

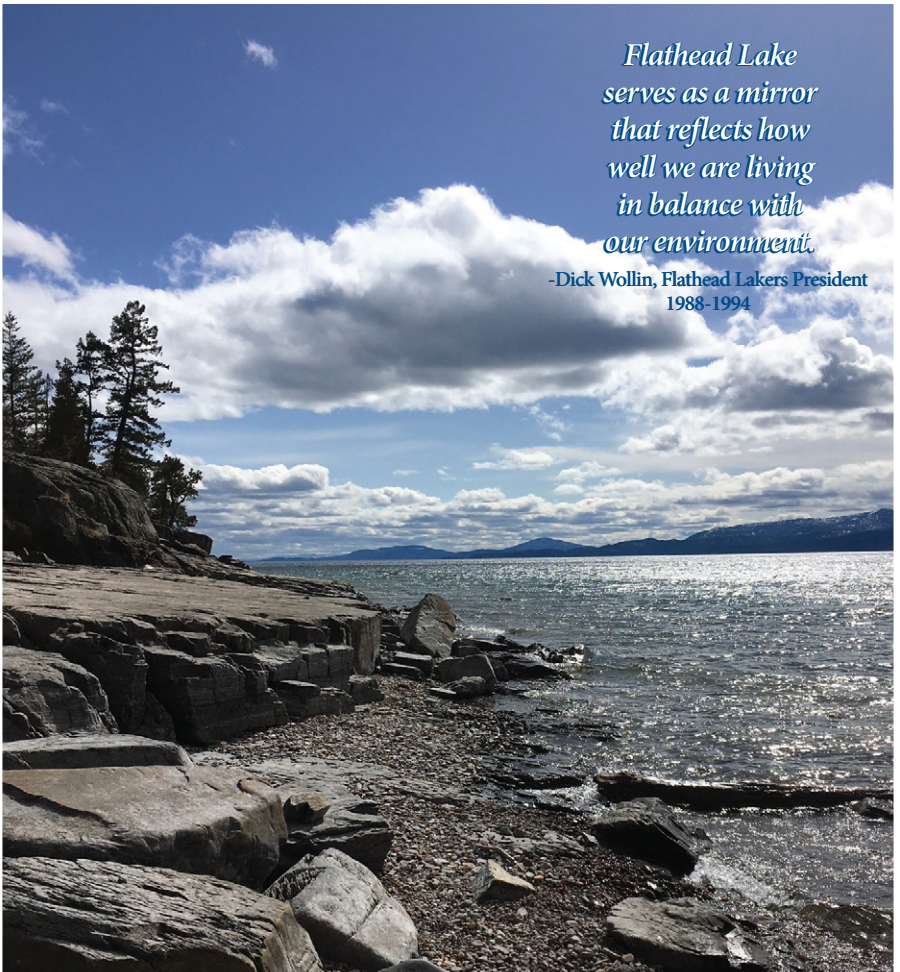


Flathead Lakers 2018 Annual Report

Clean Water Connections

*Flathead Lake
serves as a mirror
that reflects how
well we are living
in balance with
our environment.*

-Dick Wollin, Flathead Lakers President
1988-1994





Protecting Clean Water for Six Decades

Greetings Fellow Lakers and Friends,



Thank you for caring about the future of our beautiful lake and watershed.

Thank you for taking the long view and having confidence that by working tenaciously, year after year, we can achieve our big – sometimes daunting – goals together.

Goals like preventing invasive mussels from reaching our lake and watershed, preventing a train derailment from spilling toxic crude oil into Flathead headwaters, conserving and restoring healthy green ribbons of life along our streams and rivers that sustain our clean water.

And, previous goals that we've helped achieve together like ensuring a better operations plan for SKQ (then Kerr) Dam that helps restore healthy water flows, habitat and lake levels, preventing a massive open-pit coal mine along the wild headwaters of the North Fork, securing a state law and funding for measures to prevent the spread of invasive mussels.

