

MONTANA WATER SUPPLY INITIATIVE

Phases 2 & 3 - Alternatives, Data Gaps,
Final Recommendations

Lower Missouri Basin Advisory Council, December 2&3, 2013

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State Water Planning Process

- Phase 1: Form Basin Advisory Councils (BAC's) Conduct issues scoping through public listening sessions. Prioritize issues of concern.
- Phase 2: Development of policy alternatives based upon issues scoping and data collection effort. Establish criteria for screening alternatives.
- Phase 3: BAC / DNRC work together to develop policy recommendations and implementation strategy for presentation to WPIC, EQC and 2015 Legislature. Publish final report.

Data Gaps and Technical Transfer

- Collect input from experts to inform and educate group on priority issues
- Group needs to decide which issues it needs additional input.
- DNRC provides input on current consumptive use estimates, future demands, analysis of impacts of increased drought, climate change

Statutory direction for State Water Plan

- Inventory of Consumptive and Non-Consumptive Uses associated with W/R
- Estimates of water to satisfy future demands
- Analysis of effects of drought and depletions of water availability
- Proposals to satisfy existing W/R and new demands
- Legislation necessary to address water resource concerns in the basin



Plan Recommendations

- BAC develops policy and or budgetary recommendations for Lower Missouri Basin Recommendations Report
- DNRC prepares final State Water Plan and budget requests using input from 4 Basin Advisory Councils
- Legislative/policy recommendations for changes in state law.
- Budget requests for plan implementation

MWSI – Project Milestones

- February 15 – Completion of 50% Draft
- April 1 – Completion of 75% Draft
- May 30 – MWSI Phase 3 Complete
- July 15 – Complete Draft of Basin Reports to Tim Davis for Review
- August 1 – Complete Draft to Director for Review
- August 15 – Complete Draft to WPIC and EQC

Report Format and Public Hearings

- Department shall hold a hearing or hearings in the state or in an area of the state encompassed by plan
- Separate Basin Plans for Clark Fork/Kootenai, Upper Missouri, Lower Missouri, Yellowstone River Basins
- Summary document containing plan recommendations and basin plan summaries

Lower Missouri Basin Advisory Council Work Plan Phases 2 & 3 MWSI

- Five additional meetings January – May
- Develop framework and criteria for options to address priority issues
- Complete recommendations, rationale, and implementation plan for all priority issues
- Preparation of Final Recommendations Report
- Outreach to Inform Public / Decision Makers of Recommendations of State Water Plan