

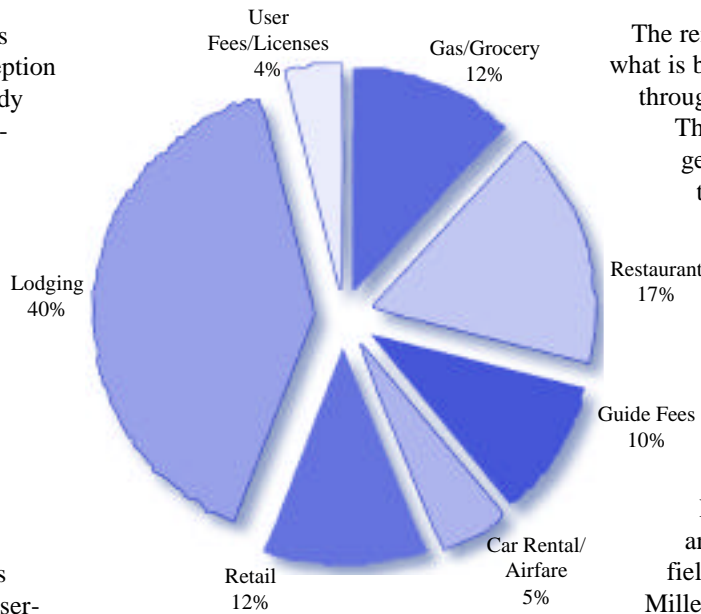


What is at Stake in the Fryingpan

By Kristine Crandall

A year ago we wrote in this newsletter about the inception of the Ruedi Futures Study and how it was time to get a handle on what is happening in the lower Fryingpan River Valley in terms of recreation activity and the aquatic within. There are a number of influences in the Fryingpan, including the presence and operation of Ruedi Reservoir. The reservoir and river are connected like a hand and an arm – when one moves, it affects the other. When the releases to the river are increased, the reservoir draws down more quickly. When the reservoir level is maintained, flows in the river can decrease. The hand and the arm are pulled by other forces, including the demands for water downstream for consumptive uses and endangered fish recovery, preferred target levels for Fryingpan River angling activities, enhancement of summer recreation at the reservoir, and the potential future Eastern Slope request for Ruedi’s precious resource. The issues surrounding Ruedi are complex, but we feel it is imperative to understand exactly what is at stake when the reservoir and river are pushed and pulled in different directions within the western water arena.

During the last 18 months, we have been heavily involved in implementing an economic study, and coordinating the fishery study under the direction of Bill Miller of Miller Ecological Consultants.



**Percentage of Expenditures by Category:
Fryingpan River Visitors with Overnight Stay**
(average expenditure per visitor per night: \$135.62)

These studies will contribute key information to many future decision-making processes about management of Ruedi Reservoir. They are also coming at a perfect time, here and now, when issues are in the air. The fishery study is taking place during one of the lowest flow winters we have seen on the Fryingpan River in the last 20 years. The economic study results will be available in time to give to the Bureau of Reclamation, which is soliciting comments on its proposal to obtain a multi-year lease (through the year 2012) to secure Ruedi water for the Endangered Fish Recovery Program on the Colorado River.

The remainder of this article covers what is being researched and learned through these two studies.

The fishery study, which is geared toward understanding the needs of the trout species that inhabit our rivers, will wrap up at the end of the year. Two products have emerged from the study thus far – a literature review tracking research and field studies that have been performed on the Fryingpan and lower Roaring Fork Rivers since 1943; and an interim report describing the fieldwork that was undertaken by Miller in 2001. Both are available at the Conservancy’s office and on our website.

Highlights of the fieldwork include establishment of stream transect sites for the taking of elevation, flow, depth, temperature, and habitat measurements. Three sites on the Fryingpan River and one site on the Roaring Fork were chosen for transects – each representative of the aquatic habitat features commonly found on the Fryingpan and lower Roaring Fork. The data collected from these sites provides the base for the instream flow/habitat relationship modeling, which will conclude later this year. The purpose of this model is to predict how different types of trout habitat change with streamflows.

