

PBMR NEWS

Fall 2007
Vol. 27 No. 3

In This Issue:

Tony Herbert Takes the Helm as the New Chapter President (3) • Chapter Welcomes 16 New Members (3) • Progress on the Little Blackfoot River (4) • Smith River Agreement Reached with FWP (5) • Featured Aquatic Nuisance Species: New Zealand Mudsail (5) • Montana TU Council Meeting Report (6) • National TU Council Deliberates Access Issue (7) • Chapter Meeting Program Schedule 2007-2008 (8)

Dave Ames collecting detailed flow measurements on the Little Blackfoot River. See story on page 4.



PAT BARNES MISSOURI RIVER CHAPTER

Conserving, protecting, and restoring coldwater fisheries in Montana's Missouri, Little Blackfoot, and Smith River watersheds.

Send an email to info@patbarnestu.org with "E-Alert Subscribe" in the subject line, and we will add you to our email list for meeting announcements, action alerts, and other important chapter information.

Board of Directors

OFFICERS

President, Tony Herbert
Vice President, Dan Ellison
Treasurer, Nola Freestone
Secretary, Lisa Verzani
Past President, Jay Erickson

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Conservation, John Wilson
Publications, Melissa Brown
Trout-In-The-Classroom, Geof Ferguson
Banquet, Rob Creel & Ed Tinsley
Monthly Program, Jay Erickson

DIRECTORS

Mark Aagenes Art Keeler
Dennis Cates Tom Likens
Frank Cooper Scott Orser
Todd Damrow Jim Stevens
Earl Dorsey Gary Stocker
Dan Ellison Chris Strainer
Rena Grimes Jim Utterback

To reach board members by email, send messages to info@patbarnestu.org with the board member's name in the subject line.

Board of Director Meetings are held the 4th Wednesday of each month from September through April. Non-board members are invited and encouraged to attend.



JAY ERICKSON with a nice brown trout, caught on a size 18 parachute Adams. Send us your pictures to print in PBMR News. Email images to info@patbarnestu.org

Pat Barnes Missouri River Chapter

P.O. Box 4404 | Helena MT 59604 | www.patbarnestu.org
info@patbarnestu.org | 406/449 7252 (Tony Herbert, President)

PBMR News is a quarterly publication of the Pat Barnes Missouri River Chapter of Trout Unlimited, Chapter 055. It is published by and for the members of the Chapter. © 1980-2007.

Articles, letters, and artwork related to conservation, restoration, and preservation of Montana's cold water fisheries are welcome. The editor reserves the right to reject or edit any material submitted. Guidelines for submission format, methods, and deadlines are available upon request by emailing info@patbarnestu.org, or calling newsletter editor Melissa Brown 406/431 7962.

— Thank you for your continued support of the Pat Barnes Missouri River Chapter of Trout Unlimited. —

PAT BARNES MISSOURI RIVER CHAPTER

(#055)

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Telephone (Day): _____ (Evening): _____
E-mail address: _____ Fax#: _____
Occupation: _____

Enclosed is my employer's matching gift form, plus my membership application and payment.

SEND TO: PBMR TU MEMBERSHIP
PO BOX 4404
HELENA, MT 59604

Check One: [] NEW MEMBERSHIP [] MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL
Please check membership category*:

- Special Introductory Rate (\$17.50)
- Youth (\$20)
- Senior (\$20)
- Regular (\$35)
- Family/Contributor (\$50)
- Sponsor (\$100)
- Conservator (\$250)

For Business (\$200), Life (\$1,000) and Family Life (\$1,100) memberships, call 1-800-834-2419.

Payment Method

Check
(Make checks payable to TROUT UNLIMITED)



Card# _____ Exp. Date _____
Name as it appears on card _____

* Canadian membership please add \$5 per year, all other countries, add \$20 per year. Membership contributions are tax deductible as allowed by law.

Code:

Taking the helm...

