

## Comments for FY2017 319 Nonpoint Source Preliminary Project Proposal

**Sponsor:** Soil and Water Conservation Districts of Montana

**Project Title:** Ranching for Rivers

**319 Request:** \$100,000

**DEQ Project Manager:** Jordan Tollefson, (406) 444-6652, [jtollefson@mt.gov](mailto:jtollefson@mt.gov)

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- 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*

- Describe the source(s) of match for the project.
- Identify the types of practices you expect to fund. Will you have minimum streamside setback expectations for fencing?
- In your final application, discuss the long-term plan for ensuring the success of this project. The current timeline states that participating landowners will have one year to implement and monitor projects. Are there plans to revisit these sites in the future? Or is there some other method you have for ensuring that landowners will maintain the infrastructure and operate the grazing management plans according to the agreements?
- Provide more detail on the development of grazing management plans and what technical resources will be available to develop these grazing management plans.
- As part of the 319 contract, landowner agreements will need to include the opportunity for DEQ to evaluate the on-going effectiveness of the project.
- If partnering with other organizations (conservation districts, watershed groups, DNRC, NRCS, MSU Extension, DEQ, etc.), please provide letters of support from these organizations.
- Please specify in your final application the streambank measurements that will be collected and how this will help determine pollutant load reductions. In addition to sediment, nitrogen and phosphorus load reduction estimates are required by our grant from EPA.
- Do not rule out or discourage landowners from applying for livestock exclusion fencing.