



**Upper Salmon Basin  
Watershed Project**

# Upper Salmon Basin Watershed News

NEWS ABOUT RESTORING FISH IN CENTRAL IDAHO Summer 2005

## Hayden Creek Fish Passage

To separate land along property lines and keep livestock where they belong, it is often necessary to construct makeshift fences across streams. These fences can cause fish passage and public safety problems and are often washed away during high water, creating additional work for the landowners.

Cooperating landowner, Ben Allen, of Hayden Creek, near Lemhi, Idaho, had just such a problem and he recruited the USBWP to assist.

The solution to this problem was to design a structure which is often referred to as a dangling fence. It consists of light-weight panels that are suspended above the stream channel on a pipe or cable. These panels can float out of the way during high water, then return to their vertical position to discourage movement of livestock between pastures.

The site of a recent work day on Mr. Allen's property was particularly difficult due to the stream width, high banks, and variable flows. This required a pipe 50 feet long that was supported

well above the high water mark by large fence jacks.

The USBWP staff and multi-agency Technical Team members worked together to construct the fence. While some worked to remove the existing structure which consisted of hog panels and steel posts, another group built the 5 panels that would be suspended from the pipe. Others

were kept busy building the necessary jacks and running supplies and materials. The project was completed in less than five hours and Mr. Allen joined the workers to pound a few nails and assured that the completed fence would work for him.

This project was funded by the Lemhi Soil and Water Conservation

District through a grant from Bonneville Power Administration. The District works closely with the USBWP to balance resource use with resource protection through cooperation and finding unique solutions for landowners.



*Multi-agency work crew*



### Inside this issue:

<b>New Faces at USBWP</b>	2
<b>Project Monitoring</b>	2
<b>PCSRF Awards</b>	3
<b>BPA Reviews Projects</b>	3
<b>Summer Field Work</b>	3
<b>Coordinator's Comments</b>	4

### Watershed Calendar

- October 18—USBWP Advisory Committee Meeting - Salmon
- October 25-27 – Streambank Stability Workshop - Salmon

## Leaping Salmon Stage Their Show

**Recorder Herald—Dateline June 4, 1930**

Crowds of people every recent day have thronged the vicinity of the Salmon River Power Company's dam on the Lemhi, for leaping salmon have been almost continually jumping over the dam on their journey to spawning ground up the river. The sight is truly wonderful, as these great fish, weighing from 20 to 40 pounds each, make the aerial leap of about five feet, clearing the top plank of the dam. It is not necessary that they should achieve this jump, since the way under the gate is open by a space of eight inches, and probably nine out of ten swim thus

under the gate; but the ambitious ones still essay the high jump, and put over a show that countless communities would pay good money to see. Friends of the hatchery are pleased to witness the general migration, for it spells success in big letters for the year's operations. The racks are sure to be full of fish.

## **Supt. V.A. Heffner Racked The Lemhi**

**Recorder Herald—Dateline  
June 4, 1930**

**The summer run of king salmon has begun, and many fish are ascending the Lemhi River every day. Rise of the water recently is facilitating this run, whose premise is good for an unusually good spawning season for the commercial fish. George Nichols has been placed in charge of the works and will assist Supt. Heffner at the hatchery in the harvest of eggs when the time is ripe.**

## **New Faces at USBWP**

Two new members have recently been added to the Upper Salmon Basin Watershed staff. Wendy Koons started work in January, with fourteen years of experience developing and implementing community conservation projects and organizing educational workshops.

Wendy wasn't a stranger to the USBWP, having aided their Technical Team at monthly meetings by recording notes and project details. She came west from Pennsylvania and Virginia and has been in Salmon since 2002, working at a variety of jobs.

Her title at the USBWP is "Habitat Specialist," but that doesn't cover all the work she has been involved in the last seven months. She is the leader on multiple projects and has taken an active role in community education. Recently she was the current issue presenter for the Idaho Envirothon.

In 2004 the USBWP applied for and received a portion of Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Funds (PCSRF), a congressional

appropriation. One aspect of this funding was for a staff person to assist with the implementation of the PSCRF proposed projects. Ingrid Enschede filled this niche and also started work in January as "Project Planner." She has worked hard to get this new funding source up and running with the goal of putting good projects on the ground.

Ingrid brings a broad range of experience in natural resource management to our team. She graduated from Western Washington University in 2000, and came to Salmon in 2001. Previous work included: Park Ranger for North Cascades National Park in Washington; Biological Field Technician for the BLM in Salmon; Park Ranger at Denali National Park and Preserve in Alaska; and Scientist for North Wind, Inc., here in Salmon where she was under contract for the Salmon BLM.

## **Monitoring important component of all projects**

Whenever a fish habitat or passage project is completed in cooperation with the USBWP, a component of the project contract between the landowner and the Soil and Water Conservation District includes a provision that requires monitoring of the completed practice.

This monitoring assists the landowner and sponsoring agency in verifying that the project is still in place and functioning as intended. It also provides an opportunity to modify any component which may not be working as planned and allows the USBWP to improve the design and implementation of future projects.

