

PRESS RELEASE

Boise River Side Channel Gravel Augmentation



The Boise Valley Fly Fishers club (BVFF) has completed a habitat improvement project in a side channel of the Boise River between Glenwood bridge and the head of Eagle Island. The club added 10 yards of smaller gravels to improve trout spawning habitat and worked with Boise Flood District 10 to improve the large woody debris in the side channel to help improve trout fry survival.

The club obtained the needed stream alteration permits and created a habitat improvement plan in cooperation with fishery experts from BioAnalysts and the Idaho Fish and Game. We were very fortunate to be able to coordinate with Boise Flood District 10 to move the gravel into the side channel when they were doing their annual winter river channel maintenance.

We are incredibly grateful for the assistance of BioAnalysts and IDF&G on the project, the generosity of Sunroc who donated the gravel, the help of Boise Flood District 10 to move the gravel, and for a grant from the Fly Fishers International to pay for a future educational sign at the site.



Mike Dimmick from Boise Flood District 10 directs gravel placement.

The Boise River has a good population of both rainbow and brown trout but their reproductivity is limited due to the lack of smaller size gravel they need for spawning and fry densities in this area are considerably less than other areas of the river. By adding the spawning size gravel we hope to see the trout population improve which will make the Boise River an even better place to fish. BVFF plans to monitor the side channel for spawning activity in the spring for rainbow trout and in the fall for brown trout and will review IDF&G's trout fry survey results in the coming year. If all goes well we hope to do more gravel augmentation projects in the future.

The Boise Valley Fly Fishers is the oldest fly-fishing organization in Idaho, founded in 1971 and is celebrating their 50th anniversary this year. The Boise metropolitan area has grown significantly in the past few years, and so has the local interest in fly fishing. Our mission is to promote the sport of fly-fishing through education and conservation activities. For more information about this project and the Boise Valley Fly Fishers club, see our website at <http://www.boisevalleyflyfishers.wildapricot.org/>.

For questions about this project please contact:

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BVFF volunteers moving gravel into the Boise River