



President's Message

I hope everyone is having a good summer and getting in some fishing. I missed our Classic, but had a great trip to Montana and fished the Yellowstone.

There are a few things going on with our club that you may be interested in knowing. First, the Board approved an update of our Policies & Procedures and these will be posted on our website in the near future. Probably the biggest change has to do with our membership requirements which are changed to:

- A. Be at least 18 years old at the time of application. (Note: Family membership includes candidate, spouse or partner and children under 18 years of age.)
- B. Attend two general club meetings within a two-year period and participate in two of the following:
(Club Outing, Club Conservation Event, Club Educational Event, or Club Board Meeting).
- C. Become familiar with the aims, purposes (By-Laws) and membership of the Club.
- D. Have a Club member agree to sponsor their application for Club membership.

In addition, prior members who left in good standing may simply return to the club by paying the annual membership fee and do not have to go through the membership process. We hope this makes becoming a member a little easier while still ensuring candidates know what being in our club is all about.



Presidents Message (cont.)

Also, myself and hopefully several other club members will be meeting with local WDFW officials later this month to discuss Squalicum lake. We have been collecting creel census cards and reporting catch info since before I joined the club. After two years of not stocking the lake, WDFW stocked the lake this year (I heard it was fishing well). This meeting is to discuss our partnership with WDFW, what can be done to ensure consistent stocking of Squalicum, and to make sure that we have good communication going forward.

Finally, the Board is moving toward having an online mini auction, probably this fall, for some of the excess fishing equipment we have collected. If you are interested in helping let me know.

-Mike

Raise a Beer and Cast a Fly Event

July 29 Terramar Brewstillery

6:00 PM - 9:00 PM



Summers in North Sound offer a dizzying array of fishing opportunities, each placing special demands on those who pursue their quarry with the fly. Whether bombing a Clouser 80 feet off the beach for migrating salmon, or landing wind-resistant poppers inside phantom spaces in the lily pads while seated in a float tube, the casting challenges are numerous.

North Sound TU and 4CFF hope you'll join us in celebrating our region's fly fishing bounty at the Fly-Casting Olympics in July! We are once again partnering with Fourth Corner Fly Fishers, with expert, certified casting instructors on hand to walk participants through this year's casting skills course. Come test your mettle with your fishy friends at Terramar Brewstillery in Edison.

The event is open to everyone, including spectators and hecklers, and there's no fee to compete. Participants are encouraged to register in advance to help us gauge numbers. Bring your favorite single-handed rod (and leader, line, and reel), but we will also have some on hand if you need a loaner.

The casting course will be laid out in Terramar's "backyard" field, with the course officially open around 6:00 pm. Please support our generous hosts by enjoying their wide selection of [food and cold drinks](#) (everyone is responsible for their own tab), and casting responsibly.

4CFF Calendar of Events

July 21-23 Outing: Upper Skagit River BC

All club members and their registered guests are welcome. Host Bob Jorgenson

July 23 Monthly Meeting 5:30 PM-9:00 PM: Steve Hiller, Fishing in Argentina

Holiday Inn and Suites by the Airport 4260 Mitchell Way.

July 28 Outing: Bear Paw Lake Hike In

All club members and their registered guests are welcome. Host Jeff Taylor

July 29 Raise a Beer and Cast a Fly 6:00 PM: North Sound TU and 4CFF Fly-Casting Olympics.

Terramar Brewstillery 5712 Gilkey Avenue Bow, Washington
Casters and spectators are welcome, no fee. Host: North Sound TU

August 4 - Board Meeting 6:30 PM

Trinity Lutheran Church 119 Texas St. All club members welcome.

August 22: Annual Club Picnic (No August Monthly Meeting)

All club members and their registered guests are welcome.

