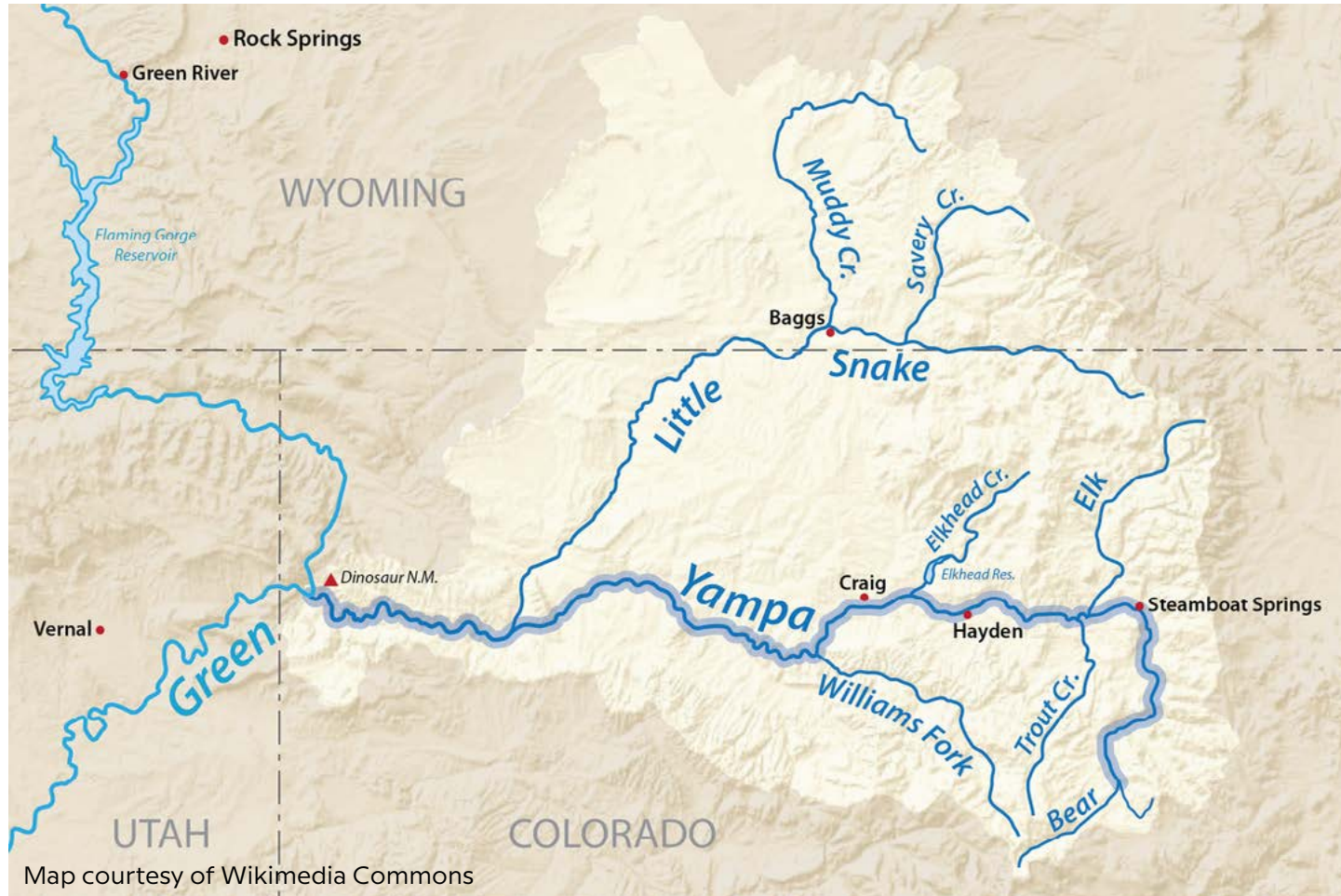


FRIENDS OF THE YAMPA 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

RESPECT THE YAMPA



FRIENDS OF THE
YAMPA



FRIENDS OF THE YAMPA

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

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ABOUT FRIENDS OF THE YAMPA

Friends of the Yampa is a group based on one common passion, a shared love for the Yampa River.

Established in 1981, we have a long standing history of working to develop support for a healthy Yampa River that supports a vibrant, diverse economy and is accessible for all.

