



*blue water*  
**TASK FORCE,**  
Gallatin Watershed

The Gallatin River is a precious resource  
in Southwest Montana, *and we're here to*  
*protect it for future generations.*

**GRANTS**

Big Sky Resort Tax • Gallatin Conservation District  
Montana Department of Environmental Quality 319 Program  
Montana Department of Environmental Quality TMDL Program  
Montana Watershed Coordination Council • Montana Watercourse  
Soil and Water Conservation Districts of Montana, Inc.

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Big Sky Water and Sewer District • Arrowleaf Design • Simms  
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Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology • Fire Girl Photography  
Gallatin Local Water Quality District • Hungry Moose Market & Deli

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PO Box 160513 | Big Sky, MT 59716

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do you ever spend time  
*in or around the Gallatin River?*  
do you value *this precious resource?*

If so, we invite you to join us

in helping to preserve & protect the future of this magnificent watershed.

The Gallatin River is a valuable resource in the Greater Yellowstone Area, and that value can be appreciated and experienced in many different ways. There's the **recreational value** that comes from the exciting and breathtaking boating and fly-fishing opportunities along the river's different stretches. There's **aesthetic value** that comes from the serenity and natural beauty that the river adds to the landscape. Then, there's the **environmental value** that makes it an essential component for the area's living creatures that depend on it. And most of us who have experienced the Gallatin River find great value in all of the above.



Jessica McGlothlin - Fire Girl Photography

## community water quality monitoring

Our monitoring program routinely measures water quality to assess & track the health of the Upper Gallatin River & its tributaries.

*In 2012, the BWTF:*

- + Improved our monitoring program to address current water quality issues/threats. These issues include elevated nitrogen, algae, and sediment in streams in the West Fork Watershed, and the threat of salt contamination from winter maintenance activities.
- + Conducted four water quality and two aquatic insect monitoring events.
- + Was chosen as a host site for the Big Sky Watershed Corps program.

## community outreach & education

This program provides important water resource information to the residents & visitors of the Big Sky community.

*Over the past year, the BWTF:*

- + Conducted a year-long service learning project on water quality with the Ophir School 4th and 6th grade.
- + Developed a Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/BlueWaterTaskForce](http://www.facebook.com/BlueWaterTaskForce))
- + Began Phase 1 of the installation of a Stormwater and Water Conservation Garden along the entrance road of Ophir and Lone Peak High School.
- + Hosted a public meeting on the State of the Gallatin
- + Developed a new membership program

## watershed assessment

This program involves more intensive measurement & assessment of pollutants that have been identified as interfering with proper watershed function.

*Accomplishments this year include:*

- + Conducted monitoring of ground & surface water in the Meadow Village area to determine sources of high nitrogen levels in the West Fork.
- + Coordinated the sampling for a local study examining the feasibility of using snowmaking for wastewater disposal.
- + Assisted in the collection of groundwater data for the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology's Groundwater Assessment Program.

## watershed restoration

This program aims to improve water quality & natural hydrologic function of streams in the Upper Gallatin Watershed.

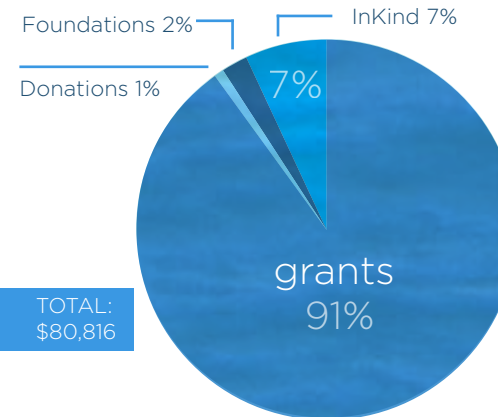
*Over 2011-2012, the BWTF:*

- + Developed a Watershed Restoration Plan for the Upper Gallatin River.
- + Was awarded a grant from the Montana Department of Environmental Quality to develop and implement a plan to reduce nitrogen sources to the West Fork.
- + Organized a cleanup on the Upper Gallatin River.

## income expenses

Grants \$73,147  
Donations \$461

Foundations \$1,500  
InKind \$5,708



## program expenses

CWQM - \$10,407  
CEO - \$26,271  
WA - \$35,163

WR - \$500  
Admin - \$4,739  
Fundraising - \$1,332

