

Next Steps



Next Steps

- Data Collection This Spring & Summer
- Complete Salinity Modeling
- Draft the TMDL Document
- Watershed Advisory Group Review and Comment on Draft Document
- Public Comment on Draft Document

Project Schedule

- Draft Document Expected to be Available for Public Comment End of 2013
- 30-Day Public Comment Period with a Public Meeting
- Final Document Submittal to EPA Expected First Quarter 2014

Your Help

- Information on Potential Pollutant Sources
- Help Identifying Relevant Reports and Studies
- Information on Current and Historical Land Management Practices
- Information and Experience Applying Land Management Improvement Practices in the Area



Welcome to the Montana Department of Environmental Quality's Wiki for Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Development Projects

This site contains pages dedicated to TMDLs that are under development in the state of Montana. You will find quick links to active TMDL projects in the sidebar to the right and in the table below. Note that not all TMDL projects have information on this site. A full list of current TMDL projects, and corresponding contact information, can be found on DEQ's [TMDLs Under Development](#) web page.

CURRENT TMDL PROJECTS			
Beaverhead	Boulder – Elkhorn	Kootenai – Fisher	Thompson
Bitterroot	Flathead	Lower Gallatin	
Blackfoot Watershed	Flint	Otter Creek	
Bonita – Superior	Judith Mountains	Rock	
COMPLETED TMDL PROJECTS			
Pages from previous projects that have been completed and have approved documents are still available and can be found on the Completed Projects page			

For full information about DEQ's TMDL program, including an overview of the TMDL process, TMDL staff contacts, public comment & public meeting information, and final TMDL documents, please see the [DEQ TMDL Web Page](#). You will also find links to watershed groups and other water quality information pages.

See [Frequently Asked Questions](#) for Information on Navigating and Requesting Access to this Site.

You may also visit the [What is a TMDL](#) page for a brief description of the TMDL process.

This site is maintained by DEQ's [Water Quality Planning Bureau](#). Please [contact the Bureau](#) if you would like additional information regarding this site or have questions regarding TMDL development. Some pages on this site are dedicated to specific TMDL technical advisory groups (TAGs). These pages are intended as a communication tool between the TMDL Project Managers and the applicable TAG members, and are not viewable by everyone. If you need additional information regarding any of these pages, please contact [Christina Staten](#), DEQ wiki administrator.

We'd love to hear back from you regarding the layout and contents of this site. [Provide us with your feedback.](#)

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Otter Creek TMDL Project

last edited by Christina Staten 23 minutes ago

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Project Purpose

Why DEQ Writes TMDLs

The state of Montana monitors its waters and conducts water quality assessments to determine if waterbodies are supporting their designated uses (such as aquatic life; drinking water; and agricultural, industrial, and recreational uses). Each waterbody has a set of designated uses, and Montana has established water quality standards to protect those uses. Waters that are determined not to be supporting one or more of their designated uses are called impaired and are placed on Montana's list of impaired waters. Impaired waterbodies and their associated probable causes and sources of impairment are published within [Montana's biennial water quality integrated report](#).

Montana's state law, and the federal Clean Water Act established by Congress in 1972, requires development of total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) for all waterbodies impaired by a pollutant (e.g., metals, nutrients, salinity, sediment, temperature). A TMDL is the maximum amount of a pollutant that a waterbody can receive and still meet water quality standards (think of a TMDL as a loading rate).

TMDL Development Steps & TMDL Document Contents

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Otter Creek TMDL Project Outreach and Updates

last edited by Christina Staten 19 minutes ago

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Announcements & Updates

June 5, 2013	<p>Pages for the Otter Creek TMDL project have been released on this site. Pages are still under development, and additional information will be posted in the coming weeks.</p> <p>The first TMDL stakeholder meeting is being held tomorrow, June 6, at 5:30 p.m. in the Soaring Eagle Auditorium of the St. Labre Indian School in Ashland, MT. See the meeting agenda for additional details. Please note that this is not a public hearing and DEQ is not taking public comments related to the environmental impact statement for, or the permitting of, the proposed Otter Creek Coal, LLC coal mine.</p>
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Meetings & Presentations

MEETING	PRESENTATIONS & HANDOUTS
June 6, 2013	The presentation given at the June 6 meeting in Ashland will be available for download next week.

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