Norma Williams' home:

2305 Crestline Drive

Bellingham, WA 98229

The annual potluck will be held this year on Saturday, August 22, from noon until 5:00PM. Norma Williams, whose husband Bill Hall was a longtime member and past-president, has generously offered to host us in her beautiful backyard on Alabama Hill. The club will be providing barbecued bacon cheeseburgers and hot dogs with all the fixings. You can sign up to help with setup, or cleanup, or to bring an appetizer, salad, side dish, or dessert. All details will be on Zeffy when you register to attend. We are looking forward to a fun afternoon of camaraderie and fishing tales!

Roche Lake / Tunkwa Lake Outing Report

May 20-26 *by John Sanders (Roche) and Bob (Tunkwa)*



Ten 4CFF folks headed to the hallowed fly fishing waters of Roche Lake, BC on Wed May 20 to Sun May 24 (some went on to Tunkwa Lake for a few more days). We stayed at the Roche Lake West Provincial Campground, but we were not the only ones who thought it would be a good idea to fish Roche in mid-late May. On Saturday we counted 55 boats just on the south half of the lake! Nonetheless, there was room for everybody, and Roche Lake did not disappoint, although the wind provided some challenges. Sunday May 24 was particularly

unpleasant due to the sustained winds. Fortunately, Roche has several points and bays that make it possible to find an escape from the wind if you just *have* to fish. Chironomids fished at 12-20' accounted for the most fish, with some members having 20+ fish days. These were fished both under an indicator and also "naked" on a 20' leader allowed to slowly sink and then slowly retrieve. Micro leeches suspended under an indicator also proved successful. The surprise of the trip was a couple of dedicated dry fly members who discovered 100-200 large trout who were swimming in 2-6' of water in the boat launch bay. This provided a couple of days of epic sight fishing to Rainbows up to 24". The last couple of hours in the evening at the boat launch proved very memorable for dry fly fishing on a couple of the days. A few members decided to brave the dreadful 1-mile road into Black Lake for more isolated fishing. They were rewarded with a couple of fish while they watched three well-known local stillwater guides anchored in one spot haul in about 50 fish! This was one of those humbling days when you are reminded that it is called *going fishing* and not *going catching*. As always, the camaraderie and conversation around the evening campfire to end each day was very enjoyable. There are reasons why Roche Lake is so popular and so famous, and this was a rewarding outing for those who were able to make it!



John, Jeff, Jim, and Bob casting dry flies to big fish after dinner

Roche Lake / Tunkwa Lake (cont.)

Bruce Aigner and Bob Jorgenson continued on to Tunkwa Lake Resort meeting up with John Connell. Meanwhile, Mike Riber camped at the Provincial Park. An unexpected pontoon failure cut Mike's trip short but he did spend a day fighting the incessant wind and had some success. The rest of us braved the wind with limited success with Bruce having the best luck stripping emergers in the shallows. Tunkwa can be a difficult lake, particularly after a big wind storm.



John Connell found Tunkwa productive despite wind



Jim with the right combination



John brings one of several to the net



Guest Reed Williams tried Logan Lake

Big OK (Island) Lake Outing Report

June 5-8 *by Angus (with comment from Dennis)*

Big OK Lake is an hour off the main road and is a little bumpy, but fine if you take your time. It's a nice size lake with lots of shallow water shoals just right for fishing. The lake is at a high elevation and we were a little early for the big sedge hatch, or really any hatches. The fishing was fun with big fish caught strip trolling a black leech. The biggest fish I caught was 24" and a local fisherman next to me had a nice one at 7.5 lbs. I heard reports of 10 pounders being caught. Most everyone was trolling but a few who were using indicators only did it for a short time. Even though there are only 7 campsites there was plenty of space for the group of us since several of us used the same campsite. Looking forward to fishing there next year!

-Angus

From Dennis Duncan:

My best trout weighed 10.1 pounds and Ralph had two on about that same size, but lost them at the boat. Ralph had a knack for finding the big fish! Weather turned cold and snowed again, and the wind was cold and nasty. The lake water was very clear with the bigger fish in the deeper water. One bay was filled with small 10 inch trout that would bite most anything. The big fish did not come easily and one day I got skunked. One night Ralph and I tied black and purple mini-leeches and the next day I caught some nice fish on them. Light green scuds also worked for both small and large fish.



