

# 2016 Annual Report



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BITTER ROOT  
**Water**  
FORUM

*Bitterroot River downstream  
of the Stevensville Bridge*

## Board of Directors

Eddie Olwell - President

Chris Clancy - Vice President

Don McGourty - Treasurer/Secretary

Sharon Dedmon

Rob Johnson

Louise Massie

Al Pernichele

Sherry Ritter

Ed Snook

## Staff

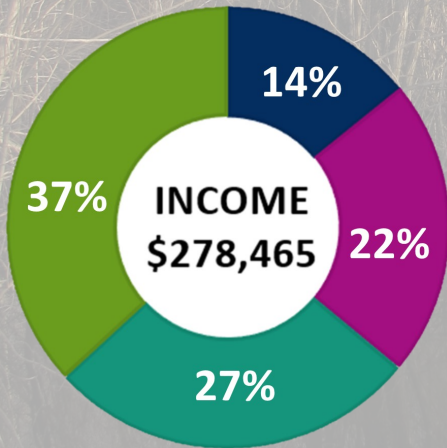
Heather Barber - Executive Director

Katie Vennie - Program Coordinator

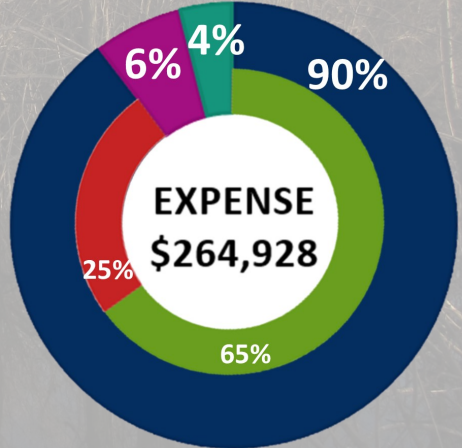
Julia Wochos - AmeriCorps Member

Jenny West - Bookkeeper

# 2016 Financial Summary



- Individuals + Corporations
- Foundations + Private Grants
- State Grants
- Federal Grants



- Programs
- Education
- Projects
- Operations
- Fundraising

*Unless otherwise noted all photos by Katie Vennie*

# Highlighting a Water Hero

If you've been to a Water Forum event, you've probably met Dave Schultz.

Dave has been actively involved with BRWF for nearly ten years. He was a long-standing board president, is a current volunteer, and remains a loyal donor.

Dave grew up on a dairy farm in the Midwest and became a Forest Service engineer. After retiring, he and his wife Christine moved to the Bitterroot Valley. His interest in water drew him to the Water Forum.



Dave with BRWF  
Executive Director,  
Heather Barber

***"One of the most important things I think I've done in my life, is to be part of the Water Forum... and really seeing results that we've all been responsible for, together."***

Dave was deeply tied to the success of the Watershed Improvement Project. He mentions it as a project he is particularly proud of because of the years of hard work it took for the Water Forum to build a foundation that allowed for the achievement of such a complex project. Since stepping off the board, Dave continues to be an active volunteer. He particularly enjoys on the ground restoration work, but you might also find him leading a youth program or helping out with the river clean-up.

***"The part that I really enjoy the most, is helping people connect their passions with the work that we do."***



Dave cutting willows to  
use for revegetation on  
Cameron Creek

While we can never thank Dave enough for his service, he is quick to credit the other dedicated individuals and the teamwork required for BRWF to flourish.

***"It took a lot of other people who put in hard work and were loyal and steadfast. People that are there, and just continue to show up."***

# Connecting to the Future Irrigators of the Bitterroot



Every spring the Bitter Root Water Forum partners with local FFA chapters to present the Future Irrigators of the Bitterroot field trip.

Thanks to your support in 2016, Stevensville, Victor, and Corvallis FFA chapters were able to step out of the classroom for a day of experiential education. High school juniors and seniors connected with local professionals and community members to learn about irrigation in the Valley. Topics included dam management, soil health and moisture, water diversion, fisheries protection, and sustainable irrigation practices.



