

MONTANA WATER QUALITY MONITORING PROGRAMS



A RESOURCE FOR CITIZEN SCIENCE VOLUNTEERS

There are many groups in the state of Montana focused on water quality protection and Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) early detection through citizen science. The following list includes programs that support more than just one lake, river or stream, or citizen science group. Support offered includes: funding, training, technical support, data collection support, and data sharing.

ASSISTANCE AND FUNDING FOR MONITORING SURFACE WATER

Monitoring Montana Waters (MMW)

Focus: Provides technical assistance and funding opportunities to citizen-led groups monitoring surface water in Montana.

Website: bit.ly/flbsmmw

Phone: (406) 872-4518

Montana Department of

Environmental Quality (DEQ) VMLASP

Focus: Provides volunteer monitoring programs with financial assistance for laboratory sample analyses and shipping costs for surface water monitoring projects.

Website: deq.mt.gov/Water/SurfaceWater/monitoring

Phone: (406) 444-5390

ASSISTANCE FOR MONITORING LAKES, STREAMS, AND RIVERS

Montana State University Extension Water Quality (MSUEWQ)

Focus: Provides technical support and training events for volunteer monitoring programs, as well as an online data viewing platform. Supports monitoring efforts in DEQ Focus Watersheds.

Website:

waterquality.montana.edu/vol-mon/index.html

Phone: (406) 994-7381

ASSISTANCE FOR MONITORING LAKES

Northwest Montana Lakes Network (NMLN)

Focus: Long-term water quality monitoring and AIS early detection sampling. Training citizen scientists and supplying equipment for long term data collection and sharing.

Website: nmln.info Phone: (406) 862-4327

Upper Columbia Lakes Network (UCLN)

Focus: AIS early detection sampling by providing kits to groups and training citizen scientists.

Website: ucln.net Phone: (406) 862-4327

Partners



FLATHEAD LAKE
BIO STATION
UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA



MONTANA
STATE UNIVERSITY

EXTENSION



Whitefish Lake
INSTITUTE

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PROGRAM INFORMATION

Monitoring Montana Waters (MMW)

MMW's supports water quality monitoring efforts of citizen-led watershed groups in Montana. The goal is to build capacity for monitoring, support all aspects of monitoring efforts, and support the collection of scientifically credible data to be used for management decisions. Groups can apply for laboratory analyses and field gear funding after submitting a Sampling and Analysis Plan. Analyses are conducted at the Bio Station's Freshwater Research Lab. Data must be uploaded to both FLBS and MT Department of Environmental Quality's EQuIS databases (MT-eWQX).

Website: bit.ly/flbsmmw

DEQ Volunteer Monitoring Lab Analysis Support Program

Each year, DEQ supports volunteer monitoring programs seeking financial assistance with laboratory sample analysis and shipping costs associated with water quality monitoring projects. Applicants are required to submit an application, a Sampling and Analysis Plan (SAP), and an analytical budget which matches their funding request. All data that is collected must be uploaded by the awardee to DEQ's water quality EQuIS database (MT-eWQX).

Website: deq.mt.gov/water/surfacewater/monitoring

Montana State University Extension Water Quality (MSUEWQ)

MSUEWQ has been involved with volunteer monitoring since 2004. The program works collaboratively with watershed groups across the state to help educate citizens in non-point source pollution issues, foster stewardship on water resources, and help develop monitoring programs that can collect credible data to help inform management decisions.

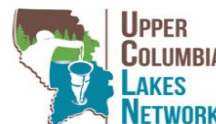
Website: waterquality.montana.edu/vol_mon/index.html

Northwest Montana Lakes Network (NMLN)

Formed through a partnership with Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks and the Whitefish Lake Institute, NMLN's mission is to recruit and train citizen science volunteers to monitor water quality, identify and report AIS and promote watershed stewardship in Northwest Montana. NMLN volunteers collect lake data and report the results to management agencies and the public. The NMLN currently monitors a total of fifty locations on forty-one lakes in Flathead, Lake, Lincoln and Missoula counties.

Website: nmln.info

MONITORING PROGRAMS



Upper Columbia Lakes Network (UCLN)

The UCLN, funded by the Bureau of Reclamation and managed by Whitefish Lake Institute, supports the Upper Columbia Conservation Commission's AIS early detection effort. UCLN engages lake groups and citizens in proactive AIS monitoring and decontamination protocols. UCLN citizen scientists monitor for invasive mussels and plants using a plankton tow net and by visual inspection.

Website: ucln.net