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Oregon Trout, ed., Oregon Salmon: Essays on the State of Fish at the Turn of the Millennium

**OREGON TROUT, ED., OREGON SALMON: ESSAYS ON THE STATE OF FISH AT THE TURN OF THE MILLENNIUM**, (with an Afterword by Governor John Kitzhaber) Oregon Trout, Portland, Or. (2001); 175pp; \$15.00; ISBN 0-9709798-0-0, softcover.

There are four species of Pacific salmon in the waters of Oregon today along with two species of Pacific trout. Pictured on the cover of Oregon Salmon, and described before the Table of Contents, is the Chinook salmon, Oregon's state fish. The book is divided into five sections, each beginning with a picture and information regarding the five other species of Pacific salmon and trout in Oregon. The species included are the Chum salmon, the Coho salmon, the Sockeye salmon, the Sea-Run Cutthroat trout and the Steelhead.

Section One, *Looking Backward*, contains four essays that examine the past and the influence the Pacific salmon have had on the spirit and culture of Oregon.

The first essay, "Swimming among the Ruins" by John Daniel, discusses the history and probable evolution of salmonids. Daniels goes on to discuss how flooding has effected salmon evolution and how human involvement has, in recent eras, changed flooding patterns and damaged salmonid habitat.

The following essay by Rick Rubin, entitled "The Chinook People and the Salmon," turns to the cultural impact that salmon have had on one particular population. The Chinooken speaking people of the Columbia River basin was a population almost entirely dependent on salmon and the other forms of wildlife that followed the salmon up river. Salmon thus took on a meaningful role in the mythology and spirituality of these people.

"The Historical and Cultural Meaning of Salmon," by William G. Robbins, examines the economic and industrial changes that metamorphosed salmon fishing and habitat in the Pacific Northwest. The growth of the agriculture, mining and lumber industries, along with a growing salmon market, had a profound effect on the habitat of salmon in the Pacific Northwest. Robbins presents the questions regarding the development of the Columbia River and its possible effect on salmon populations as they were presented in 1941.

Section One closes with a call to action by Elizabeth Woody in "Why I Love With Admiration Every Salmon I See." Woody lends a personal and historical interpretation to the depletion of Pacific Northwest salmon populations. She addresses her ancestral reliance on salmon, and contrasts this directly to the current status of the Columbia River as the most polluted and radioactive waterway in the world. The options for action are simple, explains Woody: we can allow current trends to continue, though we have already recognized a problem, which will surely lead to more salmon species extinction, or we can take drastic action to replenish salmon populations and repair their habitat.

Section Two, *Caught Between the Old West and the New*, looks at how the settling of the west set a tone for development, resource management and use that clashes with current attempts to protect salmon.

In "The Politics of Saving Salmon In the New American West," Angus Duncan presents the conflict between industry and environmentalists. Duncan traces the way resource management in the West has changed through the years, but suggests that in spite of changes in goals, the conflict is still created by the clash between the protection of natural systems and the need for economic activity. Duncan proposes that older western management institutions are finally being replaced by new systems that are more inclined to protect natural ecosystems.

Reed R. Benson next provides a brief summary of the prior appropriation system and Oregon state water regulation in "First in Time, Last in Right: How Oregon Water Law Fails Salmon." Benson acknowledges the groundbreaking efforts Oregon law has used to protect salmon, although these efforts have accomplished little so far. Benson offers three suggestions. First, create a state water agency that has the necessary resources and political will to solve the problem. Second, incorporate a program to acquire senior water rights and convert them to in-stream uses. Third, improve public awareness and citizen participation.

In "Dangerous Passage: Oregon's Salmon and the Hydroelectric System," Phillip R. Mundy lays out the background of hydroelectric dam development in Oregon, and how it has effected salmon populations. He gives a salmon's eye view of the obstacle course that a hydroelectric dam creates. Mundy also discusses mitigation techniques that have been incorporated in some dams to aid anadromous fish in their passages past the dam.

Section Three, *The Salmon's Journey*, outlines the complex nature of the salmon life cycle and the biological needs for species success.

