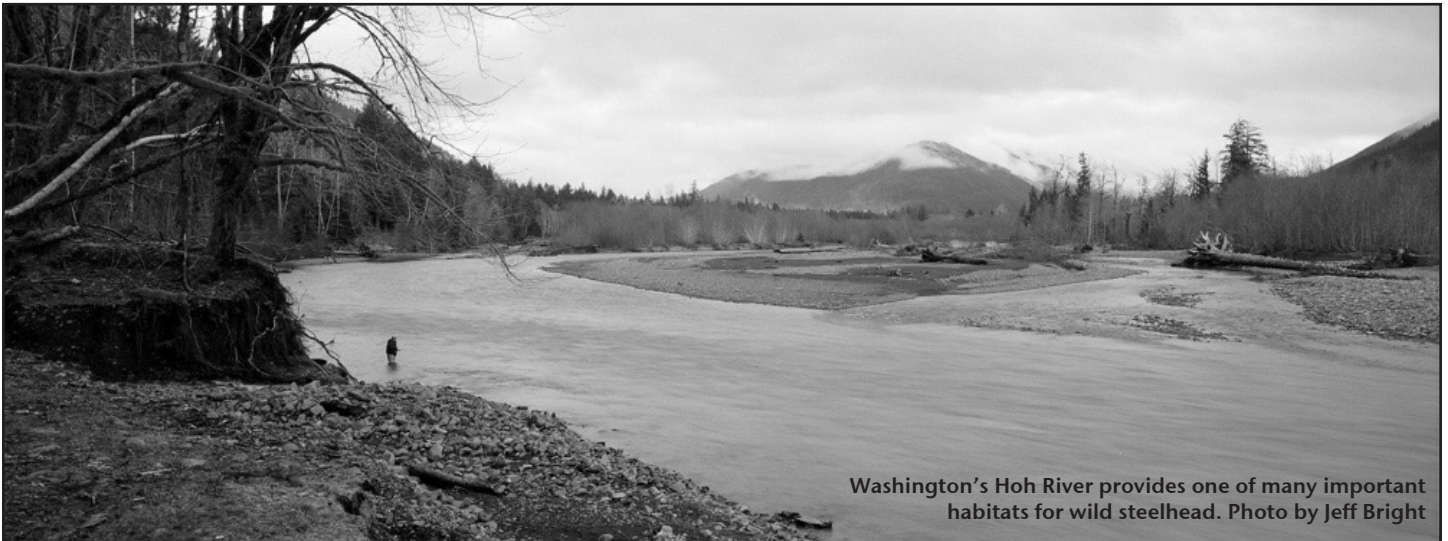


The Adipose

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2009

Official Newsletter of the Wild Steelhead Coalition

Habitat Crucial For Olympic Peninsula Steelhead



Washington's Hoh River provides one of many important habitats for wild steelhead. Photo by Jeff Bright

By Dick Burge
WSC Vice President of Conservation

The best and possibly only way to save wild Olympic Peninsula salmon and steelhead from habitat loss and stock declines is to preserve habitat in special areas such as National Parks, Wilderness Areas, Wild and Scenic Rivers and Salmon Strongholds. Applying these designations to unprotected rivers on the Peninsula could be similar to the present protection afforded the Queets River basin by the Olympic National Park. The Queets corridor, generally about one mile wide, provides improved shade and cooler water, stream bank protection via old growth forests, continued addition of large woody debris from uprooted stream side trees, and natural protection from slides, erosion and river channel scouring.

Most wild salmon stocks throughout the Northwest are at a fraction of their historic levels. Although over fishing was the original cause for decline, the loss and degradation of freshwater and estuarine habitat quickly followed, and are now major factors in the extreme depletion of wild salmon in the northwest. A number of recent publications have recognized that many wild anadromous salmon and steelhead populations have lost most of their habitat. Habitat degradation has been associated with greater than 90 percent of the documented extinctions and declines of Northwest Pacific wild salmon stocks. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife estimated that wild steelhead – now ESA listed in 5 out of their 7 Distinct Population Segments in Washington – have lost 83 percent of their productive habitat in 42 populations studied. Authors of scientific publications on habitat often list dams and hydroelectric facilities, agriculture and livestock grazing, logging and road building, river bank and delta development, diking, filling, channelizing and draining wetlands, and mining as the leading causes for wild salmon habitat degradation.

