



2025 IMPACTS

OUR IMPACT



↑ West Michigan Environmental Action Council cuts ribbon for installation of new litter capture device in Plaster Creek

14,579

people connected to our publications, toolkits, and other digital resources

3,279

network members representing 826 organizations

1,629

people connected through 44 events, trainings and peer calls

97

partners receiving direct funding, technical assistance, or consulting support

OVER \$3.3 MILLION

in direct funding to local communities, including:

URBAN & COMMUNITY FORESTRY

\$2,848,951

to 29 community-based organizations and municipalities

FLOW FUND CIRCLE

\$126,325

to 16 community-based organizations

WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS STEWARDSHIP

\$91,693

to 19 community-based organizations

EQUITABLE CLIMATE RESILIENCE

\$71,000

to 9 community-based organizations

A LETTER FROM APRIL INGLE



Interim CEO, April Ingle

Dear River Network community,

As we look back on 2025, I want to extend my sincere gratitude for your partnership and your commitment to clean water and healthy rivers nationwide. Your support strengthens a movement that continues to deliver real progress in communities across the country.

As someone who has been part of River Network for decades—long before stepping into this interim leadership role—I have seen again and again how this organization helps leaders and communities turn vision into action.

The stories in this report highlight just a few of the successes you helped make possible in 2025: from expanding community-driven urban forestry initiatives to strengthening a national cohort navigating complex State Revolving Fund opportunities. These achievements reflect the persistence and creativity of our partners throughout the country.

Looking ahead, we are energized by the momentum building toward River Rally 2026 in San Antonio, where we will gather to learn, share, and celebrate the work unfolding in communities from coast to coast. And, in the coming months, we look forward to welcoming a new Executive Director who will help guide River Network with steady leadership and a deep commitment to our mission.

Thank you for being part of this community and for ensuring that progress continues, no matter the challenges we face. Together, we are strengthening the movement for clean water and healthy rivers for all.

With gratitude,

April Ingle
Interim Chief Executive Officer, River Network

LOOKING AHEAD

RIVER RALLY 2026 SAN ANTONIO, TX • MAY 11–14

Built by and for the national network of water, justice, and river advocates, River Rally ignites collective action and power for the years ahead. 2025 was a River Rally off year. We are seeing, as we did in 2023, how this intentional breathing room gives space for the power and connection of River Rally to ripple and grow.

