

FEDERATION OF FLY FISHERS CONSERVATION UPDATE DECEMBER 2008

Announcements:

FFF Conservation Coordinator

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Conservation VP Representatives

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Oregon State Council

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Northern California Council

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Southwest Council

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Western Rockies Council

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Eastern Rockies Council

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Great River Council

Vacant

Great Lakes Council

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Ohio State Council

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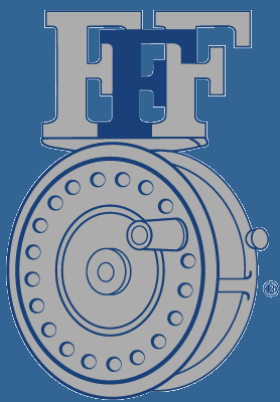
Southern Council

Robert Bays
baysrr@aristotle.net

- Thank you for all for your dedication to fisheries and habitats across the nation. Your efforts help sustain our fisheries for the future! Here's to another great year for fisheries conservation in 2009.
- The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation recently announced its "Five Star Restoration Matching Grants Program." The program attempts to develop community capacity to sustain local natural resources for future generations by providing financial assistance to diverse local partnerships for wetland, riparian, and coastal habitat restoration. The proposal deadline is February 16, 2009. Contact Amanda Bassow at amanda.bassow@nfwf.org for more information, or visit <http://epa.gov/owow/wetlands/restore/5star/> or <http://nfwf.org/FiveStar>.



- The Federation of Fly Fishers is conducting an online auction to help support our mission to conserve, restore and educate through fly fishing. Browse for unique gifts for people on your holiday list. <http://www.fedflyfishers.org/Default.aspx?tabid=4973>
- FFF launches new electronic newsletter. Each month we will bring you information about our core activities – Conservation, Education, Conclave, Membership – in one newsletter. Please forward to a friend and spread the good work that the Federation is doing. If you have not received the FFF E-Newsletter, contact us.



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Conservation VP Representatives

Gulf Coast Council

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Florida State Council

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Mid-Atlantic Council

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North Eastern Council

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Conservation Committee Chairs

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Steelhead and Osprey

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Warmwater

Vacant

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Conservation Affairs

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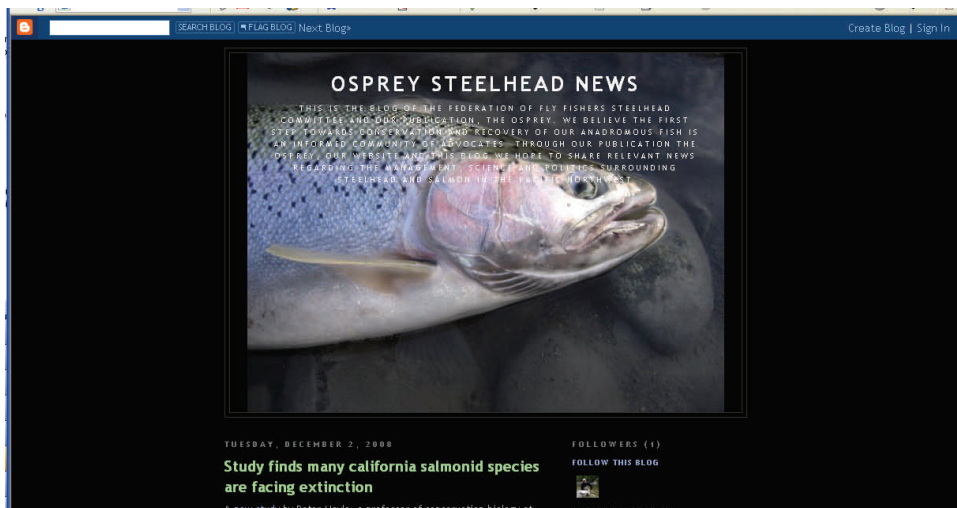
Executive Board Affairs

Rick Williams
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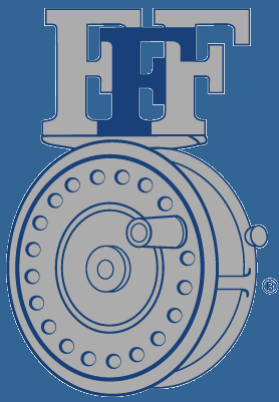
Committee Updates:

- The Steelhead Committee has been busy the last few months. First, the FFF Web pages on The Osprey have been expanded and improved upon to include more information about steelhead and salmon issues, and easier navigation for more information on The Osprey. Visit our website and browse back issues of The Osprey. The next issue of The Osprey will be released in January.

