



January 27, 2023

Dear Friends and Members of Bitterroot TU:

First off, on behalf of BRTU, I want to wish you a Happy New Year. We all are anxiously watching the winter weather patterns in the hopes that that our fish, our streams will enjoy a good water year that translates into good angling.

Your chapter recently completed another very successful year of projects. All of the successes are cataloged in the 2022 BRTU Annual Report, which can be found on the BRTU website, www.bitterroottu.org, but here are a couple of highlights. BRTU's Trout in the Classroom program has now expanded to five classrooms in valley high schools and is proving to be quite a hit with local high school students. BRTU's flagship Bitterroot Buggers program is in its 28th year and will begin in February. As most of you know, Buggers annually enrolls about 35 middle school boys and girls and introduces them to stream entomology, fly tying, casting, and conservation. The Buggers finishes with a fishing day and picnic. A BRTU conservation project proposed for the Lee Metcalf National Wildlife Refuge won the 2022 National Trout Unlimited Embrace A Stream Award and we are committed to the effort. Our BRTU E-News is in its 8th year and has close to 800 subscribers - you can subscribe on the BRTU website if you don't receive it. Our other projects have been featured in our E-newsletter and have received favorable coverage in the local media.

Your chapter now has additional exciting opportunities to expand our educational and conservation outreach in the community. However, a larger number of volunteers will be needed to execute these programs.

Your chapter currently has 262 members, but a very small number are actively involved in chapter projects. For us to take on additional programs, we need a larger number of regular volunteers from among our members and supporters. Those who have done so have found it to be a very rewarding experience, and a lot of fun!

If you can help us out by volunteering, please send an email to me (dward0451@gmail.com) or to Donna Haglund our VP at (haglunddonna@gmail.com). Please let us know what type of projects you are interested in helping with.

Finally, in the last year we had several board members step back due to health concerns and work commitments. If you are interested in becoming a board meeting, please read the Board Member description on the BRTU website, and drop me an email. We can get together over a cup of coffee or a beer, and I'll explain in person how the BRTU Board operates.

Thanks for taking the time to read this letter and I hope you will consider getting more involved.

Regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David Ward".

David Ward, President
Bitterroot Trout Unlimited