MICROPLASTIC POLLUTION RESEARCH IN THE SIERRA NEVADA

WWW.DRI.EDU/MICROPLASTICS-RESEARCH

DRI
Desert Research Institute

This summer, DRI researchers detected microplastic pollution in the waters of Lake Tahoe for the first time.

WHAT ARE MICROPLASTICS?

- Microplastics are plastic pieces ranging in size from 5mm to microscopic particles (the size of a pencil's eraser or smaller).
- They come from a variety of sources, including the breakdown of larger products like single-use plastic bottles and synthetic clothing and from the microbeads in products like facewash and toothpaste.
- The extent of microplastic pollution is only just beginning to be understood, with researchers discovering the tiny plastic pieces everywhere from the Arctic to the deep ocean.

STORY IDEAS:

DRI researchers have invented a novel way of sampling for microplastics.
H42D-07, Thursday, Dec. 12 – 11:50 a.m. – Moscone West 3022, L3

We present freshwater microplastic data from a novel High Volume Sampling (HVS) method that bridges the gap between neuston net and grab sampling.

DRI researchers are partnering with the League to Save Lake Tahoe to promote "Citizen Science" programs to help in the study of microplastics in Lake Tahoe.
H43O-2283, Thursday, Dec. 12 – 1:30 p.m. – Moscone South, Poster Hall

"Citizen science" programs can be a natural complement to research on microplastics because it involves volunteers directly in research. We will share the process we took to developing a citizen science protocol for a microplastics research study in Lake Tahoe, and we will discuss ways that citizen science program can be more closely connected to what matters to partners, volunteers, and communities.

PAST MEDIA COVERAGE:

- *LA Times*: "Microplastics are found in Lake Tahoe's waters for first time ever"
- *Reno Gazette Journal*: "Researchers find microplastics in Lake Tahoe"

MEET THE RESEARCHERS & SEE THE SAMPLING PROCESS IN ACTION!

Stop by Booth 600 in the Exhibit Hall on Thurs. 12/12 from 3-5 PM.

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