



2024 Impact Report



Our Waters, Our Ways of Life



Thank you for being a partner in This Year in Conservation



Staff

Heather Barber, Executive Director

Telsie Graziano, Office Manager

Jerry Browe, Field Conservation Manager

Alex Ocañas, Manager of Community Conservation

Eddie Olwell, Donor Relations Manager

Damon Tucker, Restoration Project Manager

Ashley Jurak, Big Sky Watershed Corps Member

Board of Directors

Doug Nation, President

Estelle Shuttleworth, V. President

Jim Striebel, Secretary

Bob Miller, Treasurer

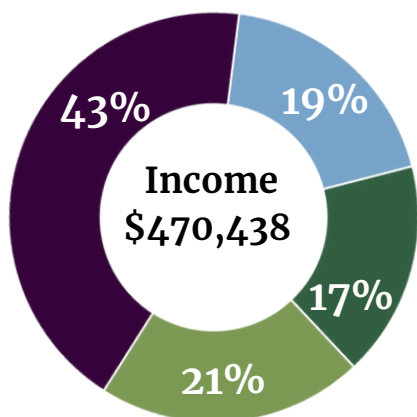
Laura Carrasco

Doug Hatchimonji

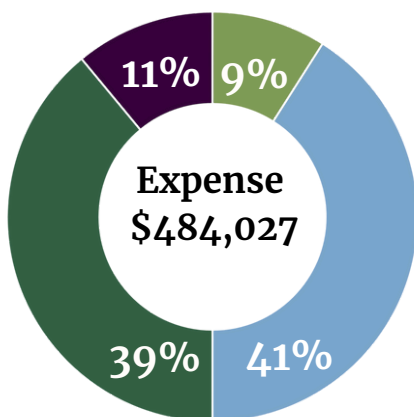
Alex Hibala

Andy Maki

Jim Striebel



- Individual Donors - 19%
- Corporate Donations & Earned Income - 17%
- Foundations & Private Grants - 21%
- State & Federal Grants - 43%



- Projects - 41%
- Education - 39%
- Operations - 9%
- Development - 11%



Note from the Director

In 2024, the Bitterroot Water Partnership achieved more conservation wins, thanks to community members, businesses, and partners. Together, we helped people become more "water-wise" and created opportunities for individuals to become empowered stewards. Longstanding partnerships played a vital role in further improving the health of our streams.

Exciting new ventures included an innovative art exhibit that connected people to water and conservation, and a one-night film event grew into a week-long celebration of fisheries conservation. The expansion of our team, with new staff, board members, and River Ambassadors, further strengthened our ability to advance our mission.

With over 30 years of dedication to the Bitterroot, our commitment to locally-driven, community-based solutions has only grown stronger. Building on a proven approach, we continue to seize opportunities to do more, while remaining vigilant against emerging threats. After all, these are Our Waters and Our Ways of Life—and they're worth fighting for.

Thank you for being part of our history, and our future.



Executive Director



2024 at a Glance

Conservation Engagement

Our community is growing and so does our capacity to activate people in local stewardship.

- **13 hours** of conservation education for each of **230** local middle schoolers - totaling nearly **3,000 hours** of conservation learning for our future stewards!
- One inaugural 'FISH WEEK', bringing together over **200 people** in celebration of our fisheries and commitment to their protection.

RECORD SETTING!

150 Bitterroot River Clean Up participants and 750 lbs of trash cleaned.

- **Over 200 volunteer hours** maintaining **FOUR** stream restoration projects

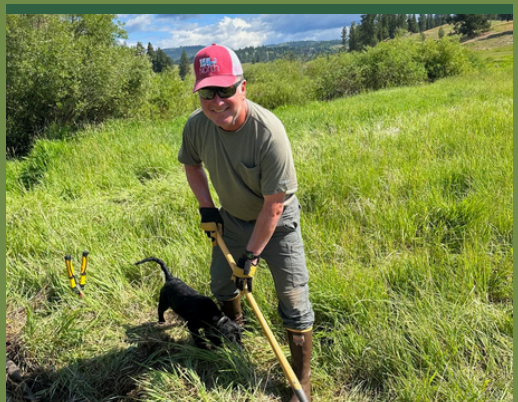


- **25** trained Water-Wise Landscapers, **3** Water-Wise gardens installed at the Bitterroot Library, Ravalli County Fairgrounds, and Darby School. Plus, over **5 dozen** Water-Wise Plant Packs in your yards!



