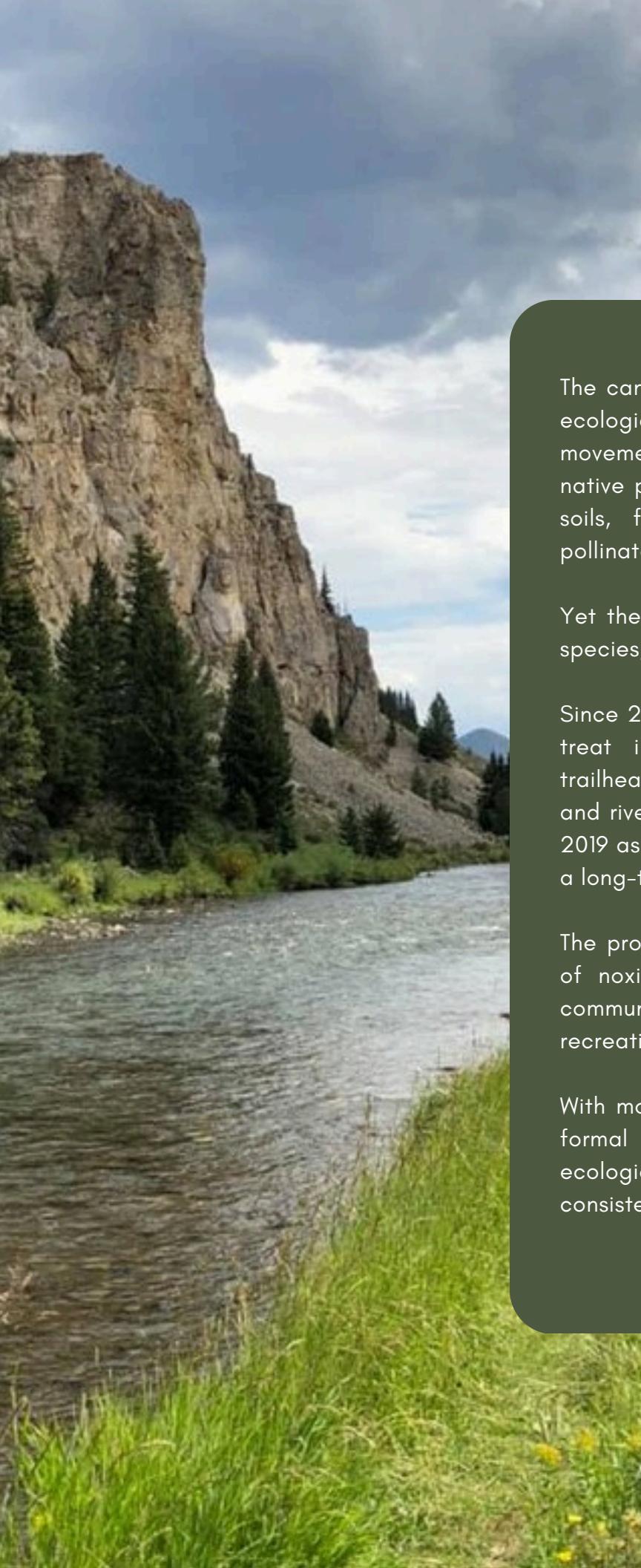




Conserve Our Canyon

2025



Project Background and Ecological Context

The canyon is more than a scenic passageway; it is an ecological corridor where river, upland, and human movement converge. Within this narrow landscape, native plant communities play a vital role by anchoring soils, filtering water, and supporting wildlife and pollinator habitat.

Yet these systems are increasingly strained by invasive species, recreation pressure, and the changing climate.

Since 2007, Grow Wild has led a collaborative effort to treat invasive plants in high-use areas, including trailheads, fishing access sites, campgrounds, roads, and river restoration zones. This work was formalized in 2019 as the Conserve Our Canyon program, establishing a long-term, science-based management framework.

The program focuses on early detection and treatment of noxious weeds, protection of intact native plant communities, and strategic stewardship of high-use recreation sites.

With more than a decade of groundwork preceding its formal launch, the program reflects a fundamental ecological truth: resilience is built gradually, through consistent and place-based management.

Project Goals and Management Approach

Conserve Our Canyon is guided by three core goals:

- 1. Reduce the spread and establishment of invasive species**
- 2. Protect watershed and wildlife values through proactive land stewardship**
- 3. Foster community investment in the long-term health of the canyon**

Management strategies emphasize targeted, low-impact treatments informed by site conditions and species biology. Work is prioritized in areas where intervention can prevent further spread—along trail corridors, river access points, and disturbed soils—while preserving surrounding native vegetation that provides ecological resilience.



2025 Activities and Progress

In 2025, Grow Wild and partners treated **10 priority sites**, directly managing **26 acres** and stewarding **103 acres** across throughout the Gallatin Canyon.

Treatments included hand-pulling and targeted control of noxious weeds, paired with monitoring to assess treatment effectiveness and inform adaptive management.