We organize river clean-ups; work to provide access to the river; hold discussions about the Yampa's important and rare attributes; fund and help build river habitats and river features for a variety of uses; and participate in a local, regional and national policy efforts and campaigns. Our annual Yampa River

Festival is a mainstay and a big part of our spring efforts and then in the fall we hold our annual fundraiser, the Big Snow Bash. Every May/June we partner with American Rivers

Our mission is to protect and enhance the environmental and recreational integrity of the Yampa River and its tributaries through education, stewardship, advocacy and partnerships.

and OARS to host an annual Yampa River Awareness Project float trip down the Yampa Canyon. We engage with stakeholders and work to bridge the gap between recreation and agriculture. Our Youth River Camps help inspire youth to love and Respect the Yampa.

Today, the Yampa River and its tributaries remain a model of a healthy river system, not only here in Northwest Colorado but in the entire Colorado River Basin and the Western U.S.

On the cover: Campers collect dragonfly larvae at the Youth River Camp on the Green River in Dinosaur National Monument. Read more on page 10.

SUPPORT US

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FriendsoftheYampa.com/donate

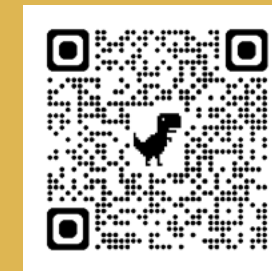
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SCAN ME TO HEAD TO
FriendsoftheYampa.com

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Friends of the Yampa had an amazing year of positive growth and a growing support from the Yampa Valley community and beyond. In the beginning of 2023, we released our first ever Scorecard of river health from the Middle Yampa. I am so proud

of all of the people in and outside of our organization who brought it to fruition after many years of hard work. I look forward to seeing how the Scorecard Project informs river management and the community in the future.

We had our largest Yampa River Festival to date! River Fest is our keystone event and integral to our history as a river-loving group, and we love seeing the community and visitors come out and enjoy themselves. Our Youth River Camps were as popular as ever and we are growing our list of alumni and hopefully our list of Yampa Valley youth that can continue to safely recreate on the Yampa. We also held our

inaugural Dinosaur National Monument camp with high school students in collaboration with the park and Colorado Mountain College, an experience that will be remembered for years to come for all of the campers and staff.

We hired a new position, Conservation Program Manager, to help us expand our ability to help and protect the Yampa, and it is our next step of our growth as a watershed organization. We collaborated with the City of Steamboat Springs to run the River Ambassador program and educate the public on how they can have fun and float responsibly; coinciding with this effort we also released the Know Before You Go Dashboard, so all of you Yampa River floaters and visitors can prepare before leaving your home and be ready to hit the river in a safe manner. Our ability to celebrate the successes of 2023 are because of the support from our community of river lovers and donors. Thank you for getting us this far!

Lindsey Marlow, Executive Director

FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT



As president of the Board of Directors of Friends of the Yampa, I'm thrilled by our transformation from a volunteer-driven to a staff-powered organization. The shared passion for our mission has been the driving

force behind this rapid change. Thanks to our exceptional staff, dedicated supporters, and generous funders, we're achieving meaningful results in our watershed. Together, we're making a substantial impact and I'm proud to be part of such a dynamic and impactful team.

Ben Beall, Board President

FOTY GOALS FOR 2024

Please take a look in our annual report for all of the program and projects we helped lead or partner with — 2023 was a year of growth and 2024 is looking to be the same.

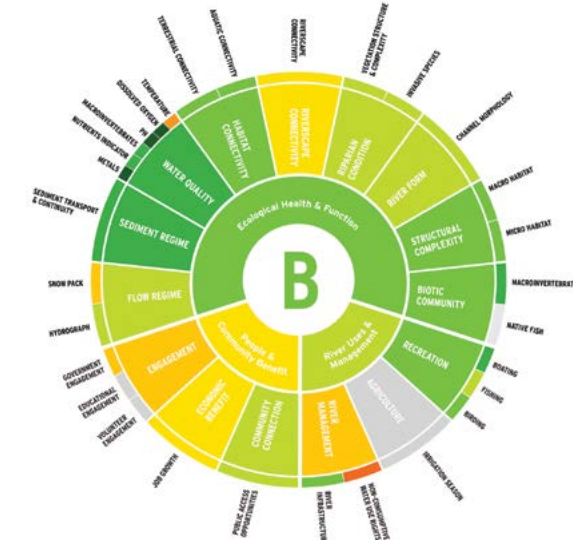
We have created a new program called the Yampa River Stewardship Program with a collaborative group of nonprofits to provide a resource in river and water management to water users and land owners adjacent to the river. This program will provide learning workshops, materials, and outreach events, and will help bring projects forward with support so people are not left without help in getting infrastructure and river health improvements completed. With Community Agriculture Alliance moving its location, we plan on expanding our space to offer a river center for the community and visitors to learn all about the Yampa. We will hold our second year of Dinosaur National Monument River Camp for high school students, a free offering for Yampa Valley youth. We plan on hiring two more staff members to expand our

