



# THE TRIBUTARY

A Newsletter of the

Western Division of the American Fisheries Society

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## AFS Annual Meeting in Seattle

**Be a part of one of the World's largest gatherings of fishery and aquatic resource professionals ever!**

The Seattle American Fisheries Society 2011 Annual Meeting September 4—8 is just around the corner so make your plans today to attend the conference and enjoy Seattle and the Pacific Northwest.

Register today (<http://afs2011.org/registration/>) for the Early Bird Special Rate (available until **July 29, 2011**).

The 2011 Program (<http://afs2011.org/program/>) has burst at the seams with an abundance of Symposia, Contributed Papers, and Posters. Visit the Program webpage to see the schedule-at-a-glance, the complete conference program, and to use the Personal Scheduler software to plan your itinerary through the array of presentations.

Accommodations are filling up fast at the Seattle Sheraton and Hyatt Hotels. Book your rooms today at special conference pricing. The cut-off for discounted prices is **August 10** (<http://afs2011.org/accommodations/lodging-transportation/>).

Visit the Continuing Education Courses and Workshops webpage (<http://afs2011.org/continuing-education/>) and choose a course to enhance your professional skills. Several classes are offered and once you choose, sign up for them while registering for the conference. You may contact course leaders with questions about course content.

Socials are planned for every night of the conference and are included in your registration! You don't want to be left out of the Progressive Social planned for the Monorail, Space Needle, and Experience Music Project. Visit the Special Events webpage to see what's planned and view the latest video clip (<http://afs2011.org/special-events/>).

Tours and excursions await you so register now. Several trips are planned with the highlight being a restoration tour and possibly one of the last organized tours to the Elwha Dam prior to its removal later this year (<http://afs2011.org/tours-sightseeing/>). Be a part of history there or plan your Seattle stay with resources from the website.

Student Activities are abundant and sure to be enjoyable and rewarding. Schedule the events in your calendar to be sure you don't miss great networking – and job – opportunities! <http://afs2011.org/student-activities/>.

You can still be a conference Sponsor or Exhibitor for this well-attended conference. Visit our Sponsor (<http://afs2011.org/sponsors/>) and Tradeshow (<http://afs2011.org/trade-show/>) webpages for complete information.

Finally, volunteers are still needed to help this huge conference run smoothly. If you are willing to help, please contact Todd Kassler at [Todd.Kassler@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:Todd.Kassler@dfw.wa.gov).



# Officers

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## President's Hook

Summer is flying by, as we continue to complete tasks, develop new ideas, and create other opportunities for the future, all to benefit the members and aquatic resources of the Western Division (WD). The culmination of our efforts across the past year will be our Annual Meeting in Seattle, held in conjunction with the Annual Meeting of the WA-BC Chapter and the Society. Our meeting is projected to be one of the largest conferences in the Society's history. Many WD members have invested countless hours to make this a memorable, environmentally and socially-responsible gathering for all. The Program Committee has organized 95 symposia and nearly 500 posters for meeting attendees to take advantage of. Interested in improving your leadership skills or learning more about river morphology and restoration? Check out the suite of educational opportunities the Continuing Education Committee has arranged for your benefit. Get involved with the Society and WD by attending any one of several business meetings occurring across the conference. Special events for students are also being planned. And, the evening scene stands to be fabulous. As you catch up with old friends or make new ones, there will be no shortage of seafood to consume and sounds of Seattle to illuminate the night. Bring the family (limited child care will be provided) and select from several tours and sightseeing trips highlighting the beautiful Pacific Northwest. If you have not registered for our meeting, please do so soon. Early bird registration will be closing July 29th. When registering, be sure to sign up for your FREE WD Annual Business Meeting breakfast on Tuesday, September 6th from 7:00am until 8:30am. You can check out all of the meeting details on the meeting website at <http://afs2011.org/>, or feel free to contact me directly at [lori.martin@state.co.us](mailto:lori.martin@state.co.us) or (970) 255-6126. I look forward to meeting and visiting with you in Seattle!

Lori Martin, President WDAFS



# Announcements

## Results of Student Representative and Officer Elections

The polls are closed, and we are proud to announce the results of our Student Representative, Secretary-Treasurer, and Vice President elections. Students of the WD elected Mariah Mayfield to serve as the WD's new Student Representative. The WD Executive Committee approved pursuing changes to the WD Bylaws that will reflect this new position as part of the WD Executive Committee (see section on Bylaws Revisions and New Procedural Manual). Members of the WD also re-elected Mary Buckman as Secretary-Treasurer, and selected Pam Sponholtz as our incoming Vice President. Congratulations ladies!

