

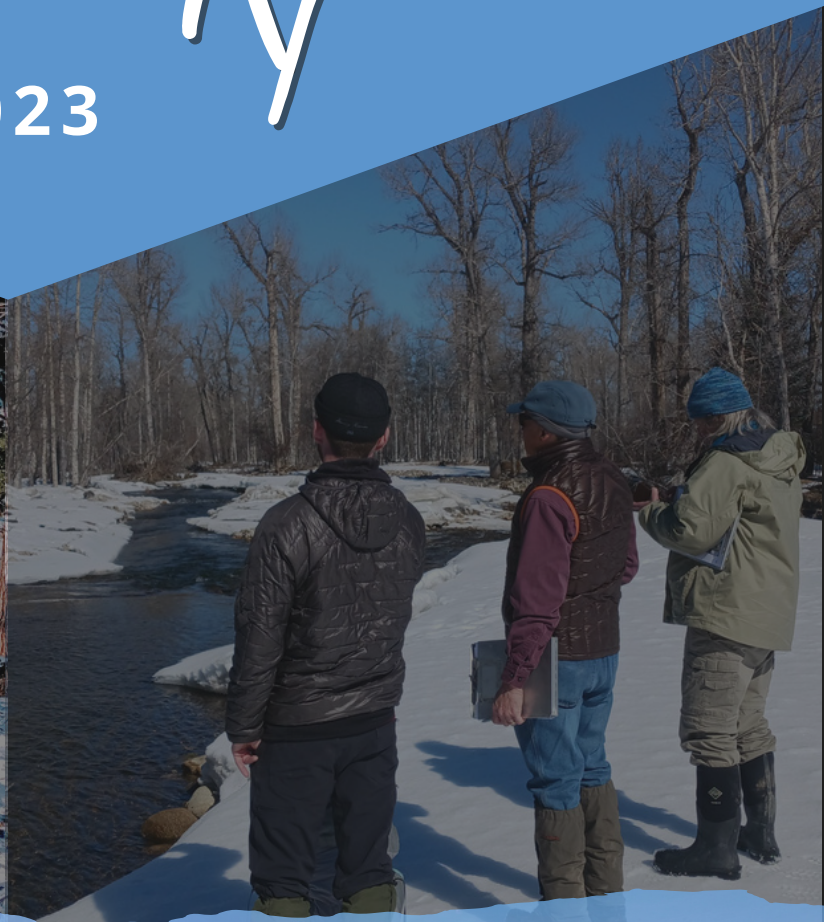


STILLWATER VALLEY WATERSHED COUNCIL

www.stillwatervalleywatershed.com

Annual Report

2023



*"Coming together is a beginning, staying together
is progress, working together is success."*
HENRY FORD

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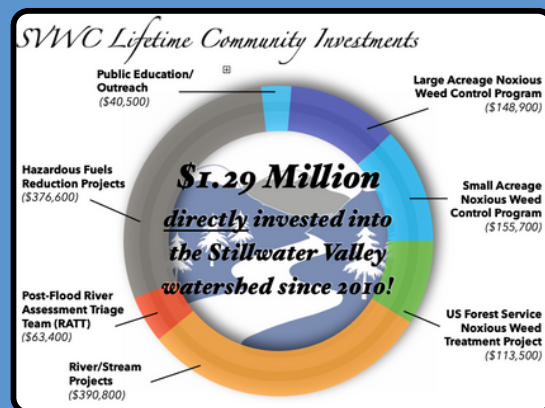
STILLWATER VALLEY WATERSHED COUNCIL

2023 marked the Stillwater Valley Watershed Council's (SVWC) 13th year as a non-profit organization. With a dedicated board of directors at the helm, we continue to make great strides in a range of program areas that are important for all of us here in our local watershed. Successful expansion of natural resource programs and increased community involvement has enabled the SVWC to continue fostering collaboration with local constituents, agencies, and other nonprofits throughout the Stillwater Valley. Since our inception in 2010, the SVWC has secured \$1.29 million in grant funds for on-the-ground natural resource enhancement projects and programs that have benefited our watershed and those who live and recreate here, both human and wildlife.

Community Investments

Engaged 1500 people in SVWC sponsored programs, mailings, online outreach and educational events.

- Awarded \$137,000 in cost-share to individuals in the local community for natural resource enhancement projects.
- Hosted the third annual Weeds, Water & Wildfire (3W's) Workshop in conjunction with Carbon County Weed District.
- Engaged more than 100 students in 6 grade levels at Absarokee Elementary Schools.
- Presented SVWC's programs and accomplishments to over 30 state FFA leaders at their summer training.
- Logged over 1100 volunteer hours from 70+ local constituents.



Funding Procurement

Secured numerous grants and funding for local natural resource projects.