ability to run new and existing programs. Our recreational education is growing with our expanded Know Before You Go Dashboard, a must use for all Yampa River recreators; our partnership with the City of Steamboat Springs to run the River Ambassador program; and our middle school Youth River Camps in collaboration with Colorado Mountain College. With our increase in staff, we will be able to be more present at watershed health planning initiatives to get ahead of decision-making that may impact the Yampa Basin. We will be releasing the Steamboat Springs segment of our Yampa River Scorecard Project, so stay tuned in early 2024, and will be moving on to assess the upper parts of the Yampa this year.

I appreciate you all for staying up to date with our progress, as well as supporting our work. Thank you for respecting and loving the Yampa!

Lindsey Marlow, Executive Director

2023 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT



<< YAMPA RIVER SCORECARD PROJECT

The Scorecard Project is a long-term river health monitoring and evaluation program for the Yampa River Basin that rates the overall condition of different segments of the Yampa River and articulates results through a “scorecard.” A program like this has yet to exist in the basin. Data collected for the Middle Segment of the Yampa River was analyzed and was released in 2023. Also in 2023, data was collected in the segment from Stagecoach Reservoir to Hayden Pump Station of the Yampa River, which will be released early 2024.

Learn more: YampaScorecard.org or email Jenny Frithsen at jenny@friendsoftheyampa.com.

OUTSTANDING WATERS >>

In 2022, Friends of the Yampa started water sampling for Outstanding Waters designation and continued into 2023. Many of Colorado’s headwaters streams provide high-quality water that contributes to the overall health and resilience of rivers in the region and by extension the health of the communities, ecosystems, and economies connected to it. OW is a designation awarded to such reaches of streams, rivers, or other bodies of water with high water quality and exceptional recreational or ecological significance. For the local endeavor, FOTY had help from 7 total volunteers to sample 13 sites on 28 sampling days in ALL weather totaling over 300 hours!



Jenny Frithsen sampling at South Fork of Elk River.

2023 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT



<< YOUTH RIVER CAMPS

Youth from grades 7-9 attended a four-day camp on the river in Steamboat Springs, Yampa River State Park, and Craig. The goal of the program is to empower youth to travel safely in whitewater river conditions while falling in love with one of the most important resources here in the Yampa Valley. Friends of the Yampa teamed up with Yampatika to add additional science-based learning. FOTY also partnered with Colorado Mountain College Steamboat with support from Upper Yampa Water Conservancy District and Dinosaur National Monument. Our 2023 camp season got 50 kids on the river and awarded over \$5,000 in scholarships.

YAMPA RIVER CLEANUPS >>

In its eighth year, Friends of the Yampa partnered with the City of Steamboat Springs and Storm Peak Brewing Co. to host a river cleanup in Steamboat. We also teamed up with the City of Craig and Yampa Valley Brewing Co. for a cleanup in Craig! Volunteers spanned 15 different sections of the river in Steamboat and three boat access ramps in Moffat County. Volunteers and staff members celebrated with lunch and beverages after working in the heat.



2023 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT



<<43rd YAMPA RIVER FESTIVAL

The flagship event of Friends of the Yampa, the Yampa River Festival, is a true hometown celebration of the Yampa River. The festival that ran from June 2-4 is the biggest river event of the year, bringing droves of locals and visitors to watch people play in Charlie's Hole in downtown Steamboat and more! In addition to the action, there are booths set up to help educate attendees about the nonprofits and river groups in the valley.

The Fish Creek Kayak Race was held in spirit of our friend and previous board member, Adam Mayo, and the Downriver Raft Race was held in honor of our friend, Drew Hyde.

YAMPA RIVER AWARENESS PROJECT >>

YRAP, organized by Friends of the Yampa and American Rivers, rallies local, state, national, and international organizations, businesses and individuals to realize the unique natural and recreational values of the Yampa. Each year has a unique list of participants and each year has a different feel to the trip. The 2023 roster included leaders from Great Outdoors Colorado, Colorado River District, Dinosaur National Monument, Colorado Department of Natural Resources, Denver Water, Upper Colorado River Commission, Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program and more!

Scan to hear about the 2023 YRAP trip >>



2023 FUNDRAISER HIGHLIGHT



<< BIG SNOW BASH EVENT & AUCTION

Big Snow Bash is Friends of the Yampa's largest fundraiser of the year. This year we had a hugely successful online auction. Hunker Down picked the night away at Old Town Pub. The live event and online auction raised over \$44,000! We are already stoked for next year! Thank you to all who donated, sponsored, and participated in the events.

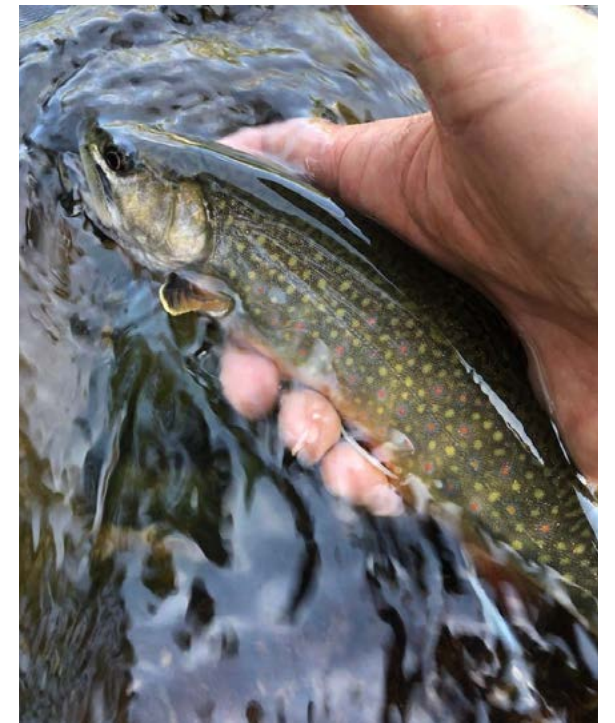
Plus for Yampa Valley Gives Day we raised a total of \$15,906 by 118 donors!

YAMPA HEADWATERS FISHING >> FUNDRAISER & POKER RUN

Friends of the Yampa, along with sponsors, hosted a Yampa Headwaters Fishing Fundraiser & Poker Run throughout August 2023. Proceeds raised went toward scholarships for youth in the Yampa Valley to learn how to fly fish and to help further FOTY projects and programs, mission, and goals.

Grand Prize + Best Poker Hand + Most Citizen Science Engagement: Cody Berkobien

Congratulations to the winner. We hope to see more participation in 2024 as we help spread the love of fishing to the full Yampa River watershed!



YOUTH RIVER CAMP — DINO

Youth from grades 9-12 attended a four-day camp on the Green River in Dinosaur National Monument in August 2023. Campers had the opportunity to participate in citizen science alongside biologists and experts. Colorado Mountain College Steamboat and Dinosaur National Monument were crucial to making the camp happen! Thanks to our generous supporters, we were able to offer camps completely free of charge.

"I had a beautiful time down the river, being from Utah, I definitely felt a little out of place because the other kids knew each other somewhat. But I felt included right away! The guides and scientists were so nice and made conversation so easy that it wasn't even a problem of feeling left out. I had a lot of fun searching for dragonfly larvae, I never knew that's how they started, so it was really cool to learn that and share with my friends when I got home. The river was so beautiful, and although I've been down it before, it felt special and different. I had a fun time listening to the other girls sing ABBA songs but also helping the guide get off the rocks that wedged the boat. I had a whole bunch of fun experiences that I still talk about to this day. I'm very grateful for the opportunity of being able to go."

Sasha Morningstar, 2023 Gates of Lodore camper



2023 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT



Shelton Ditch

<<YAMPA RIVER FUND

In 2023, the first full year of management by the Friends of the Yampa, the Yampa River Fund Endowment exceeded \$5 million and distributed \$166,141 to four projects. The largest contributors to the endowment were the Steamboat Ski Resort (\$100,000) and the City of Steamboat Springs, (\$25,000) but there were numerous individual donors, businesses, and foundations that contributed to the growth of the fund this year. In addition, we received dedicated funds for the administration of the

fund from Backdoor Sports, Big Agnes and several individual donors who have helped ensure we are able to carry out the work needed to manage and oversee the actions of the River Fund. The Greene Family Fund gave \$50,000 direct to projects as well.

