



PISCATORIAL PRESS

OREGON CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER: WATCHING BOBBERS

Since last newsletter, I've logged more than 200 hours watching bobbers. But not the plastic clip-ons or pencil-stick spring jobbies of my sunfishing youth. Big bobbers – the fist-sized fluorescent floats that balance 2 ounces of lead and a 4/0 hook regaled with sand shrimp and/or salmon eggs as it drifts deep along the fast eddy seams in search of 20 pound plus spring Chinook. It's mesmerizing, like gazing into the purple heart of a campfire, staring at these blazing beacons as you subtly steer them along the jade currents second by second by minute by hour by day... By mid-season the bobber glow has burned itself into my retina – it's the last thing I see drifting off to sleep, drifting serenely as it has the last few biteless days...then it plunges, I subconsciously rear back, shaking the whole bed, then mumble to Karen, "I had a bite" -- but she already knows. There's nothing subtle about a spring Chinook hookset.

To not watch is to miss out completely. To miss not just the challenge of interpreting the bite, connecting on the fish, navigating the struggle, but also weeks of feasting on succulent fillets of grilled "ocean candy" and cedar-smoked field lunches. And miss the copious hours of observation, cogitation, and introspection between bites.

It's really all about connecting—with the habitats we fish, the friends and neighbors we fish with, and every once in a while even with a fish and the quality food it provides. The Oregon Chapter is all about connections, too – connecting members in a common mission, connecting relevant issues with specialists who can address them, connecting members and jobs, students and volunteers with diverse opportunities. Connecting states with regions with nations.

There is lots of watching in the Chapter too – watching issues, policies, and processes as they develop, interpreting whether they are relevant to our mission and, if so, when the time is right for action – and what action is appropriate. In this activity the entire membership can participate – the more lines in the water, the more diverse the baits and approaches, and the more waters we are covering, the better our odds of "catching" relevant issues in time for consideration and action.

When the bobber goes down on specific events, we respond with the assistance and expertise of committees and other members. Anyone who has the right gear, skills, or just time enough to help is welcome to join the excitement.

A few examples: Twice we've cast lines for Education and Outreach proposals, and we've set the hook on 7 of them for partial sponsorship and ORAFS participation. Our external committees are watching bobbers drifting the currents of the National Fish Habitat Conservation Act, Native Fish Task Force, and other state issues so that we can assist when the time is right. Last year we set the hook again on the Columbia River BiOp issue, then handed the rod up to the Western Division where an ad hoc Snake River Committee (with many OR Chapter members) has handled it smoothly.

At the national level, there's a huge "bobber down" in the Gulf of Mexico and AFS President Don Jackson has just launched an Oil Spill Initiative to position AFS as a relevant source of timely expertise for measuring and managing the impacts to aquatic resources of this unprecedented event. If you'd like to join this large effort as an "oil spill impact expert", please contact Don directly (DJackson@CFR.MsState.edu).

Oregon has many expert anglers, of fish and of issues. One of our champions in the latter category is Bob Hughes, who has wrangled some lively issues as Oregon and Western Division president and is now raising his game to the top. Bob will soon be watching many bobbers throughout international waters, and lead a massive cadre of experts toward improved resource stewardship. Please join me in congratulating Bob on winning the recent election for the 2nd VP (and hence future president) of national AFS!

Of course, our largest Chapter "bite" is the annual meeting for which Colleen is already lining up anglers. But before that, Demian and Mike Reed are baiting a hook with a tantalizing array of urban anglers for a special day-long symposium on Salmon in the City. See details within this issue for these and many more opportunities....

Rich Grost, President

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Oregon Chapter of the American Fisheries Society Mission

Improve the conservation and sustainability of Oregon fishery resources and their aquatic ecosystems for long-term public benefit by advancing science, education, and public discourse concerning fisheries and aquatic science and by promoting the development of fisheries professionals.

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**Oregon Chapter of the
American Fisheries Society**

www.orafs.org

CHANGE OF ADDRESS & MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS:

To join or change address, go to www.fisheries.org and be sure to sign up for the Oregon Chapter. Also visit www.orafs.org to join our listserve and get other chapter information.

EXTERNAL DIRECTOR'S SUMMER UPDATE

Hot dog! The summer's finally here! And I, for one, am glad to finally have a little sunshine poking through the clouds. As you may already know, David Moskowitz (Confluence Consulting NW), our former Legislative Liaison - accepted a position with Water Watch of Oregon (Director of Development) and resigned from his post with us. Back in May, we started looking for other potential Legislative Liaisons. With feedback from David, we have reworked the original contract language to include some new "deliverables", and we expect to put out a new Request For Proposals to four potential candidates within the next two weeks. If all goes according to plan, we expect to have a new Legislative Liaison on staff by the end of the summer. Some of the anticipated legislative activities the Chapter may look into during the coming legislative session include providing scientific input/feedback/testimony on: renewable energy facility siting, (potential) instream wood removal legislation, water withdrawal legislation, and gold mining regulations/impacts to aquatic environments.

You may recall that last summer/fall, our Marine Habitat and Ecology committee, chaired by Dr. Scott Heppell, reviewed several proposed marine reserves that eventually went to Governor's Ocean Policy Advisory Committee for consideration. Ultimately, three of the proposed reserves were sent to the legislature for funding. In the second round of reviews, the ODFW anticipates reviewing several more marine reserve proposals that will be generated from community-based activity groups/workshops. We've again been asked to review the scientific credibility of the proposals that come from these community-based groups and I expect that we'll see them come across the wires in late July.

