



**OUR MISSION**

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



## Henry's Fork Wildlife Alliance continues fence removal efforts

In late July, Henry's Fork Wildlife Alliance (HFWA) volunteers removed 3,600 feet of derelict barbed wire fence from several private properties in Island Park bordering the Caribou-Targhee National Forest.

The land was originally part of a long-ago ranch and the wire has not been used for its intended purpose for decades.

Rick Sitts, a Founding Member of HFWA who helped organize the project and participated as a volunteer, said obsolete fences are significant barriers to migrating pronghorn, deer, elk and bighorn sheep, all of which he has seen moving through this area.

Pat Todd of National Parks Conservation Association, which partnered on the project, says "Pronghorn are the second fastest land mammal with the ability to run up to 60 mph, but they are extremely hesitant to jump and will travel miles out



*Volunteers pose with derelict barbed wire fence. (Photo Credit: Pat Todd)*

of their way to search for areas where they can duck underneath fences."

Todd says, "Historically, pronghorn migrated from their summer range in West Yellowstone over Targhee pass, past Henry's Lake, and into winter

*"Obsolete fences are significant barriers to migrating pronghorn, deer, elk and bighorn sheep, all of which have been seen moving through this area."*

range in the Madison Valley and Henry's Lake Flat. Today, camera traps set by NPCA have shown some individuals moving over Targhee Pass, encouraging NPCA to support fence

removal and modification around Henry's Lake." She praised the work of volunteers on this project saying "it will help support the safe passage of pronghorn living in the greater Yellowstone ecosystem for decades to come."

Obsolete fences are significant barriers to migrating pronghorn, deer, elk and bighorn sheep, all of which have been seen moving through this area.



*Obsolete fences are significant barriers to migrating pronghorn*

## OUR VISION

The iconic wildlife of the Upper Henrys 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



# Hundreds attend wildlife conservation event in Island Park

**ISLAND PARK** – Two hundred members and guests celebrated Henrys Fork Wildlife Alliance’s first big event since the COVID-19 pandemic at Meadow Vue Ranch in July. It was a wildlife-themed, family-friendly event open to the entire community.

The event brought together more than a dozen conservation organizations and representatives from the Idaho Department of Fish and Game and the U.S. Forest Service for displays and presentations about wildlife.



Grizzly bear display by Idaho Fish and Game.  
(Photo Credit: Tracy River)



More than a dozen conservation and education organizations offered interactive activities for guests.  
(Photo Credit: Tracy River)

People tried their skills with inert bear spray on Idaho Fish and Game’s mechanical charging bear and participated in wildlife-themed activities offered by the other groups.

# Fire Ecology Field Trip in Island Park

BY CAITLYN WANNER

With more massive wildfires making the news each summer and filling the air with smoke, public concern is growing over the risk of wildfires in Island Park. That is why Henrys Fork Wildlife Alliance, in partnership with the Island Park Sustainable Fire Community, organized a public field trip in July to learn more about the Forest Service’s approach to fire in Island Park.



Field trip participants witnessed the recovery of the forest following the 2018 Lyle Springs fire.  
(Photo Credit: Tracy River)

Jonathan White, district fuels specialist for the Caribou-Targhee National Forest, led the field trip. Stops along the hike included the scene of the Lyle springs fire that threatened the Pinehaven neighborhood in 2018. There, the group learned about the tools and resources that go into fighting wildfires.

HFWA and IPSFC will continue to assist the Forest Service in making information about prescribed fires more accessible and helping landowners make improvements that will protect their properties from the risk of wildfires. More information about upcoming events can be found at [henrysforkwildlifealliance.org](http://henrysforkwildlifealliance.org) and [islandparkfirecommunity.com](http://islandparkfirecommunity.com).

## CHAMPIONS FOR WILDLIFE

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



## UPCOMING PROJECTS

*Willow removal at swan breeding site: Date TBD/October*

*Apple cleanup in Ashton to reduce bear conflicts: Date TBD/Fall 2022*

Visit [henrysforkwildlifealliance.org/volunteer](https://henrysforkwildlifealliance.org/volunteer) to join our volunteer list and learn more about our volunteer projects.

## Rise and Shine

BY LORRAINE SNIPPER

I know, I know... You're on vacation and want to sleep in. I've been there myself, on more than one occasion!

I have a secret to share. I have found that it's well worth it to get up early (rising sun if you just want to look in the nearby woods, or before the early morning skies lighten if you have a distance to travel), in order to view wildlife traveling through the area. From pronghorn to deer and elk, even moose, you will be most likely to have a close-up photographic opportunity (driving on backcountry roads or kayaking on meandering streams), in the early morning hours when it is barely light enough to obtain focus! Creep along as slowly as possible, out here you are less likely to encounter another vehicle on back roads. Other vehicles might mean less viewing opportunities! Use caution and good sense in your wanderings, and bear spray if you step away from your vehicle.

*I'm just an ordinary person with extraordinary opportunities, and you can be that person, as well.*

This 4X5 mule deer buck was hanging out with three other bucks, all in velvet in various stages of growth, at 6:00 a.m. in the woods behind my house.

This is a great time of year to see males hanging out together, before they strike out to form their harems or partner with a chosen cow, and leave their brotherhood bonds behind. I have observed this behavior with deer, elk and even moose, though not so much with pronghorn. My personal term for these groupings is "The Bachelors Club." In recent past, one such club comprised eight bull moose!

My theories are strictly anecdotal, from personal experiences, which is why I often refer to myself as an unapologetic opportunist. To me, I'm just an ordinary person with extraordinary opportunities, and you can be that person, as well... So rise and shine!



*Lorraine Snipper Photography*

Photo Credit: Lorraine Snipper

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

### If You See A White Pelican, Please Report It

ISLAND PARK – Henrys Fork Wildlife Alliance and the Idaho Department of Fish and Game are asking recreationists, bird watchers, and the general public to report sightings of pelicans with wing tags.

Citizen reports will help ongoing research by IDFG to learn more about the migration patterns, breeding behavior, and survival rates of the American White Pelican in order to manage the population.

HFWA has partnered with IDFG to launch a citizen science project to report sightings of White Pelicans to provide data for IDFG’s work. A web page has been created where sightings may be reported.

In July, volunteers posted signs at numerous locations around Henrys Lake, Island Park Reservoir, Harriman State Park, and in St Anthony and Ashton. The signs appeal to recreationists and the general public to report sightings of Pelicans with wing tags on the web page.

Pelicans in Idaho breed primarily at three nesting colonies — Blackfoot Reservoir, Lake Walcott in Minidoka National Wildlife Refuge, and Island Park Reservoir. They migrate south to coastal waters in winter.

IDFG has tagged some of the pelicans from some of the breeding colonies with color coded wing tags.



Photo Credit: John Gerlach



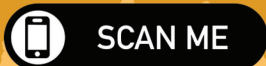
The public is asked to report pelicans with wing tags if you see them, including how many birds you saw altogether, how many had wing tags, the color of the tag, a number if visible, and the date, time and location, on a simple form.

To file a report, visit [henrysforkwildlifealliance.org/pelican](https://henrysforkwildlifealliance.org/pelican) or [www.idpelicans.org](http://www.idpelicans.org).



Sign up for our email list for announcements about upcoming projects and events. Visit <https://henrysforkwildlifealliance.org/volunteer> to learn more about our volunteer opportunities and join our volunteer list!

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



Contact Us Today!  
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