BIOLOGICAL INTEGRITY OF TRIBUTARIES TO THE SWAN RIVER BASED ON THE STRUCTURE AND COMPOSITION OF THE BENTHIC ALGAE COMMUNITY

Prepared for:

State of Montana Department of Environmental Quality P.O. Box 200901 Helena, Montana 59620-0901

> Project Officer: Rosie Sada DEQ Contract No. 200012-8

STATE DOCUMENTS COLLECTION

MAY C 1 2003

MONTANA STATE LIBRARY 1515 C. C. B. 197 HELENA MO TANA 59 (1)

Prepared by:

Loren L. Bahls, Ph.D. *Hannaea* 1032 Twelfth Avenue Helena, Montana 59601

March 16, 2003



Printed on paper made from 100% recycled post-consumer fiber



Summary

In early September 2002, 9 periphyton samples were collected from 4 tributaries of the Swan River in northwest Montana for the purpose of assessing whether these streams are waterquality limited and in need of TMDLs. The samples were collected following MDEQ standard operating procedures, processed and analyzed using standard methods for periphyton, and evaluated following modified USEPA rapid bioassessment protocols for wadeable streams.

Goat Creek, Elk Creek, Jim Creek and Piper Creek all supported a mix of cyanobacteria, green algae, and diatoms. In addition, all streams but Jim Creek supported the red alga *Audouinella* and only Jim Creek supported the xanthophyte *Tribonema*. The non-diatom algae of these streams indicated cool water of good quality.

Seven of the major diatom species in tributaries of the Swan River are sensitive to organic pollution and four are somewhat tolerant of organic pollution. The tolerant species tended to be more abundant at the downstream stations and in Jim Creek. Jim Creek also had the lowest pollution index value and the highest siltation index value of any site, indicating that this stream supported larger sediment and organic nutrient loads than the other sites. Nevertheless, values for these metrics were still within the range of excellent biological integrity for a mountain stream.

The dominant diatom species at all of the sites was either *Achnanthes biasolettiana* or *Achnanthidium minutissimum*. Both are small, attached (non-motile) species that are adapted to living in fast currents. Their abundance here is a consequence of the steep gradient and fast current velocities of these streams. Both species prefer cool water temperatures and low nutrient concentrations.

Although diatom community metrics at several sites indicated moderate to severe stress, these stresses appear to be natural in origin and related to the high gradients, cold temperatures, and low nutrient concentrations of these streams. High values for the pollution index and low values for the siltation index and percent abnormal cells indicate that organic enrichment, sedimentation, and toxic metals had little or no effect on the benthic algae of these streams.

Several ecological attributes of the diatoms were examined to characterize water quality tendencies at the sampling sites. The four tributaries and stations within each tributary are fairly uniform in their general water quality characteristics, which may be described as circumneutral, fresh-brackish (TDS <900 mg/L), and mesotrophic, with continuously high concentrations of dissolved oxygen. Diatoms living in these streams are mostly attached (non-motile), autotrophic with respect to nitrogen, tolerate a wide range of nutrient concentrations, and live mainly in water bodies, but regularly in wet places. They indicate some organic loading, which may be natural, but zones where the oxidation of biodegradable organic matter is mostly complete.

Introduction

This report evaluates the biological integrity¹, support of aquatic life uses, and probable causes of stress or impairment to aquatic communities in tributaries of the Swan River in western Montana. The purpose of this report is to provide information that will help the State of Montana determine whether these streams are water-quality limited and in need of TMDLs.

The federal Clean Water Act directs states to develop water pollution control plans (Total Maximum Daily Loads or TMDLs) that set limits on pollution loading to water-quality limited waters. Water-quality limited waters are lakes and stream segments that do not meet water-quality standards, that is, that do not fully support their beneficial uses. The Clean Water Act and USEPA regulations require each state to (1) identify waters that are water-quality limited, (2) prioritize and target waters for TMDLs, and (3) develop TMDL plans to attain and maintain water-quality standards for all water-quality limited waters.

Evaluation of aquatic life use support in this report is based on the species composition and structure of periphyton (benthic algae, phytobenthos) communities at 9 sites on 4 streams that were sampled in early September 2002. Periphyton is a diverse assortment of simple photosynthetic organisms called algae that live attached to or in close proximity of the stream bottom. Some algae form long filaments or large colonies and are conspicuous to the unaided eye. But most, including the ubiquitous diatoms, can be seen and identified only with the aid of a microscope. The periphyton community is a basic biological component of all aquatic ecosystems. Periphyton accounts for much of the primary production and biological diversity in Montana streams (Bahls et al. 1992). Plafkin et al. (1989) and Barbour et al. (1999) list several advantages of using periphyton in biological assessments.

3

¹ *Biological integrity* is defined as "the ability of an aquatic ecosystem to support and maintain a balanced, integrated, adaptive community of organisms having a species composition, diversity, and functional organization comparable to that of natural habitats within a region" (Karr and Dudley 1981).

Project Area and Sampling Sites

The Swan River TMDL planning area is located within the Northern Rockies Ecoregion of Montana (Woods et al. 1999) in Lake and Missoula counties. Vegetation is mainly mixed conifer forest, with alpine tundra on the highest peaks (USDA 1976). The main land uses are recreation, logging, and wildlife production. The study streams are all tributaries of the Swan River (HUC 17010211), which heads in Gray Wolf Lake in the Mission Mountains, flows northerly through Lindbergh Lake and Swan Lake, and then into Flathead Lake. Streams in the Swan River drainage are classified B-1 in the Montana Surface Water Quality Standards.

Periphyton samples were collected at 9 sites on 4 tributaries of the Swan River (Table 1). Goat Creek heads on the west side of the Swan Range and flows westerly into the Swan River. Elk Creek, Jim Creek and Piper Creek head on the east side of the Mission Range and flow easterly into the Swan River. Sample sites are generally located between 3,000 and 4,000 feet elevation.

Methods

Periphyton samples were collected following standard operating procedures of the MDEQ Planning, Prevention, and Assistance Division. Using appropriate tools, microalgae were scraped, brushed, or sucked from natural substrates in proportion to the importance of those substrates at each study site. Macroalgae were picked by hand in proportion to their abundance at the site. All collections of microalgae and macroalgae were pooled into a common container and preserved with Lugol's (IKI) solution.

The samples were examined to estimate the relative abundance and ordinal rank by biovolume of diatoms and genera of soft (non-diatom) algae according to the method described in Bahls (1993). Soft algae were identified using Smith (1950), Prescott (1962, 1978), John et al. (2002), and Wehr and Sheath (2003). These books also served as references on the ecology of the soft algae, along with Palmer (1969, 1977).

After the identification of soft algae, the raw periphyton samples were cleaned of organic matter using sulfuric acid, potassium dichromate, and hydrogen peroxide. Then, permanent diatom slides were prepared using Naphrax, a high refractive index mounting medium, following *Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater* (APHA 1998). Between 409 and 530 diatom cells (818 to 1060 valves) were counted at random and identified to species. The following were the main taxonomic references for the diatoms: Krammer and Lange-Bertalot 1986, 1988, 1991a, 1991b; Krammer 2002; Lange-Bertalot 2001. Diatom naming conventions followed those adopted by the Academy of Natural Sciences (Philadelphia) for USGS NAWQA samples (Morales and Potapova 2000). Van Dam et al. (1994) was the main ecological reference for the diatoms.

The diatom proportional counts were used to generate an array of diatom association metrics. A metric is a characteristic of the biota that changes in some predictable way with increased human influence (Barbour et al. 1999). Diatoms are particularly useful in generating metrics because there is a wealth of information available in the literature regarding the pollution tolerances and water quality preferences of common diatom species (e.g., Lowe 1974, Beaver 1981, Lange-Bertalot 1996, Van Dam et al. 1994).

Values for selected metrics were compared to biocriteria (numeric thresholds) developed for streams in the Rocky Mountain ecoregions of Montana (Table 2). These criteria are based on metric values measured in least-impaired reference streams (Bahls et al. 1992) and metric values measured in streams that are known to be impaired by various sources and causes of pollution (Bahls 1993). The biocriteria in Table 2 are valid only for samples collected during the summer field season (June 21-September 21).

The criteria in Table 2 distinguish among four levels of stress or impairment and three levels of aquatic life use support: (1) no impairment or only minor impairment (full support); (2) moderate impairment (partial support); and (3) severe impairment (nonsupport). These impairment levels correspond to excellent, good, fair, and poor biological integrity, respectively. In cold, high-gradient mountain streams, natural stressors will often mimic the effects of mancaused impairment on some metric values.

Quality Assurance

Several steps were taken to assure that the study results are accurate and reproducible.

Upon receipt of the samples, station and sample attribute data were recorded in the Montana Diatom Database and the samples were assigned a unique number, e.g., 2611-01. The first part of this number (2611) designates the sampling site (Goat Creek Reach 16) and the second part (01) designates the number of periphyton samples that have been collected at this site for which data have been entered into the Montana Diatom Database.

Sample observations and analyses of soft (non-diatom) algae were recorded in a lab notebook along with information on the sample label. A portion of the raw sample was used to make duplicate diatom slides. The slide used for the diatom proportional count will be deposited in the Montana Diatom Collection at the University of Montana Herbarium in Missoula. The other slide will be retained by *Hannaea* in Helena. Diatom proportional counts have been entered into the Montana Diatom Database.

Results and Discussion

Results are presented in Tables 3, 4 and 5, which are located near the end of this report following the references section. The Appendix contains a series of diatom reports, one for each sample. Each diatom report contains an alphabetical list of diatom species and their percent abundances, and values for 65 different diatom metrics and ecological attributes.

Sample Notes

Goat Creek. The sample from Reach 16 contained moss, was very silty, and was partially decomposed (smelled of H_2S). The sample from Reach 9 contained some silt and consisted mostly of *Schizothrix* colonies. The sample from Reach 7 was silty, partly decomposed, and comprised mostly of *Schizothrix* crusts. The sample from Reach 3 contained moss, was decomposing, and was very silty. Stalks of *Didymosphenia* (a diatom) in this sample appeared as tufts of dirty cotton.

Elk Creek. Algae were sparse in the sample from Reach 13 and the sample contained some silt and a little moss. Algae were also sparse in the sample from Reach 3 and the sample was a bit more silty.

