

2010  
ANNUAL  
REPORT

# MONTANA

## TROUT UNLIMITED





In 2010, more than 80 percent of Montana TU's budget was dedicated to on-the-ground work benefitting Montana's rivers and wild fish.



# CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Montana Trout Unlimited experienced a very challenging but productive 2010. The primary challenge resulted from the tough economic environment we operate in. Our talented staff worked hard to trim expenditures and tighten the organization's belt. In the end, longtime supporters and foundations stepped up. Our chapters and some new donors also generously helped us move forward. Fortunately, we ended the year in the black. It is clear our work continues to be a priority for many supporters. We are extremely grateful to our many contributors who helped us this year.

But the real achievements in 2010 were in organizational direction and conservation. Here is a summary of some highlights.

- We surveyed our volunteer leadership, and updated the strategic plan that will govern Montana TU's organizational development and conservation efforts for the next 10 years.
- We continued to promote and assist U.S. Senator Jon Tester with development and advancement of the Forest Jobs and Recreation Act. Congress has not permanently protected a single square inch of Montana's many important watersheds as wilderness in more than 26 years. This bill would do that, as well as provide innovative new tools for restoring damaged watersheds. Though the final disposition of this legislation is still undecided, the effort behind it, which Montana TU has been a key part, has forever changed the tone of debate over public land protection in the state.
- We also continued to assist the U.S. Forest Service in obtaining in-stream flow rights on headwaters of rivers that originate in our national forests – an effort that is national in precedent and which will pay dividends when water developers eye public lands for future projects.
- And we remained the primary public advocate for addressing the challenges nonnative lake trout pose to the world-class native trout populations that inhabit the watersheds of Flathead, Swan and Yellowstone lakes. Because lake trout populations in the Flathead and Yellowstone systems are well-established, dealing with them requires complicated control efforts, as well as controversy. The lake trout population in Swan Lake, however, is more amenable to control. Without our presence, it is not inconceivable the agencies responsible for these remarkable fisheries would write off crucial populations of bull trout, westslope cutthroat trout and Yellowstone cutthroat trout.

These efforts represent only part of this year's work. I am very proud of our organization's accomplishments as well as our incredibly talented and dedicated staff and volunteer leadership, who found ways to advance our mission in the face of a challenging financial climate.

My term as chairman of Montana TU ends December 2010. So I want to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to our state council leaders and to TU's 3,400 Montana members. They have afforded me the great honor to serve as this fine organization's chairman. Thank you.



Doug Nation, Chairman



# Conserving, protecting and restoring since 1964

**Montana TU's mission is to conserve, protect and restore** coldwater fisheries



and their watersheds. We advocate for protection of water quality and wild and native fish. We develop tools that conserve water and improve stream flows, while also working to reduce the impacts invasive species have on the state's native trout. We are passionate defenders of wild fish management and promote, develop, fund and

implement habitat restoration that improves watershed health and fish populations. Importantly, we work with landowners, agencies and even industry to develop thoughtful natural resource policy while engaging the general public with effective education and outreach. We've been doing this work for 46 years and plan on being around as long as Montana has wild trout to protect.



## FISH

Montana TU has long focused on protecting and restoring habitat. But in recent years daunting new challenges have emerged in fishery management. Introduced species such as lake trout and northern pike now threaten important recreational populations of native cutthroat trout and bull trout. Nonnative walleyes are also expanding into wild trout waters in the **Missouri River** basin. Well-meaning introductions long ago of nonnative rainbow trout and brook trout have also severely reduced local populations of native trout through hybridization and competition. Protecting and improving habitat is simply no longer enough.

