

Friends of the Teton River

annual report

2007

by Diane Temple, *Vice President FTR Board*

"...Working together for clean water, healthy streams, and abundant fisheries..."

Although this may seem a deceptively simple mission statement, all the work that goes into fulfilling it requires tremendous effort from the staff, the board, and the community. Simply put, we would not be here without the support of our community.

This year marks FTR's seventh year in existence. The paragraphs below provide highlights from 2007: tributary stream restoration projects, our education and outreach efforts, and how we collaborated with community members to achieve our mission. These accomplishments are testimony to what can be achieved when a community comes together to search for innovative solutions to large-scale environmental problems.

The highlight of our stream restoration work in 2007 was the Badger Creek Project, which consisted of removing an existing irrigation diversion structure and replacing it with new headgates and a state-of-the-art revolving fish screen. This project is important because hundreds of native Yellowstone cutthroat trout (YCT) spawn in Badger Creek. Historically, as water levels dropped, fish were caught in irrigation diversions and canals, and were unable to return to Badger Creek. Working in conjunction with the irrigators, landowners, and Badger Creek stakeholders, FTR developed a design for the reconstruction of the diversion structure. The new diversion uses a rotating screen, which allows water to pass through while preventing fish from enter-

ing the irrigation canals. It is a success story that goes beyond maintaining the population of YCT and protecting balanced fisheries; this fantastic restoration project was built from within the community. The success of the project lies with the irrigators, landowners, and stakeholders who were willing to work collaboratively for a solution.

FTR also acted as a liaison to bring together a diverse group of stakeholders in the Teton Creek Subwatershed Committee to facilitate Teton Creek restoration. As part of this effort, FTR hosted Teton Creek restoration workshops that were typically attended by some thirty people, including regional experts on stream restoration and local stakeholders. In September, a group of graduate students from Utah State University conducted research and developed a Comprehensive Plan for the Teton Creek corridor. The USU plan will serve as a resource for developers, city and county elected officials, governmental agencies, and water users.

2007 marked a year of exploring the water market to promote instream flows through purchase, donation, or leasing of water rights. There are many success stories about willing buyers and sellers coming together in a free-market approach to restore stream flows. Although in Idaho water markets are still in their infancy, at FTR we feel they offer a viable alternative to break the historic deadlock be-

tween water users and instream flow advocates. Live streams connecting the mountains with the Teton River will not only improve Teton Valley fisheries; they will also increase property and aesthetic values and create a tremendous resource for our community.



Native cutthroat trout. Photo by Chris Evenstad.

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2007 brought staff changes, as well. After working for three and half years as FTR's Education and Outreach Director, Anna Lindstedt decided to expand her experience and take on the role of Development Director. Her understanding of, and commitment to, Teton Valley's water resources are invaluable in her new position. Also, in early summer, we welcomed Amy Verbeten, our new Education and Outreach Director. Amy combines a passion for education with a love for the outdoors, having taught hands-on science both indoors and outdoors since 1994. Amy holds a Master of Arts degree in education from Prescott College, as well as a state teaching license in Colorado.

At FTR, we take very seriously the responsibility of helping to educate the children in our community; we are dedicated to reaching out to the next generation of water stewards. We continue to partner with public and private schools, in the classroom and in the field, as we teach children about water quality, macro-invertebrates, and habitat. Also, art and science came together in 2007—students from the Teton Arts Council and Friends of the Teton River attended a day camp that combined sculptural art with science. After exploring Teton Creek and the Teton River, learning about their local watershed, students expressed their understanding of each day's science topics by building temporary sculptures. The class was offered in partnership with the Teton Arts Council and the Teton Regional Land Trust. (Thanks to the Teton Valley Special Projects Fund of the Idaho Community Foundation for supporting this class again in 2008.) Our Watershed

Education program reaches over 400 Teton Valley youth each year. In addition, FTR featured adult education classes and forums. This past year, we talked about hydrology, local watershed issues, stream-flow prediction, and the status of the YCT.

We feel passionately about our valley's youth, and education is critical to what we do. In 2007, the FTR Board raised over \$20,000 earmarked for the Education Fund, and we challenged the community to match those funds. The community responded, and we raised a total of more than \$40,000 to fund our education and outreach program. Again, we could never accomplish such a feat alone; working together with the community was key to raising these funds.

Last but not least, we took the time to have fun with our members and the greater Teton Valley community. We celebrated our seventh Annual River Party, participated in the Teton River Clean-up, hosted full-moon floats, hiked in the Big Holes, hosted a Teton River Stewards' dinner, and had a wonderful holiday party.