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE—by *Tony Herbert, President*

Fellow Pat Barnes Missouri River TU Members,

As we head into another season of fall fishing it is my pleasure and honor to take the helm of this great local conservation organization. My thanks go out to all past and current board members who have contributed their time and energy into helping conserve, protect, and restore our local streams and waters. In particular I want to thank Jay Erickson, our Past President, for his 3½ years of dedicated service to the Pat Barnes Missouri River Chapter of TU (PBMR TU). As I considered this new appointment it was clear that the chapter is organizationally “teed up” and prepared to work on the important conservation issues of the day.

The real business of this chapter is to pay attention to the important conservation issues that involve our local streams, and to be active in those to the greatest degree possible. Our organizational strengths give us the ability to be successful in the areas that it matters most. We are financially in good shape; we have dedicated, knowledgeable and active board members to guide us and manage our major fund raising efforts; and we have seasoned people to engage in important projects for the chapter.

As a two-year member of the chapter's board I would point out that our membership is our greatest asset. I have

been extremely impressed with the quality of individuals who contribute their time, and the dedication they bring to the table. However, the 80-20 rule is in motion here with PBMR TU and I encourage all members to consider how you can volunteer just a bit of your time and expertise to help the chapter continue to be successful. Joining the board or one of our committees can be extremely enjoyable and a very rewarding endeavor.

Our chapter is working hard to focus on conservation efforts and to making our banquet as good an event as possible for the community. Our Trout-in-the-Classroom project is hugely successful (with fish tanks in 10 Helena schools) and the project is becoming the model for other similar efforts statewide. Rob Creel along with Ed Tinsley will lead our banquet development, and

John Wilson will lead our Conservation Committee. John's experience and leadership in conservation issues is extensive, and as you will see in his report on page 4 and 5 in this newsletter, real progress is being made on a couple of major issues with the Little Blackfoot and Smith Rivers.

I look forward to assisting TU here in Helena and to working with you all in the upcoming months.



Tony Herbert (above) is a long time Helenan and conservation-minded fisherman.

Welcome 16 New Members!

As of October 18, 2007
PBMR TU has 432
members representing
38 different zip codes

Trevor Blyth
Timothy Border
Marah L Connole
Sarah Elliott
Richard G Fairbank
Marc Freund
Tom Hirst
Jeff Jackson

Brian Lakes
Jack Love
Eric Merchant
Annie Mitchell
John Morrison
David Sebum
Robin Shropshire
Mark Stahly



Photo by Jay Erickson

Conservation Committee Report



— By John Wilson, PBMR TU
Conservation Committee Chair

PART 1. Progress on the Little Blackfoot River

Following a meeting between the PBMR TU Conservation Committee and Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) regional fisheries managers, PBMR TU has set into motion several positive initiatives on the Little Blackfoot River.

NEW REGULATION FOR CUTTHROAT PROPOSED

Current regulations allow harvest of three westslope cutthroat trout daily with none over 10 inches. At the urging of the Conservation Committee, fisheries managers agreed to submit for public comment and consideration by the FWP Commission changing the cutthroat harvest regulation to catch-and-release on the Little Blackfoot River. That regulation has been promulgated and is currently out for public comment. It is expected that the FWP Commission will decide whether to accept the proposed new regulation at their January or February 2008 meeting.

The published rationale for the regulation change originates with PBMR TU as follows:

The State's goal is to enhance or maintain westslope cutthroat trout (WCT) populations. WCT are very easy to catch and over harvest. WCT are still present in good numbers in the Little Blackfoot River and reduced harvest will protect current populations and may lead to increased numbers of WCT. The Little Blackfoot River is unique because it has some of the largest potential

to support WCT in the Upper Clark Fork River drainage because of its size. It may provide WCT to the Clark Fork River in the future provided adequate cleanup of the river occurs. The current regulation of three fish less than 10 inches, while restrictive, does not ensure the full protection capable for the important WCT populations in the Little Blackfoot River drainage.

