

Creel Notes from the



P.O. Box 639, Mercer Island, WA 98040

Website: www.wffc.com



MMXXVI No. 7

July, 2026



President's Riffle

Go Fishing!

Jim Beck, President,
Washington Fly Fishing Club



The fishing at this year's Leech Lake outing was a bit chilly but the fishing was pretty darn good on Saturday. The temperature never got above the mid 40's but I had my best Leech Lake fishing day ever. Good sized rainbows were biting on dry flies and I caught some nice ones. The most gratifying part of my fishing that day was using skills I had learned from Dan Henke in May at the Corbett Lake outing only one month earlier. After learning a couple new tricks at Corbett Lake I tied a few flies like to ones that Dan had given me there. I was able to recognize the opportunity to use those same flies at Leech Lake that day and the rainbows hit 'em. It's almost like I new what I was doing! I caught fish!

If you're like me, always wanting to improve my fishing skills, going on WFFC outings with skilled anglers is THE best way to do it. Seriously, all you have to do is show up, ask questions and pay attention when anglers like Ben Davidson and Mark Pratt offer advice. For those of you who don't go on WFFC outings regularly, you're really missing out on the fun and the chance to be a better angler. WFFC is, after all, a fishing club. So, come on! Let's go fishing!



July Program

Jason Planke Fishing the Cedar River



Join us for our July 2026 monthly club meeting featuring Jason Planke. Jason will cover fishing the Cedar River.

Jason grew up in upstate New York plying the waters of the Catskills and Adirondacks for wild trout. Began wielding a fly rod around 8 as well as tying flies and was an early adopter to fly rodding the Salmon River for steelhead.

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Moved to Seattle in 1999, worked at REI for a bit and then at Orvis for 6 years and always heard about swinging flies in the PNW for steelhead and set forth on figuring out that he actually LOVES IT!



This monthly program will be held online via zoom.

Please check WFFC website for details and link.



Creel Notes

A Big Thanks !

To all the members that sent in fishing reports for July. I can't make this publication meaningful without club members input.

Editor Takes a Break

No Creel Notes in August. Will resume in September. Hopefully you club members will have some more great fishing stories to tell. Again, July inputs were great! - Ed



The Anglers Prayer By G.E. Fowler

"Dear Lord, when Gabriel blows his blast and I come home to rest at last.

Don't measure me for harp and wings, but let me have instead these things:

Some tackle and a rod and reel, a pair of waders and a creel.

A gushing, frothy glacial stream, a quiet lake, by which to dream

A angel pal with whom to angle; magic lines that will not tangle,

And permission, Lord, with fingers crossed , to lie about the fish I lost."

Creel Notes

...is the official publication of the Washington Fly Fishing Club. Subscription is free with membership.

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Creel Notes Editor

batribble@juno.com

Club Aims and Purposes

The purpose of this club shall be:

1. To improve and increase the sport of Fly Fishing in the State of Washington.
2. To promote and work for the betterment of trout streams and lakes.
3. To encourage and advocate the conservation and increase of trout, steelhead, and salmon in state waters.
4. To promote a campaign of education against pollution in streams, lakes or Sound waters of the State of Washington.
5. To encourage and assist others—particularly young persons of high school age—to become fly fishers and true conservationists.



Silver Creek Idaho

Fall at Silver Creek

From Steve Sunich



Silver Creek, Idaho
Technical Fishing At Frustrating Levels!

I make a few trips a year to Sun Valley, Idaho. Fortunately, nearby, there is this little-known water called Silver Creek. My favorite time to fish it is in the fall and I was able to get there in late October last year. The wildlife is incredible with moose, elk, deer, pheasant and a multitude of wild birds. Sometimes I can just sit down and enjoy the wildlife sounds and just take a nap. It is known as a very technical and difficult fishery and is not for the faint of heart. I fish this creek mostly for the experience and if fish are caught that is certainly a bonus. I can sit and watch 5# fish holding not 15 feet away from me all day long in knee deep slow water.

The hatches are fairly sparse that time of year but, it does happen at certain parts of the day. For the most part, the bigger fish (typically browns) are not even available. They are there, right in front of you, but not real interested in any offerings. However, I had a day when they were a little off guard, could care less about fly line going over their heads or wading sounds. The weather was gloomy, which might have been a good thing. There were some sparse October

caddis hanging around and the fish were getting a little careless and, quite frankly, a little bit stupid. I think we all like stupid. Well, it was time to take advantage of that and sure enough a nice brown and rainbow eventually succumbed to my flies. It was mostly persistence, but a big rainbow and a big brown in one day? I must have been dreaming as this does not happen at Silver Creek very often. I may never have a day like that again, but will always enjoy "the creek".



