

Montana Drought Demonstration Project

ANN SCHWEND, MT DNRC

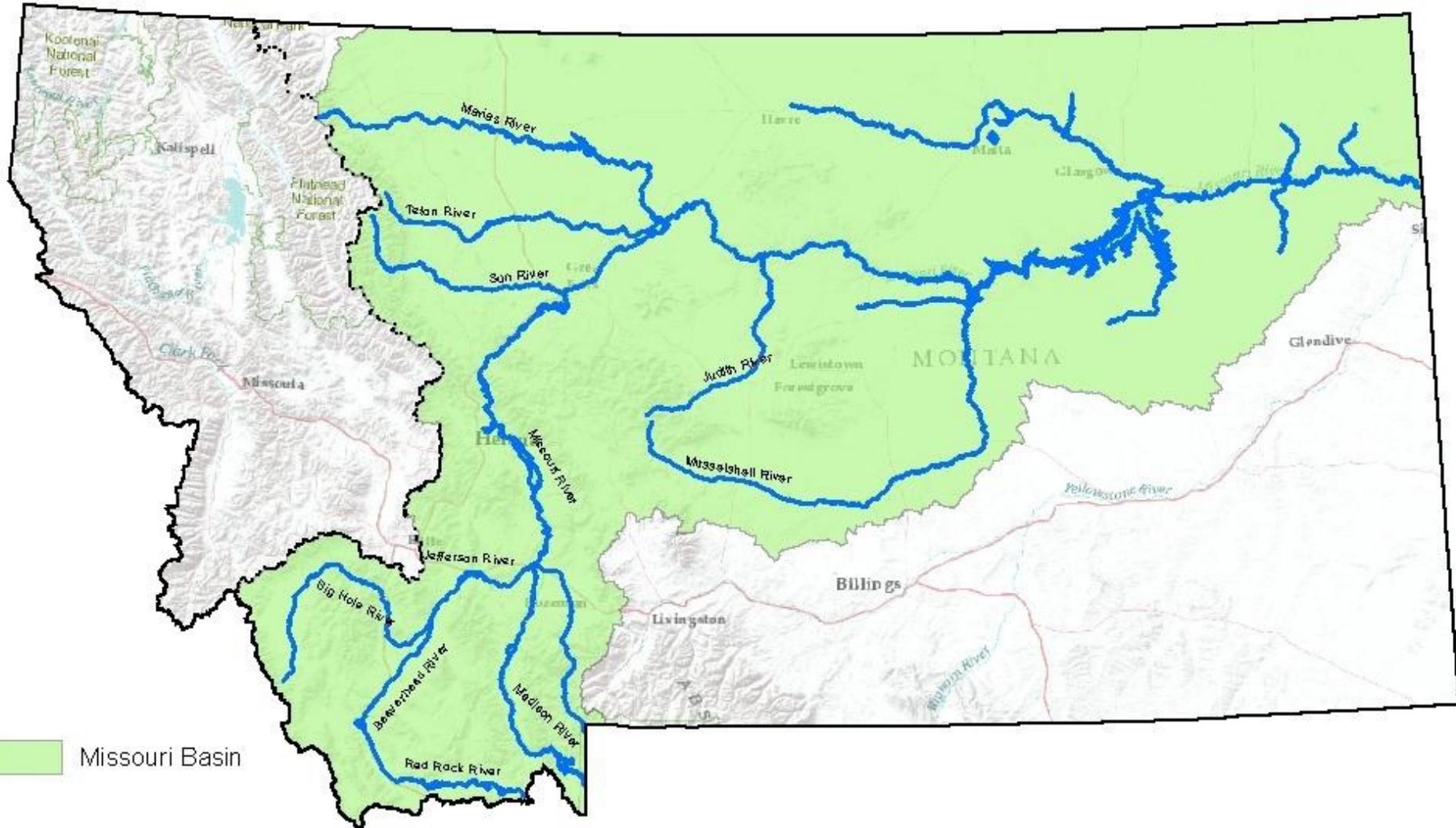
ASCHWEND@MT.GOV

406-444-1806

Background

- National Drought Resiliency Partnership is part of the President's Climate Action Plan
- Montana project to provide “proof of concept” by demonstrating how improved drought mitigation outcomes could be achieved through enhanced coordination of federal agency resources
- Montana's Vision: Successful drought preparation must be:
 - locally-led
 - reflect the water management issues specific to that watershed, and
 - produce on-the-ground results.

