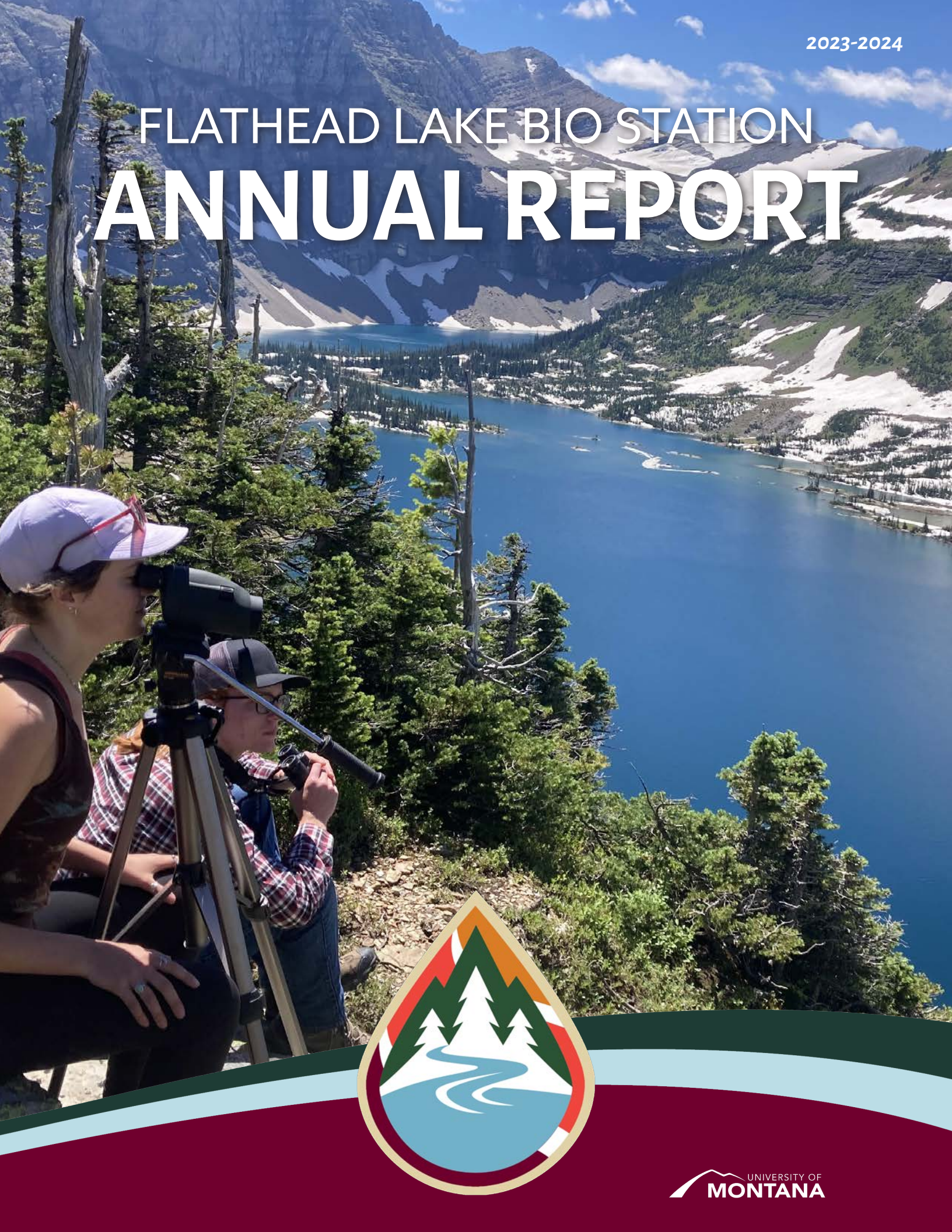


2023-2024

FLATHEAD LAKE BIO STATION ANNUAL REPORT





Greetings from FLBS!

For 125 years, Flathead Lake Biological Station (FLBS) science has established a baseline, provided historical context, and documented accelerating rates of change in our beloved Flathead Watershed. These beneficial contributions made by generations of FLBS scientists are at the forefront of our minds as we celebrate the 125th anniversary of the Bio Station's founding in 1899.