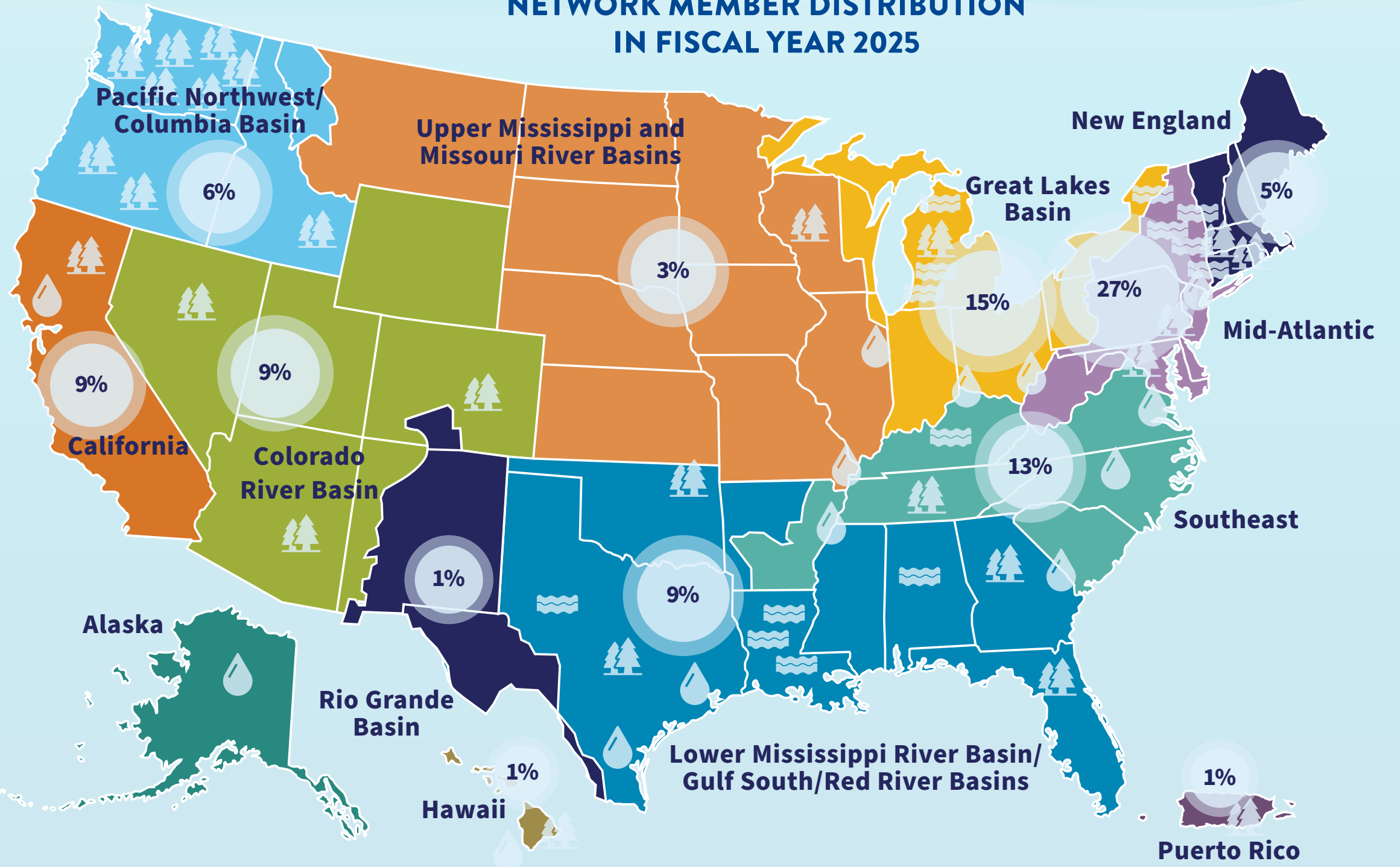
Conversations that started at River Rally have blossomed into partnerships and action featured in this report. The previous Rally strengthened the network of relationships that allowed members to face the many challenges of 2025, together. Members will share strategies developed over the course of 2025 at River Rally with fellow water advocates facing similar issues to replicate and iterate upon.

River Rally is a set of bookends on each year of work, both teeing up and sharing success from the day-in, day-out effort and energy that each member of this network brings. We hope to see you in May.



THE NETWORK




NETWORK MEMBER DISTRIBUTION IN FISCAL YEAR 2025



KEY

LOCAL WORK, NATIONAL SCALE.

In addition to supporting our membership base, we gave direct funding and sustained training support to:

-  29 Urban Community Forestry Grantees
-  16 State Revolving Funds National Cohort Participants
-  16 Flow Funding Recipients

A CASE STUDY IN ACCESSIBLE GRANTMAKING

ROOTING RESILIENCE

River Network is stewarding federal funds to make change happen at the local level. This year, we awarded \$2,848,951 to 21 community-based organizations and Indigenous communities and nine local and state governments for tree planting programs. Funding for the **Rooting Resilience Program** is provided by the Urban and Community Forestry Program of the Forest Service, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

These dollars go directly to communities to plant and maintain their tree cover, increase community members' access to nature, and educate and empower youth and those entering the forestry workforce. Awardees are located in cities, suburbs, and rural areas across 19 states, Tribal lands, and US territories. This program is specifically designed to protect and support communities with low tree cover from extreme weather, to lower their flooding risk, and to address the harmful effects of pollution, all by planting trees: one of nature's most beneficial gifts.

