



Land Stewardship & Conservation



Savannah Rose Photography

Fireweed (*Chamaenerion angustifolium*)

American Pika (*Ochotona princeps*)

2025 Impact Report

Cultivating Resilience

Grow Wild works to conserve and restore the native plant communities that support wildlife, waters, and people across the Upper Gallatin Watershed. Our vision is a landscape where native plants thrive, ecosystems are resilient, and communities are deeply connected to place.

In 2025, that vision felt both urgent and hopeful. Across our region, shifting climate patterns are reshaping seasons and stressing species adapted to narrow margins. However, science also shows that connected habitats, diverse native flora, and thoughtful stewardship can buffer change and sustain life.

The pika, perched among alpine scree, pauses with a mouthful of fireweed. Small, alert, and industrious, this high-country harvester relies on cool-temperatures and intact native plant communities, telling a story of quiet persistence in the midst of changing temperatures and snowpack.



Among the first to return following disturbance by fire, fireweed speaks to the continual process of renewal happening all around us. From rich nectar to nutrient-dense foliage, fireweed sustains pollinators and wildlife while helping ecosystems recover from disturbance.

This year's work reflects our vision of thoughtful stewardship. From weeds pulled and habitat restored, to partnerships strengthened across counties and watersheds, we invested in the slow but essential work of building resilience—work that compounds over time. Our programs focus on what lasts: native plants that anchor food webs, restoration that strengthens drought tolerance and stabilizes soils, and education that cultivates long-term stewardship.

We are not separate from the natural world. By calling it home, its fate is bound to our own. The pages that follow tell a story of shared responsibility and shared possibility. Together, we are cultivating change—one native plant at a time.



Together,
for conservation

Jennifer Mohler &

Abby Butler



Micah Berman Photography

Satyr Comma (*Polygonia satyrus*) ~ likely

© Moose Pair Pollinator Garden

Our Mission

To conserve native species
in the Upper Gallatin Watershed
through education, habitat restoration,
and collaborative land stewardship.

Board

Cathy Gunther, *Chair*

Mike Jones, *Vice Chair*

Ann Cook, *Sec.-Tres.*

Don McAndrew

John Councilman

Larry Holzworth

Danielle Jones

Krisy Hammond

Ann Cook

Jennie Cohen

Steve Karl

Staff

Jennifer Mohler

Executive Director

Abby Butler

Conservation Program Coordinator

Cooper

Clean Recreation Ambassador

Land Stewardship

The cornerstone of our work is empowering landowners with the knowledge, tools, and resources to steward their land with intention—applying thoughtful, adaptive practices that curb invasive plants and allow native ecosystems to endure and flourish.



When I reached out to Grow Wild, I was simply hoping for a little guidance in restoring the land around my newly built home. The construction process had left the property scarred and overrun with weeds, and I wanted to bring back native grasses and establish a thriving pollinator garden. What I received in return was far beyond anything I expected.

Jennifer responded to my initial email almost immediately, offering an incredibly thoughtful message full of helpful links, tailored resources, and practical advice. She then took the time to hop on a call with me, walking me through every step of the restoration process, what to watch out for, how to time things, and what actions would best support long-term ecological success. Her depth of knowledge was evident, but so was her genuine enthusiasm for helping others steward the land.

...She truly went above and beyond. Because of her support, I now feel confident and prepared to restore the native grasses and create a pollinator garden that will thrive, rather than risking time and money on plants that might otherwise fail due to misunderstanding their ecological needs.

Grow Wild, through Jennifer's guidance, has made a meaningful difference in my project and in my connection to the land. I'm deeply grateful for their work.

~ **Brittany Finch**

Partners



2025 18 Years

Inspections	37	1,130
Acres	272	13,204

Awareness Leads to Action

Awareness is where stewardship begins: a connection to place shaped by how we **live, work, and recreate** on the land.

Clean Recreation



CLEAN.DRAIN.DRY.
MONTANA FWP



Crail Gardens



At season's end, landowners shared how stewardship is taking root.

- 64% managed noxious weeds prior to a Grow Wild site visit
- 100% plan to manage noxious weeds after a Grow Wild site visit
- 20% feel the community does not take invasive species seriously

- 60% take steps to prevent spreading invasive species when outdoors
- 47% use the boot brush at our PlayCleanGo trailhead signs
- 60% practice Clean.Drain.Dry.

- 47% appreciate community value of the gardens
- 33% drew inspiration from the gardens for their landscaping decisions
- 33% learned about pollinators from the gardens
- 100% have visited Crail Gardens
- 73% think Big Sky would benefit from implementing more green infrastructure projects

“ With Grow Wild's help:

1. We have more native diversity than what we see in neighboring new homes.
2. We now observe significantly more wildlife in our yard compared to others.
3. After four years of effort, managing noxious weeds has decreased dramatically.

