once lined the banks of the Yellowstone River on opening day are all but gone because of the devastated fishery.

"While we likely will never completely rid Yellowstone Lake of the invasive species," says Hallac, "we are providing native Yellowstone cutthroat trout with a new chance to recover. This will be a huge and historic win for conservation."

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**Western Rivers Conservancy**

*Steps in to Help Oregon’s Sandy River*

The Sandy River is a remarkable Oregon stream, with wild runs of salmon, winter steelhead, and sea-run cutthroat trout. Western Rivers Conservancy (WRC), www.westernrivers.org, began work on the Sandy 15 years ago, when the organization partnered with Portland General Electric (PGE) to restore the Sandy and its key tributaries to health. Since then, PGE removed both dams in the Sandy system and WRC created an extensive conservation and recreation corridor by placing nearly 4,000 acres of river land into public conservation stewardship.

Today, the Sandy and its tributaries flow wild and free, and parks and wilderness areas protect the upper and lower reaches of the river. Thanks to WRC’s extraordinary partnership with PGE and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), much of the middle Sandy is now conserved as well. As a result of these efforts, a BLM Area of Critical Environmental Concern designation now protects more than 17 miles of river frontage along the Sandy and Little Sandy Rivers. Although WRC wrapped up most of this project by 2012, the organization continues to purchase and conserve lands along the Sandy whenever they become available. In 2013, WRC acquired an additional 204 acres, a unique property with a half mile of frontage along both sides of the Bull Run River, a major tributary to the Sandy.

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**Washington Fly Fishing Fair**

*Have fun and sharpen your fly fishing skills. Free fly tying for the kids on Saturday! Slated for May 1-2*

Ellensburg, gateway to the Yakima River, will host the 9th Annual Washington Fly Fishing Fair on May 1 and 2. The event features fly-tying demonstrations, casting classes, seminars on myriad topics, vendor displays, and even a nine-hole casting course that will allow you to test your skills and hone your techniques. In addition, private lessons with a certified casting instructor will be available for a fee. The WSCIFF Awards Banquet takes place Friday night. The Fly Fishing Fair takes place at the Kittitas Valley Event Center in the Fairgrounds.

For more info visit www.washingtoncouncilff.org