We are grateful to our Future Irrigators of the Bitterroot partners: **Bitterroot Irrigation District; Daly Ditches; Huls Dairy; Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks; and Natural Resources Conservation Service.**



Impacts **3** **8**  
**40** **Area** **Water +**  
**Students** **Schools** **Irrigation**  
**Professionals**

## Want to get involved with BRWF?

MT Gives: Local Online Donation Day – **May 4 + 5**

Casting for Conservation: Women's Casting Clinic – **May 21**

Run for the River 5K/10K – **August 11**

Bitter Root River Clean Up – **August 12**

Restoration volunteer days – **Dates to be determined**

***Visit [brwaterforum.org](http://brwaterforum.org) for information on these events and more!***

*Photo credit of the top three images to Michelle McConnaha of the Ravalli Republic*

# Wrapping up the Watershed Improvement Project

**10\***

**Miles of Road  
Removed**

**23\***

**Stream Crossings  
Restored**



\*Numbers from 2016 field season. Entire project removed  
20 miles of road and restored 42 stream crossings

In 2016 your support allowed us to complete our **largest watershed restoration project yet**. Located in the headwaters of Sleeping Child and Rye Creeks, this project will drastically reduce sediment delivery to high mountain, cold water streams that provide critical habitat for Westslope Cutthroat trout and Bull trout.

This project would not have been possible without the support of ***Bitterroot National Forest, Bitterroot Trout Unlimited, Montana Department of Environmental Quality, Fish Wildlife and Parks (Future Fisheries Program), Montana Trout Unlimited and individual donations from supporters like you.***

*Although implementation is complete, the project is not over. Monitoring and sampling will continue throughout the next two field seasons.*



# YOUR DONATIONS MADE 2016 A

John & Dian Adams	Ed & Christina Gannon	Alan & Lesley Maki
Cryss Anderson	Tim & Cathy Gilman	Nancy & Paul Maruska
Kyle Barber	Hannah & Evan Gimpel	Louise & Andrew Massie
Lynn & Rick Barber	Carlotta Grandstaff &	Gordon Maus &
Susannah Benjamin	Dennis McIntyre	Quinty Smith
Kristina Besseny &	John & Christy Greef	Mike & Shelley McCall
Clinton Adkins	Becky & Pat Grimm	Will McDowell &
Traci Bignell	Jay & Donna Haglund	Kimberly Bell
Allen & Jackie Bjergo	Kim & Marie Hasenkrug	Don McGourty
Tonia & Marshall Bloom	Sandy & Rod Herrick	Brittany McKenzie &
Nina & Ned Bonnie	Ira Holt	Donny Ramer
Dan & Becky Brandborg	Scott Holtzmann &	Mike & Sharon McLane
Diane & Dave Bressler	Joann Marshall	Bob Miller
Cassie & Tim Buhl	John & Tanya Horat	Mary Mitsos
John Calsbeek	Dale & Diane Huhtanen	Pat Murphy &
Dan & Nora Cassens	Tim & Michelle Hunter	Bill Thompson
Greg Chester &	J.R. & Sue Anne Iman	Jennifer Murrillo &
Jean Connally	Amy Irwin	Chad Farrenburg
Chris Clancy &	Shane & Jessica Jenne	Kent & Diane Myers
Tara Gallagher	Rob Johnson	Eddie Olwell
Niall Clancy	Sherri Johnson	John & Barb Ormiston
George & Lynda Corn	Ryan Kissinger	Steve Peckinpough &
Barney & Bonnie Cushing	Amy & Howard Knight	Catherine Taylor
Sharon Dedmon	Gene & Kristie Kosaka	Frank Pelfry &
Kielian & Chuck DeWitt	Susan & Ron Kullick	Samia Bull-Pelfrey
Howard & Patti Eldredge	Sonny & Judy LaSalle	Al & Mary Pernichele
Richard Ellis	Jim & Cynthia LeFevre	Ruth Peterson
Craig & Kathy Engel	Earl & Joan Little	Tim & Patti Peterson
Judy & Dick Estler	Jacqueline Locke	Shelley Phillips &
Ron Evans	Mathew Lomas	Rob Lynn
Rachel Field &	Malcolm Lowe	Glen & Kathy Pierson
Keith Lyum	Joni & Tony Lubke	Maureen Powell
Amy & David Fox	Dave & Carole Mackie	Patrice Promack