Our organization – **our community** – has grown over the years to be a powerful voice for Flathead Lake and the clean waters that flow through our watershed, our lake, and our lives.

Time flies when you're doing what you love. It's hard to believe I have been working on your behalf as Executive Director for two of those six decades. And it's hard to believe my time serving you and our community is nearing its conclusion.

I'm sad to leave the vocation I love, but I will always be grateful for the opportunity I've had to serve the Flathead Lakers, our clean waters, our bountiful watershed, and the wonderful people like you who care about safeguarding this special place. It has been a privilege.

I will have the opportunity to say good-bye and thank you in person at our 2019 Annual Meeting on July 11 at the Flathead Lake Biological Station. I would love to see you there.

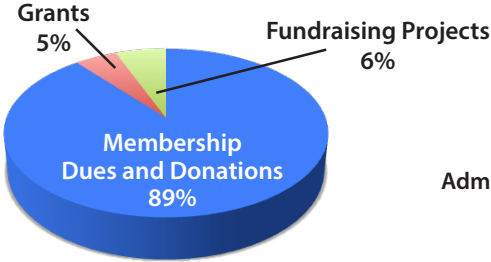
With gratitude for your support and friendship,

The Power of Our Community

Together,

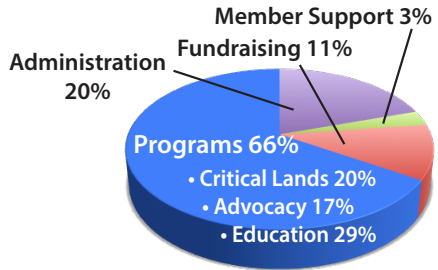
our community's generosity in 2018 provided over \$250,000 for protecting Flathead Lake and the clean waters that flow through it – our best year yet!

INCOME



Total Income: \$252,530

EXPENSES



Total Expenses: \$192,067

This surplus makes it possible to plan for expanding our programs and staff.

In 2018 —

over **1,000 members**
donated to our cause

over **100 volunteers**
planted trees, led student
activities, helped run events
and more

700 students
learned about our lake and
watershed

50 landowners
learned about clean water
stewardship

40 citizen scientists
collected data on our lake

more than
150 science enthusiasts
learned about the science of
our watershed

58 paddlers and 104 runners
enjoyed a fun day at the lake to help
fund our programs

All of Us -
a powerful voice for our lake
and clean water

YOU — all of our achievements begin with your support.

Thank you for being part of our community!

Advocating Clean Water Solutions

Thwarting Invasive Mussels for 12 Years

You can celebrate another year of Flathead Lake being mussel-free!

But, we know that more work must be done to improve local and state defenses against zebra and quagga mussels. In 2018



Quagga mussels in Lake Mead completely clogged a pipe in 6 months.

we proposed improvements for the state's mussel rapid response plan, participated in a rapid response exercise, supported a stronger mussel containment program at Tiber Reservoir, and advocated for a longer season and longer hours of boat inspection station operations.

We are now supporting bills in the 2019 Legislature to provide permanent funding for the state AIS program and to expand and improve prevention measures, like requiring boats with ballast tanks entering the state to be decontaminated before launching.

Thank you for helping prevent introductions of invasive mussels!

Saving Critical Lands for 19 Years

Flathead Lake is connected to its watershed in more ways than we can understand.

Clean water connections support our local communities and farms, our diverse natural heritage, our economy, livelihoods, and recreation.

During the past year, our River to Lake Initiative partnership secured a conservation easement on 45 acres of wetlands on the north shore – a bird oasis. Together, we've now conserved over 500 acres on the north shore.

We also began work on a new project, with leadership from the Flathead Land Trust, that will conserve a 155-acre farm along the Flathead River, including 33 acres of

spectacular wetland habitat. You can help fund this special project! Mark your calendar for the **June 21 Solstice Party** on the north shore.



Thank you to our many volunteers who helped plant trees to restore riparian buffers in 2018!

With our **River Steward** partners and volunteers, we planted more than 3,000 trees and shrubs last year to restore riparian buffers.

