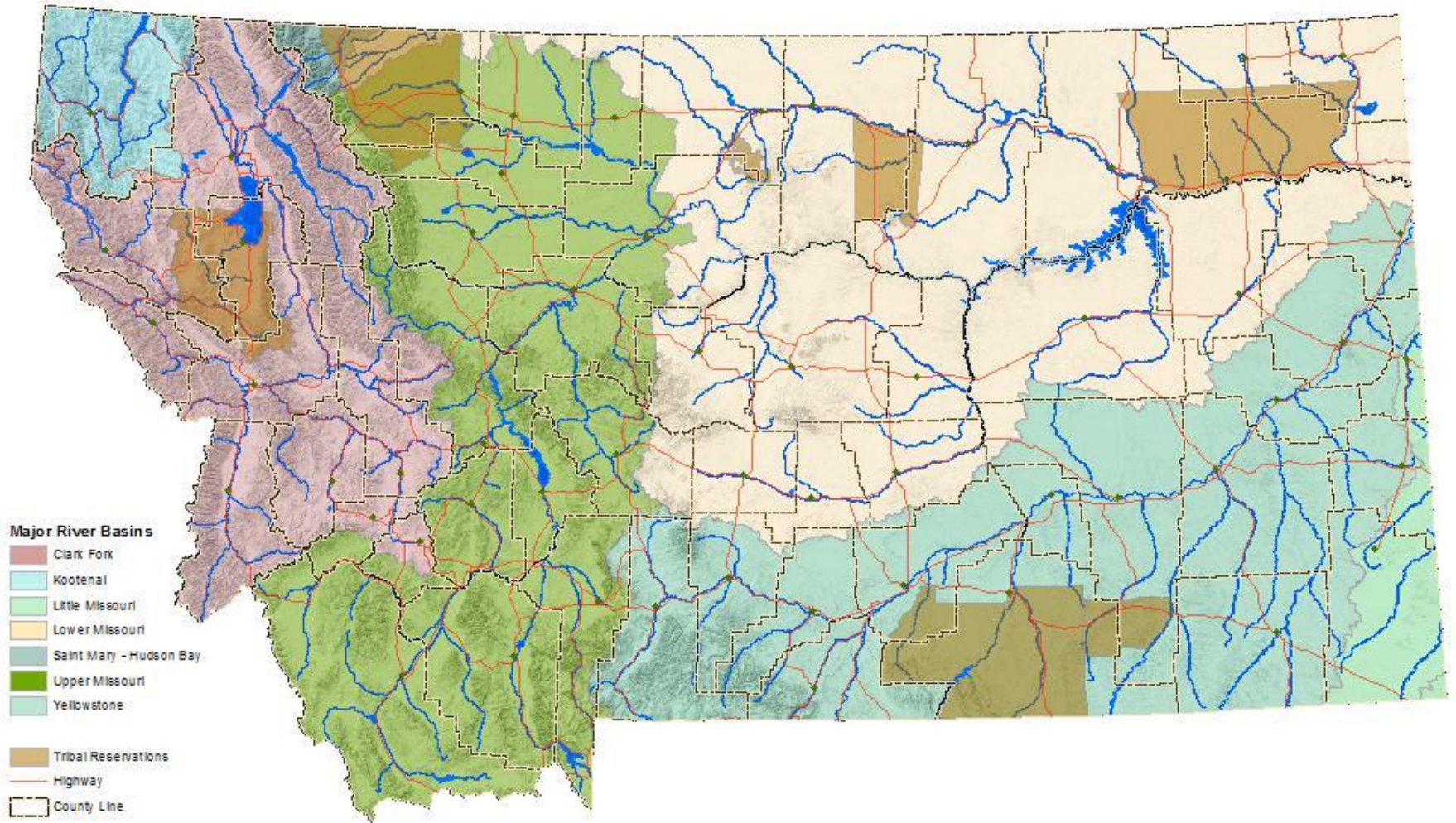


Clark Fork & Kootenai River Basins Council



CLARK FORK & KOOTENAI RIVER
BASINS COUNCIL

Montana Major River Basins



Water Planning

- The West (and Montana!) is growing in population.
- Our water resources are fully appropriated – in Montana and all other western states.
- We need to plan for:
 - New and changing demands for water,
 - Improving and maintaining watershed and waterway health,
 - Impacts of development, patterns of water and land use, and a changing climate regime on the hydrologic system and processes that drive ecological functions and provide ecosystem services.

Formation of the Council

- Clark Fork Task Force members who completed the 2014 Basins Water Plan faced two issues:
 - Lack of funded support from the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation
 - A desire to engage in Plan implementation
- With assistance from the Montana Watershed Coordination Council and Bonneville Environmental Foundation, Task Force members “revised” the Task Force as a “basins council” to serve as a regional coordination entity that would pursue plan implementation and more.

