

The Outlet



A publication of the Montana Chapter American Fisheries Society
January 2010

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President's Corner

Scott Barndt, President MCAFS

It's appropriate that I write this column on the last day of 2009. This is a common point of reflection, but also a time to look forward to opportunities and challenges of the future. This issue of the Outlet carries this theme, both reflecting on the Montana Chapter of the American Fisheries Society's

(MCAFS) past year's business and looking forward to the New Year, notably the 43rd Annual Meeting. But both in this Outlet, and in the New Year, I am asking membership and the Executive Committee (ExCom) to look deeper than that – I want to be sure that MCAFS is positioned to be successful in the future, particularly providing our members with relevant and timely services.

Why is it important to do this now? Is there reason to believe that anything needs changing? These are precisely the logical questions the ExCom has been asking. First, we believe that the general principles upon which MCAFS was founded remain as relevant as they were when developed. These principles summarize the services we provide for our members and are captured in our by-laws: 1) exchange current information and techniques, 2) inform members of issues that threaten fishery resources, 3) support legislation that's in the interest of fishery resources, and 4) encourage members to participate in AFS at all levels. However, it's been a while since we reviewed these principles to be sure they're inclusive of what MCAFS members feel our chapter should stand for and provide. Do the MCAFS bylaws remain aligned with those of national AFS, which are themselves completing a strategic plan with which we likely want to be aligned? It's also our sense that chapter demographics are changing in myriad ways, including member age, occupation, and the species, technologies, and organizations they work for, with, or represent. Thus, even if our existing by-laws still reflect the principles and services that members deem relevant, delivery may need to become more effective and efficient. Finally,



MCAFS has been in the enviable position of maintaining positive annual cash flow in recent history and there's no reason to believe that shouldn't continue in the future. I believe that MCAFS should have a deliberate strategy to manage and maintain this financial situation to provide meaningful, long-term returns to its members and to the aquatic resources of Montana. For example, with these resources we may increase funds for the Resource Action Fund, for scholarships, or for other services we haven't yet considered.

I propose the following program reassessment for the upcoming year to determine where MCAFS is and where we want to be. First, the ExCom has begun assembling a membership survey to: 1) gauge our assumptions about membership demographics, 2) receive member feedback regarding where MCAFS should be focused in the future, and 3) determine how we should deliver services with respect to that focus. Then, results of the survey will subsequently be reported to the membership along with appropriate proposals for change, if merited.

Therefore, we need your help! First, we would appreciate the contributions of anyone with survey development expertise. Second, we need you to respond to the survey, explaining what's important to you and to the future you envision for MCAFS. We're confident that the presence of our founding members remains present in our membership today and will set the stage for continued future success!

Finally, I want to thank all of you for your hard work and dedication to the aquatic resources of Montana. I am sure that 2010 will hold challenges for us all, but the same dedication, hard work, and foresight that helped MCAFS and its individual members realize success to-date will have the same result in the New Year!

2009 Montana Legislative Summary

Carter Kruse, Past-President MCAFS



Rather than contracting a professional lobbyist for the 2009 Montana Legislative Session, the Executive Committee (EXCOM) decided the Chapter would be better served by having EXCOM and other AFS members represent the Chapter's position on relevant issues during the session. EXCOM focused on a few bills rather than tracking every piece of aquatic-related legislation in order to optimize limited resources. Chapter members commented and/or testified on four bills in 2009 that EXCOM deemed very important to the future of aquatic resources in Montana. The positions articulated by the Chapter on each of these bills can be viewed on the Chapter website (<http://www.fisheries.org/units/AFSmontana/>).

1. Senate Bill 15 This bill attempted to define walleye as a native Montana species. MCAFS opposed this bill and it was tabled in committee, effectively killing it.
2. Senate Bill 343 This bill aimed to create the Montana Invasive Species Act. MCAFS supported this bill and it was overwhelmingly passed into law.
3. Senate Bill 507 This bill sought to clarify and revise regulations relating to the use of the bed of a navigable river. While the overall intent of this bill was positive, MCAFS opposed certain provisions of this bill, primarily the issuance of easements (as opposed to a lease or license) for placing structures on riverbeds and the exemptions of such activities from environmental review under the Montana Environmental Policy Act. The bill was overwhelmingly passed into law without amendments that addressed our concerns.