Jim Creek. The sample from Jim Creek Reach 5 contained mostly moss.

Piper Creek. The sample from Reach 14 was silty. Moss was present and diatoms were sparse. Diatoms were also sparse in the sample from Reach 2.

Non-Diatom Algae

Goat Creek. Diatoms and cyanobacteria dominated the benthic algal flora of Goat Creek (Table 3). *Schizothrix*, a filamentous cyanophyte that forms rubbery crusts on rocks, was particularly abundant here. The pollution-sensitive filamentous red alga *Audouinella* was also common in Goat Creek. Green algae were not abundant and appeared only at the two lower stations.

Elk Creek. The tufted filamentous cyanophyte *Amphithrix* was the most common alga at the upper site on Elk Creek (Table 3). *Audouinella* ranked second in biovolume at this site. The semi-aquatic green alga *Protoderma* was the most common alga at the lower station. Diatoms were sparse in Elk Creek.

Jim Creek. The filamentous cyanophyte *Oscillatoria* was the most abundant alga in Jim Creek Reach 5 (Table 3). This genus contains many species, some of which are tolerant of organic pollution. Diatoms ranked second in biovolume in Jim Creek, which also supported the filamentous green alga *Ulothrix* and the filamentous xanthophyte *Tribonema*.

Piper Creek. This stream supported a mix of diatoms, red algae, green algae, and cyanobacteria (Table 3). *Audouinella* was most abundant at the upstream site and *Oscillatoria* was most abundant at the downstream site. Diatoms were common here.

.

Diatoms

Seven of the major diatom species in tributaries of the Swan River are sensitive to organic pollution and four are somewhat tolerant of organic pollution (Table 4). The tolerant ones tended to be more abundant at the downstream stations and in Jim Creek. The dominant diatom species at all of the sites was either *Achnanthes biasolettiana* or *Achnanthidium minutissimum*. Both are small, attached (non-motile) species that are adapted to living in fast currents. Their abundance here is a consequence of the steep gradient and fast current velocities of these streams. Both species prefer cool water temperatures and low nutrient concentrations.

Although diatom community metrics at several sites indicated moderate to severe stress, these stresses appear to be natural in origin and related to the high gradients, cold temperatures, and low nutrient concentrations of these streams. High values for the pollution index and low values for the sedimentation index and percent abnormal cells indicate that organic enrichment, sedimentation, and toxic metals did not have a significant effect on the benthic algae of these streams.

Goat Creek. Low species diversity, high percent dominant species, and a high disturbance index indicate minor to moderate stress in Goat Creek (Table 4). The dominant species here—*Achnanthes biasolettiana* and *Achnanthidium minutissimum*—indicate that this stress was likely natural in origin. High similarity index values between adjacent stations in Goat Creek indicate little or no change in the diatom associations from station to station, hence little or no intervening input of pollutants or habitat alterations.

Elk Creek. Both sites on Elk Creek had very low diatom diversity and species richness and very high values for the disturbance index and percent dominant species (Table 4). Again, *Achnanthidium minutissimum* was the dominant species, indicating a natural origin of the stressors operating in Elk Creek. The pollution index, siltation index, and percent abnormal cells all indicate good water quality here. The two sites on Elk Creek had very similar diatom floras, indicating that little or no perturbation occurred between them. Jim Creek. The diatom association of Jim Creek indicated the lowest amount of stress of any of the sites that were sampled (Table 4). However, Jim Creek also had the lowest pollution index and the highest sedimentation index of any site, indicating that this stream supported larger sediment and organic nutrient loads than any of the other sites. Nevertheless, values for these metrics were still in the range of excellent biological integrity for a mountain stream (Table 2). Jim Creek also supported the largest number of diatom species and the highest diversity of any site. These metrics tend to increase in mountain streams in response to small to moderate increases in sediments and nutrients (unpublished observation).

Piper Creek. Like Elk Creek, Piper Creek had very low diatom diversity and species richness and very high values for the disturbance index and percent dominant species (Table 4). And like Elk Creek, *Achnanthidium minutissimum* was the dominant diatom species in Piper Creek, indicating natural stress from cold, fast waters of low nutrient content. Values for the pollution index and sedimentation index indicate very little loading of sediment or organic nutrients in Piper Creek. The two sites on Piper Creek had virtually identical diatom assemblages, indicating little or no perturbation occurred between them.

Several ecological attributes were selected from the diatom reports in the appendix and modal categories of these attributes were extracted to characterize water quality tendencies in the four streams (Table 5). The four tributaries and stations within each tributary are fairly uniform in their general water quality characteristics, which may be described as circumneutral, freshbrackish (TDS <900 mg/L), and mesotrophic, with continuously high concentrations of dissolved oxygen. Diatoms living in these streams are mostly attached (non-motile), autotrophic with respect to nitrogen, tolerate a wide range of nutrient concentrations, and live mainly in water bodies, but regularly in wet places. They indicate some organic loading, which may be natural, but zones where the oxidation of biodegradable organic matter is mostly complete (Van Dam et al. 1994).

References

APHA. 1998. Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater. 20th Edition. American Public Health Association, Washington, D.C.

Bahls, L.L. 1979. Benthic diatom diversity as a measure of water quality. Proceedings of the Montana Academy of Sciences 38:1-6.

- Bahls, L.L. 1993. Periphyton Bioassessment Methods for Montana Streams (revised). Montana Department of Health and Environmental Sciences, Helena.
- Bahls, L.L., Bob Bukantis, and Steve Tralles. 1992. Benchmark Biology of Montana Reference Streams. Montana Department of Health and Environmental Sciences, Helena.
- Barbour, M.T., J. Gerritsen, B.D. Snyder, and J.B. Stribling. 1999. Rapid Bioassessment Protocols for Use In Streams and Wadeable Rivers: Periphyton, Benthic Macroinvertebrates and Fish. Second Edition. EPA/841-B-99-002. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Water, Washington, D.C.
- Beaver, Janet. 1981. Apparent Ecological Characteristics of Some Common Freshwater Diatoms. Ontario Ministry of The Environment, Technical Support Section, Don Mills, Ontario.
- Johansen, J.R. 1999. Diatoms of Aerial Habitats. Chapter 12 in Stoermer, E.F., and J.P. Smol (eds.), The Diatoms: Applications For the Environmental and Earth Sciences, Cambridge University Press, New York.
- John, D.M., B.A. Whitton, and A.J. Brook (eds.). 2002. The Freshwater Algal Flora of the British Isles: An Identification Guide to Freshwater and Terrestrial Algae. Cambridge University
- Karr, J.R., and D.R. Dudley. 1981. Ecological perspectives on water quality goals. Environmental Management 5:55-69.
- Krammer, Kurt. 2002. *Cymbella*. Volume 3 in Diatoms of Europe, Horst Lange-Bertalot, ed. A.R.G. Gantner Verlag K.G., Germany.
- Krammer, K., and H. Lange-Bertalot. 1986. Bacillariophyceae, Part 2, Volume 1: Naviculaceae. In Ettl, H., J Gerloff, H. Heynig, and D. Mollenhauer (eds.), Freshwater Flora of Middle Europe. Gustav Fischer Publisher, New York.
- Krammer, K., and H. Lange-Bertalot. 1988. Bacillariophyceae, Part 2, Volume 2: Bacillariaceae, Epithemiaceae, Surirellaceae. In Ettl, H., J. Gerloff, H. Heynig, and D. Mollenhauer (eds.), Freshwater Flora of Middle Europe. Gustav Fischer Publisher, New York.
- Krammer, K., and H. Lange-Bertalot. 1991a. Bacillariophyceae, Part 2, Volume 3: Centrales, Fragilariaceae, Eunotiaceae. In Ettl, H., J. Gerloff, H. Heynig, and D. Mollenhauer (eds.), Freshwater Flora of Middle Europe. Gustav Fischer Publisher, Stuttgart.
- Krammer, K., and H. Lange-Bertalot. 1991b. Bacillariophyceae, Part 2, Volume 4: Achnanthaceae, Critical Supplement to Navicula (Lineolatae) and Gomphonema, Complete List of Literature for Volumes 1-4. In Ettl, H., G. Gartner, J. Gerloff, H. Heynig, and D. Mollenhauer (eds.), Freshwater Flora of Middle Europe. Gustav Fischer Publisher, Stuttgart.
- Lange-Bertalot, Horst. 1979. Pollution tolerance of diatoms as a criterion for water quality estimation. Nova Hedwigia 64:285-304.
- Lange-Bertalot, Horst. 1996. Rote Liste der limnischen Kieselalgen (Bacillariophyceae) Deutschlands. Schr.-R. f. Vegetationskde., H. 28, pp. 633-677. BfN, Bonn-Bad Godesberg.
- Lange-Bertalot, Horst. 2001. Navicula sensu stricto: 10 Genera Separated from Navicula sensu lato; Frustulia. Volume 2 in Diatoms of Europe, Horst Lange-Bertalot, ed. A.R.G. Gantner Verlag K.G., Germany.
- Lowe, R.L. 1974. Environmental Requirements and Pollution Tolerance of Freshwater Diatoms. EPA-670/4-74-005. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, National Environmental Research Center, Office of Research and Development, Cincinnati, Ohio.

