



2020 319 Application Form

PART A—GENERAL INFORMATION

Project Name Muddy Creek Crossing and Habitat Project

Sponsor Name Sun River Watershed Group (SRWG)

Registered with the Secretary of State? Y

Registered with SAM? Y

Duns # 140878120

Does your organization have liability insurance? Y

Primary Contact Tracy Wendt

Signatory Erling Juel

Title Coordinator

Title SRWG Board of Directors Chairman

Address PO Box 7312

Address c/o GID, PO Box 157

City Great Falls State MT Zip Code 59405

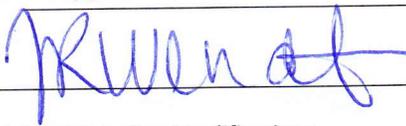
City Fairfield State MT Zip Code 59436

Phone Number 4062142868

Phone Number 4067994416

Email Address tracy@sunriverwatershed.org

Email Address erling@gid-mt.com

Signature 

Signature 

Technical and Administrative Qualifications

SRWG Coordinator Tracy Wendt has experience managing stream improvement projects and managing federal grants. This includes hiring and managing contractors, grant reporting, funds management, project monitoring and volunteer training & management. SRWG will hire a cost-effective, experienced, and responsible engineering consultant for permitting support and design. Construction will be performed by Greenfields Irrigation District (GID). GID staff are well-experienced with culvert and crossing replacements and bank work. SRWG anticipates using volunteers for revegetation; volunteers will be trained and supervised by SRWG's coordinator.

Past and Current Projects

Project Name	Grant or Contract Amount	Funding Entity (entity name/program, contact person, phone, email)	Completion Date
Muddy Creek Headwaters Animal Waste Management	\$ 12,000.00	Montana Department of Environmental Quality (Grant ID 218016); Mark Ockey (406) 444-5351, mockey@mt.gov	2020
Building the Long-Term Resiliency of the Sun River Watershed	\$ 31,000.00	US Bureau of Reclamation (Grant ID R16AP00159). Contact: Darren Olson (303) 445-3697, dolson@usbr.gov	June 30, 2019
Sun River Long-Term Water Monitoring	\$ 20,000.00	US Bureau of Land Management (new award, grant # pending). Contact Bonny Richard(406) 510-0556, bmrichard@blm.gov	2021



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FUNDING REQUEST

319 Funds Requested (<i>including administrative fee</i>)	\$ 49,500.00	Administrative Fee (<i>not to exceed 10% of total 319 funding request</i>)	\$ 4,500.00
State Cash Match	\$ 15,000.00	Total Non-Federal Match	\$ 52,000.00
Local Cash Match	\$ 17,500.00		
In-Kind Match	\$ 19,500.00		
Federal Funds	\$ 16,000.00		
Other Funds (<i>not 319, not match, not federal</i>)	\$ 0.00		
Total Project Cost	\$ 117,500.00		

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 Muddy Creek Crossing and Habitat Project

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

\$ 117,500.00

Latitude 47.588181 Longitude -111.575884

Latitude _____ Longitude _____

Latitude _____ Longitude _____

Map

12 Digit HUC #(s) 10030104

Waterbody Name from 2018 List of Impaired Waters Muddy Creek, headwaters to mouth

Probable Causes of Impairment to be Addressed sedimentation/siltation, temperature, TSS

Waterbody Name from 2018 List of Impaired Waters _____

Probable Causes of Impairment to be Addressed _____

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

The crossing at this site is old and the culverts are rotten and undersized. As a result, the crossing is frequently over-topped at high flows and the culverts become blocked by debris. When flows exceed the capacity of the crossing, flows run over top and around the sides of the structure, eroding the banks and adding to sediment inputs. In addition, each high flow season, more of the structure washes away resulting in the need for frequent maintenance on the crossing. Large rock from the crossing has washed downstream and creates eddies that erode banks further. At and around the crossing, cattle have unrestricted access to Muddy Creek. This has resulted in damage to the stream banks and reduced vegetation.

