



2015

ANNUAL REPORT



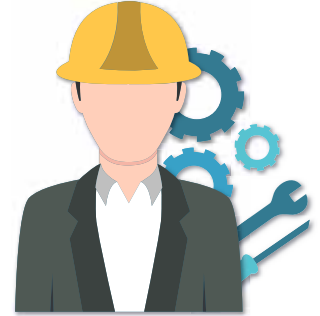
GALLATIN RIVER TASK FORCE | BY THE NUMBERS

111

River access sites in the Upper Gallatin mapped and prioritized for improvements

ALMOST 500

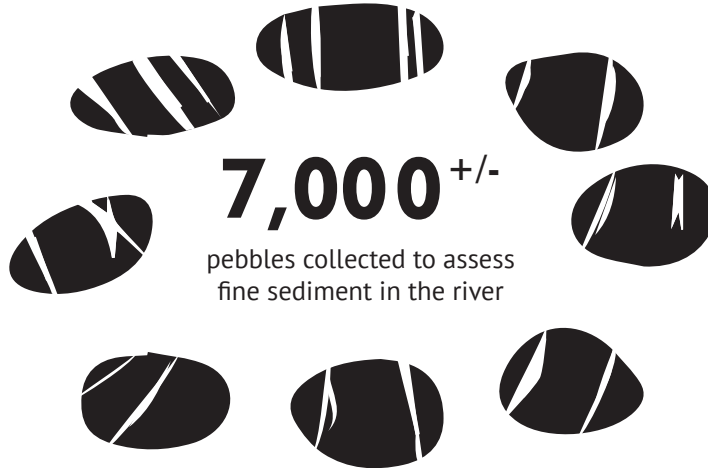
signatures obtained in support of the Wild & Scenic designation for the Gallatin River, Taylor Fork, and Porcupine Creek



FIFTY-NINE

builders attended series of stormwater workshops

OVER
8,000
data points
collected



7,000^{+/-}

pebbles collected to assess fine sediment in the river

#1

ranked
environmental
nonprofit
raising funds
during Give Big
Gallatin Valley



787 RIVER
MILES

monitored by the
Task Force

15

sites being rehabilitated
on the Upper West Fork

FIFTY-TWO

fourth graders educated on
watershed topics over the
past year

130 WILLOWS



planted along the West Fork
in the spring to improve
water quality

A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR, RON BOWLIN

The Gallatin River is a treasure that we all value for different reasons. Whether enjoying world-class trout fishing or class V whitewater, long hikes or scenic views, we all rely on cold, clean, and abundant water. Free-flowing trout streams, like the Gallatin, are precious resources that need stewardship to thrive. As a community, we can commit to preserving a healthy Gallatin River Watershed for future generations.

Over 2015, the Gallatin River Task Force made big changes to build our capacity to meet the growing needs of the Gallatin. We changed our name from the Blue Water Task Force to the Gallatin River Task Force, to clarify our role in conserving water resources in the Gallatin River Watershed. In addition, we refined our mission to a simpler and more accessible expression of the intention of our organization to work collaboratively on water issues in our community. Our new website and logo reflects this new identity. Finally, we developed a strategic plan to turn research into action. We are committed to continuing to collaborate with diverse stakeholders and develop new partnerships to move forward with the goals and objectives in our strategic plan.

To Friend of the Gallatin members and supporters, you have been a big part of our accomplishments over the past year! I invite you to continue your support into 2016, to spread the word to your friends and neighbors of the critical work that our organization does to protect the river, and to become even more engaged to ensure that we meet our vision of a healthy Gallatin River Watershed for future generations.

As you read the 2015 Annual Report, please know that your support has made a big difference towards protecting the Gallatin River and all those that depend on its cold, clean, and abundant water.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R Bowl", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.



PROGRAMS

WATERSHED MONITORING:

Our monitoring program routinely collects watershed data to assess and track the health of the Upper Gallatin River and its tributaries. The Task Force has been collecting watershed data for sixteen years, which is summarized annually in a water quality report and available on the Task Force website. Currently, we monitor seven sites on the mainstem Gallatin, one site on the Taylor Fork, and eight sites in the West Fork Watershed. In 2015, the Task Force:

- Added two new monitoring sites: a control site on the mainstem Gallatin in Yellowstone National Park and a site on the Taylor Fork to investigate prolific algal growth.
 - Conducted four water quality monitoring events at sixteen sites in the Upper Gallatin River Watershed in January, March, May, and August.
 - Collected baseline macroinvertebrate data along the Big Sky Golf Course.
 - Assessed fine sediment levels at all sixteen monitoring sites.
 - Maintained four continuous streamflow stations in the West Fork Watershed.
 - Published an annual water quality report summarizing collected data.
- Partnered with Adventurers and Scientists for Conservation on a study to characterize microplastic distribution in the Gallatin River Watershed.
 - Partnered with Montana State University on a graduate research project to examine stream metabolism. Stream metabolism is a measurement of how streams “breathe” or the balance between the amount of oxygen produced through photosynthesis and consumed through respiration.



COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND OUTREACH:

This program provides important water resource information to the residents and visitors of the Big Sky community. Over the past year, the Task Force:

- Completed a year-long service learning project with the Ophir Elementary School 4th Grade class on native fish and water quality. This project included the Trout in the Classroom module in which trout were raised in the classroom from eggs to fingerlings.
- Began a year-long service learning project for the 2015-2016 school year with the Ophir Elementary School 4th Grade class on drought and water conservation.
- Installed Phase 2 of the Stormwater Conservation Garden along the entrance road of Big Sky School District and the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center.
- Hosted three days of workshops on Stormwater Best Management Practices during construction.
- Implemented watershed educational activities for Camp Moonlight and Camp Big Sky.
- Organized the Big Sky Fly Fishing Festival in July.
- Partnered with the Big Sky Community Corporation to install an interpretive trail and associated brochure on the Ousel Falls trail with a water quality theme.
- Designed content for a series of interpretive signs for the Hummocks & Uplands trail focusing on geology, watersheds, and wetlands.



CONSERVATION:

Our Conservation program aims to protect and restore the water resource values that are important to us all: clean, cold, and abundant water, healthy streams and riparian areas, and fisheries. During 2015, the Task Force:

- Conducted a volunteer cleanup on the Upper Gallatin River in August.
- Completed preliminary design plans at the Moose Creek Flat Recreational site to improve water quality and fish habitat.



- Began a three-year restoration project on the Upper West Fork to improve water quality and fish habitat.
- Collected baseline aquatic insect data in the Upper West Fork along the stream reach slated for restoration projects in 2016.
- Co-hosted a business roundtable in January with Montanans for Healthy Rivers about the Wild and Scenic designation for the Upper Gallatin.
- Partnered with the Greater Yellowstone Coalition on a river advocacy program for the Wild and Scenic designation of the Upper Gallatin.
- Reestablished and refreshed a working group to holistically manage water supply and wastewater treatment and disposal in the greater Big Sky area to ensure cold, clean, and abundant water in surface waters and a sustainable groundwater supply for future generations.
- Served as the local liaison for the groundwater project conducted by the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology to assess groundwater resources in the Big Sky Meadow and Mountain Villages.

GALLATIN RIVER TASK FORCE

FLY FISHING FESTIVAL



The Big Sky Fly Fishing Festival connects the community to the rivers, fish, and riparian habitats that are vital to the sport of fly fishing. The proceeds raised from the Big Sky Fly Fishing Festival support conservation and restoration efforts by the Gallatin River Task Force within the Upper Gallatin River Watershed.

FLY FISHING FESTIVAL COMMITTEE:

Ben Almy, Dave Alvin, Josh Berry, Ron Bowlin, Jimmy Armijo-Grover, Kristin Gardner, Stephanie Lynn, John McKinnie, Andrea Saari, Pat Straub, Amy Wiezalis, and Ennion Williams

PROTECTOR OF THE BLUE RIBBON:

Gallatin River Guides

CUTTHROAT TROUT SPONSORS:

Cache Creek Outfitters, Continental Construction, East Slope Outdoors, Grizzly Outfitters, Lone Mountain

Land Company, Lone Mountain Ranch, Natalie's Estate Winery, and Yellowstone Club Community Foundation

RAINBOW TROUT SPONSORS:

Big Sky Trout, Big Sky Vacation Rentals, Bill Lerch Fly Fishing, and Yellow Dog Fly Fishing Adventures



BROWN TROUT SPONSORS:

Dee-O-Gee, Haas Builders, Kelly Beavers, Lone Peak Cinema, Montana Living, Mountain Khakis, and Spanish Peaks Community Foundation

BROOK TROUT SPONSORS:

Ace Hardware, Bern Sundell, Big Sky Resort, Blue Ribbon Nets, Derek DeYoung, Dr. Slick, Howler Bros, Patagonia, Red Lodge Ales, Sportsman's Warehouse, and West Paw Design

IN KIND DONATIONS:

Atwell Associates, Big Sky Fitness Fusion, Bud Lilly's Trout Shop, Gallatin Valley Botanical, George Kalantzes Photography, Girls Outdoors, Hart Montgomery, Howler Bros, Jimmy Armijo-Grover, John Sniscak, Josh Berry, Matt Fritz, Montana Troutfitters, Museum of



the Rockies, Olive B's, Olivelle's, Orvis, Ousel & Spur, Outlaw Partners, RC Cone, Rich Addicks, Ron Bowlin, Ruby River Lodge, Santosha Wellness Center, Valley of the Flowers Landscaping, Willie's Distillery, Wildwood Nursery, Yellowstone Aerial Adventures, and Yeti Coolers



**WINNER OF THE GREAT
GALLATIN GUIDE-OFF:**

Josh Berry

**FLY FISHING FESTIVAL
VOLUNTEERS:**

Ben Almy, Cami Armijo-Grover,
Jimmy Armijo-Grover, Dok
Arvanites, Josh Berry, Ron
Bowlin, Ian Chesser, Matt Fritz,
Mike Richter, Nancy Sheil, John
Sniscak, Shane Stalling, Marisue
Tallichet, Cassandra Teegarden,
Natalie Teegarden, Amy Wiezalis,
and Joseph Zimbric

TASK FORCE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ron Bowlin (*Chair*)

Jack Crowther (*Vice-Chair until February*)

San Goveia (*Vice Chair Feb-Dec*)

Mike Richter (*Secretary/Treasurer*)

Rich Chandler

Ron Edwards

Nancy Sheil

Tom Spruance

Rich Addicks

Ben Almy

STAFF:

Kristin Gardner, *Executive Director*

Andrea Saari, *Development Director*

Stephanie Lynn, *Big Sky Watershed Corps*

Member (through November 2015), Education and Communications Coordinator (Dec)

IN KIND DONATIONS

Lori Addicks & Rich Addicks, DHM, George Kalantzes, Knaub & Company, Lone Mountain Ranch, Outlaw Partners, RESPEC consulting, Ryan Turner, and Wildwood Nursery

VOLUNTEERS:

Lori & Rich Addicks

Marilyn Alkire

Ben Almy

Mike & Sue Arneson

Joanna Ashworth

Ron & Sheryl Bowlin

Katherine Boyk

Jeff Cadry

Mary Caperton Morton

Cameron Carsley

Katie Coleman

Collin

Spencer Crider

Martha Crocker

Toni Delzer

Rick Donaldson

Ron Edwards

Mary Gabelman

San Goveia

Adam Getz

Dylan Graves

Meredith Hardy

Anna Husted

Adam Johnson

JeNelle Johnson

Steve Johnson

Gary & Patti Lynn

Chris Mahla

Jim Maneely

Mark & Pam McCurley

Becca McNamara

Dillon Osleger

Kevin Piccardo

Aleksí Rapka

Chris Richer

Mike Richter

Charlie Russell

Ryan & Shirley Schwartz

Nancy, Cullen, & Mayla Sheil

Shane Stalling

Meryl Storb

Ciara, Olive, & Sawyer Wolfe

Ethan Wologo

Dan Whitaker

Tom Wilhelm

Joseph Zimbric

Photo credits: Rich Addicks, Rob Hunt, and David Reeves

GRANTS

Big Sky Resort Area Tax District, Big Sky Watershed Corps Program, Environmental Protection Agency, Montana Department of Environmental Quality, Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, Patagonia World Trout Initiative, Soil and Water Conservation Districts of Montana, Inc., Spanish Peaks Community Foundation, and Yellowstone Club Community Foundation

FRIENDS OF THE GALLATIN

Headwaters Lifetime (\$2,000)

Jon & Sharon Holtzman, Martin & Kathy Dudley, Quint & Cicely Drennan, and Rich & Lori Addicks

Salmonfly (\$1,000)

Rick & Michelle Donaldson and Ron & Sheryl Bowlin

Spruce Moth (\$500)

Andrew Roberts and Carolyn & Steve Jones

Grasshopper (\$250)

Bob & Becky Jamo, Dave & Jennifer O'Connor, Jimmy & Cami Armijo-Grover, Jon & Sharon Holtzman, Mike & Sandy Brown, Rich Addicks, and Rob & Liz McRae

Caddisfly (\$100)

Al Lockwood, Andrea Saari, Bill Baskin, Buzz Warren, Chris & Twila Moon, Dan & Jenn Lukas, David Kvam, Debbie Lewis, Delaney O'Dowd, Jack & Debbie Crowther, JeNelle Johnson, Kent Volosin, Marilyn Alkire & Alan Shaw, Marisue

