

Lake Institute crafts water quality restoration plan

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Whitefish Pilot

The Whitefish Area Water Resource Report: A Status of the Whitefish Lake Watershed and Surrounding Area report includes a watershed restoration plan.

The Whitefish Lake

Institute designed the restoration plan to address federal and state water quality objectives, while also assisting the local community and stakeholders in understanding water quality trends and the health of the ecosystem. The plan includes a task table of

64 items broken down into major categories: policy and government; education and outreach; research; restoration and habitat protection; and miscellaneous.

Each task item was ranked by the institute's science advisory committee and given a

priority ranking of Tier 1, 2 and 3. The status of each item is given — whether it is on-going or incomplete, possible partners for a task, and if the task needs funding.

See Plan, A8

Plan

from A1

Policy & Government

- Nutrient trading study and program
- Lakeshore protection regulations for Whitefish Lake, Blanchard Lake and Lost Coon Lake
- Whitefish Lake wastewater (septic) management
- City Beach management
- Aquatic Invasive Species plan
- Whitefish wastewater treatment plant
- City storm water plan
- Water quality property acquisition

Education & Outreach

- Delineate "no wake zone" on Whitefish Lake
- Continue WLI education programs
- Education program for waterfront owners
- Create a Montana lakes conference

Research

- Continued baseline trend monitoring of water bodies

- Added monitoring of near-shore activity
- Study fish inventories in water bodies
- Study of algae and zooplankton species in water bodies
- Study lake sedimentation rates
- Create a groundwater study
- Small stream habitat assessment

Restoration & Habitat Protection

- Whitefish River weed management
- Restoration and other efforts for Lower Swift, Cow, Haskill, Viking creeks
- Identify genetically pure westslope cutthroat trout populations
- Improve Riverside park storm water pond
- Develop waterbody specific watershed restoration plans

Miscellaneous

- Review fishing regulations for Swift Creek, Whitefish Lake
- Hazardous spill response
- Forestry practices for harvest and fire