Miller also has created simulated spawning redds on the Fryingpan River,

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placing a thermograph and tube for measuring dissolved oxygen within each redd. The thermographs measure temperature hourly, and dissolved oxygen is measured monthly. The information gained from this aspect of the study will be very helpful in assessing spawning conditions for both brown and rainbow trout.

Macroinvertebrate populations are being looked at closely on the Fryingpan and lower Roaring Fork due to their important influence on fishery health. Samples were taken in the fall of 2001, and will be repeated this spring. The initial findings of the fall sampling on the Fryingpan show a very impressive diversity and density of macroinvertebrates, indicating high water quality. By the end of the year, all of these specific examinations of trout habitat conditions will be joined into a final report and assessment of the current health of the fishery.

Factors that are limiting trout populations will be described, as will any operational recommendations for Ruedi that would benefit the trout fishery and overall aquatic ecosystem.

The economic study has created a terrific opportunity to examine the behavior of *Homo sapiens* on the Fryingpan River, on and around Ruedi Reservoir, and within the economy of the Roaring Fork Valley. We went out on the lower Fryingpan River on 63 days between November 2000 and October 2001, contacting people directly and giving them a survey to fill out and mail back. This same process was followed at Ruedi Reservoir on 28 days from May through September 2001. After all was said and done, a total of 541 river surveys and 406 reservoir surveys were distributed. Response rates were exceptionally high for a mail-in survey, settling at 74% for the river survey and 68% for the reservoir survey.

The river and reservoir each represents a distinct set of recreation visitors. Not surprisingly, anglers accounted for an overwhelming 97% of those surveyed on the river, while reservoir respondents participated in a variety of activities including fishing, water-skiing, sailing, motor-boating, jet-skiing, canoeing/kayaking, sailboarding, camping, picnicking, and hiking. Of all river respondents, 84% were non-local (50% from elsewhere in Colorado and 34% from out of state). Compare this to the reservoir, where 52% of respondents were local, 44% came from elsewhere in Colorado, and only 4% were from out of state. These statistics set the stage for the economic impact results because economic contributions to the Roaring Fork Valley stem from visits made by tourists, not locals. Tourists coming to the Fryingpan River represent the most important economic force identified in

See **Fryingpan**, next page

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Connecting Storm Water Runoff from Basalt To Glenwood Springs

By Kristine Crandall

In November 2001, the final implementation recommendations for storm water runoff management improvements were presented to the Town of Basalt Trustees. The six specific improvements were developed by Robert Krehbiel. All of them would enhance water quality, and are detailed to include engineering-scale design and specifications, as well as rough cost estimates. The next step will be for the Town to initiate the improvements, which will depend on funding availability. For more information on the proposed improvements, please call Bob Gish at the Town or Kristine Crandall at the Conservancy, or stop by the Conservancy office for a closer look at the report.

The broader philosophy behind the Town of Basalt project was to create a case study that could be used for other communities to model. The Conservancy is very excited to bring a similar type of project to Glenwood Springs, through another Section 319 Nonpoint Source Pollution grant that was recently secured. The project, which will begin later this summer and run through 2004, will evaluate storm water runoff in

Glenwood Springs and establish Best Management Practice (BMP) recommendations for implementation. Another key project goal is the development of nonpoint source pollution education programming within Mike Wilde's River Watch class at Glenwood Springs High School. Students will learn about the causes of storm water runoff and its effects on our rivers' water quality, gaining hands-on experience through the project's storm water evaluation aspect.

The City of Glenwood Springs is at a critical point in defining its nonpoint source pollution runoff management. With a population of approximately 8,300, Glenwood does not presently fall within the Phase 2 Storm Water Management regulatory process, which targets communities with a population of over 10,000. However given its growth trend and increased urbanization, as well as influx of tourists, it is in a position to take steps toward comprehensive storm water management. The Glenwood Springs Town Council has voiced strong interest in supporting proactive management of storm water runoff, which will be greatly facilitated through this project.



