

ANNUAL REPORT

2024



WE ARE 7 LAKES ALLIANCE:

Conserving the lands and waters of the Belgrade Lakes region for all.

Our Vision

7 Lakes Alliance envisions a future where the Belgrade Lakes region thrives with clean, healthy water, unspoiled lands and a vibrant community.

We achieve this through science-based conservation strategies in collaboration with Colby College and other important partners, including local lake associations.

We foster a culture of conservation that benefits everyone—strengthening both our community and local economy.

With passion and dedication, our staff works year-round to deepen the connection between people and the lakes and lands of this remarkable watershed, safeguarding its beauty and vitality for generations to come.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Making an Impact in 2024	4-5
Science in Action	6-7
Nurturing Nature and Protecting our Future	8-9
Impact Report Data	10
Thank You to Our Supporters	11-13
Annual Financial Report	14
Ways to Give	15
Board of Directors	Back Cover

Front cover photo by 7 Lakes Alliance board member, Alex Wall

Back cover photo by 7 Lakes Alliance board member, Lynn Matson



Chris Monz and his wife, Wyatt

A LETTER FROM CHRIS MONZ, CEO

Dear Friends and Supporters,

As we reflect on another year of conservation in the Belgrade Lakes watershed, the work of 7 Lakes Alliance has never been more vital. The sustainability of the watershed—and of the communities therein—is under increasing threat due to climate change and land use change. With our increased program capacity, we are now able to respond with expanded conservation efforts that protect lakes, shorelines, uplands, and forests, restore wildlife habitat, and increase opportunities to enjoy nature for all.

The impact of our work is not just what you see on the following pages, it is also our goal to achieve much that you will not see on the lands and waters. Our work strives to assure that you will not find invasive aquatic plants choking our lakes or unsustainable development replacing the forests that provide species habitat, recreation opportunities, and safeguard our waters.

None of this would be possible without our dedicated, professional team, who works year-round to conserve the waters and land that define this region. None of it would be possible without our community of dedicated volunteers, partners, and supporters. Because of your passion, dedication, and generosity, our lakes are more protected, our landscapes are wilder, and the future of the Belgrade Lakes watershed is brighter.

Thank you for standing with us in this critical work.

With gratitude,

DR. CHRISTOPHER MONZ
President and CEO



CONSERVED 1,025 ACRES

**PROTECTED
2.25 ACRES OF STREAMS &
35 ACRES OF WETLANDS**

**CREATED OUR FIRST
UNIVERSAL ACCESS TRAIL**

**20 MILES OF TRAILS
STEWARDED**

6 NEW BRIDGES BUILT

**9 INVASIVE PLANT
FRAGMENTS PREVENTED
FROM LEAVING OUR LAKES**

**DIVE TEAM SURVEYED
AND REMEDIATED NEW
AND EXISTING INVASIVE
PLANTS TO AVERT THE
CATASTROPHIC SPREAD
OF INVASIVES THAT HAVE
PLAGUED MANY LAKES**



MAKING AN IMPACT IN 2024!



WATER QUALITY

**2,000 SAMPLES ON ALL 7
LAKES IN ALL 4 SEASONS**

**ACTIVE SCIENTIFIC
ASSESSMENT AND PLANNING
FOR THE NORTH POND
REMEDIATION PROJECT**



EDUCATION & OUTREACH

**7 SUMMER
COLLEGE STUDENTS**

**LAUNCHED OUR
FLOATING CLASSROOM**

**100+ EVENTS
WITH OVER 1,200 ATTENDEES**

**253 LOCAL SCHOOL KIDS
IN 7 LAKES SUMMER
PROGRAMMING**



EROSION CONTROL

70 LAKESMART EVALUATIONS

**\$380,000 INVESTED IN
WATERSHED AND ROAD
IMPROVEMENTS**

**YOUTH CONSERVATION CORPS
COMPLETED 200 LARGE-SCALE
AND 400 SMALL-SCALE
PROJECTS SINCE 2021**

SCIENCE IN ACTION— A CRITICAL STEP TO A HEALTHIER WATERSHED

Throughout the northeast, harmful algal blooms on lakes are becoming increasingly common due to rising temperatures and elevated nutrient levels—particularly phosphorus. In the Belgrade Lakes watershed, North Pond has experienced recurring algal blooms over the past several years, including a prolonged one last summer. Dr. Danielle Wain, Lake Science Director at 7 Lakes Alliance, explained that North Pond has reached a tipping point, with excessive phosphorus fueling the blooms. Phosphorus enters the lakes in runoff and erosion after increasingly heavy rain events. These inputs are exacerbated by lakeside camps with unbuffered lawns and outdated septic tanks near the shoreline.

