



# water lines

SPRING/SUMMER 2014



**Partners in Watershed Conservation**



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## KEY PARTNERS

Bonneville Environmental Foundation  
 Idaho Department of Fish and Game  
 Idaho Department of Environmental Quality  
 Idaho Department of Water Resources  
 M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust  
 National Fish and Wildlife Foundation  
 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
 U.S. Forest Service, Caribou-Targhee  
 National Forest  
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## STAFF

Amy Verbeten, Executive Director  
 Anna Dwinnell, Education Program  
 Coordinator  
 Anna Lindstedt, Development Director  
 Allison Michalski, Outreach Coordinator  
 Mike Lien, Restoration Director  
 Sarah Lien, Water Resources Director &  
 Staff Attorney

**Cover Photo:** Another day of fish sampling on Teton Creek; Alta, WY. Taken by Matt Devine.

**Production:** Powder Mountain Press

### Friends of the Teton River

18 N. Main Street, Suite 310  
 PO Box 768

Driggs, ID 83422

(208) 354-3871 [info@tetonwater.org](mailto:info@tetonwater.org)  
[www.tetonwater.org](http://www.tetonwater.org)



## Message from the President

**In the spring of 2006**, I was out walking my dog when I heard, and then saw, a large Caterpillar backhoe working on the stream bank of Trail Creek, just west of Victor. Being alarmed by the sight of heavy equipment moving dirt alongside the stream, I began walking with a purposeful pace toward the project leader and began to prepare myself for, let's just say, a "candid verbal interaction." That's when I first met FTR Restoration Director Mike Lien. Mike noticed me walking in his direction and approached with a warm greeting, introducing himself as a stream restoration professional with Friends of the Teton River. That chance meeting led to my personal relationship and partnership with FTR, and to my current role as Board President. As the Board President, I would like to thank Chuck Iossi for his friendship and prior service in this role, and welcome Mike Dawes and Bill Horn, our new board members.

After discussing the Trail Creek project with Mike on that pre-runoff spring day, I walked into the FTR offices and asked how to become a member. I met Development Director Anna Lindstedt, who provided me with an information package regarding FTR's mission and values. Not long after, I was the chaperone for a field trip with my son when he was a student at Victor Elementary. Amy Verbeten, who at the time was the Education and Outreach Director for FTR, led the field trip. She led our group to the exact spot on Trail Creek at Brookside Hollow City Park where, a few years earlier, FTR had completed the stream bank stabilization effort and I first met Mike. The creek bottom was full of invertebrate life and the field trip was a resounding success. As the years went by, I attended and invited my friends to FTR events and began to take float trips with some of our supporters.

The more time I spent with FTR, the more I began to recognize that it is the partnerships that make this relatively small organization so hugely impactful on the Teton River Watershed. This edition of our newsletter is dedicated to our truly valued members, friends, and partners. The "friends" of the Teton River include individual members, river enthusiasts, anglers, guides, ranchers, boaters, federal and state agencies, as well as other nonprofit partner organizations and foundations. It is this network of partners, and the grassroots support of our local community, that has made our mission—working for clean water, healthy streams, and resilient fisheries—possible. It takes the combined efforts of many to accomplish our goals, and we ask for your continued partnership in the stewardship of the Teton River Watershed.

Derek Hutton  
 FTR Board President



Executive Director Amy Verbeten, assisting with an Idaho Department of Fish and Game electrofishing survey. Photo by Matt Devine.

# A Message from the Executive Director

by Amy Verbeten

“From the start, FTR has been a partner-driven organization”

A few weeks ago, I had the pleasure of reading founding board member **Lyle Kunz’s** (see “Remembering Lyle Kunz,” page 10) account of the formation of FTR. I was reminded that, from the start, FTR has been a partner-driven organization. In the spring of 2000, data collected by the **Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG)**, **Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR)**, and the **Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ)** brought together **local anglers, farmers and ranchers, business owners, and residents** to discuss their concerns about the Teton Watershed. Experts from **regional universities** and **non-governmental agencies** were brought in to help interpret the data and offer advice; and the **community at large** was asked to formulate and offer feedback on a mission statement and action plan that became marching orders for the newly formed Friends of the Teton River.

Fourteen years later, partnerships continue to be the key to protecting and restoring clean water, healthy streams, and resilient fisheries in the Teton Watershed. FTR continues to partner with IDFG, IDWR, and IDEQ, as well as **Wyoming Game and Fish**, the **U.S. Forest Service**, and **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**, to gather and interpret the data that allows us to prioritize work, adapt our methods, and measure success. We work closely with **farmers and ranchers**, and now with **cities, developers, and homeowners associations**, to better understand how water is being used on the land, and to find new ways to keep streams watered and free of pollutants. We are collaborating with **universities** and other **conservation nonprofits** to ensure that our work is coordinated with range-wide efforts to protect and restore Yellowstone cutthroat trout, and to return flowing water to streams across the state where and when it is appropriate.

