



FY 2016 Annual Report

Cultivating Success for Teton Watershed Conservation



Common Ground

OUR MISSION is to work collaboratively for clean water, healthy streams, and a thriving fishery in the Teton Watershed. We implement on-the-ground projects, partnerships, and programs that restore stream channels and corridors, and improve water quality/quantity, while monitoring our impact and connecting people with their water resources.

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Amy Verbeten
Executive Director
(2012-present)



Anna Lindstedt
Development Director
(2007-present)



Welcome to Friends of the Teton River's FY 2016 Report

Dear Friends,

Teton Valley, Idaho, epitomizes the culture of the “New West”—blending agriculture and recreation, farming and fly fishing—with an economy and ecology that depend on sustaining healthy land and water. FTR has found that collaborating to solve problems ultimately leads to win-win outcomes. By actively listening, asking questions, and finding common ground with diverse partners, we’ve been able to develop creative ways to address human needs and those of fish and wildlife.

Our efforts are focused on developing place-based solutions that maintain the viability and health of our working lands, open spaces, and stream corridors, while improving surface and ground water resources, reducing sediment input, and ensuring well-functioning fish and wildlife habitat. Water plays an essential role in the landscapes, lives, and livelihood of our community, and by working together, we can find innovative solutions that make sense for where we live, work, and play.

This past year, FTR helped raise and leverage more public and private support for work in our watershed than ever before. Through joint fundraising and grant writing efforts with our non-profit and Foundation partners, agricultural producers, and local and federal government agencies, we helped garner over 3 million dollars for projects, right here in Teton Valley, which will improve safety and public access on the Teton River, restore connected stream corridors, and develop strategies that benefit our local farms and native fish (see pages 4-5). You won’t find this number reported as a part of our operational or project income/

expense for the year (FY 2016 Financial Report pages 6-7), so we’ve included these as “leveraged funds” that we’ve helped raise through partnerships to benefit watershed conservation.

We are proud to have matured into an organization with increasingly stable financial footing, especially as we look into the year ahead. However, this doesn’t mean that we operate with a lot of “extra” left over—in fact, we run on a very lean budget every year, strategically investing our time and funding resources into on-the-ground, mission-driven work.

FTR was founded by a group of individuals like you, who shared a commonly held belief that they could make a real difference in the health of their river and fishery. We have only arrived here with the consistent support of our friends and members, and can only continue this work with your help. With many challenges and successes still ahead of us, we ask you to be partners in finding common ground and uncommon solutions to the water issues we face together, as a community.

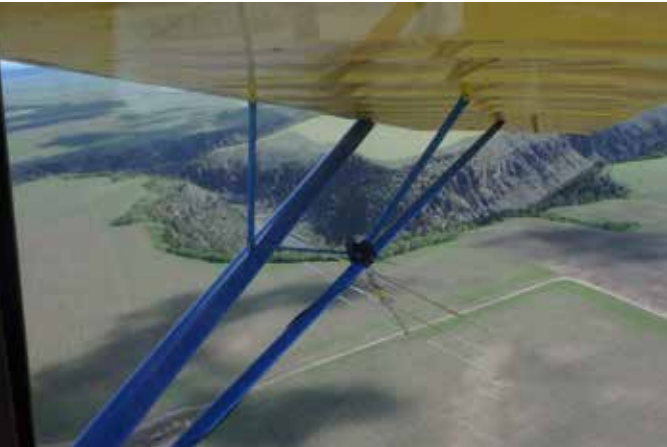
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature of Amy Verbeten in black ink.

Executive Director

A handwritten signature of Anna Lindstedt in black ink.

Development Director



It's been a big year! We've had a number of projects, programs, and grants that came to fruition in 2016 which required many years of hard work, planning, and finding common ground with community partners.

