



Winter 2012

# Strong Runs

Quarterly Newsletter of the Native Fish Society



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HIGH  
REWARD**

**QUALITY  
WATERS &  
WILD FISH**

# THERE WENT WINTER & SPRING HERE WE COME!

Dear Members and Friends,

The Native Fish Society is pleased to bring you the Winter 2012 edition of Strong Runs. Winter!? you say; in March? Well, yes there was so much packed into this winter season, it seems like only last week Tom Derry, Kaitlin Lovell and I were driving to Salem where NFS's Jim Myron coordinated the first hearing ever before the Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee on the ecological and economic cost of hatcheries.

Since that day in mid-January, Stewards have successfully opposed the expansion of a gravel mine on the SF Nooksack, WDFW officially closed the Snider Creek Hatchery on the Sol Duc designating it a Wild Steelhead Management Zone, new information has emerged about wild fish recovery on the Clackamas and Quality Waters legislation is poised to create new value for catch and release wild fisheries. We hope you enjoy the newsletter and thank you again for your support of wild salmon and steelhead!



Mark Sherwood, River Steward Coordinator & Editor of *Strong Runs*

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STRONG RUNS WELCOMES SUBMISSIONS AND LETTERS TO THE EDITOR. SUBMISSIONS MAY BE MADE ELECTRONICALLY OR BY MAIL.

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

## BREAKING NEWS: SANDY UPDATE

### NFS LEGAL TEAM

This week, Native Fish Society filed suit in federal court in Portland to ensure that wild fish in the Sandy River get the protection they require. The suit against the National Marine Fisheries Service and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife seeks to hold the agencies accountable for their failures to manage the Sandy Hatchery for wild fish recovery and make changes to the hatchery program that will reduce pressure on wild fish.

NFS waited patiently for 11 months for fish managers to take their salmon and steelhead recovery responsibility seriously and change their business-as-usual approach. After direct discussions with the agencies and our review of their draft proposals for the future of fish in the Sandy River, it is clear that the agencies remain unwilling to make the significant changes necessary to the Sandy Hatchery program to insure the recovery of wild fish. With wild Sandy salmon and steelhead in dire condition, we can no longer wait to take this action on their behalf. 

## CALENDAR

**APRIL 14:** NFS 2012 Benefit + Auction Homewaters Require Vigilance

**MAY 5-6:** River Network River Rally on the Sandy River

**JUNE 16:** Hood River Cleanup

**AUGUST 5-7:** Pat Furrer Annual Steelhead Event

**“The last word in ignorance is the man who says of an animal or plant: “What good is it?” Aldo Leopold**

Cover photographs: Top: River Steward Jeff Hickman releasing a wild winter steelhead . Bottom: A wild tail by River Steward Conrad Gowell

# Oregon's Hatchery Accountability Project Update

JIM MYRON, NFS Lobbyist

The Native Fish Society had an opportunity to present our Hatchery Accountability Project to the Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee when they met recently in Salem. Those presenting information about the project at the meeting included Bill Bakke of the Native Fish Society, Peter Paquet PhD from the Northwest Power and Conservation Council, Hans Radtke PhD

an independent natural resource economist and Jim Lichatowich, a noted fish biologist, researcher and author. The meeting was part of NFS'




Ken Anderson photograph

ongoing attempt to inform members of the Oregon Legislature about the state operated fish hatchery program, including the fiscal costs of the program as well as its environmental effects on naturally spawning native fish and their habitat.

Mr. Lichatowich provided information on the history of hatcheries in the Columbia Basin and how they have failed to live up to the expectation that hatcheries could replace wild salmon and steelhead populations lost through dam construction and natural resource extraction. Dr. Radtke discussed the issue of the financial costs associated with fish propagation and the need to have better information in order to make informed public policy decisions about the future use of hatcheries. Dr. Paquet talked about the recent report and recommendations on hatchery reform from the Hatchery Scientific Review Group. Mr. Bakke closed the discussion by reviewing many of the problems caused by hatcheries and recommended to the committee that the Oregon Legis-

lature could play an important role in beginning to resolve these problems by directing the state of Oregon to undertake an independent review of Oregon's state-operated hatchery system with the long-term goal of having a program that is both fiscally and environmentally sustainable and assists in the effort to protect and restore wild native salmon and steelhead in Oregon.

