



**FRASER RIVER RANCH FISHING CLUB AND HOMESTRETCH RANCH FISHING CLUB
2017 UPDATE**

DATE: February 6, 2017

TO: Fraser River Ranch and Homestretch Ranch Fishing
Club Members

FROM: Jim Hackstaff and Donald Hackstaff

RE: **2017 FISHING CLUB UPDATE**

GOOD NEWS: It is snowing today in Granby and more snow is predicted for this coming week. The snowpack total in the Fraser Drainage is about 15% higher than the yearly average high point. The high point usually occurs about May 1 and then the snow melts rapidly. Last month I had to bulldoze my way down the road to the ranch house. Regular plows just bounced off the piles.

GOOD NEWS: The Windy Gap ByPass is moving forward. That plus all of the work to improve the Colorado River, should make the Colorado River an even bigger plus for us. The recovery efforts for Rainbow Trout from Whirling Disease in the upper Colorado River Drainage should then be complete. And with the town of Granby buying the Orvis ShoreFox project, with many promises of improvements to the Colorado River, the health of the fish in this area should be better than ever. In addition we will be stocking our water for the third year in a row with Whirling Disease resistant fish—the Hofer Crosses.

GOOD NEWS: FRASERRIVERFISHING.NET is up and running. Peruse away. Once you have informed us that you plan to renew we will provide you with a password for the private portions of the site.

PARTY NEWS: March 30th is the PARTY! Details below. Again we will raffle off a Rod and other prizes. We will have a speaker to discuss the health of the river, fishing techniques or some other topic of interest. Join us. Bring your spouses and your stories (mostly true at least). More details to follow.

DUES NEWS: We have decided to raise dues this year. The dues will be \$1,050 for the Fraser River Ranch and an additional \$650 for those of you who also decide to join the Homestretch club as well.

GOOD NEWS: The Old Farmers' Almanac predicts normal snow and a wet spring. I don't trust old farmers but they don't trust Old Lawyers. The Old Farmers have been right the last

three years. The reservoirs are above average at this point. Granby is still at 78% of capacity at the moment. So, close to average snowpack moisture will fill those reservoirs.

Fishing on the Fraser in March and April is risky. Access will be difficult because of the snow. But give it a couple of weeks - probably late March – and there will be stretches that will be fairly accessible. We will keep you in the loop about the river opening. However, I know some of you were booted out of your 12 step program for fishing addiction because you are unable to control your urges. So if you have paid your dues and signed the release, you may venture onto the property. Be careful especially along the river's edge. Park on the County road.

GOOD NEWS: We are hopeful of arranging an event with the Wounded Warriors or other charitable or medical organizations on the river this summer. If it occurs, I will call for volunteers: Guides, drivers, chefs, etc.

We are looking forward to a great year on the river with you!

THE “HOMESTRETCH”

The lower section of the River: “HomeStretch”

The HomeStretch continues to be a big success. The members of the HomeStretch were able to fish with more certainty of privacy and were able to have reserved dates for their sponsored groups. Again this year we will be providing membership in the lower section “”HomeStretch” to the first 16 members (and only current members of the Fraser River Ranch Fishing Club) who are interested and from whom I receive checks for \$650.00. Our goal with this section is to provide a more exclusive experience. A large tent, camping gear, and table and fire pit will be available on the beach.

The HomeStretch will again be available Tuesday through Saturday, letting the water rest for a couple days. We will also allow limited guiding and special events on this section of the river and will post advance notice before we do. These other uses will rarely occur Tuesday through Saturday. Guest policies are more restrictive on the HomeStretch, and Rules and Regulations for the Home Stretch are included in the Rules and Regulations which are attached. Guiding services and hosting services will be available on the Home Stretch (or Fraser River Ranch) for a discounted price with Bruning Rangel, (970 389-6883) one of the former Orvis guides or one of his team. Each Homestretch member will be allowed to reserve the water at least once per summer for exclusive use for yourself or a group of your choosing – just not typically on Sundays, Mondays or Holidays. First come – first served otherwise. Reserve through my office 303 534-4317. Ask for Katie. We will then post the reserved dates and times to the website. Checks should be payable to Homestretch Ranch, LLC.

