

FEDERATION OF FLY FISHERS CONSERVATION UPDATE MAY 2008

Announcements:

FFF Conservation Coordinator

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Conservation VP Representatives

Washington State Council

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Northern California Council

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Southern Council

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- **There are lots of reasons to come to Whitefish this summer.....** the Conclave and National Fly Fishing Show will be held in Whitefish Montana July 23-27. **Don't forget the classes, presentations, show hall, social events, Glacier National Park, Flathead Lake, incredible fishing and fresh local cherries.** On Wednesday July 23 from 9-12 the Conservation Committee will hold their annual business meeting. Following at 1 pm will be the *Fish Forum*. All are welcome to attend Fish Forum. The line-up during Fish Forum will cover the following interesting topics:

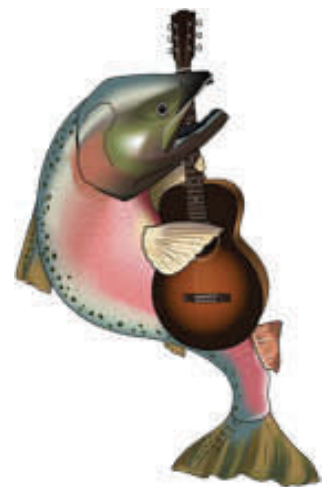
100 Years of Fisheries Conservation in Montana – Gordon Sullivan, author
Bull Trout – Past, Present and Future – Wade Fredenberg, US Fish and Wildlife Service

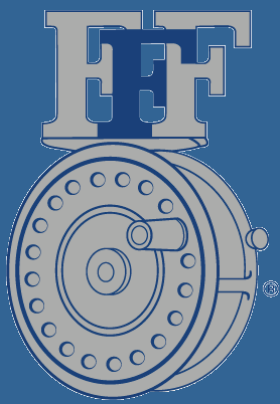
Fly Fishers as Stream Savers – Tim Guilfoile, Sierra Club

Reform of the 1872 Hard Rock Mining Law – Land Tawney, National Wildlife Federation

Award winning short film on proposed pebble mine in Bristol Bay Alaska and the incredible salmon that are threatened

- May 16th was **Endangered Species Day**. The United States Senate has unanimously proclaimed May 16 as “Endangered Species Day,” providing for a national celebration of America’s commitment to protecting our nation’s wildlife, fish and plants on the brink of extinction. Visit the Endangered Species Coalition website to learn more about the event, how to participate in the future and things you can do right now for endangered species: https://www.givengain.com/cgi-bin/giga.cgi?cmd=cause_dir_custom&cause_id=1704&page=day
- **SalmonAid** on May 31- June 1 in Oakland CA is an event organized by the largest ever coalition of West Coast salmon advocates (including commercial, recreational and tribal fishermen, conservation organizations, chefs, restaurants, scientists, and many others) and includes the Federation of Fly Fishers. SalmonAid will raise awareness of the plight of west coast salmon populations, the rivers and streams they spawn in, and the many coastal and inland communities that rely on salmon for their livelihoods and survival. The festival will feature educational booths, activities and foods highlighting the natural history of salmon, as well as the history, culture and traditions of salmon towns and the peoples connected through our west coast salmon heritage. Go to <http://www.salmonaid.org/> to learn about the event.





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Conservation VP Representatives

Gulf Coast Council

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North Eastern Council

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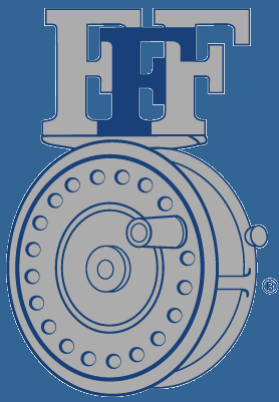
Announcements Continued

- The FFF wants to know what activities are happening in your Club or Council. You are encouraged to relay conservation related projects and images to the Conservation Coordinator. Why? Because the collective work of your grass-roots project is the essence of our organization. Tangible information helps both of us tell a story about the good work we accomplish, and can help when applying for grants.