● Stream Restoration

- **400 native plants** installed and **600 feet** of streambank restored
- **1.6 miles** of road returned to productive landscape and **2 culverts** removed near Rye Creek
- **400+ pounds** of invasive, non-native weeds removed
- **11.4 tons/year** of sediment pollution (the volume of a hot tub) no longer entering Willow Creek thanks to a successful revegetation
- Maintained **4 recently completed restoration projects**
- **3 new agreements** established for 2025 restoration projects along North Burnt Fork, the East Fork of the Bitterroot, and the headwaters to the East Fork.



Partner Spotlight

Our Waters, Our Ways of Life: *Traveling Exhibit*



Students with MAPS Media Institute interviewed local leaders about how water relates to their livelihood and why they believe in the importance of local conservation.

Dan Kerslake (left) and Laurel D (right)

Like all do and must, our community is changing. It's important to connect new - and even long-time residents - to the histories, stories, values, and intertwined cultures of Our Waters and Our Ways of Life in the Bitterroot.

In 2024 we partnered with local leaders, students, and creators to launch an interactive exhibit that invites participants to understand and join the strong conservation culture of our community.

explore **the ARTS**
Gallery • Studios • Education



Humanities
MONTANA

Where to Next?

This storytelling Exhibit travels!
Help us find it's next home by
offering your location suggestions.
Email: info@bitterrootwater.org



Shining Mountain Ranch Team

Enduring Stewardship

Much of the success of our restoration and stewardship projects for the Bitterroot River and its tributaries depends on the willingness of landowners to collaborate. The Bitterroot Water Partnership has proudly worked with ranch managers at Shining Mountain Ranch, in Sula, for over 10 years to continually apply habitat and land management enhancements to benefit the property and the East Fork of the Bitterroot River.

The challenges facing the East Fork of the Bitterroot River - warming water temperatures, sediment pollution, and lack of streamside habitat - are caused by historically degraded landscapes. Landowners today can reverse these impairments.

The team at Shining Mountain Ranch has partnered to restore thousands of plants across thousands of feet of streambank.

The Water Partnership looks forward to continuing the outstanding restoration impact at this property in 2025.

Watershed Enhancement Team member, Rich, plants native vegetation for Shining Mountain Ranch in 2024.



These 2024 Donors Sustained Our Work.

Kathy Aaron &
Roger Samples
Jan Abel
Crystal Anderson
Jordan Avery
Dan Bailey
Betsy Ballard
Kyle Barber
Lynn & Rick Barber
James Baskin
Paul Belanger
Bob Bertch
Jim & Christine Blackburn
Greg Bohnet
Nina Bonnie
Diane & Dave Bressler
Jason Brininstool
Jim Buckler
David Burton
Preston Burton
Larry Campbell
Mike & Nancy Canning
Laura & Dan Carrasco
Joan Cartal
Jack & Bromley Casbara
Michelle Cassens-Biggins
Michael Centofanti
Jim Cline
Rayann Collar
George & Lynda Corn
Barbara & Dale Couch
Debbie Crane
Barney & Bonnie Cushing
Diane & Steve Davis
Dave Decker
Sharon Dedmon
John & Jennifer DeGroot
John Dern

Lance Deutsch
Kielian & Chuck DeWitt
Ginny DeWolf
Diane Dolan
Nanette Dowling
Richard Ellis
Craig & Kathy Engel
Bill & Leslee Engler
Ron Evans
Diana Faramarzi
Peter Farley
Jeff & Katie Fey
Rachel Field
Antoinette Figueroa
James Fitzpatrick
Heidi Fleury
Amy & David Fox
Philip and Rowena Frank
Edward Gannon
Debbie & Roger Gantz
Cherie & Doug Garofalo &
Hatchimonji
Hannah & Evan Gimpel
David Goodin
Robin Goytia
Carlotta Grandstaff
Benjamin Greuel
Donna & Jay Haglund
Samantha Hart
Jim Haynes
Bob Heinzen
Rob Hensel
Brian Herbel
Sandy & Rod Herrick
Alex Hibala
Myndi Holbrook
Mary Alice & Mel Holloway
Steve Hollowell

**Rankin Holmes
Rebecca Homan
Teri Horn
Phyllis Hornstra
Robert & Judith Hoy
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Patricia & Todd Hull
Tim & Michelle Hunter
Rachel Jensen
Zayne Jensen
Rob Johnson
Sherri Johnson
Jim Jordan
Kathleen Kelley
Larry Keogh
Johanna Kesterson
Dan & Brooke Kimzey
Kristie & Gene Kosaka
Joey Krejci
Emilie Lahneman
Blade Lane
Brandy Langum
Maria Laughlin
Russ Lawrence
Christine & Joel Lawson
Terry & Susan Lewis
Tyler Lewy
Jacqueline Locke
Chris Love
Rick & Candy Lubansky
Joni & Tony Lubke
Heather Lupton
Destinee Macadam
Harry Mach III
Dave & Carole Mackie
Susanne & Ron Madden
Leaf Magnuson
Mike Magone
Andy Maki
Craig & Claire Martens
Andy & Louise Massie
Caitlin Mathison
Jack Mauer
Chris Maul-Smith**

