, there's still tons of quality water and seclusion to be found. Here are three practical tips that will help you find those out of the way places.

### **1. Walk**

It's very simple. The farther you walk from a road or parking lot, the lower the pressure, and the better the fishing is. Most people park their cars and just start fishing without any thought about which part of the river gets the least amount of pressure. The first thing that I like to do when either fishing a new body of water or my regular beat, is take out a map and locate all the public access points and parking lots. I figure out the point on the map that lies directly between the parking lots and start there. It's the farthest point from both parking lots and usually gets less pressure. If a road or highway parallels the river, drive the road and look for areas that appear to be hazardous access points: steep banks, cliffs, thick brush, or forest. These areas often appear too dangerous for a safe approach to the river; however, if you are willing to get out and investigate, you will often be able to find your own path, or better yet, an existing path that very few people know exist.

### **2. Get a Plat Map**

Discerning where private and public water end and begin can be confusing and frustrating for many anglers. An easy way to solve this problem is to take a little extra time to buy a plat map. These maps are sometimes available online, but they can always be found at your local tax collector's office. These maps will give you two very important pieces of information. First, they will give you the property lines for each landowner's parcel of the land, and second, they give you the land owner's name. Oftentimes you will be able to public access points that you never knew existed because it is often difficult to determine where exactly public and private land end. Having the names allows you to approach private landowners and ask for permission to fish on their land. If you're polite, you may be surprised at how easy it is to gain access to water that not many fish. When approaching landowners, I usually stick to three basic rules: 1. I always tell them I'm a catch-and-release angler. 2. I always pick up trash, and I guarantee them that I will never bring anybody with me. 3. After I am done fishing, I always send them a thank-you note. Following these small steps will allow you to gain access to private un-fished water.

### 3. Get to Know Your Local Fly Shop

People love to talk about themselves. Since I started working in a fly shop, I have learned that people really love to come into the shop and tell you about all the huge fish they catch. Wherever you live, you probably have a local fly shop that has one or two employees who consistently work behind the counter. I strongly recommend that you get to know those people and build a genuine relationship with them. Whether they intend to be or not, they are the gate keepers of local fly-fishing knowledge. They are similar to priests, in the sense that people come in the shop and confess it all.

As a shop employee, I usually lump customers into one of two categories: tourists who are passing through town and local patrons who come into the shop and have developed a relationship with me. I am going to do my best to help everybody; however, there are definitely some secret places around the rivers that I fish that I would only tell a few people about. Those people are the ones who consistently come in the shop and have developed a friendship with me over a long period of time. Make an effort to get to know your local shop, and you will be amazed at the amount of information that you will receive.

Finding and fishing quality water is becoming harder and harder to do. Now more than ever, it is important to get creative in order to find solitude and less pressured water. These three simple steps to finding quality water will make your fishing experiences more productive. Get out there, work harder, do some research, build some relationships, and enjoy your local stream or river like you never have before.

#### Stewardship Tip – Release or Keep

By Arshia | May 10, 2011

**Recycled Fish**

[www.recycledfish.org](http://www.recycledfish.org)

We are stewards, we practice catch and release. There are times, though, when we want to keep a fish or two. We might be tempted by the flavor of a freshly cooked fish or we could be looking to help the fishery by selectively harvesting a fish of a particular size.

The decision is never easy, especially for those of us who have been brought up to follow a catch and release ethic.

Gene Wilde and Keven Pope, researchers at Texas Tech University and the University of Nebraska, provide

us with guidelines that can help us decide, if we are inclined to harvest a fish.

Wilde and Pope observed that the “two most important factors influencing survival of largemouth bass that are captured and released are the anatomical hooking location and water temperature.” They add that “survival is high among largemouth bass hooked in the oral cavity.” They also note that “survival is substantially lower among bass hooked in the esophagus.” In esophagus-hooked fish, survival was greater for those who were hooked dorsally (hook pointing up) as opposed to those hooked ventrally (hook pointing down). Wilde and Pope speculated that the higher mortality amongst this group was due to the heart’s proximity to the ventral portion of the esophagus.