I recently attended one of The Wildlife Society's (TWS) board meetings to discuss 1) the potential to increase connections between our Chapters and 2) collaborating on a jointly-sponsored, off-season workshop. The TWS board was glad to have one of our Chapter's representatives in attendance, pledged to increase communication between our Chapters, and gave approval to move forward with a jointly-sponsored workshop between our two Chapters. The workshop I proposed to them is one in which we bring State legislators (and/or their aides) together with aquatic science professionals to 1) address natural resource needs legislators may have and 2) present the latest scientific knowledge on key issues they may be addressing in the upcoming legislative session.

With the price of gold skyrocketing, there has been considerable renewed interest in gold mining. Subsequently, there has been an influx of mining permit applications to the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ). Recently, the ODEQ proposed to tighten the regulations on gold mining (specifically with dredges). The case is still in court at the time of the writing of this article and this case is expected to be quite contentiously debated. The Chapter may be called upon to review the permitting process and provide scientific feedback that speaks to the potential impacts of mining on aquatic environments and the critters that inhabit them.

As always, if you have an issue you think the Chapter should look into, or if you're interested in getting more involved with the Chapter, please don't hesitate to send me an email. Until next time!...GO GET WET!

Jeremiah Osborne-Gowey, External Director

JUSTIN HUFF PROVIDES STUDENT PERSPECTIVE ON EXCOM



Justin Huff is the new Student Representative on ExCom.

Justin Huff will be serving as the OR AFS Student Representative on ExCom! Justin received his Associates degree in Fisheries Technology from Mt. Hood Community College in 2007. Prior to this he had spent many years commercial fishing off the Oregon coast and in Bristol Bay, Alaska for everything from albacore tuna to Dungeness crab. Currently Justin is an undergraduate student at Oregon State University working towards a degree in Fisheries and Wildlife Science. He is also working with Dr. Douglas Markle on the Klamath Sucker Project, along with various other projects involving native fishes of Oregon. For the past two years he has served as the Fundraiser for the OSU Fisheries and Wildlife Club, and he will be serving as the ORAFS Liaison for the OSU Fisheries and Wildlife Club during the coming school year. Thank you, Justin, for taking on the important role of ORAFS Student Representative!

Announcing a new, member-driven series:

FISHERY FEATURES

USING SCALES TO DETERMINE AGE AND GROWTH OF COASTAL CUTTHROAT TROUT IN HEADWATER STREAMS

We have several long-term research projects in which growth and age-structure have been variables of interest for populations of headwater coastal cutthroat trout. We began using passive integrated transponder (PIT) tags to mark individual fish in 1999 and have continued through the present. Currently, there is a substantial dataset containing measured lengths of individuals recaptured over intervals ranging from months to years. During this same period, we also collected scales from all fish receiving PIT tags and a subset of fish that were not tagged. Scales were to be used to determine population age structure and augment the growth data via back-calculation, because annual recapture rates of PIT-tagged individuals were low relative to spatial scales of interest. Using scales from PIT-tagged individuals that were recaptured over multiple years allowed us to evaluate accuracy of back-calculated growth and chronological age of headwater cutthroat trout.

Annual relative growth rates back-calculated from scales were regressed on annual relative growth rates calculated from direct measurement. The coefficient of determination or R^2 (a statistic that in this case estimates the amount of variance in back-calculated growth explained by measured growth) was 0.02. Although we did not expect this relationship to equal one, (because measured growth integrates growth between capture events, here August to August, while back-calculate growth measures growth for the period between the last two annuli, theoretically January 1 to December 31) we did expect a strong correlation with a positive slope.

The most likely explanation of the poor correlation between back-calculated and measured growth was poor accuracy in aging. Subsequently, six individuals estimated the ages of recaptured PIT-tagged cutthroat using scales. The chronological age of these fish from date of first capture was known. Using change in chronological age in annual increments, accuracy of scale readers ranged from 50-65%. When considering

fish with growth histories of ≥ 2 years, scale readers had to correctly age each fish from scales collected in chronological order in order to be credited with a correct age, and accuracy declined (mean = 25 % range = 13-37%).

Reasons for poor accuracy in aging are potentially numerous, and some may yet be unknown. Interestingly, accuracy (using annual criteria) increased with increasing growth rate but only exceeded 50% for fish growing $\geq 30\%$ of their body length per year. In our three study basins, 86% of the recaptured PIT tagged fish grew less than this amount. No clear temporal synchrony in growth was apparent from growth data collected at bi-monthly intervals, suggesting that the timing of annulus formation may vary. It is also possible that some fish fail to lay down scales in their first year, or the initial annulus may be formed so close to the nucleus that it is not identified. It may be possible to resolve these issues and eventually derive some useful information for headwater cutthroat from scales; however, our experience would suggest that without some form of validation to document the accuracy of aging, both age and growth data from headwater coastal cutthroat scales should be considered highly suspect.

We would like to thank Lisa Borgerson, Jason Dunham, Bonnie Griffis, Mike Heck, Steve Hendricks, Dave Hockman-Wert, Doug Markle, Bill Rehe, and Mark Terwilliger for their assistance with this study.

