

## **Water Quality Division Strategic Plans**

DEQ's Water Quality Division supports and implements measures to ensure that clean water remains part of Montana's natural heritage. Three closely-aligned Water Quality Division programs developed strategic plans that will guide program priorities and activities over the next 20 years.



Each program's Strategic Plan outlines program objectives and strategies:

Water Quality
Monitoring and
Assessment
Program

- 1. Inform, engage and support people working to protect and improve water quality
- 2. Describe current water quality conditions
- **3.** Track water quality change over time
- **4.** Support other DEQ programs' monitoring needs

Watershed
Management
(TMDL)
Program

- **1.** Examine water quality problems and solutions
- 2. Provide expertise and input during watershed planning
- Improve total maximum daily load (TMDL) products and make understanding water quality easier
- 4. Collaborate with DEQ programs and partners to prioritize and implement TMDLs

Nonpoint Source Program

- 1. Implement a tiered approach to tailor technical and financial support to the needs and capacity of watersheds
- 2. Demonstrate water quality improvements
- **3.** Build local capacity and partnerships
- **4.** Improve stewardship and highlight achievements

These three programs collaborate during water quality planning projects in priority watersheds:

Monitor water quality
Assess if water quality meets standards
Assess beneficial use support
Track trends over time
Support monitoring partnerships

Identify pollution sources
Calculate allowable pollutant loads
Estimate current pollutant loads
Determine load reductions needed
Recommend reduction strategies

Support watershed restoration plans Support pollution reduction projects Provide technical & financial support Evaluate TMDL implementation Support education and outreach

Ρ R http:// 0 credible web-based clean informed D partnerships reporting decisions & deq.mt.gov U water communities tools guidance /Water C T S

To view the Water Quality Division strategic plans, visit <a href="http://mtwaterqualityprojects.pbworks.com/">http://mtwaterqualityprojects.pbworks.com/</a>.

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