



TIGHTLINES



OFF members have questions about Snoqualmie Plan.

Over the next three years, the Snoqualmie River, its forks and major tributaries will get a major "check-up" from the WDFW. The primary objective will be to identify ways to enhance the game fish population throughout the fishery.

The Snoqualmie Game Fish Enhancement Plan (SGFEP), as it's officially titled, is described as the "final" plan based on a "preliminary" plan developed by the WDFW back in November 1991. Work on this final plan began this January and is expected to wrap up in January 2011, approximately 20 years after it was initiated. Hopefully the fish will be pleased and their patience rewarded.

The funding is being provided by Puget Sound Energy as part of its license renewal agreement to operate the two hydroelectric power plants it owns above and below Snoqualmie Falls. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) renewed PSE's license in June 2004.

The project had been delayed a bit by some issues with the Snoqualmie Tribe over its contention that the FERC violated the Environmental Policy Act, and also the Tribe's position that PSE should pay a consulting fee for Tribal input. However both challenges have been dismissed and it's now full speed ahead. — See "SNQUALMIE PLAN" Page 2

Snoqualmie Falls has generated electricity for more than 100 years. Today, Puget Sound Energy is funding a WDFW study that hopes to enhance game fish populations throughout the Snoqualmie system.

Capt. Larry to host March dinner at Lenice Lake Lodge.

If you're ready for some early season Eastside angling and a splendid evening to go with it circle March 15th on your calendar. For the fourth year in a row Capt. Larry Roxby will be hosting his annual 3rd Saturday Fishout and dinner at Lenice Lake.

Capt. Larry joined OFF in January after learning about the club from some of our members at the Big Twin outing in May.— See "CAPT." Page 4



Calendar

March 12: WDFW biologists Jeff Korth and Bob Jateff update us on current and future projects and give us their candid assessment of 2008 fishing prospects on the Eastside waters they manage.

March 26: Business meeting at 6:30 p.m. at Alf's on 196th, Lynnwood.

March 15: Please see story at left.

April 11: Lone Lake, co-hosted by Steve Murray and Norm Primc.



"SNOQUALMIE PLAN" from Page 1

PSE is shelling out \$622,857 for the project. The original plan was funded at \$425,726, but that was in 1991 dollars. The new budget has been adjusted for inflation.

Region 4 Biologist Chad Jackson will be the project leader for the WDFW. His team will eventually employ three researchers. Jackson, with the help of SGFEP lead research biologist Nathanael Overman guided OFF members through the details of the project at our February meeting.



Lead biologist Nathanael Overman, left, and project leader Chad Jackson review notes before presentation.

The Plan is aggressive and it's underway now with a complete review of recent and past literature and research on the Snoqualmie system from federal, state, and non-government organizations.

That information is being assimilated and will result in a plan of action to determine what gaps still need to be filled and what info needs to be updated.

The second phase will involve field work focusing on resident trout populations above the Falls and searun cutthroat populations below them. Fish abundance, distribution, movement, life history and habitat quality will be researched in detail. Armed with this data, the WDFW team will develop a plan to improve habitat with specific recommendations for physical and structural changes, if appropriate.

Anyone who thought that Jackson had come to give us his insights on hot fishing opportunities for the Westside this upcoming season was sadly disappointed. He stuck to the script.

And to his credit, many members took quite an interest in the Snoqualmie project, both for its ambitious agenda for fish enhancement and for what some considered its shortcomings. But Jackson admitted his own frustration at what the Plan couldn't do:

"The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife can identify problems and suggest solutions, but ultimately it's the property owners, managers and municipalities who are responsible for doing the work."

Jackson pointed out that the Snoqualmie is significantly lagging behind in habitat enhancement and that habitat is where it really makes the difference, but

there are so many politicians, cities and self interests involved that it's hard to get consensus or conciliation.

"Some days I'm pessimistic. Some days I'm optimistic. And sometimes I change during the day," he added.

Keith Stamm asked if the team planned to do invertebrate studies to determine abundance of food sources and was told that nothing had been planned. Jackson did say that there might be some incidental sampling as part of the habitat studies.

Larry Pinnt shared Keith's concern and thought PSE rate payers, like us, should also have a chance to provide input. So the next day he called PSE and was put in touch with Cary Feldmann, Manager of Compliance and Resource Sciences. A UW graduate with an MS in Fisheries Biology, Feldmann's is a 30 year veteran with PSE and well informed on fish habitat.

He believes that the best way for us to influence the research would be for PSE to provide a copy of the updated draft study plan for our comments. That would allow us to provide public input early in the process.

He promised to send the next piece of the Snoqualmie Plan to us when it's available. "We'll look forward to your club's comments," he added

Feldmann understands the challenge facing WDFW biologists. "They're very limited in their options for managing and controlling sustainable fisheries because of limits on enforcement resources." He also hopes educating area residents about how they can help enhance game fish populations will help.



