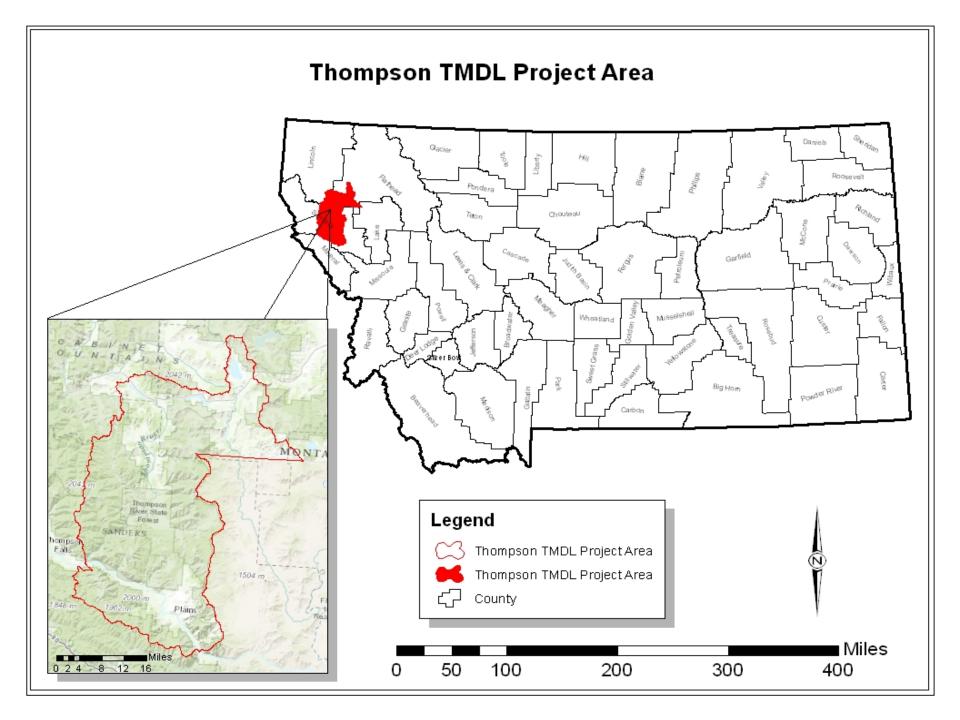
THOMPSON AREA TMDL PROJECT

Public Meeting Presentation June 24, 2014 – Plains, MT

Presentation Outline

- Thompson TMDL Project Overview (Jordan Tollefson, DEQ)
- Temperature TMDLs (Jordan Tollefson, DEQ)
- Metals TMDLs (Lou Volpe, DEQ)
- Nutrients TMDLs (Lisa Kusnierz, EPA)
- Sediment TMDLs (Lisa Kusnierz, EPA)
- TMDL Implementation (Eric Trum, DEQ)
- Project Schedule & Public Comment Information (Jordan Tollefson, DEQ)



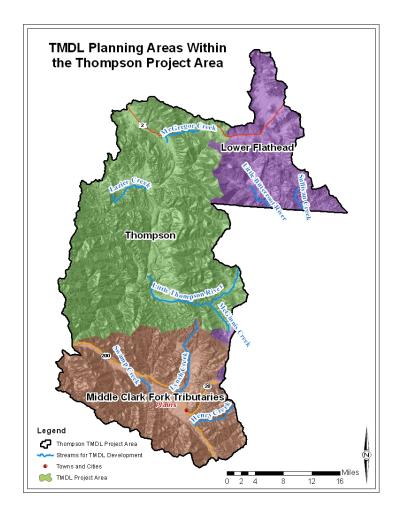
What is a TMDL?

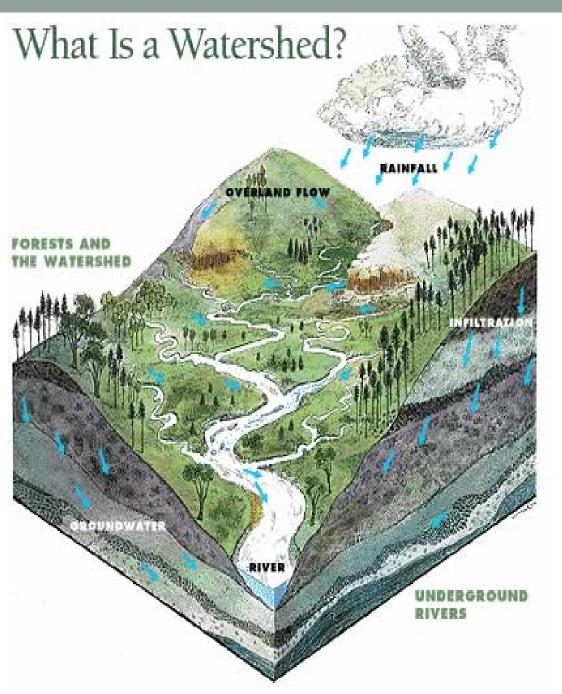
- A TMDL (or Total Maximum Daily Load) is a calculation of the maximum amount of a pollutant (nutrients, sediment, etc.) that a waterbody can receive from all sources and still meet water quality standards
- Montana State Law and the Federal Clean Water Act require that a TMDL be developed for all waterbodies impaired by a pollutant
- The goals of the DEQ are to develop TMDLs on all waterbodies impaired by a pollutant as an important step to address water quality issues



Thompson TMDL Project

- The Thompson Project Area is comprised of 3 TMDL planning areas (TPAs):
 - Thompson TPA
 - Portions of the Lower Flathead TPA
 - Portions of the Middle Clark Fork Tributaries TPA



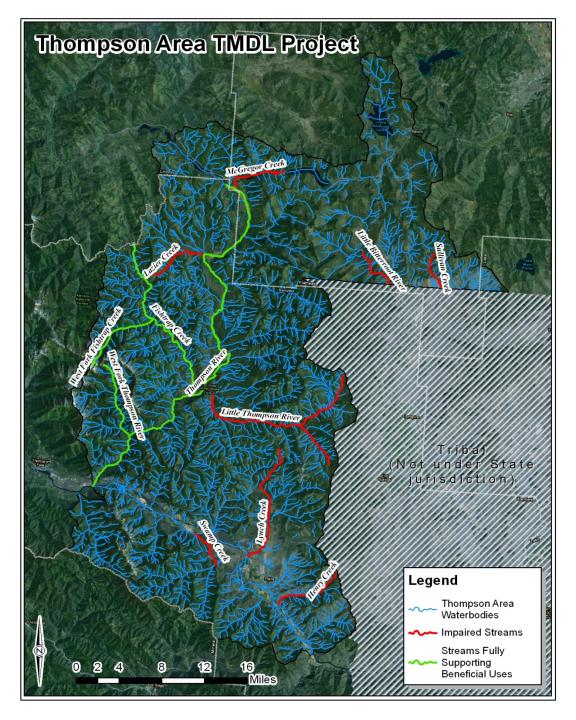


 A waterbody is a body of water such as rivers, streams, lakes, wetlands, coastal waters or ocean waters

 A watershed is the area of land where all of the water that is under it or drains off of it goes into the same place

