

2016 Annual Report

BITTER ROOT
Water
FORUM

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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

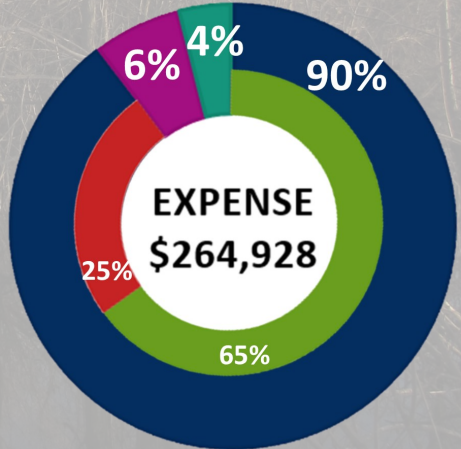
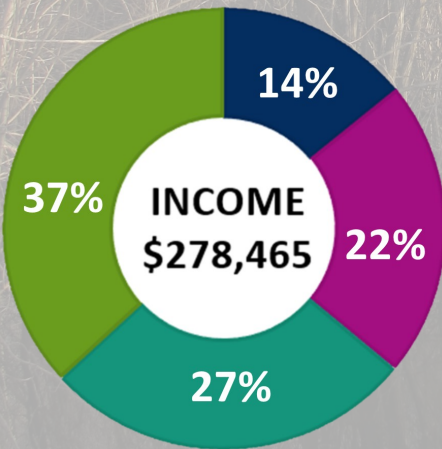
Heather Barber - Executive Director

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 junior 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 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

Cryss Anderson

Kyle Barber

Lynn & Rick Barber

Susannah Benjamin

Kristina Besseny &

Clinton Adkins

Traci Bignell

Allen & Jackie Bjergo

Tonia & Marshall Bloom

Nina & Ned Bonnie

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Keith Lyum

Amy & David Fox

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Carlotta Grandstaff &

Dennis McIntyre

John & Christy Greef

Becky & Pat Grimm

Jay & Donna Haglund

Kim & Marie Hasenkrug

Sandy & Rod Herrick

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Joann Marshall

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Tim & Michelle Hunter

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Susan & Ron Kullick

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Malcolm Lowe

Joni & Tony Lubke

Dave & Carole Mackie

Alan & Lesley Maki

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Louise & Andrew Massie

Gordon Maus &

Quinty Smith

Mike & Shelley McCall

Will McDowell &

Kimberly Bell

Don McGourty

Brittany McKenzie &

Donny Ramer

Mike & Sharon McLane

Bob Miller

Mary Mitsos

Pat Murphy &

Bill Thompson

Jennifer Murrillo &

Chad Farrenburg

Kent & Diane Myers

Eddie Olwell

John & Barb Ormiston

Steve Peckinpaugh &

Catherine Taylor

Frank Pelfry &

Samia Bull-Pelfrey

Al & Mary Pernichele

Ruth Peterson

Tim & Patti Peterson

Shelley Phillips &

Rob Lynn

Glen & Kathy Pierson

Maureen Powell

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
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 Les Rutledge
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 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
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 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
 Mildenerger Motors
 Montana Watershed
 Coordination Council
 Rapp Family
 Foundation
 Ravalli County Fish and
 Wildlife Association
 The Ponderosa Trust
 Wapiti Waters








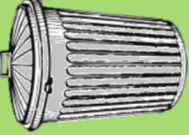

2016 Riverfest Days Sponsors

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