JOHN COLSON

Conservancy's Tim O'Keefe and Lindsay Hoffmann help Basalt Elementary School kids stencil signs onto curbs near storm drains. These signs urge citizens not to pollute local rivers by pouring toxic waste or garbage into the sewers.

Fryingpan, from page 2

the study.

Total annual visitor use on the public stretches of the Fryingpan River has been estimated at 34,000 visitor days. A large proportion of this use (72%) occurs in the area of the river from the dam to Mile Marker 12. Based on the surveys' expenditure data, the estimated annual direct expenditures generated within the Roaring Fork Valley by recreation activities on the public stretches of the lower Fryingpan River is \$ 2.6 million. The estimated direct expenditures related to summer recreation activities at Ruedi Reservoir total \$147,000. The study's final results will also include the total additional economic output and new

jobs that are linked to direct spending by visitors at the two sites. As an example of types of expenditures made by Fryingpan River Valley visitors, the accompanying pie chart shows the proportion of expenditures by category for visitors to the lower Fryingpan River who stayed overnight.

The economic study report will be issued in May. If you are interested in receiving a copy of the report, or have questions about the survey or the study in general, please contact Kristine Crandall at the Conservancy. Between the findings generated by the economic and fishery studies, there will be an extensive, scientifically credible collec-

tion of information specific to the Fryingpan River and Ruedi. We are grateful to our Ruedi Futures Study project partners, the Colorado River Water Conservation District and Ruedi Water and Power Authority, for helping make this project a reality. Support for the fishery study has also been generously provided by the Town of Basalt, General Service Foundation, Trout Unlimited, and Eagle County. We certainly hope the information generated will be drawn upon over and over again, for it represents what we have at stake within the beautiful red canyon walls of the Fryingpan River Valley.

Spotlight on Superstar Volunteers

Ann Stark

The Conservancy is extremely fortunate to welcome fellow Fryingpan Valley resident and volunteer Ann Stark to our Technical Advisory Committee. Ann is currently GIS Specialist for both Pitkin County and the



City of Aspen, and has lived in the Roaring Fork Valley for just over three years. Previously, Ann was GIS Coordinator for the Tillamook Bay National Estuary Project – an EPA funded citizen group studying the Tillamook Watershed in Oregon. While employed there, she opened and ran the Tillamook Watershed Resource Center; provided mapping for Comprehensive Watershed Reports; and completed her Master's thesis on the habitat needs of coastal salmon populations. We are thrilled

to have such a dedicated watershed expert and enthusiast in our midst! Ann has recently helped the Conservancy map all of its conservation easements with GPS, and created GIS overlays showing critical information that can be used over time to track our stewardship goals and results for each property. Most recently, she created a topographic overlay of the entire Roaring Fork Valley Watershed for the Conservancy. To view or download copies of Ann's watershed map, contact the Conservancy or check out <http://www.rof.net/wp/starkdna/portfolio.html>. Thanks Ann!

Information on Deicers

By Kristine Crandall

The Colorado Department of Transportation has released a report that reviews various deicers used on Colorado mountain roadways, including magnesium chloride. The report contains scientific background information on acetate and chloride-based deicers as well as sand. A loaner copy of the report, entitled "Evaluation of Selected Deicers Based on a Review of the Literature," is available at the Conservancy's office.

Welcome New Board Members

Diane Moore



Diane Moore has an educational background in environmental science and land use planning and has worked for county and city governments, private sectors, and nonprofit organizations. Diane is presently overseeing several real estate investments, managing the remodel of her home, and is involved in photography. Welcome Diane!

Diane Schwener

Diane Schwener, the founder and president of Schwener Design Group, recently joined our board. Diane's expertise in marketing and design will undoubtedly be an incredible asset to the Conservancy's fund-raising and public relations efforts. Greetings Diane!



Mimi Teschner

Thirty-two year valley resident Mimi Teschner came from Louisiana via Switzerland and New York to live and work here. Along with being an active community volunteer, she works as Director of Development, fundraising for the Aspen Music Festival and School. She is delighted to be associated with the Conservancy and its impressive endeavors.