IN GENERAL

Access:

At the party we will give you an update. But in any event please observe the following rules during the runoff season:

1. Until the ground is dry, do not drive into the property. “You may enter but might not ever be able to leave.”
2. Once run-off begins...wear your waders and secure them with a belt! Be careful around the water, especially where the river only has one channel. When the runoff is high, the water is very fast and it is very dangerous. Watch your children and dogs. We don't recommend letting your children fish during the run-off. The high, fast water alters the river bottom and what you might remember from a previous year may not exist. It may be wider or deeper than you expect. And the current will certainly be stronger.
3. For fishing...search for the deep, slow eddies in the two channel section of the water. Using caddis pupa, midge patterns, streamers, or bead head. Use 9' leaders and 5 lb test tippet. Just a suggestion. We recommend you focus on the south channel during the runoff, but if you must venture across to the North channel, **be very careful!**
4. Fish before the run-off starts. 2012 was the best fishing year we ever have had on the river, and it was the year with the lowest water flows. The fish were out early, accessible and hungry. Fishing before the runoff starts can be terrific. I caught a 27" Rainbow that May.

Stocking

The small Rainbow population has made a strong comeback from Whirling Disease since about 2006. And it is not because of anything we have done. Until 2015 we never had stocked small fish. We have never stocked Browns, Natives or Brookies either. We will stock the Pond and the river, and maybe the beaver ponds this year. If we can find Hofer Crosses (Whirling disease resistant), we will stock them. Last fall we stocked some Hofer crosses in the 9" range.

We want to hear from you regarding your success to determine how much we will stock the river. Historically we stock in late June. Not that your success is necessarily an indication of the health of the fish population ☺, but that is our method for determining whether or not we stock. So let us know and tell the truth. Remember that we also stocked the Big Beaver Pond and the Long Beaver Pond in 2012. Long Beaver is probably deep enough for the fish to have survived. Once the ice is off, they should be fishable. Let me know how you do.

Web Sites

There are several ways to check in on what is going on in Grand County and on the river. Some of those are as follows:

Northern Colorado Water Conservation District - Good for checking snow depths, averages, and local water gauge flows...www.ncwcd.org/. Select “Water Projects”.

District Fiver Water flows- Good for checking water flows throughout District 5. www.dwr.state.co.us/surfacewater/data/division

Colorado Parks and Wildlife - Good for all things wildlife...www.cpw.state.co.us

Sky Hi News - Covering everything Granby and Winter Park...www.skyhidailynews.com

River Otters

We have not seen any Otters for four years. Does not mean they are not around. Let me know if you see one. Remember that these rascals can grow to 30 lbs so their size may surprise you. They eat up to 3 lbs of fish per day. That is the bad news. The only benefit to these water rats are that they eat Catostomidae...tell me what that is without looking it up (Donald knows what those are). We believe this to be the reason we hardly ever see any of these anymore.

Pelicans

Another swamp rat, this one with wings and a fish creel. Please, make their neighborhood unpleasant if you happen upon one.

Beavers

As you know last year was very busy for them. We worked hard to make certain that they did not completely stop the flow in the South Channel. We will do again this year. We will review their activities after the run-off in June/July to gauge what sort of action we should take.

Raptors

I am hoping that Hillary and Bill do not take up residence on the property this year like they did last year. Ospreys eat a lot of fish. And there were three days last summer when they actually flew over my head with Donald's fish in their talons. Tres Cheeky! But spectacular! However, since I do not look good in prison garb, and if you cannot beat them you must join them, we are going to overstock the pond. Good for us when we fish the pond too. Gift certificate to the person who sends me the best picture of one of the Ospreys (or the Golden Eagles that live on Windy Gap) with a Fraser River Ranch fish in their mitts.

Lions, Bears and Moose, Oh my!

There have been a variety of Cougar sightings mentioned in the newspaper over the last several years. Those kittys inhabit the hills just to the south and west of the property. We have not seen or heard of any mountain lion sightings on our property recently. However, just because we have not seen them, doesn't mean they don't come around. Please remember to make some noise while you are walking and fishing. Squealing teenager noises are not recommended!

Moose are everywhere and the same momma moose that comes around every spring and stays with her new calf through the summer will likely return. Be watchful, give them their space and, like you have become accustomed to doing, make noise. Keep your dogs close. Moose do not like dogs.

Oh, and if you have never seen a moose before, you can't really tell the difference between a young male and a female. Both have racks...on their heads...made out of bone. There are, however, two ways to tell the difference. Females are much more aggressive during the spring

and summer, and well, if you can tell the other way, she is already kickin' your %&*! Remember if a moose decides to chase your dog, don't call your dog to you. Get away.

