



VISION GALLATIN

A BLUEPRINT FOR SUSTAINABILITY

AROUND THE NEXT BEND

The Gallatin River is approaching a crisis point, a rocky set of challenges that seem to extend well beyond a mad mile of whitewater.

Algae blooms are an annual threat; climate change is here now, driving more intense drought; and population growth is pushing our natural resources to the brink.

With this urgency in mind, what steps must we take as a community to protect the river that we love? That is the question that the Gallatin River Task Force set out to answer, and this strategic plan is our blueprint for success.

To ensure that water quality and quantity in the Gallatin improves, science must dictate our actions. Through continued monitoring and analysis, we have prioritized projects with the highest impact.

In order to undo the wrongs of the past and plan for the future, we as a community must commit to a culture of conservation. We are privileged to live in such a special place, and we cannot take its beauty for granted. We can and must become a model for headwaters communities across the country.

With over 20 years of leadership under our belt, the Gallatin River Task Force is ready to take our work to the next level. To keep pace with the environmental challenges facing the Gallatin, we must rapidly expand our organizational capacity in order to proactively implement the strategic priorities outlined in the following pages.

These priorities represent the essential actions for a healthy Gallatin River, and they're well within our reach. The blueprint is laid out before us—now we must get to work building the foundation for sustainability while there is still time.

A VALUE SYSTEM

Conservation is a value in and of itself. As conservationists, we can set an example of how to live in better harmony with nature, not to restrict or impair, but rather to give and preserve.

At the Gallatin River Task Force, it is our goal to give the gift of the Gallatin to future generations. Driving that goal are a set of values upon which we base our work. In addition to our own organizational values, the Task Force adheres to the Watershed Approach to conservation. We believe that taken together, these ethics will produce lasting, long-term solutions to the challenges facing the Gallatin River Watershed.

THE TASK FORCE VALUES:

Scientific Credibility: We are guided by science and best practices.

Collaboration: We value partnerships in our work on water issues.

Watershed Integrity: We work to ensure the integrity of a healthy river through protection and restoration.

Conservation: We promote sustainable management of our water resources.

Education: We believe in the power of education and engagement to build river stewardship.

THE WATERSHED APPROACH:

- IS TIED TO A DISTINCT LAND AREA OR HYDROLOGIC BOUNDARY
- ENSURES BROAD STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT AND INCLUSIVITY
- IS COMMUNITY-BASED AND COMMUNITY-DRIVEN
- RELIES ON LOCAL LEADERSHIP
- ENCOURAGES COLLABORATION WITH PARTNERS
- STRIVES FOR CONSENSUS
- SEEKS TO AVOID LITIGATION AS A CONSERVATION STRATEGY



THE TASK FORCE

Staff

KRISTIN GARDNER, Chief Executive & Science Officer
RYAN NEWCOMB, Managing Director
EMILY O'CONNOR, Conservation Director
ISABELLA VENDRAMIN, Operations Manager