Project Overview

- 9 streams within the Thompson Project Area are slated for TMDL development:
 - 1. Sullivan Creek
 - 2. Little Bitterroot River
 - 3. Lazier Creek
 - 4. Little Thompson River
 - 5. McGinnis Creek
 - 6. McGregor Creek
 - 7. Henry Creek
 - 8. Lynch Creek
 - 9. Swamp Creek



Types of Pollutants

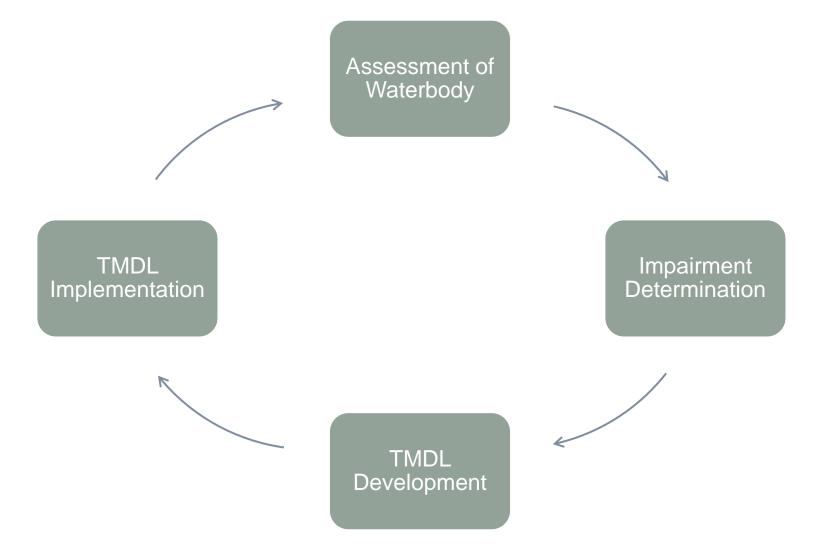








Steps Involved in Water Quality Planning and Implementation



Water Quality Standards

- Can be numeric or narrative and are designed to protect beneficial uses of a waterbody
- Some examples of beneficial uses are: aquatic life, primary and secondary contact recreation, drinking water supply, agricultural water supply, etc.
- Beneficial uses are based on specific waterbody classifications (A-1, B-1, etc.)

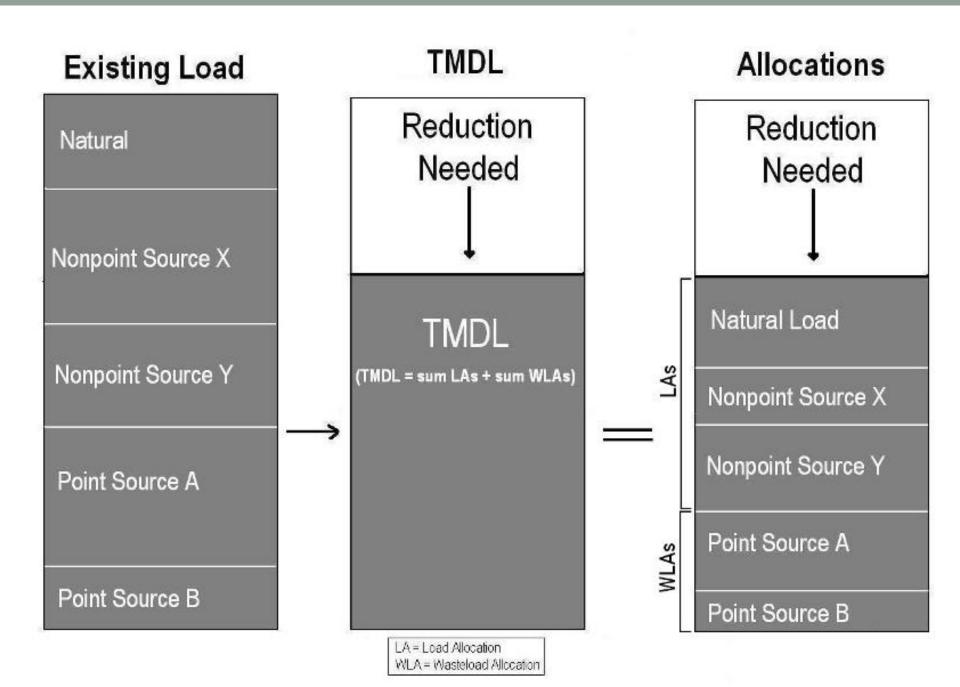
Monitoring and Assessment

- DEQ uses monitoring data to assess water quality and compare to applicable water quality standards
- If the data show a water quality problem, the waterbody is put on a list of impaired waters, also known as the 303(d) list
- Waterbodies impaired by a pollutant will require a TMDL to be developed for that particular waterbody-pollutant combination



Steps for Developing a TMDL

- Characterize the impaired waterbody's <u>existing</u> water quality conditions and compare those conditions to Montana's water quality standards.
- Quantify the magnitude of the pollutant contribution from each significant source
- Determine the total <u>allowable</u> load of the pollutant to the waterbody
- Allocate the total allowable pollutant load into individual loads for each significant source (referred to as load allocations for nonpoint sources and wasteload allocations for point sources)

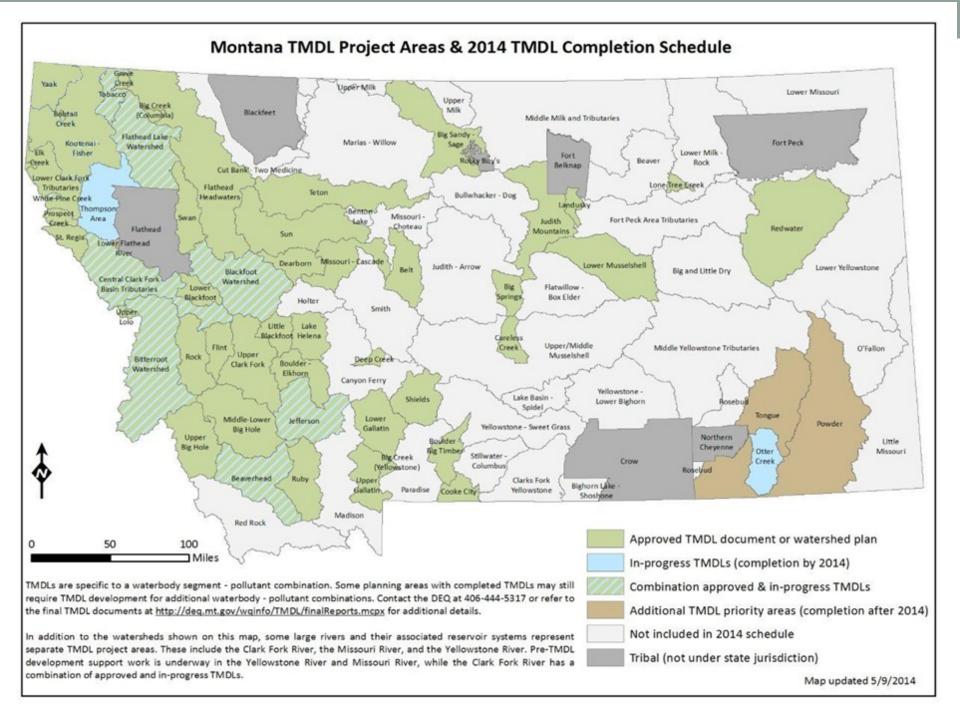


Montana TMDL History

- More than 1,000 approved TMDLs (1998 – present)
- About 60 TMDL documents completed as of June 2014
- Completed documents can be found at:



http://deq.mt.gov/wqinfo/TMDL/finalReports.mcpx





Montana's Temperature Standard

- The maximum allowable increase over the naturally occurring temperature is 1°F, when the naturally occurring temperature is less than 66°F.
- Within the naturally occurring temperature range of 66– 66.5°F, the allowable increase cannot exceed 67°F.
- If the naturally occurring temperature is greater than 66.5°F, the maximum allowable increase is 0.5°F.

