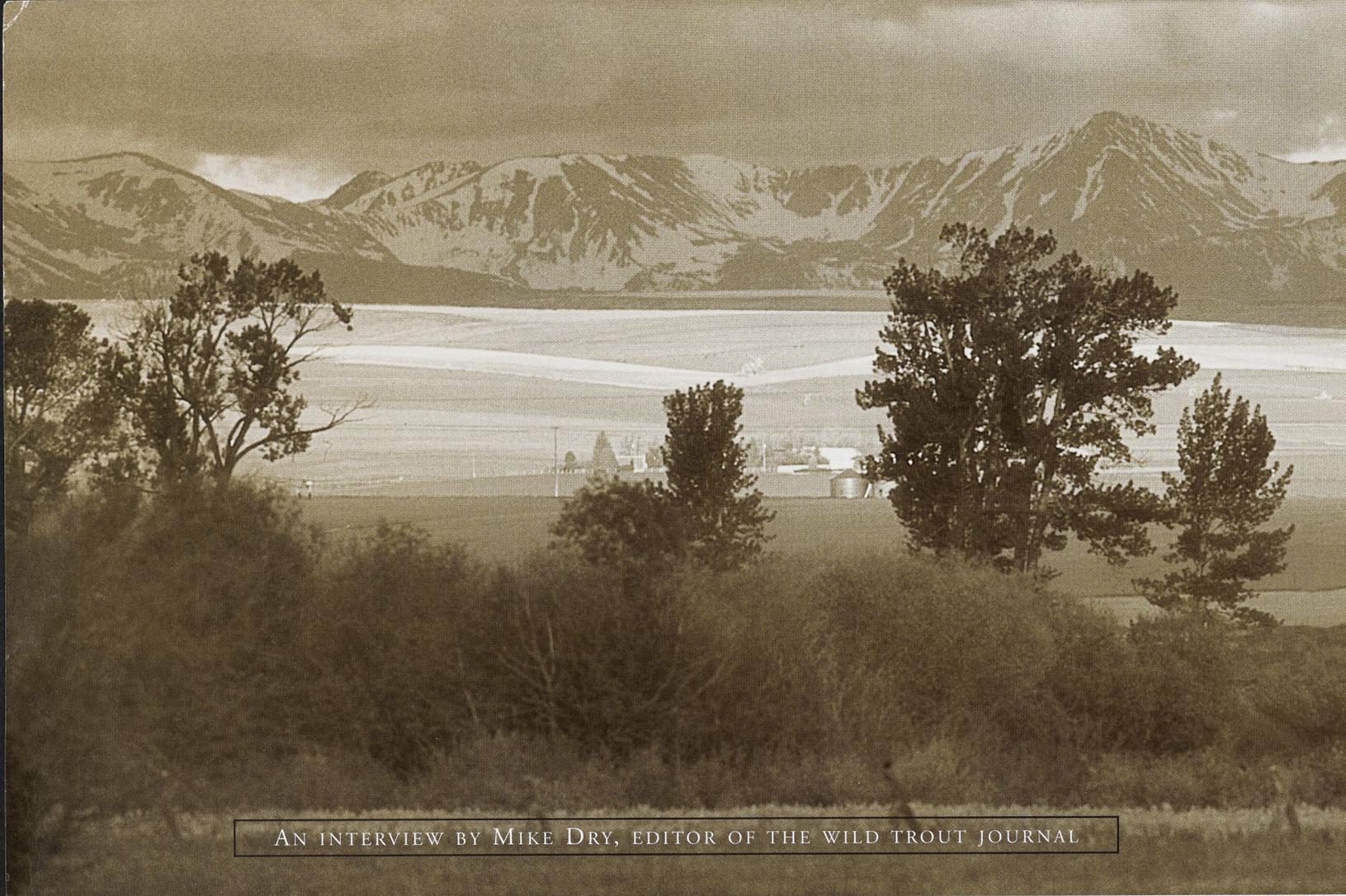


The Circle of Life:

A visit with Bud Lilly





AN INTERVIEW BY MIKE DRY, EDITOR OF THE WILD TROUT JOURNAL

During the 30 years of fishing and living in Yellowstone Country, I've been fortunate to have known Bud Lilly ~ *literally from day one* ~ when I walked into his shop in West, fresh off the turnip truck from Wisconsin where I was pretty hot stuff on local streams, and confessed my friends and I were getting our butts severely kicked by some Yellowstone Park trout!

Bud was sympathetic but, more important, he gave us good advice based on years of dealing with guys like us that salvaged a Super Trip gone bad. And our Pride. These triumphs, however slight, inspired many more trips to Yellowstone Country and many visits with Bud, his son Greg and others in his wonderful fly shop where I learned so much.

Bud was doing many things that were so innovative at the time and are, now, a normal part of our fly fishing culture.

Like the separate room downstairs in his fly shop filled with all kinds of great fly fishing art. The classes run by his daughter Annette who taught fly fishing to women. The great guides like Arnie Gidlow and innovators like Al Troth who shared their ideas with eager anglers like me and changed the way all of us fish today.



PHOTOGRAPHY PROVIDED BY LARRY ARMSTRONG

It was also here, at Bud's insistence, that I bought my first sinking line (*I became a "believer" after catching tons of large cutthroats with it off a sand bar in Yellowstone Lake*) and fired my enthusiasm for stillwater angling that has been so absorbing and satisfying over the years.

On a more cosmic note, Bud led the team that did what it took (*including some agitated meetings with local ranchers in local bars up and down the Madison Valley*) to convince all the Right Folks that the best thing for Montana rivers and streams was to stop stocking them with hatchery trout and let the river fish reproduce naturally.

I can't think of another Big Idea that has had such a great impact on the quality of YC fisheries and helped establish the great angling experience we all enjoy!

It's this history (*personal and cosmic*) with innovative thinking that made me change all plans when I got a chance to drop by Bud's new place near Manhattan, MT this spring and talk about some very interesting projects that consume his time these days.

Join me for that visit.



"All these projects will be very good..."

MIKE DRY: One of the most important developments I've seen in the last 10 years in Yellowstone Country is the increased availability of private waters to fly fishers.

BUD LILLY: *I agree. And I remember years ago talking with Lee Wulff about this. He said a lot of these waters are going to be privatized whether you want it or not. We used to be able to fish so much water years ago. Almost any place you wanted.*

Now, we're seeing that privatization is happening. Huge sections of rivers like the Ruby, for example, that were once available to interested anglers are now closed off by the new landowners who want to have this fishing to themselves or, in the case of private lodges, for their guests.