Rooting Resilience saw incredible demand, with 166 applications submitted under the community-based organizations and Indigenous communities program. Thirty-two percent of River Network's final grantees were both first-time applicants and first-time recipients of a federal grant. No matter the future of this specific funding source, these organizations are much better prepared to apply for and fiscally manage large grants from private and public funders in the future. Rooting Resilience is a case study for the structural changes that both philanthropy and government can make to more effectively get funds into underserved communities.

Lowering Barriers for First-Time Applicants

River Network designed the grant program's structure to encourage smaller organizations who have never applied for a federal grant to feel welcomed. These structural features include:

- ✓ Waiving the requirement to match this funding amount with a secondary source
- ✓ Allowing stipends for community members' participation in building the local program
- ✓ Giving informational assistance to prospective applicants
- ✓ Capacity building and training to support applicants throughout the implementation and execution of their projects
- ✓ Offering multiple ways to respond to application questions: written, audio, video
- ✓ Hosting office hours for prospective applicants in English and Spanish
- ✓ Giving support for development of project proposals with webinars, templates, and other resources during the application stage

“Witnessing community members—especially youth and families—step into stewardship of the land and hearing the many expressions of gratitude for the trees being planted...community feedback about the future benefits these trees will provide such as shade, beauty, cultural connection, and environmental protection, has been especially meaningful.”

– REPRESENTATIVE OF KINGDOM PATHWAYS (O'AHU, HI), A ROOTING RESILIENCE GRANTEE

SUCCESSFUL ROOTING RESILIENCE GRANTEES THAT HAD NEVER APPLIED TO OR RECEIVED FEDERAL FUNDING UNTIL NOW: **32%**

In 2025, Rooting Resilience grantees

PLANTED
12,000
trees, over 10,200
plants and shrubs, and
19,725 bulbs and plugs

TRAINED
58
individuals through
workforce development
programming

INVENTORIED
20,428
existing
community
trees

ENGAGED
1,517
community
members as
volunteers



↑The Kaua'i Aloha Collective, through their Kaua'i Native Tree Initiative, has worked with more than 400 elementary school students. These students helped propagate and establish more than 3,500 native trees and shrubs. They also learned about native plant medicine, plant art, mele and hula, centered on the concept of **'āina** and **kuleana** to care for the land.

Learn more

[How River Network structured the program to encourage first-time federal grant applications.](#)

[A tree-planting project in Nashville, TN through a video profile.](#)

[A tree-planting project in the island of O'ahu, Hawaii through a video profile.](#)



←Members of the SRF State Advocates Forum gathered as a delegation at the One Water Summit.

“We appreciate the time, attention, patience, and intentionality of the people and organizations who anchored this cohort. It truly takes all of us working in concert to move the needle forward in codifying the human right to water, actualizing water justice, and ensuring that our communities have unrestricted access to clean, safe, and affordable water and sanitation. Hosting convenings such as these and delivering information to our communities are instrumental in our continued fight for water affordability and water justice. We are grateful for the work you do to share communities’ work, expertise, and genius, lifting stories, struggles, and triumphs.”

– NORREL HEMPHILL, LEGAL AND PUBLIC POLICY MANAGER AT WE THE PEOPLE OF DETROIT

100% OF PARTICIPANTS SAID THEY HAD A HIGH OR MEDIUM UNDERSTANDING OF SRF PROGRAMS, COMPARED TO 53% BEFORE THE PROGRAM.

PEOPLE POWER AS WATER INFRASTRUCTURE STATE REVOLVING FUNDS FORUM

Two long-standing federal programs, State Revolving Funds (SRF) for Drinking Water and Clean Water, support states, tribes, and territory governments to repair and rebuild the nation’s aging water infrastructure. With River Network’s support, local advocates push for funding to flow to the communities who most desperately need water infrastructure investment.

River Network, in collaborative partnership with Alliance for the Great Lakes, the Environmental Policy Innovation Center, and PolicyLink, **led a National Cohort of advocates** for these programs as part of the larger **SRF State Advocates Forum**. The cohort brought together people from rural, suburban, and urban areas around common goals: build a collective understanding of how SRFs can be used to address existing gaps in their communities’

water infrastructure, gain confidence and experience advocating for more equitable implementation of SRF programs, and build lasting relationships with each other as they tackle similar water infrastructure challenges, from lead service line removal to stormwater and flooding.