Due to erosion and cattle damage, this site is contributing sediment to Muddy Creek. These conditions, added to reduced vegetation at the site, could also be negatively impacting stream temperatures. This site is close to the confluence with the Sun River, so impacts to Muddy Creek at this site are also affecting the Sun River.

This proposed work is likely to improve fish habitat. Though fish populations are not well-documented in Muddy Creek, landowners state brown trout are often caught in Muddy and its tributaries, and it is likely that other species such as sculpin and dace occupy Muddy Creek. By reducing erosion, this project will improve fish habitat by improving water quality. In addition, increasing vegetation will provide cover from avian predators for fish and provide thermal refugia. When culverts are blocked or velocity is increased due to the culverts being undersized, it is possible that the crossing also creates a barrier to fish passage. Therefore, replacing this crossing will increase habitat connectivity by removing a likely seasonal barrier to fish movement.

The proposed project includes replacing the culverts with a bridge, open-bottomed culvert, or multiple large culverts. The new structure would be built to accommodate high flows typical of Muddy Creek during the irrigation season and require limited maintenance. The project will also include improved fencing to restrict cattle access to Muddy Creek, and planting willow stakes in the riparian areas.

Rock from the crossing has washed downstream, and rock placed in banks in some places has failed and is now in the channel creating eddies and erosion. This project will remove or re-locate this rock out of the channel. If the budget allows, we will also include some bank sloping to reduce the impact of high flows on the steep banks, further reducing erosion and sediment inputs.

SRWG will use this site as a demonstration for stream stewardship by using before and after photos in a Stream Stewardship brochure, and conducting a site tour/workshop for any interested landowners. Through this education and outreach, SRWG hopes to encourage other Muddy Creek landowners to employ similar techniques, thus expanding the impact of this project.

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

Approximately 20 years ago, SRWG installed several rock "barbs" in Muddy Creek, including the stretch of river around this site. These barbs slowed velocity and encouraged sediment deposits and have reduced bank erosion. Where erosion has slowed, new floodplains have developed and self-vegetated. This past work and the proposed project are part of SRWG's long-term plan to improve water quality on Muddy Creek. In addition to bank and crossing projects, SRWG is investigating multiple approaches to improving Muddy Creek water quality, including flow management and infrastructure improvements. SRWG is applying for funds from other sources to identify, prioritize, and plan future Muddy Creek projects. SRWG is working with FWP to design a project to study trout movements to better understand how they use the watershed to guide future stream work throughout the watershed.

Watershed Restoration Plan (WRP) and authoring entity

Sun River Watershed Group WRP dated 2013

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

N

Authorizing entity is SRWG (self).

How will this project implement recommendations in the WRP?

The Sun River WRP identifies Muddy Creek as a cause of cause of impairment to the Sun River (WRP 2013, page 4). The WRP indicates bank erosion and downcutting contribute to excess sediment in Muddy Creek, and that overgrazing has increased bank instability and sped up erosion. The most severe bank erosion occurs just upstream of Vaughn, which is where this project is located. The WRP also states that the loss of riparian cover along Muddy Creek as a result of riparian grazing also increases water temperature.

Replacing this crossing with one appropriately sized to convey Muddy Creek flows will reduce velocity on stream banks, reducing erosion. Improving grazing management will reduce direct cattle impacts on banks and allow vegetation to regrow, which will help banks stabilize and reduce sediment and potentially help improve water temperatures. SRWG will also plant willow stakes in bare banks and areas disturbed by this project to help improve vegetation.

Nonpoint Source Goals

The goals for this project are to stabilize banks around the crossing by reducing cattle impacts, velocity erosion, and increasing vegetation through willow planting. Through these actions, this project should reduce sedimentation and improve water temperatures. By improving water quality, the project will also improve habitat for fish and other aquatic and riparian species.

