

**DAUBLE**

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the list down to 43. Of that group, rainbow trout were tagged with a total of 25 different scientific names! Attributing a new species name to a locale or a person helped keep them straight.

Early taxonomic methods focused on visual characteristics such as body size, the counting of fin rays and gill rakers, and color, including spotting patterns. Male and female salmon (what anglers term a “buck” and a “hen”) were sometimes thought to be different species, as were juvenile forms and fish that changed their color or size of jaw at spawning time. Consider another journal entry from Lewis and Clark: “in this neighborhood we have met with another species which does not differ from the other in any particular except in the point of colour.”

Fast forward to 1989 when a committee of fisheries scientists took advantage of newly discovered genetic evidence to recommend the seven species of Pacific salmon and trout we know today be combined into a single genus, *Oncorhynchus*. Genetic evidence emphasizes evolutionary relationships rather than physical appearance. Concurrently with this finding, *Oncorhynchus mykiss* was chosen as the scientific name for both the North American and the Asian, or *mikizha*, form of steelhead/rainbow trout.

Interestingly, the current classification scheme ignores a pronounced difference between Pacific salmon and Pacific trout. For example, all five species of Pacific salmon (chinook, coho, sockeye, pink, chum) die after they return from the sea to spawn, while the two species of Pacific trout (rainbow and cutthroat), hybridize with each other, may or may not migrate to the sea, and can spawn



Dennis Dauble/Contributed Photo

**Adult steelhead exhibit a wide range of colors and spotting patterns when they enter the freshwater spawning phase of life. A silvery ocean-caught steelhead would likely be described as a different species in the mid-19th century.**



Dennis Dauble/Contributed Photo

**Juvenile steelhead lose their distinct oval-shaped parr marks when they swim to the ocean as bright shiny “smolts.” Two centuries ago, the two life history forms might be considered different species.**

more than once (i.e., are iteroparous).

The logic behind Lewis and Clark’s moniker “salmon trout” for steelhead is easy to reconstruct. After all, isn’t a steelhead a large trout that acts like a salmon? What about the “white salmon trout?” At the time of Lewis and Clark, coho salmon were abundant throughout the Columbia River Basin. Coho spawn rear in tributary streams and juveniles remain in fresh water for one or two years. These attributes mimic the life history and behavior of steelhead where the two species overlap. My best guess is the characteristic white gum line of coho salmon triggered the thought to these explorers.

Not to be forgotten is the “salmon” of Lewis and Clark, no doubt the most important fish they encountered. The Canadian

explorer David Thompson also used the term to describe chinook salmon when he traveled through the mid-Columbia region in 1812, often adding “small salmon” to his notes as a distinction.

Science advances when new ways of thinking and innovative techniques are applied to age old problems. Consider the words of the French biologist Charles Girard, “the method I follow is the natural, the true method, that which has superseded the artificial method of the last century.”

Not the case, it seems, 150 or so years later.

*Dennis Dauble is a retired fishery scientist, outdoor writer, presenter and educator who lives in Richland, Washington. For more stories about fish and fishing in area waters, see [DennisDaubleBooks.com](http://DennisDaubleBooks.com).*

**JACOBY**

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The forests include both younger tamaracks that sprouted after the fire, as well as pockets of older trees that escaped the flames.

With my wife, Lisa, and our kids, Olivia and Max, I picked a route on roads on High Mountain, which rises between the main and north forks of Anthony Creek.

The mountain, notwithstanding its regrettably uncreative name, is not especially high.

Nor is it a single peak. There are several minor summits along the ridgeline and the tallest, at 6,629 feet, is almost 400 feet below the base elevation at Anthony Lakes Mountain Resort.

But dull name and modest elevation aside, the slopes of High Mountain are a fine place to see the extent of tamaracks in this part of the Elkhorns.

We started from the main road on High Mountain. A network of old fire roads branches off the 4380 road, and we fashioned a loop of about three miles.

About half a mile from where we parked, at the junction of the 4380 and 4380-700 roads, we heard the snarl of what sounded like several chain saws.

A four-wheel drive van was parked along the road, its roof rack loaded with plastic gas containers. On the steep slope below, a crew of about 10 workers was cutting and piling the young trees, mostly white firs.