10

- McFarland, B.H., B.H. Hill, and W.T. Willingham. 1997. Abnormal *Fragilaria* spp. (Bacillariophyceae) In streams impacted by mine drainage. Journal of Freshwater Ecology 12(1):141-149.
- Morales, E.A., and Marina Potapova. 2000. Third NAWQA Workshop on Harmonization of Algal Taxonomy, May 2000. Patrick Center for Environmental Research, The Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia.
- Palmer, C.M. 1969. A composite rating of algae tolerating organic pollution. Journal of Phycology 5:78-82.
- Palmer, C.M. 1977. Algae and Water Pollution: An Illustrated Manual on the Identification, Significance, and Control of Algae in Water Supplies and in Polluted Water. EPA-600/9-77-036.
- Plafkin, J.L., M.T. Barbour, K.D. Porter, S.K. Gross, and R.M. Hughes. 1989. Rapid Bioassessment Protocols for Use in Rivers and Streams: Benthic Macroinvertebrates and Fish. EPA 440-4-89-001.
- Prescott, G.W. 1962. Algae of the Western Great Lakes Area. Wm. C. Brown Company, Dubuque, Iowa.
- Prescott, G.W. 1978. How to Know the Freshwater Algae. Third Edition. Wm. C. Brown Company Publishers, Dubuque, Iowa.
- Renfro, H.B., and D.E. Feray. 1972. Geological Highway Map of the Northern Rocky Mountain Region. American Association of Petroleum Geologists, Tulsa, Oklahoma.
- Smith, G.M. 1950. The Fresh-Water Algae of The United States. McGraw-Hill Book Company, New York.
- Stevenson, R.J., and Y. Pan. 1999. Assessing Environmental Conditions in Rivers and Streams with Diatoms. Chapter 2 in Stoermer, E.F., and J.P. Smol (eds.), The Diatoms: Applications For the Environmental and Earth Sciences, Cambridge University Press, New York.
- Stewart, W.D.P., P. Rowell, and A.N. Rai. 1980. Symbiotic Nitrogen-Fixing Cyanobacteria. Pp. 239-277 in Stewart, W.D.P., and J. Gallo (eds.), Nitrogen Fixation, Academic Press, New York.
- USDA. 1976. Climax Vegetation of Montana (map). U.S. Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service, Cartographic Unit, Portland,
- USEPA. 2000. Level III Ecoregions of the Continental United States (map). U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Corvallis, Oregon.
- Van Dam, Herman, Adrienne Mertens, and Jos Sinkeldam. 1994. A coded checklist and ecological Indicator values of freshwater diatoms from The Netherlands. Netherlands Journal of Aquatic Ecology 28(1):117-133.
- Weber, C.I. (ed.). 1973. Biological Field and Laboratory Methods for Measuring the Quality of Surface Waters and Effluents. EPA-670/4-73-001. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, National Environmental Research Center, Office of Research and Development, Cincinnati, Ohio.
- Wehr, J.D., and R.G. Sheath (eds.). 2003. Freshwater Algae of North America: Ecology and Classification. Academic Press, New York.
- Whittaker, R.H. 1952. A study of summer foliage insect communities in the Great Smoky Mountains. Ecological Monographs 22:1-44.
- Woods, A.J., Omernik, J.M., Nesser, J.A., Shelden, J., and S.H. Azevedo. 1999. Ecoregions of Montana (color poster with map), U.S. Geological Survey, Reston, Virginia.

Table 1. Location of periphyton sampling stations in the Swan River TMDL planning area, 2002.

Station	MDEQ Station Code	<i>Hannaea</i> Sample Number	Latitude	Longitude	Sample Date
Goat Creek Reach 16	C10GOATC04	2611-01	47 - 46.128	113 - 44.208	9/4/02
Goat Creek Reach 9	C10GOATC03	2612-01	47 - 45.504	113 - 46.872	9/5/02
Goat Creek Reach 7	C10GOATC02	2613-01	47 - 45.126	113 - 47.892	9/4/02
Goat Creek Reach 3	C10GOATC01	2614-01	47 - 44.958	113 - 49.344	9/4/02
Elk Creek Reach 13	C10ELKC02	2615-01	47 - 29.628	113 - 46.326	9/4/02
Elk Creek Reach 3	C10ELKC01	2616-01	47 - 31.932	113 - 44.586	9/4/02
Jim Creek Reach 5 (lower)	C10JIMC01	2617-01	47 - 37.680	113 - 48.324	9/5/02
Piper Creek Reach 14	C10PIPRC02	2618-01	47 - 38.328	113 - 51,000	9/5/02
Piper Creek Reach 2	C10PIPRC01	2619-01	47 - 40.296	113 - 49.128	9/5/02

.

range of values, expected response to increasing impairment or natural stress, and criteria for rating levels of biological integrity. Table 2. Diatom association metrics used by the State of Montana to evaluate biological integrity in mountain streams: references, The lowest rating for any one metric is the rating for that site.

Biological Integrity/ Impairment or Stress/ Lise Sumort	No. of Species Counted ¹	Diversity Index ² (Shannon)	Pollution Index ³	Siltation I Index ⁴	Disturbance Index ⁵	% Dominant Species ⁶	% Abnormal Cells ⁷
Excellent/None Full Support	>29	>2.99 .	>2.50	<20.0	<25.0	<25.0	0
Good/Minor Full Support	20-29	2.00-2.99	2.01-2.50	20.0-39.9	25.0-49.9	25.0-49.9	>0.0, <3.0
Fair/Moderate Partial Support	19-10	1.00-1.99	1.50-2.00	40.0-59.9	50.0-74.9	50.0-74.9	3.0-9.9
Poor/Severe Nonsupport	<10	<1.00	<1.50	>59.9	>74.9	>74.9	>9.9
References	Bahls 1979 Bahls 1993	Bahls 1979	Bahls 1993	Bahls 1993	Barbour et al. 1999	Barbour et al. 1999	McFarland et al. 1997
Range of Values	0-100+	0.00-5.00+	1.00-3.00	+0.06-0.0	0.0-100.0	~5.0-100.0	0.0-30.0+
Expected Response	Decrease ⁶	Decrease ⁸	Decrease	Increase	Increase	Increase	Increase

Based on a proportional count of 400 cells (800 valves)

²Base 2 [bits] (Weber 1973)

³Composite numeric expression of the pollution tolerances assigned by Lange-Bertalot (1979) to the common diatom species

⁴Sum of the percent abundances of all species in the genera Navicula, Nitzschia and Surirella

⁵Percent abundance of Achnanthidium minutissimum (synonym: Achnanthes minutissima)

⁶Percent abundance of the species with the largest number of cells in the proportional count

⁷Cells with an irregular outline or with abnormal ornamentation, or both

⁸Species richness and diversity may increase somewhat in mountain streams in response to slight to moderate increases in nutrients or sediment

7

Table 3. Relative abundance of cells and ordinal rank by biovolume of diatoms (Division Bacillariophyta) and genera of non-diatom algae in periphyton samples collected from tributaries of the Swan River in 2002: d = dominant; a = abundant; f = frequent; c = common; o = occasional; r = rare.

Таха	Goat 16	Goat 9	Goat 7	Goat 3	Station Elk 13	Elk 3	Jim 5	Piper 14	Piper 2
Cyanophyta Amphithrix		f/4	a/2		c/1	0/3		f/2	
Chamaesiphon Oscillatoria	c/3	o/5	0/6		c/4		a/1		a/1
Phormidium Rivularia					o/6			0/5	0/8
Schizothrix	c/4	d/1	d/1	a/2					
Rhodophyta Audouinella	f/2	c/3	0/5		o/2			a/1	f/4
Chlorophyta									
Botryococcus			c/4						
Closterium				o/6					
Mougeotia									c/5
Oedogonium				c/3					
Protoderma					o/5	c/1		o/6	
Spirogyra				r/7					f/3
Stigeoclonium				Į			!	c/4	
Zygnema				c/o 6/4			C/3		a/2 c/6
Xanthophyta Tribonomo									
							0/4		
Bacillariophyta	a/1	a/2	f/3	a/1	0/3	c/2	f/2	c/3	c/7
# Non-Diatom Genera	ę	4	5	9	2	2	er.	LC.	7

no stress and full support of aquatic life uses when compared to criteria for mountain streams in Table 2. Stress Table 4. Percent abundance of major diatom species¹ and values of selected diatom association metrics for periphyton values indicate moderate stress; underlined and bold values indicate severe stress; all other values indicate samples collected from tributaries of the Swan River in 2002. Underlined values indicate minor stress; bold may be natural or anthropogenic (see text).

						Station				
Species/Metric	PTC ²	Goat 16	Goat 9	Goat 7	Goat 3	Elk 13	EIK 3	Jim 5	Piper 14	Piper 2
Achnanthes biasolettiana	e	21.97	51.64	33.40	9.83	0.11	0.24	4.61	3.31	0.98
Achnanthidium minutissimum	с	44.90	25.70	38.49	55.92	84.69	73.23	34.83	80.85	81.68
Cymbella laevis	n	6.31	3.88	5.09	0.47					0.12
Encvonema silesiacum	2			0.85	1.18			6.81	0.24	0.61
Encvonopsis microcephala	2	5.95	9.58	2.45	5.21	0.79	0.84			
Fradilaria capucina	2			0.94	0.47			8.30	0.24	
Gomohonema dichotomum	e	1.94	1.09	1.04	1.90	1.02	9.12	3.81	1.42	7.94
Gomphonema olivaceoides	e					2.38	5.16		8.63	1.47
Reimeria sinuata	e			0.47		0.57	7.08	1.04		1.22
Staurosira construens	ę					0.23		7.27	0.83	0.12
Synedra rumpens	2		0.48	3.87	6.04		0.24			1.10
Number of Species Counted		96	19	31	42	20	17			20
Shannon Species Diversity		2 73	2.14	2.69	2.84	1.13	1.54	3.87		1.26
Pollution Index		2.88	2.87	2.88	2.82	2.98	2.99	2.65	3.00	2.96
Siltation Index		5.58	2.06	4.15	3.20	0.57	0.24	11.30		0.12
Disturbance Index		44.90	25.70	38.49	55.92	84.69	73.23	34.83		<u>81.68</u>
Percent Dominant Species		44.90	51.64	38.49	55.92	84.69	73.23	34.83		<u>81.68</u>
Percent Abnormal Cells		0.36	0.48	0.47	0.47	0.00	0.24	00.00		0.24
Similarity Index ³			63.06	71 20	65.04		80.01			86.15

¹A major diatom species accounts for 5.0% or more of the cells at one or more stations in a sample set.

³Percent Community Similarity (Whittaker 1952) when compared to the diatom assemblage at the adjacent upstream station ²Pollution Tolerance Class (Lange-Bertalot 1979): 1 = most tolerant; 2 = tolerant; 3 = sensitive to organic pollution



Table 5. Modal categories for selected ecological attributes of diatom species in tributaries of the Swan River.

