



# The Idaho World

Vol. 149, No. 49

"The Noblest Motive Is The Public Good"

Wednesday, December 7, 2011

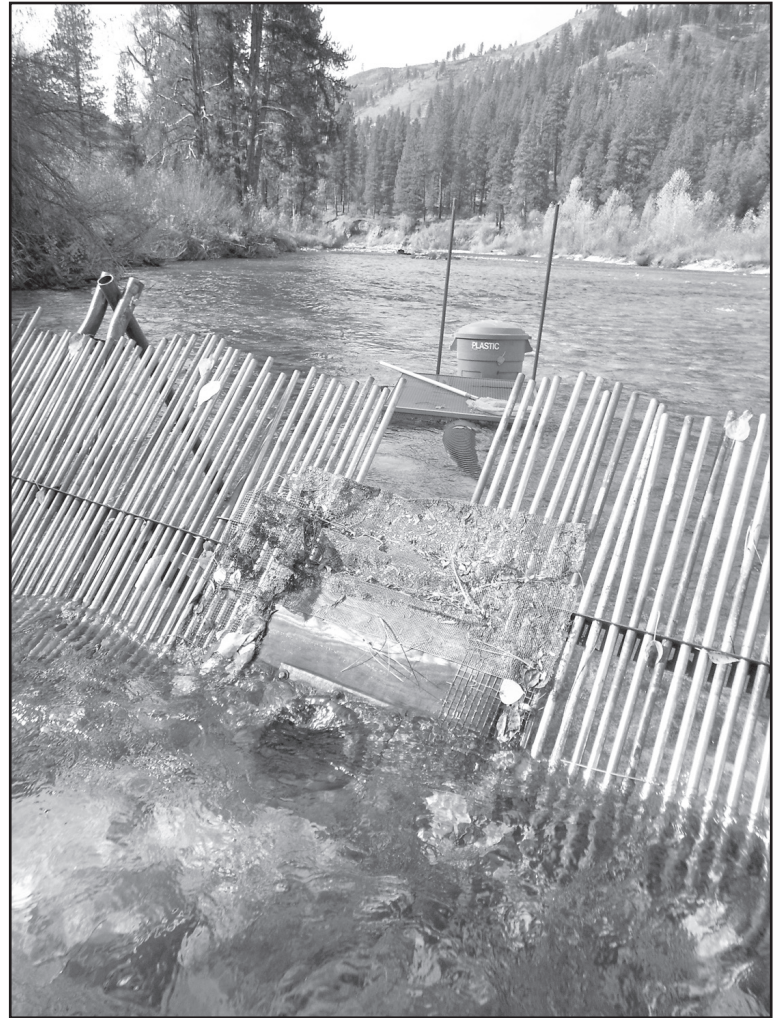
Idaho's Oldest Newspaper **The Voice of Boise County** Established 1863

Inside: Bridge Discussion in Garden Valley, Old Dumping Ground Discovered in Idaho City, County Sports

## Weir They Come From and Weir They Go

**By Eileen Capson**  
**EAST BOISE COUNTY-** "Just when you say they can't figure their way out, one of them does," says Dmitri Vidergar, a leading fish

biologist with the Bureau of Reclamation. Wading through the North Fork of the Boise River, near the Barber Flat Forest Service Station, he explains that fish are a lot



The Bureau of Reclamation built and maintained a temporary weir to gather data on bull trout from August through October.) The Bureau of Reclamation has two workers manning three weirs 24/7 in Boise County. Photo by Eileen Capson.



The bull trout receives a low current of electricity via a car battery to place it in a state of "electro-narcosis". The fish is then surgically tagged, and DNA is collected to be archived. Photo by Dave Walsh, Regional Photographer/Media Specialist for the Pacific Northwest Region.

like mice. If they can fit their head through a small opening in the metal weir, they'll push their way through. Vidergar says, "Fish are crafty little buggers."

Vidergar assisted in the process of collecting data from bull trout, listed as a threatened species. He explained that the fish are caught in several types of traps in the weir, whether they're coming or going. Once on shore, the fish are weighed and mea-

sured.

The bull trout receives a low current of electricity from a car battery while it's placed in a water filled plastic box. This causes the fish to relax and go belly up. Vidergar says the electricity is undetectable to people, but wearing jewelry, such as a ring, could cause a tingling sensation. The handlers are then able to work quickly to safely gather the data, while the fish is under "electro-narcosis." Drugs are

still used by some agencies, but Vidergar says it's difficult to mix and administer the right amounts. While the fish is under narcosis, the handler is able to surgically insert electronic devices and tags. These devices are later used to locate the bull trout, and gather information about temperature and depth.

Just like dog and cat microchips, a pit tag measures 12mm and is used to identify

*continued on page 12*

### Happenings!

Thursday, December 1, 10am **Garden Valley** - Regular meeting of the Friends of the Garden Valley Library in the Library's Community Room. Come help us choose programs for winter and spring.

Friday December 2, 6PM **Idaho City** - 4th Annual Christmas Tree Lighting at the Visitor's Center. Join your community in starting the Christmas season. Carols, Smokey Bear and Santa. Treats for the children.

Saturday, December 3, 6PM **Garden Valley** - Christmas Tree lighting at the Longhorn.

Sunday, December 4, 7:30PM **Garden Valley** - 5th Annual Non-Denominational Christmas Concert at the LDS Church.

Friday, December 9, 7PM **Idaho City**- 2nd Annual Holiday Dance Fundraiser at the Community Hall. Live Band, Chili Feed, hot beverages, activities for the kids & bonfire!

*continued on page 10*

**NOTE: The Happenings section covers non-profit events in Boise County.**

**If You Had A Subscription Your Name Would Be Here On The Front Page Of The Idaho World Every Week! Subscription Form - Back Page**



David Olson, Public Affairs Officer for the Boise National Forest (right), helped locate a bull trout with a radio transmitter. Information such as depth and temperature were received. Photo by Eileen Capson.