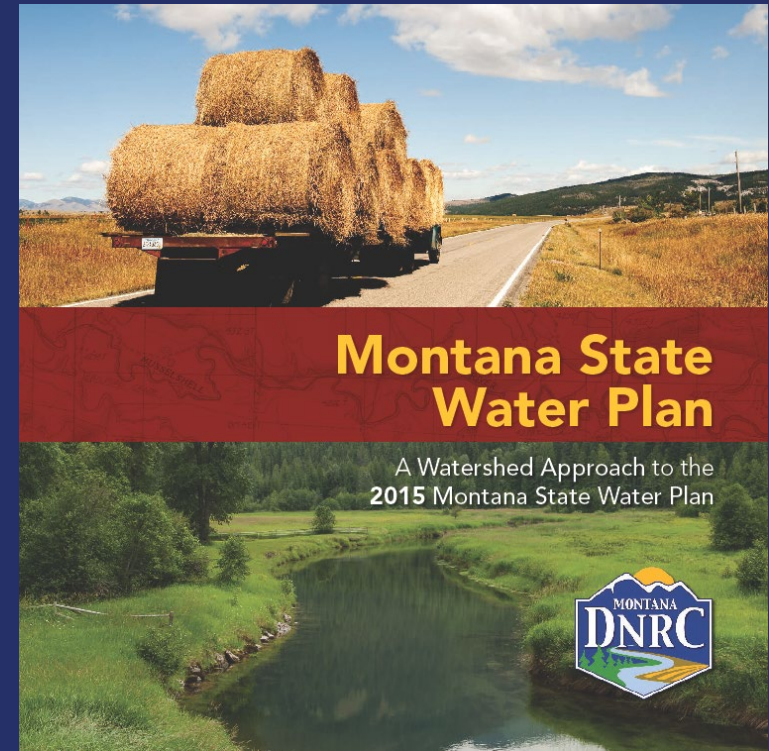


# Implementation of 2015 Montana State Water Plan

Montana Water Policy Interim Committee  
Helena, MT  
March 16, 2022

Paul Azevedo  
Water Management Bureau  
Montana Dept. of Natural Resources and Conservation



# *1973 Water Resources Act - §85-1-203 MCA*

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“The department shall formulate and adopt and amend, extend or add to a comprehensive coordinated multiple-use water resources plan know as the “state water plan””

....“The state water plan must set out a progressive program for the conservation, development, and utilization, and sustainability of the state's water resources ....”

....“The department shall create basin advisory councils”

....“updated at least every 20 years”