Ecological Attribute	Goat Creek	Elk Creek	Jim Creek	Piper Creek
Motility ¹	Not Motile	Not Motile	Not Motile	Not Motile
pH ²	Circumneutral/ Alkaliphilous	Circumneutral	Circumneutral	Circumneutral
Salinity ²	Fresh-brackish	Fresh-brackish	Fresh-brackish	Fresh-brackish
Nitrogen Uptake ²	Not Classified/ Autotroph	Nitrogen Autotroph (high organics)	Nitrogen Autotroph (high organics)	Nitrogen Autotroph (high organics)
Oxygen Demand ²	Not Classified/ Continuously High	Continuously High	Continuously High	Continuously High
Saprobity ²	Not Classified/ beta-Mesosaprobous	beta-Mesosaprobous	beta-Mesosaprobous	beta-Mesosaprobous
Trophic State ²	Mesotraphentic/ Variable	Variable	Variable	Variable
Moisture ²	Not Classified/ Mainly in Waterbodies	Mainly in Waterbodies	Mainly in Waterbodies	Mainly in Waterbodies
		Michinan State University nersonal communication.	ion.	

¹Dr. R. Jan Stevenson, Michigan State University, personal communication. ²Van Dam et al. 1994

.

Appendix: Diatom Reports

1032 12th Avenue Helena, MT 59601 (406) 443-2196 hannaea@montana.com

Diatom Report

Sample: 261801 Client ID: C10PIPRC02 Sample Location: Piper Creek Reach 14 Sample Date: 9/5/02

Diatom Species

Genus/Species/Variety	Percent Relative Abundance
Achnanthes biasolettiana	3.31
Achnanthes pusilla	0.12
Achnanthidium minutissimum	80.85
Cocconeis placentula	0.95
Diatoma hyemalis	0.47
Diatoma mesodon	0.47
Encyonema silesiacum	0.24
Eucocconeis flexella	0.12
Fragilaria capucina	0.24
Gomphonema dichotomum	1.42
Gomphonema minusculum	2.25
Gomphonema olivaceoides	8.63
Reimeria sinuata	0.12
Staurosira construens	0.83

Diatom Metrics

Metric	Category	Value
Valves Counted		846
Cells Counted		423
Total Number of Species		18
Total Number of Species Counted		14
Percent Dominant Species		80.85
Shannon's Diversity Index		1.2
Pollution Index		3
Pollution Tolerance (% by Category)	Most Tolerant	- 0
Pollution Tolerance (% by Category)	Tolerant	0.47
Pollution Tolerance (% by Category)	Sensitive	99.53



Hannaea 1032 12th Avenue Helena, MT 59601 (406) 443-2196

hannaea@montana.com

Diatom Report

Siltation Index		0
Disturbance Index		80.85
Stability Index		2.01
Percent Epithemiaceae		0
Percent Aerophiles		0
Percent Centrics		0
Motility (% by Category)	Highly Motile	0
Motility (% by Category)	Moderately Motile	0.12
Motility (% by Category)	Not Motile	99.65
Motility (% by Category)	Variable Motility	0.24
pH (% by Category)	Not Classified	2.25
pH (% by Category)	Acidobiontic	0
pH (% by Category)	Acidophilous	0
pH (% by Category)	Circumneutral	90.78
pH (% by Category)	Alkaliphilous	6.97
pH (% by Category)	Alkalibiontic	0
pH (% by Category)	Indifferent	0
Salinity (% by Category)	Not Classified	2.25
Salinity (% by Category)	Fresh	9.69
Salinity (% by Category)	Fresh-brackish	88.06
Salinity (% by Category)	Brackish-fresh	0
Salinity (% by Category)	Brackish	0
Salinity (% by Category)	Marine	0
Nitrogen Uptake (% by Category)	Not Classified	5.79
Nitrogen Uptake (% by Category)	Nitrogen Autotroph (low organics)	12.06
Nitrogen Uptake (% by Category)	Nitrogen Autotroph (high organics)	82.15
Nitrogen Uptake (% by Category)	Facultative Nitrogen Heterotroph	0
Nitrogen Uptake (% by Category)	Obligate Nitrogen Heterotroph	0
Oxygen Demand (% by Category)	Not Classified	5.79
Oxygen Demand (% by Category)	Continuously High	93.03
Oxygen Demand (% by Category)	Fairly High	0
Oxygen Demand (% by Category)	Moderate	1.18
Oxygen Demand (% by Category)	Low	0
Oxygen Demand (% by Category)	Very Low	0
Saprobity (% by Category)	Not Classified	5.56
Saprobity (% by Category)	Oligosaprobous	- 9.81
Saprobity (% by Category)	beta-Mesosaprobous	84.4
Saprobity (% by Category)	alpha-Mesosaprobous	0.24

1032 12th Avenue Helena, MT 59601 (406) 443-2196 hannaea@montana.com

Diatom Report

Saprobity (% by Category)	alpha-Mesosaprobous/Polysaprobous	0	
Saprobity (% by Category)	Polysaprobous	0	
Trophic State (% by Category)	Not Classified	2.72	
Trophic State (% by Category)	Oligotraphentic	0.24	
Trophic State (% by Category)	Oligo-mesotraphentic	8.63	
Trophic State (% by Category)	Mesotraphentic	4.14	
Trophic State (% by Category)	Meso-eutraphentic	2.25	
Trophic State (% by Category)	Eutraphentic	0.95	
Trophic State (% by Category)	Hypereutraphentic	0	
Trophic State (% by Category)	Variable	81.09	
Trophic State (% by Category)	Dystrophic	0	
Moisture (% by Category)	Not Classified	5.91	
Moisture (% by Category)	Rarely Outside Waterbodies	1.06	
Moisture (% by Category)	Mainly in Waterbodies; Sometimes Wet	1.89	
Moisture (% by Category)	Mainly in Waterbodies; Regularly Wet	91.13	
Moisture (% by Category)	Mainly Wet Places; Sometimes in Water	0	
Moisture (% by Category)	Exclusively Outside Waterbodies	0	
Similarity Index	Reference Sample ID: 261901	86.15	

1032 12th Avenue Helena, MT 59601 (406) 443-2196 hannaea@montana.com

Diatom Report

Sample: 261901 Client ID: C10PIPRC01 Sample Location: Piper Creek Reach 2 Sample Date: 9/5/02

Diatom Species

Genus/Species/Variety	Percent Relative Abundance
Achnanthes biasolettiana	0.98
Achnanthidium minutissimum	81.68
Cocconeis placentula	0.24
Cymbella laevis	0.12
Diatoma hyemalis	0.73
Encyonema minutum	0.12
Encyonema silesiacum	0.61
Fragilaria vaucheriae	0.73
Gomphonema cuneolus	0.24
Gomphonema dichotomum	7.94
Gomphonema kobayasii	0.61
Gomphonema minusculum	0.24
Gomphonema olivaceoides	1.47
Hannaea arcus	0.37
Navicula cryptotenella	0.12
Reimeria sinuata	1.22
Staurosira construens	0.12
Staurosirella pinnata	0.24
Synedra rumpens	1.1
Synedra ulna	1.1

Diatom Metrics

Metric	Category	Value
Valves Counted		819
Cells Counted		409.5
Total Number of Species		20
Total Number of Species Counted		20

Hannaea 1032 <u>1</u>2th Avenue Helena, MT 59601 (406) 443-2196 hannaea@montana.com

Diatom Report

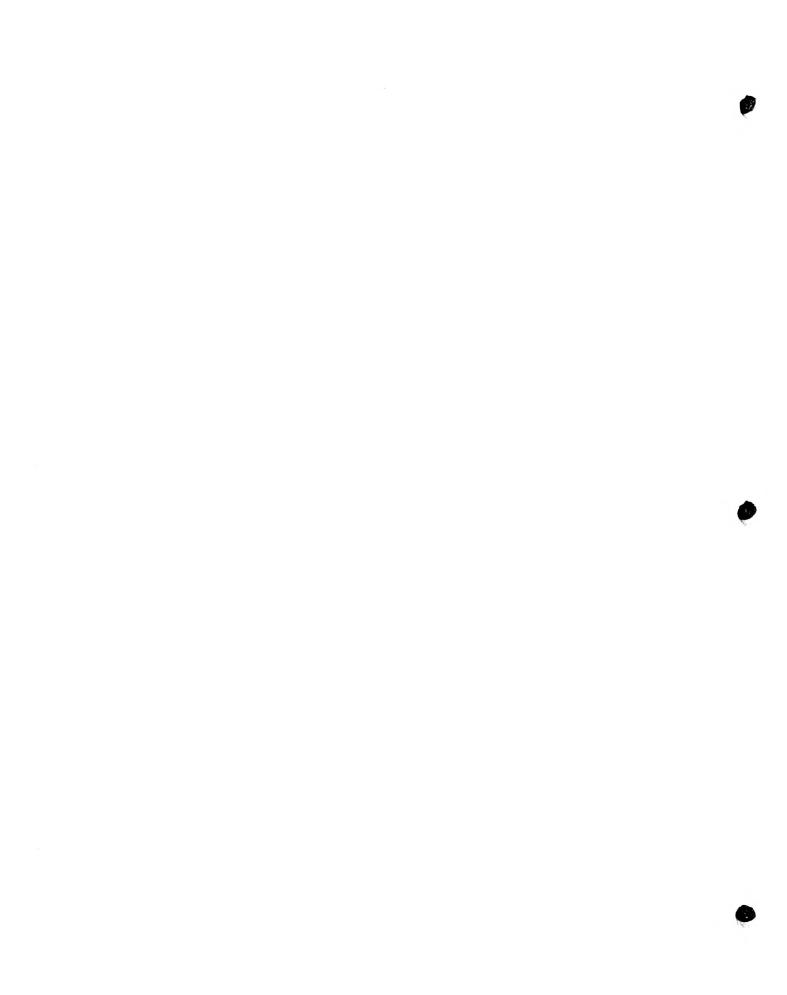
Percent Dominant Species		81.68
Shannon's Diversity Index		1.26
Pollution Index		2.96
Pollution Tolerance (% by Category)	Most Tolerant	0
Pollution Tolerance (% by Category)	Tolerant	3.79
Pollution Tolerance (% by Category)	Sensitive	96.21
Siltation Index		0.12
Disturbance Index		81.68
Stability Index		4.4
Percent Epithemiaceae		0
Percent Aerophiles		0.73
Percent Centrics		0
Motility (% by Category)	Highly Motile	0
Motility (% by Category)	Moderately Motile	1.34
Motility (% by Category)	Not Motile	97.8
Motility (% by Category)	Variable Motility	0.85
pH (% by Category)	Not Classified	1.59
pH (% by Category)	Acidobiontic	0
pH (% by Category)	Acidophilous	0
pH (% by Category)	Circumneutral	86.2
pH (% by Category)	Alkaliphilous	12.21
pH (% by Category)	Alkalibiontic	0
pH (% by Category)	Indifferent	0
Salinity (% by Category)	Not Classified	1.59
Salinity (% by Category)	Fresh	2.2
Salinity (% by Category)	Fresh-brackish	96.21
Salinity (% by Category)	Brackish-fresh	0
Salinity (% by Category)	Brackish	0
Salinity (% by Category)	Marine	0
Nitrogen Uptake (% by Category)	Not Classified	3.79
Nitrogen Uptake (% by Category)	Nitrogen Autotroph (low organics)	10.26
Nitrogen Uptake (% by Category)	Nitrogen Autotroph (high organics)	85.96
Nitrogen Uptake (% by Category)	Facultative Nitrogen Heterotroph	0
Nitrogen Uptake (% by Category)	Obligate Nitrogen Heterotroph	0
Oxygen Demand (% by Category)	Not Classified	3.79
Oxygen Demand (% by Category)	Continuously High	. 93.41
Oxygen Demand (% by Category)	Fairly High	0
Oxygen Demand (% by Category)	Moderate	2.81

