

Public & Stakeholder TMDL Outreach Plan

Upper Gallatin TMDL Planning Area

1.0 TMDL PROGRAM AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

Section 303(d) of the Federal Clean Water Act (CWA) requires states to identify water bodies within its boundaries that do not meet state water quality standards, and to develop a list (the 303(d) list) of impaired water bodies. The Federal Clean Water Act and the Montana Water Quality Act (Section 75-5-703) require development of Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for impaired water bodies that do not meet Montana water quality standards. A TMDL is a pollutant budget identifying the maximum amount of a particular pollutant that a water body can receive without causing applicable water quality standards to be exceeded.

The Upper Gallatin TMDL Planning Area (TPA) is one of more than 90 TMDL planning areas in the State of Montana in which water quality is impaired. State law (**Appendix A**) directs DEQ to consult with ‘watershed advisory groups’ and local conservation districts prior to and during TMDL development, and solicit participation and representation from stakeholder and interest groups to act in an advisory capacity with the DEQ and local conservation districts.

Development of TMDLs in the Upper Gallatin TPA is a multi-year process involving technical assessments and information gathering, synthesis and reporting of data and information, and information dissemination and outreach. Technical advisors, stakeholders and interested parties, state and federal agencies, interest groups, advisory committees, and the public are solicited to participate in differing capacities through out the TMDL development process.

This document acts as a blueprint for stakeholder involvement and public participation, and outlines the process by which DEQ consults with and keeps informed stakeholder groups and the general public regarding TMDL activities in the Upper Gallatin TPA. The documentation of public and stakeholder involvement in the TMDL process will ensure that State of Montana statutory requirements (MCA 75-5-703, MCA 75-5-704 – Appendix A) are met.

2.0 DESCRIPTION OF PARTICIPANTS & ROLES

2.1 State and Federal Agencies

2.1.1 Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

The Montana Department of Environmental Quality is a state agency whose mission is to ‘protect, sustain, and improve a clean and healthful environment to benefit present and future generations’. State law (MCA 75-5-703) directs the DEQ to develop all necessary TMDLs. Responsibility and accountability for developing TMDLs within the legislatively mandated timeframe lies solely with the DEQ. The Department has provided resources toward this effort in terms of FTEs, funding, internal prioritization and planning.

Where appropriate, DEQ partners with other state or federal agencies, local conservation districts and/or watershed organizations to conduct technical assessments and data collection, coordinate local outreach activities, act as a liaison to local stakeholders and communities, or conduct other activities that may assist and facilitate TMDL development. Partnerships may take a variety of forms: direct contracts with the DEQ, agency Memorandums of Understanding, or other formal or informal agreements.

2.1.2 United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

The EPA is the federal agency responsible for administering and coordinating requirements of the Clean Water Act (CWA). Section 303(d) of the CWA directs States to develop TMDLs, and EPA has developed guidance and programs to assist states in that regard. In Montana, EPA has provided funding, development and technical assistance to the state's TMDL program and in some planning areas has taken the lead in TMDL development. In the Upper Gallatin TMDL Planning Area, the EPA developed a Phase I TMDL Status Report in 2005. Since 2005, the DEQ has maintained the lead in TMDL development in the TPA. EPA's role is likely to remain largely administrative for the remainder of TMDL development in the TPA; adoption of the completed TMDL is contingent, however, on final EPA approval and must meet EPA requirements for acceptance.

2.2 Local Organizations & Stakeholder Groups

2.2.1 Blue Water Task Force (BWTF)

The Blue Water Task Force is a locally-led non-profit watershed group headquartered in Big Sky, Montana. The BWTF's mission is to protect and preserve the health of the Gallatin River Watershed. The watershed group has three main programs: a volunteer water quality monitoring program; a community education program; and a watershed assessment program.

The BWTF maintains several 319 contracts with the DEQ to conduct tasks related to TMDL development: coordinate local public and stakeholder outreach activities, and conduct technical assessments related to TMDL development. Outreach activities are those that facilitate local involvement, disseminate information, and assist in coordination and collaboration among technical advisors, stakeholders and the public. Technical assessments are designed to support TMDL development, are defined in scope by the DEQ, and implemented by consultants hired by the BWTF. In addition the BWTF acts as liaison between the DEQ and the local community by maintaining contact with local stakeholders and the public through workshops, public events and email and website updates.