We also continue to develop new partnerships as changing needs emerge, such as our recent participation in the **Save Teton River Canyons Coalition** ([www.savetetonriver.org](http://www.savetetonriver.org)). This group of **businesses, landowners, and conservation groups** is working to generate public awareness and interest in the Teton River Canyons and helping to influence **decision-makers** to consider alternatives to rebuilding the Teton Dam.

And perhaps most importantly, we continue to rely on the **members and funding partners** who make FTR’s work possible—whether it’s through a contribution at one of our summer events or the Tin Cup Challenge, donation of volunteer hours, participation in public meetings, or a gift to our newly created legacy fund.

This issue of Waterlines is dedicated to recognizing all of the partners (highlighted throughout the issue in **cutthroat orange**), who help define and support FTR’s work. Thank you for all you do!

*Amy Verbeten*





# Putting the Pieces Together

## Partnerships and the YCT Puzzle

By Amy Verbeten

Preventing Yellowstone cutthroat trout from being listed as an Endangered Species: this is a fundamental tenet that guides Friends of the Teton River's work and our conversations with landowners, water right holders, and partner agencies. There are numerous benefits to this approach: for the fish, a listing will only be prevented if current populations are protected and recovered; for landowners, it would prevent federal restrictions on farming, ranching, and development that could be associated with listing; for anglers, it would result in a more successful fishing experience; for conservation groups, it would prevent cumbersome permitting processes and high costs to implement conservation projects in areas with an endangered species; and for taxpayers, a preventative approach is far more cost-effective than trying to recover a species once it becomes endangered.

The work of FTR and conservation partners including **Teton Valley Trout Unlimited** and the **Teton Regional Land Trust** are measurably improving cutthroat populations in the Teton Watershed. However, achieving the lofty goal of recovering the species enough to prevent a listing goes far beyond increasing populations in our local streams. To that end, FTR has been working closely with the **Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout Interstate Working Group** on range-wide conservation and prioritization efforts.

State fish and wildlife agencies (including the **Idaho Department of Fish and Game**, **Wyoming Game and Fish**, and **Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks**) hold responsibility for managing and conserving Yellowstone cutthroat across their range, which includes portions of Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Utah, and Wyoming. In some areas, the National Park Ser-

vice or Tribal governments assume management jurisdiction. The waters inhabited by cutthroat, and surrounding lands, are managed by agencies including the **U.S. Forest Service**, **Bureau of Land Management**, and **Bureau of Reclamation**. Scientists from universities and agencies such as the **U.S. Geological Survey's Northern Rocky Mountain Science Center**, the **Great Northern Landscape Conservation Cooperative**, **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**, and **Montana State University**

gather data, monitor populations and stream conditions, and maintain status information. Working in collaboration with all of these groups, non-governmental agencies like FTR, the **Wildlife Conservation Society**, and **Trout Unlimited** raise funds, promote conservation actions, provide public education, and implement projects that benefit the species. The **Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout Interstate Working Group**, comprised of representatives from each of the above-mentioned entities, was formed as a way to coordinate the work of this diverse array of agencies and organizations.

Each year, the group holds a two-day meeting to discuss challenges and new developments facing the species; share project accomplishments and methods; update one another on current science and population trends; and identify action steps. One of the most important steps currently being taken is an exciting prioritization effort led by **Dr. Robert Al-Chokhachy** of the USGS Northern Rocky Mountain Science Center and **Dr. Brad Shepherd** of the Wildlife Conservation Society, in conjunction with on-the-ground managers and other partners across the species' range. This prioritization effort is being used as a way to identify the



**Idaho Fish and Game and Wyoming Game and Fish partners help "work up" trout during a survey.**



**FTR partners have helped open up over 35 miles of spawning habitat on Canyon Creek, an important Teton River tributary that drains the northern Big Hole Range.**



**Idaho Fish and Game staff and FTR volunteers answer the call to the hard work of hook and line fish surveys in the Teton Canyon.**

most critical actions that can be used to secure and expand Yellowstone cutthroat trout populations, in a manner that aims to maximize overall species persistence.

To date, this prioritization effort has identified cutthroat in the Teton Watershed, and in specific stream reaches within it, as some of the highest priority populations in the entire Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. This effort, and FTR's direct participation in it, is critical to identifying the most important data gaps and highest priority conservation projects for future implementation, as well as to securing the funding that will make these projects possible. In many ways, it is the abundance of existing data, combined with extensive efforts to protect existing Yellowstone cutthroat populations on public and private lands, that has resulted in the high priority designation for the Teton Watershed. FTR is deeply appreciative for the support of **members** and **funding partners**, especially **Dr. John Short** and the **Bonneville Environmental Foundation**, who have made these efforts possible.

