

# **THE LIFE OF THE** **YAKIMA RIVER**

*A film about what makes Washington's  
only Blue Ribbon Trout Stream Special.*

*A Film Project Presented By:*



Under the Microscope Productions, LLC

Production, Promotion & Publishing of the Arts

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

P.O. Box 778

Royal City, WA 99357

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### Introduction to Under the Microscope Productions, LLC.

To Whom It May Concern:

Under The Microscope Productions owners, David and Nathaniel Rowley, are all about the arts. Our small business is primarily focused on music production, recording, publishing, and promoting. We currently have worked with four musical groups, and have published several pieces of educational sheet music under our music publishing division, Focus Sheet Music. These are available for music educators to purchase via digital download, something that is not being done anywhere else.

David Rowley has been a music educator for over twenty years, and has been a professional performing musician even longer. He has an extensive background in the arts, and has been eager to add filmmaking to his repertoire. He recently taught a film class at Big Bend Community College during the summer, finally getting his start in film production.

Nate Rowley was a performing musician for many years before giving it up to focus on his family and school, while also learning music production. Nate has become an excellent sound technician and audio engineer. He is fluent in Avid's Pro Tools Audio Software, which is the industry standard in audio production. Nate graduated from Central Washington University with a Bachelor of Arts in Informational Technology and Administration Management. Unable to find work in this field after college, he began working for Steve Worley at the Worley Bugger Fly Company. This is where our film project began.

Nate started fly-fishing in 2001. Before he ever touched a fly rod, he began tying flies. He enjoyed the artistry and stress relief he found in tying. When he decided to

stroll into the Worley Bugger Fly Company in search of tying materials, Nate was greeted by Tim Irish. Over the next few years, Tim introduced him to the world of Fly Fishing. Later he met Steve Worley, and a great relationship was formed. When Nate was looking for a job, Steve helped him out and opened that world even more.

Nate soon realized how important the Yakima River was to the fly-fishing community, the State of Washington, conservationists, the towns that border it, agriculture, and everything else touched by the river. David saw Nate's passion for the philosophy and art behind fly fishing while on fishing trips with his son. During these trips, the need for artistic expression rose to the surface like a sipping trout.

### **The Need for a Film**

David and Nate saw the absence of any film on the Yakima River that gave history, information, and entertainment on Washington State's only Blue Ribbon trout stream. Many articles and journals have talked about the Yakima. Short interviews and shots of the river have been filmed for outdoor shows, but there has never been anything made for a larger audience that features the Yakima River and why it is so important and so special. Not just to fly fisherman, but outdoor enthusiasts, anyone who enjoys the river, or those who live on or near its banks.

With many films coming out over the years that have been geared towards fly fishing, and with most being what the culture calls, "Fish Porn," Dave and Nate saw an opportunity to make an artistic film with the Yakima River as the main character. A narrated film that would educate the audience on its history, inform them of why it is such a special river, and entertain them with all that the river has to offer; from fly fishing to the wildlife that inhabit it.

## **Film Synopsis**

The film will touch on the history of the Yakima, from the Native Americans who lived on and used the river, to the modern day activities that surround the river. Including its discovery by Lewis and Clark, the founding of the towns along its banks, the building of the dams that harness its power and use its water, and its use in agriculture. The film will incorporate the history of those who first used a fly to catch its fish, the implementation of wild trout and catch and release regulations, the first guided trips for fly fishing, and the start of the fly fishing culture on the Yakima River.

Informing the audience of all that the Yakima River has to offer will be a goal of the film. Including introducing the audience to the Yakima's abundant wildlife, including the famous big horn sheep which live in the lower canyon, the many bald eagles that grace the skies above it, the elk and deer that are found drinking from its banks, the river otter that swim in its water, and other wildlife that call the Yakima River home.

Audiences will also meet the second most important group of species on and in the river, insects. These little bugs are what help make the Yakima River so special. A look at what insects make the river their home, and how they fit into the web of life and ecosystem, will be shared with the audience. All this sets up the introduction of the most important species in the river, fish.

The resident Wild Rainbow and West Slope Cutthroat Trout will be the focal point of course, but there are many other little known species of fish inhabit as well. The Salmon runs that we see each year, our wonderful Rocky Mountain Whitefish run in the winter, our illusive and returning Steelhead population that is on the rise, and all the other fish that we fly fisherman consider food for trout, like Sculpin, will be shown as supporting characters to the Yakima River.

The film will also show how the river has affected the towns along its banks including, Easton, Cle Elum, South Cle Elum, Thorp, and Ellensburg. Land and home owners who make the River banks their home will show the audience how this river affects everyday people and what it means to them on a personal level. Additionally, the

film will touch on the other outdoor activities that many people may not know about; from the local college population that use it to float and have a good time, the waterfowl and game hunters that sneak along its banks or around its tributaries, and the hikers, bikers, horseback riders, campers, and all those who enjoy the river.