4. House Bill 455 Known as the Big Sky Rivers Act, this bill attempted to establish streamside management areas along 10 of Montana's rivers. MCAFS supported this bill but it died in committee on a tie vote.

When EXCOM agreed that the Chapter should represent its own interests at the 2009 Legislative Session, it was done so with the caveat that future "lobbying" efforts would depend on our efforts and experiences in 2009. Not unexpectedly, it is clear that in-house representation takes a tremendous amount of time. Not only did EXCOM and other members need to familiarize themselves with the legislative process, but daily or weekly tracking of bills, preparation of written and verbal testimony, and travel to Helena required a significant commitment. Further, less-developed professional and personal relationships with legislators and staffers (as a professional lobbyist might maintain) may have hindered the impact of our testimony. On the other hand, our efforts in 2009 allowed and required us to more completely develop our position on legislative issues (compared to simply supporting or opposing a bill), resulting in an argument that might have had greater impact. It also required us to be strategic with our time, intensely focusing on just a few bills rather than devoting a limited effort to many. Representing ourselves required EXCOM and others to familiarize ourselves with the legislative process – a good thing that could prove beneficial in the future. Finally, being present to express our interests put a real face on the Chapter, rather than a face (e.g., the lobbyist) that might also be associated with other interest groups.

The bottom line is this: it is very difficult to gauge the value of representing ourselves as opposed to hiring a lobbyist or doing nothing. Does it make a difference with legislators? If keeping score, we went 2 for 4 in 2009, but would the outcomes have been different if we were not there? Representative Mike Phillips (HD 66) had a perspective on our dilemma. He stated that there is value in a professional organization simply expressing their support or opposition to a bill in any way. Verbal input is likely more valuable than written because it is difficult for most legislators to review the entire administrative record (which includes written testimony) for a bill in most cases. Verbal testimony beyond simple support or opposition is even more valuable because professional knowledge and expertise can be demonstrated and legislators appreciate the effort made to provide testimony. Finally, contact (e.g., in the hall) with individual legislators (lobbying in its purest form) regarding an issue is probably of highest value because you can develop personal relationships and a better understanding of their positions and motivations on a certain topic, as well as deliver your message in a more intimate hearing. Such contact may even result in a request to help develop amendments to a piece of legislation. Even though the Chapter has hired "lobbyists" in the past, I am not sure we have ever achieved this last level of service. Representative Phillips also noted that things become very muddled and unpredictable (or perhaps predictable?) with the pack mentality of party politics in committee and especially once a bill reaches the floor, despite great efforts to develop relationships and deliver a well-considered message.

2009 Proposed Bylaw Change

Carter Kruse, Past-President MCAFS

The Executive Committee presented a proposal to change the Chapter by-laws to include a 1st Vice-President in the officer rotation at the 2009 MT Chapter of the American Fisheries Society annual business meeting held February 11th in Kalispell. We felt that adding a fourth year to the leadership ladder of the Chapter would help incoming officers to gradually learn about governance of the Chapter; develop a governing strategy for their presidential term; improve institutional memory of the EXCOM; and secondarily, assist the President-Elect

with planning of the annual meeting. A brief description of this proposal was also included in the January 2009 Outlet. Most importantly, however, we felt that the President-Elect's responsibility for planning the annual meeting was so large that he or she had little opportunity to ponder and develop his or her role as President before it was foisted upon him or her. This additional year in the officer rotation would provide at least two folks on the EXCOM (President and Past-President) who would have served for two-plus years. This scenario would maintain more consistency, mentoring capacity, and institutional knowledge from year-to-year on the EXCOM. Of course, requiring a four-year commitment from any future officer candidate was an acknowledged potential downside, but we felt the value of this change was worth a discussion at the business meeting.

