



2020 319 Application Form

PART A—GENERAL INFORMATION

Project Name Targeted Capacity to Reduce Nonpoint Source Pollution through the Big Sky Watershed Corps Program

Sponsor Name Montana Watershed Coordination Council (MWCC)

Registered with the Secretary of State? Y Registered with SAM? Y

Duns # 078805000 Does your organization have liability insurance? Y

Primary Contact Terri Nichols Signatory Erin Farris-Olsen

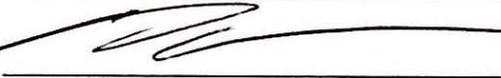
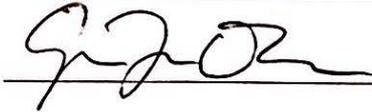
Title Watershed Programs Coordinator Title Executive Director

Address PO Box 1416 Address PO Box 1416

City Helena State MT Zip Code 59624 City Helena State MT Zip Code 59624

Phone Number (406) 475-1420 Phone Number (406) 475-1420

Email Address terri@mtwatersheds.org Email Address erin@mtwatersheds.org

Signature  Signature 

Technical and Administrative Qualifications

MWCC staff understand the challenges watershed groups and conservation districts face in implementing WRPs. We work closely with them to increase their capacity to reduce nonpoint source pollution. MWCC staff also have experience managing multiple sub-grant awards to successfully leverage funding resources for watershed health across Montana. From 09/2018 through 08/2019, MWCC distributed \$237,870 in Capacity and Project support to 18 separate Watershed Partners. MWCC is one of three partners who ensure the success of the Big Sky Watershed Corps (BSWC) Program. The others are the Soil & Water Conservation Districts of Montana (SWCDM), which provides additional knowledge and support of conservation districts hosting BSWC members, and the Montana Conservation Corps (MCC), which provides support for BSWC members and administers our federal AmeriCorps grant.

Past and Current Projects

Project Name	Grant or Contract Amount	Funding Entity (entity name/program, contact person, phone, email)	Completion Date
Big Sky Watershed Corps Agreement for Consulting Services	\$ 12,000.00	Montana Conservation Corps Bryan Wilson (406) 585-5913 bryan@mtcorps.org	December 2019
Funding for BSWC members and host sites implementing aquatic invasive species project	\$ 36,550.00	Montana DNRC Stephanie Hester (406) 444-6691 shester@mt.gov	December 2020
Support for on-the-ground conservation projects on private lands	\$ 150,000.00	Natural Resources Conservation Service Kyle Tackett kyle.tackett@mt.usda.gov (406) 683-3812	September 2022 (funds added to contract annually)



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Sponsor Name Montana Watershed Coordination Council (MWCC)

Registered with the Secretary of State?

Registered with SAM?

Duns # 078805000

Does your organization have liability insurance?

Primary Contact Terri Nichols

Signatory Erin Farris-Olsen

Title Watershed Programs Coordinator

Title Executive Director

Address PO Box 1416

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FUNDING REQUEST

319 Funds Requested (<i>including administrative fee</i>)	\$ 83,000.00	Administrative Fee (<i>not to exceed 10% of total 319 funding request</i>)	\$ 8,300.00
State Cash Match	\$ 10,000.00	Total Non-Federal Match	\$ 60,000.00
Local Cash Match	\$ 10,000.00		
In-Kind Match	\$ 40,000.00		
Federal Funds	\$ 482,800.00		
Other Funds (<i>not 319, not match, not federal</i>)	\$ 771,050.00		
Total Project Cost	\$ 1,396,850.00		

PART B—PROJECT INFORMATION

Part B must be filled out separately (*including providing separate attachments*) for each project included in your application. Use the following examples to help determine when to lump and when to split projects. If additional clarification is needed, contact Mark Ockey, at 406-444-5351 or mockey@mt.gov.

Splitting Examples (fill out multiple Part B's)

- Stream restoration work occurring on two separate streams, on parcels owned by two separate individuals
- Two projects with significantly different sets of project partners
- Two projects that address substantially different pollution sources (e.g., one project that moves a corral off of a stream, and another to remove mine tailings, with both projects being on the same 800-acre recreational property)

Lumping Examples

- Contiguous stream restoration work spanning multiple land parcels
- 3 projects that address similar sources of pollution on a single land parcel (e.g., moving a coral off a stream, implementing a grazing management plan, and relocating a manure storage facility out of the floodplain, all on the same ranch)
- A mini-grant program designed to address numerous failing septic systems scattered throughout a watershed

Project (sub-project) Name Targeted Capacity to Reduce Nonpoint Source Pollution through the Big Sky Watershed Corps Program

Total Project Cost Include costs already incurred, as well as anticipated costs, from all sources, for all aspects of the project.