McGregor Creek Temperature TMDL

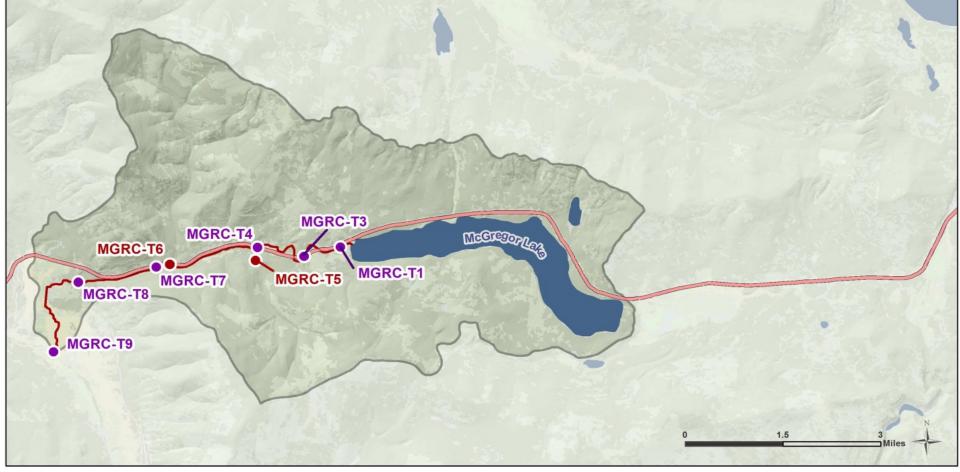
- McGregor Creek was originally listed as impaired for temperature on the 2006, 303(d) list.
- Temperature and flow data were collected during the 2011 field season.
- 6 thermographs were deployed in McGregor Creek from July to September
 - Additional thermographs were placed two tributary streams to McGregor Creek
- 6 sites on McGregor Creek were evaluated for riparian shade and channel morphology
 - Shade was determined using riparian vegetation measurements and data collected from the Solar Pathfinder
 - These variables were used to develop a Qual2K temperature model for McGregor Creek

- Tributary Stations
- Main Stem Stations
 Impaired Segment

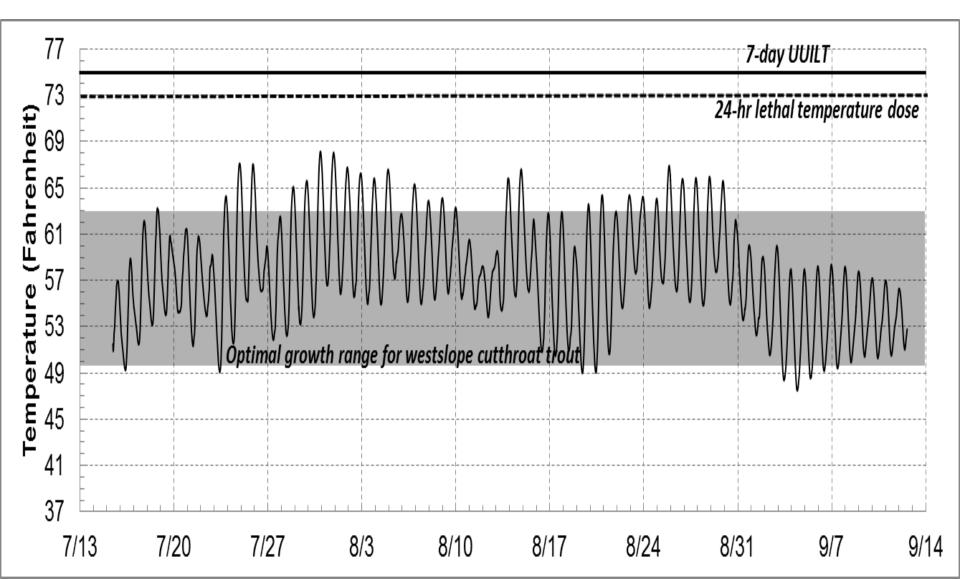
Boorman RAWS

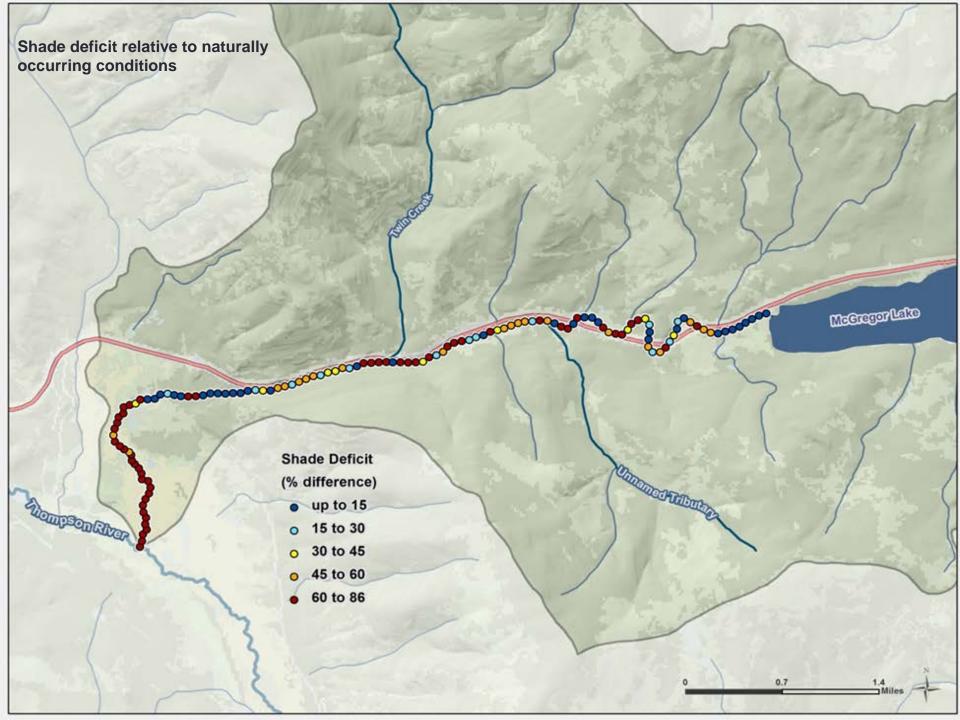
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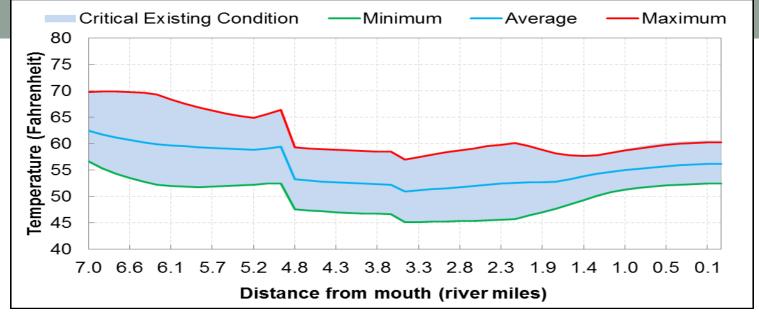
____ Limited access highway