Contributed by:

- Doug Bateman and David Leer (Watershed Research Cooperative, College of Forestry, Oregon State University),
- Steve Clark (USGS-FRESC), and
- Bob Gresswell (USGS-NOROCK)

DO YOU LIKE THIS STORY?

The Piscatorial Press is **Fishing** for more like it!

- Have you started or finished a **unique restoration project**?
- Have you recently begun or completed an **interesting research project**?
- Would the OR AFS membership benefit from hearing about your **recent experiences** or **lessons learned**?

If you answered "Yes", then submit your story as one of our two member-driven features!

- 1) **Fishery Features**: summaries that include text and/or photos and are up to 2 pages in length.
- 2) **Field Notes**: can be as short as a photo with a caption or as long as a paragraph or two!

OR AFS members, please help the Piscatorial Press launch its new, **member-driven**, series!

If you have something to share, submit a brief summary, along with photos!

Submission deadlines for the next issue is **Sept 15, 2010**

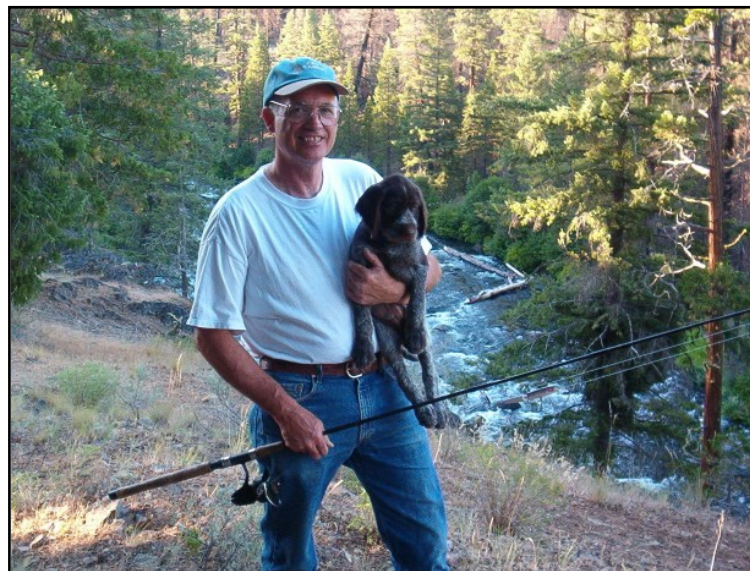
Send submissions to Allison Evans at:
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DON RATLIFF: MAKING ORAFS HISTORY

Welcome to the new OR AFS Historian, Don Ratliff! Don received his Bachelor's degree in Fisheries Science from Oregon State University in 1970. After temporary positions with the states of Oregon and Alaska, he started his career with PGE at the Pelton Round Butte Project on the Deschutes River in Central Oregon in 1971. Although in one location for many years, attending to many diverse resource and political challenges has led to a tremendous amount of experience. Originally hired as a hatchery biologist and PGE coordinator for the ODFW-operated Round Butte Hatchery, his responsibilities have evolved through time: from hatchery evaluation to fish disease studies, to anadromous and resident fish (bull trout) life history research, to initiating the Project wildlife program and wildlife habitat studies and protection, to supervising and/or administering major PGE-funded research projects. The last ten years have presented tremendous challenges associated with Federal and State

Relicensing processes and all the associated fisheries studies and mitigation measures at the Pelton Round Butte Project. The new FERC license issued in June of 2005, and the new intake and downstream Fish Transfer Facility went on line last December. Don and other biologists at PGE are happy to report that spring Chinook, steelhead, and sockeye smolts are now being passed downstream from Lake Billy Chinook for the first time since 1968.

Don has served on a number of Oregon Chapter External Committees, and as Arrangements Chairman, External Director, and Vice President; and was Chapter President in 1983. Don was awarded the Chapter Fisheries Worker of the Year Award in 1992 for pioneering work promoting the conservation of bull trout in Oregon. Thanks, Don, for continuing your long and vibrant history of Chapter involvement!



Don Ratliff is currently serving as historian for the chapter.

CHECK OUT THE LATEST LAMPREY NEWS!

The lamprey session at the OR AFS Annual Meeting, chaired by Bianca Streif (USFWS), served as a kick-off for the Willamette River Basin Lamprey Workgroup (see pg 12 for upcoming meeting information). The following is a brief synopsis of the presentations delivered at the session. Readers interested in finding out more about the research are encouraged to read the abstracts (available at <http://www.orafs.org/meeting2010/Annual10.htm>) or to contact the presenters directly.

The session began with a presentation by Ralph Lampman (OSU), titled "Cryptic Nature of Pacific Lampreys in North Umpqua River: Dam Passage, Habitat Use, and More!" Ralph reported that the peak of the Pacific lamprey run at Winchester Dam was during June-July during a period of high temperature (60-70°F) and low flow. This study showed that 13 out of the 15 tagged lamprey (87%) released below the dam moved approximately 1km upstream to "approach" the dam, but only 1 of them (7%) moved "past" the dam. Over 250 adult lamprey were found holding within the dam wood crib structure at the end of the summer migration season, possibly indicating they may use the dam structure as a holding habitat. Summer holding habitat can be characterized as deep, swift, and well-covered habitat and most tagged lamprey were holding at the head of the habitat unit near habitat interfaces, where most likely hyporheic flow is maximized.

