

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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In Reply Refer To:
4400 (MT923) P

January 18, 2013

EMAIL TRANSMISSION – 1/22/13
Instruction Memorandum No. MT-2013-037
Expires: 9/30/2014

To: Montana Dakotas Leadership

From: State Director

Subject: Bi-Annual Water Quality Report

DD: 03/29/13

Program Area: Soil, Water, and Air Management

Purpose: To fulfill reporting requirements under the 2010 Non-point Source MOU between the Montana/Dakotas BLM and the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). This data call is to collect information from the Montana field offices to include in this statewide report. All information should be limited to the past 2 years – 2011 and 2012.

Policy/Action: Field offices are to provide the following information to the state soil, water, and air program lead:

- A list of watershed groups your office has worked with.
- A list of total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) your office helped to develop.
- A summary of all actions taken to implement existing TMDLs. Completed TMDLs can be found at: <http://www.deq.mt.gov/wqinfo/TMDL/finalReports.mcp>
- A summary of all watershed assessments completed that contain impaired streams. This summary should identify the impaired stream and all recommendations related to these streams (e.g., active restoration, changes in management, best management practices (BMPs)).
- A summary of all inventory or monitoring completed on impaired streams (water quality, BMP implementation and effectiveness, riparian, or fisheries). This summary should identify the impaired streams and all actions taken to improve water quality. As riparian degradation is a leading cause of impairment, all proper functioning condition (PFC) assessments for impaired streams should be included in this report. Required information includes: functional status, trend, and recommended actions for functioning at risk (FAR) static and non-functioning (NF) streams.
- A summary of all rehabilitation completed to improve water quality in impaired streams.
- A summary of all rehabilitation completed to maintain water quality in non-impaired streams.
- A monitoring summary for all rehabilitation projects addressing impaired streams (including before and after photos).

Previous submissions and reports are available to be used as templates.

Please coordinate with your riparian, fisheries, range, and engineering staff to capture all relevant work (e.g., restoration, erosion control, re-vegetation, road and trail decommissioning).

Timeframe: This Instruction Memorandum (IM) is effective upon receipt. The due date for field office submissions is March 29, 2013.

Budget Impact: This reporting is part of normal operating procedures so there is no additional cost.

Background: The BLM and the DEQ have been operating under non-point source MOUs since 2002. These MOUs require bi-annual reporting of water quality accomplishments. The next report is due to the DEQ on June 1, 2013.

Coordination: This IM and data request has been coordinated with field office soil, water, and air staff.

Contact: All office responses or questions should be submitted to Mike Philbin, State Program Lead, at 406-896-5041.

Signed by:
Katherine P. Kitchell
For Jamie E. Connell
State Director

Authenticated by:
Cindy Woody
Staff Assistant (MT923)