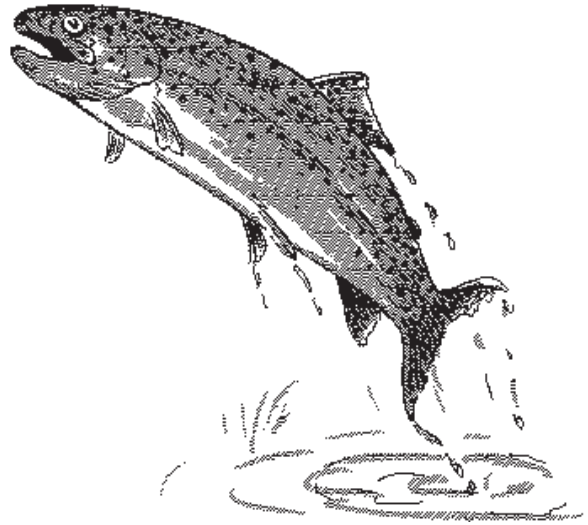


Electric

The Evergreen Trout



February 2003 The Newsletter of the Evergreen Chapter of Trout Unlimited Vol. 21 No. 2

From The Prez,

Hip hip hooray! It finally snowed this week!!! It also got damn cold -- minus 23 in downtown Evergreen. The experts say, "Just 80 more of this type of snowstorm, from now 'til the end of spring, and we'll refill the reservoirs." Yeah, right...

Moving on to other important stuff, if you haven't already heard, **the board has decided to change venues for our regular meetings.** The owner of the Sports Grill gave us three ultimatums last month regarding: 1) changing our meeting nights, 2) doing a \$10/head buffet, and 3) committing to a minimum number of "heads" in advance. He claimed that these changes would be in an effort to give us better service. The board mulled this over for about two seconds, and decided to take our business elsewhere.

The new venue is in the Evergreen Hotel -- next door to The Little Bear in downtown Evergreen, for those of you who don't get out much. It promises to be a better location -- our own waiter and bartender, and free passes to the Bear after the meeting (for those of you who do get out much). The owner of The Little Bear, Judy Jeronimus, has also been very supportive of ETU over the years, including a donation of \$250 to ETU for our auction last November.

In other news, Troy Thompson (ETU member and stream rehabilitation expert) is well on the way to submitting final papers to the DOW to

(hopefully) obtain a **"Fishing Is Fun"** grant for enhancements to Bear Creek, in O'Fallon Park. We'll meet with Denver Mountain Parks on February 13th, to finalize their role. The good news is that the DOW says they feel almost certain that "any reasonable request" would be granted, since they have hardly any applicants this year. The bad news is that the funding won't be available until 2004. Yes, it's unfortunate, but these particular grants require approximately one year "flow" time. Oh well. We're going forward at this point. We will provide more details as things are finalized. This will be a **VERY LARGE project** -- our largest to date. We will need your help to pull it off, when/if funding comes through.

Also, on February 6th, several of our generous volunteers spent the afternoon up at the Mount Evans Outdoor Lab, teaching another group of 6th graders the art of fly tying. We have 3 or 4 more sessions lined up this school year. If you could spare a couple hours of your time (generally on a Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday) for a very rewarding program, please call Len Wheaton or myself. I promise **you'll never forget the experience.** Inside this issue you will also find info from Hal Garwood, on the **"Trout in the Classroom"** project that Craig Dunham has started.

That's all folks. Hope to see you at the **Evergreen Hotel** on Wednesday February 19th, at 6:30p.

Rich

The Evergreen Chapter of Trout Unlimited meets the third Wednesday of the month at the Evergreen Hotel in downtown Evergreen. Join us for Dinner/Chapter Business at 6:30pm followed by the program at ~7:30pm.

January Board Meeting

Attendees: Ron Belak, Hal Garwood, Tim Haller, Steve Murray, Len Wheaton, Al Himmelman, John Ellis, Rich Reynolds, Mike Goldblatt, Bill Mounsey, Wayne Kosloske.

Bear Creek Report: The study conducted by Ecological Resource Consultants, Inc. appears to exonerate the Evergreen Metro District from responsibility for the fish kills on Bear Creek this past summer. The report, contracted by the members of the Bear Creek Watershed Association, points to the drought as the chief cause of fish mortality and concludes that the Evergreen Metro District had not polluted the creek to a significant degree nor had its waste water discharges affected dissolved oxygen. ETU is not accepting these findings without first thoroughly examining the report. CTU, several ETU members, and a number of technical consultants are reviewing the report's validity on ETU's behalf, and will issue their findings in the near future.

