



Riffle Talk



Nov/Dec 2005

Volume: 20 Issue: 6

Free to Members of the Cheyenne Mountain Chapter of Trout Unlimited

PRESIDENT'S PIECE

Allyn Kratz

This will be the **last** hard copy of the **Riffle Talk** you will receive.

As I hope all members are aware, the board of directors voted in the fall of 2004 that this current year would be the last year we would send out hard copies of our newsletter. The cost of printing and mailing has become prohibitive when we compared it to the conservation work we could do with those funds. Beginning with the January 2006 issue, you will be receiving your **Riffle Talk** via the web site at **CMCTU.org** .



You will receive an e-mail notice of when the new Riffle talk is posted on the web site and a reminder of our monthly membership meeting. If we do not have your e-mail address, we will not be able to send you this reminder so I am asking that you visit our website and sign up for our e-mail notice.

This year has been very busy and exciting, unfortunately, it has also be expensive. You will find elsewhere in this newsletter a solicitation for each member to **donate \$10.00** to the chapter to help provide funds for this coming year's projects and activities. With over 800 members that could be quite a sum, little to pay for the many stream improvements that we have been working on to help the habitat for those trout you will be outwitting during 2006. Please send your check to CMCTU, P.O.

Box 458, Colo. Spgs. 80901

This is a member driven organization and we are looking to your for any ideas you have for activities that CMCTU should become involved. If you have a river project, fund raising idea, a skill or just a thought, please share it with us. The \$10.00 donation idea came from a member. Another member suggested that we work on improvements on Fountain Creek. We are still trying to put that together but hope to soon be knee deep in water with those improvements. Your ideas, energy and membership are what keep this organization health. Send your thoughts to allynk@adelphia.net.

I want to call your attention to and congratulate **Don Logelin** who was elected to the position of Vice President for Programs for this coming year. If you have any ideas as to what you would like in a program, please feel free to send him an e-mail at d2j@netscape.com.

Have a great holiday season and be sure to mark your calendar for the fourth Tuesday of the month for our general membership meetings and remember, trout like to eat all winter long, maybe you should go out and feed them a fly or two.

REMEMBER ...

No Membership Meeting this month.
Next meeting is Tue. Jan. 24th, 2006

SEE YOU THERE!!!

ROADLESS AREA

In 2001, President Bill Clinton granted administrative protection to more than 56 million acres of roadless national forest lands across America. While roadless areas are simply that - roadless, without wilderness designation or protections - the Clinton Roadless Rule maintained the status quo by preventing new roads from being built. Roads erode watersheds, fisheries and fishing quality, wildlife habitat and hunting quality, as well as inviting clear-cut logging, gas and oil exploration, mining, ATV recreation, noxious weed invasion and swarms of motorized recreationists, all of which harm the quality of both outdoor experience and forest health. The Roadless Rule was, thus, among the most significant wildlands conservation measures of our lifetimes.

In May of this year, the Bush Administration overturned the Clinton Roadless Rule and instructed western governors to petition USDA by November, 2006, to reinstate roadless protections in their states, or not. While California, New Mexico and Oregon are fighting the Bush move in court, other states seem prone to roll over and throw all of most of their last remaining wild public forests open to economic exploitation and ecological



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Photo by Joe Chiaro

ruination. Colorado has taken the middle ground by naming a 13-member Roadless Area Taskforce to conduct public meetings at each of the state's eight national forest headquarters. The public can also submit comments in writing, and/or fill out a website questionnaire.

Consider this sobering fact: Although Colorado has 4+ million roadless acres (tracts 5,000 acres and larger) in its national forest system, only 8 percent of national forest lands within the state lie farther than one mile from a road. Additionally, the nationwide USFS road maintenance backlog is \$10 billion, in Colorado \$68 million. When the agency can't afford to maintain or effectively close the thousands of miles of roads it already has, where is the dollar-sense in building even more?

