

DEQ Invites Comments on Sheep Creek Water Quality Study

Plan will address concerns over E. coli levels in Meagher County stream

Helena – The Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is seeking comments on a draft water quality improvement plan for Sheep Creek in Meagher County. A public meeting is planned for mid-May in White Sulphur Springs to discuss the document.

The “Draft Sheep Creek E. Coli TMDL and Water Quality Improvement Plan” describes and discusses water quality problems related to E. coli concentrations in Sheep Creek, a tributary of the Smith River.

E. coli is a normally occurring bacteria associated with the digestive processes of animals and humans that can cause problems at certain levels in waterways. The document provides a total maximum daily load (TMDL) to help address the problem and outlines a strategy for reducing E. coli in Sheep Creek in order to meet Montana’s E. coli water quality standard.

A public information meeting will be held May 17, 2017 from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Meagher County Courthouse, 15 W Main St., in White Sulphur Springs. At the meeting, DEQ staff will provide information about the document, answer questions, and engage in discussion. A presentation will be given at 4:15 p.m. followed by a question and answer session until 6 p.m.

The draft document is available on the DEQ web site at: <http://deg.mt.gov/Public/publiccomment>
Copies are available at the Meagher County City Library in White Sulphur Springs, the Great Falls Public Library, and the Lewis & Clark Library in Helena. Public comments will be accepted until 5 p.m., June 5, 2017, and may be mailed to DEQ, P.O. Box 200901, Helena, MT, 59620, or submitted electronically at: <http://comment.cwaic.mt.gov/> Written comments may also be provided at the public meeting.

For more information, please contact Louis Volpe at (406) 444-6742, or by email at: LVolpe@mt.gov
DEQ will make reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities who wish to participate in this meeting. If you require an accommodation, please contact Jenna Stamper at JStamper@mt.gov or (406) 444-4643 no later than May 11, 2017.