



**Sandy River Chapter**

**December 2021**

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




***Wednesday December 1, 2021 - 7pm*** - Sam Cox building, Glenn Otto Community Park in Troutdale, Oregon. The chapter has scheduled an in person meeting sinc. Our guest speaker is ***Ryan Queen, ODFW Sandy River / Cedar Creek Hatchery Manager*** is our speaker. ***Ryan will share hatchery operation news and talk about the brood stock program.*** We had 20 attendees last month, hope to see you December 1st.

***All meetings until further notice, we require that face mask be worn indoors. The city of Troutdale and the State require mask to be worn in public buildings. Hope to see you all at the next meeting.***

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## **New Sandy River Chapter Facebook Group**

We invite you to visit the new Sandy River Chapter Facebook Group at "**Sandy River Chapter NW Steelheaders**" - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/451895135882897> . Our previous Facebook page did not permit posting by anyone but the Administrator. The move to a "Group" is for public viewing, meaning anyone can visit, like, and follow. As set up, being a "joined" member only adds the ability to post to the site.

Even as a non-joined visitor you can suggest postings through "Messenger" (  Logo in upper right section of home page) at any time and we will review your input for publishing.

We are trying to initially keep those with "joined" membership to this Facebook group to current ANWS members. This is due to the difficulty in managing large numbers of participants, and our need to ensure joiners follow the rules and regulations of the Sandy River Chapter and the ANWS related to fishing conservation.

If you are not already a member of the ANWS consider joining for as little as \$30.00 per year. We would be happy to have you as a member and you can join the Association of NW Steelheaders at : <https://nwsteelheaders.org/get-involved/membership/> . Any further questions, please ask.

Note: There will be redundancies between the Chapter Newsletter and our Facebook Group page in our attempt to share items to followers of both. Due to limited space in our Newsletter there may also be more posts on the Facebook group page than in the Newsletter.

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**Phase one of Minam River Wildlife Area project complete** [Grab your reader's attention with a great quote from the document or use this space to emphasize a key point. To place this text box anywhere on the page, just drag it.]

**ted;**

## ***Ensuring protections for wildlife habitat and recreation***

November 24, 2021

LA GRANDE, Ore. – ODFW along with the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and Manulife Investment Management's timberland business (formerly Hancock Natural Resource Group) completed phase one of the Minam River Wildlife Area project adding more than 4,600 acres of public land to the state's wildlife area system.

"The significance of this acquisition cannot be overstated," said Curt Melcher, Director of ODFW. "An opportunity to protect such a large swath of diverse habitat does not come along very often. ODFW has pursued opportunities to permanently protect this property since the 1960s. This acquisition would not have been possible without the leadership and funding from RMEF, as well as a strong partnership with Manulife," added Melcher.

Phase one funding primarily came from RMEF and the Wildlife Restoration Program, a federal excise tax on guns and ammunition.

To complete phase two, ODFW is working to secure additional funding through a U.S.

Department of Agriculture Forest Legacy program grant, which will be matched with previously secured RMEF funds to purchase the remaining 10,963 acres.

"We thank and congratulate our partners for conserving this landscape that is so important for elk, mule deer, birds, fish and other wildlife," said Kyle Weaver, RMEF president and CEO. "While we pause to celebrate this accomplishment, we know there is still much to do to complete phase two of the project that covers nearly 11,000 more acres."

This project will permanently protect crucial winter range for elk and deer. It will also continue to provide habitat for salmon, bull trout, and other Oregon Conservation Strategy Species including white-headed woodpecker, Rocky Mountain tailed frog and several priority bat species.



A cow elk grazes the Minam River upland area, photo by Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, David Jensen, (RMEF 2021)

Once completed, the 15,573-acre property will be managed by ODFW as the Minam River Wildlife Area, the fifth largest wildlife area in the state. The Fish and Wildlife commission approved the purchase earlier this year.



Flowers bloom along the Minam River just before sunrise, photo by Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, David Jensen, (RMEF 2021)

Located about 30 miles northeast of La Grande in Wallowa and Union counties, the property is located along the Minam River and currently managed by Manulife Investment Management.

In addition to creating new public recreational access for hunting, fishing, and other activities, the Minam River Wildlife Area will also improve access to Wallowa-Whitman National Forest and Bureau of Land Management lands.