2.2.2 Gallatin & Madison Conservation Districts

The DEQ will provide the Gallatin and Madison Conservation Districts with a consultation role opportunity during TMDL development in the Upper Gallatin TMDL Planning Area consistent with State Law (75-5-703). This will include CD comment opportunities during the various stages of TMDL development, and an opportunity for CD participation in the Watershed Advisory Group defined below.

2.2.3 Upper Gallatin TMDL Watershed Advisory Group (WAG)

Representatives of applicable interest groups have been requested to participate in the *Upper Gallatin TMDL Watershed Advisory Group* (WAG) to work with the DEQ and the Conservation Districts in an advisory capacity per State Law (75-5-703 & 704). WAG participation is requested from the interest groups defined in MCA 75-5-704, and may include additional stakeholders, landowners, and resource professionals with an interest in maintaining and improving water quality and riparian resources. WAG involvement is voluntary and the level of involvement is at the discretion of individual WAG members. The WAG acts strictly in an advisory capacity during TMDL development and does not

retain decision-making authority regarding TMDL activities. Communications with WAG members are typically conducted through email and scheduled meetings by the TMDL Project Manager. Opportunities for review and comment will be obtained from the WAG at varying stages of TMDL development, including opportunities for TMDL draft document review prior to the public comment period. DEQ TMDL Project Manager is the primary WAG contact and is responsible for WAG solicitation and coordination of all WAG interactions and meetings during TMDL development.

Participants in the Upper Gallatin TMDL WAG are given in **Appendix B**.

2.2.4 Upper Gallatin TMDL Technical Advisory Group (TAG)

The *Upper Gallatin TMDL Technical Advisory Group (TAG)* consists of selected resource professionals and technical advisors who possess a familiarity with water quality issues and processes in the Upper Gallatin TPA. Individuals may include representatives from State and Federal agencies, local resource professionals, or members of local government, including CD members that have an appropriate level of relevant technical knowledge.

The Upper Gallatin TMDL TAG provides comment and review of technical TMDL assessments and reports. The DEQ TMDL Project manager resides over the TAG and schedules TAG meetings as necessary to facilitate and solicit feedback on technical TMDL development issues. TAG members participate at their discretion, and in an advisory role in the TMDL process. TAG involvement includes participation at TAG meetings and review of TMDL technical documents and reports. Typically draft technical documents are released to the TAG for review under a limited timeframe. Comments are compiled and evaluated, however final technical decisions regarding document modifications reside solely with the DEQ.

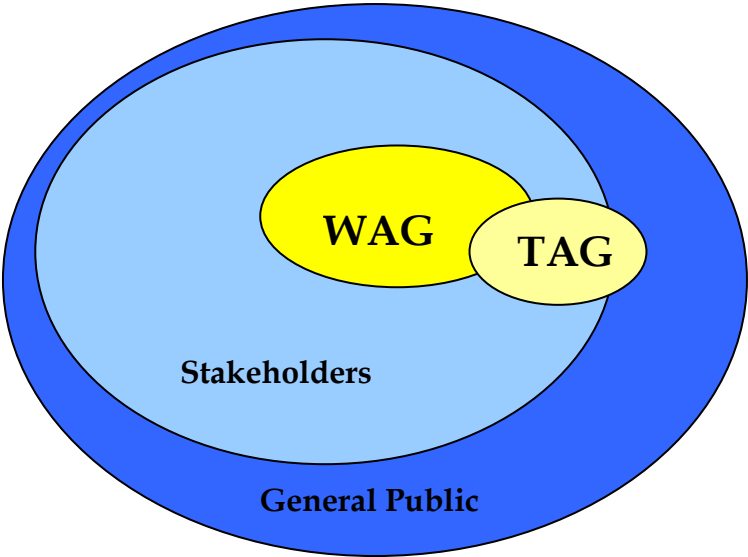
Participants in the Upper Gallatin TMDL TAG are given in **Appendix C**.

