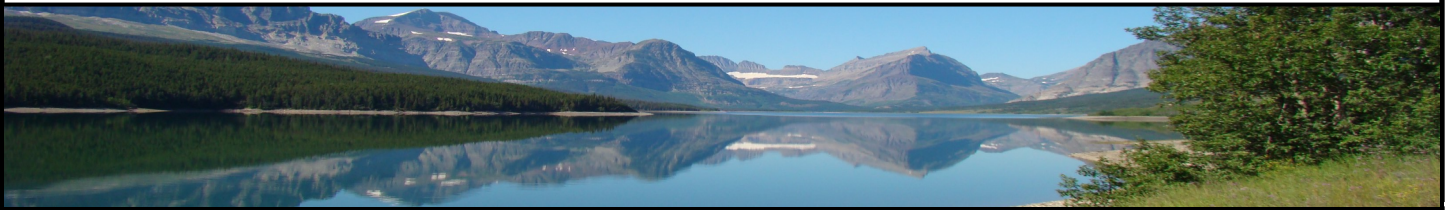
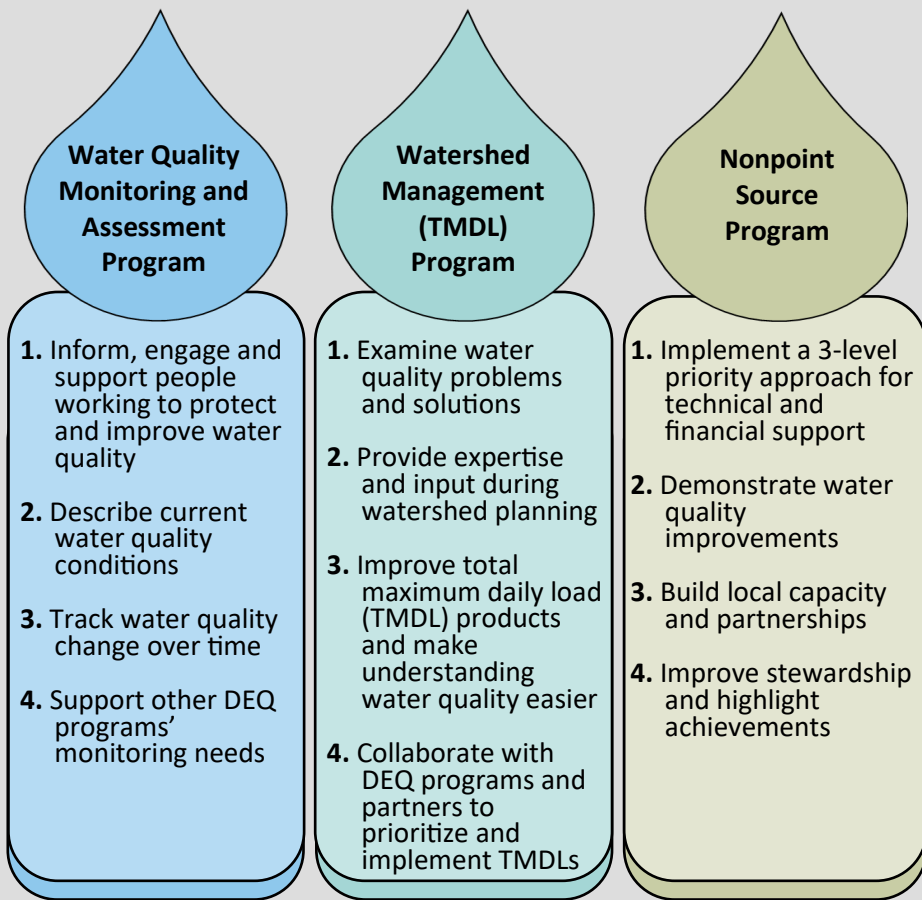


