

Rivers Connect Us



FY 2015 Annual Report

Celebrating 15 years of Teton Watershed Conservation

WELCOME to Friends of the Teton River's FY 2015 Annual Report

OUR MISSION at Friends of the Teton River is to work collaboratively to protect and improve clean water, healthy streams and resilient fisheries in the Teton Watershed. We accomplish this through on-the-ground projects, partnerships, and programs that restore waterways, monitor our impacts, and connect people with their water resources.

STAFF

Amy Verbeten, Executive Director
Anna Lindstedt, Development Director
Allison Michalski, Outreach Coordinator
Mike Lien, Restoration Director
Shannon Brady, Education Director
Sarah Lien, Water Resources Director/Staff Attorney

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Cover photo: Karlin Bilcher
Inside cover photo: Robert Warren
Opposite page (bottom): Camrin Dengel

A Message from Friends of the Teton River

Dear Friends,

Friends of the Teton River published its first Annual Report for FY 2001. In that first year of operating, we received \$12,000 in grant funding and \$80,000 from individual donors and members, many of whom can be found on our donor list today. As we have grown as an organization, so has our list of generous donors, grantors, programs, and projects—so much so, that it's hard to fit it all in the center of our biannual newsletter *Water Lines*.



In an effort to better connect with our donors, partners, and community members, we've decided to publish a stand-alone Annual Report, which will highlight accomplishments of the past year, recognize individual and grant supporters, and report on our financial standing as of the most recent tax year. In this Annual Report, you will see a review of the 2015 fiscal year, including a full listing of individuals, granting entities, and foundations who contributed to our work between January 1 and December 31 of 2015. Moving forward, we intend to publish an Annual Report each winter. Donors for the current year (2016) will be recognized in the winter of 2017.

The last few pages of this report feature fundraising campaigns/opportunities for current programs and projects, so that we can connect our members with the most important needs, priorities, and challenges for the organization in the year ahead. While the impact of the organization continues to grow, one thing remains the same—we still depend on individual donors to support our work.



In order to continue “moving the needle” for long-term and large-scale watershed protections and health, FTR is counting on the continued trust, partnership, and enthusiasm of our community for our work and for the Teton River. It is this community of supporters that we have to thank for fifteen years (and counting!) of watershed conservation and stewardship.

Connected through rivers,



Executive Director (2012-present)



Development Director (2007-present)

2015 Key Accomplishments



A Decade of Fisheries Research

In 2015, the FTR Fisheries Program, along with significant support from our agency partners, interns, and volunteers, accomplished the first “full-scale” population estimate of the Teton Watershed trout population, including the main stem Teton River and tributaries.

This unprecedented effort required electrofishing four sections of the Teton River and 150 sites on tributary streams. This data will provide the first comprehensive population estimate for the entire watershed and will be compared to past electro-fishing surveys to monitor population trends. This information will be used to help agencies manage the fishery, identify fisheries conservation needs, and prioritize future project work. In addition to the electro-fishing effort, FTR continued its ongoing fisheries research including the PIT-tag program, the Teton River Canyon Telemetry Study, and the stream temperature monitoring program.



A Dozen Years of Watershed Education

With a dozen years of formal programming, FTR’s Education Program continues to connect our community with Teton Valley’s water resources. FTR’s Education Coordinator reached nearly one thousand students

through our diverse K-12 offerings in 2015. Programs for school-aged youth included field trips in geology, stream study, snow science, and “the wonder of wetlands.” We partnered with Teton Valley Trout Unlimited to expand the Trout in the Classroom Program, which now has a fish tank in six classrooms. FTR received grants for filming equipment (Community Foundation of Teton Valley) and microscopes (Silverstar Communications), which support the hands-on application of STEM education goals (science, technology, engineering, and math). In November, FTR received a two-year EPA Environmental Education grant which launches a Teton County WaterWise Initiative, focused on youth and adult education opportunities based around drinking water protection, through 2017.



More Water for Instream Flows

FTR's Stream Flow Restoration Program continues to gain momentum and secure live water in Teton River tributaries. In 2015, FTR completed one new water transaction on Badger Creek, securing almost two cfs in stream, and providing passage for cutthroat trout through this section. FTR monitored all seven

of its active transactions on a weekly basis throughout the irrigation season, ensuring an increase of 7.18 cfs of water to Teton Valley's streams since 2013. FTR is able to provide economic incentives to water rights holders through state funding, and in 2015 alone, over \$13,000 was dispersed directly to Teton Valley water right holders, as payment for voluntarily committing their water rights to instream flow purposes. FTR continues to work with state and regional partners to generate cost-share funding and support for this program and others like it in the West.

