STRATEGIC PRIORITIES AND ACTIONS

Water Quality Protection & Nonpoint Source Pollution

- Track, monitor, research and investigate existing condition and utilization of resources, emerging threats and science, and best management practices for advancing natural resource protection efforts in the basin
- Work with partners to build support for, develop, and implement on-the-ground projects to investigate and address nonpoint source pollution in the Flathead Basin
- Explore and advocate for approaches/options to address NPS pollution, including increasing funding opportunities and incentives, encouraging sustainable development, successfully implementing current water quality standards, etc.
- Provide support/forum for addressing any gaps or resource needs in long-term water quality monitoring, septic leachate, and stormwater pollution mitigation, etc

Education & Outreach

- Increase public awareness of water quality issues threatening the pristine water quality of the Flathead Basin
- Enhance personal behaviors and inspire residents and visitors to take pride and responsibility in conservation efforts
- Increase consistency of messaging among partners, improve accessibility and awareness of available resources, and enhance partnership opportunities
- Provide leadership and support on public, youth and stakeholder engagement with natural resource/community events, activities, and issues within the basin/region

Coordination & Collaboration

- Encourage close cooperation and coordination between federal, state, provincial, tribal, and local resource managers for establishment of compatible resource development standards, comprehensive monitoring, and data collection, and interpretation
- Coordinate with local leaders, organizations, and industry within the basin/region on key natural resource issues to increase support and leadership for advancing protections
- Provide complementary support to partner programs and projects while emphasizing appreciation and recognizing exemplary efforts in the basin
- Provide a cooperative, inclusive, and open environment to promote coordination and act as a public forum for addressing issues and existing gaps
- Ensure regular communication with decision-makers, local partners, and stakeholders on the efforts of FBC

Programmatic Policy & Legislation

- Provide input, feedback, and recommendations to the governor and to federal and state agency directors and staff, tribal, provincial, regional, and local agencies for reducing the threats to water quality
- Track, advocate for, and seek to address water quality gaps and challenges in the Flathead Basin as well as transboundary and headwaters protection efforts
- Coordinate with legislators within the basin/region on key natural resource issues to increase support and leadership for advancing protections
- Ensure regular communication with decision-makers, congressional, and state legislators on the efforts of FBC and provide a regular presence at events, activities, and legislative sessions

Business & Admin

- Develop biennial report (per statutory duties)
- Provide accounting and budgeting services
- Follow all applicable agency and board rules and requirements
- Explore options for additional funding

Four Ingredients for a Successful Commission

Great Leadership
We have strong leadership on our executive committee, dedicated commission members, excellent staff support, and a community of highly engaged watershed partners.

Appropriate Tools
We have access to technology and communications tools that allow us to work efficiently and effectively.

Strong Community Engagement
We have worked hard to deepen and improve our community presence and stakeholder relationships by being civic-minded, sharing our knowledge and resources widely, and acknowledging and engaging all entities addressing water quality issues within the Flathead Basin.

Dedicated Partners
The list of organizations working with FBC is long and diverse, including academia, researchers, scientists, agencies, policymakers, and community stakeholders. We continue to engage existing partners and encourage new partnerships to share in our efforts to protect water quality in the Flathead Basin.