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**FOR RELEASE MONDAY JULY 20, 2015**

**Drs' Jack Stanford and Bonnie Ellis of the Flathead Lake Biological Station Honored with Lifetime Achievement Award; Brian Sullivan Receives Annual Stewardship Award**

WHITEFISH, MT, 20 July 2015 – The Whitefish Lake Institute presented Lifetime Achievement and Annual Stewardship Awards to individuals that have taken extraordinary measures to protect water quality in the Whitefish area. The awards were presented on July 17 in front of 300 guests attending the Sixth Annual Whitefish Wine Auction, a benefit to support the Whitefish Lake Institute.

**Lifetime Achievement Stewardship Award**

This year, WLI presented *Lifetime Achievement Stewardship Awards* to Dr. Jack Stanford and Dr. Bonnie Ellis—the dynamic duo whose decades of collective research and advocacy have helped protect the waters of Whitefish Lake and Flathead Lake, the largest freshwater lake in the western United States.

Planning to retire this year, Dr. Stanford has worked at the Flathead Lake Biological Station (FLBS) since 1971 and has been its director since 1980. His groundbreaking research and educational efforts in freshwater ecology have taken him across the globe since receiving his Ph.D. from the University of Utah in 1975. Dr. Ellis dedicated the past 30 years of her research in freshwater ecology to the FLBS. Ellis received her Ph.D. from the University of Montana in 2006, and retired earlier this year.

Both Jack and Bonnie consistently have brought the weight of scientific evidence to bear on critical issues that could impact the integrity of Flathead waterbodies, including open-pit coal mining in the Canadian Flathead Valley, nutrient pollution, foodweb changes due to introduced species, and human development such as gravel pits atop the shallow aquifer adjacent to the Flathead River. Science provides the cornerstone of conservation, and Jack and Bennie's research has been invaluable in increasing our understanding of natural systems, and in enhancing our ability to protect them for future generations. Together they have mentored many students who now contribute to water quality across the globe.

**Stewardship Award**

This year's stewardship award was given to Brian Sullivan, owner of F & H surveying. Professionally, Brian and his crew have voluntarily collected survey data at City Beach since 2002. In partnership with Brian, the Whitefish Lake Institute completed an analysis of the mean minimum and maximum water elevations along with associated statistics for Whitefish Lake spanning 58 years (1957-2014). Having clear and well justified mean low and high water elevations for Whitefish provides a clear jurisdictional boundary to serve our community into the future.

Brian Sullivan's life passion is on the water...paddling. He has been paddling kayaks and canoes, instructing rowing clinics, and organizing paddling events for as long as anyone in the Flathead can remember. He has dedicated much of his life to teaching river safety, serving water-based recreationists, and organizing clean-up efforts on the Whitefish River. He organized and helped run the 69-mile Lake-to-Lake rowing race from

Whitefish to Bigfork in the 1980s, and he raced in and volunteered for the Bigfork Whitewater Festival for many years.

About the Whitefish Wine Auction

In its sixth year, the Whitefish Wine Auction supports the scientific, educational, and community stewardship programs at the Whitefish Lake Institute, including the management of the Living Wetlands Interpretive Nature Trail located across from The Lodge at Whitefish Lake.

About Whitefish Lake Institute

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

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