

...and I think I may only be one person but when the ice is gone and the cottonwoods start greening up in the spring, and the cycle starts again, I can feel good knowing that I've done something right for this stretch of river that will help it run forever.

- Larry Rau, rancher and landowner featured in The Shape of a River



# 2017 IMPACT REPORT



**MARS**

MONTANA AQUATIC RESOURCES SERVICES



## Our Mission

TO RESTORE, ENHANCE AND PRESERVE MONTANA'S AQUATIC RESOURCES TO MAXIMIZE THEIR ECOLOGICAL FUNCTION INTO THE FUTURE.

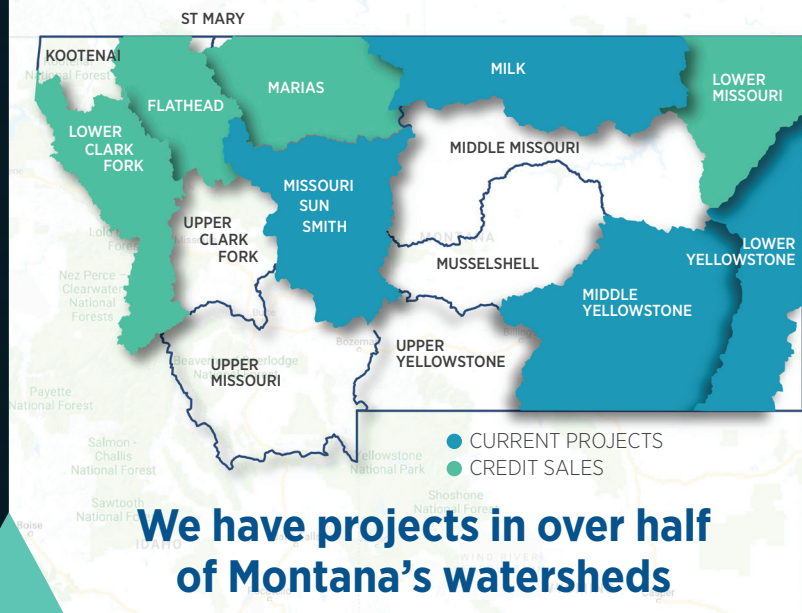
## We Support Our Mission in 2 Key ways



INNOVATIVE IN-LIEU-FEE STREAM AND WETLAND MITIGATION AND CHANNEL MIGRATION EASEMENT PROGRAM



ENGAGING EDUCATIONAL COMMUNITY OUTREACH



We have projects in over half of Montana's watersheds

PROTECTED AND RESTORED BY MARS:

**29**

Acres of wetland

**157**

Acres of channel migration zone

**3.3**

Miles of river bank

**224**

Acres of floodplain



# From The Executive Director

This has been an incredible year for Montana Aquatic Resources Services (MARS), with unprecedented community engagement and growth. The numbers are impressive—224 acres of floodplain, 29 acres of wetlands, and 3 miles of riparian habitat restored and protected—but what’s more impressive still are the strides we’ve taken towards protecting Montana’s precious water resources for future generations.

Since 2011, MARS has been raising the bar in protecting and restoring Montana’s water resources. Our top concern is mitigating the rapid degradation and loss of aquatic resources in Montana—in fact, that’s why our organization was founded and continues to exist today.

We pride ourselves on our ability to develop innovative solutions to Montana’s most pressing aquatic resource challenges. Collaboration and support from our amazing partners has fueled this innovation and been crucial to our success, and we wouldn’t be here without them.

Nor would we be here without the support of those who understand that our water resources are more than just a treasure of our state—they’re the lifeblood. To each of you who walks alongside MARS as we protect what is so near and dear to us all—thank you. We hope that you’ll continue this journey with us.



# Crisis is the Best Catalyst for Change

The 2016 whitefish kill catalyzed MARS planning efforts for the **Yellowstone River Symposium**. The symposium brought together over one hundred agricultural producers, business owners, outfitters, scientists and local experts to discuss the social, ecological and economic impacts tied to the Yellowstone River.



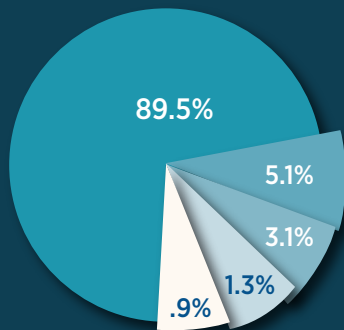
the **S H A P E** of a **R I V E R**

## The Shape of A River

Our collaborative work with Ocean Media Institute on the **internationally recognized film, The Shape of a River**, illuminated concerns and started a dialog about the dynamic and importance of the Yellowstone River ecosystem.

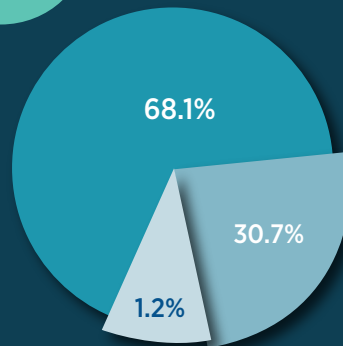


## 2017 Financials



### REVENUE

- IN LIEU FEE: \$597,012
- GRANTS: \$33,949
- PROGRAM: \$20,977
- INTEREST: \$8,991
- DONATIONS: \$6,086



### EXPENSES

- IN LIEU FEE: \$338,779
- OPERATIONS-OUTREACH: \$152,665
- CONTRACTS: \$6,182



## MARS Board and Staff

We are passionate and committed to restoring and protecting Montana’s aquatic resources. Though small in numbers, we have years of experience working on water resource issues across the state. Collectively, we have over 180 years of experience in water resource consulting, environmental law, hydrogeology, biology, communications and finance and investment.

Protect Montana Rivers, Donate Today!  
[montanaaquaticresources.org/donate](http://montanaaquaticresources.org/donate)

FOLLOW US ON:

