



319 NPS Project Funding Request

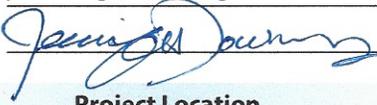
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<http://deq.mt.gov/Water/WPB/Nonpoint-Source-Program/NPS-319-Project-Funding>

Project Title Big Hole Watershed Sediment Reduction

Project Sponsor Information

Name Big Hole Watershed Committee Tax ID # 11-3737644
 Address PO Box 21 Website _____
 City Divide State Montana Zip Code 59727 County Silver Bow

Primary Contact Jennifer Downing
 Title Executive Director
 Phone Number 406-960-4855
 Fax Number _____
 E-mail Address jdowning@bhwc.org
 Signature 

Project Funding

319 Funds Requested	\$300,000.00
Non-Federal Matching Funds	\$400,000.00
Federal Funds	
Total Project Budget	\$700,000.00

Project Location

Watershed Name or HUC # Big Hole Watershed
 Latitude 45.983058 Longitude -113.006818
 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

Sediment reduction in two critical areas of the Big Hole Watershed: Oregon Creek, a major tributary to French Creek within the Mt. Haggin WMA; and the Lower Big Hole River private lands.

Does the landowner support this project? Yes

Project Description

Timeline: Please detail the proposed timeline for this project.

Project will begin with availability of funds: Oregon Creek- Design work, survey, permitting and construction oversight Sept.2017 through December 2018 (potentially 2019 if funding is delayed). Incentive Program project implementation: July 2017-Dec. 2018.

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

This project addresses critical sediment inputs to the Big Hole River watershed identified in the Middle-Lower Big Hole River WRP and TMDL, as well as Montana Impaired Waters listing.

Oregon Creek: Oregon Creek is located on state-owned Mount Haggin WMA. Project site is mouth of Oregon Creek as it enters French Creek floodplain. Project would address excess sediment entering French Creek due to loss of riparian and wetland habitat function from placer mining. Oregon Creek and French Creek are impaired streams for sediment. Placer piles would be removed and stream sinuosity and floodplain area would be increased, enhancing natural sediment capture of the system through enhanced wetland and pool habitat. This work joins a complex of sediment reduction in French Creek, with California Creek and French/Moose Creek projects completed 2013-2016. Project has support from ADLC, Montana FWP, Natural Resource Damage Program/EPA, George Grant chapter of Trout Unlimited. 319 funds will secure an engineering contractor for design, permitting, construction oversight, construction, monitoring, and E&O. Matching funds will pay a portion of design and majority of construction cost.

Incentive Program (IP): Sediment inputs to the Middle and Lower Big Hole River are most often from agricultural lands. Project would build on pilot Incentive Program launched in 2016-2017, providing payments to landowners for implementation of sediment reduction projects on their property. The IP currently has 12 landowners developing projects, some of which have needs beyond what existing program can pay for. Additional funds would expand success of existing program, broadening scope of projects. The IP specifically points to incentives meeting WRP targets for sediment. Along with expanded implementation, funds could support improvements to the sediment-based payment model currently in use and support outreach of sediment reduction program at water quality conferences. Project has support from Montana DNRC, Future West, The Nature Conservancy.