



Montana Drought Management Plan

Update for Water Policy Interim
Committee

Valerie Kurth, DNRC

March 16, 2022

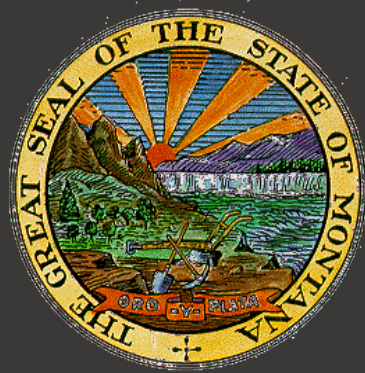
Vision: Build statewide drought resilience

- Stakeholder involvement
 - Recommendations for programs, policies, and actions to lessen future impacts
 - Modern, progressive plan that is accessible, engaging, and actionable
-

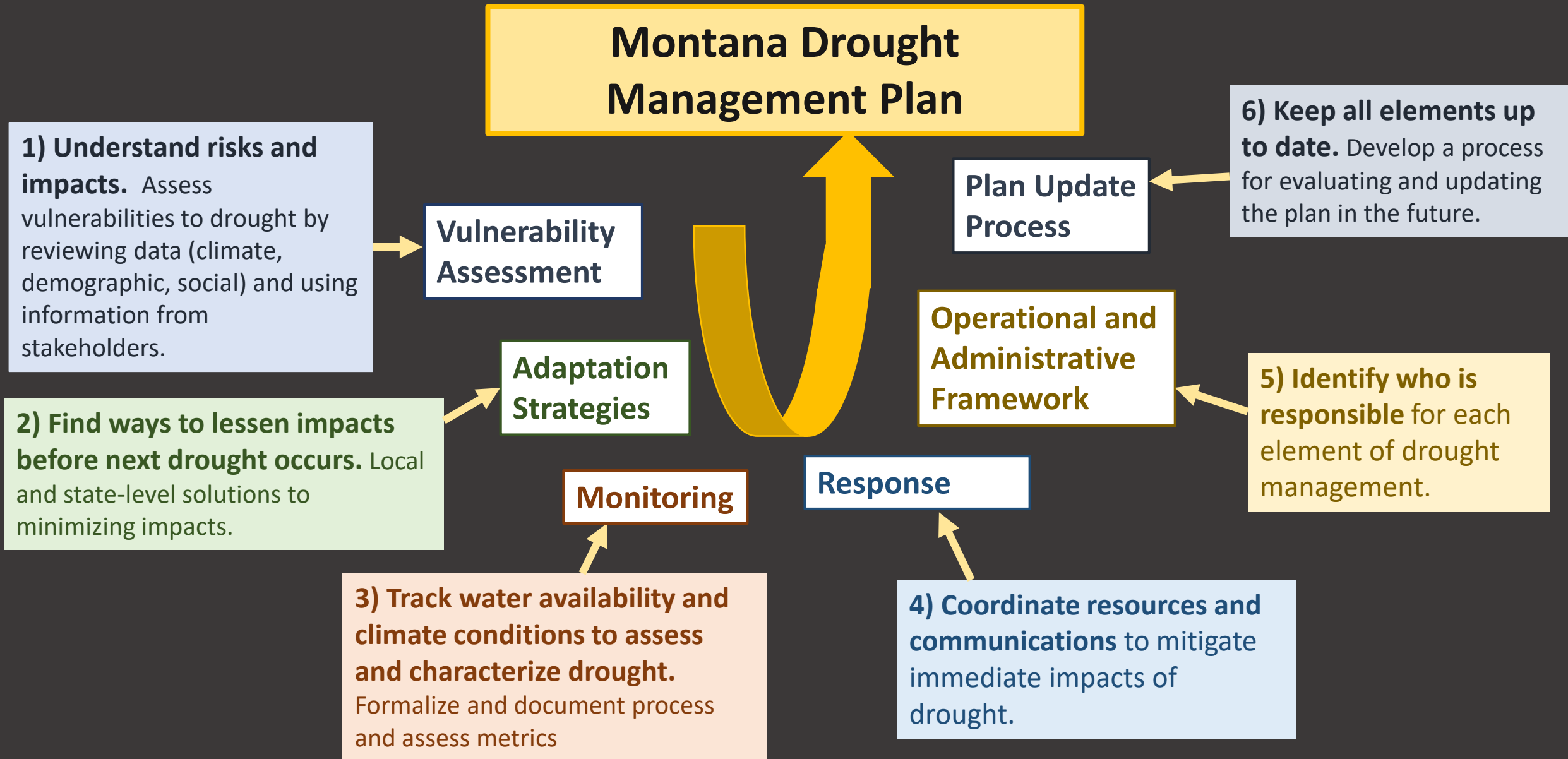


Funding

- \$100K from 2019 legislature
- \$200K from Bureau of Reclamation
- \$400K total budget (includes in-kind DNRC staff time)



How do we plan and manage for drought?



