

“Circle of Life”

Art installation for Burning Man 2026

Concept:

To bring awareness, education to promote conservation of our ecosystem in nature through the lifecycle of Trout and the need for solutions caused by the growth of humanity. The long term goal would be to create and install a working fish ladder on the Columbia river. This project would be the launch pad an on going community collaboration project as is could potentially be largest community art project ever produced.

This concept would be “larger than us” (more important than our own existence) and connect our own life, to the life of a trout and what each fish life cycle is. Which most people feel are the lowest form of life, furthering the point that every life, person matters we all play apart if the universe.

The Concept would be a a circle from birds eye view with 6 “stages” of life in each area. The center of the circle would be open with a moc real fish Ladder t(that later could turn into the real mission of the project, conservation) This would allow people could climb up (like a fish) to the top of the fish ladder (GCD), this would be where all of the information about our mission would be, how to get involved and all the data dump . The top of the fish ladder would be the tallest part of the installation, where you would be able to look out over the installation in 360 view to see up and over the entire circle of life.

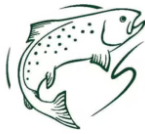
Each stage of the circle would be the size reflective of how much time we spend in our lives in that stage of existence. For example, Childhood would be smaller than adulthood, but larger than death since that is the smallest part of our lives for most.

The entire concept could have 7-10 fishes, each fish reflective of the size they are at the time of the life cycle. The smallest fish could start around 2x4ft and the largest adult fish be 10x20 that you can walk though.

The fish would be made from metal that is laser cut out to have the scales removed. The scales would than be replace in time with ceramic tiles that would hang in each of their place. Each tile would be decorated by the community to be reflective on the most important thing to them at their stage of the life. The children would decorate the ties for that stage of life, and people in nursing home and in hospice could decorate the tiles for the fish in the fish representing of death and so on. This is how we get the community involved, how we will be able to keep this thing going after burning man and how we get people to want to save our ecosystem we as humanity have destroyed. On each of the larger fish that could walk though would have empty and solid scales that would represent constellations of out night sky. Bringing attention to the lost of the night sky, which is how we used to travel our world.

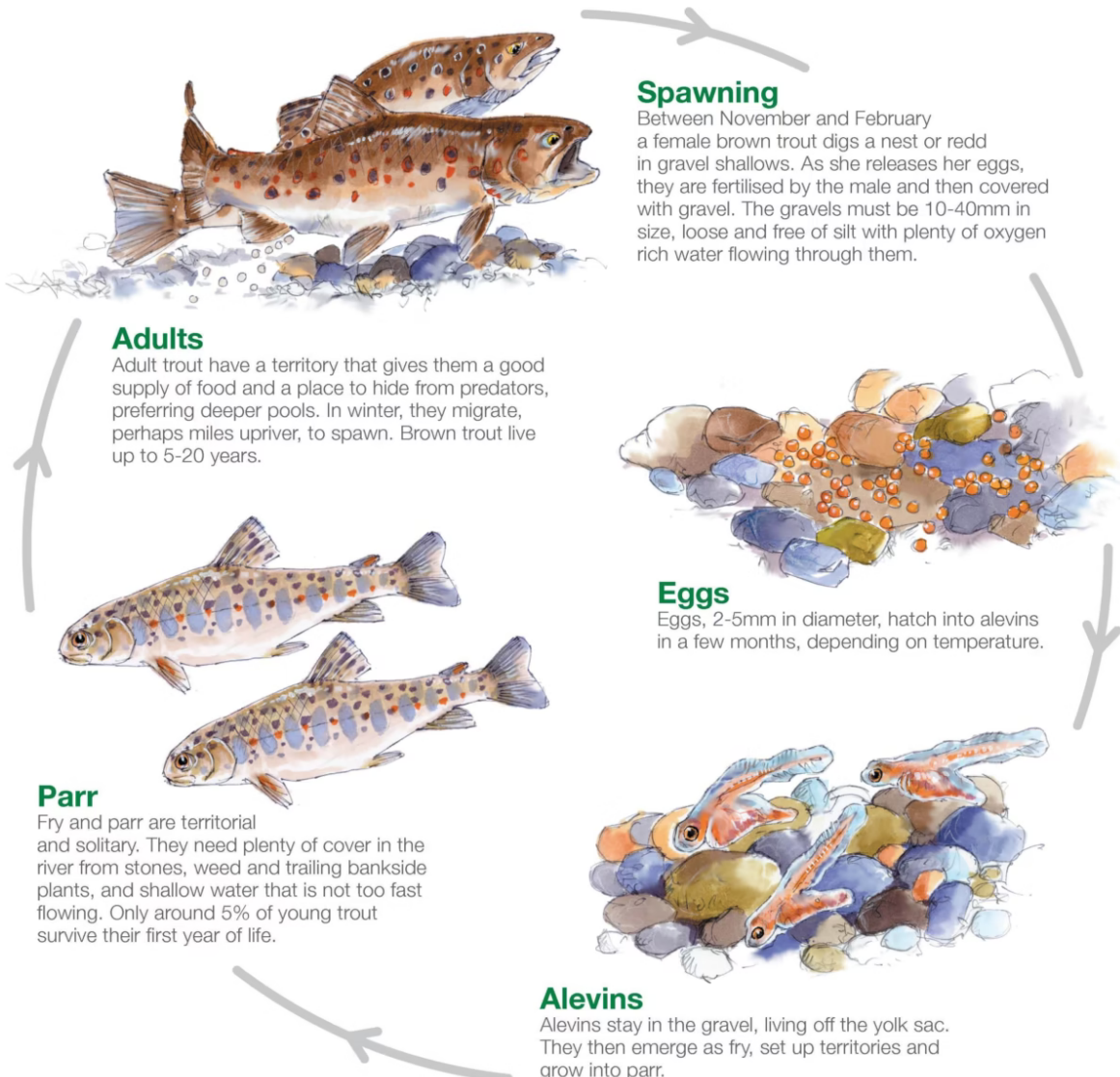
Surrounding each fish would be taller pillars (slightly above head height) that have a variety of fabric width, and colors that would reflect each aspect of time in the lifecycle of the fish and humanity. Think long ribbons that could flow with the wind, almost like you are swimming with the current right along side this massive fish. These pillars would also help create a maze effect, encoring people to stay longer, see what aspects of life they might have missed, each people would have their own unique sense of space just like the aspect of life.