& George Tallichet, Bud & Marjie Jordan, Martha Crocker, Quint & Cicely Drennan, Rich McEldowney, Shirley Schwartz, Steven Sweningson, Tana & Dan Sholly, Tom & Kay Reeves, Tom & Missy Wilhelm, and Walter Ainsworth

Mayfly (\$40)

Ben Almy, Betsy McFadden, Bill & Phyllis Breeden, Branden Santos, Brian Van Eps, Callie Miller, Carolyn & Terry O'Neill, Christian Black, Danielle & Justin Miller, Dan & Martha Case, Debbie Bowlin, Diane Haynie, Donald Putnam, Dorsey Addicks, Emily Casey, Gary & Patti Lynn, the Harder-Gardner Family, Jennifer Mathiowetz, Joe Calto, John & Janet Ethen, John Schultz, John Sniscak, Josh Berry, Joyce Santos, Katie Coleman, Kelly Shannon, Lori Addicks, Wayne & Marilyn Hill, Mary Gabelman, Mary Lou Schreiner, Mike & Jodie Richter, Nancy & Dan Sheil, Nash Addicks, Peter Manka, Rich Braus, Rich Chandler, Ron Edwards, Ronald Odom, San & Rob Goveia, Sayler Tatom, Sheryl Bowlin, Stephanie Lynn, Steve Johnson, and Tony & Tori Santos

BUSINESS MEMBERS

Gold (\$1,000)

Gallatin RiverHouse Grill and Highline Partners

Bronze (\$100)

320 Guest Ranch, Big Sky Fire Prevention, Big Sky Town Center, Delzer Diversified Inc., The Corral, Go Big Rentals, Hungry Moose Market, Lone Mountain Ranch, Lone Peak Cinema, Olive B's, and Select Stone

DONORS

GALLATIN BENEFACTOR (>\$10,000)

Big Sky PBR

GALLATIN GUARDIAN (\$1,000 - \$10,000)

Highline Partners, Jack & Carol McGuire, Mike & Sue Arneson, Rick & Michelle Donaldson, Prometheus Trust, and Round Up For Open Land

GALLATIN STEWARD (<\$1,000)

The Avery Family, The Barnhart Family, Bill Collins, Branif Scott, Carol Hudson and Doug Nail, Centre Sky Architecture, Dave Kisko, Design Partnership, The Doyle Family, The Feurring Family, Gallatin Canyon Women's Club, The Hemingway Family, Jane Griffiths, John Thompson, Kirk Michaels Architects, Locati Architects, The Morris Family, Mark Nunnely and Denise Dupre, Pearson Design Group, The Schwarzman Family, The Slamowitz Family, The Smith Family, Redbrain Media, Tim Murphy, Van Bryan Studio Architects, The Warren Family, the Weinstein Family, and Will Littman

