



319 NPS Project Funding Request

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Project Title Riparian Fencing + Grazing Management = Temperature & Sediment Reduction on the East Fork

Project Sponsor Information

Name Bitter Root Water Forum Tax ID # 43-2000515
 Address PO Box 1247 Website www.brwaterforum.org
 City Hamilton State Montana Zip Code 59840 County Ravalli

Primary Contact Heather Barber
 Title Executive Director
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Project Funding

319 Funds Requested	\$100,000.00
Non-Federal Matching Funds	\$67,000.00
Federal Funds	\$0.00
Total Project Budget	\$167,000.00

Project Location

Watershed Name or HUC # Bitterroot
 Latitude 45°50'49" Longitude -113°58'05"
 Is the waterbody on the 2016 List of Impaired Waters? Yes
 Does this project implement a WRP? Yes

Nonpoint Source (NPS) Information and Project Planning

Project Focus

Improving water quality by reducing thermal pollution and sediment delivery to 5,000 feet of the temperature and sediment impaired East Fork of the Bitterroot River through riparian fencing and active revegetation.

 Does the landowner support this project? Yes

Project Description

Timeline: Please detail the proposed timeline for this project.

Spring 2017-Fall 2017 with additional monitoring and maintenance until 2027
 *Spring start is dependent on whether additional funding is secured to begin the project before DEQ funding becomes available.

Please provide a brief overview of the proposed project, including background, purpose, partners and methods.

The need for this project is clear: the East Fork of the Bitterroot River, headwaters of the mighty Bitterroot, is listed as impaired by MT DEQ for both sediment and temperature. These conditions are the reflection of land use practices and natural conditions including a lack of vegetation along the stream due to overgrazing, fire damage, and bank erosion. The opportunity to work on a property like this --which contains a mile of the East Fork --is incredibly rare, especially in the Bitterroot. In addition, the landowners are incredibly dedicated to this property; in 2015 they completed a conservation easement preserving the property in perpetuity. Working on a restoration project on a property/reach this scale will be the most effective action we can take to combat sediment and temperature impairments on the East Fork of the Bitterroot River. The project will improve water quality by: planting 2,750 nursery raised cottonwoods and native shrubs, surrounding 1,400 plants with browse protectors, installing 150 transplanted willows and alders, installing 9,000 linear feet of fencing to prevent grazing, and working with the ranch manager to develop a grazing strategy that allows the plants and riparian area to not only rebound, but thrive. This project is already a collaborative effort as we learned of the landowners interest in restoration through the Bitter Root Land Trust (BRLT). Successfully completing this project will take additional partners and funders including BRLT, Trout Unlimited, Fly Fishers of the Bitterroot, and Future Fisheries.