

Watershed Restoration Coalition

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The WRC would not be a successful watershed group without the support and commitment of landowners, community members and local government. We thank you and hope you will continue your support.

Board Members:

John Hollenback, Chairman (DLVCD)

Don Ueland, Vice-Chairman (MHCD)

Susie Johnson, Sec.-Treasurer (DLVCD)

Rem Mannix (Powell County)

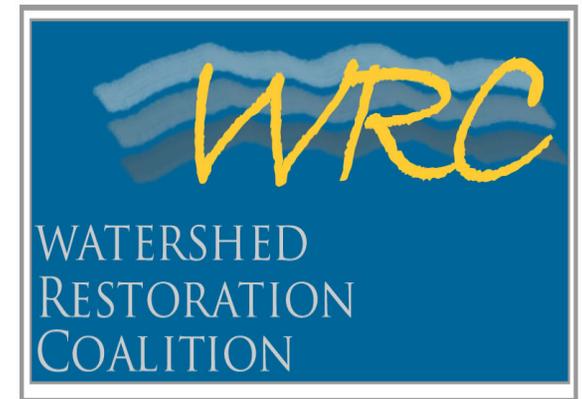
Dan McQueary (Landowner)

Karen Knudsen (CFC)

John Moodry (BSB)

Cam Balentine (MHCD)

Bruce Thomas (Landowner)



*Restoring water quality, fisheries and wildlife, while protecting the heritage and open space of the Upper Clark Fork River Basin through conservation, restoration and stewardship practices .*

As we look to the future in the upper Clark Fork , we see great changes on the horizon. Between clean up and large-scale restoration efforts, all aspects of our lives, including economic development , land use, water use and education are facing changes. All combined, these different elements make up our quality of life and set the stage for the next generations. At the WRC, we are looking at where we stand, and where we want to go.



The time to act is now and we view it as our responsibility -as landowners and community members -to ensure that we preserve our way of life in this valley and leave it a better place than we found it.

The Watershed Restoration Coalition is committed to developing and implementing conservation, restoration and agricultural practices that will continue to improve the quality of life in the Upper Clark Fork.



Polluted portion of river and bare ground resulting from tailings pollution

The Clark Fork River basin covers approximately 22,000 square miles before joining the Columbia River. As a result of mining and smelting activities, the EPA identified 15 extensive sites in the upper basin that together comprise the largest superfund site in the country. Environmental degradation, caused by historic mining, smelting, logging and agriculture has severely impaired the upper Clark Fork River and its tributaries. Impacts have resulted in reduced freshwater aquatic habitats and native fish populations, barren riparian and upland areas, stream dewatering and reduced native vegetation due to the introduction of noxious weeds.

The WRC's focus area is located in the uppermost 120 miles of the Clark Fork River and its tributaries in western Montana. The upper Clark Fork River Basin consists

of approximately 42% private lands, of which, 82% are agricultural lands.

Promoting practices that preserve large intact landscapes increases the protection of critical habitat for fish, wildlife and other aquatic species. A large portion of this work is accomplished through successful partnerships with landowners that enhance and benefit both the resource and the landowner. Through the efforts of the WRC, groups that were at one time polarized have joined together to collaborate and bring about change in the upper Clark Fork watershed. The WRC provides landowners a place at the table for basin conservation and restoration planning.

The WRC is an energetic, on the ground organization with big-picture goals . Through local and regional support along with partner collaboration and cooperation, we will be able to successfully achieve our mission as an organization and community.