This project is small in proportion to the overall degradation of Muddy Creek, but it is an important step to improving water quality. The project will be used as a learning tool for other landowners to encourage similar efforts on more properties, which SRWG hopes will aggregate to make a larger, positive impact on Muddy Creek and Sun River water quality. Through a tour or workshop at this site, SRWG will be encouraging other landowners to perform similar efforts, which will further reduce erosion and grazing impacts on Muddy Creek.

During the planning of this project, SRWG was approached by an adjacent landowner who wanted advice and assistance on erosion control. This landowner has offered to assist SRWG in reaching out to other Muddy Creek landowners for future outreach and education and demonstration efforts.

Partners and Roles

Landowner(s)

Name

Wayne Tonne, Landowner, 226 Vaughn North Frontage Road, Vaughn, MT 59487

Letter of Support Attached?

 Y

 N

 N

Other Partners

Name

Role

Letter of Support Attached?

Greenfields Irrigation District	Provide labor for crossing replacement as in-kind contribution
Cascade Conservation District	Permitting entity; design feedback/review
Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks	Design feedback/review; fish passage and habitat requirements advice

 Y

 Y

 Y

 N

 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?
Multiple site visit meetings with landowner to determine needs and establish project parameters (photos)	<input type="checkbox" value="Y"/>
Site visit with conservation district and FWP to determine need and feasibility of project (support letter)	<input type="checkbox" value="Y"/>
Site visit with engineering advisor to determine need and feasibility of project	<input type="checkbox" value="N"/>
Meet with GID to discuss construction in-kind contribution and cost estimates	<input type="checkbox" value="N"/>
SRWG time to recruit project partners (GID, FWP, Cascade CD, landowner)	<input type="checkbox" value="N"/>
	<input type="checkbox" value="N"/>

Task Description

This task will include hiring of a design team, design, and permitting. This includes SRWG management of the design team and coordination with partners and the landowner for design, including coordination of site visits for design team and partners and facilitation of at least one design review meeting, and including review and approval of design by funding entities. SRWG will coordinate permitting with the design team; to promote cost-effectiveness, SRWG Coordinator will perform permitting tasks to the extent possible. This phase will also include creating a landowner agreement that includes a grazing management plan to fence cattle off the riparian areas (cattle will be able to access crossing but not nearby riparian area during vegetation establishment period). The agreement will also provide for SRWG and partners access (upon adequate prior notification) for pre-project monitoring, project execution, post-project effectiveness monitoring, and willow stake planting. Landowner is also granting GID permanent access to the crossing for maintenance and other uses. (Timeframe for this phase is generous to allow for flexibility in case federal permits are required). Unsecured match: Future Fisheries funds December 1, 2019. Secured match: Missouri River Flyfishers and Montana Trout Unlimited; In-kind match includes design assistance and evaluation by partners, meetings with landowner and GID to create landowner agreement.

Deliverables

For this task, SRWG will deliver designs, permits, and a landowner agreement that includes an agreement with access and grazing management plan as described above.

Funding

319 Funds	<input type="text" value="\$ 5,000.00"/>
Non-Federal Match	<input type="text" value="\$ 12,000.00"/>
Federal Funds	<input type="text" value="\$ 0.00"/>
Other Funds	<input type="text" value="\$ 0.00"/>
Total Cost	<input type="text" value="\$ 17,000.00"/>
Is Match Secured	<input type="checkbox" value="Y"/>

Timeline March 2020 - Sept 2020

Match Source Missouri River Flyfishers, MTU, Future Fisheries, in-kind

Project Implementation

Task Description

This project will include removal of the existing crossing at project site and replace with a crossing appropriate for Muddy Creek's high flows, as designed in the previous task. Potential options are culverts (much larger than existing, size to be recommended by design team), bridge, flat-bed rail car, or open-bottom culvert. This task also includes fencing to restrict cattle access to the crossing. Landowner provides water in other locations, so stock water tank or water access for cattle is not required at this site. GID to provide labor for crossing and bank work. Landowner to provide fencing labor. Funds from this and matching sources will pay for fencing and crossing materials and GID equipment hours at cost. Willow cutting to occur over winter, and planting in spring prior to irrigation season (as weather allows). SRWG will assess willow survival after irrigation and may pursue 2nd phase of planting if needed. May require beaver management to protect new willow stakes, as beaver are known to be active in this area. Unsecured match details: Applying for Future Fisheries December 1, 2019, MWCC project grant November 21, 2019; secured match: landowner \$10,000, GID to provide construction labor as in-kind contribution; volunteers to cut and plant willows.