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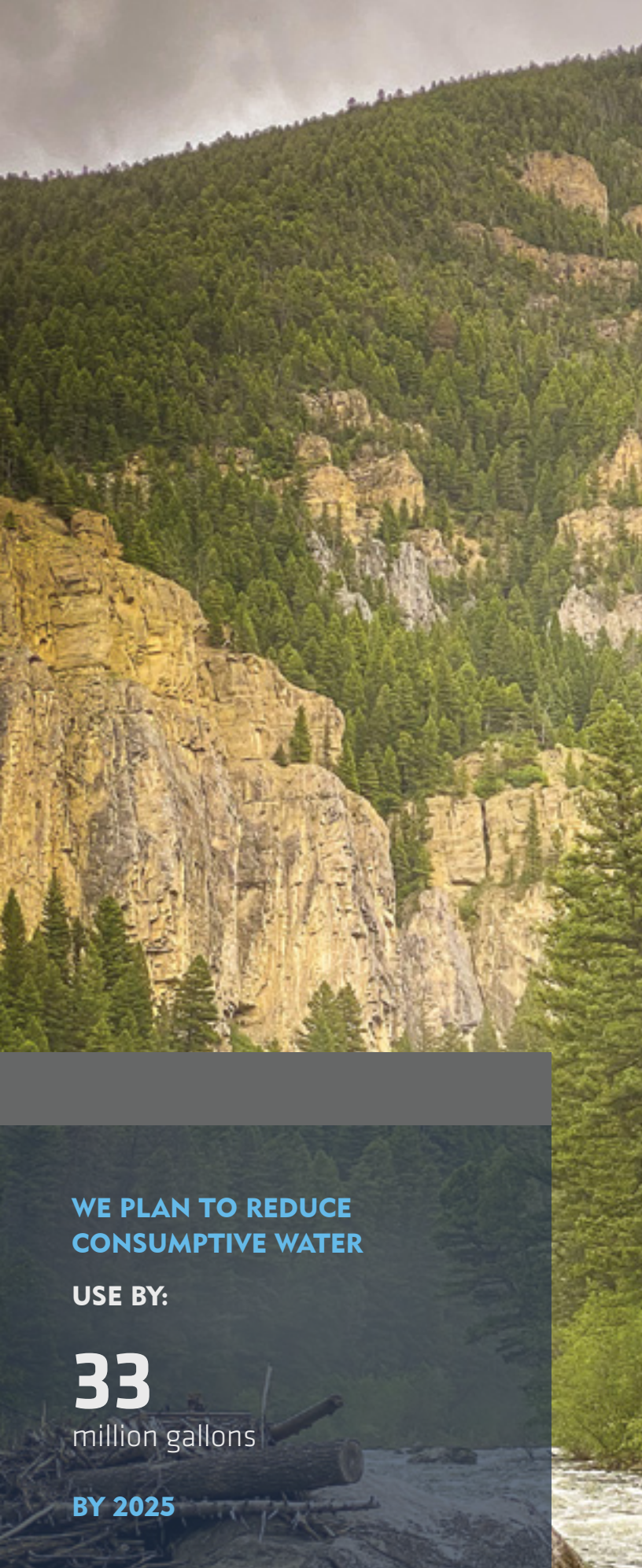
GUIDED BY SCIENCE

AS IT HAS SINCE OUR FOUNDING, DATA WILL CONTINUE TO DRIVE OUR WORK, HELPING US:

- PLAN FOR THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE
- MITIGATE NUISANCE ALGAE GROWTH
- IMPROVE WATER QUALITY & CONSERVE WATER SUPPLY
- RESTORE DEGRADED HABITAT
- AND MONITOR EVOLVING CONDITIONS

Our success is contingent on expanding our monitoring network to reveal unfavorable conditions and how we can improve them.





**WE PLAN TO REDUCE
CONSUMPTIVE WATER**

USE BY:

33
million gallons

BY 2025

INSPIRED BY NATURE

DECADES OF DISTURBANCE HAVE LEFT OUR WATERWAYS FLOODED WITH POLLUTANTS. BY ADOPTING A RESTORE, REDUCE, AND REUSE ETHIC, WE WILL IMPROVE WATER QUALITY AND QUANTITY IN THE GALLATIN RIVER TRIBUTARIES BY:

- SUSTAINABLY MANAGING RIVER-BASED RECREATION BY COMPLETING 100 RESTORATION PROJECTS OVER THE NEXT TEN YEARS IN THE GALLATIN CORRIDOR
- RESTORING THE WEST FORK, SOUTH FORK, AND MIDDLE FORK TO STATE WATER QUALITY STANDARDS
- EXPANDING WASTEWATER REUSE AND RECYCLING OPTIONS THAT BENEFIT THE GALLATIN
- UPGRADING WASTEWATER TREATMENT IN GALLATIN CANYON AND OTHER AREAS ON SEPTIC SYSTEMS
- REDUCING CONSUMPTIVE WATER USE BY 33 MILLION GALLONS BY 2025
- AND DECREASING STORMWATER RUNOFF THROUGH IMPROVED LAND MANAGEMENT POLICIES AND INCREASED COMMUNITY EDUCATION