Montana TU is working with tribal, state and federal biologists to reduce the impacts predacious nonnative lake trout are having on **native trout** in the **Flathead** and **Swan** river basins. At our urging, experimental netting of lake trout is occurring at Swan Lake, and plans are being developed to reduce lake trout numbers in **Flathead Lake** and **Glacier National Park**. Montana TU is also pushing the National Park Service to accelerate lake trout removal efforts in **Yellowstone Lake** to help stem the free-fall of the world-famous **Yellowstone cutthroat** fishery, which has been reduced to a fraction of its historical numbers. In 2010 we also supported, implemented or planned projects aimed at restoring cutthroat populations in the **Bitterroot**, **Yellowstone**, **Clark Fork** and **Big Hole** river watersheds. Further, Montana TU's efforts in 2010 led directly to angling regulations that could help reduce the spread of walleyes in the famous wild trout waters of the **Missouri River**.

## WATER

Montana's climate is changing. The average annual temperature is warming significantly. Though annual precipitation seems to be staying within the recent historical range, more of it comes as rain and snowpacks are smaller. Dramatic rainstorms, flooding and drought seem to be more frequent. The result: Water comes, but in short bursts in the wrong form and not necessarily when most needed. Less water is available during critical times of year for fish, such as mid-summer and winter. Out of necessity, Montana TU is increasing its efforts for protecting water from future development so that what we get goes farther to benefit fish.

In 2010 Montana TU continued its formal intervention in the Montana Water Court's adjudication of water rights in the **Big Hole River** watershed. We seek an accurate and equitable determination of rights in order to help secure instream flow water rights held by Montana's fish and wildlife agency. We also worked with the U.S. Forest Service on efforts to secure dozens of flow rights in perpetuity for crucial tributaries of streams such as the **Bitterroot**, **Gallatin** and **Clark Fork** rivers. And we continue our advocacy and legislative efforts to eliminate loopholes in state water policy that allow developers to exploit the groundwater that recharges drought-stressed rivers such as the **Gallatin** and **Smith**.



