

Let it Snow so Lolo Creek Flows!

Please Join us at our
Annual Holiday Celebration and Fundraiser

December 15th 5:30-8:00 PM

Traveler's Rest State Park

**6717 US Hwy 93
Lolo, MT 59847**



Free Food and Beer

Live Music & Story Telling

Silent Auction



We Challenge You

To Help Us Raise \$2000 during the month of December!

We have recently received a challenge grant from the Cinnabar Foundation in the amount of \$2,000.

This money will go towards developing a stream bank stabilization plan and improve the water quality of Lolo Creek. In order to receive \$2,000 for the project, we must raise \$2,000 from the community.

Please help us reach this goal and Donate Today in one of two ways: Mail a check, or Visit us at lolowatershed.org and click on "Donate"

Every Dollar Makes a Difference!

A big thanks to the Cinnabar Foundation for this opportunity!



Lolo Watershed Group

PO Box 1354

Lolo, MT 59847

2016 Annual Report



Lolo Watershed Group

P.O. Box 1354

Lolo, MT 59847

www.lolowatershed.org

Letter from the Director

The Lolo Watershed Group has seen an exciting year of learning about our watershed and sharing through outreach programs. We wish to thank all those who have granted funding for our work and who have taken interest in learning more about our water budget. We are excited to see reports and restoration work coming to completion



through a DEQ grant and look forward working on strategic plan development with a Watershed Coordinator through a DNRC grant and streambank stabilization planning with help of a Cinnabar Grant. We so appreciated our Big Sky Watershed Corp members and look forward to future funding partnerships to continue this program. I would like to especially thank the Ground Water Investigation Program, the DNRC 's Statewide Monitoring and Assessment Program, Montana Climate Office, and many others who are participating in studies in our watershed. Finally, I would especially like to thank the many landowners who have offered their time and property access to help us all understand the groundwater, surface water, and climate dynamics in the Lolo Creek Watershed and all of you who help encourage us to learn and share.

Board Members

Vacant, **President**

Vacant, **Vice President**

Bobbie Bartlette, **President Emeritus**

Kascie Herron, **Treasurer/Secretary**

Tom Morarre, **Agriculture Representative**

Michele Landquist, **Agriculture Representative**

Neva Larson, **Agriculture Representative**

Tana Doyle, **Community Representative**

Educate:

- **WEN Sediment Monitoring**

Watershed Education Network (WEN) has been helping to create a sample analysis plan (SAP) in order to guide sediment trend monitoring for project effectiveness in the Lolo Creek watershed. This information will help evaluate the long-term effects of efforts to reduce sediment loading, while concurrently exposing middle-high school aged students to the concerns and relevant scientific evaluations of Lolo Creek's health.

- **Riprap Planting Investigation**

Tess Scanlon, a Masters student at UM, has completed a project for the Department of Environmental Quality to perform a feasibility study for a riparian planting along Lolo Creek. She researched the feasibility of decreasing sediment loading into the creek by way of increasing the riparian habitat to create a buffer zone between the road and the creek. Tess focused her study primarily on sites lined with riprap, considering these areas are not vegetated and leave the creek unprotected from sedimentation due to traction sand. Her full report can be found on our website at lolowatershed.org/what-we-do.

- **Lolo Watershed Study**

The Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) and Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology (MBMG) have come together to create a statewide program to install real-time stream gages, create an online database, and conduct watershed studies. The Lolo Watershed Group was successful in nominating the lower reaches of Lolo Creek to be studied by MBMG Groundwater Investigation Program (GWIP). Find the real-time data on our website at <http://lolowatershed.org/water-monitoring/>

Education Cont.

- **Big Sky Watershed Corps (BSWC)**

Lolo Watershed Group is in its second year of hiring a full time BSWC member. The BSWC member is responsible with planning and volunteer generation for our quarterly outreach events, creating quarterly newsletters, updating our social media, hosting education events, helping build our capacity through grant writing and volunteer generation, writing reports, among many other possibilities.

We have also secured a SWCDM Mini-grant to educate the Lolo middle school on stream health which will be led by our 2017 BSWC member this Spring!

Restore:

Through our funding from the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), LWG was able to team up with the Clark Fork Coalition to complete a revegetation project on a stretch of Lolo Creek, which was badly burned in the 2013 fire. Thanks to the help of over 75 volunteers, over two days, we were able to plant over 1,100 trees improving 840 feet of streambank! This project will help to stabilize the stream bank and prevent sedimentation into the creek.

Finance:

