



319 Nonpoint Source Final Application

FY2017 Final Applications are due Monday, September 26, 2016 by 2:00 pm

Section I: General Information

Project Title Big Sky Watershed Corps Support

Project Sponsor Information

Sponsor Name Montana Watershed Coordination Council

Registered with the Secretary of State? Yes

Registered with SAM? Yes

County Lewis and Clark County

Website www.mtwatersheds.org

Tax Identification # _____

DUNS # 078805000

Primary Contact Erin Farris-Olsen

Signatory Erin Farris-Olsen

Title Executive Director

Title Executive Director

Address PO Box 1416

Address PO Box 1416

City Helena State Montana Zip Code 59624

City Helena State Montana Zip Code 59624

Phone Number (406)475-1420

Phone Number (406)475-1420

Fax Number _____

Fax Number _____

E-mail Address erin@mtwatersheds.org

E-mail Address erin@mtwatersheds.org

Signature _____

Signature _____

Project Location

12 Digit HUC #(s) many

(1) Waterbody Name from 2016 List of Impaired Waters many

(1) Probable cause(s) of impairment to be addressed (ex. metals) many

(2) Waterbody Name from 2016 List of Impaired Waters _____

(2) Probable cause(s) of impairment to be addressed (ex. metals) _____

(3) Waterbody Name from 2016 List of Impaired Waters _____

(3) Probable cause(s) of impairment to be addressed (ex. metals) _____

Activity 1 Name many Latitude (1) many Longitude (1) many

Activity 2 Name _____ Latitude (2) _____ Longitude (2) _____

Activity 3 Name _____ Latitude (3) _____ Longitude (3) _____

Nonpoint Source (NPS) Information

Which WRP does the project implement? What is the WRP status?

Does the project address impairments identified in a TMDL? Waterbody Type

Functional Category

1st Pollution Category Percent of Total (%)

2nd Pollution Category Percent of Total (%)

3rd Pollution Category Percent of Total (%)

4th Pollution Category Percent of Total (%)

Project Funding

319 Funds Requested	<input type="text" value="\$108,300.00"/>	Does the project sponsor have any open 319 contracts?	<input type="text" value="Yes"/>
Matching Funds		Project Title	<u>Big Sky Watershed Corps Support</u>
<i>State Cash Match</i>	<input type="text"/>	DEQ Contract Number	<u>214011</u>
<i>Local Cash Match</i>	<input type="text" value="\$73,000.00"/>	319 Award	<u>\$105,000.00</u>
<i>In-Kind Match</i>	<input type="text" value="\$10,000.00"/>	Projected Closing Date	<u>December 2016</u>
Total Match	<input type="text" value="\$83,000.00"/>	Project Title	<u>Big Sky Watershed Corps Support</u>
Other Federal Funds	<input type="text"/>	DEQ Contract Number	<u>216028</u>
Total Project Budget	<input type="text" value="\$191,300.00"/>	319 Award	<u>\$83,000.00</u>
Administrative Fee	<input type="text"/>	Projected Closing Date	<u>December 2017</u>

Section II: Project Description

Goal and Objectives: Describe the overall goal and specific objectives for this project.

The overall goal is to help build or strengthen local capacity to improve watershed health and protection, and implement approved watershed restoration plans (WRPs). Big Sky Watershed Corps (BSWC) AmeriCorps members work within targeted (DEQ accepted or pending WRPs) host site organizations to focus on meeting watershed restoration goals. Activities will include objectives as defined by the BSWC programmatic goals of: (a) Watershed Health and protection, (b) Education and Outreach, and (3) Volunteer Management.

Methods: Describe the approach selected to address/correct the problem(s), e.g. types of BMPs to be installed, and other important activities.

MWCC has demonstrated efficiency in managing multiple sub awards of this nature to successfully leverage funding resources across a broader landscape. MWCC received and effectively executed a similar grant in the 2014 and 2015 grant cycles. This program will similarly generate cost share support to place BSWC members within 13 or more qualified watershed groups and conservation districts across Montana. Each professional BSWC member will live and work in their host site community for 10.5 months and provide organizational capacity, project development, implementation and monitoring. The BSWC members will work under the direction of their host site supervisor on water quality activities and projects to decrease NPS pollution and meet TMDL targets as identified in their WRPs. Example BMP project activities may include riparian, floodplain and stream restoration, buffer strip plantings, off stream water tanks and fencing, or new culverts. Ongoing community and landowner education will be key components for success. Member activities may include: project design, coordination and implementation; stream, riparian and floodplain restoration; grant writing; data collection; school and community education/outreach.