Deliverables

as-built drawings or equivalent
photos of completed project and willow plantings

Funding

319 Funds	\$ 37,500.00
Non-Federal Match	\$ 37,500.00
Federal Funds	\$ 15,000.00
Other Funds	\$ 0.00
Total Cost	\$ 90,000.00
Is Match Secured	N

Timeline September 2020 - May 2021

Match Source Landowner, GID, volunteers, Future Fisheries, MWCC,

Appropriate Next Step

This project is an appropriate step in removing Muddy Creek from Montana's 2018 Impaired Waters List. The completed project will result in reduced erosion, therefore reduced sediment inputs to Muddy Creek, as well as reduced temperatures. Though this project is small in scale compared to the overall spectrum of inputs to Muddy Creek, it is a positive step forward - it will be used to demonstrate to other landowners good stream stewardship, and SRWG will use this project as a demonstration and to build momentum for future on-the-ground projects. The pre-planning phases of this project are already drawing interest from nearby landowners.

Sustainability

By replacing this crossing, SRWG is removing an on-going contributor of nonpoint source pollution. This project will reduce sediment inputs to Muddy Creek through reducing velocity on banks and increasing vegetation through willow stakes and fencing off cattle to allow natural revegetation. By eliminating the need for annual maintenance, this project will also remove that annual source of disturbance, erosion, and sedimentation. The project will also improve water temperatures by increasing vegetation. Through public outreach and education, this project will also expand understanding and hopefully implementation of stream stewardship to other landowners, resulting in extended improvements.

Natural Processes

Although Muddy Creek's hydrologic regime is altered and managed for irrigation, it is still possible for some natural processes to occur. By removing the need for annual maintenance on the crossing, this site will be less frequently disturbed. An appropriately sized crossing will greatly reduce erosion because it will not over-top or cause eddies as the existing structure does. Removal of cattle and revegetation will recreate a more natural riparian zone that is not affected by grazing and trampling. This will allow the vegetation to establish and grow, functioning as a natural buffer, stabilizing banks and providing shade to reduce water temperature. The project will improve habitat for fish and wildlife.

Project Effectiveness Evaluation

Task Description

SRWG will establish photo points to monitor project effectiveness by comparing pre- and post-project conditions and documenting changes.

Pre-project photos will occur after the 2020 irrigation season (so banks will be visible) but before construction of the project. Post-project photos will occur immediately post-construction, before irrigation season (prior to May 2021). SRWG will also take photos in fall 2021 after the irrigation season to assess the effects of high water on the new structure, banks, and plantings so need for adaptive measures can be assessed. (Future adaptive efforts are not included in the scope of this project.)

SRWG will work with hired design team and DEQ to estimate sediment load reductions attributed to this project.

Deliverables

Project site photos, including location, time, date, and description for three effectiveness evaluation visits: 1) Pre-project; 2) post-construction, and 3) post-construction, post-irrigation season.

Funding

319 Funds	\$ 500.00
Non-Federal Match	\$ 0.00
Federal Funds	\$ 0.00
Other Funds	\$ 0.00
Total Cost	\$ 500.00
Is Match Secured	N

Timeline September 2020 - October 2021 Match Source none

The Bigger Picture

Other Natural Resources

A new crossing that conveys Muddy Creek flows will reduce flow over and around the structure, as well as annual wear (and maintenance), resulting in less erosion. It will also reduce water velocity inside the culverts, improving habitat connectivity. Fencing cattle will reduce sediment inputs and allow planted willow stakes to grow and natural revegetation to occur. The combination of efforts will create a riparian buffer, reducing sediment and nutrient inputs to improve water quality through reduced inputs and temperature. Vegetation also protects fish from predation and provides habitat for wildlife and birds.

