



2024 Newsletter

The President's Letter

Dear Members,

As President of the Henry's Lake Foundation, I am excited to share with you our progress and milestones we've achieved over the past year, all thanks to your ongoing support and involvement and generosity.

First, a big thank you to everyone who participated in our inaugural annual survey. Your feedback was invaluable, and we are pleased to announce that all comments were shared with the senior leadership of Idaho Fish and Game. This collaborative effort has set the stage for what we hope will be a renewed and unprecedented partnership aimed at preserving and enhancing Henry's Lake and our ecosystem. The survey results are attached for your review and consideration, and we look forward to building upon these insights to guide our future efforts.

We continue to make significant strides with the Targhee Creek restoration project. This initiative is one of the largest and most ambitious in our Foundation's history. The restoration efforts, which involve enhancing spawning habitat and improving the overall ecological health of the creek, are critical for sustaining the diverse fish populations that Henry's Lake is known for. We are optimistic that this project will become a model of collaboration and restoration, setting a benchmark for future efforts across the region. And, it highlights our commitment to the indigenous species – The Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout.

Your generosity and engagement as members have not gone unnoticed. I am delighted to report that, thanks to your support, we have exceeded our best fundraising year ever! These contributions directly enable our projects, including the ongoing restoration efforts and new initiatives that will shape the future of Henry's Lake. It is a testament to your passion for preserving this special place. And we see this as quite an accomplishment during a spirited election year when every five minutes one party or the other (and sometimes both) are in your text stream asking for more.

Looking ahead, we want to share that we are involved in an exploration of a new and significant initiative: a fact-based stocking and measurement project in collaboration with Idaho Fish and Game. This will be one of the best data-driven efforts we have ever undertaken, aimed at understanding and optimizing fish populations, especially the lake's recruitment challenges. If we move forward, this project will provide critical data that can help us restore Henry's Lake to its historic productivity and renown as one of the premier fishing destinations in the world.

In closing, thank you once again for your unwavering commitment to Henry's Lake. Together, we are not only preserving its legacy but also building a future that ensures it thrives for generations to come. Your involvement and support make all of this possible, and I am grateful for each and every one of you.

Tight lines and best wishes,

Richard Hodge, President, Henry's Lake Foundation

2024 Henrys Lake Foundation Project Report

Damon Keen

HLF Vice President

2024 was once again a busy year with projects sponsored by the HLF.

We continued to move forward with the Targhee restoration work. We committed another large amount to initiate Phase I of the project. The project once completed will include construction of a variety of stream restoration treatments to activate seasonal channels and improve spawning and rearing habitat in Targhee Creek and two unnamed side channels of Targhee Creek. Stream restoration treatments include constructing aggradation control structures, pools, riffles, bank notches, large woody debris jams, inset benches, and brush matrices along approximately 2,438-feet of Targhee Creek.

Although these activities are primarily focused on improving rearing and spawning habitat within Targhee Creek proper, the activities are also geared towards rehydration of the wetland and reactivating the floodplain. Doing such restores subsurface flow and will improve both summer and winter conditions within Henrys Lake. Recharging subsurface or hyporheic flow provides cool, oxygen rich flow to the lake right when needed the most; during summer and winter periods when fish may be stressed due to low oxygen conditions.

As we have mentioned in the past, The Targhee Creek project under the ownership of Robert Keith is the largest restoration project to date. We are thankful for our collaborative work. As with most habitat work on the lake in the past 40 years, it is doubtful the work would be completed without our efforts.

Other habitat work includes our sponsorship of the Duck Creek barrier removal project. We are awaiting the IDFG completion of this work and look forward to improved passage of adult and juvenile cutthroat. We have also collaborated with the Nature Conservancy and committed funding to revegetation of sections of Howard Creek.

On the research side of things, we have committed funding to investigate survival of stocked fish. As most anglers realize, juvenile survival on the lake has been poor over the last several years. Research focused on the drivers of fish mortality is tantamount to better angling in the future.

As always, the dollars you contribute to the HLF goes directly to the groundwork. Without the HLF, without you, work just would not get done. We appreciate all your efforts and donations.