## Bylaws Revision and New Procedural Manual

Members of the WD Executive Committee have been hard at work revising our existing Bylaws and developing a new Procedural Manual. The Bylaws revision will include the new Student Representative position, as well as several housekeeping items. Keep your eyes peeled soon for an announcement describing these proposed revisions. We will need your feedback and support to approve these recommended changes.

We also continue to make progress developing our first WD Procedural Manual. This will be a living document that will provide guidance to all WD members involved in WD business and activities. We hope to circulate a preliminary draft soon.

## WD Activities in Seattle - Opportunities to Get Involved

The Governing Board of the Society will be conducting business during their Annual Meeting on Saturday, September 3rd from 8:00am until 5:00pm in the Metropolitan A Room of the Seattle Sheraton. This meeting is open to all Society members who would like to learn more and participate in the business activities of the Society.

On Sunday, September 4th, the WD Executive Committee will be meeting from 9:00am until 5:00pm in the Aspen Room of the Seattle Sheraton. We will be conducting WD business, and encourage members to drop in and visit with the committee. This is a chance to learn more about how the WD Executive Committee functions, and share any concerns, thoughts, or ideas you would like to relating to business of the WD.

Another opportunity for you to visit with other WD members and colleagues will be at our Annual WD Business Meeting breakfast on Tuesday morning, September 6th from 7:00am until 8:30am in Room 4F of the Washington State Convention Center. Please join us for a FREE breakfast buffet (compliments of Western Division) and business discussion. Our Annual Business Meeting will highlight activities and actions of the WD across the past year and a half, including an update on finances, committee reports, introduction of newly elected Officers, review of Bylaws, and other business. We will recognize the efforts of multiple individuals and organizations through our annual award presentations. This gathering will also be an occasion to discuss any new business or concerns of the membership.

## Student Activities in Seattle - More Opportunities to Get Involved

Undergraduate and graduate students can take advantage of multiple opportunities designed specifically for students. Start the week off by participating in the Student-Mentor Social on Monday, September 5th from 6:30pm until 8:30pm in the Washington State Convention Center tradeshow, Room 4E. Tuesday, September 6th will be another busy day with the Student Colloquium and Mentor FREE Lunch (combined event) from 12:00pm until 2:00pm, followed by the Student Career Fair and Social (combined event) from 5:30pm until 11:00pm at the Seattle Aquarium. Visit the Seattle meeting website at <http://afs2011.org/student-activities/> for more information.

## Smith-Root Introduction to Electrofishing Courses

### Introduction to Electrofishing Course

<http://www.smith-root.com/calendar/train/introduction-to-electrofishing-class-september-2011/>

This is a 2-day course being held at Smith-Root, Inc. headquarters in Vancouver, Washington. The first day consists of a classroom lecture-based session covering basic electrical theory, electrofishing equipment, operation and safety, and applied electrofishing methods. The second day is a practical field-based session where participants operate electrofishing equipment and apply information learned in the classroom.

Additionally, Smith-Root is extremely pleased to announce a new partnership with Hoskin Scientific Ltd. For over 50 years Hoskin has been a supplier of testing and monitoring instrumentation to the Canadian market and we are very pleased to see how our full-line of electrofishing, electroanesthesia, boats, and fish guidance systems fit into their already robust portfolio of environmental products.

The establishment of this relationship will enable synergies improving our already prompt and courteous service to our Canadian customers. By providing local service and maintenance, and thereby reducing time and expense, Hoskin Scientific will provide a better solution to existing Canadian customer needs.

This partnership is another example of Smith-Root's desire to collaborate with respected companies and organizations throughout the world with the aim to create efficiencies and provide more value to the end user. Hoskin's reputation throughout Canada as a solution provider and its vast experience as a reseller were key drivers in establishing this agreement. We at Smith-Root feel very fortunate to have the opportunity to work with such a great company and look very forward to better serving our Canadian clients.



**September 21—22, 2011**  
Vancouver,  
Washington

## Western Division AFS Student Colloquium

The 2011 WDAFS Student Colloquium will be at the University of Montana in Missoula October 6th – 8th, 2011.