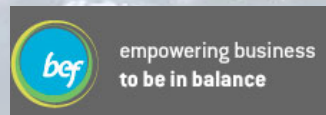
The Council's Structure & Function

- Best articulated in the Council's Charter
 - <http://cfkrbc.org/about/charter/>



Benefactors/Partners

- Montana Watershed Coordination Council
 - <https://mtwatersheds.org/app/>
- Bonneville Environmental Foundation
 - <http://www.b-e-f.org/>
- Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation
 - Watershed Management Grant 2018-2019
- UM Department of Geography
- UM Office of Research & Creative Scholarship
- UM Watershed Health Clinic – Vicki Watson!
 - <http://cas.umt.edu/watershedclinic/>



Work Groups

- Ensuring Natural Systems Health & Water Availability
 - Healthy Watersheds are Essential for Water Quality and Water Availability (for Ecological Functions, for Communities, for the Future)!
- Communications
 - How to Effectively Network?
- Data Sleuthing (& Reporting!)
 - How to Document Improvements in Watershed Conditions and Water Availability?

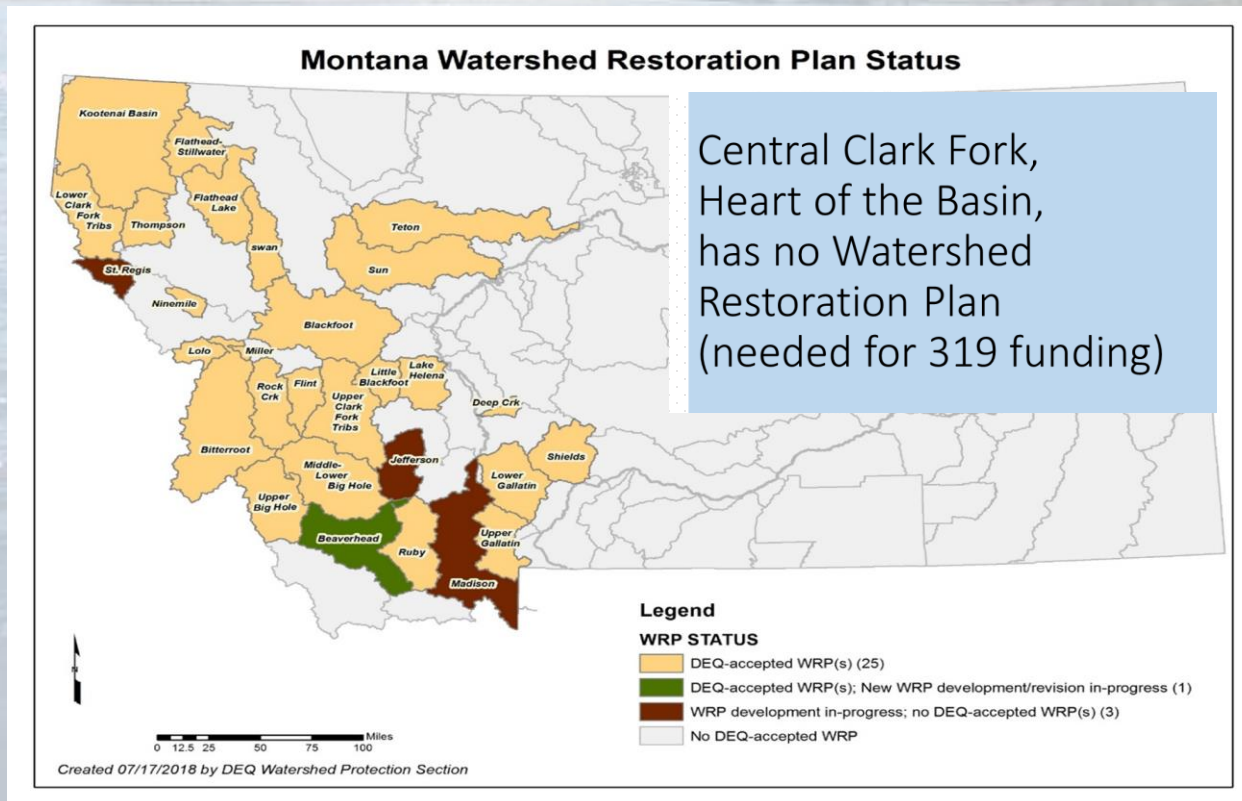
Natural Systems Health & Water Availability Work Group

- Restoration project awards – funding outreach/communication materials to increase visibility of outstanding projects
 - Lincoln County Conservation District
 - Big Blackfoot Chapter of Trout Unlimited
 - Granite Headwaters Watershed Group



Natural Systems Health & Water Availability Work Group

- Developing a Watershed Restoration Plan for the Central Clark Fork basin
 - <https://clarkfork.org/our-work/what-we-do/monitor-watershed-health/central-clark-fork-wrp/>



Moving Forward

- Council and DNRC Re-engaging on Plan Implementation Work
- Annual Meeting to Come
- How Can You Be Involved?
 - Give Me Your Contact Information – Will Add you to Our Mailing List
 - Attend our Next Annual Meeting
 - Join a Working Group
 - Consider Serving on Executive Committee – Especially if you Represent a Watershed or Community-Based Organization

