

Riffles

ALL THANKS TO YOU



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We asked you to help make some Riffles last year.

The result? Riffles, waves, rollers, and a whole lot more.

In fact, you made more good things happen for our rivers than we could possibly describe here. But we've captured the highlights below so you can see the healing and restoration you're making possible for the Clark Fork watershed. Thank you again!

Thanks to you, streams are healthier and more resilient:



- Removed a major migration barrier, upgraded undercut culvert, reduced sediment, and improved water quality in Dry Cottonwood Creek, helping a unique conservation population of native westslope cutthroat trout
- Removed 9 miles of logging roads and 11 undersized culverts, improving habitat and migration routes for threatened bull trout in Upper Lolo Creek



- Protected another 31 cfs for instream flow in the Clark Fork River system (that's 3.2 billion gallons of water per year!)
- Tracked stream health and managed water rights at 43 sites on 22 important tributaries in the Ninemile, Blackfoot, Bitterroot, and Upper Clark Fork basins



- Completed a beaver habitat assessment on upper Lolo Creek to aid in future restoration and management
- Completed a watershed assessment on Miller Creek to identify conditions, needs, and opportunities in advance of new development

Your awesome support helped defend clean water policies and laws:



- Defended water protection policies, agencies, and funding, thereby safeguarding stream flows, groundwater, and clean water resources
- Published 12 editorials advocating for strong state and federal water policies to keep our water resources healthy and clean
- Blocked efforts to re-open the exempt well loophole, protecting senior water rights and preventing unregulated pumping of groundwater by subdivision developers

continued...

Because you helped, our rivers are getting cleaner and we kept new pollution at bay:



- Put a new spotlight on the need to clean up and restore the contaminated former Smurfit-Stone site after prolonged high water breached a wastewater storage pond and threatened to undermine aging, unmaintained berms



- Held the ill-conceived Cabinet Mountains mines at bay through enforcement of Montana’s “bad actor” law and pursuit of legal action in defense of wilderness waters, native trout streams, and instream flows



- Helped improve Upper Clark Fork Superfund cleanup design processes by engaging more stakeholders, boosting technical oversight, and working with agencies to ensure the best possible cleanup and restoration for this critical headwaters system

River rock stars like you empowered and educated our current and future river stewards:



- Inspired more than 1,200 youth with STEM- and standards-based watershed science programs, including river service projects and field classes that had students sampling soil and water, collecting and classifying macroinvertebrates, monitoring and analyzing snow pack, diagnosing riparian conditions and prescribing restoration remedies, and more (it all added up to nearly 4,500 river-learning hours in communities across the watershed!)
- Introduced 40 youth home residents to the Clark Fork through a high-adventure day of whitewater rafting, followed by a summer of river service projects and watershed learning through our Adopt-a-Stream program



- Engaged more than 1,000 community members in river cleanups (including more than 100 TrashLine subscribers), removing more than 10 tons of trash from the banks and waters of the Clark Fork



- Trained and deployed 43 citizen scientists to conduct summertime river use surveys and collect data to inform future river management decisions

Day in and day out you helped defend clean water, remove pollution, keep creeks flowing, and give future river stewards the tools they need to protect the Clark Fork

for the long haul. That’s why, even as much work remains and new threats emerge, we know that the river is in good hands – thanks to friends like you.

Hold the Date! Take care of the river you love at the Annual Clark Fork River Cleanup on **Saturday, April 20th**