This is part of the East Face project, a multiyear effort to thin crowded forests. Much of the work is happening along roads, where the crews are creating fuelbreaks — zones where a summer wild-fire, deprived of a dense

**IF YOU GO**

To get to High Mountain, drive the Anthony Lakes Highway toward the ski area. About 2.3 miles beyond the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest boundary sign, and just past a sweeping left turn, turn right onto Road 7312, which is marked by a sign reading “Anthony Creek 7.” Drive four miles and continue straight on Road 4380, which heads steeply uphill. Follow Road 4380 for about 2.8 miles to a junction with Road 4380-700, which bears off to the right. There is a brown sign reading “Leaving Area of Regulated Use.” Hike Road 4380-700 for about three quarters of a mile, climbing steadily but gradually. Just after the road levels and makes a sharp right turn, continue left, and uphill, at an intersection. (The road heading downslope is 4380-710.) Road 4380-700, which had been relatively well-maintained to this point, is much less so, but it’s an easy hike. The road makes one switchback to the left and then rounds a ridge to a clearing with a fine view to the south of slopes rich in tamaracks, and of the snow-covered peaks of the Elkhorns beyond. There are a few piles of slash from a forest-thinning operation in the road here, but continue to the west and the road becomes clear again. It descends for half a mile or so to another intersection. Head left, and continuing downhill. This is Road 4380-100, and it connects with the 4380 Road. Turn left and hike downhill for less than a quarter-mile to the end of the loop at the 4380/4380-700 junction.

fuel load, would be more likely to slow, giving fire crews a chance to douse the flames.

As we climbed higher, branching onto a different road, we left the sawyers behind. The road crossed an open slope of the sort common in this area — granitic boulders, part of the massive intrusion of the igneous rock that forms the backbone of the northern half of the Elkhorns, and clumps of chaparral-like snowbrush.

The gap in the trees also revealed a grand view south. In the foreground, the slopes on the south side of Anthony Creek were dotted with brilliant tamaracks. Beyond, the snowy face of Van Patten Butte rose, and to its right, looking curious from this angle and distance, the stripes of a few ski runs at Anthony Lakes.

The viewpoint was also the high point of our hike, about 100 feet below the 6,554-foot knob that forms one of the central summits of High Mountain (its apex is about half a mile to the west).

We descended through thick forest to another intersection. Not long after I noticed, while

scanning the ground for interesting animal tracks, an unusually long and slender pine cone.

It clearly wasn’t the seed bearer from a ponderosa or a lodgepole, the two most common pines at this elevation.

I looked around and saw, growing beside the road, what I took to be a white pine — a relatively rare sight in the Blue Mountains.

I checked a needle bundle and was pleased to count five, confirming my identification.

(Whitebark pines also have five needles per bundle, but whitebarks rarely grow so low as this site, about 6,000 feet. Whitebarks are also distinctive, with thicker needles than a white pine has, among other differences.)

I noticed quite a few juvenile white pines, interspersed with lodgepoles, as we continued our route back to the rig.

The tamaracks were the highlight of the hike, to be sure.

But I was pleased to come across a different sort of tree that I rarely see. It was the kind of happy coincidence that tends to happen in the woods.

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## CROSSWORD PUZZLER

**ACROSS**

- Take ten
- Rum-soaked cake
- Two, in Tijuana
- Minor
- In a while
- Potato st.
- New York City borough
- Use a sofa
- Fritz, to himself
- Dais VIP
- Subside
- Skirt length
- Sanskrit relative
- Lick
- Connect up
- Before, in combos
- UK neigh.
- Prompt
- Student’s purchase
- Mingle
- Ore deposit
- Lectern
- Discussion group
- Starchy food
- Coffee dispenser
- “Ick!”
- Ruler by virtue of wealth
- Grassy field
- Trevi Fountain coins, once
- Bronte governess
- Pronto
- Plumbing bends
- Cellphone button

**DOWN**

- Sugarcane product
- Victorian, e.g.
- Worker’s no.
- Papeete’s island
- Shower alternative
- Diligent insect
- Jungle crusher
- Wing
- Half of DJ
- Fat cat’s friend
- Overindulge
- Top-notch pilot
- Wire measure
- Dr.’s visit
- Like some necessities
- Karras or Trebek
- Novelist — Puzo
- Triangle tip
- Nesting place
- Desktop symbol
- Wearing nothing
- Hull bottom
- Trim a doily
- Knights’ weapons
- Hardwood tree
- Major leaguer
- Part of an orange
- Like good cheddar
- Hoops nickname
- Western natives
- Small, in Dogpatch
- Web site
- Grain crop
- Prince
- Valiant’s eldest
- Slugger — Williams

**Answer to Previous Puzzle**

F	A	R	E	A	L	M	S	E	P	A
A	L	A	S	N	I	N	O	G	A	S
D	I	E	T	T	N	B	L	O	C	K
		E	M	I	T	E				
A	D	O	R	E	G	R	A	T	I	N
P	I	G	W	A	D	I	S	I	L	O
R	O	L	E	T	A	B	H	A	I	R
I	D	E	S	E	P	E	E	R	A	M
L	E	S	S	E	N	L	O	A	D	S
		A	P	E	P	I	C			
O	B	E	Y	S	A	I	H	I	L	T
H	A	L	O	G	R	E	O	L	E	O
O	A	F	M	A	P	S	A	K	I	N

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**110 Announcements**

**110 Announcements**

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