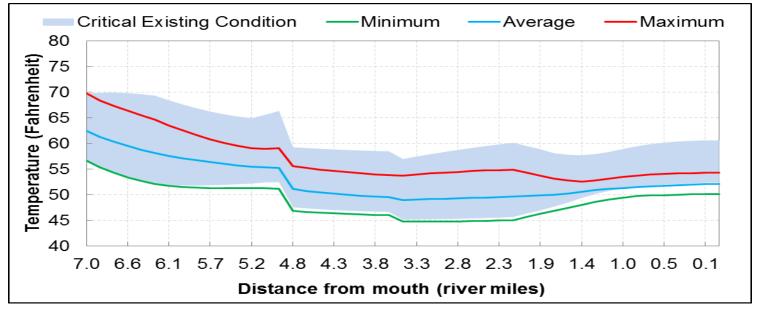
MGRC-T9







Comparison of modeled temperatures in McGregor Creek between the water use and baseline scenarios.



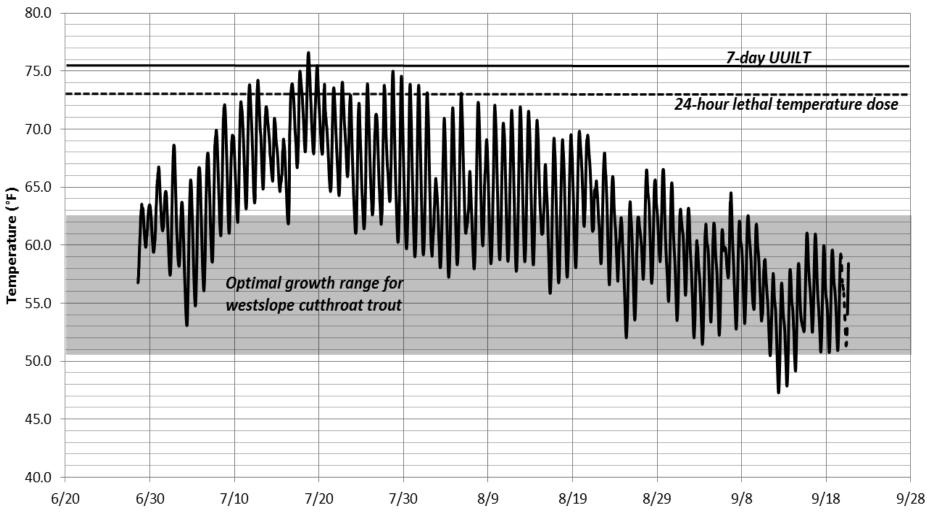
Comparison of modeled temperatures in McGregor Creek between the shade and baseline scenarios.

Lynch Creek Temperature TMDL

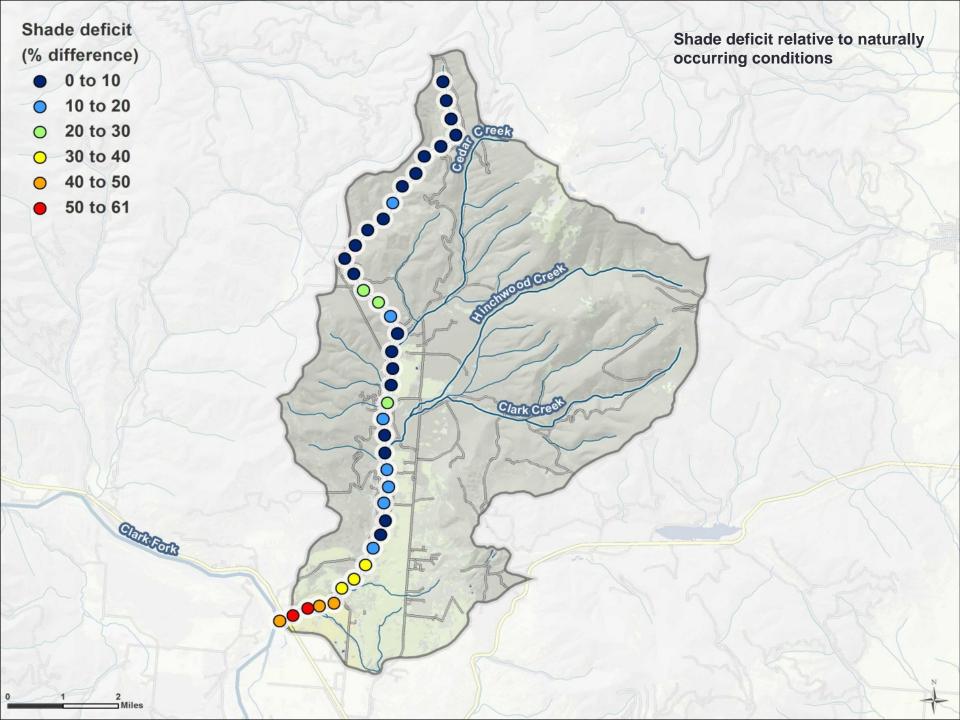
- Lynch Creek was originally listed as impaired for temperature on the 2006, 303(d) list.
- Temperature and flow data were collected during the 2012 field season.
- 6 thermographs were deployed in Lynch Creek from June to September
 - Additional thermographs were placed on two tributary streams to Lynch Creek
- 6 sites on Lynch Creek were evaluated for riparian shade and channel morphology
 - Shade was determined using riparian vegetation measurements and data collected from the Solar Pathfinder
 - These variables were used to develop a Qual2K temperature model for Lynch Creek

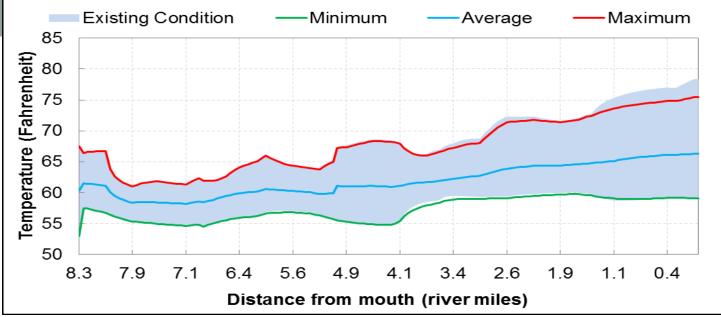


LYNHC-T7

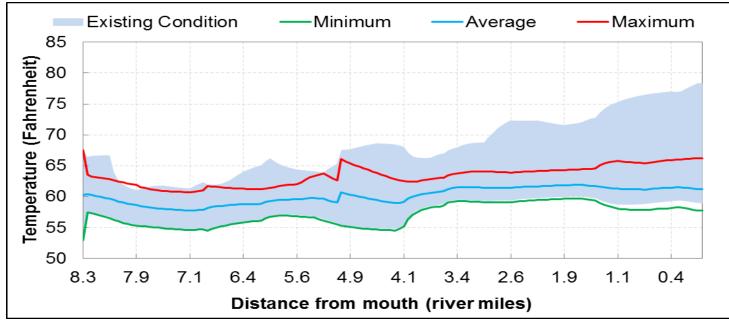


Date





Comparison of modeled temperatures in Lynch Creek between the water use and baseline scenarios.