2.3 Stakeholders & General Public

Stakeholders are those persons or groups of persons with an interest in the Upper Gallatin TMDL, and have chosen to be informed and/or involved in the TMDL process. The BWTF and DEQ solicit stakeholder involvement early in the TMDL process through formal and informal means, and maintain contact with stakeholders throughout the process through a variety of information distribution and dissemination methods. Level of involvement is the discretion of the stakeholder; participation and responsibility may vary depending on the stakeholder and the issues at hand. Typically, communication with stakeholders is carried out through local watershed group meetings, email, and website distribution of information and reports. The Blue Water Task Force maintains a contact and distribution list of watershed stakeholders and provides avenues for information dissemination and feedback through public outreach events, meetings and the BWTF website, <http://www.bluewatertaskforce.org>.

Though not directly involved in TMDL development, the general public plays a vital role with regard to eventual implementation of improvement actions. It is important that the general public is aware of the process and given opportunities to participate, and as such will be kept informed via public meetings and through information dissemination through the BWTF and the DEQ. In addition, the general public will have the opportunity for review and comment of the final TMDL document during the formal Public Comment Period. The general public is encouraged to participate throughout the TMDL

development process by attending meetings and events, reading local news articles, engaging in educational events, and keeping up-to-date on TMDL progress in their watershed.



3.0 INFORMATION DISSEMINATION & MANAGEMENT

TMDL development involves the development of a variety of planning and technical documents, field data collection and assessment, data analysis and interpretation, and reporting and submittal of results and determinations. Technical documents may include sampling & analysis plans, water quality analyses, watershed modeling reports, or other technical information. Non-technical reports may include project planning summaries, status reports, meeting minutes, presentations or other materials in support of TMDL development and outreach activities.

Dissemination of information and documents related to TMDL development will be conducted by both the DEQ Project Manager and through the Blue Water Task Force. Methods of information and document dissemination include:

- Public Meetings
- Email
- Websites: GGWC, DEQ
- WAG Meetings
- TAG Meetings
- Media publications: press releases, newsletters, brochures,
- Local workshops and events
- Official DEQ TMDL 30-Day Public Comment Period

3.1 Information Dissemination & Management Requirements and Responsibilities

3.1.1 Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

DEQ maintains responsibility for carrying out the consultation requirements set forth in MCA 75-5-703&704, requiring the solicitation of interest groups to participate in the Upper Gallatin TMDL Watershed Advisory Group. Development, oversight, scheduling and records management* related to the Upper Gallatin TMDL WAG is the responsibility of the DEQ TMDL Project Manager. WAG meetings shall be conducted at a minimum of once per year, more often if circumstances require.

In addition to WAG development and coordination, the DEQ maintains responsibility for developing and coordinating the activity of the Upper Gallatin TMDL Technical Advisory Group (TAG). While not required by state law, the TAG performs a vital role in TMDL development (see 2.2.4). Technical and planning records* related to TAG activity shall be managed by the DEQ TMDL Project Manager. TAG meetings are scheduled by the DEQ Project manager as circumstances warrant.

Upon completion of the draft TMDL document, and prior to EPA submittal, the DEQ issues a press release and enters into an Official 30-day Public Comment Period. During this time frame, the draft TMDL document is made available for general public comment, and DEQ addresses and responds to all formal public comments. The 30-day public comment period follows the process set forth in DEQ document, *Montana DEQ Formal TMDL Public Review and Stakeholder Notification Procedure – WQPB WSM-001*.

*Official TMDL records, reports and planning documents are maintained by the DEQ Project Manager, and selected technical and planning documents can be accessed from the BWTF website at <http://bluewatertaskforce.org/reports.html>

3.1.2 Blue Water Task Force (BWTF)

In support of TMDL outreach and stakeholder involvement, the BWTF conducts a variety of annual activities with the purpose of involving stakeholder and the public in TMDL development, and ultimately implementation of restoration and water quality improvement initiatives. BWTF outreach and information dissemination activities include public meetings, workshops and tours, BWTF website, media publications and regular contact and email updates for local stakeholders and interested parties (Table 1).