The New Face of Water Quality

By Rick Lofaro



PAUL HEMPEL

Some big changes have taken place at the Conservancy. In late January of this year, Water Quality Coordinator Paul Hempel decided to move on and is no longer with the Conservancy. As a result, Director of Field Programs Rick Lofaro became the new Water Quality Coordinator providing a new face to the program. Rick can still be seen out and about, but these days he is looking more like a chemist than a field biologist. The transition has been smooth, and our programs are as strong as ever. We have successfully completed

four monthly sampling events to-date and are excited to complete the remaining sampling events throughout the rest of the year. The Conservancy will continue to produce the State of the River Report, as well as analyze the data from the report annually.

In addition to the Water Quality program remaining the same, the Conservancy will continue to participate in the Colorado Division of Wildlife's (CDOW) River Watch Program. In 1998, the Conservancy teamed up with the CDOW to expand and revitalize the program in the Roaring Fork Valley. To-date, schools in the valley participating in sampling include: Colorado Mountain College (Spring Valley Campus), Marble Charter School, Carbondale Middle School, Roaring Fork High School, Alpine Christian Academy, Aspen High School, and veterans Glenwood Springs and Basalt High Schools, who have been involved in the River Watch program for nearly a decade. The Conservancy has also trained and certified over 30 adult volunteers that make up six Stream Teams throughout the Valley. Stream Teams are located in Glenwood Springs, Carbondale, Redstone, Snowmass, Snowmass Village (Aspen Skiing Company), and Aspen.

As usual, the strength of our Water Quality program lies in our outstanding volunteers. Although we have a well-established network of volunteers, we are always looking for more help. We will be scheduling volunteer recruitment meetings this summer throughout the valley. For information on volunteering, please call Rick at the Conservancy at 927-1290 or e-mail him at rick@roaringfork.org.

Our Water Quality program today is the result of the hard work and dedication brought to the Conservancy by Paul Hempel. Paul was instrumental in getting this program up and running and establishing a solid volunteer network. We thank him for all that he gave us, and wish him the best of luck in the future.

River Events Calendar



Maroon Creek Restoration Project - Aspen, Saturday, June 29th

Roaring Fork Charity Classic - Sunday evening, June 30th

and Monday, July 1st

River Rendezvous - Wednesday, July 24th

River Days - August 17th and 18th

For further details please see our website, www.roaringfork.org

Inspiring Students to Make Connections

By Tim O'Keefe

"The mediocre teacher tells. The good teacher explains. The superior teacher demonstrates. The great teacher inspires." – William A. Ward

Think back. Think back to when you were a child. What natural places did you play in? What water holes did you explore? What creeks did you get muddy and wet in? What rocks did you overturn? What discoveries did you make?

For residents in the Roaring Fork Valley, finding natural places for discovery and inspiration is as easy as walking out our front door. We are blessed with a beautiful Valley – rugged mountains, peaceful forests, and thundering rivers. Yet despite being surrounded by pristine settings, we have so many distractions that compete for our time and keep us from simply exploring nature. The days of carefree wandering and experiential learning are filled with email and cell phones, sports teams and homework, jobs and families. These things keep us from exploring and connecting with nature's wonders and complexities. People need these connections with nature in order to understand it better; the most effective way for anyone to do this is to get outside and experience it.

That's what we hope to accomplish

through the Conservancy's education programs. We want students of all ages to have a positive experience outdoors by learning about our amazing rivers and how to protect them. If they have a positive riparian experience, their inspiration will lead to further exploration and questioning. When people ask questions they usually find answers that help them understand the importance of natural resources such as rivers. The Conservancy strives to responsibly use nature as our classroom and help students and adults make those connections.

As part of our commitment to inspiring our Valley's students about our rivers, we have been working on developing educational tools, such as our expanded website (see accompanying article) and new educational programs. This year we have encouraged scientific exploration of riverbanks and wetlands. We have inspired and excited students about the water cycle, watersheds, aquatic insects, and animals through fun games and data collection. We have taught kids about water quality and river history while rafting the Colorado River. We even bring parts of the river into the classroom when students cannot go to the river. Our hope is that these experiences have inspired and challenged our



Students study model watersheds during a spring break day at Rock Bottom Ranch.

