

December
2019



Rapids

MONTHLY
NEWSLETTER OF THE
WESTERN WHITEWATER
ASSOCIATION

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Upcoming Events

December 2 6:30 General Banquet
Committee Meeting – Fiesta
Guadalajara

December 9 General Membership
Meeting & **Election** – Fiesta
Guadalajara

December 14 Jet Boater's Winter
Ball - Riggins

December 31 Banquet Early Bird
Registration Ends

January 1 New Year's Day Run –
Celebration Park

January 13 General Membership
Meeting – Fiesta Guadalajara

December 31 Banquet Pre-
Registration Ends, Price goes up
\$25 for at-the-door registration.

February 1 WWA Annual Banquet

**General Membership Meetings are
held at 7PM at Fiesta Guadalajara,
1202 N Jacob Alcott Way, Nampa,
ID 83687.**



Featured Banquet Auction Item - 60" Sturgeon Replica by Pro Fish

Federal cuts shut down Salmon River, other Idaho rivers' monitoring gauges

From Idaho Statesman, by Cynthia Sewell and Rocky Barker

November 19 at 08:25 AM ·

A Salmon River temperature gauge
critical for following the effects of
climate change on Idaho's endangered
sockeye salmon was shut down by the
Trump administration on Oct. 1.

The U.S. Geological Survey announced
that it would no longer monitor river
temperatures at its [White Bird gauge](#) on
the lower Salmon River and sediment
levels at a gauge on the [Clearwater River
at Spaulding](#). A third gauge that monitors
flooding on the [Weiser River](#) was cut
from year-round operation to January to
June monitoring.

Turning off the sediment gauge has not
concerned state and fisheries officials.
But the White Bird gauge is considered
important to salmon recovery efforts.

"Issues with temperature at White Bird is
an important indicator for the migratory
corridor and is often looked at when
estimating Lower Granite to the Stanley
Basin for sockeye," said Scott Pugnud,
director of Idaho Office of Species
Conservation.

The Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, who
petitioned for the listing of sockeye
salmon as an endangered species in
1991, said in a statement Tuesday they

are "are extremely concerned about the
loss of a long-term, critical river
monitoring station on the Salmon River.

"The Idaho Conservation League said
turning off the gauges "is yet another
strike against salmon and steelhead as
gauge data informs fishery management
and water quality decisions."

"As our climate changes and Idaho's
traditional patterns of rain, snow and run
off change, Idaho needs access to more
stream data, not less," said Justin Hayes,
the league's executive director.

"Good data is necessary to make good
decisions," he continued. "Stream gauges
are often generating long-term data that
is critical for the communities both
nearby and downstream."

U.S. Army Corps makes 'tough decisions'

The cuts, which would save \$59,000 this
fiscal year, were made by the U.S. Army
Corps of Engineers, said Tim Merrick, a
spokesman for the USGS in Boise.

"Our understanding is that they lost
some of their funding and had to make
some tough decisions about where to cut
back on their support for USGS stream
gauges," Merrick said.

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2019 Election

Our Annual Election will be held at the December General Membership meeting on 12/9/19. Debbie Thorson, Dave Dickerson, Jim & Brandi Moore are currently accepting nominations for:

- Vice President
- President-Elect
- Secretary/Treasurer
- Jet Boater of the Year
- Silver Rock Award

To nominate someone for one of the special awards, please submit nomination in writing, including why they deserve the award, to one of the committee members.



2020 Banquet

2/1/2020

Planning for the 2020 Annual Banquet is in full swing. ***This is our one and only fundraiser.***

There will be a live and silent auction, many different games and a great raffle. In addition, we're expecting several new boats on display. Donations for the auctions and raffle, and suggestions are always welcome and needed.

Contact any board member for more information and to volunteer.

The next banquet meeting is on January 8, 6:30, at Clyde's shop, **5311 Howard Ln, Nampa.**

Everyone is welcome, bring your new ideas!

President's Message



As boating season is winding down and winter is just around the corner, I want to reflect on the great season we have had. There is so much behind the scenes that happens in this organization to make all the events come together. This is accomplished by a handful of volunteers who are dedicated to making this a priority. All the runs require a vast amount of planning, gathering food, permits and organizing in various ways. I will say that the events run like a well-oiled machine with very few problems.

