

## PARTNER PROFILE

GET TO KNOW YOUR LOCAL  
PARTNERS IN CONSERVATION



**Cynthia Ingelfinger (left, WLI) and Hailey Graf (right, FCD) install plantings as part of the Cow Creek Restoration Project.**

Cynthia Ingelfinger is the Science & Education Coordinator for the Whitefish Lake Institute (WLI).

Her work includes carrying out routine monitoring and field work, conducting education programs, and coordinating the long-term citizen science program that monitors lakes across northwest Montana.

Cynthia grew up in the outdoors and learned about science and the natural world in school. Once she hit the "real world", she realized that in order to protect natural systems, she needed to forge a link between scientists and the public.

*"As a scientist it is crucial to listen to and learn from people in communities where we work and to develop solutions that work for people and places. My favorite part of my job is working with lake volunteers, sharing my knowledge, and hearing about their concerns and passion for their backyard water resources."*

WLI is a great model for connecting a local watershed to its community in order to protect it long term.

WLI's core mission is to conduct research and provide scientific data to help citizens and resource managers make informed water quality decisions in the Whitefish Lake watershed and beyond.

They partner with the City of Whitefish and other community groups and agencies to investigate specific water quality issues to benefit the community. WLI recently partnered with Flathead CD and additional partner agencies on the Cow Creek Restoration Project. WLI will use ongoing monitoring of Cow Creek to help tell the success story and pave the way for future restoration projects locally.

Learn more about Cynthia's work and WLI at [whitefishlake.org](http://whitefishlake.org)!