## Jackson Hole One Fly Foundation Partnership Benefits Canyon Creek Cutthroat

By the end of 2014, thanks in part to grants from the **Jackson Hole One Fly Foundation**, Yellowstone cutthroat trout on Canyon Creek will have access to more than 35 miles of newly re-opened spawning habitat. FTR will break ground this fall on the last project in a three-stage, multi-year effort to remove fish passage barriers on Canyon Creek. A series of rock step pools will allow spawning cutthroat to travel upstream from the Teton River Canyon, past an irrigation diversion that has blocked their passage for decades. Thanks to funding for a separate project, these fish will have access to newly restored spawning habitat on the **Lazy Triple Creek Ranch** property upstream of the diversion. See the Fall 2013 Waterlines for more information on the Canyon Creek project, and other important partners in this effort.

Each year, the Jackson Hole One Fly Foundation ([jacksonholeonefly.com](http://jacksonholeonefly.com)) hosts a highly publicized fishing contest on the South Fork of the Snake River. In partnership with the **National Fish and Wildlife Foundation**, Jackson Hole One Fly invests the substantial funds raised in this contest and associated fundraising events in watershed-scale stream protection, restoration, and improvement projects that benefit Yellowstone and Snake River cutthroat trout. Since 2004, the foundation has granted more than \$270,000 to FTR projects ranging from fish screens to scientific research, making a tremendous impact on the Teton Watershed fishery. Many thanks to all who have contributed to the Jackson Hole One Fly!

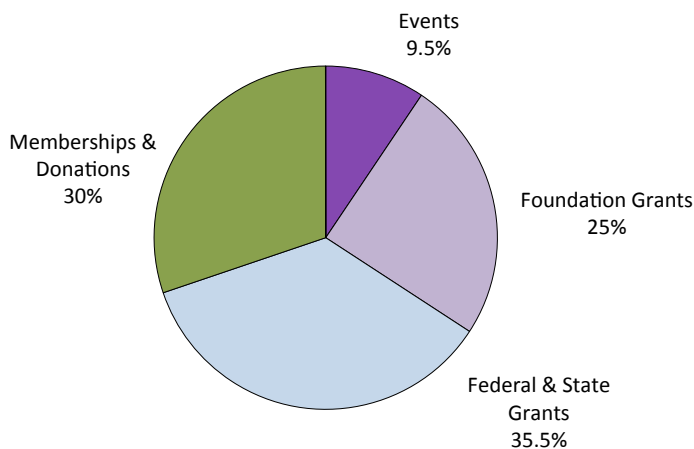


# FTR 2013 Annual Report

Note: Friends of the Teton River strongly believes in fiscal responsibility and accountability to its membership, project partners, and the general public. As of the date of this publication, our 2013 Form 990 has not been filed. However, this report accurately reflects FTR's financial position as of December 31, 2013. Please contact us if you would like a copy of the filed tax Form 990.

Friends of the Teton River raised \$604,691 in total revenue and support in 2013, with the majority of its funds (78.5 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 federal and state grants (35.5 percent), foundation support (25 percent), support from individual donors (30 percent), and event revenue (9.5 percent).

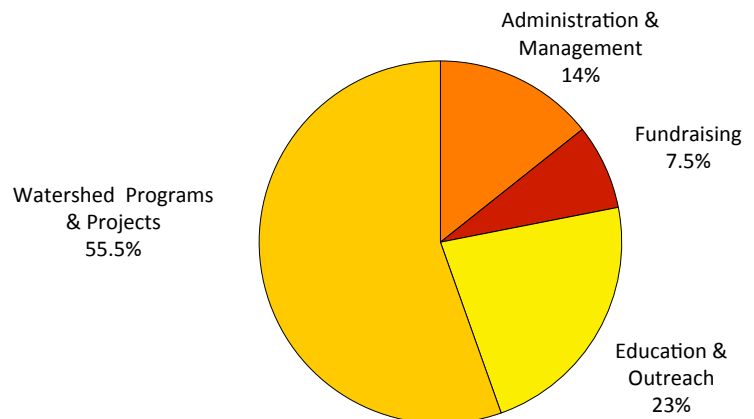
## 2013 Income - \$604,691



### REVENUE AND SUPPORT:

Memberships and Donations	\$ 182,458
Foundation Grants	\$ 149,834
Special Programs and Events	\$ 56,953
Federal & State Grants Assistance	\$ 215,293
Interest and Dividends	\$ 153
<b>Total Revenue and Support</b>	<b>\$ 604,691</b>

## 2013 Expenses - \$546,532



### EXPENSES:

Watershed Projects & Programs	\$ 302,974
Education & Outreach	\$ 123,770
Fundraising	\$ 41,587
Administration & Management	\$ 78,201
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 546,532</b>

2012 Unrestricted Net Assets at End of Year \$ 86,038

Change in Net Assets \$ 14,459

2013 Unrestricted Net Assets at End of Year \$ 100,497

## Partners in Giving

FTR would like to recognize the following donors for their support. These donations represent giving from October 2013 through March 2014.