The inner works of this organization are managed by a great staff of officers who deal with political, legal, financial and ethical situations. There are many other volunteers who support our staff in various ways. If you are an officer, a volunteer or anyone who has helped make events happen I personally want to thank you for all you have done to support us and keep things running smooth this year.

The holidays are upon us and a time to give thanks for friends and family and the special things in our lives. If you would like to learn more and be involved in the club, you are certainly welcome to join us in any way you can as there is always plenty to do. Our monthly meetings are business oriented as well as a great social time to spend with friends and enjoy a good meal. There are some special events coming up starting with the New Year's Day run which seems cold but a warm boat and campfire afterwards with a hot meal is awesome.

I look forward to seeing you soon and be safe boating.

- Clyde Durham

Federal cuts shut down Salmon River, other Idaho rivers' monitoring gauges

Continued from page 1

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is a partner with USGS for some gauges and was forced to make the current budget cut, said Joe Saxon, a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers spokesman from Walla Walla, Washington. "Ultimately, it is the USGS' decision," Saxon said.

The cuts come at the same time the Trump administration proposed reducing the U.S. Geological Survey budget by \$177 million, or 15%.

The agency wrote in its budget proposal it had prioritized monitoring water quantity over water quality.

USGS also would move most of its headquarters to the Denver area under the plan, following the administration's game plan for the Bureau of Land Management and parts of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Temperature gauges provide critical data

The temperature gauge maintained at White Bird on the lower Salmon River south of Grangeville has become critical for scientists monitoring the fate of the endangered Snake River sockeye salmon, which spawn in the Sawtooth Valley.

The sockeye are especially vulnerable to midsummer's high river temperatures because that's when they migrate through the Columbia and Snake River corridor. Other salmon that spawn earlier or later can find cooler water refuges such as springs or cold-water tributaries to ride out the heat.

In 2015, fisheries biologists were optimistic when 4,000 adult endangered Snake River sockeye returned in the spring from the Pacific Ocean to the Bonneville Dam, the first major dam on the route in along the Columbia.

Then June temperatures spiked. Highs in the region rose to the upper 90s and 100s; temperatures in the Columbia River reached 73 degrees, warm enough to kill salmon. The gauge on the Salmon River showed the temperature there rose to a deadly 76 degrees at White Bird.

Just 56 Idaho sockeye made the trip back to the Sawtooth Valley on their own in 2015. Another 35 were trucked to Idaho Fish and Game's Eagle hatchery.

With years like 2015 expected to happen more frequently due to climate change, the White Bird gauge will be even more important to help managers protect the fish, said Dan Stone, a policy analyst with the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes.

"Migratory conditions are often limited by temperatures for species like sockeye, so many of our management actions are influenced by temperature data collected from the Salmon River stations," Stone said. "Funding for this

temperature monitoring station should be prioritized, and if the USGS is in need of budget savings they should maintain this data set and focus on other aspects of their overall budget."



Thanks to Eastern Idaho Members

Bob Hays, WWA representative on the Recreation Subcommittee of the Salmon Valley Stewardship Collation, wishes to thank the Eastern Idaho members of the WWA and friends, which attended the meeting in Salmon on October 30, 2019.

The session was on the Wild and Scenic River (WSR) segment recommendations from the Collaborative's WSR Task Force. While the revision of SCNF forest plan has been redirected by executive branch administration and will likely take two years to rework, the WSR recommendations will move forward, as work completed. The USFS makes the recommendations to Congress and they determine which river segments will be designated into the WSR system. The task force's recommendations included upper Middle Fork of the Salmon River tributaries and did not include any waters that are known to be navigated by private power boats. The next step will be to see what segments are included in the Forest Service's recommendations to Congress and how the input from the Collaborative was considered.

Thanks again to Lloyd Herbst, Bryce Hillman and his wife, Mick Paris and Dustin Wetzel for making the effort to attend the meeting, it means a lot to your representative and show that there is great interest in the management of the resource.