One of the nicer days



Kevin fighting a big one

Big OK (Island) Lake cont



Ralph hooks a big one!



Angus is up to speed



Camping View

The Methow Classic

June 26-28 *by Kevin Formway*

The goal of The Classic has always been to provide members and member candidates with time to get to know one another, while providing an opportunity to experience a variety of fly fishing. This year did not disappoint! At least seventeen members plus three member candidates attended. And there was a variety of fishing opportunities for everyone ranging from small streams (Boulder Creek), to small river wade fishing (Twisp and Chewuch), to medium river wade fishing (Methow), to small lakes (Beaver, Buzzard, Frost, and Buck), and of course the main event, a day-long self guided float trip down the Methow River. Evenings were spent around propane campfires discussing (among other things) the day's activities, plans for the next day, and fishing techniques.

Historically the classic has been held in early July, but in recent years low water and uncomfortably hot afternoon temperatures led us to move the event up a couple of weeks. This turned out to be a great decision! The river level was perfect and the weather conditions could not have been better. Cool mornings, warm afternoons, and perfect sleeping temperatures. There were a few showers but nothing significant, except for a torrential downpour on the Methow River on Friday, and Beaver Lake on Saturday where it rained hard the whole time we were there. Oh, did I mention that the temperature was in the low forties? It's been a long time since I've been that cold!

I can't say for certain, but my guess is that John Sanders caught more fish than anyone. While fishing at Beaver Lake on Thursday I saw him getting a lot of action. He told me to fish a black leech 12' below an indicator, which I did; and just like that I began hooking up! The next day I bumped into him on the Methow, and once again he was catching fish. I'm pretty certain he was Euro nymphing. I didn't catch many fish that day but I consider the float trip a major win since I did not tip my raft over...



Paula's beautiful photo!

The Methow Classic cont.

Saturday evening was a potluck dinner, with hamburgers and all the fixings (including bacon!) provided by the club. So lots of tasty food and drinks, good company, and temperature in the upper seventies. Does it get much better? I don't think so. Special thanks to John Sanders for organizing, and his skill at the grill. And extra special thanks to the Tuckers for providing delicious homemade ice cream for dessert!



Steve hard at work on his line.

In summary The Classic was a resounding success. Great camaraderie, great venue, great conditions, and great fishing opportunities. The only significant injury that I'm aware of is Frank Koterba breaking his wrist fighting a giant Cutthroat (so he says...). We even survived a wildfire that threatened to strand a few of our members and actually forced Winthrop to be evacuated. Fortunately the wildfire was relatively quickly contained with only minor damage, so the overall impact only served to add to our adventure...

I'm already looking forward to the next Classic! That said, there are a lot of other outings between now and then....

-Kevin



It can rain in the Methow Valley



Boulder Creek Brookie

Upper Skagit River Outing Report

July 22-23 *by Bob*

"Picture the way an untamed stream should look: clear water, cold temperatures well into August, and a variety of trout habitats—from boulders and wide, flat runs to logjams that have been in place for years. A perfect stream to Euro nymph or indicator fish, with a maximum 50-foot cast required."

That was the preview write-up I provided as host for the trip. What I forgot to mention was the incredible army of mosquitoes awaiting the us at the campground. While the lake was at full capacity and undeniably beautiful, the insect swarms rivaled anything you'd encounter in Alaska.

Add 96-degree heat and a nearby wildfire to the mix, and you have an accurate picture of this year's Upper Skagit Outing. The Hozomeen Fire exploded from just one acre on Tuesday to 250 acres by Wednesday, uncomfortably close to our campsite. As a result, most participants cut the two-day trip down to one.

Thankfully, the river cooperated and everyone landed a few fish. And while we missed the camaraderie around a campfire—even propane fire pits were prohibited—the bugs mercifully didn't follow us to the water. With our changing climate forcing us to rethink traditional trip schedules, this outing will likely be the next one we adjust.



