



BITTER ROOT
Water
FORUM

2015 Annual Report

BITTER ROOT
Water
FORUM

PO Box 1247

Hamilton, MT 59840

www.brwaterforum.org

406-375-2272

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Chris Clancy - Vice President

Don McGourty - Treasurer/Secretary

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Sharon Dedmon

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Ed Snook

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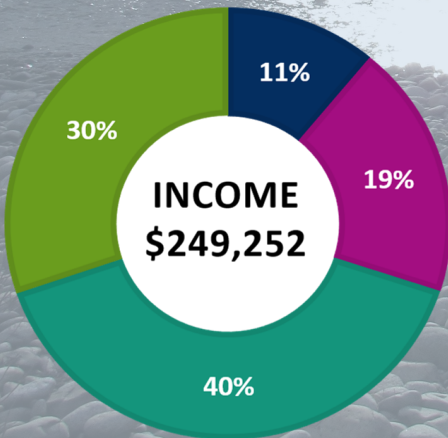
Heather Barber - Executive Director

Katie Vennie - Programs Assistant

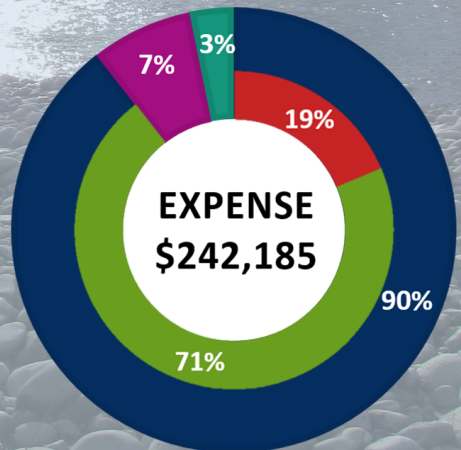
Stephanie Adams - AmeriCorps Member

Jenny West - Bookkeeper

2015 Financial Summary



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



- Programs
- Education
- Projects
- Operations
- Fundraising

Passing the Willow Cutting-Torch

I joined BRWF in 2010 and each year has brought new and exciting achievements in conservation and collaboration. 2015 was undoubtedly our greatest year yet — we partnered with private landowners to complete projects on the lower reaches of Rye Creek and broke ground on our largest ever restoration project in Sleeping Child and Rye Creeks. These projects brought opportunities to partner with old friends at Bitterroot Trout Unlimited and to create stronger relationships with the Bitterroot National Forest; both of which will yield more conservation impact in the Bitterroot watershed.

What made me want to be a part of BRWF remains true today — we promote science and facts over opinions, work with landowners to find common ground and sensible solutions to water quality issues, and we put boots on the ground to complete projects that will make a difference for future generations.

In 2016 I am honored to take on the role as President. I have big shoes to fill as Dave Schultz, our 6 year reigning President, steps down. We would not be where we are today without Dave's dedicated and thoughtful leadership. I'm excited to lead the board as we continue making conservation strides for all water users in the Valley.

It's because of people like Dave and supporters like you that we can continue to work for clean water in the Valley.

Thank you for making this all possible.

See ya' on the river.

E.O.

Eddie Olwell — Board President



Inspiring the next generation of Watershed Stewards



Your support helps us work with area 7th graders through the **Earth Stewardship Program**. This year long program gives students the opportunity to gain valuable science skills through hands-on lessons and experiential field trips.



Whether it's making 3D Bitterroot Watershed models or taking water samples from local streams, students learn about chemical, biological, and physical aspects of water quality.



Students also take part in hands-on activities from partner groups like **Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Bitterroot National Forest, Bitter Root Land Trust, Bitterroot Audubon Society, Bitterroot Ecological Awareness Resource** and **Ravalli County Weed District**.

The Earth Stewardship Program is the definition of collaboration in watershed education.



Reaches

4

10+

200+

Area

Natural

Students

Schools

Resource

Professionals

Want to get involved with BRWF?

Bitterroot Water Symposium – **April 29th**

MT Gives: Local Online Donation Day – **May 3rd**


Water Rights Demystified – **May 5th**

Casting for Conservation: Women's Casting Clinic – **May 15th**

Riverfest Days: Run, Clean up + Festival – **August 12 - 13th**

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

Partnering to Restore and Protect Important Fisheries



In 2015 your support allowed us to break ground on 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.

"We understand the benefits of work like this and like working with enthusiastic organizations that envision the future."

- Greg Chester,
BRTU president

This project allows us the opportunity to partner with ***Bitterroot Trout Unlimited*** whose significant funding commitment helped get this project through the planning process and onto the ground. *We're grateful for the support of BRTU and their dedication to cold, clean water.*

Other significant partners include:
Bitterroot National Forest, Montana Department of Environmental Quality, Fish Wildlife and Parks (Future Fisheries Program), Montana Trout Unlimited and individual donations.



