

# SWEETWATER 2021

## SFG - NEWS AND UPDATES

It is difficult to understate the challenges and impacts 2020 presented to us all locally, nationally and internationally. From Covid on the global scale to record setting fires here in the West, 2020 was a year that tested us all in some extraordinary ways.



October 2020 (Post-Fire Construction )

In 2020 everything was impacted and although recreation was certainly down, Sweetwater was able to complete several projects. Read on to see a few of the things we were able to get done:

### Fishery Enhancement -Larimer County, Colorado

Elkhorn Creek headwaters high in the Roosevelt National Forest. Through steep terrain, dense timber and beaver meadows this fun creek offers a variety of habitats and views.

Despite all of these great qualities, however, it was overgrown to a point that made actually getting to the water a significant challenge and the prospect of angling completely out of the question.

Not part of our plan however was the record setting

Cameron Peak fire. Fire preparations for our site began in mid-September and on the 26th fire consumed most of the property. It was several weeks before we were able to access the site and the damage was astonishing. There were a few pockets that survived but by and large it was a total loss, even the wetlands were reduced to ash.

We set about modifying our design to accommodate what is certain to be a destructive runoff season, where stabilizing banks and moving ash through the system will be of utmost importance. Extensive seeding for a new understory was also implemented so regrowth can establish quickly when the snow comes off.

For all the destruction however, there is most definitely an



May 2020 (Pre-Fire)



October 2020 (Post-Fire)



Project site trail camera footage

upside. This area has been cleaned of the excessive, choking growth and new stands of grass, shrubs and timber can effectively start off on a blank canvas.

**SWEETWATER CONSULTING SERVICES**

Often times landowners are in search of a way to value or add value to their current amenities or buyers are looking to understand the value of a prospective purchase as well as ways to increase value after purchase.

Sweetwater has extensive experience helping these groups get their arms around these often complex considerations and bringing ideas and realizations that are often overlooked. This trend continued in 2019 with Sweetwater assisting numerous owners and buyers, often working in partnership with their land professionals to provide the information needed to make these big decisions.

**SFG - FISH AND FORAGE**

Sweetwater’s fish offerings have long been the industry standard for excellence and 2021 is no different. SFG has continued to stay ahead of the curve by making certain we have not only our 14+ pound trophies

CONNECTING COMMUNITIES

# North Forty News

September 22, 2020 | Volume 28 | Number 24 NorthFortyNews.com

NORTHERN COLORADO'S WEEKLY INDEPENDENT LOCAL NEWS

## Protecting the Ecosystem

Recent Fires and Water Proposals Present New Challenges  
SEE PAGE 9

Shannon Skelton holding a Brown Trout in the Poudre River (Photo Courtesy Duncan Clark, Hayden Outdoors)

THE NEW

### scene weekly

A PREVIEW OF WHAT'S GOING ON IN NORTHERN COLORADO

Powered by Northern Colorado's Entertainment & Lifestyle Magazine

#### The Ethics of Bug Hunting

PAGE 10

Swallowtail Butterfly (Photo by Tim Van Schmidt)

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**Wellington**  
What is Behind Wellington's Outdoor Fine Art Painting  
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Larimer County Fire Agencies Work Together to Get to People Faster  
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**Red Feather Lakes**  
The Cameron Peak Fire Isn't Out Yet, Why Not?  
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**Greeley**  
The Lodge at Greeley Hires Roger Miller as Director of Culinary Services  
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**Sweetwater President Shannon Skelton discusses strategies for post-fire fishery success**

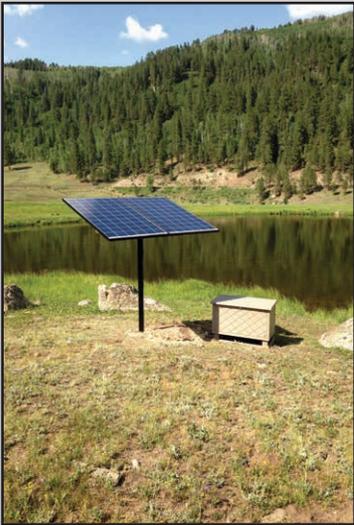
ready to go, but a full range of sizes to tackle any fish stocking need.

Complementing our superb fish are the forage bases to match. Often an afterthought, forage is the single most important component next to habitat to ensure a sustainable, high quality fishery. To address this need, SFG offers fathead minnows along with an industry exclusive Freshwater Shrimp (*Gammarus lacustris*) rearing facility to bolster a lagging, mature fishery or accelerate a new property. As always, the SFG fish and forage is in high demand so contact us early for your fishery management needs.

## A QUICK READ ABOUT POND MANAGEMENT

The importance of proactive pond management and aeration are difficult to understate. The benefits of quality aeration are very well established and should be a top priority for pond/lake owners and managers. Many clients each year take the leap and are overjoyed by the results. Their ponds are clearer, fish are healthier, insects are more abundant, winter kill is virtually eliminated and the need for chemicals reduced or eliminated.

We also get calls every Spring from owners who made a different decision and have suffered winterkill, have skinny



fish with big heads, a noxious smell from their ponds and later in the season, overwhelming weeds and algae.

While the debate about aeration's effectiveness and the science within has been over for quite some time, a bit of technical information can make the picture

more clear for those who may not be familiar with some of the pond cycle processes and how aeration aids in pond prosperity.

Lake bottom aeration is the process of introducing diffused air to the pond bottom, oxygenating and circulating pond



water. Without proper aeration circulation, ponds and lakes can become stratified, trapping toxic gases (ammonium and nitrogen) as well as decomposing organic matter to the pond bottom. Decomposing matter consumes oxygen through different biological processes, often depleting all available oxygen in this lower layer needed by fish and macroinvertebrates.

In addition to minimizing the effects of trapped toxic gasses, aeration de-stratifies the water column and raises dissolved oxygen. This allows fish and other aquatic inhabitants to occupy all areas of the water column as well as reduce the negative effects of pond turnover.

Aeration, along with SFG's innovative fisheries management techniques, afford our clients a productive and sustainable aquatic ecosystem. ***Contact us to learn how we can help you achieve your fishery goals!***



# SWEETWATER

FISH HABITAT ENHANCEMENT GROUP

Fort Collins, Colorado

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[www.SweetwaterFisheries.com](http://www.SweetwaterFisheries.com)

## A LOOK AT SFG SERVICES

### River Restoration:

- Full-scale scientific data collection and CAD based stream design
- U.S. Army Corps and state and federal agency permitting
- Fish and macroinvertebrate habitat improvement
- Structural implementation and construction

### Fisheries Science:

- Electrofishing population surveys and reporting
- Benthic Macroinvertebrate studies and forage base analysis
- Fishery management and consulting

### Stream Corridor Analysis:

- Riparian plant species inventory
- Riparian identification & classification
- Riparian condition assessment
- Wetland delineation

### Stillwater Development:

- Pond engineering and design
- Construction and lining (natural & synthetic)
- Aquatic habitat management
- Custom aeration design & installation

### Fishery Stocking Services:

- Trophy Trout
  - Brown Trout
  - Brook Trout
  - Rainbow Trout (Multiple Species)
  - Cutthroat Trout
- Forage base stockings
  - Freshwater Shrimp (*Gammarus lacustris*)
  - Fathead Minnows (*Pimephales promelas*)



SFG conducting a fish population survey



Detailed stream corridor analysis



SFG's Freshwater Shrimp nursery