This research would indicate that if we do want to take a fish home with us, we might want to select a fish that we have hooked in the esophagus. If that hook is pointing down, moreover, we might want to select that fish for harvest.

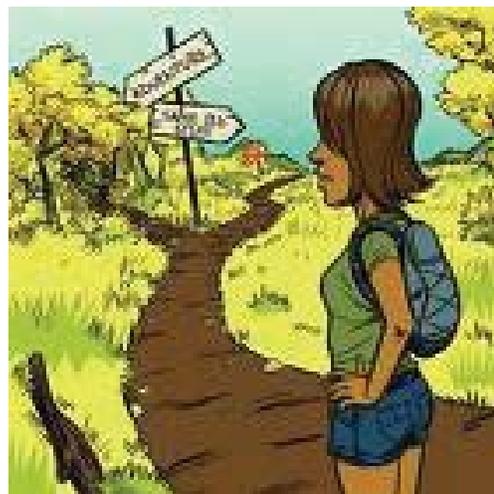
Of course, the decision may have already been made for us. If the regulations require that you release the fish, you are obligated. However, if the regulations allow and you do hook a fish in the esophagus with the hook pointing down, that fish might be a good candidate for the stringer.

#### Stewardship Tip – The Road Less Traveled

By Arshia | May 17, 2011

**Recycled Fish**

[www.recycledfish.org](http://www.recycledfish.org)



We are stewards; we take the road less traveled.

*Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,  
And sorry I could not travel both  
And be one traveler, long I stood  
And looked down one as far as I could  
To where it bent in the undergrowth;*

As anglers, we have a profound influence on fisheries. We catch, release, and, sometimes, harvest, fish. Our footsteps may crush aquatic and terrestrial plants. The seeds from those plants, though, become lodged in our pants only to be released downstream just a piece. There, they take root and become the next generation. Our actions help to shape the fishery.

Lakes, streams, and rivers that are close to population centers get pounded. It is a matter of sheer numbers. When thousands of footsteps tread on plants and multitudes of fishing poles angle for a bite, the fishery can be adversely affected. There is pressure on the fish, there is pressure on the habitat, and, there is pressure on the humans. We are all too familiar with the scene where we are standing shoulder to shoulder in the lake with our brother and sister anglers.

As stewards, we can help our fisheries by taking the road less traveled. Find a lake, stream, or river in your area that does not receive a lot of fishing pressure. Cast your line there.

When you fish the lesser-used bodies of water, you relieve the pressure on the fish populations at the more popular spots.

Taking the road less traveled helps to relieve pressure on the fish, pressure on the habitat, and pressure on you.

Sometimes that can make all the difference.

*I shall be telling this with a sigh  
Somewhere ages and ages hence:  
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I--  
I took the one less traveled by,  
And that has made all the difference*

**Robert Frost**

## Conservation

If you haven't figured out by now, I'm into conservation and protecting what and where we fish. So, sometimes I find stuff that is a little harsher spoken than at other times. In the next article the last line is one of those lines. I hope it makes you think more the upsets you.

He refers to an article that Moldy Chum wrote on May 9, 2011 about AFFTA wanting to honor Mike Enzi. The link to the article is below and then this article *A Rant: A Historical Responsibility* came out the same day.

<http://www.moldychum.com/home-old/2011/5/9/other-than-that-mrs-lincoln-how-was-the-play.html>

### **A Rant: A Historical Responsibility**

**From: Headwaters of History blog 05/09/2011**  
**<http://www.headwatersofhistory.com>**

It has been a while since I have written up a solid rant on fly fishing and conservation, so here goes:

I have been pondering this post, in some form or another, for quite some time. However, reading the Chum today and their fantastic dig on AFFTA for celebrating the abysmal record of Mike Enzi, has me inspired to jot some thoughts down. The other motivation came last week when I was asked to give a talk for the local, well state-based, fly fishing club. The talk led me to blow off the dust my dissertation and post-dissertation research - you know all this history stuff which has sat (mostly) dormant since I have taken up employ in the fight to protect Bristol Bay.