## HABITAT

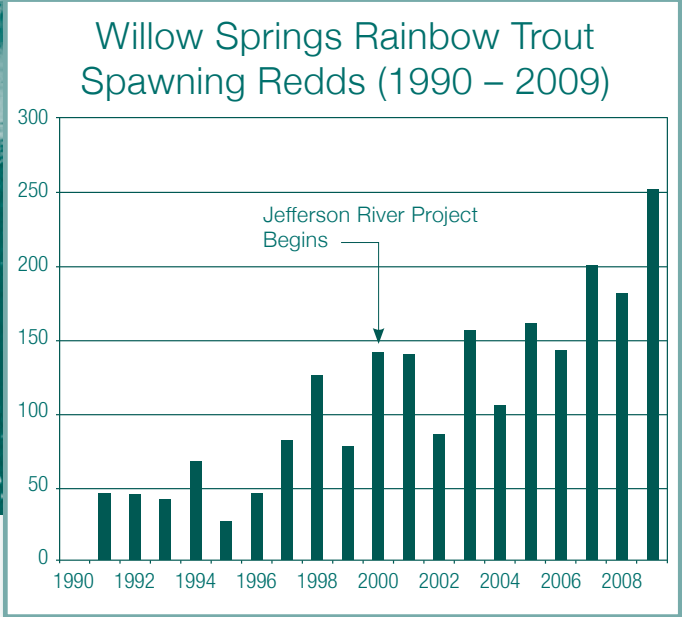
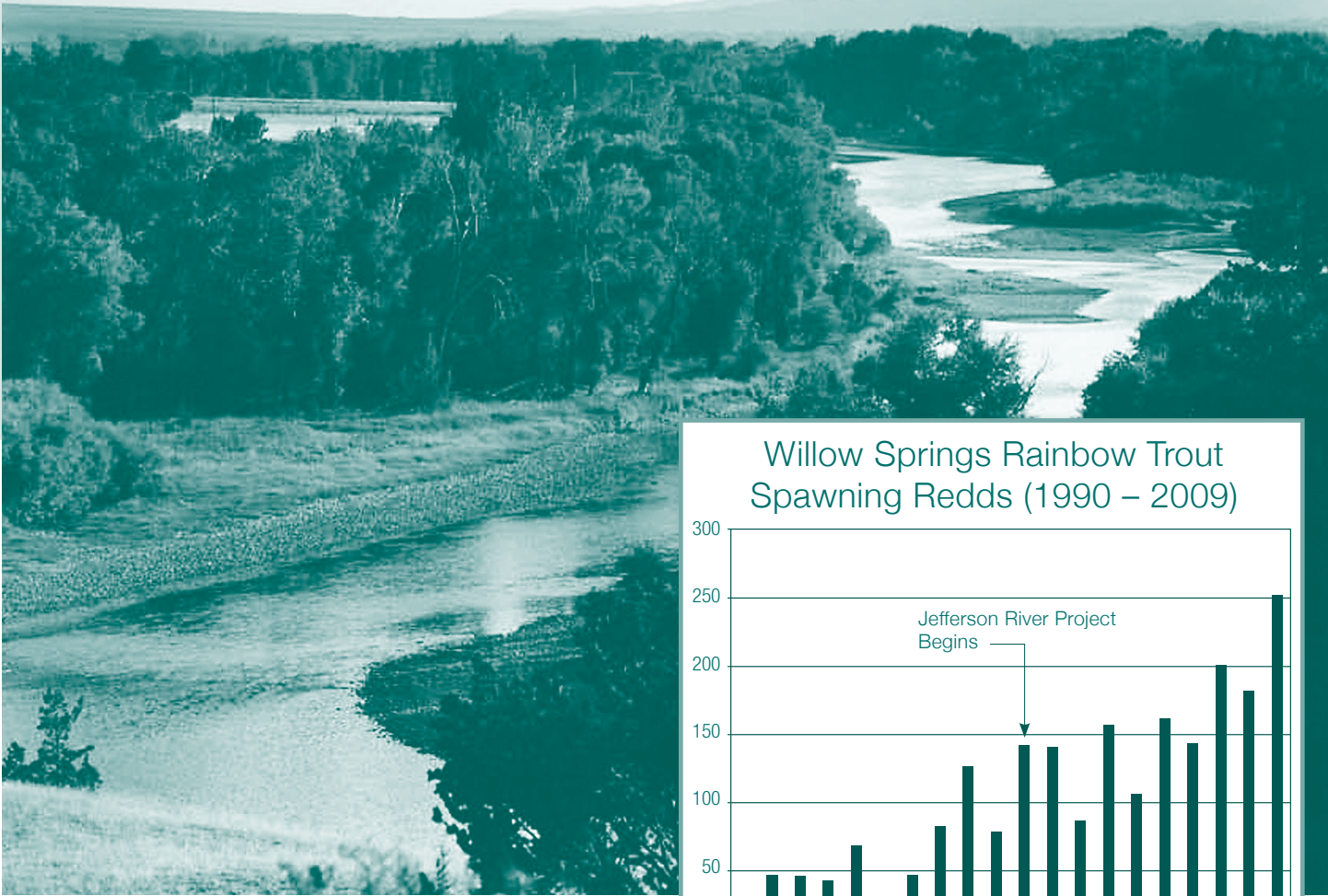
Protecting, restoring and reconnecting habitat – as well as preserving water quality – continues to be a cornerstone of Montana TU’s work. This means watch-dogging development, advocating for improved conservation laws and instigating projects that restore damaged habitat.

Montana TU continues working with U.S. Sen. Jon Tester to advance landmark legislation in Congress that if passed will permanently protect nearly a million acres of headwater habitats in Southwest Montana and in the **Blackfoot** and **Kootenai** river basins. In the last year, Montana TU also helped develop a funding plan for the state aimed at ensuring tens of millions of restoration dollars are dedicated to fixing fishery habitat in the **upper Clark Fork River** watershed, including in the **Little Blackfoot River** drainage. Further, Montana TU convinced federal land managers to withdraw or modify proposed leases for oil and gas development that threatened key habitats in the **Yellowstone River** watershed. We also pushed a proposal that could eliminate potential for damaging energy development in the scenic **Centennial Valley**, which is the last stronghold for native lake-dwelling **arctic grayling** in the Lower 48.