Member Classifieds

1998 Chevrolet K3500, 4X4 Crew Cab with 8-foot-long bed, 194K miles, 70% Rubber new last year, primarily used as tug to water.

22 Foot Weldcraft Jetboat built in 1984, less than 700 hours total time, with fresh A4 impellor in a Berkley Jet Pump Unit pushed by a normally aspirated 454 Chevrolet engine with approximately 150 hours on it since rebuild. Stick steer (solid rod - right side), newer fish finder, sand trap, center mounted 8.8 Yamaha high thrust kicker motor (plumbed fuel line), cover, anchor, spare nozzle and miscellaneous parts included. This is an experienced boat and very capable in Salmon River and Hells Canyon / Snake River waters. Health considerations and alternate boat availability motivates the sale of this set up.

Contact Bob and Becky Hays at 208-880-3522 for more information and photos.

Pickup \$7,500 and Boat \$26,900 Both for \$33,000

Classified advertising is limited to WWA Members selling personal items that are related to jet boating and may be of interest to other members. To submit an ad, send information to rapids@westernwhitewater.org. Business ads may be purchased (see page 5) by contacting payments@westernwhitewater.org



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<https://www.facebook.com/Western-Whitewater-345499968794364/>

We're on the Web

<https://westernwhitewater.org>
admin@westernwhitewater.org

Contribute stories and photos to future Rapids here:

rapids@westernwhitewater.org

Contact us here:

Jetboat2@westernwhitewater.org

Idaho Current Stream flows:

https://waterdata.usgs.gov/id/nwis/current?type=flow&group_key=basin_cd&search_site_no_station_nm=

Oregon Current Stream flows:

https://waterdata.usgs.gov/or/nwis/current?type=flow&group_key=basin_cd&search_site_no_station_nm=

Washington Power Streamflow Information: (03-02)

https://waterdata.usgs.gov/wa/nwis/current?type=flow&group_key=basin_cd&search_site_no_station_nm=

Addresses and Telephone Numbers

Salmon River Reservations: Slate Creek Ranger Station:
208- 839-2211

Hells Canyon Power Boat Reservations: General
information: 509-758-0616
Reservations must be made online.

River & Reservoir Levels: Bureau of Reclamation: 208-
334- 9134

Bliss Dam Outflows: Idaho Power (Call weekdays only)
208- 388-2255



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Contact us at payments@westernwhitewater.org

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2020 WWA Banquet Registration

February 1, 2020

EXPO IDAHO

5610 Glenwood St, Boise ID



Register by 12/31 to enter our Early Bird drawing for a chance to win your registration fee back



Dinner includes: Three Meats, Caesar Salad, Beans, Garlic Smashed Potatoes, Rolls, Coffee & Light Beverages.



Dessert available for purchase at the Dessert Auction Table.

Doors open 4:00 PM
No Host Bar 4:30 PM
Dinner served 6:30 PM
Auction begins 8:30 PM

- Registration packets will be available at the door.
- Additional Raffle tickets available.

Qty	Package	Prepay 1/15/20	At the Door	Total
	Single Membership, One Meal, 15 Raffle Tickets	\$105	\$130	
	Family Membership, Two Meals, 30 Raffle Tickets	\$180	\$205	
	Meal Only	\$50	\$75	
	Children's Meal (Age 10 and Under)	\$20	\$20	
	Single Membership, NO MEAL, 15 Raffle Tickets	\$55	\$80	
	Family Membership, NO MEALS, 30 Raffle Tickets	\$80	\$105	
	Browser - Exhibits & Auctions Only	N/A	\$15	
	Raffle Tickets (10)	\$10	\$10	
	Sponsor Table	\$300	N/A	
Total				

WWA Membership Registration

PO Box 8922, Boise, ID 83707

Please print legibly and provide all information. For WWA use only, will not be shared with non-members or for solicitation.

Name(s): _____
Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____
Phone #(s): _____
Email Address(es): _____

Do you want to receive the newsletter and club alerts by email? YES NO

If you don't have email do you wish to receive the newsletter by US Mail? YES NO

By checking below, I am electing to have the following information EXCLUDED from the WWA Membership Directory

All Personnel Information _____ Address _____ Phone _____ Email _____