



2022 319 Application Form - Mini-grant Programs

*******REVISED 10/22/2021*******

General Information

Project Name _____

Sponsor Name _____

Registered with the Secretary of State?

Registered with SAM?

Duns # _____

Does your organization have liability insurance?

Primary Contact _____

Signatory _____

Title _____

Title _____

Address _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone Number _____

Phone Number _____

Email Address _____

Email Address _____

Signature 

Signature 

Technical and Administrative Qualifications

Past Projects

Project Name	Grant or Contract Amount	Funding Entity (entity name/program, contact person, phone, email)	Completion Date
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Budget

	319 Funding Request	Non-Federal Match	Federal Match	Other Funding	Total Cost
Program Development, Marketing and Solicitation <i>(Includes development and deployment of application process, marketing the program to the target audience, receipt and evaluation of project proposals, and writing and executing mini-grant contracts.)</i>					
Mini-grant Oversight <i>(Includes management, oversight and evaluation of all mini-grant contracts and associated deliverables. May also include correspondence, site visits, training, and problem resolution.)</i>					
Program Evaluation <i>(Includes evaluation of the impact of individual mini-grants and the program as a whole on nonpoint source pollution. For on-the-ground projects designed to address nitrogen, phosphorus or sediment, task may include gathering information necessary for DEQ to evaluate pollutant load reductions achieved from project implementation.)</i>					
Project Administration <i>(Includes annual, semi-annual and final reporting, submitting payment requests, incidental office expenses, transportation and audiovisual costs.)</i>					
Other <i>(specify)</i>					
Other <i>(specify)</i>					

Total

Match Source	Non-federal (cash and in-kind)	Federal (cash and in-kind)	Match Secured?	Letter of Support Attached?
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Program Description

Describe the types of projects or activities you will fund.

How much money will each mini-grant recipient receive?
(provide a range or an exact dollar amount)

How many mini-grants will you distribute?

Target Audience

Who is the target audience (potential recipients) for the mini-grant program?

Describe the target audience's potential to have meaningful impact on NPS pollution.

How will you market the program to the target audience?

Is there adequate interest to ensure full use of requested funding within a 3-year period? Please explain.

Are there other, similar grant programs available to potential recipients, and if so, how will your program fill a unique niche?

How will the program increase local capacity or interest for addressing NPS pollution?

How will the program create **long-lasting change** in social norms or attitudes toward addressing NPS pollution?

Program Implementation and Evaluation

Describe the application submittal, evaluation and contracting processes you will use.

Describe the project oversight you will provide to mini-grant recipients.

List the metrics you will use to quantify the effects of individual mini-grant projects or activities.

List the metrics you will use for evaluating the effectiveness of your mini-grant program as a whole.

Community Participation and Support

Partner	Role	Letter of Support Attached?
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Other Supporters

Entity	Letter of Support Attached?
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Bigger Picture Considerations

Environmental Justice (EJ)

Will the program encourage participation from historically underserved populations (e.g. minority populations, people with disabilities)? Explain.

Will the program build capacity for addressing NPS pollution in Montana communities east of the continental divide? Explain.

Will the program help communities affected by legacy sources of pollution (e.g. communities with superfund sites or impacts from abandoned mine lands)? Explain.

Climate Change

Will the program encourage efforts to improve climate change resilience? Explain.

Impacts on Downstream Communities

Will the program encourage protection of drinking water sources? Explain.

Will the program encourage cooperation between permitted point source dischargers and managers of NPS pollution on efforts to improve water quality? Explain.

Additional Attachments

Attach additional items that could help reviewers better understand your project. Items could include site photos, design drawings, site evaluations, permits, etc. Please be conscious of reviewers' time, as they may not have time to read lengthy studies and reports. List all additional attachments below.

Additional information that could assist reviewers in evaluating the project's potential impact on NPS pollution.

