



MSU Extension partner installing a lysimeter to understand how pesticides may leach through soil into groundwater

About Us

In 2021, the EPA received \$79 million from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law for the Columbia River Restoration Program. By 2023, \$56 million was allocated to reduce toxics in the river over the next five years. Flathead Lake Biological Station was awarded funding to build the Montana Pesticide Stewardship Partnership Program (PSPP). The PSPP is a collaborative network in Western Montana working to reduce pesticide pollution in our waters through sustainable best practices with many partners. The PSPP supports water quality monitoring, community education and engagement, and activities to improve water quality.



Montana Pesticide Stewardship Partnership Program

A collaborative network in Western Montana working to reduce pesticide pollution in our waters





Supporting water quality monitoring, community education and engagement, and activities to improve water quality

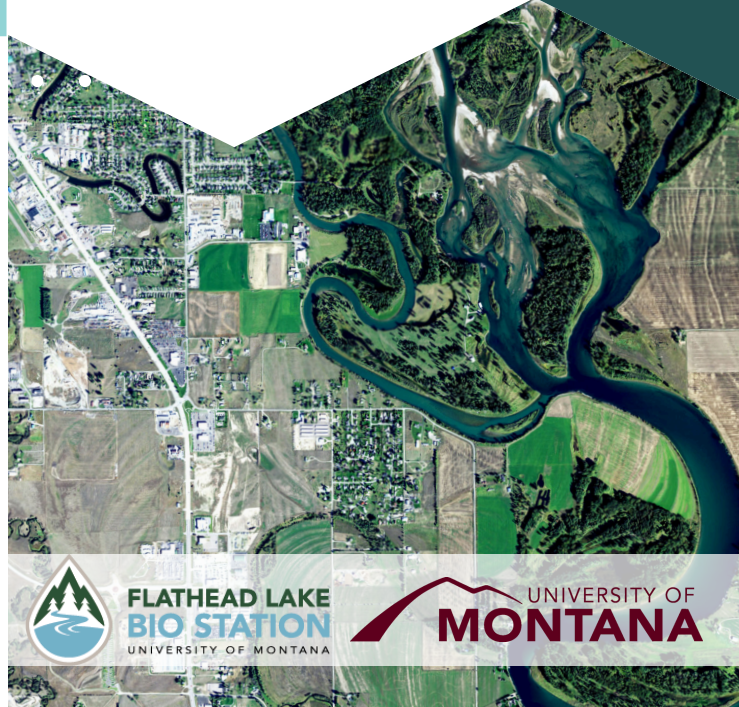


What We Do: PARTNERSHIP

- **Flathead Lake Biological Station-** Project lead, coordinating surface water monitoring, research, and community engagement to reduce pesticide pollution and protect water quality.
- **Montana Department of Agriculture-** Expanding groundwater monitoring and organizing pesticide disposal and container recycling events.
- **Montana Department of Environmental Quality-** Creating educational materials and promoting native plants for better pest management practices.
- **Kootenai Tribe of Idaho-** Collecting water, fish, sediment, and plant samples from the Kootenai River to check for pesticide levels.
- **Montana State University Extension-** Conducting lysimeter research on pesticide movement, providing educational resources, and surveying usage trends.
- **Montana Watershed Coordination Council-** Coordinating outreach and education to reduce pesticide pollution in watersheds.
- **City of Missoula-** Building green infrastructure to improve stormwater management.
- **Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes-** Testing fish for pesticides to protect human health.
- **Collaborative Network-** Many additional organizations, agencies, and individuals are supporting and participating in the PSPP collaborative network.

Contact Us

-  **Phone**
406.872.4518
-  **Email**
MTPSPPP@flbs.umt.edu
-  **Address**
32125 Bio Station Ln
Polson, MT 59860-6815
-  **Website**
<https://bit.ly.mtpsppp>



Where We Work: The Columbia River Basin in Montana



The Columbia River Basin portion of Montana includes the Flathead, Clark Fork, and Kootenai River watersheds. These rivers flow west into the Columbia River, which continues to the Pacific Ocean.

These rivers support hydropower, irrigation, recreation, wildlife, and more—contributing significantly to the Columbia River system.

"If we are going to live so intimately with these chemicals eating and drinking them, taking them into the very marrow of our bones – we had better know something about their nature and their power."

–Rachel Carson

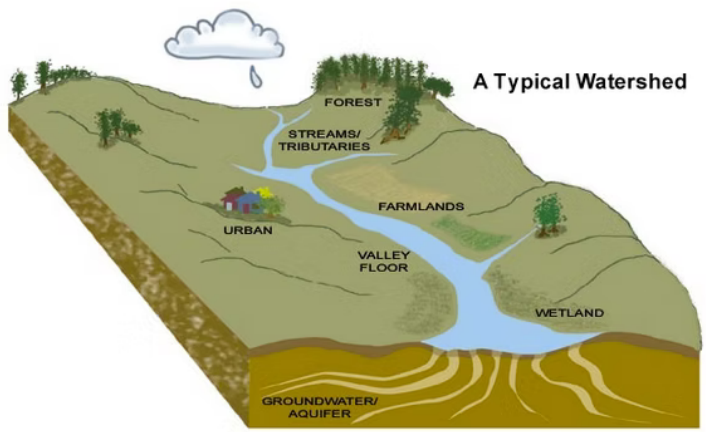
Resources For You!

- ✓ General Pesticide Information
- ✓ Health and Safety
- ✓ Applicator Information & Disposal
- ✓ Noxious Invasive Weeds
- ✓ Handouts and Outreach Materials

Find these resources and more at bit.ly.mtspsp

Why This Matters: A Watershed Perspective

Viewing pesticide use through a watershed lens is essential. Pesticides applied on land can move with rain and irrigation, entering streams, rivers, and groundwater—impacting water quality far beyond the point of application. Because watersheds connect communities, ecosystems, and water sources, they offer a natural framework for understanding and addressing these impacts.



By focusing on entire watersheds, we foster a collaborative network of farmers, residents, tribal nations, agencies, and local partners working together to reduce pesticide pollution. This approach supports sustainable, science-based practices that protect drinking water, promote soil and ecosystem health, and ensure a lasting impact on the upper Columbia River Basin. Our shared commitment to responsible pesticide use—knowing your pest, choosing the right method, and protecting non-target organisms—helps preserve clean water and all that rely on it.