To commemorate this momentous milestone, we have embarked upon **FLBS125: An Anniversary Initiative** — a three-year celebration highlighting the 125th anniversary of the Bio Station's founding. Through this three-year initiative, we will build on our strengths and set a course for the next 125 years at FLBS by bolstering support for critical priorities, programs, needs, and ambitions. You can learn more about how you can join in this effort in the pages of this report.

Additionally, this report contains stories from the past year that demonstrate just a few of the many ways FLBS continues to sustain Elrod's original vision for the Bio Station serving as a platform for science, education, and service in the Flathead Watershed and beyond. You can read about PhD student **Joe Vanderwall's** published study in which he, like Morton Elrod, collected the first scientific data on the waters of Glacier National Park, establishing an important baseline for these newly formed lakes.

You can learn about how the Bio Station's impactful monitoring programs have been successfully sustained and advanced into new areas, helping FLBS scientists document water quality in Flathead and Whitefish Lakes and their inflow rivers and stay ever vigilant to prevent and mitigate the spread of invasive species. FLBS scientists are also continuing to expand our watch in other watersheds through innovative and collaborative programs like our Monitoring Montana Waters program.

We are proud to be able to announce the creation of the Pesticide Stewardship Partnership Program (PSP), which integrates FLBS science and community participation. Funded by a multi-million dollar Environmental Protection Agency grant and led by FLBS assistant research professor **Rachel Malison**, PSP will help protect Montana watersheds from pesticide pollution much in the same way that Elrod's documentation of the ecological impacts of mining in the early 20th century helped protect the renowned waters of Montana.

FLBS research scientist and GIS specialist **Diane Whited**, meanwhile, is serving our community by partnering with Flathead Valley Community College students and faculty to better understand the regional die-off of ponderosa pines that our region has experienced since 2022.

We also invite you to read about our achievements in education and outreach, building upon the Bio Station's storied legacy of immersive, place-based education for K-12, undergraduate and graduate students, and the general public. Thanks to the generosity of our FLBS community, our summer courses and internships offer a multitude of interdisciplinary opportunities for the next generation of scientists, educators, business leaders, engaged citizens, and more.

The FLBS Flathead Lake Aquatic Research Education (FLARE) K-12 program continues to inspire thousands of Montana K-12 students and teachers through hands-on learning in the classroom and in the field, bringing us closer to our goal of ensuring that every Montana child has the opportunity to engage in FLBS science at least once in their K-12 academic career.

Finally, in this year's report, we are also including details about our funding sources and expenditures that keep FLBS operating at a world-class level. As you review the breakdown, we hope you take note of the powerful role our generous community plays in our achievements.

With your help, we can accelerate our world-renowned research on the ecology of our waters, expand our environmental monitoring of the Flathead Watershed, broaden educational opportunities for students and educators at all levels, and empower our growing Bio Station community to keep our waters blue for generations to come.

*Thank you for your
continued support!*



Community and Collaboration



Sailing National Championships at Flathead Lake

FLBS enjoyed the excitement and festivities of the 77th Annual Thistle National Championship opening ceremonies during the 2023 summer. FLBS team members had the opportunity to share important information about Aquatic Invasive Species and other threats to water quality and ecosystem sustainability here in the Flathead Watershed and beyond with racing teams visiting from across the U.S.



Flathead Lake Run Proceeds Support FLBS

FLBS team members had the honor of cheering on runners during the 8th annual Flathead Lake Run in July 2023. Hosted by the Lakeside-Somers Chamber of Commerce, this "Run For The Love Of The Lake" event generously donated a portion of the proceeds to FLBS to help support and create awareness around the health and future of Flathead Lake through research, stewardship, and outreach.



Owl Research Institute Banding Station at FLBS

Following an exploratory research project, the Owl Research Institute (ORI) has officially embarked on a long-term Saw-whet Owl Migration Study at FLBS. During their banding season, ORI scientists captured 180 owls and also launched a public outreach program called Fall Visitor Nights, offering members of the community the opportunity to spend a night at the banding station at FLBS and join in the research.



