

THE STATE OF WYOMING

JIM GERINGER  
GOVERNOR

**Department of Environmental Quality**

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April 20, 1998

Al Pierson, State Director  
Bureau of Land Management  
5353 Yellowstone Road  
Cheyenne, WY 82009

Dear Mr. Pierson:

There have been inquiries concerning what the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality is looking for in terms of a format for an acceptable watershed plan. In response to that inquiry I have enclosed an outline that should help provide some guidance.

The watershed planning process is a framework that addresses the process or procedure for coordinating activities-from public outreach to strategic monitoring and assessment to integrated management. There is no single, correct method for developing a watershed plan. The process will be different for each watershed due to differences in resources, watershed condition, relative impact of various pollutant sources, and watershed goals, and objectives. It is critical that the plan be designed specifically for each watershed. The process enclosed gives some basic elements that should be covered in the planning process and resultant plan but the degree of addressing the elements is contingent upon your needs and goals.

It is the Department's desire that the watershed planning process be locally led and that we will be available for counsel where local stakeholders wish to develop a plan to address impaired water bodies. In any case the plan will need to be approved by the state and EPA.

If there are any questions or concerns, after reviewing the attachment, on what a watershed plan should contain please contact Chuck Harnish at 307-777-6372.

Sincerely,

Gary Beach  
Administrator, WQD

GB:ks 81264.1tr  
enclosure  
cc: Bruce Zander

Attachment 1 (2 pp.)

## Recommended Components of a Local Watershed Planning Process

Ref:DEQ's Continuing Planning Process (CPP), dated November 7, 1997

Form a Steering Committee to guide the development of the watershed plan.

Stakeholders on steering committee should normally consist of local governments, municipal wastewater treatment, rural landowners, federal land management agencies, resource management agencies, conservation/environmental interest groups, and large industries that affect water quality.

Conduct outreach and scoping to identify goals and determine needs of watershed plan. Educate stakeholders, and obtain training where necessary.

Characterize the Watershed Unit:

Define logical exterior boundaries of watershed planning unit and develop appropriate mapping.

Develop a data collection and QA/QC plan. Jack Smith of DEQ (307-332-3144) may be contacted for conformance with DEQ's methods and scheduling.

Collect and analyze water quality and flow data to define conditions of watershed.

Identify impaired water bodies or water bodies at threat of impairment.

Develop a Management Plan

For impaired water bodies on the 303d list or water bodies that may be at threat, develop a watershed implementation plan designed to eliminate or reduce sources of impairments and threats.

The implementation plan needs to include a schedule to achieve critical milestones, measure progress, and provide reasonable assurance that continuous improvements will be made in the impaired/at threat water body(s).

Development of the plan must include opportunity for public comment, including opportunity for DEQ, SEO, and \WWDC to comment on the draft plan.

Where Listed Water bodies are involved, submit final Management Plan to DEQ for acceptance:

Plan may be submitted for adoption as a TMDL for purposes of delisting the water body, or

Plan may be submitted as a watershed implementation plan, in which case the water body will remain on the 303d list and will be assigned a low priority for TMDL development.

Implement Management Plan and monitor progress.

Steering Committee reports progress to local stakeholders and DEQ on an annual basis, where listed water bodies or implementation of TMDLs are involved.