



BLUE WATER TASK FORCE, INC.

2009 WORK PLAN

Our Vision:

A community that protects and preserves the health of Gallatin Watershed.

Our Mission:

To promote public stewardship of aquatic resources in the Gallatin River Watershed through community education, citizen involvement in water quality monitoring, and scientific data collection

Our Values:

The integrity of our natural environment
Responsible growth and sustainable development
An educated and involved community
A commitment to future generations

Organizational Goals:

- 1. To maintain a sustainable organization**
- 2. To monitor the health of the watershed through scientific data collection**
- 3. To coordinate and promote projects that protect or preserve the health of the watershed**
- 4. To create partnerships with individuals and organizations that support our mission**
- 5. To support responsible growth that provides opportunities for voluntary action as well as appropriate public policy**
- 6. To provide a respected local source of natural resource information and expertise**
- 7. To educate and empower the watershed community**

Action Plan:

A. OBJECTIVE: Conduct quarterly water quality sampling and testing

GOALS ADDRESSED: 2, 6

TIMEFRAME: January, April, July, and October

RESULTS: Data will be available to the public via the Blue Water Task Force web site

ACTION STEPS:

- a. Maintain inventory for sample collection and testing
- b. Conduct sampling and testing each quarter
- c. Post data to Task Force web site via Montana Volunteer Water Monitoring Network.

B. OBJECTIVE: Conduct biannual aquatic macroinvertebrate sampling and analysis

GOALS ADDRESSED: 2, 6

TIMEFRAME: April and September

RESULTS: Data will be available to the public via the Blue Water Task Force web site

ACTION STEPS:

- a. Maintain inventory for sample collection
- b. Conduct sampling twice during the year
- c. Send samples to subcontractor for analysis
- d. Post assessment reports on Task Force web site

C. OBJECTIVE: Contract with the Montana Department of Environmental Quality as fiscal sponsor and coordinator for the Upper Gallatin Watershed TMDL Plan

GOALS ADDRESSED: 1-7

TIMEFRAME: Multi-year project

RESULTS: TMDL Implementation Plan

ACTION STEPS:

- a. Assemble and maintain Technical Advisory Committee
- b. Coordinate monthly watershed group meetings
- c. Conduct at least one public TMDL meeting
- d. Provide written review and comment on subcontractor deliverables
- e. Provide a written annual report on water quality conditions and TMDL progress
- f. Develop Stakeholder Involvement Strategy

D. OBJECTIVE: Coordinate data collection and activities with university level researchers

GOALS ADDRESSED: 2, 3, 4, and 6

TIMEFRAME: Throughout the year

RESULTS: Mutual exchange of data

ACTION STEPS:

- a. Collect and store names of regional researchers in Task Force contact database
- b. Include researchers in Task Force correspondence
- c. Encourage data sharing as data is made available

E. OBJECTIVE: Work with the Big Sky Water & Sewer District and the Gallatin Local Water Quality District to expand GLWQD boundaries to include Big Sky

GOALS ADDRESSED: 3, 4

TIMEFRAME: Throughout the year, paying attention to legislative schedules

RESULTS: A Water Quality District that includes the Big Sky region

ACTION STEPS:

- a. Investigate potential boundaries
- b. Collect data regarding potential tax income based on taxable units within a boundary
- c. Conduct public campaign/meeting
- d. Work with GLWQD and County Commission to follow steps to create the district
- e. Include on November ballot if necessary

F. OBJECTIVE: Attend Greater Gallatin Watershed Council monthly meetings

GOALS ADDRESSED: 3, 4

TIMEFRAME: Monthly

RESULTS: Coordination and communication with watershed partners

G. OBJECTIVE: Develop web accessible list of natural resource materials

GOALS ADDRESSED: 6, 7

TIMEFRAME: Throughout the year

RESULTS: A list on the Task Force web site of publicly available resources with links (where possible) for obtaining the information

ACTION STEPS:

- a. Research and compile lists of existing resources from other organizations
- b. Search for pertinent resources available on the internet
- c. Provide information to web designer for web site
- d. Update as necessary

H. OBJECTIVE: Conduct regular outreach, including e-mail updates, newspaper articles and website

TIMEFRAME: Throughout the year

GOALS ADDRESSED: 3, 6, and 7

RESULTS: Increase in community awareness; increased visitation to website

ACTION STEPS:

- a. Provide quarterly newsletter-type updates to our contact list
- b. Invite local press to each outreach event we conduct
- c. Keep web site up-to-date with Task Force activities and useful information

I. OBJECTIVE: Participate in Montana Watershed Coordination Council's training program (quarterly meetings if pertinent and annual coordinator's retreat)

GOALS ADDRESSED: 1, 3, 4, 6, and 7

TIMEFRAME: Quarterly and in the fall

RESULTS: Training and networking for Executive Director.

