

# SAVING OUR LAKES ONE LAKE AT A TIME OUR LITTLE BITTERROOT LAKE STORY

Whitefish Lake Institute


Montana Lakes Conference

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# AN INVASION

- ▶ **AIS and Septic Leachate**
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# INVASION – TWO FRONT CHALLENGE

- ▶ The Minnesota/Nevada/Plus – AIS “Assassin”
  - ▶ Old Septics/Poorly Maintained Septics/Overloaded Septics
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# AN INVASION – NOW WHAT?

- ▶ Government Approach – “Top DOWN” Worked Initially –
  - ▶ Now it lacks imagination
  - ▶ Why and How we must CHANGE
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# DEFENCE INITIATIVES “TOP DOWN OR BOTTOM UP” ?

- ▶ Each LOCAL defence initiative should be designed, applied, and modified by LOCAL citizens supported by the government.
  - ▶ The challenge is constant, so our defence initiatives are always works in progress
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# INVASION AND OUR RESPONSE

- ▶ Who is DEFENDING US at the front line? – Not the Top-Down Government
  - ▶ Need a BETTER Mitigation STRATEGY – Enlist the citizens
  - ▶ Must DEFINE the Stakeholders/Mobilize the **SOLDIERS**
  
  - ▶ **OUR RESPONSE is.....**
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- ▶ Active Boater Program
- ▶ Septic Education and Awareness Program



▶ OUR "LOCALS BASED" DEFENSE AGAINST  
AIS


MAKING THE PASSIVE BOATER AN

**Active Boater - An AIS Crime Stopper**



# SEAP

## Data Base / Water Sampling / Home Visits

- ▶ Canvasing
  - ▶ Education Material
  - ▶ Survey
  - ▶ Data Collection and Publishing Success Stories – Examples
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# WHY CHANGE HOW WE ARE HANDLING IT?

- ▶ We're unlikely to safely defend our lakes from AIS/Septic Leachate if we don't change direction and focus on who is responsible
- ▶ Big government has an important role "BUT" it can NOT save our lakes only using check stations and advertising.



## WE NEED

1) MAJOR DEFENSIVE RESOURCES PROPERLY PLACED

2) LOCAL CITIZENRY ACTIVATED

3) NEW ADVERTISING

4) NON-PROFITS SUPPORTED "AT THEIR LAKES"