INSTREAM FLOW RESEARCH GRANT

Working jointly with guide, author, hydrologist and Little Blackfoot resident Dave Ames, PBMR TU received two grants to conduct detailed flow measurements throughout June, July, August, and September 2007. The chapter received \$25,000 from the Upper Clark for Natural Resources Damage (NRD) Fund administered by the State of Montana and a "mini-grant" from Montana TU for \$2,500 for the instream work. Geosciences, Inc., founded by Dave Ames, is the PBMR TU contractor.

The Montana Department of Environmental Quality joined PBMR TU and Geosciences, Inc. with a water temperature data collection effort at the same locations as the flow study work.

Both the flow and temperature data collection, along with an upcoming report from Geosciences, Inc. are designed to shed light on specific areas of detrimental fisheries flow, its cause and potential solutions. The

goal is to protect and enhance the wild trout fishery while accommodating agricultural and other consumptive needs. Dave Ames is scheduled to speak at the January 2008 PBMR TU general meeting and will delineate his findings at that time. Our thanks go to Montana TU and the NRD program for funding this important flow research effort.

TROUT POPULATION ESTIMATES

Regional fisheries managers Pat Saffel and Jason Lindstrom agreed with PBMR TU that up to date trout population estimates in the Little Blackfoot River were lacking, yet essential information for making management decisions. No trout population data had been collected in over a decade. After urging from the PBMR TU Conservation Committee to rectify that situation, the managers were able to garner funding from the NRD Upper Clark Fork Program and crews went to work late summer electro-fishing key sections of the river. The data has been collected and we will keep you posted as the results are published.



Photo by Joy Erickson

PART 2. Smith River agreement reached with FWP

Concerned about the future of the Smith River fishery resource, the PBMR TU Conservation Committee in cooperation with the Missouri River Flyfishers organized a “Smith River Summit” with top officials from FWP to address key fisheries issues. The summit was held in August with Tony Herbert, John Wilson and Ed Tinsley representing the chapter.

The outcome of the meeting included more emphasis on Smith River fisheries health by FWP and three specific positive proactive measures:

1. Following the successful template used to resurrect the Big Blackfoot River, FWP agreed to dedicate resources to systematically inventory the complete Smith River fishery identifying key spawning and recruitment areas, population data, and identifying in hierarchical fashion the fishery limiting factors (i.e. migration impediments, temperature and flow issues). The multi-year inventory is the first step in identifying problems which subsequently can be used to institute fishery enhancement projects. No comprehensive fishery resource inventory has ever been completed on the Smith River .
2. FWP will partner with PBMR TU in decisions regarding potential objections to water right claims identified as potentially inaccurate with “issue remarks” under the Smith River water rights adjudication process currently being conducted by the state.
3. FWP will systematically identify sources of water that can be used for instream flow enhancement through water leases and contracts. A portion of Smith River users fees is dedicated to the “Smith River Enhancement Fund” which by law can be used for instream flow enhancement projects. The Enhancement Fund Balance is currently estimated at \$350,000.

We are appreciative of the leadership and willingness of the Fishery Division staff led by Chris Hunter, Gary Bertelloti and George Liknes to dedicate resources to Smith River fishery enhancement.



Aquatic nuisance species are the cause of significant ecological and socio-economic problems throughout North America. Invasive species are being introduced into new locations at an alarming rate, and populations often grow quickly and spread rapidly due to lack of natural controls. Once established, they often displace native species, clog waterways, impact municipal and industrial irrigation and power systems, degrade ecosystems, reduce or threaten recreational and commercial fishing opportunities, and can cause wildlife and public health problems.

The species of highest concern within Montana are ZEBRA MUSSELS, EURASIAN WATERMILFOIL, ASIAN CARP, **NEW ZEALAND MUDSNAILS** and WHIRLING DISEASE.

Visit www.fwp.mt.gov for more information about Montana's Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) program.