There was lively discussion regarding this proposal at the business meeting. Comments on the proposal were predominantly positive, but the additional year of commitment was resisted because of increased potential for officer burnout or reduced officer recruitment (can it be any lower?). Most of the debate focused on benefits to the President-Elect with annual meeting preparation. However, the primary point of the proposal was the potential improvement of Chapter governance. This was my failure to keep the discussion focused (although the burden of planning the annual meeting is a real concern too). In the end, a motion to accept the proposed by-law change failed to win sufficient support from the membership.

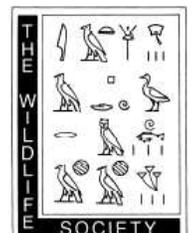
One could conclude that the membership of the Chapter is generally satisfied with Chapter governance and the services provided by the Chapter upon analyzing the debate and vote regarding this failed proposal. Speaking only for myself and notwithstanding my current position on EXCOM, I think this is true. On the other hand, the genesis of the proposal was part of an effort by me and other EXCOM members to ask the question, "How can we do better?" One thought was that we might be able to (or maybe not) improve membership service by giving incoming officers more time to consider how they might govern once they became president. In the end, I think it's a compliment to all current and past officers that Chapter members did not see a pressing need for improvement in how the Chapter has been governed. However, we should still ask the question "How can we do better?"

To that effect, we will continue to slowly move towards development of a strategic plan for the Chapter. It is a goal of mine to have a draft in place before I step away from the Executive Committee. The current EXCOM has agreed to prioritize membership feedback – you – regarding what current services you value and what services the Chapter could or should provide to its members. So, please take a moment to weigh in and provide feedback when queried.

Thanks.

Montana Chapter of the American Fisheries Society and Montana Chapter of the Wildlife Society 2009 Joint Meeting Recap

Scott Barndt, MCAFS President



Nearly 400 combined members of the Montana Chapters of the American Fisheries Society and The Wildlife Society gathered in Kalispell, Montana, February 9-13, 2009 for a joint meeting. The meeting's theme was "Adapting fish and wildlife management to human demographic change in Montana," recognizing that

successfully solving looming fish and wildlife management challenges such as climate change and expanding energy development can only occur when human demography is included in solutions.

The meeting began with two continuing education workshops designed to provide both scope and solutions to elements of the themes, “Human demographic impacts: invasive species and other species of concern,” and “human demographic impacts: solutions to fish and wildlife management challenges.” The following plenary session, titled, “Learning from the past, but focusing on the future: adapting fish and wildlife management to Montana’s new demographics” presented both the progression of fish and wildlife management in Montana in response to human demographic changes over the last century as well as a context for future changes. The plenary session concluded with panel discussions that provided perspectives from both public and private entities spanning most aspects of fish and wildlife management. A consistent message was that human demographic change is modifying some fundamental tenets of fish and wildlife management. This modification will require development of both new models of management and collaboration as well as different skill sets among future managers. Although this change presents challenges, it likewise offers exciting opportunities for disparate disciplines and groups to work together to solve these challenges. As such, it was very appropriate that the topic was addressed by a joint meeting of the two largest professional fish and wildlife societies in Montana.

After the plenary session, a day of three joint concurrent sessions ensued. Presentations were grouped into topics of mutual concern to both fish and wildlife managers, ranging from, “Human interactions with fish and wildlife: impacts and solutions,” to, “Avian topics.” Consequently, both topics and attendees were diverse and interdisciplinary. The presentations at the 2009 joint meeting demonstrated the wide reaching, important, and timely work conducted by Montana’s fish and wildlife professionals. Based on this and past examples, there is no doubt that the dedicated individuals, agencies, and organizations represented by the Montana Chapters of The Wildlife Society and the American Fisheries Society will continue to strive to meet the challenges posed by a changing future.

Additionally, Todd Koel, Yellowstone National Park, was elected to serve as President-Elect of the Montana Chapter during the MCAFS business meeting. Leo Rosenthal of Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks was elected to serve as the Secretary/Treasurer. Todd and Leo assumed their roles in September 2009.

