



Staff



Mike Koopal

Executive Director & Founder

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Mike is the founder and executive director of the Whitefish Lake Institute. He has a Bachelor's of Art degree in Biology from Luther College. Mike's career began in the fisheries division of Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks working in the Clark Fork and Blackfoot River drainages. Mike

then traveled to Nevada to study Lahontan Cutthroat trout for the Summit Lake Paiute Tribe, and in Alaska, he worked for the Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation. Upon his return to Montana, Mike was a partner at Watershed Consulting for eight years where he specialized in fisheries issues in Montana, Idaho and Nevada.

Mike serves on the Flathead Basin Commission where he is on the Executive Committee; the Upper Columbia Conservation Commission (UC3) where he serves on the Early Detection and Monitoring Committee; and is a Montana Watershed Coordination Council (MWCC) board member where he serves on the Governance Committee. His past service includes the Whitefish Climate Action Plan Committee and the Bigfork Stormwater Advisory Committee. Mike was a co-coordinator of the second and third editions of the *Montana Lake Book*. He is a past recipient of the Individual Achievement Award by the Montana Chapter of the American Fisheries Society for his outstanding contribution to the protection and enhancement of fisheries resources in Montana.