In "Pacific Salmon Life Histories," Jim Lichatowich explains the correlation between the historical genetic diversity of salmon and their ability to adapt to environmental stresses. Hatchery or domesticated salmon runs lack genetic diversity, and Lichatowich believes that no matter how many hatcheries are utilized, the recovery of salmon will fail until some natural pathways through the Oregon riverscape are restored.

Gordon H. Reeves and James R. Sedell address the importance of forests to quality habitat in their essay "The Role of Oregon Forests in Restoring and Maintaining Salmon Populations." Forests provide the raw materials that make streams and rivers productive habitats. Though lower portions of the watershed are often prime agricultural or urban areas, salmonid riparian habitat can be recaptured only through re-connection to forests throughout the watershed.

The final essay in Section Three is "Ocean Conditions and Salmon Runs" by William Percy. Percy introduces the seasonal and cyclical

changes of ocean climate that can drastically effect the population of anadromous fishes. From upwelling to El Niños, the effects can be great, but little scientific data is actually known. New studies are underway to learn more about the effects of oceanic climate changes on Oregon's salmon.

Section Four, *No Simple Answers*, examines management issues for both the immediate and long-term futures, while recognizing that the vast alterations to salmonid habitat that have already occurred are in many ways irreversible.

In "The Enigma of Salmon Hatcheries," Earnest L. Brannon discusses salmon hatcheries in the Pacific Northwest and how they have failed to restore salmon. Brannon suggests that the unique nature of salmon allows them to develop behavior patterns consistent with their specific environment. Hatcheries must therefore be more like natural habitat for artificially propagated salmon to have a successful introduction to natural runs.

In "Bottlenecks, Barges, and Super Fish: Rethinking Conservation of Estuaries and Salmon," Daniel L. Bottom and Charles A. Simenstad evaluate estuarine experimentation and its flaws. The amount of time that a salmon spends in an estuary environment varies by species and life-history pattern. Hatchery stock introduction has diluted the natural populations, and instead of solving genetic bottlenecking, has further simplified the gene pool. The authors suggest that the only answer is to re-establish natural estuaries and hydrologic connections to estuarine wetlands.

Dixon H. Landers discusses the importance of the fresh water system in his essay "Willamette River Main Corridor Restoration: What is Important to Salmon?" Landers believes that the major conflict between a natural river ecosystem and human development is a differing aspect of time. A river system is full of change, but it has been a gradual change that salmon have evolved with and can flourish through. Landers further discusses how man-made alterations to the river often simplify it by removing precious sediment and reducing connectivity between the river and the surrounding watershed. The author presents suggestions for how restoration may be achieved, but emphasizes that a social will to restore the river is necessary first.

Patricia Snow offers a look at Oregon's land use planning system in "Oregon's Land-Use Planning: Does it Protect Salmon and Water Resources?" Oregon has one of the most extensive land use planning programs in the nation, but Snow suggests that it must become even more aggressive in protecting habitat through use of protective zoning to corridors, wetlands and water bodies. Snow also emphasizes the need for habitat enhancement, landowner initiatives and public education.

Melissa Madenski presents her experience with a local Oregon creek in "Who Do You Represent?" The surrounding community expected her to pick a side and represent someone involved as a party. This expectation made Madenski recognize that there is not just one

party responsible for the decline of wild salmon populations in Oregon, and that salmon will not be restored until opponents can stop pointing the finger and work together.

Section Five, *Seeking the Balance*, looks to leveling human needs with the qualitative and quantitative needs for salmon habitat.

In "Life as a Watershed Leader," Robert Stubblefield introduces us to the many passionate, informed Oregonians that comprise ninety-two watershed councils in Oregon. The North Fork Council, for example, brings together tribal, timber, ranching and environmental interests for monthly meetings. Though watershed councils are relatively new, the meeting of such various interests represents one of Oregon's best chances at improving watershed management and restoring salmon.

Through "Of Salmon, Jobs and Equity," Bob Van Dyk and Phil Ruder address the disproportionate cost of salmon restoration that rural areas will have to bear. They suggest, among other things, the use of economic trade offs for hard hit rural areas so that the proper balance between economy and salmon habitat can be found.