Through this nine-month program, River Network and partners boosted the effectiveness and coordination amongst local advocates for long-term federal and state engagement. The program combined the historical expertise of River Network and its partners with the

ability for real-time lessons to be shared amongst water advocates as the tides shift, allowing local groups to impact state policy—the arena most possible for policy advancement in this moment.

River Network is leading a continuation of this cohort program in 2026, to supporting several of these community-based organizations as they implement their action plans. National funding for water infrastructure is still here. Local and state-level action allows it to be directed where it’s most needed.

A MODEL FOR
**TRUST-BASED
 PHILANTHROPY**

While federal investments in water and the green infrastructure that protects our water systems continue to flow, River Network also works to build alternative models for funding local, grassroots work. At a time when federal funding is more challenging than ever before, we're balancing this with trust-based philanthropy and seeing change and ripples in communities.

Since 2021, we have awarded \$491,000 to flow funders and recipients. This includes grants to nearly 40 organizations—without restrictions or constraints. In 2025 alone, the Fund gave 13 organizations a total of \$109,000. These community organizations promote water equity; build resilience across communities in the Great Lakes, Atlantic and Gulf Coasts; and connect young people and seniors to green spaces and nature through education, action and the arts.

In 2025, the Flow Fund Circle welcomed two new Flow Funders. Tricia Cortez of the Rio Grande International Study Center will be flowing funds to organizations working along the U.S./Mexico border. Sharee Harrison, a previous Flow Fund recipient and a 2024 River Network River Hero, joined the Flow Fund as a funder in 2025 and is flowing funds to organizations in New Jersey.

In the coming year, River Network will also offer organizational and leadership support services to interested fund recipients, continuing to build their organizations' strength and local impact for the long term.

**FLOW
 FUNDING
 CIRCLE**

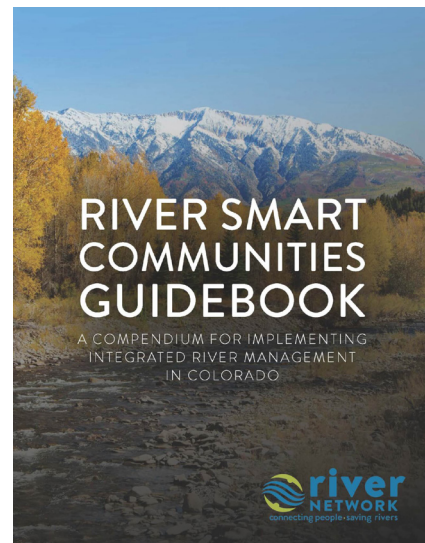


SHARPENING SKILLS THAT POWER THE WATER MOVEMENT

In addition to direct funding and support to communities, River Network continued to release training and guidebooks for water advocates, helping to strengthen their individual and collective capacity. In 2025, we launched:

FOR HEALTHY, RESILIENT RIVERS

The [River Smart Communities Guidebook](#) helps communities build a roadmap for holistic river management. This approach to management gives rivers enough space for the natural processes that create health and resilience for our communities, economies, and the environment. River Network hosted three in-person workshops with Colorado communities and presented this approach to a dozen virtual and in-person sessions. Through these sessions, we shared our story of bringing the right people together to work on river challenges—whether across departments in government, throughout the community, or along the river corridor.



TRAINING TENNESSEE LEADERS ON THE POWER OF THE CLEAN WATER ACT

In 2025, River Network and the Harpeth Conservancy brought together clean water champions from across Tennessee working at the local level to address water quality concerns in their communities. A continuation of our past work to empower advocates with knowledge on the Clean Water Act, the training dove into tools and the programs of the Clean Water Act, how they are implemented in Tennessee, and action steps to take to advocate for their rivers, streams, and wetlands. At the end, the participants set goals for next steps they wanted to take based on what they learned and created action plans to implement them.