A Model Watershed for the West



FTR was chosen as a Bonneville Environmental Foundation Model Watershed partner (2010-2020), and has worked extensively with the foundation to refine and define our long-term watershed protection and restoration goals. Their support recognizes the strong foundation FTR has built—one based on sound science that drives our mission, priorities, and projects,

and one of partnerships, trust, and effective collaboration that have been so fundamental to our success. In meetings and in the field, among fish experts and farmers, we continue to provide an example for watershed research, restoration, and management in the West. Our vision is to be a model for watershed conservation that puts science into practice, celebrates a culture of stewardship, and implements locally based solutions that support our economy, people, and values. While the amount of work we've accomplished with a small staff and lean budget is astonishing to our regional and national peers, we are simply working to ensure that the remarkable watershed in which we live will remain that way for generations to come.

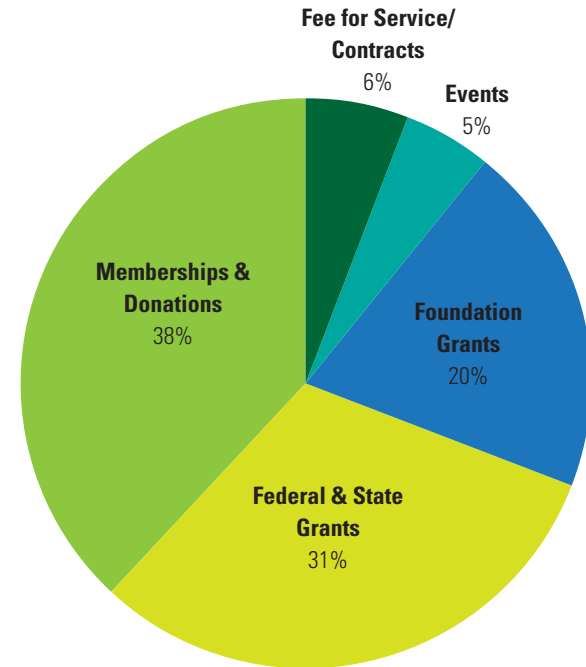
FY 2015 Financials

REVENUE AND SUPPORT:

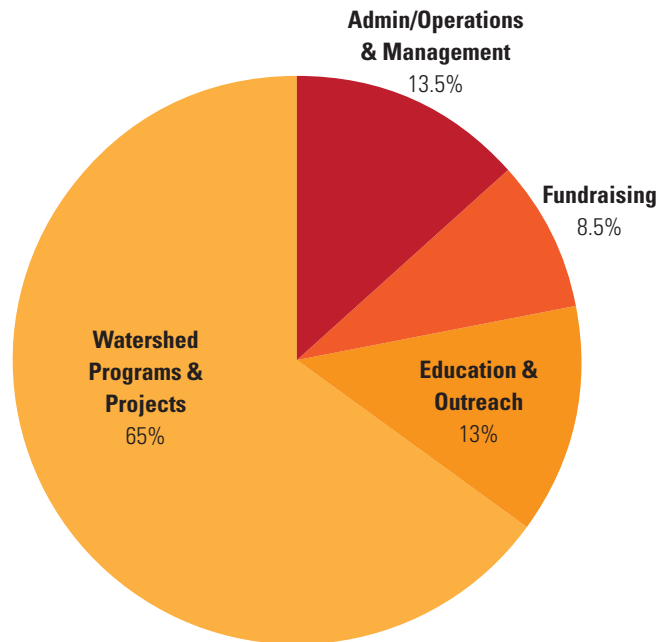
Federal & State Grants Assistance	\$ 131,241
Memberships and Donations	\$ 162,502
Foundation Grants	\$ 86,921
Fee for Service (Contracts)	\$ 25,667
Programs & Event Revenue (Net of expense)	\$ 20,354
<hr/>	
Total Revenue and Support	\$ 426,685

Friends of the Teton River raised \$426,685 in total revenue and support in 2015, with the majority of funds (78 percent) going to on-the-ground projects and programs including stream restoration, stream flow restoration, water quality and fisheries monitoring, and watershed education and outreach. Revenues were derived from individual donors and donor events (43 percent), federal and state grants (31 percent), foundation support (20 percent), and fee-for-service contracts (6 percent).

2015 INCOME - \$426,685



2015 EXPENSES - \$417,284



EXPENSES:

Watershed Projects & Programs	\$ 270,138
Education & Outreach	\$ 55,050
Administration/Operations & Management	\$ 56,106
Fundraising	\$ 35,990

Total Expenses	\$ 417,284
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2014 Unrestricted Net Assets at End of Year	\$ 107,130
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Change in Net Assets	\$ 9,401
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2015 Unrestricted Net Assets at End of Year	\$ 116,531
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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, 2015. Please contact us if you would like a copy of our 990 tax form, on file with the IRS.

