

Riffles

2017 YEAR-END UPDATE



clarkfork.org

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CLEAN. CONNECTED. PROTECTED.

Three simple words.

But three words that have enormous impact on the Clark Fork watershed.

And while the words might be simple, turning them into realities is far from it. Nor is it remotely possible without the help of members, volunteers, partners, and supporters of every kind. That's **YOU**. How did you help this year?

YOU kept fish out of hot water, giving them access to cool headwaters streams when yet another scorcher of a summer turned up the heat on our waterways.

YOU kept our staff in cold water, providing funds for training, gear, travel, and data-crunching for our new snorkel-monitoring program, allowing us to see how fish and streams are responding to restoration and cleanup.

YOU kept new contamination out of our streams by helping to prevent ill-conceived mining proposals from becoming a reality.

YOU kept kids engaged and informed about their watershed by providing hands-on watershed science programs for students from Darby to Deer Lodge.

YOU protected groundwater and senior water rights by helping to defeat legislation that would re-open the exempt well loophole

and allow unregulated and unfair groundwater pumping by subdivision developers.

YOU opened up migration pathways for native fish by removing instream barriers like under-sized culverts and antiquated irrigation diversions, which also helped ranchers secure more reliable water for their crops and cattle.

YOU made our rivers cleaner by hauling everything from tires to mini fridges to flip-flops out of

continued on reverse...

GET YOUR FEET WET

Deep snow in the mountains means healthy rivers in the valleys. We can't control how much snow we get, but we CAN educate our youngest river stewards about why it's important. And this winter we're looking for volunteers to help us teach snowy science field lessons.

If you like digging in the snow and working with kids, come to our **Volunteer Orientation on Thursday, January 4th** at 5:30pm, or contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Katie Racette – Katie@clarkfork.org.



Photo: Jessica Vuckovich





YOU helped install a new fish-friendly irrigation diversion on Racetrack Creek this year, providing trout with access to spawning grounds and refuge from predators and too-warm water in summer.

the Clark Fork and removing garbage from along its banks (all with a smile!).

YOU hauled water, planted shrubs, pulled weeds, and ensured vitally-important riparian corridors survived and thrived in spite of heat and drought.

YOU stood up for bedrock clean water protection laws, standing up to attacks on the Clean Water Act and efforts to roll back the Clean Water Rule.

WE COULD GO ON ... BUT YOU GET THE POINT.

Getting to “Clean, Connected, and Protected” takes all of the above and more. Year in and year out. Over and over again. As one of our founders says, *Riverkeeping is like housekeeping – you’re never done.*

So, whether you’re our newest member or one of our esteemed multi-decade pillars of support, know that YOU make “clean, connected, and protected” a reality for all the rivers and streams of the Clark Fork watershed. **HERE’S TO YOU!**



Photo: Anna Schrek

FOLLOW US... If you’re on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram or YouTube, we are too!

Design by Kerry Morse

SHOUT OUTS!

Way to go, water watchdogs!

You spoke up for clean water this year with letters, emails, and actions, weighing in on proposed legislation, rules, and policies. You prevented new contamination and caught the attention of decision-makers near and far. Thank you!

Thanks for weighing in!

We are extremely grateful to everyone who completed our survey or participated in interviews as part of our recent five-year planning process. Your passion inspires us, and your input will help protect and restore the river for years to come.

You rocked it! A huge thank you to everyone who donated raffle and auction items, attended our holiday party, and/or purchased raffle tickets or auction items this month. You certainly increased our holiday cheer, and every dollar and each gift helps care for the Clark Fork.

A special shout-out to rock star board members, Sarah Bates, Paul Moseley, and Cameron Lawrence, who have given so much for so many years to the cause of a clean and healthy river. Term limits are healthy, but dang it, we’ll miss you. Thank you so much for your service!

HOLD THE DATE!

Take care of the river you love at the **Annual Clark Fork River Cleanup on Saturday April 21st.**