Comparison of modeled temperatures in Lynch Creek between the shade and baseline scenarios.

Temperature TMDLs

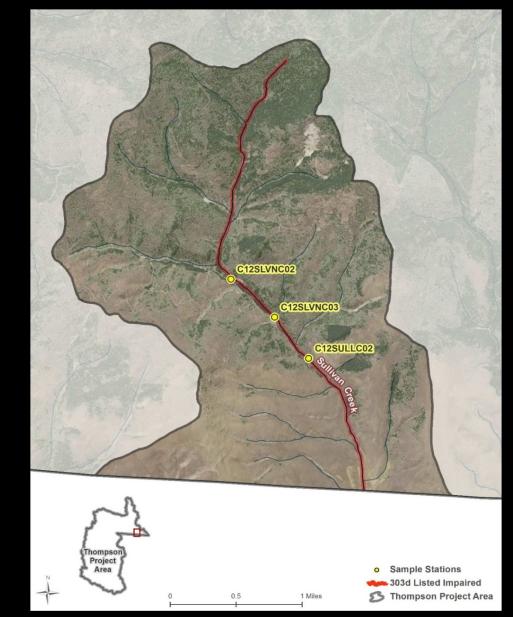
Example Instantaneous Temperature TMDL and Allocation for Lynch and McGregor Creeks (at the mouth).						
Waterbody	Modeled Existing Load (kcal/sec)	TMDL/Load Allocation (kcal/sec)	Percent Reduction Needed			
Lynch Creek	554.3	405.5	27%			
McGregor Creek	4,822	3,890	19%			

Surrogate Temperature TMDL and Allocations for Lynch and McGregor Creeks					
Source Type	Surrogate Allocation				
Land uses and practices that reduce riparian health and shade provided by near-stream vegetation along Lynch Creek and McGregor Creek.	 Improve to and maintain a 50 foot buffer with medium density trees or appropriate native vegetation providing equivalent effective shade 				
Land uses and practices that result in the overwidening of the stream channel such that widths are increased, depths are decreased, and thermal loading is accelerated	 No increase in average width or width/depth ratios due to human-caused sources Where bankfull width < 30ft, a width/depth ratio < 21 				
Inefficient consumptive water use	 Application of all reasonable water conservation practices 				
Surrogate TMDL	 Application of all reasonable land, soil, and water conservation practices for human sources that could influence stream temperatures. This primarily includes those affecting riparian shade, channel width, and instream flow. 				

Metals TMDLs

2014 TMDL Development

- Sullivan Creek (MT76L002_070)
- Headwater to the Flathead Indian Reservation



Metals TMDLs

2012 Listed Metals impairments

- Sullivan Creek
 - Aluminum
 - Cadmium
 - Zinc
 - pH

• 2014 TMDLs Developed

- Sullivan Creek
 - Aluminum
 - Cadmium
 - Copper
 - Zinc
 - pH



Data Collection & Impairment Determination

- Sampling conducted in 2004, 2011, 2012
- Sampled and assessed for: Aluminum (Al) Arsenic(As), Cadmium (Cd), Copper (Cu), Iron (Fe), Lead (Pb), Selenium (Se), Silver (Ag) and Zinc (Zn)
- 3 sampling locations, at high and low flow conditions
- Updated DEQ assessment:
 - Even with limited data:
 - Still indicating impairment for originally listed metals
 - Addition of Cu to impairment list
 - Beneficial uses impaired:
 - Aquatic Life Support
 - Drinking Water

Numeric Water Quality Standards

- Copper Example
 - Fixed Numeric:
 - Human Health: 1,300 μg/l
 - Variable Numeric:

Acute and Chronic Aquatic Life: (varies with hardness)

At 200 mg/L hardness-

- Acute: 26.90 μ g/l (1 hour mean)
- Chronic: 16.87 μ g/l (96 hour mean)

At 300 mg/L hardness-

- Acute: $39.41 \,\mu g/l$ (1 hour mean)
- Chronic: 23.85 μ g/l (96 hour mean)

Example Metals Standards

Metals numeric water chemistry targets applicable to the Thompson TMDL Project Area

Metal of Concern	Aquatic Life Criteria (μg/L) at 200 mg/L Hardness		Aquatic Life Criteria (μg/L) at 300 mg/L Hardness		Human Health Criteria	
	Acute	Chronic	Acute	Chronic	(µg/L)	
Aluminum, D*	750	87	750	87	N/A	
Cadmium, TR**	4.32	0.45	6.52	0.61	5	
Copper, TR	26.90	16.87	39.41	23.85	1,300	
Zinc, TR	215.57	215.57	303.94	303.94	2,000	

*D = dissolved

**TR = total recoverable

Metals TMDL Development Triggers

- Greater than 10 % of recent analytical results exceed Chronic Aquatic Life (CAL) targets.
- At least one analytical result in a recent dataset is greater than twice the Acute Aquatic Life (AAL) target.
- At least one analytical result in a recent dataset exceeds the Human Health (HH) target.

AU ID:	MT76L002_070	ļ	AU Name	Sullivan Creek				
Aquatic Life/ Fishes BU								
2012 Aquatic Life/Fishes Metals Listings:	Aluminum, Cadmium	, Zinc, pH						
Metals:	Dissolved Al	As	Cd	Cu	Fe	Pb		
Sample Date Range	2004-2012	2004-2012	2004-2012	2004-2012	2004-2012	2004-2012		
Number of Samples	5	5	5	5	5	5		
Number of High Flow Samples	2	2	2	2	2	2		
Percent of High Flow Samples	40	40	40	40	40	40		
Number of samples that are ≥2x the Acute Standard	3	0	2	0		0		
Number of Acute Exceedances	5	0	4	1		0		
Number of Chronic Exceedances	5	0	0	2	0	0		
Acute Exceedance Rate (%)	100.00	0.00	80.00	20.00		0.00		
Chronic Exceedance Rate (%)	100.00	0.00	0.00	40.00	0.00	0.00		
Listing Decision (List/Keep Listed, Delist/ Do not List)	Keep Listed	Insufficient Information	Keep Listed	List	Insufficient Information	Insufficient Information		
Listing Decision Rational	exceeds 2x acute, acute & chronic exceedance rate	Minimum sample size not met	exceeds 2x acute, acute exceedance rate	Minimum sample size not met but one acute/chronic exceedance	Minimum sample size not met	e Minimum sample size not met		
Metals:	Se	Ag	Zn					
Sample Date Range		2004-2012	2004-2012					
Number of Samples		5	5					
Number of High Flow Samples		2	2					
Percent of High Flow Samples		40	40					
Number of samples that are ≥2x the Acute Standard		0	5					
Number of Acute Exceedances		0	5					
Number of Chronic Exceedances		5	5					
Acute Exceedance Rate (%)		0.00	100.00					
Chronic Exceedance Rate (%)		0.00	100.00					
Listing Decision (List/Keep Listed, Delist/ Do not List)		Insufficient Information	Keep Listed					
Listing Decision Rational		Minimum sample size not met	exceeds 2x acute, acute & chronic exceedance rate					

Metals Sources

- Number of large inactive mines:
 - Hog Heaven (formerly the Flathead Mine)
 - (current operating permit, not actively being mined
 - Flathead Mine Complex (Montana priority abandoned mine)
 - Battle Butte
 - West Flathead
 - Ole
- Smaller inactive mining operations
 - Mary Ann Mine
 - Grant
 - Martin
 - Resser

Allocations

TMDL =

 Σ Load Allocations (background) + Σ Wasteload Allocation (mining load)

- Background load allocation (naturally occurring conditions in the watershed)
 - Calculated from data from a reference (least impacted) data set for Sullivan Creek
- Mining wasteload allocation will be composite, to account for all mines, mining activity and associated disturbances (mine tailings, open adits, roads etc).

