



# HENRY'S FORK WILDLIFE ALLIANCE

CHAMPIONS FOR WILDLIFE

## OUR MISSION

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



## Kestrels for Conservation

American Kestrels, or sparrow hawks, are key players in a successful growing season. North America's smallest falcon will eat many of the pests found in farm fields. Kestrels are great friends to farmers, but their numbers are declining in the U.S.

In 2022, HFWA launched the Kestrels for Conservation program with three main goals: To raise money for conservation, provide information to local farmers and landowners about how they can benefit from kestrels, and conduct fun citizen science to collect useful information about local kestrel populations.

As a part of the program, HFWA hosts family-friendly nest box building events throughout the year in Ashton, Rexburg, and Driggs. Volunteers can come build boxes that will become new homes for kestrels.

Participants are welcome to keep the first box they build, and can build extra nest boxes, which will be sold to raise money for local conservation projects.

HFWA will provide assistance in monitoring and caring for all nest boxes. Nest box owners can either sign up to volunteer or request that another trained volunteer check on the box periodically during nesting season to record successful nests and chicks. The collected citizen science data will be uploaded to The American Kestrel Partnership, a project by The Peregrine Fund dedicated to monitoring kestrel populations and solving the mystery of their decline.



**“Kestrels are great friends to farmers, but their numbers are declining in the U.S.”**

The nest boxes will be available for purchase at the Ashton Farmers Market on June 16th and June 23rd, and at the Driggs Farmers Market on June 30th. If you live within the Henry's Fork Watershed and would like to buy a nest box and have it delivered to you, get in contact with us by emailing [caitlyn@henrysforkwildlifealliance.org](mailto:caitlyn@henrysforkwildlifealliance.org).

**Visit:** [henrysforkwildlifealliance.org/volunteer](https://henrysforkwildlifealliance.org/volunteer) to learn more about the Kestrels for Conservation program.



Volunteers assemble kestrel nest boxes at HFWA's event in Rexburg in March 2023. Photo Credit: Tracy River

## 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.*

# Teton Valley Fence Removal

By Shaun Ward

Watching the water drip out of my muck boots as I turned them upside down and letting my drenched socks dry out in the sun made for a very memorable Saturday afternoon. In addition to a sunburn and torn skin, I walked away with a load of old metal and a satisfying feeling of accomplishment.

In May, HFWA worked to remove old metal fences from conservation easements in Teton Valley. These projects were in partnership with Teton Regional Land Trust, Jackson Hole Wildlife Foundation, Trout Unlimited, and Friends of the Teton River. One project removed over 1200 yards of barbed wire fencing along the Teton River, cheered on by the people floating by. Removing the old wire will provide safer river access to boaters and wildlife.



Volunteers remove willow-enclosure fence in Driggs.  
Photo Credit: Caitlyn Wanner

Another project removed enclosures erected 19 years ago by TRLT for the re-establishment of willows at Six Springs Ranch. Before the conservation easement, that area had experienced overgrazing, a common problem for grazed rivers and streams. Today, the willows are robust and healthy, so the enclosures were no longer needed. Members of HFWA and TRLT teamed up to take on these projects, removing the T-Posts and fencing from the willows. After hours of hard work, the teams successfully hauled away the fencing and made new friends in the process.

**“After several sunburns and torn skin, we walked away with a load of old metal and a satisfying feeling of accomplishment.”**

HFWA has partnered with local agencies and organizations to complete several fence removal projects in East Idaho. Whether it is willow-enclosures or dilapidated livestock fencing, removal of unnecessary fencing is critical to improving wildlife movement and restoring habitat. In 2022 alone, HFWA volunteers removed over 5,400 ft of harmful fencing in East Idaho to help provide safer wildlife passage, and the organization is on track to remove even more this year.

Volunteer projects like this are a great opportunity to get outside and make a positive impact while making friends and becoming champions for wildlife along the way. Visit [henrysforkwildlifealliance.org/volunteer](https://henrysforkwildlifealliance.org/volunteer) to sign up to volunteer.

Affiliate of the  
Idaho Wildlife  
Federation



## Champions for Wildlife

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



Save 20% Family Meal Deal

**JUNE**  
**24**  
4:00-7:00pm  
Ashton City Park

### Cookout Dinner and Raffle Prizes



**HENRY'S FORK WILDLIFE ALLIANCE**  
CHAMPIONS FOR WILDLIFE

Games & Activities by local organizations, including IDF&G's charging mechanical bear!



Photo Credit: Charlie Lansche

## Fremont County Needs A Bear-Resistant Container Ordinance

Now that grizzly and black bears are out of their dens, looking for food, and even beginning to explore neighborhoods, we are asking the County Commissioners to act to pass the proposed bear-resistant trash container ordinance. As always, it is important to avoid leaving food and trash out, which attracts bears and causes conflict with people.

In May of last year five grizzlies were euthanized by Idaho Fish and Game because they became habituated to human food and posed a danger to human safety. The killing of the five bears in Island Park, and a sixth a few weeks later in a local campground, made national news. This is not what we want to be known for in Idaho!

### Upcoming Events and Volunteer Projects:

- Teton Valley Fire Ecology Field Trip  
June 17
- Wildlife Festival 2023 in Ashton  
June 24
- Island Park Fire Ecology Field Trip  
July 8
- Film:  
"On Grizzly Ground"  
August 19
- ...and more to come!

For more information, visit:  
[henrysforkwildlifealliance.org/volunteer](http://henrysforkwildlifealliance.org/volunteer)  
 -or-  
[henrysforkwildlifealliance.org/events](http://henrysforkwildlifealliance.org/events)



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



**ON GRIZZLY GROUND**

**New wildlife film by Emmy-nominated journalist  
Kris Millgate & Tight Line Media**

**The chase of a lifetime is  
in BEAR COUNTRY**

**Join the expedition**

**Saturday August 19, 2023  
7:00pm  
Springhill Suites by Marriott - Island Park**

From the Emmy-nominated journalist who documented disappearing salmon across the Northwest, comes the chase of a lifetime in the new wildlife film, "On Grizzly Ground." Get your tickets for the showing in Island Park at [henrysforkwildlifealliance.org/events](http://henrysforkwildlifealliance.org/events).

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

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**Sign up for Email Updates**  
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\*\*\*\*\*ECRWSS\*\*\*\*

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