

Nutrient Offset Trading Workgroup

March 17, 2026

Preliminaries

- Agenda
- Roll Call
- Approve February 12, 2026 meeting minutes and share any post-meeting thoughts or ideas



Agenda

- Discussion Topics
 - Eligible BMPs
 - HUC12 Boundaries
 - Offset Quantification
 - Offset Verification
 - Funding responsibility/eligibility
- Strategy for Next Meeting
- General + Public Comment



HB736 directed BMPs:

- riparian fencing programs based on the number of feet of streambank;
- riparian vegetation programs based on the number of acres vegetated;
- development of wetlands in areas of irrigation water return flows based on the number of acres
- removal of septic systems based on the number and size of septic systems removed

Discussion

- How to incorporate into circular?
- How to encourage comprehensive projects (↑ assurance for generating a credit)?
- Practice standards



Lessons learned from NPSW long-term effectiveness reviews



2012, pre-project



2019, 5 years post-project



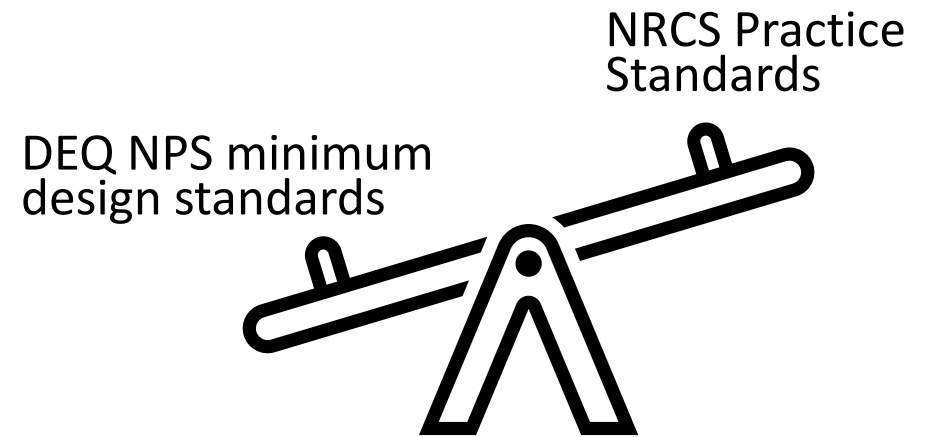
2017, pre-project



2021, ~2 years post-project

BMP Assurances

- ...restore and maintain **natural conditions and processes**.
- Only **native, site-appropriate plant species** may be used for revegetation.
- Projects involving riparian or wetland buffer creation must have a **minimum buffer width of 35 feet**, as measured from the ordinary high-water mark....
- ...continued existence and future colonization of **beaver**.
- Revegetation efforts must include **browse protection** where necessary.
- Projects addressing ... **water use efficiency must include reasonable assurance that unused water will remain in the stream** (e.g., ...change of use to instream flow, or a signed commitment from the water right holder).
- Projects must **not result in a net loss of wetlands or wetland function**.
- Projects involving grazing management ... must include a **grazing management plan** as a deliverable.



NPS Standards vs. NRCS Standards

NPS Standards

- Not applicable to all practices
- Focused on restoring and maintaining natural processes
- May or may not be more environmentally protective than NRCS Practice Standards
- Includes requirements not directly related to controlling nutrients

NRCS Standards

- Applicable to many different practices
- Focused on engineering structures or activities to achieve specific outcomes
- May or may not be more environmentally protective than NPS minimum design standards
- Includes requirements not directly related to controlling nutrients

NPS Standards vs. NRCS Standards

(EXAMPLES)

NPS – Riparian Buffer/Fencing

- 35-foot buffer
- Only native plant species
- Continued/future use by beaver
- Grazing management plan

NRCS – Riparian Buffer/Fencing

Riparian Forest Buffer (391), Fence (382), Prescribed Grazing (528), possibly others

- 50-foot buffer
- Detailed grazing management plan that includes goals, objectives, monitoring plan, contingency plan, adaptive management

NPS Standards vs. NRCS Standards

(EXAMPLES)

NPS – Irrigation Tailwater Treatment Wetland

- No applicable standards at this time
- Would need to be evaluated on a site-specific basis

NRCS – Irrigation Tailwater Treatment Wetland

Constructed Wetland (656)

- Engineered plans and specs
- Able to withstand 10-year, 24-hour storm event
- Operation and maintenance plan



BMPs in DEQ-13:

Potential Sources of Nutrient Reduction Credits

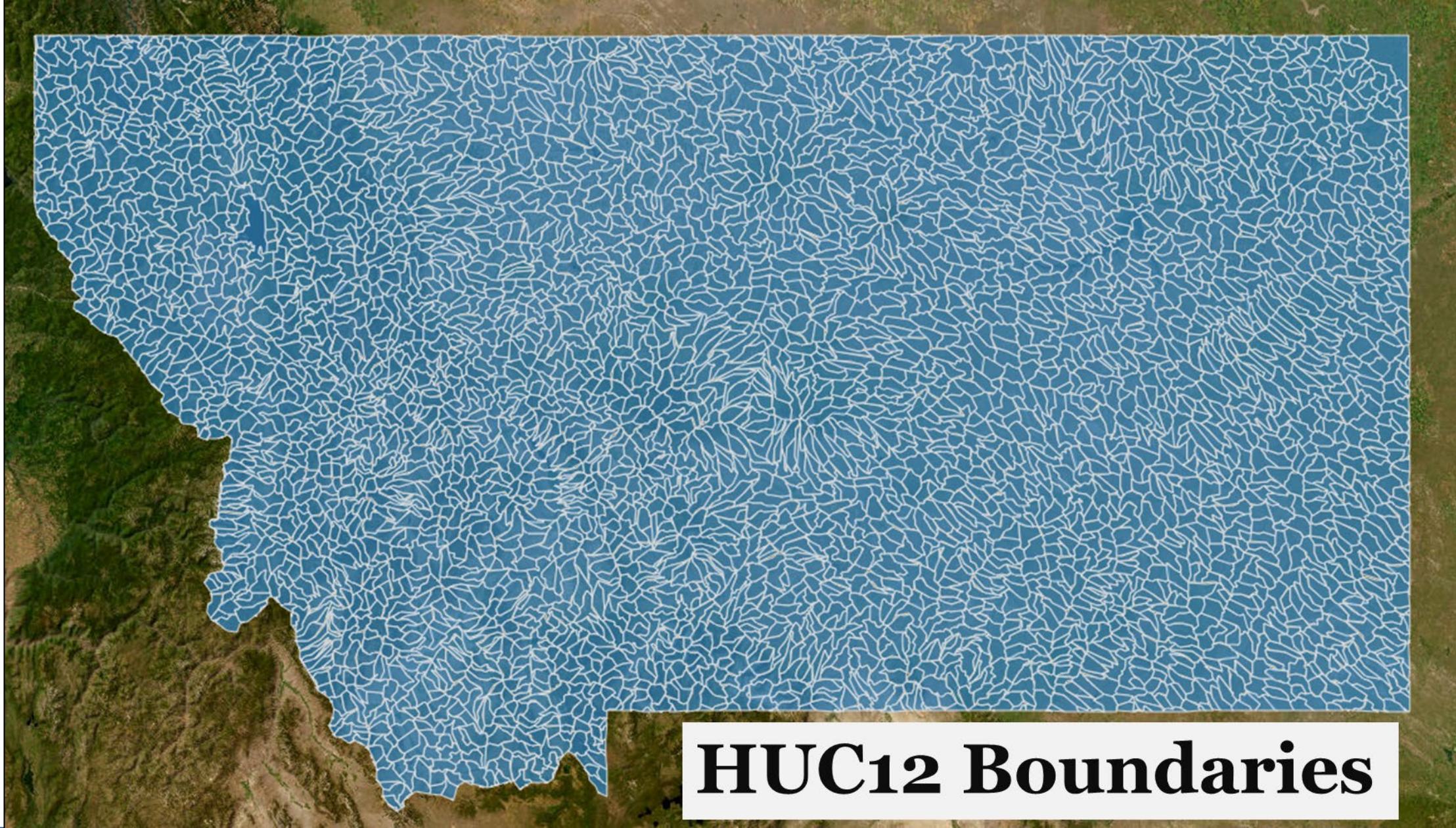
1. Retiring an existing wastewater soil disposal system (WSDS) with a demonstrated hydrologic connection to surface water by connecting to a permitted wastewater treatment facility. Where existing WSDS's are connected to DEQ permitted wastewater systems as part of a trading plan, the following elements, as a minimum, must be included:
 - i. GIS mapping of septic system locations;
 - ii. Annual nutrient loading at the edge of the WSDS discharge (including septic type if it is a significant factor in loading values); and
 - iii. Nutrient delivery ratio and uncertainty ratio based on site-specific conditions.