Puget Sound rivers and their salmon stocks are a prime example of the state of these species and their recent and rapid declines. In the last nine years, Puget Sound Chinook salmon (3/24/1999) and steelhead trout, including Hood Canal stocks (5/11/07), were listed as threatened, Coho salmon were declared a species of concern (4/15/2005), and Hood

See Habitat
Continued on Page 7



President's Run

By Rich Simms
Wild Steelhead Coalition President

"Make up your mind, what's it worth!"-Bob Clay

I believe that 2008 will be remembered as the year that the Wild Steelhead Coalition cast a broader net for steelhead advocacy, and wild steelhead conservation finally gained substantial visibility among the angling mainstream. This awareness brought stronger support for our organization's work through new membership, as well as an increased responsibility to continue to strengthen that network of anglers working together for wild steelhead. I am humble and grateful for the outpouring of support the WSC has received in the last year, which makes me even more proud of the work we have done through the years to garner that support. Of course, much of our success was achieved by the current and past board members, our trustees and members who stuck with us through the years.

During the last year, the WSC has helped raise awareness about wild steelhead in many ways. We partnered with producers of two films that help illustrate the plight of wild steelhead, "Raising the Ghost" by the FlyBoys, and "Rivers of a Lost Coast" by Skinny Fist Productions. These works compliment the WSC's efforts by visually depicting the plight of wild steelhead, and also show that steelhead could vanish from Western rivers if anglers apathetically fail to protect the fish they cherish. Another steelhead conservation film is in the works by a third production company, and will feature a story centered on Washington's fabled steelhead rivers. We look forward to endorsing that effort, too.

More than mere filmmakers, The FlyBoys hosted the Save Wild Steelhead Festival in Bozeman, Mont., in early November. It was a great multimedia event that both entertained and raised awareness of steelhead conservation efforts. More than 400 people showed up for the event and people were visibly excited about steelhead conservation. A great deal of gratitude is owed to Patagonia, Inc., which helped sponsor the Bozeman festival. By teaming with the WSC through fund raising sales promotions, and the company's eager support for wild steelhead conservation overall, our relationship continues to grow and have greater impact on wild steelhead awareness. Thanks to Patagonia and especially Yvon Chouinard for the ongoing financial support!

Our goal is to host a similar festival in the Seattle area this spring. The event will be structured differently than the WSC's annual auction, and may include films, a party and educational workshops to engage people in wild steelhead conservation. It will be a great opportunity to meet other members and learn about wild steelhead conservation efforts, so expect an announcement in the next month.

You may notice *The Adipose* has a new look

thanks to Jason Harmon, who enthusiastically volunteered to be the newsletter's editor. Special thanks go to Bob Young, who for many years published *The Adipose* while also serving as the WSC's treasurer, and to Jason, who plans to bring our membership and advocates more information regarding wild steelhead conservation in each issue.

The WSC also worked to get wild steelhead off restaurant menus in 2008. Efforts included a formal request to place wild steelhead on the Seafood Watch List, and direct action by Todd Ripley, WSC's vice president of political affairs, who visited Chef Tony, a well-known East Coast chef and blogger who once served wild steelhead. Todd took the chef a bottle of wine and sat down with him to set the record straight face-to-face about the status of wild steelhead. The direct diplomatic approach worked, and Chef Tony soon told his suppliers and other restaurants not to serve wild steelhead! Stay tuned for similar successes...

Other accomplishments included Marianne Mitchell's important work hosting two Steelhead Summits in 2008, which focused on drafting proposals for state agencies to create wild salmonid management zones on Washington rivers. Meanwhile, Dick Burge and other board members worked diligently to add input to Washington's Steelhead Resource Management Plans, and targeted the Hoh River on the Olympic Peninsula for special attention in 2009. Also, Dick, Chris Grieve and Marianne testified before the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission, providing a compelling case that the Hoh River wild steelhead runs are in trouble, and demanding that co-managers take stronger measures to protect steelhead. Look for Dick's article about the plight of wild Hoh River steelhead in *The Osprey* and in *Salmon, Trout and Steelheader*. Finally, the WSC asked Washington's governor to select as the next WDFW director a person who uses conservation ethics and science to manage wild steelhead – not politics.