But it's not a negative. It's a positive.

There are so many waters, such as those here at Baker Springs where I live, that have been so degraded that they were no longer a viable fishery. They were getting very little traffic for two reasons. One, they weren't that viable and, two, it's been a tradition on these small ranches to only let a few people fish these waters.

MIKE DRY: But, through the years, even in my time here, we've seen so many of these wonderful pieces of water fall off the fishing map for anybody.

BUD LILLY: *That's why it's so exciting for me to see a property like Baker Springs be restored to its maximum for fishing. And then, when they develop home sites here, there will be more pressure on this water than it's had in the past!*

MIKE DRY: What I like about the trend to privatization – places like McCoy's spring creek and Burns Lake – is that it gives visiting anglers other great places to fish and also relieves some of the increasing pressure on public water.

Talking with visitors and reading a little survey of WTJ-e subscribers, private waters are a part of the angling experience. Meaning, anglers go a time or two when they visit and spend the rest of the time on public waters.

But I can see a time not far away when anglers will spend their whole trip to Yellowstone Country fishing a circuit of private waters. Though it will come with a price, they'll enjoy a quality of fishing we had 50 years ago.

BUD LILLY: *Exactly! And they'll have a different ball park because there is such a variety of private water available to these anglers.*

From where we're sitting, we have a real important movement going on that was started awhile back by the Milesnicks whose ranch runs along Dry Creek Road north of Belgrade. Nearly 7 years ago, they recognized the economic value of the streams on their ranch for recreational use and not just cattle ranching.

Now, after their success, they are surrounded by Harry Piper, who is developing the headwaters of Story Creek and BenHeart spring creek. He did the same thing: he took heavy equipment in there and brought back those old channels that had been degraded.

MIKE DRY: I had not heard about this.

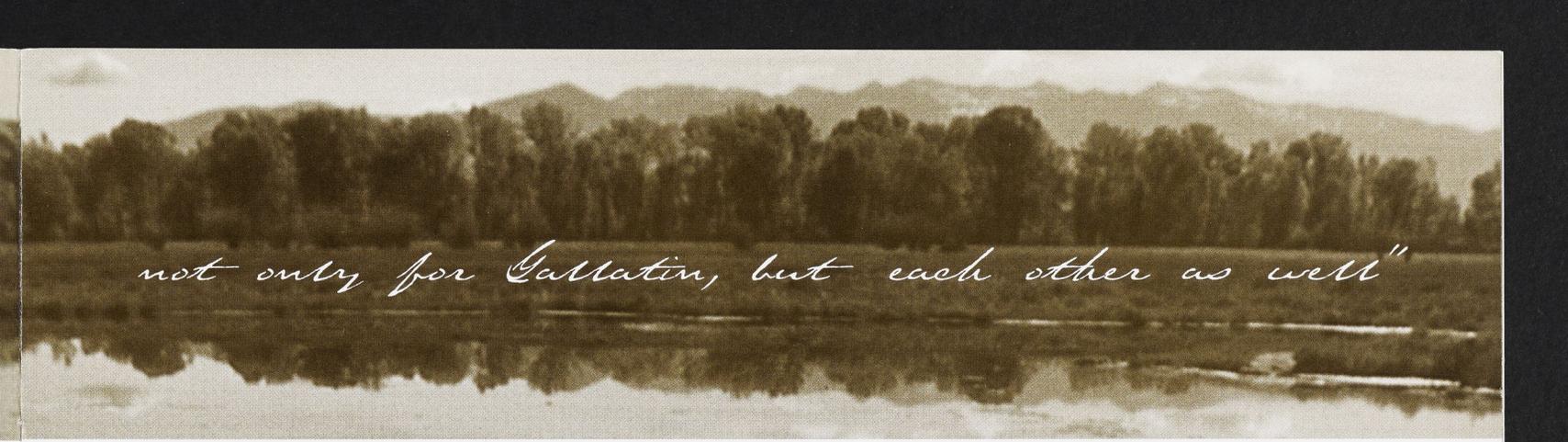
BUD LILLY: *Well, I talked with Harry recently and he said he was amazed this spring to see those rainbows had come up out of the river to spawn in these little creeks.*

MIKE DRY: So what else is going on in the neighborhood?

BUD LILLY: *Next door to Harry's property is some water that Joe Urbani has been working on that goes into the East Gallatin over by Stuckey Road. These people had acquired about a mile of this creek and recognized the potential of this water, not necessarily as a fishery but as a piece of water important to this whole area.*

MIKE DRY: So all this is great for the Gallatin, right?

BUD LILLY: *Yes. There are three or four creeks in this area that will have a big influence on the Gallatin. And I see this as a long term plus for this river because these feeder creeks will be very important to the spawning fish.*



not only for Gallatin, but each other as well"

And we see this trend affecting other major rivers like the Beaverhead, the Big Hole, the Ruby and the Yellowstone. All of these restored creeks are making a big impression on all these important rivers.

MIKE DRY: For sure. In the spring issue of the WTJ-e, the guide I interviewed, Paul Tunkis, talked about the importance of the spring creeks south of town to the Yellowstone River as a fish nursery. And John Bailey's Yellowstone River Task Force, which has sponsored many studies of the Yellowstone, also confirms the importance of these feeder creeks to this major waterway.

And it seems to me this trend in the Valley of restoring older degraded creeks is very similar in its positive impact on the Gallatin River, which is certainly feeling some negative influence with all the increased population and development of recent years.

BUD LILLY: *Absolutely. Milesnicks, Harry Piper and the others have got four major redevelopment projects within a 10 square mile area of my place. And it's all tied together. All of these projects will be very good for not only the Gallatin but each other as well. It's all tied together.*

MIKE DRY: It sounds like, one way or the other, the fishing public will benefit by all this good work. Some water, like Milesnick's, will be available for fee fishing, while other creeks will be only available to property owners for fishing. Or no fishing at all. But, all this work on individual streams and creeks will benefit the public because of the impact these waters will have on the public stretches of the Gallatin downstream of these projects.

BUD LILLY: *That's true.*

MIKE DRY: And this is my answer to those who whine about the Rich People taking over all the good water in the state: while it's true some water is locked up, those landowners who are good stewards of the land and make improvements will benefit everyone because all these waterways are interconnected.