Valley's youth to continue their watery explorations.

So as you think back to your childhood, think of the places that inspired you. What are the places that inspire you today? We want to encourage you to turn off your cell phone or click off your television and come exploring with us. We're sure that our Valley's rivers will teach and inspire you as it has us.



Columbine preschoolers observing aquatic insects during an Insectopia class.

Check Out RFC's Updated Website!

In April, the Conservancy released its updated website at www.roaringfork.org. The new site features information on Conservancy programs, links to partners and stream flow data, resources for teachers and students, an events calendar, technical publications, program brochures, and places to sign-up to volunteer or donate to the Conservancy. Thank you to Intrcomm Technology's Site Management Console, the Conservancy now has the capability to update the website in-house. Keep coming back to the site, as it will be updated often!

Notes on Land Conservation

By Suzanne Fusaro

New Conservation Easements

The Conservancy is pleased to announce several new activities in its conservation corner. We recently received a conservation easement in the Crystal River Park Subdivision in Redstone, donated by Redstone resident Dr. Robert Brooks. Dr. Brooks donated a scenic, wooded lot that connects open space to part of a migration corridor for deer and elk. The lot receives much activity from deer, elk, and other mammals; provides habitat for numerous birds; and scenic relief for humans. This is our first conservation project in the Crystal River Valley, and promises not to be our last.

The Conservancy also received a land donation from Virginia Parker, of Emma, Colorado, of twenty-five acres on Happy Day Ranch (that's right, the ranch on the corner!), which she deeded to the Conservancy in her will last year. We are extremely excited about this acquisition - the land is spectacular, forms part of the core of Emma, and deserves all the protection it can get! Thank you Ginny!

The Conservancy is currently negotiating several other conservation easements on approximately 260 acres of riparian and wetland habitat throughout the Roaring Fork Valley. Most recently, Pitkin County Open Space and Trails (OST) asked the Conservancy to hold an easement on the property known as Filoha Meadows near Redstone if they are successful in obtaining a grant from Great Outdoors Colorado (funded by lottery proceeds) to help purchase the property for open space.

Filoha Meadows is adjacent to Hot Springs Ranch Open Space (purchased by Pitkin County OST last summer), across the Crystal River from the Penny Hot Springs. It includes 50 acres of riparian, wetland, and critical wildlife habitat for bighorn sheep and elk. If you have spent any time in Redstone, you have probably seen a herd of bighorn sheep wintering in Filoha Meadows. Heated by thermal vents, these meadows stay clear of snow most of the winter, and combined with its extensive wetlands, the property provides refuge for a variety of wildlife species including mountain lion, black bear, golden eagles, and deer. Preservation of Filoha Meadows will help unite a large, ecologically significant area almost entirely surrounded by White River National Forest and Pitkin County Open Space. Look for updates in our upcoming newsletters!

Property Analysis and Habitat Planning for Perpetuity

The Conservancy has recently acquired revolutionary new software created by the Center for Natural Lands Management called PAR (Property Analysis Record). This software has been developed to aid land trusts in evaluating land and poten-

tial conservation projects; planning long-term stewardship programs; and determining accurate costs for such programs. Land conservation is not an inexpensive or simple endeavor, and it is increasingly important for land trusts to have comprehensive strategies for accepting, managing, and costing conservation projects.

The only drawback to PAR is that its species lists are currently adapted to California. The Conservancy will pursue ways to adapt the species list to Colorado, so that the software may be more useful to other Colorado-based land trusts. We are hoping to share as much of this information as possible to help bring all land trusts together in a united effort to plan more sustainable conservation projects.

What is a Conservation Easement and How Can it Help Me?

Tools for land conservation are rapidly becoming standard vocabulary used by landowners around the country. Navigating this field, however, may seem daunting at the outset. While there are several ways in which a landowner may choose to protect his/her land and potentially receive tax relief in exchange, conservation easements are some of the most popular forums for this purpose.

