

# *Building Drought Resilient Communities in Montana*



Centennial Valley

SHAUN MCGRATH, EPA

# National Drought Resilience Partnership (NDRP)

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*“Enhancing Community Preparedness for Drought”*

National Federal Partners:

- EPA, USDA, DOI, NOAA, ACOE, DOE, FEMA, CEQ



# Montana Demonstration Project

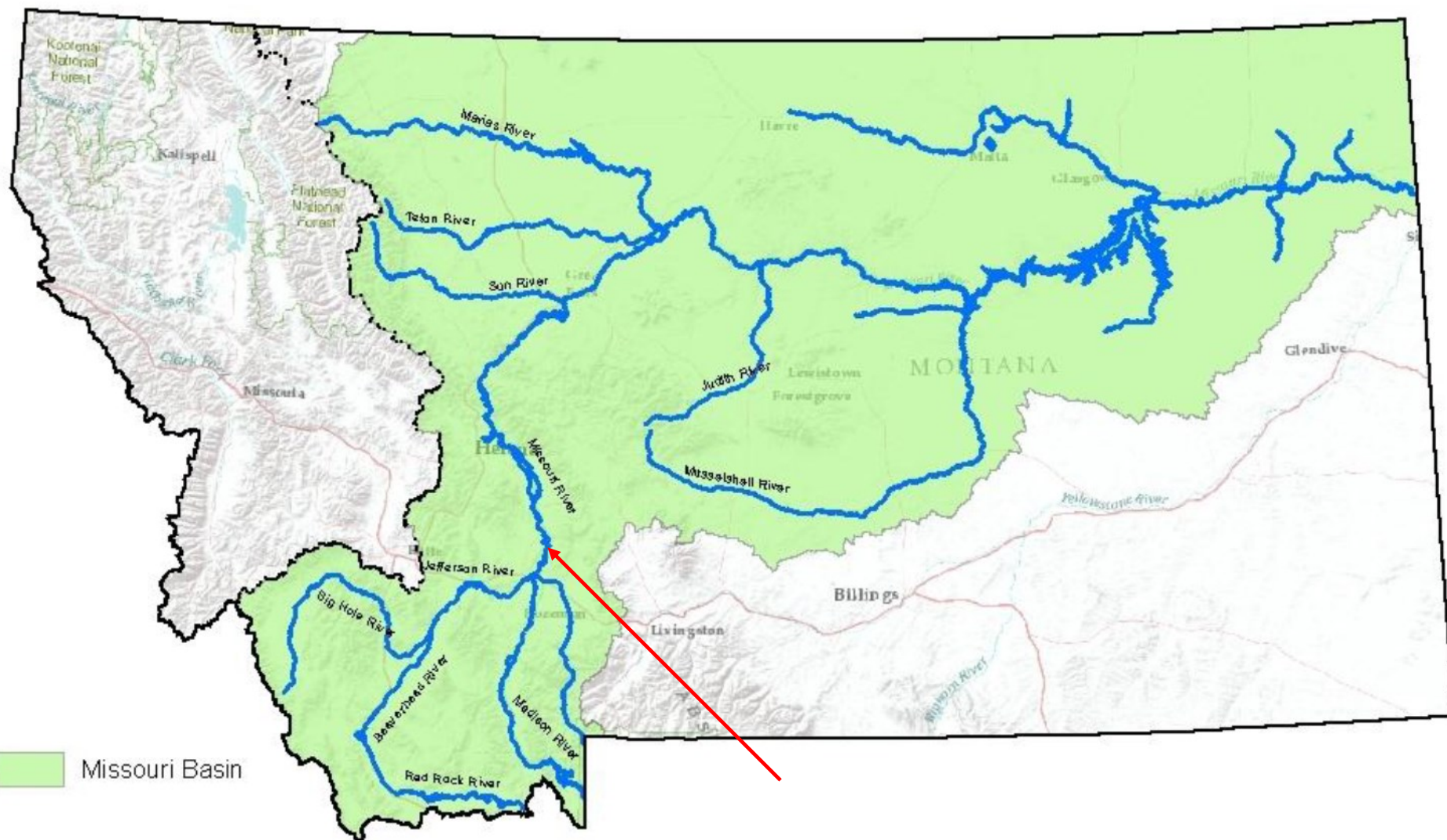
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- Montana's Vision: Successful drought preparation must be:
  - locally-led
  - reflect the water management issues specific to that watershed, and
  - produce on-the-ground results.

