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CHAPTER #25  
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# The Leader



W I N T E R 2 0 1 1

2011  
Board of Directors:

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Sharon Sweeney Fee  
579-7735

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**THANKS to ALL  
OUR  
HARDWORKING  
MEMBERS!**

## Presidents Message

Happy New Year to One and All!

I am most honored to be your President this year, after a number of years as the Secretary and Web geek on the Board. We continue to have wonderfully dedicated board members and I want to thank **Ted Williams** for his years of hard work on the board and wish him a much deserved break!

There are a number of great projects happening in Park County. The Voyich Ranch Fleshman creek restoration is continuing, and the lower Fleshman project appears to be getting started. The members of JBTU have been solid in their support of these projects.

As I look at the work we have ahead of us, one of the greatest threats to the Yellowstone River is natural gas development in the Shields Valley. JBTU was founded on protecting the Yellowstone River and it's tributaries. The Allenspur Dam was the biggest threat to the river for a number of years, and as I look at gas development in Wyoming and Colorado, I believe gas extraction can be as great a threat as the dam once was.

One thing we do know, there are best management practices (BMP) in gas extraction and we will be working with other partners in the community to see how we can ensure any natural gas extraction uses BMP's in Park and Sweetgrass Counties.

We have a year of informative and enjoyable programs planned, see the calendar on the back of this newsletter. We hope to see you at our meetings! Here's to a successful 2011 for us all!

*Sharon*



### Raffle Items Welcome

We have raffles at our monthly meetings to raise funds for the activities we do each year.

If you are a local business owner or know one who would like to donate any item please contact any board member listed on the left column of this page, send an e-mail to [ssfee123@yahoo.com](mailto:ssfee123@yahoo.com) or mail to P.O. Box 1378.

Items do not have to be for fishing, most of us like to eat at local restaurants, shop in local stores and use local services for our cars and homes. So, any item or certificate is welcome.



Happy Holidays to  
you and your  
family!

Here's to a peaceful  
and prosperous  
2011!

Your JBTU Board

*"I believe..., of all  
fish, the trout  
demands the most of  
the angler, an on the  
angler's meeting of  
those demands, gives  
the most in return"*

Joe Brooks

## Gas Exploration

JBTU has joined a coalition to develop standard operating procedures and quality measures for baseline water testing in the Shields Valley. Once the procedures and measures are agreed upon, we will look for funding to test surface water, ground water, and public and private wells.

This data will be helpful when any gas extraction begins to avoid confusion if new chemicals are found in any water source. Some communities have had trouble in court demonstrating local gas extraction has fouled their water sources. We believe baselines water measures is a first step in protecting our water resources.

With the importance of water to both agriculture and fish habitat, we feel the best way to prepare for exploration is to first get baseline water measurements documented.

## YNP Native Fish EA

Yellowstone National Park is asking for comments on the draft environmental analysis for native fish conservation by January 31.

Some comments from MTU:

The park wants comments on the draft plan for implementing conservation activities that benefit Yellowstone cutthroats, westslope cutthroats and arctic grayling. They want to do more stream projects to benefit cutthroats and grayling. And they want to continue the suppression of lake trout in Yellowstone Lake.... The scientific community is fairly united in this conclusion: If we don't get a handle on lake trout to the point that Yellowstone cutthroats are rebounding, the long-term persistence of this native fish throughout its range will be jeopardized. Because of their occurrence at high elevations, there might be no more important populations of Yellowstone cutthroats throughout the range of this subspecies than those tied to the lake. If we lose the lake-connected populations, and the climate keeps warming (and despite recent cold weather, the long-term trend has been warmer and less trout habitat at lower elevations), the range of this fish, already diminished significantly, will be ultimately limited to small, isolated and very vulnerable populations in high elevation streams, most outside the park.

If you are interested in submitting comments;  
Go to [www.nps.gov/yell/parkmgmt/planning.htm](http://www.nps.gov/yell/parkmgmt/planning.htm).  
Go to the link for "Projects currently on public review."

## What's happening with that 3.1 million restoration project?

As partners in the lower Fleshman Creek Restoration Project, we are pleased to announce that there will be presentations at two of our spring meetings. On **January 27, Phillip Fletcher will introduce the project**, the timeline and the scope of work. On March 24, Phillip and the Architect on the project will present the design and construction plan and answer questions from the public.

This project has been in the works for over 3 years, and you will see a lot of activity between 2nd and M streets along the creek starting this spring. As the work is done, we will work with students on stream restoration projects and the creation of a stream side learning lab for local students.

JBTU attended the final approval meetings held by the County Supervisors and was happy to see the unanimous support for the project. There are innumerable positives to a project like this and we appreciate the county moving forward.

JBTU is pleased to be able to help communicate the important work that is being done and believe an open format for community questions will be very helpful to the project. We hope many of our members will join us at these meetings and show their support of this project.

**TO HEAR MORE, COME TO OUR JANUARY 27 MEETING**

### **3rd ANNUAL LIVINGSTON SCHOOLS STREAMS INITIATIVE FUND RAISER**

**January 27, 6:30, Elks Lodge**

**Help us to support the stream monitoring science curriculum used throughout the Livingston School system. See Award Winning Presentations on Stream Monitoring by Middle School Science, High School Ag, and FFA Students.**

**AND - "An Introduction of the Fleshman Creek Restoration Project"  
Phillip Fletcher, Director of Park County Community Development**

**Great Food will be for sale.**

**Auction items include: Children's picnic table made by LHS students, your name on a bench for the learning lab, IT services, a chance to go with students on a stream monitoring project!**