"Can Law Save Salmon?" is the question that Daniel J. Rohlf attempts to answer in his brief summary of how law has impacted salmon. Rohlf begins with the earliest legal treatment of salmon, which is found in American Indian treaties, and ranges to current legal efforts. He concludes that law alone will not be enough; people must adjust their lives to allow for salmon recovery before the law will have the ability to protect or restore salmon.

Richard N. Williams is the next author featured with "Refugia-Based Conservation Strategies: Providing Safe Havens in Managed River Systems." This essay traces the acceptance of scientific analysis in the early 1990s and the new approach to recovery that focused on the interaction between fish and their habitat. Williams lays out a practical approach wherein wildlife reserves or salmon refuges serve as a hub in the preservation and restoration of remaining viable salmon stock.

Authors Bruce Taylor and Sara Vickerman address "The Role of Private Lands in Salmon Restoration Efforts." They conclude that conservation mechanisms relying solely on public land will probably not be enough. Options for management and regulation of private lands are presented, and admittedly, political will and financial means for any selected effort will be expensive, difficult, and must occur soon.

Mary Scurlock shifts the restoration effort back to public lands in "Where the Wild Things Are: Federal Lands in the New Millennium." Though natural lands are incredibly valuable, they too have become environmentally degraded. She suggests that federal lands are the natural anchor for wild salmon, and calls for the increased use of policy for habitat protection on federal lands.

"The Importance for Anadromous Salmonids of Low-Gradient, Unconstrained Stream Reaches" by Thomas Nickelson, Jeffrey Rodgers, and Kelly Moore, suggests that the focus of salmon habitat restoration should be the low-gradient unconstrained stream reaches.

Low elevation stream valleys were often the first areas developed, and development has constrained the streams. The answer again is suggested to be a reconnection of the stream to its flood plain.

The final essay concluding Section Five is "So What's the Deal With Community – Based Salmon Restoration?" by Jay Nicholas, the principal author and leader of the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds. Nicholas admits that volunteerism alone will not be enough to solve the salmon problem in Oregon. Regulation alone will also be insufficient. Together however, volunteerism and regulation are greater than the sum of their parts, but all Oregonians must be personally, spiritually and economically committed to the challenge.

Oregon Salmon concludes with an Afterword by Oregon Governor John Kitzhaber entitled "The Oregon Ethic in a Global Context." Governor Kitzhaber appeals to evolution and the place of man in the chain of life when he charges us all to step up and fulfill our preservation and restoration obligations to future generations.

*Erika Delaney Lew*

**JEFFERY ROTHFEDER, EVERY DROP FOR SALE: OUR DESPERATE BATTLE OVER WATER IN A WORLD ABOUT TO RUN OUT**, Penguin Putman Inc., New York, N.Y. (2001); 205pp; \$24.95; ISBN 1-58542-114-6, hardcover.

Water is the one thing on earth that nearly all living creatures cannot survive without. However, as population increases and more developing countries emerge, water is becoming scarce in many parts of the world. In *Every Drop For Sale*, Jeffery Rothfeder addresses the issue of the growing scarcity of water, and the need for all countries of the world to make significant changes in the way they consume water. Population increases occurring in many areas of the world will make providing clean water to all people extremely difficult. Rothfeder believes that water is becoming the oil of the twenty-first century. The value of water has become so significant that conflict and war have already broken out in countries where there is not enough clean water for people to drink. *Every Drop For Sale* offers an informative look into the impending crisis, and offers the reader a basis to begin thinking about how they may support positive change.

In Chapter One, Rothfeder focuses on dams and their impact on water throughout the world. Although dams are created to control water and create power, they can create devastating problems.

In Chapter Two, Rothfeder tells a story of a trip into the desert where a project is planned to extract water to supply Southern California. Rothfeder finds it ironic that in their scramble to find a future water supply, California is resorting to locations in the desert.

Chapter Three focuses on the implication of considering water a right compared to a need. If water is a "right," then all governments