



**HENRYS FORK  
WILDLIFE ALLIANCE**  
CHAMPIONS FOR WILDLIFE

Henry's Fork Wildlife Alliance Newsletter: Volume 4, No. 1

June 2022

## OUR MISSION

Protect and conserve  
the native wildlife  
and its enjoyment by  
the public in the  
Upper Henry's Fork  
Watershed



Silent Auction items  
include a day on the  
river for two people  
with guide  
**Mark Harbaugh**  
Three Rivers Ranch

# WILDLIFE FESTIVAL

PRACTICE BEAR SPRAY SKILLS ON  
IDAHO FISH & GAME'S MECHANICAL BEAR!



**MEADOW VUE RANCH – ISLAND PARK**  
**FRIDAY JULY 15, 2022**



- **BBQ steak & Dutch oven chicken Dinner**
- **Live western Music**
- **Games & activities**
- **Raffle & silent auction**



SCAN ME

Get your tickets at:  
[henrysforkwildlifealliance.org/event/wildlife-festival/](https://henrysforkwildlifealliance.org/event/wildlife-festival/)

## OUR VISION

*The iconic wildlife of the Upper Henry's Fork Watershed will thrive in connected and sustainable habitats because citizens treasure diverse and healthy wildlife populations and understand what is required for their continued success.*



**Affiliate of the  
Idaho Wildlife  
Federation**



# Shoreline restoration project at Henry's Lake to benefit the fishery, birds and wildlife



*"Patience and a little luck should lead to substantial increases in shoreline willow density, shoreline stability and reduced shoreline erosion in the future."*

*Volunteers planted dormant willow sticks at the edge of eroding bank on Henry's Lake in Island Park."  
(Photo Credit: Tracy River)*

Volunteers from Henry's Fork Wildlife Alliance, Henry's Lake Foundation, and Idaho Master Naturalists worked a total of 70 hours over three days in May alongside staff from the Bureau of Land Management-Upper Snake Field Office, to restore part of the shoreline at Henry's Lake.

The ambitious multi-year project, started last year, was conducted by BLM to restore a badly eroded section of the west shore of Henry's Lake.

Volunteers planted more than 1,000 dormant willow stakes, collected from nearby vigorous willow stands. The stakes are expected to leaf out and take root this summer and eventually help restore the natural willow growth along the shore, improve shoreline stability, and benefit water quality.

Mary Van Fleet of Island Park, who helped recruit many of the local volunteers, says stabilization of the banks is extremely important to reduce siltation in the lake and contribute to water quality for fish and anglers.

"The shoreline restoration will provide excellent habitat for moose which utilize the willows as a food source, for elk and other wildlife, and for many species of birds, both songbirds and waterfowl, which use the willows as a food source, protection, and nesting areas," Van Fleet says.

Ryan Beatty, Fisheries Biologist with BLM, was the lead for planning the shoreline restoration project and expressed his appreciation for all the volunteers who conducted the work.

"Many hands make light work, and this effort would not have been possible without the contributions of volunteers," he said. "Patience and a little luck should lead to substantial increases in shoreline willow density, shoreline stability and reduced shoreline erosion in the future."

Beatty also encourages landowners to retain natural vegetation during property development and maintenance of their land. He says planting inexpensive native vegetation based enhancements to lakeshore properties can preserve the lakeshore and attract wildlife.



## CHAMPIONS FOR WILDLIFE

We are the only citizens organization devoted solely to protecting healthy wildlife populations in the Upper Henry's Fork Watershed.



*The old adage is true:  
a fed bear is  
a dead bear.  
Period.*

## Grizzly Family

BY CHARLIE LANSCHÉ

What a privilege it was to watch this Yellowstone grizzly family peacefully foraging in an open meadow. These wilderness icons bring joy and astonishment to thousands of visitors to the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem each year.

I'm sorry to report that these cubs lost their life soon after I made this image, both reportedly killed by a male grizzly. Sad and horrific as this seems, male grizzlies will kill cubs to facilitate procreation with a female. Life is fraught with danger, and that holds true for grizzlies too.

These deaths could have been prevented. All of them - mothers with cubs - had become conditioned to eating human food and thereby posed a danger to people. The old adage is true: a fed bear is a dead bear. Period. Long-time residents and visitors alike must bear the responsibility (no pun intended) to properly secure bear attractants.

That includes garbage, bird feeders, BBQs, restaurant grease, and other scented items that can attract bears. And we must also stop the practice of intentionally feeding bears, as some residents are known to do for entertainment.



*Grizzly Sow and Cubs  
(Photo Credit: Charlie Lansché)*

Which brings me to my next point. Eight grizzlies have been killed recently within an hour of my home in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. Three by natural causes including these two cubs featured here. And 5 bears euthanized by wildlife managers here in Island Park, Idaho. But before anyone points fingers at wildlife managers, those of us who live and recreate in bear country must look in the mirror. It's our fault that these five bears were killed.

Campers must be vigilant to secure their garbage and avoid the practice of throwing food, beer cans and trash into the fire pit as a means of cleaning up. And please keep food out of your tent, and anything else with a scent like toothpaste, deodorant, etc.

We must do this for our own safety, that of our neighbors, and for the safety of our bears. Bear the Responsibility! (pun intended). After all, they were here first.

We acknowledge the land of the Henrys Fork as part of the ancestral lands of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes now located on the Fort Hall Reservation in southeastern Idaho

## Upcoming Volunteer Projects for Summer 2022

- **Lyle Springs Fence Building** to protect pond and breeding amphibians from illegal ATV traffic - with US Forest Service (USFS). Date TBD
- **Reconstruction of Earthen Dam and Installation of Water Control Structure** to restore historic swan breeding habitat in national forest – with USFS. Date TBD
- **Removal of Downed Barbed Wire Fence** at request of four private property owners in north Island Park - with National Parks Conservation Association. July 26
- **Pelican Tagging and Observation** - with Idaho Dept. of Fish and Game (IDFG). Date TBD
- **Barbed Wire Fence Replacement** w/PVC gates on Buffalo River – with IDFG. June 28, 29.
- **Willow Removal at swan breeding site** – with USFS. Date TBD/October
- **And more!**



Volunteer with us!  
Check our volunteer page for upcoming volunteer projects, details, and updates.  
<https://henrysforkwildlifealliance.org/volunteer>

Scan with QR Code Reader app on your smart phone to go straight to our website:



**Contact Us Today!**  
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info@henrysforkwildlifealliance.org  
henrysforkwildlifealliance.org  
PO Box 725, Ashton, Idaho 83420

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