A conservation easement is a legal agreement between a landowner and a land trust (or government agency) that allows the landowner to retain ownership of the land, while permanently giving up certain rights that would endanger the property's integrity, or conservation values. A conservation easement is flexible and often a good option for landowners because it has no set requirements, and may be tailored to suit the landowner's needs. For instance, farm or ranch land may be protected from future development while allowing the landowner to continue farming the land. A landowner may also retain the right to build a house on a designated portion of land, while preserving the rest of the land and its primary conservation values (i.e., land near streams or wetlands might be preserved, while allowing a homesite in a less-sensitive upland area).

The major benefit to landowners is that their property liability is decreased dollar-for-dollar by the value of the conservation easement, up to a certain level. Therefore, if a landowner donates a \$100,000 conservation easement, he/she may take a \$100,000 income tax credit over the next several years, and potentially benefit from a significant drop in estate taxes. While land trusts are not qualified to advise you on the actual tax benefit of donating a conservation easement (you'll need a tax advisor for this), they can help you determine if your land has potential for conservation, and if so, how to proceed with

See **Easements**, next page

the best conservation strategy for you.

Most land trusts do ask for a donation or endowment to help fund stewardship and legal costs over a conservation easement's life (which is forever!), so it is important to remember that while conserving land has inherent value, and often significant tax incentives, it will not make you rich, nor will it necessarily be cost-free. Regardless, the best strategy for considering any conservation option is to contact your local land trust and ask about different ways in which you may be able to find a solution to protecting your land for the benefit of the public and the environment.

For more information, or to receive a free brochure on various conservation options, please call the Roaring Fork Conservancy at 927-1290, or check out our newly updated website!

Great Blues Equal Great News

By *Lindsay Hoffmann*

They're back! Great blue herons have returned to the Roaring Fork Valley for the spring and summer seasons. At least 20 pairs have landed at the rookery located partially on our Cattle Creek Confluence Conservation Easement and partially across the river, at the Aspen Glen Water Treatment Facility. The birds have chosen two large ponderosa pines, on either side of the river, to return to this year and at least 30 heron chicks have been spotted (and heard) in the nests. For the past two years, the herons have chosen to nest on these unmistakable landmarks on the banks of the Roaring Fork. The birds arrived in late February, right on schedule, and will spend the summer in the Valley before heading south for another winter.

Although it is easy to spot the graceful birds in the air, from the road it is hard to see the large blue/gray bodies in the ponderosas. In order to monitor the herons and their movements the Conservancy uses a high-powered spotting scope. We keep detailed notes to record how many birds are on each nest, which becomes especially important when the young have hatched. Notes are also kept on the number of nests in each tree. After monitoring the birds weekly for about a month, their habits and movements begin to become familiar.

Hérons return to the valley annually to nest along our river. The presence of herons are an indicator of a healthy riparian ecosystem. Not only are they beautiful birds but they're also a sure sign that the Roaring Fork Conservancy is hard at work.



River Center Update

By *Tim O'Keefe*

Plans are moving ahead with the creation of the Conservancy's new education facility! The River Center will be "an innovative education center inspiring the community to experience, embrace, and protect our Valley's rivers." This March, the Conservancy sent requests for qualifications to local architects to begin the design team selection process. We will be selecting a team and beginning design work by late summer. Our River Center Capital Campaign will begin in the near future. To find out how you can support the River Center project, contact Carlyle Kyzer at (970) 927-2689 or at abwenzi@rof.net. For questions about the River Center project, contact Tim O'Keefe at (970) 927-1290 or tim@roaringfork.org.

Dogs Temporarily Banned on Emma Open Space Trail

By Lindsay Hoffmann

Recently the Conservancy recommended a temporary dog ban on the Rio Grande Trail connecting Emma to Basalt High School. The trail runs through Emma Open Space, land conserved jointly by the Conservancy and Pitkin County Open Space and Trails (OST), as well as through neighboring ranch lands. Pitkin County Commissioners have since approved the measure, which will take effect shortly, and remain in place until further notice.

