

WESTERN NATIVE TROUT INITIATIVE

2017 Small Grants Program
Friends of the Teton River
Final Report 12/27/18

Applicant Information

Lead Organization: Friends of the Teton River (partner organization: Teton Regional Land Trust)
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Project Information

Project Title: Bates Access Signs & Stewardship
Native Trout Species Benefitted by Project: Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout
Total Amount Granted: \$2,500
Total Matching Funds: \$7,505 for signs, \$100,000 for Buxton River Park improvements
Total In-Kind: IDFG metal work for sign kiosks, FTR and TRLT personnel time

Project Summary

The new Bates boat ramp/public access was expected to be completed in September 2017, however, due to unforeseen contracting delays (engineering hold up, agency staff reduction), the construction of the boat ramp, parking area and new vault toilet facility was completed in July 2018.

During this time period, staff members from the Teton Regional Land Trust and Friends of the Teton River met monthly to:

- Develop interpretive sign concepts
- Work with Hanson Illustration to produce artwork for the signs
- Develop messaging for the public regarding river etiquette, safety, stewardship, conservation, ecology, and the history/significance of the Bates Property (now called Buxton River Park).
- Obtain a printing quote from Fossil Graphics to redesign and update signage that exists at all public access points, as well as a plan for the new interpretive signage.
- Coordinate with Teton County, Idaho and the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to provide in-kind materials and support for the project.

The signs will be finalized by the project partners and printed following our next meeting on January 15, 2019 (see attached drafts and printing quote). The panels will be placed on-site in the spring, when posts can be installed in the ground by Idaho Fish and Game, and to prevent weathering through the winter months. With other improvements planned for the Buxton River Park access, the interpretive signage will provide the public with information that will be aimed at fostering stewardship and appreciation of the Teton River corridor and its fish and wildlife—which is core to the mission of FTR and the Teton Regional Land Trust (TRLT).

The project has or will meet the objectives/outcomes, as stated in the project proposal.

1) Increase public awareness, knowledge, and stewardship for the conservation of native trout, river resources and habitat.

- Two 24'x36" panels will depict:
 - Proper river etiquette, responsible river stewardship
 - Conservation and history of the Bates property, conservation easements and protected lands
- Four 24"x24" panels will depict:
 - Trout identification and ecology
 - Significance and process of stream restoration and current restoration efforts at the Buxton River Access (\$82,000 in funding for stream restoration has been secured for 2019 through the One Fly Foundation, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and the Idaho Fish and Wildlife Foundation).
 - Bird species identification and ecology
 - Wildlife friendly fencing and land stewardship/restoration efforts on the property
- Public access maps and fishing regulations have also be updated.

2) Improve public safety and user facilities at the popular Bates Bridge Public Access.

IDFG and Teton County installed a boat ramp, parking lot, and vault toilet on the north side of the road and reclaimed a ½ acre of gravel parking lot on the south side of the road. The new traffic entrance and exit, parking, as well as pedestrian use has been kept to the north side of the road and away from the bridge, improving safety around the access point.



3) Gather public input to prioritize any future site improvements.

During the project period, a greater public concern for changing Teton River recreation and use came to the forefront , prompting FTR to get involved with two separate survey/public input opportunities. The first was a partnership with the Henry's Fork Foundation to conduct an Economic Impact of Recreation and Use for the Teton River, as a part of a larger regional study. FTR contributed hundreds of hours to this survey effort throughout the summer months, at public access points on the upper Teton River (locations were randomized by the study design, on weekdays and weekends). Public input was also gathered during the summer of 2018 through 24 interviews with individuals and groups representing various recreational interests, guides, outfitters, residents, businesses and organizations by a University of Montana graduate student with the Natural Resources Conflict Resolution Program Center for Natural Resources & Environmental Policy to inform a Recreation Management Planning process for the Teton River. The resulting report and recommendations will be presented to the community in February 2019.

Lessons and Unanticipated Results:

Objective 1: While we did not anticipate a delay that set us back 9 months, ultimately, the interpretive signage has been a success and has turned out well. More lead time was a good thing in our case, as we found an artist to work within our budget, the partners could fully develop messaging and an overall site plan.

Objective 2: FTR and Idaho Fish and Game put some additional effort into finding and funding an artist to paint a mural inside the new vault toilet at the site (see next page). This was so popular with the public, that FTR had another mural completed in 2018, and has secured grant funding to commission painting of five more vault toilets at public access points in 2019.

Objective 3: This objective changed during the grant period to include planning beyond the Buxton River Park site, to address future recreation and use on the river as a whole.