It was nice to dive into all the research, think again about how we anglers, and fly fishers in particular, have over time evolved in our thinking on conservation.

I lectured on how we came ashore to North America, saw fisheries abound with fish. Over time, we (along with factories, logging, pollution, etc) first decimated the fisheries and then became the early spokespeople for coldwater conservation. Anglers and fly fishers have continually dabbled in fish-culture, yet failed to learn the hard lessons that hatcheries and steelhead and salmon don't mix, while we mixed trout all around the world.

By the mid 1970s we were touting 'wild trout' and turning our gaze from fish, to streams, to watersheds. By the late 1990s, while the practice was somewhat old, fly fishing based conservation organizations were issuing native fish policies and working to restore native salmonids. The talk ended on the subject of resilience and the need to protect places like Bristol Bay . . . In the end, I insisted that if we want to call ourselves fly fishers, among other things we have a historical responsibility to care for the habitats and watersheds that have given so much to us since we first wet that line in quest of trout centuries ago.

From the beginning and as I spoke I saw a man snicker and jeer in the audience, he seemed indifferent, perhaps a bit arrogant while he listened to my words. I thought he might be bored, after all, I was talking history.

When questions started, they not surprisingly focused on the last five minutes of the talk and not what I spent the last ten years of my life working on. For the most part, the audience was concerned about Pebble, even a woman who was a gold miner's daughter was vehemently opposed to Pebble. But this one guy, who I thought was just bored about history, began to speak his mind and it was clear his mind was made up: Pebble was needed.

He gave the jobs argument - a tired one indeed, one that holds no bearing when,

**A)** all polling says that up to 80% of the region opposes this mine, ie, they don't want Pebble jobs,

**B)** there are not that many jobs to begin with - a recent report/plan from Northern Dynasty Minerals shows roundly 1300 jobs at full operation in 18 years most of which won't necessarily go to Bristol Bay residents and

**C)** the people the region cherish their ability to subsist and which Pebble could destroy.

I noted that the mine and all that would come with it would drastically change the culture of the region. He replied, "Well, that culture has already been changed by white people, so what is the big deal about more change."

The response I wish I said, "Your answer is like saying,

"So, you are already slightly addicted to heroin, you might as well just overdose."

In short, his answers were uncreative, stuck, and reflected a failure to creatively assess the issue. More importantly, though, his answers reflect a troubled streak in the fly fishing culture. Just the same as AFFTA honoring Enzi . . . A failure to see the connection between our sport and the demand for conservation. This failure results in groups like the one I spoke failing to find the chutzpa to speak out and speak in favor of protecting places like Bristol Bay or fighting for access (as in Utah, Idaho, Montana and more).

The future of our fisheries depend upon diverse communities, diverse fisheries, and diverse thinking. If you cherish your habit, religion, sport, or whatever you want to call it, I am inclined to say that you have no business in this sport if you don't take conservation seriously.

In a time when resources are being squandered and access is being threatened it is not enough just to fly fish. It is not enough just to belong to a fly fishing club. Or, for a fly fishing club to just be a club. No. If you can't stand up for what gives to us, for what is right, for the future of our fisheries, you might as well get off the water - because clearly you don't really care that much about it anyway.

History gives us many reasons to be proud of our sport - tradition and all that. History teaches us many things - where we have gone wrong, learned lessons, and gone right. The point of my talk was that we must understand where we have come from in order to protect the future. In short, we have a historical responsibility to care for sport and its waters, so that my son, your kids, and their friends might fish the way we love to fish.

Either speak up or get off the water.



