

From Education To Stewardship

Community Education Is Our Foundation

FTR's community education program is fundamental to FTR's success as an organization. Since FTR's founding, cultivating watershed stewardship through education has been an integral part of our mission. For eighteen years we have worked with local schools to provide high-quality field and in-classroom watershed science programs; we are also a community resource, organizing events and sharing information that covers a variety of relevant water-related issues.

Connecting The Community To Water

FTR's goal is to offer educational programs that connect our community to water and to each other. This goes well beyond teaching in the classroom or hosting a community meeting. Programs rooted in education increase collaboration and communication amongst stakeholders, support peer-to-peer exchanges (learning from each other about what's needed and what works), and enable the community to take part in local solutions.

Education Programs

Trout in the Classroom

More than 150 students in eight Teton Valley classrooms raised rainbow trout from the egg to fry stage in their cold-water aquariums. Students learned first-hand about the rainbow trout life cycle, diet, anatomy, and species identification. This program is made possible by partnerships with Teton Valley Trout Unlimited and Idaho Department of Fish and Game.

Stream Study

Each fall, 5th grade students from the Rendezvous Upper Elementary School spend two days comparing and contrasting Spring Creek and Teton Creek. Students get their feet wet studying macroinvertebrates, velocity, temperature and our local riparian ecosystems.

Water Awareness Week

For the fifteenth year, more than 150 Teton Middle School 6th graders celebrated Idaho's Water Awareness Week with field trips to the Teton River. Students participated in hands-on activities, led by local water resource professionals, to learn about the various aspects of our watershed and cultivate a sense of stewardship for our water resources.

Nitrate Testing

In partnership with Teton High School FTR offers free nitrate testing for private well owners each spring. FTR has collected data on nitrate levels in private wells since 2012. This provides valuable information on county-wide trends and may help identify problems with elevated nitrates in our groundwater before they become harmful to human health and extremely costly to remediate.

WaterWise Community Education

Each year FTR hosts a series of educational events, presentations, and/or workshops designed to bring people together around water. We explore the ways water connects the economy, community, and environment in the Teton River Watershed.

In the classroom

In the field

Sharing Experience

Community Education Events

Connecting Community to Water

FTR is committed to maintaining high quality K-12 and adult educational programs while growing the reach of our programs and the audiences we serve through community partnerships.

Communities, like bee colonies, depend on the diversity of a population for survival,

as each bee performs a specific task to support the hive

Farmers and Ranchers

Agencies

Fishing Guides

Schools

Home owners

City and County

Businesses

Visitors and Residents

NGOs

Community-wide Events

FTR events are a great way to get involved, learn more, and connect with us and your community. The Fishing Season Kick-off of June 7 is now open to the public (not just for fishing guides) and provides an annual update about fishing and the fishery. New this summer, FTR and the Teton County Farm Bureau are offering a Teton Valley Farm Tour on August 1 to show agriculture and conservation in action. (See the Summer Events Calendar on the back page for more details).

Opportunities and Incentives

It's hard to know what steps to take as a homeowner to actively protect water resources. FTR is intentionally seeking funding and partnerships that give homeowners opportunities to make decisions with the health of water resources in mind. In 2018, FTR is partnering with Teton County on a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day; Teton Springs Foundation is providing a \$50 cost-share for septic tank pumping for a second year of the Septic Incentive Program; and FTR is working with the City of Driggs and Teton Creek homeowners on future restoration options for the creek.

Sharing Knowledge, Sharing Costs

FTR is invested in developing locally based solutions for improving surface and groundwater resources while keeping Teton Valley's working lands working. Through the 2018 Farms & Fish Initiative, FTR will provide more than \$16,000 in incentive funding to agricultural producers to test and monitor innovative conservation farming techniques (cover crop and conservation tillage) aimed at improving water quality/quantity and soil health. We are learning from and with agricultural partners, including the Teton Soil Conservation District and the Teton County Farm Bureau, so that we can work together to advance best-management practices, specifically for Teton Valley.

Informed Community & Shared Stewardship