All of the documents from the presentation can be found on the Native Fish Society's Hatchery Accountability Project webpage. These efforts could lead to proposals for changes in the hatchery budget of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife as well as appropriate changes to state law to assure that Oregon's fish propagation program provides fish to support recreational and commercial fisheries while eliminating the adverse effects on naturally spawning wild fish and their habitat.

NFS members can assist in this process by keeping informed of the actions we are taking as well as communicating your opinions to legislators, the Governor's office, the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission and other policy makers. 

- Additional Resources:**  
[Hatchery Accountability Project Website](#)  
[Peter Paquet Testimony](#)  
[Hans Radtke Testimony](#)  
[Jim Lichatowich Testimony](#)  
[Elements of a More Sustainable Hatchery Management Policy](#)

## NFS Testimony to Senate Committee

Bill Bakke, Director of Science and Conservation

The accumulated evidence from both scientific and economic analysis over the last 130 years shows that salmon and steelhead are declining and that management investments have failed to mitigate for the loss and have been unable to recover the diversity, productivity, and abundance of wild salmonids in Oregon and the Northwest ecosystems that support them.

This evidence suggests that our response and our investments to curb this decline are not working. They are not working because we are more concerned about hatchery production than with restoring the productivity and resilience of salmonid populations adapted to individual watersheds.

The solution appears to be deceptively simple, but it isn't because the institutions we fund with public money and rely upon to solve complex problems of salmon and steelhead recovery and watershed productivity have not been held accountable for their performance.

The Legislature can help solve this problem by directing the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to enlist the aid of the Department of Administrative Services to contract for a risk and benefit assessment of the fish propagation program by an independent outside source with the necessary expertise to do the work.

*Continued on pg. 5...*

# CLACKAMAS: ROAD to RECOVERY

## WILD WINTER STEELHEAD RECOVERY & THE VALUE OF SANCTUARY WATER

JEFF HICKMAN, Clackamas River Steward

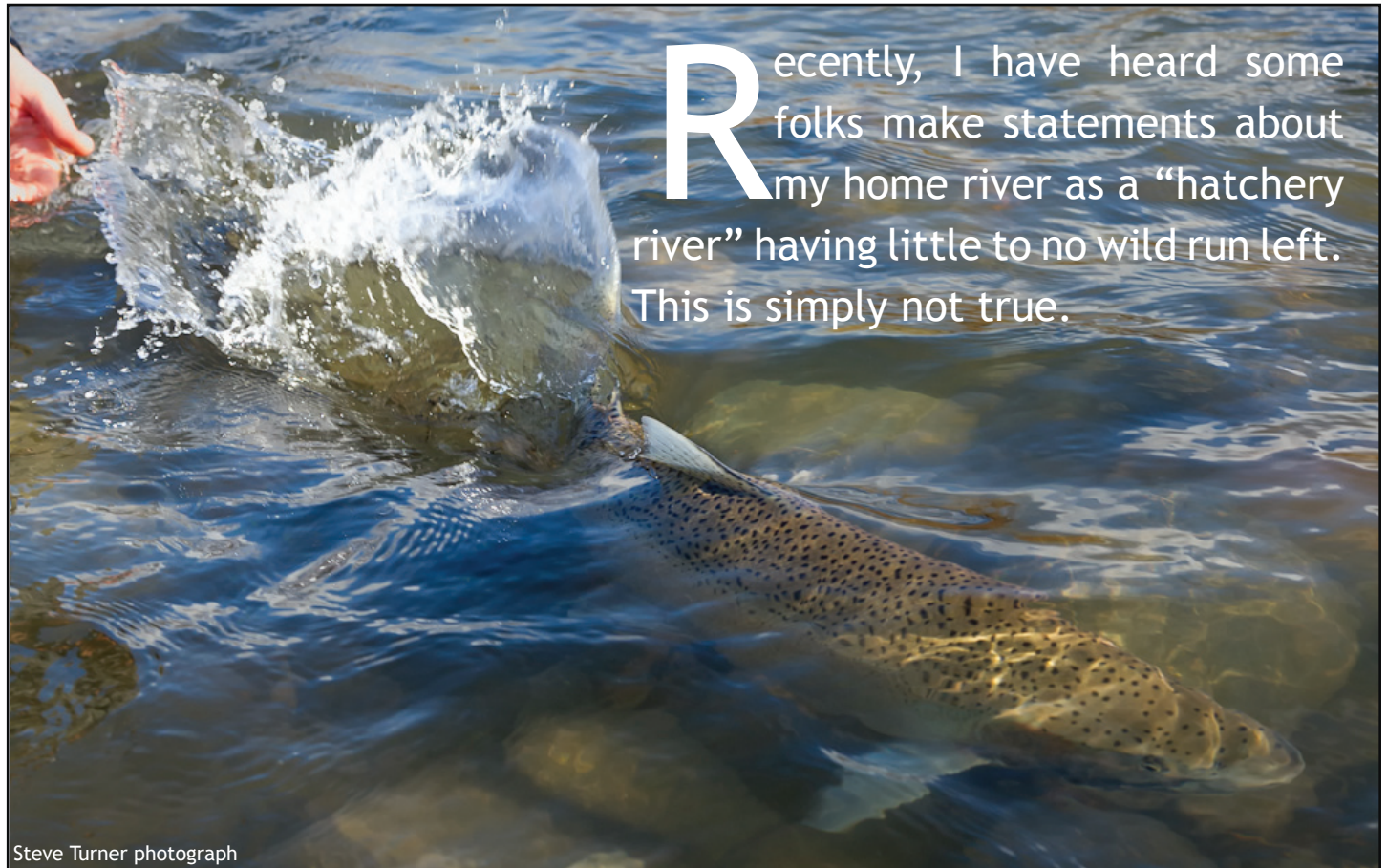
I am a full time steelhead guide working and living on the Clackamas River. The Clackamas has a long and storied tradition as a recreational fishery for steelhead and salmon. Recently, I have heard some folks make statements about my home river as a “hatchery river” having little to no wild run left. This is simply not true.

