

Upper Salmon Basin Watershed

NEWS ABOUT RESTORING FISH HABITAT IN CENTRAL IDAHO

Fall 2013

Our Mission: Protect and restore the region's significant fish habitats through a partnership approach that respects agriculture and improves our way of life.



A view of the Salmon River, taken from the Salmon bridge.

2012: The Year in Review

2012 was a productive year for the Upper Salmon Basin Watershed Program office. A total of 13.23 miles of aquatic habitat for anadromous fish migration were made available after removing four fish barriers and replacing them with bridges. Two diversions were removed from the Lemhi River and an additional 0.9 cfs was returned to the Lemhi River. These projects provided benefits to both federally-listed and resident fish, and agricultural operators, through water conservation, riparian habitat protection and enhancement, and improvement of agricultural systems. While 2012 was an outstanding year for accomplishments, we were poised for an even better year in 2013 when our friend and colleague Hans Koenig passed away on January 18th, 2013.

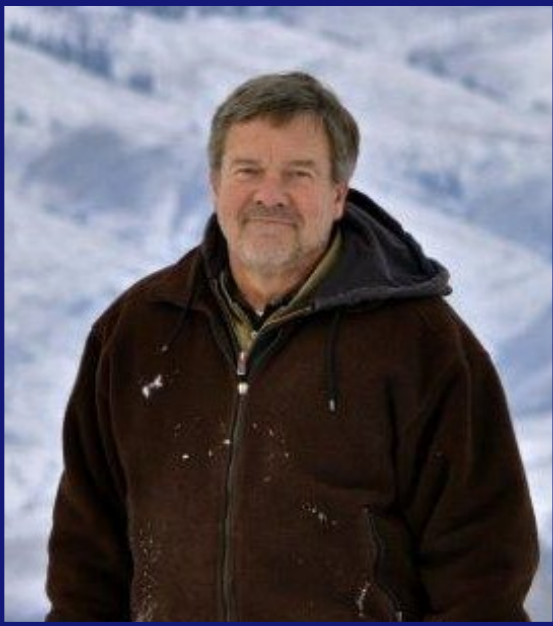
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WATERSHED CALENDAR

- USBWP Advisory Committee Nov 7th, 1:00 pm
- Lemhi Soil & Water Conservation District Nov 7th, 7:00 pm
- USBWP office closed: Veterans Day (11/11) & Thanksgiving (11/28)



Hans Koenig

The Upper Salmon Basin Watershed Program was shocked and saddened by the sudden passing of our coordinator, Hans Koenig. During his time at USBWP, he made great strides forward to progress this office's relationships with landowners, funding agencies, and partners. He worked hard and was proud of each of the projects he and his staff accomplished. Hans was a person who cared about every member of his staff and always sought to make others comfortable.

As Jerry Myers wrote, "The Salmon River country of Idaho lost a great friend January 18, 2013 when Hans Koenig passed away suddenly. Hans was the project director for the Upper Salmon Basin Watershed Program, and he was a "collaborator." Collaboration is where two or more people or organizations work together creatively to realize shared goals, by sharing knowledge, learning and building consensus. Most collaboration requires leadership—and Hans Koenig was an

outstanding leader. In the Salmon River valley, those of us who had the pleasure of working with Hans understood that leadership and collaboration were built into the fiber of the man. He combined rare skills, experience and commitment to conservation to create a better future for our communities."

The Koenig family and the watershed program have set up the "Hans Koenig Memorial Scholarship", in Hans' honor. For more information, please contact the Upper Salmon Basin Watershed Program office. We offer our greatest sympathies to his wife, Heidi, and their children, Krista, Bill, and John. To read more tributes, please go to <http://troutunlimitedblog.com/salmon-river-loses-a-friend/> or http://www.southwesternherp.com/hans_koenig_tribute.html.

Two Hawley Creek Culvert to Bridge Replacements

Undersized culverts creating a fish passage barrier on BLM and private land (photos below) on Hawley Creek were removed and replaced with modular bridges. This action is part of a USBWP plan to reconnect this important tributary to the Lemhi River. These culvert replacements opened up approximately five miles for fish passage. The next fish passage barrier, 700 feet upstream from the new BLM bridge, is planned for removal in 2014, and will open up an additional 1.3 miles for fish passage.



"Those of us who want to keep moving forward are building our own pathways. We are forming partnerships with other stakeholders to pound out our own management plans, resolve our own problems, address local challenges with home-brewed solutions and continue working from the bottom up." Jerry Myers, Trout Unlimited

L-50 & LSC-3 Diversion Removal

This project closed the L-50 diversion at the Lemhi River and the unscreened LSC-3 irrigation diversion on Little Springs Creek (photo at right). These actions increased stream flow by 0.9 cfs (652 acre-feet/year), improved fish passage by removing a fish passage barrier, and prevent fish entrainment in an unscreened diversion. In addition, the landowner converted from an open ditch irrigation system to a pivot sprinkler irrigation system to improve water conveyance and distribution efficiency. This project is another step in the reconnection of Lemhi Little Springs Creek with the Lemhi River.



Two Fourth of July Creek Culvert to Bridge Replacement Projects

Two culverts identified as velocity barriers to some or all life stages of ESA-listed anadromous and resident fish species were replaced on Fourth of July Creek, a tributary to the mainstem Salmon River. The first culvert replaced was undersized and used to convey Fourth of July Creek underneath the county road. A prefabricated modular steel bridge was installed to provide an additional 0.4 miles of fish passage upstream to another culvert on private land (see photo at right and below). This culvert was also replaced with a prefabricated modular steel bridge in November of 2012, and provides an additional eight miles of fish passage.



Upper Salmon Basin Watershed Program

Homegrown, Common-sense Conservation

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NEWS ABOUT
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Coordinators Comments *By Daniel Bertram*



This year has certainly had its ups and downs for Amy and I. Without a doubt one of the highlights has been this opportunity to work as the project coordinator for the Upper Salmon

Basin Watershed Program. I started the position on August 12th and learned incredibly quickly that I had some big shoes to fill. The more I became informed about the projects and issues that this office has worked with over the past number of years, the more I respect what Hans was able to accomplish and admire his achievements. The impact that Hans has had on anadromous fisheries and the people of this community has been far reaching.

My background in this valley started as a 6th grader in 1991 and within weeks of moving it was home and has remained home since. After graduating in 1997 I joined the Marine Corps Reserve as a Logistics Vehicle Systems Operator with the base station in Boise. After completing boot camp and military schooling in the spring of '98, I went to work for Bear Track Mine as an equipment operator until that fall when I registered for school at the University of Idaho. My goal at that point

was to return to Salmon after school and therefore I decided to double major in Fisheries Resource Management and Wildlife Resource Management, hoping to find work in Lemhi County. During my summers I worked for the Salmon Challis National Forest starting in 2000, on a thinning crew which ultimately ended up being a fire fighting crew. The next summer I moved into a wildlife technician position and remained in this position until graduation in 2005. I was then hired by the IDFG as a wildlife tech working with pygmy rabbits, sage grouse and big horn sheep as my primary areas of focus. I remained with IDFG through the year and the Forest Service as a summer seasonal until October of 2006. At this point I accepted a position with Lemhi County as the weed superintendent working with habitat improvement, noxious weeds and invasive species. I remained with the county until starting this new chapter of my life with the USBWP.

Amy and I married in July of 2006, we have two boys, Bridger 16, Hudson 6, and our daughter Adisyn who was 13 this year.

I am thrilled to be with the USBWP and look forward to seeing the benefits that we can bring to our fisheries habitats while working with my friends and neighbors who have made Lemhi County home for 22 years.