

# WATER QUALITY STANDARDS: TRIENNIAL REVIEW

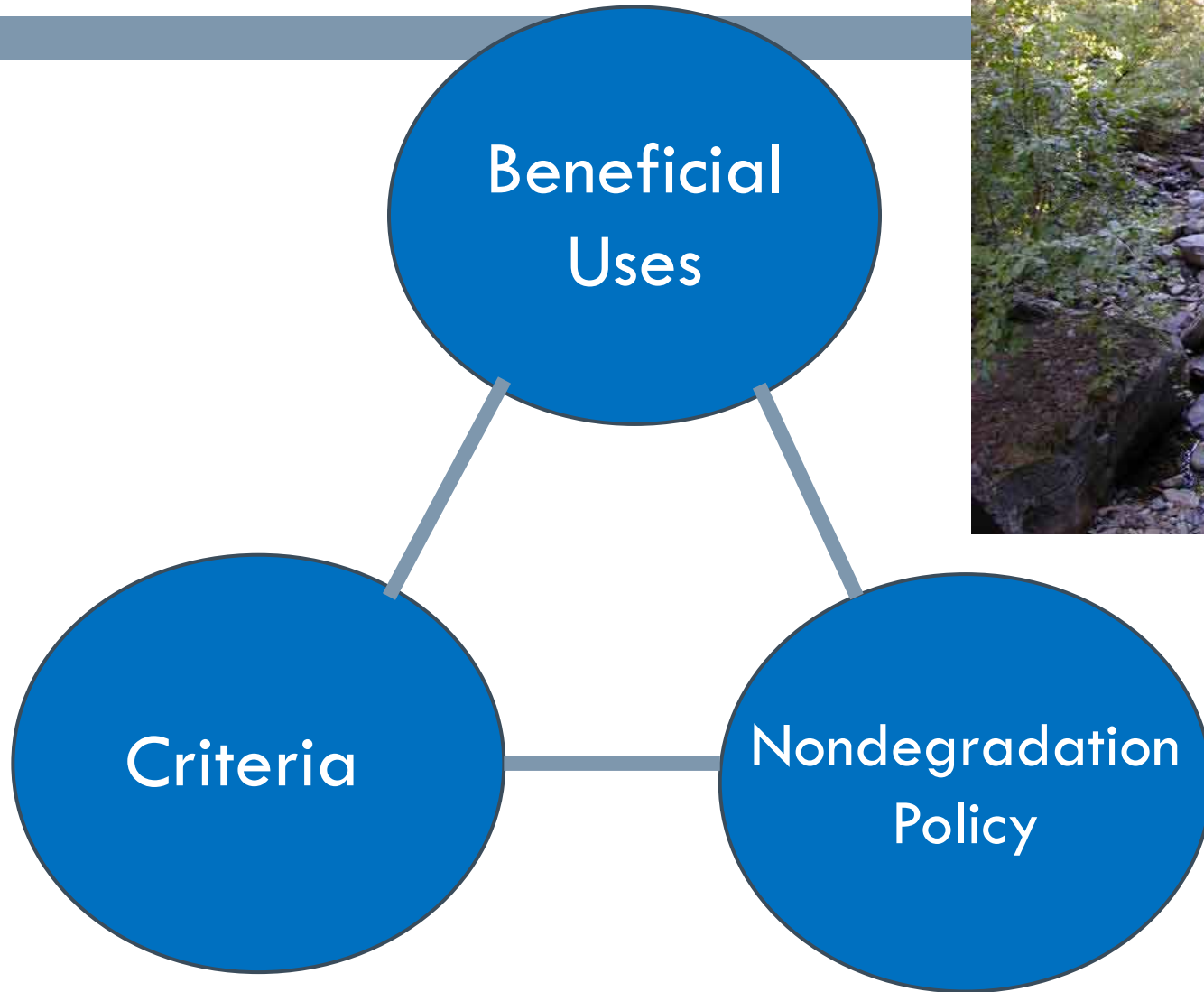
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Water Quality Standards Section

# Why is a Triennial Review Important?

- Consistency with state and federal regulations
- Solicitation of public input
- Congruency with current research and technology



# Water Quality Standards



# Who do the standards apply to?

## Everyone

### Permit required to discharge

- ▣ Industrial
- ▣ Publicly owned
- ▣ CAFOs
- ▣ Stormwater
- ▣ Etc.



# Who do the standards apply to?

## Everyone

### Permit required to discharge

- ▣ Industrial
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- ▣ Etc.

### No permit required to discharge

- ▣ Agriculture
- ▣ Forestry
- ▣ Etc.