## PEOPLE

Taking care of people – members, anglers, partners and kids – is critical for achieving our mission. Montana TU’s grassroots power is linked to conservation outreach as well as the ability of anglers to use Montana’s streams and rivers. That’s why education and balanced approaches for recreational access are essential.

For the sixth consecutive year, Montana TU organized the volunteer-run **Montana Youth Conservation Fly Fishing School**, exposing youngsters to stream science, angling and conservation. Montana TU staff gave dozens of lectures and programs to schools, civic organizations, scientific symposia and conservation gatherings. And lately, with conflicts over stream access dwindling, we’ve taken to evaluating and influencing development of **public access sites** on rivers so that opportunities are provided, but not in a fashion that reduces recreational experiences, hurts landowners or harms fish and wildlife resources. Without people enjoying rivers, there would be few defenders of wild trout.



*Improving Willow Springs, an important spawning tributary, has been a priority of the Jefferson River Project*

## Success: The Jefferson River Project

When Montana Trout Unlimited partnered with TU National to start the Jefferson River Restoration Project nine years ago, we knew reviving this river would be a big chore. Drought and dewatering from irrigation had severely damaged the river’s wild trout fishery in the late 1980s. And the river never recovered. But that is changing.

Thanks to recently retired Project Coordinator Bruce Rehwinkel, fishing in the Jefferson has improved significantly in the last few years. Bruce’s work with partner landowners and agencies restored two key spring creeks, resulting in significantly increased spawning and recruitment for wild rainbows and browns. Survival in late summer during low-flow years has also improved, thanks to a project-initiated voluntary drought plan that conserves water and involves both irrigators and anglers. Over the last nine years the

project also fenced cattle out of riparian areas on tributaries and improved the efficiency of irrigation infrastructure, allowing irrigators to leave more water in the river. Most critically, the project engendered a new sense among landowners that this river, long the lifeblood for local agriculture, is also a natural treasure and requires care.

The project’s focus will now concentrate on upstream efforts seeking to improve flows and tributaries in the Big Hole, Ruby and Beaverhead river watersheds, which form the Jefferson. The challenges there are daunting, but so, we thought, were those in the Jefferson Valley.

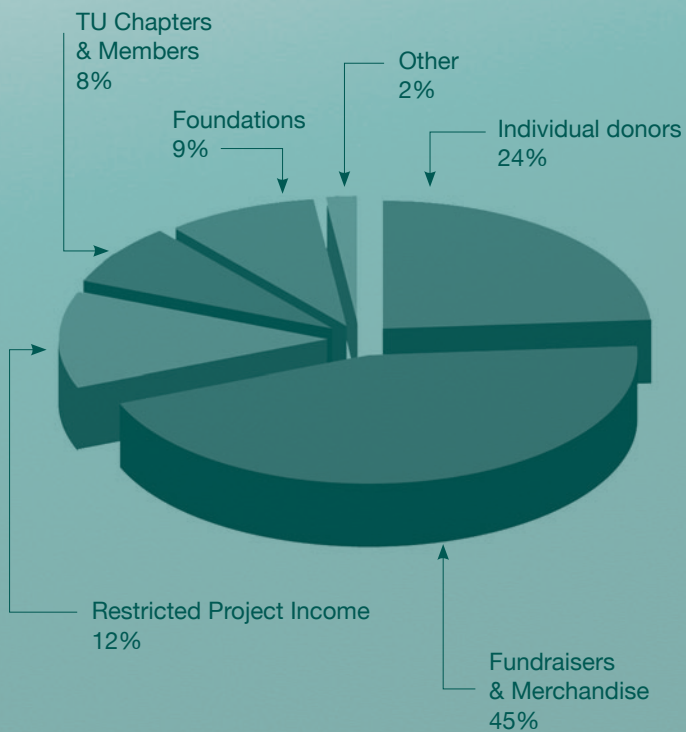
For more information, contact Bruce Farling at [bruce@montanatu.org](mailto:bruce@montanatu.org).