# WATERSHED YEAR – THANK YOU!

Cynthia & Ross Rademacher

Peggy & Bob Ratcheson

Tammy & Bill Reed

Frank Reed &

Marilyn Simpson

Lauren & Jeff Rennaker

Gavin & Stacy Ricklefs

Sherry & Dan Ritter

Phil & Dorreen Romans

Andy & Sarah Roubik

Les Rutledge

Marilyn Saunders

Kierstin Schmitt

Dave & Chris Schultz

Kerry Schumann

Pete & Jeni Seifert

Dan & Debbie Severson

Alex Shaffer &

Becky Homan

Andrea Shortsleeve

Estelle Shuttleworth

Ed Snook &

Lee McAlpine

Gail Souther

Marisa Sowles &

Cory Soulliard

Nathan & Kate Stone

Betty & Bernie Swift

Kirk & Lisa Thompson

Kit Tilly &

Joe Rimensburger

Lucy Tompkins

Frederick & Milly Tossberg

Pat Tucker & Bruce Weide

Choo & Vic Turner

Mark Van Loon

Joan & Jim Vennie

Judith Watkins &

Roger Ahrens

Vicki Watson

Kathy Wehrly

Fred & Carolyn Weisbecker

Jenny West

Michael & Karla Wiencek

Byron & Mary Williams

Bob Yokelson

Susan & Bret Young

Scott Ziegenfuss

Dan Zumpfe

... and multiple donors who  
preferred to be anonymous

## Local Businesses, Organizations, and Foundations

Allegra

Bitterroot Chapter

Trout Unlimited

Bitterroot

Conservation District

Cinnabar Foundation

Fly Fishers of the

Bitterroot

Elevate Fitness &

Performance

Jane S Heman

Foundation

Llewellyn Foundation

Mildenberger Motors

Montana Watershed

Coordination Council

Rapp Family

Foundation

Ravalli County Fish and

Wildlife Association

The Ponderosa Trust

Wapiti Waters

## 2016 Riverfest Days Sponsors



John D Greef, Attorney - Evans Ace Hardware - Kinetic






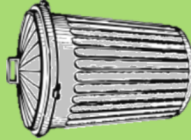


Iron Horse Athletic Club - Bitterroot Disposal - Pigman Builders - American Rivers - Higherground Brewing

Runner's Edge - Hamilton Marketplace - Chuck Stranahan's Flies & Guides - Anglers Roost - MOMS Rentals

***If you or your business is interested in sponsoring the 2017  
Run for the River and Bitterroot River Clean Up please contact us.***

# 2016 AT A GLANCE

*YOUR support helped...*

 <p><b>ORGANIZE &amp; LEAD 4</b> field trips</p>	<p><b>REACH 450</b> community members through the 6th <b>RIVERFEST DAYS</b></p>	<p><b>EDUCATE 1200+</b> youth through in-class programs and field trips</p> 	<p><b>RESTORE 10</b> miles of road through the Watershed Improvement Project</p> 	<p><b>REVEGETATE 500</b> ft of stream on the East Fork</p> 
<p><b>CREATE</b> the Watershed Enhancement Team to steward projects</p> 	<p><b>REMOVE</b> over 1500 lbs of trash from the river with 100 volunteers</p> 	<p><b>HOST 75</b> realtors &amp; community members for a Water Rights course</p> 	<p><b>COORDINATE 165</b> volunteers who gave over <b>1000</b> hours</p> 	<p>Clean water for ALL through <b>EDUCATION and RESTORATION</b></p>