Salmon Fishing at Henry Island

Salmon On The Fly

From Steve Sunich



I have always loved trying to get salmon to take a fly. With some success, I have become a little addicted. I made a boat trip to the Seattle Yacht Club outstation at Henry Island on the north end of San Juan Island.

There is a popular fishing spot; Open Bay, close by. We were going to be there for a few days and I was planning on taking my 12' tender out to Open Bay every morning or evening, depending on the weather and cloud cover. Upon arrival I met a random guy that had just come in with his 18' tender. He had been limiting on silvers for the last couple days. I mentioned that I was going to fish flies for salmon and he was intrigued to learn how. Even though I am a little bit of a selfish loaner when I fish, we agreed to take his kicker out in the early morning and show him how it is done. He had no fly gear, but of course I had plenty on board. I rigged up two 6 weight Winston fly rods with tube flies and we ventured out to Open Bay. It was going to be real easy fly fishing as I thought we would just drag and drown some tube flies and see what happens. We had two rods out with the exact same tube flies. Of course, within 10 minutes he had about a 12# silver slam his fly on the surface. He was now hooked (pun intended). He was one happy guy. He got another fish a short time later.

Of course, I got nothing doing the exact same thing. All of the fish were close to the surface as I doubt our flies were down much more than a foot or so. Seeing

fish aggressively grab a fly in the salt is great and I love it.

That night I tied a few more tube flies. I tried to get over my selfishness in fishing alone and we went the next day. Again, he found two more fish around 10# and me, nothing, with the exact same setup. Well, sometimes that is the way it goes. Maybe I can think I was paying it forward a little.



Happy Fisherman

Leech Lake Club Outing

Leech Lake Outing

June 27, 2026

From Mike Nolan, Outings Chairperson

Jim Beck, Kurt Peterson, Mark Pratt, Shawn Pratt, Tom Neu, Ben Davidson, Brian Davidson, Linda Leum, and Mike Nolan attended the Leech Lake outing. The weather was cold, windy, and marked by occasional rain showers. Daytime temperatures reached only 48 degrees, with the wind chill making it feel even colder. With the damp and blustery conditions, the outing had the familiar look and feel of a classic Wet Buns event.

Anglers reported catching brook trout up to 14 inches on wet flies and rainbow trout up to 18 inches on dry flies. A brief mayfly hatch came off during the afternoon. Some members caught more brook trout than rainbow trout, while others had the opposite experience. The lake level was low, and I spent most of my fishing time using an intermediate sink line, landing

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(Continued from page 4) - Leech

about 11 brook trout over five hours.

The canopy proved useful in keeping everyone sheltered from the intermittent rain. We had a brief scare when the portable grill would not ignite, leaving us to wonder whether our steaks might have to be served rare. Fortunately, after switching the propane hose, we were able to get the grill going. Steak and corn on the cob made up the main course, with shared side dishes rounding out the meal. A campfire was started in the large fire pit and was especially welcome as everyone tried to stay warm in the cold weather



Raining and Wet



The Brave Boys of the Leech Lake Outing

Reindeer Lake, Saskatchewan

Lawrence Bay Lodge, Saskatchewan

From Hugh Clark

Fishing with former in Mid June WFFC Bill Booth, we flew to Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, and then after an overnight had a 300 mile largely gravel road to South End Reindeer Lake. Lawrence Bay Lodge boat picked us up and took us 45 minutes to the Lodge.

The lake is 300 miles long and 75 miles wide with hundreds of islands, coves and lagoons. Spinning gear is the norm, searching for northern pike in lagoons and coves in depths of 2-4 feet.

Our best pike was 38 inches but other caught them up to 48 inches. Trolling and casting along the drop offs we had fine fishing for lake trout up to 12 lbs. They fight hard, rarely jump, and are tasty when fried or baked on the lake shore with fried potatoes and onions. Fishing is catch and release for all large fish but you can keep fish to eat. Areas in the lake have lots of walleye. They can be frozen to take home. Each day we fished about 10 or 12 sites as far as 50 minutes from lodge by 18 foot well maintained boats. All guides are local Cree indigenous residents who live in small villages of 2-400. The lodge and cabins built in 1971 with local wood collected by small tractors and even dog teams in winter. Stoves at night kept us warm, and curtains kept out the evening light which barely went down. Food was classic 1950 North Dakota home cooking. Fully adequate if not elegant. All breads and cakes are made on the premise.



