

**Nomination of Richard Dyrland for the  
2016 AFS President's Fishery Conservation Award (Non-Member)**

Richard (Dick) Dyrland has managed to accomplish what many of us can only dream of. He had a long and productive career as a hydrologist for the United States Forest Service (USFS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), and after 31 years of outstanding public service, retired (if that is the word) and immediately and indefatigably pursued his passion for watershed restoration and salmon recovery, focusing on streams and rivers that drain to the lower Columbia River. Since his retirement in 1996, Dick has donated countless hours raising public awareness and funding for habitat restoration, implemented and directed a large number of successful restoration projects, and served on the boards of two influential non-profit organizations. One of these organizations was Fish First, a locally grown assemblage of fishermen and conservationists that has funded and implemented several habitat and fish passage restoration projects. The other organization is Friends of the East Fork Lewis River, which Dick founded and has led these past 20 years. These are all noteworthy accomplishments, and we intend to return to them below, but what is important for you to understand at the outset, and we write this fervently hoping our words have the desired effect, is that Dick is a special human being in so many ways. For one, he never...stops...working. Usually, but as his lovely Thai wife Sunee Tanyongwetch will attest, not always for fish. Dick writes letters, articles, and proposals; stands before classrooms and government committees; organizes and stages special events; recruits and supervises volunteers; files the occasional lawsuit; yet can almost always be found at his stream restoration sites (past, present, and future) – taking out the bad (as in noxious weeds and riprap) and putting in the good (meaning large woody debris, spawning gravel, and other natural features favored by fish). If you are looking for Dick, your best bet is to go down to the East Fork Lewis River, where you're likely to find him in waders taking water temperature and flow measurements.

While these habits and accomplishments are commendable, and are duly noted, they only scratch the surface of what Dick is all about. He possesses profound technical knowledge, yet is self-deprecating and inquisitive; he sets high standards, yet is forgiving and gracious; he can take control of a situation, yet is the consummate team player. We have personally witnessed and benefitted from Dick's sage advice and leadership on several occasions, and we are not alone. The list of people he has positively influenced is long, and includes other natural resource experts, fellow volunteers, governmental officials, students, and underserved people who, given the chance, have flourished under his guidance. We think the most vivid, and moving, example of the latter is the disabled active military service personnel and disabled veterans he employs on his habitat restoration projects. Under Dick's guidance, members of Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing organization have applied their training and donated their time to restoring habitat and helping recover salmon populations. This activity confers equally profound psychological and ecological benefits, and deserves our lasting gratitude.

We would like to use the remainder of this nomination letter to touch on a few of Dick's more notable accomplishments. We have requested letters of commendation from Fish First President Gary Loomis, and the Executive Director of Project Healing Waters; these will be submitted separately. We have appended Dick's resume and a description of a sample habitat project that Dick conceived of, obtained funding for, and oversaw implementation of on the East Fork of the Lewis River, one of the few remaining undammed rivers in the region that supports five species of salmon and trout, including ESA-listed Chinook salmon, coho salmon, and steelhead trout. The East Fork has been impacted by timber harvesting activities in its upper reaches, and by extensive gravel mining and development in the floodplains of the lower river.

After earning a B.S. in Forest Management and Soils from Iowa State University and an M.S. in Hydrology and Watershed Management from the University of Minnesota, and taking several PhD-level courses in project management and natural resource economics, Dick embarked on a career with the USFS, during which he worked on water related projects in all of the western states from the Rockies to the Pacific, including Alaska.. His many assignments included Forest Hydrologist for the Wasatch National Forest, Regional Hydrologist for the Intermountain Region, and appointee to the National Watershed Systems Development and Applications Team, which developed improved watershed analysis and planning tools and provided field assistance to all Forest Service regions. Dick developed watershed and hydrologic resource planning, implementation, monitoring, and assessment strategies and techniques, and provided field training for USFS scientists.

When the NWSDAT office was moved from California to the USDA's National Computer Center in Fort Collins, Colorado, Dick opted to transfer to a national level program office in Washington, DC, where he served as the Principal Natural Resources Analyst and Project Development Manager for the nationwide Natural Resources Program and Assessment Group in the USDA. His duties included advising the Office of Management and Budget and the Defense Department on USFS initiatives and priorities.

At the beginning of the last decade of his career with the Forest Service, Dick returned to the Pacific Northwest and led the agency's NEPA Quality Management Team for PNW Forest Plans. Dick received many accolades and awards from the Forest Service in recognition of his professional service and accomplishments.