Example TMDLs and Reductions

Example TMDLs in the Thompson TMDL Project Area

Metal	Measured Conc. (μg/L)	Target Conc. (μg/L)	TMDL (lbs/day)	% Required Load Reduction To Meet TMDL	
Aluminum	10,600	87.00	0.0141	99%	
Cadmium	26.5	0.56	0.0000907	98%	
Copper	40	16.36	0.0079	59%	
Zinc	16,800	302.22	0.2774	98%	

***Cadmium will act as a surrogate TMDL for pH.

Cadmium was chosen as the surrogate because it has the lowest acute and chronic standards, making cadmium the most conservative choice as a surrogate.

Nutrient Monitoring & TMDL Scope

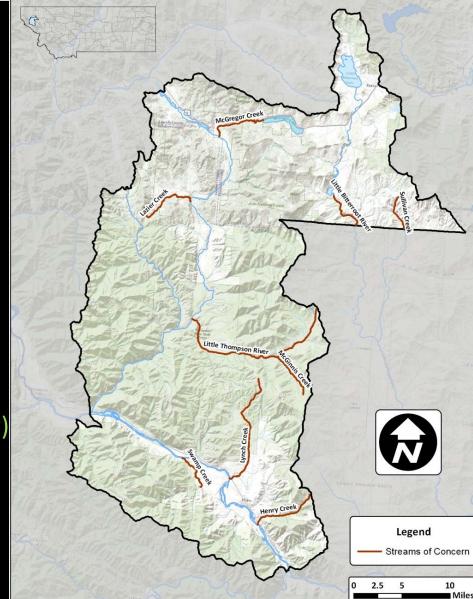
<u>Monitoring</u>

- •Growing season sampling in 2009, 2011 and 2012
- •Biological data was also collected
- •DEQ assessments verified impairments

<u>TMDLs</u>

•Six waterbodies

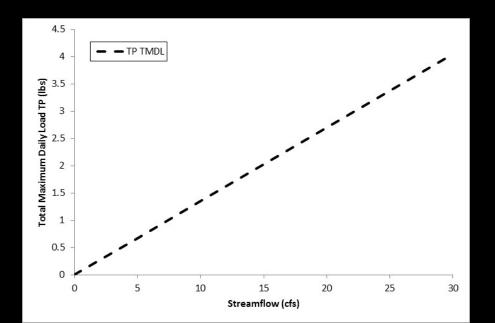
- •Lazier Creek (TN, TP, NO_{3/2})
- •Little Bitterroot River (TN, TP, $NO_{3/2}$, chl a)
- •Little Thompson River (TN, TP)
- •Lynch Creek (TN, TP)
- •Sullivan Creek (TP, TN)
- •Swamp Creek (TN, TP, NO_{3/2})



TMDLs

TMDL (lbs/day) = Target * Flow * Conversion Factor

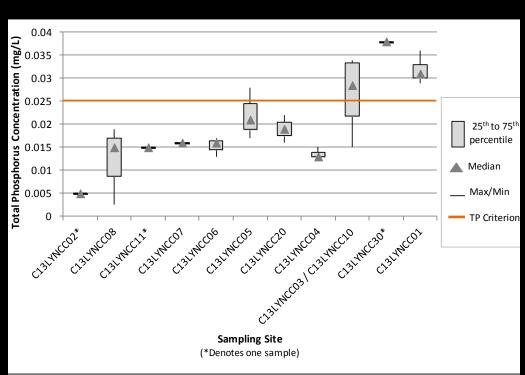
Parameter	Target
Total Phosphorus	0.025 mg/L
Total Nitrogen	0.275 mg/L

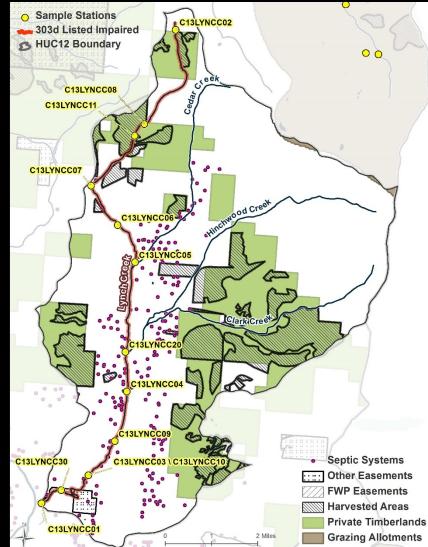


Potential Sources

Background

- Agriculture
 Natural
- Development
- Septic
- Timber Harvest





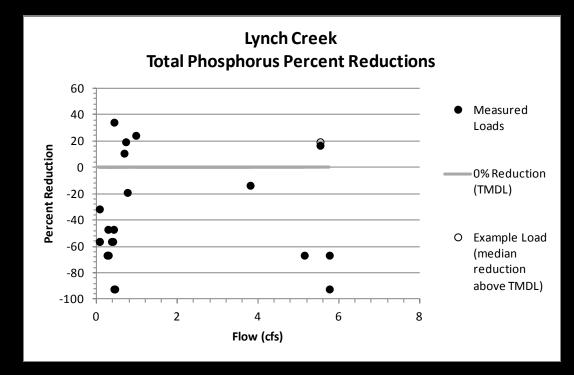
Allocations



- There are no nutrient point sources
- Load allocations are composited to all nonpoint sources (including natural)

Example TMDL: Lynch Creek TP

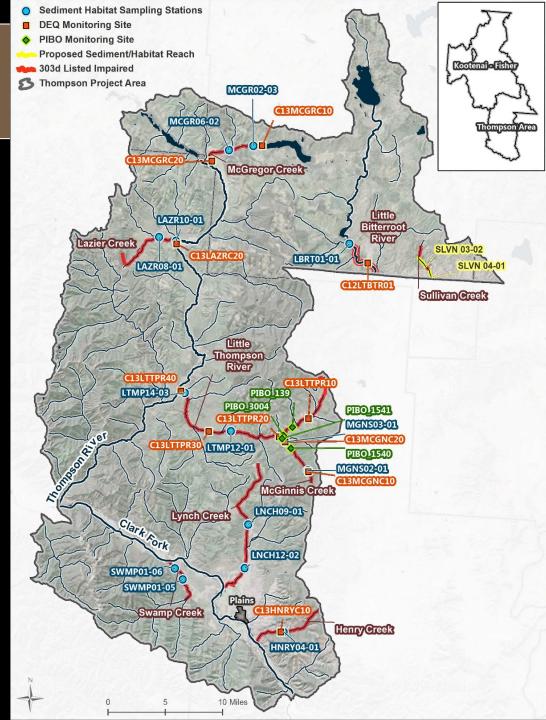
Source Category	TMDL & Composite Allocation (lb/day) ¹	Existing Load (lbs/day) ¹
All Sources	0.0972	0.1205
¹ Based on a flow of 0.72 cfs		



11-34% reduction

9 Streams Listed for Sediment Impairment

- Henry Creek
- Lazier Creek
- Little Bitterroot River
- Little Thompson
 River
- Lynch Creek
- McGinnis Creek
- McGregor Creek
- Sullivan Creek
- Swamp Creek



Sediment and Habitat Monitoring

Parameters of Interest

- Fine sediment (<6mm and <2mm in riffles and in pools)
- Channel form stability (W/D ratio and entrenchment)
- Instream habitat (LWD, pools/mile, and pool depth)
- Riparian health
 (% understory shrub cover)
- Bank Erosion (Loads and associated causes and severity)

*Collected from 16 sites in 2011



Parameters of interest are selected for their ability to display response to increases or decreases in sediment loading, and their linkage to effects upon aquatic life/cold water fish.