Thank You Donors!

Membership: Caddis Fly (\$25-\$99)

Morgan Case
James & Nancy Curtes
Rachel Daluge
LeAnn Domingue
Charles Franklin
Stacey Glenn
Kent & Judy Hastings
Maureen & Herb Heimerl
Caroline Herter
Chad & Alicia Horrocks
Bradley P. Hull
Earle Layser
Baerbel K. Lucchitta
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Bob & Valerie Margulis
Ken & Barbara McIntosh
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D.A. Palmer
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Joshua Stanchfield
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Elizabeth Wilson

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

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GE Matching Gift

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Karen Scheid
John & Linda Seiter
Josh Speyer
Marta Smith

Sue & Tom Williams,
for AJ Williams
Barbara Wolahan
Casimir & Carol Yost

Grey Drake(\$500-\$999)

Jay Anderson
Katharine Butler,
in honor of Karen Scheid
Richard Grundler
Michael Henderson
John Hoffman & Jane Durcan
Forrest & Sue Hunter
Carl & Jeanette Pergam
Jack Revoyr
Thomas Sneed
Greg & Mary Stone
Bob & Laurie Swan
Pruzan Family Foundation

Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout (\$1,000-\$5,000)

Malinda Chouinard, given in
memory of Andy Tyson
Reed & Ann Coleman
Jon Fenn
David & Debbie Fosdick
Jennifer & Gary Price
Les & Jeanne Thurmond
Chris & Jennifer Tissot
Hamill Family Foundation
Fine Dining Group
Lincoln Street Fund

Teton River Steward (\$5,000+)

Yvon Chouinard

Board Challenge Donors

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Katharine Butler,
in honor of Karen Scheid

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 Nancy Winter
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 Charles Woodward
 Susan & David Work
 Georgina Worthington &
 John Greenwood
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 Jen Zung & Randy Blough

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 Jeffrey Miller

**Given in Memory of
 George Geiges**
 Todd Bingnear
 Dolores & Eric Boekel
 Dolores Fisher
 Ray Gutierrez
 James Hoover
 Alice Mack
 Deborah & James Waples
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 Noll Pallet & Lumber Co
 Perry Pallet Inc

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 /John Short Legacy Fund**
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 Linda Biever
 Vash Brumitt
 Val Christensen
 Andrew Daniels
 Alan & Mary Frazier
 George & Helen Geiges
 Mr. and Mrs. Hay
 Nancy Huntsman
 Gizelle Jamison
 Sandi Madden
 KC & Diane Murphy
 Thomas Peter
 Charles Pitman
 Stephen Rosenblum
 Roger Sawyer
 Dean & Karen Scheid
 Norbert Schneider
 Kathy Schreiner

Peter Singer
 Michael Tempest
 Gary Valdez
 Jeff & Sandy Zadoks
 Apache Corporation
 Kindred Healthcare
 Papanikolas Enterprises
 Seton Healthcare Family

Grants/Restricted Funds
 Bonneville Environmental Foundation
 Bureau of Reclamation
 CHC Foundation
 Community Foundation of
 Jackson Hole
 Community Foundation of
 Teton Valley
 Creekside Meadows HOA
 Donald C. Brace Foundation
 US EPA Environmental
 Education Grant
 LOR Foundation
 National Fish and Wildlife
 Foundation—Bring Back the Natives
 Peaked Sports
 Silverstar Communications
 Teton Conservation District
 (Wyoming)
 Teton Valley Trout Unlimited
 Trout Unlimited
 US Forest Service

No Till Drill (Restricted Fund)
 Donald C. Brace Foundation
 (\$20,000 Challenge Grant)
 1% for the Tetons
 Dean Scheid

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

2016 Special Campaigns



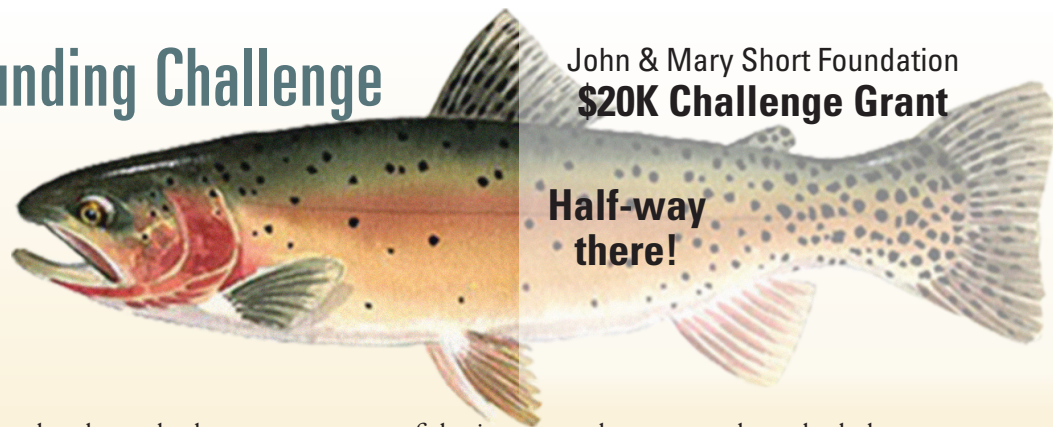
Fisheries Director Mike Lien has overseen FTR's research and restoration activities since 2003.