These efforts contribute to a growing body of cumulative impact. Since 2019, Conserve Our Canyon has worked across **97 sites**, treating **443 acres** within a management area of **1,644 acres** within the canyon.

While annual treatment acreage varies based on conditions and access, each season adds another layer of protection—reducing invasive seed banks, preserving native plant structure, and strengthening ecosystem function over time.

2025

10 Sites



103 Acres

2019-2025

97 Sites



1,644 Acres



Funding and Community Investment

Community support remains central to the program's success. In 2025, Grow Wild secured strong local contributions that were fully matched through partner funding, underscoring sustained community commitment to canyon stewardship.

Since the program's inception, community investment has consistently leveraged significant matching support, reflecting both careful fiscal stewardship and a shared responsibility for protecting the ecological health of the canyon over the long term.

2025

\$7,922

Community Contributions

\$7,830

Matching Funds

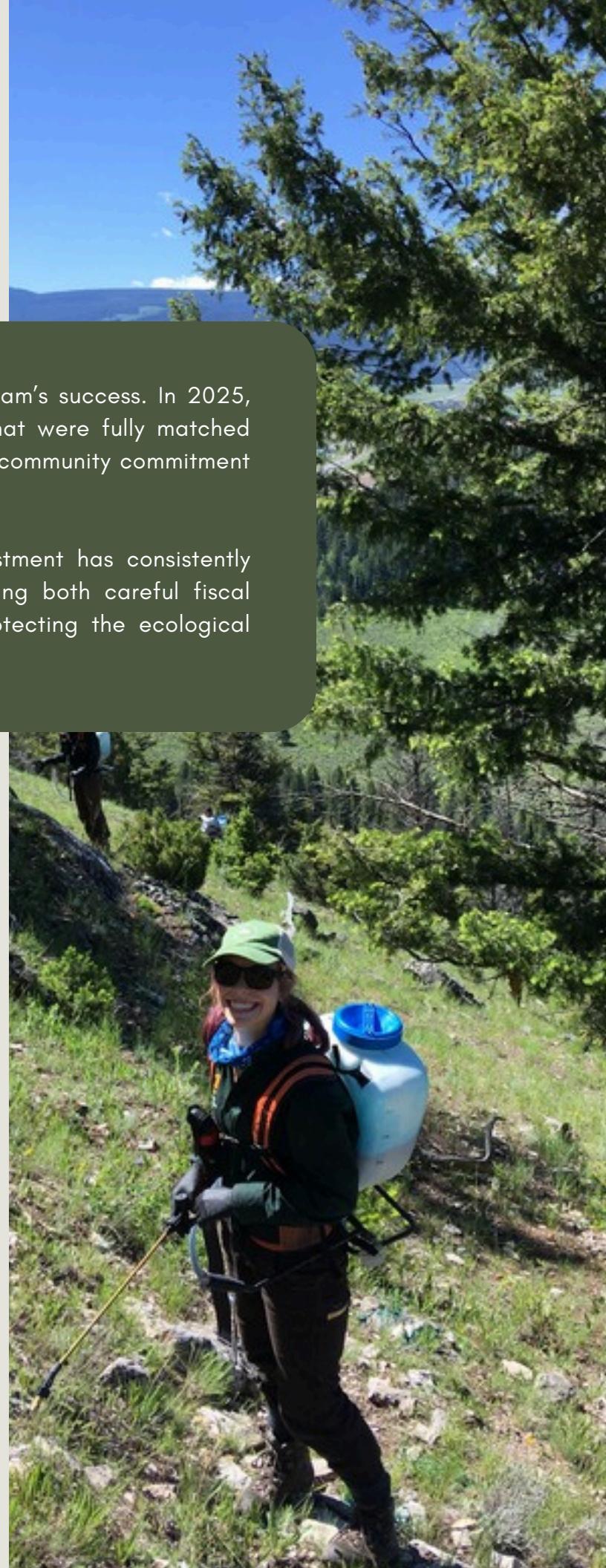
2019-2025

\$32,397

Community Investment

\$71,541

Matching Support Leveraged



Acknowledgments and Gratitude

We extend our sincere thanks to the partners whose expertise, collaboration, and commitment make Conserve Our Canyon possible. In particular, we are grateful to the Gallatin County Weed District, the Custer Gallatin National Forest, and Montana Conservation Corps, whose technical guidance, field support, and shared stewardship ethic strengthen this work year after year.

We also wish to recognize Lone Mountain Land Company as a new partner in 2025. Their additional on-the-ground support proved invaluable in helping offset a week of lost field capacity due to forces outside our control, reinforcing the importance of adaptive partnerships.

We thank the broader community—funders, volunteers, and advocates—who understand that caring for this canyon is an investment in ecological integrity, public safety, and the long-term health of the landscape.

Finally, we offer gratitude to the river and to the canyon itself, an enduring and dynamic part of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. Through its seasonal rhythms and quiet resilience, it reminds us that conservation is not an isolated achievement, but an ongoing relationship sustained by attention and humility.

Partners



Funders