Summary: Provide a brief summary of the project.

This proposal provides up to \$5,000 of the host site cost share for BSWC members at WRP qualified sites; create a small amount of readily available project dollars, and provide professional development opportunities to help BSWC increase the sophistication of restoration projects. Through the provision of a BSWC member, host sites will have the dedicated capacity to identify potential projects, work with the stakeholders, develop project implementation and monitoring plans, and hopefully leverage the resources to implement the project during their community service term. Examples of BSWC activities from 2016 include: Elizabeth Mohr, with Trout Unlimited, compiled historical mining information, ownership status, and past sampling results for each mine in Tramway Creek mining complex. Mohr worked with DEQ, USFS, and Portage Inc. to determine appropriate sampling locations, media, and parameters and drafted a Sampling and Analysis Plan (SAP) based on the information collected. James Dillon, with the Flathead Lakers, implemented four riparian restoration projects including planting 2,500 plants, installing 1,500 tree tubes, constructing nearly a mile of deer fence and laying weed mats. Dillon expanded the restoration techniques previously used in the area. Dillon also monitored six restoration projects and installed four groundwater monitoring wells. Joe Krenzlok, with Lolo Watershed group, is managing volunteer monitoring teams and drafting a SAP for the St. Regis river. Katie Mumford, with Broadwater Conservation District, has implemented cross section assessments at nine sites along Deep Creek. Stephanie with the Bitterroot Water Forum manages the Watershed Enhancement Team which collects valuable information regarding how past projects have reduced non point source pollution. Joe Zimbric with the Blackfoot Challenge created a run off period turbidity data set for multiple Blackfoot tributaries. He also helped fund and install two Bluetooth data loggers on 303(d) listed streams.

Section III: Background Information

Statement of Project Need and Intent

As we all strive to sustain or improve watershed health and water quality, locally based organizations are the first line of defense to assist with the identification, implementation, and sustainability of water quality protection activities. They have the desire, but not necessarily the skill set, capacity, or resources to develop, coordinate, fund, oversee and maintain water quality restoration projects. The BSWC Program has been meeting this need for the last five years by placing well-educated and dedicated Corps members directly with watershed groups. MWCC has efficiently managed the distribution of these funds. As part of the sub grant program, MWCC tracks the overall investment from individual groups as well as contributing sources from other State and Federal agencies. Tracking funding is one aspect of fulfilling MWCC's vision to "float all boats." The shift in focus for NPS funding has required MWCC to seek new support watershed groups that are developing or revising WRPs. MWCC is committed to continue to seek funding that will leverage this program's impact. If not funded, DEQ may expect to see watershed groups individually applying for support for BSWC members. MWCC grant management is a value added service to support BSWC host sites and maintain a priority if addressing NPS impacts within the BSWC program.

Describe the pre-project planning that has already occurred.

The BSWC program has grown from 20 sites in 2016 to 27 sites in 2017. As the program grows, it is crucial that lower capacity organizations that are directly working on NPS impacts are supported to participate. MWCC has identified and worked with more than three watershed groups that could be new participants in 2018. However, this program funding would be critical to secure participation. As such, MWCC has revised program application materials to more readily identify eligible host sites at the time that they apply for the program. Thereby providing the funding as part of the host site approval. MWCC is in the process of hiring a Watershed Outreach Coordinator (WOC) that will work more directly with potential host sites in 2017 to better refine and plan NPS activities in 2018. The WOC will also increase development efforts to diversify financial support for the program.

Collaborative Effort: Describe the collaborative effort you have engaged in to ensure support from all appropriate partners.

The BSWC program is a collaborative partnership between MWCC, Soil and Water Conservation Districts of Montana (SWCDM), and Montana Conservation Corps (MCC). In 2016, MWCC has further defined its role and responsibilities in relation to the BSWC partnership, most of which are incorporated in the revised MOU between MWCC and MCC. Among other responsibilities, MWCC is responsible for the direct support to 14 host sites in 2017. MWCC has a specific commitment to supporting all host sites within its watershed directory. SWCDM is responsible for managing 13 sites, most of which are conservation districts. MCC continues to manage member recruitment and placement. All program partners collaborate on member and host site training opportunities.

Partners and Roles: Identify the project partners and their roles.

Partner	Role
Soil and Water Conservation Districts of Montana	Help identify and coordinate potential host sites and BSWC professional development opportunities such as the MACD annual convention, Soil Health Workshops, and other opportunities as they become available.
Montana Conservation Corps	Administer the Corporation for National Community Service grant and all BSWC member administrative and payroll services. Coordinate with MWCC and SWCDM for all program activities.
Montana DEQ	Identify and recommend potential host sites that are seeking technical and organizational assistance in implementing WRPs and SAPs.
Local Watershed Groups	Provide at least 10 or more hours per week in AmeriCorps supervision. Provide at least 5,000 in cash match for host site fee. Actual costs are estimated closer to \$20,000 per site in equipment, supervision, travel, and other overhead cost.

Technical and Administrative Qualifications

For over 20 years, MWCC has provided the statewide network, connecting locally based organizations to state and federal agencies to help deliver the resources and technical and professional support they need to improve watershed health and water quality protection in their communities. MWCC has managed multiple similar sub grant opportunities, including the pending DEQ contracts. MWCC Water Activities Working Group has experience with 319 grant review processes. MWCC staff and board have also assisted in grant program administration for the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation as well as the Bureau of Land Management. In all of these cases, MWCC is relied upon for its understanding of the financial and organizational status of participating watershed groups. MWCC will be hiring a Watershed Outreach Coordinator which will increase MWCC's capacity to support host sites throughout the BSWC term of service. This increase in capacity is in direct response to host site feedback received in 2015 & 2016 and seeks to improve the overall approach to building capacity in local organizations.

Past and Current Projects

Funding Organization	Award Amount	Project Description	Project Status	Contact Information
DNRC	\$9,000.00	Advised DNRC on distribution and awards for DNRC Watershed Management Grant Program.	Complete	Lindsay Volpe lmvolpe@mt.gov (406) 444-9766
BLM	\$25000.00	Capacity funding for watershed groups in eastern Montana. Funding has supported BSWC members, strategic planning initiatives, and community outreach.	Ongoing	Alden Shallcross ashallcross@blm.gov (406) 896-5044
EPA	\$26,250.00	Sub grant for environmental education projects. Funded six local watershed group environmental education opportunities in 2016. Program was a partnership between MWCC and Montana Watercourse. MWCC was responsible for sub grant selection and administration.	Awards have been announced, contract will be completed in 2016.	Nikki Sandve nsandve@montana.edu 994-1910
Wilburforce Foundation	\$50000.00	Capacity and coordination funding for the Missouri Headwaters Partnership.	Final report due November 2016	Liz Bell liz@wilburforce.org (206) 632-2325
DEQ	188,000	Big Sky Watershed Corps Support #214011 & 216028 BSWC host site support, professional development funds, and project dollars.	214011 Near completion. Final reports due December 2016. Contract 216028 has just begun.	Robert Ray rray@mt.gov

Section IV: Scope of Work

Task 1 Title Host site support

Description

Provide up to \$5,000 cost share match dollars for 13 or more qualified watershed groups or conservation districts to support a BSWC member to develop projects that restore and improve impaired waters, to implement watershed protection activities for unimpaired waters, and to increase awareness and active engagement of community members to improve watershed conditions.

For 2017, approximately thirteen of the twenty seven BSWC host sites have watershed restoration plans and would qualify for this funding opportunity. MWCC closely monitors watershed groups as potential applicants and will be in a position to encourage enough watershed groups to ensure that the funding program will be competitive. With an increase in the number of host sites, we anticipate that this funding opportunity will become highly competitive in 2018. In the event that applications are more competitive, MWCC will prioritize meeting the financial need of lower capacity groups and groups that are not receiving funding to support the BSWC member through other state and federal programs. MWCC will further scrutinize applications based on the demonstration that BSWC activities are prioritized activities within the identified watershed restoration plan.

Deliverables

Thirteen watershed groups with BSWC members. MOUs outlining BSWC NPS activities. Quarterly reports summarizing member activities as they pertain to non point source pollution and the watershed management plan for their watershed. Data points collected by BSWC NPS members including (1)miles of waterways improved (2) beneficiaries receiving education (3) volunteers recruited, and (4) data points collected.