-Cindy Pickens & Robert Callan

Conservation Champions



“ The ladies who run Grow Wild are amazing! The camp kids always enjoy their programming and education. We appreciate the partnership.

~Leah Weaver @ YMCA



Youth Education

We inspire local youth to become conservation champions through hands-on learning about ecosystems, native species, and responsible stewardship—fostering a lifelong curiosity and reverence for the natural world.



Adult Education

We empower landowners and community members with the knowledge, tools, and resources to steward their land with intention. Through hands-on guidance, we promote practices that curb invasive plants, strengthen native ecosystems, and foster resilient landscapes that benefit generations.



	2025	18 Years
Kids	2,486	19,651
Adults	2,040	9,534
Classes/Events	73	404

Grow Wild's Education Trailer



41
events



3,133
miles



782
kids



1,113
adults



Designed to inspire and educate, our mobile education trailer offers an immersive, hands-on experience focused on protecting Montana's ecosystems.

In 2025, our trailer traveled throughout southwest Montana—from Big Sky to Manhattan and all the way to the Ruby Valley. From rainy spring days teaching under its shelter to balmy summer evenings at the Big Sky Farmers Market engaging visitors and locals, the trailer continues to spark curiosity wherever it goes. It even plays a role in our annual native plant sale!

“ When their education trailer rolls in, kids and adults alike are curious to see what it's all about and enthused to learn! The impact that trailer has on the Gallatin Valley is incredibly immense. GCD is grateful to have Grow Wild as a reliable conservation partner, to learn from their resources, and to simply be around their infectious energy.

~Bea McNamara
Education and Outreach Director
Gallatin Conservation District

Clean Recreation

Since 2016, Grow Wild has championed nationally recognized campaigns that protect our lands and waters. Grounded in **prevention** through education, these efforts highlight the **vital role awareness** plays in safeguarding natural ecosystems. By equipping individuals with knowledge, we help stop the introduction and spread of invasive species—ensuring our shared landscapes remain healthy for generations to come.

CLEAN.DRAIN.DRY.
MONTANA FWP



In partnership with the **Gallatin River Task Force** and the **Invasive Species Action Network**, we delivered aquatic invasive species (AIS) outreach along the Gallatin River at Moose Creek Flat Campground, Storm Castle, and the Gallatin Whitewater Festival. Recreators learned about AIS, pledged to practice Clean. Drain. Dry., and joined fellow “River Rats” by adding their names and photos to a shared pledge scrapbook—building a visible, community-focused commitment to protecting the river.



3 locations on the
Gallatin River



5 outreach
days from
May-June



50 conversations
25 pledges



Play Hard, Play Clean

Cooper - Our Clean Recreation Ambassador

As our designated Clean Recreation Ambassador, Cooper has been actively attending outreach events to promote clean recreation practices, proudly wearing a hand-embroidered Clean Recreation vest. He made his debut at the Gallatin Valley Earth Day Celebration and has since joined the team at farmers markets, Wildflower & Weed Hikes, and River Rat outreach days along the Gallatin River.

Cooper is a 'working' dog—and luckily for him, this job comes with plenty of pets! Visitors are first drawn in by his fluffy tail and winning personality, but what keeps them engaged is his heartfelt reminder to practice clean recreation every time they enjoy the waters or trails.

Lead by example: Cooper practices Clean. Drain. Dry. after a dip in the Gallatin River.



2016-2025

- 8 Trailhead Signs
- 9.8M Media Impressions
- 54M Billboard Views
- 36K Outreach Items Distributed

Crail Gardens



A Model of Stewardship

Crail Gardens, located at the historic Crail Ranch in Big Sky, is an unassuming yet powerful example of how thoughtful stewardship can restore ecological function and deepen a community's connection to place. Established by Grow Wild in 2019, the gardens demonstrate native, water-wise, and wildlife-friendly landscaping suited to the higher elevations of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem.

Our Partners



Over six years, Crail Gardens has matured into a welcoming gathering space anchored in the benefits of native plants—providing seasonal beauty, pollinator habitat, and resilience in the face of drought and disturbance. Through sustainable stewardship, the gardens conserve water and support wildlife while showcasing practical approaches visitors can carry home.

Just as importantly, Crail Gardens has become a place for people—volunteers, visitors, and landowners—to connect with the land and with one another. Through shared experience and hands-on learning, the gardens invite curiosity and understanding, reminding us that conservation is a collective effort shaped by care, relationships, and time.