DOW's electroshocking efforts last fall reveal that trout populations in Bear Creek, upstream from O'Fallon Park, are significantly reduced from last year. This is no surprise. However, downstream of O'Fallon Park, trout numbers are more encouraging. Trout there are larger, more abundant, and are predominantly browns. These data are posted on our website (www.evergreentrout.org).

Based on the more encouraging results for the lower river, ETU has elected to go forth with stream restoration. Troy Thompson is spearheading efforts to apply for a "Fishing is Fun Grant", and Denver Mountain Parks has pledged support. We estimate the total restoration costs to be about \$117,000. If we are successful in obtaining this grant, restoration would begin in 2004.

Mount Evans Outdoor Lab: Upcoming ETU classes on fishing and fly tying will be held on March 4th, March 25th, and April 1st (no fooling). Classes last one and one-half to two hours. If you can help, please call Len Wheaton or Rich Reynolds. We are currently acquiring additional thread, bobbins, and whip finishers for these classes. On a related effort, Craig Dunham reports that he has two aquaria each up and running at Bergen Valley and Wilnot Schools. Rainbow trout were hatched in these tanks, and the fish are currently about 2 inches long. Plans are to release the fry this summer at Buchanan Pond, where they are expected to grow to astronomical proportions.

Change in Location of General Meetings: Due to repeated poor service since the change in ownership of the Evergreen Sports Grill, the Board unanimously voted to change the meeting location. Owners of the Sports Grill were asking us to change our meeting night to a Sunday, Monday, or Tuesday and change our dinner to a buffet, with a certain number of guaranteed reservations. Board members rejected these arrangements and considered a wide variety of alternative locations. Most board members thought it necessary that the new location serve food and drink, and that it comfortably accommodate 40 people. After extensive deliberation, the Board agreed to try the Evergreen Hotel, next to the Little Bear. We will keep the same evening (the third Wednesday) and the same time (about 6:30 for those wanting dinner). See you there on February 19th.

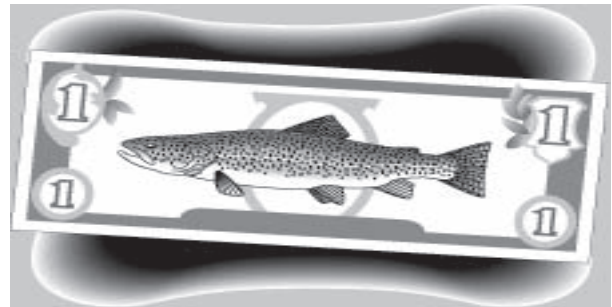
Fund Raising: To help defray the cost of publishing

The Evergreen Trout

our monthly newsletter (~\$150 per month), ETU will be encouraging businesses and individuals to "sponsor" the newsletter for a month. Our first sponsor was our own President, Rich Reynolds. Jan Himmelman stepped up to the plate this month. Way to go, and THANKS!

Other ETU Activities include a decision by the Board to apply for the CTU Annual Award for Projects, because of our efforts to preserve and restore Bear Creek, and our participation in the Annual Earth Day Fair, in April at the Evergreen Lakehouse. Speaking of which, please call Ron Belak if you are interested in helping (April 19th this year). Peggy Linn will also take over as Trips Coordinator. Other events include an angler's gear swap, sponsored by the West Denver Chapter, on Saturday, March 1, 2003 (10am - 2pm) at the Jeffco Fairgrounds, and the annual CTU Auction on March 31, 2003.

Ron Belak



Budget Report From TU National - FY 2002

TU National had total expenses of \$10,564,313 in FY 2002. With 127,000 members this averages to \$83.18 of expenses per member. The following is the breakdown of **TU National expenses by percentage allocation:**

- 81% - TU programs
- 7% - Fundraising costs
- 4% - Membership development
- 5% - Administrative costs

Looking at these numbers as the equivalent allocation on a dollars per member basis, TU National spent \$67 per member on program expenditures, \$7 per member on fundraising costs, \$4 per member on membership development expenses, and \$5 per member on administrative costs.

TU National Program Expenses FY2002

TU National spent \$8,511,090 on programs in FY2002 or \$67 per member. The following is the breakdown of **TU National expenses per program:**

- 54% - Conservation Programs
- 20% - Member Support
- 12% - Communications
- 8% - Volunteer Operations
- 6% - Government Affairs

Looking at these numbers on a dollars per member basis, TU National spent \$37 dollars per member on conservation projects, \$13 per member on membership development, \$8 per member on communications, \$5 per member on volunteer operations, and \$4 per member on government affairs.