Each of the larger fish can be assembled by bolting each side of the fish together on sight. That way they are be moved, and stacked like a Russian doll on trucks and assemble with ease in multiple cities along the Columbia post burning man.

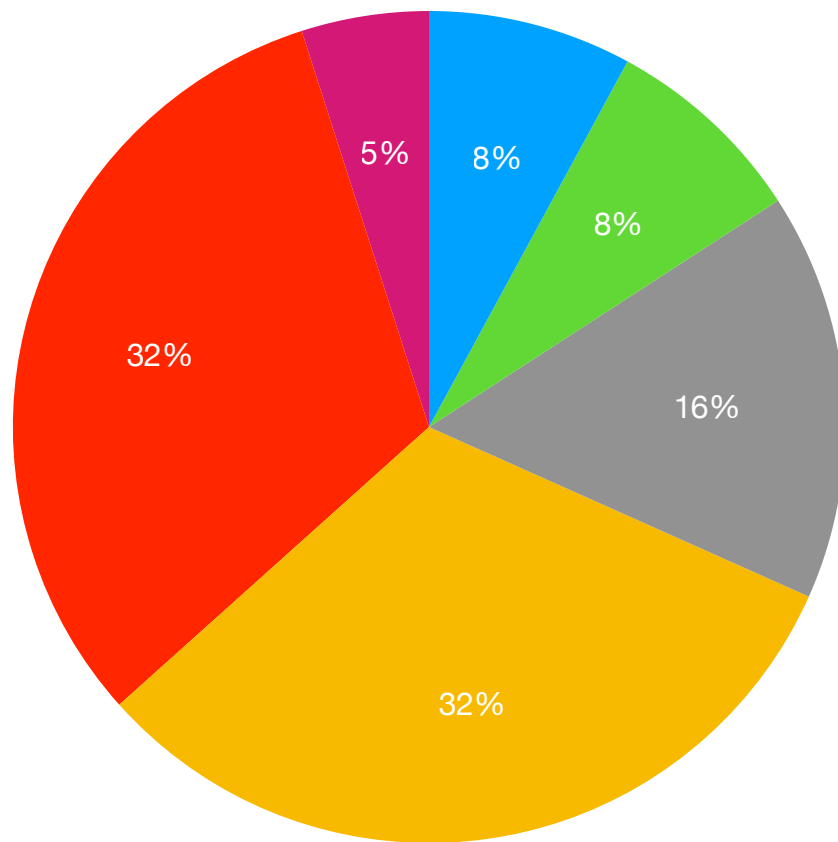


WILD TROUT TRUST

The Brown Trout Life Cycle



● Birth & Emergence ● Growth & Exploration ● Journey & Transformation
 ● Adulthood and Fulfillment ● Return and reproduction ● Death and Renewal



Stages of life parallels

1. Birth & Emergence

Trout:

Stage of the egg (alevins)

-Eggs are laid in gravels nests, in cold clean riverbeds, the alevins are hatches but stay hidden, nourished by their yolk sacs until they can swim

Human:

Infancy/ Early Childhood

-New life dependent on protection, warmth and nourishment, the environment family, community and culture determines. The survival and future development

Symbolism: Innocence, fragility

Concept: This is where you would enter the circle of life Tons of Glass balls, starting small and slowly getting bigger to the birth to a singular fish 2x4FT (the ceramic tiles will be impressions of new borns baby feet. A gentle reminded of how small we once where.