The Steelhead Committee has also just launched a blog dedicated to salmon and steelhead issues. The Steelhead Committee believes the first step towards conservation and recovery of our anadromous fish is an informed community of advocates. Through our publication The Osprey, our website and this blog we hope to share relevant news regarding the management, science and politics surrounding steelhead and salmon in the Pacific Northwest. Visit the blog at <http://ospreysteelheadnews.blogspot.com/>



- Currently the Conservation Strategic Plan has been released for review by all of the FFF members. If you would like to review or read the plan please visit our website and supply comments to the FFF by February 1, 2009. http://www.fedflyfishers.org/Portals/0/Conservation%20Content/Strategic_Plan_Conservation2008_11_10_08.pdf



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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.

- Our FFF Legislative Affairs representative met with the president-elect Obama transition team to convey the priorities of the FFF for conservation in 2009. The FFF called for the incoming Obama Administration to provide strong support for protecting, restoring and enhancing aquatic habitat protection, to help ensure that recreational angling and the economic and ecological benefits provided will continue.
- Letter to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission commending their efforts to protect river herring populations and calling for increased measures to reduce by-catch of this important Atlantic fishery. Following decades of population declines from dams, habitat degradation, and fishing mortality, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) listed alewife and blueback herring as species of concern in 2006. Alewife and blueback herring are two species of fish that belong to the river herring family.

Staff Activities and Program Updates:

- *Rivers of a Lost Coast* chronicles the un-told story of California's secretive coastal fly fishing community. Using first hand accounts and captivating restored footage, this film weaves a narrative through one of the most interesting and tragic stories in American angling history. Lani Waller, Russell Chatham and the late Bob Nauheim, Myron Gregory and Bill Schaadt are all highlighted in the film. Tom Skerritt, the long-standing conservationist and one of the stars from *A River Runs Through It*, narrates the film. A wealth of information about early California steelheading, including great deleted scenes and audio clips, can be found on the film's website (www.riversofalostcoast.com).

**RIVERS OF A
LOST COAST**

The *Rivers of a Lost Coast* production team has yet to release a date for the premiere but plans are in

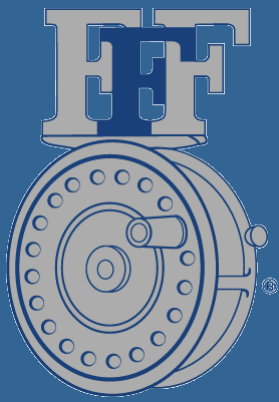
place for a West Coast tour. Look for the film in smaller independent theaters in March and June of 2009. Future information about the theatrical showings and DVD release will be available on the website (www.riversofalostcoast.com).

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

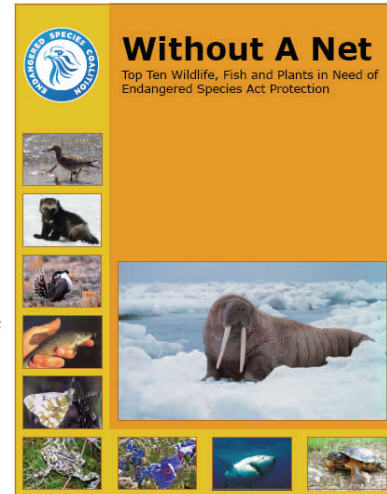
Please inform Leah of any errors in this report.



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Staff Activities and Program Updates:

- Montana Fluvial Grayling makes *Top 10 list of Endangered Species*. The Endangered Species Coalition (FFF is a partner member) announced this month their report on the most endangered species of 2008. The report "*Without a net – Top 10 Wildlife, Fish and Plants in Need of Endangered Species Act Protection*" highlights a variety of species that need our attention. The fluvial (river-dwelling) grayling of the Big Hole River are one of the top 10 species that has been steadily declining over the years and has repeatedly been dismissed for listing.



Read the full report http://www.stopextinction.org/cgi-bin/giga.cgi?cmd=cause_dir_custom&cause_id=1704&page=topten

- A recently produced video by Stripers Forever shows the proper techniques to release a striped bass. The video was produced by Jason Puris with TheFin.com. The state of our natural resources, along with current bag limits, dictates that we can't keep every striped bass we catch. Knowing the correct way to practice catch and release fishing is vital to the future of recreational saltwater angling. We think that this is an important message to share not only with our members but with the striped bass fishing community as a whole. The video is currently available for viewing on TheFin.com. You can see it by visiting this link: <http://www.thefin.com/clubs/stripers-forever>

The FFF continues to provide educational brochures on catch and release, if you are interested in receiving a brochure, please contact us.

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