"ODFW will manage the property as a working landscape utilizing limited livestock grazing as well as active forest management in partnership with the Oregon Department of Forestry to improve forage conditions for wildlife," said Nick Myatt, ODFW East Region Manager.

Recreation opportunities on the new property could include hunting, fishing, hiking, birdwatching, horseback riding, kayaking and other activities. The proposed Minam River trailhead will be established on the border shared with the Minam State Recreation Area and the wildlife area. A footbridge over the Minam River is being considered to facilitate improved public access to the historic Minam River Trail, which travels for six miles through the property. The trail connects recreationists to the Wallowa Mountains and Eagle Cap Wilderness in the neighboring National Forest.

Public access will be allowed from April 1 to Nov. 30 so disturbance on deer and elk is limited during the sensitive winter period. Access along the Minam River Trail will be allowed year-round.

As with other state wildlife areas, ODFW will pay fire protection fees and "in-lieu" of property taxes to maintain county tax revenues - ensuring a win for all. Future management will be determined through the adoption of a Wildlife Area Management Plan.

Contact: Nick Myatt, (541) 519-3653, [nick.a.myatt@odfw.oregon.gov](mailto:nick.a.myatt@odfw.oregon.gov)

Source:

<https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkljoxMDAsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpiYGljaW5mJ1bGxldGluX2lkljoiMjAyMTExMjQuNDkzNDUzOTEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwOi8vd3d3LmRmdy5zdGF0ZS5vci51cy9uZXdzLzlwMjEvaW5kZXguYXNwIn0.Kml2pc18wEF9q39vtY9TEbjWo1AuTZrHSj11dSHLWYU/s/542088061/br/121689241906-l>





## ***Sandy Waste Water Treatment Plan***

At the November Chapter meeting we told members we had written a letter of concern to the Sandy Oregon City Manager with copies to the Sandy Mayor and Council members regarding their Sandy Waste Water Treatment Plan.

The letter expressed our concerns regarding the planned proposal to discharge treated effluent directly into the Sandy River at Revenue bridge and to discharge treated water to a constructed wetlands at the former site of Roslyn Lake as noted below and on their website at :

<https://www.ci.sandy.or.us/publicworks/page/sandy-river-wastewater-discharge-alternatives-evaluation>

### ***“ SANDY RIVER DISCHARGE SITE***

*The studies in the Detailed Discharge Alternatives Evaluation affirmed that the best path forward for the City is to construct a new satellite treatment facility and a year-round outfall to the Sandy River. The study explored several possible locations to discharge the finished water within the Sandy River. The report reached a preliminary conclusion that an outfall site near Revenue Bridge would be preferred due to its geomorphic stability and relative lack of recreation and fishery concerns.*

*Based on the studies in the Evaluation, it was found that as Sandy grows, discharges to the Sandy River will start to exceed the temperature impacts threshold during the summer months. A possible temperature mitigation strategy under evaluation is to discharge treated water to constructed wetlands at the former site of Roslyn Lake.*

*Further assessments and analysis is needed regarding concepts outlined in the Evaluation. This includes further investigations at the Roslyn Lake site, analyzing other options for mitigating future temperature impacts, additional studies at the satellite facility and diversion pump station sites, and additional studies of the proposed pipeline routing. Continuing outreach with property owners, neighbors, and residents of the project sites is also an important part of the ongoing work.*

*There is significant permitting work that is required in order to obtain an NPDES permit for the Sandy River outfall and other permits associated with the recommendations and construction.”*

For more information regarding their planned Wastewater System Improvements visit:

<https://www.ci.sandy.or.us/publicworks/page/wastewater-system-improvements>

To view their Wastewater System Improvement Project Update dated September 2021 visit:

<https://www.ci.sandy.or.us/publicworks/page/wastewater-system-improvement-project-update>

Your individual concerns to be made by contacting the same parties r at 39250 Pioneer Blvd., Sandy, OR 97055.

On the following pages is a copy of our letter of concern.

October 22, 2021

Jordan Wheeler,  
Sandy City Manager  
39250 Pioneer Blvd.  
Sandy, OR 97055



Dear Mr. Wheeler,

On behalf of the Sandy River Chapter of the Association of Northwest Steelheaders and the Association of Northwest Steelheaders (ANWS), we are writing to you and other interested parties to express our concerns regarding the Sandy Wastewater Treatment Plan on the health of the Sandy River.

