

Organization of Biological Field Stations

Final Budget Report FY 2023

Submitted by Paul R. Wetzel, Treasurer

6 February 2024

The FY 2023 final budget report indicates an organization in a strong fiscal position. This report describes the major fiscal trends in the OBFS financial actions that occurred in 2023.

OBFS income totaled \$94,547 with some income sources reaching record levels. Membership dues (\$50,300) and auction donations (\$13,595; see auction contribution history↓) were the highest ever recorded. This year the OBFS Board established a Lifetime membership category. All of those funds and any designated donations will be added to a newly formed endowment. In FY 2023, \$14,250 were contributed to the endowment.

Operating expenses (expenses not related to the Strategic Plan initiatives) totaled \$47,659 and included AIBS membership dues for 2023 and 2024 and programs (\$6,175), travel awards to the annual meeting and Congressional Visits Day (\$17,604), annual meeting expenses (\$11,717) and general administration and website maintenance (\$12,163). Total operating income was \$50,506 which comfortably covered the \$47,659 in operating expenses.

Money spent toward Strategic Plan initiatives totaled \$49,525 in 2023. Of that amount, \$27,533 was spent on developing the new website. The IDEA+ Committee funded several people to attend the Society for Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics & Native Americans in Science (SACNAS) conference in Portland, Oregon. The main goal was to attend a table and promote the OBFS organization. Other major expenses included the International Committee authorizing \$5,239 for their matching program and virtual workshops, payment of the last invoice for the membership survey (\$4,941) and the payment of \$3,600 for the mini-grants program. None of the Strategic Plan committees spent all of the money that was budgeted for those programs.

OBFS' mutual funds all had positive earnings in the fourth quarter with the Social Investment Fund value increasing \$31,000 over the last three months. Total net assets for the end of 2024 equaled \$733,330 (see graph ↓ for value history).

Fiscal projects for 2024 include establishing the endowment and balancing the funds to match the investment strategy, learn how to use the new website, and to develop and contribute to an organization list of assets.

Please send any budget questions to Paul Wetzel [pwetzel@smith.edu; 413.268.3115], I am happy to answer them.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "P".

Year	Auction Proceeds (\$)	Meeting Location
1997	2,164	Oregon Institute of Marine Biology
1998	3,543	Archbold Biological Station
1999	3,059	Mountain Lake Biological Station
2000	5,847	HJ Andrews Experimental Forest
2001	5,559	University of Oklahoma Biological Station
2002	4,973	Kellogg Biological Station
2003	6,002	Kananaskis Field Station
2004	5,889	Shoals Marine Laboratory
2005	6,131	Coweeta Hydrologic Laboratory
2006	5,593	Flathead Lake Biological Station
2007	6,793	Llano River Field Station
2008	6,327	Black Rock Forest
2009	4,722	La Selva Biological Station
2010	8,113	U. of Michigan Biological Station
2011	7,430	Bodega Marine Lab and Reserve
2012	9,382	Archbold Biological Station
2013	9,082	Southwest Research Station
2014	11,025	Woods Hole
2015	12,631	Rocky Mtn. Biological Laboratory
2016	7,188	Sitka Sound Science Center, Alaska
2017	10,565	Itasca Biological Station, Minnesota
2018	11,449	Schoodic Institute, Acadia, Maine
2019	8,362	Hasselt University, Belgium
2020	8,890	Virtual Meeting
2021	9,295	Virtual Meeting
2022	11,784	Beaver Island, Michigan
2023	13,595	La Selva Biological Station
Grand Total	205,393	
Contributions	Since 1997	Last 10 Years
Mean	7,607	10,351
Median	7,188	10,565

OBFS Asset Trends Over Time