Upper Skagit Beauty



Fire above the campground play area

Ed note: There are several private lakes in the BC area and we asked Dennis Duncan to share his recent experience. Could this lake be a destination for a club outing?

Seven Half Diamond Ranch Experience

by Dennis Duncan

The Seven Half Diamond Ranch and Batstone Lake located 34 miles southeast of Merritt, BC, offers a unique fly fishing experience featuring trophy Kamloops trout and comfortable modern log cabin accommodations. This trip followed our Roche Lake outing in late May and provided a memorable mix of quality fishing and scenic surroundings.



The Ranch

Our group—John Sanders, Steve Wimer, Rick Lingbloom, and I—rented the large log cabin and fished the lake for three days. The total cost was about \$360 USD per person (approximately \$120 per day), with only food, boats, and fishing tackle needed.



On the ranch itself is a private lake roughly the size of Pass Lake, offering both shallow and deep-water fishing. Batstone Lake has hosted several Canadian national fly fishing championships and consistently produces large, healthy fish, with Rainbow trout reaching up to 10 pounds. Owner Jim O'Connor takes great pride in preserving the fishery. He inspects boats for invasive species, requires the use of soft catch-and-release nets, and limits the number of anglers to eight at a time. These measures help maintain both the quality of the fish and the overall experience.

Seven Half Diamond cont.**The Fishing**

Jim provided helpful tips on productive areas of the lake and recommended effective flies, which set us up well for the trip. On the first day, fishing in a cold light rain, I trolled shallow weedy bays using vampire leeches and organza mayfly nymphs. I caught five fish, including a



particularly fat 22-inch trout weighing about 4 pounds. The second day brought sunshine, but the fishing slowed for me. Steve, however, had an excellent day using chironomids and landed more than 15 fish, including two impressive 23-inch trout. [Ed note: although John organized the trip he couldn't catch a cold!]

On the final day, I followed Steve's lead and switched to chironomid fishing, which resulted in my best day of the trip. I landed my personal best trout at 7.7 pounds, along with several other strong fish weighing 6.5, 6.0, 3.5, and 2.0 pounds, plus two additional fish I did not weigh. Six of those fish were caught on Steve's Rain or Shine fly, while the 6.5-pounder took my organza mayfly nymph. That last fish took me deep into my backing, and I actually had to turn the kayak around to chase it down and regain some line.

