

Comments for FY2017 319 Nonpoint Source Preliminary Project Proposal

Sponsor: Blackfoot Challenge

Project Title: Middle & Upper Blackfoot Stream Restoration

319 Request: \$208,000

DEQ Project Manager: Christina Staten, (406) 444-2836, CStaten@mt.gov

- Contact your DEQ Project Manager (noted above) for assistance in addressing DEQ comments and preparing your Final Application.
- 319 funding is very competitive this year. If you have projects within your proposal that could be funded separately, consider using the box on the last page of the Final Application form to indicate your preference for prioritization in the event that DEQ offers partial funding.
- Prior to filling out the Final Application form, carefully review the following documents, available for download at <http://deq.mt.gov/Water/WPB/Nonpoint-Source-Program/Guidance-Documents-and-Resources>
 - Instructions for Completing 319 NPS Project Funding Request and Final Application.
 - Call for 319 Nonpoint Source Project Funding Requests, especially sections 1.3 and 5.2
 - FY2017 Montana 319 Nonpoint Source Project Scoring Sheet. During the final review process, applications are scored using the FY2017 Montana 319 Nonpoint Source Project Scoring Sheet found in the Call for Applications. The scores are not used as a definitive means in making decisions on which projects to fund, but a higher score may help your application.
- Your Final Project Proposal must clearly demonstrate that all aspects of your project meet the following eligibility requirements:
 - Address nonpoint source pollution
 - Address impairments identified in Montana's 2016 List of Impaired Waters
 - Implement goals and objectives identified in the 2012 Montana Nonpoint Source Management Plan
 - Directly implement projects or activities identified in a DEQ-accepted Watershed Restoration Plan (WRP)
- Proofread your Final Application; consider also having a co-worker review it for clarity.
- Complete all elements of the Final Application form. Pay special attention to the information requested in Section 1, as it seems to be a common source of errors.
- On page 2 of the Final Application form, you do not need to include SWCDMI mini-grants in the list of open 319 contracts.
- In Section IV: Scope of Work, you must include a separate task for monitoring; education and outreach; operation and maintenance; and contract administration, where applicable. Attachment B of the Call for 319 Nonpoint Source Project Funding Requests contains example template language for each of these four tasks. The 319 funds requested for the contract administration task must not exceed 10% of the total 319 funds request in your proposal.
- For projects addressing nitrogen, phosphorus or sediment, ***contact your DEQ Project Manager for help in identifying the information you will need to collect in order for DEQ to estimate annual pollutant load reductions.***
- Review all task timelines, the project milestone table, and other date-related information in the Final Application. Dates must be consistent with the anticipated 319 funding schedule. Funding may not be available until July 2017, and contract work needs to be completed within 2 to 3 years of the start of the contract.

- Remember to include all applicable attachments (see Section V of the Final Application form).
- Late or incomplete Final Application Forms will not be considered. If you have any questions please call your DEQ Project Manager well before the Final Application due date of September 26, 2016.

Other Comments

- The watershed name on your project funding request does not match a defined 12 digit hydrologic unit code (HUC). Please identify specific 12 digit HUCs on your Final Application by following the Project Location portion of the “Instructions for Completing 319 NPS Project Funding Request and Final Application.”
- Clearly identify the location of each project.
- The Blackfoot Watershed Restoration Plan does not provide much guidance for prioritizing individual projects. Consider prioritizing the proposed projects in your Final Application, and provide rationale for the prioritization. In this process, consider how each of the projects fit into the next steps of your Watershed Restoration Plan (see item A1 of the General Application Considerations found on the scoring sheet).
- Identify the project partners, their contributions, and their roles for each proposed project.
- Define the stage of each proposed project: describe what planning, design, and permitting has been completed thus far.
- Consider the potential time lag for acquiring any needed permits when determining timeframes for project construction and ensuring 319 project funds can be spent prior to contract expiration dates.
- Provide details on the specific restoration techniques to be used for each project.
- Provide additional information on how grazing management plans will be developed and how they will be implemented and maintained.
- Identify specific pre-and-post evaluation activities for your project(s), as well as your operation and maintenance plans.
- Consider whether your proposed projects will become self-maintaining (item A2 of the General Application Considerations found on the scoring sheet).
- Based on observations of previously completed restoration work on Nevada Creek, downstream of Nevada Reservoir and the county road, and a comparison of that area with the stream reach between the dam outlet and the road, it is apparent that riparian revegetation efforts in the project area have not been very successful. Has there been any consideration of going back into the project reach and doing additional work to establish appropriate woody riparian vegetation? If not, what would you do differently in the proposed new project area to ensure woody riparian revegetation success?