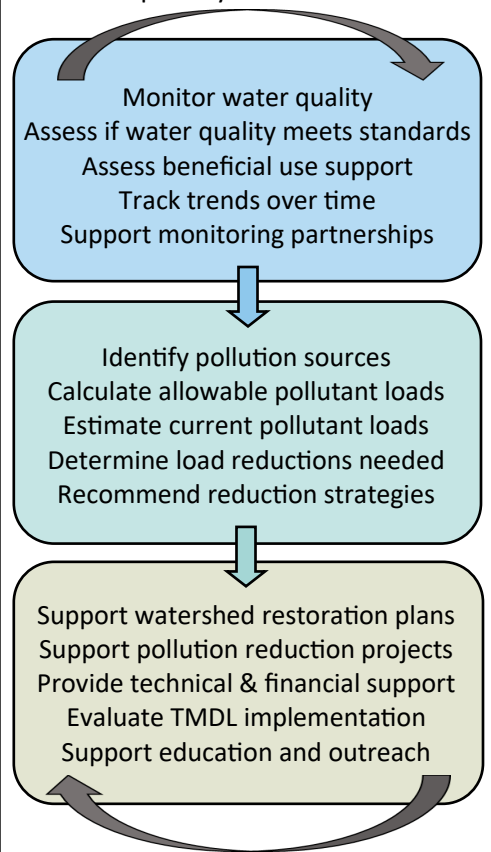
DEQ's Water Quality Division supports and implements measures to ensure that clean water remains part of Montana's natural heritage. Three closely-aligned Water Quality Division programs are developing strategic plans that will guide program priorities and activities over the next 20 years. **We are seeking feedback on these strategic plans.**



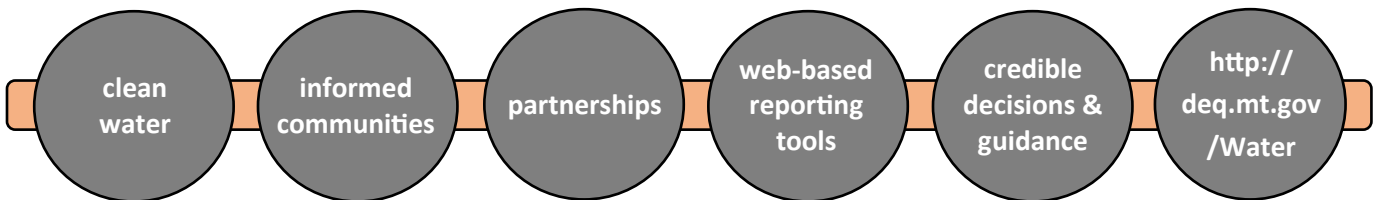
Each program's Strategic Plan outlines program objectives and strategies:



These three programs collaborate during water quality planning projects in priority watersheds:



P
R
O
D
U
C
T
S



To view Water Quality Division strategic plan drafts, visit <http://mtwaterqualityprojects.pbworks.com/>

Please send comments and feedback to the following DEQ staff contacts:

<p>Katie Makarowski Monitoring and Assessment Program 406-444-3507 kmkarowski@mt.gov</p>	<p>Kristy Fortman Watershed Management Program 406-444-7425 kristy.fortman@mt.gov</p>	<p>Dean Yashan Nonpoint Source Program 406-444-5317 dyashan@mt.gov</p>
---	--	---

Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Strategic Plan Summary

Read the full Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Strategic Plan draft at: <http://mtwaterqualityprojects.pbworks.com>

Vision: *Montanans have, understand, and use water quality information to protect and restore water quality.*



Mission:

- Collect and report credible surface water quality information
- Evaluate surface water quality conditions over time
- Convey meaningful data and decisions
- Promote water quality protection and improvement
- Provide technical expertise and material resources to partners

STRATEGIES

O B J E C T I V E S	Inform, engage, and support people working to protect and improve water quality	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support monitoring partnerships, including volunteer monitoring 2. Report to stakeholders (web-based, plain & technical language) 3. Improve data sharing
	Describe current water quality conditions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Evaluate water quality and beneficial use support 2. Make spatial comparisons 3. Investigate water quality problems 4. Establish baseline and reference conditions
	Track water quality change over time	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Document water quality improvements in priority watersheds 2. Document water quality improvements where partners implement projects 3. Monitor long-term trends
	Support other DEQ programs	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Supply monitoring resources to help DEQ programs fill their data needs



**2
0
1
9**

Darrin Kron
dkron@mt.gov 406-444-4765

Katie Makarowski
kmarowski@mt.gov 406-444-3507

Products

- Web-based reporting tools
- Public education & outreach
- Monitoring partnerships
- Water quality reports
- List of impaired waters
- Assessment records
- Data
- Quality assurance documentation

View the full strategic plan draft at: <http://mtwaterqualityprojects.pbworks.com>

The Watershed Management program focuses on water quality and identifies sources of pollution to streams, rivers, and lakes within Montana. We also determine the amount of pollution those waters can sustain and still fully support beneficial uses. We then write plans that outline how to reduce pollution to those waters, also known as Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs).