BUD LILLY: *Well, there's a piece of the West Gallatin that runs across the Baker Springs property here which has a little creek we call V Creek that's been restored and runs into the West Gallatin. Then the rest of the water on this ranch all goes into the Gallatin down by Dry Creek Road.*

This will create a very nice piece of high quality water that the trout who live in this area will benefit from. These fish are very migratory and, like people, they'll go where the best places are and repopulate these waters. I've seen this happen.

One of the first examples I saw was over in the Wise River area. When I first went over there many years ago, that was a minimal fishery. But, 10-15 years ago, they went in and did a first-rate job on that water. Now, the Big Hole river in that area really shows the benefits of this work.

MIKE DRY: If you read these studies biologists have done on the impact of these restorations, you will be amazed at the effect they have on the bigger waters, especially spring creeks that drain into freestoners.

BUD LILLY: *Well, I've seen it happen over and over in my lifetime the impact this type of work can have on water that has been degraded for whatever reasons and the benefits it can have on water downstream. It's very exciting to me.*

MIKE DRY: We've talked a lot this morning about the restoration of all these smaller fisheries in the Valley but I'd like to know what you remember about these waters before all the development that's occurred.

BUD LILLY: *The things that I reflect on – not just the fishing – are the changes in the habitat. I can remember the summer evenings with the wild roses blooming everywhere, and picking mushrooms, particularly the morels. Well, a lot of that is gone. And it's too bad because it added a lot to the total experience. These losses came about simply through development of this area. Ranchers and farmers made a life for themselves and their families and, in so doing, we lost some things.*

So, when I walk around these places in the spring, it's an entirely different atmosphere in that we'll need to wait awhile before we see these wild flowers and such come back to enhance the whole experience.

MIKE DRY: Now, how long ago are you remembering?

BUD LILLY: *Well, I was no more than 6 years old at the time, so that would be about 70 years ago! And the fishing, Baker Creek in particular, when I was 10 or 12 years old was fairly simple. Even then, the Gallatin was being badly de-watered and was almost dry in summer time. The fish would school up in the pools just to survive.*

We were still living under a hatchery mentality in those days, so the fisheries people dumped in a

variety of rainbows and browns in these streams. The hatchery in Bozeman just down the road from where you live was established in the late 1800's and it was a busy time re-stocking many of these rivers.

Brook trout were put in any place that had running water!

MIKE DRY: So how was the fishing?

BUD LILLY: *With all the stocked fish, it was not difficult for me to catch fish in those days!*

MIKE DRY: And you fished Baker Creek, right?

BUD LILLY: *I did but only with permission. And I rarely saw another fisherman in here. I used to fish it*

further upstream but that water's pretty much shot and badly needing restoration.

My dad was a barber in the 30's and an avid fisherman. He knew all these ranchers because they came for a haircut and they'd invite us to fish waters on their property.

On December 7th 1941, I remember hunting ducks over in those stand of trees [we can see them about

a quarter of a mile out Bud's window] and that was the day we got the word about the bombing at Pearl Harbor. So, I went into the service.

When I got out, I headed to West Yellowstone which became my domain and rarely fished the Gallatin Valley until I returned in 1982. But, when I got back, I re-traced all my steps I had taken as a kid. And that's how I wound up here because I had developed an interest in all the restoration that was going on around here.

MIKE DRY: Well, from what I've seen, Baker Creek is a very serious restoration done by pro's and shows none of the strategies I often see when good-hearted, well-intentioned amateurs try this sort of thing.

BUD LILLY: *Yes. This project is very costly because it relies on experienced professionals like the young biologist you met who is here 5 days a week. And, as you've seen, it takes some very expensive equipment and operators to run it to do what's being done here.*

MIKE DRY: We not only have the technology today but also the knowledge to do this kind of work.

BUD LILLY: *That's so true. I watched the first stream restoration people, like Dale Miller and those guys who were with InterFluve, do some great things. But what they've learned in the last 20 years and what they can do now is quite phenomenal.*

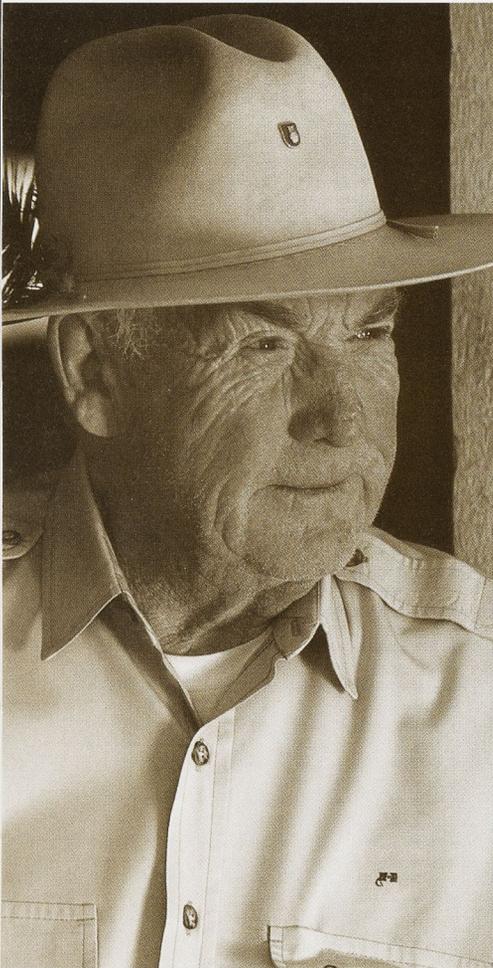
They've learned how to control water, to reinvent the environment and do so without making any major structural changes. They've been able to see where things were in the past and put things together the way it used to be.

MIKE DRY: I've seen some stream work but more on ponds.

BUD LILLY: *Yes. As you've written in your Journal, there's been a proliferation of pond building and many of those ponds are very high quality. Some are not. It turns out, you can't just go dig a hole and put water and fish in it! It all has to be done correctly or you won't be happy with the long term results.*

MIKE DRY: I noticed several ponds here on this property.

BUD LILLY: *Yes. And they have been done it the right way. They have undulate bottoms so you have feeding reefs and holding areas, cold water spots. And, over the winter, the larger ponds never freeze over, so because they have spring water as their source, they are year-round fisheries.*



MIKE DRY: It is frustrating as you said, to see guys dig a hole, fill it with water and throw some big hatchery fish in there. It might be good – maybe, even exceptional--for awhile but, over time, it won't hold up because of poor management practices.