1032 12th Avenue Helena, MT 59601 (406) 443-2196 hannaea@montana.com

Diatom Report

Oxygen Demand (% by Category)	Low	0	
Oxygen Demand (% by Category)	Very Low	0	
Saprobity (% by Category)	Not Classified	3.66	
Saprobity (% by Category)	Oligosaprobous	2.2	
Saprobity (% by Category)	beta-Mesosaprobous	91.58	
Saprobity (% by Category)	alpha-Mesosaprobous	1.47	
Saprobity (% by Category)	alpha-Mesosaprobous/Polysaprobous	1.1	
Saprobity (% by Category)	Polysaprobous	0	
Trophic State (% by Category)	Not Classified	2.32	
Trophic State (% by Category)	Oligotraphentic	0	
Trophic State (% by Category)	Oligo-mesotraphentic	2.56	
Trophic State (% by Category)	Mesotraphentic	2.2	
Trophic State (% by Category)	Meso-eutraphentic	8.06	
Trophic State (% by Category)	Eutraphentic	0.98	
Trophic State (% by Category)	Hypereutraphentic	0	
Trophic State (% by Category)	Variable	83.88	
Trophic State (% by Category)	Dystrophic	0	
Moisture (% by Category)	Not Classified	3.66	
Moisture (% by Category)	Rarely Outside Waterbodies	0.85	
Moisture (% by Category)	Mainly in Waterbodies; Sometimes Wet	2.2	
Moisture (% by Category)	Mainly in Waterbodies; Regularly Wet	93.28	
Moisture (% by Category)	Mainly Wet Places; Sometimes in Water	0	
Moisture (% by Category)	Exclusively Outside Waterbodies	0	
Similarity Index	Reference Sample ID: 261801	86.15	

.



1032 12th Avenue Helena, MT 59601 (406) 443-2196 hannaea@montana.com

Diatom Report

Sample: 261701 Client ID: C10JIMC01

Sample Location: Jim Creek Reach 5 (lower)

Sample Date: 9/5/02

Diatom Species

	Genus/Species/Variety	Percent Relative Abundance
	Achnanthes biasolettiana	4.61
	Achnanthes exigua	0.12
	Achnanthes lanceolata	0.92
	Achnanthes lauenbergiana	0.12
	Achnanthes sp.	0.23
	Achnanthidium minutissimum	34.83
	Amphipleura pellucida	0.69
)	Amphora inariensis	0.92
	Amphora pediculus	1.85
	Caloneis bacillum	0.23
	Cocconeis pediculus	0.12
	Cocconeis placentula	2.08
	Cymbella affinis	0.12
	Cymbella cistula	0.23
	Diatoma hyemalis	1.85
	Diploneis oblongella	0.12
	Encyonema silesiacum	6.81
	Eucocconeis laevis	0.35
	Eunotia sp.	0.12
	Fragilaria capucina	8.3
	Gomphoneis herculeana	0.23
	Gomphonema acuminatum	0.46
	Gomphonema dichotomum	3.81
	Gomphonema micropus	0.23
	Gomphonema minutum	0.23
	Gomphonema olivaceum	0.12
	Gomphonema parvulum	1.85
).	Gomphonema sp.	0.46
	Meridion circulare	1.15

1032 12th Avenue Helena, MT 59601 (406) 443-2196

hannaea@montana.com

Diatom Report

Navicula antonii	0.23
Navicula cari	0.23
Navicula menisculus	0.23
Navicula minima	0.35
Navicula minuscula	0.12
Navicula radiosiola	0.23
Navicula reichardtiana	2.88
Navicula tripunctata	0.69
Nitzschia dissipata	1.04
Nitzschia pura	4.27
Nitzschia recta	0.35
Nitzschia sublinearis	0.69
Reimeria sinuata	1.04
Staurosira construens	7.27
Staurosirella leptostauron	0.92
Staurosirella pinnata	2.08
Synedra rumpens	1.15
Synedra ulna	3.11

Diatom Metrics

Metric	Category	Value
Valves Counted		867
Cells Counted		433.5
Total Number of Species		47
Total Number of Species Counted		47
Percent Dominant Species		34.83
Shannon's Diversity Index		3.87
Pollution Index		2.65
Pollution Tolerance (% by Category)	Most Tolerant	2.31
Pollution Tolerance (% by Category)	Tolerant	30.22
Pollution Tolerance (% by Category)	Sensitive	67.47
Siltation Index		11.3
Disturbance Index		34.83
Stability Index		24.68
Percent Epithemiaceae		• 0
Percent Aerophiles		0.58
Percent Centrics		0

1032 12th Avenue Helena, MT 59601 (406) 443-2196 hannaea@montana.com

Diatom Report

Motility (% by Category) Motility (% by Category) Motility (% by Category) Motility (% by Category) pH (% by Category) Salinity (% by Category) Nitrogen Uptake (% by Category) Oxygen Demand (% by Category) Saprobity (% by Category) Trophic State (% by Category)

Highly Motile	6.34
Moderately Motile	9.8
Not Motile	76.59
Variable Motility	7.27
Not Classified	7.38
Acidobiontic	0
Acidophilous	0
Circumneutral	54.67
Alkaliphilous	37.83
Alkalibiontic	0.12
Indifferent	0
Not Classified	1.96
Fresh	2.31
Fresh-brackish	95.62
Brackish-fresh	0.12
Brackish	0
Marine	0
Not Classified	25.03
Nitrogen Autotroph (low organics)	15.34
Nitrogen Autotroph (high organics)	57.44
Facultative Nitrogen Heterotroph	2.19
Obligate Nitrogen Heterotroph	0
Not Classified	25.03
Continuously High	52.48
Fairly High	7.15
Moderate	13.15
Low	2.19
Very Low	0
Not Classified	9
Oligosaprobous	7.5
beta-Mesosaprobous	66.67
alpha-Mesosaprobous	10.84
alpha-Mesosaprobous/Polysaprobous	6
Polysaprobous	0
Not Classified	11.07
Oligotraphentic	* 1.38
Oligo-mesotraphentic	1.96
Mesotraphentic	13.96

Hannaea 1032 <u>1</u>2th Avenue Helena, MT 59601 (406) 443-2196 hannaea@montana.com

Diatom Report

Trophic State (% by Category)	Meso-eutraphentic	13.26
Trophic State (% by Category)	Eutraphentic	9.69
Trophic State (% by Category)	Hypereutraphentic	0
Trophic State (% by Category)	Variable	48.67
Trophic State (% by Category)	Dystrophic	0
Moisture (% by Category)	Not Classified	24.91
Moisture (% by Category)	Rarely Outside Waterbodies	16.03
Moisture (% by Category)	Mainly in Waterbodies; Sometimes Wet	9.69
Moisture (% by Category)	Mainly in Waterbodies; Regularly Wet	49.13
Moisture (% by Category)	Mainly Wet Places; Sometimes in Water	0.23
Moisture (% by Category)	Exclusively Outside Waterbodies	0

1032 12th Avenue Helena, MT 59601 (406) 443-2196 hannaea@montana.com

Diatom Report

Sample: 261601 Client ID: C10ELKC01 Sample Location: Elk Creek Reach 3 Sample Date: 9/4/02

Diatom Species

Genus/Species/Variety	Percent Relative Abundance
Achnanthes biasolettiana	0.24
Achnanthes bioretii	0.12
Achnanthidium minutissimum	73.23
Cocconeis placentula	1.32
Cymbella excisiformis	0.12
Cymbella leptoceros	0.24
Encyonopsis microcephala	0.84
Eucocconeis laevis	0.48
Gomphonema cuneolus	0.84
Gomphonema dichotomum	9.12
Gomphonema minusculum	0.24
Gomphonema olivaceoides	5.16
Gomphonema pumilum	0.48
Navicula bremensis	0.12
Navicula cari	0.12
Reimeria sinuata	7.08
Synedra rumpens	0.24

Diatom Metrics

Metric	Category	Value
Valves Counted		833
Cells Counted		416.5
Total Number of Species		17
Total Number of Species Counted		17
Percent Dominant Species		73.23
Shannon's Diversity Index		1.54
Pollution Index		2.99

1032 12th Avenue Helena, MT 59601 (406) 443-2196 hannaea@montana.com

Diatom Report

Pollution Tolerance (% by Category) Pollution Tolerance (% by Category) Pollution Tolerance (% by Category) Siltation Index Disturbance Index Stability Index Percent Epithemiaceae Percent Aerophiles Percent Centrics Motility (% by Category) Motility (% by Category) Motility (% by Category) Motility (% by Category) pH (% by Category) Salinity (% by Category) Nitrogen Uptake (% by Category) Oxygen Demand (% by Category) Saprobity (% by Category)