Positions & Letters:

An important part of conservation work within the FFF is providing a voice for fisheries and anglers across the nation. By communicating with legislators, agency leaders and other conservation organizations, we create a working relationship that helps protect fisheries. Below are letters we sent to define our position and protect the fisheries and habitats.

- Letter to US Senators urging their support of S. 2191, the Lieberman-Warner Climate Security Act. The Act would provide fish and wildlife conservation funding provisions and will help ensure the long-term survival of fish and wildlife by providing important new resources to address the unprecedented impacts that climate change will have on fish, wildlife, and their habitats.
- Letter to Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks directors urging the acquisition of fishing access on Sixteen mile creek. A proposal to acquire this parcel has been made to the Montana Fish & Wildlife Conservation Trust for use as a non-motorized, multi-use trail and fishing access site, and could be an important step toward restoring public access to this important fishing and other recreation use.
- Letter to Director of Environmental Protection Agency with the Corps Reform Network, in support of the Environmental Protection Agency's proposed Clean Water Act section 404(c) veto of the Yazoo Backwater Pumping Plant in Mississippi.
- Letter to all members of the Senate committee on Environment and Public Works to urge the passage of S2766 out of committee. The Clean Boating Act, which has more than 30 bipartisan cosponsors in the Senate, would fully and permanently restore a longstanding regulation that excludes recreational boaters and anglers from the federal and state permitting requirements under the Clean Water Act designed for land-based industrial facilities and ocean-going commercial ships. This exemption was overturned by a federal court in 2006 in a case focused exclusively on ballast water from commercial vessels.
- Letter to OR Senators Wyden and Smith, OR Representatives Blumenauer, DeFazio, Hooley, Walden and Wu in support of immediate action to protect 58,000 acres of the Wild Rogue as federally designated Wilderness and 143 miles of additional Wild and Scenic River miles.



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Staff Activities and Program Updates:

- A complete revision and analysis of our conservation programs has been underway. There are 13 different conservation related programs that are under the administration of the Conservation Coordinator. An examination of the success of each program will be evaluated. The results of this evaluation will be reviewed by the Conservation Committee and discussed at the upcoming Committee meeting at Conclave.
- Note: the form for Conservation Grant submissions has been updated. Improvements both for the grantee and grantor were made to the form to improve process. There is now an electronic fill-in form, and a download and print form. Both are posted online <http://www.fedflyfishers.org/Default.aspx?tabid=4389>
- Part of the Conservation Coordinator activities is to act as co-Chair of the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership Fish Wildlife and Energy working group. A report on the current processes and methods to develop oil and gas and, its impacts on wildlife and fisheries will be available in June. Please contact conserve@fedflyfishers.org if you would like to learn more or visit http://www.trcp.org/ch_energydevelopment.aspx
- Fishing season is upon us! Please remember to help prevent the spread of unwanted aquatic species. Clean your gear after every outing. Be a good angler and take the Clean Angling Pledge. www.cleanangling.org



•A meeting on May 29th provided information on the threat of invasive species to regional fly fishing clubs and other people who recreate in our rivers and lakes. The event was sponsored by Center for Aquatic Nuisance Species, FFF, TU and Simms Fishing Products.

- Participated in numerous conference calls as part of the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership Fish, Wildlife and Energy working group for Energy Issues and Endangered Species Coalition steering committee.
- Whitlock Vibert box orders: In the month of May, 100 boxes were distributed.

Visit the FFF Conservation Web pages to learn more about conservation programs and activities.

<http://www.fedflyfishers.org/>

More information on any subject can be obtained by contacting Leah Elwell Conservation Coordinator 406-222-9369 ext 102 or conserve@fedflyfishers.org

Please inform Leah of any errors in this report.