the town of Estacada, migratory fish encounter a series of hydroelectric dams, the first of which is River Mill Dam. This makes for a unique fisheries management problem.

Clackamas River winter steelhead are part of the lower Columbia Evolutionary Significant Unit (ESU) and are currently listed as threatened.

causing this steep decline of wild fish. This question prompted a series of studies that were conducted by ODFW on the Clackamas around hatchery and wild steelhead interactions.

There is overwhelming evidence showing the negative impacts hatchery fish have on wild fish,



Recently, I have heard some folks make statements about my home river as a “hatchery river” having little to no wild run left. This is simply not true.

Steve Turner photograph

The Clackamas is a unique river. Originating high in the Cascades between Mt Hood and Mt Jefferson, it is not glacially influenced. It flows 83 miles through steep rugged terrain and old growth forests in the upper stretches and agriculture and urban areas in the lower stretch before reaching the tidally influenced Willamette River in Oregon City. More than half of its length is designated Wild and Scenic. At mile 23 upriver from the Willamette, near

Since 2000 hatchery fish have been selected out from the upper river via a fish trap and recycled to the lower river. Today, the river above the dams is closed to salmon and steelhead fishing and is managed as a wild fish sanctuary. This decision was made after years of dangerously low returns of wild winter steelhead returning in the 1990s, barely reaching 100 fish by 1998. Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) needed to know what was

both genetic and ecological. Obviously genetic risks occur when hatchery and wild fish interbreed. Interbreeding decreases the fitness of a wild population by weakening the local adaptive genetic variation. What this means is that the number of offspring produced per parent is decreased across the population. Ecological impacts also lower productivity in addition to interbreeding. Streams have a finite capacity of juveniles they

can sustain. If hatchery fish and their offspring are present they will occupy substantial amounts of the habitat making less space and food available for wild fish. The result is that the basin produces less wild fish.

In the early 1970s summer steelhead were introduced to the Clackamas River to provide a sport fishery; a southwestern Washington stock was used. From 1975-1999 these hatchery raised summer steelhead comprised an average of 70% of the total of all adult steelhead runs that passed over the dam. Studies on the Clackamas indicated that these fish were breeding after they passed above the dam, although not very well. Their limited reproduction combined with the very large number of hatchery adults present was enough for them to produce a large portion of the naturally produced juveniles. The majority of these summer steelhead smolts died before maturing to adults, but only after occupying valuable habitat and imposing significant risk to the wild juveniles.

Although summer run and winter run steelhead have different adult life histories, as juveniles they behave very similar and occupy the same habitats. Juvenile steelhead rear in fresh water for two or three years before they smolt, they are very aggressive and territorial during this period.

Another fact that was discovered during these studies is that wild winter steelhead are the last of the steelhead to spawn each year. Summer run hatchery fish spawned first followed by hatchery winter fish. Due to their spawning timing, wild winter steelhead were the last of all of the naturally produced steelhead to emerge from the gravel and therefore the smallest. This puts them at the bottom of the totem pole to occupy the best habitats. Wild winter steelhead in the Clackamas had to compete with hatchery adults and their offspring, and with the huge numbers of hatchery juveniles that were being released each year.