Photo credits

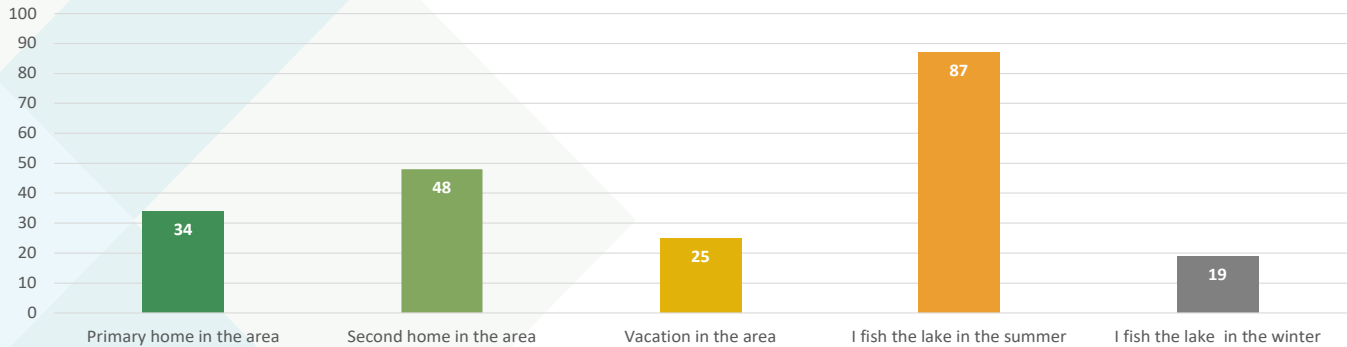
Chris Boyer of
Kestrel Aerial

SURVEY RESULTS ANALYSIS

June 2024

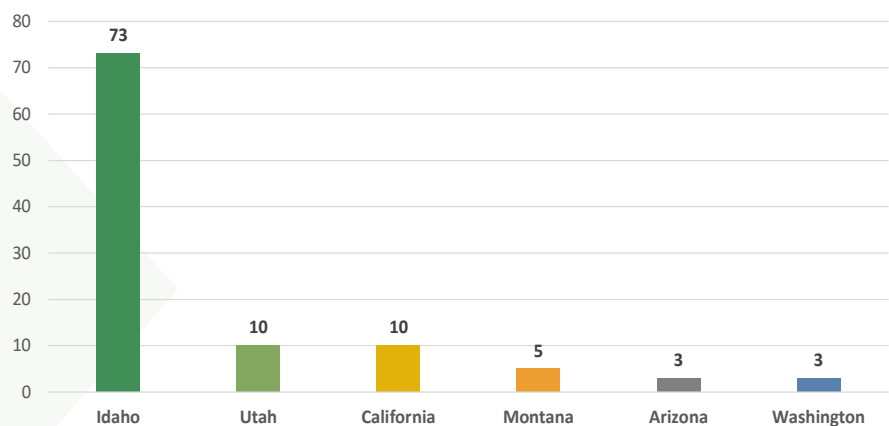
2

Which of the following best describes your relationship with the Henrys Lake area?



3

In what state are you a full-time resident?



If you fish Henrys Lake, which methods of fishing do you use?



Bait

12 / 124



Fly

117 / 124



Lure

27 / 124

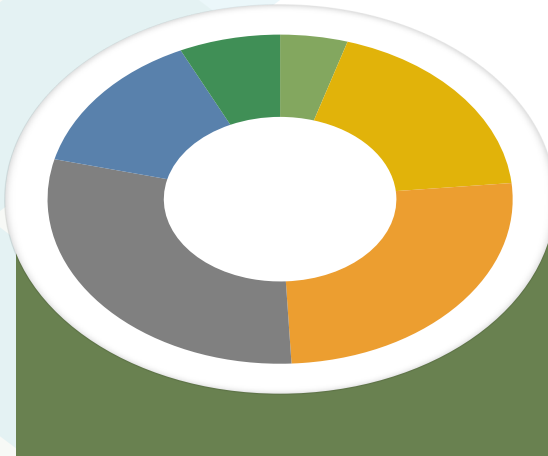


Troll and/or
Ice Fishing

21 / 124



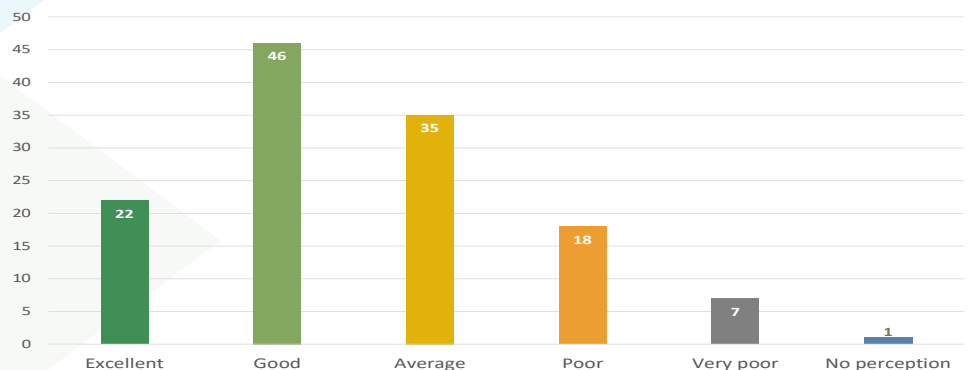
How would you describe your fishing experience at Henrys Lake during the past two years?