Hugh Clark With a Nice Laker

No alcohol or wine was available but beer was available. Some brought in their own supplies. Sadly some guests gave whiskey bottles to their guides who were found passed out on the shore in the morning. Duh. Suspect those guests will not be encouraged to return. Each year 90% of guest are returning customers documenting the loyalty to the operation. Photos show a northern pike and a 12 lbs lake trout.



Lawrence Bay Lodge, Reindeer Lake



One of the guides unhooking a Northern



Lodge Interior, Lodge



Hugh Clark
7 lb Brown, Missouri River North of Craig Montana

Big Twin Lake



Big Twin Lake

From Chuck Ballard

Took a quick trip from Chelan up to Big Twin lake. Hot day so I fished early and left at noon as it was already 84F . Caught two 17" fish on a full sink line right on the bottom. The fly was a Halebob that I tied using a sparkle dubbing in olive with a red glass bead on the front.

Weeds are really choking the lake and the marl bottom bay is now all weeds

Methow River Float

Drift Fishing the Methow River June, 2026

From Robert Thorpe

Myself and Gil Levy (WFFC), who was a guest at our Chewuch Cabin, did a day float that started the 2nd week of Methow river opening.

We think this was fortune timing as temperature had increased the last 3 weeks but still in low 80s. Also, the river dropped about a foot from its peak.

Normally we go with Sun Mountain (Methow) guide however Anne found Wenatchee River Guide on line. This was a great choice. With the ambient temperature up for 2-3 weeks the river dropped 1 ft. Mike, our guide, met us at Carlton Washington. There we left our vehicle then back up to Twisp Washington for drop in. Just before cast off Gil had one on, a good omen! The 7 hr trip with stop for lunch resulted 10+ each to net 9-10 released beside

boat and 8-10 "very early release. A few were in the 17-19 inch range (Rainbows and White Fish) all very healthy. Both of us are a bit rusty so opportunities were missed. The guide was using indicator with Stone fly on top and mix of flies below – (i.e.) Wooly Buggers.

Next day the Chewuch River, which flows in front of our cabin, produced small *7-8 inch Rainbows on egg simulators.



Methow River at Carlton, Washington



Galapagos Tied by Edward Berkeley

Sign of the Times



Conservation

Conservation Notes

From Bob Thorpe, Conservation Chair

I am on Methow Valley Fly Fishing Club (MVFFC) and 3 Rivers Conservation Committees. I would recommend members plan to attend Kids Day at Winthrop Hatchery. I went as WFFC and MVFFC representative along with 10-12 other clubs, Indian Tribes State and F&G sponsor/volunteers.



An estimated 100 + kids, plus parents showed up for Kids Day at the Winthrop Hatchery. I helped with kids catching trout and salmon in a pond (with some up to 4 lbs) and fly casting. This is my 4th year and is a great experience. I was helped by information I got by sharing table at the June MVFFC auction at the Bear Creek Golf club with hatchery director who really is working the Methow River and surrounding lakes. He said they concerned that the Omak Hatchery may close due to state budget cuts. So good to cross over with other clubs on conservation in these very trying times with Feds decisions and State cutbacks.

I extend an invitation, especially new members, to join me in connecting with other fishing interest/ environmental groups to learn how direct political access with elects at all levels keys legislative decisions (i.e. Gold dredging waterways, Mine (Pebble/ Okanagan copper coal permits, Dam modification / Wetlands preservation / conservation trusts fund raising) all WFFC priorities. Members can contact me on fishing opportunities in Methow /Okanagan and join for lake or wade fishing. rwta6869@gmail.com.

The Methow River float trip shows how effective Winthrop and Omak hatcheries are in maintaining good fishing.

“Feathers and fur, dreams come true.” The magic of transforming simple materials into fish-catching flies.

“Streamside therapy, no appointment needed.” Nature provides the best mental health care.



Kids Day Winthrop Hatchery
Photo by Sean Connolly

2026 Outings Update

WFFC 2026 Outings Schedule

From Mike Nolan, Outings Chair



The Cooper Lake Outing will be on July 25th and after fishing we will be going to the Brick Tavern in Roslyn, WA at approximately 4pm. Sign up on the WFFC website or contact me to confirm that you are attending.

