

## **WATER AVAILABILITY**

**Objective:** Groundwater and surface water supply is managed collaboratively and efficiently to support all water uses.

**Goals:**

1. Know how much water we have, need, and use.
2. Consumptive use of water is conserved across all sectors.
3. Irrigation networks are protected and maintained.
4. Water allocations are managed sustainably.
5. Water is retained within the watershed (slow the flow).

**Actions:**

1. Develop an updated water budget.
2. Determine environmental stream flows necessary to support a healthy cold water fishery.
3. Develop a watershed drought plan.
4. Conserve residential consumptive use of water.
  - a. Implement the City of Bozeman Water Conservation and Efficiency Plan.
  - b. Implement permanent outdoor watering restrictions within the City of Bozeman.
  - c. Expand outdoor watering conservation into other cities and towns and Gallatin County.
5. Conserve agricultural consumptive use of water.
6. Conserve commercial consumptive use of water.
7. Create a canal management directory.
8. Update watercourse maps, including rivers, streams, irrigation canals, and stormwater ditches.
9. Invest in off-farm irrigation infrastructure upgrades to benefit water users and watershed health.
10. Coordinate use of irrigation networks during times of drought and deluge.
11. Map prime groundwater recharge areas.
12. Purchase/lease in-stream flow water rights.
13. Explore tools to manage exempt well water use.
14. Develop a Water Bank.

## **WATER QUALITY**

**Objective:** The water quality of groundwater and surface water within the watershed is sufficient to support all designated beneficial uses.

**Goals:**

1. Understand the quality of surface and groundwater, sources of pollution loading, and causes of degradation.
2. Sewage is managed so that it does not cumulatively degrade groundwater and surface water quality.
3. Stormwater is managed so that it does not cumulatively degrade groundwater and surface water quality.
4. Fertilizer is used minimally and efficiently.
5. Livestock manure is in limited direct contact with surface water.

**Actions:**

1. Support the Groundwater and Surface Water Quality Monitoring Network programs.
2. Coordinate sewage management across jurisdictional boundaries.
3. Encourage/incentivize new development to hook up to multiple user systems.
4. Address groundwater and surface water contamination from existing septic systems.
  - a. Develop an on-site sewage disposal risk assessment tool.
  - b. Develop a septic maintenance district for Gallatin County.
  - c. Conduct targeted outreach to Gallatin County residents.
5. Retain nutrients from sewage to be safely reused.
6. Develop and adopt a stormwater management plan for Gallatin County.
7. Support City of Bozeman's stormwater management plan.

## **RESILIENT LANDS**

**Objective:** The ecosystem services of critical natural features are maintained within the watershed.

**Goals:**

1. Agriculture is supported and protected as an important component of land and water stewardship.
2. River and stream corridors are healthy and promote clean water, healthy fish and wildlife populations, reduce the risk of flooding and erosion, and naturally store water.
3. Upland ecosystems, such as forest, grasslands, and their associated wetlands, are healthy and promote natural water storage and clean water.

**Actions:**

1. Incentivize strategic land conservation through easements and deed restriction programs.
2. Map critical/sensitive lands that impact water resources.
3. Improve development standards that centralize growth, limit sprawl, and promote intact open space.
4. Incentivise and invest in agricultural best management practices that protect and improve water quality.
5. Develop watercourse setback recommendations.
6. Develop stewardship projects that enhance stream, river, and wetland health.
7. Remove barriers to fish passage to reconnect fish/spawning habitat.
8. Reduce fuels in the wildland-urban interface.
9. Address conifer encroachment.
10. Develop a local wetland mitigation bank.

## **Notes on actions:**

Apples to apples:

- Actionable.
  - Are these all “tools” that we are taking action on? Or can they be purely actions?
- Actions should be inclusive enough to allow for some flexibility in approach and not so specific that it is just a piece of something that really works as a whole.
- Do not include:
  - Best management practices
  - Guiding principles
  - Actions/tools provided by The Collaborative that help administer collaboration / capacity building
  - Educational tools
  - Research tools