Steve Starcevich of ODFW discussed freshwater residence of adult Pacific lamprey in a coastal Oregon river basin. Adult lamprey were captured at Smith River falls (RK 48) from April to July in 2006 and 2009 (Umpqua River basin), about 2,850 lamprey were estimated from mark-recapture to have migrated upstream of the falls, and 91 were radio-tagged. In the same spring after tagging, 29 lamprey were preyed upon or lost to an unknown cause during upstream migration and 5 were observed spawning. Individuals began holding behavior from June through August throughout the mainstem above the falls (farthest upstream location, RK 134). Some movement was observed during winter high flows. Lamprey (n=55) overwintered in slow water habitats under boulders (61%) and bedrock (39%) and generally at the modal depth of the habitat unit. In 2007, holding lamprey began moving in April, two of which were observed actively spawning and many were preyed upon before spawning was confirmed.

Dave Clugston (USACE) presentation, titled "Improving Passage with Conflicting Needs and Status: Lamprey and Salmon", emphasized that getting salmon criteria based fishway designers and engineers to embrace adding features with conflicting criteria needs for lamprey has taken time and energy, but is a critical step in improving the chances of recovering lamprey in the Columbia River Basin. Plates are being placed over the diffuser grating to create a smooth surface where possible; salmon criteria for velocities through the gratings limits how much surface area can be covered. Creating a smooth-bottom, deep entrance and reducing night time velocity are examples of creative solutions that have not interfered with salmon passage and worked well. Smaller gap



North Umpqua Pacific Lamprey spawning below Winchester Dam on June 21, 2010 (photo: Ralph Lampman)

gratings (from 1" down to 3/4" diffuser gratings) on screens will deter the entrance of Pacific lamprey into unsafe or ineffective routes but this option is expensive and forthcoming invasive mussels can effectively clog these smaller gaps faster. The Lamprey Passage Structure ("stairways to heaven") is currently passing about 40% of the total lamprey passage at Bonneville dam.

Stewart Reid of Western Fishes discussed explorations into the systematics of Oregon's lamprey fauna. Oregon has a wonderfully complex fauna of resident lampreys in two genera. Resident species from the genus *Entosphenus* appear limited to the Klamath and Goose Lake basins of southern Oregon, where they are represented by at least four endemic species, with additional unresolved taxa. *Lampetra*, including the predatory river lamprey (*L. ayresii*) and a suite of brook lampreys, are found in coastal drainages and the Columbia Basin. Clackamas as well as much of the Willamette basin has *L. pacifica*, which is divergent from the Western brook (*richardsoni*), and the Columbia Basin has at least these two types of brook lamprey (Western brook and Pacific brook, as well as some potentially unique Oregon populations). The Fraser/Puget Sound river lamprey (*ayresii*) populations appear to be genetically indistinguishable from the local Western brook lamprey, but the Sacramento population, and perhaps Oregon populations, appear to be distinct.

Justin Huff of OSU presented a study of the relationships between gill pore papillae and myomeres in brook lampreys. Gill pore papillae, recently described by Dick Beamish as a useful taxonomic character, was evaluated as a possible corroborating character for myomere patterns in *Lampetra pacifica* and *L. richardsoni*. Within an individual, papillae counts varied between the left and right side and between the 2nd thru 4th pores, but there was no systematic bias. There was a strong positive relationship between pore papillae and myomere counts and the combination of characters was used to classify fish into three preliminary categories – *L. pacifica*,

L. richardsoni, and intermediates. Only one collection of *L. richardsoni* was found from Oregon (Coquille R.) while all other examined Oregon brook lamprey were categorized as either *L. pacifica* or intermediates. It was suggested that other characters, such as velar tentacle size and shape, eye diameter, and adult caudal shape might contribute to sorting out the number of brook lampreys in the northwest.

Howard Schaller (USFWS) discussed the Pacific Lamprey Conservation Initiative, an effort led by the USFWS to facilitate communication and coordination relative to the conservation of Pacific lampreys throughout their range. The need to conserve this species is a high priority for the USFWS considering its benefit to the overall ecosystem and its importance as a tribal cultural resource. The relative ranking of risk using the NatureServe conservation status assessment tool (3 parameters of "rarity, trends, and threats") was assessed; and the information used in this assessment was gathered through a series of regional workshops. According to the preliminary results, the edges of their range are most at risk (Idaho, southern CA, etc.) and coastal waters seem to be in somewhat better conditions compared to more inland water (possibly due to dam impacts).

Chris Karchesky (Normandeau Associates, Inc.) presented an evaluation of Pacific lamprey passage at Willamette Falls Hydroelectric Project. Portland General Electric conducted a series of radio telemetry studies to evaluate passage performance of lamprey as a part of their FERC relicensing requirements to evaluate and improve lamprey passage. Prior to extensive modifications at the Project and fish ladder system, upstream passage rates for lamprey ranged from 23 – 35%. In 2009 and after recent modifications to improve fish passage were made at the Project, 145 lamprey were radio tagged (mean length 63.5 cm, weight 460 g, girth 11.1 cm) from May through late August. The results of this evaluation indicated that upstream passage rates increased to 42% with a median passage time of approximately 9 hours. Similar to previous studies, the passage of tagged lamprey occurred exclusively through the fish ladder system; no fish were reported passing over the Falls. The location from which the lamprey approached the Project changed depending on river flow (i.e., more lamprey ascending into the falls portion of the Project earlier in the year when river flow was high, while more fish ascended into the tailrace of the powerhouse later in the year when river flow was low). This influenced which ladder entrance the lamprey used to migrate through the fish ladder system.