The four 2023 projects were:

- 2023 Yampa River Environmental Releases Program — Colorado Water Trust: \$89,891
- Landowner Outreach for Coordinated Projects to Improve River Health — Community Agriculture Alliance: \$25,000
- Shelton Ditch Headgate Replacement Project — Shelton Ditch Company: \$40,000
- Norvell Infrastructure Improvements — \$11,250: Community Agriculture Alliance

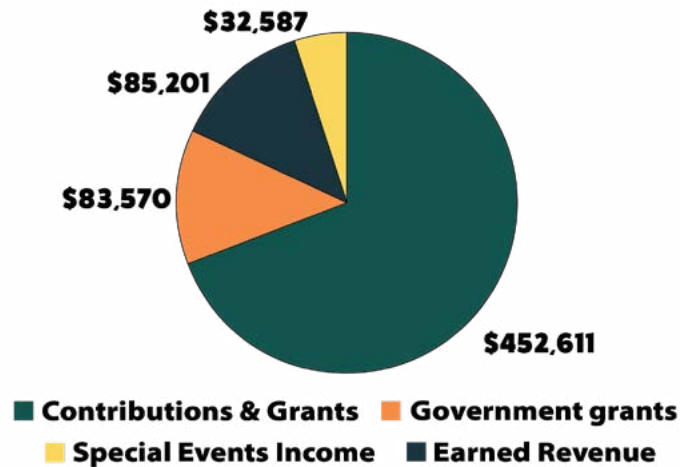
The Yampa Ripple Effect program was initiated and will be a major focus in 2024. This program is designed as a “round up” option for customers at local businesses to contribute to the work of the Yampa River Fund and other Friends of the Yampa river-related programming. We have high expectations for signing up several businesses in 2024 and look forward to success as this program ramps up.