The scenic Emma Trail is shared by pedestrians, equestrians, cross-country skiers, bikers, and dog-walkers. Unfortunately, and despite strict leash laws, there have been numerous complaints from both trail-users and neighbors regarding unleashed dogs on the trail. While the Conservancy regrets the need for action banning dogs, the impact of unleashed dogs on the Emma area has been too great to ignore. Not only have unleashed dogs harassed neighboring landowners and livestock, they threaten the conservation values of Emma Open Space, a significant wildlife migration corridor, by chasing wildlife. OST is currently seeking an enforcement officer to monitor trail usage at Emma, at which time we will revisit the ban.

Special Thank You's

Fishery Study Flies High with LightHawk

By Kristine Crandall

The Conservancy had the recent good fortune of working with LightHawk, a non-profit organization that supports environmental causes by providing airplane flights. Through the coordination efforts of LightHawk, Aspen pilot Hawk Greenway took Bill Miller on an eagle-eye tour of the Fryingpan and Roaring Fork Rivers. Miller is the principal investigator for the Fryingpan/Roaring Fork River Fishery Study, and was able to get a better feel for spawning habitat by viewing the rivers from above. Miller took dozens of digital photos of the entire study area, from Ruedi dam downstream along the Fryingpan River and then along the Roaring Fork River to the Mt. Sopris Tree Farm. The photos represent an important contribution to the study's fieldwork data. The fishery study will be completed at the end of 2002. We are very grateful to Hawk Greenway and Light Hawk for this opportunity.

RH Crossland Foundation

The R.H. Crossland Foundation has recently committed to a major sponsorship for the River Rendezvous, the Conservancy's annual fundraising event. Ralph H. Crossland was a wonderful man who lived a full life as a self-taught musician. People often said that his warm and engaging personality always made you feel at home and that he never met a stranger. His children remember his laughter, gentle nature, and generous spirit. Ralph's son Rusty talks of his dad as one of his greatest heroes and, along with his wife Ann, and mother Caroline (Ralph's wife of 52 years), decided to create the R.H. Crossland Foundation to honor Ralph's memory and to foster a legacy of helping those who are less fortunate. The Roaring Fork Conservancy would like to thank Rusty, Ann, J Frost Merriott CPA (Executive Director), and the R.H. Crossland Foundation for their kind donations and continued support.

wish list

Raft
Raft supplies (paddles and life jackets)
Front wheel drive vehicle
35 mm camera
Digital camera
Power Point projector
Computers (Pentium III or newer)

If you would like to contribute a wish list item to the Roaring Fork Conservancy, please contact us at 927-1290. Thank you very much!

Water, Water Everywhere

Not so. Our precious water supply is dwindling. Every small effort you make does make a difference! Some suggestions for water conservation:

- Don't run water unnecessarily. Turn it off while shaving, brushing teeth, and scrubbing dishes, etc.
- Keep drinking water in the refrigerator, rather than letting the tap run cool.
- Defrost frozen food in the fridge overnight, instead of using water to thaw it.
- Scrape dishes instead of rinsing them. Put a small basin of water in the sink to collect water. Reuse this gray water for plants or cleaning.
- Only run the dishwasher when it is full and only on special occasions.
- Take showers instead of baths and make them short.
- Use the shortest wash cycle your dishwasher allows. Replace old dishwashers as they use twice to three times as much water as newer, more efficient models.

For more ideas on how you can make a difference, check out our website at www.roaringfork.org

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"I brake for Elders"
John Stokes
The Tracking Project

We have much to learn if we stop and listen to those who are the keepers and stewards who have come before us. Within our community they are sounding the alarms, to be mindful of place, to value and honor our precious resources.

Sopris Creek recently ran dry; not by the hand of Mother Nature but by our own doing. This is the law of the land and the right granted by senior water designation. With dry conditions, we will learn what it means to live in the "arid" west and the need to conserve water.

The elders have been here and are able to see the changes. They are speaking out. Are we listening?

Jeanne M. Beaudry
 Executive Director



SCOTT FOLSOM

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