As noted earlier, Dick took "early" retirement in 1996. Since then, he has worked as a consulting hydrologist and head of Fish First's habitat restoration program. He also managed to find time to start the Friends of the East Fork of the Lewis River, and to catalyze and oversee its extensive efforts to conserve and restore the river he lives on. As an aside, whenever Dick can take time away from his projects, he and his wife indulge their mutual passion for international travel.

Dick has designed and supervised the installation of over 19 habitat and fish passage restoration projects, totaling over 17 lineal miles of river, and is considered an expert in creating and rehabilitating side channels. The list of restoration projects that Dick has overseen or has otherwise

been a major contributor to over the past two decades is too lengthy to list here, but, clearly, Dick has proven to be an effective advocate and “doer” of habitat restoration. We encourage you to visit the websites of the organizations Fish First and, especially, the Friends of the East Fork of the Lewis River, where you can peruse the restoration projects and conservation-related activities that Dick has been involved with. One of these projects, mentioned earlier in conjunction with Dick’s work with military veterans, is the creation of a slow-water side channel and the collection and anchoring of salvaged Christmas trees along its banks to provide much needed habitat and concealment for juvenile salmon as they make their way down the East Fork of the Lewis River. This project, which is described in an appendix to this nomination, was very successful and has been replicated in other areas of the East Fork.

In addition to his in-depth field and project management experience and responsibilities, Dick continues to acquire and update his technical skills. He is familiar with computer and electronic technology and applications; he has performed hydrologic and geomorphic analyses, cost-effectiveness simulation, and optimization modeling; and he has created graphically linked relational databases (GIS, LiDAR, and computer graphics) to support various watershed and aquatic habitat restoration projects.

In summary, Dick has demonstrated a unique capacity to develop and implement projects and programs at all levels – local, regional, and national – to restore the ecosystems and habitats that fish and other aquatic organisms need to live and thrive. He has “gone beyond the call of duty” in dedicating himself to providing effective, sustainable, on-the-ground solutions to the complex and daunting challenges faced by salmon recovery managers in the western United States.

As is often the case, the hard work and dedication of individuals like Dick often goes unsung. As long-time members and former and current elected officers of AFS, we appreciate the efforts of people like him because they align with our organization’s values. The AFS President’s Fishery Conservation Award for non-members is intended to recognize individuals like Dick who have contributed meaningfully to the conservation of the fisheries resource and who, by extension, have benefitted all of us. We can state without reservation that Dick Dyrland is worthy of the award and would bring credit to AFS. For these reasons, we urge you give him your utmost consideration for this award.

Respectfully submitted,



Carl Burger  
AFS President 2000-2001

Cleve Steward  
President-Elect, Western Division

## **Résumé**

### **Richard Dyrland**

A synopsis of Dick's education, training, work history and accomplishments follows:

#### **Education**

Iowa State University – B.S. in Forest Management and Soils (1959).

University of Minnesota – M.S. in Hydrology and Watershed Management (1963).

PhD-Level Studies in Program Management and Resource Economics (1972-73).

Dick's training, experience, and contributions have spanned much of North America, with a focus on Pacific aquatic ecosystems. His highly specialized training and experience has included partnerships with a host of federal and state agencies, and with natural resource-oriented NGO's and fishery user groups.

#### **Training**

- Advanced Photogrammetry Interpretation and Measurements (USFS, Ogden UT);
- Geophysical Exploration Techniques (University of Minnesota);
- Advanced Hydrologic Analysis (USFS, Ogden UT);
- Optimization Techniques for Planning, Design and Operation of Water Resource Systems, Los Angeles (UCLA);
- Storm Analysis and Flood-Flow Evaluation Techniques (U.S. Weather Bureau/NOAA, Salt Lake Center, UT);
- Advanced Studies in Environmental Systems Ecology (UC Berkley);
- Large Project Management Planning Techniques (Multination Systems Ltd, Washington, DC);
- Executive Management Program, Denver, CO (U.S. OPM);
- Natural Resources Simulation Team (Stanford University);
- Non-Point Source Pollution Control on Federal Lands (U.S. EPA and BLM, UT);
- NW Forest Plan Scientists Group, Ecosystems Applications – Resource Management (OSU Corvallis);
- Advanced Techniques in Hydrology (Wildland Hydrology Institute, CO);
- Field Applications in Fluvial Geomorphology (NRCS, Spokane); and
- Advanced Techniques in Stream Channel Restoration and Fisheries Habitat Rehabilitation (Wildland Hydrology Institute, CO).