Through our Public Lands Initiative, Trout Unlimited is fighting to protect roadless public lands throughout the West and Alaska. Happily, TU/PLI's roadless coordinator for Colorado, Dave Petersen, was named

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of Trout Unlimited

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We solicit reader's contributions in the form of guest editorials, fly tier's corner, letters-to-the-editor, cartoons, jokes, etc. ALL materials are subject to editing. We prefer text submissions in any PC format on a 3.5 diskette, which will be returned. Photographs and other graphics should be of sufficient resolution and contrast that they can be printed as-is. The fastest way to contact the editor is by e-mail to tterebus@yahoo.com. You can also send your contributions to:

Riffle Talk
Cheyenne Mountain Chapter, Trout Unlimited
P.O. Box 458
Colorado Springs, CO 80901-0458

Subscription Rates:

Non-members of CMCTU can subscribe to "Riffle Talk" for \$15.00/year. Please make your checks payable to Cheyenne Mountain Chapter, Trout Unlimited, and mail to the above address.

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DEADLINE for contributions and change of

ads is the first of the month of the current newsletter printing. Riffletalk is distributed in January, March, May, July, September, and November. Members receive postcards in alternate months.

RIFFLE TALK is a non-profit publication of the Cheyenne Mountain Chapter of Trout Unlimited.

WEBSITE: WWW.CMCTU.ORG

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CMCTU AND RIVERWATCH

Fewer than 40 streams in the state of Colorado have water quality data gathered on them. That is why CMCTU got involved this year with a program of the Colorado Division of Wildlife, known as River Watch.

In August one of our members attended a three day training session provided by the Colorado Division of Wildlife and River Watch to learn about the program, the sampling and testing procedures and how to teach others in these methods. Upon completion of the training it became necessary to choose the streams we would be sampling and monitoring. After some discussion, it became an easy choice. We would monitor the water quality and insect life of Severy Creek on Pikes Peak and Bear Creek above the Nature Center.

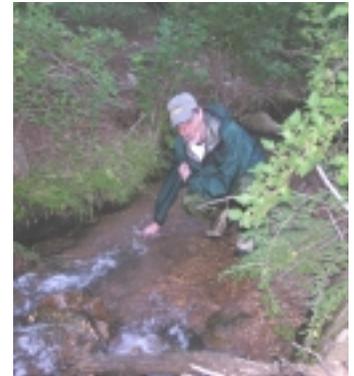
Both of these streams contain fragile populations of Greenback Cutthroat Trout. This species is afforded special protections due to the small size of the population. We who live in this area are some of the lucky few who can claim resident native genetically pure Greenback Cutthroat Trout. The Board of CMCTU saw these streams and their endangered residents as the perfect reason to become involved in this monitoring program as well as an obvious choice to help educate the public about the importance of water quality.

It is our hope to not only monitor the stream in its current condition but to also use the data collected to provide additional protection for the stream and the native trout. It is also a goal of ours to work with the Colorado DOW and the U.S. Forest Service to improve the habitat of these two streams. Both suffer from

extreme erosion and siltation problems. This siltation fills in any deep holes in the stream and reduces the likelihood of the native species surviving the winter when much of the water freezes. In addition, the surface areas in the stream that ordinarily would produce a structure upon which food sources might grow are scoured by the continuous flow of gravel down the mountain.

Samples are collected from each stream once a month throughout the year. These samples are then run through laboratory tests to determine the contents of the water. Once each year, Macro invertebrates are also collected and the species and number identified. Some of the simple lab tests are performed by those of us who are collecting the

Cont. on pg 5



ROADLESS AREA cont.

to the Roadless Area Taskforce, where he can be counted on to fight for healthy forest and aquatic ecosystems. But one man can't do it alone. Colorado's shrinking wildlands and the critical high-country watersheds they contain need the help of all concerned CTU members, particularly among Council and chapter leadership.

After familiarizing yourself with the issues and process by visiting the website listed below, you can help by writing a brief letter to the Roadless Area Taskforce stating which forest or forests are most important to you and why, and stating flatly your desire to maintain roadless status there in perpetuity. Be both general and specific. Name areas, streams and watersheds. Next, fill out the website questionnaire. Finally, attend your local Roadless Taskforce meeting and let your thoughts be known.