The date for the Hood Canal Outing hosted by Jay Deeds has been set for Saturday September 12th. Jay chose this date for the favorable tides for fishing Hood Canal on this particular Saturday.

Contact me if you want to sign up for an outing at outings@wffc.com or call or text to (425) 754-1234.

WFFC 2026 Outings Schedule

- July 25 Cooper Lake
- September 12 Hood Canal - Jay Deeds
- September 25-27 Big Twin Lake
- October 10 Yakima River
- October 24 Lake Hannan

Reeling in the Years

Reminiscing WFFC History

From 1970's Creel Notes



I've been perusing through the old Creel Notes and pulling out some articles, people, reports and events from the past that I thought might be interesting. - Ed

Hosmer Lake Oregon 1975

This is a fishing report from Hosmer Lake in Oregon from 'the great' Steve Raymond, August 1975 like only Steve can write em'. What great fishing!. I often wondered what happened to the Atlantic Salmon in this lake? I put the question in AI and it laid it out what I wanted to know.



SALMON IN THE SNOW OR AN ACCOUNT OF THE EXCITING WFFC NON-OUTING AT HOSMER LAKE

Last month I wrote about a depressing and disappointing trip to British Columbia. Perhaps such a trip is the price one must pay for a good one. At any rate, my June 16-21 visit to Hosmer Lake was as good as the B.C. trip was bad.

We headed for Hosmer after the FFF regional conclave at Eugene. Because of the late, lamented spring, there was still a lot of snow in the Oregon Cascades and some doubt as to whether the lake would be accessible. I called the Forest Service in Bend to find out, but as usual they didn't know. However, a helpful type named Charlie polled those at work in the Forest Service headquarters and reported the vote was 3-to-2 in favor of those who thought we could get into Hosmer. Thus assured, we started out.

The highway north of David Lake was bare and dry and only a few patches of snow remained back in the jackpines. We congratulated ourselves; obviously there would be no problem. The highway as far as the Hosmer turnoff was excellent.

But a quarter mile from the highway we entered a different world. Drifts covered half the road and, in a couple of cases, all of it. Two or three other vehicles had gone before, so we followed their ruts through the snow. Beyond the turnoff to the Hosmer campground the road was completely covered by a foot of snow, but the road down to the campground-boat launch fortunately was open.

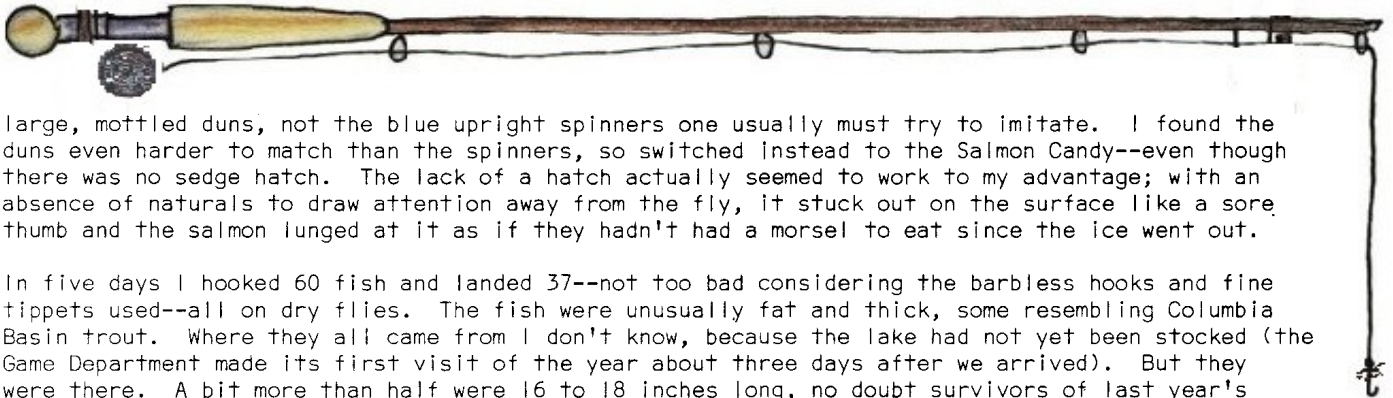
Two giant deadfalls lay across the boat launch, blocking half of it, and a snowbank blocked the other half. Drifts were piled up in the campground, blocking half the sites. Deadfalls were everywhere. There was no evidence that anyone had yet visited the lake at all this year.