Fisheries Science: FTR has collected an impressive amount of fisheries data over the past decade, which is considered top-notch by our peers. In 2016, you helped us raise \$40,000 to support this research through our Fisheries Challenge (see donors, pages 8-9). In addition to employing a research technician, we added a fisheries monitoring site on Teton Creek, and tracked tagged non-native trout in the Teton Canyon by airplane. By putting our heads together (and crunching the numbers) with leading fisheries experts from around the region, FTR is helping to develop a model that will guide fisheries managers as they make decisions that best support the persistence of native trout species in the Intermountain West. This work, culminating in 2017, will help prioritize Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout conservation projects within their remaining range. This includes the Teton Watershed, which contains the last-best populations of YCT found anywhere.

Education: The FTR Education Program continues to inspire kids valley-wide, starting with our youngest water scientists in Kindergarten. Thanks to the Teton Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited, our Trout in the Classroom program has aquariums in all of the public schools in the district this year. Other programs for school-aged youth included field trips about geology, stream studies, snow science, and wetlands. In the first year of a two-year EPA Environmental Education grant, FTR launched a Teton County WaterWise Initiative, focused on youth and adult education opportunities for drinking water protection, including topics on soil health, floodplains, well-water testing, and household hazardous waste. As a part of this grant, FTR was awarded \$20,000 to fund classrooms and community organizations which have projects related to improving drinking water.



Partnerships, trust, and effective collaboration have been fundamental to our success as an organization. Our vision is to be a model for watershed conservation that puts science into practice, celebrates a diverse culture of stewardship, and implements locally based solutions that support our economy, community, and values.

Teton Creek Corridor Project: FTR has invested over a decade of work and \$3 million dollars to research, restore, protect, and improve fish habitat, stream flows, water quality, and riparian health in the Teton Creek Corridor. In 2016, we were excited to announce our partnership in the Teton Creek Corridor Project—a collaborative effort of FTR, the Teton Regional Land Trust, Teton Valley Trails and Pathways, and Valley Advocates for Responsible Development to protect and improve key fish and wildlife habitat, while providing a safe 2.5 mile pathway adjacent to protected/restored areas. As a project partner, FTR has been able to ensure the goals of the project align with our goals as an organization. We have also been able to leverage partner support to secure more funding for FTR's ongoing work on Teton Creek, including Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout research, stream flow restoration, and habitat restoration. A special thanks goes to project donors, the Cushman Family Foundation (\$25,000) and the Donald C. Brace Foundation (\$50,000).

Bates Bridge Public Access: During the summer, FTR and a group of non-profit partners collectively raised \$720,000 in public, private, and grant funds to purchase 80 acres adjacent to the Bates Bridge on the Teton River. This purchase secures permanent protection (with a 46-acre conservation easement) and the future of this popular river access for the entire community. The property is now owned by Teton County as a public park. Boat ramp/access improvements will begin this summer, 2017.

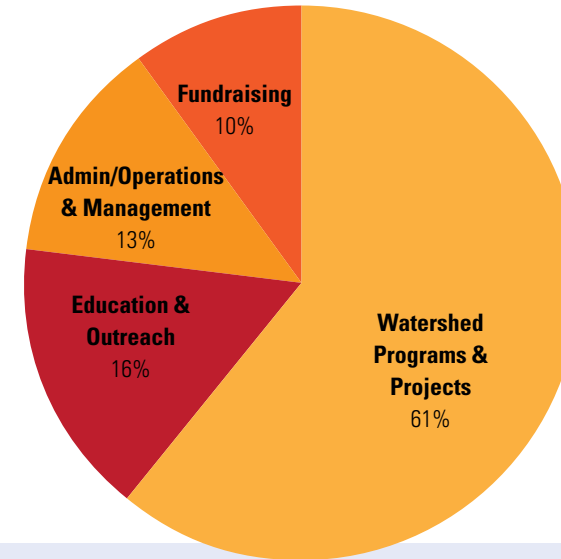
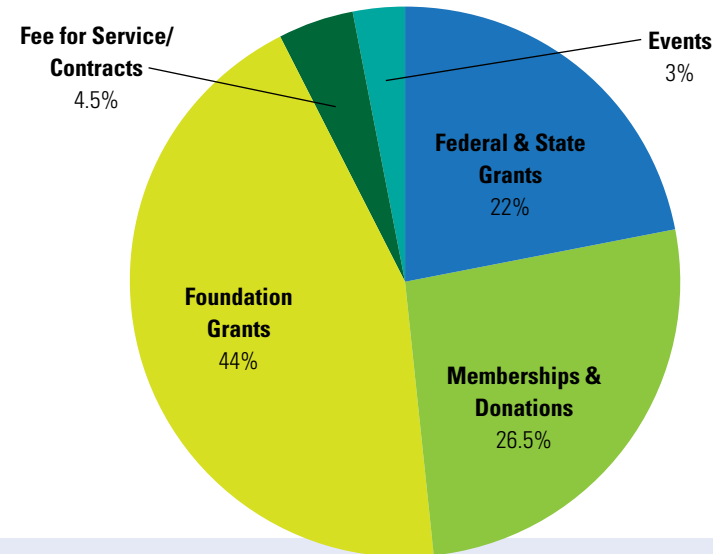
FY 2016 Financials