On June 15, five staff members from the USBWP and two Idaho Soil Conservation Commission personnel conducted the annual monitoring survey of the "Lemhi Big Springs Creek" fencing project North of Leadore. With the permission of the land manager, Kurt Bird, the group had a successful day in the field.

The objectives for this fencing project are: 1) Enhance-

ment of riparian area vegetation by utilizing the strategy of excluding livestock access to the stream; 2) Protection and enhancement of existing fish spawning habitat; and, 3) Balancing resource use with resource protection on private land.

The expected results from this project include a narrowing of the stream channel width over the next 15 to 20 years. Sedge and rush communities are not expected to increase, since they are already abundant. However, some change in shrub riparian communities is expected with new willows pioneering locations along the streambank.

The monitoring at this site was very thorough, with flow measurements, stream pebble counts, vegetation survey, photo points, temperature, greenline survey, and channel depth and width measured at three locations.

This data will be compared to information gathered in previous years to determine what changes have occurred in the area, which has been protected by the 16,000 feet of riparian fence originally constructed in 2002.

### **Upper Salmon Basin Watershed News**

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#### Coordinated by

Idaho Soil Conservation Commission  
Custer Soil & Water Conservation District  
Lemhi Soil & Water Conservation District



## Pacific Coast Recovery Fund Awards

The Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF), established to restore endangered salmon, steelhead, and other anadromous fish populations, recently added Idaho to its list of eligible participants. Of the \$90 million allocated for restoration projects in California and the Pacific Northwest, \$4,923,000 has been allotted for projects in the Clearwater and Salmon River subbasins.

The Idaho Office of Species Conservation (OSC) and NOAA Fisheries are jointly administering PCSRF funding in Idaho and have specified project application guidelines consistent with salmon enhancement and recovery.

The USBWP applied for and was awarded nearly \$650,000 to fund seven on-the-ground projects and a year of technical assistance. Projects are administered with the help of the Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts, the Lemhi SWCD, and the Custer SWCD.

Ingrid Enschede began work in January at the USBWP as the technical assistant to help the SWCD's with project implementation. Projects selected for funding were



*Ingrid Enschede at field day*

Hooper Lane Fence in the Custer SWCD; and Fife Ranch Fence, L-6/S-14 Water Diversion Transfer, Eighteen Mile Siphon, Cottom Lane Fence, and Iron Creek Reconnection all sponsored by the Lemhi SWCD. The Cottom Lane Fence has the distinction of being the first project implemented in Idaho using this funding source.

To date, 26 species of Pacific salmon are listed as endangered or threatened under the ESA, creating environmental and economic challenges for many. In addition to abating limitations on fishing, agricultural and recreational water usage, PCSRF may be leveraged for even greater benefit with the implementation of sustainable conservation practices to assist cooperators in implementing projects that will improve fish habitat or fish passage.

## Bonneville Power Administration Reviews Projects

Jan Brady of Bonneville Power Administration recently spent two weeks in the Salmon Basin, working with the Custer and Lemhi Soil and Water Conservation Districts and the USBWP to update their work plans for the coming contract year.

Brady is the COTR for these project sponsors, and was joined by Mark Shaw, Fish & Wildlife Project Manager, to make field visits to proposed and completed projects.

While in the area, they also attended

the USBWP Technical Team meeting on August 3, the Lemhi SWCD meeting on August 4, and the Custer SWCD Annual Tour on August 10. .



*Monitoring on Patterson Creek*



**"Today's problems cannot be solved with yesterday's knowledge. If this were so, the problem would not have arisen in the first instance."**

**Albert Einstein**



## Summer Field Work

Megan Tews has returned again this summer to resume her monitoring duties for the USBWP. Megan is an Idaho native from Shoshone, and a recent graduate of Idaho State University where she majored in Biology.

At the USBWP she is responsible for following-up on previously implemented projects and assisting the Custer and Lemhi SWCD's to fulfill their contract obligations with cooperating landowners that pertain to project monitoring.



*Megan Tews conducting vegetative survey*



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## Coordinators Comments

*By Russell Knight*



Check out our kiosk at the Sacajawea Center in Salmon.

While I have been Coordinator for almost two years and have met many of the people involved or interested in the USBWP, this may be the first many of you reading this have heard of me. I apologize for that. We will be doing better at letting the public know what we are up to. For those who do not know me, I am from New Mexico. I graduated from New Mexico State University with a degree in Wildlife Science. Before coming to Salmon, I had spent four years working for the New Mexico Department of Agriculture.

My wife, Tina, and I moved here from a large town on the plains of southeast New Mexico. After the intense heat and high crime, Salmon was just what we were looking for. We both love the area and the people. Since our arrival we have had a son, Ryan, and look forward to raising him here.

I feel very fortunate to be involved in the USBWP. The local people who had the incredible foresight and courage to get this all started are heroes. In my travels as Coordina-

tor, I have learned how unique what is happening here really is and I will do my best to carry the "Vision" forward.

The process we are involved in is not always easy. We must deal with increasing governmental regulation and political pressure. Working as a community, the USBWP will continue to do good projects as effectively as possible.



*Russell Knight looks on while landowner, Ben Allen, hammers the final nail on the Hayden Creek suspended fence.*