Climate Resiliency

By reducing sediment and improving vegetation, this project should be a positive step in reducing stream temperatures. In addition, areas of dense stream-side vegetation can provide thermal refugia for fish, which is important for climate resiliency. Reducing erosion and removing cattle will also allow vegetation to naturally establish and planted willow stakes to grow. This natural process helps make the stream more resilient to a changing climate and other environmental factors.

Public Visibility

Though this location is not visible from public areas (roads, public land), SRWG will make the public aware of the project through outreach. SRWG will distribute project information through press releases, and will create educational materials when the project is complete. The landowner will allow a public visit (workshop, tour or site visit) to promote stream stewardship to other landowners.

Point Source / Nonpoint Source Relationships

The confluence of Muddy Creek with the Sun River is often marked by a flow of cloudy, sediment-laden water flowing into a clearer river. This project may only have a small direct effect on sediment and other pollutant issues of Muddy Creek considering the scope of the problems, but SRWG anticipates that this project will help build awareness, momentum, and action to address issues affecting Muddy Creek as a whole. By engaging partners and discussing the problems of Muddy Creek, SRWG hopes to broaden the conversation to address these issues through more on-the-ground work, water management, and infrastructure improvements.

Source Water Protection

SRWG recently gave a tour of Muddy Creek to a representative of Montana Rural Water Supply, including visiting this project site. SRWG is learning how water quality in Muddy Creek and the Sun River affect municipal uses and drinking water. Through projects like this one and our budding partnership with MRWS, SRWG hopes to protect and improve drinking water sources for local communities.

Healthy Watersheds

Not applicable, all associated waterbodies, including the downstream receiving waters, are impaired.

PART C—EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Task Description

SRWG will use this project for outreach and education in multiple ways. Before and after photos and a project description will be incorporated on the website as well as future brochures or displays about grazing management, stream stewardship, and riparian buffers. SRWG will also host an opportunity for interested landowners and/or partners to visit the project site and discuss the scope of the problem, how the project addressed water quality issues, next steps, and how elements of the project can be implemented in other areas. SRWG will discuss the project at board meetings, partner meetings, and at the two annual Water Quality Working Group meetings.

Deliverables

Link or screenshot of website showcasing this project, copy of poster or brochure featuring this project, invite and/or sign in sheet from site visit or tour and water management working group meetings.

Funding

319 Funds	\$ 2,000.00
Non-Federal Match	\$ 2,500.00
Federal Funds	\$ 1,000.00
Other Funds	\$ 0.00
Total Cost	\$ 5,500.00
Is Match Secured	Y

Timeline October 2020 - October 2021

Match Source BLM (Federal) and In-kind (meeting/workshop attendees)

PART D—PROJECT ADMINISTRATION

Task Description

SRWG's administrative tasks will include billing and reporting for this grant and contractor management.

Deliverables

Interim grant reports and a final grant report.

Funding

319 Funds	\$ 4,500.00
Non-Federal Match	\$ 0.00
Federal Funds	\$ 0.00
Other Funds	\$ 0.00
Total Cost	\$ 4,500.00
Is Match Secured	Y

Timeline January 2020 - October 2021

Match Source none

**ATTACHMENT D: DECLARATION FORM, DARK MONEY
SPENDING DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS**



ATTACHMENT E – DECLARATION FORM

Declaration Form Dark Money Spending Disclosure Requirements

Contracting Entity shall comply with the State of Montana Executive Order No. 15-2018 requiring the disclosure of dark money spending.