## Stanford University Needs to Protect Steelhead; Here's How You Can Help



**From: The Trout Underground/blog  
MAY 26, 2011**

San Francisquito Creek represents prime habitat for the SF Bay Area's few remaining endangered steelhead trout. Stanford University is avoiding bringing Searsville Dam into compliance with the Endangered Species Act and continues to threaten the survival of this iconic fish.

That's why we're asking you to tell Stanford and federal agencies to live up to the law.

### THE PROBLEM

Stanford University's antiquated Searsville Dam blocks approximately 20 miles of historic habitat for federally protected steelhead trout on San Francisquito Creek. Stanford wants to exclude Searsville Dam from the permitting process normally required for new construction and ongoing endangered species impact.

In addition to blocking access for steelhead spawning and rearing, Searsville Dam dewateres the creek, degrades downstream water quality and habitat, which is designated "critical habitat" for steelhead, and helps spread non-native predatory species in the San Francisquito Creek watershed.

Rather than include Searsville Dam in the Habitat Conservation Plan (where landowners receive "incidental take" permits in return for negotiated species protections), Stanford wants to exclude the operation of Searsville Dam from this critical process, leaving them free to harm steelhead populations without any real oversight and out of compliance with multiple state and federal laws.

We do not believe Stanford can unilaterally decide to avoid their legal requirements at Searsville Dam while continuing to seek coverage of their campus water supply system, of which Searsville Dam is an integral component.

We are encouraged that Stanford recognizes the criticality of this issue with the recent formation of a university blue-ribbon panel to address Searsville. It is our belief, however, that this internal approach does not relieve them of their legal responsibilities.

### TAKE ACTION

Make Stanford take responsibility for Searsville Dam; send a polite but direct email asking federal resource agencies to hold off releasing their Environmental Impact Study for Stanford's flawed Habitat Conservation Plan until Stanford acknowledges and adequately addresses the impacts of Searsville Dam and their entire water diversion system on federally protected steelhead trout.

Also, insist that a revised and corrected Habitat Conservation Plan and supplemental draft Environmental Impact Statement be released for public review and commentary.

### SEND AN EMAIL TO

Gary Stern, National Marine Fisheries Service: [gary.stern@noaa.gov](mailto:gary.stern@noaa.gov)

Sheila Larson, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: [Sheila\\_Larsen@fws.gov](mailto:Sheila_Larsen@fws.gov)

Catherine Palter, Stanford Environmental Planning: [cpalter@stanford.edu](mailto:cpalter@stanford.edu)

John Hennessy, Stanford President: [hennessy@stanford.edu](mailto:hennessy@stanford.edu)

For more information see [www.beyondsearsvilledam.org](http://www.beyondsearsvilledam.org)

## The Future of Fly Fishing Depends on Access

by Kirk Deeter

[www.fieldandstream.com/blogs/fishing/](http://www.fieldandstream.com/blogs/fishing/)

March 01, 2011

As an editor-at-large for Field & Stream and the editor of Angling Trade ([www.anglingtrade.com](http://www.anglingtrade.com)), I'm often asked what I believe is the biggest challenge the sport of fly fishing faces...now and in the future.

It isn't the steep learning curve. After all, the fly fishing learning curve has been around for years (it's often considered an attribute) and it's really only as steep as you want it to be. It isn't the high price of gear. There are now more quality fly fishing products available for reasonable prices than ever before. And no, Xbox 360 hasn't corrupted the minds and motivation of "generation next" beyond repair. Video games aren't keeping kids off rivers.

The number one threat to the viability and value of fly fishing for present and future anglers is shrinking access to opportunity. Plain and simple.

It's all about having a place to go, or the lack thereof. We can talk about fishing for carp, bass, and panfish, which can indeed be caught in a lot of accessible places, even with fly rods...and sure, the oceans are wide open (provided you have a boat to fish them with), but the foundation of the fly fishing world is, for better or worse, trout fishing. And for that, we need rivers, streams, lakes and ponds with cool, clean water. The more we have available, the more fly fishing will prosper.

