



319 NPS Project Funding Request

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

Project Title Ranching for Rivers

Project Sponsor Information

Name Soil and Water Conservation Districts of Montana Tax ID # 23-7096823
 Address 1101 11th Avenue Website http://swcdmi.org/
 City Helena State Montana Zip Code 59601 County Lewis and Clark

Primary Contact Jessica Makus
 Title Programs Manager
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 Signature Jessica Makus

Project Funding

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

Project Location

Nonpoint Source (NPS) Information and Project Planning

Watershed Name or HUC # Throughout Montana
 Latitude _____ Longitude _____
 Is the waterbody on the 2016 List of Impaired Waters? Yes
 Does this project implement a WRP? Yes

Project Focus

This project will focus on reducing pollutant loading to impaired waterbodies in areas with active WRPs, by providing cost share to landowners to create riparian pastures and related infrastructure along these waterbodies and develop grazing management plans.

 Does the landowner support this project? Yes

Project Description

Timeline: Please detail the proposed timeline for this project.

The project duration will be 2.5 years (July 2017-Dec 2019). The first 3 months will be program development and outreach. Two calls for projects (fall '17 and '18) will follow and participating landowners will have one year to implement and monitor projects.

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

Ranching for Rivers is a simple, low-cost, yet highly effective way to reduce pollutant loading to waterbodies currently impaired for sediment, nutrients, and/or temperature. This project will take place across Montana, focusing on DEQ-impaired waterbodies with Watershed Restoration Plans in place. Landowners will participate voluntarily to construct riparian pasture fencing and off-stream watering infrastructure, and receive a 50% cost-share for materials upon project completion. Landowners will develop grazing management plans to aid riparian vegetation recruitment and growth, while managing pastures for the spread of invasive weeds. Soil and Water Conservation Districts of Montana (SWCDM) will partner with conservation districts, watershed groups, DNRC, NRCS, MSU Extension Service, DEQ, and others to identify and engage landowners ready to establish riparian fencing. SWCDM will select landowner applications based on the following criteria: impairment listings for the proposed site, WRP status, expected project effectiveness, cost, and estimated completion time. SWCDM will meet with each landowner to go over fence design and the grazing management plan. SWCDM will also use the site visit as a time to collect streambank measurements and take pre-fencing photographs. Streambank measurements will be used for load reduction estimates following DEQ-recommended methods to determine the estimated effectiveness and load reductions for each project. Additionally, this program will include an education and outreach component to advertise the program and highlight the success and benefits of riparian pastures for cattle operations as well as recreation. This proposal follows a pilot program managed by SWCDM in winter/spring 2016. The highly successful pilot selected five landowners to implement fencing and off-stream watering infrastructure along impaired waterbodies within the Missouri River basin. The conclusion of the program resulted in a total of 8.28 miles of protected streambank, an estimated load reduction of 6,561.82 tons of sediment per year, and generated \$65,246 in non-federal match for \$36,000 in 319 funding.