Dr. Wain noted that North Pond's blooms are driven by cyanobacteria, an algae that can potentially become toxic to wildlife, pets, and humans.

A SCIENCE-DRIVEN SOLUTION: ALUM TREATMENT

The North Pond Watershed Based Management Plan—approved by the EPA in 2023, outlines a two-pronged solution: erosion control projects throughout the watershed, and an alum treatment in the pond. The anticipated North Pond project is expected to cost more than \$3 million. 7 Lakes Alliance is awaiting possible funding from

a Congressionally Directed Spending Grant (CDS) that was forwarded by Senator Susan Collins for the North Pond Alum Project. The CDS program grants were excluded from the recently approved federal budget but will be reconsidered for 2026 with support from Senator Collins.

Dr. Chris Monz, CEO of 7 Lakes Alliance noted "Although we wish we could wave a magic wand and make this alum treatment happen, the reality is that the strategic planning phase is a complex, science-driven process." He continued, "We are applying lessons learned from the successful 2018 alum project on East Pond, but the science is evolving and each of our lakes has unique factors, such as depth, phosphorus levels in the sediment and nutrient inflow rates that must all be considered to ensure the most effective and lasting results."

New scientific findings shape strategic planning for North Pond. Thanks to a generous donor, 7 Lakes Alliance has deployed autosampler equipment to measure nutrient inflows from streams throughout the watershed. These autosamplers provide critical data on phosphorus entering the lake during both normal flow periods and major storm events—times when volunteer sampling is often impossible.

One key finding is the presence of higher-than-expected iron levels in the water flowing into North Pond. This iron interacts with the phosphorus, creating a synergistic effect that intensifies algal blooms. The Lake Science team at 7 Lakes Alliance and our partners at Colby College are incorporating their findings into the strategic planning process to fine-tune the



North Pond Algae Bloom, photo by Alex Wall

alum treatment planned for North Pond for maximum impact to improve water quality.

A COMMUNITY-BACKED EFFORT

The North Pond Association has been in high gear fundraising for this project. NPA President, Katie Meikle, noted that the response from the North Pond/Little North Pond community has been outstanding.

Perhaps no North Ponders are more hopeful for a favorable outcome than those at Pine Tree Camp, a 285-acre lakeside campus for children and adults with disabilities. Camp Director, Dawn Willard-Robinson, recently shared:

“This past summer at Pine Tree Camp we lost over a month of lake time when it was just not safe to have our campers and staff in the water. As you can imagine, our campers look forward to being on this beautiful lake all year long. For many of them, it is their only opportunity to access the resources, support, and accessible equipment they need to enjoy water activities. I've been part of the team working with 7 Lakes Alliance and leadership of the North Pond Association throughout the

planning process for the alum treatment. We are all grateful that 7 Lakes Alliance is leading this effort.”

The fight for North Pond is about more than a single lake—it's about protecting an entire watershed. North Pond flows directly into Great Pond. North Pond algal dieoff flows into Great Meadow Stream headwater of the north bay of Great Pond. The health of each of our lakes is ultimately vital to the entire interconnected chain of seven lakes, eventually exiting the watershed through Messalonskee Lake. The data and strategies developed through this project will also help inform future remediation efforts across all of our lakes.