Table 1: BWTF Annual TMDL Outreach Activity

Activity	Purpose	Frequency	Audience
Annual Public Meeting	Inform public of TMDL process, progress, and implications. Respond to feedback opportunity.	Annual	General Public
Website: GGWC	Provide public access to reports, documents and outreach material	Continual	General Public
Media Publications <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Newsletter• Brochure• WQ Report	Produce and disseminate printed materials in support of TMDL and water quality outreach activities.	Annual	General Public
Annual Workshop, Event, or Tour	Conduct field or seminar events aimed at hands-on educational outreach	Annual	General Public
Project Updates	Keep stakeholders informed of TMDL project progress through email updates.	3x/year	Stakeholders

Outreach activities conducted by BWTF are dependent upon available funding. Detailed annual outreach work plans and associated funding are provided in **Appendix D**.

Appendix A: 'Montana TMDL Law'

MCA 75-5-703. Development and implementation of total maximum daily loads.

(1) The department shall, in consultation with local conservation districts and watershed advisory groups, develop total maximum daily loads or TMDLs for threatened or impaired water bodies or segments of water bodies in order of the priority ranking established by the department under 75-5-702.

MCA 75-5-704. Watershed advisory groups.

(1) In implementing the consultation requirements under 75-5-702(4) and 75-5-703(1) and (2), the department shall request the participation of representatives of the following interest groups to work in an advisory capacity with the local conservation districts and the department:

- (a) livestock-oriented agriculture;*
- (b) farming-oriented agriculture;*
- (c) conservation or environmental interests;*
- (d) water-based recreationists;*
- (e) the forestry industry;*
- (f) municipalities;*
- (g) affected or potentially affected point source dischargers;*
- (h) mining;*
- (i) existing local watershed groups;*
- (j) federal land management agencies;*
- (k) state trust land management agencies;*
- (l) the tourism industry;*
- (m) the hydroelectric industry, if applicable; and*
- (n) fishing-related businesses.*

(2) In implementing the consultation requirements of 75-5-702 and 75-5-703, the department shall:

(a) prior to consultation with the statewide TMDL advisory group pursuant to 75-5-702(7) and (8), schedule meetings with appropriate local conservation districts and the watershed advisory groups at a location within their affected geographic area to review and revise the list of water bodies provided for in 75-5-702; and

(b) at a meeting held pursuant to subsection (2)(a), request whether there is new information that may affect the listing or priority ranking on water bodies within the affected area and solicit comments on revising the list.

(3) Based upon the information provided pursuant to subsection (2)(b), the department shall revise the list according to 75-5-702.

(4) Prior to and during the development of a TMDL within a particular watershed or basin, the department shall schedule a meeting or meetings with appropriate local conservation districts and watershed advisory groups at a location within the affected geographic area in order to solicit comments on developing the TMDL and information on sources that may be contributing to water quality impairment.

Appendix B: Upper Gallatin TMDL Watershed Advisory Group (06/27/08)