Be sure to check out the MCAFS website for the most up-to-date information on upcoming meetings, funding opportunities, employment, and related links at <http://www.fisheries.org/units/AFSmontana/>.

Awards

Travis Horton, MCAFS Past-Awards Chair



The opportunity to acknowledge and honor the exemplary work by individuals on behalf of our aquatic resources across the state is a unique and important role of MCAFS - one we take great satisfaction in. We had many exceptional nominations for individual and group achievement in 2009. Our outgoing officers, Past-President David Schmetterling and Secretary/Treasurer Windy Davis, were acknowledged for their tireless service to MCAFS. Their substantial contributions will be missed. In addition, we recognized nine individuals and one group with the following awards:

- **Hilary Billman** (Idaho State University) was presented with the “Best Student Presentation Award” for her talk “Toxicity of Rotenone to Larval Amphibians.”
- **David Schmetterling** (Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks) was presented with the “Best Professional Presentation Award” for his talk “Climate Change Mediates the Spatial Partitioning of Sculpin and Longnose Dace Leading to Trophic Cascades in Riverine Ecosystems of Western Montana.”
- **Ben Cox** (M.S. candidate) and **David Garfield** (undergraduate) were awarded the Wally McClure Scholarship.
- **Bruce Malcom** was presented with a Landowner of the year award for his contributions to Montana fisheries.
- **Mike Koopal** (Whitefish Lake Institute) was awarded an individual achievement award for his contributions to the conservation of Montana’s fisheries resources in the Whitefish Lake Area.
- The **Mitchell Slough Legal Team** (**Bob Lane** and **Becky Jakes-Dockter**, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks; **Jack Tuholske**, Tuholske Law Office; and **Sarah McMillian**, Western Environmental Law Center) was awarded a Group Achievement Award for their landmark work on the public access issues surrounding the Mitchell Slough Case.
- **Larry Peterman** and **Jim Peterson**, (Retired, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks) were presented with Career Achievement Awards for their dedicated service to Montana’s aquatic resources.
- **Lee Nelson** (Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks) was presented with the “2008 Outstanding Fisheries Professional Award,” the Chapter’s highest honor, for his leadership and dedication to Montana’s Aquatic Resources.



Travis Horton presents Larry Peterman with a 2008 Career Achievement Award on behalf of the Montana Chapter of the American Fisheries Society.



Travis Horton presents Jim Peterson with a 2008 Career Achievement Award for his contributions to the Montana Chapter of the American Fisheries Society.



Carter Kruse presents Outgoing President David Schmetterling with a 2008 Certificate of Appreciation for his contributions to the Montana Chapter of the American Fisheries Society.



Travis Horton presents Lee Nelson with the 2008 Outstanding Fisheries Professional Award from the Montana Chapter of the American Fisheries Society.



Travis Horton presents Becky Jakes-Dockter and Sarah McMillian (representing the Mitchell Slough Legal Team) with a 2008 Group Achievement Award on behalf of the Montana Chapter of the American Fisheries Society.

2010 MCAFS Annual Meeting

Todd Koel, MCAFS President-Elect, Program Chair

Greetings, Montana AFS! Below you will find the final call for this year's meeting, scheduled for the week of February 8th at the Best Western GranTree, Bozeman. Submissions for oral presentations are still being accepted. However, there will also be a formal poster session with large boards placed front and center in a large gathering area. Time will be set aside for this session and all presenters will be expected to attend. The deadline for all abstract submissions has been extended to January 20th, but please send them to me as soon as possible.

Of particular urgency is your need to reserve a room at the GranTree. January 15th ends our hold on a block of rooms. Filling the GranTree room block reduces costs incurred by our Chapter! Contact the Best Western GranTree ASAP at 406-587-5261.

This looks to be a lively meeting with great continuing education courses, stellar plenary speakers, a student mentoring session, awards banquet, raffle, and more. Details can be found on the flyer below and at <http://www.fisheries.org/units/AFSmontana/index.html>. See you in Bozeman!