With strong community support, dedicated science, and strategic partnerships, 7 Lakes Alliance is leading the way in safeguarding the Belgrade Lakes region for generations to come. 💧

NURTURING NATURE AND PROTECTING OUR FUTURE

Reforestation a 270-Acre Property in Belgrade Lakes, Maine

7 Lakes Alliance is embarking on a reforestation project for the Dunn Road Preserve, a 270-acre parcel acquired in 2024 that had been heavily logged. Noah Pollock, 7 Lakes Alliance Land Conservation Director, noted that a management plan is being developed with support from community members and ecologists to reestablish a healthy and diverse forest. This will restore the local ecosystem and serve as a model for climate resiliency. Trees play a critical role in removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, capturing it in their wood, and stabilizing the soil, thus preventing runoff into streams and lakes.

Pollock shared that this property is very protective of water quality on Long Pond and is an important habitat area connecting wildlife within a larger conservation corridor. Pollock envisions that the management plan will include low-impact recreation as the forest is rehabilitated.

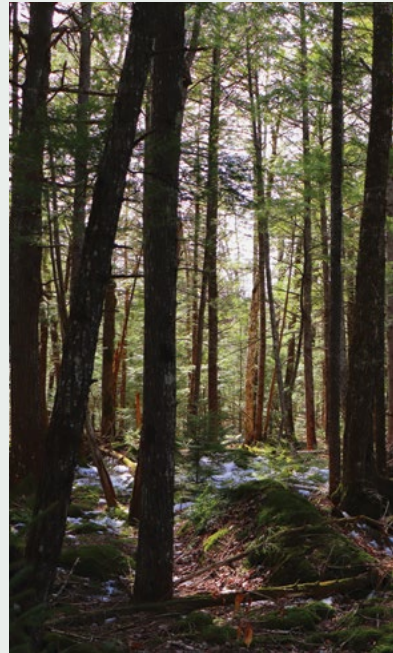
The goal is to use science-based land management principles to achieve a healthy, thriving ecosystem, including improved lake health and air quality. This will involve a combination of natural regeneration (letting nature do what it does best) and strategic tree planting. With climate change, trees that will thrive in the next century may look very different from those that are commonly seen in Maine today. This strategic approach not only accelerates the recovery of the landscape but also ensures a more robust and diverse forest.

Community Support and Conservation Efforts

According to Laura Rose Day, 7 Lakes Alliance Chief Conservation and Special Initiatives Officer, the support from neighbors and the broader community has been crucial in conserving this land and will continue during the management process.



Area of significant tree harvesting
on the Dunn Road Preserve



Area of remaining intact forest
on the Dunn Road Preserve



“The Dunn Road Preserve is a powerful example of community-driven conservation. Passionate individuals, broad local support, and 7 Lakes Alliance’s committed team shows how grassroots efforts are essential to conserve the special but threatened natural resources of our region. Daunting timelines and funding challenges can stop important conservation opportunities in their tracks, so to see the community rally together to protect this land for future generations was truly inspiring.”

LAURA ROSE DAY

*7 Lakes Alliance Chief Conservation
and Special Initiatives Officer*



Reforestation the property will yield numerous environmental benefits:

TREES PROTECT THE LAKES WATER QUALITY BY PREVENTING EROSION AND RUNOFF.

FORESTS PROVIDE VITAL WILDLIFE HABITAT, SUPPORTING BIODIVERSITY.

TREES CLEAN THE AIR WE BREATHE BY ABSORBING POLLUTANTS AND PRODUCING OXYGEN.

FORESTS PLAY A CRUCIAL ROLE IN REGULATING THE CLIMATE BY SEQUESTERING CARBON AND MODERATING TEMPERATURES.

The reforestation of the 270-acre property in Belgrade Lakes is a testament to the power of community and science working together for a common goal of building a climate-resilient forest, fostering low-impact recreation, and creating a wildlife hub. This project is a great example of the important land conservation work being done at 7 Lakes Alliance that promises a brighter, greener future for generations to come. Trees are not just a part of the landscape; they are the cornerstone of a healthy ecosystem, contributing to the well-being of the environment and the well-being and economic health of the greater Belgrade Lakes watershed. 💧