FEATURE SPECIES PROFILE

New Zealand Mudsnail (*Potamopyrgus antipodarum*)

New Zealand mudsnails were discovered in North America in 1987 in the Snake River in south-central Idaho. They are established in several locations throughout Montana, however they have yet to be detected west of the continental divide within the state.

The reproductive biology of mudsnails suggests that they have the potential for rapid colonization. Asexual females produce eggs that can develop without fertilization and produce clones. New populations can start with only

Aquatic Nuisance Species: New Zealand Mudsnail

LEARN AND LEND A HAND—
by Eileen K.N. Ryce: Aquatic
Nuisance Species Coordinator,
Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks

one female. New Zealand mudsnails have been found at densities over 500,000 snails per square meter in some areas.

New Zealand mudsnails have the potential to cause severe ecological impacts to aquatic ecosystems by:

1. competing with native gastropods, some threatened and endangered
2. competing with other grazing and detritivorous invertebrates that are the foundation of aquatic food webs
3. negatively impacting both invertebrates and vertebrates at higher trophic levels in aquatic food webs that depend on the aquatic invertebrate food base

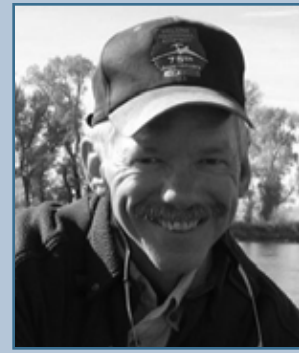
TIPS FOR PREVENTING ANSs

Once aquatic nuisance species become established they are very difficult if not impossible to eradicate and even control measures can be costly if at all possible. The best management strategy for all Aquatic Nuisance Species is preventing spread and introduction.

- REMOVE all sediment and vegetation from boats, trailers and equipment.
- WASH all boats, trailers and equipment. High pressure hot water is best.
- DISINFECT equipment with 20% bleach for 10 minutes, 5% bleach for 1 hour.
- DRY all equipment thoroughly.
- DO NOT transfer any water, vegetation or animals between sites.
- Learn to identify know aquatic nuisance species in your area.

MTU State Council Fall Meeting Report

—by Dan Ellison, PBMR TU Vice President and State Council Secretary



The Montana TU (MTU) State Council met in Hamilton, MT on Saturday, September 29th. Many council representatives made the most of excellent fall weather to check out the health of the Bitterroot River fishery on Friday, while also participating in the chapter's annual fundraising event that evening.

One of the banquet highlights was having Monte Dolak—a passionate TU supporter—present for the auction of his print of an angler working a section of the West Fork of the Bitterroot River. Monte's support of TU also includes creating the Dancing Trout logo design and artwork for the marketing partnership between Bayern Brewery and MTU.

On Saturday, approximately two dozen council members representing seven of the 13 statewide chapters, and the MTU staff and executive committee were welcomed by council president Tom Anacker. First on the agenda was a briefing on financial year-end status and the projected budget for 2008 by Executive Director Bruce Farling. MTU had another excellent year with revenues 18% ahead of projections while expenses are 5% below expectations. Treasurer Dan Short reported that a CPA firm engaged to analyze MTU finances and internal controls reported no concerns with the performance of MTU business and financial operations.

Tom Anacker then provided an update of the recent TU National meeting held two weeks ago in Boise, ID. Montana delegates participated in all of the substantive discussions during the three-day conference where access was the most prominent agenda item. Tom's letter

describing the current status of national policy on access is included on page 7 of this issue.

A trend during the national meetings across a range of issues was that other states consistently advocated positions compatible with approaches taken by MTU staff and volunteers in Montana. National Trustees sought out attendees from Montana, eagerly listened to their inputs, and indicated willingness to extend their networks to all levels of the MTU organization. Next year's national meeting will be in Salt Lake City, UT and MTU again plans to be well represented.

Executive Director Farling provided a written summary of year-to-date activities by the MTU staff in Missoula and Helena. Key issues include the bridge access lawsuit in Madison County, the disappointing decision by USFWS to not list the grayling as an endangered species, and how a coalition of conservation organizations and timber companies are proposing a new method of forest planning for the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest.