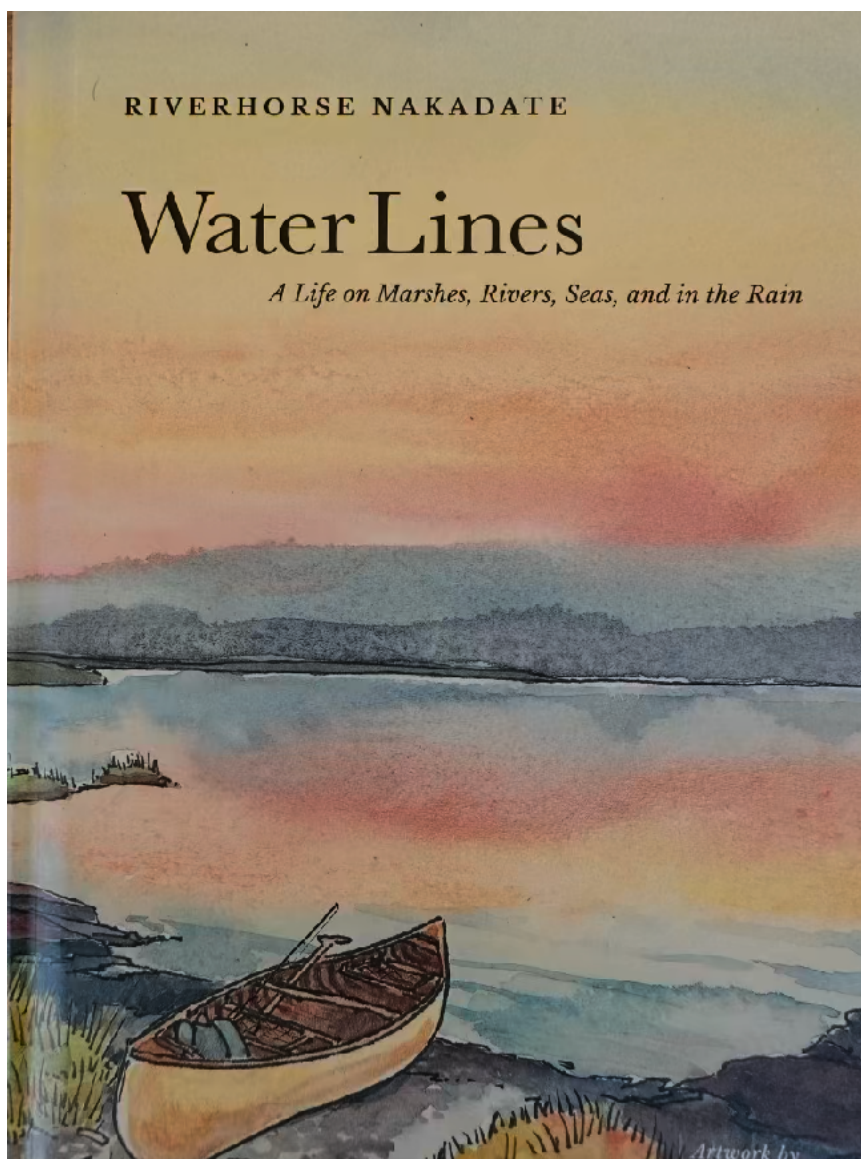
As with all fishing, conditions varied from day to day. While I wouldn't describe the ranch as a highly technical fishery, success clearly rewards solid skills along and a bit of luck. This would make a good outing for the club and I'm planning to return next season. For the cost of a motel you get some world class fishing and a chance to catch a trophy trout.



A Book Report: *Water Lines*

A Life on Marshes, Rivers, Seas and in the Rain
by Riverhorse Nakadate

I have not written a "Book Report" since the fifth grade. I am an avid reader but usually 20-30 pages at a time. I simply do not take the time to sit down and enjoy a good book. I read the first 135 pages of this book in one sitting enjoying each one of his life adventures. His writing transported me away from the complexities of our world. *Water Lines* is a collection of 32 essays written by fisherman, conservationist, outdoorsman, and Patagonia representative Riverhorse Nakadate. The blend of fly fishing, outdoor exploration and human interaction made his observations a pleasure to experience. Traveling the world with canoe, fly rod and often surf board in tow, he writes from the heart, and his essays reminded me of how important it is to save our wild places. The artwork by Sarah Stephens makes this inappropriate as a Kindle purchase. She painted stunning water colors that will enhance your reading experience.



I found this at Village Books but you can also find it on the Patagonia web site or even purchase a new pillow for a billionaire's yacht by buying it online (sorry Bezos!). As I wrote in the fifth grade "I really liked this book and would recommend it to a friend".