Action is key for the WSC in 2009. We plan to visit Rep. Norm Dicks to ensure that the Elwha River will have no hatchery steelhead when dams are finally removed. We will focus on developing wild salmonid management zones on Washington rivers, ensure that wild steelhead will be better managed on the Hoh River, and use that effort as an example of what must be done to protect wild steelhead elsewhere. We will continue work on the Steelhead Resource Management Plans, as well as tinkering with the WSC itself so it's even more effective at wild steelhead conservation.

In the coming year, I hope you'll help the WSC by renewing your membership, get personally involved helping with a project, or tackle the five actions you can take to help wild steelhead outlined in this issue of *The Adipose*. Thanks again to all the wonderful support the WSC and wild steelhead received last year. With continued support, I know that 2009 will be even better!



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WSC Membership Matters

By Jim Schmitz
WSC Vice President of Membership

Without continued financial support from Wild Steelhead Coalition members, as well as indispensable day-to-day, hands-on help that our most active members provide, wild steelhead would have no voice.

Yet, thanks to all new and returning WSC members, our ranks grew in 2008 to the highest level since the organization was founded nine years ago. Today, more than 200 people have joined our efforts to ensure wild steelhead once again thrive in rivers and waters of the Northwest.

That's because we set out to attract new members, but also to retain our current members, as well. Luckily, we succeeded thanks to all our members who truly love steelhead and show it with continued support year after year.

This past year, the Coalition added five new lifetime members, which was a huge momentum boost for the organization. Thanks to Steve Choate, Wayne Schiffman, Bill Robinson, Tim

Pask and Andrew Turner for their lifetime memberships and continued dedication to the WSC. We know that these five new lifetime members will motivate others to get involved and help save wild steelhead.

The Wild Steelhead Coalition also added Yvon Chouinard, famed mountaineer and founder of Patagonia, Inc., to our honorary members list. The organization recognizes Yvon's commitment to saving wild steelhead goes above and beyond mere angling for fish and desire to protect their habitat, and rewarded his efforts with the honorary membership. Again, we say thanks for everything, Yvon!

Even with all the hard work of people like Yvon and our five new lifetime members, wild steelhead face major challenges in the year ahead. Without active members writing letters to public officials, attending public meetings and adding important input when laws and rules are crafted that protect embattled fish and habitat, those fish have no future.

Plainly put, Wild Steelhead Coalition members give steelhead a powerful

and influential voice and make their survival top priority. We understand that in this sagging economy extra cash is as scarce as winter steelhead in summertime, but please help the organization continue the amazing membership momentum.

Remember, January 1, 2009, marks the start of a new membership calendar for our organization. With this in mind, we hope that many of you who read this newsletter will do what you can to help wild steelhead in 2009.

Naturally, there's no better way to help save wild steelhead than to join or renew your Wild Steelhead Coalition membership. If you visit the WSC Web site, you can now join via PayPal or by printing out the membership form and mailing it with your payment.

For information about becoming a new member, to renew your current membership, or catch up on the latest Wild Steelhead Coalition news, logon to www.wildsteelheadcoalition.org.

Thanks again for supporting the Wild Steelhead Coalition with your membership dollars, volunteer work and concern for helping wild steelhead.

Wild Steelhead Coalition Member Profile

Name: Chris Wilmott

Hometown: Edmonds, Washington

Occupation: Middle School Teacher,
Everett, Washington

An experienced science teacher, Chris is relatively new to fly fishing for steelhead, but became facinated with the species after catching and releasing two wild steelhead back-to-back on the Pilchuck River his first time out. Chris says he joined the WildSteelhead Coalition to do whatever he can to help preserve steelhead for future generations, like his students.

