



Protect Our Water
Jackson Hole

2025 Annual Report



Letter from the Executive Director

As I reflect on 2025, I'm struck by the progress we made and the clarity we gained on the challenges ahead.

As it meanders through Jackson Hole, the Snake River is not just the water visible in its channel; it's in the gravel and rock underfoot as it flows beneath the entire valley. Wastewater from septic systems and our drinking well water coexist in the same hydrogeologic system.

This must change.

We recognize this problem can't be solved one neighborhood at a time. The cost and complexity of expanding sewer infrastructure across the valley is too great for individual neighborhoods to bear alone. What's needed is **a coordinated, county-wide approach capable of planning, financing, and building solutions at scale and pace.**

Despite such a complex and long-term challenge, I've never been more encouraged.

Our community is engaged —with expertise, resources, and determination. The POWJH board of directors, in particular, brings an extraordinary level of commitment and skill, amplifying the impact of our small staff many times over.

Together, we're building real momentum.

Building infrastructure will take time, but our opportunity to establish the governance to prioritize and launch this substantial task is now. **By the end of 2026, let's have a clear mandate for a regional solution to place sewer lines where they are so urgently needed.**

We're fortunate to live in a place defined by wild water, vibrant ecosystems, and supernatural beauty. That privilege carries responsibility, particularly when pollution is reaching a tipping point in cherished streams like Fish and Flat Creeks.

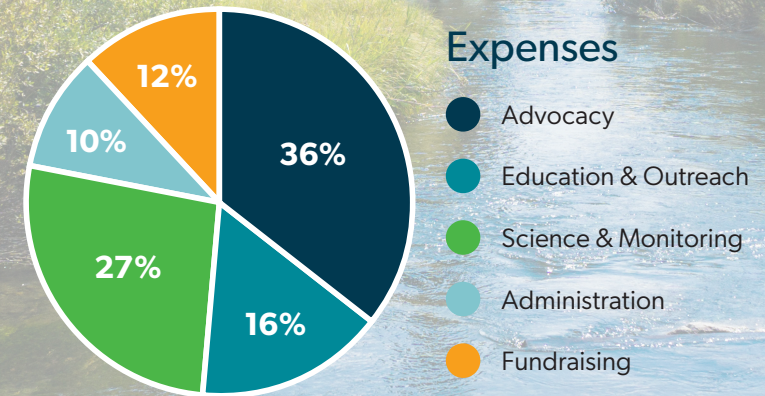
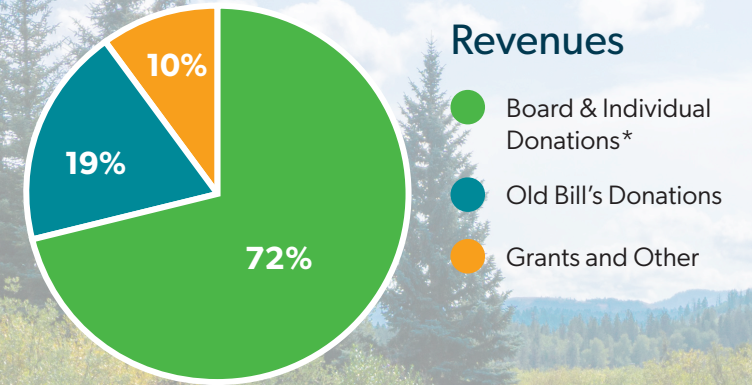
The good news is that the problems we face can be solved. With the right leadership and collective will, we can protect the natural resources that define this remarkable valley. Thank you for being part of this effort.

Phil Powers

*Executive Director
Protect Our Water Jackson Hole*

PS. POWJH is proud to present our 2025 Annual Report in podcast form. We hope you'll enjoy this innovative format that provides an immersion into the organization's accomplishments brought to you by the individuals who made it happen.

2025 Financial Snapshot



Scan Here for
the Annual
Report Podcast!

*100 Percent Board Participation

From Awareness to Action

Building the Scientific Foundation for Clean Water Decisions

Sound policy and infrastructure decisions depend on reliable data. In 2025, the scientific foundation for protecting drinking water grew stronger and more transparent.

- POWJH raised money to install and operate new continuous monitoring for water chemistry at the USGS [streamgage](#) in Fish Creek, expanding real-time water quality data.
- After a decade of POWJH advocacy, the Wyoming DEQ completed its first-of-its-kind [nutrient impairment](#) for Fish Creek, elevating its priority for restoration.
- Our petition to Wyoming DEQ [to require additional monitoring](#) for ammonia in groundwater near the Town of Jackson's wastewater treatment plant was successful.
- POWJH funded the distribution of more than 200 [drinking water well test kits](#) through an EPA grant for free distribution to residents across Teton County.
- POWJH successfully advocated for [snow storage planning](#) to help address risks to surface and groundwater.

Confronting Wastewater and Septic Pollution at the Source

Septic systems fail quietly. By advancing planning, funding, and regulatory coordination, 2025 helped shift wastewater from a hidden liability to a shared community responsibility.

- POWJH helped raise \$50,000 to support [a wastewater feasibility study](#) in Hoback Junction, alongside progress toward a long-term [solution for drinking water](#).
- We supported the approval of the [North Highway 89 sewer line](#), which will expand sewer access and reduce reliance on aging septic systems.
- POWJH continued to advocate for the county to adopt the [Munger Mountain sewer line](#) to address longstanding wastewater risks. Our advocacy uncovered some weak links in the county's ability to manage infrastructure.

Embedding Water Protection into Land Use and Watershed Planning

Once development happens, impacts are difficult to reverse. Stronger land-use rules in 2025 helped protect water resources before harm occurred.

- POWJH successfully advocated to [update Section 5.1.1](#) of the county's land development regulations to strengthen wetland and waterbody setbacks.
- We served on the steering committee that created the Town of Jackson's new stormwater management plan [to reduce runoff impacts](#).
- POWJH helped scrutinize major development proposals like the Mogul Capital Megahotel, Dauntless hotel, and Grand Targhee subdivision to [incorporated water quality considerations](#).

Turning Knowledge into Leadership and Action

When communities understand how water moves and its impact, they make better decisions. In 2025, water literacy expanded across Teton County.

- POWJH created and distributed the [Clean Water Guide](#), Teton County's first comprehensive, public-friendly roadmap for water protection.
- A yearslong effort by POWJH to create a Teton County [Water Quality Advisory Board](#) came to fruition with the board's first meeting, providing local government with science-based guidance.
- POWJH co-convened The Teton County Water Summit, [attended by more than 140](#), to discuss wastewater solutions and emerging technologies.



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