



# FYE 2026 ANNUAL REPORT

## Conservation is a team sport. Join us!

Every spring, as runoff clears and the first hatches begin to stir, we reflect on what it means to be part of this organization. MTU's FYE 2026 Annual Report is a way to look back on the accomplishments of the last 12 months. I am proud to share with you the significant growth in funds raised and put to work through coldwater restoration, trout-friendly policy and public engagement, summarized in this year's Report.

While this publication details our positive impact on trout conservation, it also shows the continued necessity of building relationships and engaging people to continue growing and making a difference.

At Trout Unlimited's recent Western Regional Rendezvous, the conversations that stayed with me

longest weren't about fish counts or funding formulas. They were about people — who we're welcoming into MTU, who we're missing, and how we grow a conservation movement that lasts. It turns out that engagement isn't just a membership concept — it's what happens when boots hit the bank on a willow planting day, when volunteers waded into a creek to build beaver dam analogs, when a chapter rallies around 8,000 feet of stream habitat for westslope cutthroat.

Young and old, women and men, experienced anglers and first-timers — stream restoration is one of the most powerful engagement tools we have, and it's why MTU continues to invest in this work. There are more projects than these pages can hold, but every one of them tells the same

story: when you give people meaningful work on water they love, they show up.

So when you study the stats in this Report, remember that they reflect the time and effort YOU and every other MTU supporter dedicated to our mission. I hope that seeing ourselves in these stories and stats, even if we aren't mentioned by name, motivates us to make the coming year exceed the successes of the last. And may your efforts bring you good fishing karma...or at least fewer 'wind knots.'



*Lyle Courtnage*

Lyle Courtnage  
Montana Council Chair



**“What is a crew?  
A crew is inescapably,  
beautifully, dutifully  
linked. Planet Earth,  
you are a crew.”**

**— Christina Koch,  
Artemis II Astronaut**



## HEALTHY RIVERS & WILD TROUT BY THE NUMBERS

**5,000+** MEMBERS AND FRIENDS  
**7** STAFF INCLUDING **2** PROJECT MANAGERS  
**2** BIG SKY WATERSHED CORPS MEMBERS  
**13** LOCAL CHAPTERS  
**12,000+** ONLINE FOLLOWERS

## MTU MINI GRANT PROGRAM

**6** PROJECTS  
**\$25,000**  
**6** CHAPTERS  
**3** HABITAT PROJECTS  
**3** EDUCATION PROJECTS

## YOUTH EDUCATION

**20** YOUTH CAMPERS  
**28** VOLUNTEERS  
**1:1** STAFF:CAMPER RATIO  
**150+** KIDS SERVED

## BEARTOOTH PROJECT AREA

STILLWATER RIVER OLD NYE FISHING ACCESS  
**3000** WILLOWS PLANTED  
**170** FEET OF LARGE WOOD BANK TREATMENT  
**3** POST-ASSISTED LOG STRUCTURES INSTALLED  
**60%** DESIGN COMPLETION FOR **3** FLOOD RESILANCE PROJECTS IN **3** WATERSHEDS  
**3** WATERSHED GROUP PARTNERS

## NATIVE TROUT

**20 YEARS** OF ARCTIC GRAYLING RECOVERY IN BIG HOLE

HELPED FWP DEVELOP WCT CONSERVATION STRATEGIES FOR **6** WATERSHEDS IN WESTERN MT

**1,364** LAKE TROUT REMOVED TO RECOVER BULL TROUT IN **SWAN LAKE**

## OUTREACH

**30+** EVENTS  
**1000+** IN-PERSON CONTACTS

## JEFFERSON WATERSHED

**SHAW DAM REMOVAL**  
 Finalized permitting & seeking final funding

**BIG HOLE RIVER**  
 Finalized design for Johnson Creek and 60% design for Alder Creek river reconnection projects

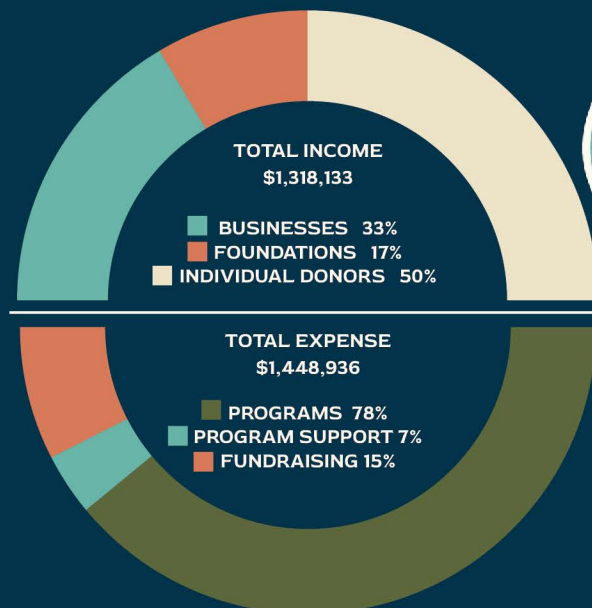
**POINDEXTER SLOUGH**  
 Staked over **6,000** willows on **325'** of bank & restored floodplain connection

**HELD 1st ANNUAL**  
 Jefferson Basin Instream Flow Strategy Workshop

Hosted a federal and state delegation tour highlighting the restoration economy

Appeared on CBS News' 60 Minutes

## PROGRAM HEALTH & EFFICIENCY



## WATER POLICY

**CHAMPIONED \$100 MILLION INVESTMENT FOR EXISTING WATER STORAGE**

**PROMOTING COLLABORATIVE SOLUTIONS THAT PRIORITIZE & INCENTIVISE INSTREAM FLOW**

**PROTECTING WATER USERS WHO VOLUNTARILY REDUCE WITHDRAWALS FROM ABANDONMENT**

## THANK YOU!!!

Generous donations helped MTU continue to grow in FYE2026.

MTU had a **168%** increase in the number of multi-year gifts!

\*MTU financial statements are reviewed annually by Boyle, Deveny & Meyer PC, an independent CPA.



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