A recent study by AnglersSurvey.com ([www.anglerssurvey.com](http://www.anglerssurvey.com)) told us that almost 20 percent of anglers last year cited "lack of access" as something that stood between them and their fishing plans. That's terrifying, whether you're a fly shop, a rod maker, a guide, a magazine writer, or an everyday angler who wants to take your grandson or granddaughter fishing. That's also why it's important to protect what resources we have. You nay-sayers from my last post on conservation funding cuts (<http://www.fieldandstream.com/blogs/flytalk/2011/02/proposed-conservation-funding-cuts-could-devastate-fly-fishing-resources>) should realize that, like with medicine and car repairs, an ounce of prevention is far more effective and affordable than pounds of cures. So it's financially responsible, in the long term, to fund conservation efforts.

But it's also troubling to see states like Utah, and now possibly even Montana, backpedal on stream access and take rights away from the fishing public. In Montana, House Bill 309, introduced recently by Jeff Welborn (R-Dillon), defines a "ditch" (off limits to anglers) as any water with irrigation equipment on it. This broad definition would restrict access to key stretches of water, including parts of the Bitterroot, Big

Hole, and other popular fishing rivers. Seriously? We're redefining "ditches" in order to find new places to hang "no trespassing" signs?

Montana...your rivers are great, but the real reason you're the envy of people like me and others from states like Colorado (and the reason you make millions in fly tourism) is that you have enlightened stream access laws, rather than the "feudal" systems other anglers in other states are stuck with. Take that away, and you watch and wait (not long) for the dollars to disappear.

I have no problem with anyone who wants to buy their own little slice of heaven and keep their favorite fishing holes protected, if that's what the existing laws allow. I don't even mind rod fees, and pay-to-play. It is what it is. And there's certainly nothing wrong with getting off your duff and hiking to find pristine solitude on public water.

But I think the deepest pits of fly fishing purgatory are reserved for those who would violate and ruin a landscape on one side of a state, and then use the profits they made by doing so to buy a stretch of clean river on the other side of the state, and build a fence around it.

So, there you have it for conservation this month. A Conservationist ranting, Stanford, who was responsible for the DFG stopping their stocking program and all the hard core bait guys fishing in protected areas, and access. The access is just scratching the surface of that issue.

The *Utah Stream Access Coalition* filed a second lawsuit today (May 9, 2011) to restore public access to Utah's rivers and streams. The suit, filed in state court in Summit County, seeks confirmation of the navigability and public ownership of the bed of the Weber River, one of Utah's premier canoeing and kayaking streams, and a publicly-funded blue ribbon trout fishery. The suit contends that the Weber is a "navigable river" because it has long served as a highway for public commerce and recreation. The Coalition has amassed a large body of historical evidence showing that the Weber and many other waters in Utah have been used extensively for log drives and other commercial purposes since before Utah's statehood.

The beds of navigable rivers are public property up to the ordinary high water mark, and adjoining private property owners may not interfere with the public's

right to use the river corridor for lawful recreational purposes. These rights on navigable rivers are some of the oldest recognized rights in American Law.

The complaint targets landowners along Weber River who have interfered with the public's rights of access to the river. One group of defendants posted signs at a public road crossing stating that the banks and bottom of the Weber River are private property, and that access to the river from the public right of way is forbidden. Another defendant built a barbed wire fence across the river which endangers boaters and hinders people traveling by foot along the river bed.

Until recently, all of Utah's rivers and streams, whether navigable or not, were recognized as public waters open to public use. In 2010, the Utah Legislature passed a law that eliminates many public rights on non-navigable streams. In a separate case filed in November 2010, the Coalition challenged the constitutionality of this legislative give-away of public rights. Although the Coalition is confident of victory in that case, it will nevertheless pursue all available means of enforcing the public's rights to public waters, including this case to confirm the navigability of the Weber River.

Learn more about the battle ongoing in Utah at the Utah Stream Access Coalition site and consider a donation today.