BMPs in DEQ-13

2. Land application of wastewater with any applicable treatment and nutrient management controls;
3. Optimizing treatment operations;
4. Animal waste management (i.e., ponds, lagoons, holding tanks);
5. Conservation tillage (e.g., no-till, low-till);
6. Cover crops;
7. Retirement of highly erodible land;
8. Installation of new runoff or erosion control;
9. Installation of new stream protection;
10. Installation of new forest conservation or harvesting practices;
11. Enhanced storm water management;
12. Forested or grass buffers;
13. Other protection practices as approved by DEQ.

Discussion

- Keep all practices, even if redundant or weak?
- Add life or practice?
- Reference Nonpoint Source Management Plan?

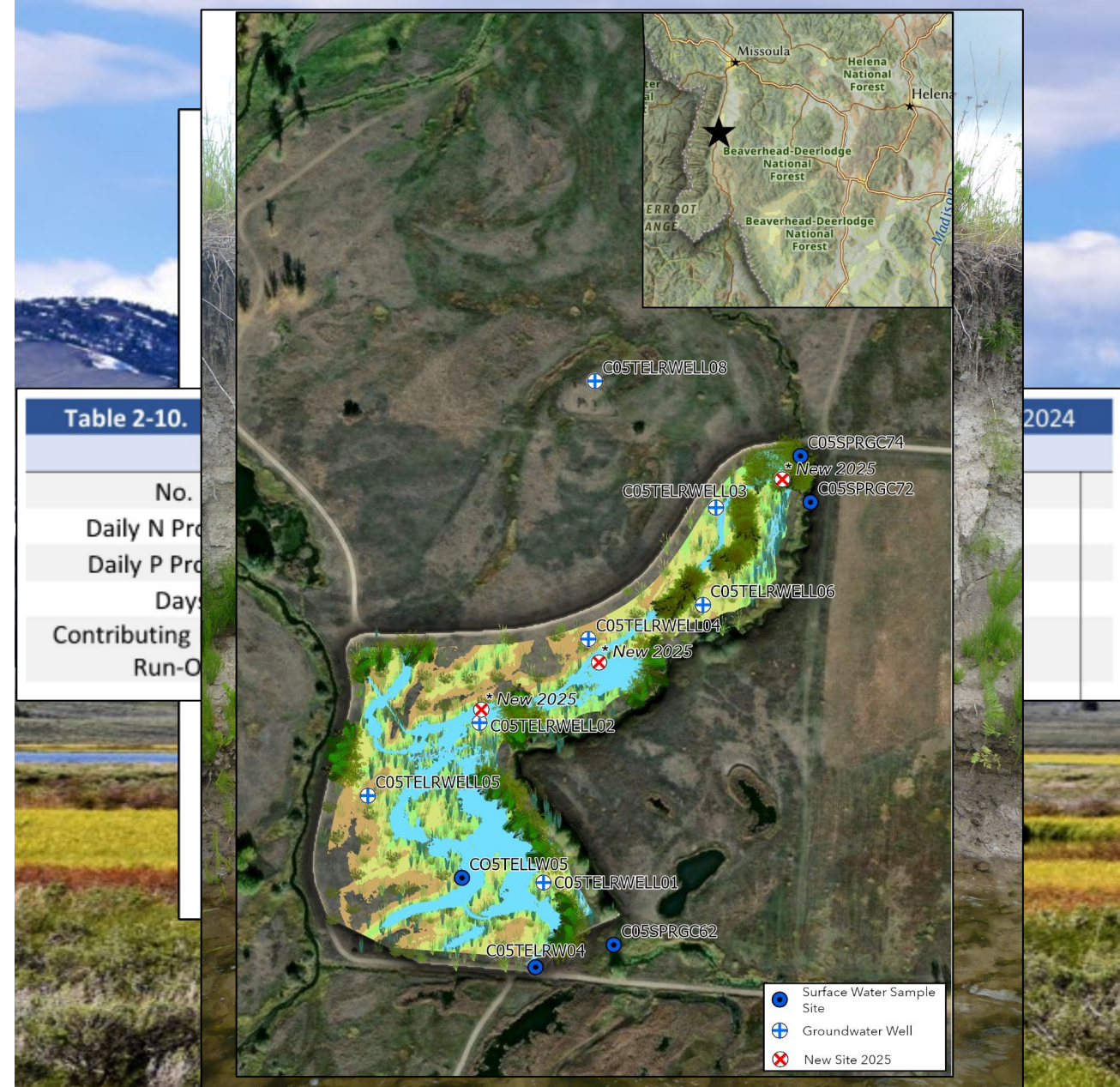
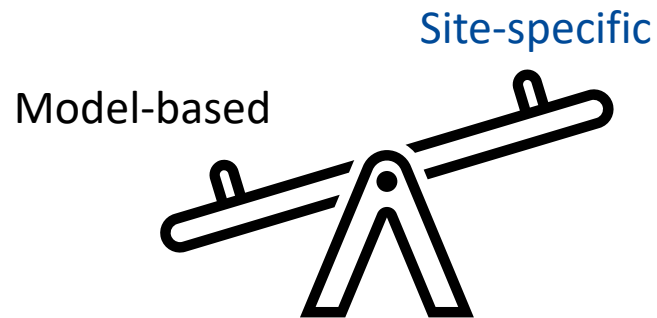