We chose a campsite where the pull-off was half open, the other half blocked by a drift and a small downed tree. A giant pine lay across the picnic table, making an interesting centerpiece. There was no shortage of firewood.

Except for us, the campground was deserted, and it remained that way until the last couple of days when a family from Oakland that camped next to us last year moved in again alongside. But for most of the week I had Hosmer Lake all to myself--a wonderful sense of peace and isolation in that magnificent setting, with the rugged, snow-covered peaks all around, ospreys and a great bald eagle wheeling overhead, and otter playing along the shore. Where we had been constantly irritated in B. C. by the whine and roar of outboards, trailbikes, dune buggies and stereos, at Hosmer all was silent, serene and beautiful.

Of course it snowed a little more, and rained, and the wind blew, but it really mattered little. Alone on the lake with the salmon I had the finest fishing I've ever experienced on Hosmer. The cold weather kept hatches to a minimum, and only the mayflies were out during the first four days

Reeling in the Years (cont.)



large, mottled duns, not the blue upright spinners one usually must try to imitate. I found the duns even harder to match than the spinners, so switched instead to the Salmon Candy--even though there was no sedge hatch. The lack of a hatch actually seemed to work to my advantage; with an absence of naturals to draw attention away from the fly, it stuck out on the surface like a sore thumb and the salmon lunged at it as if they hadn't had a morsel to eat since the ice went out.

In five days I hooked 60 fish and landed 37--not too bad considering the barbless hooks and fine tippets used--all on dry flies. The fish were unusually fat and thick, some resembling Columbia Basin trout. Where they all came from I don't know, because the lake had not yet been stocked (the Game Department made its first visit of the year about three days after we arrived). But they were there. A bit more than half were 16 to 18 inches long, no doubt survivors of last year's plant. There were good numbers of fish from 18 to 22 inches. Not having been hooked since last September, they were absolutely wild and fought with incredible strength. But that still wasn't the best of it.

The fishing seemed to get a little better each day. On the fourth day I took two salmon of 5 pounds and one about 6 (after carrying on a shouting match with a determined osprey that dived three times in an effort to carry off one of the 5-pounders before I could land it). The three large fish were the biggest I've hooked in Hosmer in a couple or three years.

Friday morning dawned clear and bright and the fish were moving early. I rowed to the upper lake in the morning and on my fourth cast the fly disappeared in a dimple. I set the hook and, 20 minutes, several long runs and three magnificent jumps later, released a beautiful, sleek 7-pounder. A few casts later another fish sucked in the fly and started off on a terrific run that ended in a spectacular tumbling jump--a hog-fat salmon of enormous size. Lee Wulff says an angler should fight a fish about one minute for each pound of the fish's weight, and by that standard I fought this fish exactly 32 minutes longer than I should have. Its endurance was astonishing; each time I worked it close to the boat it would start off on another run. When it finally tired enough for me to bring it close it hugged the bottom and I strained the 5X tippet as much as I dared in a vain attempt to lift it. Twice it went around the anchor rope and I had to pass the rod under the boat to stay with it. Twice toward the end of the fight I lifted it enough to make a stab at it with my long-handled net, but the fish was too big for the net and flopped out both times. But on the third try I got enough of the fish in the net to scoop it up and into the boat for a brief check of its vital statistics before release. The fly came out as I lifted it over the side. The fish measured 28 inches and weighed 8 pounds--the largest salmon I've ever landed in Hosmer.

Whatever became of the WFFC outing at Hosmer Lake this year? I guess I was it. And let me tell you, fellas, you missed one helluva fine outing.

Steve Raymond

So, what happened to Hosmer Lake in Oregon? Where did the great fishing for Atlantic Salmon go? Enter AI, here was it's answer:

Atlantic Salmon Fishing in Hosmer Lake

Background

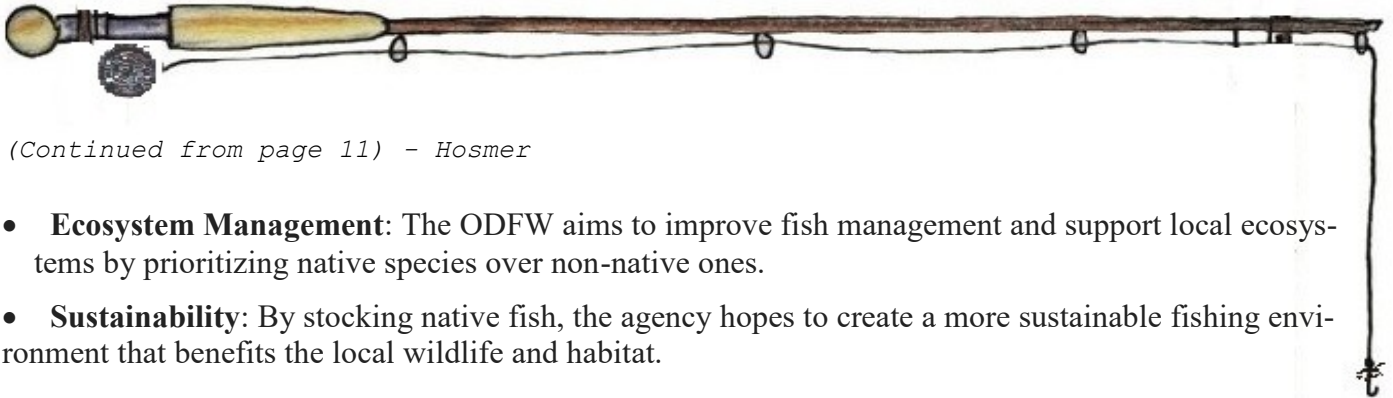
Hosmer Lake, located in Central Oregon, was historically known for its Atlantic salmon fishing. The lake was stocked with these non-native fish since 1958, attracting anglers for decades.

Demise of Atlantic Salmon Fishing

The decline of Atlantic salmon fishing in Hosmer Lake occurred due to a decision by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW). The agency announced it would stop stocking Atlantic salmon to focus on native fish species. This decision was made for several reasons:

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Reeling in the Years (cont.)



(Continued from page 11) - Hosmer

- **Ecosystem Management:** The ODFW aims to improve fish management and support local ecosystems by prioritizing native species over non-native ones.
- **Sustainability:** By stocking native fish, the agency hopes to create a more sustainable fishing environment that benefits the local wildlife and habitat.

Current Fishing Options

With the cessation of Atlantic salmon stocking, Hosmer Lake is now populated with:

- **Cranebow Trout:** Native rainbow trout from nearby Crane Reservoir.
- **Cutthroat Trout:** Another native species that is thriving in the lake.

This shift reflects a broader trend in fish management aimed at preserving and enhancing native fish populations in Oregon's waters.

Noted nothing about the huge brook trout that hide in the weed stalks that I spent 3 days trying to get one about 20 years ago—not native but I think they probably naturally reproduce –Ed

Future Conservation Issue?

Data Centers and Their Potential Impact

We can't unplug the internet nor curtail online banking, hospital records, your work email, GPS, the whole internet lives in these buildings. No data centers, no modern life. But when a data center gets proposed you might want to think about their environmental potential impact to lakes and rivers.

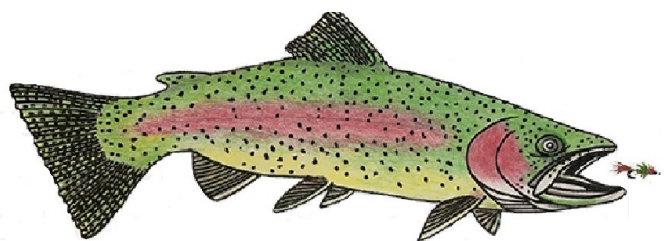
To keep from melting, many facilities cool themselves with water. AI data centers drank roughly 264 billion gallons in 2025. Put that into perspective

One big facility can use 5 million gallons a day, the same as a town of 50,000 people. The "fix"? Switch to waterless air cooling, which burns even more electricity..

So, when a center gets proposed **you** might want to ask, "Where is the cooling water coming from?" or better yet, "How are you going to cool this Data Center?"



Hosmer Lake, Oregon



New Owners /Scottish Camp

*Scottish Lakes Camp was an old haunt of WFFC a number of years ago. New Owners are now the hosts have now called it **Alpine Lakes High Camp** and have expanded its land and operations. –Ed*

New Owners Breathe Fresh Air Into Historic Alpine Lakes High Camp From Wenatchee Business Journal

By TAYLOR CALDWELL
Ward Media Staff Reporter

Alpine Lakes High Camp has found new stewards in long-time friends Tom Shelstad and Travis Cowan, who are embracing the challenges and rewards of owning and maintaining a remote wilderness retreat that has fostered connection with nature for nearly half a century.

