

MARKET COMMENTARY

FIG. 1: The Best Fly Fishing in the US



Sources: Travel & Leisure, June 2021; Mill Creek

The Federal Reserve’s much anticipated annual economic symposium kicks off next week on Thursday, August 26 in Jackson Hole, Wyoming¹. There is no shortage of topics to be discussed and this year’s theme “Macroeconomic Policy in an Uneven Economy,” is sufficiently broad to allow for creative interpretation by presenters. Although the agenda is not released until the day of the event, speakers have historically consisted of A-list economists, academics, and central bankers (both domestic and foreign). Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell will present, but he has not disclosed the title of his speech. Some believe he will make a formal announcement on tapering while others speculate that it will be pushed until the Federal Open Market Committee’s meeting later this year. Either way, all eyes will be focused on the conference for policy-signaling cues that could have longer term implications for the economy and markets. Last year, for example, Chairman Powell took the opportunity to announce average inflation targeting, which was considered a major shift in monetary policy. In 2014, it was widely noted that European Central Bank President Mario Draghi “stole the show” when he told his audience that “the ECB will use all the available instruments needed to ensure price stability.” The ECB rolled out quantitative easing (QE) for the first time the following year. Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke alluded to new rounds of QE in both his 2010 (QE2) and 2012 (QE3) speeches.

As we look forward, it’s likely Chairman Powell and others will use the Jackson Hole stage to build on seeds already planted in the minds of investors rather than announce any significant shifts in thinking that would move markets. But times are changing and we will be listening closely.

[1] Held at [Jackson Lake Lodge](#) in the Grand Tetons since 1982. With world class fly-fishing, it was initially chosen to ensure Chairman Paul Volcker's attendance who was an avid fan of the sport.

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