Shadia Duery (Cramer Fish Sciences) reported on the pre-spawning migration behavior and distribution of Pacific lamprey in the Willamette Basin. From May till August 2009 148 adult Pacific lampreys were radio-tagged and released near Willamette Falls (tagged lamprey seemed to heal their suture incisions within a month). Greater than 75% of the fish spent a significant portion of the summer and fall between Willamette Falls (RM 26.5) and Buena Vista Park (RM 107); 25% dropped down again to Willamette Falls later on. At the height of the summer peak temperatures (26.2°C), most have stopped moving; thermal refugia may be important. Among the movers, the average travel distance was 5.5 miles a day

(mostly detected moving during nighttime from the fixed stations).

Jeffrey Jolley (USFWS) described Willamette River mainstem habitat used by larval Pacific lamprey and Western brook lamprey. 30x30 m quadrats (GRTS approach) were sampled in the Willamette River and Multnomah Channel using a boat-mounted deepwater electrofisher (up to 21m depth surveyable). Larval lampreys were collected at 11 of the 208 quadrats (5.3%), in water depths ranging from 0.6 to 17 m; none in Multnomah Channel. In 10x10 m subquadrats of the larva-present quadrats, larvae were detected in 19 of the 87 (22%) subquadrats. In total, 50 larvae ranging from 20 mm to 144 mm total length were collected suggesting individuals of age 1-7 were present; of the ammocoetes collected 28% were identified as Pacific lamprey, 56% as *Lampetra* spp., and 16% unknown. Results indicate larval lamprey use mainstem habitats of the Willamette, highlighting the potential importance of this habitat.

Cyndi Baker (Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs) presented the development of a method to estimate escapement of adult Pacific lamprey at Willamette Falls. Through the Columbia River Fish Accords, the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs is developing a method for estimating escapement of adult Pacific lamprey at Willamette Falls (RK 42.6) for baseline trends in abundance. This information will be made available to managers to make informed fishery decisions. PIT tagging (half-duplex, 0.8g) with flat panel antennae array will be used for lamprey passage monitoring at Willamette Falls (500-800 tags). A splashcam camera will be evaluated for its application as a long-term relative index. Predation from sturgeon as well as sea lion is a particular concern for the lamprey.

Ben Clemens's (OSU) presentation titled, "Where the Wild Things Are: Patterns and Motives in Migration and Habitat Use in Pacific Lamprey in the Willamette Basin" was undertaken to improve understanding of migration biology, including habitat use for pre-spawn migrating lampreys that were radio-tagged. Tagged lamprey were tracked by boat throughout the mainstem above Willamette Falls (total of 264 miles that was covered 2 times) and by 20 fixed receiver sites throughout the basin. Preliminary results suggest that fish migration tended to show three migration patterns: 1) migrate to a site in the mainstem Willamette River and hold for extended periods of time; 2) migrate slowly within the mainstem Willamette; and 3) migrate quickly up into tributaries of the Willamette. Although fish were widely distributed throughout the basin, many fish were found between river miles 28-90, characterized by bedrock and clay substrate. Many seemed to be in deep water and the classification of habitat for holding lampreys was: rock revetments (26%), main channel (26%), boulder/outcrops (11%), logs/rootwads (9%), by shore (9%), deep pool (7%), Rock Island (7%), man-made wood pilings (3%), river plume (1%). This study is ongoing to track lamprey to their spawning areas.

Thank you to all the presenters who made this session such a success!
Contributed by Ralph Lampman

OREGON SHOWS WELL IN SALT LAKE CITY!

Oregon was well-represented at the Western Division Annual Meeting hosted by the Utah Chapter in Salt Lake City during April. Dave Ward and Mary Buckman were of course present as members of the WDAFS ExCom, and I went to officially represent the Oregon Chapter. We were joined by Shivonne Nesbit and Justin Huff as participants in the pre-meeting AFS Leadership Training hosted by Dirk Miller and Joe Margraf, where we learned about AFS structure and got a crash course in Robert's Rules. The most beneficial part was comparing experiences among other chapters on how to run an efficient volunteer chapter.

Our own Bob Hughes received an Award of Special Recognition for his long and active service to WDAFS as president and on many committees. Oregon members of the Roseburg BLM and other entities scored the Riparian Challenge Award for BLM Districts (see pg 10). As we shared return flights, Jeff McEnroe and I conspired to exercise some spring Chinook back home.

Other awards included:

- Robert Borovicka Conservation Achievement Award was presented to Chrissy Wilson, Native Species Coordinator for the State of Utah.
- The Western Division Outstanding Chapter Award was presented to the Washington-BC Chapter.
- The Western Division Past President Award was presented to Scott Bonar.
- 25-Year Award pins were presented to long-time members.
- New Mexico State University Student Subunit was awarded the Student Chapter of the Year.
- Western Division Award of Excellence was present to Kurt Fausch, Colorado State University.



Bob Hughes receives his Award of Special Recognition for his service to WDAFS



Justin Huff (OSU student) and Roger Schneidervin (UDWR) sport their prizes from the card game!

