A dark blue vertical bar on the left side of the page, with a light blue arrow pointing right from its center.

Monitoring Montana Waters

-

Archived Blog Posts From 2023

Published Posts: 01/27/2023 – 12/14/2022

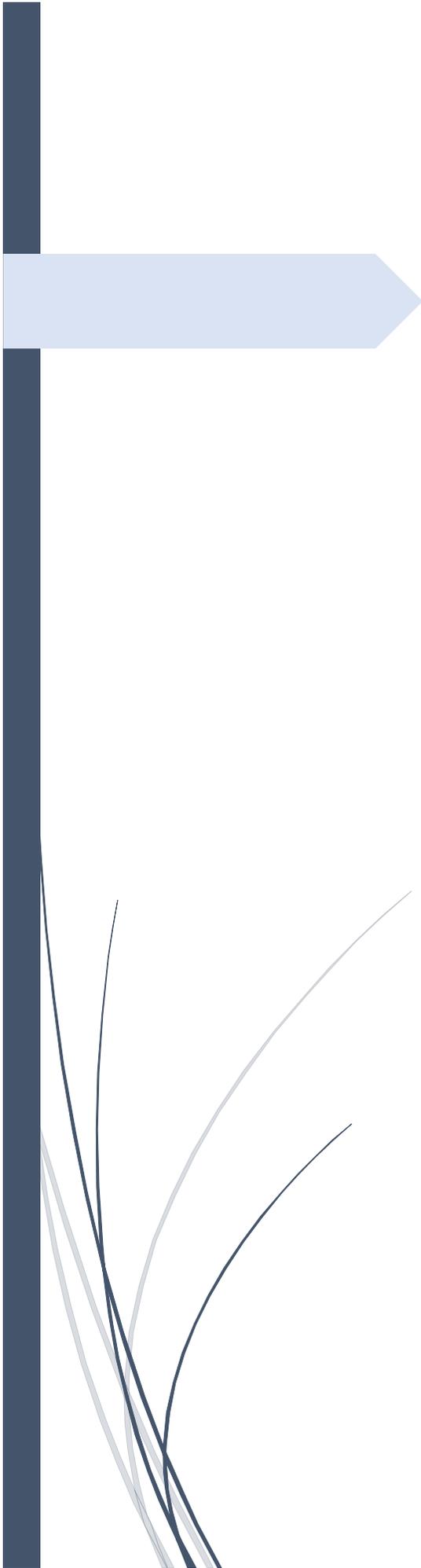


MONITORING
MONTANA WATERS

Rachel Malison

Rachel.malison@flbs.umt.edu

(406) 872-4518

A dark blue vertical bar on the left side of the page, with several thin, curved lines representing reeds or grasses extending upwards from the bottom left corner.

Contents

January Blog	2
Come one, come all! A Call for Funding!	2
March Blog	3
MMW Visits the Capital.....	3
May Blog	5
Trainings Trainings Trainings!	5
August Blog	6
More Trainings!	6
October Blog	8
Another Successful Year of Sampling.....	8
December Blog	10
An Exciting New Partnership for Western Montana!.....	10

January Blog

Come one, come all! A Call for Funding!

Published 01/27/2023



Winter is still in the air, but the spring season is quickly approaching. Monitoring Montana Waters is heading into our third year of providing financial support to citizen-led watershed monitoring groups. If you are interested in strengthening the scientific capacity of your group, MMW has both lab analyses funding (up to \$6,000) and gear funding (up to \$1,500 available every 3 years). In 2022 we funded 9 different groups, supported many sampling events, and facilitated the laboratory analysis of over 1000 samples. In 2023 we are looking to continue to expand our funding and outreach even more! Applications are due March 1st, 2023. Check out the **Funding** tab on our website for more details.

March Blog

MMW Visits the Capital

Published 03/31/2023



March came in like a lion and out like a lamb, or at least it should have. Snow is still covering much of the ground in western MT but we are starting to see more signs of spring! With the start of the month came the due date for this year's financial applications for our upcoming water monitoring groups and also the Water Quality Rotunda in Helena, MT. We here at MMW got to celebrate ground water awareness week by taking part in the Rotunda, representing Flathead Lake Biological Station and our MMW program alongside groups like the USGS, DEQ, Flathead Lakers, Flathead Rivers Alliance, Gallatin Water Quality District and so many more organizations. After sharing the great work our groups do with state legislators, we changed gears have been busy preparing for this year's sampling season. We have been busy reviewing and approving funding

applications and SAPs, as well as making plans to interact with our groups to plan out sampling and shipping supplies for the 2023 season. With the sampling supplies organized and ready to be sent out we're excited to dive into another season of water sampling!

May Blog

Trainings Trainings Trainings!