Member Since 2008



Chris Wilmott, middle-school science teacher, stalks steelhead on Washington's Skykomish River, November 2008.

Wild Steelhead Coalition News

WDFW Director Resigns, Governor Urged To Select Conservation-Minded Replacement

OLYMPIA, Wash. –

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife is searching for a new director, and the Wild Steelhead Coalition is urging the state's top official to hire a conservation-minded replacement.

The WDFW's longest serving leader, Jeff Koenings resigned from his position as director of the agency December 11, 2008, after a decade-long career that resulted in what many consider to be failed fisheries management efforts, especially steelhead recovery plans.

In a letter sent Dec. 13, 2008, to Washington Gov. Chris Gregoire, the WSC requested that she consider four main concerns when appointing the director's replacement.

First, the new WDFW director should show equal concern for helping salmonid populations recover as that given to commercial fishing harvests.

Second, the next director must have a strong desire to restore and protect salmonid habitat. Third, the agency's leader must understand that sport fishing brings more revenue per fish than a commercial-caught fish, and that healthy and improved fish runs are necessary for sport fishing. Fourth, Koenings' replacement must have an "environmentally oriented outlook" toward operating the WDFW.

The next director will be announced after a nation-wide search sometime in 2009, while Phil Anderson, the agency's deputy director for resource policy since July 2007, was appointed interim WDFW director.

WSC Opposes Plans For Additional Elwha Hatchery Steelhead, Will Meet Rep. Dicks

SEATTLE, Wash. –

Hatchery steelhead will have no place on Washington's famed Elwha River if the Wild Steelhead Coalition's efforts to convince congress go well.

An October 2008 letter to Rep. Norm Dicks, D-Wash., asked that he intervene with state and federal officials to ensure that "the upper Elwha River be left in its pristine state and designated as a Wild Salmonid Management Area."

According to the Elwha River Fish Restoration Plan, released in April 2008 by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, hatchery steelhead will be released in the middle and lower sections of the river after two dams that impede access to the river's alpine reaches are removed in coming years.

Moreover, hatchery Chinook salmon will be planted using up to 36 disruptive helicopter trips into the remote and rugged Olympic National Park.

In its letter, the WSC requested that any hatchery construction and fish stocking efforts be weighed against studies that show hatchery-reared fish deplete and depress native fish populations.

Also, resources slated to raise and stock hatchery fish could be used to enforce existing regulations, restore habitat along the river that once boasted 100-pound Chinook salmon and to promote public education and outreach efforts.

A meeting between WSC board members and the congressman to discuss the Elwha River plan is expected sometime during the coming year.

WSC Works To Keep Steelhead Off The Menu

MONTERREY, Calif. –

Wild steelhead will no longer be the hot dish on restaurant menus if the Wild Steelhead Coalition's effort to stop the widespread practice succeeds in coming months.

The coalition recently requested that wild steelhead be added to the nationwide list of seafood to avoid eating, which is published annually by Monterey Bay Aquarium's Seafood Watch program. The diner-friendly list clearly identifies seafood that aquarium researchers believe should be avoided, because eating those foods contributes to the decline of a particular species, such as wild steelhead.

Previous WSC efforts to stop wild steelhead from being served in restaurants and sold in markets included sending letters to restaurant owners and chefs. Those letters informed them about the dire condition of most wild steelhead populations, and asked that wild steelhead not be sold, because doing so contributes to the fish's eventual extinction.

The Seafood Watch list was selected because it is widely read and respected as an accurate consumer guide to environmentally conscious eating for seafood lovers. Beyond warning diners about foods to avoid, the list also suggests seafood that may be eaten in lesser quantities based on each species' overall health.

For more information about the Seafood Watch program, logon to www.montereybayaquarium.org/cr/seafoodwatch.aspx

Save Wild Steelhead Festival Inspires Big Bozeman Bunch, Raises Bigger Bucks

BOZEMAN, Mont. –

The Wild Steelhead Coalition was proud to participate in the first-ever Save Wild Steelhead Festival held Nov. 22, 2008, in Bozeman, Mont. Despite a tough economy, a weeknight schedule and a geographic location far from the nearest steelhead river, the Bozeman angling, arts and conservation community turned out in droves to support the event, hosted by the FlyBoys, Paul Tarantino and Josh Brandner.

