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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Flathead Watershed Sourcebook Second Edition published: New companion Flathead Watershed Educators' Guide available

WHITEFISH, MT, March 20, 2017 – The second edition of the *Flathead Watershed Sourcebook: A Guide to an Extraordinary Place* is now available to Flathead educators and citizens. Authored in 2010 by Whitefish Lake Institute's Science & Education Director, Lori Curtis, the book has been out of print since its initial limited release.

The Sourcebook was developed for and with extensive content contributions from the Flathead Community of Resource Educators (CORE) Watershed Education Committee (WEC). It includes *57 Watershed Perspectives*—short narratives written by or as the result of interviews with a cross section of individuals from throughout the Flathead—people from diverse backgrounds representing non-governmental organizations, citizen groups, tribes, agencies, schools, and industries. WLI's Executive Director was a contributor and member of the steering committee that developed the book.

“This book gives a collective ‘voice’ to the Watershed, said Curtis. “The project also exemplifies the importance and effectiveness of joining forces to describe, appreciate, and protect our home at the watershed level,” she noted.

The 264-page book is filled with over 300 full color photos, graphics, and maps, as well as numerous scientific and informational sidebars. It includes chapters on the Flathead Watershed's natural history, cultural history, water quality and usage, human influences, land ownership and management, and economics, and an in-depth description of watersheds.

Companion Educators' Guide

The Flathead CORE WEC has also released the *Flathead Watershed Sourcebook Educators' Guide*, a companion curriculum for use with the book. The goal in developing the Guide was to make place-based watershed curriculum easy for teachers to implement, while helping them meet current teaching standards, increase students' numerical level of proficiency, and introduce them to conservation concepts through diverse and engaging activities mostly focused on outdoor learning.

Development of the Guide was facilitated by Professor Michael Brody and master's student Rose Vallor of Montana State University's Education Department. The CORE WEC and MSU teams

worked together to conduct a Delphi study that helped tailor the Guide to reflect the combined education goals of researchers, conservation management agencies and educators in the Flathead Watershed. Traditional and non-traditional educators participated in test implementations of the Guide.

“I love how well the Educators’ Guide aligns with the excellent resources of the Sourcebook, and I’m so glad that hard copies of the book will soon be available,” commented Jane Whaling, 7th grade social studies teacher for Ronan Middle School, an educator who participated in the field testing of the Guide.

The *Flathead Watershed Sourcebook: A Guide to an Extraordinary Place Second Edition* and the *Flathead Watershed Sourcebook Educators’ Guide* will be available online at the end of April at www.flatheadwatershed.org. The book was Curtis’s Conservation Biology master’s thesis for the Master of Science in Environmental Studies program at Green Mountain College (Poultney, Vermont). The first and second edition of the book were designed by eBizServices in Whitefish and printed by Thomas Printing in Kalispell.

Funding for the second edition of the Sourcebook was provided by the Flathead Conservation District, Flathead National Forest Resource Advisory Committee, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Soil & Water Conservation Districts of Montana, Inc., and in-kind services provided by eBizServices and the Whitefish Lake Institute. Funding for the Educators’ Guide was provided by Applied Materials, Inc., Department of Natural Resources & Conservation, Flathead Basin Commission, Flathead Conservation District, Flathead Lakers, Flathead National Forest, Flathead National Forest Resource Advisory Committee, Glacier National Park Conservancy, Soil and Water Conservation Districts of Montana, Inc., and the Sustainability Fund. In-kind services were provided by Montana State University and the Whitefish Lake Institute.

About Whitefish Lake Institute

Founded in 2005, the Whitefish Lake Institute is a 501 (3)(c) non-profit organization committed to acquiring scientific research, and to educating and engaging the local citizenry to protect the Whitefish area water resources of today, while providing a collective community vision for tomorrow.

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