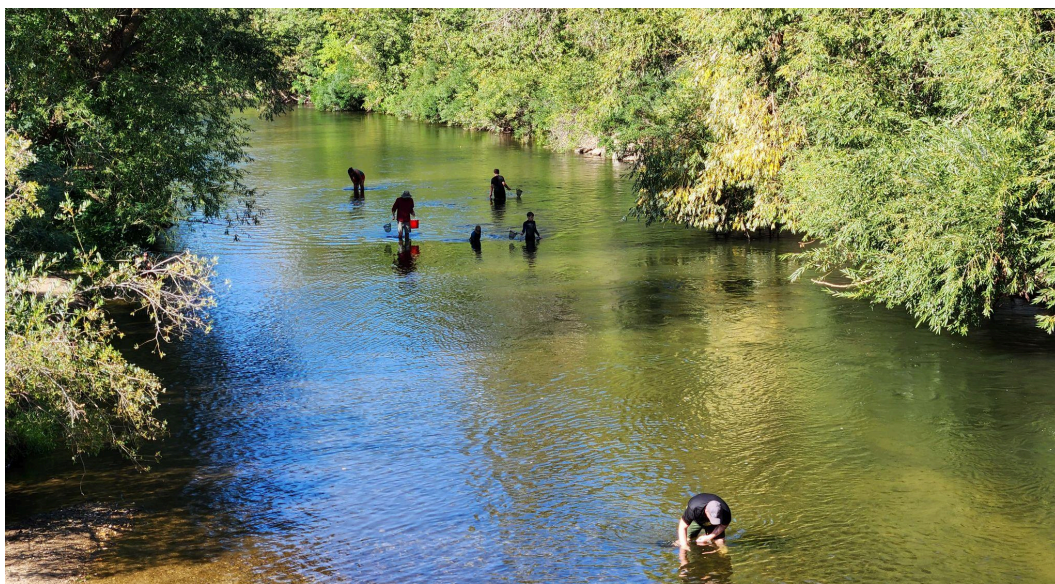


BOISE RIVER ENHANCEMENT NETWORK

2023 ANNUAL REPORT



BREN volunteers search for crayfish in the Boise River, September 2023

From the Board President

A thoughtful person once said to me, "From change comes growth." And grow we did over the past year as a non-profit working in the public interest.

The Boise River Enhancement Network (BREN) thrives because of you . . . our volunteers, community conservationists, and natural resource professionals. Together we work to keep the Boise River a happy, healthy place for all to enjoy. Our accomplishments include the black cottonwood "Gather and Grow" project building the ark to take the riparian forest through a period of climate change, the "Notch" project investigating means and methods to manage invasive plants, and the "Crayfish Mercury" project in partnership with the University of Idaho assuring us the river is free of a harmful pollutant.

We completed our transition to a more diverse Board of Directors, grew our friendships with natural partners, enlisted talented student interns from local universities, and worked within a lean budget to create good on-the-ground.

I am grateful to be with people with a common purpose and generous hearts. Our 10-year history with you has been a pleasure and a gift.

Thank you, Rob Tiedemann, Ph.D.



WHO WE ARE

We are a network of people that live, work and play in the Boise River watershed that are dedicated to promoting the ecological enhancement of the river.

WHAT WE DO

We bring together stakeholders, ideas and expertise to improve the health of the Boise River through education and on-the-ground projects.

WE ARE GUIDED BY

Our science-based, community-written
[Boise River Enhancement Plan](#)

and BREN's
[5-Year Strategic Plan](#)

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH



BREN & Boise Bicycle Project, River Habitat Tour

Riverside Chats – Click Below to Watch!

- Mar 28 [River Guide Down Under](#), Adam Bass, Boise River Outdoor Opportunities (BROO)
- Jul 28 [Crayfish Mercury Project](#), Tate Libunao, Ph.D student, University of Idaho

Education and Outreach Highlights

- **Boise River Trail Guide:** For Sale at [BREN website](#)
- **Idaho Water Quality Workshop:** BREN presentation
- **City Nature Challenge:** Partnered with Xylem to document animals/vegetation at Hyatt Hidden Lakes.
- **Idaho Gives Party by the River:** Partnered with GEAS, Boise Valley Fly Fishers, Idaho Whitewater Assoc.
- **Boise River Clean-ups:** Three events with BREN, Earth Walkers, and Xylem volunteers.
- **Boise River Float:** Boise to Garden City with BROO.
- **Boise River Outreach to Students:** Riverstone School, College of Idaho, and Boise State University
- **Boise River Scientific Advice:** Expo Idaho Park Redesign, Loggers Creek Restoration, and Barber Dam FERC Relicensing.

ACTIVITIES	2023	SINCE 2011
Educational Presentations	6	123
Blogs	0	89
Field Trips	1	37
Float Trips	1	25
Volunteer Days/Workshops	7	92
Gathering Events	4	29



BREN October Celebration at the Basque Center



BREN & Boise River Outdoor Opportunities, August River Float



BOISE RIVER PROJECTS

Cottonwood Gather and Grow Project

In June, BREN volunteers, Board Members, and BREN Coordinator gathered cottonwood seeds on the Boise River from Barber Park to Middleton. These seeds were then planted in germination trays that participants tended at their homes over the summer until it was time to plant seedlings in larger containers. BREN continues to gather data to learn how best to germinate and grow cottonwood from seed. In 2023, we had over 50 two-year-old trees planted at two (2) locations along the River. Black cottonwoods are a keystone species for a healthy Boise River ecosystem. The Black Cottonwood Gather and Grow Project's goal is to create a genetically diverse cottonwood forest to take us through a period of climate change.



