



Freshwater Fisheries
Society of BC

PUBLIC ADVISORY

For Immediate Release

March 3, 2004

It's back – the Kootenay Trout Hatchery Open House will return this spring – hopefully bigger and better than ever.

After a three year hiatus, this popular event will occur on Saturday April 3, 2004 (from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm). The new non-profit society (Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC [FFSBC]) that operates the Kootenay Trout Hatchery as well as trout hatcheries in Summerland, Clearwater, Abbotsford and Duncan will be joined by two new partners in conducting this year's Open House. The new partners are: the **St. Mary's Flyfishers** and the **Upper Columbia White Sturgeon Recovery Initiative [UCWSRI]**.

"Our new partners aren't really new at all to us" says Laird Siemens, manager of the Kootenay Trout Hatchery. "Actually they are old friends. The St. Mary's Fly Fishers have assisted us in our endeavors for many years – particularly on Premier, Whitetail and North Star Lakes.

The UCWSRI and the hatchery have been partners since 2000 on the Columbia River Sturgeon Project.

Both groups are very co-operative and pro-active – very good people with which to work."

Kootenay Trout Hatchery was operated by the provincial government from its inception in 1965 to April 2003; in April of last year, the five trout hatcheries, as well as headquarters, fish health and engineering services were transferred to the new non-profit FFSBC. Funding for FFSBC is provided by fishing licenses (for FFSBC's recreation services) and the provincial government (for conservation services.)

The St. Mary's Fly Fishers club was organized in 1986 – it has since grown to 123 members. It is active in: fostering ethical angling; installation of wharves and boat-launches; fisheries conservation work; and assisting charitable organizations such as Cranbrook Big Brothers and Sisters, Kimberley Search and Rescue, and Calgary Children's Hospital.

The Upper Columbia White Sturgeon Recovery Initiative brings the combined interests of over 25 partners including government, First Nations and American

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tribes, industry, environmental groups and others to the challenge of building a healthy future for the white sturgeon in the upper Columbia River and across the border in the United States.

The Open House is always an exciting event – ***especially for youngsters!*** There will be spawning, fin-clipping (fish marking), fly-tying and rod-building demonstrations.

As well, there will be a special white sturgeon display set up, including a new kiosk and web cam for viewing juvenile white sturgeon.

So mark Saturday April 3, 2004 on your calendars for Kootenay Trout Hatchery's Open House – ***there is no charge for admission!***

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FOR MEDIA:

For further information on the Open House partners please phone:

Kootenay Trout Hatchery - Laird Siemens (250) 429-3214

St. Mary's Fly Fishers - Bill Olmsted (250) 427-3627

Upper Columbia
White Sturgeon
Recovery Initiative - Chris Beers (250) 837-2124

For additional background information please view:

www.gofishbc.com

www.uppercolumbiasturgeon.org

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