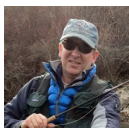


PROJECT UPDATE

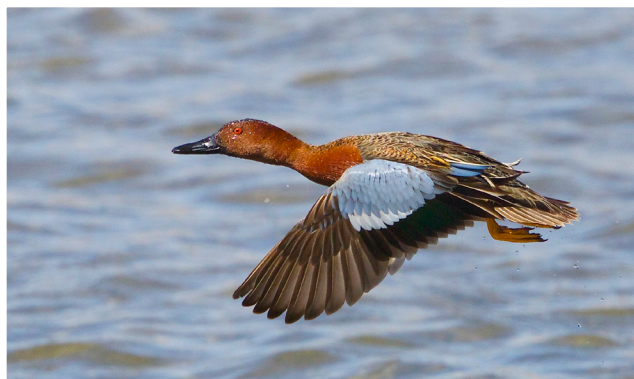
Kilpatrick Pond

The Nature Conservancy launched the Kilpatrick Pond project at Silver Creek to improve water quality and return the pond to a more natural stream channel. The project marks the largest enhancement effort ever undertaken at the preserve.

This summer I was fortunate to see first-hand all of the positive changes at Silver Creek Preserve as a result of the Kilpatrick Pond restoration. Each time I floated through the Preserve, I saw an abundance of birds, moose, insects, and of course, big fish. And in the restored section, I encountered colder, deeper water. We were very fortunate to complete the project this past spring, as Kilpatrick and Purdy's Pond provided much needed deep and cold water this summer when water levels were at historic lows. Part of the restoration included the implementation of a new dam which allows for release of colder water and fish passage. Watching more than a hundred fish swim up the ladder and utilizing the fish passage component of the dam was so amazing. Whether I was canoeing or fishing, the people I spoke with had a great experience and were very excited by the outcomes. Thank you for your support of this restoration. Because of you, we are witnessing positive changes today and ensuring a healthy Silver Creek for tomorrow.



Clark Shafer
Development Officer



Cinnamon teal © Stephan Barnard

"The Creek restoration project was a success on so many different levels. It not only dramatically expanded the area for the benefit of fishing and recreation, but also created a new and safe habitat for both our resident and migratory wildlife. With healthier fish, healthier flocks and happier anglers, this is a prime example of how nature, business organizations and caring contributors can work in synergy for the benefit of all."

Jim Carkonen
Sr. Guide – Sturtevant's Sun Valley
Outfitters

“The Idaho Nature Conservancy has been a fabulous steward of the Silver Creek Preserve since buying the property in 1976. The restoration project that they just completed on the Kilpatrick Pond area will help improve the habitat – and the fishing – for years to come. We are grateful to The Nature Conservancy for their conservation leadership, not only on Silver Creek, but throughout Idaho.”

-Terry Ring, outfitter and owner of Silver Creek Outfitters



Before and After © Bryan Husky

Before (with water drawn down) and after: Prior to restoration, sediment accumulation resulted in a large shallow surface area which contributed to increasing water temperatures and associated low dissolved oxygen levels - major threats to Silver Creek’s health. Work completed to address these challenges includes the construction of wetlands, a new bank structure to hold back sediment, and backwater channels to improve nursery habitat for juvenile fish. To date, over 100,000 wetland plants, shrubs and willows have been planted and the surface area of the pond has been reduced by as much as 35%. While we accomplished a lot, there is still work to be done.

NEXT STEPS

Wood River Water Exchange

The objective of the Wood River Water Exchange pilot project is to create a flexible and innovative tool to resolve limited water supply demands while preserving community values which include:

- Ensuring sustainable water use for farming and ranching.
- Preserving safe, clean drinking water to meet the needs of the Wood River watershed.
- Conserving riparian and river habitat for fish and wildlife that rely on the Big Wood River, Silver Creek, Little Wood River and their tributaries.

Plantings

As a part of the Natural Resource Conservation Services grant, The Nature Conservancy will be planting more shrubs and native grasses this fall and spring throughout Kilpatrick Pond.

Accessibility

Trails have been designed to provide visitors greater access. In addition there is still a need for trail signs, a handicap accessible fishing platform, and the installation of boardwalks.

This project would not have happened without the amazing support of donors, the community, volunteers and the great partnership with the Purdy family.