More than 400 people showed up to learn about the sad plight of wild steelhead and how to help the species recover. In addition to the FlyBoys' "Raising the Ghost" film, clips of AEG Media's "Metalhead," Steve Apple's "Hustle and Fish," and a host of other new steelhead media was presented and enjoyed by all.

Although the festival was far from the Pacific Ocean, the Wild Steelhead Coalition was well represented. Dylan Tomine, a WSC trustee, read from his "State of the Steelhead" essay, and WSC member, Jeff Bright, presented his "In The House of Mykiss" slide show. Rich Simms, WSC president, and Jim Schmitz, membership vice president, helped get the word out about the organization while meeting old friends and new members.

"It was a spectacular event. The level of support, interest and enthusiasm for steelhead conservation was truly gratifying, and it made me more hopeful than I've felt in a long time," Tomine said.

Corporate sponsors continued to help WSC achieve its goals. Patagonia's Blake Nicolazzo presented the organization a check for \$5,000 from the sale of Patagonia World Trout T-Shirts that sport a steelhead design.

A similar event is in the works for the Seattle area, stay tuned to the WSC Web site for updates at www.wildsteelheadcoalition.org.

Hoh River Fish Allocation Draws WSC Action

OLYMPIA, Wash. –

The fight over how wild steelhead from Washington's Hoh River are allocated between the Hoh tribe and sport anglers may require putting state agencies "feet to the fire" to get action.

That's why Dick Burge, conservation vice president for the Wild Steelhead Coalition, joined a handful of people testifying before the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission at its monthly meeting Dec. 14, 2008.

He urged commissioners to fight – even in court, if needed – to ensure sport fishers get their full court-ordered allotment of harvestable wild steelhead.

"The way they're managing the Hoh is unacceptable," Burge explains.

A recent agreement allows the Hoh tribe to receive 55 percent of harvestable steelhead for the 2008-2009 seasons, although the tribe was allocated 68 percent of

the fish from 2003-2006, and actually harvested 82 percent, Burge says.

Those allocations run counter to the 1974 Boldt decision, Burge points out. That decision, and court orders that followed, mandate Washington tribes receive up to 50 percent of the annual harvest, and sport anglers get the other 50 percent.

With some tribes demanding more than an equal share under the law, Burge urged commissioners to guarantee that any fish that anglers do not harvest, estimated to be about half of the 50 percent allotment each year, be allowed to contribute to the spawning population.

Today, those fish are allocated to the Hoh tribe by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and make up a portion of the greater-than 50 percent share of fish the tribe receives.

"They're just giving all our fish away," Burge laments.

If those fish were allowed to spawn, he adds, the number of returning fish would improve dramatically.

Under the current plan, however, the wild steelhead population has suffered. For example, some estimates place returning Hoh River steelhead during the 1950s between 8,000-13,000 fish annually.

Today, less than 4,000 wild steelhead return each year, Burge says. In 2004, only 2,539 fish returned.

In early December, the WSC sent a letter with 67 signatures from conservation groups, professional fishing guides and concerned anglers asking the commission to address three crucial concerns.

First, the commission should reaffirm its intent to conserve wild steelhead by allowing sport anglers' unharvested portion to contribute to the spawning population, rather than be commercially harvested by the Hoh tribe.

Second, the letter asks

the commission to direct the WDFW to focus efforts toward wild steelhead conservation rather than harvest programs.

Third, the commission must have signed management plans in place before each fishing season.

Despite the convincing testimony, the commission made no commitments.

Asked by Burge if the commission reviewed the coalition's December letter, Jerry Gutzwiler, Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission chair, acknowledged it was a "complicated issue." Burge hopes for a written reply to the letter, at the very least.

If the state fails to act, and sport fishers are not allocated 50 percent of harvestable fish, options include banding together with other interested individuals and groups statewide to pressure the WDFW and the commission to take court action. The state chose to settle out of court in previous years, making agreements with the tribe that contribute to declining wild steelhead returns, Burge says.