Thank you Crail Garden Benefactors!



A community garden where learning and creativity thrive.



16

events



279

participants



28

volunteers



92

hours



In its fourth year, the Big Sky Wildflower Festival continued to flourish as a vibrant celebration of nature and community. At Crail Gardens, a week of illuminating talks, hands-on workshops, and guided trail explorations invited participants to slow down, look closely, and deepen their connection to the living landscape.

The Firewise Crevice Garden: A Model for Fire-Adapted Landscapes

In 2025, Crail Gardens broke ground on a Firewise Crevice Garden—an innovative response to growing wildfire risk. Rather than relying on prescriptive guidance, this garden leads by example, showing how firewise principles can be woven into the landscape with care and intention.

Using locally sourced stone and fire-resistant, drought-tolerant native plants, the design breaks fuel continuity while retaining beauty and ecological richness. The result reframes firewise landscaping not as removal, but as thoughtful design—demonstrating how safety, resilience, and biodiversity can coexist in fire-adapted landscapes.



The garden will take root in spring 2026, with a ribbon cutting planned during our annual Wildflower Festival — an open invitation to celebrate this shared work together!

Creating Habitat, Restoring Biodiversity



Grow Wild cultivates native pollinator gardens to support wildlife, enhance local ecosystems, and bring our community closer to the natural world.

Moose Pair Pollinator Garden

In just over a year, the Moose Pair Pollinator Garden has blossomed into a rainbow of 17 wildflower species, buzzing with native pollinators.

Situated at the heavily trafficked Ousel Falls Trailhead, it delights more than 200 visitors daily at the height of summer, reaching 25,000–30,000 people each year.



Keystone Species

In every native flower lies a lifeline for pollinators—small but mighty keystone species, from bees and butterflies to countless others. By feeding, nesting, and foraging, they return the gift tenfold—spreading genes that make plants stronger, more diverse, and more adaptable to the tests of nature.

Morningstar Pollinator Garden!

On July 1, volunteers helped plant 128 native wildflowers at Morningstar Learning Center, creating a vibrant pollinator garden in just one day. Students quickly joined in, watering and exploring, as the garden begins its journey supporting both curious young minds and native pollinators.



Collective Action for Conservation



ALPENS CAPES



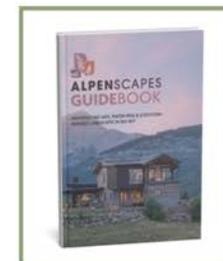
Big Sky's go-to resource for creating appealing, alpine-appropriate landscapes that are fire-safe, water-wise, and ecosystem-friendly.

Launched in 2023, Alpencapes was created to help residents design landscapes that reflect the character of our mountain home—beautiful, resilient, and in balance with the surrounding ecosystem. Built as a collaboration among local organizations committed to stewardship, the initiative brings practical guidance and education directly to the community.

Since then, Grow Wild and our partners—the Gallatin River Task Force, Big Sky Fire, and Big Sky SNO—have worked alongside residents to turn sustainable landscaping principles into meaningful action. Site visits, neighborhood workshops, and community events equipped homeowners with the tools to manage invasive species, select native and water-wise plants, and create fire-safe, wildlife-friendly yards.

Partnerships with HOAs, including Riverview Apartments and the Firelight Owners Association, extended this momentum across entire neighborhoods—demonstrating how collective action can shape the community.

Launching in 2026, the Alpencapes Guidebook will empower residents to design and create landscapes that reflect Big Sky's mountain character.



Bighorn Sheep Habitat Restoration



Spanish Peaks Bighorn Sheep

Winter range is critical to the survival of our local Spanish Peaks bighorn sheep herd—and is increasingly threatened by invasive plants that displace essential forage. For more than a decade, Grow Wild has led collaborative, science-based restoration efforts to protect this vital landscape.

Insights from Years of Restoration Research

In 2025, continued monitoring across three research sites confirmed that targeted treatments using Rejuvra® and Plateau® sustained near-zero cheatgrass levels for a third consecutive year, offering a proven approach for managing this state-regulated invasive grass. While invasive suppression is proving durable, native plant recovery remains slow and uneven, with persistent bare ground across sites. A dormant seeding trial initiated in 2024 showed minimal establishment by 2025, underscoring the challenges of revegetation on dry, rocky, steep terrain.

These results are guiding the next phase of adaptive management. Long-term testing, refined strategies, and sustained monitoring remain essential to restoring winter forage and supporting the future of the Spanish Peaks bighorn sheep herd.