BREN volunteers pick up trash along the Boise River. This was one of four river clean-up events held in 2023!



BREN-Xylem volunteers monitor vegetation at Notch.

Notch Project

A dozen BREN-Xylem volunteers met at the Notch Project site in September to monitor the progress of previous enhancement activities. These activities include removing invasive species (e.g., false indigo, Tree of Heaven, silver maple, reed canarygrass, cheatgrass, bedstraw) and planting native vegetation (e.g., willow, black cottonwood, Wood's rose, Lewis syringa, Oregon grape, water birch). Volunteers documented all species within randomly placed 1-meter by 1-meter frames over multiple rounds, with a focus on false indigo. Monitoring results will inform us on the effectiveness of active enhancement activities.

Crayfishing for Water Quality Science

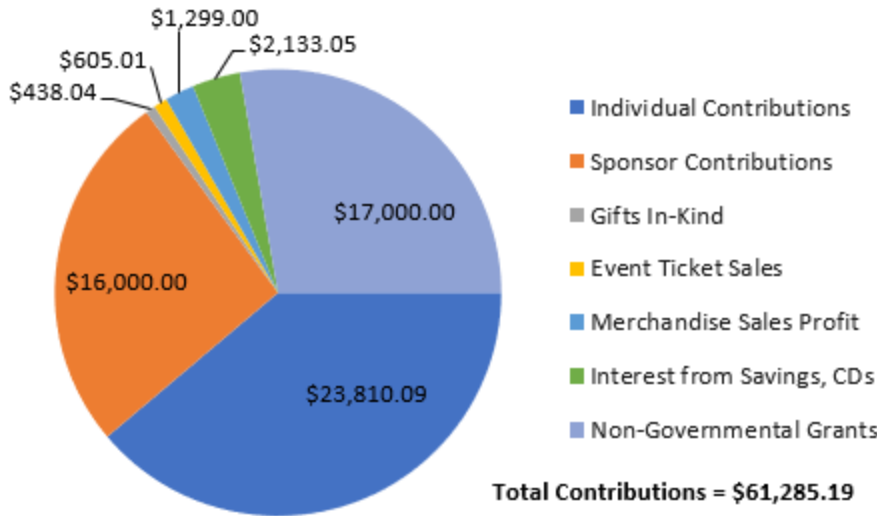
BREN continued its partnership with the University of Idaho, Idaho Water Resources Research Institute (IWRI) to collect crayfish in the Boise River for mercury testing. Through these efforts, scientists will better understand mercury contamination and distribution within the Boise River. We had a great showing of volunteers, with 23 total volunteers and over 100 crayfish caught at multiple River locations! BREN and IWRI leaders shared information about the types of crayfish that live in the River, their life cycles, how to catch crayfish, and how they inform us about the Boise River's water quality. **This project will continue in 2024 - be ready to join the fun!**



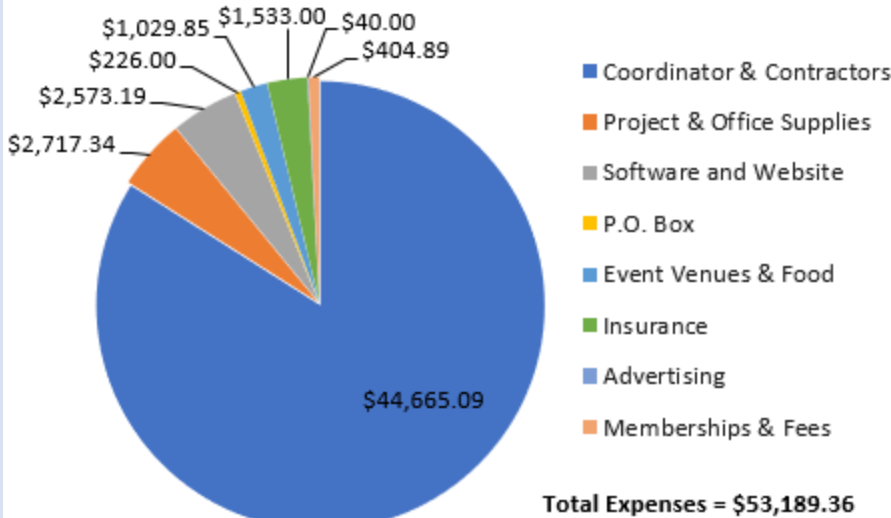
BREN volunteers catch crayfish for science.

2023 FINANCIAL REPORTS

BREN Contributions / January 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023



BREN Expenses / January 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023



A HUGE THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

Kennedy Wilson, Veolia, Xylem, and Stantec

Boise River Outdoor Opportunities, Lenir LTD, AIRE, Harris Ranch Wildlife Mitigation Association, Tetra Tech, Idaho Mountain Touring, Idaho Whitewater Association, Boise Valley Fly Fishers, T-O Engineers, Idaho Power Foundation, Idaho Conservation League, and Odell Brewing

AND THANK YOU

Friends of BREN!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Rob Tiedemann, President
 Darryl Kuhrt, Vice President
 Vicky Osborn, Secretary
 Tamsen Binggeli, Treasurer
 ShaSha Kingston
 Jonathan Lucas
 Sheila Miller
 Will Tiedemann
 Madeline Wyatt

COORDINATOR

Marisa Keith

THANK YOU

DEPARTING BREN LEADERS!

Adam Bass
 Christy Meyer
 Mike Homza



Board Member Will Tiedemann plants a black cottonwood tree grown from seed at the Notch Project Site.