Learn more: YampaRiverFund.org and YampaRippleEffect.org

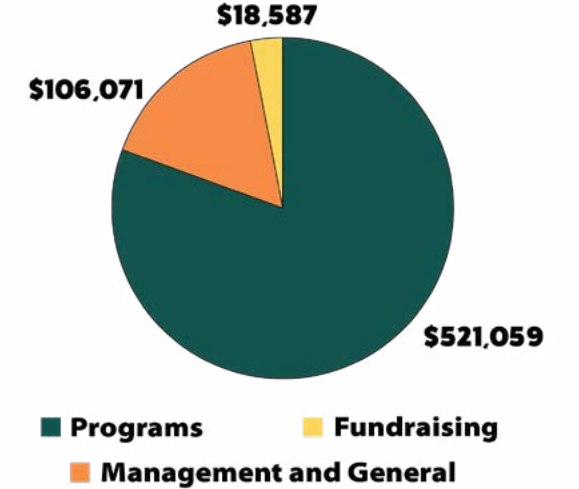


2023 FINANCIALS

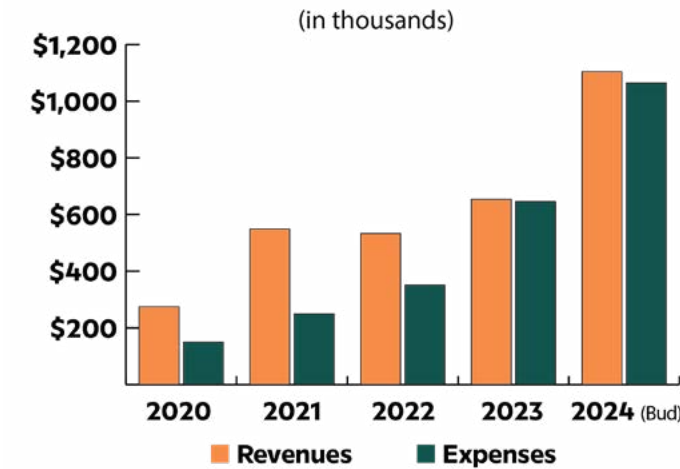
2023 SOURCES OF REVENUE



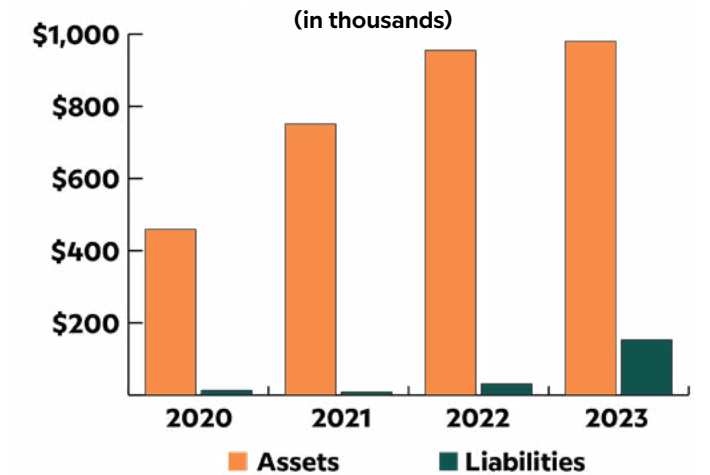
2023 EXPENSES BY FUNCTION



2020-2024 ACTIVITY



ASSETS AND LIABILITIES



INDIVIDUAL DONORS & MEMBERS

	2020	2021	2022	2023
Members	N/A	170	181	198
Donors	222	325	312	312

INDIVIDUAL DONATION AMOUNTS

	2020	2021	2022	2023
Average	\$335.85	\$586.69	\$670.31	\$721.18
Median	\$102.04	\$102.04	\$100	\$150

VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHT >>

In 2022, Friends of the Yampa started water sampling for Outstanding Waters designation (see page 6 for more). Winter missions proved to be complex, with long days moving across powder fields and bumpy roads. The efforts wouldn't have happened had it not been for our amazing volunteers, Brad Luth and Jeremy Bailey. Thank you both for the hard work, laughs, and snowmobile lessons. This important work could help add conservation to Yampa River tributaries for generations to come!

We also want to thank our many spring, summer, and autumn sampling volunteers. This effort wouldn't be possible without our amazing supporters. FOTY and volunteers wrapped up efforts in winter 2024 and will turn data over to the state. The data collected will be taken to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment in summer 2024.



Yampa River Cleanup in Craig



Yampa River Festival

THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR VOLUNTEERS!

Volunteers help make our events and programs possible. If you or your company or organization would like to be part of the action, email info@friendsoftheyampa.com or visit FriendsoftheYampa.com/volunteer-opportunities.

- | | | | | |
|----------------------|-----------------|------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Alethea Stone | Christy Abbey | John Saul | Maragret Hurst | Ryan Seyedian |
| Alex (Hoppy) Hopkins | Clint Gabbert | Jordan Troiani | Margee Robertson | Sam and Dave Rush and Kleiber |
| Alexa Malik | Dan Welch | Jules Poma | Marla Bailey | Samantha Hollingshead |
| Ali Givnish | Danielle Lingle | Julia Pershken | Mary O'Connor | Sarah Haag |
| Alice Tesar | David Maris | Julia Schiemann | Matt Kaplan | Sarah Kerrigan |
| Ally Crookshanks | Eddie Keiser | Julie McElvain | Matt Phillips | Sarah Krakoff |
| Amanda Castle | Edward Briones | Julie Reynolds | Matt Smith | Shaggy Bailey |
| Amy Phillips | Edward Watson | Kailee Duryea | McKenzie Hughes | Shelby Farthing |
| Amy Poma | Emily Henry | Karen McNish | Meg Sinek | Shelby Jennings |
| Andrea Grygo | Emily O'Winter | Keith Derrickson | Melissa, Ben and Luke Steelman | Simon Fryer |
| Andrew Moore | Emma Keiser | Kelly Conway | Mendi Figueroa | Skye Jo Anderson |
| Ashley Steed | Eric Einfeld | Kelly Mahoney | Michael Demkowski | Skylah Mealer |
| Audrey Dwyer | Eric Panebaker | Kevin Finch | Michael Lyman | Sonia Dose |
| Autumn Pisarsky | Fiona Heaney | Kris Neidel | Michael Menzia | Soren Jespersen |
| Babette Dickson | Garrett Morello | Kristen Keravich | Michelle Caragol | Stephanie Poper |
| Ben Beall | Glenn Boesger | Kristen Rhodes | Mikaelyn Sullivan | Steven Wyant |
| Ben Calkins | Hans de Roos | Kristen Warke | Mike Amato | Toby Stauffer |
| Ben Johnson | Jack Brown | Kristin Kotkas | Mike Robertson | Todd Givnish |
| Billie Keithley | Jackie Brown | Kyleigh Lawler | Missy Amato | Tom Howard |
| Bob Keenan | Jackson Brown | Lamine Rondeau | Nicholas Mineti | Tom Whiddon |
| Brad Luth | Jackson Rosa | Laraine Martin | Nico Romero-Heaney | Traver Farmer |
| Brad Noble | Jake Berman | Lauren Loeb | Nicole Seltzer | Ty Atkins |
| Brenna Egan | Jake Wener | Layna Jansen | Oliver Padgett | Vanessa Beasley |
| Brian Berge | Janet Panebaker | Linda Kanamine | Oscar Gilbert | Willy Cutler |
| Brian Smith | Jenny Frithsen | Linda Pratt | Paige Waters | Zeb Tipton |
| Bryan Sullivan | Jenny Schmidt | Lindsey Marlow | Paula Hope | |
| Caleb Franklin | Jeremaih Hughes | Lissa Confer | Phil Norrish | |
| Carsen Coleman | Jeremiah Hughes | Lissa Hostetler | Randi St John | |
| Chad Bowdre | Jill Stouten | Logan Fleming | Rebecca Hext | |
| Chad Watts | JJ Jackson | Lucy Winslow | Richard Karow | |
| Chick Corrado | Jodie Sandell | Luke Kimmes | Roy Perry | |
| Chris French | John Confer | Mac Koupal | | |
| | John Owsley | Makaela Nava | | |