But we have more information about such things these days and future projects should have greater success because of what's been learned in the last 20 years.

BUD LILLY: *And this information is having an impact worldwide on our fisheries.*

MIKE DRY: You're in a unique position having fished these places as a boy, so I'm interested to know how these waters fish today after restoration compared to how you remember them?

BUD LILLY: *Well, the objective was never to re-create the Baker Creek I fished as a boy. The biologists actually re-configured some of the creek before it enters the Gallatin. That spot, where it enters the river, was one of my favorite spots as a kid. One day, when I was about 15 years old, I walked into my dad's barber shop and he introduced me to two fellows who were baseball scouts. And he asked me to take them fishing.*

Well, I was very interested in baseball in those days and played a lot. So I took them to where Baker runs into the Gallatin. And they had superb fishing! And, later, they recruited me to play for the Cincinnati Reds ball team!

MIKE DRY: Well, things haven't changed that much, have they, with all the famous athletes who come out here to fish?

BUD LILLY: *That's right. Bobby Knight and all the rest who come out here to fish really recognize Yellowstone Country as one of the prime areas of North America for fly fishing. They've traveled and they know this is world-class fishing around here. And, at this point, it's not as expensive as going to New Zealand or Argentina.*

MIKE DRY: I don't suppose as a kid people around here really appreciated how great the fishing was?

BUD LILLY: *In the early days, when my family was pioneering this area, they felt trees and water were a hazard! They restricted their farming practices and were undesirable. So there was a long period around here of water diversion and land clearing. The banks of the streams around here had so much more cover when I was a kid.*

This is one thing the restoration projects are all concerned about: you have to provide some shade for the trout. If you don't, the fish won't stay.

They'll be here when things are prime – when the caddis or grasshoppers are out – but when the food source leaves, the fish leave, too, to find cooler water.

MIKE DRY: So restoration is a package deal?

BUD LILLY: *My daughter, Elisa, is a junior at MSU and she wrote a paper for an ecology class on a little book I told her about called The Phenological Fly written by an outdoor writer for the Calgary newspapers.*

His theory is that certain bugs hatch when certain wild flowers and plants begin to bloom.

We see this here at Baker Springs. When the wild roses bloom, we start seeing stoneflies. Late in May, we get a terrestrial bug called the Hawthorne fly that creates some fantastic fishing.

About a year ago, Nathaniel Reed, former Secretary of the Interior, and I were fishing with Dave Kumlien at Milesnick's. And this little bug was creating a wonderful hatch and the fish were going nuts.

And Nathaniel says, "That's a Hawthorne fly."

Kumlien says, "No way."

Well, after Nathaniel got home, he looked up the reference for the fly and sent it to Dave!

And, when this certain type of plant starts to come out in the spring, the Hawthorne fly emerges, too, and we can get some fantastic fishing.

MIKE DRY: It sounds like some of what's been done here at Baker Creek has restored this fairly rare hatch. Other hatches as well?

BUD LILLY: *I believe what this suggests is that once we restore these ponds, the tributary streams and Baker Creek, the insect life will come back in full force. I don't know. They must be in some dormant stage and, once you create the favorable conditions again, here they come!*

MIKE DRY: We have surely seen this on the Yellowstone. After the floods of the mid-90's, many believed all the bugs in the river were wiped out and fish populations decimated. Much doom and gloom. Now, 4-5 years later, they are back with greater numbers than ever! And some of these hatches, which have been very abundant in the spring creeks, are showing up full force on the river!

And fish numbers are at an all-time high!

BUD LILLY: *The recuperative powers of rivers is absolutely astonishing! You see it on the Yellowstone and, very dramatically, on the Big Hole which gets terribly dewatered regularly yet seems to bounce right back with fish and bugs returning when the river comes back in the river.*

MIKE DRY: I'm sure we'll continue to see this same thing with the creeks being restored around here.

BUD LILLY: *My guess is on these creeks we'll see a redistribution of the size of the fish in them.*

When I was a boy, we had hatchery trout and they tended to be large fish but few in number. And, when Tom Morgan visited me, we talked about how much fun we had fishing this water years ago and the really large fish – over 20-inches – he had caught here.

MIKE DRY: It almost sounds like this restoration work is going to improve upon the original.

BUD LILLY: *It's definitely part of the New West. I read in the papers that the ranchers are seeing the potential for hunting on their lands for a fee. I think we'll see even more of this apply to fishing, especially on these family ranches where big sections of blue ribbon waters flow through their property. Fee fishing in such places can be an important part of the rancher's income.*

MIKE DRY: We are sure seeing this spring up in the Dillon area.

BUD LILLY: *I think that's one of the leading areas now. There are so many new ponds around town, the spring creek at McCoy's and some parts of the Ruby. And we'll see more of this in the future because ranchers are seeing this water has more value to them beyond its use in ranching.*

MIKE DRY: You worked with some people in the Logan area awhile back didn't you?

BUD LILLY: *Yes. I was with some people developing Crest Creek down there. That ranch had been owned by an old high school friend of mine and he just starved out. Terrible financial difficulty. But we did some things to bring it back to a place where its recreational value was greater than its value as a farm or ranch.*

And we're seeing more and more of this in this area around Three Forks.

Todd's ranch just north of Three Forks on the way to Helena is a good example of this trend. You go about three miles past Folkvord's and take a left out into that sage brush and there's a pond out there fed by natural springs. It's not too big but it's all natural.

I was up there about two weeks ago and saw a guy sight fishing nymphs. He had caught some nice rainbows over 22-inches. I said he fished there regularly and admitted he had caught some fish up to 8-10 pounds!

So, at a place like this, you've got a chance for some trophy fishing as well as a place to fish in a controlled situation.

MIKE DRY: Well, it sounds like this rancher has got the right idea. But so many others started out great and people loved them until the population crashed. I feel we have more to learn about sustaining these Stillwater fisheries, while we seem to know more about moving water.

BUD LILLY: *Restoration of private water is not for everyone. A guy comes out and gives the rancher an estimate on what it's going to cost to make the pond or stream a great fishery. And the rancher doesn't have that kind of money. It's a big number if you do it right.*

So many of these fellows do what they can on their own and they will have some success. For awhile. But they can't just turn their back on it and expect to maintain the quality of angling that will bring back fly fishers every year.

It needs careful, well-informed maintenance to remain a profitable fishery.

MIKE DRY: I think those ranchers who are most successful hire the expertise of fisheries people and do much of the labor themselves. They get the best of both worlds. And they watch the trout as carefully as they do their cattle!