*Continued on page 11 ...*



Jeff Hickman photograph

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Funding for this assessment is currently available in surpluses to ODFW's Commercial Fish Fund and Other Fund accounts. It is appropriate that fishing interests, who are the direct beneficiaries of the hatchery program, be the ones to pay for the cost of assessing the benefits and risks of the hatchery program.

The Legislature should also add a performance measure for the agency that would establish a process to assure the Legislature that ODFW is complying with the recommendations that come out of this assessment of the hatchery program.

These actions are needed because the evidence points out these facts:

1. Salmon and steelhead are 3 to 5 percent of their historic abundance.
2. Many populations are threatened with extinction and under federal protection.
3. Hatchery fish survival is only about 10% of that for wild salmonids.
4. Hatchery fish contribute to the decline of wild salmonids.
5. Many if not most hatchery programs are deficit spending programs.
6. Hatchery productivity and cost effectiveness rely on having access to wild stocks.
7. As hatchery costs increase and benefits decline funding will become a more critical problem.
8. Continuing the conflict between hatchery performance and cost with wild salmonid productivity and recovery will continue to have a substantial impact on Oregon's fishing economy.

# VALENTINE'S DAY VICTORY FOR WILD FISH

## STEWARDS STAND UP FOR WILD FISH; COMMUNITY STOPS GRAVEL MINE EXPANSION

CHRIS JOHNSON AND ED MEGILL, Nooksack and Skagit River Stewards

South Fork Nooksack near proposed expansion — Chris Johnson photograph

For the past year, Concrete Nor'west has been lobbying to expand their relatively small 80 acre gravel mining operation, Saxon Pit, on the side of Eddys Mountain near Acme, WA. The mine's steep hillside location is only a few hundred feet above the S. Fork of the Nooksack River and only a few miles from the headwaters of the Samish River. Just east of the mine, the side of Eddys Mountain is striped with small creeks that provide essential cold water refugia for juvenile salmonids rearing in the S. Fork of the Nooksack.

Originally, Saxon Pit was 40 ac. in size until a few years ago when Concrete Nor'west obtained a rezone to double its size. Soon after, small farmers downhill from the pit began to have trouble with their wells going dry in the summer months. When Concrete Nor'west applied for a resource mineral overlay on its 280 acres of forest land surrounding the pit, Anna Martin, an organic farmer who lives near the pit, and her neighbors formed the Friends of the Nooksack-Samish Watershed to oppose the looming expansion.

Once a bastion for wild fish, the Nooksack River and its ESA listed wild spring chinook, steelhead and bull trout have suffered for over 100 years the damage and indignities common to streams emptying into Puget Sound. Spring chinook have been hit especially hard having spawner counts as low as 100 in recent history. As a result, there has been no sport or commercial fishery for decades for chinook and the steelhead fishery has been shortened over the years to its current January 31st closure.

Recognizing the miserable condition of their river and wild fish, there has been a huge effort lately from the local community, the Whatcom Land Trust and the Lummi and Nooksack tribes to recover the habitat and salmonids of the Nooksack River. A Google search of "South Fork Nooksack Habitat Restoration" yields 24,000 results. In total, tens of millions of dollars have been spent by local, state and federal agencies, not to mention the thousands of volunteer hours, all to recover the South Fork habitat and its wild fish.

At 360 acres in total, the proposed rezone of Saxon Pit by Concrete Nor'West would have created the largest zone of Mineral Resource Land in Whatcom County history. A mining operation of this scale in such a precarious location would endanger the complex hydrology of the area and threaten the habitat restoration efforts aimed at recovering wild fish in the S. Fork.

Throughout their campaign Concrete Nor'West maintained that, as this was only a zoning change proposal, no significant impacts would arise and thus no requirements for environmental study were necessary. Both Concrete Nor'West and Friends of the Nooksack Samish Watershed (FNSW), a group NFS partnered with in August of 2011 to submit preliminary comments against the rezone, hired hydrologist/geologists to file formal reports on the impacts of mining the slope above the S. Fork.