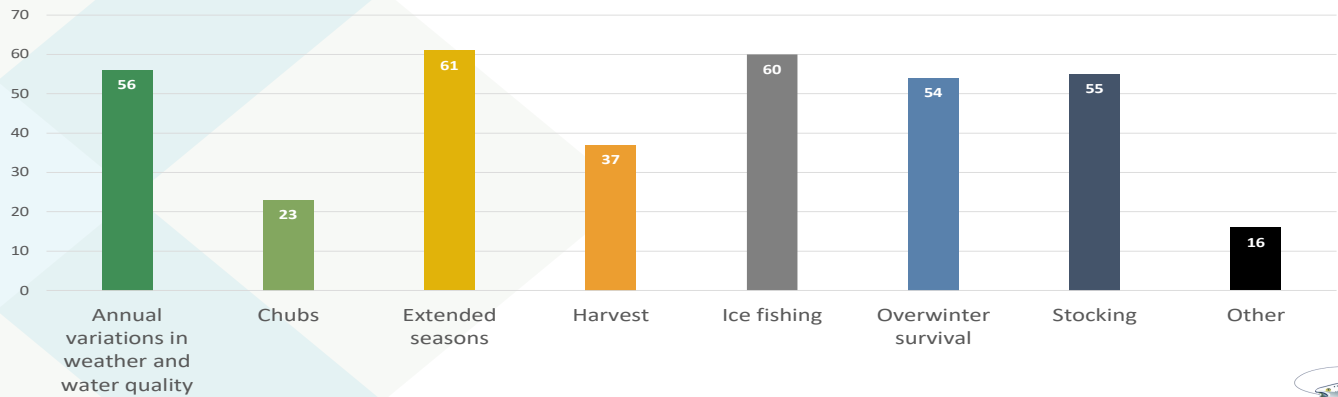
- Excellent 4.69%
- Good 18.75%
- Average 25.78%
- Poor 29.69%
- Very Poor 14.06%
- No experience in 2 years 7.03%



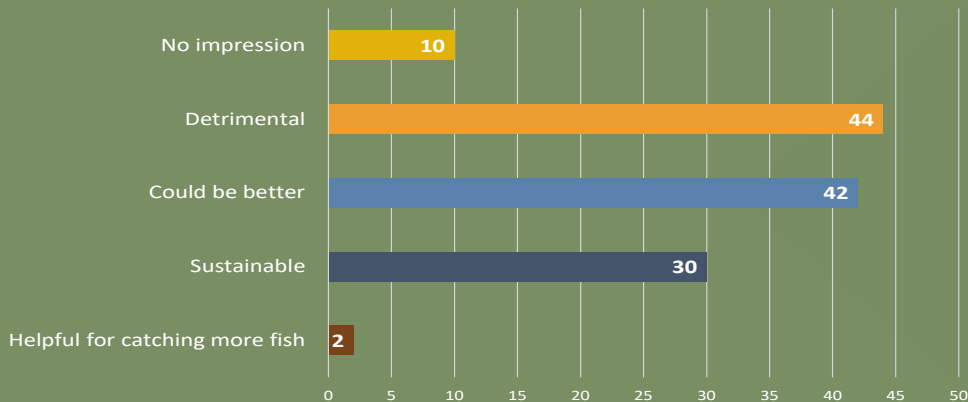
What is your perception of the lake as a fishing destination?



