

# FLATHEAD BASIN COMMISSION

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On behalf of the members of the Flathead Basin Commission and our partners, we are delighted to make available this reprint of the Daily Inter Lake's landmark series on water quality. We congratulate the Inter Lake's editorial staff for taking the initiative to undertake this much needed project. Thanks to their efforts, residents of the Flathead have this unique document to provide them with insightful information on this complicated and critically-important issue. Everyone, from private property owners to developers, landscapers, contractors, planning board members and many others who have a role to play in determining how water quality is best protected can benefit from the information the Inter Lake's reporters and photographers have documented.

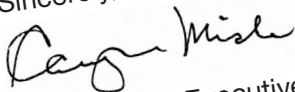
Thanks are also due to the several organizations that have stepped forward to assist in the financial underwriting of this project. They include the Flathead Lakers, Flathead on the Move, Citizens for a Better Flathead, and the Flathead Conservation District. Elsewhere in this document, you will find more information about these organizations, how to contact them, and what services they can provide.

It was impossible to provide contact information for all of the organizations who are involved in ongoing efforts to protect water quality in the Flathead. They include such state agencies as the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, the Montana Department of Environmental Quality, the US Environmental Protection Agency, the planning and health departments of both Lake and Flathead counties, the Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes, the Flathead Lake Biological Station, the Whitefish Lake Institute, the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology, the Whitefish Lakeshore Protection Association, the US Geological Survey and others.

The long list of those organizations involved in monitoring and protecting water quality is testimony to the importance of the task at hand. It also underscores the high level of cooperation and coordination that currently exists. However, actions taken by individuals, more often than not through their own initiative and in a voluntary manner through the use of Best Management Practices, are the real key to protecting and improving water quality throughout the Flathead Basin. Without your active involvement, this challenging work would be all the more difficult.

We encourage your individual efforts and look forward to working with you to protect what has drawn most of us to the Flathead in the first place – its world class water quality and all that it provides.

Sincerely,



Caryn Miske, Executive Director

[www.flatheadbasincommission.org](http://www.flatheadbasincommission.org)