Most Tolerant	0
Tolerant	1.32
Sensitive	98.68
	0.24
	73.23
	0.24
	0
	0
	0
Highly Motile	0
Moderately Motile	7.32
Not Motile	91.48
Variable Motility	1.2
Not Classified	1.92
Acidobiontic	0
Acidophilous	0
Circumneutral	86.31
Alkaliphilous	11.76
Alkalibiontic	0
Indifferent	0
Not Classified	1.32
Fresh	5.88
Fresh-brackish	92.8
Brackish-fresh	0
Brackish	0
Marine	0
Not Classified	2.4
Nitrogen Autotroph (low organics)	15.97
Nitrogen Autotroph (high organics)	81.63
Facultative Nitrogen Heterotroph	0
Obligate Nitrogen Heterotroph	0
Not Classified	2.4
Continuously High	96.28
Fairly High	0
Moderate	1.32
Low	. 0
Very Low	0
Not Classified	2.4

1032 12th Avenue Helena, MT 59601 (406) 443-2196 hannaea@montana.com

Diatom Report

Saprobity (% by Category)	Oligosaprobous	6.84
Saprobity (% by Category)	beta-Mesosaprobous	90.76
Saprobity (% by Category)	alpha-Mesosaprobous	0
Saprobity (% by Category)	alpha-Mesosaprobous/Polysaprobous	0
Saprobity (% by Category)	Polysaprobous	0
Trophic State (% by Category)	Not Classified	1.32
Trophic State (% by Category)	Oligotraphentic	0.72
Trophic State (% by Category)	Oligo-mesotraphentic	5.4
Trophic State (% by Category)	Mesotraphentic	7.44
Trophic State (% by Category)	Meso-eutraphentic	9.96
Trophic State (% by Category)	Eutraphentic	1.32
Trophic State (% by Category)	Hypereutraphentic	0
Trophic State (% by Category)	Variable	73.83
Trophic State (% by Category)	Dystrophic	0
Moisture (% by Category)	Not Classified	2.4
Moisture (% by Category)	Rarely Outside Waterbodies	0
Moisture (% by Category)	Mainly in Waterbodies; Sometimes Wet	1.32
Moisture (% by Category)	Mainly in Waterbodies; Regularly Wet	96.16
Moisture (% by Category)	Mainly Wet Places; Sometimes in Water	0.12
Moisture (% by Category)	Exclusively Outside Waterbodies	0
Similarity Index	Reference Sample ID: 261501	80.01

.



¥.,

1032 12th Avenue Helena, MT 59601 (406) 443-2196 hannaea@montana.com

Diatom Report

Sample: 261501 Client ID: C10ELKC02 Sample Location: Elk Creek Reach 13 Sample Date: 9/4/02

Diatom Species

Genus/Species/Variety	Percent Relative Abundance
Achnanthes biasolettiana	0.11
Achnanthes lanceolata	0.11
Achnanthidium minutissimum	84.69
Cocconeis placentula	0.34
Cymbella reichardtii	0.23
Diatoma moniliformis	0.11
Diatoma tenuis	0.11
Encyonopsis microcephala	0.79
Fragilaria vaucheriae	0.57
Gomphonema cuneolus	1.36
Gomphonema dichotomum	1.02
Gomphonema minusculum	2.38
Gomphonema olivaceoides	2.38
Gomphonema pumilum	4.2
Hannaea arcus	0.23
Navicula cryptotenella	0.11
Navicula stroemii	0.23
Nitzschia hantzschiana	0.23
Reimeria sinuata	0.57
Staurosira construens	0.23

Diatom Metrics

Metric	Category	Value
Valves Counted		882
Cells Counted		- 441
Total Number of Species		28
Total Number of Species Counted		20

1032 12th Avenue Helena, MT 59601 (406) 443-2196 hannaea@montana.com

Diatom Report

Percent Dominant Species	
Shannon's Diversity Index	
Pollution Index	
Pollution Tolerance (% by Category)	Most Tolerant
Pollution Tolerance (% by Category)	Tolerant
Pollution Tolerance (% by Category)	Sensitive
Siltation Index	
Disturbance Index	
Stability Index	
Percent Epithemiaceae	
Percent Aerophiles	
Percent Centrics	
Motility (% by Category)	Highly Motile
Motility (% by Category)	Moderately Motile
Motility (% by Category)	Not Motile
Motility (% by Category)	Variable Motility
pH (% by Category)	Not Classified
pH (% by Category)	Acidobiontic
pH (% by Category)	Acidophilous
pH (% by Category)	Circumneutral
pH (% by Category)	Alkaliphilous
pH (% by Category)	Alkalibiontic
pH (% by Category)	Indifferent
Salinity (% by Category)	Not Classified
Salinity (% by Category)	Fresh
Salinity (% by Category)	Fresh-brackish
Salinity (% by Category)	Brackish-fresh
Salinity (% by Category)	Brackish
Salinity (% by Category)	Marine
Nitrogen Uptake (% by Category)	Not Classified
Nitrogen Uptake (% by Category)	Nitrogen Autotroph (low organics)
Nitrogen Uptake (% by Category)	Nitrogen Autotroph (high organics)
Nitrogen Uptake (% by Category)	Facultative Nitrogen Heterotroph
Nitrogen Uptake (% by Category)	Obligate Nitrogen Heterotroph
Oxygen Demand (% by Category)	Not Classified
Oxygen Demand (% by Category)	Continuously High
Oxygen Demand (% by Category)	Fairly High
Oxygen Demand (% by Category)	Moderate

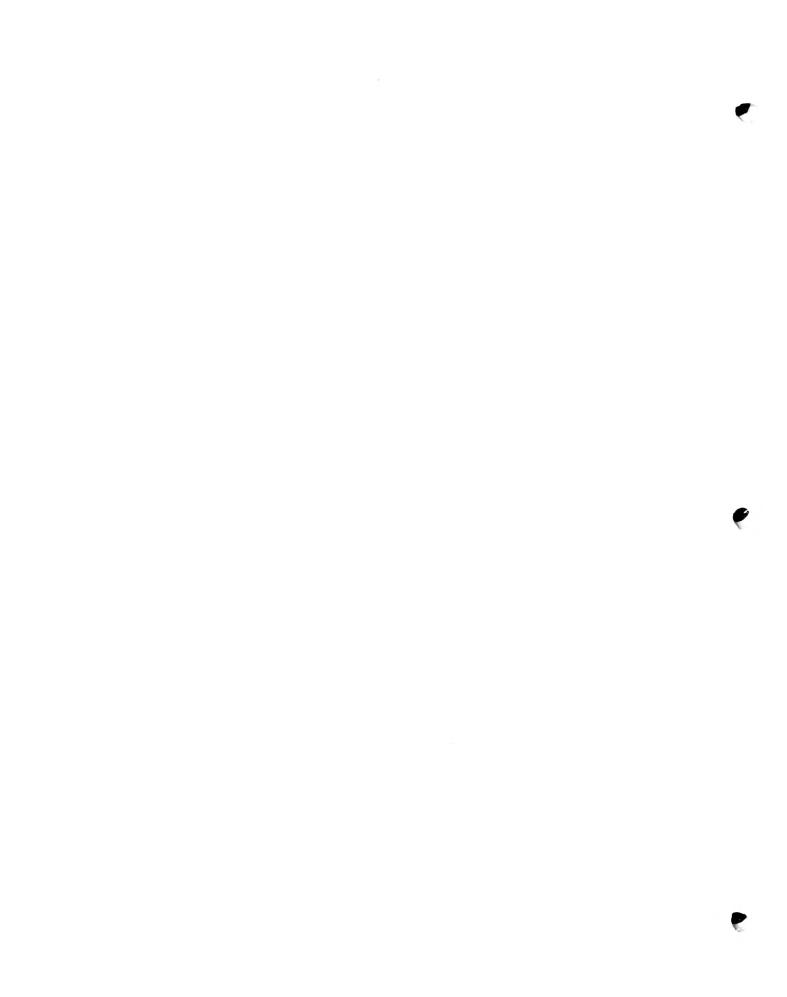
1

84.69 1.13 2.98 0 2.04 97.96 0.57 84.69 1.25 0 0.79 0 0.23 0.91 97.85 1.02 8.5 0 0 87.87 3.63 0 0 4.31 2.61 92.97 0.11 0 0 8.96 4.65 86.39 0 0 8.73 90.14 0 1.13

1032 12th Avenue Helena, MT 59601 (406) 443-2196 hannaea@montana.com

Diatom Report

Oxygen Demand (% by Category)	Low	0	
Oxygen Demand (% by Category)	Very Low	0	
Saprobity (% by Category)	Not Classified	8.84	
Saprobity (% by Category)	Oligosaprobous	3.4	
Saprobity (% by Category)	beta-Mesosaprobous	86.96	
Saprobity (% by Category)	alpha-Mesosaprobous	0.79	
Saprobity (% by Category)	alpha-Mesosaprobous/Polysaprobous	0	
Saprobity (% by Category)	Polysaprobous	0	
Trophic State (% by Category)	Not Classified	4.54	
Trophic State (% by Category)	Oligotraphentic	0	
Trophic State (% by Category)	Oligo-mesotraphentic	2.38	
Trophic State (% by Category)	Mesotraphentic	0.91	
Trophic State (% by Category)	Meso-eutraphentic	2.04	
Trophic State (% by Category)	Eutraphentic	1.13	
Trophic State (% by Category)	Hypereutraphentic	0	
Trophic State (% by Category)	Variable	89	
Trophic State (% by Category)	Dystrophic	0	
Moisture (% by Category)	Not Classified	8.62	
Moisture (% by Category)	Rarely Outside Waterbodies	0.34	
Moisture (% by Category)	Mainly in Waterbodies; Sometimes Wet	0.45	
Moisture (% by Category)	Mainly in Waterbodies; Regularly Wet	90.14	
Moisture (% by Category)	Mainly Wet Places; Sometimes in Water	0.45	
Moisture (% by Category)	Exclusively Outside Waterbodies	0	
Similarity Index	Reference Sample ID: 261601	80.01	