BUD LILLY: *I have heard that the Nelson family, which closed the hatchery part of their operation, is planning to open up more of the creek to fishing. I think this says much about the idea of using the water to generate more income through recreation than traditional ranching and farming methods.*

MIKE DRY: Well, I like what I see here at Baker Springs, but it's really different than these recreational waters that are open to anglers on a fee basis. Here, if you wanta play, you gotta pay, right?

BUD LILLY: *Yes. We have 11 home sites but will maintain 200-acres of open space, so even though we'll have some houses, it won't look like some golf course place. It will be very natural. And the big question will be how much pressure will be allowed on these waters to keep them and the fish healthy and in good condition. We'll be learning as we go. But it will be a year-round fishery. The ponds and*

some of the creeks which we've enhanced with our restoration methods will be available. Probably, we'll have a lottery system to decide who gets to fish where and when on Baker Creek and the ponds.

And we'll have to figure out a plan for guest fishing.

MIKE DRY: But there will be many angling options from what I've seen. And it sounds like you'll be available to direct owners and guests to the best fishing opportunities.

BUD LILLY: Yes. I am a consultant in developing this property and will be the river keeper when people start spending time here, which we anticipate will only be 2-3 months a year at the most...probably, off and on.

MIKE DRY: And, from what you've said, this place will continue to restore itself – with a stream manager's help and just the natural rebound – so that in time you'll have lots of wildlife around the place.

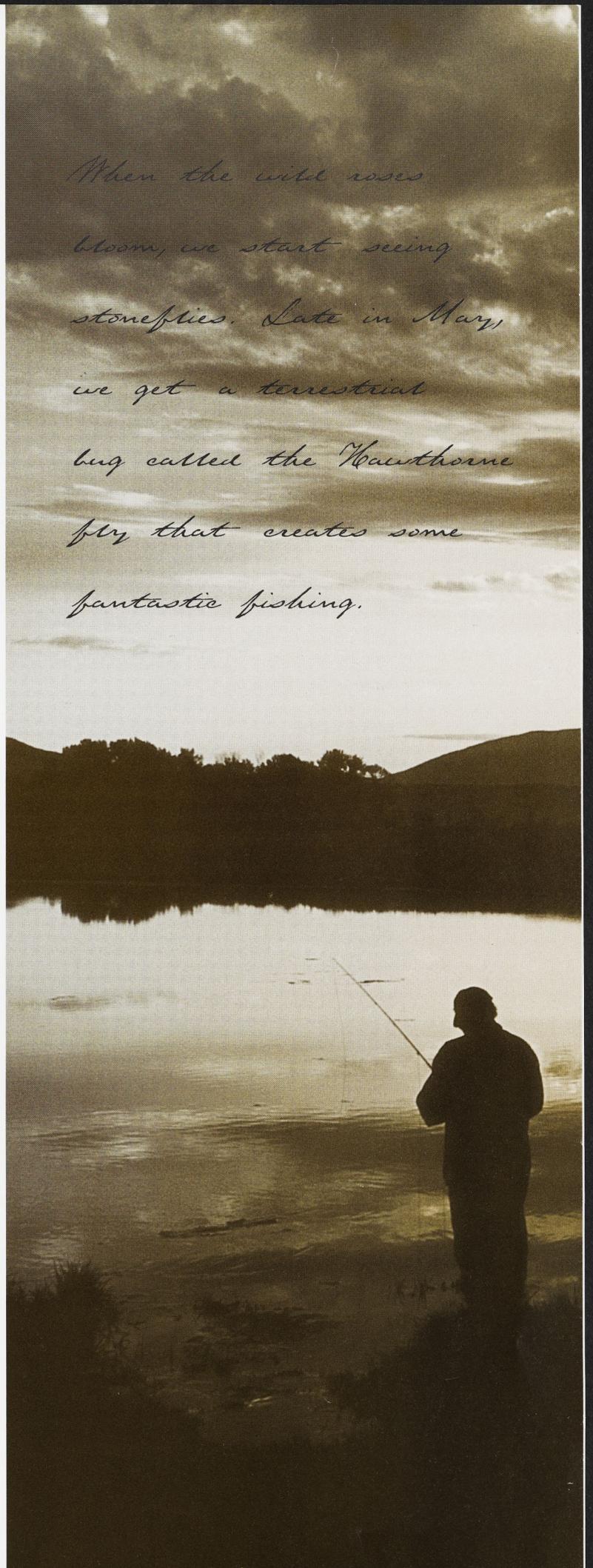
BUD LILLY: I think that's true. But, when I was here in the 30's and 40's, there were no white tail deer! No sandhill cranes either. But that's all different now. The whitetail are thick in here and we have a nesting pair of cranes on the property.

With the new water in here, we'll have a very strong waterfowl population. Plenty of ducks and geese. And cottontails. Plenty of upland game, too.

MIKE DRY: Well, your project here at Baker Creek is very impressive and, like those of your neighbors, should have a positive impact on the Gallatin River system in the years ahead.



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Editor's Notes:

As I headed for my place in the hills, my head was swirling with ideas from my time with Bud and I tried to impose some order on recent thoughts about private fisheries and what they mean to our future angling in YC.

Here's where I came out:

The trend to more private waters is a healthy one. Anyone who has fished Yellowstone Country over the past 10-20 years has seen some big changes in the quality of the fishing on popular stretches of public waters because we now have so many more anglers. This increased pressure makes the fish "wiser," tougher to catch, because they've been caught and released so often. This also increases mortality. And most fly fishers report with the presence of many other anglers the quality of their experience is lessened.

(This is especially true these days on the waters in the Bozeman/Livingston area which have become home waters to those who have moved into this area and are eager to enjoy nice day trips without the hassle of long drives and overnights.)

OWNERSHIP

One answer to this problem is to buy your own Private Idaho.

10 years ago, it was fashionable for dedicated and moneyed anglers to acquire fishing properties, which they often improved and enjoyed seasonally with friends and family. The price of admission was usually a very Big Number and, over the usual Wise-Up period, this number has gotten bigger.

(A gentleman from TX recently bought several ranches in the Shields Valley north of Livingston for a state record \$40 million-plus!)

But, in talking with some folks who've gone down this less travelled road, they report the problems with absentee ownership often outweigh the joys of private angling and, like buying a pet, the purchase price is just the beginning of larger expenses.

