FINAL REPORT

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Teton Basin Aquifer Recharge Demonstration: Expanding Innovative Irrigation Management Practices, Evaluating On-Farm, Ecosystem Improvements

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Project Summary

Through this grant Friends of the Teton River (FTR) worked with local water managers to pilot the Teton Basin Aquifer Recharge Project, an innovative new approach to water management in Eastern Idaho that improves late season water availability for the benefit of local farmers and critical instream and riparian habitats. Through the Teton Basin Aquifer Recharge Project, FTR worked with private water rights holders (farmers and ranchers) to incentivize early season water management strategies that increase aquifer recharge and slow the timing of water leaving the Teton Basin, generating measurable benefits for farms and critical habitats. The project approach included: 1) working with local irrigators in Teton Valley to incentivize changes in irrigation practices to contribute more to aquifer recharge and enhance late season Teton River flows 2) conducting robust monitoring of aquifer response, stream response, and wildlife health to precisely measure the benefits of additional recharge and 3) building a long-term model to ensure the ongoing viability of the approach. The project served to increase the amount of water recharged to the local aquifer; increase the number of participants involved in the program; evaluate and measure ecological benefits to critical habitats resulting from recharge; and establish a long-term model for the ongoing viability of the approach.

Project Goal and Objectives

The primary **goal** of the Teton Basin Aquifer Recharge project was to significantly increase the amount of water recharged into the local aquifer and quantify the resulting increased late season base flows in the Teton River to benefit agricultural producers, residents, fish and wildlife. Within this overarching goal, the project **objectives** were to:

- 1. Restore an additional 15,000 acre feet of water per year in the local aquifer above 2017 levels: Through work with Teton Basin water managers, FTR sought to restore 15,000 acre feet of water per year in the local aquifer. Hydrologic modeling suggests this volume of recharge will increase late season base flows in the Teton River by ~20 cfs. In most years, this volume of water will be sufficient to extend the irrigation season by approximately one week (of huge value in an area with a limited growing season and high-water rental costs), improve instream flows for numerous sensitive aquatic species, and keep stream temperatures below critical thresholds for Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout. Late season stream flows (July-September) in the Teton River are often less than 200 cfs, so this volume is a significant improvement for instream and riparian habitats.
- 2. Work with aquifer recharge participants to monitor/measure water quantity/quality, soil health and on-farm productivity: Through work with project partners FTR carefully monitored the impacts of recharge activities on instream habitat (both instream flows and stream temperatures) and aquifer levels. This monitoring was critical for tracking the actual benefits of the program.
- 3. *Expand the number of participants in the program through targeted outreach and information dissemination:* Through continued relationship building between local water managers and the conservation community FTR sought to expand the program and enhance its effectiveness. Years 1-2 of the project will focused on developing outreach materials and encouraging peer to peer outreach through the Teton Basin Water Users Association (TBWUA). Year 3 targeted dissemination to a broader audience.
- 4. Evaluate ecological response to increased stream flows, specifically in native YCT populations in the Teton River. FTR gathered and evaluated basin-wide fisheries data in

order to measure the impacts of enhanced aquifer recharge on native trout populations. This data was gathered in Years 1-3 of the project. In Year 3, the data was assessed by an external science review committee composed of regional experts.

5. Work with TBWUA to develop a long-term plan to sustain the Teton Basin Aquifer Recharge Program as a locally proven best management practice that supports working lands, water supply, and natural resource conservation outcomes. While the program does not aim to develop a new NRCS standard, project participants established a local best management practice. The project partners developed the long-term organizational structure, funding model, and on-farm practices necessary to sustain the program beyond Year 3 of the project period.