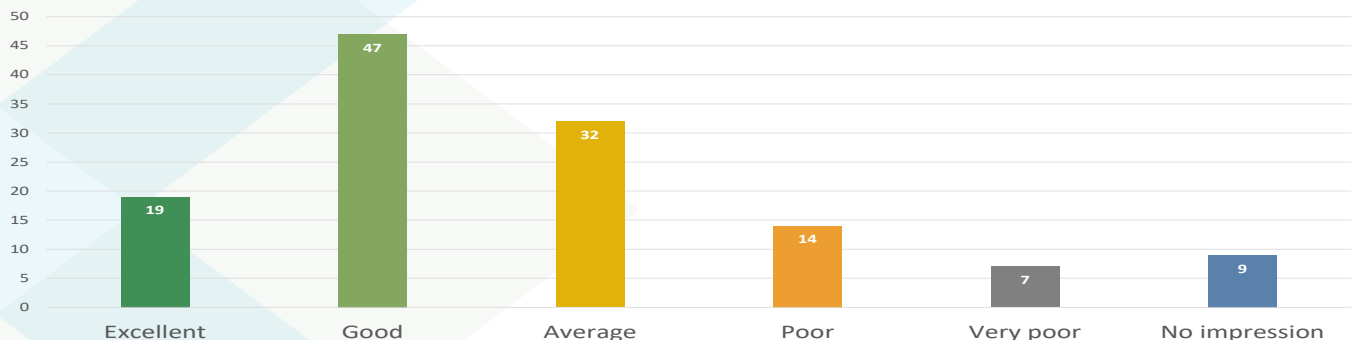
What factors do you believe most influence the quality of fishing at Henrys Lake?



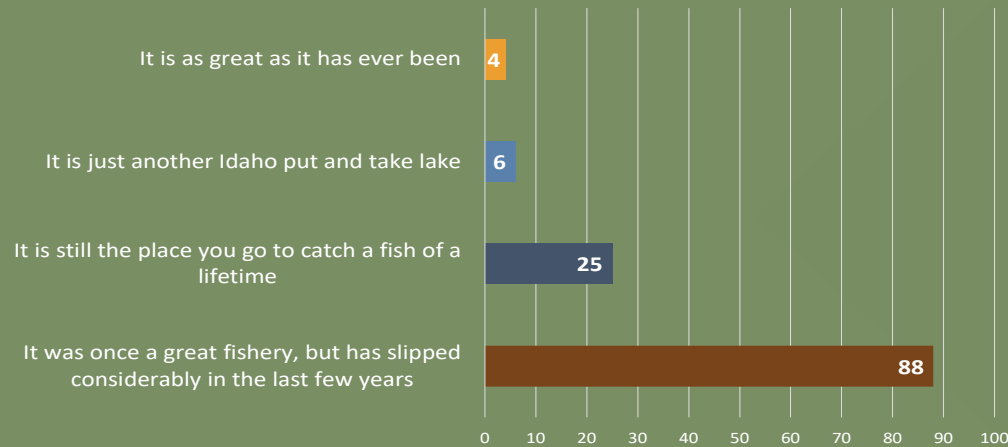
What are your impressions of the lake's fishing regulations?



What are your impressions of Henrys Lake's open water angling opportunities?



Select the statement that follows that best represents the Henrys Lake current brand:



SURVEY RESULTS ANALYSIS June 2024

Suggestions to Benefit the Fishery

from Pages 16,17

Regulation Changes

Slot Limits: Implementing slot limits where only certain sizes of fish can be kept (e.g., between 12-18 inches or 19-22 inches).

Harvest Limits: Reducing the number of fish that can be harvested and implementing more catch-and-release policies.

Fishing Season Adjustments: Shortening the fishing season, particularly limiting or eliminating ice fishing and returning to previous seasonal regulations.

Ice Fishing Restrictions

Eliminating Ice Fishing: A significant number of respondents suggest eliminating ice fishing altogether, citing overharvesting and negative impacts on fish populations.

Limiting Ice Fishing: For those not advocating a complete ban, many suggest restricting the ice fishing season or reducing the number of ice fishing rods and other equipment used.

Stocking Practices

Stocking Larger Fish: Suggestions include stocking larger fish to improve survival rates and overall fish quality.

Restoring Hybrid Stocking: Reintroducing previous successful practices like the "super hybrid" stocking to enhance fish size and population.

Focus on Native Species: Enhancing efforts to restore native species like the Yellowstone cutthroat trout and adjusting stocking practices to favor natural reproduction.

Water Quality and Habitat Improvement

Water Quality Monitoring: Increasing efforts to monitor and improve water quality, including tracking temperature and controlling pollution and sewage runoff.

Habitat Enhancement: Improving spawning streams and enhancing lake shore habitats to support natural fish recruitment.

Enforcement and Education

Increased Enforcement: More presence of fish and game officers to enforce regulations and check fishing limits and licenses.

Angler Education: Posting signs and educating anglers on giving space to others and respecting private property.

Focus on Native Species: Enhancing efforts to restore native species like the Yellowstone cutthroat trout and adjusting stocking practices to favor natural reproduction.

Infrastructure and Access

Improved Access: Suggestions include better access to the lake in winter and improved facilities at boat ramps to reduce chaos and congestion.

