What is “Flathead Watershed Through The Seasons”?
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

What is the purpose of this professional development?
The Flathead Community of Resource Educators, through funding from the Glacier National Park Conservancy, is offering this year-long professional development opportunity to help connect K-12 teachers to the Flathead Watershed’s natural and cultural resources. A cohort of twelve teachers will be selected to meet throughout the seasons to focus on the stewardship of our area's forest and aquatic systems, wildlife, and human habitats. A major goal of this professional development opportunity is to empower and equip teachers to feel comfortable teaching students about the natural and cultural resources of the Flathead Watershed in the classroom and outdoors.

How do I apply and how are participants being selected?
Applicants will be accepted from February 28 – March 15, 2020. We are looking for a diverse pool of candidates from formal school settings, of different grade levels, and different geographic regions across the Flathead Watershed. If we do not get enough applications by March 15, we will continue to accept applicants. However, people are encouraged to apply early.

What are the requirements?
The training consists of: 1) attending all four overnight sessions, held in different geographic locations throughout the Flathead Watershed, during the 2020-2021 school year; 2) presenting a comprehensive reflection piece (e.g., Photovoice, journal) at the last session to share with everyone about how you will use this information in your classroom. Additionally, mini-grants of up to $200 will be awarded to workshop participants who create a curriculum unit outline to use for classroom implementation. Mini-grants made available through the generous donors of the Glacier National Park Conservancy.

What are some of the benefits of this professional development?
All participants will receive copies of the Flathead Watershed Sourcebook as well as other teaching materials throughout the year. Throughout the workshop, participants will have the opportunity to practice using lessons and activities related to the Flathead Watershed.

“Each seasonal workshop has been skillfully crafted to bring us a phenomenal educational experience that we can tailor to suit our classroom needs. It’s inspired me to actively engage my students in science centered on their home watershed. I’ve been able to bring at least one activity from the workshops into my classroom after each session, and I have plans for so much more in the years to come.” --2019/20 workshop participant

The end goal is that participants will share with their students, and other educators, tools and techniques to make the Flathead Watershed come alive.
There are forty Pupil Instruction Related (PIR) hours/ Office of Public Instruction (OPI) renewal units available for workshop attendees who complete all of the sessions. The cohort of twelve teachers will network and support each other as they learn throughout the year.

What are the times & locations of the different sessions? (Note: detailed agendas will be sent to selected participants before each session. This is an overview of what is planned.)

This four-part series includes required overnights on these dates and locations:

- **Summer Session #1 - Why is this place wild?**
  - Big Creek Outdoor Education Center, Flathead National Forest, 6500 North Fork Road, Polebridge, MT; arriving Wednesday, June 17, 2020 and departing Saturday at noon on June 20, 2020.

- **Fall Session #2 - Why is Flathead Lake so clear?**
  - Flathead Lake Bio Station, Polson, MT; arriving Friday evening September 25, 2020 and departing Saturday afternoon September 26, 2020.

- **Winter Session #3 - Why is snow so cool?**
  - Izaak Walton Inn, Essex, MT; arriving Friday evening on January 22 and departing Sunday at noon on January 24, 2021. Shared accommodations at the Inn.

- **Spring Session #4 - Why is the Flathead Watershed so vital to our communities?**
  - Lone Pine State Park, Kalispell, MT; Friday evening program on April 16, 2021 and full day Saturday, April 17, 2021. (No overnight.)

**What are the physical requirements for the different workshop sessions?** This program requires participants to be outdoors in all four seasons. Sessions will not be cancelled due to weather. Planned activities may include hiking, rafting/boating, snowshoeing, and may require sitting and standing for long periods.

**Is there a deposit required?** Yes, selected teachers must provide a $50 deposit to secure a spot in the workshop. This deposit will be fully refunded upon completion of all four sessions.

**What are the mini-grants?** Based upon completion of developed curriculum unit, the Glacier National Park Conservancy (GNPC) is funding mini-grants of up to $200 to help teachers with classroom implementation. Examples include covering costs for bus transportation, water sampling kits, or other materials used in watershed research.

**What does the workshop cost?** Thanks to funding from the Glacier National Park Conservancy, the Flathead Lake Bio Station and Montana State Parks, lodging and meals for workshop participants (no family members) at all four workshop sessions are free to the twelve selected participants.

**Questions:** For more information, contact Randy Hohf at hohfr@whitefishschools.org.