A part of the film will show how the fly fishing industry has flourished and the culture that has developed among all those who use the river as their office. Interviews with local fly shop owners and guides, past and present, will show the audience what the river means to them on a personal and business level. Getting insight from those who are on the river every day possible during the year, have them answer why they chose to call the Yakima River their home river.

Of course what would a film on the Yakima River be without a little, “Fish Porn?” Audiences will have a chance to see how fish are caught; the techniques, tactics, and equipment will all be discussed to show why this river is one of kind in the state of Washington. The audience will be entertained with wonderful shots of our wild fish being tricked and caught by the fly, and then released back into the river that they call home.

The film will end with what is in store for the future. What those who populate its banks would like to see, the Department of Fish and Wildlife’s plans for the river shed, and what those who visit its water take away from such a wonderful and special character.

### **The Plan**

Nate and Dave will be working as a two-man team over the next fourteen months to finish the project by April 1<sup>st</sup> 2012. Nate is an employee of the Worley Bugger Fly Company, but this film is not about promoting business. However, the staff at the WBFC will be providing assistance with river access, knowledge, and information. Any and all who use the river are encouraged to support the project in any way, and they will be approached as we continue with the project.

We would like to debut the film at the Ellensburg Fly Fishing Fair in 2012. We also intend on submitting it to the Annual October Film Festival held in Ellensburg later in the year. We have also considered many other film and fly fishing festivals, and are

more than happy to gather input on where else we should show this film once it is completed.

### Schedule

#### Yakima River Film Project 2010-2011

##### January

- Create Production and Business Plan
- Contact Washington Film Works
  - Discuss project
  - Look for contacts
  - Discuss locations
- Contact Roza dam
- Four to Six river locations between Easton and Roza Dam for filming.
- Permissions for private and public areas of filming
- Contact WDFW about the film
- Contact Teresea Pitri about project
- Contacting possible investors and supporters
- Create film Scope
  - Story
  - Characters
- Create shot list
- GET WINTER SHOTS OF THE RIVER (with Handheld if need be)
- Begin history research
- Contact Slag Callahan and Paul Davies about aerial shots.

##### February

- Continue History Research
- Continue Money Search (Investors-Grants)
- Create Short Video For Investors (project overview)
- Be prepared for Skwala Hatch Filming
- Contact adjacent cities and towns about filming within city limits
  - Easton
  - Cle Elum
  - South Cle Elum
  - Thorp
  - Ellensburg
- Contact Fly Fishing Industry
  - Reds
  - Trout Water
  - Evening Hatch

- WBFC
- Contact other recreational industries that use the Yakima River Watershed
- Biology Research
  - Steve Verhey
  - Zack Mays
  - Dave Duvall

### March

- RECORD NATURAL AUDIO FOR EVERY MONTH
- Get Spring Film Footage
- Get March Brown Hatch (Skwala Hatch)
- Film Run-Off
- Film Busy-Ness of river in spring
- Start Tim Irish Story and Filming
- Start Steve Worley story and filming
- History of Reds (Lodge Story)
- Be prepared for other hatches filming

### April

- Shoot Historical Pieces
- Film Bug Hatches
- Film Fishing
- Edit Steve and Tim Stuff
- Edit other Shops stuff
- Film Biology

### May

- Film Towns and CWU Connection
- Film Fishing
- Film hatches
- Edit Historical pieces
- Film Biology

### June

- Edit Town Pieces
- Film Fishing
- Film Hatches
- Film Biology

### July

- Film Biology
- Film hatches
- Film Fishing
- Film Other Recreation

August

- Film biology
- Film hatches
- Film Fishing
- Film other recreation
- Film Salmon

September

- Film Fishing
- Film Hatches
- Film Fishing
- Start Wrap Filming
- Begin Audio Editing
- Start editing final product
- Film Salmon
- Begin Writing narrating script

October

- Film hatches
- Film Salmon
- Film Fishing
- Film Biology
- Hire narration artist

November

- Film hatches
- Film fishing
- Wrap filming

October –MarchPOST PRODUCTION

- Begin post productions
  - Audio recording and editing
  - Film Editing
  - Music recording and editing
- Graphic Design for Promotion (December/ January)
- Titles
- Final Product March 31<sup>st</sup>.

## Yakima River Film Project 2010 Brief Outline

### Characters

#### *The Yakima River*

- The blue ribbon section from Easton to Roza Dam.

#### *Wildlife*

- Wildlife surrounding the river, including the Salmon
- Insects
- Rainbow and Cutthroat trout
- Steelhead

#### *Cities*

- Cities that surround and feed off the river in any form.
  - Easton
  - Cle Elum
  - South Cle Elum
  - Thorpe
  - Ellensburg

#### *People*

##### Tim Irish

- The man who started the fly-fishing industry on the Yakima River.