Project Background

The Teton Basin, in southeast Idaho contains one of the most important confluences of productive agricultural lands and critical wildlife habitats in the Rocky Mountain West. Home to the largest private lands wetland complex in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, the basin provides important habitat for many species migrating in and out of Grand Teton and Yellowstone National Parks, serves as one of the last strongholds for Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout (YCT), provides Trumpeter Swan nesting habitat, and is home to numerous other species listed by both Idaho and Wyoming as Species of Greatest Conservation Need. The abundance of water is the single most important factor in maintaining critical wildlife habitat in the region. Most of the water in the valley is managed by private water rights holders. Thus, developing locally based, collaborative water conservation solutions is essential to benefiting both water managers and watershed health.

In the Teton Basin, the aquifer feeds abundant wetlands as well as the tributary streams that serve as critical spawning habitat for YCT. The shallow aquifer in the Teton Basin also serves to slow down snowmelt leaving the valley: snowmelt moves more slowly through the shallow soils and alluvium than it does over the ground and in rivers and streams, and this cold water emerges into surface flows later in the season. Aquifer recharge, by natural means (beaver dam retention, spring flooding) or water management efforts (flood irrigation), has historically ensured that sufficient late season water is available in the Teton River. The effects of climate change, however, are reducing average annual snowpack in the Teton Region, and causing runoff to occur earlier in the spring than ever before. At the same time, in the name of efficiency, farmers have also adjusted irrigation techniques, switching away from flood irrigation systems to sprinkler irrigation techniques that use less water. This transition began in the early 1970s and quickly spread throughout the basin. An unforeseen consequence of this switch has been a decline in rates of recharging groundwater levels. All of these factors, together, have led to a measurable reduction in the amount of groundwater returns that sustain the Teton River in the late summer and fall, when fish, wildlife, and farmers need it most.

Since the mid-1970s, the Teton Valley aquifer (groundwater level) has dropped 25-50 feet throughout the watershed, on average. Corresponding with this decline, the ratio of late season to early season flows has declined. In essence, less snowpack now flows through the aquifer and instead remains as surface flows with the effect being that water flows out of the Teton Basin earlier in the season. The decreased late season flow results in less water available to local farmers as well as diminished aquatic and riparian habitat and warmer stream temperatures, putting stress on native YCT, an indicator species for overall instream habitat health. This project

was designed to address issues of low late season flows and elevated temperatures by recharging the local aquifer as a means of boosting late season return flows.

In recent years, the agricultural community, conservation organizations, local government, and private well owners have recognized that the declining aquifer and late-season water availability are community-wide issues. In response, these interests formed the Teton Water Users Association, now the Teton Basin Water Users Association (TBWUA) in 2017. TBWUA works collaboratively to identify and implement local and science-driven solutions—including conservation farming techniques and innovative water management strategies—to address declining water supplies and watershed health, while improving on-farm productivity and viability for the long-term. The TBWUA vision is to represent "farmers who depend on water for crop and livestock production, municipalities that require clean and adequate water for residents, and conservation interests seeking water for fish and wildlife."

In 2018, FTR partnered with the Henry's Fork Foundation (HFF), LegacyWorks Group (LWG) and the other TBWUA members to pilot an aquifer recharge program to protect the streams, wildlife habitat, farms, and drinking water in the region. This program incentivizes farmers to manage plentiful early-season irrigation water in ways that increase aquifer recharge. In practice, this means opening canals earlier in the season and utilizing more flood irrigation techniques in select locations. Modeling from HFF shows that recharging the aquifer with 30,000 additional acre-feet of water annually would increase the ratio of average late season/early season flows from its current 40% to 60%, significantly benefitting instream habitat. The water that flows from the aquifer into streams is insulated and emerges cold, giving the additional benefit of decreasing stream temperatures in mid-summer. The modeling suggests that recharging 10,000-20,000 additional acre feet produces significant measurable benefits for late season flows and temperatures in the Teton River.