Published 05/31/2023

The monitoring season for MMW funded groups has begun! To kick off the sampling season, MMW, MT-DEQ and MSU Extension hosted a water quality monitoring training event at the Flathead Lake Biological Station. In addition to many trainers, we had 28 trainees from water monitoring groups, conservation districts and volunteer groups throughout the state come and learn more about the importance of water monitoring and develop new skills to improve their current efforts. Training stations included instruction on sampling/measuring for water chemistry, discharge, sedimentation, macroinvertebrates, and riparian health, as well as how to calibrate, use and care for different water quality probes like YSI meters and Hydrolabs. Experts from MT-DEQ, FLBS, MSU and DNRC led each station on a nearby creek. MMW continued to provide trainings by visiting the Yaak Valley Forest Council to do a full group training and go over grab and filtered sample collection methods. The level of enthusiasm to jump into the cold creek varied from person to person, but the group was incredibly cheerful and organized about each step. But, in all fairness, they could have worn waders! We will be meeting and training more groups as the season continues to ensure each group feels confident in their abilities to take scientifically credible water quality samples.

August Blog

More Trainings!

Published 08/02/2023



June was a busy month for the MMW team with sampling and training fully underway, as well as the arrival of the summer interns to FLBS. During the month of June, the MMW team, joined by Bucknell intern Anna Brown, went down to Hamilton to train The Bitterroot River Protection Association and the many volunteers that are a part of sampling the Bitterroot and its tributaries. On this cloudy day Rachel explained the importance of different analytes, what the effects of different nutrients would have on the river, and what you might want to look for if you're worried about different problems in the watershed. The members had compiled and summarized the data they collected from the last three years of baseline sampling, and we were able to talk about the variation that was seen year to year or month to month. We also had each of the twelve members of the group practice sampling for unfiltered and filtered samples, as well as discuss the importance and procedures for field blanks, duplicates, and the COC form. MMW has been working with BRPA for three years and they are off to another great start for the 2023 season. It was great to meet the many passionate people behind BRPA that want to help understand the changes and challenges that face the Bitterroot to help keep the waters of Montana as pristine and clean as they have been in years past.

October Blog

Another Successful Year of Sampling

Published 10/31/2023



Fall is here, and October has been a busy month for MMW with our attendance at multiple conferences, our funded groups wrapping up sampling events for the year, and supporting efforts to start a new and exciting program at FLBS to address pesticide pollution (more info coming soon!). This month, both the Montana Chapter of the American Water Resource Association (AWRA) conference and the Montana Lakes Conference took place. At the AWRA conference, we were able to speak with people from multiple agencies, conservation districts, and students where we learned about the efforts being made throughout the state that are keeping Montana's waters some of the cleanest in the world. I (Jared) got the opportunity to speak at the AWRA conference about MMW's role in supporting groups, along with the amazing work that those monitoring groups have been doing this year. Along with the AWRA conference, we were able to attend the Montana Lakes Conference and hear more about the work and studies being done on our lakes and how we can continue to protect them. I also

had the opportunity to assist in some data collection with Kootenai Watershed Allies (KWA) where we traveled to over 30 sites along the Kootenai and Lake Koocanusa. This allowed me to have a more hands-on experience with collecting flow data and water sampling as well as the opportunity to learn more about KWA and all the efforts Rita and Johnny Adams are undertaking to protect their watershed. The data from there monitoring will also be used to help the USGS with their ongoing work in the Kootenai drainage. More information about their work can be found [here](#) on the USGS website. Lastly, we are getting prepared to announce a new program at FLBS to help expand monitoring efforts and address pesticide pollution in western Montana. Check back in November for an official announcement and launch of this program!

December Blog

An Exciting New Partnership for Western Montana!

Published 12/14/2023



Snow is falling, and winter is here. With the water sample collection season behind us, we bring exciting news for future water quality monitoring efforts in western Montana. In the fall of 2023, the Flathead Lake Biological Station was awarded \$6.6 million from the EPA to implement and lead a collaborative Pesticide Stewardship Partnership Program (PSPP) for the Upper Columbia River Basin of Montana. MMW, along with multiple other partner organizations, will be working with the PSPP to reduce pollution, improve water quality, promote citizen engagement, and implement green infrastructure throughout the Columbia River Basin (CRB) of Montana. This is an exciting opportunity, as Montana currently has no pesticide monitoring programs, and it gives us the chance to quantify the threats facing our aquatic systems. MMW and our volunteer water monitoring groups will be working closely with the Montana PSPP on

expanding our sampling efforts to include pesticides and increasing water monitoring support for the CRB of Montana. For more information about the new MT PSPP check out the [website](#). It is currently under construction, but is being populated regularly with more information and will include pages about pesticides, partners, projects and upcoming events. If you'd like to know more about the work MMW does or are interested in starting or joining a monitoring group feel free to reach out to MMW@flbs.umt.edu.