

Friends of the Teton River

annual report

2008

by John Siverd, *President of the Board of Directors*

Friends of the Teton River (FTR) has been in existence since 2001. In those years, we have accomplished many of our founders' objectives. Through our water quality monitoring program, trout studies, and hydrologic assessments, we have learned a great deal about the Teton watershed. These science-based analyses, combined with collaboration and clear communications with the community, have enabled us to work for clean water, healthy streams, and abundant fisheries in our valley. In 2008 we have continued to work diligently to serve as the voice for water in Teton Valley by continuing to build on collaborative relationships and use science as the basis for watershed restoration. The paragraphs below highlight FTR's accomplishments in 2008, and demonstrate how all of us benefit from clean water and healthy streams.

Stream restoration, flow restoration, and watershed education continue to be the core elements of FTR's work. Collaboration with landowners, developers, planners, and local nonprofits and government agencies helped FTR to restore over 2,200 feet of stream bank and revegetate over 16,000 square feet of riparian land along the Teton River and Teton and Trail creeks in 2008. FTR added state-of-the-art fish screens and new headgates to the Hog Canal diversion structure on South Leigh Creek. This innovative project, the second of its kind in Teton Valley, will prevent fish from entering the canal, while allowing water to pass through to the canal to serve irrigators. We also continued our work to repair damage to Teton Creek caused by illegal dredging and channelization. In 2008, FTR worked with a consultant to develop final design plans

for comprehensive restoration work. The plans were approved by landowners, the Teton Creek Stakeholders Committee, and permitting agencies. Significant progress was made toward securing funding for this \$1.65 million project, with grants for the project totaling \$450,000 thus far.

In August of 2008 we hired our first full-time Streamflow Restoration Program Director. Ty Mack brings a wealth of experience working within the landscape of western water law and water mediation. He is tasked with restoring late summer flows to Teton River tributary streams during critical biological timeframes for Yellowstone cutthroat trout, in a manner that is consistent with existing water rights. Ty spent his first few months on the job networking with other groups throughout the Columbia Basin to generate strategies for meeting agricultural, municipal, and ecological water needs, and developing a strategic plan for FTR's new Flow Restoration Program.

2008 marked a period of significant growth in our adult education series. February saw the inception of the Water Wise Community Education Series, which has rapidly become a community institution. Through this series, increasingly diverse audiences have been brought together to engage in civil dialogue about Teton Valley's water resources. FTR also offered targeted education and outreach with local government officials to help bridge the gap between land-use planning and water management in 2008, and worked directly with stakeholders on Trail Creek to establish goals for stream re-watering during critical biological periods. We also continued our successful K-12



Mike Lien, FTR Restoration Director, explains problems and restoration plans on Teton Creek to a Henry's Fork Watershed Council field trip group.

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Watershed Education Program, reaching over 400 local students with a district-approved watershed science curriculum, and we were awarded a \$17,000 grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to design a watershed-based continuing education course for local teachers. Education continues to be an invaluable cornerstone of our work. The Education Program has earned tremendous respect from the Teton Valley community, and is one of FTR's most visible programs, with a high degree of public participation. FTR's Education Program is frequently referred to as a "bridge building" effort amongst community members.



Board member Andy Steele points out snow crystal formation to Basin High School students.

As is the case each year, FTR had successful fundraising events in 2008, and also added several new events. The board spring challenge occurred early in the year, raising \$21,000 for streamflow restoration. The first annual Fisherman's Dinner, hosted by River Rim Ranch with the Teton River canyon in the background, was well attended and raised \$10,000 for fisheries restoration. In July, the annual River Party and Adventure Auction took place under sunny skies on the banks of the Teton River—and, as usual, a good time was had by all. Also in 2008 the Community Foundation of Teton Valley hosted the inaugural Tin Cup Challenge fundraiser for area nonprofits. The many donations we received, extended by matching funds, far exceeded our expectations and provided FTR with funding that enabled us to continue our work for clean water and healthy streams. Our final 2008 fundraiser was a golf and fishing tournament in

September at Teton Springs, which we plan to offer as an annual event.

Because the small office on Little Avenue was impeding staff efficiency, a small group of staff and board members worked diligently late in 2008 to find new office quarters. As a result, FTR moved into its new quarters in the Coulter Building in February 2009. Staff members report that the new office space is enabling FTR to function at a significantly higher level of efficiency, and to more effectively serve the community.

In late summer 2008, we had the opportunity to float the Teton River with Vice President Dick Cheney and U.S. Representative Hal Rogers (R-KY) and his wife Cynthia, all avid anglers. FTR staff and board members were the primary guides for the entire entourage of VIPs and their support and security staff. In addition to enjoying a successful day of authentic western fly fishing, we built important relationships and gained insight we believe will be instrumental as we work with national government entities to secure funding for local projects.

I feel privileged to have been a member of the FTR board of directors for the past five years, and to have this opportunity to review FTR's 2008 accomplishments for you. Remember, we are now located in the Coulter building on Main Street, and we always welcome anyone to stop by and talk with our staff. Communication with local residents, city planners, land owners, and developers is key to our success in the valley. We want to work with all interested parties and educate those who would like to learn more about the Teton Valley watershed. This process is critical for keeping our valley a wonderful place in which to live.

Lastly, I want to thank all of our supporters, who have stood by us over the years and enabled FTR to become the voice for water in the valley. Without your annual support, we would not have the talented staff we currently employ. We want to thank all of you for your past recognition of us, and we hope that FTR is one of the nonprofits to receive your continued support in the future. Your donations keep us "ahead of the flow."

Thank you for your past and continued support.

