

**MONTANA
TROUT
UNLIMITED**
2011 Annual Report

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



Montana Trout Unlimited was at its best in 2011. We stymied a legislative attack on Montana's stream access law, upheld the state's wild trout tradition by defeating attempts to legitimize invasive walleyes in the Missouri River, convinced Montana's high court that Montanans should have a say on how water is divvied up and preserved opportunities for quiet enjoyment of key Western Montana waterways.

But we aren't done. We are planning new restoration and outreach projects, and we continue to advocate for progressive fishery and water policy.

Many things motivate TU activists. Andrew and Isabelle Short, my grandchildren, motivate me. Andrew, age 3, has exactly one day of fishing with his grampa under his belt. His rod sits in my rod rack. It's the one with the red and yellow opaque handle and crazy light that blinks when you push the button to let out the line. Isabelle, not yet two, must wait a year before she gets her own rod, though last summer she came along on her brother's first fishing trip. We didn't catch fish, but we chased grasshoppers and saw a turtle and some ducks. And that was just fine.

TU has a responsibility to ensure that kids like Andrew and Isabelle have the same opportunities to enjoy the outdoors as we have. Succeeding in our mission to protect and restore our fisheries is crucial for keeping faith with future generations. When you support Montana TU you provide gifts of clean water, free-flowing streams and beautiful trout for tomorrow's Montanans. Thank you for your involvement and support. Best wishes for a safe and healthy 2012.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dan Short".

Dan Short, Chairman



Fish

Ensuring the health of the nation's best wild trout populations is at the heart of what we do. This includes securing strongholds for dwindling native species such as cutthroat trout, bull trout and grayling. Our achievements in 2011 on behalf of wild fish include:

- Pressuring the state of Montana to adopt strong angling regulations on the world-famous Missouri River near Craig to protect wild trout from a growing population of invasive walleyes.
- Establishing a landmark partnership with Yellowstone National Park and our TU colleagues in Wyoming to recover one of the world's most famous native cutthroat populations at Yellowstone Lake.
- Working with state and federal agencies to reintroduce cutthroats, and restore critical bull trout habitat, in the upper Missouri, Flathead and Clark Fork basins.

Water

Climate change and increasing human demands are stressing Montana's water resources. In 2011 we created critical tools that help ensure water is available into the future for healthy aquatic communities by:

- Prevailing in a landmark case in the Montana Supreme Court that guarantees the public a voice in the allocation of water rights in Montana, allowing citizens to protect streams from dewatering.
- Supporting our local chapter's efforts to force federal managers to improve water management at Yellowtail Dam, promising better protection for the famous tailwater fishery of the Bighorn River.
- Working with the Forest Service to collect field data and develop a list of priority streams to enable permanent instream flow rights on crucial spawning tributaries of many of Montana's best trout streams.



Habitat

Protecting high-quality habitat and restoring damaged riparian zones and stream channels are critical for the future of trout fisheries in Montana. In 2011 we furthered these objectives by:

- Initiating habitat restoration projects in the Bitterroot and upper Clark Fork basins, and partnering with others on ventures in the Yellowstone and Big Hole basins.
- Pressuring the Montana Legislature to continue funding the state's primary program for restoring fish habitat, during a time of tight budgets.
- Ensuring that fishery projects are a top priority as restoration work proceeds in the mining-damaged upper Clark Fork watershed.
- Setting the stage for additional restoration activities in Southwestern Montana, including iconic watersheds such as the Big Hole, Ruby, Beaverhead, Jefferson and Madison rivers.

People

People need fish, but fish need people who care about them. Building a cadre of effective trout advocates requires education, reward and recognition. It also requires that anglers have direct experience with the rivers and streams that require our attention. Our efforts in 2011 to connect people and fish include:

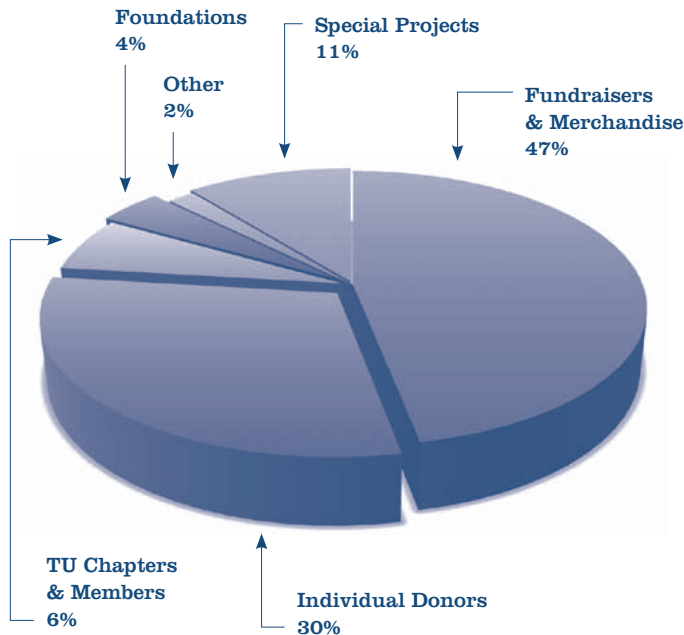
- Continuing our commitment to educating kids about habitat and wild trout by completing our 6th Annual Kids Conservation Camp at Georgetown Lake.
- Participating in an esteemed program that recognizes the work of conservation-oriented private landowners — the Montana Neighbors Awards.
- Leading the high-profile effort at the 2011 Montana Legislature in defense of the public's stream access rights – thereby ensuring all Montanans can continue enjoying some of the finest trout streams in the world.

FINANCIAL REPORT 2011

OCT. 1, 2010 – SEPT. 30, 2011

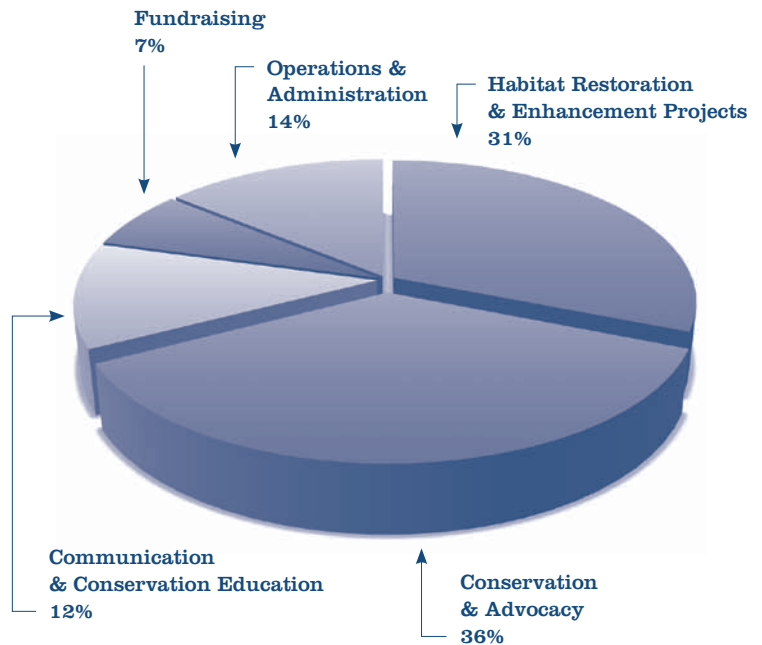
Source of Funds

Total: \$333,077



Use of Funds

Total: \$348,404



How you can contribute

- Montana TU gratefully accepts cash, checks and securities. Credit card donations can be made online at www.montanatu.org, or by calling Kate Grant toll free at 888-504-0054. Gifts can be sent to Montana TU at P.O. Box 7186, Missoula, MT 59807.
- Planned gifts can create an enduring legacy benefitting Montana's trout waters now and after you're gone. Options include bequests, gift annuities, charitable remainder trusts and contributions to Montana TU's permanent endowment. Please keep us in mind when you create or update your estate plan.
- Your tax-deductible donation funds conservation work and professional advocacy on the ground in Montana. If you wish to direct your gift to a specific area, such as restoration projects, education or advocacy, you can do so using one of our established funds. Please contact Kate Grant or Bruce Farling 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.

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

Montana TU's Tax ID # is 23-7355289.

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

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Montana TU staff,
left to right:
Michael Gibson,
Kate Grant,
Mark Aagenes and
Bruce Farling.

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 comprises 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

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