

ERIN K. SEXTON

Senior Scientist, Flathead Lake Biological Station, University of Montana

EDUCATION:

M.Sc. Environmental Studies, University of Montana (December 2002)
B.S. Biology, University of California, Santa Cruz (1999)
B.A. Environmental Studies, University of California, Santa Cruz (1999)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

2016- present Senior Research Scientist, Flathead Lake Biological Station, University of Montana

2013-2016 Research Scientist, Regulatory Affairs Coordinator, Institute on Ecosystems, University of Montana

2014-present Wilburforce Fellow, Wilburforce Foundation and Compass Resources Fellowship in Conservation Science

2013-present Technical Science Advisor, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, Elk/Kootenai and Flathead River Basins, Technical Advisory Committee

2010-present Science Coordinator, B.C.-MT Memorandum of Understanding, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Great Northern Landscape Conservation Cooperative and State of Montana

2007-2013 Research Scientist, Flathead Lake Biological Station, University of Montana

2005-2012 Transboundary Environmental Science Coordinator, North Fork Flathead River, Flathead Basin Commission, State of Montana

2004-2010 Principal Investigator, Baseline Water Chemistry and Bio-assessment, Canadian Flathead River

2004-2008 Kendall Fellow, Transboundary Science Coordinator, Glacier Field Office National Parks Conservation Association

2002-2003 Instructor, Northwest Connections Field Program, University of Montana Extension

2001-2002 Instructor, Natural Resource Education Program, Hellgate High School Flagship Program

2000 -2001 Biological Technician, Crew Leader, Mexican Spotted Owl Research, Flagstaff, Arizona

1998-1999 Biological Technician, Hawaiian Honeycreeper Project, Big Island, Hawaii

1998-1999 Biological Technician, Golden Eagle Mortality Project, Altamont Pass, CA

1996-1997 Biological Technician, Big Sur Ornithology Lab, MAPS Banding Station

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE:

- Watershed-scale assessment of current and predicted future condition of water quality and aquatic life threatened by mountain-top coal mining in the Transboundary Elk/Kootenai River Basin; an aquatic food web assessment on water quality, macroinvertebrates and fish populations (2012 – on-going)
- Landscape-scale analysis of intactness and connectivity across the Crown of the Continent Ecosystem; evaluating trends and ecological integrity (2010-on-going)
- Comparative analysis of water quality and aquatic life in two international watersheds: a legacy of mine drainage in the Elk/Kootenai Basin and analysis of risk in the Transboundary Flathead River Basin (in review)
- Upper Flathead River baseline water quality assessment, Montana Department of Fish Wildlife and Parks, Special Projects (2008-2010)

- M.Sc. Research, University of Montana, Analysis of the potential impacts of coalbed methane development in the East Kootenay Coalfields of SE British Columbia (2002)
- Analysis of the potential impacts of oil and gas development in the Eastern Front of the Crown of the Continent Ecosystem, Master's Research, University of Montana Environmental Studies Scholarship (2000-2001)

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- U.S. Department of Interior, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Contract for Coordination of the British Columbia – Montana, Memorandum of Understanding implementation
- Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribe representative, Flathead and Kootenai River Basin Technical Team, University of Montana
- Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, representative, Lake Kootenai Monitoring and Research Working Group
- Coordinator, Transboundary Flathead Basin Forestry Best Management Practices Exchange
- Steering Committee, Crown of the Continent Managers Partnership Transboundary Conservation Initiative
- Science Advisory Committee, Great Northern Landscape Conservation Cooperative
- Science Advisory Committee, Crown of the Continent Conservation Initiative
- Co-Chair, Monitoring and Data Collection, and Transboundary Committee, Flathead Basin Commission
- Invasive Working Group, America's Great Outdoors Crown of the Continent Pilot Landscape
- Resilient Lands and Waters Initiative, Crown of the Continent co-lead with National Park Service

FELLOWSHIPS/GRANTS

- Brainerd Foundation, Transboundary Research Fellow, 2014-present (\$80,000)
- Wilburforce Fellowship in Conservation Science, 2015
- Linking Science and Policy Outcomes in Transboundary Rivers, Wilburforce Foundation, 2015-present (\$75,000)
- US Fish and Wildlife Service, Great Northern Landscape Conservation Cooperative, Climate Change Adaptation for the Crown of the Continent Ecosystem, 2010-2016 (\$375,000)
- American Fisheries Society, Conservation Achievement Award, 2012
- Transboundary Elk/Kootenai and Flathead River Basins Policy and Research, 2007-Present (\$400,000)
- Kendall Foundation Fellow, 2004 – 2008, North Fork Flathead River baseline watershed research (\$200,000)

PUBLICATIONS

- Nelson, R., Carlson, A.A., Sexton, E., Dyson, I., and Hoang, L. In press. *Taking action on climate change in the Crown of the Continent ecosystem*. IN: Encyclopedia of the Anthropocene (edited by Dominick DellaSalla). 2017.
- Sexton, E., F. Richard Hauer. In Review. *A comparative analysis of water quality and aquatic life in two international watersheds: the impacts of metallurgical coal mining in the Elk/Kootenai River Basin and an analysis of risk in the transboundary Flathead River Basin*.
- Sexton, E., et. al. White Paper. 2017. Transboundary Rivers of North America: Vulnerable Ecosystems in Crisis.