Finding someone to keep up your residence, maintain the fishery and property, fend off local poachers, etc. is not an easy matter. Once you find a reliable individual who won't take advantage of the situation and is skilled to do what needs to be done, they are often very expensive employees. If you try to soften expenses with running cows or planting crops, that is a whole other sack of cats!

Then there's often the matter of improving the water on the new property. While it's true there are many stream improvement companies in YC, you will

often have to take a number to get this work, which is extremely expensive and time-consuming. And it may be years before you reap what you have sown.

Then, one day, if things have gone well, you wake up and think: "I've got a great fishery on the ranch here. Sure, it was expensive but I'm really proud of it. Especially, when my buddies come over. But, you know, I think I'm gonna head down to the Henry's Fork this week. I hear the fish are really on the PMD's. Then I might hit Yellowstone Lake on the way home." Or, later on, you find yourself traveling to places like Dillon to fish the Beaverhead a day or two, then try some of the private waters around that town.

Realizing this approach is only for the Few, some developers have created other options for those who want to own property in YC: housing developments on famous waters (like the Ruby, for instance) or restored waters (like Baker Springs) have attracted much attention in recent years.

For some very good reasons.

The ticket to this experience is typically much less expensive than buying and running your own ranch. Folks who have gone this way talk about the relief of NOT having to deal with the maintenance problems and the joys of just visiting a new vacation residence they've built and fishing the waters on the property and those nearby...a stress-free, no-hassle option for dedicated anglers who want to avoid the problems of fishing public waters and enjoy the advantages of fishing private waters.

FEE FISHERIES

If you are lucky enough to live here, this happens: very regularly, each year, you fish with visiting anglers who have their favorite times of the year to visit Buddies from the Old Days in WI. My brother-in-law, Jim, one of the most tenacious, dedicated and enjoyable companions I know. Friends of friends who want to try fly fishing. Even some WTJ-e Loyal Subs. And, of course, Uncle Howard.

It's great to see 'em all. And they're all looking for that Ultimate Experience in YC.

Of course, they know I know the Great Places to fish. But let's face it: I'm not gonna give these away...unless, of course, you're my Mom or something.

So what do I do?

Like most visiting anglers, they've usually got a limited amount of time and are often at the mercy of commercial contacts at fly shops and independent guides. The best of these will be very helpful to the

angler looking for less-popular waters and new options. I can't remember all the great places that I learned about at fly shops like Blue Ribbon Flies, Frontier Anglers, The River's Edge, Trout Hunters and the Yellowstone Angler. And, by now, my friends and family know who to go to.

But what I always suggest is that they spend a modest fee for a full day (sun-up to sun-down) of fishing on well-managed private waters, moving or still, because the quality of this experience is very typically...well, exceptional.

The pleasure of fishing beautiful water filled with great fish and bountiful hatches in an exquisite setting, sometimes in total solitude, becomes the highlight of their trip...often of their angling life!

Once they've tried this and they decide to return, which most do, I have found many begin to sample other private waters and, before long, decide to schedule a whole visit around the best of these places. Some even find a favorite piece of angling heaven and book a week of fishing – sometimes, the whole place - for years in advance!

But, virtually everyone I've sent to a private stream or pond includes that place (or others like it) in every future trip to Yellowstone Country. And my little survey of WTJ-e subscribers this winter confirms the enjoyment of this experience because a strong majority of readers say they include some private water fishing on every trip.

So, you're up on one of the latest and most important trends in Yellowstone Country.

As an alternative to fishing public waters exclusively, more private fisheries are in our future. With increased income potential, more and more ranchers and farmers are now charging reasonable fees to fish great waters on their property that they've developed or restored.

Or, if this isn't enough to satisfy, then there are real estate opportunities showing up all over YC. Growing numbers and kind, you can find more and more options to satisfy your economic capacity and economic taste.

MIKE DRY • *Editor, The Wild Trout Journal*

Mike has been fishing Yellowstone Country waters for over 30 years and met Bud on one of his early trips to West Yellowstone. Over the past 20 years he's written many articles for national fly fishing publications and has written and produced over a dozen instructional fly fishing videos with Gary Borger.

A resident of Bozeman, Mike has published the Wild Trout Journal, a quarterly newsletter on fly fishing Yellowstone Country waters, for the past 7 years and is now offering it electronically to his subscribers all over the world. You can learn more about this insider publication at wildtroutjournal.com.

LARRY ARMSTRONG • *Photographer*

As director of photography for the Los Angeles Times for nearly a decade, Larry Armstrong developed strategies that led the Times through a period of significant technological, political, and financial change. He assembled and managed staff and freelance teams that covered the Gulf War, the Fall of the Iron Curtain, eight U.S. political conventions, American military incursions into Haiti and Panama, civil war in Bosnia, historic elections in South Africa, and breaking news stories where the challenges ranged. During his ten years as Director of Photography, Armstrong's staff shared an unprecedented five Pulitzer Prizes.

He has worked on three continents in four languages, is a licensed private pilot, painter as well as photographer, guitar player and fly fisher. Armstrong's combination of passion, talent and ambition is a pleasing rarity to all.



Baker Springs
A Private Fly Fishing Community

BAKER SPRINGS is a private, two hundred and thirty-two acre community designed for people who dream of living within walking distance of great fly fishing. The property offers a unique combination of spectacular scenery, including a 360-degree mountain view under Montana's Big Sky, and unsurpassed fly fishing. Baker Springs' eleven homesites have been situated to take maximum advantage of the property's topography and natural beauty, and to minimize their impact on each other.

There are a limited number of sites remaining, so we encourage you to take a look at what we believe is a very special place.

For a preview of the property and a choice of parcels, please call 406-586-4810 or visit our web site at www.bakersprings.com.

Baker Springs Owner's Association Fishery Guidelines Update
8/17/05

Check In

Anyone intending to fish at Baker Springs, whether a lot owner, immediate family member, or guest, is required to check in with the River Keeper in advance of fishing. Lot owners and immediate family members can check in by phone, but guests must go by the River Keeper's residence or the Fly Shop, and check in. The River Keeper shall maintain a log recording usage of the Baker Springs fishery. Anyone fishing without checking in with the River Keeper will be asked to stop fishing for the rest of that day. The responsibility for enforcement of these Guidelines rests with all lot owners.

To preserve the angling experience at Baker Springs, the maximum number of people that are recommended to fish is 12 at one time. If there are excessive numbers of people that want to fish at the same time, the property owners involved should work out some compromise.