Constanza von der Pahlen established and sustains our partnerships that have conserved over 6,000 acres of critical lands and restored riparian buffers that safeguard our clean water.

Thank you for saving the best of our valley's critical connected landscapes and the clean waters they sustain!

Advocating Clean Water Solutions

Protecting Flathead Headwaters for 34 Years

The number of oil train derailments and spills around the country and in Canada keeps growing.

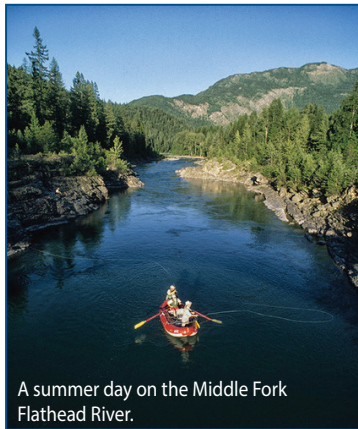
Those spills show how vital it is to develop a plan for preventing a spill here in the Flathead. A spill into the Middle Fork would cause catastrophic long-term damage to the river, groundwater, downstream waters, iconic native fisheries, and our economy and way of life.

We are delighted that the Cadeau Foundation awarded the Flathead Lakers a grant in 2018 to implement outreach projects to build public awareness about this threat and the need for a safety plan.

Thank you for protecting our waters from an oil spill!

Planning for Clean Water for 56 years

We were there to represent you and clean water through two years of meetings, hearings, and comment opportunities on Lake County's new Growth Policy. Our extensive recommendations were included in the final Growth Policy and will help protect clean water, habitat, and farmland. Despite all our best efforts, the Commissioners' second attempt in three years succeeded in making the density regulations "advisory" only. Thanks to everyone who submitted comments.



A summer day on the Middle Fork Flathead River.

We applaud Flathead County voters for approving the 2018 proposal to expand the Egan Slough Zoning District, which we supported. The expansion helps protect significant natural, cultural, agricultural and scenic values.

Thank you for supporting sound planning that protects clean water, healthy habitat, and quality of life!

A Strong Voice for Clean Water for 60 Years

We spoke up when a huge water bottling plant was proposed at Egan Slough near the Flathead River and just upstream from Flathead Lake.

In 2018, we went to court to prevent our clean waters from being shipped out of state without adequate review for the water right permit.

Our court case is the result of an incomplete water right permit application for the bottling plant, and an inadequate evaluation of that application by the Department of Natural Resources &

Conservation that ignored the state statute requiring a higher standard of evidence and additional review criteria for a water right permit to transport water out of state.

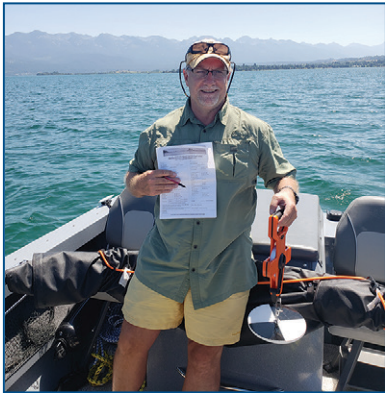
We now await a decision by District Court Judge Kathy Seeley.

Thank you for being a voice for protecting our waters!

Inspiring Watershed Stewardship

Conducting Citizen Science Monitoring for 1 Year

Thanks to the more than 60 volunteers, our inaugural Flathead Lake Secchi Dip-in was a big success. What a great way to



Board member Jeff Tuttle getting ready to dip his Secchi Disk in our first Flathead Lake Secchi Dip-in.

learn about the health of our lake.

The quality data collected by our Citizen Scientists last summer was the best assessment of water clarity ever conducted around Flathead Lake.

We're gearing up for our 2019 Secchi Dip-in and other monitoring projects in partnership with the Flathead Lake Biological Station. Join the Citizen Science crew by contacting Hilary.

Thank you for expanding the science on Flathead Lake through Citizen Science!