Artists-in-Residence Host Community Workshop

In October 2023, FLBS Open AIR Artists-in-Residence hosted the second annual Inquiry: A Day of Art and Science at FLBS, during which attendees participated in activities and were given a first-hand and interactive look at the wonderful intersection between our 2023 artists, their creative work, and the FLBS science and research happening in the Flathead Watershed and beyond.

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A tremendous thank you to our 2023 Big Sky Watershed Corps Members, who spent the year with us playing a pivotal part in helping us advance all areas of the FLBS mission to keep our waters blue. The Big Sky Watershed Corps continues to be a significant partner for FLBS, helping our researchers and educators conduct meaningful work in the areas of watershed research, education, and outreach.



FLBS Awarded \$6.6M EPA Grant to Fight Pesticide Pollution in Montana Waters

In 2023, the Bio Station was awarded \$6.6 million from the Environmental Protection Agency's Columbia River Basin Restoration Program for FLBS assistant research professor **Rachel Malison** to develop and implement a comprehensive and collaborative Pesticide Stewardship Partnership Program (PSP) for the Upper Columbia River Basin of Montana. The program will focus on reducing pollution to improve water quality, while engaging and educating the public on ways they can help reduce toxics from polluting Montana's pristine waters.

The Columbia River Basin reaches 17 federally recognized Tribes and seven states: Montana, Idaho, Washington, Oregon, Wyoming, Nevada, and Utah. The Basin provides significant ecological benefit to these regions and supports critical economic industries, such as commercial fisheries, agriculture, forestry, recreation, and electric power generation. Montana's portion of the Columbia Basin includes the Clark Fork, Kootenai, and Flathead Rivers.

Pesticides are substances that prevent, kill, repel, or mitigate organisms that are harmful to cultivated plants or animals. Despite the enactment of the Clean Water Act in 1972, pesticide contamination in lakes and streams in the Columbia River Basin remains a concern today.

Throughout the Basin, fish have accumulated contaminant levels that are harmful to people and wildlife when eaten. Toxins in fish are a primary health concern for Columbia River Basin tribal

people and other high fish consumers. Toxins also have negative impacts on the rest of the food web and little is known about how pesticides influence aquatic systems in Montana. To date, there has been no comprehensive pesticide monitoring program in western Montana, which is where PSP can make a difference.

PSP will include targeted water quality sampling for pesticides; implementation of actions to reduce pesticides in urban, residential, and agricultural areas; and monitoring for successful implementation. Some of the planned activities include green infrastructure projects to treat stormwater, increased residential and commercial pesticide waste collections, and educational watershed tours. All of the program activities will improve water quality by preventing toxics from entering the environment.

Working in collaboration with the Montana Department of Agriculture, Montana Department of Environmental Quality, Montana State University, and others, PSP will leverage matching resources to increase its impact. Participating stakeholders will engage in sampling, education, and outreach, and lead actions to improve Montana's waters. The project will also work in collaboration with the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes and the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho to address risks to human health from consumption of pesticides in fish.

With clean water being a critical resource for all people and all aquatic ecosystems, PSP is an opportunity to create a lasting legacy for future generations to come.

Making a Plan:

The Benefits of Charitable Giving Just Got Better!

Qualified Endowment Credit (Montana Endowment Tax Credit)

Effective January 1, 2024, Senate Bill 506 enacts the following changes to the popular state tax credit:

- The Qualified Endowment Credit became permanent.
- Along with the permanency, the tax credit increases to \$15,000 per taxpayer or \$30,000 per couple filing jointly, when a qualifying gift is made.
- For businesses making a qualifying gift, the tax credit increases to \$15,000.

For more information, contact:

Alison Schultz, UMF Director of Planned Giving
alison.schultz@supportum.org



Qualified Charitable Distributions

The IRS recently announced an increase in qualified charitable distribution gift limits:

- Generally, for those 70 ½ or older, up to \$105,000 can be transferred directly from your traditional individual retirement account to support the University of Montana in 2024. Amounts given in this way are not counted as income for federal income tax purposes.



