

BOISE RIVER ENHANCEMENT NETWORK

2024 ANNUAL REPORT



BREN volunteer along the Boise River, April 2024

From the Board President

Dear Natural Partners,

As you peruse this 2024 Annual Report, I hope you will see how your investment in us, through your time, talent, and treasure, leads to measurable improvements for the Boise River. Your grassroots support is further amplified by matching contributions and the pro bono work of natural resource professionals, community conservationists, and volunteers.

Our recent on-the-ground accomplishments include the black cottonwood "Gather and Grow" project, which is deploying trees "homegrown" from seed to repopulate the Boise River for climate resilience; the "Notch" project at the head of Eagle Island, investigating methods to manage invasive plants like false indigo; and our upcoming bank restoration project at Municipal Park, employing a novel method known as "strategic retreat."

Thank you for being a member, contributor, or champion of our work. Together with your support, we continue to do "good on the ground."

Rob Tiedemann, PhD, BREN Board President



WHO WE ARE

We are a network of people who live, work, and play in the Boise River watershed, who are dedicated to promoting the ecological health 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 ACTIVITIES	2024	SINCE 2011
Educational Presentations	9	135
Blogs and News Updates	1	90
Field / Float Trips	1	64
Volunteer Days/Workshops	10	102
Gathering Events	5	34
TOTAL	26	425

2024 Riverside Chats – Click to Watch!

- Feb 28

[Native Mussels in the Boise River](#)
with Colin Custer, City of Boise
- Apr 25

[Women in Fly Fishing](#) with Chris Panagos



1,074 total pounds of trash removed from the Boise River!

Education and Outreach Highlights

- **Educational Events:** Presenting to and discussing themes of the river with the Idaho Conservation Corps (ICC), Idaho Women's Charitable Foundation Symposium, BSU Media Studies class, Idaho Mountain West Outdoors Club, and BSU Osher Lifelong Learning Institute.
- **Technical Expertise and Advice:** Providing review, comment, and discussion for the Willow Lane Bank Restoration Project, Barber Dam FERC Relicensing, City of Boise Planning and Zoning Code Rewrite, and river stewardship with the Interfaith Sanctuary.
- **Boise River Clean-Ups:** Hosting river clean-up events with employees of Xylem and Eide Bailly, attendees of the Electric and Water Utilities Conference, and BREN volunteers.
- **Earth Day Celebration:** Partnering with the City of Boise at Kristin Armstrong Municipal Park.
- **Idaho Gives Fundraising Event:** Celebrating our supporters with the Boise Valley Fly Fishers and Idaho Whitewater Association.
- **Boise River Float:** Navigating from Garden City to Eagle with Boise River Outdoor Opportunities.
- **Boise River Night:** Hosting a fun-filled, seasonal costume party for our members with live music, food, and beverages.



Hewlett-Packard volunteers gather cottonwood seeds.

BOISE RIVER PROJECTS

Cottonwood Gather and Grow Project

With the help of the ICC, Hewlett-Packard, and Girl Scout Troop #37, BREN grew over 300 cottonwood seedlings in the spring and transplanted them into deep pots in the fall. These trees will be cared for over the next year and planted along the Boise River in 2026. Starting again in June 2025, we aim to double what we grew last year and are exploring the addition of native shrubs, like coyote willow, to the program. This ambitious project aims to establish a genetically diverse cottonwood forest and resilient shrub understory to ensure the Boise River thrives in the face of climate change.



ICC volunteers collect and plant >1,500 cottonwood seeds!



Volunteers catch >20 crayfish; PhD student Tate Libunao explains why crayfish are ideal species for mercury monitoring

University of Idaho Crayfish Project - Final Year!

The University of Idaho successfully completed the Crayfish Mercury Study, leaving our enthusiastic volunteer crayfishers with fond memories of their contributions to science. In 2024, the project focused on the area near Middleton at the Fifteen Mile Creek return, where volunteers caught ample crayfish for methylmercury-concentration analysis. University of Idaho graduate Tate Libunao, who led this multi-year study, presented his findings during [BREN's March 26th Riverside Chat](#). His presentation highlighted why crayfish were chosen as the "sentinel species" for mercury monitoring and shared the reassuring news that the Boise River has low levels of methylmercury — an encouraging outcome for the Boise River's health!