Data Evaluation and TMDLs





- Targets were developed to translate the narrative standard and evaluate condition of each stream
 - Targets based on reference data
- Sediment TMDLs are based on following all reasonable land, soil, and water conservation practices
 - TMDL is based on a percent reduction approach for all potentially significant sediment sources

Potential Sediment Source Categories

Natural erosion

Result of climatic and hydrologic processes

Human influenced sediment/erosion

- Streambank erosion
 - Streamside Vegetation Removal
 - Unnatural Flow Fluctuations
 - Livestock trampling
- Sediment from unpaved roads
 - Non-"BMP'ed" roads and crossings
 - Culvert failure
- Sediment from land use (upland sediment)
 - Grazing practices
 - Timber harvest
 - Streamside Vegetation Removal
 - Crop Production
 - Development
- Point Sources
 - Permitted entities

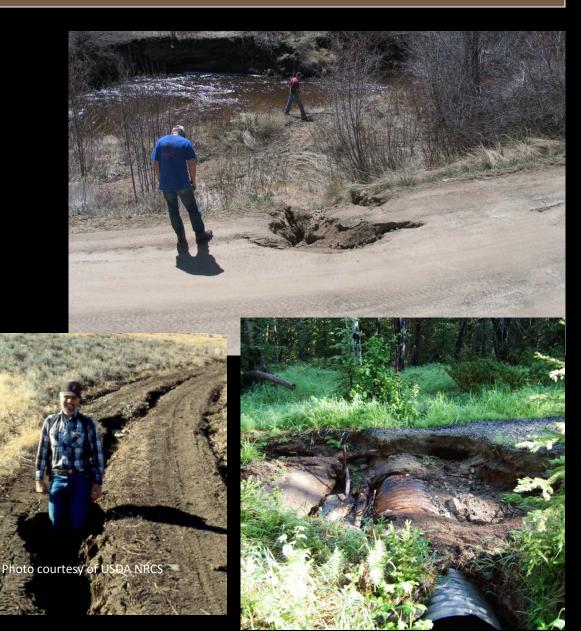




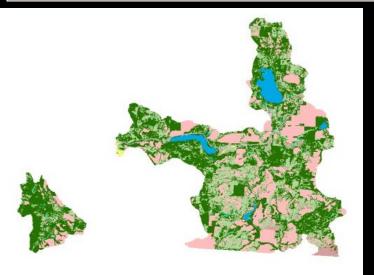


Sediment Source Categories: Roads

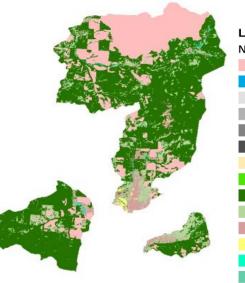
- Completed a full evaluation at 40 crossings and recorded conditions at an additional 13 in 2011
- Used WEPP:Roads model to average Load per crossing/parallel segment
- Existing Condition/BMP Scenarios
- Culvert failure and fish passage also evaluated



Sediment Source Categories: Upland Erosion



- USLE Model
- NLCD land use/land cover maps
- Riparian condition (aerial photo assessment)
- BMP scenario represents vegetation cover improvement on range land and riparian areas



Land Cover NLCD Code 0 - Transitional 11 - Open Water 21 - Developed, Open Space 22 - Developed, Low Intensity 23 - Developed, Medium Intensity

- 24 Developed, High Intensity 31 - Barren Land
- 41 Deciduous Forest
- 42 Evergreen Forest
- 52 Shrub/Scrub
- 71 Grassland/Herbaceous
- 81 Pasture/Hay
- 90 Woody Wetlands
- 95 Emergent Herbaceous Wetlands



Sediment Source Categories: Bank Erosion

- Used data collected at the monitoring reaches in 2011 and from the Kootenai-Fisher TMDL project area
- Calculated average load per mile by reach type
- Used reach type loads to extrapolate throughout each watershed
- Load reductions estimated by decreasing the percentage of human caused bank erosion to 30% to approximate riparian BMPs





Sediment Source Categories: Point Sources

- Industrial Stormwater McGregor Creek watershed
- No permitted outfalls
- Retains stormwater on-site and not anticipated to be a source





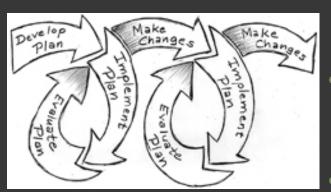
Example TMDL: Lynch Creek

	Current	Total	Load	
Sediment Sources	Estimated	Allowable	Allocations	
Seument Sources	Load	Load	(%	
	(Tons/Year)	(Tons/Year)	reduction)	
Roads	6.43	3.39	47%	
Streambank	451	300	33%	
Erosion	451	300	5570	
Upland Sediment	306	208	32%	
Sources	300	200	5270	
Total Sediment	763	511	33%	
Load	/05	JII	5570	

Implementation Strategy and Project Schedule

Watershed Restoration Plans

- WRP are now required by EPA in order to be eligible for Clean Water Act Section 319 (Nonpoint Source) funding
- Nine elements ensure an effective integrated approach to water quality restoration and protection
- Locally lead planning effort to prioritize activities based on needs, concerns, and local interest



- Identify sources and causes of problems, determine changes necessary to attain standards
- Identify the actions necessary to make the changes, the partners and assistance needed for those changes

 Develop timeframe, milestones, and criteria to keep on track or make necessary adjustments

9 Minimum Elements

- 1. Identify causes and sources of pollution
- 2. Estimate pollutant loading into the watershed and the expected load reductions
- 3. Describe management measures that will achieve load reductions and targeted critical areas
- 4. Estimate amounts of technical and financial assistance and the relevant authorities needed to implement the plan
- 5. Develop an information/education component
- 6. Develop a project schedule
- 7. Describe the interim, measurable milestones
- 8. Identify indicators to measure progress
- 9. Develop a monitoring component