# Planning Process

Four Basin Advisory Councils

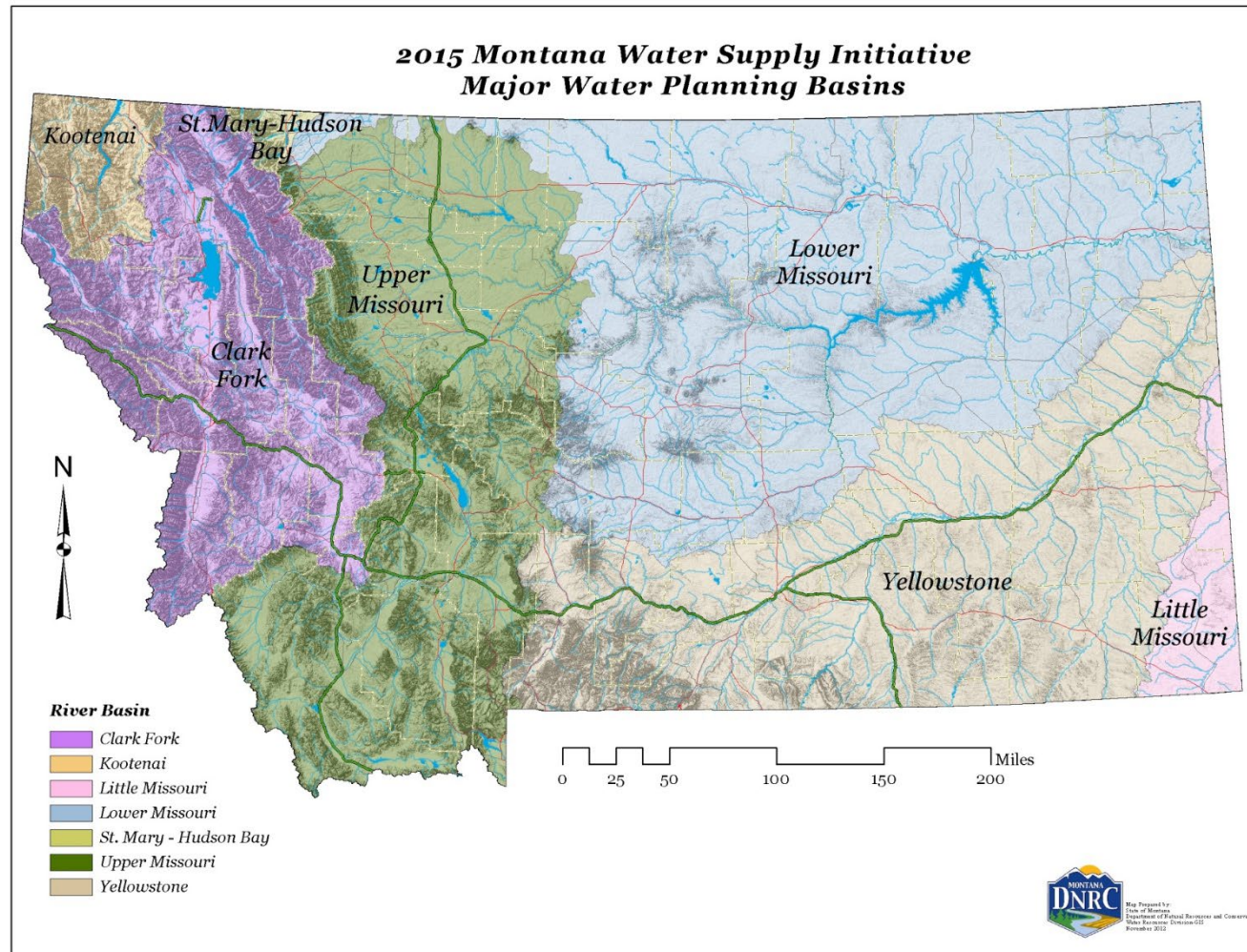
Facilitator for each BAC

Technical Advisory Committees

18-month planning process

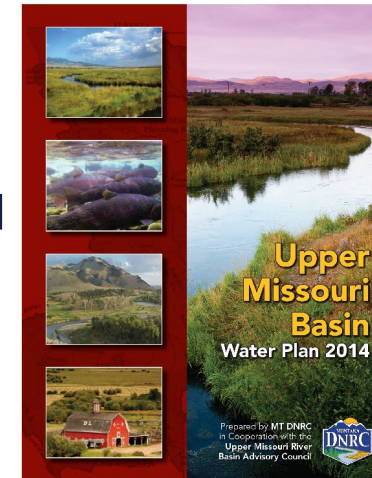
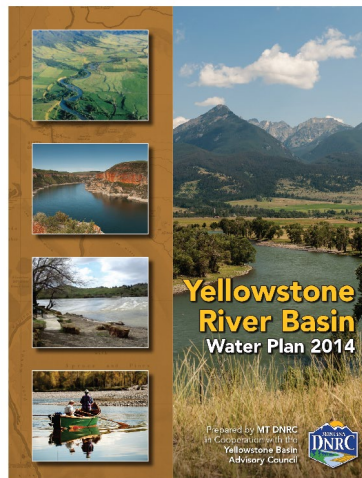
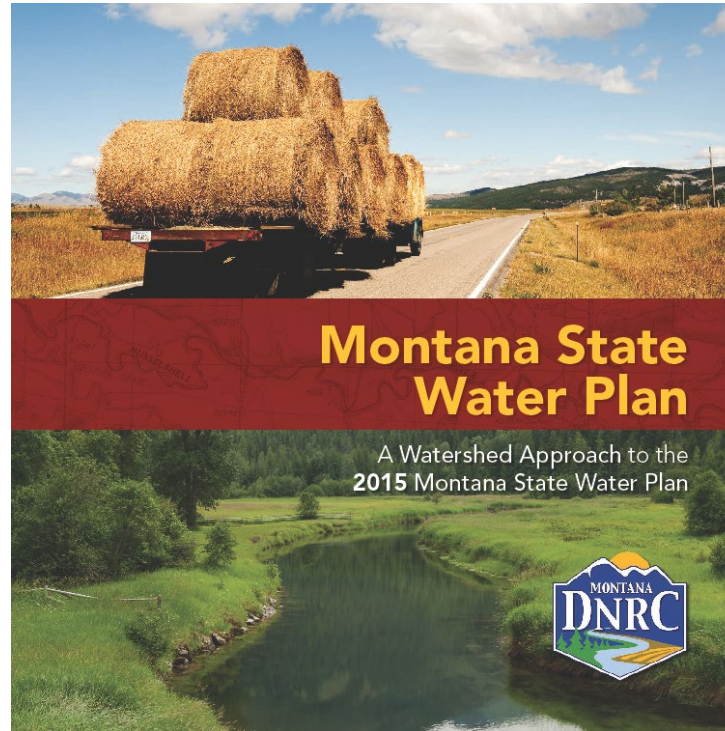
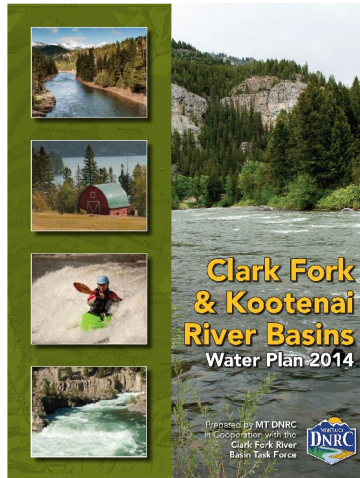
Four Basin Plans

Public meetings





# 2015 State Water Plan



# Recommendations

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209 Recommendations from Basin Plans

68 Recommendations in State Water Plan

- ❖ Water Supply and Demand
- ❖ Water Use Administration
- ❖ Water Information
- ❖ Ecological Health and Environment
- ❖ Collaborative Water Planning and Coordination

Aspirational vs Prescriptive

Guide for state water policy and management



# Implementation

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## Progress

- ❖ 6 – Completed
- ❖ 55 – Initiated or soon to be.
- ❖ 7 – No activity

## Resource Limitations

## Opportunistic

## Nonstrategic





# Comprehensive Water Review

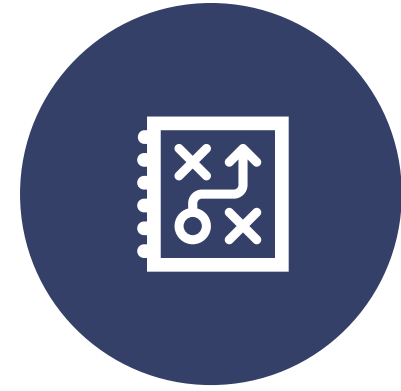
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LISTENING SESSIONS



KEY CHALLENGES



STRATEGIC



State Water Plan Recommendations	Comprehensive Water Review Key Challenges
<b>Water Supply and Demand</b>	#3 – Changes, Mitigation & Exceptions #4 – Drought Management
<b>Water Use Administration</b>	#1 – Final Decree Transition #3 – Changes, Mitigation & Exceptions #4 – Drought Management
<b>Water Information</b>	#3 – Changes, Mitigation, & Exemptions #4 – Drought Management #6 – Water Rights Query System #7 – Water Division Website
<b>Ecological Health and Environment</b>	#3 – Changes, Mitigation, & Exemptions
<b>Collaborative Water Planning and Coordination</b>	#3 – Changes, Mitigation, & Exemptions #4 – Drought Management #5 – Stakeholder Engagement, Outreach & Education #7 – Water Division Website





# Questions from the Committee?

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## State Water Plan

<http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/water/management/state-water-plan>

## Regional Basin Plans

<http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/water/management/regional-river-basin-information>

## Comprehensive Water Review

<https://comprehensivewaterreview.mtdnrc.gov/>