Invasive Species Control: Returning to regular checks of watercraft for invasive species to protect the lake's ecosystem.

Research and Data Collection

Continuous Research: Conducting more frequent and comprehensive studies on fish populations, water quality, and the impact of fishing regulations.

Electronic Surveys: Setting up electronic surveys for anglers to report fishing success and other information to inform management practices.

Community Involvement

Honest Communication: Engaging the community in discussions about climate change and its impact on the fishery.

Feedback Mechanisms: Establishing channels for anglers to provide feedback on fishing conditions and regulations.

Nathan Tillotson

Fisheries Biologist-Upper Snake Region-Idaho Department of Fish and Game

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Idaho Falls, ID, 83401

Office: (208) 535-8026

Henrys Lake Newsletter – Summer 2024 idfg-jbrower

Henrys Lake anglers, let's get you caught up on recent happenings, the latest population survey, and much more! We've been busy this season, and there's a lot to share. First off, a big "thank you" to the Henrys Lake Foundation for inviting me back to speak at their annual fundraising event again this year! As per usual, we had several engaging and constructive conversations related to the Henrys Lake fishery. Let's dive in!

Annual Population Survey

To recap, IDFG conducts a gillnet survey on Henrys Lake each year to assess the current state of the fishery. We begin the survey immediately after ice-out, which occurred on May 1 this year (Figure 1), and was almost 3 weeks earlier than ice out last year in 2023! We set nets at six sites throughout the lake every night until we reach our goal of at least 50 net-nights of effort.

In the 2024 gillnet survey, we caught 4.3 trout per net night (Figure 2), which is up from 2.9 trout per net night in 2023, but not significantly different (see confidence intervals). Individual species-specific trout catch rates are as follows: Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout (YCT) = 3.3 fish per net, hybrid trout (HYB; triploid Rainbow Trout X YCT) = 0.3 fish per net, and Brook Trout (BKT) = 0.6 fish per net (Figure 2). In this year's survey results, there are signs for both encouragement and concern. Total trout catch rates appear to be moving back in the right direction, but we still have a long way to go. Particularly for our HYB trout, we have seen poor survival of recent year-classes, leading to declining abundance of HYB for the past few years. The bright side of poor recruitment (A.K.A. how many fish from each year class survive to the next year) is a trade-off in average size. This year, average total length of HYB was 22 inches (Figure 3), which is the largest average size on record for at least the last 20 years. In the coming years, we will be evaluating HYB stocking strategies to improve annual recruitment.

The primary sign of encouragement I'd like to call attention to is a new year-class of YCT that has recruited to the fishery! Similar to HYB, recruitment of our stocked YCT over the last several years has been poor. While that led to some state-record sized fish, it is concerning from a population viability standpoint. This year, YCT from 10 – 13 inches (likely age-2 fish) made up the majority of the catch, and were a much-needed addition to the population. Most of the YCT in the 2023 gillnet survey were 17-21 inches, and were reaching the end of their lifespan. This strong young year-class of YCT should help prop up the Henrys Lake fishery for at least the next five years! Our BKT population is low as well, but showing moderate signs of increasing and an even distribution across all size classes.

Current and Upcoming Projects

Creel Survey: This year (6/1/24 – 6/1/25), we are running a creel survey! Twice a week, creel clerks will be out interviewing anglers about their fishing trip that day. These data are vital for estimating total fishing effort, harvest rates, angler demographics, opinions, and much more! If you encounter one of our creel clerks, the survey should only take a couple of minutes and we greatly appreciate your participation. If you're interested in getting involved, volunteering as a creel clerk is an easy way to do just that! Send me an email at Nathan.Tillotson@idfg.idaho.gov and we'll get you trained up.

Lower Targhee Creek: Over the past two years, IDFG, **Henrys Lake Foundation**, and other partners have been working with motivated landowners on lower Targhee Creek to plan, fund, and implement a large-scale restoration project. Targhee Creek provides incredibly valuable spawning habitat for wild YCT in Henrys Lake, as well as thermal and oxygen refuge during critical periods for fish survival. We're breaking ground on Phase 1 of this project this year, which will include re-connecting a southern channel of Targhee Creek that was historically cut off for agricultural purposes. This phase will provide ~1.5 miles of additional spawning habitat for YCT in lower Targhee Creek, as well as improve hyporheic flow, groundwater recharge, wetland function, and expand oxygen/thermal refugia for trout in Henrys Lake. This project would not have been possible without generous contributions from both the landowner and the Henrys Lake Foundation, so they deserve a huge shout out here!