In 2018, the pilot program engaged two canal companies to run recharge water through four separate canals. In that first pilot year, participating irrigators recharged 2,504 acre feet and FTR was able to calculate processes and methods needed to accurately monitor the program. FTR worked closely with the participants and the TBWUA to assess how to recharge more water and prioritize those locations most effectively. Significant trust built with the farming community allowed for expansion of the program in 2019. That year, six water managers participated with 15 canals and participants successfully recharged 10,533 acre-feet. There was a measurable increase in the ratio of late to early season flows, reversing a multiyear decline. However, this was just one water year of many, and the effort needed to be repeated in a series of consecutive years to produce a statistically significant measurement of the benefits. This grant allowed for the effort to be repeated, for a 3-year period extending from 2021-2023, and to expand the success of the 2019 pilot.

Project Methods

FTR and the Teton Basin Water Users Association have worked extensively with project partners (including members of the steering committee as well as local and state agencies) to devise methods to implement each of the five project objectives:

Objective 1: Restore an additional 15,000 acre feet of water per year in the local aquifer above 2017 levels. In coordination with the Teton Water Users Association and its members, FTR

project personnel worked with local irrigators to implement water management strategies that lead to aquifer recharge. Specific methods utilized on farms include increasing volumes of water diverted during peak runoff times through canals with high loss rates, flood irrigated pastures during early seasons that have previously either not been irrigated or have been watered exclusively with sprinkler irrigation and using gated pipe on piped systems to increase recharge. All additional recharge activities will take place during early season runoff when water is abundant and water demand is low.

Objective 2: Work with aquifer recharge participants to monitor/measure water quantity/quality, soil health and on-farm productivity. Following a site visit to verify delivery locations and methods, project personnel installed pressure loggers on all participating canals to measure the volume of recharge water delivered through each system. Measurements are regularly taken on a network of monitoring wells around the valley to monitor the impacts to aquifer levels. Impacts to instream flow levels in the Teton River are measured by comparing observed flows at a USGS gauge with a sophisticated water model based on more than 70 years of data that projects flows at that gauge in the absence of additional recharge. Soil health was measured using organic matter soil tests at select participating farms.

Objective 3: Expand the number of participants in the program through targeted outreach and dissemination. The TBWUA formed to address the multiple impacts that decreasing water supplies are having on Teton Valley. The collaboration has been spearheaded by local agricultural interests, water managers, and conservation groups. While participation was already robust, the TBWUA used year to year project results to encourage peer to peer education in order to encourage broader project participation, particularly among farmers. The TBWUA hosted a series of meetings each year, as well as several steering committee meeting to strategize on funding and implementation and build communications materials in partnership with FTR aimed at targeting water managers, farmers, conservation groups, and downstream beneficiaries of the project.

Objective 4: Evaluate ecological response to increased stream flows, specifically in native YCT populations in the Teton River. FTR utilized its ongoing basin wide (both mainstem Teton River and tributaries) monitoring regime (includes electrofishing surveys to develop population estimates and passive integrated transponder (PIT) tags to monitor YCT movement) to assess impacts of aquifer recharge on YCT populations. FTR's Science Review Committee, composed of Dr. Robert Al-Chokhachy (USGS), Dr. Rob VanKirk (HFF), United States Forest Service, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Wyoming Game and Fish, and Teton Regional Land Trust scientists, were responsible for assessing the overall impacts.

Friends of the Teton River also established a network of stream temperature monitoring stations to measure temperature impacts from the flow changes. This data is a leading indicator of water quality impacts and was also be compared to YCT population estimates/assessments.

Objective 5: Work with the TBWUA to develop a long-term plan to sustain the Teton Basin Aquifer Recharge Program as a locally proven best management practice that supports working lands, water supply and natural resource conservation outcomes. The TBWUA developed a series of on- farm best management practices for maximizing aquifer recharge as part of the program. These BMPs were informed by local water managers' direct experiences in the program and will be vetted among other participants at regular TWUA meetings. Additionally, and potentially most importantly, the TBWUA worked to develop a long-term legal structure and funding mechanisms for the project. This was accomplished through a series of meetings throughout the project period.

Results

FTR and the Teton Basin Water Users Association have worked extensively with project partners (including members of the steering committee as well as local and state agencies) to achieve results associated with each of the five project objectives.