And so many more who work behind the scenes!

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 Adrift Adventures
 Alex Moon
 Alicia Yost
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 Pando Fund
 Parrotheads

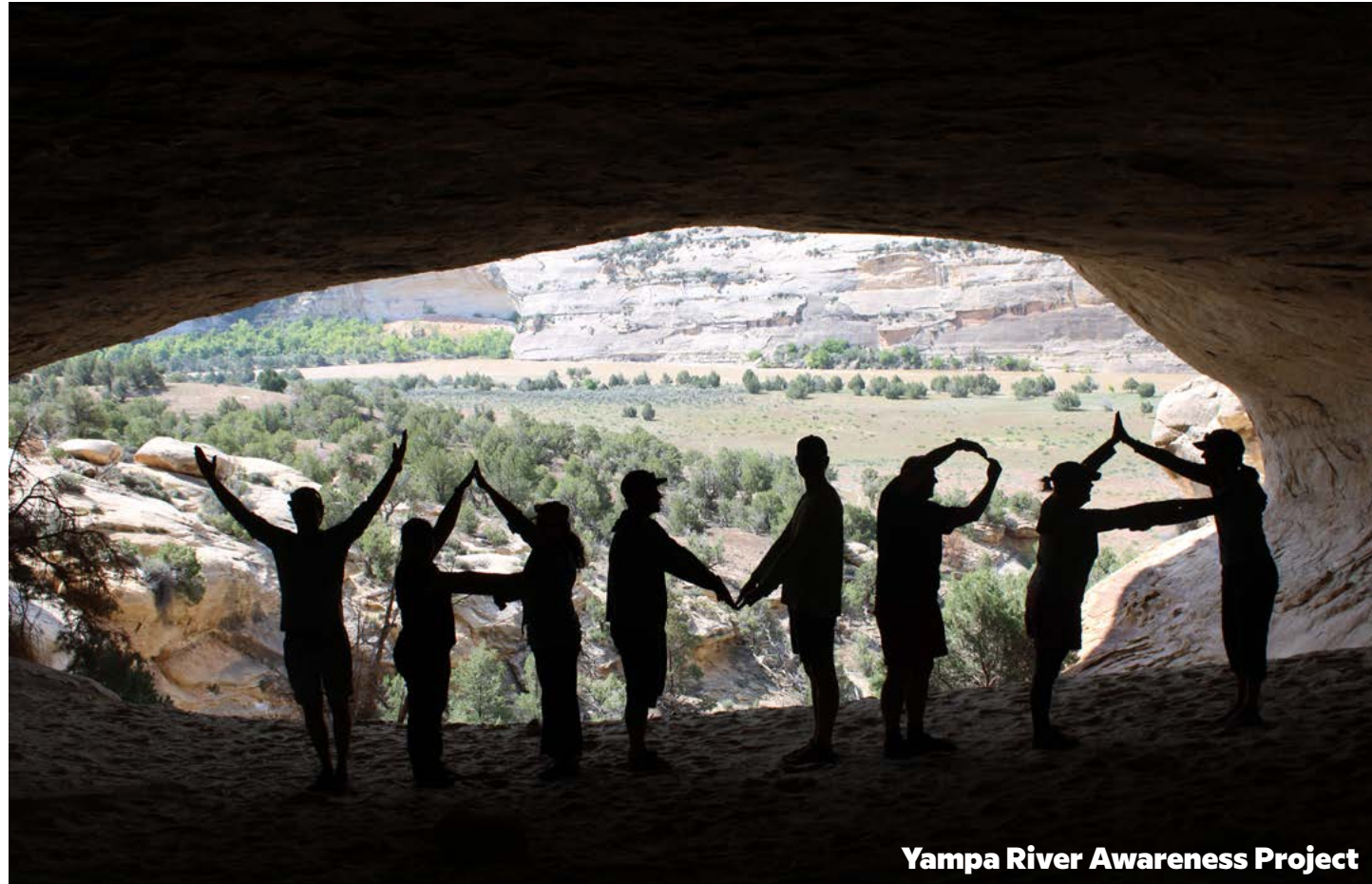
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 Steamboat Curve
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 The Atha Household
 The Bergman
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 The Blonder Household
 The Bomberg
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 The Boyd Household
 The Brantley
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 The Buratovich
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 The Colfer Household
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 The Jespersen
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 The Lodico Household
 The Lohne Household
 The London Household
 The Maley Household
 The Marie Household
 The Moniker
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 The Nature
 Conservancy
 The Naumann
 Household
 The Nilsson Household
 The Pedersen
 Household
 The Pharris Household