### 2013 Year End Contributions

Phyllis Anderson  
Greg & Jayma Bammerlin  
Rachel & Gentry Barden  
Bob Bellows  
Bob & Jean Benedict  
Virginia & John Bodell  
Jack Bouma  
Bill Brown  
Perry Brown  
Katharine Butler  
Malinda Chouinard  
Yvon Chouinard  
Ann & Reed Coleman  
Mary Sue Cox  
James & Nancy Curtes  
Chip & Tammy Cushman  
Stewart Daniels  
Asa Davis  
Skip Dempsey  
Ben Donaldson  
John Hoffman & Jane Durcan  
Suzanne Edwards

David & Deborah Fosdick  
Gary Glenn  
Lyle & Gail Grimes Charitable Foundation  
Kent & Judy Hastings  
Herb & Maureen Heimerl  
Bill Horn  
Sue & Forrest Hunter  
Jon & Karen Huntsman  
Mark Huntsman  
Derk & Margaret Hutton  
Richard & Susan Jacobsen  
Carl Jordan  
John & Lorie Kalivas  
Jerry & Viesa Kirk  
Ronnie & Richard Klein  
Kathleen Lance  
Greg & Nancy-Jeanne LeFevre  
Erica Linnell  
Baerbel Lucchitta  
Bob & Valerie Margulis  
Emmy & David Montayne  
Jaime & Gary Moscovitz

Ann & Cheston Newbold  
Bruce & Ginny Northcott  
Kenneth & Carmen O'Dell  
George & Leanna Peterson  
Liz Pitcher  
John Rice (in honor of Mike Lien)  
Leslie & Don Roth  
Dean Scheid  
Marta Smith  
Kat & Bruce Smithhammer  
Fred Staehr  
Michael & Julie Stalneckner  
Andy Steele  
Winston Stubbart (in honor of Dean Scheid)  
Les & Jeanne Thurmond  
Edward & Sandra Vogleman  
Astrid & Todd Warden  
Sue & Tom Williams  
Kate Ohlandt & Jerry Wirkus  
Casimir & Carol Yost  
Joyce & Felix Zajac

# Partners for a Lifetime

by Anna Lindstedt



The saying goes, “It takes a village to raise a child.” As a new mother in Teton Valley, I’ve found this to be very true with all the assistance, care, and generosity I’ve received from friends, acquaintances, and even total strangers. This community, our “village,” is a supportive partner for so many of us—whether it’s bringing up children, fulfilling a dream, or mourning a loss. Good partners ground us in our shared beliefs and can help us realize our goals.

You, our friends and members, have been our most important partners in our work to protect and restore this watershed. Friends of the Teton River was founded by a partnership of individuals who had a passion for the Teton River and a desire to make it better for all of us. We have been able to accomplish so much since then, but only with your support and shared belief in what we do.

We all know that Teton Valley is a special place—that’s why we care about conserving it and its resources for the future. This is also why the FTR Board of Directors has recently opened a **Legacy Fund** with the Community Foundation of Teton Valley. Contributions to this fund will grow, untouched, so that the future dividends can be used to protect and restore our watershed for many generations to come. A gift to the **Legacy Fund** is truly the gift (and partnership) of a lifetime. Please contact myself, or talk to one of our other staff or board members, if you’d like to contribute to the **FTR Legacy Fund**.

Our continued success relies on the support of partners like you. Thank you for investing in your water resources—and we hope you will consider us a partner who’s working hard for the river and fishery we love!

## FTR Welcomes New Outreach Coordinator

Friends of the Teton River legal intern Allison Michalski will be transitioning into her new role as the Outreach Coordinator, as we wish Quincy Libby the best of luck as the Outfitting Manager at the South Fork Lodge. As a child, Allison first discovered her love for the water and the mountains on the lakes of northern New Jersey during early morning fishing trips with her father. Her love continued to grow and develop as she earned an undergraduate degree from Colby College in Maine, as well as a Master of Environmental Law and Policy and Juris Doctor from Vermont Law School. During Allison’s first visit to Teton Valley, she was awestruck by the enormous beauty of its water, its mountains, and its people. Not long after, she returned to the valley and signed on as a legal intern with FTR and is studying to take the Bar Exam later this summer. Please introduce yourself to her at one (or more) of our many events this summer, or when you stop by our office.