Fish Stocking: In June, we stocked 201,012 sterile hybrid trout in Henrys Lake. In September we plan to stock ~1.2 million YCT fingerlings, as well as ~100,000 BKT. Approximately 70,000 of our YCT fingerlings have been set aside for tributary stocking (Targhee Creek, Duck Creek, Howard Creek, and Timber Creek). These fish will be used as part of our tributary stocking evaluation, where we will monitor comparative recruitment between lake-stocked fish and tributary-stocked fish. We won't be able to see the results of this study until the fish stocked this fall get big enough to be caught by our gillnets (likely 2026), so stay tuned!

Electric Fences: Back in June, we installed miles of electric fence along the riparian areas of several of the Henrys Lake tributaries (Howard Creek, Targhee Creek, Duck Creek, and Kelly Creek). These fences protect the stream and riparian areas from habitat degradation. Throughout the summer, our IDFG Henrys Lake seasonal crew continually maintains these fences to ensure they remain "hot" while live-stock are in the area. At the end of the season when cattle are moved elsewhere, we take down the fences for the winter to allow wildlife to freely move around the lake and tributaries.



First day gillnets were set each year for the Henrys Lake annual population monitoring survey. The first nets are set immediately after ice-out.

Fish Screen Maintenance: IDFG manages and maintains several "fish screens" located on irrigation diversions drawing water from Henrys Lake tributaries (Howard Creek, Targhee Creek, and Duck Creek). These fish screens prevent fish from being lost from tributaries, and instead, return them to the creek where they came from via underground pipes. During the run-off season, sediment builds up in the fish screens that must be dug out weekly to ensure proper function of the screens.

Invasive Species Report 2024

Bryce Fowler-Fremont County Weed Control Supervisor

208-624-7442 – Office 208-709-2181- Cell

Dear Henrys Lake Foundation Members,

I hope everyone has enjoyed this great fall.

It is TRUE, Idaho has now tested positive for Quagga mussels for the second year in a row on the snake river. They were originally found below the Twin Falls dam and there is some speculation that they were in the dam (the Twin Falls dam is a hydro power dam). Now they have found them above the Twin Falls Dam, and they still haven't found the start of them. This year the state did a double treatment above the dam. These treatments were done in October and November with chelated copper again, with the hopes that doing it twice it will be able to get the deeper holes treated. One of the issues I have with chelated copper is it is extremely hazardous on the environment and kills everything from fish to vegetation. **IT GETS RID OF EVERYTHING.** I'm skeptical on how the treatment will work because they still had positive samples this year after doing the first treatment last year. They also don't know how long the quagga mussels have actually been there, where it came from or how far up the river they start. The first mussel they found was 2 to 3 years old, so we know they have been there at least that long, and after two years of positive tests who knows how far they have spread. And every year that passes the more likely we are to get it in our water bodies. Hopefully no mussels were moved from the Twin Falls area. With the amount of watercraft moving around our area I really hope more don't show up. ***SO PLEASE pass it along, it is more important than ever to make sure your boat is clean after every use that is the only way we are going to keep our waters clean.***

The contact for the Invasive species department is Nicholas Zurfluh (208) 332-8686, nicholas.zurfluh@isda.idaho.gov

On the Noxious Weed Control side of things, the work goes on. This year we treated a lot of noxious weeds along our water ways throughout the county. This includes Private and Public lands, will hopefully help the people more fully enjoy the outdoors and our waterways. We have already started working on projects for next year and will hopefully have another get season. And a quick FYI I got a new phone number which is listed below.

Once again **THANK YOU** for all your support and help. If you have any questions, **PLEASE CALL.**

Bryce Fowler



Kevin Skenandore



Rick Griffin, enjoying a day out on the lake w/Henry's lake

Annual Social Gathering (tentatively) June 27 2025

Anna Anderson (406) 580-6154 annainmontana@gmail.com

Mary VanVleet (208) 558-9127 parmerv@myidahomail.com

We anticipate our Annual HLF Social Gathering June 27, 2025

Due to the fun and success of the past events, we will be once again be partnering with Meadow Vue for the 2025 event. The past events at the Meadow Vue Ranch have been a success. Our hosts and partners at Meadow Vue and their current batch of “cowboys and cowgirls in training” do their usual outstanding job. There will be enlightening talks from key stakeholders, soul-stirring music, and Cody's legendary handcrafted BBQ steaks with classic Dutch oven sides.