Notch Enhancement Project - Status Update

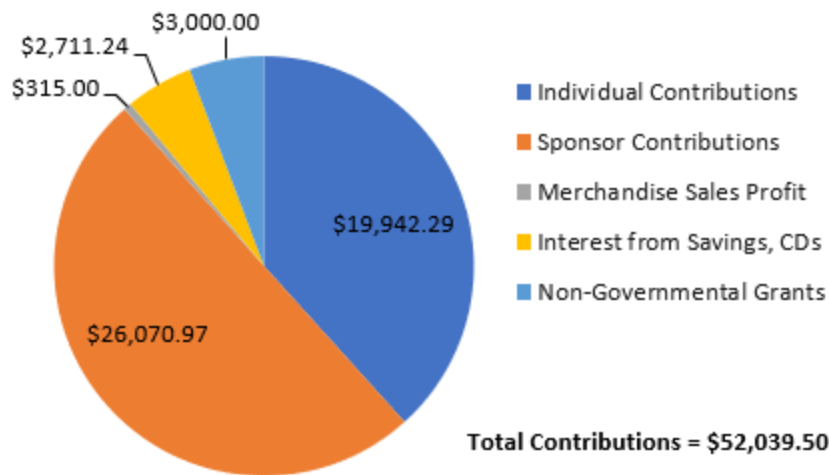
Since its launch in the fall of 2020, BREN's Notch Project has engaged over 175 volunteers to transform a 0.10-acre site in Garden City. Together, we have removed hundreds of invasive species like false indigo, reed canarygrass, and tree of heaven, replacing them with over 200 thriving native plants, including native willows, black cottonwood, Wood's rose, and yarrow. In 2025, BREN and Xylem will continue to work together to remove invasive species, plant native vegetation, and monitor the site's biodiversity and health for ongoing project success.



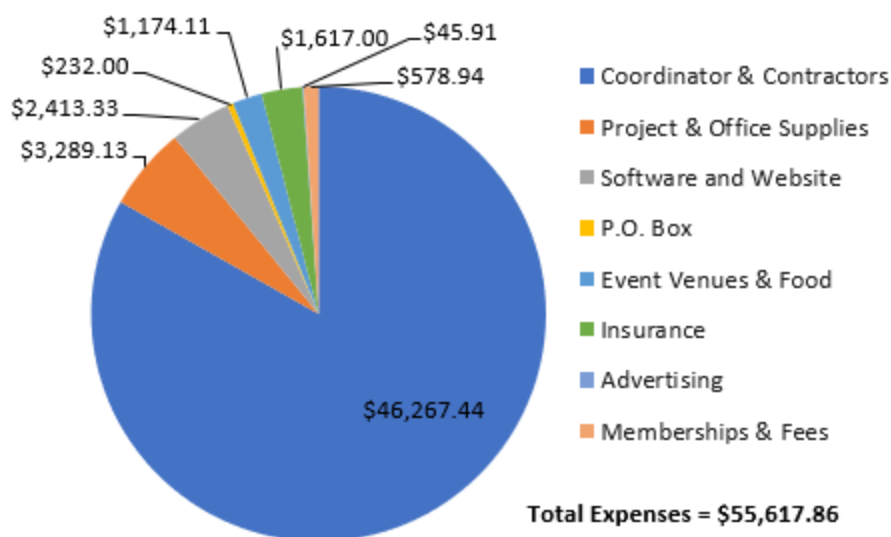
Plant identification & monitoring training for Xylem volunteers.

2024 FINANCIAL REPORTS

BREN Contributions / January 1, 2024 - December 31, 2024



BREN Expenses / January 1, 2024 - December 31, 2024



A HUGE THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

Veolia, Kennedy Wilson, Xylem, and Bates Family Foundation

Barber Valley Development, Idaho Community Foundation, Payette Brewing, Boise River Outdoor Opportunities, Idaho Mountain Touring, Idaho Power Foundation, RivHAB, Boise Valley Fly Fishers, Idaho Conservation League Maravia, Ardura, Harris Ranch Wildlife Mitigation Association, Idaho Whitewater Association, The Riverside Hotel and Golden Eagle Audubon's Native Plant Network

AND THANK YOU

Friends of BREN!

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Girls Scout Troop #37 transplant 113 cottonwood seedlings into deeper pots!