Protection Implementation

Bitterroot River Nutrient Protection Plan

Draft - February 2022

Greg Gianforte, Governor
Chris Dorrington, Director DEQ

DEQ
Montana Department of Environmental Quality
Protection Implementation

Protection Learning Exchange
Session 5: Protection Management

Protection Implementation

River Segment Impairment Cause
- Lower Bitterroot: Alteration in stream-side vegetation
- Middle Bitterroot: Flow regime modification
- Upper Bitterroot: Alteration in stream-side vegetation

Spring 2021: Reduction of river bank erosion
Summer 2021: Restoration of stream-side vegetation
Summer 2022: Continued monitoring and maintenance
Protection Learning Exchange
Session 5: Protection Management

Protection Implementation

**O’Brien Creek:** Providing clarity on water quality improvement goals and boosting capacity of local organizations.
Protection Learning Exchange
Session 5: Protection Management

Lessons Learned

Importance of:

• *maintaining* built capacity
• generating local buy-in through word-of-mouth
• following through with long-term focus watershed goals to identify successes
• providing lead-time

$1.5 million awarded to 6 different organizations, putting 15 projects on the ground