Both sides acknowledged that water temperatures in the South Fork Nooksack currently rise in summer and fall months to levels that adversely affect adult salmonid spawning success and egg and juvenile survival rates. In a bid to ease concerns about water quality, the Nor'West geologist submitted a report that suggested the removal of topsoil and timber from the current site, part of the mining process, would increase flows into the aquifer, creeks, and river as plant life and soil would no longer absorb surface water.

If you guessed that this framing of the facts was not shared by the FNSW geologist/hydrologist you would be correct. Forsaking turbidity and sediment loading for increased flow is not a cogent argument for expanding mining operations, much less Concrete Nor'West's total disregard for the cooling effect derived from healthy substrate, soil and vegetation. Without question, mining at this site would have negatively impacted the aquifer and the surrounding watershed. Given the geohydrological information gathered, the gravel mine's expansion proved to be a direct threat to the clean and cool water required to recover three ESA-listed fish.

Last fall, the Whatcom County Council met to vote on the rezone of Saxon Pit. At that time, Ed Megill (Skagit River Steward) and I met with the FNSW group and exchanged e-mails, trying to drum up as much opposition as possible, since time was short. At the council meeting my good friend Charles Sullivan spoke out against the proposal and there was considerable testimony from the larger community against the rezone. As a result, the Council tabled the issue until a later date. At that time, the makeup of the Whatcom County Council was pro-mine and it looked certain if they had voted on the issue at that meeting, it would have passed 4-3.

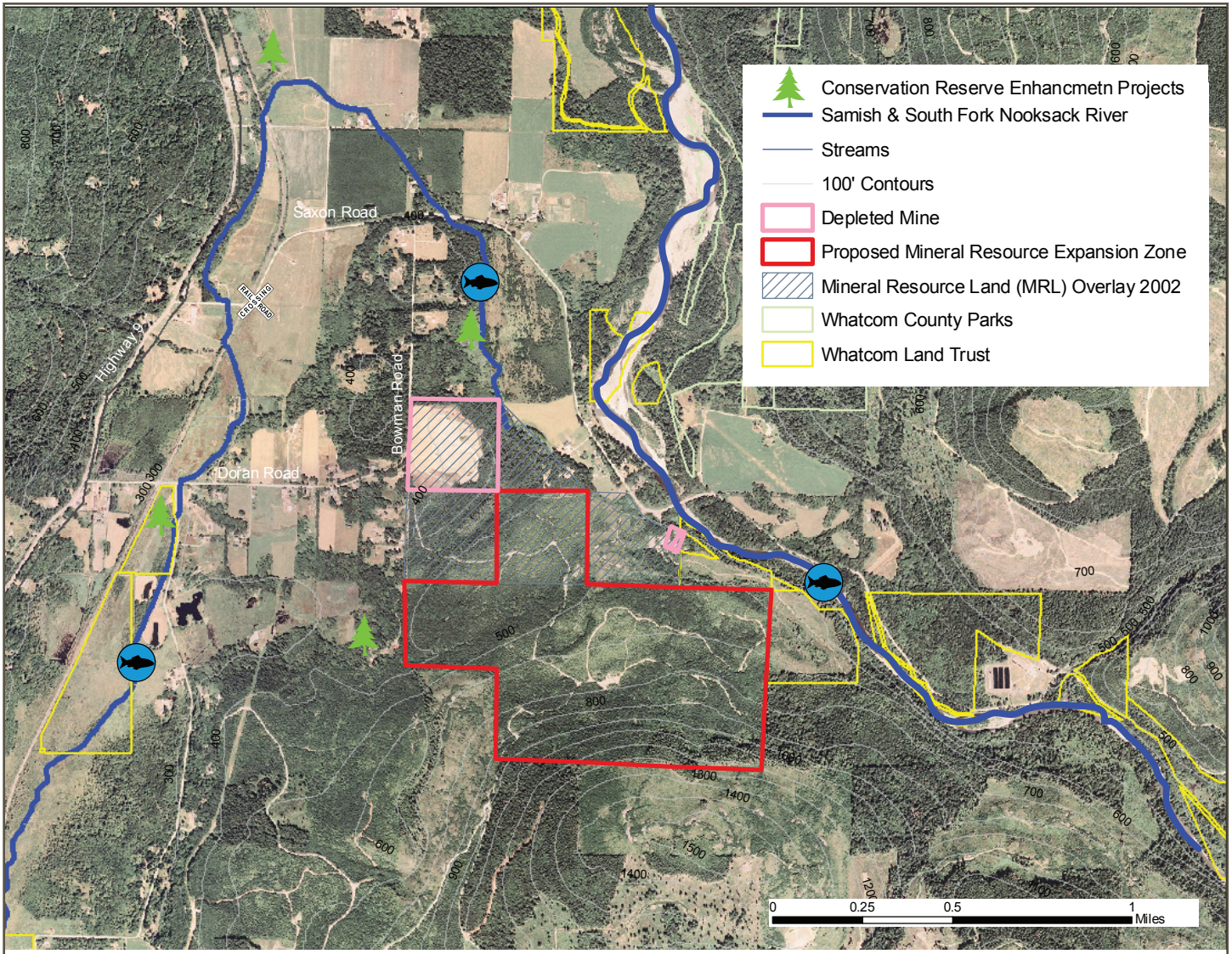
In the local November election, recent County Executive, Pete Kremen, ran for County Council and won. This was an unexpected boon for opponents of the mine. During his term as County Executive Pete had been privy to the reports on the mine and knew the risks involved in expanding Saxon Pit.