2016 INCOME - \$526,187

2016 EXPENSES - \$452,628

REVENUE AND SUPPORT:

Federal & State Grants Assistance	\$ 114,809
Memberships and Donations	\$ 138,643
Foundation Grants	\$ 232,679
Fee for Service (Contracts)	\$ 23,654
Programs & Event Revenue (Net of expense)	\$ 16,402
Total Revenue and Support	\$ 526,187



EXPENSES:

Watershed Projects & Programs	\$ 275,568
Education & Outreach	\$ 72,403
Administration/Operations & Management	\$ 44,418
Fundraising	\$ 60,239

Total Expenses	\$ 452,628
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	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
2015 Net Assets at End of Year	\$116,531	\$33,961	\$150,492
Change in Net Assets	\$(1,680)	\$75,238	\$73,558
2016 Net Assets at End of Year	\$114,851	\$109,199*	\$224,050

Friends of the Teton River strongly believes in fiscal responsibility and accountability to its membership, project partners, and the general public. This report illustrates FTR's financial position as of December 31, 2016. Please contact us if you would like a copy of our 990 tax form, on file with the IRS.

LEVERAGED FUNDS FOR WATERSHED CONSERVATION: WE CAN DO MORE BY WORKING TOGETHER.

In 2016, FTR & OUR PARTNERS leveraged funds for:



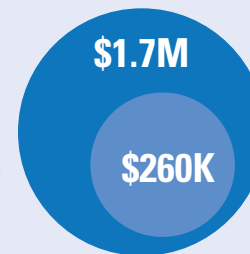
FTR+Teton Soil Conservation District
to purchase a no-till seed drill



FTR+Teton Regional Land Trust
Raise project funds for agricultural easements & producer incentives



FTR+Community partners
Raise funds to purchase the Bates Property/Public River Access



FTR+Teton Creek Collaborative+LOR Foundation
\$1.7M investment in property and easement acquisitions
\$260K in capacity and project funding (geomorphic assessment, outreach, staffing)

*Restricted Net Assets held at the end of FY 2016 will be spent on programs and projects in FY 2017 for which they have been designated by the individual or grantor.

Thank You Donors!

Donations:

Caddis Fly (\$25-\$99)

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Pale Morning Dunn (\$100-\$249)

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Tom & Kathy Hoffman
Forrest & Sue Hunter
Jennifer & Gary Price
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Karen Scheid
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Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout (\$1,000-\$5,000)

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Fred Good
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Fine Dining Group
Karen Huntsman

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Lincoln Street Fund
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Chris & Jen Tissot

Teton River Steward (\$5,000+)

Yvon & Malinda Chouinard

Fisheries Challenge Donors

Thank you to the John H. & Mary Wilkes Short Family Charitable Foundation for donating a \$20,000 lead-gift to this campaign.

