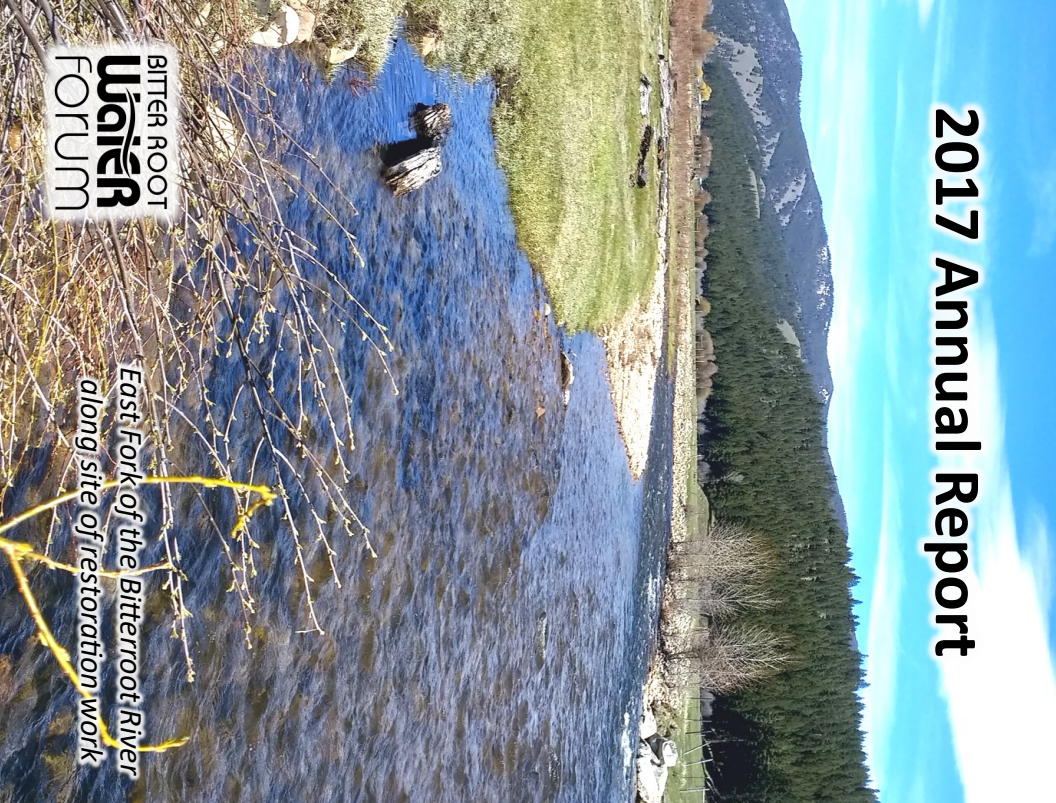


2017 Annual Report



BITTER ROOT
Water
Forum

*East Fork of the Bitterroot River
along site of restoration work*

BITTER ROOT
Water
Forum

PO Box 1247
178 S 2nd St
Hamilton, MT 59840
www.brwaterforum.org
406-375-2272

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Board of Directors

Eddie Olwell - President
Sherry Ritter - Vice President
Don McGourty - Treasurer/Secretary
Chris Clancy
Sharon Dedmon
Charlie Larson
Ed Snook
Megan Winderl
Scott Ziegenfuss

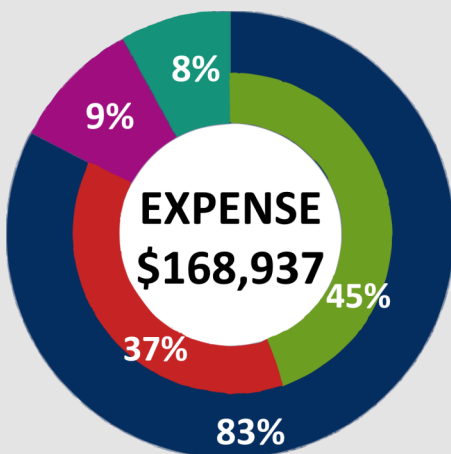
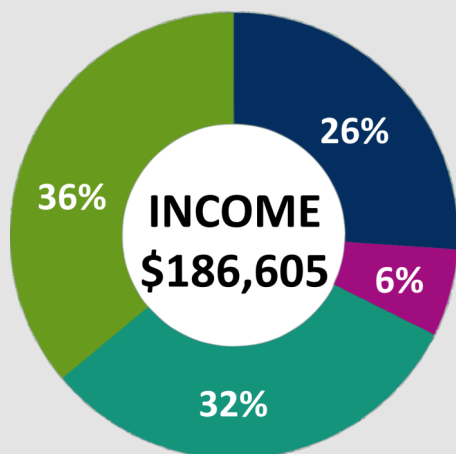
Agriculture Advisors

Dan Huls
Dan Severson

Staff

Heather Barber - Executive Director
Katie Vennie - Program Coordinator
Aissa Wise - AmeriCorps Member
Jenny West - Bookkeeper

2017 Financial Summary



- Individuals Donors
- Corporate Donations + Earned Income
- Foundations + Private Grants
- State + Federal Grants

- Programs
- Education
- Projects
- Operations
- Fundraising

Year in Review

You helped make 2017 a successful year. Working with the community on strategic planning shaped our direction for the future.