Oregon reeled in a scholarship too. The Eugene Maughn Graduate Student Scholarship had 9 PhD and 4 MS applicants from 5 different states. The \$1500 Master Student Scholarship was awarded to Shivonne Nesbit of OSU and the PhD scholarship was awarded to Kris Homel of MSU. The William Trachtenburg Scholarship, established by the Sustainable Fisheries Foundation, was presented to Eric Larson of University of Washington. Oregon even scored high in the post-banquet auction activities, with Justin Huff winning the card game for one of the grand prizes, a Weatherby pump shotgun just in time for turkey season!

At the WDAFS Business Meeting, Bob Hughes and Eric Wagner of the Environmental Concerns Committee presented two resolutions for discussion and action. Both resolutions were passed by the membership:

- The Illegal Stocking Resolution was brought forward by CO/WY chapter and encourages state fish agencies to strengthen the penalties and enforcement associated with illegal stocking of fish and other aquatic organisms.
- The Bristol Bay Resolution (formerly the Pebble Mine Resolution) was referred to the membership with some small changes to update information from the resolution passed in Albuquerque in 2009, and describing the intent to forward the resolution to the Parent Society.

The Oregon Chapter's Kirk Schroeder organized a dynamic and well-attended symposium titled Dam Removals: Challenges and Opportunities (see pg. 9). Oregon members presented in this and many other technical sessions. They also judged papers, photographed the meeting, and exhibited the usual above-and-beyond participation that we are known for. Thanks to all of you who navigated your travel restrictions and busy schedules to help make this Western Division event a valuable and memorable one!

Rich Grost, President

OR AFS CONTRIBUTES TO WDAFS BY ORGANIZING A SESSION ON DAM REMOVAL

Removal of dams is increasing throughout the West, often because they have become decrepit, obsolete, or inefficient—but sometimes the primary reason is to restore river habitats and fish populations. Fisheries biologists are increasingly involved in all aspects of dam removal, and must work with scientists from other disciplines to understand both the direct effects of dam deconstruction and the subsequent effects on streams and fishes. In this context, a symposium was held at the recent annual meeting of the Western Division AFS—Dam Removal: Challenges and Opportunities. The session represents the Oregon Chapters contribution to the WDAFS meeting and was ably organized by Rich Grost (PacifiCorp Energy) and Kirk Schroeder (ODFW). Speakers covered a wide range of topics including observed effects of dam removals to the planning process for small and large removal projects.



From left: Patrick Saffel, Brian Winter, Jeff Bradley, Gordon Grant, and Greg Apke. Front: Kirk Schroeder and moderator Richard Grost.

Jeff Bradley drew on examples from several dam removal projects around the West to illustrate how approaches for dam removal and evaluation need to account for the unique character of each dam and stream. As an example, he noted how sedimentation studies varied with different dam removal projects, and how the complexity of studies was driven by factors such as size of the dam, and the quantity and composition of sediment accumulated behind the dam.

When Marmot Dam was removed on the Sandy River in Oregon, a large amount of glacial sediment had accumulated behind the dam. Gordon Grant talked about how this “hungry” river handled the sudden input of sediment, the ongoing changes in the river, and how the predicted effects of the dam removal compared to observed effects. He also emphasized the need for interdisciplinary studies, citing difficulties in bringing a biological perspective to studies of the Sandy River before and after dam removal. He challenged fisheries scientists to work more closely with other disciplines on dam removal studies.

How do you remove a dam when you have a superfund site upstream? Pat Saffel gave an overview of the unique challenges presented by the removal of Milltown Dam in Montana, and the various roles of fisheries biologists. Fisheries biologists played a vital role in building public support for removal by providing information on the effects of periodic releases of contaminants on fish resources and the effect of a northern pike population in the reservoir on native trout. Federal listing of bull trout added regulatory weight that helped tilt the decision toward removal. The role of fishery biologists then shifted to designing dam removal to mitigate effects on fish, conducting studies downstream of the dam, and helping to design restoration plans.

The Rogue River has a long and storied history as a wild river. However, as Greg Apke pointed out, many dams have been built in the basin for flood control and irrigation. Because several of these dams have outlived their original purpose and fish passage has been an issue, some of these dams have been removed. This summer, the removal of Gold Ray Dam will follow previous removals of Savage Rapids and Gold Hill dams to help return the Rogue River to a free-flowing condition.

Brian Winter has long been involved in the planned removal of the Glines Canyon/Elwha Dam complex in Washington, which has been an ongoing and evolving effort for over two decades. His story illustrated the long and winding road from planning to removal, complete with bumps and detours along the way. A contract for removal of the dams will finally be rewarded this fall now that the construction of several other mitigation projects (some unexpected) have been completed. Ongoing work will include revegetation of the former reservoirs and fish restoration activities. The complexity of the negotiations, funding limitations, and other aspects of the removal may provide a case study for other large dam removals.

Continued on page 10

COOPERATIVE WATERSHED RESTORATION & MONITORING PROJECT WINS WDAFS AWARD

An on-going project in the Umpqua's Wolf Creek drainage won the Western Division AFS's prestigious Riparian Challenge Award! Richard Grost, AFS Oregon Chapter president, presented the award May 18th to the Wolf Creek Watershed Restoration and Effectiveness Monitoring partners: the Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers (PUR), ODFW-Umpqua District, BLM-Roseburg District, the Douglas Soil and Water Conservation District, Roseburg Resources Timber Company, and Seneca Jones Timber Company.

The project's goal is to restore and monitor 15 miles of fish spawning habitat within the Wolf Creek drainage, located near Tyee. This system once had strong runs of salmon and trout but became extremely degraded due to past land management practices and flooding. Since 2008, work at 130 sites has restored 10 stream miles and more work is planned for 2011.



