

The Central Clark Fork (CCF) River basin needs a WRP to apply for certain restoration funds (319 funds address nonpoint source pollution under the Clean Water Act).

The CCF is almost the only part of the basin that does not have a WRP --see map at this website:

<http://deq.mt.gov/water/surfacewater/watershedrestoration>

Stewards of the Central Clark Fork have completed many restoration projects with other funding. For example, since 2000, FWP, TU, & USFS working together have carried out over 70 restoration projects, involving about 30 creeks in the CCF. Msl city & county have conducted riparian restoration projects in parks and improved storm water runoff. Missoula CD has provided funds for channel migration zone mapping, fish passage improvement, preparation for dam removal on Rattlesnake Creek.

But much remains to be done, and another source of funding (like 319 funds) will help.

So interested citizens working with the Clark Fork Kootenai River Basin Council started the process of developing a CCF WRP in fall 2018. The following has been done.

Created a web site: www.tinyurl.com/CentralClarkForkWRP ;

summarized key documents; started collecting surveys from interested citizens; had one stakeholder meeting in November (focused on professional watershed stewards); gathered ideas from them (especially on completed and ongoing projects, & next set of high priority projects).

Now reaching out to a wider audience with stakeholder meetings, meetings with individual landowners, tabling at events. Feedback from these meetings produced the list of Central Clark Fork Basin Waterbodies of Concern (see table).

What's in a WRP ? -- EPA & DEQ provide guidance ([at DEQ's Watershed Restoration web site](#))

1...Identify Health Goals for Waterbodies of interest & relate to:

Current use impairments, causes & sources of impairments, and future threats

2...For impaired waterbodies—Estimate load reductions of pollutants (& other actions to address non-pollutant problems) needed to achieve water quality standards (& other goals)..

3... Describe NPS management actions needed to achieve load reductions &/or address other causes of impairments

Most of the above addressed in TMDLs completed for the basin. WRP will summarize above & also address:

4... Estimate technical & financial assistance needed to implement management actions.

5... Describe education/outreach plan to encourage public participation in designing/doing actions.

6... Present a reasonable schedule for implementing the management actions.

7... List Milestones to gauge progress in implementing the management actions.

8...Specify Criteria to assess how well actions are reducing loads & improving water quality .

9...Describe monitoring plan to evaluate improvements based on the criteria above.

Central Clark Fork Basin Waterbodies of Concern

(first list identified 2/2019)

Identified as a concern by

updated June 2019

Comments or TMDL or other planning document

waterbody	county	nearest town	DEQ	FWP	Msl	Msl	for this waterbody
				TU, FS	cty	CD	
Clark Fork	all 4 counties *		4A	x	M	CD	CF VNRP, SBC-CF metals TMDL
Deep	Granite	Bearmouth	4A				CCF Tributaries TMDL; trib to Bear
Mulkey	Granite	Bearmouth	4A				CCF Tributaries TMDL
Rattler Gulch	Granite	Drummond	4A				CCF Tributaries TMDL
Tenmile	Granite	Bearmouth	4A				CCF Tributaries TMDL; trib to Bear
Albert	Missoula	Frenchtown		x			across river from pulp mill
Butler	Missoula	Missoula		x	M		
Cramer	Msla&Gran	Bonita (Clinton)	4A	x	M		CCF Tributaries TMDL
Deer	Missoula	E. Missoula		x			
Grant	Missoula	Missoula	4A	x	M		CCF Tributaries TMDL
Lavalle	Missoula	Missoula		x	M		
Marshall	Missoula	Missoula		x			
Mill	Missoula	Frenchtown	4C	x			(CCF Tributaries TMDL)
Petty	Missoula	Alberton	4A	x			CCF Tributaries TMDL
Petty, WF	Missoula	Alberton	4A				CCF Tributaries TMDL
Rattlesnake	Missoula	Missoula	4C	x	M	CD	(CCF Tributaries TMDL)
Rock-T	Missoula	Tarkio		x			(CCF Tributaries TMDL, fully supporting ?)
Rock-F	Missoula	Frenchtown		x			(CCF Tributaries TMDL, fully supporting ?)
Sixmile	Missoula	Huson	4C	x			(CCF Tributaries TMDL)
Swartz	Missoula	Clinton		x			
Wallace	Missoula	Clinton	4A		M		Bonita-Superior Metals TMDL
Cedar	Mineral	Superior	4C	x			(CCF Tributaries TMDL)
Dry	Mineral	St. Regis	4A	x			CCF Tributaries TMDL
Fish	Mineral	Alberton	4C	x			(CCF Tributaries TMDL)
Flat	Mineral	Superior	4A	x			CCF Tributaries TMDL
Hall Gulch	Mineral	Superior	4A				Bonita-Superior Metals TMDL. Trib to Flat Cr.
Nemote	Mineral	Tarkio	4A	x			CCF Tributaries TMDL
Tamarack	Mineral	St Regis	4C	x			(CCF Tributaries TMDL)
Trout	Mineral	Superior	4A	x			CCF Tributaries TMDL
Total=30			21	22	8	2	

4A -- DEQ identified this water body as impaired by a pollutant; a TMDL has been approved

4C -- DEQ indicates this waterbody is impaired by non-pollutants (habitat), no TMDL prepared

x -- MFWP, MT Trout Unltd & USFS identified this stream as a restoration priority (Knotek et al)

M -- Missoula city/county agencies identified this creek as a restoration priority

* no tributaries identified in Sanders County

Stakeholder meeting (4/19) added: Quartz, Meadow, Harvey, Tyler, Oregon Gulch.

CAG meeting (5/19) added O-Keefe

Priorities: Flat, Albert, Fish, Trout, Petty, Grant and the Clark Fork Mainstem

Stony Creek was also ranked high, but is covered by Ninemile Creek WRP

Missoula County proposed including Pattee Cr, but it will be addressed by Bitterroot WRP efforts

FEEDBACK Form

Name: _____ Email: _____

CCF Counties where live/work/play _____

Affiliations: _____

WRP Health Goals : All waterbodies in planning area fully support their beneficial uses & meet water quality standards. Support native fishery and/or other native wildlife. Watershed functions to keep flows and water temperatures within the historic range of behavior. Aquatic invasive species excluded. Avoid or Manage for resilience to future threats.

Do you agree with goals? Yes No Suggested additions or other edits?

Watershed Threats & actions to address in the WRP:

Loss of floodplains and wetlands (natural storage) to development & population growth

Potential for berm failure at old pulp mill's waste ponds, and contamination washed downstream

Invasive species

Climate Change exacerbates development impacts & increases risk of invasive species (manage for resilience)

Do you agree with above list? Yes No Others that should be added?

Based on Handout Table: Central Clark Fork waterbodies of concern, are there other streams to add?

State your top 3 priority creeks/projects and state any suggestions for improving these (use back if needed)

On the back, describe how you (and your affiliated groups) would like to be involved in the WRP process and/or in working on a specific project(s).

Return form to: Vicki Watson, Environmental Studies, University of Montana, Missoula, MT 59812 or

Request an e-version of the form from vicki.watson@umontana.edu