\$ 1,396,850.00

Latitude Multiple Longitude Multiple

Latitude _____ Longitude _____

Latitude _____ Longitude _____

Map Y

12 Digit HUC #(s) Multiple

Waterbody Name from 2018 List of Impaired Waters Multiple

Probable Causes of Impairment to be Addressed Multiple

Waterbody Name from 2018 List of Impaired Waters Multiple

Probable Causes of Impairment to be Addressed Multiple

Project Summary - Briefly describe the **nature and extent** of the problem, the **root causes** of the problem, and your **proposed solution**.

Local watershed groups and conservation districts are uniquely poised to implement DEQ-accepted WRPs and to resolve a wide range of nonpoint source pollution issues in their home watersheds. As grassroots organizations using the collaborative, locally driven Watershed Approach to conservation, these organizations have earned the trust of landowners and other community members. Because of these relationships, they often have greater success addressing local water quality issues than statewide agencies and organizations.

Yet many of these local watershed organizations struggle to implement their WRPs due to a lack of resources, including: 1) a lack of capacity for effective community education and outreach, 2) a lack of time and funding to complete small projects with measurable impacts that can lead to more landowner engagement, and 3) a lack of access to professional development opportunities that allow staff and other key stakeholders to successfully implement their WRPs. At the root of these deficiencies is a lack of dedicated funding to allow Montana's watershed organizations to build long-term capacity and to put "boots on the ground" to turn strong relationships into measurable improvements in water quality. (See Attachment A_About Montana's Watershed Organizations.)

The BSWC program places young professionals – college-educated AmeriCorps members with backgrounds relevant to local watershed health – with Montana's watershed organizations for 11-month terms. (See Attachment B_BSWC Program Overview.) These members provide a low-cost, high-enthusiasm option for community member outreach, volunteer recruitment, and nonpoint source pollution reduction, as well as the skills, knowledge, and dedication to service necessary to help watershed organizations build overall capacity. Members contribute more than 1,7000 hours of service during their terms, and dozens of BSWC host organizations (aka "host sites) have benefited from members who directly implemented aspects of their local WRPs. Among those, several have hosted multiple members working on nonpoint source pollution over the years.

Despite the benefits of hosting a BSWC member, many small watershed organizations cannot afford the \$12,250 cost share required to do so, not to mention the costs of funding member-led projects or providing professional development opportunities to build organizational capacity long-term. This is where MWCC's 319 proposal for BSWC support comes in.

Since 2015, MWCC, working together with DEQ and with BSWC Partners MCC and SWCDM, has assisted 19 watershed organizations in supporting BSWC members focused on WRP implementation, accessing and utilizing NPS-related professional development training, and getting small-scale NPS pollution-reduction projects on the ground. (See Attachment C_319 BSWC Support Map.) This includes 8 on-the-ground projects since MWCC began offering project funds via 319 funding in 2017, ranging from streambank rrestoration to supporting riparian grazing management plans and monitoring past restoration projects.

Continuation of previous or ongoing activity? If "Yes", please explain the relationship.

Yes. As mentioned above, the BSWC Program has been operating since 2011 as a partnership among MWCC, MCC, and SWCDM. DEQ 319 funds have supported the costs of hosting BSWC members and of professional development opportunities for host organizations since 2015, through four separate contracts (214011, 216028, 217009, and 219011). In 2017, MWCC added funding for BSWC-led on-the-ground projects implementing WRP Best Management Practices (BMPs).

Watershed Restoration Plan (WRP) and authoring entity

Bitterroot - Bitter Root Water Forum

Letter of support from WRP authoring entity? If "No", please explain.

Y

Note: This project proposal would cover any DEQ-accepted WRP where a local watershed organization is hosting a BSWC member for the express purposes of implementing the WRP. The Bitterroot WRP and the Bitter Root Water Forum have benefited from multiple BSWC members, and MWCC/DEQ 319 support for those members, over the years.

How will this project implement recommendations in the WRP?

This project does not address a specific WRP, but rather provides an important tool for implementing WRPs wherever there are local watershed organizations hosting BSWC members. As a reference, DEQ 319 funding for BSWC members has so far supported 19 watershed organizations implementing 17 separate WRPs.

This project would provide funding for BSWC members to engage in education and outreach activities identified in most WRPs, and to implement on-the-ground projects identified in their host communities' WRPs to reduce nonpoint source pollution loading. It also provides ongoing WRP-implementation capacity for host organizations in the form of professional development funding of educational opportunities for BSWC host organization staff and members, as well as capacity to reach more interested landowners through outreach efforts and small, successful projects.

Nonpoint Source Goals

Nonpoint Source Goals for this project are dependent on the specific goals of each watershed organization hosting a BSWC member to help implement their WRP. The following are examples of Nonpoint Source pollution reductions achieved for BSWC member projects funded in 2017 and 2018. (Final reports are not yet in for projects funded in 2019.)

