

# SWEETWATER 2011

Greetings! Another productive year for Sweetwater Fisheries Group has come and gone, and the staff is looking forward to a busy and promising 2011.

## SFG PROJECT NEWS AND UPDATES

### *Fisheries Enhancement – Steamboat Springs, Colorado*

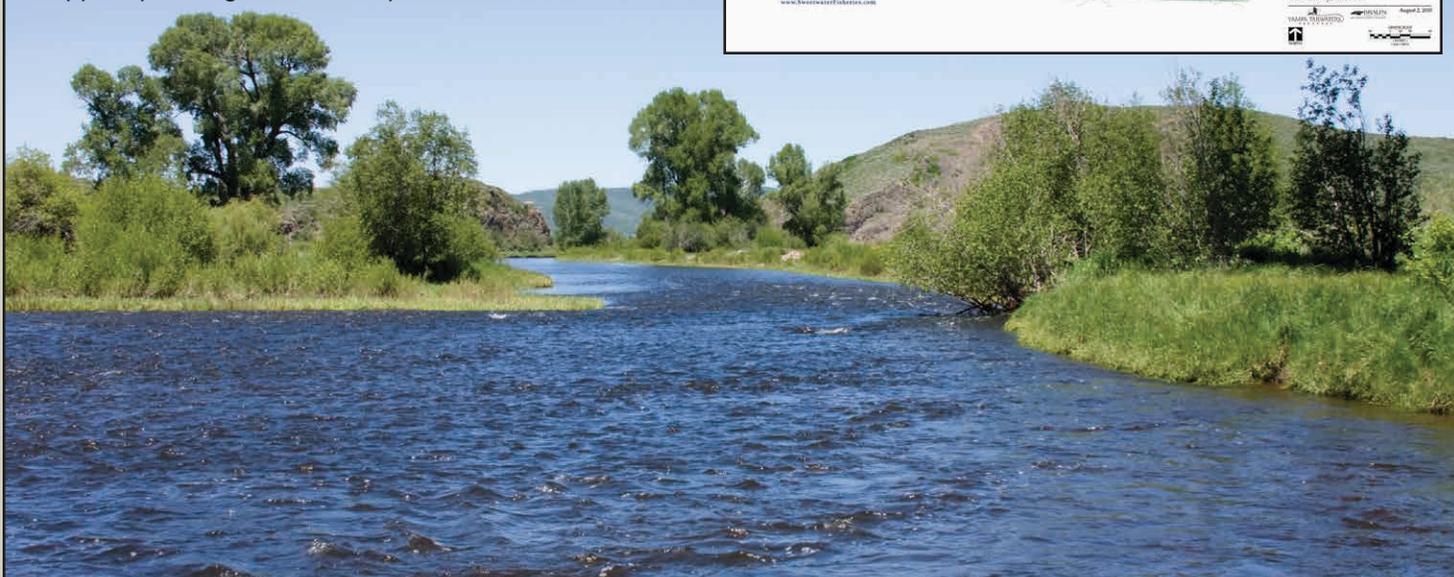
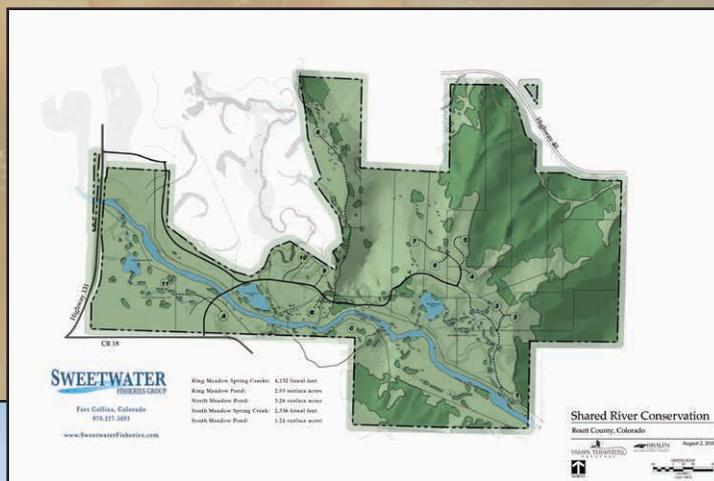
In 2010, Sweetwater Fisheries Group was engaged in the initial stages of an ambitious stream enhancement project on the Yampa River near Steamboat Springs, Colorado.

The Yampa Tailwaters Project, as the name implies, encompasses nearly two miles of the mighty river directly downstream of Catamount Reservoir in the picturesque Yampa River Valley. Because it is a tailwater river, there are excess nutrients in the system, often causing a proliferation of plant biomass on the substrate, creating wading and angling hazards. This nutrient overload, coupled with limited holding structure and high water flow refuge for the gamefish, greatly inhibit the river's enormous potential to be a world-class fishery. SFG's innovative design process

involves a detailed understanding of the biological, physical, and anthropogenic processes affecting fishery productivity, necessitating detailed studies of the system and integration with client goals.