Interest Group	WAG Representation	Affiliation	email	phone
livestock-oriented agriculture				
	Marcie Murnion	Gallatin CD	marcie.murnion@mt.nacdnet.net	522-4011
		?? Madison CD	madisonconsdist@yahoo.com	
	Erik Suffridge	NRCS - Bozeman Field Office	erik.suffridge@mt.usda.gov	587-6849
farming-oriented agriculture				
	Marcie Murnion	Gallatin CD	marcie.murnion@mt.nacdnet.net	522-4011
		?? Madison CD	madisonconsdist@yahoo.com	
conservation or environmental interests				
	Scott Bosse	Greater Yellowstone Coalition	sbosse@greateryellowstone.org	586-1593
	Rick Arnold	TU Gallatin/Madison Chapter	rarnold@resslermotors.com	539-4350
water-based recreationists				
	Eric Becker	Geyser Whitewater	ericbecker@3rivers.net	1-800-914-9031
forestry industry				
		?? Montana Logging Association	mla@logging.org	752-3168
		?? Montana Wood Products Association	woodproducts@mt.net	443.1566
municipalities				
	Tim Skop	Big Sky Planning Board	tim.skop@gallatin.mt.gov	582-3130
	Charity Fechter	Madison County Planning director	mcplanner@3rivers.net	843-5250
	Warren Vaughan	Gallatin County Planning	warren.vaughan@gallatin.mt.gov	582-3130
	Sean O'Callaghan	Gallatin County Planning	sean.ocallaghan@gallatin.mt.gov	582-3130
affected or potentially affected point source dischargers				
	Ron Edwards	Big Sky Water & Sewer District	wsd363@3rivers.net	995-2660
	Tom Adams	Bozeman WWTP Superintendent	tadams@bozeman.net	586-9159
mining				
	NA			
existing local watershed groups				
	Sharlyn Izurieta	Greater Gallatin Watershed Council	sgizuri@gmail.com	219-3739
	Kristin Gardner	Blue Water Task Force	kristin.k.gardner@gmail.com	993-2519
federal land management agencies				
	Jose Castro & Mark Story	Gallatin National Forest	jcastro@fs.fed.us	522-2520
state trust land management agencies				
	James Colgrove	FWP - parks/easement	jcolgrove@mt.gov	444-3947
the tourism industry				
	Marne Hayes	Big Sky Chamber	marne@bigskychamber.com	995-3000
the hydroelectric industry				
	NA			
fishing-related business				

Interest Group	WAG Representation	Affiliation	email	phone
	Robin Cunningham	Fishing Outfitters Association of Montana	foaminfo@foam-montana.org	763-5436
Other Interested Parties				
	Bruce Rich	FWP	brrich@mt.gov	994-3155
	Kevin Germaine (replacing Simon Trautman)	Moonlight Basin environmental coordinator		
	Taylor Middleton &	Big Sky Resort	tmiddleton@bigskyresort.com	539-4214
	Mike Unruh	Big Sky Resort - Mountain manager	munruh@bigskyresort.com	995-5857
	Mike DuCuennois	Yellowstone Club	Mike.Ducuennois@yellowstoneclub.com	995-3140
	Ross Rooper	Spanish Peaks Resort	rrooper@spanish-peaks.com	993-5780
	Bill Simkins	Big Sky Town Center	bill@simkins-hallin.com	586-5495
	Kerri Strasheim	DNRC	kstrasheim@mt.gov	556-4504

Appendix C: Upper Gallatin TMDL Technical Advisory Group (06/27/08)

Name	Affiliation	Phone	email
Tammy Crone	Gallatin Local Water Quality District	582-3145	tammy.crone@gallatin.mt.gov
Mark Story	Gallatin National Forest main contact	587-6735	mtstory@fs.fed.us
Scott Barndt	Gallatin National Forest	587-6701	sbarndt@fs.fed.us
Bruce Roberts	Gallatin National Forest		broberts@fs.fed.us
Kerri Strasheim	DNRC	556-4504	kstrasheim@mt.gov
Erik Suffridge	NRCS - Bozeman Field Office	587-6849	erik.suffridge@mt.usda.gov
Mike Vaughn	FWP	994-6938	mvaughn@mt.gov
Brian McGlynn	MSU Watershed Hydrology Research Group	994-7690	bmcglynn@montana.edu
Steve Custer	MSU Hydrogeology	994-6906	uessc@montana.edu
Jeff Ryan	DEQ	444-4636	jeryan@mt.gov
Gill Geesey	MSU Microbiology	994-3820	gill_g@erc.montana.edu
Ron Edwards	Big Sky Water & Sewer District	995-2660	wsd363@3rivers.net
Alan Steinle..	Army Corps of Engineers	441-1375	Allan.E.Steinle@usace.army.mil
Kristin Gardner	Blue Water Task Force	993-2519	kristin.k.gardner@gmail.com
Kyle Flynn	DEQ	444-5974	kflynn@mt.gov
Lucy Marshall	MSU Watershed Hydrology Research Group	994-4796	lmarshall@montana.edu

