



Pioneer Montessori students learning about Adopt-A-Trout program.

WRLT Helps with Adopt-A-Trout

This past fall, Pioneer Montessori elementary students joined Trout Unlimited (TU) and WRLT staff, along with Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) and Department of Environmental Quality biologists to collect adult trout via electro-fishing. The fish were surgically implanted with radio-telemetry tags and then released back into the Big Wood River.

Tracking fish helps the IDFG and TU discover if fish are getting stuck in canals or other areas, and what areas may not be ideal trout habitat. Before setting the tagged fish free, each student named their fish; names like “Frankenfish”, “Trey the Trout” (inspired by Trey Spaulding, WRLT’s Director of Operations), “Tootsie” and “Spot”.

The Adopt-A-Trout program was started by TU in Wyoming and recently brought here by local TU staff. It includes monthly classroom visits by staff so students can learn more about trout habitat and lifestyles. Over the course of the school year, each student will help track and record their fish’s movements. In fact, we heard in the beginning of February 2013 that “Trey the Trout” is in Magic Reservoir.



Brown trout being caught and tagged.