Board Member recruitment brought new faces with Scott Ziegenfuss, Megan Winderl, and Charlie Larson joining the board with fresh energy and new ideas. The end of an era came with Rob Johnson and Al Pernichele stepping off the board after many years of dedicated service.

Moving to an office in downtown Hamilton allowed us to become more integrated into the community. It's wonderful having community members stop in to say hello and get involved with events.

We welcomed longtime agricultural producers Dan Severson and Dan Huls as Agriculture Advisors to help ourselves and our community better understand agriculture's role in the watershed and its connection to all users.

We're excited to continue working to bring the community together to protect, enhance, and restore the watershed we all rely on. We're proud that you are a part of that.

Thank you for your support.



Fostering Future Water Stewards

Education is one of the most powerful tools there is to ensure our community appreciates the value of our water resources. Reaching youth is a top priority for the Water Forum.

Through the Earth Stewardship Program and Future Irrigators of the Bitterroot field trip, young people get to learn about water in the Bitterroot. Field trips get students out of the classroom and into the water or onto the land to learn firsthand about water quality, irrigation, and how the natural world works.

These young people will be the water stewards of the future. Your support means that they can have the experiences and connections that will shape their understanding and commitment to the watershed we all rely on.



Want to get involved with the Water Forum?

Bitterroot Gives: Local Online Donation Event — **May 3 + 4***

Casting for Conservation: Women's Casting Clinic — **May 6**

Run for the River 5K— **August 10**

Bitterroot River Clean Up — **August 11**

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

Visit brwaterforum.org for information on these events and more!

*Don't miss the chance to double your donation during this event thanks to a 1:1 match of up to \$1,500 from the **Westslope Distillery!**



Protecting and Restoring the East Fork

Through your support and many hours of volunteer time, a half mile of the East Fork of the Bitterroot is on the road to recovery.

The East Fork is classified as impaired by the Montana Department of Environmental Quality for temperature and sediment. That means that the water is too warm and there is too much dirt moving through to support some types of aquatic life.

In 2017 the Water Forum partnered with the Wetzsteon family to improve water quality in the East Fork. On the Lazy J Cross, a 5th generation family ranch, we planted willows, installed riparian fences, and added hundreds of native shrubs to rebuild a healthy riparian area and improve the overall health of this headwaters stream.



YOUR DONATIONS MADE 2017 THE

Crystal Anderson
Howard Anderson &
Pam Little
Terri Anderson
Betsy Ballard
Kyle & Heather Barber
Rick & Lynn Barber
Shelley Bauder
Susannah Benjamin
Allen & Jackie Bjergo
Theresa Blazicevich &
Dave Woodgerd
Tonia & Marshall Bloom
Hans & Janet Boer
Nina & Ned Bonnie
Dan & Becky Brandborg
Diane & Dave Bressler
Luci Brieger
Frank Pelfrey &
Samia Bull-Pelfrey
DeAnn Burke
John Calsbeek
Dave Campbell &
Anita Poe
Jack & Bromley Casbara
Dan & Nora Cassens
Luanne Cathey
Niall Clancy
Greg Chester &
Jean Connally
George & Lynda Corn
Barney & Bonnie Cushing
John Davenport
Shannon Donahue
Sharon Dedmon
Kielian & Chuck DeWitt
In memory of Greg Dion
Susan & Douglas Duff
Theresa Duncan

Howard & Patti Eldredge
Richard Ellis
Craig & Kathy Engel
Pam & Kirby Erickson
Ron Evans
Peter & Carol Farley
Jeff Fey
Rachel Field & Keith Lyum
Amy & David Fox
Kay Fulton
Chris Clancy &
Tara Gallagher
Edward & Christina Gannon
Paul Gilbertson
Hannah & Evan Gimpel
Stephen & Gail Goheen
Carlotta Grandstaff &
Dennis McIntyre
Christy & John Greef
Becky & Pat Grimm
Darlene & John Grove
Donna & Jay Haglund
Sandy & Rod Herrick
Mel & Mary Alice Holloway
Scott Holtzmann &
Joann Marshall
John & Mary Huberty
Karen Hughes
Tim & Michelle Hunter
Rob Johnson
Sherri Johnson
Stephen Jones
Julie & Jay King
Ryan Kissinger
Les & Cheryl Korcala
Kristie & Gene Kosaka
Susan & Ron Kullick
Diana & Joe Kupko
Sonny & Judy LaSalle
Russ Lawrence