Objective 1: Restore an additional 15,000 acre feet of water per year in the local aquifer above 2017 levels.

In order to achieve this objective, each year of the project period (2020 – 2023), FTR convened meetings with the Teton Basin Water Users Association to organize recharge activities in advance of the water year. Generally, two large group meetings were hosted in the spring of each year (often February/March and April/May) during which the following would be discussed: identification of participating irrigation entities/ditches; discussion of expansion of program through the addition of new participants or the addition of new recharge locations; lessons learned from previous year; water administrative/policy updates; and estimated start date for recharge to commence, based upon current snow conditions and weather outlook. Participants included existing members of the Teton Basin Water Users Association who has previously participated in the recharge program, as well as potential future participants in the recharge program. In addition, individual, one-on-one meetings with each participant were conducted by Friends of the Teton River staff to answer any site-specific recharge questions and enroll irrigators in the program through the execution of formal contracts. (Milestones 1.a. and 1.b.)

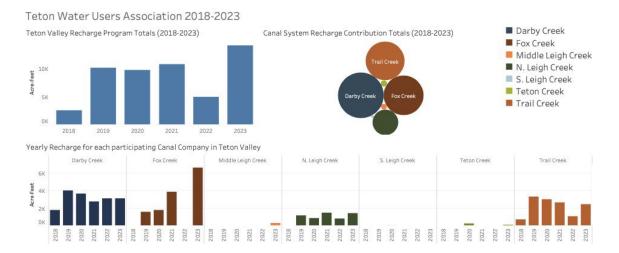
Then, once the ditch systems were sufficiently clear of snow and overnight temperatures in Teton Valley consistently rose above freezing, enrolled participants would begin to conduct recharge activities by opening the headgates of their unlined ditch systems. Water was generally recharged by project participants beginning sometime in early May through the end of June, though, year to year, the recharge window shifted due to the presence/absence of cold, snowy spring conditions and the presence/absence of drought. (Milestone 1.c.)

Over the course of the project period the quantity of recharge increased from 9,616AF in 2020 to over 14,016AF in 2023, just shy of the 15,000AF goal. Through the project period, it was learned that the following factors have the greatest influence on aquifer recharge activities:

- Elevation/Temperature: The reality that Teton Valley rests at 6,200 feet, sitting on the Western flank of the Teton Range, creates logistical challenges for conducting recharge. It is not uncommon to experience below freezing temperatures and blizzard conditions well into early May and occasionally June. As such, years which exhibit unseasonably cold spring weather conditions served to delay the start of recharge. Further, the ground must thaw for it to readily accept water into the aquifer.
- Drought: Whereas cold, snowy spring conditions delay the start of recharge, drought conditions result in an early end. The water rights in Teton Valley are relatively junior. As such, when drought is prevalent Teton Valley experiences early calls for water, requiring the curtailment the high flow water rights utilized for recharge activities. As such, while

recharge activities generally persist through the end of June, during a drought year, like 2022, water was curtailed in mid-June.

• Project Perception: The success of this project hinges on incredibly strong, durable relationships that can weather stressful situations. FTR has invested literally decades into building and strengthening relationships with valued agricultural partners. And yet, those relationships were tested in 2022. This was a drought year and the region experienced early, unexpected water curtailments. This caused one of the participating canal companies to pull out of the recharge program, for fear of how the monitoring data would be used by a conservation organization like FTR. FTR and the Teton Basin Recharge Program steering committee worked diligently throughout 2022 and early 2023 to conduct education and develop strategies to ensure this type of breakdown in relationship and trust does not occur again. And because of swift and aggressive action by the TWUA steering committee, 2023 was a banner year for the recharge program as participation to the program was restored and increased.



The following graphs depict the quantity of water recharged each year and canal system contribution to recharge. Please visit <u>www.tetonwaterusersassociation.org</u> and click on the "Results" tab for additional information and discussion.

Objective 2: Work with aquifer recharge participants to monitor/measure water quantity/quality, soil health and on-farm productivity.