# FINANCIAL REPORT 2010

Oct. 1, 2009 – Sept. 30, 2010

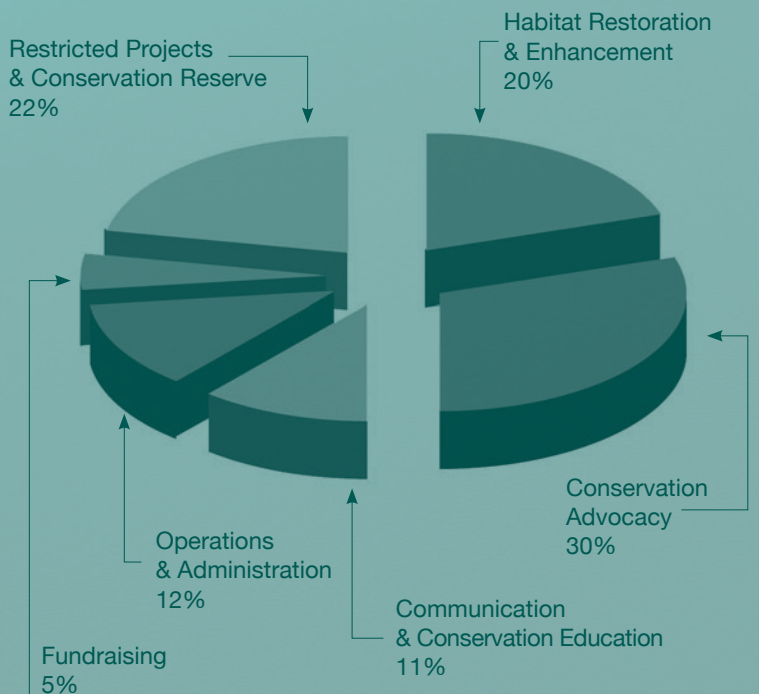
## Source of Funds

Total: \$386,264



## Use of Funds

Total: \$386,264



## THAT'S BETTER. THANKS!

Fiscal year 2009 was a challenging year financially for many nonprofit groups, including Montana TU. But thanks to our generous supporters our financial picture improved in 2010. During tough times the tough still get it done. And we're proud to say that in 2010 more than 80 percent of our budget was directed to activities that directly benefit rivers and wild trout. Montana TU is financially independent of TU National. We raise our own budget from within the state and from supporters who either visit or care deeply for Montana. Your tax-deductible contributions are essential for our efforts to conserve, protect and restore Montana's remarkable wild trout fisheries.

### General Gifts

- Cash or securities
- Donation of a professional service
- Donation of vehicles, land or other property

### Leave a Lasting Legacy

Montana TU staff can assist supporters or their financial planners in establishing planned gifts that can be mutually beneficial. Such gifts include:

- Bequests
- Charitable Remainder Trusts
- Pooled Income Fund Trusts
- Charitable Lead Trusts
- Unitrusts
- Charitable Gift Annuities
- Paid-up Life Insurance Policies
- Life Estates
- Annuity Trusts

## Directing Your Contribution

Donors wishing to direct gifts to specific concerns can choose to donate to our special funds:

### General Unrestricted Fund

Contributions and earnings support the everyday conservation work of Montana TU and its staff, including advocacy efforts, outreach programs and work that enables TU chapters to succeed with local conservation priorities.

### Habitat Protection & Enhancement Fund

Earnings are directed to restoration projects that protect or improve water quality, stream flows, watershed health, riparian areas and trout habitat.

### Steve Bryant Wild Trout Stewardship Fund

Named after the late Montana TU State Council chairman and inveterate conservationist, earnings are directed to efforts that conserve wild and native trout, or for education, communication and research that benefits coldwater resources.

### Legal Defense & Government Policy Fund

Earnings and principal support necessary legal action, campaigns or policy development that conserves, protects or restores Montana's wild trout.

### Montana TU Foundation Endowment Fund

This is a permanent endowment comprised of planned gifts. Earnings are reinvested in the fund, or used for mission-related activities. Individual and business donors are eligible for a Montana Endowment Tax Credit in addition to a federal income tax deduction.

*For more information on these funds, contact Bruce Farling or Kate Grant toll free at 888-504-0054.*



*Montana TU's financial statements are reviewed annually by Boyle, Deveny & Meyer PC, an independent CPA firm in Missoula. Copies are available at Montana TU's office.*

*Please send your gift to Montana TU, P.O. Box 7186, Missoula, MT 59807.  
Or, call Kate Grant toll free in Missoula at 888-504-0054.*

**Thank you.** Montana TU is grateful to those who supported us the last year, including member chapters, individual donors, foundations, businesses and dedicated volunteers.

## Individuals

Madeline Aagenes  
 Jim Abel  
 Ingrid Akerblom  
 Deborah Allard & Mike Small  
 Bryan Allen  
 Tom Anacker  
 George Anderson  
 John Anderson  
 Marcia Anderson  
 Stan Anglen  
 Wilbur & Sarah Avril  
 David Baltimore & Alice Huang  
 Craig & Patricia Barfoot  
 Bill & Pat Barringer  
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 Doug Beighle & Kathleen Pierce  
 Ted Birr  
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 Marshall & Tonia Bloom  
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 Stan & Glenda Bradshaw  
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 Reno Parker  
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 Lori Potochnik  
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 John & Nancy Roberts  
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 Sandra Roe  
 Dennis & Malta Rolston  
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 Vincent Rossi

Richard Rothermel  
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 John Sperry  
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 Paul & Marolyn Stanley  
 Chris Strainer  
 Karen & Jim Stutzman  
 Will & Jennifer Swearingen  
 Marlene Teel  
 Byron Thompson  
 Frederick & Mildred Tossberg  
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 Dan Vermillion  
 Ann & Robert Von Pentz  
 Dave & Lynn Waller  
 Will Weaver  
 Patricia Webster  
 Irv Weissman  
 Roy Wells  
 Frank Welsh  
 Valerie West  
 John Whittaker  
 Steven Wickliffe  
 George Widener  
 Frank Willett & Arleen Boyd  
 Duke Williams  
 John Wilson  
 Ken & Linda Wilson  
 Leland Wilson

## Foundations, Organizations and Businesses

Alta Ranch  
 Bayern Brewing  
 Big Blackfoot TU Chapter  
 Bitter Root TU Chapter  
 Blackfoot River Outfitters  
 Blue Ribbon Flies  
 Brainerd Foundation

Campaign for America's Wilderness  
 Channels Ranch, Inc.  
 Cinnabar Foundation  
 Craig Fellin Outfitters & Big Hole Lodge  
 Cross Currents  
 The Fanwood Foundation  
 First Interstate BancSystem Foundation  
 Fishs Eddy O  
 Flathead Valley TU Chapter  
 Flint Creek Outdoors  
 Gateway Printing  
 George Grant TU Chapter  
 GlaxoSmithKline Foundation  
 House Design Studio  
 Joe Brooks TU Chapter  
 Johnson, Chamberlain & Co.  
 Kinsale Communications, Inc.  
 Lewis & Clark TU Chapter  
 Madison-Gallatin TU Chapter  
 Magic City Fly Fishers  
 Merrill Lynch & Co. Foundation  
 MFI Foundation  
 Missouri River Flyfishers  
 Montana Landvest, Inc.  
 Out in the Cold Productions  
 Pat Barnes-Missouri River TU Chapter  
 Pheasant Farms  
 Pleiades Foundation  
 Rising River Land & Cattle Co.  
 Ruby Springs Lodge  
 Thomas & Stacey Siebel Foundation  
 Snowy Mountain TU Chapter  
 State of MT Employees Charitable Giving Campaign  
 State of MT Natural Resource Damage Program  
 Sweetgrass Rods  
 Sweetwater Travel  
 Trout & Salmon Foundation  
 Wallace Industries  
 Wapiti Waters  
 West Slope TU Chapter