New Study Shows Glacial Loss May Bring Significant Changes to Alpine Lakes in the Northern Rocky Mountains

In a study recently published by the scientific journal *Limnology and Oceanography*, FLBS PhD student **Joe Vanderwall** (PhD University of Montana, awarded 2023) and a team of FLBS researchers studied alpine lakes in Montana’s Northern Rocky Mountains and Glacier National Park to investigate what changes to alpine lakes and the unique habitats they provide might mean for the biogeochemical and ecological characteristics of our mountain ecosystems and the human services they provide.

As glaciers recede, they can leave behind newly formed lakes born from glacial meltwater. But in high alpine elevations, there are also lakes fed only by melting snowpack. While the two types of lakes may look similar on the surface, scientists haven’t previously plunged into the depths of their respective characteristics to better understand the differences between them.

Researchers surveyed alpine lakes fed by glacial meltwaters and compared the nutrient concentrations, chemistry, water clarity, chlorophyll, and zooplankton communities to lakes at similar elevations that were fed by snowpack alone.

They found that nutrient concentrations in glacial lakes were three times higher compared to non-glacial lakes. The scientists also discovered that the organic carbon concentrations of these glacially-fed lakes were two times lower than in non-glacial lakes; the carbon-to-phosphorus ratio and the nitrogen-to-phosphorus ratio of lake particles increased with water clarity in glacial lakes; and while concentrations of chlorophyll did not appear to differ between lake types, the zooplankton communities were notably different.

As warming trends continue, the loss of mountain glaciers will ultimately bring the loss of glacial lakes and the unique conditions they provide. At current rates, all alpine glaciers are predicted to completely disappear from the Northern Rocky Mountains by 2100, which means that we can expect significant changes to nutrient dynamics, biogeochemical processes, and biodiversity of lakes across this heterogeneous mountain region.

Researchers say that more work is needed to understand how the physical and biogeochemical characteristics of alpine lakes are affected by climate-induced glacier loss in high-elevation landscapes, so we can best prepare for a probable future in which our legendary mountains of majesty no longer sustain their caps of snow and ice.



Community Collaboration Key to Helping Solve Ponderosa Pine Mystery

Working in partnership with FLBS, and guided by Flathead Valley Community College (FVCC) natural resources professor Tim Eichner and FLBS GIS/remote sensing research scientist **Diane Whited**, students in FVCC’s Natural Resource, Conservation and Management program continued their efforts to better understand the challenges facing our local ponderosa pines and the mysteries behind the recent ponderosa pine die-off.

In 2023, students invited members of the public to take part in their Ponderosa Pine Citizen Science Project. Citizens interested in helping better understand trends and patterns associated with the regional ponderosa pine die-off can utilize the project’s phone app.

Using the app, volunteer tree mappers can log any ponderosa pine they come across throughout the Flathead Valley. The app goes through a series of straight forward survey questions that volunteers answer about a tree’s location, size, distance from other trees, and health condition. All entries are uploaded to a live map showing the results. As of the end of 2023, citizen scientists had logged nearly 100 trees, half of which showed signs of pine beetle infestation.

FVCC students hosted two seminars in October 2023 to educate volunteers on tree identification and the surveying project, which can be viewed online. Visit the FLBS website for more information about the FLBS-FVCC collaborative Ponderosa Pine Citizen Science Project, which is funded entirely by philanthropic support via the FVCC Foundation, the Community Foundation for a Better Bigfork, and the Flathead Lake Lodge.

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

Join our growing FLBS Community!



Sign up to receive our monthly FLBS eNewsletter!

125

Anniversary

1899

2024

FLATHEAD LAKE BIO STATION

UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA

Beginning in 2024, FLBS will celebrate the 125th anniversary of its founding in 1899. The Bio Station will commemorate this milestone with a multi-year celebration called **FLBS125: An Anniversary Initiative**. Throughout the initiative, FLBS will reflect on its scientific and educational legacy and accomplishments over the past 125 years while also announcing new ambitions that will advance innovative FLBS aquatic science, monitoring, education, and outreach programs in the century to come.

