

View the full strategic plan at: <http://mtwaterqualityprojects.pbworks.com>

The Watershed Management program focuses on water quality and identifies sources of pollution to streams, rivers, and lakes within Montana. We also determine the amount of pollution those waters can sustain and still fully support beneficial uses. We then write plans that outline how to reduce pollution to those waters, also known as Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs). Finally, we assist local communities with finding solutions to restore and maintain clean water.

OBJECTIVES

EXAMINE WATER QUALITY PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS

Continue to develop credible TMDLs across the state to address water quality impairments and new concerns and sources of pollution, as they arise

MAKE UNDERSTANDING WATER QUALITY EASIER

Improve TMDL products to better facilitate public outreach, nonpoint-source project development, and permitting program implementation

PROVIDE EXPERTISE

Provide expertise and input internally to ensure smooth transitions from monitoring and assessment through on-the-ground project implementation

COLLABORATE AND MAXIMIZE RESOURCES

Work with appropriate internal and external partners to ensure a high level of program coordination for prioritizing TMDLs, implementing TMDLs, and maximizing efficiencies

TOP PRIORITY FACTORS

NEW INDIVIDUAL PERMIT APPLICATION

An application for a new, individual surface water discharge permit requires TMDLs for the receiving waterbody to become top priority, overriding all others

POTENTIAL FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Substantial public interest and support for voluntary actions that could likely improve or correct a water quality issue

PROGRAM COORDINATION

State or federal policies and priorities or immediate DEQ programmatic needs

RESOURCE VALUE

The waterbody is an important high-quality resource in an early stage of degradation; or there is a recreational, economic, and aesthetic importance of a particular waterbody

MAGNITUDE OF POTENTIAL IMPACT TO USE

If there are impacts to human health and aquatic life
NOTE: Unless there are unique circumstances, this factor will be considered inherently equivalent for all watershed projects and all waterbodies.

NEW PRODUCTS

- Enhanced water quality improvement recommendations, summarizing issues and recommendations for each impaired stream
- Story map for project area that includes maps of assessed sites, source assessments, and general approach for TMDL development
- Dashboard that summarizes key metrics and trends in watershed management

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