In 2003, coalition representatives testified before the commission about poor wild steelhead returns across the state, and asked commissioners to consider strict regulations to protect fish from over harvest. In response, the commission passed a rule that limits anglers to one wild fish to allow more fish to escape and spawn.

Rather than follow the implied conservation intent in the commission's decision, the WDFW allocated those fish not harvested by sport anglers to the Hoh tribe.

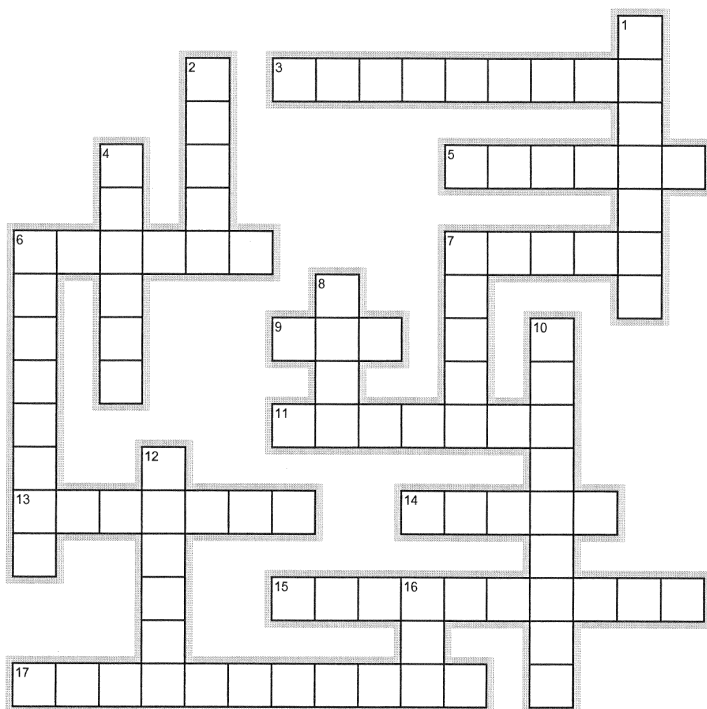
"We need to hold the state's feet to the fire to get our allocation of steelhead," Burge says.

Yet, this isn't an effort to overturn the Boldt decision, he insists.

"We respect treaty fishing rights," Burge explains. "But we want the state to better conserve sport fishers' fifty percent of the fish."

Steelhead Trivia

MRM



EclipseCrossword.com

Across

3. Russian peninsula
5. non-hatchery
6. _____ spawner
7. WSC president's last name
9. female
11. fatty tissue
13. silver sides and alabaster belly
15. Puget Sound steelhead ESA listing
17. spawn more than once

Down

1. yield
2. A fish tagged in the Sea of _____ was caught just six months later in the Skagit River, Washington.
4. referring to the back ocean parasite (two words with a space)
6. former genus name
7. nest formed in gravel
8. O. mykiss
10. The _____ River, Alaska, contains the most northerly population of steelhead.
12. evolutionarily significant unit
- 16.

Five Actions You Can Take To Help Save Wild Steelhead

1. Get involved in your local Regional Fisheries Enhancement Group.

These local groups are your go-to organizations that provide hands-on opportunities to save salmon and wild steelhead throughout the Pacific Northwest through education, habitat restoration and other programs. In Washington, learn more about your local Regional Fisheries Enhancement Group online at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/volunteer/index.htm>, or by contacting Dianne Ludwig at the WDFW at 306-902-2252 to locate the enhancement group in your region.

2. Send an e-mail or letter requesting that sport fishers receive 50 percent of the harvestable surplus of wild steelhead, and that any unharvested portion be allowed to contribute to the spawning population.

Each year the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife exchanges wild steelhead with Indian tribes for other seafood commodities. Since the tribal comanager choose not to fish for certain commodities – crab, for example – the state agrees to a larger-than 50 percent share in exchange for a smaller-than 50 percent share of steelhead. This commodity trading practiced by WDFW happens behind closed doors and is bad for sustaining wild steelhead populations, as well as state fisheries. Commodity trading results in reduced seasons for steelhead anglers, for example, on the Hoh River during 2005 and 2007.