IMPACT REPORT DATA

Lake Science and Monitoring

WATER QUALITY SAMPLES ON ALL SEVEN LAKES



Invasive Aquatics

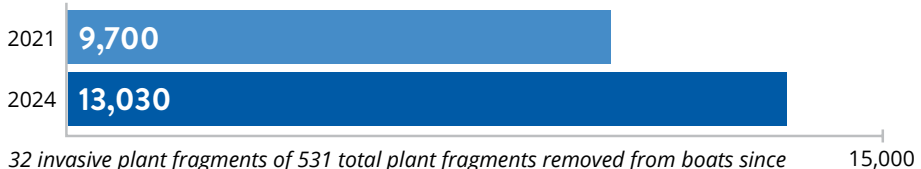
VOLUNTEER HOURS



STAFF HOURS



COURTESY BOAT INSPECTIONS



32 invasive plant fragments of 531 total plant fragments removed from boats since 2021. A small invasive plant fragment, such as a one-inch fragment of invasive milfoil, can result in a full infestation.

Land Conservation

TOTAL CONSERVED ACRES TO DATE



***13.5% of the 93,000 acres of the Belgrade Lakes watershed has been conserved through 7 Lakes Alliance, the state of Maine, and other conservation partners.**

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

PROGRAM-FUNDING PARTNERS

Belgrade Lakes Association
Colby College
East Pond Association
Friends of Messalonskee
McGrath Pond-Salmon Lake Asso.
North Pond Association
Maine DEP
Land For Maine's Future Program
Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands
Towns of: Belgrade, Mercer, Mt.
Vernon, Oakland, Rome, Smithfield,
Sidney

FOUNDATIONS

Borman Family Foundation
Davis Conservation Foundation
Harold Alfond Foundation
Horne Family Foundation
Henry Janssen Foundation
Janus Giving Fund
Klingenstein-Martel Foundation
Lawry Family Foundation
Morton-Kelley Charitable Foundation
Warren Cross Charitable Foundation

\$50,000 AND UP

Julie and Andrew Klingenstein
Thomas and Robin Klingenstein
Sally Martel
Marc Maxwell
Meg McCann
Nancy Simpkins
Hilary Tatem and Ray Hepper
Dick and Joan Schmaltz
Anonymous

\$25,000-\$49,999

Matti and Chris Bradley
Scott and Martha Finlay
Lynn and Phyllis Matson
Carolyn and Geoff Stiff
Rich Sutton

\$10,000-\$24,999

Randall and Gilliam Briggs
Steve Buchsbaum and Regina
Coppens
Laurie Ann Cooper
Matt and Missy Craig
John and Marilyn Devine
Carol Diamond
Tom and Valerie Famularo
Albert Hague
Stephen and Beth Hague
Nancy Whyte and Rudy Heintze
Tara Horne
Peter and Linda Kallin
Gail Lange
Robert and Andrea Martin
Tom and Nancy McCandlish
Will and Lynn Mitchell
Robert and Lynn Moore
Julie and Hunter Peacock
Michael Quinlan
Carol and Russ Sabia
Patrick and Lynda Sheehan
Jack Sutton
Joan Witkin

\$5,000-\$9,999

Barbara and Ted Alfond
Donald and Kathleen Appleton
Dudley and Linda Billings
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Roy Bouchard
Tina and Tom Cahill
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Mel and Kathy Croft
Paul and Carrie Dennis
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James Gemmell and Roger Poulin
Mark and Lisa Hinkel
Hammond Lumber
Robert Hoops and Hilary Barnes
Hoopes
Steve and Jody Jones
David and Rita Jones
Wayne Kuegel and Kathy Edelman
Charlotte Leary
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Mark and Alicia Muchado
Don and Marie Magioncalda
Robert and Andrea Martin
Stefanie Millette
Bill and Vicki Mitchell
Carol Moss
Alice Passer
Cindy and Joe Reese
Scott Schilling
Maryjane Shiverick
Peter and Penny Simpson
Chris and Sally Stevens
Suni and Kristen Thakor
Alex and Kathi Wall

