

Watershed Restoration Plan Workshop

Watershed Protection Program

July 2, 2013



Agenda

9:00 a.m.

Welcome and Introductions

Presenters

Participants

Terminology

9:20 a.m.

Background

NPS Pollution

History

WRP Concept

9:45 a.m.

WRPs in Depth

9 Minimum Elements (*Robert Ray*)

WRP Process (*Mark Ockey*)

Resources (*Ann McCauley*)

Acceptance and Implementation (*Laura Andersen*)

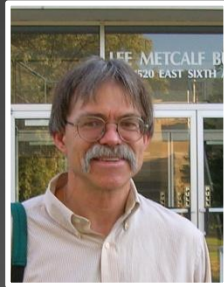
10:40 a.m.

Q&A

11:00 a.m.

Adjourn

Introductions: WPS Staff



Robert Ray
[Supervisor]



Mark Ockey
*[Missouri & Yellowstone
– Agriculture]*



Laura Andersen
*[Upper Clark Fork -
Education & Outreach]*



Elena Evans
*[Lower Clark Fork -
Volunteer Monitoring]*



Ann McCauley
*[Missouri Headwaters –
Forestry]*

Introductions: Participants

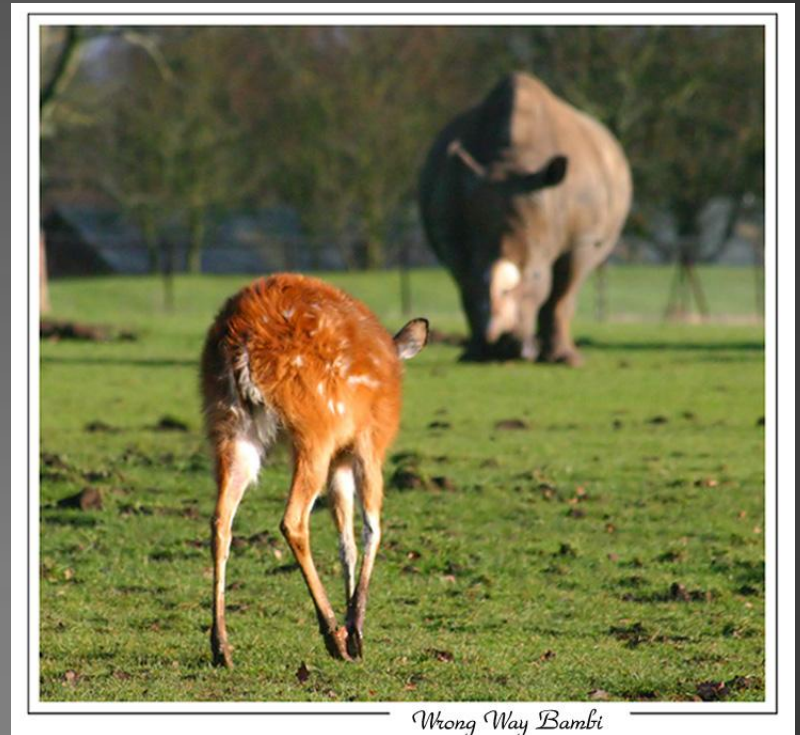
- Attendees
 - Who are you? (name / organization)
 - How did you learn about the webinar?
 - What do you hope to learn today?

Introductions: Terms

- **Acronyms**
 - WRP: *Watershed Restoration Plan (aka Watershed Plan, aka Watershed –based Plan)*
 - NPS: *Nonpoint Source Pollution*
 - TMDL: *Total Maximum Daily Load*
- **Terms**
 - Impairment (noun): *A pollutant/waterbody combination on the MT 2012 List of Impaired Waters. It may or may not have/need a TMDL*
 - TMDL Document: *A set of TMDLs, with a description of pollutant sources, watershed conditions, possible remedies, and recommended monitoring activities*

Montana Nonpoint Source Pollution Problems

- 2500+ impairments attributable to NPS
- Over 1000 TMDLs completed, most for NPS-related impairments



What doesn't work

- Head in sand (Denial)
- Try and do it all (Delusion)
- Random acts of conservation (No planning)

What can work

- Broad-based community support
- Well-planned activities
- Leveraged funding
- Passion + science

WRP

- Concepts (*Mark Ockey*)
- 9 Minimum Elements (*Robert Ray*)
- Process (*Mark Ockey*)
- Resources (*Ann McCauley*)
- Acceptance and Implementation (*Laura Andersen*)