In addition, the policy neglects the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission's conservation intent implicit in the 2004 decision to reduce the sport fishing limit to one wild steelhead per year, thus assuring more wild fish spawn. Also, request that the sport fishers' unharvested portion of the harvestable surplus of wild steelhead be allowed to contribute to the spawning population, rather than reallocated to tribes.

3. Send an e-mail or letter requesting that WDFW have a written management plan in place with the tribes before any river system in the state is opened for steelhead fishing.

The WDFW currently fails to complete written management plans with the tribal comanager before steelhead angling begins. When this happens, and a particular steelhead run is projected to be below the escapement goal, the tribes often fish directly for wild steelhead. With no management plan signed before the season starts, some tribes fish for and kill wild steelhead when there is no harvestable surplus. Without a written management plan, there is limited recourse that can be taken.

During the spring of 2008, Washington's Skagit and Hoh rivers closed early to recreational catch-and-release

fishing, yet tribes continued netting wild steelhead into the month of April. The Skagit River was projected to be well below escapement, and the state and tribes should not have verbally planned for directed fisheries without a written agreement. The Hoh River also closed early to sport fishers, even though the tribe took almost 80 percent of wild fish. These poor harvest practices could have been avoided with a written, enforceable management plan.

Yet, if tribes continued to net fish beyond terms of a signed management plan, violators are vulnerable to court action, including a temporary restraining order.

4. Join a conservation organization that protects river habitat, wild steelhead and salmon.

Conservation organizations include the Wild Steelhead Coalition, American Rivers, Western Rivers Conservancy, Costal Conservation Association, Trout Unlimited and your local Regional Fisheries Enhancement Group. When you support these groups with time or money, you further their efforts to restore habitat and fish across the Northwest.

5. Get involved in the WDFW major rules cycle that takes place in 2009.

Every four years the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife accepts suggestions from concerned anglers for proposed rule changes, and your input can lead to better wild steelhead management.

To take action on these and other important issues affecting wild steelhead, please send comments and concerns to the following officials:

• The Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission:
commission@dfw.wa.gov

• Washington Gov. Chris Gregoire:
www.governor.wa.gov/contact

• Washington's U.S. Sen. Maria Cantwell:
maria_cantwell@cantwell.sentate.gov

• Washington's U.S. Sen. Patty Murray:
Senator@murray.senate.gov

Habitat

Continued from Page 1

Canal summer chum salmon listed as threatened (3/25/1999), all under the Endangered Species Act of 1973. Although programs are underway to restore Puget Sound and its river habitats, these activities may only be successful in maintaining current conditions. The loss of streamside and delta water holding capacities, and multiple types of habitat degradation, will continue with existing pressures for increased population growth and additional property development.

In addition to existing degradation of the salmon landscape, are habitat modification and losses predicted due to the regional impacts of anthropogenic global warming (AGW). For example, 11 of the last 12 years rank among the 12 warmest years of global surface temperature recordings, part of a warming trend that has accelerated in recent years. Future regional impacts of AGW are projected to include a shift toward more rain and decreased snow fall and snow pack, the shrinking of the Cascade and Olympic Peninsula glaciers, increased winter runoff peaks, and declines in spring and summertime snow melt and glacial runoff. Summertime stream habitat damage from rising surface temperatures are also projected to be widespread. The warmest parts of the region (e.g. the lower Columbia River Basin, the Snake River Valley, and the lower Willamette Valley) are expected to have river temperatures that frequently reach levels above critical salmon and steelhead survival thresholds in the warmest summer months. In winter, increased temperatures will cause rising snow lines, which, when combined with more intense rainfall events, are expected to increase the frequency of extreme high-winter flows.

Hydrologic changes from AGW are expected to cause profound impacts on northwest river systems due to flooding. These include increased scouring of river channels, spawning and incubation gravels, a reduction in river meandering, and less retention of large, woody debris required for river stability, for creating pools, riffles, and spawning beds, and juvenile salmon nursery areas. The projected rise in

precipitation intensity is also projected to increase land slides and hillside erosion, and the deposition of silts and sands in salmon spawning gravels, reduce summer flows and collectively reduce the carrying capacity for wild salmon in western Washington Rivers. Some areas above the current snow line are especially vulnerable to climate change, and restoration efforts will be nearly impossible in these less-accessible, remote places.