Bears have been making a comeback too. In 2014 we saw a Mama and three yearlings on the property. They do not generally stay in wetlands, however, so I do not expect you will encounter them. If you see one, DO NOT APPROACH OR FEED IT!!! And never leave any trash around or food out on the back of your truck or the picnic tables when you go fishing.



Fraser River Ranch 2014

Dad's Chairs

By now you all know what these chairs represent. They were our Father's for when he was taking a breather. He caught more fish sitting in them than most of us do wading. We are certain that he still uses them once in a while to make sure you are using a short line and keeping it taut. Feel free to pause a moment and take a load off. He may even send a fish or two your way.

Annual Party

This year the party will again be in March on Thursday, March 30th. Most likely my house but exact location and speakers to be determined. Beginning at 5:30. Hope you can join us. Spouses, significant others and parole officers are invited. We will send out evite invitations.

Our topic will be related to the Fraser River of course and there will be raffles, whiskey, gifts, you name it.

Pondapalooza

We had so much fun last year. We will do it again, probably in August. We had competitions, prizes, children's activities, and just plain fun. The purpose of the party is to have fun, meet members and their families and catch some of the bad girls in the pond. We were very successful at catching fish out of the pond in 2016. In 2013 we all had a laugh when an Osprey flew over the pond with a fish in its talons that it had just grabbed out of the Big Beaver Pond. Show-off.



Pondapalooza 2014 – Maddy Hackstaff & Ava Bradley

Membership Dues

Dues are due by the **PARTY** March 30, 2017. The fee for the 2017 season for the Fraser River Ranch Club will be \$1,050.00, unless you are one of the members of the HomeStretch in which case, your fees for 2017 will total \$1,700.00.

Please be prompt with payment and sign-up information so that we can get an early feel for how many members we will have this year. As in years past, we will keep the membership near 32 members for the season. So let me know ASAP if you are not renewing. Several members have suggested friends and business acquaintances for membership. Please continue to do so but be prompt about it. And remember to suggest people like those of us who work for a living and can only focus a limited amount of time on fishing the river. We especially appreciate members who refer business to us. And this year I will award our Fisherman of the Year Award to whichever member fished the least last year but still renewed. Don't tell his spouse.

Ponds

The Big Pond will be available to all members. It will be stocked once the snow retreats. It may be a little later than normal if the snowpack lingers. Two natural beaver ponds were stocked in 2013. We may do so again this year. Just so you know, there are at least 6 large natural beaver ponds on the property. I am planning to stock at least two of them this year. We will keep you in the loop, but go explore north of the river.

Question for the Members

As you know the "Sybert" Ditch headgate is next to the sign-in-box at Gate 2 (the middle of the property). The ditch runs roughly 5 months per year and can carry up to +/- 20 cfs. We have a couple of spots where it is leaking badly and we are interested if any of you know of ways to fix the problem without spending a fortune?

The catch to this question is that your typical liners or clays won't work because the ditch does not have water in it eight months of the year.

If you have any thoughts (helpful only), we would love to hear them!

Release

In order to be a member of the clubs, you must read and sign our release. It is on the website and can be filled in there. We require that your guests sign one too.

Etc.

Otherwise, **remember to sign in and out at the headgate (Gate 2). It is the only way we can gauge how much pressure the river is receiving and how the fish are handling it.**

Our club rules are attached. We will send out the roster as soon as it is finalized. Please invite other club-members with you on your day trips. This was always one of our Father's favorite parts of the club. He loved the camaraderie of getting out and fishing with the other members of the club. You don't have to know anything about them other than, like you, they like to fly fish!

Invite Donald and/or me to go fishing with you. Even if we can't fish worth a damn, we are still entertaining. I went to the Fly-Fishing show this year. My skills have not improved, but I'm looking dang good.

Also, remember that this is a business referral club. One of our goals is to develop business as well as fishing relationships. To that end, if you need commercial real estate development services, please call Don. If you need business, estate, tax, real estate or other legal services, please call me.

Your check[s] and the signed release must be submitted before you can go on the property. Call

See you at the party or on the river!

CONTACT INFORMATION

Information:

Donald cell (303) 808-6867
Email donaldhackstaff@gmail.com

Jim cell (303) 619-2914
Email jh@hackstafflaw.com

Katie ks@hackstafflaw.com

www.fraserriverfishing.net for documents and calendar.

Jim's address for the payment of dues:
Hackstaff & Snow, LLC
1601 Blake Street, Suite 310
Denver, CO 80202