Task 1 Funding

319 Funds	\$65,000.00
Non-Federal Match	\$50,000.00
Other Federal Funds	
Total Cost	\$115,000.00
Is Match Secured?	No

Timeline January-December 2018

Match Source Local cash match from each selected host site

Task 2 Title Professional Development

Description

Provide cost share match dollars for qualified watershed groups or conservation districts to support a BSWC member to develop projects to restore and improve impaired waters, to implement watershed protection activities for unimpaired waters, and to increase awareness and active engagement of community members to improve watershed conditions. In the past, these funds have been utilized to attend the MWCC and Montana AWRA meetings, participate in project tours, and soil health workshops. To date, many of past BSWC members have gone on to staff positions or other careers in the conservation field in Montana. To this end, the impact of training and professional development opportunities exceeds the impact of an individual BSWC member term.

Deliverables

BSWC members that are knowledgeable, connected and better prepared to address, fund, and implement watershed restoration related activities in their watersheds. BSWC will complete reports on the skills and knowledge acquired through the professional development opportunities provided.

Task 2 Funding

319 Funds	\$6,500.00
Non-Federal Match	
Other Federal Funds	
Total Cost	\$6,500.00
Is Match Secured?	

Timeline January-December 2018

Match Source _____

Task 3 Title Project Dollars for BSWC Site Projects

Description

In order to take advantage of positive restoration and community building opportunities, watershed groups need readily available project funds. For example, a landowner may reach out to a watershed group for a specific restoration activity. The ability of the watershed group to obtain quick project funds through the MWCC mini grant program will enable the project without the delay that could otherwise derail projects. Approved project proposals must: (1) address nonpoint source pollution, (2) address impairments identified in Montana's 2014 List of Impaired Waters, (3) implement goals and objectives identified in the 2012 Montana Nonpoint Source Management Plan, (3) implement goals and objectives identified in the 2012 Montana Nonpoint Source Management Plan, (4) be completed within time period required by the 2015 319 grant cycle, (5) provide education and outreach directly related to the project or Watershed Restoration Plan, (6) include monitoring to evaluate project success at reducing nonpoint source pollution, (7) include monitoring to evaluate the effectiveness of education and outreach in reaching the target audience and achieving the desired outcomes, (8) include reporting measures that are reasonable and relevant to the scale and duration of the project, and (9) participate in grantee feedback survey upon project completion. Approved Projects may include: (1) riparian and wetland plantings, (2) stream bank stabilization, including soft techniques, (3) removal of invasive plants, coupled with native plantings, (3) stream bank fencing, (4) rain garden, swale installation, or other passive storm water treatments, or (5) catchment and passive treatment of multiple malfunctioning on-lot septic systems.

Deliverables

Completion of small and medium scale restoration projects. Quarterly Status Reports to DEQ which will include: (1) summary of awards granted, (2) summary of overall program effectiveness, and (3) description of financial status. MWCC will complete a grantee feedback survey. Project effectiveness will be evaluated by comparing project results to goals and objectives identified within the watershed restoration plan.

Task 3 Funding

319 Funds	\$26,000.00
Non-Federal Match	\$20,000.00
Other Federal Funds	
Total Cost	\$46,000.00
Is Match Secured?	

Timeline January-December 2018

Match Source Local cash match from sites receiving funds

Task 4 Title Administration

Description

Provide all aspects of project coordination, communication, fiscal administration, and reporting requirements as needed for the grant management. Administration funding under this agreement will support the MWCC host site coordination function. Funding to support these activities is necessary to allow for further development activities to support the BSWC program. With program growth, it is no longer feasible for MWCC to support these activities with current staff or volunteers as MWCC has in the past. MWCC has acquired private funding to support enhanced coordination activities in 2017. MWCC will continue to foster private relationships in hope to grow program funds in 2018. Under this agreement, MWCC will identify and recruit host sites specifically with NPS needs to participate in the 2018 program, assist in managing program invoicing, provide outreach to host sites on a regular basis, and participate in site supervisor and member communication including orientation, training, and monthly conference calls. MWCC will respond to BSWC host site concerns including: supervision & management, funding acquisition, and inter-host site partnership and coordination. MWCC will report to BSWC Steering Committee concerns and requests and work with the BSWC Steering Committee to identify and report on program metrics to current and potential program partners and funders. MWCC has been working with partners MCC & SWCDM to develop a vision for program growth and direction. Through the provision of NPS funds, MWCC will be able to ensure that addressing NPS issues remain a central function of the BSWC program.

