



Sandy River Chapter

November 2020

The Association of NW Steelheaders Anglers dedicated to enhancing and protecting fisheries and their habitats for today and the future.

Cancelled - Sandy River Chapter November, and December 2020 meetings.

With Oregon Covid-19 numbers where they are, lack of broad availability of a vaccine, State and Local restrictions on social activities, and other unknowns it is not practical for us to hold a highly social activity like one of our meetings, in the near future.

We hope to be able to recommence in January 2021. We will keep you informed here and on our Facebook page.

UPDATE: Willamette Falls fishway back in action after repairs

September 18, 2020

The Willamette Falls fishway, including fish ladders, reopened yesterday. Fish are again able to pass through the fishway.

Hundreds of coho and Chinook have already passed by the counting window (see photos) and ODFW staff are reviewing video files to update the count now. [Online fish counts](#) should be updated late this week.

The entire project is expected to be completed by Oct. 9.

For more information on this project visit https://www.dfw.state.or.us/news/2020/09_Sep/091820b.asp

Contact:

Michelle Dennehy

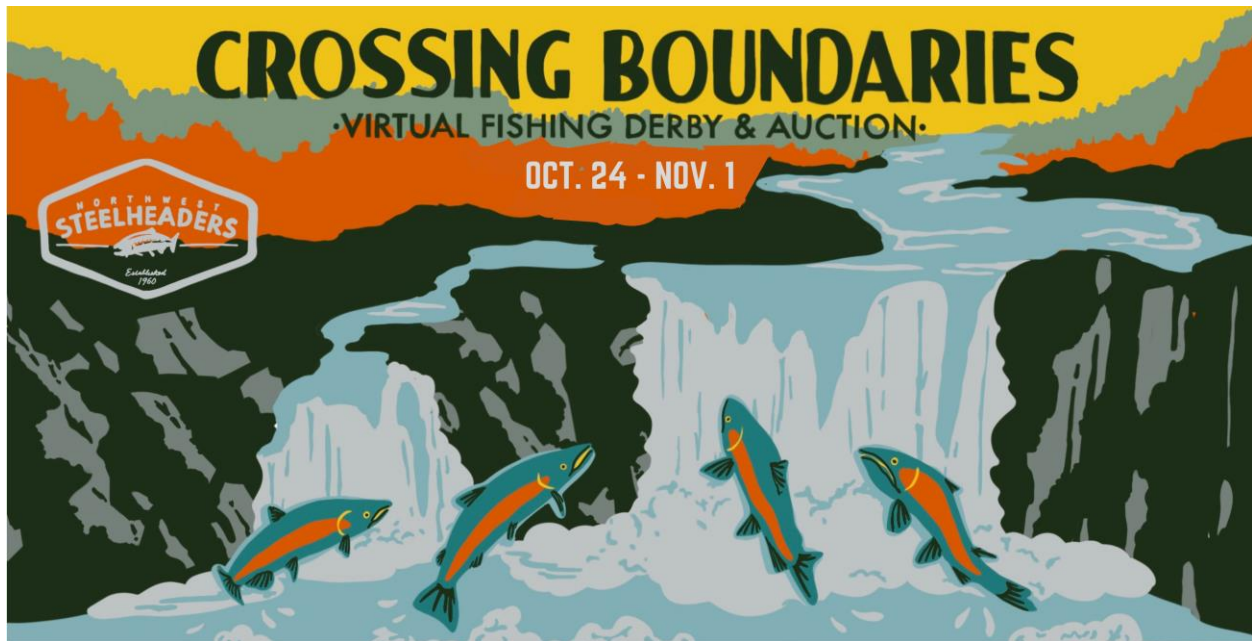
(503) 931-2748

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Note: You can also watch a video of fish passing upstream as they pass by the fish ladder window at

https://www.dfw.state.or.us/news/2020/09_Sep/091820b.asp





Registration is open for [Crossing Boundaries](#), our virtual fishing derby! From October 24 through November 1, we'll be raising money for our conservation and angling education programs. Check out the events below and sign up or donate today.

[Virtual All-species Fishing Derby](#)

Oct. 24 - Nov. 1

Anglers of all ages are invited to compete! The \$1,000 grand prize will be chosen in a random draw from the registration list. Winners in each category will receive \$200 worth of fishing gear. There will be 5 categories: salmon/steelhead, walleye/bass, Sebastes, panfish, and catfish. Tickets are \$50 for adults and \$30 for youth and include new membership or renewal.

[Online Auction](#)

Oct. 26 - Nov. 1

Bid on top of the line gear, guided trips, artwork, and so much more!

[Fishin' for Answers Trivia night](#)

Oct. 27 @ 6:00 pm

Why are fish so smart? Because they swim in schools! Join us for a FREE trivia night to test your knowledge of Pacific Northwest sport fisheries!

Association of Northwest Steelheaders

(503) 653-4176 | office@anws.org

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What Happens to Fish After a Wildfire?