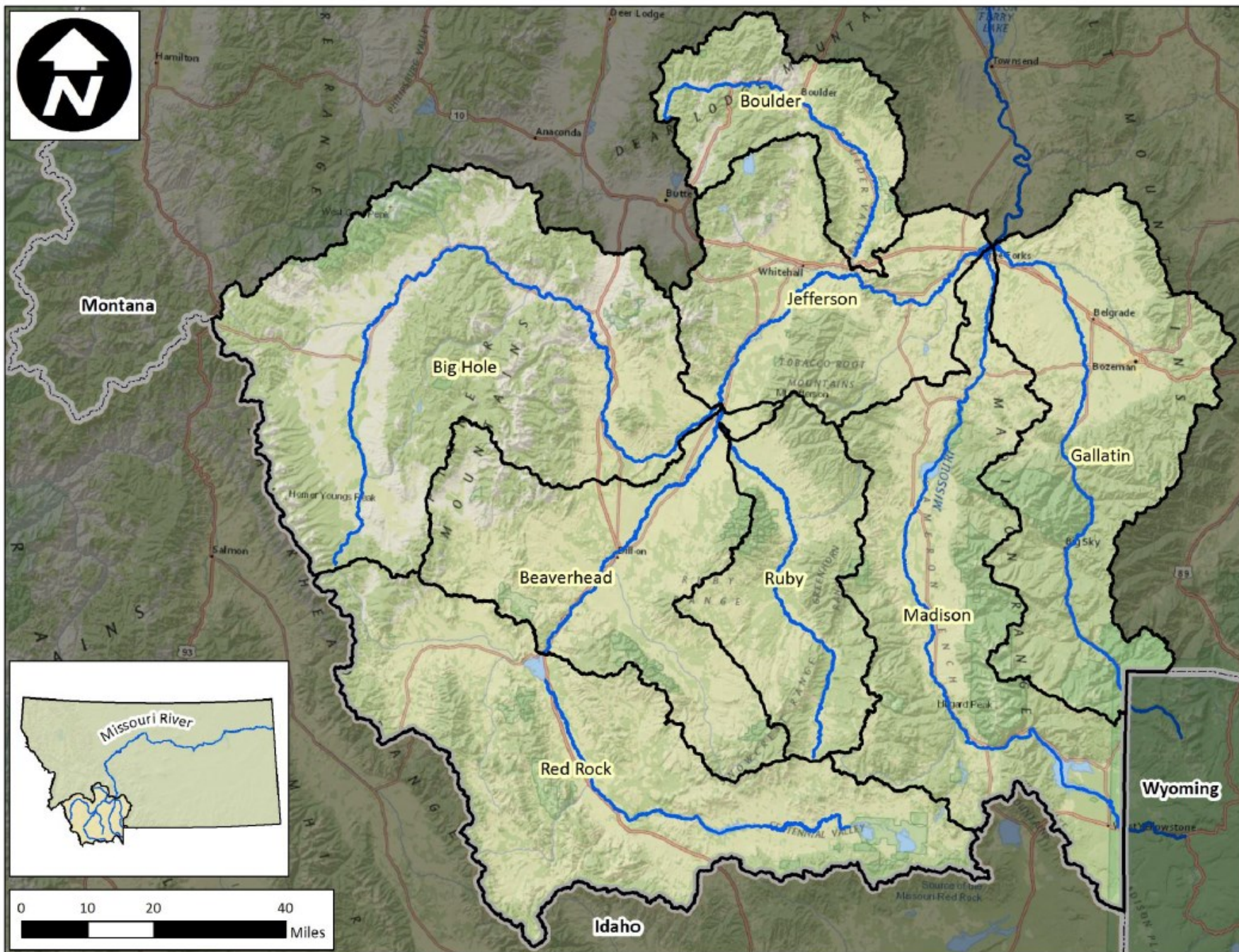




## Missouri Basin in Montana







# MT Demonstration Project

## Federal, State and NGO Partners

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- 12 Federal Partners engaged in the demonstration project
- 4 state agencies (DNRC, DEQ, Dept. of Ag, DES)
- More than 20 watershed groups, local governments, conservation districts, and local stakeholders
- More than 14 NGOs involved including:
  - One Montana
  - Montana Association of Conservation Districts



# Workplan Goals

- **Provide Tools for Drought Monitoring, Assessing and Forecasting**
- **Develop Local and Regional Capacity to Plan for Drought**
- **Implement Local Projects to Build Regional Drought Resiliency**



# Project Outcomes

- Stronger Partnerships
- Engaged Local Leaders
- Enhanced Planning & Coordination
  - Shared Learning
  - Sustainable Capacity
- Connected Landscapes & Resources
  - Targeted Funding
  - Cross Collaboration
- Lessons learned & Transferability





# Accomplishments

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- In collaboration with **NOAA/ NDMC**, offered a Montana Drought Resiliency Course for watersheds working on drought planning
- Working with **NRCS**, provided funding to implement more than \$1 million to support projects focused on improving resiliency to drought
- Developed a newsletter to improve and foster communication between the federal, state and local partners
- Secured funding from **BOR** to assist communities with local drought planning efforts
- Initiated discussions with **FEMA** and Montana Department of Emergency Services (**DES**) to incorporate drought planning into local hazard mitigation plans
- Increased **BLM** funding to work with the **MT Climate Office** to install soil moisture monitoring stations in the basin



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