Bitter Root Water Forum - Stream Revegetation in Hamilton's River Park: Nitrogen load reduction from this project estimated at 20 pounds per year, phosphorus load reduction estimated at 8 pounds per year, and sediment load reduction estimated at 5 tons per year.

Trout Unlimited - Revegetation of Floodplains along Past Reclamation Projects on Ninemile Creek: Sediment load reduction estimated at 630 tons per year.

Lake Helena Watershed Group - Lower Prickly Pear Water Quality Improvement: Sediment load reduction estimated at 30 tons per year, nitrogen load reduction estimated at 131 pounds per year, and phosphorous load reduction estimated at 28 pounds per year.

Bitter Root Water Forum - Maintenance and Monitoring of Existing Restoration Sites: Rye and Cameron Creek maintenance and monitoring were unlikely to have measurable load reductions by themselves, so no reductions were estimated for these locations. For the East Fork of the Bitterroot, sediment load reduction is estimated at 0.4 tons per year (rounded to one significant figure to account for the coarse nature of the analysis). Nutrient load reductions were expected to be minimal and were not estimated.

Partners and Roles

Landowner(s)

Name

N/A
N/A
N/A

Letter of Support Attached?

 N

 N

 N

Other Partners

Name

Role

Letter of Support Attached?

Montana Conservation Corps	BSWC Steering Committee member; member recruitment, support, and training; grant manager for a \$482,800 federal AmeriCorps grant that supports the bulk of the BSWC program.
Soil & Water Conservation Districts of Montana	BSWC Steering Committee member; host organization recruitment and support for conservation district host sites; member training.
Bitter Root Water Forum	BSWC host organization since the program's inception; one of 19 past and current recipients of MWCC funding for BSWC WRP-implementation work, including cost share support, professional development funding, and on-the-ground project funding.
Gallatin Watershed Council	BSWC host organization; one of 19 past and current recipients of MWCC funding for BSWC WRP-implementation work, including cost share support, professional development funding, and on-the-ground project funding.

 Y

 Y

 Y

 Y

 N

 N

Planning and Coordination

Planning and coordination includes permitting, design development, landowner agreements, volunteer labor recruitment, partnering and collaboration, alignment with watershed planning efforts, procurement and oversight of contractors, etc.

Planning Activities Already Completed	Documentation Attached?
Establishment of BSWC program by MCC, MWCC, and SWCDM in 2011	<input type="checkbox"/> N
Quarterly BSWC Steering Committee meetings determine program direction and focus - Ongoing	<input type="checkbox"/> N
Application for continued AmeriCorps program funding for 2021 (the year this funding will be utilized)	<input type="checkbox"/> N
	<input type="checkbox"/> N
	<input type="checkbox"/> N
	<input type="checkbox"/> N

Task Description

BSWC Host Site Cost Share Support. MWCC will provide up to \$6,000 in 319 funding and up to \$6,000 in match for each of 6 or more qualified watershed groups or conservation districts to support BSWC members. Qualified watershed organizations (host sites) are those implementing DEQ-accepted WRPs and enlisting the skills of their BSWC members to do so. MWCC will evaluate the qualifications of host sites based on their proposed work plans for their BSWC members and how well these support WRP implementation. MWCC will also work with qualified host sites to ensure that their BSWC members directly implement some aspect(s) of the DEQ-accepted WRP, and that their members adequately report on progress and deliverables. MWCC will coordinate these tasks with host sites and with DEQ.

Deliverables

1. A list of qualified host sites for BSWC member placements and cost share support.
 2. A work plan developed by each host site detailing WRP-related activities that the BSWC member will work on during their term of service.
 3. A summary of WRP activities accomplished by each funded BSWC member during their service term, written by the member.

Funding

319 Funds	<input type="text" value="\$ 35,000.00"/>
Non-Federal Match	<input type="text" value="\$ 35,000.00"/>
Federal Funds	<input type="text" value="\$ 0.00"/>
Other Funds	<input type="text" value="\$ 0.00"/>
Total Cost	<input type="text" value="\$ 70,000.00"/>
Is Match Secured	<input type="checkbox"/> N

Timeline 07/2020 - 12/2021

Match Source Cash and in-kind contributions from individual host sites

Project Implementation

Task Description

Project Funding for BSWC implementation of Best Management Practices (BMPs) identified in host site WRPs. In consultation with the DEQ Project Manager, MWCC will develop a reasonable method for selecting and funding implementation of projects (BMPs) consistent with DEQ-accepted WRPs and carried out primarily by BSWC members, with support from their host sites. MWCC will inform BSWC host sites and members of the availability of limited competitive funds and encourage them to develop proposals to request project-implementation funding. Project effectiveness monitoring will be a component of all funded projects, and both interim and final reporting documents will be required. Additionally, project implementation is part of BSWC members' professional development, as they learn how to apply for a grant, carry out a project under the supervision of their host site supervisor, and complete timely and accurate grant reports with assistance from MWCC and their host site supervisor. This experience is also key to long-term water quality improvements across Montana, since many BSWC members find employment in the watershed health field upon graduating from the program, sometimes with their host sites.