TU Lines to Leaders - February 2003



EVERGREEN TROUT UNLIMITED MONTHLY PROGRAM

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2003

NEW LOCATION: EVERGREEN COFFEE SHOP
(Inside the Historic "Evergreen Hotel", next to the Little Bear)



DINNER AND CHAPTER BUSINESS AT 6:30 P.M., FREE PRESENTATION AT 7:00 P.M.

Visit our web-site at: www.evergreentrout.org

FEATURING COLORADO TU's OUTREACH COORDINATOR,

ELIZABETH RUSSELL

A DRY LEGACY—A CHALLENGE FOR COLORADO RIVERS



Elizabeth Russell is the Education and Outreach Coordinator for Trout Unlimited's Colorado Water Project. Her timely presentation uses 10 case studies to highlight the range of impacts on Colorado's waterways, including instream flows, fisheries and recreation. Further, she'll provide an overview of the water law system and its elements that have allowed the current problems to develop, as well as offer workable strategies that could not only help the affected waters recover, but prevent additional future losses in Colorado's rivers and creeks.

Trout in the Classroom

ETU member **Craig Dunham** has an ongoing project called "Trout in the Classroom". He has set up cold-water aquariums in two fourth grade classrooms at Bergen Valley Elementary and two fifth grade classrooms at Wilmot Elementary. Craig received **1,000 rainbow trout eggs** from Cline Trout Farms the second week in November and divided them between the classrooms. About two weeks later the first fry started hatching and within a week, the rest of the eggs had hatched. He reported tremendous success, with about a **95% survival rate**.

Craig visits the classrooms on a regular basis, talking with the students and teachers, and answering the many questions that pop up every day. He has also assembled a teacher's manual to give to each school, providing them with tons of information about trout, and the lessons he hopes to work into the curriculum. Craig said "It may take a year or two to really get the teachers actively using the aquarium as a teaching tool, but we are off to a good start for the first year." He is **optimistic that the program will grow** after other teachers see how excited the students are about their baby trout.

Craig's plans for the rest of the school year include teaching the students about water quality, conducting various water quality tests, and about how to help keep our local streams and rivers clean.

At the end of the school year, Craig will host a field trip to **Buchanan Ponds** (approximately 100 students), to **release the surviving fry**. Getting permission for the release was discussed at the last board meeting. John Ellis said there should be no problem (John is excited about **800+ new lunkers**). Craig would like any help we could provide with the release that is scheduled for the middle of May.

We are very grateful to Ken Cline for his willingness to provide eggs for his project. Craig said the DOW declined to participate in the program, due to the whirling disease issue.

We also need to thank Craig for his efforts at the Mount Evans Outdoor Lab. Unfortunately the lab's aquariums have not fared as well as the ones in the elementary schools. **One of the aquariums has developed a crack**, and is un-repairable. He said the vendor is proposing a replacement. The other aquarium -- the one that he put nine small trout in -- is also not faring well, because cold-water tanks require a lot of care and maintenance. The lab does not have the personnel, budget, or expertise to keep the tanks healthy. Craig and I are going to formulate a plan to see if **our chapter can help**.

A very special "Thanks!" goes to Craig for all his efforts in bringing the "Trout in the Classroom" project to the kids in our community. Education is a crucial part of keeping our trout populations healthy and thriving.

Hal Garwood

Kudos...

...to **Jan Himmelman** for sponsoring this month's newsletter!!!

...to **Rich Reynolds** -- our January sponsor!!!

...to **Ron Belak, Peggy Linn, Hal Garwood, and Randy Huiting** for their help with the newsletter.

...to **Master Printers Inc. of Evergreen** for copying and folding.

Ed.

The Evergreen Trout

CTU Releases A Dry Legacy 2

Trount Unlimited (TU), the nation's premier coldwater fisheries conservation group, today released a report about **Colorado's rivers and streams threatened by low water flows**. The report details areas of progress, but also describes new threats to these waters.

Last January, TU released **A Dry Legacy: the Challenge for Colorado's Rivers**. Ten case studies highlighted how aspects of Colorado's water law system, along with the state's exploding demand for water, have led to too many dry rivers and streams.