Henrys Lake Foundation will have sales of: shirts and hats with HLF logo, memberships and raffle tickets available. Stay turned on raffle, silent and live auctions items. Feel free to contact Anna Anderson (506) 580-6154 and/or Mary VanFleet (925) 323-9953

When : June 27, 2025

Time: 5:30 –8:30pm

Location: Meadow Vue Ranch 3728 Red Rock Road, Island Park, Idaho 83429,

Reservations : please call: (208)589-3475 September-May or (208) 558-7411 June -August



The 2024 Prizes from raffle and live auction were a hit!!!

Grand Prize: 2 full-day guided Fly Fishing trips for 2 guests on the Missouri River in Montana with Headhunters Fly Shop
Second Prize: Jackery Portable Power Supply
Third Prize: Guided Day on Henrys Lake or Sheridan Lake
Fourth Prize: Fly Pastel Art Fishing
Fifth Prize: Orvis PRO Boat Bag 28L
Limited Live Auction
Dave Reese Wooden Fly Boxes

We look forward to the 2025 gathering. Thank you for your support!



SWANS ON HENRYS AGAIN!

Mary VanFleet

After two years of missing the nesting opportunity in the marsh near State Park campground, our pair was at it again this year. In 2022 and 2023, late spring high water swamped the Trumpeters' effort to build a nest. By the time they could start over they missed their opportunity to breed.

Although we had plenty of rain this year in April, May and June, this year they managed to build a nest, breed and hatched 5 cygnets. Swans take their cygnets out on the water very shortly after hatching. One cygnet was lost very soon thereafter to a predator.

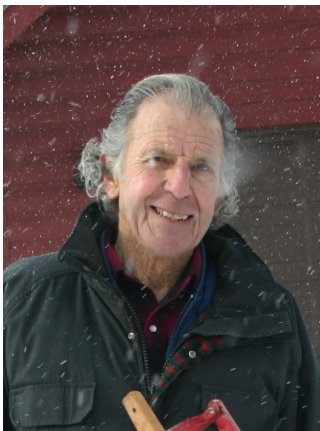
The parents managed to protect the other four. They seemed to disappear from the crowded State Park early in the summer. They camped out around the corner into the outlet and enjoyed a little more peace and quiet there. As they raise four offspring this year, there is news that Silver Lake in Harriman has a nesting pair this year, with 3 cygnets and Swan Lake swans have 4 cygnets this year. Other nesting sites were less consistently monitored. It becomes very difficult to spot swans once the lily pads cover the surface.



We spotted them at Howard Creek outlet, still with 4 cygnets that are steadily growing, in early September. And here we are in mid-October with both adults and 4 cygnets in tow. By now they are turning very white, and almost as large as their parents.

Weather has turned to more seasonal temperatures, with freezing nights and lower daytime highs. Hopefully they will be able to fledge and remain in warmer waters on the Henrys Fork at Last Chance or on Harriman Park lakes.

2024 Obituary



Chuck Stockon, a part-time resident of Island Park for over 40 years and a life member of Henry's Lake Foundation, passed away January 31, 2024. He lived a full adventure- filled life until he was diagnosed with vascular dementia. He was 93 years old when he died peacefully in his sleep at home surrounded by Jeanette, his wife of 72 years, and all four children: Jan, Casey, Chase, and Cristina.

Chuck graduated as a Civil Engineer from the University of California Berkeley in 1959. He worked all over the world for Healy Tibbetts and Raymond International before starting his own marine construction company, CS Marine Constructors, Inc. in 1978. The company successfully built docks, wharfs and other marine structures primarily for refineries, industrial terminals and the United States Coast Guard.

Chuck held a 100-ton Captain's license and owned a Grand Banks trawler and later a Nordhavn 50 - the world's most celebrated expedition and long-range trawler. He and his wife, Jeanette, cruised for over 25 years visiting countries from Alaska down the coast to

Ecuador, out to the Galapagos and Cocos Island (where he swam with hammerhead sharks), through the Panama Canal, around the Caribbean and up to Florida. They retraced the route back through the Panama Canal, and then stayed a while in Costa Rica before finally docking near their Seal Beach home in California.

Chuck loved the outdoors and over the years enjoyed fly fishing, fly tying, sport fishing, snow skiing, snow shoeing, rock climbing, scuba diving, hiking, and backpacking. He loved "the cabin" in Island Park and looked forward to their summers there for the past 35 years. He leaves a legacy of passion for the outdoors and nature for his children, grandchildren, and future generations to come.

