

Appendix A. Conservation strategies and projects suggested by small working groups at the Critical Lands Workshop on May 7. What practical and innovative strategies, interventions, projects, or actions should we undertake in the next 1 - 5 years to protect and restore critical lands in the North Flathead Valley?

PROMOTE ADOPTION OF POLICIES TO PROTECT WATER QUALITY {15} ¹ [CFBF ² , FL] ³	DEVELOP, IMPLEMENT & PROMOTE SPECIFIC LAND PROTECTION AND DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS {13} [T.U., FLT, FWP, FBC, FL]	DEVELOP EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AND PROMOTE INCENTIVES TO PROTECT CRITICAL LANDS {6} [FBC, FL]	COORDINATE COMMUNICATION AND PLANNING EFFORTS TO PROTECT CRITICAL LANDS {1}	ENSURE MONTANA RECEIVES A FAIR SHARE OF HYDROPOWER MITIGATION FUNDING {3}
Encourage riparian & shoreline buffer	Complete Weaver Slough Project (purchase of conservation easements)	Develop residential development BMPs	Consolidate existing programs (Clearinghouse)	Implement VARQ flood control at Hungry Horse Dam
Add design standards to subdivision regulations to require application of best available septic systems' technology	Use existing land protection projects as a model for future, larger efforts & develop a strategy anticipating this	Educate & publicize consequences of contamination of shallow aquifers	Use e-mail network to alert group to opportunities to influence policy	Hungry Horse revegetation (BoR)
Septic systems education: maintenance, function, and technology advances	Land & water conservation: Identify projects for easement/acquisition	Voluntary approach to implement conservation practices	Improve enforcement of existing regulations	Hungry Horse mitigation
Ordinance requiring inspection of septic systems Require pumping & performance standards	Promote agricultural & open space zoning on regions of shallow aquifer (Open Space Bond & Ag Heritage Program)	BMPs for road construction & maintenance	Develop monitoring strategy to assess who is doing what, prevent program overlap	Develop BPA Flathead Sub-basin Plan [FWP, BPA/CSKT, FBC]
Support other watershed groups for TMDL development	Demonstration Projects: Riparian revegetation Stream rehabilitation [FBC]	Promote policy incentives to protect critical areas		System Dam operation
Education on storm water management and identify special conditions impacting effectiveness	Aquatic Nuisance Species Program	Educate public to gain support for protecting Critical Lands		
Ensure funding for Ag. Heritage Program to leverage funds for open space and farmland protection	Sekokini Springs: education & demonstration project [FWP, FL]	Education of elected & appointed officials & key decision makers		
Coordinate activities with existing watershed groups	Implement Mountain Lakes Rehabilitation	Public education (based on science & Critical Lands Status Report) to shift attitudes & leadership		
Pursue adoption of riparian corridor protection regulations requiring greater set backs similar to Missoula				
Grass root support for water quality district				
Tie future projects into TMDL \$ sources				
Document compliance and enforcement of water quality regulations				
Promote City-County agreement to require sewer hookup or dry sewerage of developments near towns				
Research wellhead protection				
Evaluate future water quantity demand and sustainable use limits				

¹ Numbers in parenthesis indicate number of people supporting a strategy.

² Abbreviations: CFBF= Citizens for a Better Flathead; FL= Flathead Lakers; T.U.= Trout Unlimited; FLT= Flathead Land Trust; FWP= Dept. of Fish, Wildlife & Parks; FBC= Flathead Basin Commission; CSKT= Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes; TMDL= Total Maximum Daily Load; BPA= Bonneville Power Administration.

³ Names in brackets indicate agencies and organizations willing to work on specific strategies/projects or willing to develop an action plan to prioritize and implement strategies in this category.

Appendix B. Implementation Steps Form

90-DAY IMPLEMENTATION STEPS

DATE: _____

Action Arena/Accomplishment:

90-Day Intent (What and Why?)

Focus on existing projects & identify model projects

Implementation Steps (HOW?)	WHO	WHEN
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10. 11. 12. 13. 14. 		
<p>Coordinator:</p> <p>Team Members:</p>	<p>Collaborators:</p>	<p>Resources: (Budget)</p>

Appendix C. Proposed Project Strategies and Implementation

GROUP I. Land Protection & Demonstration Projects - 90 Day Implementation Steps

Participants: Susan How & Doc Smiley (Flathead Land Trust), Mark Holston (Flathead Basin Commission), and Lynn Ducharme (Bonneville Power Administration /Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes)

Focus on existing projects and identify future model projects.

1. Continue Weaver Slough project

Partnership provides letters of support for NAWCA grant – Due July [note: 30 days]

Who: FLT

When: every day

2. Select next protection/restoration project with high feasibility & high ecological value as described in the Critical Lands Status Report.

Who: Partnership

When: today

3. Conduct outreach in neighborhoods where critical lands have been identified to increase grassroots support during the next three months.

Who: Flathead Lakers

When: next 3 months

4. Initiate a demonstration watershed group in the Mill Creek drainage.

(Partnership meeting/call to assess the possibilities) Recommend that the Flathead Lakers take the lead. Initiate with a neighborhood meeting during the summer.

Who: Partnership, led by Flathead Lakers

When: summer meeting in neighborhood

GROUP II. Protect Riparian Corridors

Participants: Constanza von der Pahlen (Flathead Lakers), Angel Rosario (Natural Resources Conservation Services), Marc Vessar (Department of Natural Resources Conservation), Dan Olson (Trout Unlimited). Mayre Flowers (Citizens for a Better Flathead) had to leave before this task group was formed, but was interested in following up.

1. Work with the Montana Smart Growth Coalition (MSGC) on a proposed Riparian Corridor Bill to improve setbacks in agricultural and urban areas.

Provide suggestions and rationale for legislation, generate members, watershed group and public support, contact local legislators

2. Inform watershed groups about the proposed MSGC Smart Growth bills.

3. Promote NRCS' CRP buffer program.

4. Develop brochure to educate landowners about riparian corridors - problem, solution, and various programs available to landowners. Identify various target audiences: farmers, newcomers, developers, landscapers, real estate brokers.

GROUP III. Reduce Impacts of Septic Systems

Participants: Constanza von der Pahlen (Flathead Lakers), Angel Rosario (NRCS), Marc Vessar (DNRC). Mayre Flowers (Citizens for a Better Flathead) had to leave before this task group was formed, but was interested in following up.

1. Research latest septic systems' technology.

2. Promote adoption of most appropriate septic systems by Counties.

3. Educate landowners about maintenance of septic systems.