“I really want it to be a place that feels like community. I want it to be a place that feels like, when people arrive and get there, that they're able to drop the digital world and be more present,” said Shelstad.

Cowan and Shelstad come from Ashland, Oregon, each with individual ties to the North Cascade Mountains. Cowan spent his teenage years volunteering in the kitchen at Holden Village, a remote wilderness community near Lake Chelan. When former owners Justin and Austin Donohue put Alpine Lakes High Camp up for sale, Cowan immediately booked a visit.

“[I] fell in love with the central North Cascades, and ended up leaving there and landing in Ashland after school for 18 years, but constantly through that time, [I was] searching for a calling back,” said Cowan.

During the trip, Cowan thought of Shelstad, the co-founder of Inner Guide Expeditions, which provides youth mentorship, family mediation, and par-



Tom



Travis

ent and life coaching for adults. One of its specialties is youth wilderness expeditions, which includes a trip through North Cascades National Park.

“My daughter had gone on one of his trips up in Washington and British Columbia, and I really felt like he was the right person for the facilitation of hosting people in the wilderness, to work with me to do this,” said Cowan.

The pair took the helm of Alpine Lakes High Camp in December, tasked with the duty of carrying on its nearly 50-year legacy of outdoor exploration, founded by legendary hikers Bill and Peg Stark.

“It's infused in us a deeper sense of responsibility around the torch that we are carrying now, and we couldn't be more excited about it and honored, really,” said Shelstad.

In 1959, Bill and Peg Stark bushwacked their way into the little-known Alpine Lakes area, discovering a wilderness they would spend the rest of their lives exploring and sharing.

Named two of the state's hiking legends by Washington Trails Association in 2005, the Starks took hundreds of trips into the backcountry, often leading groups of hikers and skiers, and were influential in establishing the Enchantments and Alpine Lakes Wilderness in the 1970s.

In 1978, they founded “Nomad Camp,” a collection of tent platforms and lodge at 5,000 feet in the Chiwaukum Mountains, just north of the designated Wilderness area. The backcountry establishment became known as “Scottish Lakes High Camp” with an assortment of cabins, introducing hundreds of hikers and skiers to an area beloved by the Starks. In 1994, the aging couple sold the camp to Don and Chris Hanson, who expanded the cabins, operations, and community of guests over the next two decades before passing the torch to the Donahue's in 2017.

Over the years, the backcountry getaway, now known as Alpine Lakes High Camp, expanded

its cabins and land, extended its seasons, and added special offerings such as a cold plunge, sauna, and catskiing.

Yet, its original spirit of outdoor adventure has remained the same. The cabins are off-the-grid, relying on water from a mountain spring, sourcing heat from wood stoves, and brightening the night with propane lights. While camp relies on a level of self-reliance, such as packing in food and linens, it has continued to attract dedicated visitors seeking community and connection deep within the wilderness. High Camp's location offers a multitude of activities, including skiing, snowshoeing, hiking, fishing, and biking.

"It's a section of the Alpine Lakes Wilderness that isn't used very much, because it's so hard to get to. So we have some of the only real easy access to that," said Shelstad.

One of the first groups Shelstad and Cowan hosted as new owners was a collection of visitors who met at High Camp over the last 20 years, and have made an effort to return together each year.

"They now book out the entire camp. And it's this whole family, High Camp family, that they've created," said Cowan. "To forge those long-term relationships, I think, are the stories that touch me the most."

"We want to keep the spirit the same. The spirit is golden, and we just want to be able to open it up to more people," said Shelstad.

The pair has opened bookings to all seven days of the week in order to encourage longer stays.

"Stepping away from your phone for two nights and into nature is one thing, but really, by the time you're readjusting mentally...and you're grounding into nature, you're leaving," said Cowan.

As they enter the spring season, Shelstad and Cowan are preparing to tackle the challenges of operating remote cabins, such as learning the infrastructure that has been under snow the last few months, maintaining the surrounding forest's health, and checking their list twice before hauling tools and materials in for projects.



Alpine Lakes High Camp is a collection of nine backcountry huts and a communal lodge, as well as a cold plunge and sauna.



High camp is off-the-grid, with only a few solar panels on the lodge to provide a small charging station for devices.