Offering Science on Tap for 3 Years

Science on Tap has been wildly successful since we launched it in partnership with the Flathead Lake Biological Station

and Flathead Lake Brewing Company.

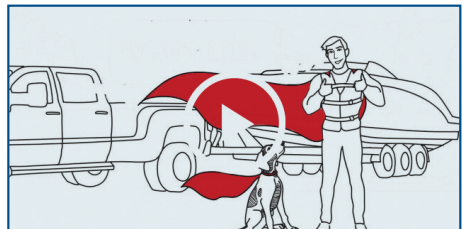
Thanks to all of the wonderful presenters who brought the amazing and diverse science of our watershed and world to life. Join us the first Tuesday of each month from 5 to 8 to raise a local brew to science and clean water.

Thank you for providing fun opportunities to learn about our watershed!

Educating People about Invasive Mussels for 12 Years

300 local students participated in hands-on educational activities at the 2018 "Mussel Walk" to learn about the threat of invasive mussels and how to prevent introductions. Lakeshore landowners also gathered for an afternoon on the lakeshore to learn about the mussel threat and prevention. We partnered with the Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes, Flathead Lake Biological Station, and Flathead Lake State Parks on this project.

We expanded the reach of our "Be a Montana Superhero" video through gas station video screens and through Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks' adopting it as part of their statewide AIS education



Remember to share the link to our "superhero" video (on our website home page) as boating season begins!

Inspiring Watershed Stewardship

program.

And we continue to replace damaged and missing “Tiny Critter, Huge Threat” signs at boat ramps around the lake and watershed each year.

Thank you for sharing the message – not the mussel!

Advancing Clean Water Stewardship for 20 Years

Last summer we conducted our 20th educational tour of riparian buffers and other clean water practices. Our 2018 tour showcased our first lake-shore buffer garden, created with support from a lake-shore landowner. Participants learned how a beautiful buffer garden can prevent pollution and provide other benefits.

Our 10 “Make a Clear Difference for Flathead Lake” fact sheets on clean water practices are on our website and now available in a booklet.

We continue to offer “site visits” to share information and recommendations for clean water practices appropriate for your lakeshore property.

Thank you for providing opportunities for landowners to learn about ways to protect clean water!

Educating Future Watershed Citizens for 23 Years

We held our 23rd annual watershed education field trip to the Flathead Lake Biological Station for over 400 students last year.

Both in the classroom and on the field trip, students learn through hands-on activities about the life our clean waters sustain, from microscopic plankton to fish and wildlife, people and communities.

Polson teacher Gail Burghardt said, “The benefits for my students have been enormous and ongoing. They leave with a sense of place, and their place in it.”



Kids learn about polluted runoff and ways to prevent it with a hands-on watershed model activity led by Hilary.

Thank you for inspiring future watershed citizens!

With your support, Hilary Devlin has been running and expanding our education program to inform and inspire watershed stewardship for 4 years.

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Education & Outreach
Coordinator

Rosalie Perelli
Administrative Assistant

Flathead Lakers

Dedicated to protecting clean water, healthy ecosystems and lasting quality of life in the Flathead Watershed.

213 1st St W, #208

PO Box 70

Polson, MT 59860

406-883-1346

www.flatheadlakers.org

Water is Life

*The cycle of water sustains
the cycle of life.*

Your legacy gift

will help ensure future generations can enjoy the beautiful clean waters that flow through our watershed, our lake, and our lives.



You can leave a lasting legacy

by remembering the Flathead Lakers
in your estate planning.

Visit our website or call the office for more information about ways to make a legacy gift.

Your generosity is a gift to the future.

**Please consider becoming a
Sustaining Member.**

Just click on the Join/Donate button
at the top of our website to join or
renew your membership with a
monthly donation.

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Thank You!

