



2023 Impact Report



Our Waters, Our Ways of Life



Thank you for being a partner in This Year in Conservation



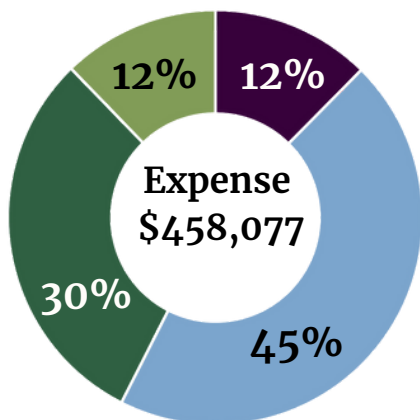
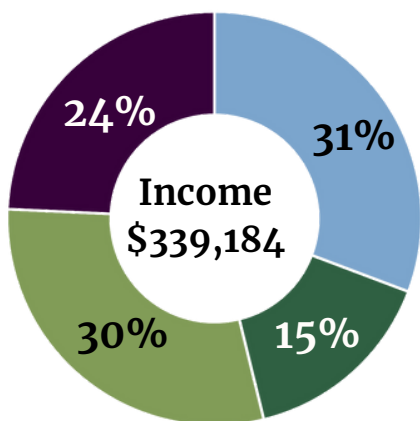
Staff

Heather Barber, Executive Director
Rachel Jensen, Development Coordinator
Meagen Larson, Project Manager
Alex Ocañas, Community Engagement Coordinator
Ellie Ross, Big Sky Watershed Corps Member
Jenny West, Bookkeeper

Board of Directors

Ed Snook, President
Estelle Shuttleworth, V. President
Scott Ziegenfuss, Secretary
Doug Nation, Treasurer

Laura Carrasco
Alex Hibala
Andy Maki
Bob Miller
Jim Striebel



- Individual Donors - 31%
- Corporate Donations & Earned Income - 15%
- Foundations & Private Grants - 30%
- State & Federal Grants - 24%

- Projects - 45%
- Education - 30%
- Operations - 12%
- Development - 12%



Note from the Director

In 2023, our organization achieved significant milestones by welcoming great new staff, moving into a bright, new office, and celebrating 30 years of conservation successes. Through change and growth, we remain committed to protecting water quality and wildlife habitat, preserving water quantity, and promoting watershed stewardship.

Because of you, last year alone we engaged nearly 300 students in stewardship activities, completed two restoration projects to enhance westslope cutthroat trout habitat, and connected with hundreds of community members through guided hikes, volunteer days, the River Clean-Up, and Water-Wise garden installations.

The major financial investments last year were deliberate and reflect our long-term vision, resulting in a temporary budget deficit as we spend a portion of our reserves to expand our capacity to get more done for our waters.

We're excited to continue our work and grateful for your support as we connect, learn, and conserve the Bitterroot.



Heather Burbax

Executive Director

2023 at a Glance

Conservation Engagement

This year has emphasized our communities' desires to be engaged in active stewardship of our waters!

We hosted **TWO** Water-Wise Landscaping Workshops with **FIFTY** residents, installed **TWO** demonstration gardens, and sold nearly **FORTY** Water-Wise Plant Packs in the program's **FIRST** year! Combined with over **TWENTY** pounds of native, seed, these packs helped convert **TWO** acres to Water-Wise Landscapes. Are you ready for year two?

! **252 incredible volunteers engaged as stewards!**



Wait, there's more...



- **1000+ River Clean Up bags used, keeping countless pounds of trash out of our River**
- **100 new students enrolled in our Earth Stewardship Program, now reaching nearly 300 future stewards**
- **5 Trails & Tributaries nature and stewardship hikes with 25 people**



● Stream Restoration

- 1,900 willows planted
- 600 feet of streambank restored
- 200 pounds of sediment pollution reduced annually
- 1 native fish passageway restored
- 2 miles of streamside roads repaired
- 82 hours of restoration site maintenance
- 310 pounds of invasive, non-native weeds removed

In the midst of caring for **FOUR** of our recently completed restoration projects, we implemented **TWO** new projects!

Restoration projects are special because of the immediate and lasting outcomes they have for the health of our waterways. Visit Edwards Road Bridge along the East Fork to glimpse a 2024 project!



Partner Spotlight



Capturing the Spirit of the Bitterroot



River Clean Up Volunteers find each other wearing our special 30th Anniversary Shirt



To celebrate our 30th Anniversary, we partnered with Montana Artist, Nikki Hallenbeck, to create an art piece depicting what we mean by 'Our Waters, Our Ways of Life'. Our long-time partners at Freestone Fly Shop in Hamilton helped us sell these one-of-a-kind shirts all summer long!



2023 Volunteer of the Year

Dave Goodin served dozens of hours across four restoration sites and two River Stewardship Stations. Thanks, Dave!

Farmers State Bank *Sustaining Sponsorship*

The Farmers State Bank leadership and Team continue to prove their dedication to and investment in this community! In 2023 they pledged to sponsor the Water Partnership at \$10,000 for each of the next three years, totaling an astounding impact of \$30,000 for our ongoing conservation efforts!