ACTION STEPS:

- a. Attend quarterly meetings when they address issues of concern to the Task Force
- b. Attend the annual coordinator's retreat

J. OBJECTIVE: Host 2-3 outreach events (TMDL public meetings, groundwater seminar, sampling float trip)

GOALS ADDRESSED: 1-7

TIMEFRAME: Throughout the year

RESULTS: Increase community awareness; more volunteers; more donations

ACTION STEPS: *Action steps for each event will be identified during event planning*

K. OBJECTIVE: Participate in local community events, such as the Country Fair, Watershed Festival (Bozeman), Gallatin River Celebration, etc.

GOALS ADDRESSED: 3, 4, and 7

TIMEFRAME: Throughout the year, but particularly in the summer

RESULTS: Increase in community awareness; more volunteers; more donations

ACTION STEPS:

- a. Maintain communication with partner organizations (receive newsletters, attend meetings, invite to our meetings, etc.
- b. Use existing outreach resources where applicable; create new outreach resources as needed
- c. Attend and participate in the events

L. OBJECTIVE: Educate and involve local children in BWTF activities. Work with Big Sky Institute Fellows whenever possible.

GOALS ADDRESSED: 3, 4, and 7

TIMEFRAME: Fall and Spring

RESULTS: Develop curriculum resources; share the resources on the internet. Provide at least 10 classroom hours.

ACTION STEPS:

- a. Coordinate with local school administrators to get on the schedule
- b. Partner with teacher to develop curriculum
- c. Implement the curriculum
- d. Post curriculum resources on the Task Force web site

M. OBJECTIVE: Create and maintain a sustainable organization

GOALS ADDRESSED: 1

TIMEFRAME: Ongoing

RESULTS: A balanced budget; an active board;

ACTION STEPS:

- a. Conduct regular fundraising
- b. Maintain and follow a budget
- c. Recruit community leaders to the board when needed

Blue Water Task Force 2007 Calendar

January	February	March	April
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DEQ Quarterly Reports • End of Year Accounting • MWCC training program • Annual Public Meeting/Monthly Board Meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly Board Meeting • Quarterly Newsletter • Quarterly Water Quality Sampling • Report: Stakeholder Involvement Strategy • Wastewater Solutions Group • DNRC and LEP grants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly Board Meeting • Wastewater Solutions Group • Nonprofit Corporation Taxes • Resort Tax Update Report • Develop resource list for our web site • Web site updates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly Board Meeting • Macroinvertebrate Sampling • Wastewater Solutions Group • MWCC training program • DEQ Quarterly Reports • Resort Tax funding application
May	June	July	August
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly Board Meeting • Quarterly Newsletter • Quarterly Water Quality Sampling • Water Quantity Study Planning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly Board Meeting • DEQ Quarterly Reports • Outreach Event: Float Trip • Finalize DEQ grants and contracts • Water Quantity Study Planning • Web site updates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly Board Meeting • Begin to plan demonstration project • Water Quantity Study Planning • MWCC training program • Booth: Gallatin River Celebration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly Board Meeting • Quarterly Newsletter • Quarterly Water Quality Sampling • Plan demonstration project • Booth: Country Fair
September	October	November	December
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly Board Meeting • Macroinvertebrate Sampling • Outreach Event: Homeowners Weekend • MWCC Retreat • Ophir educational event: Bug Rodeo • Web site updates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly Board Meeting • MWCC training program • Public TMDL Meeting • DEQ Quarterly Reports • Resort Tax Report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly Board Meeting • Quarterly Newsletter • Quarterly Water Quality Sampling • Ophir educational event 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly Board Meeting • Annual Report on Water Quality and TMDL Progress • Web site updates • Organizational review (documents, benchmarks, overall health)