



AN AMERICORPS STORY



2012 AmeriCorps member with the new Big Sky Watershed Corps

Served with the **Bitter Root Watershed Forum** in Hamilton

Currently starting a **second AmeriCorps term** at the Bitter Root Watershed Forum

Kalena Gravina

The Big Sky Watershed Corps is a new AmeriCorps program developed by the Montana Conservation Corps to help local watershed communities make a measurable difference in conservation efforts, educational programs, and watershed research. As a recent graduate with a degree in Geography and Water Resources, Kalena Gravina jumped on the chance to move to Montana and hone her professional skills in managing water resources. In her first year of service, Kalena has reached thousands of youth and adults with watershed education programs through service days, community events, Farmer's Market booths, public forums, fundraisers, and field trips. Kalena has also increased the Bitter Root Water Forum's capacity and strengthened their relationship with the Bitterroot Conservation District.

"My AmeriCorps service has helped bring together diverse stakeholders and strengthened relationships in the Bitterroot Valley. I am especially proud of the DEQ mini-grant I received to provide an educational fieldtrip for Ravalli County FFA classes. It brought together the Natural Resource Conservation Service; the Bitter Root Irrigation District; Painted Rocks Water Users Association; Fish, Wildlife, and Parks; and a county commissioner who is also a 4th generation Bitterroot irrigator." –Kalena Gravina