CTU is 9,500 members strong. If even 10% among us will write a letter and attend a meeting, we *will* make a positive difference in the outcome of this critical conservation process. As events unfold and more information becomes available, we'll keep you informed.

Roadless Area Taskforce Public Meetings: first three dates:

GMUG (Grand Mesa, Uncomphagre, Gunnison national forests)
6:00 - 8:30 p.m., Wed. Nov. 2 - Bill Heddles Recreation Center, 620 Gunnison River Drive, Delta.

San Juan National Forest - Friday, December 9 (location TBA), Durango.

Pike-San Isabel national forests - Friday, Jan 6, (location TBA), Pueblo.



CMCTU AND RIVERWATCH cont.

samples while more complex tests are preformed on the samples collected after we submit them to River Watch. As an added task, Gary Dowler of CDOW has asked us to monitor the fish trap on Severy creek and measure the sediment collected. This will provide us with some baseline data on sediment quantity prior to our stream improvement work.

The results we obtain will be posted on the River Watch Web site so please feel free to check them out. At the time of this writing however, this web site is not yet up and running.

If any of you would like to join Don Logelin, Greg Walck, Tom Terebus or Allyn Kratz in sampling these streams, please contact any one of us. You would be most welcome.



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Mission Statement

Cheyenne Mountain Chapter of Trout Unlimited

The Cheyenne Mountain Chapter of Trout Unlimited strives to **conserve, protect and restore** cold-water fisheries, resources and their watersheds. THIS IS ITS SOLE MISSION. THESE GOALS ARE TROUT UNLIMITED'S REASON FOR BEING!

To achieve these goals, to participate in this mission, Members:

1. Support and promote fisheries and water-resource policies that further these goals.
2. Work actively on conservation projects, volunteering labor and expertise, often in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service and Colorado Wildlife and conservation agencies.
3. Seek to influence the decisions of such agencies as well as those of wildlife commissioners, legislative committees and elected officials in general.
4. Foster ethical and sensible conservation practices among users of the cold-water resource.
5. Attend the regular membership meetings of the Cheyenne Mountain Chapter of Trout Unlimited.
6. Elect to the Chapter's Board of Directors members who will provide direction and strong leadership.
7. Contribute financially to build and maintain the Chapter's fiscal stability.

YOUR HELP NEEDED!!!

At a recent membership meeting, it was suggested by member Dick Shultz that the current monetary squeeze being experienced by the chapter might be eased by a direct appeal to the membership for a personal \$10 donation. The current money problem has been generated by a change in TU National policy on rebates of membership renewals back to the local chapter and the unprecedented recent growth of this chapter. The combination of these two situations have caused a cash flow problem that could imperil chapter fieldwork on Pikes Peak's Severy Creek and Trees For Trout this summer and fall. The board is presently looking into grant money for various projects, however, that course is never assured. It is felt that the direct approach is always best in these matters. The chapter VP of Development is always looking for different ways to increase revenue to the chapter. Your suggestions are welcome, as are volunteers for financial projects for the chapter. Comments or donations are to be directed to: Richard Luce at PO Box 458, CO SPGS., CO 80901 or RDJL1514@AOL.com. Thank you and please consider a pledge to your chapter.





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FYI: BEGINNING JAN. 2006, CMCTU RIFFLETALK NEWSLETTERS AND NEWSCARDS WILL BE AVAILABLE ON OUR WWW.CMCTU.ORG WEBSITE. PAPER COPIES WILL BE AVAILABLE **ONLY** TO THOSE CMCTU MEMBERS WHO SPECIFICALLY REQUEST SUCH. PLEASE SUBMIT REQUESTS BY DEC. 2005.

For over 40 years, Trout Unlimited has been America's leading trout and salmon conservation organization, dedicated to conserving, protecting, and restoring coldwater fisheries and their watersheds. Whether we're planning and building stream improvement projects, working with government to protect our rivers and streams, or teaching young people the importance of protecting wild fish and their habitat, TU members are actively engaged in preserving our vital natural resources.

**Your next Riffle Talk newsletter will arrive
in January!!!**