Clark Fork Kootenai River Basins Council: History, mission, makeup, and projects
• A basin-level approach
• to restoring and conserving
• water quality and quantity
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History of CFKRBC

Created by basin citizens in 2017 to replace a basin wide group created by the MT legislature in 2001 – the Clark Fork Task Force. The Task Force was created to develop a water management plan for the basin – which was adopted in 2004 and updated in 2014.

Between 2004 & 2014, Task Force members worked to implement recommendations of the water plan – pursuing projects and supporting policies that benefited both water quantity and water quality.
After the 2014 basin water plan was adopted, Members of the Task Force wished to continue the tradition of monitoring and supporting implementation of the plan’s recommendations. State funding for the Task Force ceased, but members reached out to more citizens to form the CFKRBC.
MISSION --
CFKRBC’s Charter
adopted in 4-2017

Purpose -- develop vision, coordinate common strategy, and support the network of water user interests at the basin scale; identify and address common basin-wide concerns, challenges, and solutions best addressed at the basin-level while adding value to community based activities.
MAKEUP OF CFKRBC

Executive Committee of 12 with staggered terms;
meets quarterly; works on governance, funding, etc

Working Groups (ad hoc) – with these charges:
Communications—develop outreach materials
Data Sleuthing—what data needed? What data available?
How to make more accessible?
Natural Systems Health & Water Availability –
identify & support plans & projects that
restore/conserve water quality & quantity
Stakeholder groups & other citizens

**Serving on Executive Committee** -- Blackfoot Challenge, Bitterroot River Protection Association, Clark Fork Watershed Education Program, Flathead County CD, Flathead Lakers, Mission Valley agricultural producer, Missoula Valley Water Quality District, MT Association of Dams & Canal Systems, Trout Unlimited, UM faculty & staff, Upper Clark Fork Steering Committee

**Serving in Working Groups or providing in kind** – above +

UM Watershed Clinic, Clark Fork Coalition, Bitterroot Water Forum, Lower Clark Fork Watershed Group, Lolo Watershed Group, Whitefish Lake Institute, Clearwater Resources Council, Soil & Water Conservation Districts of MT, MT DEQ, DFWP, DNRC, USFS
Current Funding of CFKRBC

• DNRC Watershed Management Grant -- funding annual meetings, Big Sky Watershed Corps member, outreach activities and web site development
• BEF grant -- funded Outstanding Restoration Project Awards, annual meetings, communications, logo development
• In-kind assistance from Montana Watershed Coordination Council, Soil & Water Conservation Districts of MT, Univ of Montana, MT DEQ & DFWP & DNRC, USFS and many watershed groups.
ACCOMPLISHMENTS & PROJECTS

• 2 annual meetings – founding meeting April 2017; 2\textsuperscript{nd} meeting April 2018
  Developed charter; elected Ex Com; adopted work plan & formed working groups
  ExCom: obtained funding; working on bylaws
• Tracking relevant legislation; speaking of need for support of basin councils
• Developed draft legislation revising State Water Plan Statute & presented to WPIC which has submitted it for consideration in the current legislature
• Submitted comments on basin restoration projects, on need to fund stream guage network, etc

Communications WG: Outreach projects – first website hosted by MWCC (thanks); created brochure, facebook & Instagram sites; working on a logo, story map and new web site; attended numerous watershed & CD meetings to update same on Council activities

Data sleuthing WG: identifying, acquiring, organizing, analyzing data useful for tracking progress of implementing basin & state water plans
PROJECTS of Working Group on Ensuring Natural Systems Health & Water Availability

• Restoration project awards – funding outreach materials to increase visibility of outstanding projects
• Developing a Watershed Restoration Plan for the Central Clark Fork basin
RESTORATION PROJECT AWARDS

• Granite Headwaters Watershed Group: communication plan for addressing mercury pollution in Fred Burr Creek (a tributary of Flint Creek and the Clark Fork River)

• Big Blackfoot Chapter of Trout Unlimited: website to showcase the restoration of Nevada Creek, a tributary of the Blackfoot River.

• Lincoln County Conservation District (LCCD): roadside sign to showcase restoration work on Mud Creek, a tributary of Therriault Creek and the Tobacco River, then Lake Koocanusa.
RESTORING NEVADA CREEK

The restoration work on Nevada Creek is a collaborative effort demonstrating native trout, sustainable ranching and clean water go hand in hand.

By completing this project and reconnecting the stream to its floodplain and beginning to develop healthy streamside vegetation, over 250 dump truck loads of soil have been prevented from washing away along the stream banks every year.

250 dump truck loads of soil saved from erosion on Nevada Creek

Educational Field Days
300 people have toured the site to learn more about the project, help collect and install willows and visit with the restoration team on lessons learned.
Central Clark Fork, Heart of the Basin, has no Watershed Restoration Plan (needed for 319 funding)
Central Clark Fork
Developing a WRP for the CCF

• Gathering & summarizing relevant documents on the basin (TMDLs, restoration project descriptions, monitoring results);
Hosted a first stakeholder meeting in Nov (aimed at technical folks);
• Constructed a web site hosted by Clark Fork Coalition (tinyurl.com/CentralClarkForkWRP) to display above info and obtain citizen input via a survey (please visit & take the survey)
Plan stakeholder meeting aimed at interested citizens this spring;
CCF WRP web site explains need & provides

• Links to short summaries of key documents that will inform the WRP:
  • Central Clark Fork tributaries TMDL & Water Quality Restoration Plan
  • Silverbow Creek & Clark Fork River River Metals TMDL
  • Clark Fork River Voluntary Nutrient Reduction plan & subsequent monitoring reports
  • Status of the closed pulp mill on the river near Frenchtown
  • Ninemile Creek WRP (example WRP)
  • Minutes of a 2018 meeting of technical stakeholders to identify key issues
WHAT’S NEXT FOR CFKRBC?

- 3rd annual meeting this summer/fall – hope to accomplish:
  Adopt bylaws; elect new Exec Committee; update work plan;
  Display new communication tools (web site, etc);
  Get participants to complete the CCF WRP survey
- Get Legislature to clarify role and support of basin councils
- Complete first draft of CCF WRP this year, and after incorporating comments, finalize draft, submit and get approved in 2020.
- Develop dash board for water plan implementation data
- To be notified of annual meeting & other news:
  info.cfkrbc@gmail.com
You are here. Lucky you.

Questions?