## **Experience**

- Veteran, U.S. Army (1959-61);
- Forest Hydrologist (Wasatch National Forest) and Regional Hydrologist (USFS, Intermountain Region, 1963);
- Graduate School (1972) – Federal Analyst PhD-Level Studies, Natural Resource Management;
- Acting Regional Hydrologist (USFS California Region, 1973-74);
- R & D Hydrologist-Analyst (National Watershed Systems Development Service Unit (USFS, Berkeley, 1974-76);
- Principal Natural Resources Planning and Analyst (USFS, Washington, DC) 1976-85;
- Chief's Forest Plans NEPA Quality Management Team (USFS, Pacific NW Region, 1985-96);
- Supervisory Hydrologist (semi-retired) for Hydrologic Analysis and Stream Restoration Project Design and Installation (USFS, 1996-Present);
- Stream Restoration Engineer (Private Consultant for Fish First and Friends of the East Fork Lewis River, 1996-Present).

## **Publications**

- Author, Natural Resource Conditions and Resource Values, North Slope of the Uinta Mountains, 1971 (USFS, Intermountain Region);
- Author, Resource Capability System...A User's Guide Part VI – Concepts and Field Procedures, 1973. U. S. Forest Service, Watershed Management Division, D. C.;
- Co-Author, Resource Capability System, 1974. Watershed Systems Development and Applications Unit, U. S. Forest Service, Berkeley, CA;
- Cooperating Author, User's Guide-Mining and Reclamation, 1980. Miscellaneous Publication, U. S. Forest Service, Washington, D.C.;
- Cooperating Author, 1995. A Spatial Decision Support System for Hierarchical Habitat Planning, National Center for GIS and Analysis, UC Santa Barbara;
- Supporting Author, 2003. Assessment and Strategic Plan-East Fork Lewis River;
- Dover Habitat Restoration, LLC. Billings, MT;
- Cooperating Author, 2003. First 10(A)(1)(a) Programmatic Permit Issued in USA Involving TandE Species Salmonids, Lewis River System, WA State, NOAA-Fisheries;
- Author and Co-Author of Seven Technical Papers and Presentations given at various symposia in the Western States.

## **Awards**

- Interagency Federal Watershed Management Team Award. (USFS 1971).
- U. S. Forest Service, Chief's Multi-Regional Watershed Team Award (1973-1976).
- Chief of the Forest, Service, Outstanding Performance Award. (1976).
- Chief John McGuire's Advisory Group Award (U. S. Forest Service 1977-1978).
- Resources for the Future Institute, Natural Resources Seminar Group (1979).

- USDA, Secretary of Agriculture, Superior Service Award, 1980.
- USFS Regional Forester Region 5, Certificate of Merit, Forest Plans (1990).
- U. S. Forest Service, Certificate of Appreciation for Significant Accomplishments in the Management of the National Forests (1996).

### **Affiliations**

- Gamma Sigma Delta (Agricultural Sciences Honor Society)
- National Center for Geographic Information and Analysis (NCGIA), UC Santa Barbara
- National Society for Ecological Restoration
- American Rivers
- Native Fish Society

### **Contact Information for Nominee**

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# Healing Waters Veterans Collaborate to Help East Fork

8 August, 2014

## HEALING WATERS VETERANS COLLABORATE TO HELP THE EAST FORK

Desperately needed cover for protection against predators of juvenile salmon and steelhead was installed Thursday (August 6) in the large long pool at the outlet of Manly Road Creek where it flows into the East Fork Lewis River about 3/4ths of a mile below Daybreak Park Bridge. The discarded old Christmas tree cover was installed by a collaboration of Friends of the East Fork and Salmon Creek Fly Fishers, which are local Clark County based non-profit conservation minded organizations.



The Fly Fishers are a local group within the “Healing Waters” war veterans association. The project, set up by Dennis Potter (conservation coordinator for Fly Fishers) and Dick Dyrland (President of Friends of the East Fork) used about 75 discarded spruce Christmas trees minus their needles. These were previously donated by the Boy Scouts, stored for a year on the Dean Swanson farm on the lower East Fork, and are ideal for the densely branched woody material needed to provide high quality protective cover from predators of juvenile fish as well as newly hatched salmon and steelhead fry.



The two groups have worked together previously on other East Fork related conservation and stream stewardship programs and projects and have developed a backlog of projects that they intend to find time and means to implement.



Project needs are based on information from WA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife and other state agency stream management reports and long-term management program plans for the East Fork and tributary streams. Quite a few members of the two groups have special technical and other skills, these are put to full use in developing and implementing the projects.

Friends of the East Fork Lewis River and Salmon Creek Flyfishers