

Thank you for being a part of this study on emerging contaminants in our mountain streams. Due to their small size, microplastics are transported globally from their source and pose a large danger to fish and other creatures that may ingest them. Microplastics can stick to the digestive tract and the inside of gills, preventing healthy bodily function.

After sampling for water chemistry with the smaller, 500 mL bottle, please use the following procedures to sample for microplastics (glass bottle) at the same location in the stream.

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### Microplastic Sampling Procedure

- Roll up sleeves and remove plastic gloves. This will prevent potential plastic contamination from your clothes.
- Just as you did for the water chemistry sample, rinse the bottle and cap three times slightly downstream of the sample location. When you take the sample, **fill the bottle completely and place the cap on it while still underwater** so that the sample doesn't come into contact with the air and there is no air space in the bottle (this is different than the prior sample). If this cannot be achieved at the designated sampling site you can move to a deeper area of the stream that will allow you to manipulate the bottle more effectively.
- In the comments section of the Sample Collection Record include a description of the clothes that you are wearing (fabric type and color). For example: Green fleece jacket and blue jeans. This is important to know because we will compare this to any microplastics found in the sample to rule out clothing contamination.
- The microplastics sample bottle does not need to be refrigerated, but it doesn't hurt. Please just keep it in a clean environment and safe from being broken until it reaches the laboratory!

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Thank you again for your willingness to collect this additional sample, we look forward to expanding our knowledge of contamination in our mountain streams and sharing our findings with you.