**October 6—8, 2011**  
Missoula,  
Montana

The University of Montana student sub-chapter of the American Fisheries Society is proud to host the 4th Annual Western Division of the American Fisheries Society Student Colloquium from Thursday, October 6th to Saturday, October 8th. Missoula, Montana will be the site of research presentations, insightful field trips, and networking in an all-student environment.

Activities will include:

- A rafting trip through the Alberton Gorge
- A tour of the Milltown Dam remediation site
- Student presentations
- Networking Opportunities
- Plenty of time to fish Montana's world-famous fly fishing rivers

Mark your calendars now!

Details to be announced Fall 2011 - and will be posted soon at [www.cfc.umt.edu/AFSSStudentChapter](http://www.cfc.umt.edu/AFSSStudentChapter).

Please consider attending and/or presenting your research.

Questions? Contact Tracy Wendt at [tracy.wendt@umontana.edu](mailto:tracy.wendt@umontana.edu) or Mariel Maxted at [mariel.maxted@umontana.edu](mailto:mariel.maxted@umontana.edu).

## ***Salvelinus confluentus* Curiosity Society**

**Lower Clark Fork River, MT/ Lake Pend Oreille, ID  
Annual Meeting – 2011**

**Dates: September 20 - 22, 2011**

**Location: Amber Bear Inn & Heron Community Center; Heron, MT**

**The 2011 ScCS meeting will be held on the lower Clark Fork River, MT/ Lake Pend Oreille, ID system. The meeting location in Heron, MT is located near the Idaho Cabinet Gorge Fish Hatchery and Cabinet Gorge Dam, both approximately 12 km upstream of Lake Pend Oreille, ID.**

**The meeting will be comprised of two ½ day presentation sessions and one field trip day. Tuesday Sept. 20<sup>th</sup>: 12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Heron Community Center –**

**Presentations. Wednesday Sept. 21<sup>st</sup>: Field trips:**

- **Boat tours of gill netting efforts to remove lake trout on Lake Pend Oreille.**
- **Tour of new bull trout fish ladder at Thompson Falls Dam.**
- **Redd Count training session offered by IDFG personnel or assist with redd counts.**
- **Snorkel survey of the Vermilion River, MT.**
- **Bull trout radio telemetry & tour of weir traps in MT tributaries.**
- **Hook and line sampling.**

**Thursday Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup>: 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Heron community Center – Presentations.**

**Primary lodging and meals will be provided at the Amber Bear Inn ([amberbearinn.com](http://amberbearinn.com)) ~5 minutes from the Heron Community Center. Camping fee will be included in registration fee (\$120) along with meals (2 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 2 dinners) and a souvenir. Registration is open through August 22<sup>nd</sup>. There are only 5 rooms available at the Amber Bear Inn so book early if you are not camping. Additional lodging is available at the Diamond T Ranch ([diamondtranch.com](http://diamondtranch.com)) (less than 10 minutes from meeting site), or at hotels located in Clark Fork (15 minutes) Meriwether Inn ([meriwether-inn.com](http://meriwether-inn.com)) or Sandpoint, ID (40 minutes). Limit of 100 meeting attendees, so register early.**

**Presentation themes include but are not limited to “Bull Trout Passage” and “Bull trout interactions with non-natives”. For meeting information contact Shana Bernall ([Shana.Bernall@avistacorp.com](mailto:Shana.Bernall@avistacorp.com)) or information on registration contact Lisa Vollertsen ([Lisa.Vollertsen@avistacorp.com](mailto:Lisa.Vollertsen@avistacorp.com)).**

**Photo: Joel Sartore/National Geographic Stock with Wade Fredenberg**

## Riparian Challenge Winners Announced

The AFS Western Division's Riparian, Watersheds, and Habitat Committee solicited entries for the 2011 Riparian Challenge Award. The U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and other conservation agencies or private industry in the region encompassed by the Western Division (thirteen western states, British Columbia, Yukon Territories, Mexico and U.S. Islands, and Trust Territories of the Western Pacific), were invited to participate in this year's Riparian Challenge. The Riparian Committee received 15 submittals with five submittals entered for each of the three group categories. Five committee members from the USFS, BLM, a state fish and wildlife department, and private consulting firms reviewed the submittals and all agreed on the high level of submitted projects.

The following projects were selected for the 2011 Riparian Challenge Award.

