

BWTF SCOPING MEETING
October 1, 2004

Blue Water Task Force Board of Directors attitudes about Big Sky in general:

What do we value about Big Sky?

- growth opportunities
- open space
- full circle awareness
- balanced growth
- relationships
- people that take ownership in the area
- community
- smell clean air
- unique
- river is umbilical cord
- hiking
- infrastructure and services
- beauty
- schools
- balance
- color of water
- nice people
- connection with nature
- community can be and is involved
- recognition of these values
- environmental integrity
- accessibility of nature
- opportunity to create a future
- community/age diversity
- community appreciation of environment
- awakening understanding of bigger picture
- not everyone is apathetic
- opportunities to protect and participate

What kind of environment do we need to support these values?

- community needs information about development issues
- common acceptance of values
- common ground
- responsible oversight by governing entities
- awareness
- connection between county/state/fed government and local government
- monoculture of thought
- need a stable support structure so individuals are protected by a group
- willingness to take action to support values
- a vehicle to take action to support values
- cohesiveness
- suitable meaningful regulations
- regionally specific regulations
- local government
- baseline information
- benchmarks
- vision of future plans of individual landowners/developers
- understanding of bigger picture developmental issues by individuals that may feel disenfranchised by lack of ownership in area

What gelled from this discussion was a clear vision of how this group feels about Big Sky:

We value:

- **a friendly, diverse, involved community with a common awareness of the values we share**
- **the integrity and accessibility of our natural environment**
- **the development of sustainable infrastructure**
- **the opportunity to create a future in a community we respect**

We support:

- **providing information and education to empower the community**
 - **balanced growth that provides opportunities for voluntary action as well as appropriate local public policy**
 - **community action to support and protect our values**
 - **a local government that can provide responsible leadership and oversight**
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Blue Water Task Force's place in the larger picture:

So, narrowing the field a bit, what are the natural resource concerns or issues that we might face given what we value in this area and the kind of environment we need to support those values?

- habitat loss
- surface water quality
- ground water quality
- viewsheds, optics, ridgeline protection
- balanced growth
- exploitation of resources
- recognizing that non-consumptive or -extractive uses of resources affect environment too
- conflict about sense of entitlement
- lack of proactive attitudes
- different users in conflict (hikers/ATV users, XC skiers/snowmobilers)

How are these issues currently being addressed?

- Locally: zoning board recommendations
- County: subdivision regulations
- State: DEQ water quality regs; DNRC water use regs; FWP stream access law
- Other: conservation easements

What different ways could we address these issues?

- Locally: master plan development; "code of west" for Big Sky encouraging newcomers to protect the community character; water quality district designation; locally appropriate regulations; more stringent laws regarding development

- State: Outstanding Resource Water designation; TMDLs; Wild and Scenic River designation; better enforcement of current regulations
- Other: economic incentives; creating a desire to go above and beyond the regulations; creating something that engenders total community involvement

Taking into account the big picture—our values, the ideal environment to support those values, the natural resource issues and concerns tied to these values, and how these issues are currently being addressed—what can the Blue Water Task Force do?

- protect our values by monitoring development activities, water quality, permitted activities
- fix the Taylor Fork
- gather and disseminate information
- become a clearinghouse
- expand membership
- get the ORW designation completed
- take on the TMDL plan
- become an advocacy group
- become a household name
- be THE local source for natural resource/environmental expertise
- assist Gallatin County with regulation development
- get in the loop with subdivision reviews and other development news
- be supportive of our values in a positive way whenever possible
- review important regional documents that affect the Gallatin River drainage
- be a voice for individuals or groups so they don't become vulnerable to personal attacks or judgement
- earn the community's trust
- be diplomatic
- keep up and/or expand work with Ophir School and the community's children

What kinds of actions can we put in a vision statement?

- protect
- provide information
- grow intellectually and emotionally
- foster a deep appreciation
- promote balanced growth
- promote stewardship
- educate

How can we facilitate these actions?

- education
- partnerships
- common vision
- leadership
- stewardship
- membership
- data collection
- regulation
- participation

What gelled from this discussion was a clear vision of what the Blue Water Task Force would like to be as a group:

The mission of the Blue Water Task Force is to protect and preserve the health of the Gallatin River Watershed.

The health of the watershed depends upon:

- **the integrity of our natural environment**
- **balanced growth and sustainable development**
- **a diverse, educated and involved community**
- **a commitment to future generations**

Our goals are:

- **to monitor the health of the watershed through scientific data collection**
- **to coordinate projects that protect or preserve the health of the watershed**
- **to create partnerships with individuals and organizations that support our mission**
- **to support balanced growth that provides opportunities for voluntary action as well as appropriate public policy**
- **to provide a respected local source of natural resource information and expertise**
- **to educate and empower the watershed community**