Now comes **A Dry Legacy 2: Progress and New Threats in a Drought Year** (Dry Legacy 2). It updates five of the case studies, and highlights other recent developments that have affected stream flows in Colorado, both positively and negatively. **Dry Legacy 2** also examines new threats to Colorado Rivers that have only emerged recently.

Dry Legacy 2 reports on passage of a **landmark expansion** to the state's instream flow protection program, to allow instream flow rights to improve existing streams, and on a substantial increase in state instream flow water rights filings, including in the San Miguel, a river the first **Dry Legacy** highlighted.

Dry Legacy 2's case studies include the **success story of the North Fork of the Gunnison River**, where a major restoration project done by the North Fork River Improvement Association helped **improve stream flows**. In the midst of the driest year on record, water flowed in areas that were previously dry. Jeff Crane, director of the North Fork River Improvement Association said, "Simple improvements in irrigation diversions and the consolidation of several braided channels into a single-thread meandering stream created substantial improvements to aquatic and riparian habitat while still supplying full entitlements of water to the irrigation companies."

Other case studies examine the Conejos River, where a voluntary trade of water rights kept it flowing, the Roaring Fork River, where the state refused to allow such a trade, and **Bear Creek** and **Snowmass Creek**, where solutions out of the Clean Water Act failed to provide immediate assistance to the fisheries.

The TU report also discusses new threats to rivers, fish and future recreation in Colorado. Some, such as proposals to **clear-cut trees to free up water**, or build transmountain water projects previously considered and rejected, stem from concerns the drought has fanned. However, as Melinda Kassen, TU's Colorado Water Project director stated, "Others come from policy changes unrelated to the drought, like the state government's refusal to allow meaningful water rights for instream recreational activities including kayak courses, or the federal government's virtual relinquishment of any meaningful water right to protect the Black Canyon of the Gunnison."

Finally, as did the report last year, **Dry Legacy 2 proposes a series of strategies** to protect Colorado rivers for the future, even in the face of drought. As Kassen summed up TU's position, "State officials and water managers need to turn to cheaper, more immediate and less environmentally harmful approaches to water management."

Trout Unlimited, the nation's leading coldwater conservation organization, is dedicated to the protection and enhancement of trout and salmon rivers and streams and their watersheds. The organization has over 125,000 members in North America, including 8,000 members in Colorado.

The report, **A Dry Legacy 2: Progress and New Threats in a Drought Year**, is available electronically at www.cotrout.org, or by contacting Elizabeth Russell via email, erussell@tu.org or by calling (303) 440-2937 x10.

CTU Press Release

New Report Released On Colorado's Drought

A coalition of environmental groups released a new report [January 15th], prepared by a team of scientific and economic experts analyzing Colorado's drought. The report, *What the Current Drought Means for the Future of Water Management in Colorado*, provides a better understanding of the drought, and will help inform decisions of policy makers and water providers in Colorado regarding ways to meet the state's water needs. The report describes the drought and its economic impacts, water suppliers' response to it, assesses the role of storage in responding to drought, establishes principles to evaluate new supply and describes new supply proposals now under consideration by water providers. **The report frames two concepts to provide for Colorado's water future: Smart Supply and Smart Storage.**

Smart Supply means focusing first on alternatives that don't require new storage:

- Invest in additional water conservation;
- encourage more cooperation between cities and farmers;
- reclaim lost space in existing reservoirs; and
- integrate existing water supply systems better.

Smart Storage uses five principles to optimize water supplies that have already been developed or claimed, to further increase available supplies:

- Make full and efficient use of existing water supplies and usable return flows;
- Expand water supplies incrementally to utilize existing diversion and storage capacities better;
- Recognize that market forces continue to drive water reallocation from agricultural to municipal uses, structure such transfers, where possible, to maintain agriculture, and in all cases mitigate the adverse impacts to rural communities from these transfers;
- Involve affected publics to address environmental and socioeconomic impacts.
- Emphasize efficient utilization of existing transbasin water to avoid new transbasin projects.

"The report advocates a common sense and flexible strategy that will be less expensive and more environmentally protective than other alternatives, while still supplying Colorado's long-term water needs," said Melinda Kassen, Director of Trout Unlimited's Colorado Water Project.

The report assesses the hydrologic and economic shortcomings of building large new dams to store wet-year water for drought protection. Building dams to protect against a 1950's-type drought, which was less severe than the current drought, would cost over one billion dollars and would require more than 500,000 acre-feet of new storage to develop 100,000 acre-feet of reliable new supply. This was roughly the amount of water saved last year by municipal watering restrictions. New dams built and set aside solely for drought protection are expensive, would have to be kept full and unused for decades until a severe drought were underway, and because we cannot know where future droughts may strike the hardest, would have to be duplicated in multiple locations.