\$1,000-\$4,999

Judy and Charles Ackroyd
Joan Allison
John and Christina Anderson
Kathy and George Atkinson
Marion and Bob Aury
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Timothy and Denise Bannon
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David Bean
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David Benedict
Janetha Benson
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Mel Bonder
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Matthew and Joan Cloutier
Ed and Edie Cornwall
Dave and Kitty Cullina-Bessey
Andrew and Kimberly Dallas
Pat Donahue and Amy Sklar
Thomas and Leslie Doolittle
Kerry Duffy
Robert and Meg Ellis
Jeffrey and Linda Fay
Lora Fleming
Jef and Val Flemming
Patrice Franko and Sandy Maisel
Stacie Frost
Golden Pond Wealth Management
Camille and Robert Goodwin

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Harriet Hubbard
Rachel and Mark Jablonowski
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Steve and Anne Lewent
Andy McBeth
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James and Nancy Nichols
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Jeffrey Poulin
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Karen and Shawn Roman
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Schassberger
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John and Wendy Schlosser
Margaret Schuler
Jack and Diana Schultz
Robert and Janet Schutte
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Ellen Shibles
Suzanne and Paul Skrzypeck
Anne and Stephen Smith
Tom and Susan Sourlis
Sally and Willie Stothoff
Steven and Katherine Tagtmeier
Mary and Ken Valenti
Michael and Ruth Vigue
John Violette and Pamela Kirk
Tony Wain
John Ward
Adam Wenchel
Tom West
Pixie Angelo and James Yingst

UP TO \$1,000

Jen Abbott
John and Rose Abendroth
Elizabeth Ackroyd
Oscar and Nancy Adams
Maria-Therese Aiello
Ann and Donald Allen
Susan Allison
Alix Alter
Becky and Peter Alter
Pamela Ancheta
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Connie Armitage
John and Flor Atkinson
Linda Bacon
Charlie and Debra Baeder
Susan Baida
Sally and Ron Bancroft
John and Nancy Barrazotto
Michael and Barbara Barrett
Susan Barton
Chris and Jan Beach
Bill and Martha Beals

OUR SUPPORTERS

UP TO \$1,000 CONTINUED

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 Camille Berl
 Daniel Berler
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 Cyrilla Beveridge
 James and Lee Bilodeau
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 John and Pam Blanpied
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 David Bodine
 Richard and Carol Boles
 Marie and David Boneparth
 Claudia Boozer-Short
 William and Renate Bourassa
 Kevin Boyce
 Peter Bradley
 Arlene and Bill Brandeis
 Penne Branna
 In memory of Christian Branna (9)
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 Rachel and Randy Brodeur
 John Brower
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 Rene and Katharina Burdet
 Bob and Amee Burgoyne
 Patricia Burdick
 Harold Burnett
 Michael and Jo Anne Bushey
 Pamela Butler
 Camp Liberty Association
 Nick Carr
 Bruce and Rachael Carrier
 Elizabeth Carroll
 Doug and Marti Casserly
 Marian Castano-Jackson
 Stephen and Karen Cavanagh
 Felix and Mary Chambers
 Mary and Ryan Chaney
 Sylvie and John Charron
 Alison Chase
 Trisha Cheney
 Melissa Chiachiaro
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 Stuart Cole
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 Harry and Sandra Colt
 Peter Cook
 Betsey Corning and Wayne Reynolds
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 Susan and David Cottrell
 David Courtemanch
 Katharine Coyle
 David and Diane Crane
 Chris and Mike Chrichton
 Stuart Cushner
 Joe and Donna D'Angelillio
 John and Ingrid Dean
 Mark Deden
 Paul Desjardins
 Nancy and James DeTine
 Kathryn DiBerardino
 Leann Diehl
 Jad and April Dieterle