Snoqualmie River

"Fish have a hard time in these waters," he explained. "Western Washington streams are much less productive than Eastern Washington due to the lower sunlight exposure and the over abundance of evergreen trees that do not provide the food sources that the leaf trees provide." DS



The Fly Fishing Life

A Valentine for Mike Truax.

(Editor's note: Mike is too modest to toot his own horn but Dan Reynolds passed this along from Western Rivers Conservancy the other day.)

FEB 14 —Today, the largest tributary to California's last major undammed river, the Smith River, is forever protected!

Western Rivers Conservancy is excited to announce the completion of a six-year project to buy and conserve the Goose Creek watershed -- 9,500 acres. Today, we conveyed the final portion of the project area to be part of the Smith River National Recreation Area.

This helps ensure that the Smith, California's healthiest river, will run clear and cold forever, just as salmon and steelhead require.

So what does this legacy to fly fishermen everywhere have to do with Mike?

"This is an acquisition prospect that I brought to Western Rivers," he says modestly. "And I negotiated with them over the price on behalf of my employer, Rainier Timber Company."



God created triploids to be smoked. This one, and its twin, were taken on a leech by Keith Stamm on a recent visit to Rufus Woods Lake in 14 degree weather. Keith also caught a cold. *Hmm. was it: Revenge of the Triploids (PG-13)?*

Don't cry for Stewart, Argentina.



Searching for a good cabernet in Argentina can cut into your fishing time. Unless, of course, you have an excellent fishing guide like Giselle. *(Giselle is to the right).* Stewart Scham, and his son, fished Argentina and Patagonia in late January and February. Below, Stewart fishes a lake in the foothills of the volcano Lanin. *At right:* a fine brown from the Malleo River.



WARNING! A FEW OF YOU STILL OWE YOUR \$30 DUES FOR 2008. WE HAVE RETAINED THE FIRM OF PHIL SACKS PS TO USE ALL MEANS, INCLUDING PUBLIC HUMILIATION, TO SECURE THESE FUNDS. PLEASE PAY AT OUR NEXT MEETING OR BY MAIL TO OUR PO BOX (SEE PAGE 4).



The OFF Beat

NEW MEMBERS



Tony Konig Bill Scott
Welcome!

"CAPT. LARRY" from Page 1

Each year since 2005 Capt. Larry has sets up a lodge sized tent for the month of March at Lenice Lake and then sets up the same camp at Big Twin in May.

He brings along a few pontoon boats and fishing gear for fishermen who might need them as well as extra food. The lodge is a cozy place for anglers to warm up in the morning and swap stories at night.

"Seven or eight guys talking, oil lamps flickering, muzzleloader and bamboo rods hanging on the walls, make me think of a Norman Rockwell painting," says Capt. Larry. "It's American and wholesome. The jokes, the coffee, the cards, it's like stepping into the past. A part of me wants to make those trips happen for other people. So I do."



Perry Barth, left, an admitted "Octogenarian", welcomed his long time friend and WFFC pal, Earl George, 95, to our February meeting. Here's one of Earl's secrets for staying young: "When you're 92, drive your Cadillac from Seattle to Panama and back."

Club gives \$300 to Chopaka "Big Fish" program.

The WDFW has rotenoned Chopaka and replanted with "smaller" fish (*read bass food*). The FFF has donated \$500 as seed money to plant 1,000 diploids (total cost \$3,500). OFF has donated \$300 to the effort: \$150 for diploids, and \$150 for "BIG" fish (*Over 1.5 lbs*).

The sommelier cup passeth.

Randy Sobczak, with excellent support from Buzz Burgett, has been an outstanding Beverage Chairman for the past few years.

Reluctantly, for all of us, he is stepping down. Thankfully, for all of us, Don Corwin has volunteered to take on these often thankless, but much appreciated, duties beginning in April.

Intro to fly tying class has many helping fingers.

Our fly tying guru and educator, Eric Sauer had to take some time off from teaching the Introduction to Fly Tying Classes this year at Edmond's Frances Anderson Center.

There was concern that the class (*open to the public*) would have to be cancelled. But other club members have stepped in to help.

Special thanks to Joe Conner, Blair Scarth, Mike Alunni, Barry Hutton, Mike Bunney and others.

See you on the river — Dick



General Information

The General meeting is held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at the South County Senior Center, 220 Railroad Ave., Edmonds, WA. Social hour: 6:00 p.m.

The Business meeting is held on the 4th Wednesday of each month at Alf's on 196th Avenue, Lynnwood, WA. Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

Officers:

Mike Bunney, President, 425-672-3345

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Jim Gauntt, Treasurer, 425-776-1017

Keith Stamm, Secretary, 206-368-5596

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Joe Conner, Trustee, 425-744-8085

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