5

Local and State
Partners

8

Miles of Road
Removed

25+

Stream Crossings
Restored

How does this help fish + downstream landowners?

By decompacting, reshaping, and revegetating abandoned and deteriorating roads, water infiltration is improved and erosion is reduced. Excess sediment from erosion covers the bottom of streams filling in deep pools trout use to over-winter, smothering eggs, and choking aquatic insects they rely on for food. This project will keep dump truck loads of sediment from washing into these important fisheries (along with removing culverts that can act as barriers to fish passage). With less sediment running downstream there will be less erosion on private property, continuing the impact of this project beyond the Forest boundary.

Work will continue in 2016, removing an additional 10 miles of road and restoring at least 15 stream crossings

THANK YOU – YOUR DONATIONS

Cryss Anderson
Terri Anderson
Betsy Ballard
Kyle Barber
Lynn & Rick Barber
Kristina Besseny &
Clinton Adkins
Traci Bignell
Allen & Jackie Bjergo
Jim & Christine Blackburn
Theresa Blazicevich &
Dave Woodgerd
Tonia & Marshall Bloom
Nina & Ned Bonnie
Dan & Becky Brandborg
Diane & Dave Bressler
Cassie & Tim Buhl
John Calsbeek
Dave Campbell & Anita Poe
Dan & Nora Cassens
Chris Clancy &
Tara Gallagher
George & Lynda Corn
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Edgar Whiting
Eddie Olwell
John Parker
In memory of Walter &
Annabel Peckinpaugh
Frank Pelfry &
Samia Bull-Pelfrey
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Tim & Patti Peterson
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Glen & Kathy Pierson
Maureen Powell
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Alex Shaffer & Becky Homan
Estelle Shuttleworth
John Smith
Ed Snook & Lee McAlpine
Gail Souther
Marisa Sowles
Nancy Spagnoli &
Roger De Haan

MADE 2015 A SUCCESS

Peggy Steffes
Nat & Margo Sturgis
Deirdre Swanson
Betty & Bernie Swift
Traci Sylte
Kay Sylvester
Diane Thomas-Rupert &
Paul Kink
Nancy Thompson
Kirk & Lisa Thompson
Kit Tilly & Joe Rimensburger
Frederick & Milly Tossberg
Pat Tucker & Bruce Weide
Roch & Jen Turner
Beth Underwood &
John Hogg
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Vicki Watson
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Pam Wood
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Allegra
Bitterroot Chapter Trout
Unlimited
Bitterroot Conservation
District
Cinnabar Foundation
Fly Fishers of the Bitterroot

Llewellyn Foundation
Montana Watershed
Coordination Council
Norcross Wildlife Federation
Rapp Family Foundation
Ravalli County Fish and
Wildlife Services
Raymond James Financial
Services
The Ponderosa Trust
Wapiti Waters
... and multiple donors who
preferred to be anonymous

2015 Riverfest Days Sponsors



***If you or your business is interested in sponsoring
2016 Riverfest Days please contact us.***

Highlighting a Helper

Frank Pelfrey is a long-time BRWF volunteer. He has traveled the world and has been on or in all the major rivers of the world, from the Nile, Ganges, and Rhine, to the headwaters of the Amazon. He says ***of all the rivers in the world the Bitterroot is his favorite.***



Frank helping with
Riparian Planting on
Cameron Creek

Why Frank supports BRWF, ***"I like the heart of the Water Forum – it seeks to bring some connection to people with the heart of the Valley. I like the people – volunteering with BRWF is always an enjoyable experience even when it's hard work or we're stacking straw, it's friendly."***



Willow Cutting on Doran Creek

A BIG Thank You to all of our volunteers and supporters!

2015 AT A GLANCE

You made it a great year. Thank you!

EDUCATION

REACHED 
1000+ YOUTH

WITH IN-CLASS VISITS AND
FIELD TRIPS 

 ORGANIZED AND LED
5 FIELD TRIPS

OVER 400

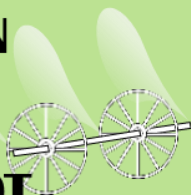
COMMUNITY MEMBERS
ATTENDED OUR 5th ANNUAL

**RIVERFEST
DAYS**

DEVELOPED AN ADULT TOUR OF
IRRIGATION

IN THE

BITTERROOT



RESTORATION

PLANTED

5,000+



NATIVE SHRUBS AND WILLOWS

**RESTORED 8 MILES
OF ABANDONED ROADS**

TO  **SEDIMENT
DELIVERY TO STREAMS**



**REMOVED
1260 lbs
OF TRASH DURING OUR
ANNUAL RIVER CLEAN UP**

RECRUITED 

90 VOLUNTEERS

VOLUNTEERS LOGGED

580+ HOURS

OF RESTORATION



BITTER ROOT
Water
Forum

Clean Water for ALL through
EDUCATION and RESTORATION