The Bio Station is the second oldest field station in the country. It was first established in Bigfork in 1899, and would ultimately move to Yellow Bay in 1910, where it stands today. Since its founding, students from around the country and all over the world have come to the Bio Station to learn firsthand about biology. Among the earliest students at FLBS were some of UM's most distinguished alums.

By 1968, year-round research was being conducted onsite, and 1977 marked the start of an ambitious long-

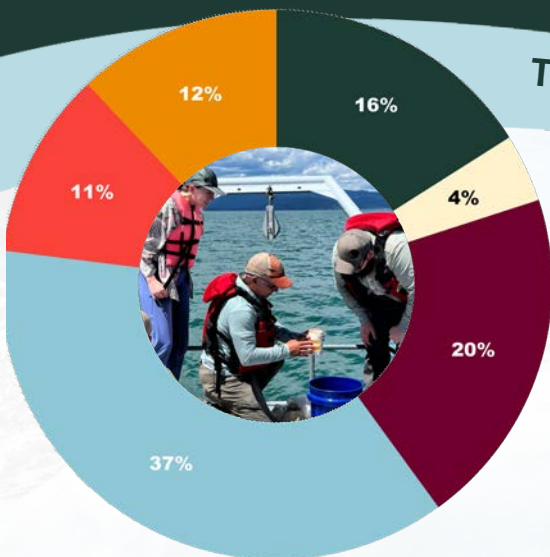
FLBS125: An Anniversary Initiative

term monitoring program in the Flathead Watershed that has produced one of the best continuous freshwater datasets in the world.

In 1981, the construction of the state-of-the-art Schoonover Environmental Research Laboratory added the ability to conduct onsite chemical water analyses to FLBS's suite of research tools, vaulting it into its position as one of the finest freshwater research facilities in the world. Today, the Bio Station is comprised of 60 buildings on its 80-acre Yellow Bay campus, can house over 100 people, and employs roughly 40 people year-round.

FLBS125 will feature ways in which FLBS works to accelerate world-renowned research in aquatic ecology, sustain and expand environmental monitoring of Flathead Lake and its watershed, broaden educational opportunities for students and educators at all levels, and empower local communities to keep Montana's waters clean and blue for future generations.

Stay tuned for updates on FLBS125-themed events, products, apparel, and storytelling, which are all made possible through the generous partnership of local and regional communities and businesses. Additionally, FLBS125 will provide fundraising priorities and opportunities that will give anyone who is passionate about making a powerful impact and leaving a lasting legacy for future generations and Montana's waters.

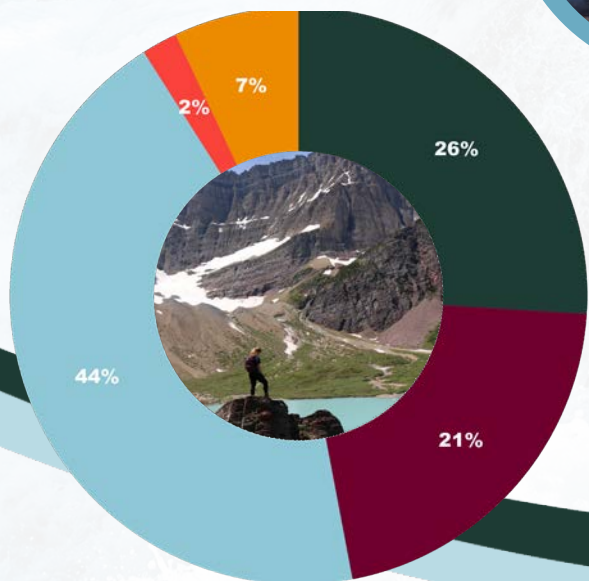


THE COSTS OF CUTTING-EDGE SCIENCE

Expenditures

- Facilities, Hospitality, and Other Services
- Monitoring and Research
- Education and Outreach
- Administration
- Operations
- Faculty