FOR INCREASED NETWORK AND ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY



The learning series [Mastering the Grant Cycle](#) gives a playbook of processes, tools, and strategies for nonprofits to make their management of existing grants more efficient and ultimately help them secure more funding down the road. Since publication, this training series has been viewed more than 1,600 times, making it one of River Network’s most viewed trainings.

FOR CLIMATE RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

The training series [Community-Centered Solutions for Green Gentrification and Displacement](#) attracted over 80 participants just two months after publication. The self-paced training series guides participants on how to work closely with partners across sectors to ensure that green investments directly benefit everyone in the surrounding community. Based on our [2024 toolkit on equitable development](#), the training will form the basis for three pilot projects in New Orleans, Southeast Raleigh, and South Phoenix, where we will partner with community groups to design restoration initiatives that benefit both watersheds and people. These projects will restore ecosystems and increase climate adaptation while building local workforces, expanding career pathways, and supporting residents so they can stay in place in their communities.



“I’m grateful to River Network & Harpeth Conservancy for equipping communities with knowledge and, with it, the power to create change. The Clean Water Act is critical to the protection of clean water, rivers, lakes, you, me, and everyone we know. From the hollers to the halls of power, we’re building a resource and a community here in Tennessee for clean water stewards who are ready to go deeper in their advocacy. If that’s what you’re looking for, then we are looking for you!”

– MARIE CAMPBELL, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AT HARPETH CONSERVANCY AND TENNESSEE CLEAN WATER ACT COHORT ORGANIZER

FINANCIALS

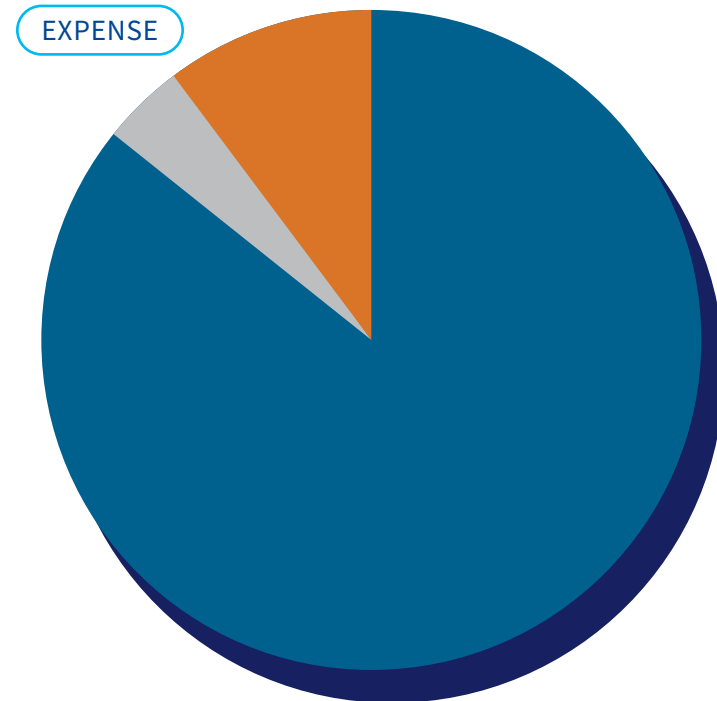
We reflect with gratitude on the meaningful accomplishments we have made together to align and empower our network toward collective action. Thank you for being a part of our journey and for continuing to engage with River Network as we move through our bold and ambitious path ahead.

[DONATE TODAY](#)