HUC12 Boundaries

Offset Quantification

Common existing approaches for nutrients:

- Method for Estimating Attenuation of Nutrients From Septic Systems (MEANSS)
- Livestock deposition model
- Bank Erosion Hazard Index (BEHI)
- Wetland effectiveness monitoring
- Discharge monitoring reporting (point sources)



Offset Verification

- Monitoring examples
 - In-stream monitoring (i.e., site specific)
 - BMP monitoring
 - Monitored and inspected on a regular basis
 - Conducted by permittee or third party
- Reporting examples
 - Verification (before credit may be used)
 - Project Installation
 - Performance specifications (e.g., as-built; NPS/NRCS standards)
 - Monitoring records
 - Number of credits purchased
 - Annual Reporting
- Recordkeeping



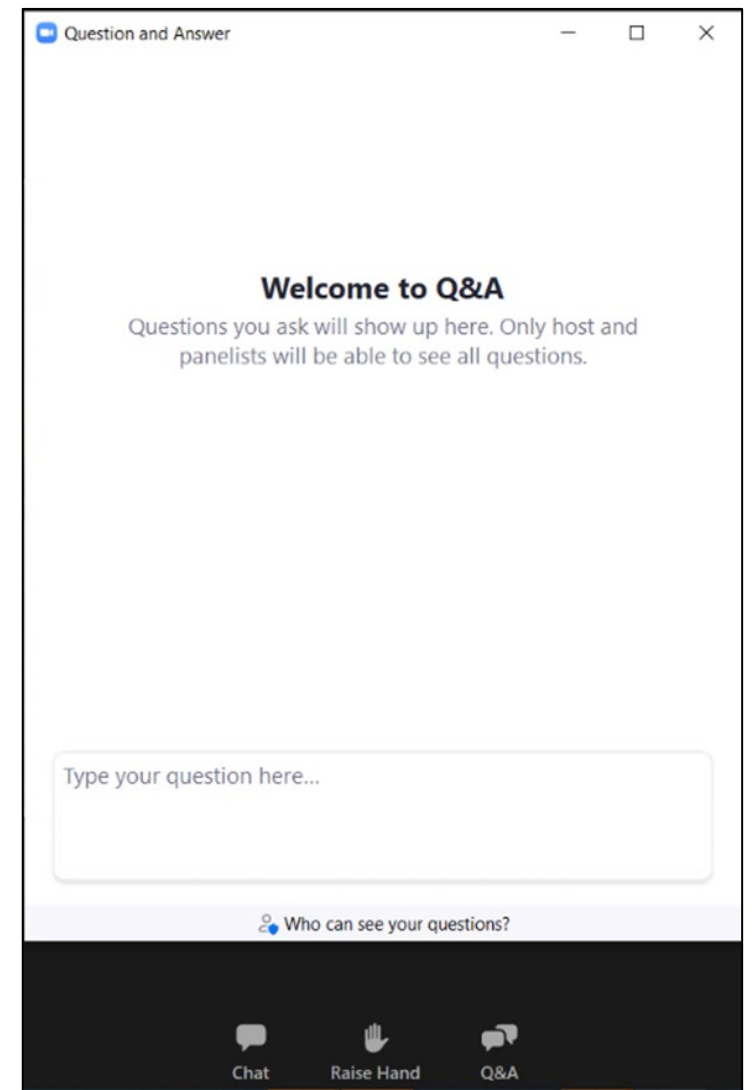
Credit Funding Sources

“Credits may be generated from point or nonpoint source discharges funded through a variety of sources such as the State Revolving Fund, local funds, or private funds. The cost of credits are determined by the market.” - Circular DEQ-13

- Point sources are responsible for funding/obtaining funding for trades
 - Funding sources need to be outlined in the trading application
- Funding eligibility will be determined by the funding program

Questions/ Comments

- Raise hand (*9 if on the phone) or type questions into the Q&A
- DEQ will unmute you if you wish to provide your comment orally
- If calling by phone, press*6 to unmute
- State your name and affiliation before providing your comment



Unmute



Chat



Raise Hand



Q&A

Leave

Connect with us!

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