Vehicles should be parked in cul-de-sacs or on the road due to the risk of grass fires in the summer.

Guests

Except for extraordinary situations, guests must be escorted by the lot owner sponsoring them. In an extraordinary situation, the River Keeper can be contacted at least a day in advance, and if approved, the River Keeper will fill in as the escort of the guest(s).

The lot owner will be responsible for assuring that his or her guests follow the Baker Springs Fishery Guidelines.

Immediate family members of lot owners are not considered guests and therefore do not need to be escorted by the lot owner.

Guides

Guides are prohibited from bring clients to fish at Baker Springs unless those clients are lot owners, immediate family members of lot owners, or guests of lot owners who have hired the guide as an instructor.

Wading

In order to minimize sediment and protect spawning redds, wading should be minimized in both the spring creeks and the ponds.

Floating Devices

For liability reasons, boats, float tubes, pontoon boats and other floating devices are prohibited in Baker Springs ponds.

Reducing Mortality

When releasing a fish, keep the fish in the water and just twist out the barbless hook. If the hook is difficult to extract, cut the tippet and release the fish. The hook will work out or dissolve. Only raise the fish partially out of the water for a picture. Our fish are too valuable to kill through mishandling!

Fishery Quality

It is the policy of the Baker Springs Homeowners Association that Baker Springs ponds will be managed to produce a quality fishery as measured by quantity of fish and size of fish in the ponds.

HOA Fishery Policy Committee

The Chairman of the Board of the Baker Springs Homeowners Association will appoint a few lot owners to work with the River Keeper to set policy on the fishery and its use. Joe Urbani may be used as an advisor to the committee.

AMFFA



AMERICAN MEDICAL FLY FISHING ASSOCIATION

Conservation :: Environment :: Nutrition

P.O. Box 768

Lock Haven, PA 17745

570-769-7375

**AMFFA SCIENTIFIC SESSION
AUGUST 29, 30, 31, 2005
BULLWINKLES, WEST YELLOWSTONE**

This program is intended for physicians interested in practical applications of recent advances in medicine and medical technology.

Monday, August 30

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| 7:30 am | REGISTRATION-BREAKFAST |
| 8:00 am | Yellowstone Area Fisheries: Status
Bud Lilly |
| 8:30 am | Snake Bites
Dr. Don Snider |
| 9:30 am | Dr. Michael Hahn
Skeletal Motion During Flycasting |
| 10:30 am | Astronomical Presentation
Dr. David McKenzie |
| 11:30 am | TBA |

Tuesday, August 31

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| 7:30 am | Breakfast |
| 8:00 am | TBA
Dr. Kenneth Louis |
| 9:00 am | Review of Restless Legs Syndrome
Dr. Eugene McKenzie |
| 10:00 am | TBA |
| 11:00 am | TBA |

Tuesday, August 31

ANNUAL BANQUET
Wet Fly Gathering 6:30 pm
Banquet 8:00
Guest Speaker, Steve Bosse
Protecting the Rivers and Fisheries of
Greater Yellowstone

Wednesday, September 1

7:30 am	Breakfast
8:30 am	TBA
9:30 am	TBA
10:30 am	Annual Business Meeting

AMFFA ANNUAL MEETING
AUGUST 28-30, 2006

THE FAMILY AND THE FISHERMAN.

THE FISHERMAN AND THE ENVIRONMENT.

THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE COMMUNITY.

AND THE COMMUNITY AND YOU.



Baker Springs
A Private Fly Fishing Community



BAKER SPRINGS • MONTANA

Today, Baker Creek is better than it ever was. Bud Lilly, master of the Yellowstone headwaters, grew up on Baker and back then he had no idea that it would become such a renowned spring creek. In fact, no one did. Baker was just another creek that held its fair share of trout. Over time, the land around Baker Creek became over-grazed and cultivated and the fabled game fish living within the creek did what any self-appreciating fish would do. They left.

Thanks to the Cold Water Group the fish are back, and they brought some friends. Today, Baker Springs contains 232 acres, numerous streams and 4 spring fed ponds. Eleven home sites have been situated to take maximum advantage of the property's topography, natural setting and minimization of impact upon each other. Every site offers a naturally framed, unobstructed view of the picturesque scenery. Joseph Urbani and Associates, an international leader in ecosystem restoration, joined the Cold Water Group to help provide leadership with the revitalization and enhancement of the fishery and ecosystem at Baker Springs. Ever present within the newly reclaimed

creeks are the gravel spawning beds; the cool holes under grass covered shelves and the flowing water that trout call home. The Cold Water Group has also restored the habitat of the vital small spring creeks that flow into Baker Creek

to provide additional spawning and fishing opportunities so the surrounding ecosystem continues to function in a way nature would.

Not only is Baker Springs something to behold within, but also one must not forget the Montana that surrounds. Nestled within the Gallatin Valley, Baker Springs has the unique ability to provide accessibility without compromise. The city of Bozeman is located less than twenty minutes away, the airport's ten and Yellowstone National Park is just around the corner. You're surrounded by national history through the past travels of Lewis and Clark and at your door step are

the blue ribbon trout streams of the Beaverhead, Big Hole, Gallatin, Jefferson, Madison, Missouri and Yellowstone rivers.

We invite you to visit Baker Springs. Sites are limited and we encourage you to come see a masterpiece surrounded by history, beauty and vigor.

THE COLD WATER GROUP

Cold Water Group LLC was established in Bozeman, Montana, to create strategies for preserving and enhancing fish and wildlife habitats in the context of innovative residential developments. The group brings together investors and experts from the fields of ecological restoration; limited development; conservation strategies; marketing; fisheries management and fly fishing.

Baker Springs reflects the philosophy and efforts of the Cold Water Group. At Baker, emphasis has been placed on the aesthetic appeal in conjunction with the creation of ecologically diverse, natural, biologically functioning wild trout systems.