To monitor and quantify the impact of aquifer recharge on instream flows, aquifer levels, water quality (temperature), and on-farm productivity, an incredible amount of monitoring was conducted throughout the project period. The purpose of the various monitoring efforts is to quantify the amount of recharge accomplished and monitor overall response resulting to local aquifer levels, instream levels and temperature, and on-farm productivity. The following monitoring data was collected each year of the project period:

• Quantification of the Amount of Recharge Accomplished Annually - This was determined through the installation, calibration and analysis of flow logger data collected from each

participating recharge site. Flow loggers were generally installed between late April to early May. (Milestone 2.a.)

- Monitoring of Teton River (Flow & Temp) and Aquifer Response Collection of main stem Teton River instream flow data, groundwater levels via monitoring wells, and Teton River stream temperature. (Milestones 2.b., 2.c., and 2.d.)
- Soil Health and On-Farm Productivity On each demonstration field soil health and crop productivity tests are performed to help assess bmp implementation successes, understand baseline soil conditions, and/or track soil health changes over time. Baseline soil health test results from past tests are compared to future tests on the same fields to monitor changes over time. (Milestone 2.e.)

Each year a technical summary of annual monitoring results for water quantity, water quality, soil health, and on-farm productivity (each outlined above) are produced. To summarize the information collected in 2023, FTR produced four technical summaries, each of which is attached to this report, including:

- 1. Summary of the quantity of water delivered for recharge, report titled "2023_IGW_TechMemo".
- 2. Summary of Teton River and groundwater (i.e. aquifer) response resulting from recharge, report titled "Monitoring report_2024".
- 3. Summary of Teton River temperature response, report titled "2023 Teton River at Felt Dam Temperature Analysis".
- Summary of soil health and on-farm productivity resulting from various on-farm practices, report titled "2023 On Farm Summary Report" and raw data files for Organic Matter and Haney Soil Test results titled "CIG.OM.Haney.2021.2022.2023".

Given that this is the final report for the project, in addition to analyzing the 2023 data, each of the aforementioned reports also contains a project summary analysis which knits together, and analyzes, the data collected from all three years of the project period. (Milestone 2.f. and Milestone 2.g., Deliverables)

Objective 3: Expand the number of participants in the program through targeted outreach and dissemination.

To expand the number of participants in the program FTR and the Teton Basin Water Users Association used year to year project results and peer to peer education to encourage broader project participation, particularly among farmers. Specifically, FTR worked with the Teton Basin Water Users Association to develop outreach materials and educational opportunities targeting water managers, farmers, conservation groups, and beneficiaries of the project. These materials and educational opportunities address technical, on farm issues, as well as overall project design and serve as jumping off point for inviting new participants to engage in the recharge program (Milestone 3.c.). Materials and educational opportunities include:

• Annual project handbook, disseminated to local/regional water managers: Each yar of the project period the results of the project were compiled into a project handbook. The handbook gives a summary of the Teton Valley Aquifer Recharge Program; provides a description of the water year and environmental conditions; depicts the amount of water that was recharged into the local aquifer, by sub-drainage; lists the participants in the program;

and identifies lessons learned. The 2023 Project Handbook is attached to this grant report, titled "Project_Handbook_2023." (Milestone 3.a., Deliverable)

Host tours to facilitate peer-to-peer learning: Each year of the project FTR hosted an aquifer recharge tour and an on-farm tour. The aquifer recharge tour, hosted in the spring of each year, provided members of the public and Teton Valley producers with a chance to see recharge activities in action, gain a greater understanding for the benefit of enhancing recharge in Teton Valley, and learn about the "nuts and bolts" of the program from an administrative perspective. The Farm Tour, often held in August or September, then featured soil health education, stream restoration, innovative water management strategies, and equipment demonstrations. Together, the two emphasize the unique growing conditions in Teton Valley and the creative solutions that producers in Teton Valley implement to address novel challenges. In 2023 the aquifer recharge tour occurred June 1, 2023 and the farm tour occurred August 10, 2023. Approximately seventy-five citizens, agricultural producers, nonprofit agency representatives, and municipality leaders enjoyed the opportunity to learn about agriculture, recharge, and build relationships around successful agriculture operations in the watershed. These tours served as a highlight for the agriculture community to share successes and challenges with peers and to build awareness of the importance of agriculture and recharge to Teton Valley's local economy through connection with members of the public. These tours are truly a highlight! (Milestone 3.b.)

