

CURRENT CAMPAIGNS

Farms & Fish 2018

The Farms & Fish Initiative kicked off last year as a joint-effort of FTR and the agricultural community to raise awareness and funding in support of soil and water management practices that will directly benefit local farms and our fishery. With your support, FTR was able to secure significant state, federal, and foundation grants to put this work on (or in) the ground beginning this year.

Putting your investment to work

In partnership with the Henry's Fork Foundation and the Teton Water Users Association, FTR has hired a Landowner Outreach Coordinator who will work with agricultural producers and conservation stakeholders to voluntarily pilot a number of strategies in the next several years that will improve soil health, water quality, and river flows. From no-till farming to targeted groundwater recharge, these strategies seek to implement place-based solutions that are supported by science and the community. By reducing nitrogen inputs and erosion, improving soil structure, upgrading canals and irrigation systems, and recharging the aquifer, we are keeping working lands working for ecosystem health.

In the stream

Our fisheries research and restoration program is the longest-running program at FTR. It has had a visible and valuable impact on the watershed through fish habitat/passage improvements and stream channel restoration. This work is highly regarded by our colleagues, who consider our science-based approach to be a model for trout conservation in the West. Agency partners have credited our restoration efforts for rebounding cutthroat numbers in the Teton River—from fourteen cutthroat per mile in 2003 to seven hundred cutthroat per mile as of the 2015 trout population survey. These numbers are encouraging, but we know there is still a lot of work to do!

In the field

We are continuing to work closely with scientists and agencies from around the region to identify the most impactful projects for fisheries health, with a special focus on working with willing farmers and ranchers to implement best management practices on agricultural lands adjacent to the Teton River and key tributaries. These projects will focus on recharging the aquifer, reducing erosion, stabilizing riverbanks, and



Wilkes Short Family Foundation Makes \$10,000 Challenge Grant

improving livestock management and irrigation diversions. For landowners, this means getting assistance to restore and sustain the health of their water, land, and livelihood for the long-term. For our wild fishery, this means more water, cooler stream temperatures, improved water quality, and better habitat.

Help us grow support!

The goal for the second year of our Farms & Fish Campaign is to raise \$30,000 in private contributions. This will allow us to secure an additional \$240,000 in grant funds to restore fish habitat in partnership with farmers and ranchers on the Teton River. Your gift, of any amount, will help us continue to implement place-based solutions that benefit healthy farms, a healthy fishery, and a healthy watershed for all. Donors who make or pledge a contribution of \$250+ to this program will receive an invitation to be recognized at the Farms & Fish Benefit, an event hosted at the Teton Valley Lodge on August 22 (see announcement, back cover). Please mail your donation/pledge using the enclosed envelope, or make a contribution using your credit card online at www.tetonwater.org.

**The success of Farms & Fish relies on the
support of our community and donors like you!**

The Wilkes Short Family Foundation has made a \$10,000 Challenge Grant to FTR's Fisheries Program in honor of the late John Short and in recognition of the hard-working guide staff at the Teton Valley Lodge (TVL). John was passionate about fishing and the Teton River, and made a personal commitment to supporting our research efforts through significant contributions during his lifetime. In his spirit of conservation and stewardship, the foundation will match individual contributions up to \$10,000 in 2018 for the Fisheries Innovation Support fund (FINS). Friends and clients making gifts via this challenge can also nominate TVL guide-staff to be recognized for their outstanding stewardship, passion, or service to the watershed. Friends of the Teton River will honor these guides at the end of the 2018 season.