1032 12th Avenue Helena, MT 59601 (406) 443-2196 hannaea@montana.com

Diatom Report

Sample: 261401 Client ID: C10GOATC01 Sample Location: Goat Creek Reach 3

Sample Date: 9/4/02

Diatom Species

Genus/Species/Variety	Percent Relative Abundance
Achnanthes biasolettiana	9.83
Achnanthes sp.	0.24
Achnanthidium affine	1.66
Achnanthidium minutissimum	55.92
Amphora inariensis	0.24
Cocconeis pediculus	0.47
Cocconeis placentula	1.07
Cymbella affinis	0.24
Cymbella excisiformis	2.61
Cymbella laevis	0.47
Cymbella leptoceros	0.24
Denticula tenuis	0.24
Diatoma hyemalis	0.12
Diatoma mesodon	0.12
Diatoma tenuis	0.47
Didymosphenia geminata	0.24
Diploneis oblongella	0.12
Encyonema silesiacum	1.18
Encyonopsis microcephala	5.21
Eucocconeis flexella	0.47
Eucocconeis laevis	0.47
Fragilaria capucina	0.47
Fragilaria vaucheriae	0.95
Gomphonema cuneolus	0.47
Gomphonema dichotomum	1.9
Gomphonema minusculum	1.78
Gomphonema sp.	0.12
Navicula cryptocephala	0.24
Navicula cryptotenella	1.07

1032 12th Avenue Helena, MT 59601 (406) 443-2196 hannaea@montana.com

Diatom Report

Nitzschia angustata	0.24
Nitzschia dissipata	0.36
Nitzschia heufleriana	0.24
Nitzschia linearis	0.24
Nitzschia palea	0.47
Nitzschia pura	0.24
Nitzschia recta	0.12
Reimeria sinuata	0.47
Staurosira construens	0.47
Staurosirella leptostauron	0.71
Staurosirella pinnata	1.07
Synedra rumpens	6.04
Synedra ulna	0.71

Diatom Metrics

Metric	Category	Value	
Valves Counted		844	
Cells Counted		422	
Total Number of Species		42	
Total Number of Species Counted		42	
Percent Dominant Species		55.92	
Shannon's Diversity Index		2.84	
Pollution Index		2.82	
Pollution Tolerance (% by Category)	Most Tolerant	0.47	
Pollution Tolerance (% by Category)	Tolerant	16.82	
Pollution Tolerance (% by Category)	Sensitive	82.7	
Siltation Index		3.2	
Disturbance Index		55.92	
Stability Index		11.14	
Percent Epithemiaceae		0.24	
Percent Aerophiles		1.42	
Percent Centrics	*-	0	
Motility (% by Category)	Highly Motile	1.9	
Motility (% by Category)	Moderately Motile	2.37	
Motility (% by Category)	Not Motile	85.78	
Motility (% by Category)	Variable Motility	9.95	
pH (% by Category)	Not Classified	6.4	

1

¢

1032 12th Avenue Helena, MT 59601 (406) 443-2196 hannaea@montana.com

Diatom Report

pH (% by Category) Salinity (% by Category) Nitrogen Uptake (% by Category) Oxygen Demand (% by Category) Saprobity (% by Category) Trophic State (% by Category)

Acidobiontic	0
Acidophilous	0
Circumneutral	66.11
Alkaliphilous	27.49
Alkalibiontic	0
Indifferent	0
Not Classified	5.92
Fresh	1.66
Fresh-brackish	91.47
Brackish-fresh	0.95
Brackish	0
Marine	0
Not Classified	25.71
Nitrogen Autotroph (low organics)	10.55
Nitrogen Autotroph (high organics)	63.27
Facultative Nitrogen Heterotroph	0
Obligate Nitrogen Heterotroph	0.47
Not Classified	25.71
Continuously High	68.01
Fairly High	1.18
Moderate	4.62
Low	0.47
Very Low	0
Not Classified	22.04
Oligosaprobous	9.83
beta-Mesosaprobous	64.1
alpha-Mesosaprobous	2.84
alpha-Mesosaprobous/Polysaprobous	0.71
Polysaprobous	0.47
Not Classified	8.29
Oligotraphentic	1.42
Oligo-mesotraphentic	6.04
Mesotraphentic	11.37
Meso-eutraphentic	8.89
Eutraphentic	3.2
Hypereutraphentic	• 0.47
Variable	60.31
Dystrophic	0

Hannaea 1032 <u>1</u>2th Avenue Helena, MT 59601 (406) 443-2196 hannaea@montana.com

Diatom Report

Moisture (% by Category)	Not Classified	24.64
Moisture (% by Category)	Rarely Outside Waterbodies	2.96
Moisture (% by Category)	Mainly in Waterbodies; Sometimes Wet	4.27
Moisture (% by Category)	Mainly in Waterbodies; Regularly Wet	68.01
Moisture (% by Category)	Mainly Wet Places; Sometimes in Water	0.12
Moisture (% by Category)	Exclusively Outside Waterbodies	0
Similarity Index	Reference Sample ID: 261101	65.93

.

1032_12th Avenue Helena, MT 59601 (406) 443-2196 hannaea@montana.com

Diatom Report

Sample: 261301 Client ID: C10GOATC02 Sample Location: Goat Creek Reach 7 Sample Date: 9/4/02

Diatom Species

Genus/Species/Variety	Percent Relative Abundance
Achnanthes biasolettiana	33.4
Achnanthes marginulata	0.19
Achnanthes sp.	0.19
Achnanthidium minutissimum	38.49
Cocconeis placentula	0.28
Cymbella excisa	0.19
Cymbella excisiformis	1.89
Cymbella laevis	5.09
Denticula tenuis	0.09
Diatoma hyemalis	0.85
Diploneis oblongella	0.09
Encyonema silesiacum	0.85
Encyonopsis microcephala	2.45
Eucocconeis flexella	0.19
Eucocconeis laevis	0.19
Fragilaria capucina	0.94
Frustulia rhomboides	0.09
Gomphonema cuneolus	0.38
Gomphonema dichotomum	1.04
Gomphonema kobayasii	0.75
Gomphonema minusculum	3.4
Navicula cryptotenella	1.7
Navicula radiosa	0.09
Navicula radiosiola	0.38
Navicula sp.	0.19
Navicula stroemii	1.13
Nitzschia dissipata	0.66
Reimeria sinuata	0.47
Staurosirella pinnata	0.28

1032_12th Avenue Helena, MT 59601 (406) 443-2196 hannaea@montana.com

Diatom Report

Synedra rumpens	3.87
Synedra ulna	0.19

Diatom Metrics

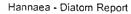
Metric	Category	Value
Valves Counted		1060
Cells Counted		530
Total Number of Species		32
Total Number of Species Counted		31
Percent Dominant Species		38.49
Shannon's Diversity Index		2.69
Pollution Index		2.88
Pollution Tolerance (% by Category)	Most Tolerant	0
Pollution Tolerance (% by Category)	Tolerant	11.7
Pollution Tolerance (% by Category)	Sensitive	88.3
Siltation Index		4.15
Disturbance Index		38.49
Stability Index		6.13
Percent Epithemiaceae		0.09
Percent Aerophiles		0
Percent Centrics		0
Motility (% by Category)	Highly Motile	0.66
Motility (% by Category)	Moderately Motile	4.25
Motility (% by Category)	Not Motile	84.62
Motility (% by Category)	Variable Motility	10.47
pH (% by Category)	Not Classified	12.26
pH (% by Category)	Acidobiontic	0
pH (% by Category)	Acidophilous	0.28
pH (% by Category)	Circumneutral	45.09
pH (% by Category)	Alkaliphilous	42.36
рН (% by Category)	Alkalibiontic	0
pH (% by Category)	Indifferent	0
Salinity (% by Category)	Not Classified	12.26
Salinity (% by Category)	Fresh	1.6
Salinity (% by Category)	Fresh-brackish	86.13
Salinity (% by Category)	Brackish-fresh	0
Salinity (% by Category)	Brackish	0

1032_12th Avenue Helena, MT 59601 (406) 443-2196 hannaea@montana.com

Diatom Report

Salinity (% by Category) Nitrogen Uptake (% by Category) Oxygen Demand (% by Category) Saprobity (% by Category) Trophic State (% by Category) Moisture (% by Category) Similarity Index

Marine	0	
Not Classified	53.3	
Nitrogen Autotroph (low organics)	5.38	
Nitrogen Autotroph (high organics)	41.32	
Facultative Nitrogen Heterotroph	0	
Obligate Nitrogen Heterotroph	0	
Not Classified	52.17	
Continuously High	45.75	
Fairly High	0.75	
Moderate	1.32	
Low	0	
Very Low	0	
Not Classified	50.66	
Oligosaprobous	4.15	
beta-Mesosaprobous	44.15	
alpha-Mesosaprobous	0.85	
alpha-Mesosaprobous/Polysaprobous	0.19	
Polysaprobous	0	
Not Classified	14.34	
Oligotraphentic	0.66	
Oligo-mesotraphentic	3.87	
Mesotraphentic	34.91	
Meso-eutraphentic	4.25	
Eutraphentic	0.47	
Hypereutraphentic	0	
Variable	41.51	
Dystrophic	0	
Not Classified	50.47	
Rarely Outside Waterbodies	0.85	
Mainly in Waterbodies; Sometimes Wet	3.3	
Mainly in Waterbodies; Regularly Wet	43.96	
Mainly Wet Places; Sometimes in Water	1.42	
Exclusively Outside Waterbodies	0	
Reference Sample ID: 261401	65.04	



ı

l

1032_12th Avenue Helena, MT 59601 (406) 443-2196 hannaea@montana.com

Diatom Report

Sample: 261201 Client ID: C10GOATC03 Sample Location: Goat Creek Reach 9 Sample Date: 9/5/02

Diatom Species

Genus/Species/Variety	Percent Relative Abundance
Achnanthes biasolettiana	51.64
Achnanthes sp.	0.24
Achnanthidium minutissimum	25.7
Brachysira neoexilis	1.58
Cymbella excisiformis	1.33
Cymbella laevis	3.88
Cymbella leptoceros	0.73
Denticula tenuis	0.12
Encyonopsis microcephala	9.58
Eucocconeis flexella	0.48
Eucocconeis laevis	0.12
Gomphonema dichotomum	1.09
Gomphonema kobayasii	0.24
Gomphonema minusculum	0.24
Navicula radiosiola	0.73
Navicula sp.	0.24
Navicula stroemii	1.09
Synedra rumpens	0.48
Synedra ulna	0.48