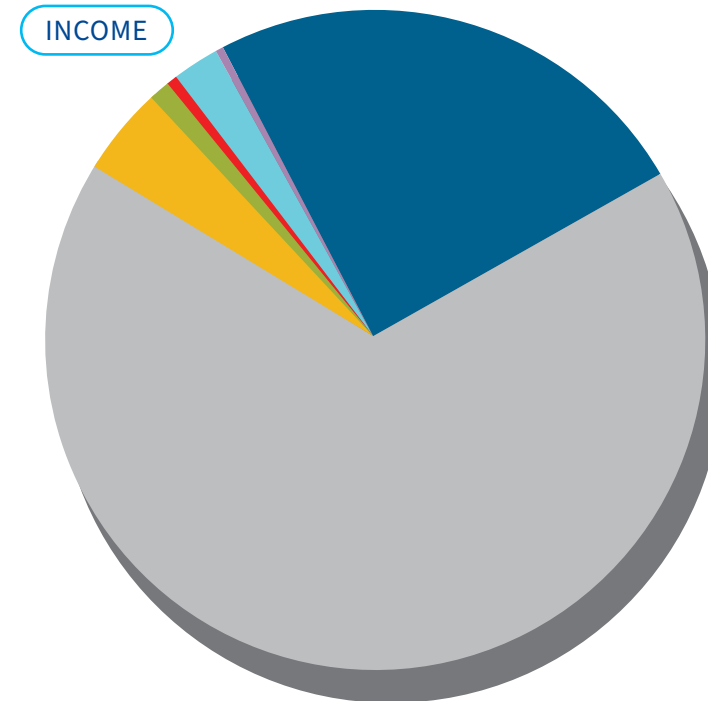
OUR TEAM

APRIL INGLE
 BRENNA GOGGIN
 BRIAN MURPHY
 CHELSEA SILVA
 COLLEEN MCGUIRE
 DIANA TOLEDO

ERIN KANZIG
 HANNAH MICO
 KALA MEGRDICHIAN
 RAKEEM FORD
 SHELBY CLINE



- Program Services — 86%
- Management & General — 10%
- Fundraising — 4%



- Foundation — 24%
- Government — 67%
- Program Contracts/Fees — 2%
- Membership — .5%
- Individual — 5%
- Interest & Other — .5%
- Corporate — 1%

TOTAL INCOME	\$6,131
Program Services	\$5,483
Management & General	\$668
Fundraising	\$242
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$6,393
INCOME - EXPENSE	(262)
FY25 ENDING NET ASSETS	
Endowment	\$500
Restricted	\$1,690
Unrestricted	\$530
	(\$ thousands)

OUR SUPPORTERS

Support from our generous donors—including individual donors and our foundation, government, nonprofit, and corporate partners—allows us to continue to innovate and provide impactful resources and programs for our nationwide network. We express our deep gratitude to our funders, both new and existing, who sustain our work, including those who have been with us for five or more years, indicated with an asterisk.

FOUNDATIONS, GOVERNMENT, NONPROFITS, AND BUSINESSES

Abahac, Inc.*
Agua Fund*
Alabama Rivers Alliance*
Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay*
Alliance for the Great Lakes*
Alliant Insurance Services*
American the Beautiful for All Coalition
Catalyst Fund of the Network for Large
Landscape Conservation
Charles Stewart Mott Foundation*
Chesapeake Bay Trust*
Choose Clean Water Coalition
Colorado Gives Foundation*
Colorado Parks and Wildlife
Colorado Water Conservation Board*
Conestoga River Club
Coosa Riverkeeper
Douglas County Government
Eaglemere Foundation*
Fresh Sound Foundation*

Gates Family Foundation
Holdfast Collective*
Hudson River Watershed Alliance*
Huron Pines Resource Conservation
& Development Council*
Jane A. Lehman and Alan G. Lehman Foundation*
Keel Haulers Canoe Club*
Maggie Purves Fund of the Oregon
Community Foundation*
Mighty Arrow Family Foundation
National Park Service – Rivers, Trails, and
Conservation Assistance Program
National Park Service*
Northeast Michigan Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative
Park Foundation*
Patagonia*
PolicyLink
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
Save Our Saluda
Spring Point Partners*

Stifler Family Foundation*
Suzanne Berl Sustainability Fund
The Cynthia and George Mitchell Foundation
The Geisser Family Foundation*
The Keith Campbell Foundation for the Environment*
The Kresge Foundation*
United States Department of Agriculture*
United States Environmental Protection Agency*
United States Forest Service*
Walton Family Foundation*
Water Foundation - Water Solutions Fund
Water Foundation*
Waterkeepers Chesapeake
WaterNow Alliance*
We the People of Detroit
Wells Fargo Foundation
Western Resource Advocates
William Penn Foundation*
Your True Nature, Inc.*

*DONORS WHO HAVE SUPPORTED RIVER NETWORK FOR FIVE OR MORE YEARS.