Budget:

We estimated the original budget at \$7,500 for the interpretive signs and will exceed this by \$2,505 for printing, materials and artwork costs. The partners (FTR, TRLT, and Teton County) are committed to paying the difference to complete the project. The County has funding from Idaho Department of Parks and Rec specifically for signage. In addition, IDFG is donating in-kind materials and labor for the installation of the two larger 36x36 panels. WNTI provided valuable matching dollars for this project and will be recognized as a donor to the project out at the site. Improvements and restoration will continue in future years. FTR has been awarded \$82,000 for streambank and riparian restoration just downstream of the boat ramp, starting next year.

Bates Sign Budget

Grant Income

Community Foundation of Teton Valley	\$2,500
Western Native Trout Initiative	\$2,500
USFWS	\$2,500
Project partners	\$2,505
Total	\$10,005

EXPENSES

Printing expense

Item	cost	quantity	total
36x36 panel	\$806	2	\$1,612
24x36 panel	\$537	4	\$2,148
12X36 panel	\$282	1	\$282
Post pedestal	\$213	4	\$852
Shipping	\$940	1	\$771
Color Proofs	\$40		\$40
Sign subtotal			\$5,705

ARTWORK

trout	\$100	2	\$200
great horned, heron, mallard, teal	\$100	4	\$400
wildlife fencing panel	\$700	1	\$700
Large panels 36x36	\$1,500	2	\$3,000
subtotal			\$4,300
Total			\$10,005

Welcome to the Teton River!

The Teton River is a world-class fishery, a haven for water fowl and big game, and an important source of irrigation for hundreds of farms and ranches. The Upper Teton River, above Harrops Bridge, is a great place for novices and families to float, fish, view wildlife, and enjoy the scenery. Please keep in mind that a great Teton River experience relies on everyone doing their part to be good stewards. Together, we can ensure that the Teton River remains an incredible place for your next visit and a treasured resource for generations to come!

Share the River

Give ample space to other boating parties, give anglers room to fish, and give wildlife a wide berth when you encounter them on the river.

Wear Your PFD!

By Idaho law, each person riding in/on a personal water craft (including boats, tubes, and stand-up-paddle boards) must have one Coast Guard approved personal flotation device (PFD) or life jacket on-board per person. PFD's should be properly sized for each individual and readily accessible.

Children 14 years of age or younger must wear a life jacket when the water craft is underway.

Be a role model for other river users and wear your PFD at all times. **Life jackets save lives!**

Respect Private Property

Once you leave the boat ramp, much of the land adjacent to the Teton River is private property and/or under conservation easment.

Please respect private property by:

- Staying below the high water mark and keeping off private property (even if not posted).
This pertains to pets too!
- Leaving gates and fences as you find them.
- Obtaining permission before crossing onto private property.

Pack It In, Pack It Out

Help keep the river clean for all to enjoy!

Take your garbage with you after your float. Please use existing restrooms at river access points, or pack out human waste and toilet paper with a portable toilet.

Be a Teton River Steward

Know Your Skill Level & Potential Hazards

The Upper Teton River is a great place for novices and families to float but hazards can exist at every water level, due to changing conditions.

- **Know your ability** to navigate the river at different flow levels, especially under bridges and during high and low water.
- **Watch the weather** and expect it to change. A river is no place to be caught in a thunderstorm!

Pet Etiquette

Keep dogs under control on the river and at boat ramps, for your pet's safety, and that of other river users and wildlife.