Concepts

- Concepts
 - “Survey large fields, cultivate small ones”
 - Targeted planning (aka the 80/20 rule)
 - Adaptive management, with a stable goal
 - Local people, values, goals, success
- Scientific basis
 - CEAP Study
 - EPA Success Stories

9 Minimum Elements

- a) Identify causes and sources of pollution
- b) Estimate pollutant loading into the watershed and the expected load reductions
- c) Describe management measures that will achieve load reductions and targeted critical areas
- d) Estimate amounts of technical and financial assistance and the relevant authorities needed to implement the plan
- e) Develop an information/education component
- f) Develop a project schedule
- g) Describe the interim, measurable milestones
- h) Identify indicators to measure progress
- i) Develop a monitoring component

Element “a”

Identification of causes of impairment and pollutant sources or groups of similar sources that need to be controlled to achieve needed load reductions, and any other goals identified in the watershed plan. Sources that need to be controlled should be identified at the significant subcategory level along with estimates of the extent to which they are present in the watershed (e.g., X number of dairy cattle feedlots needing upgrading, including a rough estimate of the number of cattle per facility; Y acres of row crops needing improved nutrient management or sediment control; or Z linear miles of eroded streambank needing remediation).

Element “b”

An estimate of the load reductions expected from management measures.

Element “c”

A description of the nonpoint source management measures that will need to be implemented to achieve load reductions in element b, and a description of the critical areas in which those measures will be needed to implement this plan.

Element “d”

Estimate of the amounts of technical and financial assistance needed, associated costs, and/or the sources and authorities that will be relied upon to implement this plan.

Element “e”

An information and education component used to enhance public understanding of the plan and encourage their early and continued participation in selecting, designing, and implementing the nonpoint source management measures that will be implemented.

Element “f”

Schedule for implementing the nonpoint source management measures identified in this plan that is reasonably expeditious.

Element “g”

A description of interim measurable milestones for determining whether nonpoint source management measures or other control actions are being implemented.

Element “h”

A set of criteria that can be used to determine whether loading reductions are being achieved over time and substantial progress is being made toward attaining water quality standards.

Element “i”

A monitoring component to evaluate the effectiveness of the implementation efforts over time, measured against the criteria established under element h.

Process – getting started

- Use the website
 - http://water.epa.gov/polwaste/nps/handbook_index.cfm
- Read the manual (or at least the cliff notes)
 - *A QUICK GUIDE to Developing Watershed Plans to Restore and Protect Our Waters – 39 pages*
 - *Handbook for Developing Watershed Plans to Restore and Protect Our Waters – 400 pages*
- *Financial/staffing resources*
 - *Other planning efforts*
 - *Volunteers*
 - *Agency personnel, consultants, other experts*
 - *Other watershed groups with WRPs*

Process – getting started

- Sell the idea and solicit participation
 - Invite boss(es), committee chairs, staff, general membership
 - Invite DEQ staff to help
 - Plagiarize this presentation
 - Invite them/feed them/thank them

Process – identify subwatershed(s)

- Form a committee/working group
 - Keep it small at this point
 - Make sure it includes your boss and any other key decision-makers in your organization
- Identify candidate subwatersheds
 - Recovery potential screening
 - EPA website with tools
<http://water.epa.gov/lawsregs/lawsguidance/cwa/tmdl/recovery/index.cfm>
 - Ask stakeholders / general membership to judge candidates

Process – jump in!

- Follow the manual
 - *A QUICK GUIDE to Developing Watershed Plans to Restore and Protect Our Waters – 39 pages*
 - *Handbook for Developing Watershed Plans to Restore and Protect Our Waters – 400 pages*
 - *http://water.epa.gov/polwaste/nps/handbook_index.cfm*
- Ask for help
 - DEQ staff
 - Other experts
 - Watershed groups with existing WRPs
 - Other planning efforts

Resources

- Web-based tools
 - EPA Handbook site
 - DEQ NPS Wiki site
 - DEQ TMDL site
 - Natural Resource Information System (NRIS)