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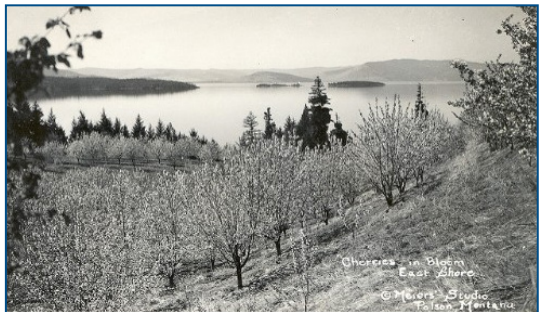
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Cherries in bloom
East Shore
Cherries Studio
Tulsa, Montana

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Paddling for clean water last August.

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Volunteers planting trees for a riparian buffer along the Flathead River.

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Robin welcomed folks on the 2018 Far West tour featuring north shore conservation.

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 Geraldine Stephens
 Lillian Stephenson
 Howard Stephenson
 Jo Anne Stewart
 Bob Stone
 Bob Storer
 Fred and Gayle Stout
 Paul and Chris Stubbins
 Ron and Marcie Stuewe
 Mrs. Linforth Sultzer
 Marty and Julia Sunde
 Steve and Joanne Tanner
 James Thane
 James and Betty Thompson
 Howard and Joan Thullberg
 Chris and Jenny Tootell
 Richard and Claire Trauth
 Susi Hauser and Bruce Tremper
 Eula Mae Turnage
 Sid Turnquist

Lloyd and Cathy Twite
 Keith and Sue Urbach
 Harold Vachal
 Scott Veazey
 Tara Veazey
 Elaine Vogt
 Constanza von der Pahlen and
 Adrian Leighton
 Paul Wachholz
 John Wagner
 Dick and Kathy Walsh
 Teri Warford
 Daniel Warren
 Dan Weinberg
 Evonne Wells
 Beau and Holly Wielkoszewski
 John Wing
 Jean and Bill Woessner
 Dennis and Jane Wright
 Jerry Yenne
 Michael and Pamela Young
 Neil Ziegler

Beacon Tire Center
 Bigfork Summer Playhouse
 Center for Native Plants
 Classic Company Boat Works
 Don Aadsen Ford
 Eisinger Motors
 Fidelity Engery
 Flathead Lake Lodge
 Forestration, Inc.



Steve Rosso presented our 2018 Stewardship Award to the Flathead Lake Biological Station. Steve is shown here with FLBS Assistant Director Tom Bansak, Director Jim Elser, and former Director Dick Solberg

Business and Nonprofit Members

Platinum - \$1,000+

Flathead Lake Brewing Co. and Pubhouse
 Flathead Lake Protection Association
 Hodge's Marine Construction
 Providence Health & Services
 Western Montana Sliters Corp.

Gold - \$500-\$999

Dayton Yacht Harbor
 Far West Boat Tours
 Flathead Farm Mutual
 Gage Accounting
 Kwataqnuq Resort / S and K Gaming, LLC

Silver- \$250-\$499

Captain's Marine, Inc.
 Damon Designs
 First Citizens Bank
 First Interstate Bank, Polson
 Glacier Bank
 Lake Health & Rehab, LLC
 North Flathead Yacht Club

Bronze - \$100-\$249

Applied Water Consulting

Greg Bain and Company
 Gull Ski Shop
 Hu Beaver Bld. Inc.
 Northwest Cabinet Works
 Nunlist Enterprises, Inc.
 Sheridan Bros LLC

Memorial and Honor Gifts

In Memory of Howard Colvin

Pamela Young

In Memory of Shaun Corette

Tom and Kathleen Kurdy

In Memory of Bob and Alice Danskin

Danskin Family

In Memory Clifford Frey

Mitzie Clouse and family
 K.C. Hill
 Jim Koubsky
 John and Mary Mure
 Gary and Sara Sheldon