FTR Invests \$400 K in Teton Valley's Water Resources

In 2008, FTR's grant budget grew to over \$400,000! This is a \$130,000 increase over the funds we invested in the Teton Basin watershed the previous year. Federal, state, private, and foundation funds go directly back into the local economy, toward on-the-ground projects around our watershed. In the past year, grants helped fund a variety of work, including stream restoration on the Teton River and on Trail, Fox, and Teton creeks; a new fish-friendly diversion on South Leigh Creek; water quality monitoring; a new streamflow restoration program; and watershed education for youth and adults.

FTR spends the majority of this grant funding locally. "Why spend our money somewhere else, when we have such incredible experts, resources, and services right here in Teton Valley?" asks FTR Restoration Director Mike Lien. Mike spends the

lion's share of his budget on the rocks and trees, fencing, concrete, metal, and contracted labor that goes into restoring stream banks and building fish-friendly diversion structures.

"While government grants make up the majority of our funding, we simply couldn't do our work without the support of community businesses and partners," adds FTR Development Director Anna Lindstedt.

Local grant makers included First Bank of the Tetons, United Bank of Idaho, the River Rim Foundation, the Teton Springs Foundation, Targhee Hills Estates, Silverstar Communications, the Targhee Institute Environmental Foundation, 1% for the Tetons, the One Fly Foundation, the Teton Conservation District (Jackson, Wyoming), and the Confluence Fund (Ketchum, Idaho).

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financial report

Friends of the Teton River raised \$665,283 in 2008, with the majority of the funds (87.5 %) going to on-the-ground programs and projects. These included stream restoration, water quality testing, stream flow restoration and monitoring, watershed education, and outreach. The remaining 12.5% was expended on administration and fundraising. 2008 revenues were derived from federal and state grants (45%), private and foundation support (20%), support from individual donors (26%), and program and event revenue (9%).

REVENUE AND SUPPORT

Public Support

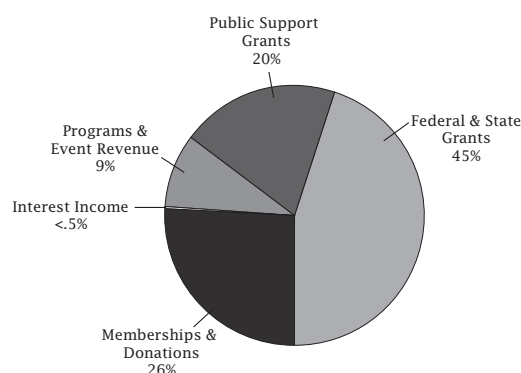
Memberships and Donations	\$174,258
Public Support Grants and Foundation Grants (includes Community Foundation of Teton Valley, corporate and foundation grants)	\$134,728
Special Events*	\$57,761

Other Support

Federal & State Grants Assistance	\$295,036
Program Income*	\$2,215
Interest and Dividends	\$1,285

Total Revenue and Support **\$665,283**

2008 Budget Income - \$665,283

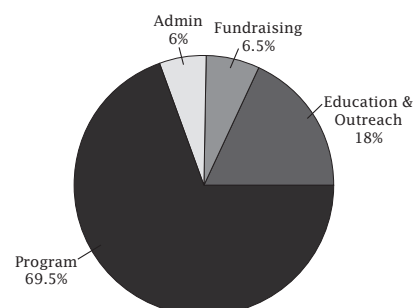


EXPENSES

Programs	\$429,428
Education & Outreach	\$111,295
Fundraising	\$40,406
Administration	\$37,191

Total Expenses **\$618,320**

2008 Budget Expenses - \$618,320



2008 NET INCOME **\$46,963**

*represents gross income in these categories

Friends of the Teton River strongly believes in fiscal responsibility and accountability to its membership, project partners, and the general public. The following financial report is unaudited as of the date of this publication, and represents FTR's financial position as of December 31, 2008. You may contact FTR for a copy of our 2008 Tax Form 990.

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Partners donating in-kind materials and services included Arlin Grimes Excavation, Owen-PC Construction, Native Sod Solutions, Nelson Engineering, Harmony Designs, Trail Creek Nursery, Creative Energies, Majestic Mountain Iron, Intralox, Confluence Consulting, and Mainstream Engineering. In addition, local landowners—Ted Majors, Fran McKibben, Bo and Charlie Ross, Boyd Smith, Carolyn Sears, LeAnn and Tom Talbot, and Teton County—have contributed over \$117,000 in matching funds toward restoration projects in the past year.

Strong local partnerships have helped FTR leverage national and regional support. "It's exciting that such a relatively small watershed group is so competitive for national and state funding," Lindstedt says. "We're pleased to put this money to work directly in our watershed and our local economy."

FTR received national attention when The Orvis Company

chose the nonprofit earlier this year as the focus of its Conservation Grant Award. Orvis, a leader in the fly fishing industry, featured FTR on a full page in their catalog to raise awareness and funding for a \$1.2 million restoration project we are implementing on Teton Creek. Orvis raised \$90,000 for the project through the fundraising campaign and Internet sales.

FTR was awarded federal funding for stream bank and fisheries restoration from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Western Native Trout Initiative, the National Fish Passage Program, and the Environmental Protection Agency. State-level grantors included the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, the Idaho Department of Water Resources, and the Idaho Department of Fish and Game. Finally, funding for watershed education programs was provided by the Donald C. Brace Foundation, the Idaho Community Foundation, and the Environmental Protection Agency.

THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR 2008 DONORS

1% For The Tetons Fund · The Abell Foundation, Inc. · Arthur B. Schultz Foundation · Donald C. 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