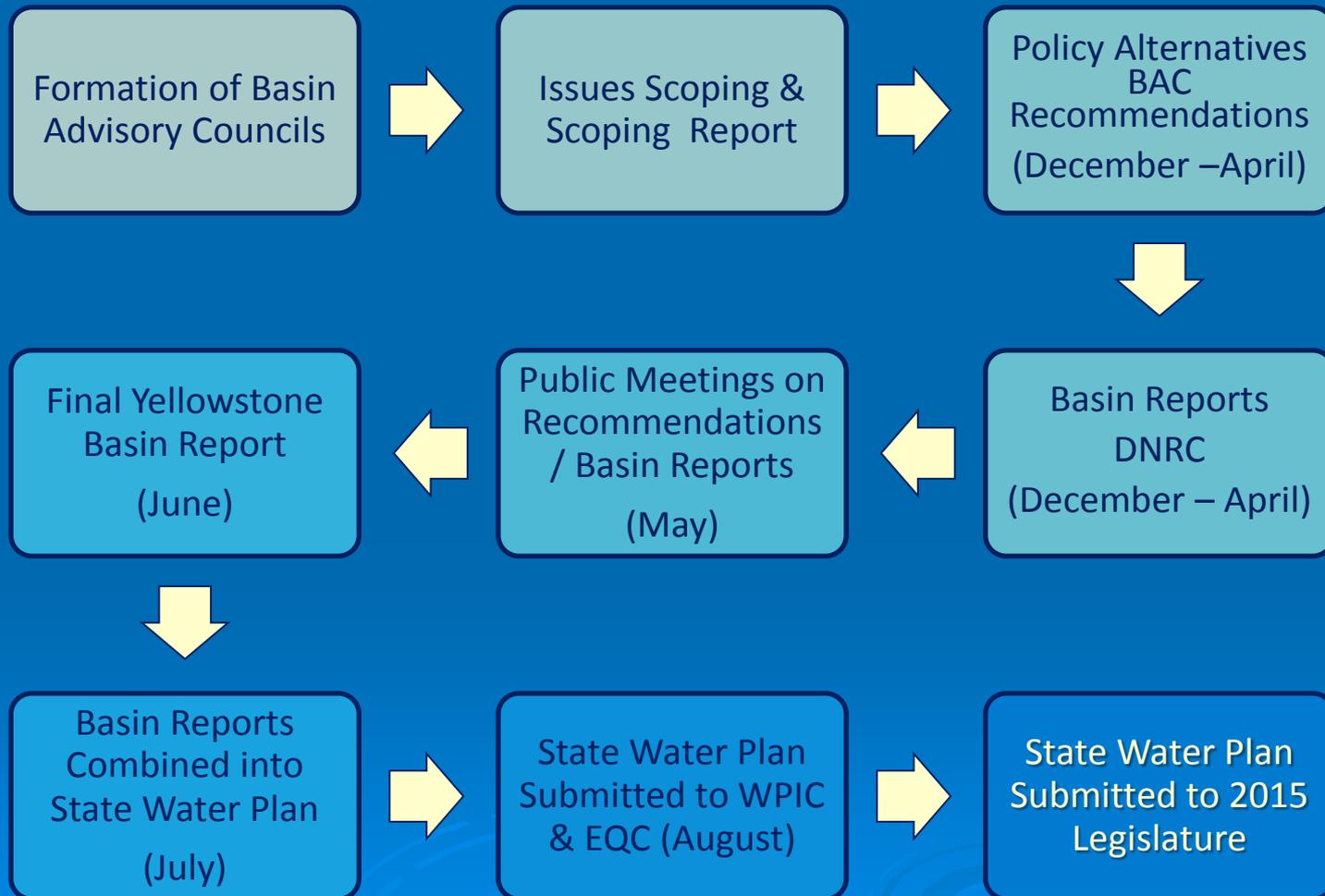


Yellowstone River Basin State Water Planning Process



Yellowstone River Basin

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**



Yellowstone River Basin

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.**



Yellowstone River Basin

Phase 3 - Plan Recommendations

- BAC develops policy and or budgetary recommendations for Yellowstone 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



Yellowstone River Basin

Screening criteria can be used to whittle down the list of alternatives to those that can actually implemented.

Potential Criteria for Screening Alternatives:

1. Is it technically feasible
2. Is it politically feasible
3. Is it financially feasible
4. Is it socially acceptable
5. Does it require statute change?
6. Does it apply to the whole basin?



Yellowstone River Basin

Table 7: Yellowstone BAC Preliminary Rankings of Issues Identified by the Public

Calculated Score*	CONCERN	# with this as #1 Rank	# who ranked this as 1-7
1220	Availability	10	13
840	Drought Readiness	1	11
550	Enforcement/Protecting Senior Rights	1	7
550	Water Quality	1	7
350	Instream Flows	0	6
340	Shifting Practices: Irrigation Technologies	0	6
310	Future Allocations/Additional Rights	0	5
310	Incentives and Support for New Technologies and Conservation	0	5
300	Storage Capacities	0	5
280	Reservations (Protected MT Rights)	0	4
250	Current Allocations	1	4
250	Planning	0	4
240	Beneficial Uses	1	3
230	Montana as Priority	1	3
220	Gauges/Monitoring	0	4
210	Municipal Needs, Urban Dev & Pop	0	3
190	Shifting Practices: Water to Industry	0	4
190	Water Market Transfers	1	3
160	Hydrologic Model –Variability	0	2
160	Hydrologic Model—Full Development	0	3
140	Recreational Uses	0	2
100	Exempt Wells/Groundwater Wells	0	2
90	Fisheries and Wildlife	0	1
80	Invasive Species	0	2
80	Stock Ponds and Tanks/Fishing Ponds	0	1
70	Use It or Lose It Principle	0	1
60	Hydraulic Fracturing (Fracking)	0	1
50	Tribal (Reserved) Rights	0	1



Yellowstone River Basin

The Yellowstone River basin planning process is guided by the following concepts:

- 1. delivery of information that is sufficient to understand the water resources and the current and prospective demands placed on those resources, and enable sound water use decision-making by water users and prospective users,*
- 2. strengthening the existing water allocation system to optimize present use and establish need for future water availability under the existing doctrines of prior appropriation and beneficial use, and*
- 3. enabling water users to achieve fairness under the law and these same doctrines, in water allocation among senior and junior water right owners during times of scarcity (drought).*



Yellowstone River Basin

Water Plan Development Schedule 2014

- **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 -
Water Resources Administrator**
- **August 1 – Complete Draft - DNRC Director**
- **August 15 – Complete Draft – WPIC / EQC**



Yellowstone River Basin

Phase 2 –

Technical Transfer / Alternatives Development

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



Yellowstone River Basin

Advisory Council Work Plan Phases 2 and 3

- **Four meetings December – April**
- **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**



Yellowstone River Basin

Plan Format and Public Hearings

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

