

OREGON CHAPTER AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY

NATIVE FISH COMMITTEE

2015-2018 NATIVE FISH CONSERVATIONIST OF THE YEAR AWARD RECIPIENTS

2015 PAUL SCHEERER

The first Oregon Chapter AFS Native Fish Committee Native Fish Conservationist Award of the Year went to Paul Scheerer of Oregon Department of Fish and Game. Paul received his MS from Michigan State, and spent seven years working on salmon genetics in Washington and Idaho. Paul's non-game fish work began in 1991, laying the ground work for the research and conservation of the Oregon chub. Over time, his research expanded to the gamut of non-game fish in the state, include sand rollers, Borax lake Chub, Foscett Speckled Dace, Warner Sucker, Hutton Tui Chub, Alvord Chub, Millicoma Dace, Umpqua Chub, Umpqua Dace, and the native fish assemblage of the Goose Lake basin. Paul is the first person to win the Oregon Chapter of the American Fisheries Society Native Fish Conservationist of the Year award, and it's not for the number of species that he has worked on, but for his passion for working with non-game fishes. Paul has spent his career paving the road for research and conservation of the native non-game fish in the state of Oregon, and as a member of the Desert Fishes Working Group. He has been wildly successful building relationships between landowners in the communities that he works and with agencies that frequently don't see the value in, or see reason to fund work with, our often uncharismatic fish. Paul's success is evident not just from the successful recovery of the Oregon Chub, or the improved status of the Borax Lake Chub and Foscett Speckled Dace, but from the improved knowledge and interest in the "little brown fishes" across the state.



2016 JIMMY LEAL

Jimmy Leal, BLM Fisheries Biologist at the Lakeview Resource Area for his tireless effort to recover Foscett Speckled dace. Jimmy spearheaded efforts to restore habitat at Foscett Spring (controlled burn, hand digging pools) which resulted in a more than 10 fold increase in Foscett Speckled Dace numbers and reversing the declining trend in abundance at the site. He also led efforts to create habitat at Dace Spring and participated in the dace introduction there, a population that has grown to more than 500 adults. The Fish and Wildlife Service acknowledged the recovery progress made for the Foscett speckled dace in the most recent 5-year review of the species and is recommending Foscett speckled dace be reviewed for possible delisting due to completion of successful recovery actions. Jimmy also participated in monitoring of the species. He also has secured funding for Warner sucker passage and monitoring and directed the restoration of the Dyke Diversion on Twentymile Creek (new sucker-friendly ladder and screen), which opened approximately 20 km of stream to suckers located downstream.



2017 STEWART REID

Stewart Reid, a former USFWS employee and proprietor of Western Fishes, received the 2017 Native Fish Conservationist of the Year Award, in recognition of his drive for the conservation of native fishes. Stewart was one of the main drivers behind the successful ESA recovery of the Modoc Sucker, which was delisted in January 2016. In addition, he has been involved with the conservation of the Miller Lake Lamprey and Pit Sculpin, and has been a champion for Goose Basin fishes and lamprey research. Stewart's passion and excitement for native nongame fishes is infectious (and, based on his laughter, body language, and volume, you often tell just how excited he is from a considerable distance). Stewart embodies everything that this award is meant to recognize.



2018 BRIAN BANGS

Brian Bangs, Native Fish Biologist with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife received the 2018 Native Fish Conservationist of the Year Award. Brian was a partner in the recovery of Oregon Chub and eventual delisting of the species. He worked tirelessly and enthusiastically to monitor existing chub populations, monitor reintroduced populations, conduct reintroductions, search for and document previously unknown populations, co-author the post-delisting monitoring plan, conduct post-delisting monitoring, and lead a ACOE funded study to describe floodplain dynamics (off-channel connectivity, temperatures, habitat quality) and to guide efforts to benefit Oregon Chub and other native fishes over nonnative fishes in the Willamette Basin. Brian has a keen interest in native, nongame fishes and has participated in studies of Pacific Lamprey, Sand Rollers, and Borax Lake Chub, as well as assisting with Oregon State University student field trips. Brian has great relationships with private landowners and his enthusiasm is often contagious.