Reflecting on 2007, it was so great to come together with our community to achieve our goals of working for clean water, healthy streams, and abundant fisheries. It was simply a brilliant year, full of successes, as we joined hands with community members to search for innovative solutions to environmental problems. By joining together as a community to accomplish our mission, we have created a legacy for our future.



A Look Back at 2007

Clockwise from Top Left: Blaine and Beach Huntsman show the Upper Snake Basin Advisory Group restoration work on Fox Creek; A fabulous juggler enjoying the 2007 FTR River Party (Photo by Reid Sullivan); Jackson Pauroso and Aiden Sullivan study aquatic macroinvertebrates; Installing one of two rotating screens into the new diversion structure on Badger Creek; FTR Secretary, Phyllis Anderson, on a recent trip to France.

financial report

Friends of the Teton River raised \$465,553 in 2007, with the majority of its funds (89.5%) going to on-the-ground stream restoration projects, water quality testing, flow monitoring, watershed education, and outreach. The remaining 10.5% was expended on administration and fundraising. 2007 revenues were derived from federal grants (45%), private and foundation support (13%), support from individual donors (over 38.5%), and events (3%).

Friends of the Teton River strongly believes in fiscal responsibility and accountability to its membership, project partners, and the general public. The information presented here comes from a certified audit by Galusha, Higgins & Galusha, P.C.

REVENUE AND SUPPORT

Public Support

Memberships and Donations	\$179,742
Public Support Grants and Foundation Grants (Old Bill's, CFJH, Donald C. Brace)	\$59,666
Special Events, net of \$9,181 expenses	\$14,548

Other Support

Federal Grants Assistance	\$208,875
Program Income, net of \$3,856 expenses	\$515
Interest and Dividends	\$2,207

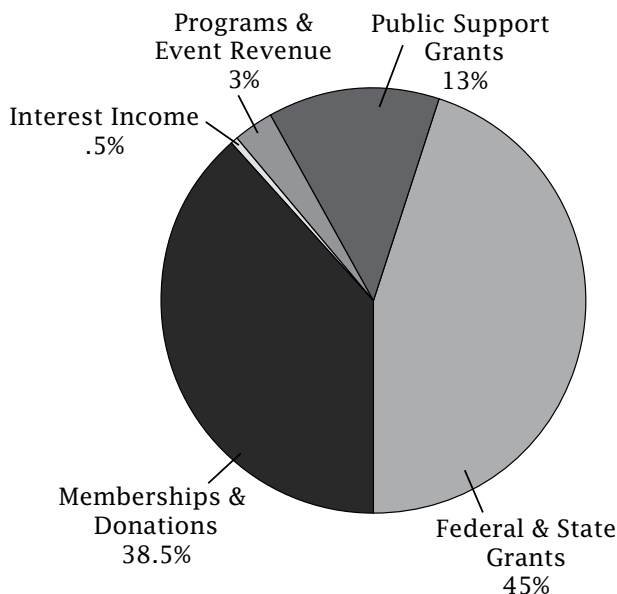
Total Revenue and Support **\$465,553**

EXPENSES

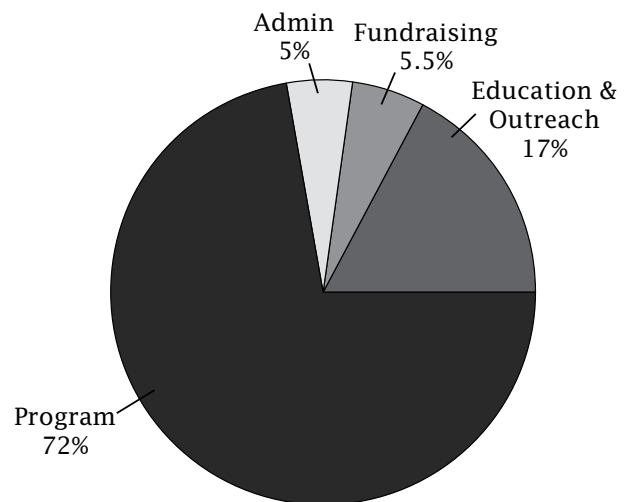
Programs	\$302,656
Education & Outreach	\$71,126
Fundraising	\$23,133
Administration	\$20,940
Total Expenses	\$417,855

Increase in net Assets	\$47,698
Net Assets in January 2006	\$109,851
Net Assets at end of year Dec. 2006	\$157,549

2007 Budget Income - \$465,553



2007 Budget Expenses - \$417,855



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