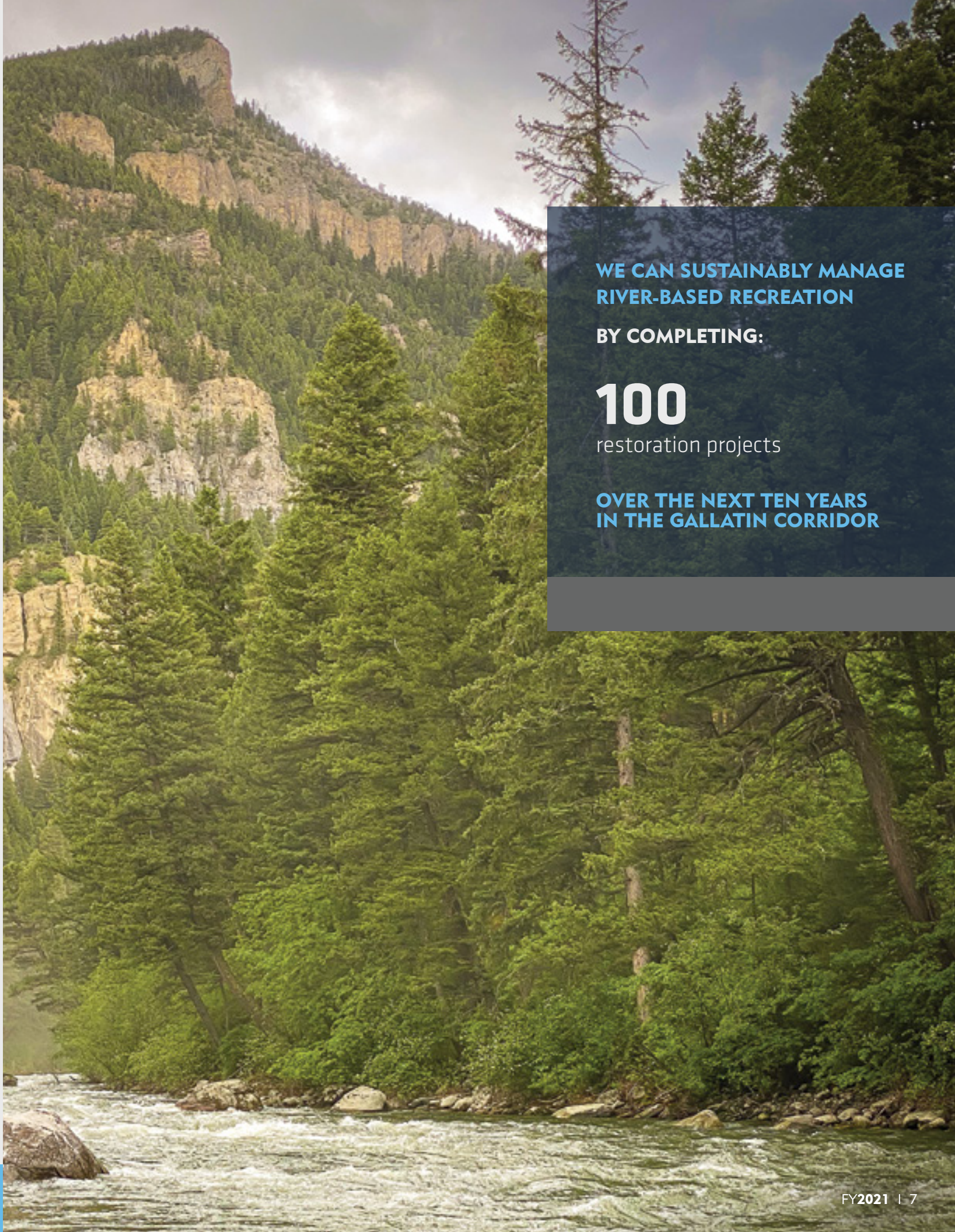
Because the Gallatin is such a special place, we must take every consideration to live sustainably in this headwaters ecosystem.