2011-2025

8 Partners

\$16,868 Our Investment

\$161,879 Matching Funds

Habitat Stewards

Huntley-Kern Pond

Grow Wild partners with HOAs and local Weed Districts to improve wildlife habitat in HOA open spaces through a three-year invasive species management initiative. By providing education and technical support, we help HOAs launch restoration efforts and build the capacity to sustain them long term.

In 2025, we partnered with the Big Sky Owners Association and the Gallatin County Weed District to demonstrate the power of shared stewardship on private lands. Together, we addressed invasive plants and degraded habitat around a prominent community pond, improving wildlife habitat, water quality, and ecological connectivity.

Treatments were strategically timed for late summer and early fall, when lower water levels and plant physiology allow for more effective, lasting control. This work protects prior investments, prevents reinfestation, and supports native plant recovery—highlighting the cumulative impact of sustained, targeted management.



2014-2025

15	HOAs
319	Acres
\$101,277	Value to HOAs

This restoration effort will continue for two more years, with ongoing monitoring to guide adaptive management and ensure lasting results.

Conserve Our Canyon

Enduring Partnerships

Since 2007, Grow Wild has led a collaborative initiative to control invasive plants across Gallatin Canyon's high-use areas—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.

In 2025, Grow Wild partnered with the Custer Gallatin National Forest, Gallatin County Weed District, Montana Conservation Corps, and Lone Mountain Land Company to protect the ecology of the Gallatin 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.



Our Partners



	2025	7 Years
Sites	10	97
Acres	103	1,644
Contributed \$	\$7,922	\$32,397
Matching \$	\$7,830	\$71,541

Community Weed Pulls



Partnering with our community to protect the places we love!

For 16 years, we've inspired our community to combat invasive species, often called ecological tumors because of their ability to disrupt and damage ecosystems.

Together, volunteers have removed noxious weeds from public lands, parks, trailheads, and river access points, preventing them from overtaking native habitats.

By protecting these cherished spaces, we preserve the delicate balance that sustains wildlife and maintains the natural beauty of the places we all love.



*We hit a new high in 2025:
286 volunteers and 8 weed pulls!*

	2025	18 Years
Weed Pulls	8	59
Volunteers	286	1,967
Pounds of Noxious Weeds	2,530	28,084

Volunteers

Since 2008, Grow Wild has built enduring collaborations **rooted in a shared commitment** to conserving native plants, wildlife habitat, and the natural resources that define our region. Through strong partnerships, thoughtful leadership, and a focus on long-term stewardship, we continue to expand our impact and ensure conservation efforts remain effective.

This work is made possible by **dedicated volunteers and supporters** who give their time, energy, and care to the land. Together, they help restore ecosystems, strengthen community connections, and protect the landscapes we all love—now and for generations to come.

2025's VIV
Very Important Volunteer
Linda Nell



Photographed with our Executive Director, Jennifer Mohler at our Big Sky Wildflower Festival

“Our stewardship of the Earth is brief. We owe it to those who follow to keep that in perspective, to be responsible passengers along the way.

- G.W.B

	2025	18 Years
Volunteers	339	1,463
Volunteer Hours	574	6,579



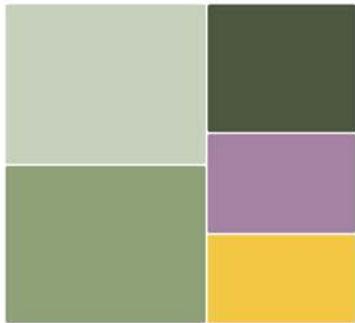
Partners

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the partners whose expertise, collaboration, and dedication make our work possible. **Conservation doesn't happen in isolation—it thrives through collective commitment, long-term vision, and sustained investment that create meaningful, lasting impact across the landscape.** While not every partner is listed here, we are profoundly grateful to all organizations and individuals whose contributions help make this work a reality.



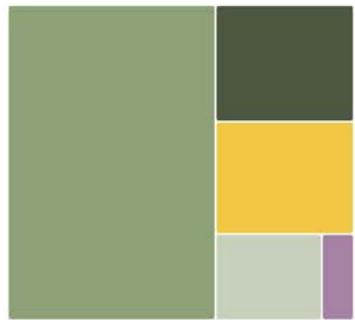


2025 Financials January - December 2025



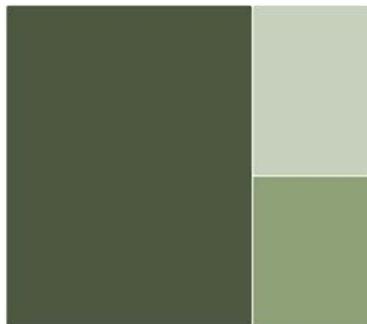
Program Investments

- 17% clean recreation
- 29% education & outreach
- 14% habitat conservation
- 29% biodiversity
- 14% landowner assistance