The next scheduled Council Meeting was on February 14 where the final vote was to be cast on the rezone.

During the meeting, Skagit River Steward Ed Megill and I testified against the rezone, along with the “Friends of the Nooksack Samish Watershed” and so many other folks that the meeting lasted an extra hour and a half. It appeared the vote would be 4-3 against the rezone.

In a last ditch effort for the expansion of Saxon Pit, Concrete Nor’west’s attorney asked two of the council members to recuse themselves from the vote, because of prior statements made concerning the rezone. Fortunately, councilman Kremen refused and the vote came down 3-3, denying the rezone and stopping the mine’s expansion. It was a great Valentine’s Day for those who love native wild fish in western Washington!

**Additional Resources:**  
[Saxon Mine Reports](#)  
[NFS Comments on Gravel Mine](#)



# High Risk, High Reward

## WINTER STEELHEAD ANGLING ON HAIDA GWAI

TOM DERRY, NFS Director of Wild Steelhead Funding

“High risk, high reward” are the words my friends Kevin Bulley and Steve Egge uttered when stepping on the plane in Vancouver BC this January on our way to Haida Gwaii. They weren’t referring to the plane landing safely (high winds closed the Sandspit airport the day before), they were talking about their expectations for the coming week of winter steelhead fishing.

We were met at the airport by our good friends and very generous Native Fish Society supporters Derek and Andrea Botchford. Derek and Andrea own and operate Frontier Farwest, one of the finest summer steelhead lodges anywhere on the planet. They recently purchased Copper Bay Lodge on Haida Gwaii so they would have a winter steelhead fishing operation as well. The lodge sits on its own private beach and accommodates only four guests. Former President Jimmy Carter spent time at this lodge fishing his favorite steelhead river, the Deena.

Haida Gwaii, formally the Queen Charlotte Islands, sits isolated out in the Pacific in northwest British Columbia. Haida Gwaii consists of 150 islands with Graham and Morsby being the most populated. The Haida say they never relinquished their land either by treaty or war so all lands and waters are under the jurisdiction of the Haida Nation.

For years I have heard that if you hit the fishing right, it is a life changing experience. This seems to be what all steelheaders are looking for, so when I got the offer from Derek to pay a visit to the lodge, I jumped at the chance. Everyone told us that snow was rare and if it did snow it was only around for a day or so. This is not the way it was for us, there was snow on the ground when we arrived and it kept coming. This made access to some of the rivers difficult. The rivers on the islands have a reputation of going up and down like a yo-yo and being in the right place at the right time is critical.

The first week was very tough with a few fish being caught. Fishing on the islands is challenging as most rivers are heavily canopied from bank to bank, this made us all better fishermen by the time we left. The second week two more friends, Doug Morgan and Mike Dunn, showed up and fishing remained about the same as it was during the first week. We didn’t get the push of fish we had heard and dreamed of for so many years.

As these things sometimes go, the week after we left turned out some very good fishing, eight fish from one pool that we had discovered a week earlier.

The lesson here is wild native fish runs are different every year whether on the Skeena, Haida Gwaii or the John Day. Hatchery managers in the Pacific Northwest




**F**ishing is supposed to be a process and a waste of time without guarantees.



didn't like the inconsistency of the wild runs as it was hard on license sales. This is why in a number of cases they overlapped healthy wild runs with hatchery fish to try to accommodate anglers every time they went fishing, this practice took a terrible toll on the wild fish that mingled with these hatchery fish. Fishing is supposed to be a process and a waste of time without guarantees.