#### 2014 1st quarter donors (January-March)

##### Membership Donations:

##### Pale Morning Dunn (\$100-\$250)

Anonymous, via the Community  
Foundation of Teton Valley Pass-  
Through Fund

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

Arlin Grimes

##### Board Challenge Donations:

Gary & Tony Baugher  
Colleen & Mike Bodell  
Dargie Bowersock  
Elizabeth Coulter  
Michael Commins  
Peter Fenger  
Cathy & Craig Gillahan  
Douglas Hancey  
Ronald Lynch  
Bob & Debbie Malheiro

Donley & Maureen McReynolds  
John & Nancy Siverd  
Fred Staehr  
Andy Steele  
David Theis  
Chris Tissot  
Wally & Leesa Thrall  
Robert & Nadja Ward

##### In Memory of John (Jack) M. Sanders:

Kern Gardner  
Randall Harmsen  
Lyle Kunz

Bonnie Mangold  
John R. Sanders  
Joy Lee Smith  
Gregory & Demetrios Skedros  
Irene and Marianne Work

##### In Memory of Andre Domingue:

Anne Hutchinson  
Amy Mason  
Vancie Turner

#### 2013/2014 PROJECT SUPPORT: Save the Teton Canyons Coalition

1% for the Teton  
American Rivers  
Jon & Annie Fenn  
Fishpond  
Patagonia  
Rendezvous River Sports  
Teton Valley Lodge  
Trout Unlimited  
WorldCast Anglers

##### Fisheries Research

Dr. John Short  
Bonneville Environmental Foundation  
FTR Board of Directors  
(Board Challenge Pledges)

##### Education

Donald C. Brace Foundation  
M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust  
Teton Springs Foundation  
Teton Valley Trout Unlimited

#### Water Transactions Program

Bureau of Reclamation  
Trout Unlimited

##### Teton Creek

Creekside Meadows HOA  
Federal Emergency Management  
Agency/Teton County

##### Canyon Creek Fish Ladder/Restoration

Jackson Hole One Fly Foundation  
Lazy Triple Creek LLC  
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation  
National Forest Foundation  
Orvis  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
U.S. Forest Service  
Western Native Trout Initiative

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

# Growing the flow, one drop partner at a time

by Sarah Lien



In 2008, Friends of the Teton River began working to develop a means by which to restore water to Teton Valley's valued tributaries, recognizing that stream flow (or lack thereof) was contributing to declines in Yellowstone cutthroat trout populations and overall watershed health. From the start, FTR realized that this was a large endeavor, one which could only be accomplished with the help and support of a multitude of partners. Partners were needed who could help prioritize stream flow restoration work (based upon fishery and water quality data); others would need to be willing to financially support the purchase and leasing of water rights; and still others would need to help identify a functional, legal means by which to shepherd water through critically dewatered stream reaches. In 2013, the goal of restoring tributary stream flows was finally realized, and the first instream water leases were completed in the Teton River Basin. The success of this effort, and continued growth of the program, is directly attributable to the very generous support, dedication, and contribution of the following partners:

- **Idaho Department Fish and Game and U.S. Forest Service Staff** – These folks identify priority stream flow restoration projects, based on local and regional fishery and water quality data collection efforts.
- **Idaho Department of Fish and Game's Upper Snake Region Fisheries Manager** – This individual reviews each deal to evaluate fisheries benefits and highlight any potential concerns.
- **Idaho Department of Water Resources Program Manager for Water District 01** – This individual conducts an injury and delivery analysis on every deal, to ensure that the proposal will not injure other water users and that the water can be delivered through the dewatered stream reach.
- **Idaho Water Resource Board and Staff** – These people review and vet each proposal, at least twice, and subsequently help to draft the legal contracts necessary to formalize each water deal.
- **Columbia Basin Water Transactions Program and National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Staff** – These individuals support the water restoration efforts of the Idaho Water Resource Board in Idaho, as well as similar efforts in Oregon, Washington, and Montana. They also review each deal from an ecological perspective, and facilitate payment to water rights holders.
- **Bonneville Power Administration and the Northwest Power and Conservation Council** – These folks provide the majority of the funding used to support payments to water rights holders.
- **Individual Water Rights Holders** – Nothing could be accomplished without these people, who voluntarily work with FTR to keep their water rights instream.

So the next time you walk past a flowing stream, or as you pitch a hopper pattern into your favorite Teton Valley fishing hole, give a quick nod to all of these partners. Their support makes the things we do at Friends of the Teton River possible, and keeps us working for things you love.



# Trout in the Classroom: A Life(cycle) Connection

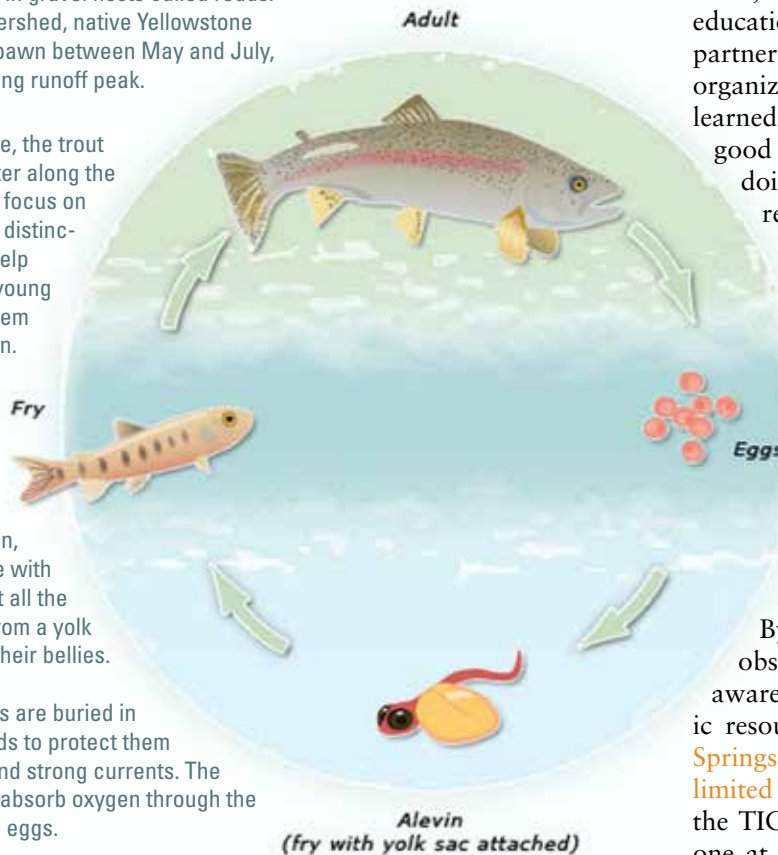
by Anna Dwinnell

**Adult**—As adults, trout spawn in small streams and tributaries. During spawning, females lay eggs in gravel nests called redds. In the Teton Watershed, native Yellowstone cutthroat trout spawn between May and July, just after the spring runoff peak.

**Fry**—At this stage, the trout live in gentle water along the stream bank and focus on finding food. The distinctive parr marks help camouflage the young trout, allowing them to avoid predation.

**Alevin**—As alevin, trout can breathe with their gills and get all the food they need from a yolk sac attached to their bellies.

**Eggs**—Trout eggs are buried in the gravel of redds to protect them from predation and strong currents. The developing trout absorb oxygen through the membrane of the eggs.



When I stepped into my role as Friends of the Teton River's Education Program Coordinator in 2012, one aspect of my job was made easy. FTR's education program had already established strong partnerships with many teachers, volunteers, and organizations within the community. I quickly learned that these strong relationships are for a good reason, for very little in education is worth doing (or even possible) alone. This year, we received tremendous support for one component of our K-12 program, in particular: **Trout in the Classroom (TIC)**.

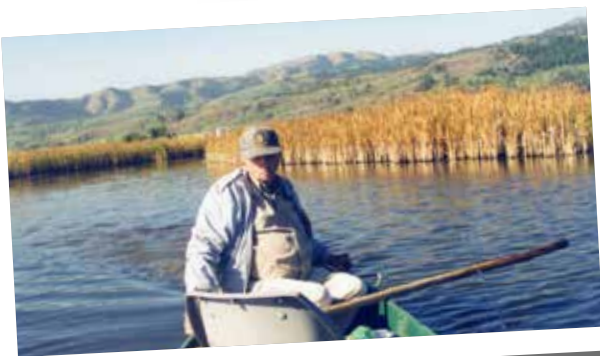
For the past six years, FTR has been working with the **Idaho Department of Fish and Game** and teachers at **Basin High School**, **Teton High School**, and the **Teton Valley Community School** to implement and maintain TIC. In this multi-disciplinary educational program, students raise trout in their classroom from eggs to fry, and use the trout as context for meeting many curricular standards. By providing students with the chance to observe and care for trout, the program raises awareness and appreciation for Idaho's aquatic resources. Thanks to support from the **Teton Springs Foundation** and **Teton Valley Trout Unlimited (TVTU)**, FTR and TVTU have expanded the TIC program to include two new classrooms: one at **Teton Middle School** and one at **Rendezvous Upper Elementary School**. Now, every public school in Teton County that houses students in grades 4-12 has the capacity to host the program for years to come.