LINKAGES ACROSS LANDSCAPES: THE ECOLOGICAL ROLE OF FISH IN MONTANA



FWP Photo

43rd Annual Meeting Feb 9 – 12, 2010
Montana Chapter
American Fisheries Society
Best Western GranTree, Bozeman

FINAL CALL



YNP photo

1. BOOK YOUR ROOM

JANUARY 15TH ENDS OUR HOLD ON A BLOCK OF ROOMS

Filling the GranTree room block reduces costs incurred by YOUR AFS Chapter!

Contact the Best Western GranTree ASAP:

1325 N 7th Avenue, Bozeman, MT 59715

Phone: 406/587-5261 Fax: 406/587-9437

2. SUBMIT YOUR ABSTRACT

JANUARY 20TH IS THE EXTENDED DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION

But please don't wait until then to submit! E-mail to todd_koel@nps.gov

Thinking about putting together a mini-symposium? Contact Todd Koel at 307-344-2281

For guidance on abstract formatting, visit:

www.fisheries.org/units/AFSmontana/abstract.html

3. REGISTER ON-LINE

JANUARY 31ST ENDS THE REDUCED RATE PERIOD (SAVE \$100!)

Late registration may not include lunches or banquet

www.mtgs-etc.com/mtafs6.htm

Contact Leo Rosenthal with questions: (406) 751-4548; lrosenthal@mt.gov

World Class Plenary Speakers – Excellent Continuing Education Workshops
Student Mentoring Session – The Best Fisheries Science Anywhere

All in Bozeman!

Plenary Session Speakers

Wednesday February 10th

Paul Schullery

Yellowstone National Park

*Fish Culture and Human Culture: Historic Contexts of Modern
Research and Management*

Daniel Schindler

University of Washington

*The Importance of Landscape- and Population Diversity for Ecosystem
Services Associated with Fishes*

Wyatt Cross

Montana State University

*Relationships Between Fish and Benthic Communities: A Call for More
Experiments in the Context of Adaptive Management*

Merav Ben-David

University of Wyoming

Aquatic-Terrestrial Linkages: Formation, Importance, and Disruption

Charles Schwartz

IGBST, USGS

*Ecological Importance of Cutthroat Trout to the
Yellowstone Grizzly Bear*

Wayne Hubert

American Fisheries Society

*Changes in Aquatic Species Introductions with Evolution from MSY to
Ecosystem-Based Fisheries Management*

Continuing Education Workshops Two Excellent Opportunities on Tuesday February 9th!

Workshop 1. Taxonomy and Identification of Eastern Montana Prairie Fishes: A virtual slog through the mud and incredible biodiversity of Montana's amazing prairie streams.

Workshop: Tuesday, February 9th, 9:30am – 5:00pm

Cost: \$25 (Lunch included)

Enrollment Capacity: 30

Workshop Instructor: Dr. Robert Bramblett

Workshop Description: The course will cover the distribution, ecology, status, and identification of the 30+ species of fishes found in Montana's prairie streams. Participants will be taught identification of this diverse group of fishes using preserved specimens, and an identification key. Dr. Bramblett has a wealth of knowledge and experience in this area as he has been studying the diverse fish assemblages of eastern Montana for over 10 years. If you are from western Montana, suspend your salmocentricism for a day and join Bob for a virtual slog through the mud and incredible biodiversity of Montana's amazing prairie streams. If you are from Eastern Montana, here is a chance to brush up on or learn for the first time how to identify your little prairie buddies.

Registration: www.mtgs-etc.com/mtafs6.htm

Workshop 2. Structured Decision Making and Adaptive Management in Fishery Management: Learn the fundamentals of this powerful framework for making fishery and human resource management decisions by applying the framework to exciting Montana fishery management case studies.