# Beneficial Uses



- Surface Water

- ▣ Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM) 17.30 subchapter 6

- ▣ Include aquatic life, recreation, drinking water, etc.

- Ground Water

- ▣ ARM 17.30 subchapter 10

- ▣ Include drinking water, irrigation, livestock watering, etc.





# Criteria

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## Narrative Criteria

- ARM 17.30 subchapters 6 and 10
- Examples: pH, temperature, color

## Numeric Criteria

- ARM 17.30 subchapters 6 and 10 *and* DEQ Circulars 7 and 12, which are referenced in both chapters
- There are about 300 numeric criteria
- Examples: benzene, total residual chlorine, mercury

# Nondegradation

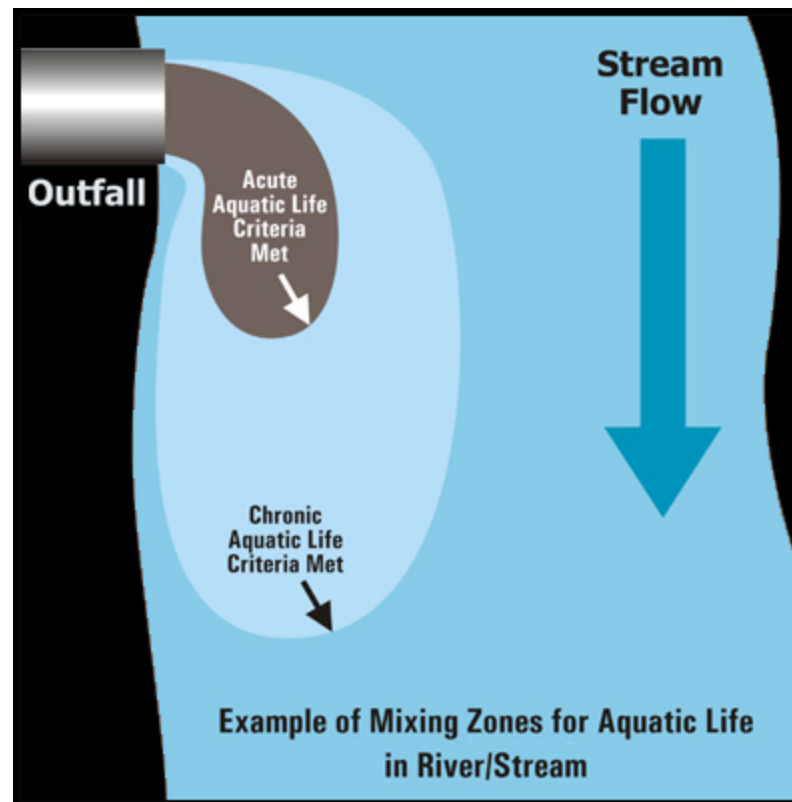
- Implemented in discharge permits for new or increased sources
- ARM 17.30 subchapter 7
- Protects existing uses of all state waters and limits or prohibits changes in water quality of high quality and outstanding resource waters, respectively





# Mixing Zones

- ARM 17.30 subchapter 5
- Implemented in discharge permits when applicable



# Triennial Review

- Requirement of Montana Code Annotated 75-5-301, “classification and standards for state waters:”
  - ▣ “The board shall...(3) review, from time to time at intervals of not more than 3 years and, to the extent permitted by this chapter, revise established classifications of waters and adopted standards of water quality;”
- Montana’s last triennial review ended in October 2012

# Standards Open to Comment

- Mixing zone rules at ARM 17.30 subchapter 5
- Surface water designated uses and water quality criteria at ARM 17.30 subchapter 6
- Nondegradation rules at ARM 17.30 subchapter 7
- Groundwater rules at ARM 17.30 subchapter 10
- Compliance schedule authorizing provision at ARM 17.30.1350
- Numeric water quality criteria included in department circulars DEQ-7 and DEQ-12

# Outreach

- Request the Board of Environmental Review to invite comments on Montana's water quality standards (also hold a public hearing)
- Publish information in newspapers across the state
- Mail information to water quality standards stakeholder lists
- Internal discussion and discussions with other agencies
- EPA involvement



# Then What?

- Review and respond to comments
- Where appropriate, revise water quality standards in response to comments
- Go back to WPCAC/BER and request initiation of rulemaking for those revisions
- Public involvement
  - ▣ Outreach to affected stakeholders
  - ▣ Formal public comment period



# Examples

- Remove “water supply intake” from water use class descriptions and replace with appropriate lat/long
- Adopt new pesticide drinking water criteria per the Montana Agricultural Chemical Groundwater Protection Act
- Correction of typographical errors in DEQ-7





# QUESTIONS?

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