



GALLATIN RIVER TASK FORCE

2017-2018 WORK PLAN

Our Vision:

A healthy Gallatin River Watershed for future generations

Our Mission:

To partner with our community to inspire stewardship of the Gallatin River Watershed

Our Values:

1. The integrity of our natural environment
2. Responsible growth and sustainable development in the Upper Gallatin Watershed
3. An educated and involved community
4. A commitment to future generations

Organizational Goals:

1. To maintain a sustainable organization
2. To monitor the health of the watershed through scientific data collection
3. To coordinate and promote projects that protect or preserve the health of the watershed
4. To create partnerships with individuals and organizations that support our mission
5. To support responsible growth that provides opportunities for voluntary action as well as appropriate public policy
6. To provide a respected local source of water resource information and expertise
7. To educate and empower the watershed community

Action Plan:

A. OBJECTIVE: Create and maintain a sustainable organization

GOALS ADDRESSED: 1

TIMEFRAME: Ongoing

RESULTS: A balanced budget; an engaged and productive board & staff

ACTION STEPS:

1. Implement strategic plan
2. Develop and implement an annual fundraising plan
3. Develop and follow an annual budget
4. Recruit community leaders to the board when needed
5. Build and retain necessary staff to reach strategic goals
6. Apply to host a Big Sky Watershed Corps Member

B. OBJECTIVE: Conduct regular assessments for water quality, macroinvertebrates, and streamflow.

GOALS ADDRESSED: 2, 6, 7

TIMEFRAME: Winter baseflow (December/January), pre-snowmelt (March/April), spring runoff (May/June), and summer baseflow (August/September) for water chemistry, summer baseflow for macroinvertebrates, sediment size distribution, and algae documentation. June - November for at least six streamflow measurements at varying flows

RESULTS: Credible water quality, streamflow, and macroinvertebrate data

ACTION STEPS:

1. Maintain inventory for sample collection and testing
2. Conduct sampling and analysis each quarter for water chemistry and once a year for macroinvertebrates, sediment size distribution, and algae photo documentation

3. Send macroinvertebrate samples to subcontractor for analysis and report
4. Maintain four streamflow stations on the West Fork, South Fork, and North Fork and updated rating curves
5. Interpret collected data
6. Produce and disseminate a public water quality report
7. Upload data and associated reports to the Task Force website

C. OBJECTIVE: Conduct more thorough watershed assessments to address water resource questions as needed

GOALS ADDRESSED: 2, 4, 6, 7

TIMEFRAME: As needed

RESULTS: Watershed assessment final report

ACTION STEPS:

1. Assist in data collection for Yellowstone Club spill impacts
2. Develop project(s) to assess water resource question as needed
3. Fundraise and solicit partners to support water resource assessment project(s)
4. Implement funded water resource assessment project(s)

D. OBJECTIVE: Implement Upper Gallatin Watershed Restoration Plan

GOALS ADDRESSED: 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7

TIMEFRAME: Ongoing

RESULTS: Improvements in water quality, removal of TMDLs from impaired streams

ACTION STEPS:

1. Ensure all tasks and associated deliverables for the West Fork Nitrogen and Sediment Reduction project are completed and

approved by the Montana Department of Environmental Quality by contract deadlines

2. Partner with Big Sky Golf Course and the Big Sky Water and Sewer District to reduce nitrogen loading from the Big Sky Golf Course
3. Conduct fundraising and develop partnerships to support additional watershed restoration projects described in the Upper Gallatin Watershed Restoration Plan
4. Implement funded watershed restoration projects
5. Monitor for changes in water quality/quantity

E. OBJECTIVE: Host collaborative stakeholder driven planning effort to address current and future water issues in the Big Sky Community.

GOALS ADDRESSED: 3, 4, 5

TIMEFRAME: Plan development by December 2017; implementation will occur as funding allows

RESULTS: Water resources management plan and implementation schedule that will result in improvements and minimal impacts to water resources in the Upper Gallatin Watershed.

ACTION STEPS:

1. Host the Big Sky Sustainable Water Solutions Forum
2. Participate in the forum advisory committee to ensure that the Big Sky Sustainable Water Solutions Forum is reaching goals in set timeline
3. Serve as the liaison between the Big Sky Sustainable Water Solutions Forum and the public

F. OBJECTIVE: Expand the Big Sky Water Conservation program

GOALS ADDRESSED: 3, 4, 5, 7

TIMEFRAME: Ongoing

RESULTS: Expanded water conservation program for the Big Sky community that reduces outdoor irrigation water use, commercial water use, and addresses future development.

ACTION STEPS:

1. Work with community partners (Bozeman Water Conservation Program, resort areas, Big Sky Water and Sewer District, HOA's etc.) to expand the Big Sky Water Conservation Program
2. Develop and disseminate water conservation program information to the public

G. OBJECTIVE: Collaborate with local, regional and state organizations with similar goals.

GOALS ADDRESSED: 2, 3, 4, 6, and 7

TIMEFRAME: Throughout the year

RESULTS: Strong relationships and trust among watershed partners. Mobilization of shared resources to accomplish goals

ACTION STEPS:

1. Coordinate data collection and activities in Upper Gallatin Watershed with university level researchers and students
2. Participate in Montana Watershed Coordination Council's training programs if applicable
3. Work with the Gallatin Local Water Quality District (GLWQD) to develop and implement projects in the Big Sky area
4. Participate in the Missouri Headwaters Partnership (quarterly and annual meetings)
5. Keep up to date on Greater Gallatin Watershed Council activities and collaborate whenever possible
6. Collaborate with the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology on the Groundwater Investigation Program study in the Meadow Village

7. Partner with the Custer Gallatin National Forest to fundraise and develop partnerships to support the Moose Creek Restoration project and to develop additional restoration projects at other river access sites along the Upper Gallatin corridor
 - a. Oversee implementation of the Moose Creek Restoration Project
 - b. Develop plans for restoration projects at Deer Creek and Baetis Alley
8. Collaborate with Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, the Custer-Gallatin National Forest and other partners to develop Westslope Cutthroat Trout restoration projects
9. Attend the Montana Nonprofit Association annual conference in September or other similar training opportunities
10. Partner with Montanans for Healthy Rivers to promote the designation of the Upper Gallatin River, Taylor Fork, and Porcupine Creek as Wild and Scenic
11. Collaborate with Adventurers and Scientists for Conservation on the Gallatin Watershed Microplastics project

H. OBJECTIVE: Conduct regular community outreach and educational events

GOALS ADDRESSED: 1-7

TIMEFRAME: Throughout the year

RESULTS: Increase community awareness, volunteers and donations

ACTION STEPS:

1. Implement Task Force Communications Plan
2. Conduct service-learning projects in the Big Sky School District that will include "Trout in the Classroom" with the Ophir School 2nd grade class and watershed educational activities for the Ophir School 4th Grade class

3. Host educational booth at weekly Big Sky Farmer's Market
4. Conduct educational programs at local camps
5. Develop and implement adult educational workshops (Realtors, Builders etc.)