### **BLM Category:**

- Coos Bay District – 2010 Partnership Watershed Restoration Projects
- San Luis Resource Area – Kerber Creek Restoration Project

### **USFS Category:**

- Sisters Ranger District, Deschutes National Forest – Whychus Creek Restoration at Camp Polk Meadow Preserve

### **Other Category:**

- Seattle Public Utilities – Lower Tolt River Floodplain Reconnection Project

Riparian Challenge awardees will be recognized at the Western Division's business breakfast during the AFS 141st Annual Meeting hosted by the Washington-British Columbia Chapter in Seattle, Washington. On behalf of the Riparian Committee, I would like to thank all entrants for their interest and time dedication to the 2011 Riparian Challenge. I would also like to acknowledge the following committee members who participated in the project reviews: Hilda Sexauer (Wyoming Game & Fish Department), Dan Scaife (USFS), Tom Mendenhall (BLM), Arn Berglund (BLM), and Amy Sacry (Geum Consulting).

Thanks to everyone for another successful Riparian Challenge!



# WDAFS Press Release on Lower Snake River Dams

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## **Western Division of the American Fisheries Society Considers the Four Lower Snake River Dams a Threat to the Continued Existence of Salmon, Steelhead, Lamprey and Sturgeon**

Portland, Or. – The Western Division of American Fisheries Society (WDAFS) announced that it has passed a resolution acknowledging that based on the best available scientific information, the four lower Snake River dams and reservoirs present a significant threat to the continued existence of remaining wild fish populations. It goes on to say that if society wishes to save and restore these endangered species, “then a significant portion of the lower Snake River must be returned to a free-flowing condition by breaching the four lower Snake River dams[.]” The resolution is a revision of one adopted in 1999, and passed with 86.4% approval of the independent group of scientists throughout the Western US. Full text of the resolution will soon be available on the WDAFS website ([www.wdafs.org](http://www.wdafs.org)).

The revisions addressed conditions that have occurred since 1999, indicating that although some salmon runs have experienced increases and even record returns, that these large pulses are dominated by hatchery fish instead of wild ones; and that more has been recently learned about the role of these dams and reservoirs in reducing populations of other native fish such as sturgeon and lamprey, as well as the listed salmon and steelhead.

“This resolution simply tells it like it is from the science perspective: if we want to save Snake River salmon as habitats warm, we have to remove the four lower Snake River dams. There is just no evading that reality,” said Don Chapman, fisheries biologist, former fisheries professor, and consultant to industry, Native Americans, and management agencies.

Said Doug DeHart, former Fisheries Chief at the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and fisheries biologist, “WDAFS did a great job applying the best available science to a tough issue. Let’s hope these scientists’ call for a hard look at removal of the four lower Snake River dams is heeded by this Administration. The future of these fish depends on sound decisions informed by this kind of scientific perspective, but it is also crucial for the future of our salmon fisheries up and down the West Coast, and the jobs and the communities those fish support.”

The resolution follows previous AFS assessments in 2004 and 2009 of the federal Biological Opinion regarding Columbia and Snake River salmon policy. Those assessments also indicated that restoration of natural river conditions where the four lower Snake River dams occur has the highest likelihood of recovering wild salmon and steelhead.

“I’m proud to be an AFS member today. To stand up against the political forces trying to silence the science on this issue isn’t easy; this call for dam removal and the previous thorough WDAFS critiques of the current plan show that the members of AFS have strong principles and integrity,” said Chapman.

Established in 1870, the American Fisheries Society is the world’s oldest and largest organization dedicated to strengthening the fisheries profession, advancing fisheries science, and conserving fisheries resources. The Western Division represents about 3,500 fishery scientists from 13 states and 3 Canadian provinces and territories, encompassing the entire Columbia River basin.