CELEBRATING



YEARS

BITTERROOT WATER
PARTNERSHIP

“Growing up in Victor, I was never far from a creek or the River. Our waters are what our communities built themselves around and I believe that we are all responsible in ensuring they remain clean and clear. These waterways are not only vital to wildlife, they’re also vital to us as locals and the people we host throughout the summer.

We all have a right to enjoy these waters, but also the responsibility to ensure that they are taken care of for the future.”



Farmers
State Bank

**Sara Clevidence, Senior VP
with Farmers State Bank**

These 2023 Donors Helped Sustain Our Work.

Kathy Aaron & Roger Samples

Jan Abel

Julie & Wayne Adair

Bob Allgier

Howard Anderson

Judy Anderson

Lily Apedaile

Jill Applebury

Betsy Ballard

Kyle Barber

Cristi Barker

Amanda Bauer

David Bean

Carole Berkoff

Jim & Christine Blackburn

Tony and Kris Blanch

Tonia & Marshall Bloom

Mari Bolen

Diana Brandt

Diane & Dave Bressler

David Briscoe

Cheyenna Burrows

Mike & Nancy Canning

Laura & Dan Carrasco

Vernon Carroll

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Andrew Celio

Lisa Classen

Delaney Clemens

Thomas & Patricia Connelly

Jesse Cook

Susanne Cook

Janis Cooper

George & Lynda Corn

Debbie Crane

Diane & Steve Davis

Samuel de La Luz

Dave Decker

Sharon Dedmon

John & Jennifer DeGroot

Mary Donnelly

Andrew Drasch

Emily Dubrawski

Richard Ellis

Craig & Kathy Engel

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Peter Farley

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Gail & Stephen Goheen
Monica Grable
Carlotta Grandstaff
Donna & Jay Haglund
Marianne & Terry
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Paul Hayes
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Sandy & Rod Herrick
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Alex Hibala
Sarah & Warren Hoemann
Mary Alice & Mel Holloway
Steve Hollowell
Rankin Holmes
Rebecca Homan
Karen Hoyt
Sarah Hubbell-Engler
Rick Hyatt
Zayne & Rachel Jensen
Nancy Reece Jones
Stephen & Diana Jones
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Lanor & Jim Kaney
Johanna Kesterson
Dan & Brooke Kimzey
Jordan King
Kristie & Gene Kosaka
Caroline & Willis Kurtz

Russ Lawrence
Jacqueline Locke
Joe Loney
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Dave & Carole Mackie
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Craig & Claire Martens
Clayton Martin
Pam Martin
Andy & Louise Massie
Ben & Kay Mayberry
Mike & Shelly McCall
Kayla McCormick
Brittany McKenzie
Connie & Tom
McQuillan
Jay Melzer
Laura Merrill
Katherine & Ron Messer
Jay & Colleen Meyer
Bob & Sylvia Miller
Sam Montalbano
Heather Mullee Barber
Pat Murphy
Kent & Diane Myers
Doug Nation
Karen & Doug Nelson
Warren Neyenhuis
Patrick & Liz Nies
Diane Nousanen
Leslie & Ken Nyce
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Eddie & Trish Olwell
Joe & Tish Palladino

Continued...

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Mark Pirak

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Sabrina Platt

Maureen Powell

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Peggy & Bob Ratcheson

Frank Reed

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Bob & Jane Roe

Matthew Rohrbach

Phil & Dorreen Romans

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Mike Ryan

Sandy Ryan

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Lou Schneider

Fern Schreckendgust

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Shirly Smith

Ed Snook

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Gail Souther

Marisa Sowles

Kyler Stanley

Olivia Steele-Mortimer

RJ Stewart

Jim Striebel

Nat & Margo Sturgis

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Kris & Susanne Taylor

Archie Thomas

Mary Thomas

Rick Thomas

Kit Tilly

Rich Torquemada

Frederick & Milly Tossberg

Patricia Tucker

Beth Underwood

Rose Van Oppen

Leon Vance

Joan Vennie

April Wakeman

Vicki Watson

Kay Webb

Jenny West

Mike & Karla West

Donna & Bill Wichers

**Mike & Karla Wiencek
Marilyn Wildey
Chad Williams
Michael Wood**

**Bob Yokelson
Susan & Bret Young
Casey Zablocki
Scott Ziegenfuss
Daniel Zumpfe**

Local Businesses and Foundations:

**Aspen Grove Realty
AV8-Orr Helicopter Services
Big Creek Coffee Roasters
Bitter Root Brewing
Bitterroot Conservation
District
Bitterroot Drug & Main
Street Toys
Bitterroot Trout Unlimited
Cadeau Foundation
Center for Spiritual Life
Ducks Unlimited
Farmers State Bank
First Interstate Bank
Fly Fishers of the Bitterroot
Freestone Fly Shop
Friends of the Lee Metcalf
National Wildlife Refuge**

**Go West Outfitters
Great Bear Native Plants
Jane S Heman Foundation
Missoula Community
Foundation
Montana Association of
Conservation Districts
Montana Community
Foundation
Rapp Family Foundation
Ravalli County Fish and
Wildlife Association
The Stock Farm Club
The Bitterroot Mile Club
TrailWest Bank
Triple Creek Ranch
Morgan Stanley**

**Thank you for
making our 2023
impacts possible.**



We're grateful you're a part of the
Bitterroot Water Partnership.

Learn more about our work and
other ways to be involved at
bitterrootwater.org