From macroinvertebrate and piscine population surveys to spatial imagery and landform analysis, SFG has taken many of the initial steps toward a successful habitat design. In 2011 this exciting project will start to take greater shape with the initialization of the habitat design phase, combining all the research to create a thoughtful and successful plan for the ranch. SFG will be enthusiastically and diligently working to maintain the timeline for this exciting project, and looking forward to tremendous results for the client.

Upper spawning area at Yampa Tailwaters





Government  
Draw looking

#### Riparian mitigation area on the Red Mesa Project

##### *Fisheries & Waterfowl Creation – Red Mesa, Colorado*

In addition to the Yampa Tailwaters Project, SFG has been engaged in a unique fishery creation project in southern Colorado near the town of Durango. In an arid landscape just north of the New Mexico border, two small coldwater spring creeks converge in an arroyo hidden from view from the highway.

SFG has undertaken the task of designing a trout stream fishery and productive stillwater environment on this property, truly creating a sportsman's oasis in the Red Mesa region. The creeks exist now as shallow, poorly defined channels without salmonid habitat or piscine structures of any kind, with braiding and damming caused by excessive cattail growth in the riparian corridor.

Along with structural designs, comprehensive riparian planting and management plans are being formulated by SFG's biologists, addressing the health and sustainability of the plant transitional zone along the creeks. With our comprehensive study and design process nearly complete, and with structural implementation slated for summer 2011, this newly created fishery will surely be a hidden flyfishing gem.

##### *Fisheries Enhancement & Creation – Gunnison, Colorado*

Another addition to the project list is Ohio Creek near Gunnison, Colorado on a property abounding with exciting fishery potential.

Alongside an ambitious and environmentally conscious landowner, Sweetwater Group is working to enhance several miles of trout streams, as well as creating stillwater fisheries and waterfowl habitat, and developing an unused watercourse on the property into a very productive year-round spring creek fishery.



Our initial data gathering surveys have taken place on Ohio Creek, and even in the early stages of information assimilation the excitement surrounding this fishery is palpable. Its ideal width and flow regimes, coupled with clean, cold water from the nearby mountains appear to create an angler's dream, only hampered by the lack of trout habitat. Though only in the initial stages of undertaking this stream restoration, SFG's team of hydrologists and biologists are excited to transition this environment into a world-class amenity.

### **SFG FISH & FORAGE STOCKING**

This year we took special care to ensure a large supply of both trophy browns and trophy bows are on hand to satisfy what is already shaping up to be a busy stocking season. In

### **Ohio Creek near Gunnison**

In addition to the trophies, we are happy to announce that we will once again be offering a limited supply of Tiger Trout and Cutthroat Trout. Rounding out our offerings this year are six additional strains of trout (including triploids), all with incredible color, strength and natural forage ability.

Complimenting our superb fish are the forage bases to match. Often an afterthought, forage is the single most important component next to habitat to ensure a sustainable, high quality fishery. To address this need, SFG offers fathead minnows and Freshwater Shrimp (*Gammarus lacustris*) to bolster a lagging, mature fishery or accelerate a new property. **As always, the SFG fish and forage are in high demand so contact us for your fishery management needs!**



# SWEETWATER

## FISHERIES GROUP

*Innovation in Fisheries Stewardship and Management*

Fort Collins, Colorado

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### A LOOK AT SFG SERVICES

#### River Restoration:

- Full-scale scientific data collection and CAD based stream design
- Army Corps and DOW permitting
- Fish and macroinvertebrate habitat improvement
- Structural implementation and construction

#### Fisheries Science:

- Electrofishing population surveys and reporting
- Benthic Macroinvertebrate studies and forage base analysis
- Fishery management and consulting

#### Stream Corridor Analysis:

- Riparian plant species inventory
- Riparian identification & classification
- Riparian condition assessment
- Wetland delineation

#### Stillwater Development:

- Pond engineering and design
- Construction and lining (natural & synthetic)
- Aquatic habitat management
- Custom aeration design & installation

#### Fishery Stocking Services:

- Trophy Trout
  - Brown Trout
  - Brook Trout
  - Rainbow Trout (Multiple Species)
  - Cutthroat Trout
- Forage base stockings
  - Freshwater Shrimp (*Gammarus lacustris*)
  - Fathead Minnows (*Pimephales promelas*)



SFG conducting a recent fish population survey



Detailed stream corridor analysis



SFG's Freshwater Shrimp nursery