Deliverables

1. Documentation of a DEQ-acceptable method or process for competitively awarding funding for implementation of BMPs identified in host site WRPs.
2. A minimum of two WRP-identified projects funded under this task.
3. For those BMPs reducing nitrogen, phosphorus, or sediments, adequate site-specific data will be collected to allow DEQ to calculate project load reductions.
4. Project effectiveness evaluations for projects designed to address pollution from pollutants other than nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment.

Funding

319 Funds	\$ 30,000.00
Non-Federal Match	\$ 20,000.00
Federal Funds	\$ 0.00
Other Funds	\$ 0.00
Total Cost	\$ 50,000.00
Is Match Secured	N

Timeline 11/2020 - 12/2021

Match Source Cash and in-kind contributions from individual host sites

Appropriate Next Step

Projects funded under this portion of MWCC's Targeted Capacity proposal provide "small successes" that are relatively easy to accomplish within a BSWC member's term and also serve as stepping stones toward removing a pollutant or water body from Montana's 2018 Impaired Waters List. As many watershed organizations have found, completing a small project that provides measurable benefits for both the stream and the landowner can prompt that landowner - and often neighbors as well - to take on a project of their own. Projects implemented by BSWC members are often highly visible within the community, since BSWC members typically employ volunteers for revegetation and other tasks and conduct education and outreach throughout the watershed. This also increases the chances of project replicability elsewhere.

Of course, the effectiveness of the projects themselves are stepping stones toward de-listing specific pollutants and water bodies. While some areas may require large-scale restoration projects, in other cases a series of smaller projects, such as those carried out by BSWC members, can be equally effective. Watershed organizations in MWCC's network of Watershed Partners have the local expertise necessary to know which approach will be most useful in different areas of their home watersheds. MWCC staff also provide a resource for watershed organizations hosting BSWC members, helping them determine if a small-scale, BSWC-led project is right for their organization and their watershed.

Sustainability

Projects for implementing BMPs identified in host site WRPs will contribute to long-term sustainable reductions in nonpoint source pollution through a number of factors:

1. Each funded project will be vetted by MWCC and DEQ for long-term, sustainable reductions in nonpoint source pollution.
2. Watershed organizations' existing, often long-term relationships with landowners contribute to sustainability, and landowner agreements between the organizations and the landowners will add to this as well.
3. Professional development funding, outlined in the Education & Outreach section of this proposal, may help to ensure that not only BSWC members, but also host site staff receive relevant training related project sustainability.
4. In some cases, BSWC members have increased host site capacity to such an extent that these organizations are able to hire more staff (sometimes the member themselves), ensuring that project monitoring and maintenance continues into the future.

Natural Processes

The watershed organizations in MWCC's network that host BSWC members are themselves strong supporters of "soft" restoration techniques that allow for natural stream processes and conditions. These host sites use native vegetation, woody debris, beaver dam analogs, and other natural means of reducing nonpoint source pollution and stabilizing stream banks. Furthermore, the MWCC Watershed Fund, which supplies project support using 319 and other funding sources, does not support hard bank stabilizations, introduction of non-native plant species, or the replacement of aging infrastructure. So in the unlikely event that a BSWC host site submitted a project proposal for such activities, MWCC would deny the proposal.

Project Effectiveness Evaluation

Task Description

Project Coordination and Effectiveness Evaluation. MWCC will provide coordination for BSWC 319 support, in consultation with the DEQ Project Manager, the Montana Conservation Corps (MCC), and the Soil and Water Conservation Districts of Montana (SWCDM). This coordination includes announcement of funding opportunities associated with this project, selection of host sites, funding of professional development for host sites, selection of WRP-implementation projects, and project effectiveness reporting. MWCC will ensure that DEQ-approved landowner agreements ensure maintenance and monitoring of all funded on-the-ground projects. MWCC will work with the DEQ Project Manager to develop reasonable methods of evaluating and reporting on the effectiveness of projects funded under this proposal, as well as evaluating and reporting on overall BSWC Program effectiveness in addressing nonpoint source pollution and building the capacity of local watershed organizations to implement WRPs.

Deliverables

1. Documentation of a DEQ-acceptable method or process for competitively awarding funding for implementation of BMPs called for in host site WRPs.
For projects funded through this process:
2. Landowner agreements between host sites and landowners allowing project implementation on their property, reviewed and approved by DEQ.
3. Site-specific data that will allow DEQ to determine load-reduction estimates.
4. A brief description of methods used to evaluate project effectiveness.
Additionally:
5. A written summary evaluating the effectiveness of the BSWC Program in addressing nonpoint source pollution and building the capacity of watershed organizations to implement WRPs.