Coastal habitats, in general, have not yet incurred the degree of habitat damage that can be seen along most inland Washington Rivers. Many of the serious impacts, such as those of dams and hydroelectric facilities, water withdrawals, riverside and delta development, and extensive agriculture and mining, have not yet occurred in many of the coastal watersheds. Possibly the best example of partially conserved habitat can be found on the Olympic Peninsula surrounding the

“Most wild salmon stocks throughout the Northwest are at a fraction of their historic levels.”

Olympic National Park, an area heavily logged but not otherwise seriously degraded by the other anthropomorphic activities. Whereas Olympic Peninsula salmon and steelhead populations are significantly reduced in abundance compared to the early 1900s, they continue to sustain healthier wild populations than most other areas in Washington, and have the ability to naturally recover with improved river basin habitat protections. Recovering and maintaining a healthy habitat will also help Olympic Peninsula wild salmonids withstand and adapt to the changes from AGW.

Wild Chinook, Coho salmon and steelhead on the Olympic Peninsula remain unlisted by NOAA, and are deemed healthy by state and tribal evaluations (Salmon and Steelhead Inventory analysis). Wild steelhead populations in the Quinalt, Queets, Hoh and Quillayute river systems, and their important tributaries,

continue to decline but still contribute significant catches in both ocean and river fisheries. These rivers provide fishing opportunities not available in many of the other listed and depleted rivers in western Washington for wild steelhead, Chinook and Coho salmon.

River corridors similar to the Queets Basin would greatly improve the necessary protections that wild salmon and steelhead need to avert further declines on the Olympic Peninsula, including along the Sams and Clearwater rivers, and Matheny Creek (tributaries of the Queets River), the Hoh River, the Southfork Hoh River, Winfield, Owl, Elk and Nolan Creeks (all tributaries to the Hoh River), the Quillayute River, the Sol Duc River, the Calawah River, the Sitkum, North Fork Calawah and South Fork Calawah Rivers (tributary to the Calawah River), and Bogachiel River.

“It is horrifying that we have to fight our own government to save the environment.”
– Ansel Adams

The Adipose is compiled and edited by Jason B. Harmon, with help from many W.S.C. members. To submit articles, letters or photos for publication, or to send comments or suggestions, please e-mail: jasonbharmon@comcast.net

To become a Wild Steelhead Coalition member, to renew your membership or to read up-to-date steelhead news, log-on to www.wildsteelheadcoalition.org.

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The Wild Steelhead Coalition was founded in 2000, and is dedicated to increasing the return of wild steelhead to waters of the Pacific Northwest.

Food, Film And Fishing Will Fuel Jan. 29 WSC Membership Meeting

Prepare to be amazed by dry-fly sipping British Columbia steelhead when the Wild Steelhead Coalition hosts its first general membership meeting of the new year on Thursday, January 29, 2009.

The WSC is proud to present a private showing for our members of "Raising the Ghost," a feature film made by The Fly Boys. The film is endorsed by the WSC, and was recently released at the Wild Steelhead Festival in Bozeman, Mont. While we eventually hope to show the film in Seattle to the general public, the filmmakers gave us special permission to preview it for our members first. The film runs nearly 90 minutes, and by the end you don't want it to stop! Somehow, watching steelhead eat dead-drifted dries never seems to get old.

The film's producers did an excellent job of ensuring all the fish were released unharmed. Also, the film is more about the mysterious pursuit of these "ghost fish," instead of the ego-driven fishing films which are more common today. The film makers are donating 5 percent of the film's proceeds to wild steelhead conservation.

Social hour begins at 6:15 p.m., and pizza, wine, beer and refreshments will be served for all who attend. The meeting will be held in the University of Washington's Center for Urban Horticulture.

For directions, visit: <http://depts.washington.edu/urbhort/html/info/UBNAmap.pdf>