Definitions. As used in this declaration form, the following definitions apply:

Electioneering Communication: A paid communication that is publicly distributed by radio, television, cable, satellite, internet website, mobile device, newspaper, periodical, billboard, mail, or any other distribution of printed or electronic materials, that is made within 60 days of the initiation of voting in an election in Montana, that can be received by more than 100 recipients in the district in Montana voting on the candidate or ballot issue, and that:

- a. refers to one or more clearly identified candidates in that election in Montana;
- b. depicts the name, image, likeness, or voice of one or more clearly identified candidates in that election in Montana; or
- c. refers to a political party, ballot issue, or other question submitted to the voters in that election in Montana.

The term does not mean:

- a. a bona fide news story, commentary, blog, or editorial distributed through the facilities of any broadcasting station, newspaper, magazine, internet website, or other periodical publication of general circulation unless the facilities are owned or controlled by a candidate or political committee;
- b. a communication by any membership organization or corporation to its members, stockholders, or employees;
- c. a commercial communication that depicts a candidate's name, image, likeness, or voice only in the candidate's capacity as owner, operator, or employee of a business that existed prior to the candidacy; or
- d. a communication that constitutes a candidate debate or forum or that solely promotes a candidate debate or forum and is made by or on behalf of the person sponsoring the debate or forum.

In this definition, the phrase "made within 60 days of the initiation of voting in an election" means:

- a. in the case of mail ballot elections, the initiation of voting occurs when official ballot packets are mailed to qualified electors pursuant to 13-19-206, MCA; or

- b. in other elections the initiation of voting occurs when absentee ballot packets are mailed to or otherwise delivered to qualified electors pursuant to 13-13-214, MCA.

Contracting Entity: A bidder, offeror, or contractor.

Covered Expenditure means:

- a. A contribution, expenditure, or transfer made by the Contracting Entity, any of its parent entities, or any affiliates or subsidiaries within the entity's control, that:
 - i. is to or on behalf of a candidate for office, a political party, or a party committee in Montana; or
 - ii. is to another entity, regardless of the entity's tax status, that pays for an Electioneering Communication, or that makes contributions, transfers, or expenditures to another entity, regardless of its tax status, that pays for Electioneering Communication; and
- b. The term excludes an expenditure made by the Contracting Entity, any of its parent entities, or any affiliates or subsidiaries within the entity's control made in the ordinary course of business conducted by the entity making the expenditure; investments; or expenditures or contributions where the entity making the expenditure or contribution and the recipient agree that it will not be used to contribute to candidates, parties, or Electioneering Communication.

Solicitation Requirements. The Contracting Entity shall disclose Covered Expenditures that the Contracting Entity has made within two years prior to submission of its bid or offer.

The disclosure of Covered Expenditures is only required by the bidder/offeror whenever the aggregate amount of Covered Expenditures made within a 24-month period by the bidder/offeror, any parent entities, or any affiliates or subsidiaries within the bidder/offeror's control exceeds \$2,500.

If the bidder/offeror meets the disclosure requirements, the bidder/offeror shall submit this signed declaration form indicating "Yes" AND the required disclosure form with its bid/proposal.

If the bidder/offeror does NOT meet the disclosure requirements, the bidder/offeror shall submit this signed declaration form with its bid/proposal indicating "No".

Annual Contract Requirements. The Contracting Entity agrees that if awarded a contract and the contract term exceeds, or has the potential to exceed 24

months, it must annually review and complete a new declaration form and disclosure form, if necessary.

Yes- I have read, understand, and meet the disclosure requirements for the 24 months immediately preceding the submission of this form. I will complete the necessary disclosure form and submit it with this form.

Company Name (Clearly Printed):

Authorized Signature:

Date: _____

No- I have read, understand, and do NOT meet the disclosure requirements. I certify that the Contracting Entity has not made Covered Expenditures in excess of \$2,500 in the 24 months immediately preceding the submission of this form.