Teton Valley is a community that was built through collaboration and connection. Education in the valley is no different, and the Trout in the Classroom program is truly a testament to the great things that can happen for our kids through strong partnerships.

Anna and August at the Teton Valley Community School.



**Partners in Education:** From **parent chaperones** who help manage students in the field, to **retired teachers** who volunteer their time and provide expertise during K-12 programs, Friends of the Teton River's education program would not be successful without these helping hands. Since the education program's inception, we have cultivated long-lasting relationships with community professionals and volunteers who have donated their time, energy, and resources to educating Teton Valley's youth. FTR would like to thank a few of our education program supporters for all that they do: **The Community Foundation of Teton Valley**; **Grand Targhee Protect our Winters Foundation**; the **Idaho Department of Fish and Game**; the **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**; the **Teton Springs Foundation**; the **M. J. Murdock Charitable Trust**; the **Donald C. Brace Foundation**; **Rendezvous Upper Elementary School 4th and 5th grade teachers and Principal Megan Bybee**; **Jack Bouma**; **Toby Crispin**; **Teton Valley Community School teacher Vanessa Bergmann**; **Basin High School teacher Carolee Moulton**; **Grand Targhee Naturalist Brigid Sinram**; **Teton Valley Trout Unlimited (TVTU)**; **TVTU board members Tim Brune, Carlos Ordonez, and Boots Allen**; and the many **parents** who have assisted with watershed education field experiences.



# Remembering Lyle Kunz

## Founding Board Member of FTR

In 1941, when Lyle Kunz was 6 years old, his parents, Alma and Mary Kunz, built “Alma’s Lodge” (now known as the Teton Valley Lodge) on the banks of the Teton River. Lyle began his career as a fishing guide at the age of 10, poling a sixteen-foot johnboat, and continued each summer until the age of 75. Fishing wasn’t the only endeavor enjoyed at the lodge, however. In an August 1966 *Idaho Statesman* feature on Alma’s

Lodge, Lyle recalled one “fall guest from California who shot an eight-point mule deer, bagged a limit of ducks, and filled his creel with trout—all in one long day of activity.”

Lyle’s love for the Teton River never diminished, and his wife, Gisela, says that he passed along his passion for hunting and fishing to his sons, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. In a *Teton Valley News* article from June 2000, Lyle described the Teton River as “the Valley’s greatest gift,” but continued to say that he had seen the river change greatly over the years. In an unpublished “History of the Teton River,” which is now a part of FTR’s archives, Lyle wrote:

*“Things on the river changed radically beginning in the start of the nineties. Numbers of fish went way down. Drought conditions did not sustain the springs, and spawning creeks went dry. We began meeting in April [2000], bringing in the government agencies that wanted to address the problems...along with [experts from] Idaho State...Utah State...the University of Idaho, and our farmers and ranchers...In*

*December, we created a 501-c-3 corporation with a board of directors consisting of myself, Randy Berry, Lyn Benjamin, Boyd Moulton, Tom Fenger, Bill Kelly, and Katie Salisbury... We have named the corporation Friends of the Teton River.”*

Lyle passed away in his sleep on March 7, 2014, at the age of 79, just days after stopping by the FTR office to remember his close friend Dr. John Sanders. He is survived by his wife, Gisela; children Mark (Debra) Kunz of Germany, Eric (Trisha) Kunz and Laurel (Chris) Briggs of Rigby; brother Laron (Loraine) Kunz; sisters Jan Robson and Donna (Don) Seville; as well as 13 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

## In Memory of Dr. John M. Sanders



Dr. John M. Sanders, a fixture on the Teton River since 1952, passed away on February 13, 2014. In this photo taken last July just above the old Foster Bridge site, we can almost hear him harmonizing with the motor, forever singing, “Teton, We Love Thee!”

## Good Medicine by Leann Domingue

### In memory of a loving husband and father, Andre Paul Domingue

October 13th, 1965-February 6th, 2014

Every summer weekend started the same way. Before you could wipe the sleep from your eyes, you would hear him call, “Want to take the boat out?” This was followed by a teenage daughter’s grumbling and a wife’s thoughts of another weekend of lost “honey-do” chores. The lure of the river always won this battle. We would scramble to make a lunch and find a few choice flies. Of course, once we launched his handcrafted wooden drift boat, all worries were forgotten. It never mattered if we landed a cutthroat or saw any wildlife. It only mattered that we were together. We soaked in the warmth of the sun, cooled our feet in the chilled mountain waters, and relaxed to the gentle rock of the current. The stress of everyday life had vanished. The Teton is the best medicine.





# FTR 2014 Summer Calendar



Jeff Currier did the artwork for our 2014 Teton River Conservation Sticker, which is now available for purchase.