We started talking about other rivers and run timing. We fished the Yakoun, Copper and Palant. But what about the Deena, Mamin or the Ain which is across Masset inlet with only boat access? Once again thoughts of big winter fish with sea lice ran through my head. Derek said the lodge will have a boat to get to the Ain next year, without hesitation I said I am in for another year. Haida Gwaii is a land of plenty; abundant sea run cutthroat in the estuaries, dungeness crab so plentiful you can go out in the surf and net them, and my favorite, razor clams. What could be better when you combine this with steelhead fishing?

Derek and Andrea have donated a trip to Haida Gwaii for the 2013 season to our annual Banquet and Auction on April 14. I hope whoever the winning bidder is enjoys this magical place as much as I did. 



# QUALITY WATERS LEGISLATION

## CREATING NEW LOCAL VALUE FOR WILD FISH THROUGH QUALITY ANGLING

**MARK SHERWOOD, NFS River Steward Coordinator**

In January, ODFW's Inland Sport Fishing Advisory Committee discussed the development of Oregon Quality Waters Bill (SB 626). The Quality Waters Bill directs ODFW to study the creation of a Quality Waters program for Oregon and report their recommendations to the Legislature by November of 2012.

Originally introduced by Native Fish Society in the 2008 session, the Quality Waters Bill is based on the Blue Ribbon Waters designation found in states across the west. These programs feature unique, sustainable and high quality fisheries that attract tourism while promoting conservation ethics like catch and release. Such programs currently exist in Montana, Colorado, California and Wyoming and feature streams long made famous like the Yellowstone, Green and Gunnison Rivers. The impressive tributaries of British Columbia's Skeena River feature similar designations, with the additional requirement that non-resident anglers purchase classified per diem licenses when fishing these waters for wild steelhead. Essentially, visiting anglers pay fees that match the quality of the angling. This successful program has brought millions of dollars to British Columbia and supports thriving local economies based on sustainable sport fisheries.

Despite the fact that Oregon is blessed with remarkable rivers and wild fish that have national and international appeal, our local economies and state agency are largely incentivized by the pounds of hatchery fish a given fishery puts in an angler's freezer. As originally envisioned, the Quality Waters program encourages tourism, which stimulates local economies, requires out of state anglers to purchase special licenses, boosting agency resources, and requires that the fishery be managed carefully so that it remains of the highest quality. The institution of Blue Ribbon Waters creates a

new kind of value for agencies and local communities around high quality catch and release fisheries.

The current public process for 2013 Oregon Sport Fishing Regulation development includes two conservation focused regulation proposals put forth by NFS River Stewards. Both of these Stewards' watersheds would make excellent candidates for Quality Waters-designation as they feature strong runs of wild fish that support high quality fisheries. Both populations of wild fish could also benefit from increased protections to ensure that their populations continue to remain abundant.

Ed Miranda Jr., the NFS Steward of the Wood, Williamson and 7 Mile Creek has submitted a regulation proposal that would make the lower Williamson catch and release for wild redband trout. Current regulations allow the harvest of one wild redband trout per day by anglers during certain portions of the season. The Williamson's wild redband trout have been known to grow over 30" as they are essentially Klamath River steelhead, landlocked by the mainstem dams. Celebrated by Oregon anglers like Polly Rosborough, the Williamson, its wild fish, scenic country and high quality fishing make it a perfect candidate for a Quality Waters designation.



Jeff Bright Photograph : JDR Steelhead



Dave McCoy photograph



Ken Morrish/Flywatertravel.com Anglers on the Williamson River


Ken Morrish/flywatertravel.com Wild Williamson Redband

Likewise, John Day River Steward Pat Dunham has been working with ODFW District Biologist Jeff Neal and ODFW Recreational Fisheries Program Manager Rhine Messmer to secure protections for the increasingly popular fall steelhead fishery on the John Day River. According to ODFW PIT tag data used to track John Day wild steelhead, the fall fishery disproportionately targets early returning steelhead, greatly increasing their mortality when compared with the rest of the run. Over time, this could skew run timing later in the season and limit the overall genetic diversity of the run.

When most anglers realize that the John Day's run of wild steelhead are ESA listed and catch and release is mandatory they are puzzled to discover the continued allowance of angling with bait and barbed treble hooks. Bait versus artificial fly and lure studies consistently show that the mortality applicable to the use of bait was three to nine times higher than that associated with the use of artificial lures and flies (2001, Hooton).

