

**2019 Impact
2020 Adaptation** | **Report**



Reflecting and Advancing

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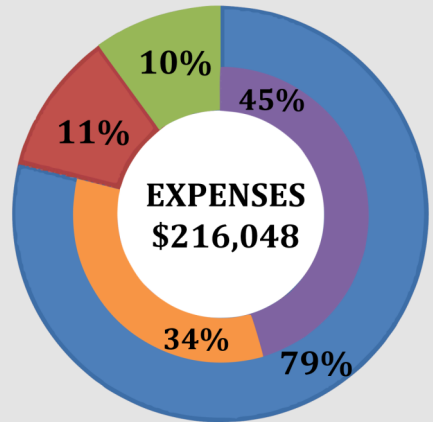
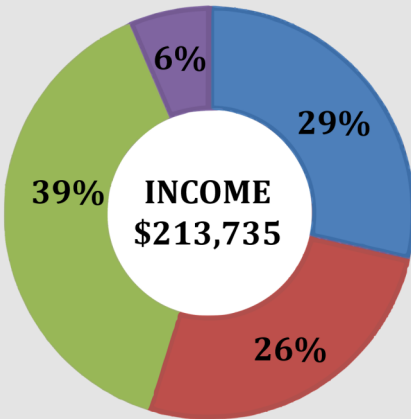


Staff

Heather Barber - Executive Director
Katie Vennie - Communications +
Outreach Manager
Andrea Price - Restoration Coordinator
Grace Pierstorff - AmeriCorps Member
Jenny West - Bookkeeper

*Heather, Katie, Andrea,
and Grace via Zoom*

2019 Financial Summary



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

- Programs
- Education
- Projects
- Operations
- Fundraising

Planning for Impact

Thanks to you, 2019 was a great year for growth and groundwork. Since the Bitterroot was selected as Montana Department of Environmental Quality's first focus watershed - where they will direct extra resources towards reducing non-point source pollution through 2021 - we are doing everything we can to take advantage of this opportunity and leverage additional resources to improve water quality. In July, we added a full-time Restoration Coordinator, Andrea Price, who hit the ground running on restoration project development.

With the COVID-19 pandemic, restoration efforts have continued with socially distanced meetings with landowners and project development for future endeavors.

With you, we are building community around the river. Then, and now. For the future. For everyone. Thank you for being a part of it.

Heather

Heather Barber
Executive Director





What is Restoration?

The Water Forum has been doing on the ground restoration work for 10 years. But what does that mean? And how is it done?

For the Water Forum, restoration work improves water quality and wildlife habitat.

The primary concerns for water quality in the Bitterroot are non-point source (NPS) pollution issues of temperature, sediment, and nutrients.

Vegetation along the streambank is very important in combatting these issues and for stream health. This landscape, known as the “riparian area” provides:

- shade to streams to reduce water temperatures
- root systems that stabilize the stream bank
- filtration of pollutants before they can reach the stream
- a food source through leaf litter and debris
- habitat for birds and other wildlife

Our projects focus on the health of the riparian area, often planting native shrubs and trees and protecting this area from cattle and wildlife.

Adapting Education

Education is key in connecting the community with water resources. Through our Earth Stewardship Program, youth in the Bitterroot Valley learn about our watershed and its importance in our lives.

Seventh graders joined us for in-class lessons through the Fall and Winter, covering topics like irrigation, snowpack, and native fish. The spring field trip went virtual due to the pandemic, and we filmed the work-stations that would have been included.

While people were staying safe at home, we adapted our educational outreach. By connecting with the community through online resources, youth and adults received hands-on activities to get outside and explore the beautiful Bitterroot Valley. Through helpful videos and activities we inspired learning both indoor and out.

Connecting with youth is vital. They are the future and can be the positive influence our water resources need. Your support allows them to have these memorable learning

experiences which will shape their understanding of, and ultimately their impact on, the landscape.

Above: 7th grade students building a watershed model in the classroom

Right: Filming the Virtual Field Trip



Why I Donate

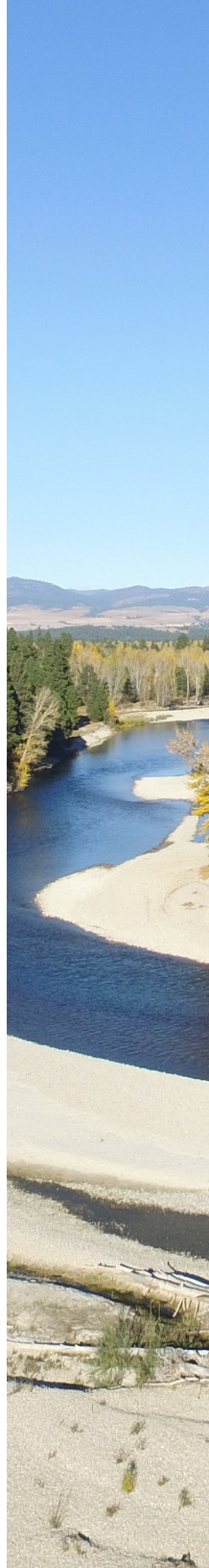
"Our journey with the Bitter Root Water Forum started about 4 years ago when my wife Connie made a small donation. Then we attended a social event where I got my first introduction to the Forum's activities. I remember Heather coming up to me and after introducing herself, she asked why I was supporting the Forum. I told her I didn't really know, as it was Connie's affiliation not mine.

With Heather and her small staff's infectious enthusiasm, it didn't take long for me to realize that 'hey, we could really make a difference in protecting the Bitterroot environment'. The more we learned, through attending Forum presentations and going on field trips, the more excited we got. Here was a local organization, with a skeleton enthusiastic staff, with a very minimal budget, making a tremendous impact.

