

GREAT PLAINS TRIBAL WATER ALLIANCE

2017 Spring Water Conference

Water & Resiliency: Adapting for Our Climate

How Tribes Can Develop Their Own Water Resources Management Plans

April 5-7, 2017

AGENDA

What is a Watershed Management Plan

Components of the plan

Why develop a plan

Phase I – Baseline Assessment Report

What's Next

Open Discussion



Louis Berger

Watershed Management Plan

Water Resource
Management Planning & Pre-
development (N34)

Bureau of Indian Affairs Grant



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What is a Water Resource Management Plan?

A watershed plan can be used to evaluate **watershed** conditions and implement projects to improve **watershed** health. The goal is to **protect natural resources, restore critical ecosystems, and implement solutions** that integrate the developed areas with the natural environment. A Watershed Management Plan (WMP) identifies:

- Where the water is and where it is going,
- water quality problems in your watershed,
- proposes solutions,
- and creates a strategy for putting those solutions in action.

Plan Components:

- Protection of surface water and groundwater resources
- Annual tracking of the status and changes in the water quality of water resources in the watersheds of the reservations
- Provision of a basis for self-determination of the beneficial uses of water resources.

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Why Develop a Water Resource Management Plan?

Planning serves as a road map for turning today's problems into tomorrow's solutions. Water quality improvement is a big task, and trying to tackle it all at once can be daunting. The planning process consists of fact-finding, analysis and interpretation of information and trends concerning the local political, social, environmental and economic aspects of the watershed. The planning process takes into consideration viable alternatives and their cost effectiveness to create recommendations to meet present and future needs in a comprehensive plan.

Watershed Management Plans take a long-term, comprehensive approach, which has proven to be successful in a number of watersheds. Like a road map directing you from the start to finish of your effort, it helps you create a strategic, targeted plan for making changes in your watershed.

What do you want in your plan, what purpose will it serve?

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Phase I - Baseline Assessment Report BIA Grant

Development and Implementation of a Tribal Water Resources Management Plan Phase I.

The purpose of the project is to develop and implement a Water Resource Management Plan for each participating Tribe to accomplish the following:

- Protection of surface water and groundwater resources
- Assessment of climate change vulnerabilities and development of strategies for resiliency
- Annual tracking of the status and changes in the water quality of water resources in the watersheds of the reservations
- Provision of a basis for self-determination of the beneficial uses of water resources.

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Phase I - Baseline Assessment Report

This report will include the following:

- Identify all of the existing information available on Tribal water resources, including the quality of surface water and ground water.
- Identify and recommendations for filling the data gaps
- Metrics for measuring the important changes in the condition of the Tribe's water resources
- Acquire information and characterize the condition of the waters of the reservation
- Work collaboratively with other Tribes in South Dakota to evaluate the quality of the data and data gaps. Use the information to develop a Baseline Assessment Report, similar to the EPA 305(b) reports required of states.
- Recommendations for the next phase which will include the beneficial uses for the overall health, social and economic welfare of the Tribe, adoption of water quality standards, working in a watershed context, development of supporting codes and regulations for the management of water and implementation, tool development and on-going monitoring.



