



Teton Watershed

By: Teton River Watershed Group

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Teton Watershed

- Teton River Watershed Group facts
- Past accomplishments
- Watershed facts
- What next
- Conclusion

Teton River Watershed Group Facts

Started in 1994

The Teton River Watershed Group is a collaborative, locally-directed group of interested individuals, organizations, and agencies dedicated to monitoring, improving and maintaining the quality of the natural resources within the Teton River Basin.

Primary issues work on:

- Weeds
- Water quality
- Water quantity

TRWG Facts

- Group meets monthly to discuss:
 - Budget
 - Projects
 - Education programs
 - Needs



Annual meeting - every January



**Discuss key topics
important to all
landowners in the
watershed**



TRWG Facts

Partners in the watershed effort

Any interested landowner, agency and group that is willing to work from a collaborative approach

Few Past Accomplishments

- Survey to every landowner along the Teton River for initial priorities and direction
- Aerial survey of Teton River and tributaries that assessed conditions at that time
- On-the-ground assessment and survey of all major diversions in upper Teton
- Annual weed programs
 - Workshops
 - Tours
 - Spray days
 - Bug collection days
 - Cost-share grants for chemicals

Few Past Accomplishments

- Workshops and tours on useful programs and new ideas
- Stream projects to improve water quality
- Quarterly newsletters about watershed issues
- Installed and maintain 2 USGS gauges to help with water quality and quantity facts
- Ground water assessment of critical aquifer
- Salinity study to help landowners participate Farm Programs

Watershed Facts

- In Chouteau, Teton & Pondera Counties
- 837,000 acres
- Major communities: Choteau, Dutton and Fort Benton



Watershed Facts

- Originates east of continental divide of the Rocky Mountain Front and south of Glacier National Park



Flows for approximately 110 miles to the Marias River near Loma



Watershed Facts

Primary Ownership:

● Private	625,750 acres
● US Forest Service	112,640 acres
● MT State Lands	75,520 acres
● US BLM	14,720 acres
● Urban	8,370 acres

Watershed Facts

Primary Land Use:

● Rangeland	340,000 acres	43%
● Cropland	296,000 acres	36%
● Hayland/pasture	100,000 acres	12%
● Forested	96,000 acres	11%
● Farmsteads	1,700 acres	
● Urban	1,700 acres	
● Transportation	1,300 acres	

Diverse and changing system



Choteau – 1964 flood



Post-flood





Stream bank work using Christmas trees and volunteers



Bug collection with experts



Water Quality Monitoring



Education programs



Past Annual Meetings

- Early on was about water quality and noxious weeds
- Then on to the tough one – water quantity, not enough to go around
- Brought in DNRC to explain about water rights and adjudication
- Then Musselshell landowner and Water Court
- Then DNRC and Water Court again
- Then DNRC for another update

Our annual meetings are about getting the facts out, not taking sides. Is that possible, depends upon who you talk to. But for the record on water rights, we only support a quick and legal resolution to the current water adjudication process

What Next?

- Continue water quality and quantity monitoring to document changes
- Aggressively fight noxious weeds
- Community outreach and education
- Improvements in water quality
- Improvements in water quantity where agreeable
- Long-term solutions, through teamwork

Conclusion

Teton River Watershed Group facts

- Past accomplishments
 - Watershed facts
 - What next
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- Our team is only as strong as the participants.
 - With continued involvement, we will do good things BUT will not solve all problems.