"Our report lays out the basis and road map for managing Colorado's water to meet its needs in a sensible and economical manner, while recognizing that drought is a fact of life in Colorado," said Dan Luecke, an engineer and the report's primary author.

A copy of the report is available at www.cotrout.org. Trout Unlimited, and the Colorado Environmental Coalition commissioned the report on behalf of the Sustainable Water Caucus, an ad hoc group of conservation and citizen organizations interested in state water policy.

CTU Press Release

TU Faults Administration Decision On Wetlands

TU staff criticized the Bush Administration's decision, announced today, to drop Clean Water Act protection for some of the nation's most valuable wetlands. TU also urged the Administration not to use a proposed rulemaking, also announced today, as a vehicle to further roll back Clean Water Act jurisdiction.

The announcement by the Administration, released Friday, January 10, 2003, calls for a change in the rules the EPA and the Corps of Engineers use to determine what waters receive the protections of the Clean Water Act. The proposal is in response to a recent Supreme Court decision known as "Solid Waste Authority of Northern Cook County," or "SWANCC," that held that some isolated wetlands were outside the scope of the Act.

A key part of the announcement is its guidance to the agencies' field units to stop enforcing Clean Water Act protection for some types of valuable wetlands, such as vernal pools of California, playa lakes of the midwestern states, and pocosin wetlands found in the Carolinas. A second part, initiation of a proposed rulemaking to review jurisdictional issues, could be used as an opportunity by some developers and polluting industries to pressure the Administration to remove even more waterways from Clean Water Act protection.

"We are deeply concerned that some polluting industries will try to use this rulemaking as an opportunity to roll back the Clean Water Act -- an effort that will have devastating consequences on not only the water American's drink but also many of the nation's fragile trout and salmon populations," said Leon Szeptycki, General Counsel of Trout Unlimited.

In early December, TU wrote to EPA Director Christine Todd Whitman and the Acting Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works expressing opposition to efforts to weaken the Clean Water Act and calling any action to do so, **"a step backward for water quality in the United States."** The letter expressed particular concerns about suggestions that small streams might not be covered by the Clean Water Act, and noted that not only are these small streams and wetlands important for fish and wildlife but they serve as water purifiers and water filters affecting overall water quality.

"For now, EPA and the Corps will continue to regulate activities in small streams, but the new guidance announced today opens the door for EPA and the Corps NOT to regulate activities on small streams on a case-by-case basis. How far will they go based on this guidance without the benefit of public input?"

TU Lines to Leaders - February 2003

??? What's Happening ???

February 2003

19th (W) ETU Chapter Meeting
Evergreen Hotel - 6:30p
Elizabeth Russell - Colorado Water Project
A Dry Legacy - The Challenge For
Colorado's Rivers
Bear Creek is one of the 'case studies' used
in this CWP report, published in 2002 and
revisited this year.

26th (W) ETU Board Meeting
Rib Crib (Other Side) - 6:30p

March 2003

4th (Tu) and 25th (Tu) 6th graders at Mt. Evans Outdoor Lab
9:00a - Noon
Call Len or Rich if you can help.

19th (W) ETU Chapter Meeting
Evergreen Hotel - 6:30p
Shilo Mathill and Paul Gagich - Flyfishing
North Platte from the Colorado border to
Grays Reef

26th (W) ETU Board Meeting
Rib Crib (Other Side) - 6:30p

New Members

Please join me in welcoming Mike Gomez, William Broderick, Robert Fick, Jeff Zechman, Mary Jo Nelson, Gary Rotolo, Larry Churchill, Richard Yancik, and Mike Lane to ETU.

If you need help with a membership problem of any kind, call me and I'll do my best to get it straightened out.

Creel count: 295

Randy Huiting

The Evergreen Trout

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CTU Office	Various nice folks	440-2937

On the web - www.tu.org; www.cotrout.org; www.evergreentroutrout.org
Contact any of us with questions, suggestions, or spare time.

Editorial Policy

All submissions to the newsletter must be received by the Editor by the 1st Friday of the month. Submissions may be on 3 1/2" disc or e-mailed. All items are subject to editing/space limitations. Articles are copyrighted by the author unless otherwise noted. All phone numbers are Area Code 303 unless otherwise noted. Call me for additional information.

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