The water keeps them safe ... at first.

https://www.hakaimagazine.com/news/what-happens-to-fish-after-a-wildfire/?fbclid=IwAR1fC1siDAp6NGOc2b9usqlh1_59IMk5y6udTr2oifTK38w_Ky1BadwDyRA

by [Starre Vartan](#)
January 23, 2019



Wildfires can be lethal to fish. Whether their population is able to rebound depends on a number of competing factors. Photo by PJF Military Collection/Alamy Stock Photo

When a wildfire rages, some animals fly, hop, or run to safety. But fish can't.

During a fire, the temperature of a stream or river will sometimes rise to a lethal degree. If a fish survives without being cooked, short-term changes to its environment might finish it off. Denuded stream banks erode quickly, with topsoil and ash clouding streams and making it difficult for fish to breathe or find food. Even firefighting efforts are a threat: [foam fire suppressants can suffocate fish](#), while fire retardants can be toxic.

Following those immediate threats, wildfires can also change a fish's habitat for months and even years. If trees that once provided shade burned down, that stream's water could heat up enough to make it unsuitable for cold-water fish, such as trout. Heat is particularly dire for eggs and fry.

Not surprisingly then, in the weeks and months after a wildfire, “fish populations will decline, sometimes dramatically,” says Rebecca Flitcroft, a fish biologist at the US Forest Service. Flitcroft points out that as populations, many animals, including fish, have evolved to survive severe, shorter events such as fires even if their numbers temporarily decline.

Indeed, while fire can be terrible for individual fish, the story for populations can be quite different. Ash from burned plants typically makes its way into streams and rivers, causing heightened loads of phosphorus, nitrogen, and potassium. These nutrient dumps often result in algae blooms, which, in turn, support more insects for fish to eat.

Uldis Silins, a forest hydrologist at the University of Alberta, has studied the post-fire repercussions of the Lost Creek fire that torched 200 square kilometers of southwestern Alberta in 2003. In that case, Silins saw benefits to the local [cutthroat trout](#): “Fire produced a change to a limiting nutrient that was a benefit to the insect communities. And that increased [the] growth rate of fish,” he says.

In the watershed he studied, Silins found that underground springs kept the stream consistently cold, mitigating the loss of shade plants. The geology of the area helped the fish, too—particularly silty sediments held on to phosphorus, feeding the algae (and eventually the fish, via insects) at a constant rate.

[Flitcroft’s research](#) also indicates that wildfire can sometimes benefit species over the long-term. After the most recent fire in the Wenatchee River subbasin in Washington State in 2014 for instance, spring chinook salmon populations dropped, and then rebounded. Debris flowing into the river increased the amount of suitable habitat and actually ended up boosting the population.

Whether a fish population ultimately recovers from the devastation of a fire, Flitcroft says, depends on whether there are safe refuges up or downstream from burned areas, and whether intact populations from other areas move in to repopulate the spots decimated by fire.

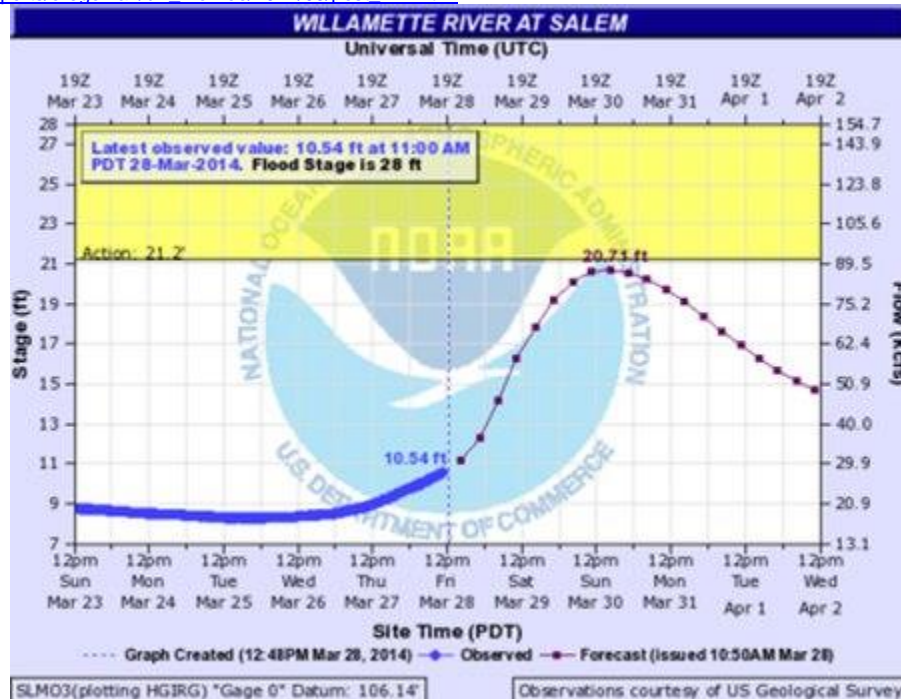
Because the ability of fish communities to recover depends on several interacting factors, predictions for a specific population can be tricky, Silins says. “We can’t speak too generally about wildfires.”