Be Ready at the Ramp

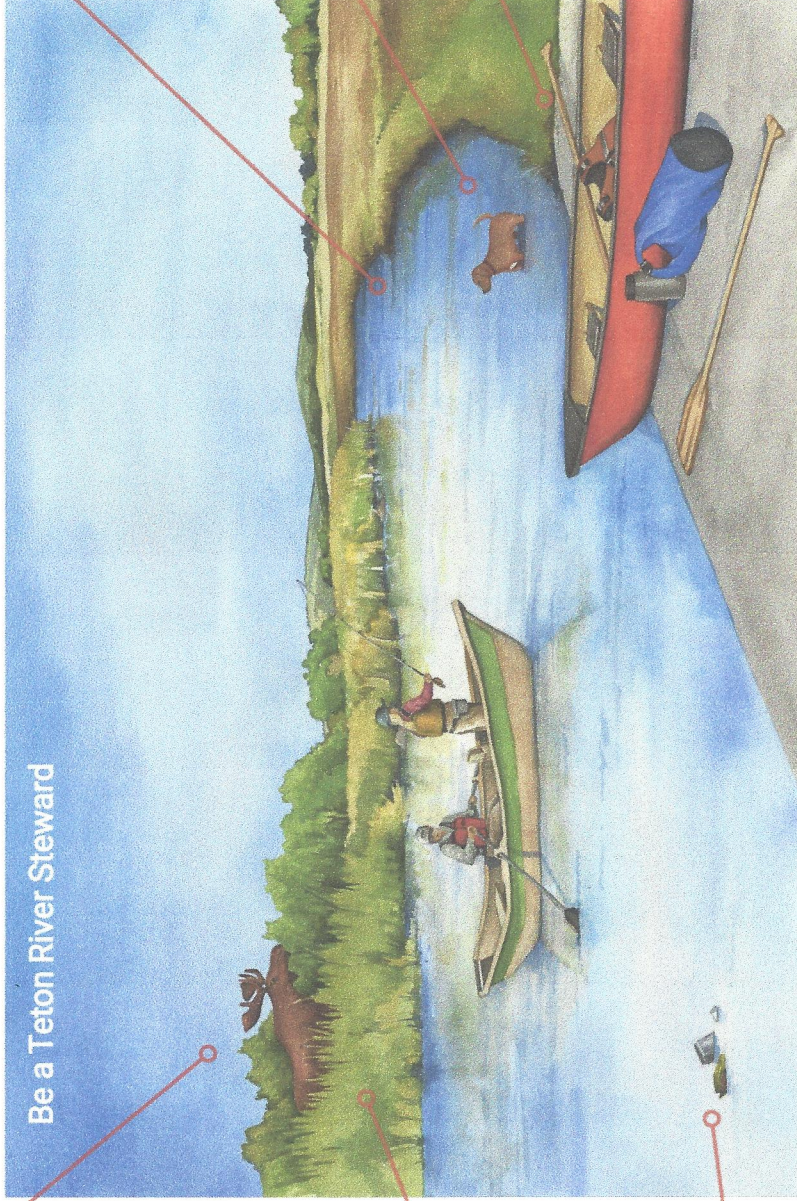
Efficiently put-in and take out at the boat ramp. Organize gear and load boats before approaching the ramp and leave the ramp clear for the next party.

If you have questions...

about public or private land ownership, fish and wildlife, or want general information about Teton River recreation and conservation, please contact:

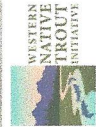
Friends of the Teton River
208-354-3871

Teton Regional Land Trust
208-354-8939



Artwork by Hanson Illustration.

Project funding provided by U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Western Native Trout Initiative, Community Foundation of Teton Valley, Teton Regional Land Trust, and Friends of the Teton River.

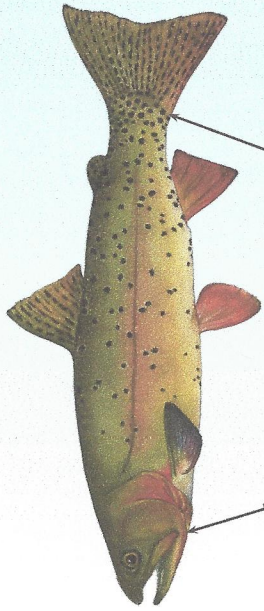


Trout of the Teton River

You are standing in the heart of the Teton River Watershed, considered one of the last-best strongholds for native Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout (YCT). Historically YCT flourished here, making spawning runs into the surrounding mountain tributaries. In the early 2000's, YCT population numbers plummeted 95% due to a number of natural and human causes. Today, YCT populations in the Teton River have made an unprecedented recovery, in large part because of targeted conservation and restoration efforts. YCT still face significant challenges due to human caused habitat loss and degradation as well as pressure from nonnative trout.

Yellowstone Cutthroat

Oncorhynchus clarkii bouvieri



Characteristic red/orange slash

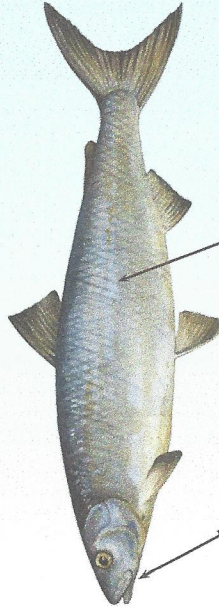
Spots more closely grouped together toward tail

NATIVE

This iconic trout, named for the red slash under its jaw, is native to the Teton River. YCT only occupy 43% of their historic range in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. With your help, we can continue to steward this precious species in the Teton River Watershed.