##### Steve Worley

- River Entrepreneur
- Those who visit the river for outdoor activities other than fishing.
- The thousands of people who visit the river for recreation.
- Those who live on or near the river

### Story

What is the story? (Broad Scope)

- The Yakima River's life story.

INFORMATIVE AND ENTERTAINING FIRST

#### *Introduction*

- Shots of river to describe what the Yakima River is.

#### *History*

- Date back to Indians to Lewis and Clark, to Isaac Stevenson, Kittitas pioneers, miners, farmers, to modern day fishing and recreational industries.
- Start at the head of the river and as we go by the towns start to talk about them as we flow by them.
- History of fishing on the Yakima Indians, early settlers, Tim Irish, Steve Worley, current fishing industry.
- Segment that into other recreation on the river.
- What is the future hold, Steelhead coming back? Why is this river so special? Those who have made it their home, and why?

## **Help and Support**

Dave and Nate have sent this letter with the hope that you may be interested in being a part of this project. We are of course looking for financing, but we are also looking for support, ideas, and input. This project was conceived with the intent to distribute freely as an informative and artistic work of art, and not for financial gain or sale. We would like to submit the film to various film festivals and public programs, as well as, fly fishing fairs and festivals. We believe it will help show the river's importance and tell its story. It will also show people what the Yakima River has to offer, so that people from all walks of life can enjoy it.

Our project will not be possible without the help from those who support the arts, education, and ideas behind it. If you would be interested in helping support Under The Microscope Productions undertaking of this film project with financing, we would greatly appreciate it. No amount is too small. We are looking into Artistic Grants for helping us complete this film as well. We have proposed a small budget to pay for the film, which we believe, is feasible. We are currently in need of funds for camera equipment, so we may begin our shooting schedule. Nate and Dave have the intent of using this film to help start their film careers, and to help open the door to the Yakima River.

## **Equipment for Filming**

### *What we will be using*

We will be shooting the majority of this film with a *Panasonic Pro AG-HMC150 3CCD AVCHD 24 fps camcorder*. We will also be using small HD hand held cameras, as well as, the Go Pro action camera. We will be using Final Cut Pro Film Editing Software for the film production. For audio production software, we will be using Avid's Pro Tools LE version 8, and standard audio recording equipment for outdoor audio recording.

## **Proposed Budget**

\$10,000.00

Equipment (Camera, Software, Underwater Gear, Outdoor Audio Equipment):

\$4000.00

Forecasted Fees (Aerial Shots, Permissions, Music, Narrator):

\$5500.00

Misc. Expenses:

\$500.00

Below is an explanation of budget:

### *Equipment*

Dave and Nate plan to purchase as much necessary equipment themselves, i.e.: Camera. However, most of our sound gear is for studio use and the ability to convert it over to outdoor or purchase outdoor audio equipment is needed. Underwater housing for our main camera the *Panasonic Pro AG-HMC150 3CCD AVCHD 24 fps camcorder* is also available, and we would like to purchase it for some great underwater shots.

### *Aerial Shots*

We would like to be able to shoot aerial shots of the river for the film. We know several pilots that would be able to assist in this, but we are open to suggestions as well. We will need to compensate them for their time.

### *Permissions*

We plan on filming five sections of the River: Upper River near Easton, The Cle Elum confluence and area below, Upper River Canyon along Highway 10, farmlands section near Ellensburg, and the Lower Canyon. On some of this land we may need permission to film. Therefore, we may need funds to procure those permits or permissions. We are also open to suggestions to areas as well.

### *Music*

David and Nate plan to write and record all original music for the film. However, we may need to hire musicians to record certain instruments or parts that we cannot perform. These musicians will need to be compensated for their time.

*Narrator*

We plan to hire a narrator that has a voice that fits the river and we are open to suggestions. We will need to compensate them for their time, as spoken word recording is tedious and hard work. Under the Microscope Productions has experience with this form of recording and knows how to do it well.

**Thank You**

We hope that you will support us in any way that you can with our project. We look forward to working on it and sharing the process as we move forward. We are more than happy to talk and discuss the project with anyone, and hear about his or her experiences that involve the Yakima River. Please keep in mind that this is not a “Fish Porn” film, it is an artistic film telling the life story of the Yakima River. The plan is to keep this project an educational, informative, and entertaining piece of art for all to enjoy. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or comments. We have already begun pre-production on the film and are on schedule. For updates or news on the project please contact us. We will have a link to the films progress on our websites below, and we will be creating a Facebook page for the project, and others, from Under The Microscope Productions. Thank you for your time and we hope to hear from you.

**Contact**

If you have any question or comments or would like to support Under The Microscope Productions in any way with the filming and production of this Yakima River Documentary please contact us.

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