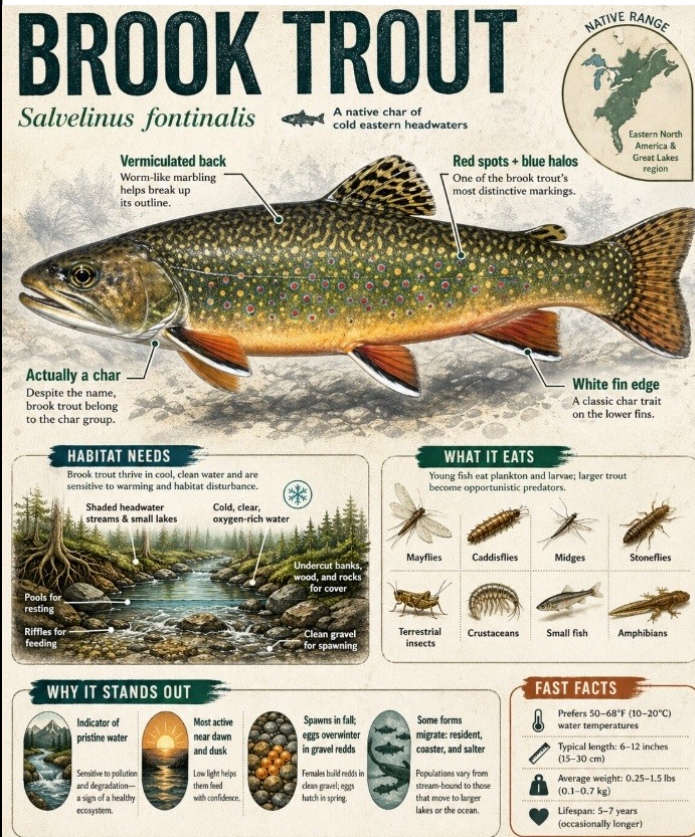
"This spring is going to be an opportunity for a lot of learning of what the systems are and how they can be improved and how they need to be maintained. So I would say we have a steep learning curve ahead of us, and I'm looking forward to it," said Cowan

Photos: COURTESY OF KW CAPTURE / ALPINE LAKES HIGH CAMP





Great Poster for Your Wall #3



Full Size Posters Are Available From
Fly Life Outdoors

Recipe of the Month

Jamaican Salmon with Coconut Cream Sauce



Ingredients

- 4 salmon fillets (6 ounces each)
- 3 tablespoons mayonnaise
- 4 teaspoons Caribbean jerk seasoning
- 1/3 cup sour cream
- 1/4 cup cream of coconut
- 1 teaspoon grated lime zest
- 1/4 cup lime juice
- 1/2 cup sweetened shredded coconut, toasted

Directions

Preheat oven to 350°. Place fillets in a greased 13x9-in. baking dish. Spread mayonnaise over fillets; sprinkle with jerk seasoning.

Bake until fish just begins to flake easily with a fork, 18-22 minutes.

Meanwhile, for sauce, in a small saucepan, combine sour cream, cream of coconut, and lime zest and juice; cook and stir over medium-low heat until blended.

Drizzle fillets with sauce; sprinkle with coconut.



‘Don’t leave your Valuables in car’
\$45 Discover Pass hanging from your mirror
is required

Fly of the Month

Hickey's Hornet



Dressing:

Hook: TMC 3761 SP-BL, sizes 10-14

Tail: Brown goose biots

Body: 50/50 blend of light olive Antron– blend dubbing and caddis green Ice Dub

Thread: Light olive 6/0

Wing: Holographic Mylar tinsel

Rib: Fine gold oval

A great “dropper” fly when nymphing with a double rig. Designed by Jim Hickey

Book (s) of the Month

Tall Tales and Taller Tales

Short Stories From A Long Time ‘Career as a Game Warden’

By Author Steve Rogers

Want to know what the life of a game warden entails? Tall Tales books are short ,easy, and very readable peek into the sometimes exciting, often funny, and occasionally scary 33 year career of Washington Fish and Wildlife Police Officer Steve Rogers who worked the Cle Elum and Central Washington area of the state. From trapping beaver, raccoons, and cougars to herding elk on snowmobile to catching poachers both hunters and fisherman, there are not many dull moments.

He forged lasting friendships with many trappers, sportsmen, and fishermen. He also made a few enemies that had no sense of humor. There must be humor in this line of work. One final note - not a good idea to write your local Sheriff a ticket.

Most of the places cited in the book, especially backpacking fishing spots I had been to in my earlier days—
Ed



Steve Rogers at Work