Company Name (Clearly Printed):

SUN RIVER WATERSHED GROUP

Authorized Signature:

M. Wendt

Date: 10/28/19

Letters of Support

ATTACHMENT C: LETTERS OF SUPPORT



October 29, 2019

Water Protection Bureau
Department of Environmental Quality
Helena, MT 59620

RE: 2020 DEQ CALL FOR APPLICATIONS – 319 NONPOINT SOURCE PROGRAM

Dear MT DEQ Watershed Protection Section:

I, Wayne Tonne, support the Sun River Watershed Group's application for a crossing replacement project on Muddy Creek at my property. I understand that this project will include the replacement of my crossing, a grazing management plan, and improvements to the banks and vegetation to reduce nonpoint source pollution and restore hydrologic processes in this reach. This project will have long-term benefits to the health of the stream.

Each year, the culverts are over-topped due to high flow volumes and because the culverts are rotting and get plugged up. When this happens, it creates eddies that eat away at the banks. This also causes parts of the crossing itself to wash away and I have often called GID to help get it fixed. I also have to unplug the culverts each year. The project would benefit Muddy Creek and myself by replacing this crossing with a structure that is large enough to pass Muddy Creek flows in all seasons and reduce the need for maintenance. I am also concerned about the erosion and look forward to this project helping reduce that. I'd like to be a good steward of the creek and do what I can to help improve water quality by supporting projects like this one.

I will contribute \$10,000 towards the cost of the crossing. I will allow SRWG and their hired consultants, project partners, and volunteers access to my property for tasks associated with this project including surveying, design, construction, monitoring, planting willows, and follow up tasks. I will draft a grazing management plan with SRWG and abide by its terms. I will also allow SRWG to use this project for at least one workshop or tour for educational purposes. I have a long relationship with Sun River Watershed Group and GID and am confident in their ability to complete this work.

Thank you.



Wayne Tonne, landowner
226 Vaughn North Frontage Road
Vaughn, MT

Greenfields

IRRIGATION DISTRICT

October 31, 2019

Water Protection Bureau
Department of Environmental Quality
Helena, MT 59620

RE: 2020 DEQ CALL FOR APPLICATIONS – 319 NONPOINT SOURCE PROGRAM

Dear MT DEQ Watershed Protection Section:

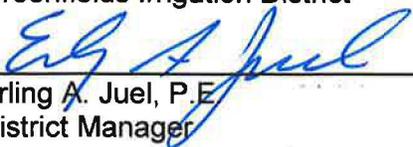
The staff and management of the Greenfields Irrigation District are writing to express support for the Sun River Watershed Group's application for a crossing replacement, grazing management, and vegetation enhancement project on Muddy Creek upstream of Vaughn. This project is within a critical reach of Muddy Creek that contributes large amounts of sediment to Muddy Creek and to the Sun River. Replacing the crossing with an adequately sized culvert or crossing will reduce erosion by reducing velocity on the banks. Water quality will also be improved by cattle grazing management and enhanced vegetation on the streambanks. GID also values this project as an opportunity for public education and hopes that by demonstrating good stream stewardship here, other landowners with similar issues will be encouraged to follow suit.

GID also will support this project by providing an in-kind donation of labor for machinery operation for construction. GID and SRWG have partnered frequently on similar restoration and improvement efforts, and GID is confident that SRWG has the ability to carry out this project and that this project will have a positive impact on the reduction of nonpoint source impairments.

The collective group of stakeholders that comprise the SRWG have worked tirelessly to protect and improve both water quality and quantity in the Sun River basin. In the past, the SRWG has been instrumental in developing a strategy to identify areas for improvement including reducing erosion, mitigating saline seeps, improving water quality and conservation through better management. Each of the successes in the Sun River/Muddy Creek Basin over the last 25 years can be attributed to the group's efforts. This proposed project is a worthwhile project, and which builds on that success.

