

WSC Members and Supporters,  
January 2008 update of what is currently going on in the WSC.

## **Wild Steelhead Management Testimony**

Please mark the date for Saturday, Feb. 2, 9:45-11:35 AM as there will be a public testimony before the [Fish and Wildlife Commission in Olympia](#), WA regarding the WDFW recommendation of the State [Steelhead Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement](#). After the 2004 testimony on the wild steelhead kill moratorium, as a part of the Commission's concession in the decision, the Commission mandated to the WDFW to develop a comprehensive steelhead science study and from the study develop a new steelhead management plan, which would be the guiding policy for steelhead management in the state of Washington.

Over the last 3 + years the WSC has participated in the science paper and steelhead management plan development by [reviewing and providing recommendations](#) from our own WSC research paper and other resources as well as actively attending the majority of the stakeholder meetings to insure recommendations were addressed. Now the time has come for decision on its implementation, while the WSC applauds the department for allowing us opportunity to participate, we have communicated that pieces have been omitted from the plan that will make it a true conservation plan that will actually aid in the recovery and diversity of wild steelhead. The WSC has recently taken action in this regard and funded two noted fisheries scientist to review specific pieces of the steelhead science and management plan to provide critical review and develop supporting information of our testimony to the Commission. We are asking that membership attend this public hearing on Feb. 2 as an opportunity to testify and communicate to the commission that the proposed plan recommendation needs more work and is omitting critical information for real steelhead recovery. The WSC is developing talking points for our membership as communication aids in you testimony. These points will be passed onto you by early next week. We urge our membership and supporters to attend the testimony or email the Commission; this is a critical time for wild steelhead. Thanks for your support.

## **WSC Awards Banquet and Auction March 1**

A big reminder that the WSC Banquet is just around the corner! This year's event will be held at the Marriot at Redmond Town Center on March 1. You may have already received a "Save the Date" card in the mail and a follow up flyer is due to be sent out next week with more information. You can also go to [the website and RSVP on line and use your credit card](#) through Paypal. We hope you can come out this year as we will be honor our '08 Conservation Award Winner and Jeff Bright will be provide a beautiful "Celebration of Steelhead" slide presentation as well as many fine items up for auction to support the organization's work for wild steelhead. If you have items to donate or would like to RSVP by phone please contact Ryan Petzold [by email](#) or at 425-238-4903

## **'08 Membership Renewals & New WSC Brochure**

As many you know, or if you're not aware, you are now : ) , [membership renewals](#) are now on a year to year schedule to help streamline our membership process and tracking. Jim Schmitz will be mailing out renewals soon and the WSC looks forward to your continued support. In your renewal packet you will receive the new WSC brochure that has been rewritten and redesigned to help increase the visibility of the plight of wild steelhead. Special thanks goes out to members Jim Schmitz, Dylan Tomine, Jeff Bright

in their support in developing this compelling piece that I am sure will connect with many in the steelhead world.

## Patagonia World Trout Program Benefits Steelhead and WSC in '08

As of January '08 The WSC has been designated to be the recipient of the Patagonia World Trout Program. For each [Patagonia steelhead t-shirt sold, \\$5.00 goes to the WSC](#) for the coming year, worldwide! Not only will this benefit our organization financially, it will increase the visibility of the WSC and more important bring attention to the plight of wild steelhead. If you can't wait you can order them through the Patagonia website.

## WSC Website Calendar

If you haven't noticed, the WSC has recently revamped its website and launched a [calendar you can access](#) to find out important dates of events. We are currently in the process of entering content and if you have events we should know about please let us know and we will add it into the calendar. We are looking for events that are import to wild steelhead conservation from outside the organization as well.

## Steelhead Summit Alliance

The SSA just completed another summit in Portland, OR recently which was very well attended. Many fine topics and issues were presented and continued to provide an effective venue to increase our knowledge and understanding of steelhead issues, and continue to develop a valuable, collaborative voice for steelhead issues on many fronts. Special thanks to David Moryc for his work on the last few Summits. WSC Member Marianne Mitchell has volunteered to assume the leadership role for the SSA and will begin plans with the subcommittee soon to begin planning the next summit in Seattle. I look forward to Marianne's proactive nature and leadership qualities to help take the SSA to the next level of effectiveness.

## Skagit/Sauk Rumors

As many maybe aware, there are discussions within the WDFW regarding the C&R season on the Skagit/Sauk rivers due to low projected escapement levels and ESA listing requirements. There as been no official announcement on this as of this writing. The reason I bring this up is to take you back to the year 2000. The closures that year of the C&R seasons on the Puget Sound streams was the impetus for the formation of the WSC and a "wake up" call. If the Skagit/Sauk are closed it could possibly be the "Reality" calls for many to get involved. Once again if the closure happens due to low escapement levels the WSC will support the decision, but will continue to question the continuing policies that got us to this point. If there is a "reality" call the WSC will be offering public statement, stay tuned.

Sincerely,

[Rich Simms](#)

Wild Steelhead Coalition, President

<http://www.wildsteelheadcoalition.org>