BAKER SPRINGS / COLD WATER GROUP

1807 WEST DICKERSON SUITE D, BOZEMAN, MONTANA 59715

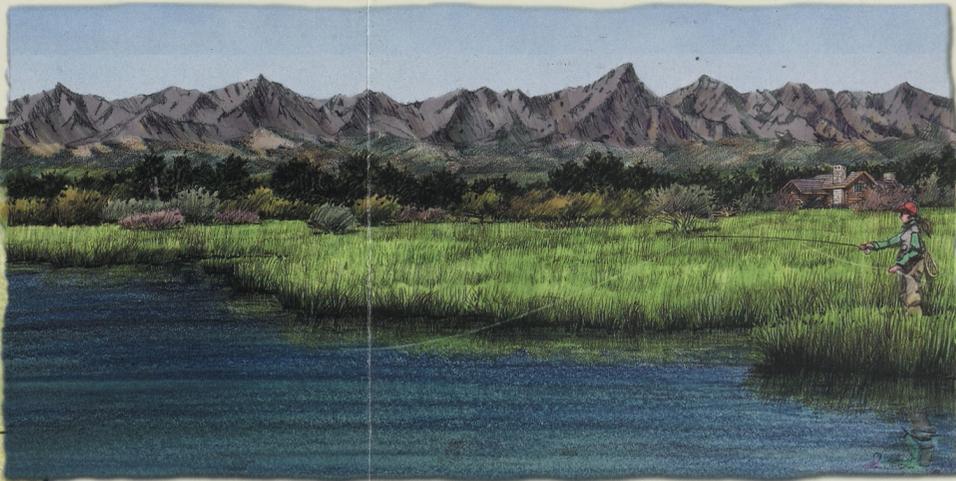
406-586-4810 WWW.BAKERSPRINGS.COM



BAKER SPRINGS WAS ENVISIONED IN SUCH A WAY THAT NO STONE WAS LEFT UNTURNED.
WITH A FLY FISHING LEGEND AS THE RIVER KEEPER, ACRES AND ACRES OF FISHERIES
AND A WIRELESS STATE OF THE ART COMMUNICATION SYSTEM —
THE SETTING IS COMPLETE.



BAKER SPRINGS IS TRULY SOMETHING TO BEHOLD.
SITUATED IN THE GALLATIN VALLEY, BAKER SPRINGS IS SURROUNDED BY AN ARRAY OF
YEAR ROUND ACTIVITIES, EXCEPTIONAL CUISINE, LOCAL ARTS AND LIVELY CULTURE.
COME EXPERIENCE MONTANA IN AN EXQUISITE LIGHT.



LOOKING EAST, ACROSS LOT FOUR, TO THE BRIDGER MOUNTAINS.



WEST GALLATIN RIVER

SPRING CREEK



ARTIST'S RENDITION OF ACTIVITIES AND HOME SITES.



LOOKING NORTHEAST ACROSS LOT ONE TO THE BRIDGER MOUNTAINS.

Baker Springs
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SCALE:
0 100 200 300

BUILDING LOTS



ROADS



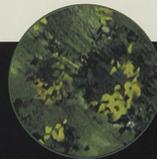
CREEKS AND PONDS



GALLATIN RIVER



TREES



Amidst the tall, windblown grasses, surrounded by snow-capped mountains you will find the pleasures of the Montana experience that is incomparable to life anywhere else. As the cool breeze drifts across your face, the rushing sound of the Gallatin River relaxes every part of you. The easy whisper of the casting fly rod is mesmerizing, as you enjoy one of Montana's most traditional and excellent sports.

All the while, ordinary life goes on- business never stops, technology still comprises the very fabrics of your endeavors- you get to experience the best of both worlds.

Is this a dream? No, it is a reality made possible because of the synergistic goals between two very distinguished companies: Baker Springs and Cutthroat Communications, Inc.

Baker Springs, located just outside of Bozeman, Montana, is a restored fishery hugged between the West Gallatin River and the Baker Creek. It is home to hundreds of wildlife species as well as the renowned fishing expert, Bud Lilly. Spanning for 232 scenic acres, eleven home sites have been placed strategically throughout the Baker Springs land on only 22 of those acres. The rest is commons land, intended for residents to enjoy while fishing on one of the many creeks or ponds, to watch birds, or even to just sit and absorb the refreshing beauty surrounding them.

As each of the plots have been designated to their specific developers, owners of Baker Springs, Dudley Lutton and Don DuBeau, realized the need for residents to access their business ventures outside of Montana. That is when Lutton and DuBeau met with Roger Lang and Jeff Peck, owners of Cutthroat Communications, Inc.

Cutthroat Communications, Inc. (Cutthroat), named after the distinguished West-slope Cutthroat trout, thrives on its founding premise, which is to enable Montana businesses to participate in the global economy, offering secure managed broadband, managed network, and professional services that were previously only available in large cities. Cutthroat provides these services to a range of businesses, including financial, educational, and government institutions.

Once the Cutthroat and Baker Springs' owners met, plans to provide managed broadband services to Baker Springs residents started developing rapidly. Now, businesspersons, doctors, and lawyers have the means necessary to carry on their ventures, while pursuing a Montana lifestyle. Cutthroat provides Baker Spring residents with managed broadband services, including scalable megabits, secure access, and ultra secure access. This allows a person to transport confidential files over a virtual private network (VPN) from their Montana residence to anywhere in the world. Managed network services are also available for residents, allowing them to access email, host their website, and rest easy with the security of their remotely monitored network. In addition, Cutthroat offers professional services, including network analysis, assessment, and design; security review and intrusion detection; and, software management and custom development.

Cutthroat is building a communications center in the Baker Springs barn that will receive a

wireless radio feed through a camouflaged antenna from Cutthroat's Network Operation Center (NOC) in Bozeman. All of the sites will be fed with underground fiber that will terminate at a fiber optic concentrator in the communication center.

Each residential home will receive one to twenty Mbps of capacity connected to the Internet redundant network of Cutthroat Communications. This will allow property owners to meet all of their broadband transport network management requirements. Owners will have access to video conferencing in their homes, IP telephony, video monitoring of security intrusion detection systems, huge file transfer capacity, and data storage facilities. Through Cutthroat's NOC, owners will be able to create VPNs to any location in the world that has Internet connectivity.

Members of Baker Springs can request tailored services from Cutthroat that suit their specific needs. For example, if a doctor is interested in transporting confidential medical records over a VPN, Cutthroat will provide them with secure bandwidth that will manage all of the data. Or, if a businessperson has a mandatory conference they need to attend in New York, Cutthroat can supply them with access to attend the conference, via video transport right from their Montana home.

The implications of this model are immeasurable. These services make it possible for anyone to move to Montana while maintaining their business pursuits abroad. And, the best part of all is that even as residents of Baker Springs live and work in Montana, they also get to recreate in the magnificent land. Baker Springs and Cutthroat Communications, Inc. have begun a precedent that not only emphasizes the importance of the Montana environment, but also makes great strides in aiding Montana's economic growth.