In Memory of Dave Gamba

Bill and Lorie Amass

In Memory of Jim and Joan Geiselhart

Laura Andlauer

In Memory of Betty Hanzel

James and Wanda Hollensteiner

2018 Supporters

In Memory of James Manley

Karin and Michael Henion

In Memory of Lois and Duke Miller

Craig Miller and Judy Danskin
Miller

In Memory of Eugene Peterson

Bono and Ali Hewson
Nancy Isaacson and Albert Fein
Paul and Helen Jones
David and Martha Maurer
Eric and Elizabeth Peterson
J. Plunkett
Nathan, Rebecca and Johanna
Sheets

In Memory of Ted Smith

Dr. Gordon L. Noel

In Memory of Mildred Storie

Walter and Joann Bahr
Stephen R. Bahr
Eric John Bahr
Lori Jane Bahr
Gary Diegel
Gary and Pat Freebury
Carla Kelly
George and Theora Mumm
Stephen and Elaine Olson
Alice Peca
Edward and Bonita Stout
Joan and Dennis Young

In Memory of Dr. John H. Wicks

Robert and Sydney McCue

In Memory of Ted Williams

Class of 1960
John and Mary Erkkila
Lawrence Gustin
Ray Kackmann
Judy Stone
Peggy Williams

In Memory of Paul Williams and in Honor of Suzy Williams

John L. Olson

In Honor of Velora LaMunyon

Wayne Anderson

In Honor of Gabe Phillips and Josh Phillips

Michelle Wolf

In Honor of Jim and Laura Scoville

Regan deVictoria

In Honor of Libby and Roger Smith

Auden and Ellen Schendler

In Honor of Robin Steinkraus

Dolly Gudder

In Honor of Bill Veazey

Scott Veazey

In Honor of Patric Severtson and Emily Withrow

Charlie and Mary Lynn Eiseman



Grants

Cadeau Foundation
Greater Polson Community
Foundation
Lower Flathead Valley
Community Foundation
Montana Dept. of
Environmental Quality
319 Program
Soil & Water Conservation
Districts of Montana

Citizen Scientists

Bill Amass
Dick Armstrong
Johanna Bangemann
Carroll Blend
Tom Cox
Wesley Danskin
Tom Eddy
FLBS lake ecology
class
Gayle Graf
Bruce Hartman
Eric Hurst
Sherry McClachlan
Kevin McDonnell
Mike McDonough
Mary McDonough
Rob Mitchell
Bob Moore
Lisa Prugh
Linda Regnier
Steve Rosso
Kate Schlapfer
Todd Schlapfer
Rick Skates

Jackie Slovak
Roger Smith
Jeff Tuttle
Ian Withrow
Jerry Woodahl
Ken Yachechak
Pamela Young

Flathead Lake 5k Run Supporters

Blacktail Grocery
Blacktail Mountain
Culligan Water
Lakeside Somers
Chamber of
Commerce
PTA Lakeside
Remedies Rx
Stageline Pizza
Tamarack Brewery
Total Screen Design

Poker Paddle Sponsors

Glacier Bank
Inland Northwest Toyota
PureWest Real Estate
Rocky Mountain Bank

Poker Paddle Silent Auction Donors

All in Stitches
Base Camp Bigfork
Bigfork Art and Cultural Center
Bigfork Tool Rentals
Blacktail Ski Area
Brix Bottle Shop
Candlewycke Inn
Captain's Marine
Ceres Bakery
Coca-Cola
Colter Coffee
D. Berardinis Wines
Flathead Beacon
Flathead Lake Sailing School
Flathead Raft Co.
Howe's Fishing
Jesco Marine
Jug Tree Liquor Store
Marina Cay
Medicine Owl Massage
Montana ACE
Montana Marie
OrthoRehab Physical Therapy
Penny Capps Massage
Polson Hallmark
REI Missoula
Rocky Mountain Outfitters
Rose Works
Sage & Cedar

2018 Supporters

Sea Me Paddle
Sportsman and Ski Haus
Tall Pine Lounge and Casino
Tamarack Brewing Co.
Tara Hoveland
Whistling Andy

Science on Tap Presenters

Lisa Bate
Creagh Bruener
Shawn Devlin
Phil Higuera
Robert Korechhoff
Rebecca Lawrence
Tim Manley
Nanette Nelson
Jess Newby
Bret Pargman
Rick Trembath
Ali Ulwelling

Volunteers & In-Kind Service Providers

Emily Baer
Josiah Baer
Sam Bagley
Sue Bagley
Janine Beaubien



Constanza von der Pahlen presented our 2018 Volunteer Award to FVCC Student Engagement Coordinator Wendy Jeschke (left) and FVCC Associate Professor Anita Ho (right) for engaging students in volunteering to plant trees to restore riparian buffers.