Sometimes when donating to other entities with multimillion-dollar budgets one wonders 'does my donation even matter?'. This is not the case with the Forum. Even a small or modest dollar amount has a big impact on what they can accomplish.

Donating to the Bitter Root Water Forum makes us feel good about living here, and being able to see our donations at work is a special bonus."

- Tom McQuillan



You make it all possible. Clean water, healthy lands, and quality education for youth and adults can only happen when people like you invest in our work.

TOGETHER WE MAKE THE GREATEST IMPACT

Ways to Give

GIVE A MONTHLY OR STAND ALONE GIFT and your financial support will allow our organization to thrive and leverage other private, state, and federal project funding

ONLINE	BY MAIL	IN PERSON
brwaterforum.org	Bitter Root Water Forum PO Box 1247 Hamilton, MT 59840	178 S 2nd St in Hamilton

GIVE THE GIFT OF YOUR TIME volunteering on our restoration projects, helping with events, or lending a hand in the office

BITTER ROOT WATER FORUM ACCEPTS PLANNED GIFTS

Make the greatest impact possible for cold, clean waters in your lifetime and for future generations

Types of planned gifts include, but are not limited to:

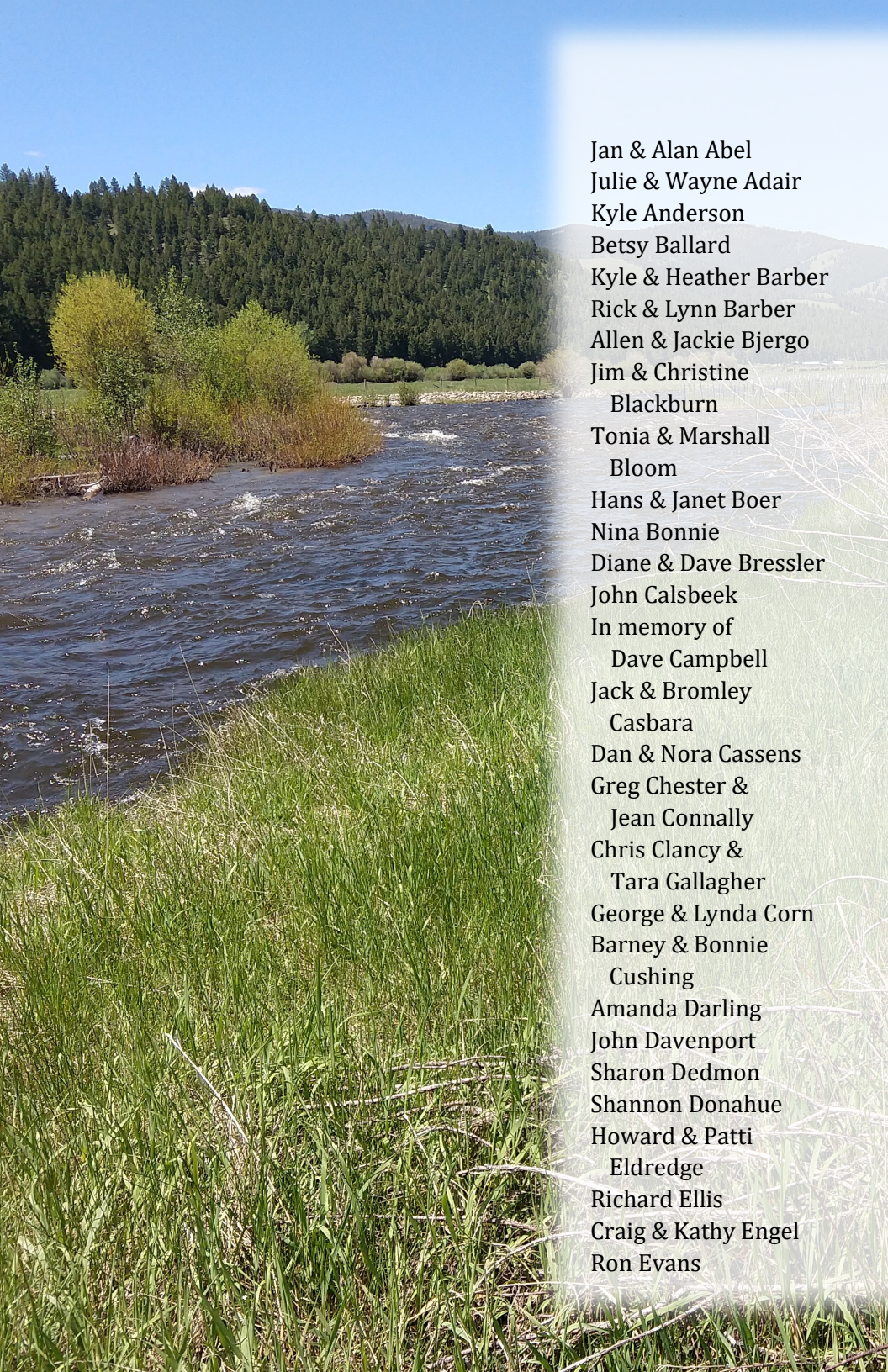
Stocks, bequests, and the Montana Endowment Tax Credit

Please contact Heather with questions about any of these types of gifts.

heather@brwaterforum.org | 406-375-2272

***Provided for informational purposes only; not intended to be tax or legal advice.*

Prior to making a planned gift to the Bitter Root Water Forum, please consult a qualified financial advisor.



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

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Building Community Around our River



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