A final outreach material was produced and attached to this grant report, titled "Teton Basin Water Users Aquifer Recharge Program Case Study." (Milestone 3.d., Deliverable). Intended as an outreach document to inform water managers, including those in other headwater basins considering replicating this project, the case study document outlines project results as well as key elements of the project including project structure, monitoring regimes, funding mechanisms, conservation targets/metrics, communications structure and next steps.

Recharge Tour Photographs - June 1, 2023 - 25 Attendees





Farm Tour - August 10, 2023 - 50 Attendees



Objective 4: Evaluate ecological response to increased stream flows, specifically in native YCT populations in the Teton River.

To evaluate the ecologic response of conducting recharge activities in the Teton River Watershed, FTR distributed the monitoring data (discussed in Objective 2) to the Science Review Committee (comprised of regional Yellowstone cutthroat trout experts, federal and state agency personnel, and regional conservation organizations) which, in turn, utilized the data to inform, evaluate, and, ultimately, provide direction to FTR such that it may adaptively manage conservation work in the Teton River Watershed. Additionally, the data and Science Review Committee recommendations where then shared with the Teton Basin Water Users Association to inform aquifer recharge planning for future years.

The Science Review Committee meeting was convened in the spring of each year of the project period. (Milestone 4.b.) At that time FTR, agency partners and regional experts reviewed all available monitoring data collected to date (discussed in Objective 2, above), as well as any new fisheries data available, such as the results of the bi-annual Teton River fisheries survey (completed in 2021 and again in 2023, Milestone 4.a.) and annual summary reports outlining ecological impacts to YCT and stream temperature (Milestone 4.c). Throughout the project period the Science Review Committee was encouraged by the potential project benefits associated with the program and identified <u>no</u> negative impacts to YCT.

The 2023 fisheries report, which includes a summary of analyzed impacts to fisheries/habitat resulting from aquifer recharge throughout the project period is attached to this report, titled "2023 Teton River Fisheries Report." (Milestone 4.d., Deliverable)

Objective 5: Work with the TBWUA to develop a long-term plan to sustain the Teton Basin Aquifer Recharge Program as a locally proven best management practice that supports working lands, water supply and natural resource conservation outcomes. Project participants have established local best management practice for the successful implementation of a high elevation aquifer recharge program. The project partners have developed a strategy to ensure long-term implementation of the recharge program. The strategies, memorialized into a published *fact sheet* for the program, identifies: (1) a series of Aquifer Recharge BMPs, on-farm and regional practices which help to maximize recharge; (2) describes the organizational structural needs for effectively implementing the program; (3) identifies productive incidental recharge strategies and the monitoring efforts necessary to quantify recharge efforts; and (4) outlines tips for engaging with local community around the importance of recharge. This document, titled "Aquifer Recharge BMPs", has created to convey the success of the project and will be used to build the program into the future. (Milestone 5.b., Deliverable).

Additionally, and potentially most importantly, the TBWUA has worked to develop a long-term legal structure and funding mechanisms for the project. (Milestone 5.a.) Over the past year, the TBWUA formed into its own 501(c)(3), identifying leaders within the agricultural sector and relevant conservation sector to serve on its board of directors. The newly formed entity engaged in a two-meeting strategic planning session, allowing it to identify viable grant and non-grant opportunities to maintain the recharge program now and into the future. The organization intends to structure itself such that it can generate revenue, on a fee for service basis, by filling needs/gaps experienced by local agricultural users, particularly irrigation companies, in Teton Valley. These fee for service offerings will generate revenue that can be used to match future grant opportunities, ultimately being used to maintain, and expand the incidental recharge program in the future. Additionally, due to proposed legislative changes that would influence water administration in Teton Valley, the TBWUA has begun to explore how it might utilize the incidental recharge program to mitigate for, or offset, out of priority water use in Teton Valley. This is truly significant, because failure to generate a plan in the face of looming water administrative changes my decimate the local farming economy, irreparably changing the landscape of this special place forever.