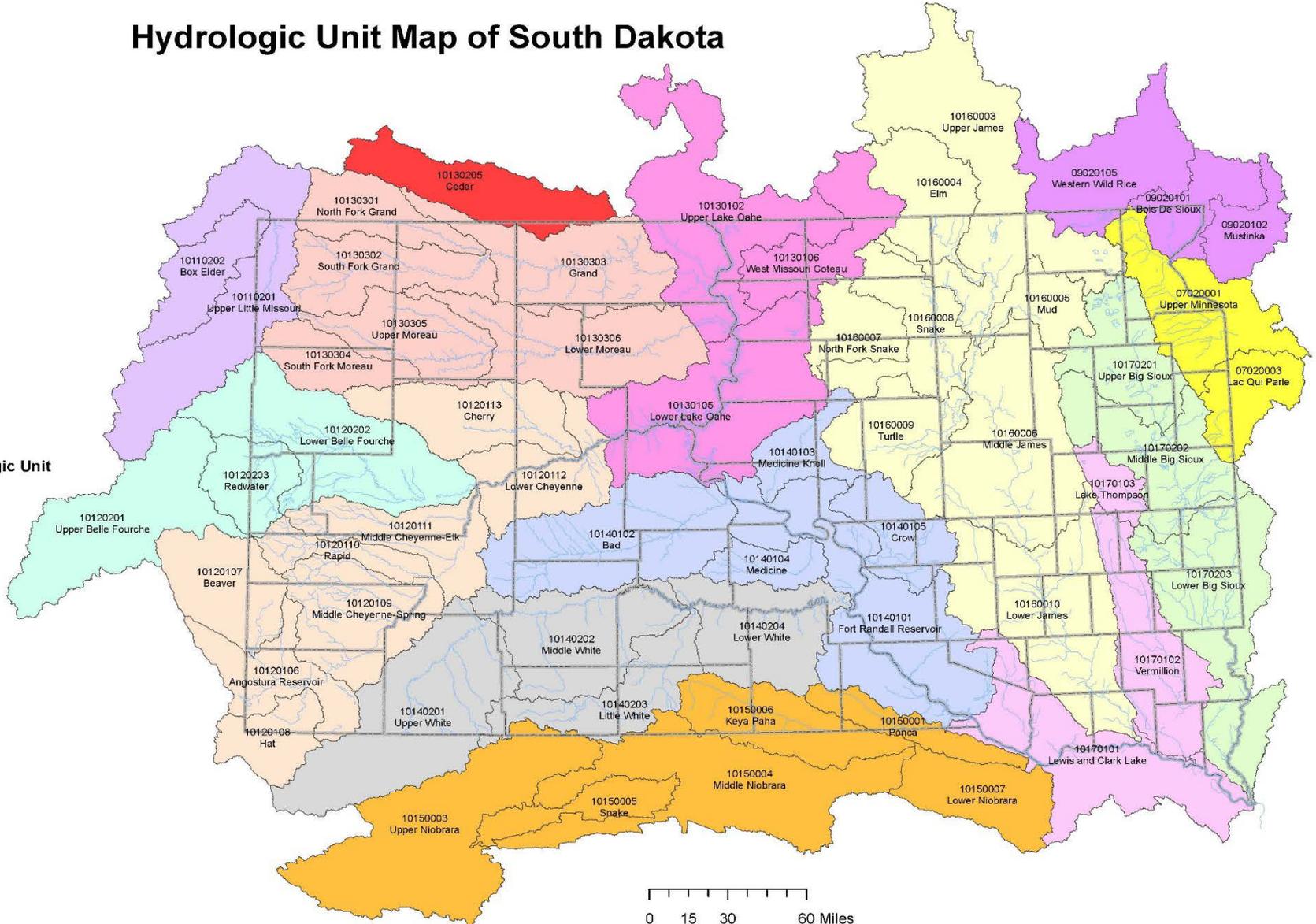
Hydrologic Unit Map of South Dakota



Legend

6-Digit Hydrologic Unit

- 070200
- 090201
- 101102
- 101201
- 101202
- 101301
- 101302
- 101303
- 101401
- 101402
- 101500
- 101600
- 101701
- 101702



Water Data Collection

Explore Types of Data Available and How to Use It

Data Types

Various agencies have provided water information over the years to the Tribes

- USGS
- IHS
- BIA
- BOR
- USACE
- EPA
- Others?

Format of the Data, Rules of Use of the Data

Other topics?

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Future Phases

Phase II - Beneficial Uses and possible water quality standards

Phase III - Watershed Context

Phase IV - Codes, Regulations

Phase V - Implementation and Tools



Open Discussion

Objective: Identify your Technical Water Resource Needs

Topics:

- What are the Water Resources needs now and in the future for your Tribe?
- What information would be important to have in order to effectively engage in discussions about Tribal Water?
- What types of data do we have for your Tribe?
- How to organize your data into an easy-to-use reference?

Open Discussion

Objective: Evaluate existing Water Data, understanding the quality of the data and identifying data gaps

Topics:

- What are the data gaps?
- What are the results of the data analysis?
- What is the data telling us about the condition of the water resources in the Tribe?

Objective: Understand the condition of the water resources from existing data

Topics:

- What additional data needs to be gathered and how will we get it?
- Discussion of next steps in the 5-year plan for the Water Management Plan



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Questions?

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