



Dear Friends,

The Farms & Fish Initiative kicked off in 2017 as a joint effort between Friends of the Teton River and members of the local farming and ranching community. The goal of the initiative is to raise awareness and funding in support of soil and water management practices that will directly benefit working lands and livelihoods, while improving water quality, soil health, and the Teton River fishery. With your support, our Farms & Fish fundraising campaign raised \$90,000 in two years (2017-2018), helping FTR secure a total of more than \$1 million in state, federal, and foundation grants to put this program to work. Thank you for your investment of \$1,000 in this effort last year.

What have we accomplished with donor support?



The Farms & Fish Initiative has given us a unique opportunity to work closely with members of the local farming and ranching community to identify the most impactful projects, with a special focus on improving working lands adjacent to the Teton River and key tributaries.

- These projects, from no-till farming to targeted groundwater recharge, seek to implement place based solutions that are supported by science and the community have a measurable effect on improving soil health, water quality, and river flows, and keep working lands working for people and ecosystems.
- Bryce Contor, Landowner Outreach Manager, is working together with the agricultural producers who are voluntarily piloting these strategies to scientifically monitor how well these projects are doing at reducing nitrogen inputs and erosion, improving soil structure, and recharging the aquifer.
- The majority of grant funds we raise go directly to landowners for infrastructure improvements, seed purchase, and other direct land and water protection activities.

From Field to Stream

Cutthroat thrive in stretches of the river with gravel bottoms, willow-lined banks, and desirable holding water. FTR has proven that our community's stream restoration efforts have led to rebounding cutthroat numbers in the Teton River—from a low of fourteen cutthroat per mile in 2003, to now more than nine hundred cutthroat per mile in the same stretch of water! These numbers are impressive, but we know that there are places along the river that are still in need of habitat improvements.

Moo-ving toward conservation practices for Cattle & Cutthroat

Built on the success of the conservation tillage program, we are expanding our efforts under Farms & Fish to support the work of ranchers who are leading the way to implement best management practices on grazed lands along stream corridors. These voluntary projects will focus on reducing erosion, stabilizing riverbanks, and improving grazing management.

Your donation to the **Rivers & Ranches Campaign** will support projects that include restoration of riparian buffer areas, installation of off-stream watering systems, and construction of hardened river crossings for cattle. For ranchers, 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 cleaner water, cooler stream temperatures, and better habitat to support thriving trout populations.

Your support will go to projects like these.



Off-channel livestock watering options decrease soil erosion and help maintain stable stream banks.



This hardened stream crossing for cattle on Trail Creek limits erosion and provides a single place for cattle to get across the stream.



Revegetated streambanks are more stable, provide fish and wildlife habitat and capture sediment.

Rivers & Ranches thriving side-by-side

By meeting our \$30,000 campaign goal, you can help us secure more than \$240,000 in grant funding for these projects on the Teton River. Make a contribution, in any amount, using our donation envelope or your credit card using DonorBox on our website at tetonwater.org. Campaign contributors will be invited to a donor tour and reception. Look for a formal invitation and announcements this summer.

Thanks for your support!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anna Lindstedt".

Anna Lindstedt
Development Director

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amy Verbeten".

Amy Verbeten
Executive Director