Workshop: Tuesday, February 9th, 8:00am – 5:00pm

Cost: \$25 (Lunch included)

Enrollment Capacity: 60

Workshop Instructor: Dr. Mike Mitchell, University of Montana Wildlife Coop Unit Leader

Workshop Description: Structured decision-making is a general term for carefully organized analysis of problems in order to reach decisions that are focused clearly on achieving fundamental objectives. Based in decision theory and risk analysis, SDM encompasses a simple set of concepts and helpful steps, rather than a rigidly-prescribed approach for problem solving. Key SDM concepts include making decisions based on clearly articulated fundamental objectives, dealing explicitly with uncertainty, and responding transparently to legal mandates and public preferences or values in decision making; thus, SDM integrates science and policy explicitly. Every decision consists of several primary elements – management objectives, decision options, and predictions of decision outcomes. By analyzing each component separately and thoughtfully within a comprehensive decision framework, it is possible to improve the quality of decision-making. The core SDM concepts and steps to better decision making

Montana Chapter, American Fisheries Society
43rd Annual Meeting February 9-12, 2010 – Best Western GranTree, Bozeman

are useful across all types of decisions: from individuals making minor or personal decisions to complex public sector decisions involving multiple decision makers, scientists and other stakeholders. In turn, an array of simple to highly quantitative analytical methods is available for structured decision analysis. Our workshop will focus on the process of SDM and its application to real-world case studies in fisheries management.

Case Studies:

- Multi-Species Sport Fish Management in Canyon Ferry Reservoir
- Non-Native Lake Trout Management in Swan Lake
- Controlling Non-Native Lake Trout in Yellowstone Lake
- Flow Management and Restoration of Riverine Processes in the Missouri River
- Additional case studies coming soon!

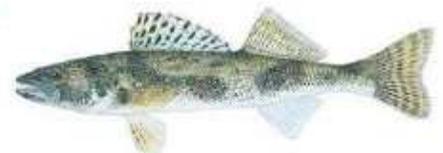
Please note: This workshop has required and recommended readings, which can be found at: www.fisheries.org/units/AFSmontana/meeting.html

Registration: www.mtgs-etc.com/mtafs6.htm

Schedule at a Glance (Tentative)

Tues	Feb. 9	9:30am – 5:00pm	Workshop Session I, Montana Prairie Fishes
		8:00am – 5:00pm	Workshop Session II, Structured Decision Making
Wed	Feb. 10		Plenary Speakers Session
			Buffet Lunch
			Excom Subcommittee Meetings
			Poster Session
			Student Mentoring Session
			Evening Social
Thu	Feb. 11		Contributed Papers Session
			Business Meeting Luncheon (2 hours)
			Awards Banquet
Fri	Feb. 12		Contributed Papers Session

For additional information contact meeting chair Todd Koel (todd_koel@nps.gov;
phone: 307-344-2281; fax: 307-344-2211).



Western Division of the American Fisheries Society 2010 Annual Meeting: Call for Symposia



On behalf of the Utah Chapter and the Western Division of the American Fisheries Society, we invite you to join us in Salt Lake City, April 19 – 24, for the 2010 Western Division of the American Fisheries Society Annual Meeting. The meeting will be held at the Salt Palace Convention Center with lodging in the adjacent Downtown Radisson Hotel.

The theme of the meeting “The Future of Aquatic Resources in the West: Science, Management, and Politics” is meant to highlight the multiple stakeholders/demands placed on aquatic resources; how these demands drive the direction of scientific inquiry and management; and the political interaction that results. The 2010 Western Division of the American Fisheries Society Annual Meeting is an ideal forum to explore this theme. The Western US is home to the five driest states in the nation and three of the top five states with the fastest population growth. The West’s scarce aquatic resources are facing increasing demands resulting in intersections between science, management, and politics

We encourage symposia, papers and posters that build on the meeting theme and demonstrate how fisheries scientists, aquatic resource managers, and politicians address the challenges facing fish populations and aquatic ecosystems.

The Program Committee invites proposals for symposia. Topics must be of general interest to WDAFS members. Topics related to the meeting theme will receive priority. Symposium organizers are responsible for recruiting presenters, soliciting their abstracts, and directing them to register for the meeting and submit their abstracts through the WDAFS online abstract submission form. A symposium should include a minimum of 8 presentations and the time requested should not exceed two days (i.e., about 32 oral presentations). Regular oral presentations are limited to 20 minutes, but double time slots (i.e., 40 minutes) may be offered to key-note speakers.