**WE CAN SUSTAINABLY MANAGE
RIVER-BASED RECREATION**

BY COMPLETING:

100
restoration projects

**OVER THE NEXT TEN YEARS
IN THE GALLATIN CORRIDOR**





CONNECTED TO COMMUNITY

AN ENGAGED AND EDUCATED
COMMUNITY IS ESSENTIAL FOR
THE FUTURE OF RIVER HEALTH.
TO ENSURE WE ARE EFFECTIVELY
COMMUNICATING THE URGENCY
OF THE CHALLENGES FACING THE
GALLATIN, WE WILL:

- DEVELOP AN ADVOCACY
PLATFORM TO TAKE ACTION
FOR THE RIVER
- CREATE AN AMBASSADOR
NETWORK TO AMPLIFY OUR
CONSERVATION MESSAGE
- CREATE AND DISTRIBUTE
INSPIRING COMMUNICATIONS
- AND CONNECT PEOPLE TO THE
GALLATIN THROUGH HOSTED
OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

The Task Force is committed to
leading, but to be successful in
our conservation mission, we must
create an army of river advocates—
joyful warriors on a quest for a
clean, cold river.

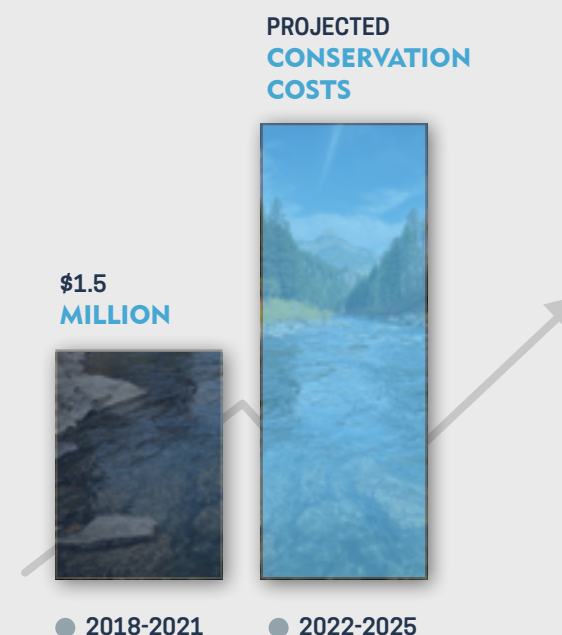


FOCUSED ON THE FUTURE

AS BIG SKY CONTINUES TO DEVELOP, PRESSURE IS INCREASING ON OUR WATER RESOURCES. TO DELIVER FOR A CLEAN, COLD GALLATIN RIVER, WE MUST KEEP PACE BY ACCELERATING OUR IMPACT.

Between 2018 and 2021, the Task Force spent \$1.5 million on conservation and restoration projects. Between 2022 and 2025, that number will more than double if we're to be successful in our mission.

CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION PROJECTS:



COMMITTED TO EXCELLENCE

TO ENSURE THAT OUR IMPACT AND LEADERSHIP CONTINUE TO GROW, WE WILL:

- INCREASE PARTNERSHIPS TO SCALE OUR CONSERVATION IMPACT
- GROW OUR VOLUNTEER WORKFORCE TO EXPAND OUR OPERATIONAL CAPACITY
- MAINTAIN A FULLY STAFFED (6 EMPLOYEES) ORGANIZATION GOVERNED BY A 13-MEMBER BOARD OF DIRECTORS
- AND FULLY FUND OUR ANNUAL BUDGET NEEDS THROUGH DIVERSIFIED SOURCES

By committing to organizational excellence, we are laying the groundwork for success on our path toward a clean, cold Gallatin River.

Now is a time of great need for the Gallatin, but this investment will pay dividends for generations to come. Show your commitment to conservation by donating today at gallatinrivertaskforce.org/donate, or contact Managing Director Ryan Newcomb at ryan@gallatinrivertaskforce.org.

Mission: *To partner with our greater community to lead conservation and inspire stewardship of the Gallatin River Watershed*

Vision: *A healthy Gallatin River Watershed for future generations*