2. Growth & Exploration

Trout:

Stage of the Fry/ Parr

The fry swim freely, learning to find food and shelter, they develop markings and explore further but stay within their home stream.

Human:

Stage of childhood & Adolescence

the stage of growth, play and exploration and identity formation.

Beginning to separate from the parents while still within a safe environment

Symbolism: Learning, exploration, curiosity, sense of independence and self awareness

Concept: 2-3 slightly larger fish, growing in each size. Getting bigger, running around with friends, finding your place 4x6-6x10 ft in size (not quite big enough to enter into each once)

3. Journey & Transformation

Trout:

Stage of the Smolt

Physiological transformations to adapt from freshwater to saltwater and a migration towards the oceans

Human: Young Adulthood

Leaving home, stepping out into the world, seeking purpose and enduring trial

Symbolism: Transition, risk, transformational, leaving the familiar behind, a rite of passage, adventure and metamorphosis

Concept is a large fish 8x16 feet that you can walk through and see all of the tiles, constellations and art that the reflective generation wants to share with you.

4. Adulthood & Fulfillment

Trout:

Stage of an Ocean Adult

The trout thrives in the open oceans, growing, strong and mature, faces predators, currents and distance. The test of survival.

Human:

Adulthood, Building a career, family, creative works, establishing legacy and identity.

Symbolism: power, experience, mastery, abundance, productivity, stability and contribution

Concept is a large fish 10x20 feet that you can walk through and see all of the tiles, constellations and art that the reflective generation wants to share with you.

5. Return & Reproduction

Trout:

Stage of Spawning Adult

Returns upstream, often to its birthplace to spawn, battles obstacles, waterfalls, dams and extreme exhaustion.

Human:

Parenthood/ Mentorship / legacy

Returning to roots, giving back to the community and nurturing the next wave of life

Symbolism: Perseverance, memory, and sacrifice for the next generation with wisdom, generatively and renewal

Concept is a large fish 10x20 feet that you can walk through that is pregnant, bringing back more colorful glass balls that could hang within the fish like a chandelier, as well as all of the tiles, constellations and art that the reflective generation wants to share with you.

6. Death & Renewal

Trout:

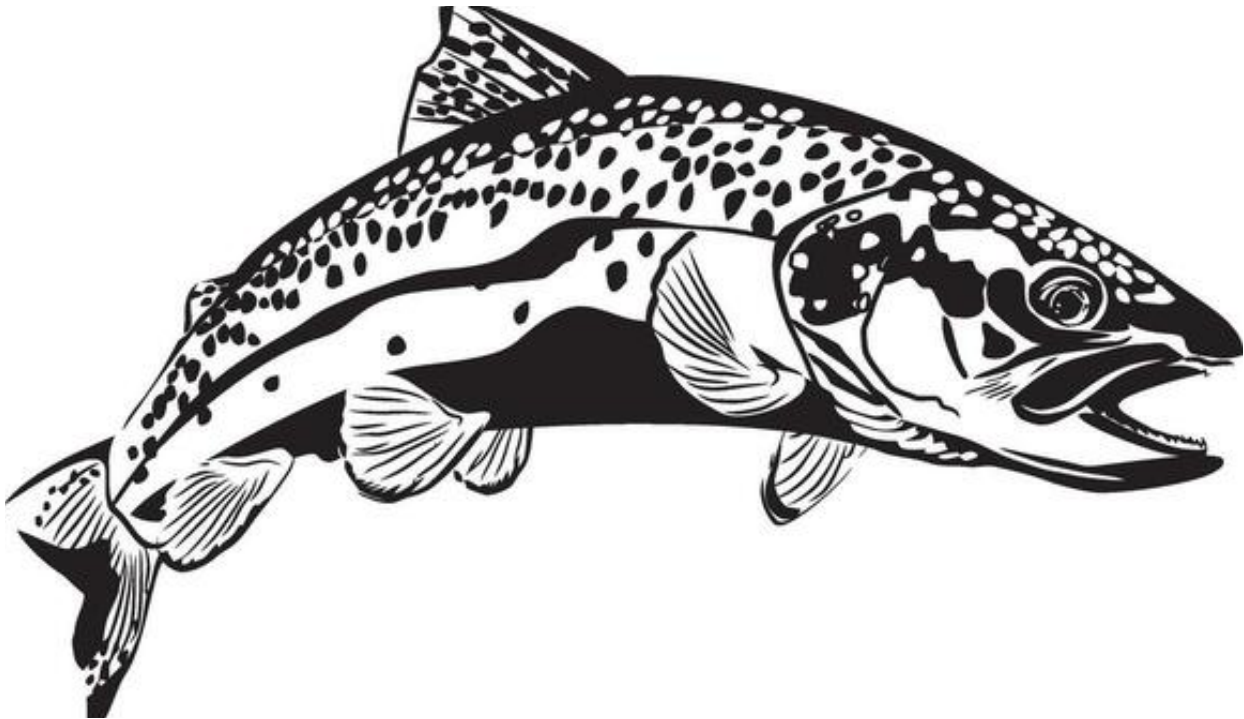
After spawning, many trout die, their bodies then feed the river's ecosystem. Nutrients return to nourish the eggs for the next generation.