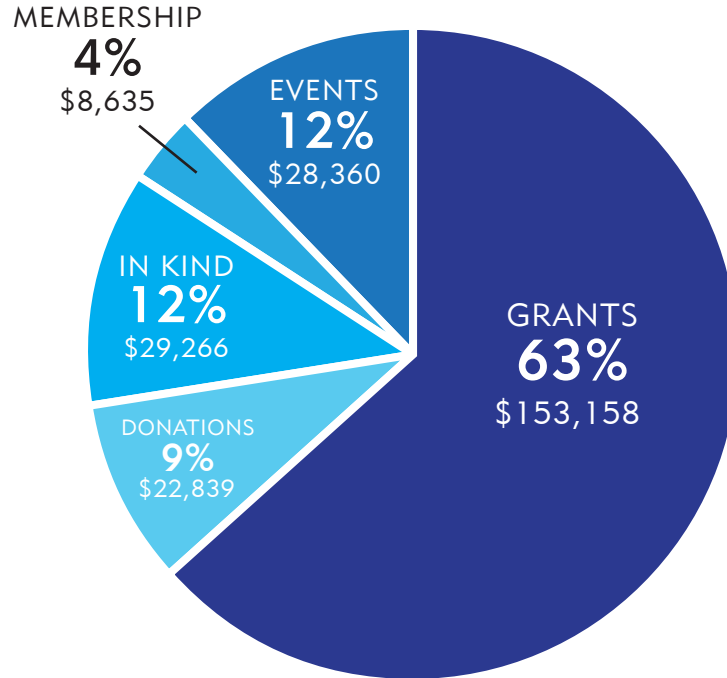
IN LOVING MEMORY OF

The mother of Janet Rice, on behalf of the Reel Hookers of Big Sky

HOUNDS OF THE GALLATIN

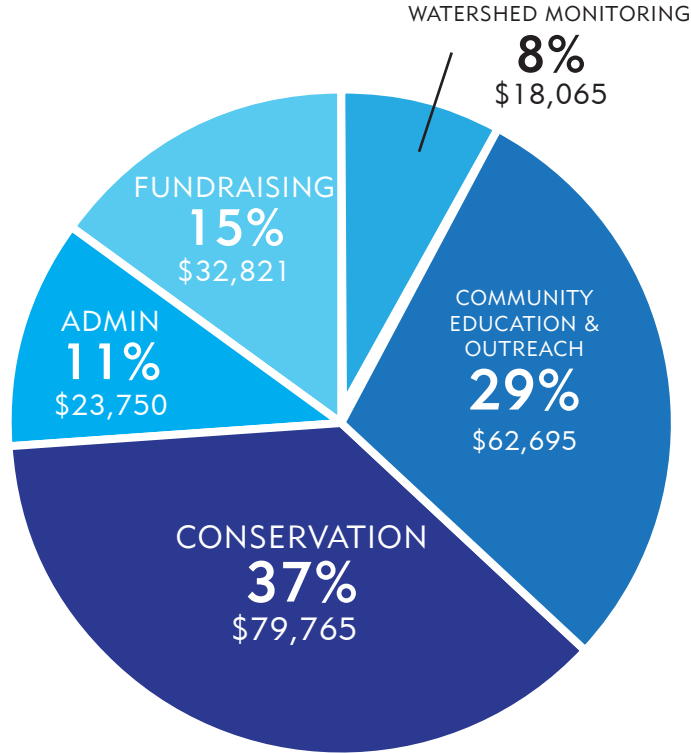
Bunker Addicks, Darwin Saari, Lg Shotgun "DIRK" Holliday Bowlin, and Thailer Gardner

INCOME



TOTAL: \$242,257

EXPENSES



TOTAL: \$217,096

“When you put your hand in a flowing stream, you touch the last that has gone before and the first of what is still to come.”

– Leonardo DaVinci



FRIEND OF THE GALLATIN MEMBERSHIP FORM

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP

- \$40 Mayfly
- \$100 Caddisfly
- \$250 Grasshopper *(\$21/month)*
- \$500 Spruce Moth *(\$42/month)*
- \$1,000 Salmonfly *(\$84/month)*
- \$ Other _____

- \$2,000 Lifetime Membership:
The Headwaters Society

- This is a renewal
- I would like to decline the gift offer

BUSINESS MEMBERSHIP

- \$100 Bronze
- \$500 Silver
- \$1,000 Gold
- \$ Other _____

- This is a renewal
- I would like to decline the gift offer

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Email: _____ Phone #: _____

- I would like to pay with my credit card
- I would like to make my contribution monthly (cc only)

cc #: _____ exp: _____ cvc: _____

- I would like to pay by check or cash
- I would like my donation to remain anonymous



You may also become a Friend of the Gallatin online!
Please visit gallatinrivertaskforce.org/become-a-member

Mayfly

Task Force Hat OR T-shirt

- Hat
- T-Shirt

- Mens
- Womens

- Long-sleeved
- Short-Sleeved

Size: _____

Caddisfly

Task Force Hat & T-shirt

- Hat
- T-Shirt

- Mens
- Womens

- Long-sleeved
- Short-Sleeved

Size: _____

Grasshopper

Embroidered Patagonia R1 Pull-over

- Mens
- Womens

Size: _____

Spruce Moth

Embroidered Patagonia Nano-Air Vest

- Mens
- Womens

Size: _____

Salmonfly

Embroidered Patagonia Ultralight Down Jacket

- Mens
- Womens

Size: _____

Headwater's Society

Bozeman Reel & Rod set-up

Limited Edition Bern Sundell Print



The Task Force is proudly partnered with Patagonia and 1% for the Planet. When you wear Patagonia *and* support the Task Force, you are thinking globally and acting locally!

Become a Friend of the Gallatin online at
gallatinrivertaskforce.org/become-a-member

Or mail this membership form, with payment, to
 Gallatin River Task Force
 PO Box 160513
 Big Sky, MT 59716

Questions?
headwaters@gallatinrivertaskforce.org • 406.993.2519

Partnering with our community to inspire stewardship of the Upper Gallatin River Watershed



VISION: A HEALTHY GALLATIN RIVER WATERSHED FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

MISSION: TO PARTNER WITH OUR COMMUNITY TO INSPIRE STEWARDSHIP OF THE
GALLATIN RIVER WATERSHED



gallatinrivertaskforce.org

PO BOX 160513 | Big Sky, Montana 59716

47855 Gallatin Rd (Hwy 191), Suite 4