Funding

319 Funds	\$ 5,000.00
Non-Federal Match	\$ 5,000.00
Federal Funds	\$ 0.00
Other Funds	\$ 0.00
Total Cost	\$ 10,000.00
Is Match Secured	Y

Timeline 07/2020-12/2021

Match Source MWCC Staff in-kind services and BSWC member support

The Bigger Picture

Other Natural Resources

BSWC members typically work on a wide range of projects that benefit multiple natural resources, including aquatic invasive species prevention, weed management, support for wildlife corridors, drought resiliency, and native fisheries, to name just a few. This is also true of BSWC-led projects called for in WRPs. In one example, the Gallatin Watershed Council's Dry Creek Restoration Project, funded by MWCC/DEQ 319 funding, is not only reducing sediment, nitrogen, and phosphorus loading by re-shaping stream banks and increasing woody vegetation, but also is improving fish habitat and increasing natural water storage during high flows.

Climate Resiliency

Many BSWC host sites/watershed organizations are actively working to help their communities be more resilient in the face of climate change. Examples include BSWC members' work on drought monitoring, education, and response with the Blackfoot Challenge, Big Hole Watershed Committee, Gallatin Watershed Council, and other watershed organizations implementing WRPs, as well as the Lolo Watershed Group's BSWC member working with landowners to plant trees on slopes that burned too hot in recent fires to allow natural revegetation.

Public Visibility

Projects implemented by BSWC members are often highly visible within the community, since BSWC members typically employ volunteers for revegetation and other tasks and conduct education and outreach throughout the watershed. While this is not always the case, recent examples include Lake County Conservation District's Rainbow Drive Park Restoration Project, which stabilizes a bank of the Swan River in a highly utilized county park, and the Broadwater Conservation District's highly publicized work to restore Deep Creek. Projects aside, BSWC members bring a great deal of attention to nonpoint source pollution issues through their strong emphasis on education and outreach at public events, in schools, and elsewhere in their watersheds.

Point Source / Nonpoint Source Relationships

Depends on specific projects implemented by individual watershed organizations/BSWC host sites.

Source Water Protection

Depends on specific projects implemented by individual watershed organizations/BSWC host sites.

Healthy Watersheds

BSWC members and host sites prevent healthy water bodies from becoming impaired primarily through their frequent and dedicated work to educate the public and to engage community members. Many teach students and other community members how to monitor lakes and streams for pollutants, flow, temperature, and other data - a powerful experience for instilling local knowledge about what factors can increase or impair the health of water bodies. Others recruit and work with volunteers, lead trash and pet waste clean-ups, teach in schools, and conduct public outreach at community events. All of these activities support communities that are more aware of the importance of healthy watersheds - and ways to keep them that way.

PART C—EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Task Description

MWCC will provide funding for professional development (PD) of BSWC members and host site personnel implementing DEQ-accepted WRPs in their watersheds via relevant, in-state trainings and workshops. MWCC also will provide trainings related to WRP implementation for its own network of watershed organizations/BSWC host sites. These professional development opportunities will allow watershed organizations and BSWC members to access trainings and workshops relevant to WRP implementation and nonpoint source pollution reductions, providing for the ongoing educational needs crucial to this work.

Additionally, community education and outreach is central to most BSWC members' work plans (see The Bigger Picture, above).

Deliverables

1. Specific requests for professional development funds prior to the professional development event.
2. Documentation of trainings received, how BSWC members and host site personnel will apply those trainings to support WRP implementation, and costs associated with the event.
3. Documentation of relevant trainings provided by MWCC.

Funding

319 Funds	\$ 4,700.00
Non-Federal Match	\$ 0.00
Federal Funds	\$ 0.00
Other Funds	\$ 0.00
Total Cost	\$ 4,700.00
Is Match Secured	N

Timeline 01/2021 - 11/2021

Match Source N/A

PART D—PROJECT ADMINISTRATION

Task Description

MWCC will oversee and be accountable for the completion of all aspects of this project proposal, maintaining regular contact with the DEQ Project Manager, BSWC Program Partners, BSWC members, and host sites. MWCC will also submit all required billing statements, status reports, annual reports, and a final report, adhering to DEQ requirements for all reporting.

Deliverables

1. Status reports due June 15th of each year.
2. Annual reports due December 15th of each year.
3. Draft final report.
4. Completed final report.
5. Attachment B-Billing Statements.