Finally, we assist local communities with finding solutions to restore and maintain clean water.

OBJECTIVES

EXAMINE WATER QUALITY PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS

Continue to develop credible TMDLs across the state to address water quality impairments and new concerns and sources of pollution, as they arise

MAKE UNDERSTANDING WATER QUALITY EASIER

Improve TMDL products to better facilitate public outreach, nonpoint-source project development, and permitting program implementation

PROVIDE EXPERTISE

Provide expertise and input internally to ensure smooth transitions from monitoring and assessment through on-the-ground project implementation

COLLABORATE AND MAXIMIZE RESOURCES

Work with appropriate internal and external partners to ensure a high level of program coordination for prioritizing TMDLs, implementing TMDLs, and maximizing efficiencies

TOP PRIORITY FACTORS

NEW INDIVIDUAL PERMIT APPLICATION

An application for a new, individual surface water discharge permit requires TMDLs for the receiving waterbody to become top priority, overriding all others

POTENTIAL FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Substantial public interest and support for voluntary actions that could likely improve or correct a water quality issue

PROGRAM COORDINATION

State or federal policies and priorities or immediate DEQ programmatic needs

RESOURCE VALUE

The waterbody is an important high-quality resource in an early stage of degradation; or there is a recreational, economic, and aesthetic importance of a particular waterbody

MAGNITUDE OF POTENTIAL IMPACT TO USE

If there are impacts to human health and aquatic life
NOTE: Unless there are unique circumstances, this factor will be considered inherently equivalent for all watershed projects and all waterbodies.

NEW PRODUCTS

Contact Info:

Kristy Fortman
kristy.fortman@mt.gov
406.444.7425

- Enhanced water quality improvement recommendations, summarizing issues and recommendations for each impaired stream
- Story map for project area that includes maps of assessed sites, source assessments, and general approach for TMDL development
- Dashboard that summarizes key metrics and trends in watershed management



Nonpoint Source Program

Strategic Plan to Improve Water Quality

View the full strategic plan draft at: <http://mtwaterqualityprojects.pbworks.com>

The Nonpoint Source (NPS) Program works with federal, state, and local government and nonprofit groups to implement voluntary actions that protect and restore water quality from NPS pollution. These pollution sources are widely dispersed and their impacts are cumulative. Demonstrating watershed-scale improvements due to NPS pollution reduction requires focusing resources within priority watersheds.

Level I Priority focus

The NPS Program will concentrate technical and financial resources for 2-3 years in Level I Priority watersheds in order to demonstrate improvements in water quality and track related social and economic indicators.

Characteristics of Level I Priority Watersheds

- ✓ Existing momentum with DEQ and ability to increase momentum
- ✓ Stakeholder interest
- ✓ DEQ's ability to track change
- ✓ Cost-effective BMPs can remedy most NPS pollution
- ✓ Potential to reduce a community's point source treatment costs
- ✓ Locally-developed Watershed Restoration Plan(s) in place
- ✓ Coinciding priorities with programs internal and external to DEQ

Level II Priority focus

Track improvements and provide technical and financial support to build capacity to support Level I Priority focus.

Level II Priority Watersheds

- ✓ Watershed Restoration Plans in place or under development

Level III Priority focus

Provide outreach and support landowner/community stewardship with the goal of progressing to a Level II Priority.

Level III Priority Watersheds

- ✓ Watershed Restoration Plans are not in place nor under development

How the NPS Program can Help

- Watershed Restoration Plan development assistance
- Project identification and prioritization
- Project funding
- Long-term project effectiveness review
- Evaluate progress since TMDL publication
- Education and outreach
- Monitoring recommendations
- Document landowner and water quality successes

Visit deq.mt.gov/water/surfacewater/nspollution and contact us to find out more about improving water quality in your watershed.

Contact: Dean Yashan
dyashan@mt.gov, 406-444-5317