FLBS125 Investment Priorities



- Funding Sources**
- Hospitality and Services
 - Academic Tuition/Fees
 - State Funding
 - Philanthropy
 - Grants

INVESTMENT INFLOW FOR FLBS



Cutting-Edge Innovation on the Front Lines of AIS Prevention and Mitigation

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) early detection and prevention remain crucial for keeping our waters healthy in Montana. Thanks to essential grant funding and philanthropic support, FLBS AIS specialist **Phil Matson** and his AIS monitoring team completed three rounds of early detection sampling for zebra and quagga mussels at thirty-one different sites around Flathead Lake. Once again, none of the samples tested positive for any signs of invasive mussels.

The FLBS AIS Program also widened its early detection efforts through collaborative partnerships with Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP), the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT), Big Sky Watershed Corps, local lake association representatives, and community volunteers.

These collaborations included FWP's "Clean, Drain, Dry" campaign and impactful educational efforts like the Mussel Walk for local K-12 students. Co-hosted alongside CSKT educators, the Flathead Lakers, and Montana State Parks, this year's Mussel Walk engaged roughly 200 students from Bigfork Middle School, Polson Middle School, Two Eagle River School, Mission High School, and Whitefish Middle School through four separate events around Flathead and Whitefish Lakes.

Educational opportunities weren't limited to local K-12 students. Working in conjunction with FWP, the FLBS AIS team hosted an AIS early detection workshop in 2023.

This two-day training was attended by federal, tribal, state, and local watershed association participants. Attendees benefited from learning native and non-native aquatic species identification, eDNA collection protocol, and macrophyte and invertebrate collection techniques.

The FLBS team also hosted a training in the use of a new detection tool Loop-Mediated Isothermal Amplification (LAMP) for eDNA testing of zebra and quagga mussels. Point of use genetic tools, such as LAMP, are being used to detect DNA targets at the site of sample collection. The speed and efficacy of these innovative field-based genetic tools could be beneficial for early detection of invasive species on Flathead Lake that require immediate management action.

Additionally, both Matson and FLBS director **Jim Elser** will represent the Bio Station on the newly formed Western Montana Conservation Commission, which aims to facilitate coordination between resource managers protecting existing high quality waters across western Montana.

With three new invasive mussel detections near Montana's borders in 2023—the Snake River in Idaho, the Pactola Reservoir in South Dakota, and Highline Lake in Colorado—the continued collaboration and investment in early detection sampling and research in Big Sky Country is more important than ever to protect and sustain our pristine waters for future generations.

A Home for the Future of Aquatic Science and Education

All areas of the FLBS mission depend upon the quality, functionality, and safety of the Bio Station's facilities. Though rustically endearing, the aging facilities at FLBS highlight a growing need for infrastructure investment and modernization. With your help, we can accommodate increased productivity of a growing research staff, provide effective facilities for ever-expanding and popular education programs, and support critical administration for sustainability of operations. For more information, contact:

Jeff Babik
FLBS Development Director
jeff.babik@supportum.org





Monitoring Montana Waters Program: Empowering Local Communities

Led by FLBS assistant research professor Rachel Malison, the FLBS Monitoring Montana Waters (MMW) program continues to provide scientific expertise and guidance to volunteer-driven watershed groups in Montana. Throughout 2023, MMW supported water quality monitoring efforts by providing scientific, technical, and financial support to citizen-led watershed groups. This support helped ensure that the groups used scientifically sound methodologies in all aspects of their monitoring efforts.

In addition to assisting and consulting in designing monitoring plans, MMW also collaborated with Montana State University Extension and the Montana Department of Environmental Quality to host a volunteer water monitoring training event, and provided small MMW grants to help support the cost of sample analyses in the FLBS Freshwater Research Laboratory or purchase sampling gear. Through these efforts, MMW is helping to ensure that samples collected and data generated meet accepted standards, maximize utility, and can be used by management agencies to benefit the waters of Montana.