Silins says there is still lots more research to do to understand how wildfires affect fish. His team has already begun: they’re now tracking how a vast span of British Columbia—10 times the size of their Lost Creek study area—evolved after it was burned in 2017 and 2018.

Technology provides much more information for anglers, but we're still at the mercy of mother nature's whims

Updated Jan 10, 2019; Posted Mar 28, 2014 - Partial article

https://www.oregonlive.com/sports/oregonian/bill_monroe/2014/03/post_111.html



This chart shows at noon Friday, the Willamette River at Salem trending sharply upward, leaving a big question mark for salmon anglers in Portland about when the river might drop back into fishable condition.

Paraphrased past article By [Bill Monroe](#) | For The Oregonian/OregonLive

At the top of my list of Internet “Favorites” is a link to the National Weather Service’s Current [river level readings](#).

And a close second is a graph of the current [USGS turbidity index](#) for the Willamette River in Portland.

Both are getting a real workout...

Predicting fishable water conditions during spring chinook season is part meteorology, part experience, part networking, part wizardry and, of course, blind luck.

Still, it’s easier than pre-wireless days, when my gauges included: a) how close the shoreline of the rainwater puddle in the pasture was to the back porch; b) the height of Johnson Creek beneath the cloverleaf approach to Oregon 224 from McLoughlin Boulevard and, c) whether Grant McOmie’s oar struck a submerged car as he rowed a television news photographer down U.S. 101 in Tillamook for the evening news.

More modern, techno-wizardry gives us a good idea of how the Willamette is reacting to rainfall and freezing levels in the Cascades and valley. Eventually, it all flows downhill through Portland. For me, the magic number is about 12 feet at Salem, then add about a day and a half for that to reach Portland (slightly less for Oregon City or more for the harbor and Multnomah Channel.

The [turbidity gauge](#) in Portland then lets me know whether it's worth the fuel I'd use to go give it a try. Depending upon the level of frustration, turbidity readings from 12-19 will get my blood going – and never, by the way, when the turbidity is rising. Like the river itself, fish on the drop. (The gauge site, by the way, can also lead to turbidity levels on other rivers. Unlike each river's distinct fluctuation personalities, turbidity is turbidity.)

An app on my smartphone shows me a [radar image](#) of the weather not only for Portland, but meshed with the national image across North America. Not only can I zoom in close to see if there's enough of a break in the clouds to walk the dogs or even bring up some firewood without getting wet, but also whether a cousin in Oklahoma is likely to post another tornado photo on Facebook or a friend in Dease Lake, B.C., is still commuting by snowmobile...

Truth be told, though, weather forecasters are getting a good bit better at forecasting – Or at least better than I am at it.

Sandy Chapter Members have also used the following tools which can be found at these websites.

Bonneville Dam Discharge (per cubic feet), Gage height of Columbia River at I-5 bridge, Water Turbidity, and other data: <https://waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis/uv?14144700>

7 day Bonneville fish ladder ADULT SALMON COUNTS in chart form all Salmonid:
https://www.fpc.org/currentdaily/HistFishTwo_7day-ytd_Adults.htm

7 day Bonneville fish ladder counts in graph form, by species starting at:
https://www.fpc.org/webapps/adultsalmon/Q_dailyadultcountsgraph2.php

Bonneville “Quick Look” Adult Spring Chinook Passage with River Environment and Historical Run Timing. This includes: 2020 Adult Passage Bonneville Spring Chinook Summary for Bonneville, 10 year average passage charts, River Environment (temperatures, Dam Spill %, and Outflow), and Historical Run timing 2010 to 2019. And, data on Migration timing from 2010 to 2019.
http://www.cbr.washington.edu/dart/quick_look/adult_bon

ODFW News release, notification sign up, and history can be viewed at:
<https://www.dfw.state.or.us/news/2020/>

ODFW Columbia River Action Notice Updates, notification sign up, and history can be viewed at: https://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/OSCRP/CRM/action_notes.asp

Within the following website you can also monitor tides, winds, and other data for Oregon (and , they have a free phone APP): <https://tides.willyweather.com/or.html>

Member Photos



Jim Cathcart



Jeff Boughton Columbia River



Bill Beith and John Hydorn
on the Siletz with Jack Glass



Other Columbia Fall Chinook

Sandy Chapter Board Members

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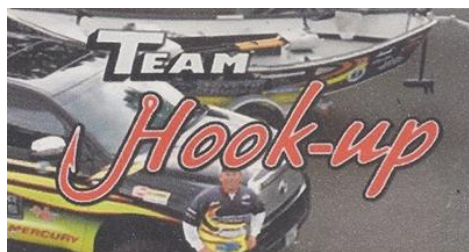
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Check out the Sandy River NW Steelheaders Apparel!!!
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