The ANWS, an Oregon-based non-profit organization, was founded in 1960 and is one of the oldest and most cherished conservation and sport fishing advocacy organizations in the Pacific Northwest. We are anglers dedicated to enhancing and protecting fisheries and their habitats for today and tomorrow. Our programs include youth conservation education, angler education, protecting public access to waterways, and advocating for fish.

The Sandy River Chapter of the ANWS was formed in 1964 and is located along the shores of the Sandy River in Troutdale, Oregon. Since its inception, the chapter has partnered with local interest groups in maintaining the ecosystem of the Sandy River freshwater fisheries in the Northwest. We are committed to safeguarding, promoting, and enhancing the social, environmental, and conservational values of sport fishing.

With its consistent cold, clear flows it acts as a cold-water refuge for migrating salmonids and the Sandy River is prime habitat for spring and fall Chinook, Coho, and Steelhead, which are each listed as endangered.

It is critical to minimize the volume of treated wastewater discharged into and enhance research of alternatives to discharging treated effluent directly into the Sandy River, particularly during summer and fall when flows are lowest. Current planning is based on historical data and does not seem to consider we are seeing less rain and snow, higher summer temperatures, lower stream flows, and higher water temperatures across Oregon. This is a problem, especially in the low flow months of late summer and early fall. Salmonids thrive in cold water with high levels of oxygen. We have seen the discharge of treated sewage into Tickle Creek causing water quality problems for the Clackamas Basin. The planned discharges into the Sandy River pose negative effects on water quality in this River as well. For these reasons, we would like to see the city place more emphasis on discharge prevention in the new plan.

The current evaluations of alternative treated effluent discharge methods, such as the use of the Roslyn Lake bed, seem inadequate. Other options should be explored more thoroughly. The use of greener alternatives for treated effluent should be more thoroughly investigated. A few sources and ideas can be found from many sources such as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - <https://www.epa.gov/waterreuse/basic-information-about-water-reuse> , Office of Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy - <https://www.energy.gov/eere/femp/reclaimed-wastewater-map> , and the PEW Charitable Trusts - <https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/blogs/stateline/2014/07/23/states-cities-get-creative-about-recycling-water>.

A 20 year plan seems too short a period as 2 years of this period have already elapsed in planning. A 40-to-50-year plan seems more appropriate. Otherwise, once completed and operating planning for enhanced needs will have to begin immediately.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns. Please keep us apprised of the progress of the Sandy Wastewater Treatment Plan.



Chris Hager,  
Executive Director,  
Association of NW Steelheaders  
P.O. Box 55400  
Portland, OR. 97238



Greg Reed & Jeff Stoeger  
Co-Presidents,  
Sandy River Chapter ANWS  
PO Box 301114  
Portland, OR 97294-9114



## Sandy Chapter Board Members

### OFFICERS

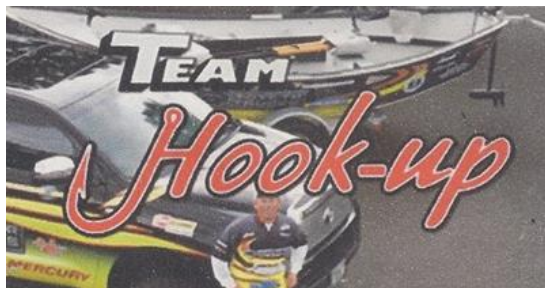
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Co-President	Greg Reed	503-869-1795
Vice President	Jeff Boughton	
Secretary	Terri Boughton	503-307-2546
Treasurer	<b>Vacant</b>	503-869-1795

### DIRECTORS

Position	Name	Phone
Eggs to Frye	Mike Myrick	503-281-6438
<b>Newsletter</b>	<b>Vacant</b>	503-869-1795
<b>River Cleanups</b>	<b>Vacant</b>	-
Sales	Rob Bitney	503-320-9821
Angler Education	Jim Cathcart	503-287-9616

### COMMITTEE HEADS

Position	Name	Phone
Special Events	Steven Rothenbucher	503-257-0039
Website, Content	<b>Vacant</b>	-



Jack Glass 503.260.2315  
Brandon Glass 503.260.8585  
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Check out the Sandy River NW  
Steelheaders  
Apparel!!!  
Contact: Rob Bitney  
503-692-0180  
<http://stancelgraphics.com/sandyriverchapter>