Striving to Protect and Sustain Montana's Pristine Waters

Now led by FLBS professor **Matt Church**, the Bio Station's long-term Flathead Monitoring Program (FMP) is excited to report that after another year of rigorous monitoring, Flathead, Whitefish, and Swan Lakes all remain clean, clear, and blue. Unfortunately, the threats to water quality in the Flathead remain, and FMP continues to play a vital role in the first line of defense against degradation of our pristine waters and impacts to the fish and wildlife that depend upon our healthy ecosystems.

For decades, the program's flagship activities have included monitoring and research on Flathead Lake, monitoring of Whitefish Lake, tracking nutrient inputs to our waters, and conducting river and floodplain research on the Middle Fork Flathead River.

Over the decades, these activities have uncovered dramatic changes in Flathead Lake's community following the arrival of *Mysis* shrimp, documented the importance of free-flowing rivers and intact floodplains for fish and wildlife, and resulted in significant conservation successes such as a ban of phosphorus detergents, the upgrade of sewage treatment systems, and prevention of mining along the North Fork Flathead River.

FLBS scientists once again produced a number of significant water quality-related accomplishments this year. These accomplishments included, among many others, the expansion of the Bio Station's Monitoring Montana Waters program, the creation of a new Pesticide Stewardship Partnership Program through grant funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the continued collaboration with international stakeholders to protect U.S. waters from transboundary mine pollution.

FMP is largely funded through philanthropic investment, and your support is the driving force sustaining our ability to keep watch over our waters. Support from our FLBS community has strengthened our ability to monitor, understand, and protect Flathead Lake, its watershed, and waters across Montana for future generations.

Though the Flathead Watershed continues to be free from impacts of widespread nutrient pollution that are degrading almost all other freshwater lakes and rivers around the world, as our region's popularity continues to rise and our climate continues to change, we need to be more vigilant and collaborative than ever to ensure the health of our waters for future generations.



Connecting K-12 Students and Teachers with World-Class Science at FLBS

Funded entirely by generous philanthropic support, the Flathead Lake Aquatic Research Education (FLARE) K-12 program returned to full operation in 2023. Led by FLBS education liaison **Monica Elser** and FLBS education coordinator **Stephanie Hummel**, the program interacted with over 3000 K-12 students in 2023, engaging over 1100 students through hosted field trips to FLBS. While many of the visiting classes were from local schools, FLBS also hosted students from Anaconda, Butte, Helena, and across the U.S. through the University of Montana’s summer experience programs.

FLARE K-12 reached 2000 students through classroom visits, after-school programs, and community events. Included among the many 2023 off-site K-12 opportunities was a three-part watershed education series in partnership with the Flathead Lakers for the Boys and Girls Club of the Flathead Reservation.

FLARE K-12 once again partnered with educators from the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, the Flathead Lakers, and Montana State Parks to increase invasive mussel awareness through four individual Mussel Walk events. Utilizing Aquatic Invasive Species curriculum that FLARE K-12 educators helped create and pilot, the Mussel Walk culminated in hands-on learning activities with K-12 students on the shores of Flathead and Whitefish Lakes.

Beyond directly connecting with K-12 students, FLARE K-12 continues to generate opportunities to help teachers learn about current science and receive on-site educator professional development training. As an example, FLBS educators worked with Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks to host an Aquatic Invasive Species Workshop. This workshop provided teachers from across Montana with AIS resources and lesson plans that could be effectively integrated into their curricula.

Working with 2023 FLBS Big Sky Watershed Corps member **Levi Rajnowski**, who provided essential educational programming to students across the Flathead Watershed, FLBS educators created a shoreline erosion lesson plan designed for high school language arts classes, and conducted a distance learning virtual program focused on zooplankton that was delivered to students in the Flathead Valley and in California through the Exploring By The Seat of Your Pants organization.

With a busy year behind us and plenty of forthcoming class visits on the books in 2024, it doesn’t appear the momentum behind the FLARE K-12 program will be slowing anytime soon. If you are a K-12 educator and are interested in engaging the FLARE K-12 program, visit the FLBS website and contact our FLARE K-12 educators today.