Matching donors:

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Charles Woodward
David & Susan Work
Joyce & Felix Zajac

Bates Access Project Donors

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Bill & Debbie Leake

Given in Memory of John Short/John Short Legacy Fund

Charles Bracken
Joseph Swedish

**Our apologies for any errors or omissions. Please contact FTR with any questions or changes.*

*Thank You
Donors
for helping us
raise \$42,750
for the
no-till drill.*

Donald C. Brace Foundation

1% for the Tetons

The Baltoro Trust

James & Jeanne Beirne

Community Foundation of

Teton Valley

Teton County, Idaho

Teton Springs Foundation

Dean Scheid

Nancy Hamill Winter

UNCOMMON PARTNERS SEEK COMMON GROUND FOR FARMS & FISH

In rural Idaho, it's rare for agricultural producers, agencies, officials, and conservation groups to work side by side to spearhead watershed protection efforts. FTR is working to change that by finding "common ground" for water resource conservation.

In the past year, FTR and local agricultural producers have worked together to develop effective, voluntary strategies for collaborative conservation on private land. FTR and the Teton Soil Conservation District successfully raised \$42,750 to purchase a no-till seed drill this year as a part of a joint soil health initiative that will protect and improve water quality in the Teton River, while reducing soil erosion and improving agricultural business practices and returns.

We have also been a part of an exciting effort to form a basin-wide "Water Users Association," steered by local leaders in the farming/ranching community, who believe that maintaining viable working lands and healthy watersheds goes hand-in-hand. We are proud of our work that is bringing together agricultural leaders—who represent family-run farms, the Farm Bureau, and TSCD—with water and soil health scientists, conservation interests, and funding partners.



Planting the Seed

At the end of 2016, FTR and the Teton Regional Land Trust secured an \$825,000 Natural Resources Conservation Service grant that will provide financial incentives and support for local agricultural producers to participate in conservation farming practices, including no-till methods and planting cover crops, and voluntary agricultural easements that will keep "working lands working" in perpetuity. Through program objectives implemented over the next three to five years, we will demonstrate how agriculture can benefit farms and fish in Teton Valley, and how uncommon partners can cultivate success, together.

Support Farms & Fish in Teton Valley

We need your help to support the Farms & Fish Campaign. We depend on your contributions to get our programs off (or in this case, on) the ground. In order to apply for and put federal grant funds to work, we need private donor contributions. Our fundraising goal for the Farms & Fish Campaign is \$30,000. Your support will provide the matching funds and leverage we need to take this program from seed to sprout, and get grant dollars into local farmers' fields, through staffing, education, and outreach.

Help us reach our \$30,000 campaign goal!

2016 Grants & Restricted Funds

American Rivers

Bonneville Environmental Foundation

Bureau of Reclamation

CHC Foundation

Columbia Basin Water Transactions
Program

Community Foundation of Teton Valley

Crescent Meadows HOA

Cushman Family Foundation

Donald C. Brace Foundation

Idaho Department of Environmental
Quality

Idaho Department of Water Resources

EPA Environmental Education Grant

LOR Foundation

National Fish & Wildlife Foundation

One Fly Foundation

Jim & Cheryl Reinertsen

Teton Conservation District (Wyoming)

Teton Valley Trout Unlimited

US EPA Environmental Education Grant

US Fish & Wildlife Service

CONTACT US:

Friends of the Teton River

PO Box 768

Driggs, ID 83422

208.354.3871

donate by mail or online:

www.tetonwater.org

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Save the Date!

Farms & Fish Benefit

Friday, August 4*
Victor, ID (location TBA)

Want to find out more about how you can contribute to no-till & other farming initiatives?

Donors and friends are invited to learn about our efforts with local agricultural producers, show support for the Farms & Fish Campaign, and celebrate our successes during a field tour and outdoor reception.

*Look for formal invitation and announcements early this summer.

FARMS & FISH needs your support! Help us meet our \$30,000 goal by making a donation to this campaign, via a donation envelope (enclosed) or on our website www.tetonwater.org