A highlight of the council meeting was the lunchtime presentation by FWP biologist Chris Clancy on the state of the Bitterroot River. His briefing included slides showing populations by species based on electro-shocking data. Points of note include a downward trend for rainbows due primarily to whirling disease, and the diminishing population of spawning age bull trout in the main river. More positive results are being achieved with restoration efforts for westslope cutthroats in Skalkaho Creek, and with

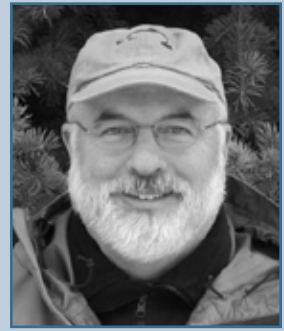
the stream setback working group.

Conservation Director Mark Aagenes provided a written report on his activities including extensive lobbying for coldwater conservation during the past legislative session. Of particular note to PBMR TU chapter members was his commentary on progress being made with FWP to have a full-time biologist assigned for the Smith River.

Outreach Director Michael Gibson discussed IRS regulation changes affecting non-profit organizations and encouraged chapter treasurers to contact him for updates on the filing of IRS Form 990 and the new Form 990N. He also provided an overview of the new TU National effectiveness index program for chapters and state councils. He also reported that TU National no longer maintains an inventory of items for sale or prize drawings at banquets as that program has been replaced with endorsement agreements with several retailers who will give steep (up to 75%) discounts on merchandise that can be sold or raffled at fundraising events. Michael is available to attend chapter meetings to provide further information on all of these programs.

Following a series of chapter reports, Tom Anacker wrapped up the meeting with a presentation on the TU National Strategic Planning and Capital Campaign which has a goal of increasing the national budget from \$12 million to \$30 million annually.

National TU Council Deliberates Access Issue



—a letter from Tom Anacker,
MTU Council Chair

As many Trout Unlimited members know, a debate has been underway at the national level regarding what TU's role and position should be regarding access issues. This matter has been under discussion for some time now and was recently discussed in earnest at the TU National Meeting in Boise, ID in September. Many Montanans have been concerned and interested in this issue and the following is an update of the discussions and decisions made in Boise regarding this important issue from National Council President Tom Anacker.

September 20, 2007

Dear Chapter Presidents and State Council Representatives:

I have heard from several of you asking about the status of the stream access issue following the National TU annual meeting last week. I will provide a summary of what transpired at the meeting in this letter and so you know, we are planning a more detailed presentation at the state council meeting on September 29th. Please bring any questions you have or questions your membership has to our meeting.

The net result of the discussions which occurred in Boise is that TU is moving forward under the existing stream access policy which was adopted in May of 2006. Both the Board of Trustees and the NLC passed separate resolutions on this issue. The main points of the Trustee's resolution are as follows:

- The May 2006 stream access policy remains in place as adopted and will govern stream access issues within the organization.
- The 'ad hoc' committee which was created last spring to develop access policy revisions is terminated.
- Any Chapter or Council that submits a request to become involved in an access issue has the right to present their case in person.
- The NLC has been requested to consult with the Board before stream access is added to the national conservation agenda.

The main points of the NLC resolution are as follows:

- A NLC workgroup is constituted to review stream access laws around the country in those states where TU is active. This examination will include a determination of the current status of the access laws in each state, the access issues currently existing in those states and a determination of what the concerns of Chapters and

Councils are in those states regarding stream access.

- A stream access database will be developed.
- The workgroup, following the completion of its review, will suggest any amendments, if appropriate, to the stream access policy.
- The NLC will review whether stream access should be made part of the national conservation agenda.

The consensus I gathered from the meeting is that there is a broadly held recognition that stream access rights are very important to TU members; that TU will continue to be involved in access cases involving important public stream access rights following review under the current access policy procedures, including the defense of existing stream access rights; that TU will not be involved in efforts to create new stream access rights that would impact private property rights; that TU has good people on the Stream Access Working Group and the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees and we need to trust the good faith and judgment of those folks; and, we need to give the current access policy a chance to work.