Deliverables

Accurate accounting, timely reports and adherence to state and federal guidelines for project oversight and administration. Plan for program development goals and activities.

Task 4 Funding

319 Funds	\$10,800.00
Non-Federal Match	\$13,000.00
Other Federal Funds	
Total Cost	\$23,800.00
Is Match Secured?	

Timeline Spring 2017-December 2018

Match Source Private grant dollars

Project Milestone Table: Complete the following Project Milestone Table by entering task numbers and titles in the left hand column, then check the box(es) for the appropriate quarter(s) and years(s) in which you will be working on the task.

Milestone	Spring 2017	Summer 2017	Fall 2017	Winter 2017	Spring 2018	Summer 2018	Fall 2018	Winter 2018	Spring 2019	Summer 2019	Fall 2019
Identify potential NPS host sites for 2018	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Circulate host site applicaion	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Review host site applications	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Approve 2018 host sites	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Award NPS funds for 2018	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Distribute initial NPS funding payments	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Advertise professional development opportunitis	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>							
Award professional development funding on a reimbursement basis	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Advertise project funding dollars	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Award project funding dollars	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quarterly rand final reporting on all grant activities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Submit **project map(s)** and **letters of support (at least 3)** along with the Final Project Proposal form. If your organization is not the author of the WRP you hope to implement, you must request a letter of support from the original authoring entity. If the authoring entity refuses to provide a letter of support, use the additional space at the end of the application to describe their response. If design drawings are available, provide those as well. For on-the-ground work, include copies of applicable permits if available.

- Project Map
- Letters of Support
- Design Drawings
- Applicable Permits
- Draft of amended WRP (if applicable)
- Photos
- Landowner Agreements

Use the space provided for any additional information that may not have been captured elsewhere in this Final Project Proposal

The addition of project dollars was generated in 2015 when the Beaverhead Conservation District requested a modification of the contract to implement a restoration project on Dyce Creek instead of general host site support. Project dollars will be first awarded in 2017 and, at that time, deliverables and overall impact and utility will be better understood. MWCC understands that 319 funding is not designed to be programmatic. MWCC is committed to diversifying funding for the BSWC program and has done so by acquiring private funding to support administration of this grant and other host site coordination activities. MWCC has also awarded BSWC host site support through the BLM capacity program. MWCC will continue to diversify its BSWC support strategy; however, each new funding source will come with its own set of priorities. Therefore, some amount of NPS funding does ensure that BSWC activities address NPS pollution. Although the sub grant structure through MWCC remains static, year to year NPS dollars are funding new projects and activities within the host site watershed. Support for BSWC members often lays the necessary groundwork for future independent NPS project proposals. Through the BSWC support contract, DEQ has the opportunity to increase the quality of future NPS applications. Increasing the activity of local watershed groups is the necessary and best next step in improving removal of pollutants from impaired water bodies. Increasing local watershed group capacity is the most cost effective method for obtaining the desired result of decreasing pollution on a statewide scale.



1101 11th Ave
Helena, MT 59601
www.swcdmi.org
406-443-5711

July 20, 2016

Department of Environmental Quality
1520 East Sixth Avenue
Helena, MT 59620

Dear Selection Committee,

I am writing to express my support for the Montana Watershed Coordination Council's (MWCC) proposal for 319 Nonpoint Source Project Funding to support the Big Sky Watershed Corps (BSWC) program in 2018. As a partner of the BSWC program and member of the BSWC steering committee, I feel the BSWC program adds significant value to water conservation and contributes to the reduction of nonpoint source pollution throughout the state of Montana.

The BSWC provides an excellent opportunity for small organizations to build capacity and accomplish projects that would otherwise be unattainable. This program has been invaluable to conservation districts, who are often minimally funded and staffed. Many conservation districts across the state use the BSWC program to get the additional work force they need to get projects off the ground. Often these projects include stream restoration, education and outreach to the community or youth groups, volunteer stream monitoring programs, and Watershed Restoration Plan development. The program requires a \$10,000 cash cost share to host a member, and while this is minimal compared to hiring a full-time employee, it is still often too much for conservation districts to support. Many conservation districts depend on grants to meet this cost share and many grant programs are experiencing cutbacks for the upcoming funding cycle.