From left : Laura Jackson, ODFW; Dave Archambault, Seneca Jones Timber; Dave Russel, Roseburg Forest Products; Jeff McEnroe, BLM; Terry Bureson, PUR; and Richard Grost, AFS. Not pictured: Walt Barton, DSWCD Photo by Nancy Geyer.

"What really makes the Wolf Creek project stand out is its strong focus on monitoring," said Bob Kinyon, PUR Executive Director. "Before we started any on-the-ground work, we spent three years collecting data in Wolf Creek, and post-project monitoring will be on-going." One of the primary monitoring goals is to make all data available to the public through the Umpqua Explorer website (www.umpquaexplorer.info), maintained by Oregon State University. "Monitoring a project of this scale has to be a cooperative effort because it's a lot of work" said Sandy Lyon, PUR Monitoring Coordinator, "but only through intensive monitoring can we understand the effectiveness of our restoration efforts, so it's worth it." The purpose of the Riparian Challenge Award is to encourage government agencies, private industry, and conservation groups to strive for excellence in riparian and watershed habitat management.

Contributed by Nancy Geyer, Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers

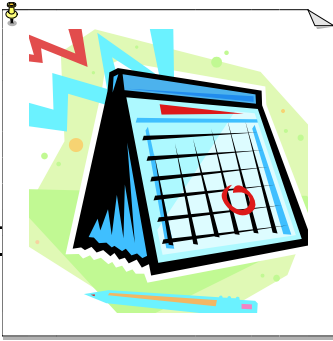
WDAFS DAM REMOVAL SESSION (CONTINUED)

Talk about breaching four federal dams on the Lower Snake to help recover salmon and steelhead populations has been occurring at a conceptual level for 15 years. Kirk Schroeder presented an overview about the Lower Snake dams, the history of dam breaching within the ESA process, and the involvement of the AFS at the Chapter and Western Division levels in calling for serious study of dam breaching. Although breaching Lower Snake dams is highly controversial and decisions will largely occur in the social and political arenas, scientific aspects of breaching and assessments of recovery strategies for salmon and steelhead should be part of the dialog. Other dam removal projects may provide insights about studying the physical and biological effects of breaching and strategies for moving planning forward.

List of presentation titles and presenters:

- Sedimentation Effects of Dam Removal in the West, from Small to Large. Jeffrey B. Bradley, WEST Consultants.
- The Scientific and Institutional Context for the Removal of Marmot Dam, Sandy River, Oregon: What Have We Learned? Gordon E. Grant, U. S. Forest Service and Oregon State University.
- Removal of Milltown Dam, Montana: The Role of Fish and Fish Biologists. Patrick Saffel, Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks.
- Mainstem Rogue River Dam Removal Projects – An Oregon Success Story. Greg Apke, ODFW
- Last Dam Summer: The Elwha River Story. Brian D. Winter, National Park Service, Olympic National Park.
- Lower Snake River Dams: Breaching the Option of Breaching. Kirk Schroeder, ODFW

Contributed by Kirk Schroeder, ODFW



MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR UPCOMING MEETINGS

SALMON IN THE CITY: THURSDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2010

Mention the words, "Salmon in the City" and it will conjure a variety of images and beliefs. One of the more common beliefs is that there is little we can do for salmon in the urban areas. Until recently, traditional restoration efforts have been concentrated in the more intact watersheds and salmon populations. But it is becoming clearer that as human populations continue to grow in the Northwest, we can't overlook the City and what must be done to minimize urban impacts to the rivers and streams flowing through them. Is salmon restoration achievable in urban areas? Should we be spending scarce dollars in these highly altered environments? The only way to begin answering these and other questions is to first understand what the impacts are and how salmon are currently using these areas. This *one day* Salmon in the City symposium will begin looking at these and other related questions.

We are planning to hold this symposium in Portland. Specifics regarding dates, locations, and cost are being worked out now. Stay tuned to this space, look for an announcement in your in-box, and watch the ORAFS website for more details. For more information contact Mike Reed (Michael.Reed@PortlandOregon.gov; 503-823-3399) or Demian Ebert (daebert@pbsj.com; 503-222-7275).

Demian Ebert, President-Elect

GILBERT ICHTHYOLOGICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING: SEPTEMBER 17-18, 2010



The Gilbert Ichthyological Society's primary purpose is to foster communication in the Pacific Northwest concerning all things ichthyological. The Society will be holding their 21st Annual Meeting this year! All fish-folks are welcome! Word on the street has it that Washington always makes a good showing in this organization primarily composed of scientists from Oregon, Washington, and northern California. ***Let's aim for a great Oregon showing this year, as the Oregon Chapter is hosting!*** Details are as follows:

What: The 21st Annual Meeting

When: Friday, Sept. 17, 2010 - Saturday, Sept. 18, 2010

Where: Hatfield Marine Science Center, Newport, OR

Program: Friday begins with a causal barbeque dinner. Saturday features presentations all day and a banquet at the Rogue Brewery in the evening!

Registration: Registration fee is \$15 for students and \$40 for non-students. Meals and beverage package is \$60 for the event. Student housing available at HMSC dorms for \$16.50 per night but is limited, so register early!

Who: Anyone interested in good discussion about fishy topics in a casual atmosphere.