## In Memoriam

David Ash Johnson  
 Gunter Kuhn  
 Charles S. Moore  
 Douglas Persico  
 Len Schombel

## Executive Committee

Doug Nation, Hamilton  
*Chairman*

Dan Short, Kalispell  
*Vice Chairman*

Tom Anacker, Bozeman  
*Past Chairman and National Leadership  
Council Director*

Doug Haacke, Billings  
*Secretary*

Dan Ellison, Helena  
*Treasurer*

## Montana TU Staff

### Missoula

Bruce Farling  
*Executive Director*

Mark Aagenes  
*Conservation Director*

Michael Gibson  
*Outreach Director*

Kate Grant  
*Program Administrator*

## Big Blackfoot Chapter of TU Staff

### Seeley Lake

Ryen Aasheim  
*Program Coordinator*

## Presidents and Chapters

Bill Bean, Hamilton  
*Bitter Root Chapter*

Paul Nisbet, Missoula  
*Big Blackfoot Chapter*

Paul Pochak, Somers  
*Flathead Valley Chapter*

Bob Olson, Butte  
*George Grant Chapter*

Rick Arnold, Bozeman  
*Joe Brooks Chapter*

Travis Lee, Libby  
*Kootenai Valley Trout Club*

Dave Delisi, Sheridan  
*Lewis & Clark Chapter*

Travis Morris, Bozeman  
*Madison-Gallatin Chapter*

Lyle Courtnage, Billings  
*Magic City Fly Fishers*

Sam Wike, Great Falls  
*Missouri River Flyfishers*

Garrett Fawaz, Helena  
*Pat Barnes-Missouri River Chapter*

Bob Dunnagan, Lewistown  
*Snowy Mountain Chapter*

Mike Willett, Missoula  
*West Slope Chapter*

## Montana TU Stewardship Directors

Dr. Marshall Bloom  
*Scientist  
Hamilton*

Monte Dolack  
*Artist  
Missoula*

Dr. Stanley Falkow  
*Professor of microbiology,  
Stanford University  
Portola Valley, Calif., & Hamilton*

Jerry Lappier  
*The Trout Shop  
Craig*

Bud Lilly  
*Noted angler & river keeper  
Bozeman*

Craig & Jackie Mathews  
*Blue Ribbon Flies  
West Yellowstone*

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*Fly rod, reel & boat designer/builder  
Manhattan*

Paul Moseley  
*Ruby Springs Lodge  
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Roy O'Connor  
*Rancher, business owner & conservationist  
Clinton*

Drs. Robert & Peggy Ratcheson  
*Professor of neurosurgery,  
Case Western Reserve University,  
Anthropologist & anglers  
Hamilton*

Paul Roos  
*Outfitter & conservationist  
Lincoln*

Paul Stanley  
*Retired business owner  
Piedmont, Calif., & Bozeman*

E. Neale Streeks  
*Author & fishing guide  
Great Falls*

K.C. Walsh  
*Owner & CEO,  
Simms Fishing Products  
Bozeman*

Dr. Irving Weissman  
*Professor of pathology,  
Stanford University  
Angler & conservationist  
Redwood City, Calif., & Hamilton*



MTU staff, left to right: Mark Aagenes, Bruce Farling, Kate Grant and Michael Gibson

# About Us

Founded in 1964, Montana Trout Unlimited is a statewide grassroots organization dedicated to conserving and restoring Montana's coldwater fisheries and their watersheds. Montana TU is comprised of 13 chapters and approximately 3,400 Trout Unlimited members. As a Trout Unlimited affiliate, we work closely with our national organization on conservation priorities. Montana TU is financially independent of TU National and is governed by directors from each of the state's TU chapters. All contributions to Montana TU support conservation, protection and restoration efforts in Montana.



[www.montanatu.org](http://www.montanatu.org)

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[www.tu.org](http://www.tu.org)

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Nat'l Geographic/Wade Fredenberg, Nate Shepard and other friends of Montana Trout Unlimited.