

# THOMAS S. BANSAK

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Flathead Lake Biological Station  
32125 Bio Station Lane  
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## EDUCATION

M.S. 1998. River Ecology. Flathead Lake Biological Station, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Montana, Missoula, MT

B.A. 1994. Environmental and Evolutionary Biology. Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH

H.S. 1990. Groton School, Groton, MA

- Coursework includes: River, Lake, Groundwater, Marine, Riparian, Fish, Plant, Forest, Tropical, and Community Ecology; Ecosystem, Watershed, and Public Lands Management; Natural Resource Policy; Conservation Biology; Hydrology; Hydrogeology; Oceanography; Animal Behavior; Environmental Economics; and Statistics
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## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

### FLATHEAD LAKE BIOLOGICAL STATION

POLSON, MT

- Research Scientist. 2005-present. Design, coordinate and conduct ecological research projects. Duties include all aspects of research: obtaining funding; designing projects; conducting research; supervising field and lab crews; coordinating with government and Native agencies; analyzing and interpreting data; writing reports and scientific publications; and communicating scientific results to managers, decision-makers and the general public.

Projects include:

Flathead Lake-River system ecology and water quality, including wastewater and other pollutants;  
River, floodplain, groundwater and salmon ecology around the Pacific Rim;  
Aquatic Invasive Species ecology and effects on native communities;  
Environmental sensor networks: Design, construction and maintenance.

- Research Assistant. 1996-1999. Conducted research and assisted with various aspects of projects throughout the Montana's Flathead Basin and the Western U.S. Projects included:  
Long term monitoring of biota and water quality of the Flathead Lake-River system;  
Examining effects of land use (e.g., timber harvest, mining and urban development) on water quality and habitat;  
Investigating the impacts of wildfire on rivers and riparian areas;  
Researching climate change and its effects on stream conditions and invertebrates;  
Studying the structure and function of large flood plains including surface water-groundwater interactions.
- Independent Researcher. 1996-1998. Created and completed a project for M.S. examining the effects of surface water-groundwater exchange on habitat heterogeneity, nutrient flow, and primary production on a large alluvial flood plain of the Middle Fork of the Flathead River.

### DARTMOUTH COLLEGE

HANOVER, NH

- Independent Researcher/Research Assistant. 1993-1994. Worked on projects examining effects of habitat restoration on stream insects and reintroduced Atlantic Salmon in the White River system of Vermont.
  - Independent Researcher. 1993. Created and conducted field research projects examining the community ecology and function of tropical forest and coral reef ecosystems in Costa Rica and Jamaica. Co-edited resulting volume of scientific reports.
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## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

### FLATHEAD LAKE BIOLOGICAL STATION

POLSON, MT

- Educator. 2005-present. Regularly present scientific information to a wide range of audiences including school groups, the general public, management agencies, the business community and government officials.
- Teaching Intern. 1998. Assisted with intensive field ecology classes for university students. Responsibilities included lecturing, preparing and leading field and lab exercises, handling logistics, and grading.

#### WILD ROCKIES FIELD INSTITUTE

MISSOULA, MT

- Instructor. 1999-2005. Organized and led extended backcountry field courses for undergraduate academic credit, concentrating on the ecology, natural history, environmental issues, public lands management and natural resource policy of the Western U.S. Wilderness backpacking, camping, kayaking, canoeing and safety skills were also taught. Responsibilities included creating the course curriculum and trip itinerary, preparing and maintaining equipment, attending to safety and medical issues, and planning meals.

#### GLACIER INSTITUTE

WEST GLACIER, MT

- Instructor. 1998-2004, 2009-present. Teach aquatic ecology field courses, which entail lecturing on the structure and function of aquatic systems, showing examples of geologic features and ecological habitat types, identifying organisms, demonstrating research techniques and discussing conservation and management of the Flathead watershed including Glacier National Park, Flathead National Forest, Bob Marshall Wilderness, and Wild and Scenic River system.

#### CANYONLANDS FIELD INSTITUTE

MOAB, UT

- Instructor and River Guide. 2001-2002. Led educational multi-day river trips, which focused on river and desert ecology and management issues of the Southwestern U.S. Responsibilities included planning and conducting educational activities, handling logistics including food, overseeing safety and piloting rafts.

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### OUTREACH AND DEVELOPMENT

#### FLATHEAD LAKE BIOLOGICAL STATION

POLSON, MT

- Development Coordinator. 2012-present. Plan and execute comprehensive and project specific fundraising campaigns, including strategic planning, proposal preparation and presentation, relationship cultivation and stewardship, communication with constituents, creation of marketing materials, coordination of direct mailings and event planning.
- Community Liaison. 2011-present. Convey the Biological Station's mission and represent its research and education programs. Translate scientific research to a wide range of non-scientific audiences through a variety of mediums including public presentations, written articles, newsletters and social media. Coordinate educational and outreach events such as Open House. Host and present to visiting school groups and professional workshops.

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### SERVICE AND BOARDS

#### WILD ROCKIES FIELD INSTITUTE

MISSOULA, MT

- Advisory Board Member. 2010-present. Provide insight into organizational operations, including strategic planning, courses, staffing, finances, fundraising and marketing.
- Board Member. 2002-2010. Past President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary. Oversaw and assisted with all aspects of organizational operations, including strategic planning, course scheduling and approval, staff relations and hiring, financial management and budgeting, fundraising and marketing.

#### SWAN LAKERS

BIGFORK, MT

- Board Member. 2014-present. Provide scientific expertise and non-profit administrative experience to further the organizational mission which is to preserve and improve the water quality and natural, cultural and historical resources of the Swan Lake watershed.

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### OTHER

- Wilderness First Responder and CPR certification.
- Whitewater River Guide and Swiftwater Rescue Technician.
- Advanced Open Water SCUBA certification from PADI. Frequent diving since 1986.
- 15 passenger van and trailer safety training and operational experience.
- Extensive experience operating and maintaining a wide variety of boats and watercraft.