**Gordon Maus
Ben & Kay Mayberry
Mike & Shelly McCall
Joyce McDonough
Brittany McKenzie
Thomas McQuillan
Jay Melzer
Katherine & Ron Messer
Bob & Sylvia Miller
Rebecca Miller
Wendy Miller
Amanda Milner
Peg Miskin
Bonnie Mitchell
Judy Morrissey
Zen Mottershead
Kent & Diane Myers
Doug Nation
Paraic & Rebecca
Neibergs
Karen & Doug Nelson
Joseph Newfield
Warren Neyenhuis
Patrick & Liz Nies
Diane Nousanen
Robert Oettinger
James Olson
Eddie & Trish Olwell
John & Barb Ormiston
Carrie Oury
Rachel Owen
Joseph Palladino
Tom & Lauren Parker
Don Patterson
Steve Peckinpaugh
Henry Peters
Derrick Pettelle
Earl Philips
Shelley Phillips
Jonathan Pikoff
Nolan Platt
Charlotte Powell
Maureen Powell
Brent Pristas**

Continued...

**Frank Reed
Karla Roberts
Sally Roberts
Chris Rockhod
Phil & Dorreen Romans
Andy & Sarah Roubik
Mark Rud
Diane Russell
Hillary Sargent
Darla & Tom Sather
Ethan Saulnier
Kierstin Schmitt
Linda Schoenleben
Ryan Schryver
Patrick Scott
Estelle Shuttleworth
Lisa Sirois
Mary Slocum
Ed Snook
Gail Souther
Marisa Sowles
Jim Striebel
Nat & Margo Sturgis
Chantry Sutton
Bruce Swanlund
Dennis Swing
Jamie Tadwick
Rick Thomas
Kit Tilly
Rich Torquemada
Frederick & Milly Tossberg
Richard & Claire Trauth
Beth Underwood
Mark Van Loon
Rose Van Oppen
Leon Vance
Katie Vennie
April Wakeman
Jess Walter**

**Rachael & Ben Watters
Janet Weber
Jenny West
Susan & Lonnie Wetzsteon
Donna & Bill Wichers
Mike & Karla Wiencek
Wil Wilkins
Byron & Mary Williams
Kristi Jo Willson
Lorie Wolff
Vivian Yang
Patricia Yoesting
Lisa & Rich Zavoda
Scott Ziegenfuss
Joni Zinkovich**

Local Businesses and Foundations:



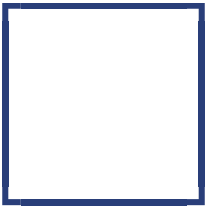
**Allora Massage & Spa
Alyssa Durling Art
Bitter Root Brewing
Bitterroot Conservation
District
Bitterroot Drug & Main
Street Toys**

A green John Deere tractor is parked in a grassy field under a clear blue sky. The tractor is facing right, and its large rear wheel and smaller front wheel are visible. The background shows a flat landscape with some distant trees and hills.

**Brew X Coffee Roasting
Chapter One Book Store
City Center Motel
Clearwater Credit Union
Cowboy Troy's
Ducks Unlimited
Edward Jones -
Debbie Gantz,
Financial Advisor
Evans Ace Hardware
Farmers State Bank
First Security Bank
Full Bushel Farm
Go West Outfitters
Great Bear Native Plants
High Stakes Foundation
Humanities Montana
Jane S Heman Foundation
K&S Greenhouse
Karst & Sons
Mikesell's Fine Jewelry
Mimi's Portico
Missoula Community
Foundation
Montana Watershed
Coordination Council
Morgan Stanley Wealth
Management
Amy Monteith
Open Sky Arts**

**Rapp Family Foundation
Ravalli County Fish
and Wildlife Association
Residence Inn Missoula
Robbins on Main
Roger Gantz Realty
Runamuka Ranch
Ryan Jolley Art
Spice of Life Cafe
Stoner Creek Cabins
The Beauty Bar
The Camino
TrailWest Bank
Triple Creek Ranch
Two Wolf Foundation
Verdure Pastures
Water Master Rafts
Turner Vinson**

**Thank you for
making these 2024
impacts possible.**



Our Waters, Our Ways of Life
bitterrootwater.org | 162 S 2nd St
Hamilton, MT



Summer 2024: Artist Britt Flood hosted a mural painting workshop, gifting the Bitterroot Water Partnership with our new mural. The installation was funded by the Hamilton Downtown Association's Hamilton's Façade Improvement Grant.