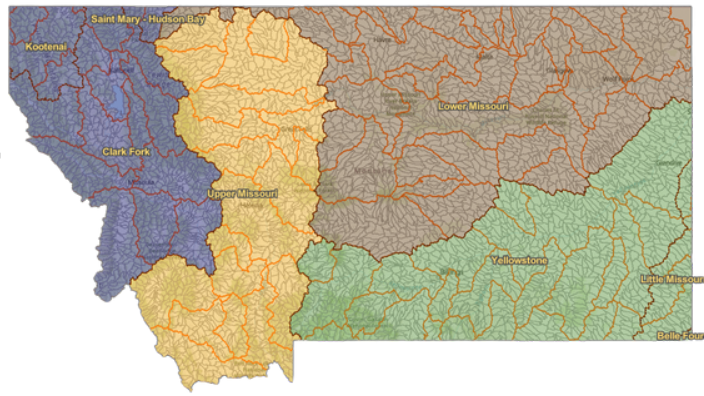


# Watershed

A geographical area where all the “water” “sheds” (or drains) to a common point, generally either a lake or mouth of a river.



# Restoration Plan

Restoring the physical, chemical, and biological properties of Montana’s rivers, lakes, and wetlands through applying all reasonable best practices. Restoring natural processes ensure sustainable protection of water quality and quantity for future generations.

## WHAT IS IT?

- A document developed by local community stakeholders that prioritizes on-the-ground projects that lead to water quality restoration or protection.
- A plan that addresses each of EPA’s 9 minimum elements (typically required for Clean Water Act 319 funding).

## WHY DO ONE?

- Engage community members in identifying strategies to improve water quality and associated co-benefits like disaster mitigation, local jobs, and increased land/livestock productivity.
- Incentivize landowner engagement with increased funding opportunities.

## TIPS

- **DO** tell the story of the watershed (e.g., history, economy, precipitation) to contextualize how and why priorities were chosen.
- **DON’T** write a report or assume the readers have time for dozens of pages of document summary.
- **DO** pull relevant tables from Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) documents/references.
- **DO** prioritize impact and increase writing efficiency by focusing on a smaller watershed.
- **DON’T** make a plan to plan or forget to leave the door open to opportunities.
- **DO** summarize the process for identifying and evaluating high priority projects and summarize a few most ready projects.
- **DON’T** detail numerous projects.
- **DO** consider goals for multiple timeframes (e.g., 1–3 years, 3–5 years, 5–10 years).
- **DO** identify how you will measure progress implementing the plan, evaluate success, and continue to develop long-range projects.
- **DON’T** plan in a vacuum or only listen to the loudest voice.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION



deq.mt.gov/Water/Programs/nonpoint  
406-444-5546