It is my personal opinion that the access issue has reached a settled condition within the organization. The access database to be developed by the NLC working group will assist the organization in making informed decisions about access issues. This includes both decisions about individual cases and decisions about whether there needs to be any modification to the access policy to make it work better or in a more predictable manner. The resolutions which were passed appear to be a reasonable approach which takes into account the various points of view within the organization.

I look forward to seeing you at the council meeting in Hamilton.

Regards,

Tom

FOR SALE



16' DRIFT BOAT PACKAGE—\$4,000

- Trailer (with tilt and spare tire), oars (Sawyer Lights), and anchor included
- Excellent condition
- Always stored indoors

This boat was built using a Tatman kit. The main structure of the boat follows the kit very closely; however the interior has seen many modifications. The bottom is covered with a high-density polymer skid-shoe to prevent any damage.

If you have further questions contact:

John (406-449-2785), Greg (406-443-0504), or JJ (406-442-0827)

Chapter Meeting Program Schedule: 2007-2008

Chapter meetings are open to the public, and held on the second Wednesday of each month from October to April at **7:00 PM Red Lion Colonial Hotel**. If you would like to sponsor or volunteer to help with the monthly chapter meetings and speaker series, please contact Jay Erickson at 406/443 7027 or jay@mtlandreliance.org.

- OCT 10 FLY FISHING NEW ZEALAND
Randy Dix, Attorney and Angler
- NOV 14 FLY FISHING MONGOLIA
Dan Vermillion, Owner of Sweetwater Travel in Livingston, MT
- DEC 14 MISSOURI RIVER COLDWATER FISHERY: ANNUAL REPORT
Grant Grisack, Fisheries Biologist, Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks,
- JAN 09 THE LITTLE BLACKFOOT RIVER, ITS FISHERY, WATER FLOWS, AND WATER TEMPERATURE FLUCTUATIONS: RESULTS OF PBMRTU 2007 STUDY
Dave Ames, Author, Fly Fishing Guide, Conservationist
- FEB 13 FREE FLY TYING CLINIC
Nola Freestone, Fly Tyer and Angler, and friends
- APR 09 WOUNDED WARRIOR DISABLED SPORTS PROJECT: DISABLED VETERANS FLOAT AND FISH THE SMITH RIVER.
Mike Geary, Fishing Guide and Owner, Lewis and Clark Expeditions

Annual Banquet and Fly Fishing Clinic - March 15, 2008

- 10:00 AM - FREE FLY FISHING AND CASTING CLINIC
Bob Jacklin and PBMR TU volunteers. Capital High School. Lunch is provided.
- 6:00 PM - ANNUAL BANQUET & AUCTION
Red Lion Colonial Inn

Guidelines for Submitting Advertisements

AD SIZES AND RATES:

Business card - \$25/issue

1/4 page - \$50/issue

1/2 page - \$75/issue

Full page - \$100/issue

NOTE: Ad design services are available for an additional fee.

DEADLINES:

Mar. artwork due Apr. 1

Jun. artwork due May. 1

Sep. artwork due Aug. 1

Dec. artwork due Nov. 1

PAYMENT:

Due with ad copy/artwork. Ads will not be run without payment! Make checks payable to PBMRTU. Mail to PBMRTU Ads, c/o Treasurer, at PO Box 4404, Helena, MT 59604.

AD COPY:

Camera-ready PDF or JPG by email to info@patbarnestu.org, or Scan-ready by mail to PBMR Ads, PO Box 4404, Helena, MT 59604. Electronic newsletter is in color, and print version is black and white. Please design your ads accordingly.

MEMBER CLASSIFIEDS

Classified advertisements of 50 words or less are available FREE of charge to current PBMR TU Chapter members. To take advantage of this FREE service, members must include their membership number with their ad.