Funding

319 Funds	\$ 8,300.00
Non-Federal Match	\$ 0.00
Federal Funds	\$ 0.00
Other Funds	\$ 0.00
Total Cost	\$ 8,300.00
Is Match Secured	N

Timeline 07/2020 - 12/2021

Match Source N/A

Letters of Support



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brwaterforum@
bitterroot.net

brwaterforum.org

Montana Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Mark Ockey
Watershed Protection Bureau
P.O. Box 200901
Helena, MT 59620

October 25, 2019

RE: Letter of support for the Montana Watershed Coordination Council

Dear Mr. Ockey,

The Bitter Root Water Forum (BRWF) is writing in support of the Montana Watershed Coordination Council's (MWCC) 319 Grant application to provide cost share, project, and professional development funding to organizations hosting Big Sky Watershed Corps Members.

The Water Forum's ability to successfully address nonpoint source pollution in our watershed is greatly enhanced through our BSWC Member. Our first member helped draft our Watershed Restoration Plan and every Member since has helped implement recommendations from the Plan, from watershed education to on-the-ground restoration. With a BSWC Member in place, watershed groups are able to do even more to improve water quality in Montana.

However, since the tenure of a BSWC Member is eleven months there are few opportunities for them to gain experience seeing a project grant through from drafting to implementation. The program MWCC proposes provides an opportunity for Members to successfully develop and execute projects, giving them ownership in restoration work in Montana. I have seen firsthand how these opportunities inspire future efforts.

In addition to the tangible on the ground results, project dollars available through MWCC have allowed our organization to build stronger partnerships and accomplish more riparian revegetation efforts in the Bitterroot watershed into the future. By working with MWCC to provide project support dollars, DEQ will help restoration efforts with the Water Forum, Big Sky Watershed Corps, and beyond.

We thank you for funding past efforts and strongly urge you to fund MWCC's proposal for 2020.

Sincerely,

Heather Barber



Montana Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Mark Ockey
Watershed Protection Bureau
P.O. Box 200901
Helena, MT 59620

RE: Support letter for the Montana Watershed Coordination Council 319 grant proposal

November 1, 2019

Dear Mr. Ockey,

On behalf of the Gallatin Watershed Council (GWC), I am pleased to submit this letter of support for the Montana Watershed Coordination Council's (MWCC) application to support organizations hosting Big Sky Watershed Corps members through project, cost-share and professional development funds. GWC has benefited tremendously from the services of both BSWC and MWCC. Small, grassroots watershed groups such as ours depend on the excellent resources, organizational support and capacity-building provided by these programs.

This year, GWC was fortunate to receive 319 Grant funds through MWCC to help cover the cost share for a full time BSWC member to assist in the development of a watershed restoration inventory project that will inform progress towards goals listed in our Watershed Restoration Plan. Additionally, GWC received project support that enabled our BSWC member to assist in the implementation of stream restoration project on Dry Creek, incorporating willows and riparian plantings along a 1.85 mile stretch of restored streambank. Without assistance from MWCC, BSWC and DEQ, this work would not be possible.

We are impressed with the BSWC program's rigorous Corps member and sponsor training and mentoring efforts that ensure the program is effective in meeting its goals of building capacity for watershed protection and restoration and providing a meaningful learning experience for young professionals. We urge you to support the Montana Watershed Coordination Council's application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Holly Hill". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Holly Hill

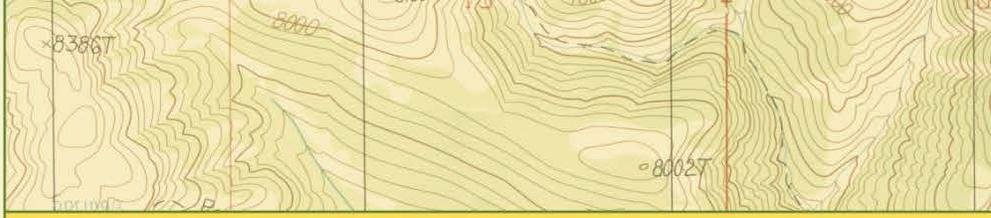
Watershed Coordinator
Gallatin Watershed Council

PO Box 751
Bozeman, MT 59771

greatergallatininfo@gmail.com
greatergallatin.org



**MONTANA
CONSERVATION
CORPS**



206 N. Grand Ave, Bozeman, MT 59715 • PH:406.587.4475 • www.mtcorps.org

Montana Department of Environmental Quality
Attn: Mark Ockey
Watershed Protection Bureau
P.O. Box 200901
Helena, MT 59620

October 31, 2019

Re: Montana Watershed Coordination Council 319 Funding Application

Dear Mr. Ockey,

I am writing on behalf of the Montana Conservation Corps (MCC) to express my full support of the Montana Watershed Coordination Council (MWCC) and their local 319 funding request. MWCC provides a vital service to Montana's watersheds and local communities and is a key partner in successfully implementing the Big Sky Watershed Corps (BSWC) program. Their community-based initiatives are incredibly effective and efficient and they are unwavering in their efforts to be inclusive and thoughtful in every enterprise they undertake.

