

# 2017 Annual Report

BITTERR ROOT  
**Water**  
FORUM

PO Box 1247

178 S 2nd St

Hamilton, MT 59840

[www.brwaterforum.org](http://www.brwaterforum.org)

406-375-2272

NON-PROFIT ORG  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
HAMILTON, MT  
PERMIT NO. 1247  
ZIP CODE 59840

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

BITTERR ROOT  
**Water**  
FORUM

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



**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**

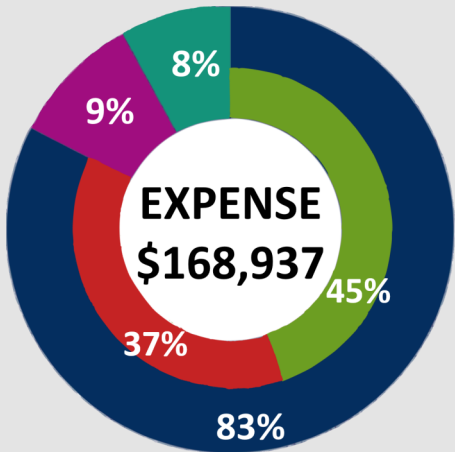
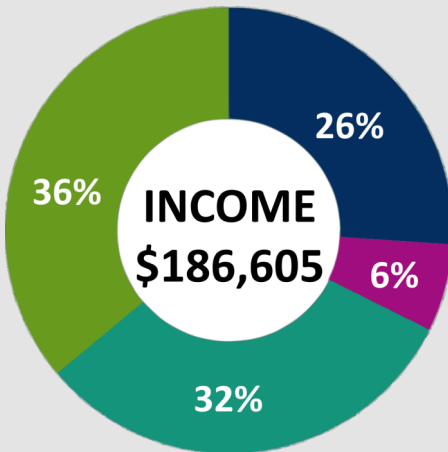
**Agriculture Advisors**

- 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.

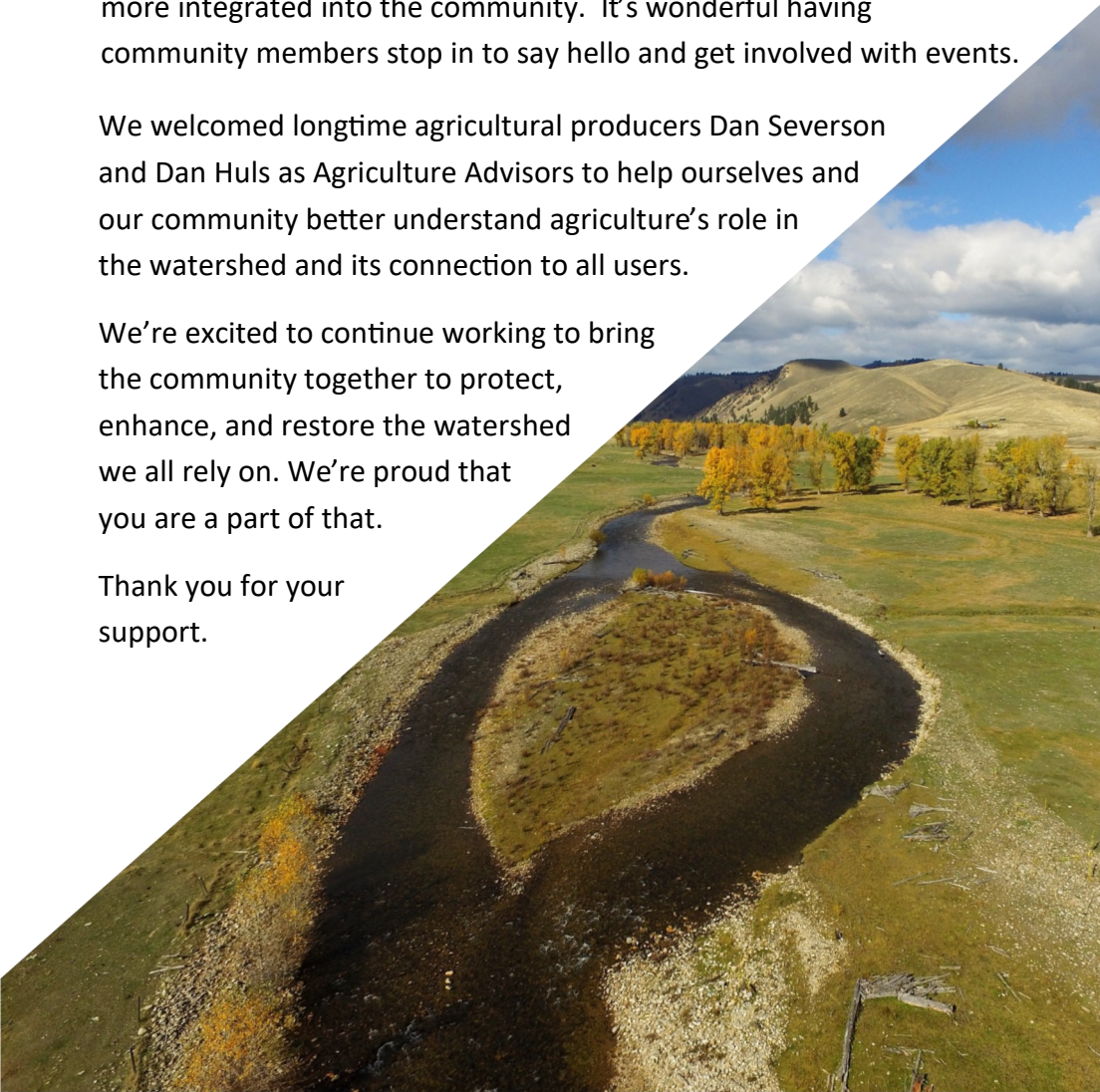
Board Member recruitment brought new faces with Scott Ziegenfuss, Megan Winderl, and Charlie Larson joining the board with fresh energy and new ideas. The end of an era came with Rob Johnson and Al Pernichele stepping off the board after many years of dedicated service.

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](http://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

Sherry 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 Zumpf  
*... 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



Evens 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