Currently, River Steward Pat Dunham is petitioning ODFW to limit anglers to barbless hooks and or a restriction on bait during the peak October to December season on the John Day. These additional

provisions will save hundreds of ESA listed steelhead and ensure that fish hooked several times, as recent ODFW creel survey data indicates, survive to spawn successfully. With increased protections, the John Day River could be a hallmark of wild sustainable fisheries in Oregon, tempting anglers from across the world to experience this desert steelhead mecca.

Thanks in large part to the advocacy of Jim Myron, NFS' registered lobbyist, ODFW agreed to assemble a committee of NFS and ISFAC members to advise ODFW in their development of the Quality Waters Program. If you are interested in participating in the Quality Waters development process please contact the NFS office. You can also take action by writing letters in support of the regulations proposals submitted by our Williamson and John Day River Stewards. ODFW is receiving letters @ ODFW, Angling Regulations, 3406 Cherry Ave. NE Salem, OR 97303. 

**Additional Resources:**

- [Jim Myron Testimony for Quality Waters SB 626](#)
- [Williamson catch and release proposal](#)
- [John Day barbless/bait restriction proposal](#)

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5...**

**CLACKAMAS: ROAD TO RECOVERY**

So what's happened since the removal of the hatchery fish from the upper basin in 2000? The wild fish have shown a dramatic positive response. A record 2174 wild winter steelhead passed North Fork Dam in 2010 and this year's return of adult winter steelhead will only be the third generation since the hatchery fish were removed from the upper basin. The vast majority of the fish I have seen in the lower river over the last several years have been wild fish. In the neighborhood of one hatchery fish to every four wild fish landed. This could have to do with the fact that I am exclusively swinging flies and wild fish tend to be more aggressive, but it is also evidence that there is a very resilient and strong recovering wild winter steelhead run.

ODFW estimates that 35-40% of the Clackamas basin's productive capacity is located below the dam. Wild fish production is severely limited by the abundance

of hatchery fish. ODFW's Lower Columbia River Recovery Plan calls for the run of wild winter steelhead to reach 10,655 fish in order to achieve "low risk" status. Since the habitat of the upper basin is in good condition, much of the recovery will need to come from production areas below the dam. This will require additional protection and habitat restoration in the lower basin to meet the river's productivity potential. I remain very optimistic about the capability of this river and her fish to recover with a little help from us all.



**Additional Resources:**

- [Kostow Clackamas River Memo](#)
- [DeHart Review](#)

*Jeff Hickman is a steelhead guide and wild fish advocate who owns and operates Fish The Swing LLC. Jeff lives on the Clackamas River where he uses his jet boat to get from spot to spot. He specializes in two-handed casting and fishing instruction and is also the NFS Clackamas River Steward. Learn more at [fishtheswing.com](http://fishtheswing.com)*

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**WILD FISH ARE THE  
FUTURE!**

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Rob Bowler, N. Umpqua  
John Bracke, Nestucca  
Dick Bushnell, Salmon  
Tom Davis, Upper Deschutes  
Tom Derry, Molalla  
Peter Donahower, Columbia Gorge  
Streams  
Pat Dunham, John Day  
Paul Engelmeyer, Mid Oregon Coast  
Ian Fergusson, Salmonberry  
David Gee, Hood  
Will Govin, Tryon & Johnson Creeks  
Conrad Gowell, Drift Creek  
Jeff Hickman, Clackamas  
Chris Johnson, Nooksack  
Ken Johnson, Skagit  
John Larison, Siletz  
Jena Lemke, Tualatin  
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Michael Mathis, Snake River  
Lower Hell's Canyon  
John McConnaughey, Washougal  
Matt McQueen, Klickitat

Ed Megill, Skagit  
Spencer Miles, Nestucca, Tillamook  
Bay Rivers  
Ed Miranda, Wood, Williamson & 7  
Mile Creek  
David Moryc, Sandy  
Jim Myron, Crooked  
Scott Nelson, Calapooia  
Chip O'Brien, Pudding  
Stan Petrowski, S. Umpqua  
Hamish Rickett, Pathogins  
Jake Robinson, Coos Bay  
Rob Russell, Nehalem  
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Mia Sheppard, John Day  
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Rob Sims, Lower Deschutes  
Rick Snyder, Grande Ronde  
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# NATIVE FISH SOCIETY HOMEWATERS REQUIRE VIGILANCE

## 16TH ANNUAL BENEFIT BANQUET + AUCTION

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