John Short (second from left) assists with research on the upper Teton River in 2011. He received FTR's "Contributions to Watershed Science" Award in 2013.

Fisheries Funding Challenge

\$40K Goal



John & Mary Short Foundation
\$20K Challenge Grant

Half-way there!

The Fisheries Program has been the longest-running program here at FTR and has had the most visible impact in our watershed—in the form of habitat restoration projects, fish ladders, and stream channel improvements. But the behind-the-scenes story is that all of these projects rely heavily on conducting quality research and data collection before the on-the-ground work begins.

In 2016, FTR will complete research and analysis on the *largest body of data* for Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout in their remaining range. This will lead to identifying the top-priority projects for conservation of the species for the next decade, right here in Teton Valley and around the region. In order to meet this goal, keep our Fisheries Director and seasonal Fisheries Technician working in the field, and apply for state/federal project dollars, **we need to raise \$40,000 by the end of the year.**

While FTR has had many fisheries funders and partners, Dr. John Short's personal contributions to

our fisheries research program have had the most significant impact made by any single individual on our overall understanding of the Teton River fishery and the status of the native cutthroat, for which he so loved to fish. John (1944-2015) made a substantial financial investment in our work over the span of a dozen years, yet it was his personal investment of time and his passion for our mission that truly set him apart. John understood the vital role that sound science and research play in the development of an effective long-term strategy, and the importance of investing in them to create a lasting legacy of conservation.

In the spirit of carrying John's vision and passion for fishing and the Teton River forward, the John and Mary Short Foundation has generously made a \$20,000 Challenge Grant to help close the gap in our 2016 Fisheries Program budget. Please help us match their generous pledge by investing in the future of our fishery, and designating a gift to this important work.

Education Funding Challenge



Do you know a fifth-grader who has learned the significance of macro-invertebrates (bugs) in the stream, or a high school student who has tested the quality of their home well water? Perhaps you've heard from a neighbor who has attended a community presentation about Idaho water law or low-water landscaping. Maybe you've

taken part in a moonlight float or a hike to learn about the natural history of the watershed. These are the kinds of educational experiences FTR's full-time Education Director has been able to offer over the past twelve years. By providing free access to K-12 watershed science instruction, teacher training, curriculum, and equipment, as well as informational programming for adults, we aim to foster understanding of the Teton Watershed, and the actions each of us can take to conserve it.

FTR was recently awarded \$90,000 in EPA Environmental Education funding, which will keep our Education Director working to bring new education and outreach opportunities to the community over the next two years. And even more outstanding, a portion of these funds (\$23,000) will be granted directly to diverse community partners and projects focused on protecting clean, safe drinking water sources in Teton Valley. As with most federal funding, FTR needs to leverage private contributions to match it.

In 2016-2017, FTR needs to raise \$20,000 to match EPA Grant funding, so we can continue to invest in the current and next generation of watershed stewards.

**\$120K Total
Project
Funding**

**\$20K
Remaining**

**\$10K FTR
Donations**

\$90K EPA Funding

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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No-Till Drill Campaign Needs Your Support

FTR and the Teton Soil Conservation District (TSCD) have recently entered into a unique partnership to fundraise for the purchase of a “no-till drill,” a farming implement that can reduce soil erosion, improve water quality, and benefit both agricultural producers and Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout.

In December, the partners received a \$20,000 Challenge Grant from the Donald C. Brace Foundation and a \$5,000 grant from 1% for the Tetons toward our \$60,000 fundraising goal. FTR and the TSCD are seeking to match these grant funds with private donations in 2016 to purchase the drill, which will then be rented at a very low cost to local farmers. You can read more about the no-till drill in our Winter 2015/16 newsletter (pages 6-7). If you would like more information about this project, please contact FTR’s Amy Verbeten (amy@tetonwater.org) or Tina Dean at the TSCD (tetonscd@silverstar.com).

Help support Teton Valley farms and fish!