Human:

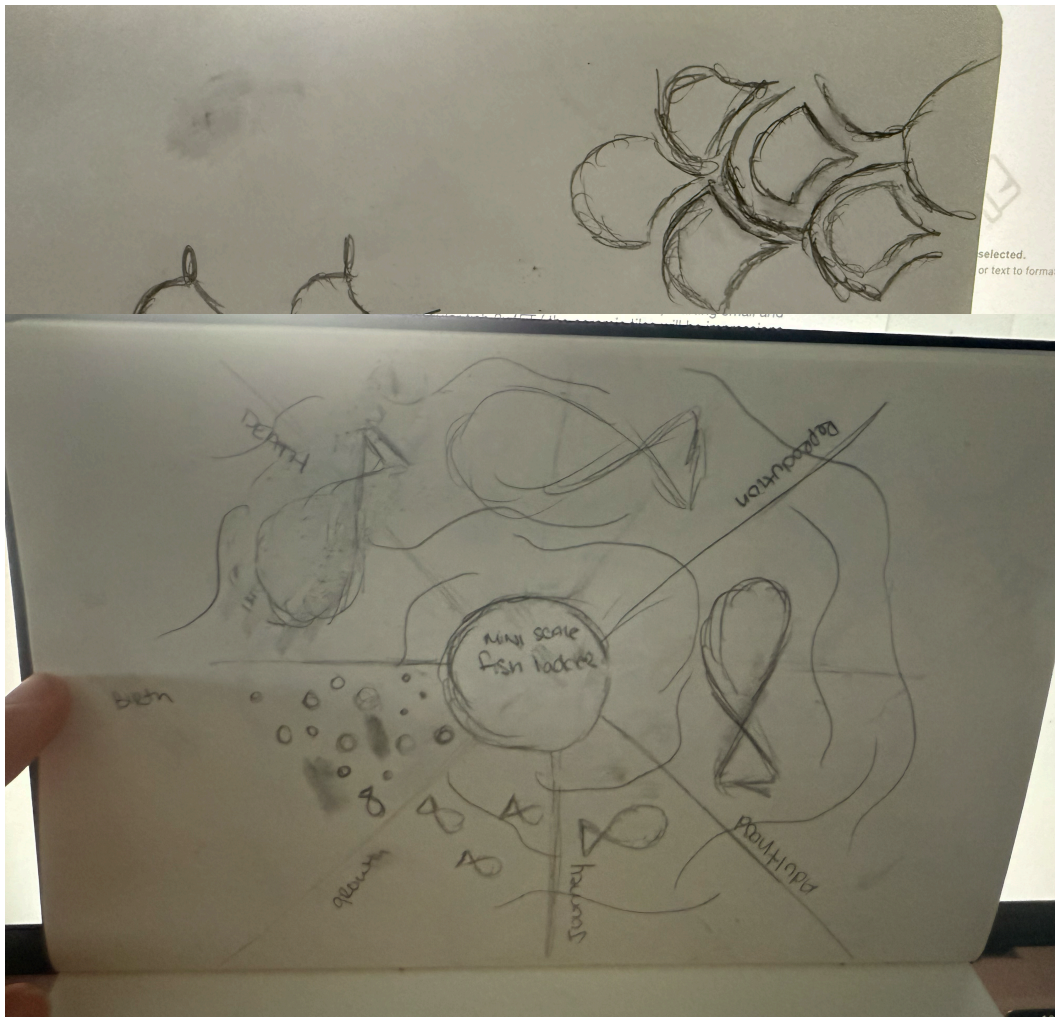
Elderhood, death and legacy. Letting go, reflecting and passing knowledge and energy onwards.

Symbolism: Return to the earth, cyclical, renewal and external transformation .

Concept is a large fish 10x20 feet that you can walk through that is dying, scars are prevalent, maybe part of the fin is broken, a state of worn, and the cost of the beauty of life. As you see all of the tiles, constellations and art that the reflective generation wants to share with you. This stage would hopefully be done in collaboration with people on hospice, and near the end stage of life, with the greatest questions of all. What was the aspect of life you cherish most and want all to experience.



Big Metal 3D trout with scales removed to be replaced with ceramic tiles, glass and metal.



Ariel View of installation.