Missouri Basin in Montana



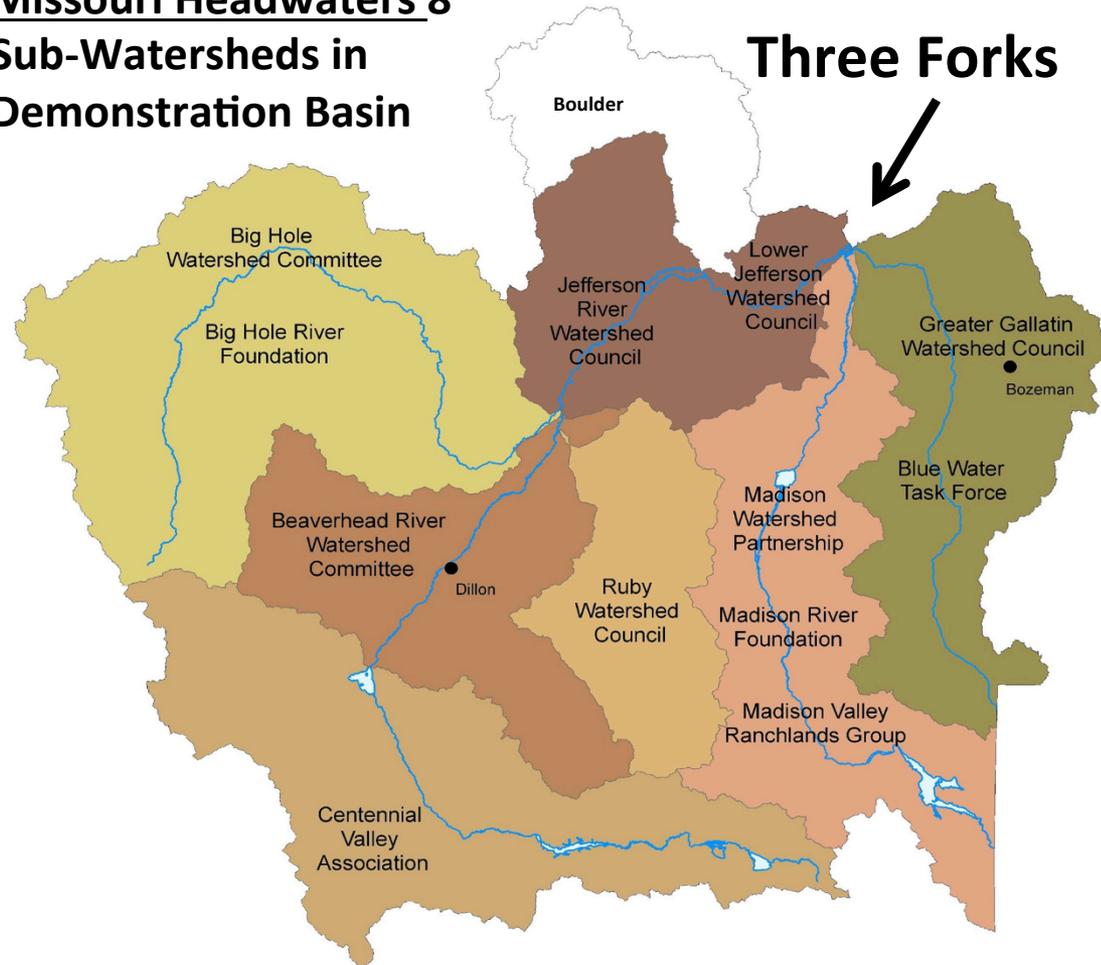
Missouri Basin

NDRP Demonstration Project

Missouri Headwaters 8 Sub-Watersheds in Demonstration Basin

This area selected
by DNRC for the
Demonstration
Project

State has a
number of
outreach and
drought related
activities ongoing
in these
watersheds



Overall Goal

To *leverage multiple resources* to *engage communities* in drought preparedness planning and put forward *implementation* projects that build resiliency in the Missouri Headwaters Basin.



State and Federal Partners

FEMA

NOAA-NIDIS

Office of Climate Change Policy

BOR

US Fish and Wildlife

EPA

BIA

NRCS

USFS

BLM

MT DEQ

MT DNRC

MT FWP

MT Assoc CDs & MWCC

Center for Large Landscape
Conservation

Great Northern Landscape
Conservation Cooperative

Big Sky Watershed AmeriCorps
Program

Challenges/ Opportunities



Challenges:

- Basin mostly closed to new surface water appropriations
- Persistent drought
- Large, mostly rural landscape
- Rapid growth and changing land use
- Improved real time measurement
- Data integration and resolution

Opportunities and Partnerships:

- Strong core of Watershed groups and Conservation Districts
- Big Sky Watershed Corps/Capacity
- State agencies, Basin water planning and water quality
- Great interest in the area

Considerations

- Agriculture / Irrigation
 - Improving irrigation efficiency
 - Fishery vs. agricultural impacts
- Hydropower storage
- Forest management / Fuel management
- Ground water/ surface water interaction
- Endangered species issues (i.e., Arctic grayling)
- Urban issues
 - Drinking water supply
 - Stormwater



2015 Activities

Jan. – Montana Big Sky Watershed Corps (BSWC) members are deployed to their watersheds

Mar. - NOAA, NIDIS and the National Drought Mitigation Center conducted a workshop titled “Building Drought Early Warning Capacity in Montana”. Approximately 50 people attended the 2-day workshop.

Sept. – Workgroup meeting to develop drought resilience workplan

Nov – Finalized project workplan, shared plan with Agency reps in DC.

Workplan Goals

1. Provide Tools for Drought Monitoring, Assessing and Forecasting
2. Develop Local and Regional Capacity to Plan for Drought
3. Implement Local Projects to Build Regional Drought Resiliency



2016 Activities

- Missouri Headwaters Drought Ready Communities Course
- Assist groups with developing local drought plans
- Establish a drought monitoring workgroup
- Work with federal and state partners to link to existing planning / mitigation planning efforts (i.e., PDMs & hazard mitigation plans)
- Develop communication materials/tools on drought conditions that can be used at the regional and local level
- Identify on-the-ground projects that build resiliency