319 funding provided by the Montana Department of Environmental Quality and administered by MWCC has played a substantial role in the success of partner organizations and ultimately the success of our BSWC AmeriCorps members. In providing this funding MWCC has not only been able to successfully meet its mission, but has also provided invaluable resources to local Montana watersheds and communities resulting in a measurable and lasting on-the-ground impact that will benefit future generations. The projects implemented as a result of this funding have been efficient and effective in mitigating nonpoint source pollution according to local Watershed Restoration Plans, the professional development opportunities have been highly revered and impactful for both BSWC members and host sites, and the cost share support allowed small, yet ever important, watershed organizations to better establish a community presence, build capacity and greatly improve Montana's most precious resource, water.

MWCC provides essential capacity in efforts to improve Montana's watersheds, form sustainable and resilient partnerships, and address critical water quality issues. We are incredibly fortunate to partner with them in implementing the BSWC program.

I strongly urge you to award full funding support to MWCC.

Best Regards,

Bryan N. Wilson
Associate Director
Montana Conservation Corps
Office- (406).587.4475 x107
Email- bryan@mtcorps.org





1101 11th Ave. Helena, MT 59601
www.swcdmi.org ; 406-443-5711

October 31, 2019

MT DEQ-319 Program
Montana Department of Environmental Quality
1520 E 6th Ave
Helena, MT 59601

Re: Montana Watershed Coordination Council 319 Funding Application

Dear Review Committee:

On behalf the Soil and Water Conservation Districts of Montana (SWCDM), I am writing to extend our support for the Montana Watershed Coordination Council (MWCC) application for 319 funding to support Big Sky Watershed Corp (BSWC) host sites. MWCC has been a valued partner and an essential resource for the watershed community, as well as conservation districts across the state..

MWCC has been an integral partner in the success of the BSWC program, and that is a direct result of the funding and support that they provide to BSWC host sites through the 319 funding they secure. These funds help build capacity in organizations that desperately need it, allowing them to successfully implement Watershed Restoration Plans for their area and complete projects they would otherwise not be able to bring to fruition. The BSWC host site support provided through these funds allows watershed organizations and conservation districts to implement projects that effectively mitigate nonpoint source pollution, increase capacity and training for technical assistance, and expand their reach and opportunity for future project development.

SWCDM supports MWCC's application as it will provide essential funding to organizations that support conservation on the ground and protecting Montana's watersheds.

Thanks you for your consideration of MWCC's application.

Sincerely,

Melissa Downing
SWCDM Operations and Partnerships Manager

LOCAL COMMON-SENSE CONSERVATION

Maps, Designs, Other Attachments



ABOUT MONTANA'S WATERSHED ORGANIZATIONS

Montana's local watershed organizations creatively leverage scarce resources to accomplish a lot in their communities. Many have small budgets and few or no paid staff. In fact, 47% are working with less than one full-time staff person, and many rely partly or exclusively on volunteers. These groups know how to stretch their funding - and how to make the most out of state and federal dollars by combining them with local and private donations.

2018 General Operating Budgets

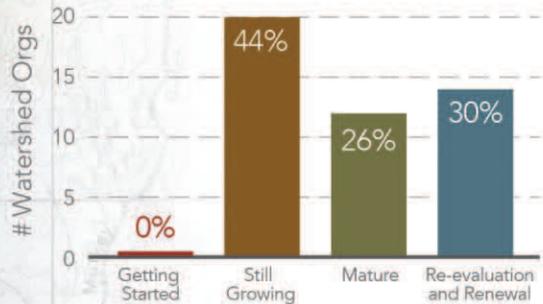


2018 General Operating Budget Funding Sources



Other sources of funding used by some watershed organizations
 310 stream permitting programs and fees
 County mill levies
 Municipal funding
 Note: Due to rounding, numbers don't add up to 100%

Life Stages of Montana's Watershed Organizations



Conservation is critical business for the Kelley family. Leigh and Kyle Kelley are ranchers along the Blackfoot River in Greenough and leaders in protecting and sustaining water resources in their community.





GROWING THE CONSERVATION FIELD

BIG SKY WATERSHED CORPS

Big Sky Watershed Corps (BSWC) is an AmeriCorps program that places young professionals in Montana's watershed communities to make a measurable difference in local conservation initiatives. Since its inception in 2011, BSWC has become a statewide success, with members making strides in watershed research, project planning and implementation, education and outreach, and community engagement.

MWCC partners with the Montana Conservation Corps and the Soil and Water Conservation Districts of Montana to ensure the success of the BSWC program. Our role in this partnership includes providing host site support, coordination, and access to funding for BSWC members and host sites.

Since 2011, BSWC has engaged 160 members who contributed 226,100 hours of conservation service. Dozens of members have gone on to work for local watershed organizations, as well as state and federal agencies working on water issues in Montana. In 2018, 27 BSWC members served 25 conservation organizations statewide, putting in 45,900 hours of conservation service.