The BSWC program has grown significantly each year since its inception and 2017 is no exception. The number of potential host sites has increased by seven for 2017 and will likely continue to grow each year. More conservation districts and other small watershed groups than ever before are applying for members and a number of these applications include projects that directly address nonpoint source pollution or the development of Watershed Restoration Plans. These projects often reach thousands of people each year, not only through projects completed on the ground, but through widespread community education and outreach as well.

Continued support of the BSWC program will provide assistance to small organizations throughout the state to help them fulfill their missions and goals regarding the reduction of nonpoint source pollution.

Sincerely,

Jessica L. Makus

Jessica Makus
Soil & Water Conservation Districts of Montana
1101 11th Avenue
Helena, MT 59601



**MONTANA
CONSERVATION
CORPS**



206 N. Grand Ave, Bozeman, MT 59715 • PH:406.587.4475 • www.mtcorps.org

7/27/16

Re: Montana Watershed Coordination Council-Letter of Support

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of the Montana Conservation Corps to express our full support of the Montana Watershed Coordination Council's (MWCC) Nonpoint Source (NPS) grant application to support Big Sky Watershed Corps (BSWC) Host Sites. This funding is essential to the continued success of program, its participants and the local Montana communities they serve throughout the year.

BSWC Host Sites are the medium for which AmeriCorps members directly serve communities and improve Montana watershed health. These organizations are essential to the success of Montana's watershed-based communities and provide the necessary infrastructure to bring highly qualified and highly motivated college graduates to Montana. BSWC members are an excellent resource to assist with data collection, expand volunteer bases and outreach capabilities, and implement critical watershed restoration projects. Without Host Sites these AmeriCorps members would be unable to serve Montana and its citizens.

As the need for mitigating nonpoint source pollution continues to grow in Montana, there will be an ever-increasing demand for BSWC AmeriCorps members to implement successful projects with local organizations. Without the Host Site support funds from the NPS Program many local organizations would not be able to host a BSWC member. As the BSWC grows to an all-time high of 27 AmeriCorps members in 2017, potential high quality Host Sites will be in even more need of support from MWCC. The NPS funding will play an essential role in MWCC continuing to support Host Sites, AmeriCorps members and Montana's watershed communities.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you need any further information. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Wendy Wigert
Director of Operations
Montana Conservation Corps
206 N. Grand Ave
Bozeman, MT 59715
p: 406.587.4475
e: wendy@mtcorps.org





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PO Box 1247
Hamilton, MT 59840

(406) 375-2272
brwaterforum@
bitterroot.net

brwaterforum.org

Water Protection Bureau Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Robert Ray
P.O. Box 200901
Helena, MT 59620-0901

September 23, 2016

Dear Robert,

The Bitter Root Water Forum (BRWF) enthusiastically supports the Montana Watershed Coordination Council's (MWCC) proposal to the 319 program for support of the Big Sky Watershed Corps (BSWC) program. We recognize the importance of these funds in allowing members to advance restoration and education work to actively combat nonpoint source pollution (NPS) and implement Watershed Restoration Plans throughout the state.

As you know, BRWF is a community driven non-profit organization dedicated to ensuring clean water for this and future generations. BRWF works to support the traditions of agriculture, community, and recreation by protecting the Bitterroot watershed through restoration projects and watershed education.

Our work in watershed restoration has made a significant impact in the Bitterroot watershed and beyond, partly because of support from the 319 Program - both directly from DEQ and through MWCC's sub-awards to assist our BSWC member. As direct beneficiaries of these funds we can honestly attest to the importance of both funding opportunities to watershed groups and conservation districts. Bolstering the work of the BSWC, whose members have done incredible work to reduce NPS pollution, is vital to advancing watershed restoration in Montana and ensuring that we move closer to delisting streams from the Montana List of Impaired Waters. Funding from MWCC has helped our members organize and execute volunteer days to enhance riparian buffers and provide shade to temperature impaired streams while also reaching community members about the importance of water quality and constructive ways to combat NPS pollution.

Thank you for considering the proposal from MWCC, and for the funding you have awarded them in the past. We are fortunate to have a group like MWCC working in Montana and to have agencies like DEQ supporting their work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Heather Barber".

Heather Barber
Executive Director