



Stewardship Resource Links

Water Resources

Water is a foundational element of our community; our livelihoods and our health is inexorably connected to water quality and ample water quantity. We cannot overlook water's importance. Currently we see increasing droughts and growing population's acting as stressors to both water quantity and quality. These growing pressures require an invigorated commitment to finding well-informed solutions to conserving and enhancing our region's water supplies. Collaborating with agencies that specialize in water use and conservation can help ensure continued availability of high quality water resources in the rivers and streams that we rely upon. Water is also a regulated public resource that requires that we seek permits for management activities that might impact the functioning of natural water systems.



Photo: Lucas Cain

Water Information Sources

[Gallatin Local Water Quality District](#) - GLWQD was established in the early 1990's by Gallatin County to address increasing development pressure on our local water resources; GLWQD is focused on water resources education and water quality monitoring as a means of promoting awareness of water related issues and public health. Contact [Tammy Swinney](#), Manager

[Gallatin Conservation District](#) - GCD's mission is to promote and guide the conservation and management of natural resources in Gallatin County. Contact: info@gallatincd.org or call 406-282-4350

- [Montana Stream Permitting Guide](#)
- [310 Permit Forms](#) and [Permitting Schedule](#)

[Madison Conservation District](#) – MCD works locally to fulfill Montana's policy to conserve soil, water, and other natural resources of the state. MCD programs include water quality, water quantity, stream functioning, watershed planning, education, riparian management, and residential development concerns. Contact: Janet Endecott, Region Supervisor, (406) 682-7289

- [310 Stream Permit Forms and Applications](#)

[Park County Conservation District](#) – Park CD works with private landowners and groups throughout the Upper Yellowstone basin to protect water quality, soil resources, and prepare for development in this rural county. Contact: [Jessica Anderson](#), District Administrator, (406) 222-2899 ext 111

[Shields Valley Watershed Group](#) – Contact: [Jacquie Nelson](#), District Administrator

[Madison Valley Ranchlands Group](#) - MVRG works to protect the ranching way of life and the biologically healthy open spaces of which ranching depends. Contact: [MVRG Staff](#), (406) 682-3259

[Association of Gallatin Agricultural Irrigators](#) – AGAI's mission is to be the guardian and advocate of the Gallatin River system and its historically decreed water rights. AGAI works closely with the agricultural community to track and record current and past agricultural water use history. Contact: [Walt Sales](#), President

Gallatin Valley Land Trust // Phone: (406) 587-8404 // Fax: (406) 582-1136 // Email: info@gvlt.org

Mailing Address: PO Box 7021 Bozeman, MT 59771 // Office location: 212 S. Wallace, Suite 102 Bozeman, MT 59715

[Montana Watershed Coordination Council](#) – MWCC focuses on uniting and supporting Montana’s watershed communities to promote healthy and productive landscapes. Contact: [Kristin Sewak](#), Executive Director

[Blue Water Task Force](#) - BWTF promotes public stewardship of aquatic resources in the Gallatin River Watershed through community education, and citizen involvement in water quality monitoring, scientific data collection, and watershed restoration. BWTF works with local citizens to help monitor water quality in the Gallatin River Drainage.

[DNRC Bozeman Water Resources Regional Division](#) - The Water Resources Division promotes and coordinates the beneficial use, conservation, protection and development of Montana’s water resources. DNRC Water Resources Division can help you research your agricultural water rights.

[USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service](#) – The USDA in combination with the NRCS offers a variety of information regarding water related issues and management techniques.

[MSU Extension Water Quality](#) - The Montana State University Extension Water Quality program works to address the broad spectrum of water quality education and information needs of a diverse audience throughout Montana and its neighboring states through research, extension education, and outreach.

[Greater Gallatin Watershed Council](#) - The mission of the Greater Gallatin Watershed Council is to promote conservation and enhancement of our water resources while supporting the traditions of community, agriculture and recreation.

[Trout Unlimited, Montana Water Project](#) – Trout Unlimited works to protect and restore impaired fisheries throughout Montana. This includes water right leasing, stream restoration, mitigation projects and education. Contact: [Patrick Byorth](#), Director

- [Water Rights in Montana](#) - This paper describes the policy and governance of water rights in Montana as well as describing the various tools that are available for landowners that want to balance the use of their water rights between beneficial wildlife values and agricultural production values. [Private Water Leasing](#) in Montana is also available for landowners that want to dedicate a portion of their water rights to in stream flows to support cold-water fisheries conservation efforts.

Cost Share and Funding Sources

[Agricultural Water Enhancement Program](#) (AWEP) NRCS - The Agricultural Water Enhancement Program is a voluntary conservation initiative that provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers to implement agricultural water enhancement activities on agricultural land to conserve surface and ground water and improve water quality. Contact: [Kris Berg](#), Program Specialist, Phone: 406-587-6849

[Local Water Quality Districts](#) – LWQD’s help to regulate pollutants and monitor activities within the watershed that might have impacts to human and ecosystem health. LWQD’s provide information on a variety of topics related to water quality/quantity and how to improve the function of your natural waterways and septic systems. LWQD’s participate in and enforce the Montana Water Quality Act.

- [Gallatin Local Water Quality District](#), Contact: [Tammy Swinney](#), Manager

[Gallatin Conservation District](#) - The Gallatin CD has the ability to apply for grants for various natural resource-based projects through the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC). DNRC is the partner agency for Conservation Districts and administers State grant funds.

Please contact GVLST Stewardship staff with any questions you may have regarding agency information or cost share sources for your water needs; Contact: peter@gvlt.org