- \$250,000 for landscape scale hazardous fuels mitigation efforts along the Beartooth Front.
- \$28,000 for the post-flood River Assessment Triage Team.
- \$27,000 to treat noxious weeds on small and large acreage properties throughout the watershed.
- \$5,000 for the Stillwater Rosebud Water Quality Initiative.
- \$42,500 raised through MT Gives and at the Annual Summer Celebration.
- \$32,000 garnered from direct donations.
- \$8,900 raised from SVWC memberships (255 members).
- \$25,000 received from Sibanye Stillwater Mine to offset coordination and project management expenses to pursue SVWC's goals.





STILLWATER VALLEY WATERSHED COUNCIL



Noxious Weed Control

Coordinated several noxious weed control projects, enabling SVWC to collaborate with multiple agencies and hundreds of local landowners for ongoing Cooperative Weed Control Programs (CWCP).

Small Acreage CWCP (<20 acres):

- Enrolled 100 participating landowners (1,700 acres) using seven commercial applicators to treat noxious weeds on 180 acres.

Large Acreage CWCP: (>20 acres)

- Worked with 14 landowners, representing 24,600 acres, to treat 390 acres via aerial and ground applications.

Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program (WHIP)

- Treated 500 acres on US Forest Service grazing allotments and heavily traveled corridors leading into the recreational areas.

Improved public awareness through locally led campaigns.

- Weeds, Water and Wildfire Workshop (40 attendees)
- Annual Stillwater River Float & Pull (28 volunteers)
- Backpack sprayer fill day



Forest Health & Wildfire Mitigation

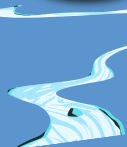
Reduced catastrophic wildfire risk, while simultaneously improving forest health, on large and small forested properties within the Stillwater watershed.

- Completed hazardous fuels mitigation projects on 8 properties, encompassing over 3,500 acres.
- Improved the wildfire resiliency on 67 acres through prescriptive tree thinning practices.
- Awarded \$66,000 in cost-share to forest landowners throughout the watershed.
- Informed over 500 valley residents and statewide stakeholders through one on one communications, social media platforms and targeted mailings about the importance of improving wildfire resiliency and enhanced forest health practices.





STILLWATER VALLEY WATERSHED COUNCIL



Water Quality & Stream Health

Lead voluntary water stewardship projects and post-flood remediation efforts grounded in shared knowledge and commitment to our community's dedicated investments in local water resources.

- Completed the third year of the Stillwater Rosebud Water Quality Initiative water monitoring project, collecting baseline samples at nine sites on four tributaries encompassing 116 river miles.
- Merged local funds to launch a River Assessment Triage Team to assess post-flood trends, issues, and reoccurring impacts giving best practice recommendations in a consolidated report.
- Hosted two community outreach presentations for valley residents about the stream permitting process and post-flood remediation options.



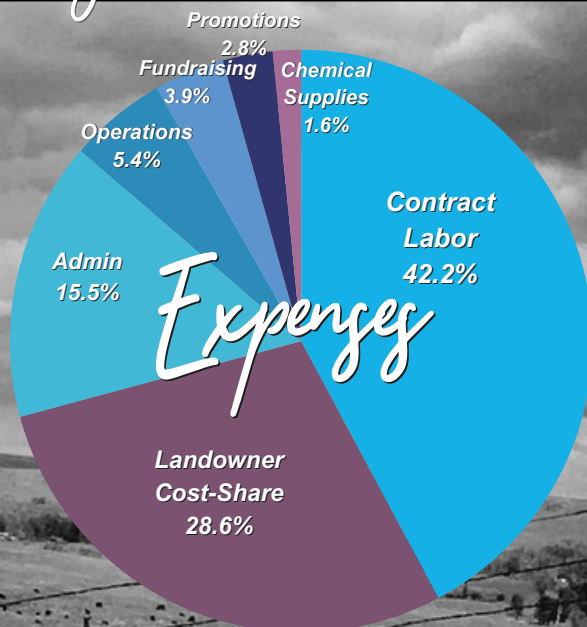
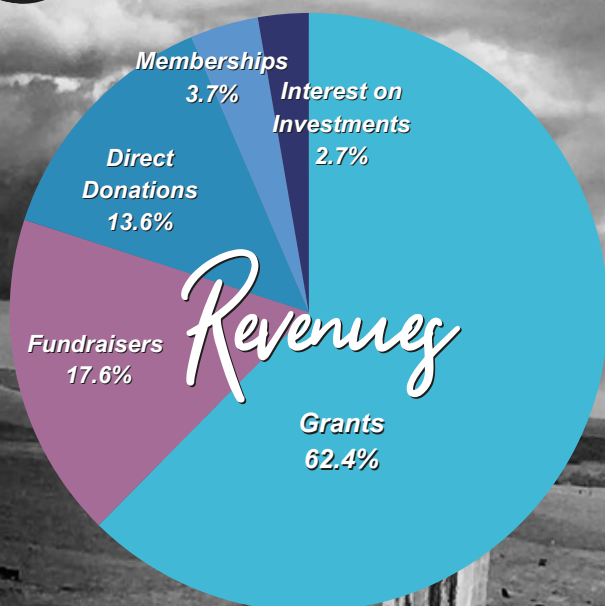
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Financial Summary, January-December 2023