Please call if you have any specific questions regarding our support. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,
Greenfields Irrigation District



Erling A. Juel, P.E.
District Manager



Cascade
Conservation
District

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October 30, 2019

Water Protection Bureau
Department of Environmental Quality
Helena, MT 59620

RE: 2020 DEQ CALL FOR APPLICATIONS – 319 NONPOINT SOURCE PROGRAM

Dear MT DEQ Watershed Protection Section:

Cascade Conservation District (CCD) supports the Sun River Watershed Group's application for a crossing replacement and habitat improvement project on Muddy Creek upstream of Vaughn. This project will reduce nonpoint source pollution and restore hydrologic processes in this reach by replacing undersized culverts with an appropriately sized crossing, reducing bank erosion, and reestablishing vegetation on the stream banks. CCD believes this project will have long-term benefits to the watershed and can serve as a demonstration project for landowners of other reaches where similar issues exist.

CCD supports the Sun River Watershed's efforts on this project due to their track record of 25 years working to improve the health of the Sun River Watershed. CCD has worked closely with the Sun River Watershed Group in the past and is confident the organization has the ability to carry out this project and that the project will have long-term, watershed-scale benefits to water quality.

CCD actively works with SRWG and landowners on projects that minimize harsh practices that deplete the water resource while still being able to sustain the golden triangle and all that produces for the citizens of Montana. We believe this project will help provide resiliency to this area of the creek and restore function on the working landscape.

Cascade Conservation District strongly supports the Sun River Watershed in its grant application.

Cordially yours,

CASCADE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

/s/ Gayla Wortman

Gayla Wortman, Chairman
Board of Supervisors



4600 Giant Springs Road
Great Falls, MT 59405

October 28, 2019

Water Protection Bureau
Department of Environmental Quality
Helena, MT 59620

RE: 2020 DEQ CALL FOR APPLICATIONS – 319 NONPOINT SOURCE PROGRAM

Dear MT DEQ Watershed Protection Section:

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks supports the Sun River Watershed Group's application for a crossing replacement, grazing management, and habitat improvement project on Muddy Creek near Vaughn. This project has value as a water quality improvement project through reduction of sediment, management of cattle, and enhanced vegetation, but also as a demonstration to other landowners with similar issues who we hope will be encouraged to pursue similar improvements.

FWP supports the Sun River Watershed's efforts on this project due to their track record of 25 years working to improve the health of the Sun River Watershed and because of the need to improve water quality in Muddy Creek and the Sun River for a multitude of water users. SRWG seeks to reduce erosion through reduced bank velocity provided by appropriately-sized culverts or crossing, and to stabilize banks by reducing the impacts from cattle and by planting vegetation. These approaches are also beneficial to fish habitat and connectivity, and we encourage these approaches. FWP representatives look forward to helping inform the design process for this work to ensure it will improve fish habitat and connectivity.

FWP and SRWG have enjoyed a good relationship and we are confident that SRWG can not only carry out the project, but that the group will also provide opportunities for public outreach and education surrounding this effort.

Thank you.

Jason Mullen

Great Falls Area Fish Biologist

Maps, Designs, Other Attachments

ATTACHMENT A: MAPS and AERIAL PHOTOS



Location of Sun River watershed in Montana.

Inset: location of Muddy Creek sub-basin in Sun River watershed



Aerial photo of lower Muddy Creek.
Inset: Project site, appx 3 road-miles upstream of Vaughn

ATTACHMENT B: PROJECT AREA PHOTOS



Winter (low flow). Looking across crossing from river-right.



Early season high flows (July) over-top the crossing. Looking across crossing from river-right.



Later season high flows (August). Debris build up on edges, eddies in channel due to blocked culverts.



Winter (low flow). Looking across crossing from downstream.



Early season high flows (July) over-top the crossing. Looking upstream from below crossing. Note flows going around ends of crossing. Rocks have been placed to reduce impact to bank.



Example of rock placed and/or washed downstream. Some of this rock is now in the channel (underwater in this pic) and creates eddies that contribute to erosion. Project will remove or re-place this rock.