Yampa River Awareness Project

- | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|--|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| The Proper Household | Household | Toby Stauffer | Verve Culture | Yampa River Fund |
| The Reid Household | The Tucker Household | Todd McMillen | Westwater Books | Yampa River State Park |
| The Roberts Household | The Unger Household | Todd Miller | Wet Dreams River | Yampa Valley Anglers |
| The Robinson Household | The Vickles Household | Tom Baer | Supply | Yampa Valley Brewing Co. |
| The Roling Center | The Wellman Household | Town Hall Outdoor Co. | Wild Goose Coffee At | Yampa Valley Community Foundation |
| The Roos Household | The Wetzels Household | Travis Crooke | The Granary | Yampa Valley Fly Fishers |
| The Shikles Household | The Whitney Household | Tread of Pioneers Museum | Wild West Balloon Adventures | Yampa Valley Sustainability Council |
| The Shine Household | The Williams Household | Trout Unlimited-Colorado | Wilderness Rescue International | Yampatika |
| The Smith Mikelsons Household | The Zuck Household | Twin Enviro | William Modi | Zirkel Wireless |
| The Steeves Household | Thomas Schlicht | Upper Yampa Water Conservancy District | William Peddie | |
| The Stewart Household | Tim Sullivan | Valerie Gates | WinterWonderGrass | |
| The Summerill | | | WJ Badaracca | |

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- Greg Hamilton**
- John St. John**
- Calder Young**

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- Lindsey Marlow**, *Executive Director*
> lindsey@friendsoftheyampa.com
- Jenny Frithsen**, *Environmental Program Manager*
> jenny@friendsoftheyampa.com
- Katie Berning**, *Outreach Program Manager*
> katie@friendsoftheyampa.com
- Emily Burke**, *Conservation Program Manager*
> emily@friendsoftheyampa.com
- Mike Roberts**, *Yampa River Fund Manager*
> mike@friendsoftheyampa.com
- Kent Vertrees**, *Recreation and Education Coordinator*
> kent@friendsoftheyampa.com
- Arianna Birdseye**, *Outdoor Programs Logistic Technician*



Elkhead Reservoir

HOW TO SUPPORT FRIENDS OF THE YAMPA

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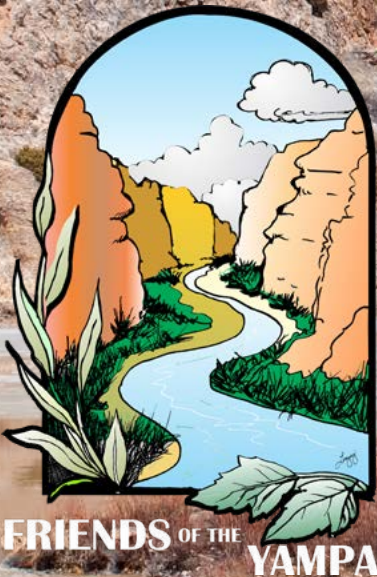
Friends of the Yampa

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VOLUNTEER

FriendsOfTheYampa.com/volunteer-opportunities



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