Mountain Whitefish

Prosopium williamsoni



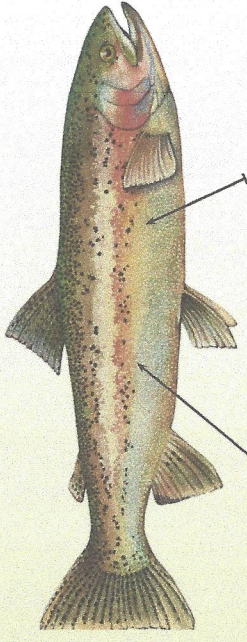
Small mouth without teeth

Large, silvery scales & no spots

Mountain Whitefish are an unsung native trout of the Teton River. They are more widely distributed and are found in higher numbers than any other trout in Idaho. This is likely due to the fact that they produce higher numbers of eggs and live longer than other trout species.

Rainbow Trout

Oncorhynchus mykiss



Sides may have red or pink streak

Irregular spots evenly distributed from head to tail

NON-NATIVE

Rainbow trout can hybridize with Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout to produce "cutbows". This hybridization threatens the genetic integrity of the remaining Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout found within the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem.

Brook Trout

Salvelinus fontinalis



Wormlike markings on upper body and dorsal fin

Distinct white edges on lower fins and tail

Brook trout outcompete the cutthroat and in some Teton River tributaries they have completely displaced all other trout species. Compared to other trout, brook trout tend to grow larger as juveniles, reach reproductive age sooner, and are more tolerant of poor habitat or water quality.



For additional information on trout identification, fishing season, and harvest limits please see the Idaho Department of Fish and Game kiosk adjacent to the boat ramp.
All artwork by Hanson Illustration. Project funding provided by U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Western Native Trout Initiative, Community Foundation of Teton Valley, Teton Regional Land Trust, and Friends of the Teton River.

"Know before you go!"

For the Teton River

OPEN ALL YEAR

NO LIMIT on Rainbow Trout or Trout Hybrid

Brook Trout limit: 25

Whitefish limit: 25

No harvest of Cutthroat Trout

For the Teton River tributaries

July 1 through May 31

NO LIMIT on Rainbow Trout or Trout Hybrid

Brook Trout limit: 25

Whitefish limit: 25

No harvest of Cutthroat Trout

NOTICE:

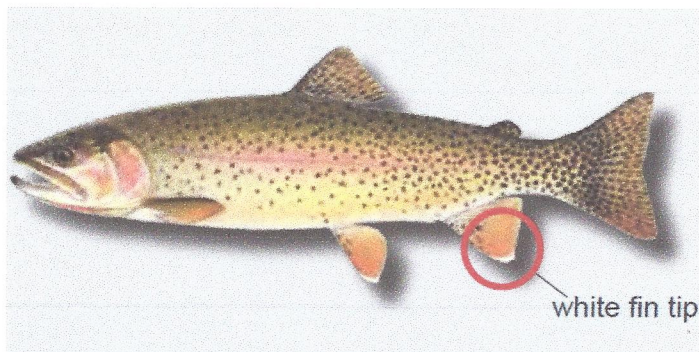
June 1 through June 30

**Teton River tributaries
are CLOSED to fishing.**

Hybrid Description

Rainbow/Cutthroat hybrids display variable color and marking representing a range of shared characteristics from Rainbow and Cutthroat Trout. All hybrids show spotting patterns similar to rainbow trout, with spots more evenly distributed from head to tail.

Rainbow/Cutthroat Hybrids are most easily identified by the presence of white fin tips.



Other Important Fishing Regulations:

Don't forget your Idaho fishing license!

You must have in your possession a valid fishing license to fish in Idaho. You must produce your license or fish upon request of an agent of the Idaho Department of Fish and Game. Fishing and hunting licenses are available locally in Victor at the Victor Emporium and World Cast Anglers, and in Driggs at Habitat, Three Rivers Ranch, and Corner Drug.

Harvesting Fish:

You may keep legally harvested fish in a live well or on a stringer while at the body of water from which they were taken. It is illegal to have in the field or in transit, trout from which the head or tail has been removed. It is illegal to waste a game fish.

Fishing Gear:

It is illegal to fish in any waters of Idaho with more than one handline or pole with a line attached; or with two poles or lines without a two-pole permit; or with more than five poles or lines while ice fishing; or by archery, spearfishing, snagging, hands, and netting except as permitted. Not more than five hooks may be attached per line. The line or lines must be attended by the person fishing.

For a complete description of Fishing Seasons and Rules, visit:

<http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/public/fish/rules/>

or call the Upper Snake Region Office at:
(208)-525-7290

To report wildlife crimes:
1-800-632-5999