July  
9

## Nonprofit Night at the Pub

5-8 p.m. at Grand Teton Brewing Company

Join four of your favorite Teton Valley nonprofit organizations at Grand Teton Brewing in Victor, Idaho, for an evening of family fun. FTR, TRLT, TVTAP, and VARD staff will be cooking up brats and pouring beers, all for one great "Nonprofit Night at the Pub."

July  
20

## 6th Annual Tin Cup Challenge

This is the community event of the summer! Show your support for Friends of the Teton River and other Teton Valley nonprofits by running or walking in the Tin Cup Challenge race events, or enjoy the fun and interactive booths in the Driggs City Park. Make your donation to the Tin Cup at [www.cftetonvalley.org](http://www.cftetonvalley.org)

New Date!

Sept  
8

## Full Moon Float

5 p.m.

Share a potluck dinner on the banks of the Teton River, and then watch the moon rise as you float from the Rainey Fish and Game public access point to the Cache Bridge on Packsaddle road (moonrise time around 7:30 p.m.)

Aug  
23

## 14th Annual River Party & Auction

5-9 p.m., Moose Creek Ranch

River folks of all ages are invited to join us as we celebrate another great year of river conservation. Our annual family-style picnic will feature live music, BBQ, fun family games and activities, and a silent auction. Cost is \$15/person, \$5/youth, and kids 6 and under are free.

Sep  
12

## Birds and Fall Colors Float

7:30 a.m.

Enjoy the sights and sounds of an early morning float down the upper Teton River. Colorful fall foliage will provide a backdrop for viewing and learning about migrating birds that rely on healthy riparian corridors. Binoculars and field guides recommended.

**A note on floats:** Participants must provide their own watercraft and boating gear. Assistance with shuttling vehicles is provided. Floats are free, but please sign up in advance. Event details TBA. **Call FTR for sign-up and info, 208-354-3871.**

June  
6

## 7th Annual Fisherman's Dinner

6-9 p.m., Teton Springs Resort

Join us for an elegant evening and dinner at Teton Springs Resort in Victor, Idaho. A live and silent auction will feature river artwork, fly fishing packages, trips, and more. Our guest speaker is world-traveling angler, artist, and author Jeff Currier. Please reserve your tickets in advance, as space is limited. \$150/couple.

June  
10

## Fishing Guides' Night

6-9 p.m., Knotty Pine Supper Club

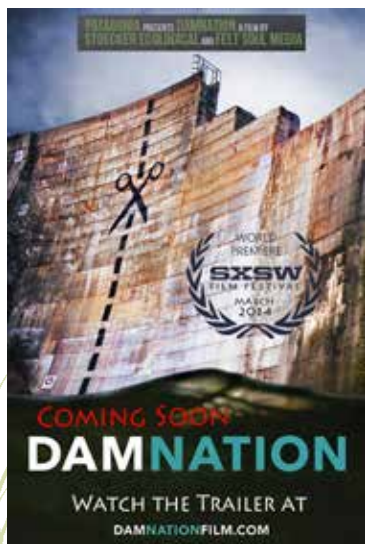
Fishing guides are invited to join us at The Knotty Pine for free beer, gear, food, fishin' flicks, and river talk, hosted by FTR and Teton Valley Trout Unlimited. Guides can find out how they will have a chance to win a Baretta 686 Silver Pigeon shotgun, sponsored by Blixt & Company.

June  
13

## DamNation Film Screening

Two shows: 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.

at the Center for the Arts in Jackson, WY



FTR, the Snake River Fund, and the Center for the Arts are teaming up to bring you this highly acclaimed documentary film, with the filmmakers in attendance for a Q&A session. Tickets are \$17 and can be purchased by calling the CFA box office at (307) 733-4900 or online at [jhcenterforthearts.org](http://jhcenterforthearts.org). Supported by New Belgium Brewing Company and American Rivers.







Friends of the Teton River  
18 N. Main Street, Suite 310  
PO Box 768  
Driggs, ID 83422

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# Partnerships through the years...

2002—Our hand-painted sign hung above our office door on Little Avenue in Driggs.



2003—Founding Board Member and Teton Valley Lodge guide Tom Fenger helped lay the groundwork for a successful organization.



2001—John Siverd helps Katie Salsbury (Intermountain Aquatics) with one of our first stream restoration projects.



2005—Volunteers Andy Steele and Phyllis Anderson plant willows on Six Springs Creek—a stream restoration effort in partnership with the Teton Regional Land Trust.



2005—Phil Edmunds, Mike Lien, and Ryan Colyer snorkel survey Bitch Creek during our first trout population assessment in the Teton River tributaries.



2004—Tetonia fourth grade teacher Barb Agnew demonstrates how to use a screen to collect macroinvertebrates during a class field trip. She was a pioneer of our K-12 watershed education programming.