OUR SUPPORTERS

INDIVIDUALS UNDER \$1,000

Anonymous Donor*
Anonymous Donor
Anonymous Donor
Anonymous Donor
Anonymous Donor
Jeff Abrams
Todd Ambs and Beth Wentzel*
Adrienne Atwell Szendro
and Peter Szendro
Guy Bateman*
Liza Berdnik*
Elizabeth Birnbaum*
Amy and Jonathan Boal
David and Mary Bogdon
Bill Botzow*
Rufus Botzow*
Chris Brown and Mary Rollefson*
Peggy and Ken Brownell*
Kay Burki
Janet Burrows*
Jeff Burt*
Laure and Anthony Cast
Courtney Chase
Yun Chen
Sarah Culclasure*
Sally Davidson*
Virginia De Lima*
David Deen*
Thomas and Ellen Ennis*

Albert Ettinger*
Cheryl and David Fellows*
Kevin and Debbie Fillo*
Donna Fleming and Frederik Kaufman
John and Barbara Fletcher*
Andre and Jennifer Fortin
Lydia Garvey*
Ellen Gilinsky*
Julian Gonzalez*
George Hawkins*
Barb Horn and Steve Krest*
Amy Kaminer*
Lisa Karlin*
Thomas King*
Renee Kivikko*
Nicole Lampe*
Mel Michelle Lewis
Catherine and Lawrence Long
Philip Long
Russell Long
Jeremiah Mattysse*
Tracy Mehan, III in honor of
Elizabeth T. Mehan
Christopher Miller
Ann Mills*
Ann-Marie Mitroff*
Chris Moore
Elizabeth Morse
Pat Munoz and Dorcas Adkins*

Ciera Nelson Cheeseman
Roger and Beth Nott*
George and Mancie Ohrstrom*
Tammy Owens
David Parsons
Christopher Peters
Margaret Purves*
Peter Raabe*
Elizabeth Raisbeck and Zell Steever*
Ken Ransford
Dawn Reyes
Cary Ridder and David Alberswerth*
George Rieger*
Mark Scheurer
The Schollmaier Family Fund*
Taj Schottland
Karen and William Schuiling
Terri Schulz*
Chelsea Silva
Lizabeth and Bob Srinivasan*
Beth Stewart*
Tom Stuart*
James and Lois Theilmann
Pam Vaughan
Jennifer Wood and Vernon Berry
Max Yano

HEADWATERS DONORS

Anonymous Donor*
Anonymous Donor*
Anonymous Donor
Catherine and Paul
Armington*
Julia Blatt and Ken Siskind*
Danielle and Richard Boal*
William Brandt*
Lynn Broaddus and
Marc Gorelick*
Andrew Fahlund*
Gregory and Christine
Fahlund
Margo Farnsworth
and Jim Pascoe*
Timothy Frank
Andrea Geisser*
Thomas Jesulaitis and
Barrie Seidman*
Jane and John Lewis*

Mary McFadden and Dr.
Lawrence Stifler*
Scott Miller*
Kimberley Milligan
Jack Ohly*
Sandra Postel*
Hema Prado
Joan Rechnitz*
Richard Roos-Collins*
Raj Shukla and
Victoria Frank*
Robert and Lee Sproull
Greer Tidwell*
Tillie Walton
John Weiss*
Suzi Wilkins Berl*
Rebecca Wodder and
James Van Erden*

River Network extends immense gratitude for the bequest from Katherine C. Moore and late husband, David E. Moore, given in memory of daughter, Kate C. Moore.

*DONORS WHO HAVE SUPPORTED RIVER NETWORK FOR FIVE OR MORE YEARS.



PO Box 21387
Boulder, Colorado 80308
303.736.2724
www.rivernetwork.org