Watersheds with WRPs

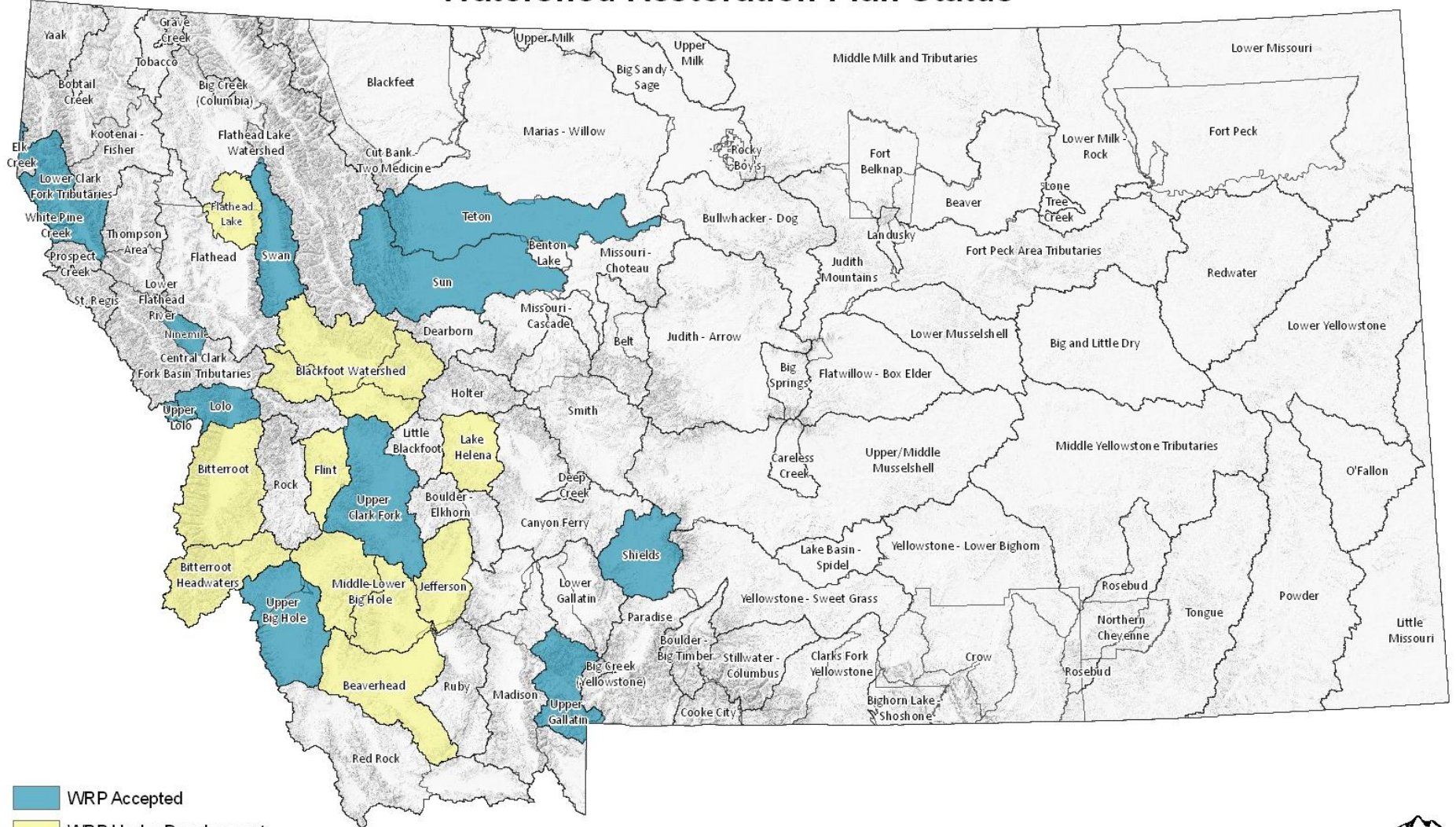
WRP Accepted

- Lolo
- Lower Clark Fork
- Ninemile
- Shields
- Sun
- Swan
- Teton
- Upper Big Hole
- Upper Clark Fork
- Upper Gallatin

WRP Under Development

- Beaverhead
- Bitterroot
- Blackfoot
- Flathead Lake
- Flint
- Jefferson
- Lake Helena
- Lower Big Hole
- Middle Big Hole

Watershed Restoration Plan Status



WRP Accepted
 WRP Under Development



Watersheds are shown with their watershed restoration planning status.

DEOPP A110PB - February 2013
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Acceptance and Implementation

- DEQ acceptance process
 - What do we look for?
 - Timeline
- EPA review
- Adaptation
 - A living document
 - Regular review of progress by watershed group members and community
- Funding
 - State funding partners
 - Federal funding partners
 - Local/foundation/landowner/in-kind

Questions?

Program Contacts



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