Art and Betsey Dioli
 Ann and Tren Dolbear
 Michael and Julie Donohue
 Peter and Lois Doran
 Thomas and Dianne Dowd
 Brian and Elizabeth Driscoll
 Shelly Dropkin
 William and Fran DuBord
 Justin and Susan Duff
 Tom and Nell Duffus
 Andy and Becky Dunbar
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George and Maike Marschhausen
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Stacy Scarlett Martin
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John and Randi Sanger
Jody Sataloff
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Mrs. Schellenberg
Penny Schiller and Carter Luke
Jeff Schmitt
Marcel Schnee
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Tobi and Steven Schneider
Matt Scott
Jerry and Nicole Scribner
Becky and George Seel
Paul and Heidi Seitz
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Nick and Mariangeles Shaw
Jeanne Shinay
John and Margie Shirosky
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Lisa Reece and Stephen Williams
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Don and Mary Woodruff
Gary Woodruff Alice and David
VanDerwerken
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Robert and Debra Vickerman
Paul and Watcharee Violette
Bob and Sonya Virant
Briton and Yasmin Vitalius
Maryanne and Bob Vitalius
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Gilliom
Tony Waraskevich
John Warner
Ann Warren
Allison Weaver
Dace Weiss
Patrick and Kristen Welch
Rosemary Wellner
Bryan Wentzell
Jane Wheeler
Polly Whitehorn
Cynthia and Elizabeth Whittemore
Sally Whittington
Lisa Wildman
Diane and Gordon Woods
Dan Woughter
John Woytowicz
James Yankaskas
Micheal and Joan Yogg
Rowena York
Elizabeth Zelensky

We sincerely apologize if any of the above information is incorrect or if you wish to remain anonymous, please contact Jennifer Warriner at: Jennifer.warriner@7lakesalliance.org or call (207) 495-6039

ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

As reported in our annual 990* financial report from 2023

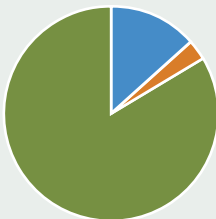


REVENUES

REVENUE & GRANTS	\$1,314,099
PROGRAM SERVICE FEES	\$240,445
OTHER	\$151,110
TOTAL REVENUE	\$1,705,654

LIABILITIES

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	\$64,867
ACCRUALS & DEFERRALS	\$38,283
OTHER	\$1,950
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$105,100



EXPENSES

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION	\$251,303
FUNDRAISING	\$55,575
PROGRAM EXPENSES	\$1,565,318
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,872,196

ASSETS

CASH & EQUIVALENT	\$2,137,901
PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT	\$698,852
LAND HELD FOR CONSERVATION	\$2,102,499
RESTRICTED ASSETS	\$3,031,784
TOTAL NET ASSETS	\$7,971,036
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	\$8,076,136

**Annual tax form that non-profits submit to the IRS*

EROSION CONTROL GRANTS

7 Lakes Alliance is a leader in securing the highest amount of Federal Clean Water Act funding (319 grants) that is awarded through the state of Maine. These funds are used on large-scale erosion control projects throughout the Belgrade Lakes watershed each year. Since 2018, 7 Lakes Alliance has been awarded \$1 million in 319 grants to support erosion control on all seven lakes.



BECOME A MEMBER

7 Lakes Alliance Leadership Circle members provide critical annual support for all of 7 Lakes Alliance programs to safeguard and restore the waters and lands of the Belgrade Lakes watershed. Members who give \$1,000 and above annually will be recognized at a yearly event.

WAYS TO GIVE

Donations

Make a tax-deductible contribution to 7 Lakes Alliance in the form of cash, stocks, mutual fund shares, or donor-advised funds for annual operating support, tributes or memorials.

Endowment and Estate Planning

Consider making a legacy gift by including 7 Lakes Alliance in your estate planning.

Real Estate

Make a contribution of land or easements to 7 Lakes Alliance through an outright gift, in a legacy gift or by naming 7 Lakes Alliance as a beneficiary of a remainder or charitable lead trust.

Corporate or Employer Matching Gifts

Many companies will match your donation. Please include your employer's matching gift form with your donation.

Mail a Check

7 Lakes Alliance
P.O. Box 250
Belgrade Lakes, ME 04918

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For more information, please contact:

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"Ensuring the health, vibrancy and sustainability of our precious watershed for future generations is of the utmost importance. As Thoreau so beautifully described, we must do all we can to preserve and protect these 'amethyst jewels...of the first water.' Thank you for joining us in this vital mission."

—Jane Eberle: 7 Lakes Alliance Board Chair

7 LAKES ALLIANCE

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