Diatom Metrics

Metric	Category	Value
Valves Counted		825
Cells Counted		412.5
Total Number of Species		• 19
Total Number of Species Counted		19
Percent Dominant Species		51.64



1032_12th Avenue Helena, MT 59601 (406) 443-2196

hannaea@montana.com

Diatom Report

Shannon's Diversity Index		2.14
Pollution Index		2.14
Pollution Tolerance (% by Category)	Most Tolerant	2.07
Pollution Tolerance (% by Category)	Tolerant	12.61
Pollution Tolerance (% by Category)	Sensitive	87.39
Siltation Index		2.06
Disturbance Index		25.7
Stability Index		0.97
Percent Epithemiaceae		0.12
Percent Aerophiles		0.12
Percent Centrics		0
Motility (% by Category)	Highly Motile	0
Motility (% by Category)	Moderately Motile	2.18
Motility (% by Category)	Not Motile	80.73
Motility (% by Category)	Variable Motility	15.52
pH (% by Category)	Not Classified	8.48
pH (% by Category)	Acidobiontic	0
pH (% by Category)	Acidophilous	0
pH (% by Category)	Circumneutral	26.79
pH (% by Category)	Alkaliphilous	64.73
pH (% by Category)	Alkalibiontic	0
pH (% by Category)	Indifferent	0
Salinity (% by Category)	Not Classified	8.48
Salinity (% by Category)	Fresh	1.45
Salinity (% by Category)	Fresh-brackish	90.06
Salinity (% by Category)	Brackish-fresh	0
Salinity (% by Category)	Brackish	0
Salinity (% by Category)	Marine	0
Nitrogen Uptake (% by Category)	Not Classified	61.7
Nitrogen Uptake (% by Category)	Nitrogen Autotroph (low organics)	12.12
Nitrogen Uptake (% by Category)	Nitrogen Autotroph (high organics)	26.18
Nitrogen Uptake (% by Category)	Facultative Nitrogen Heterotroph	0
Nitrogen Uptake (% by Category)	Obligate Nitrogen Heterotroph	0
Oxygen Demand (% by Category)	Not Classified	60.61
Oxygen Demand (% by Category)	Continuously High	38.91
Oxygen Demand (% by Category)	Fairly High	· 0
Oxygen Demand (% by Category)	Moderate	0.48
Oxygen Demand (% by Category)	Low	0

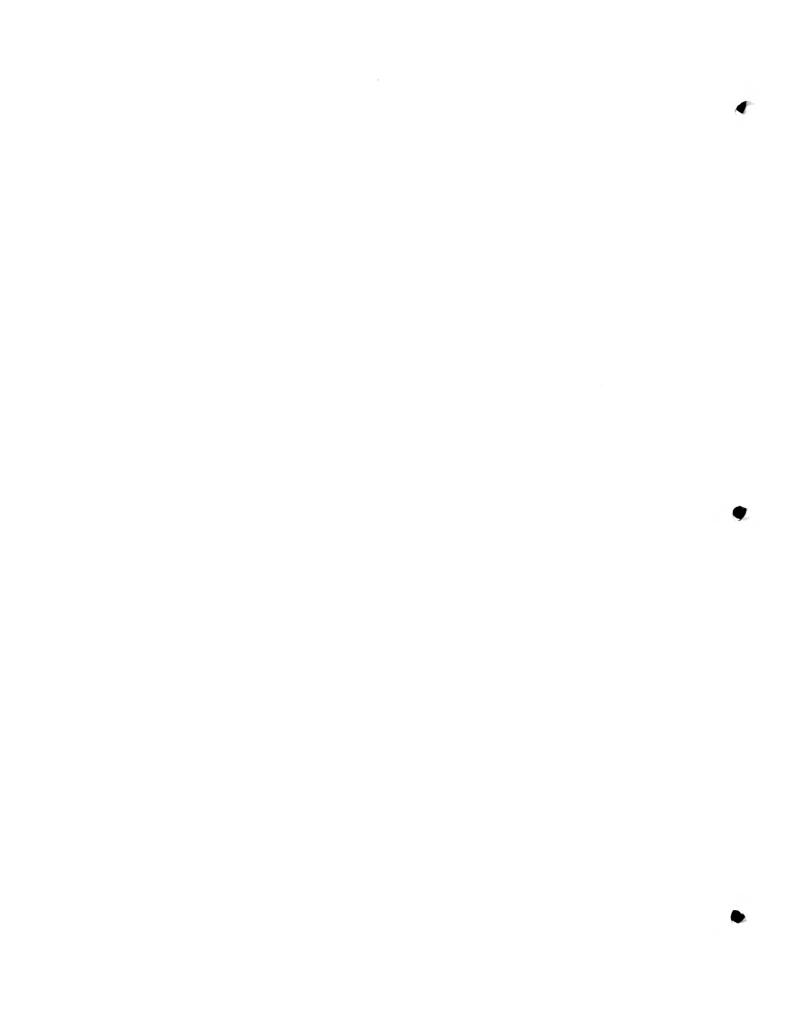
1

1032 12th Avenue Helena, MT 59601 (406) 443-2196 hannaea@montana.com

Diatom Report

Oxygen Demand (% by Category)	Very Low	0	
Saprobity (% by Category)	Not Classified	61.7	
Saprobity (% by Category)	Oligosaprobous	11.03	
Saprobity (% by Category)	beta-Mesosaprobous	26.79	
Saprobity (% by Category)	alpha-Mesosaprobous	0	
Saprobity (% by Category)	alpha-Mesosaprobous/Polysaprobous	0.48	
Saprobity (% by Category)	Polysaprobous	0	
Trophic State (% by Category)	Not Classified	9.58	
Trophic State (% by Category)	Oligotraphentic	1.33	
Trophic State (% by Category)	Oligo-mesotraphentic	0.48	
Trophic State (% by Category)	Mesotraphentic	51.76	
Trophic State (% by Category)	Meso-eutraphentic	10.67	
Trophic State (% by Category)	Eutraphentic	0	
Trophic State (% by Category)	Hypereutraphentic	0	
Trophic State (% by Category)	Variable	26.18	
Trophic State (% by Category)	Dystrophic	0	
Moisture (% by Category)	Not Classified	60.61	
Moisture (% by Category)	Rarely Outside Waterbodies	0	
Moisture (% by Category)	Mainly in Waterbodies; Sometimes Wet	0.48	
Moisture (% by Category)	Mainly in Waterbodies; Regularly Wet	37.82	
Moisture (% by Category)	Mainly Wet Places; Sometimes in Water	1.09	
Moisture (% by Category)	Exclusively Outside Waterbodies	0	
Similarity Index	Reference Sample ID: 261301	71.2	





1032 12th Avenue Helena, MT 59601 (406) 443-2196 hannaea@montana.com

Diatom Report

Sample: 261101 Client ID: C10GOATC04

Sample Location: Goat Creek Reach 16 (upper)

Sample Date: 9/4/02

Diatom Species

Genus/Species/Variety	Percent Relative Abundance
Achnanthes biasolettiana	21.97
Achnanthidium minutissimum	44.9
Brachysira neoexilis	2.06
Cocconeis placentula	0.61
Cymbella laevis	6.31
Cymbella leptoceros	2.67
Denticula tenuis	3.4
Diatoma hyemalis	0.61
Encyonopsis microcephala	5.95
Eucocconeis flexella	0.12
Fragilaria vaucheriae	0.85
Gomphonema dichotomum	1.94
Gomphonema kobayasii	0.49
Gomphonema minusculum	0.85
Gomphonema pumilum	0.24
Hannaea arcus	0.61
Meridion circulare	0.61
Navicula densilineolata	0.49
Navicula radiosiola	0.12
Navicula sp.	0.24
Navicula stroemii	3.76
Nitzschia dissipata	0.49
Nitzschia pura	0.49
Pinnularia borealis	0.24

Diatom Metrics

1032 12th Avenue Helena, MT 59601 (406) 443-2196 hannaea@montana.com

Diatom Report

Metric	Category
Valves Counted	
Cells Counted	
Total Number of Species	
Total Number of Species Counted	
Percent Dominant Species	
Shannon's Diversity Index	
Pollution Index	
Pollution Tolerance (% by Category)	Most Tol
Pollution Tolerance (% by Category)	Tolerant
Pollution Tolerance (% by Category)	Sensitive
Siltation Index	
Disturbance Index	
Stability Index	
Percent Epithemiaceae	
Percent Aerophiles	
Percent Centrics	
Motility (% by Category)	Highly M
Motility (% by Category)	Moderate
Motility (% by Category)	Not Motil
Motility (% by Category)	Variable
pH (% by Category)	Not Clas
pH (% by Category)	Acidobio
pH (% by Category)	Acidophi
pH (% by Category)	Circumne
pH (% by Category)	Alkaliphil
pH (% by Category)	Alkalibio
pH (% by Category)	Indifferer
Salinity (% by Category)	Not Clas
Salinity (% by Category)	Fresh
Salinity (% by Category)	Fresh-br
Salinity (% by Category)	Brackish
Salinity (% by Category)	Brackish
Salinity (% by Category)	Marine
Nitrogen Uptake (% by Category)	Not Clas
Nitrogen Uptake (% by Category)	Nitrogen
Nitrogen Uptake (% by Category)	Nitrogen
Nitrogen Uptake (% by Category)	Facultati

Category	Value
	824
	412
	36
	24
	44.9
	2.73
	2.88
Most Tolerant	0
Tolerant	11.65
Sensitive	88.35
	5.58
	44.9
	2.06
	3.4
	1.09
	0
Highly Motile	0.97
Moderately Motile	8.25
Not Motile	73.79
Variable Motility	14.93
Not Classified	11.41
Acidobiontic	0
Acidophilous	0
Circumneutral	45.27
Alkaliphilous	43.33
Alkalibiontic	0
Indifferent	0
Not Classified	10.68
Fresh	7.28
Fresh-brackish	82.04
Brackish-fresh	0
Brackish	0
Marine	0
Not Classified	37.62
Nitrogen Autotroph (low organics)	14.68
Nitrogen Autotroph (high organics)	47.69
Facultative Nitrogen Heterotroph	0

-

1032 12th Avenue Helena, MT 59601 (406) 443-2196 hannaea@montana.com

Diatom Report

