

# Big Sky Sustainable Water Solutions Forum Recommended Priorities

These are the vision, goals, objectives, and recommended priority areas for action that the Big Sky Sustainable Water Solutions Forum has arrived at through consensus.

## Overall Vision Statement

Big Sky strives to be a model mountain community by protecting and improving water resources, sustaining ecological health of the watersheds, and supporting a vibrant local economy.

## Ecological Health of the Rivers

### I. Goal

A healthy and resilient river system sustained through a principled approach to watershed stewardship that includes human activities and natural processes that maintain and enhance stream, riparian and wetland conditions and connections, ensuring water remains clean and cold.

### Objectives

- I.A. Maximize water quantity, protect existing high quality and improve degraded water quality
- I.B. Identify, sustain, and enhance high-value riparian corridors and wetland areas
- I.C. Sustaining aquatic communities while enhancing native populations

### Recommended Priorities:

1. Watershed Status and Trends Monitoring
2. Watershed Status and Trends Dashboard
3. Watershed Restoration and Conservation

## Water Supply and Availability

### II. Goal

Manage and balance surface and groundwater supplies for a vibrant community sustaining a broad spectrum of uses and values including fisheries, wildlife, recreation, agriculture, municipal and domestic needs.

### Objectives

- II.A. Sustainably manage groundwater and surface water by improved monitoring and forecasting, conservation, and reuse of reclaimed water.
- II.B. Maintain sufficient, high quality year-round in-stream flows to meet ecological needs (quality and quantity)
- II.C. Increase community resilience to drought and climate variability

### Recommended Priorities:

1. Monitoring and Modeling
2. Outreach and Incentives for Conservation
3. Stormwater

4. Expand water reuse for irrigation
5. Mitigation

## **Wastewater Treatment and Reuse**

### **III. Goal**

Develop and implement holistic wastewater and stormwater management, utilizing best available technologies and practices, to meet Big Sky's long-term community needs and protect and improve the ecological health of the river systems.

### **Objectives**

III.A. Ensure wastewater does not have a negative impact on the ecological health of the river systems and groundwater resources

III.B. Identify alternative strategies for land application of treated wastewater

III.C. Address onsite septic systems

### **Recommended Priorities:**

1. High treatment levels for treated wastewater
2. Address septic and public systems
3. Expand water reuse for irrigation
4. Snowmaking
5. Groundwater recharge

### **Cross-cutting Actions to Address Water Resources:**

These two areas were seen as important in ensuring that the goals, objectives, and priorities within the three water resource focus areas are implemented, but do not fit into a single water resource focus area category.

### **IV. Sustaining Funding**

### **V. Community Engagement**