



# The Adipose

Newsletter of the Wild Steelhead Coalition  
Volume 2, Issue 5

October 2002

## The President's Forum

As we move into Fall and the great days ahead for salmon, summer-run steelhead, and sea-run cutthroat fishing, we all must remember to continue to devote some of our precious personal time to the fish. And, I don't mean just trying to catch them! For the WSC specifically, this means the advocacy of any acts that will help protect wild steelhead. In particular, we want to continue our plea for mandatory release of all wild steelhead, support the mass marking of hatchery fish, learn what the best science can tell us about hatcheries and hatchery fish and their impact on wild stocks, and push for more habitat protection and rehabilitation, among other things.

Our scheduled Steelhead Summit on November 23, 2002 will be a start towards dealing with these issues as well as many more. Our goal is to form a true "coalition" of other organizations that can move forward together to better benefit the survival of wild steelhead. We expect representatives from British Columbia, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington to come together, agree on some issues and directions, and develop an "action plan." We hope that this inaugural summit will be the first of many!

Nate Mantua has scheduled some great speakers for our next several general membership meetings, so reserve the first Wednesday of every month to come learn, enjoy, and share some quality time with your WSC colleagues. We have had some new members in the last month but not as many as we expected. Get the word out and bring a friend to the next meeting.

*Sincerely, Jack Berryman, WSC Board President*  
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*Skykomish Wild Winter Steelhead*

*photo by D. Harman*

**Summary of Brian Winter's Presentation:  
Restoration of the Elwha River Ecosystem--A Status Report**

Brian Winter, the Elwha Project Manager for Olympic National Park, covered both the history of the construction of the Elwha River dams in the early 1900's and the more recent planning to remove those dams.

Construction of Elwha Dam, at river mile 4.9, started in 1910 and became operational in 1913. Elwha Dam cut off over 70 miles of habitat for anadromous fish on a system that formerly supported productive runs of chinook, coho, pink, sockeye and chum salmon, as well as steelhead and sea run cutthroat trout. Since the construction of the dams remnant populations of each species continue to use the lower Elwha. Plans to remove the two dams became federal law with the passage of the 1992 Elwha River Restoration Act. This act calls for the full restoration of the Elwha River ecosystem and native anadromous fisheries. In 1996 the Federal government purchased both Elwha Dam and Glines Canyon Dam for \$29.5 million. In 2000 the cost estimate for full recovery of the Elwha River ecosystem was \$135 million. Final engineering designs for the restoration project are to be completed this year, and dam removal and sediment management are scheduled to begin in 2005. With average runoff, engineers estimate that the silt currently stored behind the dams will be gone in just 2 years. The park service plans to use hatchery outplanting for about 10 years to help restore anadromous fish to the upper river, and expects full recovery to take place over a 20 to 30 year period. Fisheries scientists have trapped steelhead smolts that have passed through the turbines in the dams, on their way to sea, demonstrating that remnant wild steelhead populations remain in the watershed.

More details on the Elwha River Restoration project are available on these web-sites:  
<http://www.elwha.org/river.htm> <http://www.nps.gov/olym/elwha/home.htm>

Thanks again to Brian for giving us the details of this exciting restoration project.

Nate Mantua , WSC VP of Science and Education

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**8/27/02 WSC Board Meeting Minutes**

In attendance were Jack Berryman, Dick Burge, Dave Bailey, and Richard Hunt. As there was no quorum no official business was conducted.

The remainder of the WSC board spent the next 1½ hours discussing and planning the upcoming Steelhead Summit. The date for the summit is Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup>, to be held at the Waterfront Activity Center at U.of W. There is seating for 72 around the tables with some overflow at the fireplace. The room is ours from 7:30am to 6:00pm [sharp]. The summit will be by invitation/registration only. Discussed providing a box lunch and a lunch time speaker.

Jack Berryman and Les Johnson wrote a grant request to Patagonia they feel very confident about. Meeting adjourned about 8:00pm.

Respectively Submitted,  
Richard Hunt, Secretary, Wild Steelhead Coalition

## THE YEAR IS 2020

“Grandpa! Grandpa!”

I hear the voice calling me as I sit on the bank of the river. As I turn my head toward the voice I discover I’m in my den and my 13 year old grandson is looking at me with that intent gaze that only youth has. I put down the scrapbook, full of pictures of water and sky with a fish or two mixed in and give Jerry my full attention.

“Grandpa, tell me again how the wild steelhead came back.”

“Well Jerry, back at the turn of the century the wild steelhead were declining rapidly in nearly all watersheds in our state. I think it was in the year 2000 when a group of 40 or so of us fishermen gathered together and formed the Wild Steelhead Coalition. It was really great that a group of fishermen with diverse fishing styles could come together and have a common goal. The Wild Steelhead Coalition’s first task was to change the fishing regulations regarding the killing of wild steelhead. We were able to get the state to change the number of wild fish available to kill from 2 per day and 30 per year to 1 per day and 5 per year.

In 2002 the first Steelhead Summit resulted in a more unified voice from the fishing community and led to the state going to wild steelhead release year round and statewide. The steelhead numbers stabilized, but at a dangerously low level. The second and third Steelhead Summits resulted in hatchery reform in 2005 and not so surprising was the steady increase in the numbers of returning wild fish. I have a few pictures here of some nice wild steelhead caught and released just after you were born. See this chrome buck with the snow white belly.....”

“GRANDPA!!!” The voice once again brought me back to the here and now.