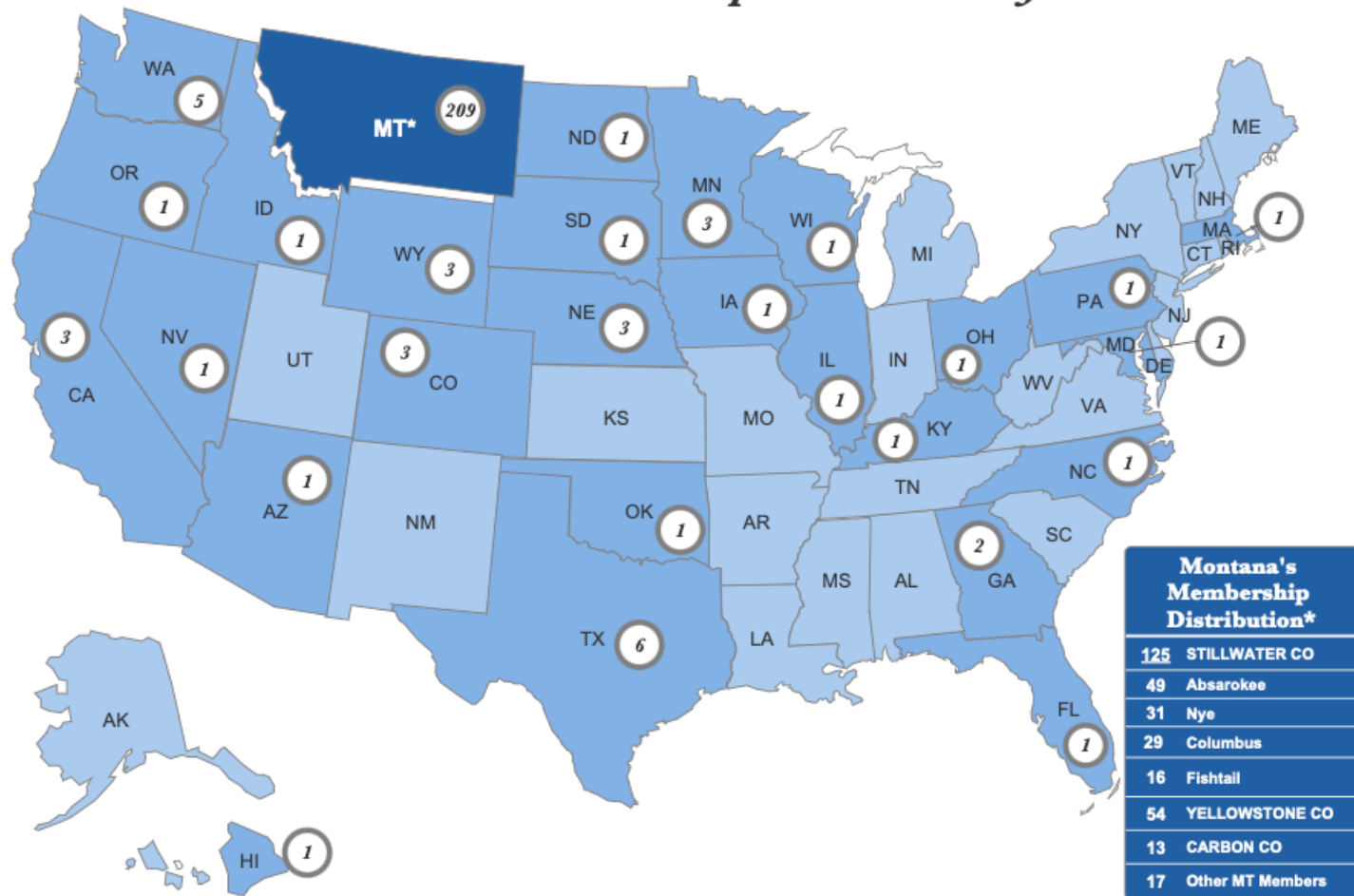




STILLWATER VALLEY WATERSHED COUNCIL

The SVWC prides itself on the cooperation and support of over 250 members and donors. This map highlights the distribution of members, although mostly focused in Montana, spread throughout 26 other states across the country! With a common goal in mind, this support has enabled the SVWC's monumental growth and success since inception in 2010.

2023 SVWC Membership Distribution by State



SVWC'S MISSION

"We will provide an open forum in which all interested parties may work in a collaborative effort to sustain our rural quality of life to protect and enhance our natural resources. We seek to understand all points of view, come to a common goal and work for practical solutions. We are committed to research and educating valley residents and the public about our watershed and the steps we can take to preserve and maintain the integrity of the river, the land and the beauty of our valley"



We can't thank our members and donors enough, this work would not be possible without your support. When you donate, you truly make a difference!



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