

TMDL POST – 2014 PRIORITIZATION (DRAFT; 2-21-14)

TMDL PROGRAM GOALS

1. Facilitate nonpoint source implementation via engaged stakeholders.
2. Assist with MPDES permit discharge limit development where appropriate.
3. Address areas of high growth concern (both point and nonpoint sources).
4. Continue to reduce overall size of the 303(d) List (approximately 900 TMDLs remaining after 2014).
5. Provide assistance for TMDL Implementation Evaluations.
6. Update existing documents if needed for MPDES permit clarification or to reflect change in standards, etc.
7. Obtain input from internal DEQ programs, STAG and key stakeholders (e.g., state & federal agencies, watershed groups).
8. Continue with the watershed approach, particularly for pollutant groupings, to ensure highest level of efficiency. Exceptions may be necessary, particularly for large rivers or lakes or MPDES permit support.

TMDL SCHEDULE CONSIDERATIONS

1. One to two years of pre-TMDL monitoring and assessment is desirable. Monitoring and Assessment Section (MAS) priorities are thus linked to TMDL priorities.
2. Water quality standards development and/or assessment method development/refinement often linked to TMDL development. Water Quality Standards section priorities and support is thus linked to TMDL priorities and schedule.

EXISTING POST-2014 TMDL PRIORITY PROJECTS

Madison Watershed TMDLs

- a. Risk-based watershed assessment underway for 2 years via MAS
- b. High level of stakeholder interest with a functioning watershed group
- c. Important economic resource (fishing, tourism, ranching)
- d. Some local areas of high growth (ski industry)

Flathead Lake Phase II Nutrients

- a. Significant resources expended to date
- b. High level of stakeholder interest
- c. WWTP permit limit implications; area of growth

Tongue-Powder-Rosebud

- a. Ongoing Otter Creek TMDL development
- b. Significant coal and CBM development; cumulative impacts concerns
- c. Significant historical DEQ and EPA modelling and standards development activity
- d. High level of local interest

Musselshell

- a. Area with local interest in water quality
- b. Ongoing activities linked to recent Musselshell River flooding
- c. Working on coordinated approach with wetlands program
- d. Standards and assessment method activities necessary.

POST 2014 TMDL LIST OF POTENTIAL PRIORITIES (NOT ALL INCLUSIVE).

NOTES:

- Potential projects are not listed in any specific order of priority.
- Bold indicates some recent or ongoing monitoring and/or assessment activity.

- 1. Yellowstone River** (nutrients, arsenic, others)
 - 14 Nutr; 6 Sed; 3 Salt; 12 Mtls (natural As issues?)
 - Recent nutrient standards development.
 - Significant point source discharges.
- 2. Holter Tribs**
 - 2 Nutr; 10 Mtls; 3 Sed; 2 Temp
 - Recent data collection and updated assessments completed for nutrients and metals.
 - Consider expanding to sediment and temperature for complete watershed approach.
 - Could help address desire to keep TMDL pace after 2014
 - Local streams, important Missouri River tributaries.
 - Level of stakeholder implementation interest is uncertain
- 3. Beaverhead Metals and Nutrients**
 - 17 Nutr; 15 Mtls; (also 1 remaining Temperature)
 - High level of stakeholder interest in implementation
 - Watershed scale sediment TMDLs currently provide implementation opportunities
 - Could help address desire to keep TMDL pace after 2014
- 4. Missouri River above Canyon Ferry**
 - 1 Nutr; 2 Sed; 4 Mtls
 - Recent nutrient standards development.
 - Significant point source discharges involved.
 - Local and visibly important resource
- 5. Red Rock**
 - 3 Temp; 18 Sed; 11 Nutr; 8 Mtls
 - Could help address desire to keep TMDL pace after 2014 using existing approaches
 - Some stakeholder interest
 - Good opportunity for a MAS, WMS and WQP coordinated team approach
- 6. Paradise**
 - 3 Nutr; 3 Sed; 2 Temp (5 of 8 on Billman Cr. from Bozeman Pass)
 - Existing watershed group (status?)
 - Important Yellowstone River tributaries – fisheries, irrigation, aesthetics, tourism
 - Area of high population growth
- 7. Lake Kookanoosa Selenium**
 - Anticipated development impacts - mining
 - State interest in water quality protection – significant water resource
- 8. Bitterroot River Protective Nutrient TMDLs**
 - Area of increasing growth (septic, small rural acreages)
 - Modeling work partially complete
 - High level of stakeholder interest
 - Can complement existing Clark Fork River nutrient TMDLs
- 9. Clark Fork River Nutrient TMDL Updates**
 - Add Deer Lodge waste load allocation consistent with variance process
 - Integrate with tributary TMDLs
- 10. Flathead River TMDLs (near mouth at Clark Fork River)**
 - Some ongoing monitoring work for court order.

- 11. Flathead Lake PCB and Mercury TMDLs**
 - a. Potential PCB sampling this summer
12. Kootenai River Temperature TMDLs
 - a. Endangered species implications
 - b. Dam operational complications
13. Jefferson River Nutrients/Sediment TMDLs
 - a. Need nutrient assessment method for Jefferson River (?)
 - b. Sediment method for larger river not well developed
14. Upper Jefferson Watershed TMDLs – Tributary TMDL Completion
 - a. 9 Nutr; 2 Sed; 1 Temp
 - b. Some stakeholder interest
 - c. Metals and most sediment TMDLs will be complete by 2014
- 15. Shields Phase II**
 - a. Only 1 existing pollutant impairment (Sed) not previously addressed via TMDL
 - b. Recent nutrient data collected, more needed for full watershed analysis
 - c. Watershed group support for more TMDLs uncertain
16. Missouri River Near Great Falls (4 segments)
 - a. 2 Nutr; 7 Sed; 1 Temp; 12 Mtls; 4 PCBs?
 - b. Great Falls interest (?)
 - c. Need to complete nutrient standards development for large river
17. Lake Basin (salinity issues mainly)
 - a. USFWS interest; recent watershed characterization regarding dam removal
 - b. Reclassification probably needed (approach conceptually evaluated via Mike Suplee)
18. Ruby Phase II
 - a. 24 Nutr; 11 Mtls; 1 Temp
 - b. High level of stakeholder interest in implementation
 - c. Existing sediment & temperature TMDLs being implemented by stakeholders
 - d. Could help address desire to keep TMDL pace after 2014