“Where was I Jerry? Oh, yeah, hatchery reform. It was hard getting people to understand that giving up some hatchery fish short term would result in better fishing in the long run. Rule changes were implemented over the years to lessen the incidental hooking mortality on parr and smolts and last, but not least, was the banning of commercial netting in Washington’s waters. They were all hard fights, but as the sports fisherman realized more victories because of a unified voice, it was like a steamroller rolling downhill. With solid science and fish’s needs coming first it was only natural that wild steelhead would increase to the numbers we have today. That’s why Washington is again known for it’s great steelhead fishing. I can’t tell you how proud I am Jerry of how you so beautifully caught and so gently released that giant wild buck yesterday. Bigger than any steelhead I’ve caught, but I would like to think that our efforts for the last 20 years have made this dream possible.”

*By Richard Hunt*



*Wild Buck Mug Shot*

*photo by Rob Endsley*

**News & Bits-**  
**What's going on in & around the WSC**

**Fall Steelhead Summit Update**

The Wild Steelhead Coalition is currently hard at work organizing and sponsoring a "Steelhead Summit" for November 23, 2002. The purpose of this summit is to invite representatives from other clubs & organizations to discuss and collaborate on various issues regarding wild steelhead.

Letters of invitation to clubs & organizations have been sent out and response so far has been enthusiastic. A very talented facilitator has been secured for the summit which will be held at the Waterfront Activities Center near Husky Stadium on the University of Washington Campus.

If you would like more information regarding the summit, have ideas or would like to participate please phone or e-mail Dick Burge @ 360-765-3815, [fskibum@olympen.com](mailto:fskibum@olympen.com) or Dave Bailey @ 360-681-7043, [captain@olympen.com](mailto:captain@olympen.com)

**WSC Action/Business Plan**

The BOD has completed and approved the WSC 2002-2003 Action/Business Plan. The Plan was emailed out to the membership for review and will be presented at the October Membership meeting and voted on for adoption. If you have not received a copy of the plan contact Rich Simms @ 425-880-4254 or email at [wscmembership@yahoo.com](mailto:wscmembership@yahoo.com).

**Skeena Steelhead Letter**

The WSC faxed an official letter to respective Canadian Ministers in regards to the irresponsible fisheries management at the mouth of the Skeena River. A prime example of the disregard shown to steelhead by fisheries officials was given last year. In 2001, fisheries agencies knowingly sacrificed early-run steelhead by allowing almost 500 boats to net inside the mouth of the Skeena River during late July and early August. It was called a 'selective gillnet fishery'. It was an unmitigated disaster for early-run steelhead. Most estimates placed the loss of September stocks of wild steelhead at approximately 42 percent. The letter was also cc'd to Greg Gordon, Federation of Fly Fishers and Keith Douglas, North Coast Steelhead Alliance. A copy of the letter was also emailed to the WSC Membership.

**WSC Responds concerning the importance of Wild Steelhead**

In the Aug./Sept. issue of Salmon Trout & Steelheader, a "Guest Editorial" argued that there was absolutely no difference between hatchery and wild steelhead. WSC President, Jack Berryman wrote an article in response based upon the input of Nate Mantua, Dick Burge, and Carl Ostberg, which will be published in the Oct./Nov. issue.

**WSC Board Position**

The WSC is currently looking for a replacement for the VP of Fundraising board position. If you're a current member, here is your chance to serve the WSC and work with an inspired group of board members. If interested and feel you can add value to the WSC mission contact Jack Berryman @ 425-821-1774 or Rich Simms @ 425-880-4254

**NF Skykomish Wilderness Plan**

WSC Member Steve Wrye has volunteered and is currently researching and drafting a letter of support to the NF Skykomish Wilderness Plan.

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## **WSC Membership Report**

The WSC would like to welcome the new members who have recently joined the WSC:

**Kevin Brintnall**, Member, Issaquah, WA

**Jeremy Sorka**, Member, Lakebay, WA

**Jacob Venard**, Member, Seattle, WA

**Paul Utz**, Sponsor Member, Roseburg, OR

**De Los Snodgrass**, Member, Beaver, WA

Special thanks to Member **Bruce Gray** for his recent donation to the WSC through his company's corporate giving plan.

### **Did You Know....**

If you have corporate giving programs where you work that you can designate funds to the WSC.

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## **Meeting Announcement**

**First Wednesday of the month (Oct. 2nd) 6:30 - 9:30**

**Bothell American Legion Hall 19213 Bothell Way NE (Hwy 527)**

October Program/Guest Speaker: **Jim Tuggle**

Presentation Title: **“Setting Priorities in Fish Protection”**

Jim Tuggle retired from WDFW three years ago and was the enforcement sergeant in charge of fishing enforcement for the Puget Sound area. He has an extensive background in both sport and commercial fishing, and has written and implemented many regulations. Jim has been a life-long angler with extensive fishing experience through out the western U.S. Since his retirement, he has been operating a fish guiding business on the Olympic Peninsula/Alaska. Jim stays very busy in fish conservation politics, and community volunteer service. “One of our biggest challenges in getting our fish management entities to do the right thing for fish, is to make certain that the important things are done first”

A question and answer period will follow as well as general business of the WSC.

Feel free to show up at 6:30 PM to meet some of the WSC Members and hear about how the WSC is working to preserve the legacy of wild steelhead!

## **WSC Board of Directors**

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**Dennis Dickson**

**Bill Bakke**

**Frank Amato**

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*Sauk River Wild Steelhead Ready for Release*

*photo by Kevin Kent*

## **Support Wild Steelhead!**

The Wild Steelhead Coalition (WSC) is an organization dedicated to increasing the return of wild steelhead to the waters and rivers of the Pacific Northwest.

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