Contact: For information on registration and housing, contact Wolfe Wagman, President, Gilbert Ichthyological Society, 1765 NW Alta Vista Dr. Corvallis, Oregon 97330, telephone: (541) 207-7618, or by e-mail at dwwagman@comcast.net

SALVELINUS CONFLUENTUS CURIOSITY SOCIETY: ANNUAL MEETING: SEPTMEBER 28-30, 2010

What: The annual meeting of the *Salvelinus confluentus* Curiosity Society

When: Tuesday, Sept. 28, 2010 through Thursday, Sept. 30, 2010

Where: The Klamath Basin! The meeting will be based at Collier State Park just north of Chiloquin, Oregon on Highway 97 in the southern Oregon Cascades. This scenic park is located at the confluence of Spring Creek and the Williamson River, in the heart of the basin.

Program: The Tuesday program (12:00-5:00) will include several presentations to provide an overview of bull trout in the Klamath basin and orientation for the Wednesday field trips, including snorkeling, wading, or angling. Thursday (8:00-12:00) includes presentations and plans for 2011 will conclude the workshop.

Registration: Registration fee is \$100 and is required. Registration is open until Aug 30 *or until 100 registrants are confirmed*. The fee will not cover lodging but will cover Tuesday dinner, all Wednesday meals, & Thursday breakfast.

Who: Anyone interested, but only 100 registrants will be accepted – register early!

Contact: Contact Karen Gleason at kgleason@tnc.org to register and contact Jason Dunham at jdunham@usgs.gov to confirm attendance and for additional information .

Photo: Jason Dunham

WILLAMETTE RIVER BASIN LAMPREY WORKGROUP INAUGURAL MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

The Willamette River Basin Lamprey Workgroup is being formed! This workgroup will act as a forum to coordinate research and conservation efforts for lamprey in the Willamette River basin. The lamprey session at the OR AFS Annual Meeting (page 6-7) was a great kick-off for this effort. Are you interested in lamprey research and conservation? If so, this group is for you!

What: Inaugural meeting of the Willamette River Basin Lamprey Workgroup and call for workgroup members!

When: TBD—first meeting in August

Who: Anyone interested in, or working on, lamprey research and conservation in the Willamette River Basin. Membership in this group is open and all interested persons are encouraged to sign up for this group!

Contact: For information about the first meeting or to sign up for the workgroup and future meeting announcements, contact Bianca Streif, Aquatic Projects Coordinator (USFWS) at Bianca_Streif@fws.gov or at 503-231-6978.



Ralph Lampman swims with Pacific lamprey in North Umpqua River (photo: Jeremy Monroe)

2011 OREGON CHAPTER ANNUAL MEETING: IDEAS WELCOME!

JOIN US IN BEND, FEBRUARY 22-25, 2011

Our 2011 Annual Meeting will focus on managing through *science* not emotion. The meeting will include a wide variety of opportunities for sharing technical expertise, ideas, results of research, and of course our trademark networking opportunities. It will also include an important plenary speaker, relevant technical sessions, poster displays, educational workshops, trade show vendors, a student-mentor mixer, and several social events. **Your suggestions and assistance are welcome and encouraged. Please contact Program Chair Colleen Fagan for more information (colleen.e.fagan@state.or.us or 541-962-1835).**

Workshops (Feb 22-23)

Based on the demand for cutting-edge and useful training, we are targeting the following workshops as potential offerings prior to the Annual Meeting. If you would like to recommend or organize a workshop please let us know.

Photography
Professional Certification
Invasive Species Identification and Treatment
Climate Change

Plenary Session (Feb 23)

The plenary session will be Wednesday afternoon and include a speaker of regional renown.

Technical Sessions (Feb 23-25)

Presentations and poster sessions will address fisheries topics of importance to Oregon. Please consider organizing a session around your area of expertise, soliciting presenters, and submitting abstracts as a package. **PowerPoint presentations are required.**

The 2011 Poster Session and Social will be held Wednesday night, February 23, 2011. The ORAFS Annual Meeting will provide space for up to 32 posters. Posters are not to exceed 4 ft x 4 ft.

Session topics and abstracts for presentations and posters must be received by December 10, 2010. All submissions must be made by using the online abstract form, which will be available on the ORAFS website by fall 2010 (www.orafs.org). All presenters receive an e-mail confirmation of their abstract submission and will be notified of acceptance of their presentation by January 7, 2011.

Guidelines for Abstracts are also available on the Oregon Chapter website.

Trade Show

Local and nationally-recognized vendors of fishery equipment and services will be present.

Student Mentor Mixer

The 'speed-dating' format will be continued to allow more interaction and networking among students and professionals.

Awards Luncheon

Network over **free lunch** while recognizing the award-winning work of our colleagues

Raffle and Auction

Score some great deals on equipment, artwork, and adventures while supporting the chapter.

Jam Session & Other Entertainment

Continuing our chapter tradition, our talented members will once again take to the stage. Recommendations on additional entertainment are also welcome.

Student Participation

Participation of college students from throughout Oregon is encouraged. There will be ample opportunities for students to present papers, display posters, compete for awards, meet mentors, and network with other students and professionals. Students can also defray costs by volunteering assistance to the ORAFS in trade for free lodging.

Registration

Registration information for the 2011 ORAFS Annual Meeting will be available in mid-September 2010, in the Fall issue of the *Piscatorial Press*, and also on the Oregon Chapter website (www.orafs.org).

