

Report for July, 2012 EQC – TMDL development progress and schedule

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Introduction – What is a TMDL?

A Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) is a pollution budget that describes the maximum amount of a pollutant that a water body can assimilate and still meet water quality standards. A TMDL is comprised of Waste load Allocations (WLA) to describe the portion of that pollutant load that can be attributed to regulated (point source) discharges and Load Allocations (LA) describing the portion of that pollutant that can be attributed to unregulated (non-point source) plus the natural load and a margin of safety.

Progress and schedule for completion

Amendments to 75-5-702(3) MCA enacted in the 62nd Montana Legislature included a provision for the Department to , “establish a schedule that provides a reasonable timeframe for TMDL development for impaired and threatened water bodies that are on the most recent list prepared pursuant to 75-5-702.” In addition, the amendments require that the department report to EQC, “the progress in completing TMDLs and the current schedule for completion of TMDLs for the water bodies that remain on the list.”

Following is a general summary of long term, recent, and projected TMDL development progress by calendar year.

Total EPA approved TMDLs (1998 to Present) = 862

Recent EPA approved TMDLs

- 2011 = 135
- 2012 = 63 (to June 2012)

TMDL pace projection to 2014¹

- 2012 = 243 (includes 63 completed to date)
- 2013 = 175
- 2014 = 172

Number of pollutant listings as of 2012 = 1582²

Estimated number of pollutant listings remaining at 2014 = ~1000

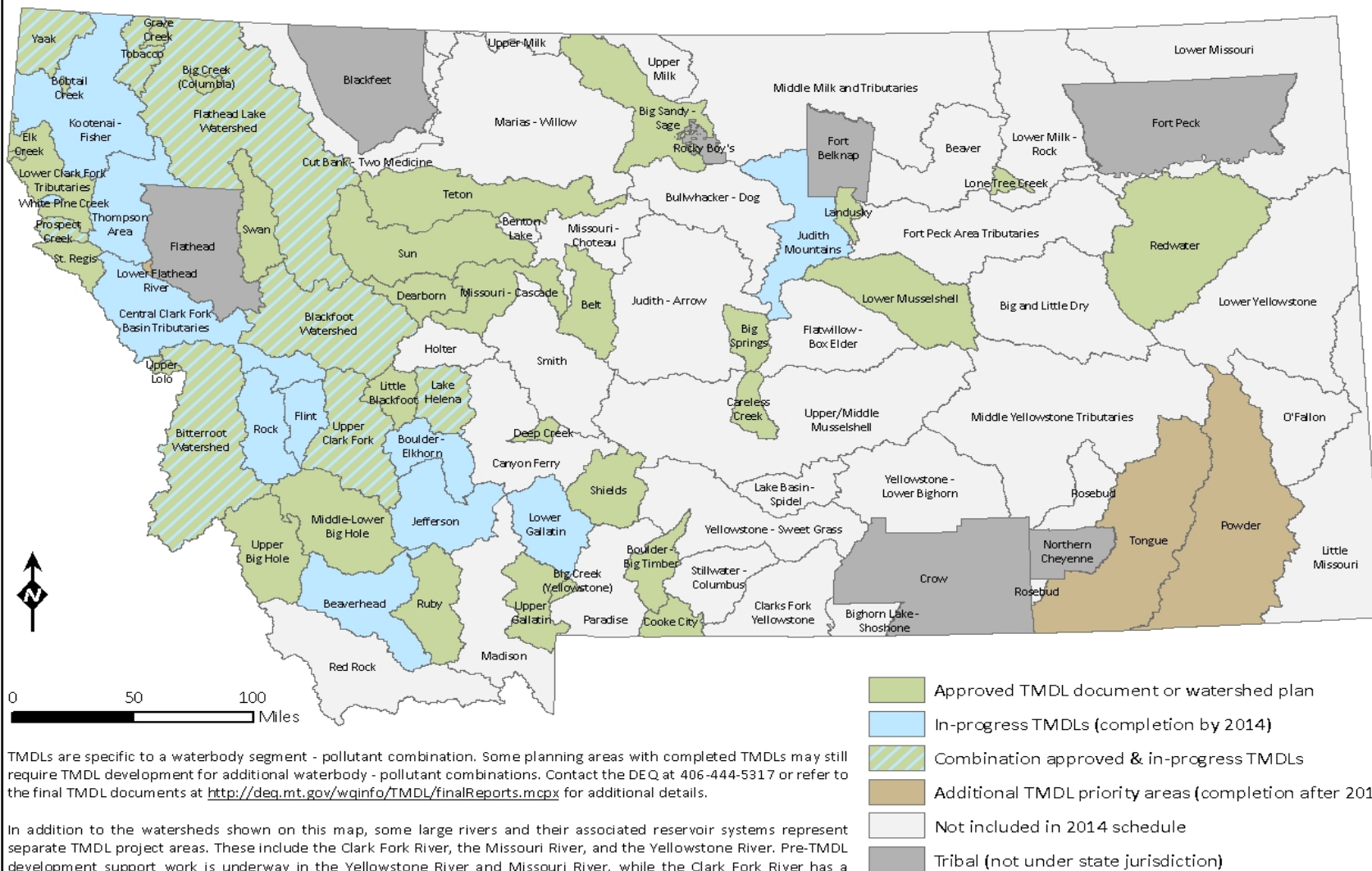
Annual pace beyond 2014 = ~100/year

For visual reference, a map of the Montana TMDL Project Areas and completion schedule to 2014 is provided on the back of this fact sheet. Specifics of these projects may be accessed via the Department’s TMDL development webpage at http://deq.mt.gov/wqinfo/TMDL/tmdl_inprogress.mcp

¹ Projects to 2014 reflect an [amended judgment](#) with Friends of the Wild Swan. [Appendix A](#) is the list of 664 waters and pollutants agreed to by both parties.

² Montana 2012, Final Water Quality Integrated Report, Appendix B available online at <http://cwaic.mt.gov/>

Montana TMDL Project Areas & 2014 TMDL Completion Schedule



TMDLs are specific to a waterbody segment - pollutant combination. Some planning areas with completed TMDLs may still require TMDL development for additional waterbody - pollutant combinations. Contact the DEQ at 406-444-5317 or refer to the final TMDL documents at <http://deg.mt.gov/wqinfo/TMDL/finalReports.mcpx> for additional details.

In addition to the watersheds shown on this map, some large rivers and their associated reservoir systems represent separate TMDL project areas. These include the Clark Fork River, the Missouri River, and the Yellowstone River. Pre-TMDL development support work is underway in the Yellowstone River and Missouri River, while the Clark Fork River has a combination of approved and in-progress TMDLs.

Map updated 5/30/2012