2018 BSWC Host Sites



BSWC member Casey Gallagher teaches a young community member about aquatic invasive species at the Fort Peck Governors Cup Winter Carnival.

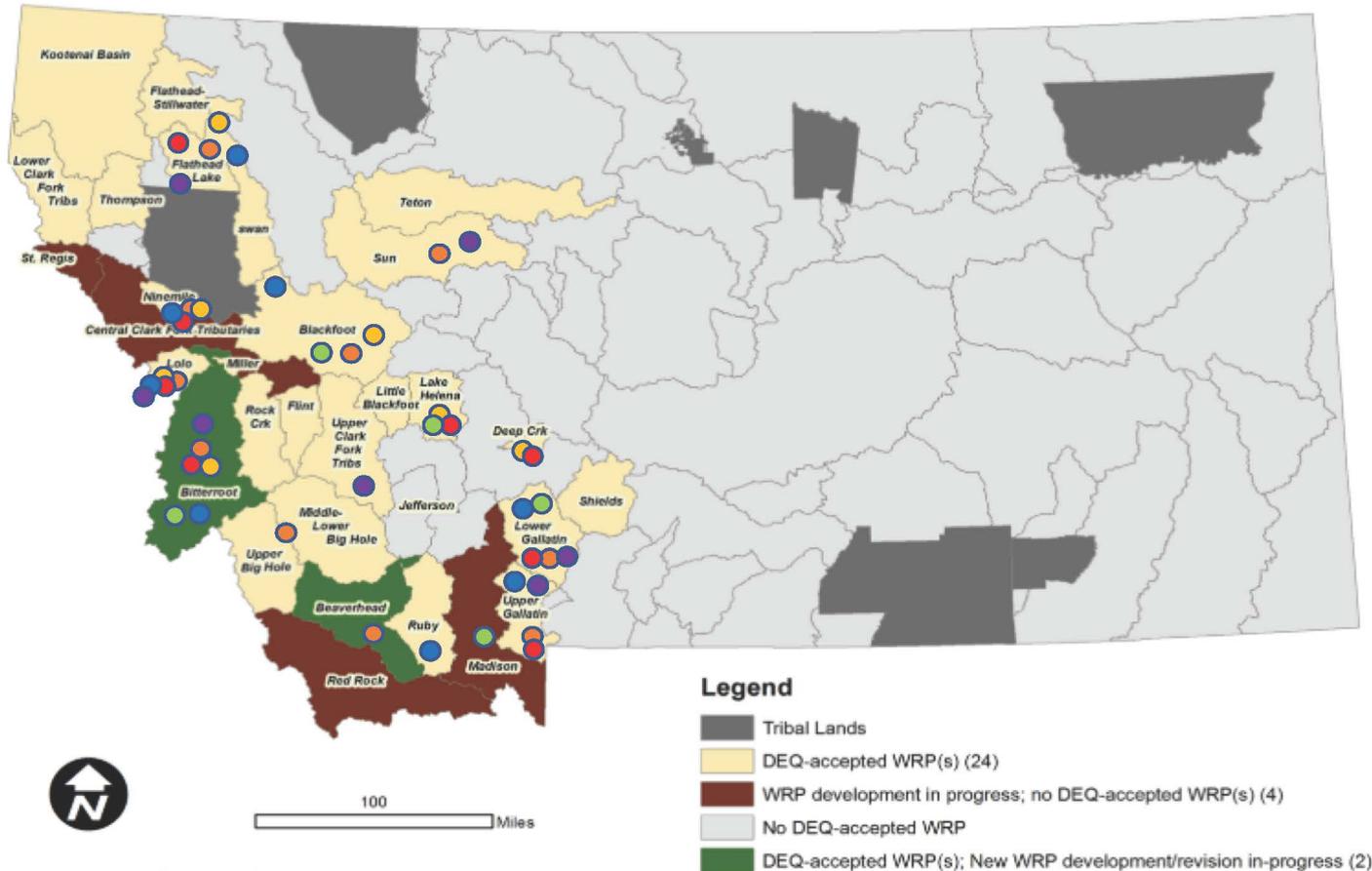


BSWC member Aissa Wise leads a classroom presentation for the Bitter Root Water Forum's Earth Stewardship Program.



BSWC members help with willow harvesting for a restoration project on the Ruby River with the Ruby Valley Conservation District.

Big Sky Watershed Corps 319 Support: Implementing WRPs Since 2015



Legend:

- 2015: Capacity Support
- 2016: Capacity Support
- 2017: Capacity and Project Support
- 2018: Capacity and Project Support
- 2019: Capacity and Project Support
- 2020: Capacity Support (Project Support TBD)

*Map does not include all BSWC host sites implementing WRPs, only host sites MWCC has supported with 319 funds for WRP implementation.