Karli Becher
Gael Bissell
Mark Bond
Bruce Bowman
Robert Carette
Alvin Chee
Holly Church
Cathy Cooney,
MT Community Foundation
Tom Cox
Caryl Cox
Shawn Devlin
Nick Dietzen,

MT Community Foundation
East Shore Smokehouse
Jim Elser
Monica Elser
First Citizens Bank, Polson
First Interstate Bank, Polson
Flathead Lake Biological Station
Flathead Lake State Park
Ryan Gage, CPA
Glenda Gehri
Glacier Bank, Polson
Hailey Graf
Apollo Guisto
Lakeside QRU
Laney Hanzel
Shirley Harrison
Michael Henion
Karin Henion
Keegan Heron
Connie Hitchcock
Anita Ho
Robert Horne,
Applied Communications
Susan How
Eve Hunter
Ryan Hunter
Wendy Jeschke
Janelle Kuechle
Adrian Leighton
Judy Maseman

Brian McCully
Marty McCully
Cheryl McGill
Bill McLaughlin
Carolynn Milheim-Leaman
Ken Miller
Nancy Mitchell
Rob Mitchell
Randy Mohn
Bob Moore
Betty Moore
Chance Morine
Rich Moy
Nanette Nelson
Kirsten Olson
Pat Owen,
Fuel MT Media
Rosalie Perelli
Evan Porter

Mark Potter
Gary Prescott
Paul Rana
Paula Rich and family
Elizabeth Riley
Marilyn Roberts
Ron Roberts
Brook Robison
Arla Rosso
Steve Rosso
Spencer Ryan
Ken Sharr
Dick Siderius

Wesley Sigl
Georgia Smies
Roger Smith
Natasha Smith
Joan Stanford
Rick Stanford
Samantha Tappenbeck
Nancy Teggeman
Deb Tirnenstein
Jeff Tuttle
Susan Tuttle
Alexandria Webb
Kiddie Whitmore

Critical Lands Project Participants

Audubon Society, Montana and Flathead Chapters
Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes
Flathead Conservation District
Flathead River Commission
Flathead Lake Biological Station
Flathead Land Trust
MT Conservation Corps
MT Dept. of Environmental Quality
MT Dept. of Fish, Wildlife & Parks
MT Watershed Coordination Council
Montana Land Reliance
Soil and Water Conservation Districts of Montana
U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

“The Flathead Lakers are hardworking folks with a common vision – to make our state a better place to live and work for all Montanans, for our kids, and for our grandkids. Thanks for making that vision a priority.”

–Senator Jon Tester



Flathead Lakers

PO Box 70
Polson, MT 59860

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Mark Your 2019 Calendar!

Science on Tap

1st Tuesday of each month
Flathead Lake Brewing Co., Bigfork
scienceontapflathead.org

Flathead Lake Mussel Walk

May 3, Salish Point, Polson
May 17, Wayfarers State Park, Bigfork
May 24, Whitefish City Beach
Date tbd, Lakeside

Becoming Watershed Citizens Field Trip

May 9, 10, 15
Volunteers needed! - contact Hilary

Summer Solstice Party

Support Flathead River conservation project!
June 21 on the North Shore

Flathead Lakers Annual Meeting

July 11, Flathead Lake Bio. Station

2nd Flathead Lake Secchi Disk Dip-in

July

5th Annual Poker Paddle

August 11, Bigfork

Flathead Lake 5k Run

Date tbd, Lakeside