Gwen & Sam Lawry
Jim & Cynthia LeFevre
Jacqueline Locke
Chris Love & Ron Skinner
Malcolm Lowe
Joni & Tony Lubke
Alan & Lesley Maki
Andy & Louise Massie
Ed Snook & Lee McAlpine
Mike & Shelly McCall
Suzanna McDougal
Don McGourty
Michael & Sharon McLane
Connie & Tom McQuillan
Laura Merrill &
Janine Benyus
Jay & Colleen Meyer
Bob Miller
Jay Melzer & Peg Miskin
Mary Mitsos
Kent & Diane Myers
Doug Nation
Kate Naughter
Warren Neyenhuis &
Peggy Tonon
Kathleen Olear &
Edgar Whiting
Jim Olson
Eddie Olwell
Robert Oset
John Parker
Steve Peckinpough &
Catherine Taylor
Al & Mary Pernichele
Ruth Peterson
Shelley Phillips &
Rob Lynn
Glen & Kathy Pierson
Harry Potton
L.M. & Colleen Powell



BEST YEAR YET - THANK YOU!

Maureen Powell
 Christian & Robin Pruitt
 Peggy & Bob Ratcheson
 Frank Reed & Marilyn Simpson
 Michael & Debbie Reid
 Lauren & Jeff Rennaker
 Cheryl Rice
 Sherry & Dan Ritter
 Bob & Jane Roe
 Phil & Dorreen Romans
 Andy & Sarah Roubik
 Darla & Tom Sather
 Pierre & Carol Satkowiak
 Marilyn Saunders
 Kierstin Schmitt
 Steve & Dori Schoenecker
 Dave & Christine Schultz
 David Seeley
 Pete & Jeni Seifert
 Dan & Debbie Severson
 Alex Shaffer & Becky Homan
 Estelle Shuttleworth
 In memory of
 Norman Lewis Slocum
 Dave & Marci Smith
 Nancy Spagnoli & Roger DeHaan
 Stephen Sprang &
 Dianne DeCamp
 Gail Souther

Marisa Sowles & Cory Soulliard
 Kate & Nathan Stone
 Nat & Margo Sturgis
 Betty Swift
 Traci Sylte
 Kirk & Lisa Thompson
 Kit Tilly & Joe Rimensberger
 Patricia Tucker & Bruce Weide
 Alec Underwood
 Beth Underwood & Jack Hogg
 Rose Van Oppen
 Joan & Jim Vennie
 Katie Vennie
 In memory of Gary Waldman
 Vicki Watson
 Kathy Wehrly
 Fred & Carolyn Weisbecker
 Jenny West & Sean MacNee
 Mike & Karla West
 In memory of
 Sterling Wetzsteon
 Susan Wetzsteon
 Andrew Wiencek
 Mike & Karla Wiencek
 Byron & Mary Williams
 Diane Williford
 Megan Winderl
 Cindy & Scott Wochos
 In honor of Julia Wochos

Bob Yokelson
 Susan & Bret Young
 Scott Ziegenfuss
 Daniel Zumpfe
*... and multiple donors who
 preferred to be anonymous*

Local Businesses, Organizations, and Foundations

.....
 Bitterroot Chapter
 Trout Unlimited
 Bitterroot Conservation
 District
 Fly Fishers of the
 Bitterroot
 Jane S Heman
 Foundation
 Lifeline Produce
 Llewellyn Foundation
 Montana Watershed
 Coordination Council
 Rapp Family
 Foundation
 Ravalli County Fish and
 Wildlife Association
 The Ponderosa Trust
 The Western Native
 Trout Initiative
 Wapiti Waters

Thank you to our 2017 River Clean Up/Run Sponsors



RAPP FAMILY FOUNDATION



Evans Ace Hardware
 Runner's Edge
 Clearwater Systems
 Bitterroot Disposal
 American Rivers
 Hamilton Marketplace
 Higherground Brewing
 Iron Horse Athletic Club
 Geum Environmental Consulting
 Chuck Stranahan's Flies & Guides

**If you or your business is interested in sponsoring the 2018
 Run for the River and Bitterroot River Clean Up please contact us.**

2017 AT A GLANCE

mustang



removed from
the West Fork of
the Bitterroot



420
students
reached

190

volunteers gave



975

volunteer hours

4

field trips



460

native shrubs
and trees
planted along
the East Fork



2,360

pounds of trash
removed from the River



half mile

of the East Fork
protected by
riparian fence



40

Community
Members attended
a tour on Irrigation



Bringing the Community together to protect, enhance,
and restore the Watershed we ALL rely on