Appendix D: Blue Water Task Force Annual Outreach Work Plan 2008-2009

The Blue Water Task Force (BWTF) has incorporated community outreach and education into the goals and vision of the organization (www.bluewatertaskforce.org). The following objective in the 2009 BWTF Work Plan pertain to outreach and education: 1) A- Conduct quarterly water quality sampling and testing, 2) B- Conduct biannual aquatic macroinvertebrates sampling and analysis, 3) H- Conduct regular outreach, including e-mail updates, newspaper articles and website, 4) J- Host 2-3 outreach events (TMDL public meetings, groundwater seminar, sampling float trip, 5) K- Participate in local community events, such as the Country Fair, Watershed Festival (Bozeman), Gallatin River Celebration, etc. , and 6) L- Educate and involve local children in BWTF activities. Work with Big Sky Institute Fellows whenever possible.

The following table provides a summary of typical annual outreach activities conducted by the BWTF and includes the activity, objective, audience, timeframe and projected annual budget for 2009. Annual outreach activity conducted by BWTF is dependent upon available funding.

Activity	Objective	Audience	Timeframe	Cost estimate
Annual public meeting	Inform public of TMDL process, progress, and implications. Respond to feedback opportunity	General Public	Annual	\$1450
Advisory group meetings	Comment and review TMDL documents	WAG/TAG participants	Continual	\$500
Media Publications <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newsletter • Brochure • Annual water quality report • News releases 	Produce and disseminate printed materials in support of TMDL and water quality/quantity outreach activities	General Public	Annual and/or Semi-Annual	\$5000
Website www.bluewatertaskforce.org	Provide public access to reports, documents and outreach materials	General Public	Continual	\$2000
Project updates	Keep stakeholders informed of TMDL and other BWTF project progress through email updates	Stakeholders	4x/year	\$600
Educational/awareness activities	Participate/organize community outreach events to promote BWTF and water quality assessment projects to general population	General Public	Continual	\$6000
Volunteer stream monitoring program	Volunteer water quality monitoring program to collect water quality data to support data collected for water quality assessment projects	General Public	Annual	\$8575

Annual public meeting – The Annual Meeting is held in the late fall/early winter. The meeting is used to inform the public of BWTF activities from the previous year. Programs include updates on the Upper Gallatin TMDL study, Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring, and School Educational Programs. The public meeting provides residents of the Gallatin watershed the opportunity to respond and comment on the BWTF activities.

Advisory group meetings – As TMDL milestones are reached and project components are completed, the BWTF will schedule and facilitate meetings with the Watershed Advisory Group and Technical Advisory Committee.

Media publications – The goal is to produce printed materials to meet the requirements of the BWTF's goals and vision. Materials are designed to educate and inform Gallatin watershed residents of BWTF's programs, activities, and events. Mediums include a semi-annual newsletter, distributed via email, and the BWTF website. Brochures have been produced on the following topics: 1) general BWTF activities, 2) TMDL studies, and 3) macroinvertebrates in the Upper Gallatin watershed. TMDL reports, water quality data, and meeting minutes are distributed via the BWTF website, and when applicable, by email. News releases are used to announce public meetings and other BWTF activities.

Website – The BWTF website is used to provide information to the public regarding BWTF activities, including the TMDL studies. TMDL documents and other water quality information are available on the website.

Project updates – Stakeholders in the watershed will be informed of TMDL and other BWTF activities through email.

Educational/awareness activities – BWTF organizes and participates in educational activities to promote water quality issues in the watershed. These include but are not limited to: 1) school educational programs, 2) booths at local fairs/Christmas stroll, 3) placing signage across the watershed to indicate water quality monitoring sites, and 4) summer camp programs. The goal is for watershed stakeholders to become more aware and/or involved in BWTF activities.

Volunteer stream monitoring program – BWTF volunteers collect quarterly water quality data in the Upper Gallatin watershed. The goal is to collect long-term data and to provide an educational opportunity to watershed stakeholders. This program provides stakeholders with an opportunity to become stewards of their local streams.