



Lake Helena Watershed Group 2015 Annual Plan

Mission Statement:

“The mission of the group is to protect, improve, and maintain the watershed and to promote the voluntary and cooperative resource management of the Lake Helena watershed.”

Goal 1: Enhance or maintain water quality and quantity within the basin with consideration of physical, chemical, and biological parameters.

Objective 1: Work to control and minimize erosion and sedimentation problems within the stream corridor.

Action Item 1: Provide volunteer opportunities

- Litter Pick Up – (two locations)
- Volunteer Riparian Planting Day –Early Spring if we have a need/money.

Action Item 2: Continue the process to understand research & education on watershed issues. Present at watershed group meetings.

1. In-stream flow
2. Logging
3. TMDL's
4. Water Rights

Goal 2: Promote projects that benefit overall watershed health.

Objective 1: Improve floodplain function by improving riparian vegetative cover and implementing stream improvement projects.

Action Item 3: Restoration on Tenmile Creek and continue implementation of DEQ 319 grant – Restoration Grant

- Elliot Property & others on Prickly Pear Creek & other creeks and tributaries in watershed.

Objective 2: Continue watershed wide restoration planning

Action Item 4: Assist in the Development of the watershed restoration plan – Plan to be completed June 2015

Objective 3: Promote the enhancement and conservation of instream, riparian, and overall watershed habitat for fish and wildlife through presentations and other work.

Action Item 5: Support and advocate efforts for fish and wildlife in the watershed.

- Rewatering project on Prickly Pear Creek
- Funding provided for staff gage support

Objective 4: Promote the management of noxious weeds within the watershed.

Action Item 6: Partner with agencies and groups to provide and participate in educational opportunities and workshops

- Weed workshop in early spring 2015
- Weed representative at watershed festival

Objective 5: To foster healthy forest management practices that protect the watershed, the residential interface, the community, and the environment from catastrophic wildfire.

Action Item 7: Update presentations from City Resource Coordinator, L&C Prevention & Mitigation, also possibly from the Helena Disaster/Emergency Services, BLM, and the Forest Service.

Goal 3: Provide educational opportunities regarding watershed issues.

Objective 1: Identify and fill data gaps and support scientifically sound information gathering.

Action Item 8: Continue Volunteer Monitoring Program- 2x year – funding ends the end of June of this year. Need to look for additional funding sources.

Action Item 9: Provide mentoring opportunity - Saturday – Career Day

Action Item 10: Coordinate with school and groups for Youth Monitoring

Objective 2: Provide information as appropriate to help guide future development within the watershed in a manner that maintains, promotes, and/or enhances the natural resources, including water quality, stream floodplain integrity, and fish and wildlife habitat.

Action Item 11: Stream gage assistance – continue providing funding. Gages in area (watershed gages Clancy, Williams Street & Rimini)

Action Item 12: Maintain a list on the website of on-going projects to participate in

Action Item 13: Advocacy role in County Planning and involved public issues

Objective 3: Contribute to the development of environmentally compatible trails, parks, rest or picnic areas that benefit the public, including private and public riparian and wetland conservation.

Action Item 14: Participate with PPLT or other entity in trail maintenance or similar activity.

Objective 4: Identify emerging watershed issues and provide information in order to inform and update stakeholders and the public.

Action Item 15: Continue to hold at least four watershed meetings annually to discuss LHWG business items and to address resource concerns in the Lake Helena Watershed area:

- Facilitate feedback/evaluate annual plan and present at meeting

Action Item 16: Continue to develop, organize, and promote the Lake Helena Watershed Festival

Action Item 17: Continue to publish the LHWG Newsletter bi-annually.