Symposium proposals must be submitted by January 15, 2010 via e-mail to Anna Forest (annaforest@utah.gov) with the proposal attached in the correct format in MS Word; please contact Anna Forest (annaforest@utah.gov, 435-232-7133) if you do not receive confirmation by January 18, 2010. The Program Committee will review all symposium proposals and notify organizers of acceptance or refusal by January 22, 2010. If accepted, organizers must submit a complete list of all confirmed presentations and titles by February 12, 2010. Symposium abstracts are due by March 1, 2010 (also deadline for early registration). Visit www.utahafs.org for up-to-date meeting information.





American Fisheries Society

Western Division

AFS Western Division Riparian, Watersheds and Habitat Committee **- 2010 Riparian Challenge Call for Entries -**

The Riparian, Watersheds and Habitat Committee is seeking entries for the Western Division's 2010 Riparian Challenge Award. The Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management and other conservation agencies or private industries in the region encompassed by the Western Division (thirteen western states, British Columbia, Yukon Territories, Mexico and U.S. Islands and Trust Territories of the Western Pacific), are invited to participate in the Riparian Challenge. Winners will receive the Western Division's Award of Excellence in Riparian Management to be presented at the Western Division Annual Meeting hosted by the Utah Chapter AFS in Salt Lake City, Utah April 19-23, 2010. The purpose of the Riparian Challenge award is to:

- Encourage the Bureau of Land Management, Forest Service and other conservation agencies or private industry to strive for excellence in riparian and watershed habitat management,
- Encourage agencies to progress in on-the-ground accomplishments which when added together throughout the West, will significantly improve riparian systems,
- Recognize managers and resource specialists for their efforts in maintaining, restoring, and improving riparian and watershed ecosystems.

If you are aware of a project that should be considered, please ask the appropriate USFS, BLM, conservation agency or industry to submit an entry form. Winners will be selected in the following categories (depending on the number of submissions received):

BLM

- Best Resource Area or Field Office

Forest Service

- Best Ranger District

Other (conservation agencies, consultants, or private industry)

- Best Riparian Project

More information, along with a description of the entry format, criteria for evaluating entries, and examples of recent winning entries, please visit:

http://www.wdafs.org/committees/Riparian_Watersheds_Habitat/Riparian_Watersheds_Habitat_comm.htm
Questions concerning the Riparian Challenge and completed electronic entries should be emailed to the Riparian Challenge Committee Chair, Troy Brandt (tbrandt@riverdesigngroup.net, 503-307-8367). Entries are to be submitted **by March 15, 2010.**



Montana Chapter of the American Fisheries Society

Resource Action Fund Grant Application



The executive committee (past-president, president, president-elect, and secretary-treasurer; EXCOM) of the Montana Chapter of the American Fisheries Society (MCAFS) will review this grant request on behalf of the Chapter. The EXCOM will provide a decision within 60 days of receipt of any grant application not exceeding \$2,000; however, requests greater than \$2,000 require a membership vote and will be presented to the membership at the Chapter’s annual meeting, traditionally held in mid-February each year. These types of requests (> \$2,000) need to be submitted by January 15th each year. For more details please see the MCAFS web page at www.fisheries.org/AFSmontana, or contact an EXCOM member. Please fill out each section of the RAF grant application completely, providing adequate background for your project, a description of the benefits to Montana fisheries, and what the requested funds would be used for.