Any time water rights are curtailed – in any state – those who wish to restrict river access are emboldened.

The fight in Utah matters. Montana just defeated a bill against their Stream Access law.

## **2011 Golden Trout Project**

### **Mulkey Meadow Fence Maintenance July 5-8 (Tuesday – Friday)**

Activity: Help the Inyo National Forest maintain a new electric fence in upper Mulkey Meadow to protect the stream from cattle damage. Volunteers will backpack, bringing all of their own food and gear, 3.5 miles from Horseshoe Meadow at 9942' elevation, over Mulkey Pass at 10380' to the campsite at 9500'. Volunteers should meet USFS personnel at the Horseshoe Meadow Parking Lot at 9 am on Tuesday July 5th (start hiking around 10am).

What to bring: All of your own food, backpacking, camping and fishing gear, and work clothing including gloves. Some pack mule support may be available. A detailed list and trip itinerary will be provided to confirmed participants.

**Volunteers: 6 volunteers needed.**

### **Monache Meadow Fence Maintenance July 8-10 (Saturday and Sunday)**

Activity: Help maintain the fence at the DFG wildlife area and the USFS Olivas pasture to keep the cattle out and protect the habitat along the South Fork of the Kern River and Monache Creek. Pot luck and barbecue Saturday night (meat and homemade ice cream provided by the CDFG). Plan on driving into the meadow Friday evening, work a full workday and potluck dinner on Saturday, and a half day of work on Sunday. Early morning and afternoon fishing for golden trout and brown trout on the South Fork of the Kern.

What to bring: Volunteers need to bring their own food, including a contribution for the potluck, and your own camping equipment. Be prepared for cold nights and warm days. Wear long pants, long-sleeved shirts and eye protection (sunglasses). Bring leather work gloves, pliers, and a VHF radio, if you have them. All other tools will be provided.

The road into Monache requires 4-wheel drive with high clearance. We will coordinate car pooling in an effort to minimize the number of vehicles needed. Car-pool space is often limited so if you have an appropriate four wheel drive vehicle, please offer to drive.

**Volunteers: 12 person limit.** Volunteers with 4-wheel drive vehicles will receive preference due to the high clearance driving requirements.

**Ed.** This last page was the mailing page for the printed copies. Paul sent me this email he received from the PHW leader. The day after I printed and this email is only in the online version of the newsletter. I added the Golden Trout Projects to fill up the page. It only made sense to put them behind Howard Kerns contact numbers.

# Hi-Desert Flyfishers



## Calendar 2011



### May

**Speaker:** Gil Rowe--Fishing the San Juan  
**Outing:** Silverwood Lake  
**Community:** Food Service cards

### June

**Speaker:** Richard Bean--Bass Fishing  
**Outing:** Silverwood Lake  
**Community:** 6/25-26 Rush Creek Cleanup

### July

**We are not meeting this month.**

### August

**Speaker:** Dave D'beaupre, Seirra Trout Magnet  
**Education:** TBA  
**Outing:** Bishop  
**Community:** PHW (Barstow Vets)  
Fly Fishing-101

### September

**Speaker:** Speaker Trout Unlimited  
**Education:** TBA  
**Outing:** Family Day Bar-B-Que  
**Community:** PHW (Barstow Vets)  
Fly Fishing-101 (cont.)

### October

**Speaker:** Michael Schweit--SWCFFF  
**Education:** TBA  
**Outing:** Newport Back Bay--salt water fly fishing  
**Community:** 10/15 Boy Scouts Fly fishing merit badge  
10/07 PHW Jess Ranch (tentative)

### November

**Speaker:** TBA  
**Education:** TBA  
**Outing:** TBA  
**Community:** TBA

### December

**Speaker:** TBA  
**Education:** TBA  
**Outing:** TBA  
**Community:** TBA

### January 2012

**Speaker:** TBA  
**Education:** TBA  
**Outing:** TBA  
**Community:** TBA