MONTANA Watershed Protection

http://water.epa.gov/polwaste/nps/upload/watershed_mgmnt_quick_guide.pdf

Resources

- EPA Website and Handbook
 - Handbook for Developing Watershed Plans to Restore and Protect Our Waters with a shorter Quick Guide
 - <u>http://water.epa.gov/polwaste/nps/handbook_index.cfm</u>
 - Incorporating Wetlands into WRPs
 - <u>http://www.epa.gov/region5/agriculture/pdfs/wetlands-in-watershed-planning-supplement-region-5-201302.pdf</u>
- DEQ Staff and Website
 - Wiki Site (<u>http://montananps319grants.pbworks.com/w/page/40496302/Watershed%20Restoration%20Plans</u>)
 - Staff with Expertise (<u>http://svc.mt.gov/deg/staffdir.asp#wqp</u>)
- 319 Call for Proposals (2015) Webinar
 - o June 19th 1-2pm
- Other
 - NRCS EQIP
 - Montana Watershed Coordination Council (MWCC)
 - http://www.mtwatersheds.org/
 - o DNRC
 - FWP Future Fisheries
 - Other planning efforts
 - o Volunteers
 - Big Sky Watershed Corps
 - State and federal agency personnel, consultants, other experts
 - Other watershed groups with WRPs



Watershed Protection Contacts

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<u>Eric Trum</u>

Water Quality Specialist
 406.444.0531
 <u>etrum@mt.gov</u>



Project Schedule

- 30 day public comment period on draft TMDL document
 Started on June 11th and runs until July 11th
- Final document expected to be complete shortly after public comment period for submittal to EPA for approval

What to Expect from a Completed TMDL?

 A completed TMDL provides information on water quality problems and strategies to reduce pollutants by changing land and water management activities

 Implementation of the TMDLs by the use of appropriate BMPs will improve the water quality of addressed waterbodies

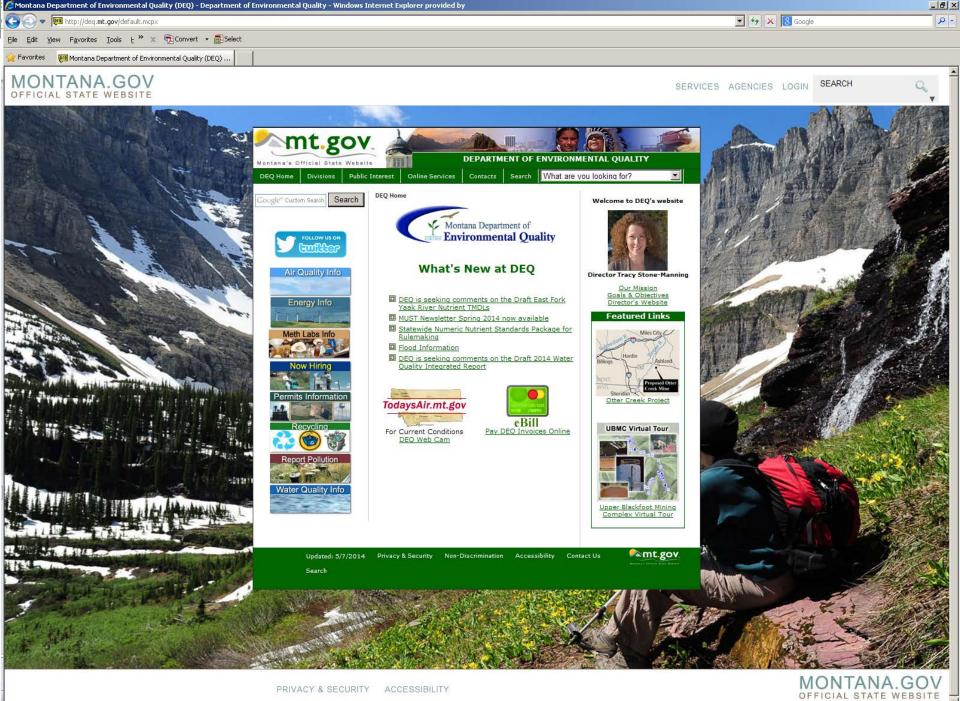
 A Watershed Restoration Plan (WRP) may be developed by stakeholders to implement the goals of the TMDL

TMDL Project Website and DEQ Website

- Specific TMDL information can be found online at the Montana DEQ TMDL Project Website:
 - <u>http://montanatmdlflathead.pbworks.com/</u>
- General DEQ information, water quality information, rules and regulations, and public comment opportunities can be found on the DEQ website at:
 - http://deq.mt.gov/default.mcpx

MONTANA TMDL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS WIKI / Thompson TMDL Project Area - Windows Internet Explorer provided by MT DEQ	_ 8	×
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🔶 Favorites PB MONTANA TMDL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS WIKI / Th		
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last edited by 🍐 Jordan Tollefson 3 hours, 33 minutes ago		F
THOMPSON TMDL PROJECT	Already have an account? Log in!	
Project Outreach Project Documents	SideBar	
Page Contents:	Home Page	
1. Project Purpose	How to Navigate This Site & Request	
2. <u>Project Location & Included Streams</u> 3. <u>Project Plans</u>	Access	
4. <u>Project Schedule</u>	What is a TMDL?	
5. <u>Project Contacts</u>	Link to the DEQ Nonpoint Source & 319	
	<u>Grants Wiki</u>	
Project Purpose	Link to the DEQ TMDL Webpage	
The state of Montana monitors its waters and conducts water quality assessments to determine if waterbodies are supporting their designated uses. All waterbodies in the Thompson TMDL project area must be maintained suitable for aquatic life, drinking water, agricultural, industrial, and recreational uses.		
Waters that are determined not to be supporting their designated uses are called impaired and are placed on Montana's list of impaired waters.	Completed Projects	
Impaired waterbodies and their associated probable causes and sources of impairment are published within Montana's biennial water quality integrated report.	(Older Pages)	
Montana's state law, and the federal Clean Water Act that was established by Congress in 1972, require development of total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) for all waterbodies impaired by a pollutant (e.g., metals, nutrients, 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 includes four main steps:	Current Projects:	
Characterizing the impaired waterbody's existing water quality conditions and comparing those conditions to Montana's water quality standards.	Beaverhead	
During this step, measurable target values are set to help evaluate the stream's condition in relation to the applicable water quality standards. Quantifying the magnitude of the pollutant contribution from each significant source 	Bitterroot	
Determining the total allowable load of the pollutant to the waterbody (the TMDL)	Blackfoot Watershed	
 Allocating the total allowable pollutant load into individual loads for each significant source (referred to as load allocations for nonpoint sources and wasteload allocations for point sources) 	Bonita-Superior	
The TMDL planning process for this project incorporates a combination of water quality sampling and hydrologic modeling to further identify and quantify metals, nutrient, sediment, and temperature contributions from all significant sources to the streams identified in the table below. For more	Boulder-Elkhorn	
information about the development of TMDLs, please see the <u>What is a TMDL?</u> page on this site or download our pamphlet: <u>N</u> <u>Understanding the TMDL</u>	Flathead	
Process.	Flint	•
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Public Comment Information

 Copies of the draft documents can be found online at: <u>http://www.deq.mt.gov/pubcom.mcpx</u> and are also available at the Thompson Falls and Plains public libraries, and also at the State Library in Helena. Comments may be mailed to:

Montana Department of Environmental Quality

P.O. Box 200901

Helena, Montana 59620-0901

- Comments can also be submitted electronically at: <u>http://comment.cwaic.mt.gov/</u>
- Comment forms are also available today at the meeting *Note that verbal comments cannot be accepted as part of the official public record

Questions?