Revenue \$309,372

- 15% donations
- 8% event revenue
- 14% foundation grants
- 60% public grants
- 3% program revenue



Expenses \$327,625

- 68% programs
- 17% fundraising
- 15% administration

Financial Notes

- Grow Wild received in-kind contributions totaling \$112,038, not reflected in revenue or expenses.
- The temporary negative year-end balance reflects timing differences in grant payments. A shift in the Big Sky Resort Tax District grant cycle created a four-month funding gap, and several grants operate on a reimbursement basis. All programs and operations continued without interruption.
- Nearly 70 cents of every dollar goes directly to programs that serve our community.

Our Supporters — Where Conservation Takes Root

Ace Hardware · Adrienne Fleckman · American Bank · Amy Wisniewski · Andrea Kreuter · Anika Burkard · Ann & Brian Cook · Ann Scheder-Bieschin · Anne Fetzer · Anonymous · Arts Council of Big Sky · Becky Clements · Big Sky Build · Big Sky Community Organization · Big Sky Conoco · Big Sky Farmers Market · Big Sky Fire Department · Big Sky Landscaping · Big Sky Owners Association · Big Sky Resort · Big Sky Resort Tax · Big Sky Sotheby's · Big Sky Sustainability Network Organization · Blanchford Landscape Group · Bobbi Gilbert · Bozeman Brewing · Bozeman Chronicle · Breanna Polacik · Bridger Scientific · Brittany Ellis · Bud the Wonder Dog · Camp Big Sky · Carol Collins · Carolyn & Steve Jones · Cassie Buckley · Cathleen Stamm · Cathy & Mark Gunther · Christine McMillan · Cicely Drennan · Cindy Pickens · Cindy Stewart · Clara Sprague · Claudia Foster · Coffee Pot Bakery Café · Coleen McCaffery · Colleen & John Marzluff · Confluence Community Management · Custer Gallatin National Forest · Cyndee & Stan Button · D'Ann Cigler · David Harder · David Walsh · de maximis Data Management · Deb Lewis · DG House · Donna Onstott · Elizabeth McFadden · Erica Pearlman · Esther Campbell · Finn Connors · First Interstate Bank · Gallatin Canyon Women's Club · Gallatin Conservation District · Gallatin County · Gallatin County Weed District · Gallatin Gateway Youth Group · Gallatin National Forest Resource Advisory Committee · Gallatin River Task Force · Gallatin Valley Earth Day / Greater Gallatin United Way · Gallatin Valley Farm Fair · Gallatin Valley YMCA · Great Bear Native Plants · Hammond Property Management · Hannah Johansen · Historic Crail Ranch · Hungry Moose Market & Deli · Jack Creek Preserve · Janet Kempff · Jeremy Wiersig · Jess Olsen · John Ansley · Joseph Fischer · Judy Mohler · Julie Gustafson · Justa Adamz · Kate Eelkema · Katie Coleman · Ken Bickle Memorial Fund · Krisy Hammond · Lisa Knorr · Lone Mountain Land Company · Lorri Lagerbloom · Lucky Dog Ranch · Madison County · Madison County Weed District · Madison Gallatin Trout Unlimited · Marianne Filloux · Mariel Butan · Marjorie Jordan · Mary Ann Comstock · Meagan Dailey · Megan Udeck · Michelle Kristula-Green · Mike Palmer · Montana Community Foundation · Montana Conservation Corps · Montana Department of Agriculture · Montana Department Natural Resource Conservation · Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks · Montana State University · Montana Weed Control Association · Moonlight Community Foundation · Natural Resource Conservation Service · One Valley Community Foundation · Ophir School · Outlaw Partners · Outside Bozeman · Pam & Mark McCurley · Pat Smith · Peak Photography · Reagan Hootan · Regen Market · Rhonda and Stephen Karl · Robbie Shelby · Rosemary Volosin · Rotary Club of Big Sky · Ruby Valley Conservation District · Sandra Knight · Sandra Young · Sara Berkstresser · Savannah Rose Photography · Simms · Singing Sky Photography · Spanish Peaks Community Foundation · Steve Mohler · Susan Ockerman · Todd Smith · Tracey & Daniel Olsen · Travis Garrison · Visit Big Sky · Westcape Nursery · Yellowstone Club Community Foundation · Yvette Kirilenko



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Micah Berman Photography
Violet-green Swallow (*Tachycineta thalassina*)