Investing in the Next Generation

The FLARE K-12 program is taking steps to expand its reach to more students through the increase of staffing and resources, virtual opportunities, and upgraded facilities. Thanks to the support of our FLBS community and organizations like the Greater Polson Community Foundation, we are moving closer to our goal of ensuring every Montana child has the chance to gain first-hand experience researching, monitoring, and exploring the world-renowned Flathead Watershed at least once in their K-12 career. If you are interested in learning how you can make an impact on the aquatic science education of Montana’s K-12 students, contact:

Jeff Babik
FLBS Development Director
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QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS?
DROP US A LINE!

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We'd love to hear from you!



Advancing Student Opportunities at the Forefront of Discovery



For over a century, FLBS has offered an immersive, world-class education in the Flathead Watershed. This year was no exception. We welcomed nearly sixty students from twenty-seven universities to Yellow Bay in 2023, where they had the opportunity to take one or more of our eleven field-based ecology courses. The 2023 course offerings featured five new instructors and extensive field experiences that included outings to Wild Horse Island, midnight *Mysis* shrimp samplings, whitewater rafting down the Middle Fork Flathead River, and more.

Overseen by FLBS summer session program manager **Hannah Gerhard**, and greatly supported by summer session assistants, the Bio Station’s 2023 summer courses offered students hands-on learning and real-world research opportunities alongside world-renowned FLBS scientists, and included overnight field trips to Glacier National Park and other ecologically significant locations.

We are extremely proud to note that nearly half of all 2023 FLBS students received scholarships to make their summer education possible. FLBS was honored to award over \$75,000 in total

philanthropic funding to students, thanks in large part to the named and endowed scholarships created by our generous Bio Station community. These scholarships continue to play a vital role in expanding access to FLBS courses for college students in Montana and throughout the country.

In addition to our summer academic program, FLBS hosted thirteen interdisciplinary interns from Montana and around the nation who played a crucial part in advancing all areas of the Bio Station’s mission. Made possible through the generosity of our FLBS community, we had the honor of welcoming our first marketing and culinary arts interns in 2023.

The addition of these new interns enriched the holistic professional development opportunities available for students at FLBS, and all of our 2023 interns conducted important work in areas ranging from environmental journalism to aquatic insect ecology that will have a positive impact on FLBS research, monitoring, education, and outreach for years to come.



“ No matter where I go career wise, I know this experience will stay with me and I will always look back on it fondly. It’s still hard to step away. It has that kind of impact. ”

~ Matthew Spahr
2023 FLBS Marketing Intern



Connected by Our Waters



In 2018, FLBS director Jim Elser found himself in Glacier National Park, getting ready to sample a newborn lake at the foot of Chaney Glacier. Looking up, he imagined students and faculty from the early 1900s perched on the ridgeline, looking out over a glacier as the lake had yet to be born. More than a century separated them, but Elser and these researchers of the past were united by the same common urge to explore, discover, and advance scientific understanding of the complex ecosystems around us. We invite you to join current and future generations of FLBS scientists, staff, and students as we embark on the next 125 years at FLBS!



2024 FLBS EVENTS:

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! >>>

>>> FLBS125 Community Open House Celebration - August 2, 2024

We invite you to come to our beautiful Yellow Bay facilities to help us commemorate our 125th anniversary while engaging in hands-on science activities; meeting our faculty, staff, and students; listening to informative presentations on the State of the Lake and the Bio Station's history; and more! Come early and get a boat ride on the *Jessie B.*!

>>> FLBS125 Research Cruise - July 11, 2024

Hop aboard the *Far West* in Lakeside, MT for a cruise that features great food, refreshing beverages, and an ample dose of innovative science. You'll learn directly from our scientific staff and students as we discuss how to Keep Our Waters Blue.

>>> Science on Tap Flathead

We're excited to partner with the Flathead Lakers to host informal science presentations at the Flathead Lake Brewing Company Pubhouse in Bigfork. Join us for topics that range from owls to native fishes to mountain goats!

>>> Data and Donuts

During the first four Mondays of our summer program, scientists from FLBS, Montana, and around the world give a one-hour lecture on a fascinating research topic. This is a great opportunity to learn while enjoying a tasty pastry or two!

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