Drought planning starts with people

Drought Task Force

State agency reps (DWSAC)

- Oversees planning process
- Facilitates communication with agency



Regional stakeholders

Water use sector reps

Public

Advisors

Technical guidance
Management partners

Contractors

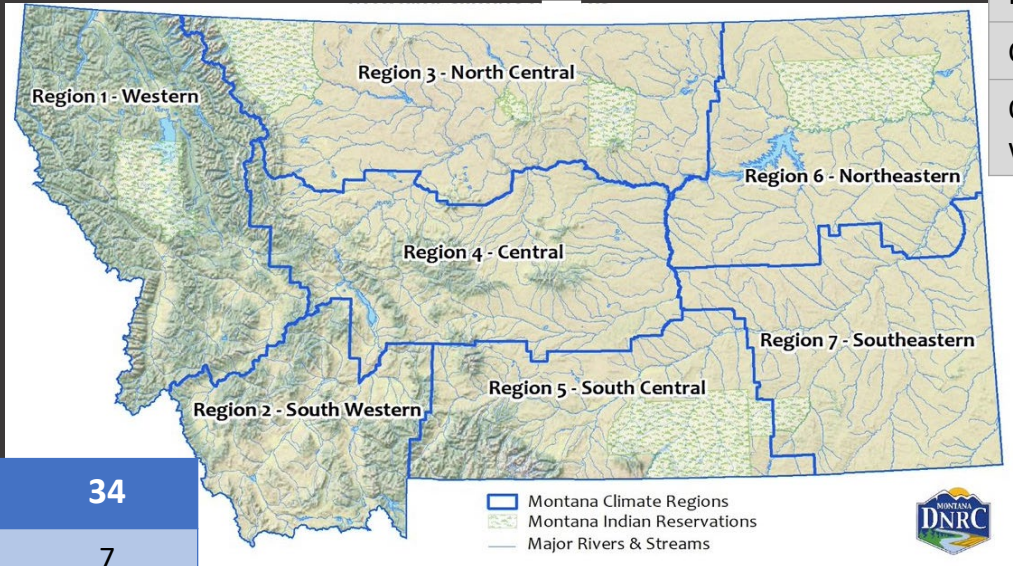
Meeting facilitation,
monitoring, vulnerability
assessment, response

MTDroughtinfo.org

Region 1 - Western	23
Agriculture and irrigation	7
Forest management and products	2
Hydropower	2
Recreation/tourism	1
Public supply/domestic	3
Conservation/fisheries/wildlife	4
Other (local experts, citizens, water users)	4

Region 3 – North Central	11
Agriculture – irrigated	1
Agriculture – dryland	6
Agriculture – both	3
Public supply/domestic	1

Region 4 – Central	25
Agriculture – irrigated	6
Agriculture – dryland	4
Agriculture – both	7
Hydropower	1
Public supply/domestic	2
Conservation/fisheries/wildlife	2
Other (local experts, citizens, water users)	3



Region 2 – South Western	34
Agriculture - irrigated	7
Agriculture – irrigated and dryland	5
Hydropower	1
Recreation/tourism	4
Public supply/domestic	2
Conservation/fisheries/wildlife	9
Industrial/mining	1
Other (local experts, citizens, water users)	5

Region 5 – South Central	17
Agriculture – irrigated	1
Agriculture – irrigated and dryland	4
Recreation/tourism	2
Public supply/domestic	2
Conservation/fisheries/wildlife	5
Other (local experts, citizens, water users)	3

Region 6 – Northeastern	11
Agriculture – dryland	7
Agriculture – irrigated and dryland	2
Other (local experts, citizens, water users)	2

Region 7 – Southeastern	6
Agriculture – irrigated	2
Agriculture – dryland	1
Agriculture – both	2
Public supply/domestic	1

Tasks and Status

Preparation, outreach, and oversight

- Development of work plan (done)
- Establishment of Drought Task Force and Stakeholder Groups (done)
- Meetings and outreach (ongoing)

Monitoring

- Evaluation of indices and indicators (draft will be available soon)
- Development of new indices (Standardized SWE done, precipitation timing index will be operational soon)
- Document monitoring process (in progress)

Response Actions/Operational and Administrative Framework

- Review of 1995 plan (in progress)
- Revisions and updates (in progress)

Vulnerability Assessment

- Stakeholder meeting (March 2022)
- Data collection and analysis (in progress)

Adaptation Strategies

- Solicitation of strategies and other recommendations from stakeholders and Task Force (Fall 2022)

Draft plan and associated products (Early 2023)



Valerie Kurth
Regional Water Planner
Water Resources Division – DNRC
vkurth@mt.gov/444-6627