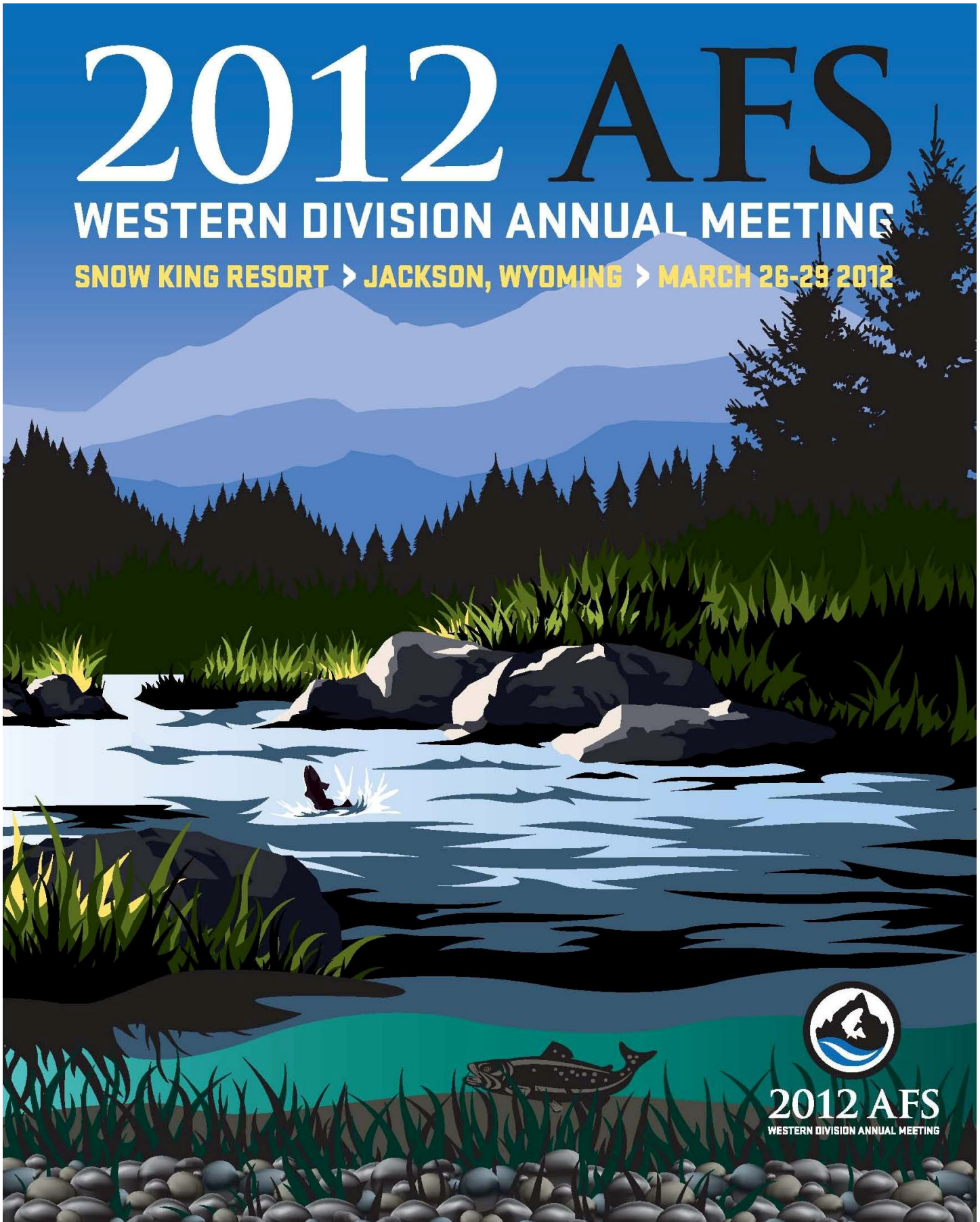
The resolution comes in advance of a Federal judges’ ruling on the legality of the current federal government’s Biological Opinion regarding wild salmon and steelhead in the Columbia and Snake River system.



# 2012 AFS

## WESTERN DIVISION ANNUAL MEETING

SNOW KING RESORT > JACKSON, WYOMING > MARCH 26-29 2012



2012 AFS  
WESTERN DIVISION ANNUAL MEETING



## About the Tributary

The Tributary is the newsletter of the Western Division of the American Fisheries Society published four times per year.

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## About the American Fisheries Society

The mission of the American Fisheries Society is to improve the conservation and sustainability of fishery resources and aquatic ecosystems by advancing fisheries and aquatic science and promoting the development of fisheries professionals.

<http://www.fisheries.org>

## About the Western Division of the American Fisheries Society

Established as the first Division of the [American Fisheries Society](#) in 1948, the Western Division now includes [Chapters](#) from twelve western states, British Columbia, Yukon Territories, and Mexico. Our members represent a tremendous array of fisheries workers involved in all aspects of the fisheries profession. The collective diversity and expertise of Western Division members is the basis of an intimate and unparalleled familiarity with fisheries resources and issues within our geographic region. Division objectives are to provide a forum for exchanging technical and policy information, promote understanding by regional, Federal, and state policy-makers of the nature and extent of fishery matters of concern to the membership, facilitate timely exchange of information to chapters and the general membership, and provide a vehicle for the active participation of individual members in Society business and professional activities.

<http://www.wdafs.org>