Project Outputs

- Teton Water Users Association Website: <u>https://www.tetonwaterusersassociation.org</u>
- Friends of the Teton River Website, which highlights the Aquifer Recharge project: <u>https://www.tetonwater.org/featured-work/aquifer-recharge/</u>
- Friends of the Teton River's 2022 Summer Newsletter, Pg 10: https://www.tetonwater.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/FTR_Newsletter_Summer2022.pdf
- Teton Valley News Article, "Farm Tour a boon of information for ag, river, communities": <u>https://www.tetonvalleynews.net/news/farm-tour-a-boon-of-information-for-ag-river-</u> <u>communities/article_77cc9745-9d07-55b9-9013-b7d1024820dd.html</u>
- LegacyWorks Summer 2022 Update: <u>https://www.tetonvalleynews.net/news/farm-tour-a-boon-of-information-for-ag-river-communities/article_77cc9745-9d07-55b9-9013-b7d1024820dd.html</u>
- Teton Valley News Article, "FTR offers full slate of field tours on water projects": <u>https://www.tetonvalleynews.net/freeaccess/ftr-offers-full-slate-of-field-tours-on-water-projects/article_0716972c-0191-5d25-8b94-8eb59850ed16.html</u>

Social Media Outreach (examples): ٠



2 friendsofthetetonriver

friendsofthetetonriver On Friday. FTR hosted our first 2022 field tour! We bundled up and headed out with a hardy group of project partners and interested community members to learn about the Teton Valley Aquifer Rechange Program. This program was led by FTR and the Teton Water Users Association (TWUA). a ich is a group made up of agricultural producers, ups. municipal and county leaders. and experts ir

We violted the Trail Creek irrigation system and learned how agricultural partners are voluntarily using incidental recharge to against the local augline during systing nu-netf. Once in the underground aquifer, this vater eventually percolates tack into tributaries and the Teton River 1-3 months later, providing additional flows in July-September, Recharging the aquifer when water is plentful is an "imestment" in our water resources later in the summer, when it's needed most.

his work is supported by the Conservation Innovation Grants rogram at USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service.

loin us for more project tours this summer! Link in bio.



Aquifer Recharge Field Tour

June 1;t 10:00am-1:00pm





Join FTR staff and local irrigators to learn about the Teton Water Users Association and incidental aquifer recharge in Teton Valley. Visit water deliv-ery infrastructure dedicated to incidental recharge during spring and early summer.



View insights	Boost post
C Q V Liked by protectourwaterjh and 12 others May 1, 2023	

2

O O V nta and 23 others





Farm Tour Re-cap

The 2023 Farm Tour with partners Teton Soil Conservation District, Idaho and Idaho Farm Bureau was a great success! Participants viewed historic farm equipment, intuitive corrals, and cutting edge spud machinery.

We love learning about Agriculture in the Teton watershed! Big thanks to everyone who made this farm tour a successful community event!





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visit the FTR website tetonwater.org for m Required, participa isofthetetonriver #wate Conference Attendance: January 6, 2022 – C&B/John Deere Continuing Education Event – Soil health monitoring data collected in association with this grant project was presented by Daniel Wilcox, FTR employee, at this popular producer event in Idaho Falls, ID. Photo, below, taken at event.



Project Impacts

The following project metrics summarize the impact of the project:

- Total number of acres impacted: 11,000
- Total number of participating producers: 6
- Total number of participating water delivery entities: 6
- Total number of acre feet recharged: 29,659