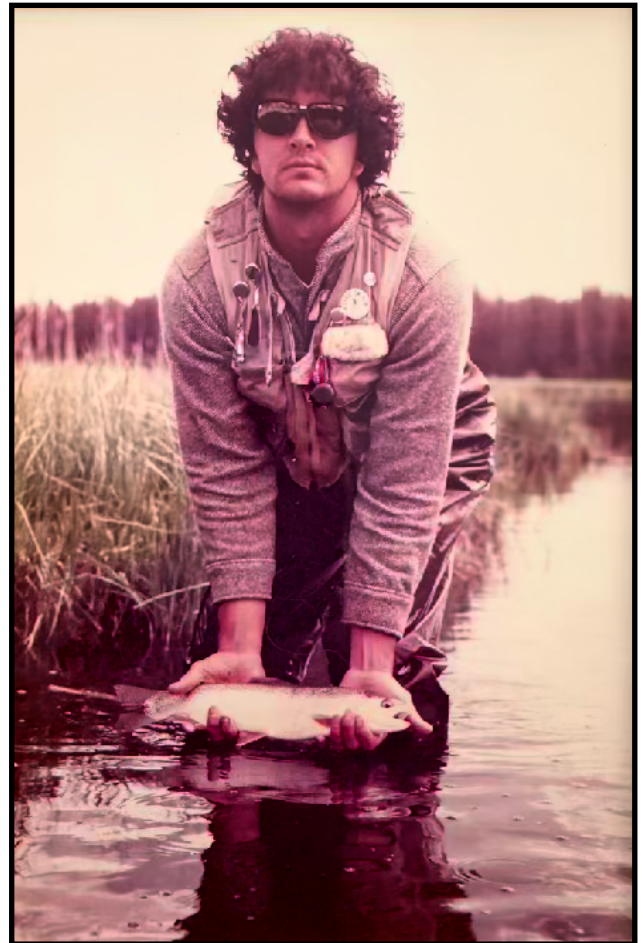
-Bob

Meet New Member

Chris Smith

For those that I haven't had an opportunity to meet or even those I have met and would like to know a little bit about me, here it is. I was born and lived in Southern California for 68 years. That is where I was first introduced to fly fishing. In my early teens, I saw my good friend and neighbor practicing fly casting in his front yard. Being curious what he was doing, I walked over, and he explained he was learning to cast with a fly rod. I decided that I was going to learn too. My friend was also learning to tie flies, so I had to learn that as well. We took many fishing trips to Idaho, Montana and Wyoming with great fishing. Years later I got married and having a young family and little money or time, fly fishing was put on hold. Fast forward 40 years (yes, that was a long pause!) and my old friend gifted me a fly rod and reel, guess he figured 40 years was long enough and I started fly fishing with him once again. Then last year my wife and I moved to Bellingham. Once over the initial unpacking and setting up our new home, I looked to see what fly fishing resources existed in Bellingham. I found The Confluence Fly Shop and stopped by and spoke with Scott. I

asked if he knew of any fly fishing clubs and he mentioned the 4th Corner Fly Fishers. I looked them up online and found that they were have a monthly meeting the next week, so I decided to go and see what they were all about. I showed up at the country club that was listed but couldn't find where the meeting was taking place. I finally asked a club employee and was told that there wasn't a meeting that night, the club was having an annual BBQ someplace else. Undeterred I waited for the next scheduled meeting and was glad to finally meet the club and its members. Everyone was very welcoming and by the end of the meeting I knew I wanted to join. So far, I've been on a few of the outings, taken casting lessons with Marion and Frank, participated in the fly tying sessions and enjoy the presentations and information provided at the monthly meetings. That's enough for now, but I do want to thank the club for giving me a place to continue to learn and grow as a fly fisherman. Best regards and tight lines to all the members of the 4CFF!



Chris during an earlier time...he still fishes in a vest

Meet New Member

Gary Weil

I grew up in Birmingham Alabama where my parents were both bass fisherman on the Coosa river and they showed me the way.

After medical school, I moved to Seattle to do my residency and then lived in Alaska where I resumed my love for fishing. I started to dabble in fly fishing about 5-7 years ago but didn't get serious until we moved to Bellingham one year ago. Last summer I was playing pickleball at Cornwall Park where there was a fly casting seminar going on and just went over to the guys and said that I recently moved here and wanted to get serious about fly fishing and they were emphatic about joining 4th Corner fly fishing club and the rest is history. The club is amazing-everyone is so inviting, helpful, and there is no such thing as a stupid question.

I look forward to being an official member and to lots of fishing experiences in the future!

Cheers,

Gary Weil



**"People who don't fish can't get it. They don't understand what happens to you...
How present you are." Michael Keaton**

Meet New Member

Dale Aune

I grew up as a farm kid in North Dakota and started fishing at a young age in the Midwest, targeting perch, bluegill, walleye, and northern pike. I did a lot of ice fishing with my dad and my brother, who still lives in Minnesota and frequently fishes Lake of the Woods.

I moved here in 1996 and spent a lot of time doing saltwater bay fishing and some freshwater fishing. I have also fished with my late in-laws up by 100 Mile House in the Cariboo region along the Interlakes Highway (Highway 24), trolling flies on lakes like Green, Sheridan, Decca, and Higgins.

I promised my in-laws I would take up fly fishing, and I inherited a lot of gear from them. While I have caught fish trolling, I have only caught a few while actually fly fishing, so I have a lot to learn. I joined the club to learn how to fish different rivers, understand what gear to use, and improve my skills. I am excited to learn fly tying and casting. With the help of Steve and Frank, I have already earned my bronze casting award and am currently working toward silver.

I am looking forward to meeting everyone, sharing stories, and learning from the club.



A Word About Membership Requirements *by Mike Riber*

We are happy to welcome these new members to our club. It might be good to explain how membership requirements have changed over the years.

As a club we continue to evolve and our membership requirements are no exception. When the club was founded, I understand there was even discussion about capping the number of members. When I joined the club, you only had to attend a set number (*four I think*) of meetings within a year. When fly fishing became more popular around the time of the movie "A River Runs Through It" our membership grew significantly. Members came and went and most didn't contribute much to the club and rarely went fly fishing.

Membership Requirements cont.

At this point a group of core members met to discuss the future of our club and what membership should look like. It was agreed that membership should be participatory and we should be more than a social organization. Membership requirements were adjusted to ensure new members knew what the club was about and to reflect a sense that being a member of our club entailed a certain level of commitment to our aims and purposes.

Since those early adjustments to our membership requirements, we have softened the requirements to compensate for an aging and decreasing membership, but tried to retain the sense that being a member of our club involves more than simply paying your yearly dues.

We hope the new membership requirements are the right mix for the present and that our club will continue to grow and evolve in a positive way that truly does support our aims and purposes.



John Sanders captured this sunset at Red Lake on an outing in 2025

The Continuing Chopaka Problem

Supplemental Water Supply Issues *by Bob*

Background: Chopaka Lake receives supplemental water from a ditch/primitive culvert that ties the lake to Toats Coulee Creek just west of the Chopaka Mountain slopes emptying into the south end of the lake. Water rights in the area are either unrecorded or lost as the original agreement and construction filings date back so far that they are largely unretrievable by state agencies. The current consensus is that some time in the 1960s a diversion infrastructure was constructed with the goal to stabilize the lake's water levels from a volatile, groundwater- dependent basis into a managed trophy rainbow trout fishery. Because the system was built decades ago, the aging network of dirt ditches and primitive culverts that tie the Creek to the South end of Chopaka Lake remains highly vulnerable to blockages and environmental degradation. Volunteers from fly fishing clubs have intervened to maintain its flow in the past. During a recent visit Dennis Duncan found a note asking lake users to contact WDFW and the Department of Ecology to come up with a solution to the water level problem. It starts.....

"ATTENTION LAKE CHOPAKA ANGLERS and ENTHUSIASTS: HELP SAVE THE LAKE

Lake Chopaka is at least 7 feet below normal and is dying. The Toats Coulee Creek diversion at the south end is not functioning correctly and last fall's emergency backhoe work was not enough to fix it."

The note goes on to specify solutions and list the individuals to contact. It reads as though nothing is being done about the problem. While a permanent solution is not yet in place, things are not as desperate as the note posted on the board at Chopaka implies.....

According to the Wenatchee Fly Fishers newsletter, they and the Methow club met with WDFW officials and the land owner who owns the property where the dam is located at the lake in September 2025 to discuss solutions to the water problem. The WDFW subsequently worked on the diversion culvert in November 2025 to unplug the diversion dam that had been obstructed but more work needs to be done. It appears that there is a long term solution in the works. While the note posted at the lake suggests that nothing is being done to repair the water source the representatives from WDFW are working on the water rights issue and protecting the culvert from long term damage. I believe our best action would be to contact those addressing the issue and encourage them to keep working on a permanent solution to supplying supplemental water to Chopaka Lake thanking them for their intervention so far.

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