Treasurer’s Report

Leo Rosenthal, MCAFS Treasurer
9/23/2009 through 1/05/2010



Total Chapter Assets/ Liabilities

Checking Account	\$15,004.65
Trust Fund	\$37,063.51
Wally McClure Scholarship Fund	\$23,613.39
1-year CD with First Interstate	\$4,115.00

TOTAL **\$79,796.55**

Checking Account – First Interstate Bank

Beginning balance 09/23/2009	\$25,252.04
Gains/(Loss)	(\$10,247.39)
Ending balance 01/05/2010	\$15,004.65

Trust Fund – PAX World Fund Balance

Beginning balance 09/23/2009	\$28,886.13
Gains/(Loss)	\$8,177.38
Ending balance 01/05/2010	\$37,063.51

Wally McClure Scholarship Fund

Beginning balance 09/23/2009	\$22,056.09
Gains/(Loss)	\$1,557.30
Ending balance 01/05/2010	\$23,613.39

1-year CD – First Interstate Bank

Established 10/29/2009	\$4,115.00
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Editor's Note...

Amber Steed, MCAFS Newsletter Editor

For many of us, winter ushers in the season of mending, reunion, and data analysis. We repair shredded waders for yet another year of beating. We send off electrofishing units for obscenely expensive repairs. And though many of us got into this business for the connection it gives us to the resource (i.e., field work!), it's the product of that effort that brings us together every winter to review, brainstorm, plan, and socialize. We reconnect at meetings, updating each other on our lives and work. And before we know it, we disband again for another season of frenzied activity.

But how often do we pause to think about all the folks we share this seasonal cycle with? As of November 2009, there were 145 members in the Montana Chapter of the American Fisheries Society, a certain underestimate of the fisheries workforce across the state. The Western Division reported 3,054 members. Hazard a guess at our nationwide numbers? By the end of November 2009, there were 7,238. This labor of love can both break down and restore our bodies, and we are dedicated all the same. I for one am proud to be among such individuals. So when you are feeling you are alone in battling to conserve and protect the resource you believe so strongly in, look around at the next AFS meeting. Think about the thousands of others in another style of the same shoe, and keep going. If not you, then who?

Please direct newsletter comments, submissions, and ideas to:

Amber Steed
Fisheries Biologist
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Kalispell, MT 59901
asteed@mt.gov
406-751-4541



Looking Back 25 Years

Paul Hamlin, MCAFS Historian

Greetings from Whitebeard. Guess What? The 1986 Annual Montana Chapter of the American Fisheries Society meeting was also held in Bozeman on February 13-14 at the GranTree Inn. Room rates were \$28 for a single and \$32-\$35 for double occupancy. Membership stood at 209, 129 of which were in good standing. Chapter dues were \$10 for active members and \$5 for students. The treasurer's report showed a balance of \$73.67 prior to the annual meeting, which cost \$1,943.87 to put on.



President Pat Dwyer opened the 1986 meeting, followed by the keynote address given by Dr. Robert Behnke. President-Elect Jerry Wells put together the 2-day meeting which included four panels: Changes in Attitudes, Changes in Latitudes: The Changing Roles of Fish Culture in the West; The Management of Our National Forest—Perspectives on Fish and Wildlife; Perspectives on In-stream Flow Protection in Montana; Stream Access in Montana: What does the future hold? Secretary-Treasurer Bob Gresswell reported the duo of Dick

Vincent and Jeff Bagdanov raised \$1,070 through donations and the raffle. Monies raised went into the riparian account. An adult cartoon from Idaho titled, "Super Salmo" was also shown during the evening festivities.

The summer workshop was held in the Dillon area on August 14 and 15 to review the effects of livestock grazing on riparian zones. Dick Oswald, Lew Myers, and Brad Shepard hosted the workshop. Portions of the workshop included a tour of the Matador Ranch to observe the effects of rest-rotation grazing on riparian vegetation and a trip to Big Sheep Creek to observe different riparian grazing systems.

Also of note, the first annual "Fishery Worker of the Year" award was given to Ralph Boland. Steve Leathe became the first newsletter editor, relieving those duties from the Secretary-Treasurer position. The Environmental Concerns committee was also formed in 1986. Glen Phillips was elected as Secretary-Treasurer and Great Falls was selected to host the 1987 Annual Meeting to be held on December 8-10, 1986.

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Tag, You're It!

By: David Schmetterling...check out the next *Outlet* issue for this tome of enlightenment!