Donor Roll (December 2023 -November 2024)

Donations \$25,000	Donations\$200+	Under \$100 Donations	IN MEMORY OF:
Anonymous	Jonathan Hodge	Harry Ward	Melissa Buehler
Donations \$1000+	Tim Reynolds	Al Merrick	Parmer & Mary Van Fleet \$500
Parmer and Mary Van Fleet	Ed Given	John Bingham	Tracy Reynolds \$200
Scott Snowden	\$100+ Donations	Tracy River	Mike & Shar Reynolds \$100
		Jim Della Santa	
Donations \$500+	Kurt Petticiece	Tom and Karen Duncan	
	Carl and Sue Yates	Rich Zimmerman	
James Clark	Harry and Kathy Ward	Dave Martin	Earl Kent Harris
Carl Richter	Eva Barker	Richard Hunt	Julie Harris \$50
Dirk Olson	Rick and Marien Barker	William Primm	
Jason Munns		Neal Ward	Lou and Bill Steven
Frank and Marilyn Moore	Less Sieckmann	James Clark	Anonymous \$1000
James Wood	Frank Moore	Steve Pond	
Mark Anderson	Milford Dahl	Riley Ward	
Tom Odell	Mike and Patti Weigand	Cheri Poole	
Chase Stockon	John Schultz	Jon Bauman	
Donations 400 +	Tom Schell	Robert Keith	
Vern Given	John and Melody Taft	Mark and Patrice Thomas	
Janice Stockon	Robert Mielbrecht	Barbara Hobson	
Donations \$300	John Runf	Blair Boroughs	
Marvin and Pat Olson	Warren Meeks	Richard Sitts	
Terry Hodge	Frank and Merilyn Moore	Randy Gravatt	
Bill Albano	Lee Mabey	Barbara Hobson	
Damon Keen	Don Simon	Steve Fine	
Angel Fehlig	Ed Domer	Loran Marler	
Donations\$200+	Gene Gantt	Justn and Rachel Wilde	
Phil Barker	Bryan Adams	Kristy Hamik	
Jimmy Watts	Tim Larson & Janet Baer	Robert Goodman	
Leslie and Janet Rickerd	Sue Lang	Wayne Spice	
Tracy Reynolds	Dana Oldenkamp	Julie Sanders	
Janet Ulrey	Anna Anderson	Kathleen Steven	
Daniel Whitehead	Mike and Kim Drake	Adina Hamik	
Richard and Lynne Hodge	Milford Dahl	Val Zupsan	

Social Media

Website

www.henryslakefoundation.com

Our team continues to enhance and modernize the Henrys Lake Foundation website. There is a wealth of information on the site about the Foundation, what we have done in the past and what we continue to do in an effort to protect and enhance the area we all know and love.

Members now have the option to pay their dues or make a donation online via PayPal. Plus, new members can either submit their application online or print and mail.

To get in touch , Webmaster and Social Media Director, use info@henryslakefoundation.com. For membership related questions or to update your contact information please contact Anna Anderson, HLF Secretary and Membership Coordinator, via membership@henryslakefoundation.com.

Community Connection

We have a email platform in an effort to foster a closer connection to our members. Not only do we send out project updates, but have a monthly blog titled, "In the Loop" which is a collection of personal anecdotes and other goings on around the lake. Thank you to all who have contributed so far. If you have personal story related to Henrys that you would like to share, please reach out to us at info@henryslakefoundation.com. We would love to hear your story. Also please let us know if you are not receiving and we will check to make sure we have your email correct.

Social Media

Henrys Lake Foundation has a Facebook page. Be sure to check it out often and encourage your friends to 'Like' us so we can continue to spread the word of our mission on social media. I would also encourage you to send any photos, videos, updates etc. that might be of interest to info@henryslakefoundation.com. Everyone loves to see all the wonderful fish pictures, but if you have a link to a great article or other information that relates to our membership, please send it in and we will get it posted to share with all our friends.

We have seen tremendous growth in both our social media presence and website traffic this year-thank you for all your continued support!

Henrys Lake Foundation

Officers

Richard Hodge, President

Damon Keen, Vice President

Directors

Phil Barker

Lynne Hodge

Steve Pond

Kevin Skenandore

Directors

Parmer and Mary Van Fleet

Steve Snipper

Lee Mabey

Carl Richter

Directors

Steve Pond

Rick Sitts

Janice Stockon

Anna Anderson Secretary and memberships, Laura Ellsworth Treasurer

info@henryslakefoundation.com , [Facebook.com/HenrysLakeFoundation](https://www.facebook.com/HenrysLakeFoundation) , Membership@henryslakefoundation.com

Henrys lake Foundation P.O. Box 319 , Island Park, ID 83429

**Henry's Lake Foundation,
P.O. Box 319,
Island Park, ID 83429**



Happy client, guided by Justin Skenandore