

ABSTRACTS

BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES – AQUATIC

THE MONTANA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN FISHERS SOCIETY^{AFS} 2004 ANNUAL MEETING INTRODUCTION

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The Montana Chapter of the American Fisheries Society is an organization of professional fisheries scientists and students from agencies, universities, and the private sector across Montana. Our objectives are: conservation, development and wise utilization of Montana's fisheries; promotion of educational, scientific and technological development; advancement of fisheries science and practice; and exchange and dissemination of knowledge about fish, fisheries and related subjects.

Aquatic habitat degradation is occurring at alarming rates throughout the world due to human impacts on the environment. The stability of many rivers has been adversely affected by direct channel modifications or through changes in flow and sediment transport regimes. Consequently, many fish and aquatic species have declined in abundance and distribution as a result of habitat degradation and loss. Unless effective watershed planning and natural channel restoration programs are implemented on public and private lands, many river systems will continue to provide unsuitable habitat conditions for growth and survival of fish and other aquatic organisms.

In an effort to promote sound management and restoration of aquatic ecosystems, the Montana Chapter of the American Fisheries Society convened the annual meeting in Whitefish, Montana under the theme “*Theoretical and Practical Approaches for Watershed Restoration and Stream Habitat Improvement.*” The plenary session featured Dr. David Rosgen (Wildland Hydrology), a world-renown expert in river assessment and restoration, as the keynote speaker and leader of the Continuing Education Workshop. The keynote panel of experts explored theoretical and practical approaches to restoration, agency program direction and policy constraints, restoration and enhancement techniques and lessons learned, and fisheries responses to habitat restoration and passage improvements. The Yellowstone Task Force panel described geological and hydrological changes to the Yellowstone River, and provided research results on habitat native Yellowstone cutthroat trout populations. Additionally, contributed paper sessions included a variety of ongoing research projects focused on species of special concern, non-native species introductions, impacts of fire on fish and aquatic ecosystems, and hydroelectric development.

Title footnote indicates organization, location and date presentation was made.

^{AFS} Montana Chapter of the American Fisheries Society Annual Meeting, Whitefish, MT. February 4-6, 2004
^{MAS} Montana Academy of Sciences Invasive Species Symposium, Billings, MT. April 16, 2004
^{TWS} Montana Chapter of the Wildlife Society Annual Meeting, Bozeman, MT. February 23-26, 2004

The Montana Chapter of the American Fisheries Society offers the abstracts of its 2004 Annual Meeting to the readers of the *Intermountain Journal of Sciences* in the spirit of exchanging ideas and information regarding the aquatic sciences. Many of these abstracts reference ongoing research and management projects, and may include data that are not comprehensive or fully analyzed. Thus, these abstracts should not be cited in other works without permission of the author(s), whose contact information is provided. We hope that you enjoy our proceedings, and urge readers to attend and participate in our next meeting to be held 8-11 February 2005 at Doubletree Hotel/Edgewater in Missoula, Montana.

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