Letters Of Support



Josh Sonju
Browns Meadow Ranch, LLC
3600 Browns Meadow Road, Kila, MT 59922

Water Protection Bureau
Mark Ockey
Department of Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 200901
Helena, MT 59620-0901

10/25/2021

Dear Mark Ockey:

I am writing to express support for the Soil and Water Conservation Districts of Montana's (DBA Montana Association of Conservation Districts, MACD) application to the DEQ FY2022 Federal 319 Nonpoint Source Program for their Ranching for Rivers Program. The Ranching for Rivers Program, starting in 2016, is a cost-share program in partnership with the Missouri River Conservation District Council (MRCDC) and Department of Natural Resources (DNRC) Rangelands that provides cost-share to landowners looking to implement ranch management practice along impaired water bodies that improve grazing as well as the health of the riparian habitat and protect water quality.

Browns Meadow Ranch participated in the Ranching for Rivers and had a very positive experience. Most farm/ranch operations, including our own, have limited resources for capital improvements. In our case, we were having stock water issues with cattle and allowing them access to our main creek for water. The watering holes were very detrimental to banks and water creating a huge mess and hassle. Our only option was to close one water hole, and make another, creating a perpetual problem. The program helped us create an armored crossing and implement stock tanks and fence it off to protect creek banks and keep the creek running clear for us and downstream.

Please accept this letter as a commitment of support for the MACD Ranching for Rivers proposal.

Sincerely,

Josh Sonju

Ranch Manager

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
AND CONSERVATION



GREG GIANFORTE, GOVERNOR

1539 ELEVENTH AVENUE

STATE OF MONTANA

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE: (406) 444-2074
FAX: (406) 444-2684

PO BOX 201601
HELENA, MONTANA 59620-1601

October 12, 2021

Water Protection Bureau
Mark Ockey
Department of Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 200901
Helena, MT 59620-0901

Dear Mark:

On behalf of the Rangeland Resources Program at DNRC, I am writing to submit support for the Soil and Water Conservation Districts of Montana's (DBA Montana Association of Conservation Districts, MACD) application to the DEQ FY2022 Federal 319 Nonpoint Source Program for their Ranching for Rivers Program. I was part of the original Ranching for Rivers Program, starting in 2016, along with the Missouri River Conservation District Council (MRCDC) and Department of Natural Resources (DNRC) Rangelands and provided cost-share to landowners looking to implement ranch management practices along impaired water bodies that improved grazing as well as improve the health of the riparian habitat and protect water quality.

DRNC- Rangeland Resources Program has provided technical support for grazing plans, and application review. It's the mission of the RRP to promote clean water and healthy rangelands, the R4R program is an important program to help livestock producers with those aspects of rangeland management.

Over the last couple of years, MACD and partners have witnessed increased interest and opportunities to work with local conservation organizations and landowners to implement Ranching for Rivers projects that will benefit from this cost-share and help kick-start better riparian management on their land as well as encourage the implementation of Grazing Management Plans.

Please accept this letter as a commitment of support for the MACD Ranching for Rivers proposal.

Sincerely,

Stacey Barta

State Coordinator for Rangelands
Rangelands Resources Program
DNRC

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
AND CONSERVATION



GREG GIANFORTE, GOVERNOR

1539 ELEVENTH AVENUE

STATE OF MONTANA

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE: (406) 444-2074
FAX: (406) 444-2684

PO BOX 201601
HELENA, MONTANA 59620-1601



Water Protection Bureau
Mark Ockey
Department of Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 200901
Helena, MT 59620-0901

October 25, 2021

RE: Support for Ranching for Rivers Program 319 Application

Dear Mark Ockey:

The Flathead Conservation District would like to express its support for the Soil and Water Conservation Districts of Montana's (DBA Montana Association of Conservation Districts, MACD) application to the DEQ FY2022 Federal 319 Nonpoint Source Program for their Ranching for Rivers Program. This cost-share program provides much-needed financial and technical resources to landowners implementing ranch management practices along impaired water bodies that improve grazing as well as the health of the riparian habitat and protect water quality.

We recently had the opportunity to work with a landowner implementing a Ranching for Rivers project. This project installed fencing around approximately 5.25 acres of impaired stream and constructed a hardened livestock crossing and off-site water facilities. The funding and technical assistance provided by this program resulted in an estimated nutrient load reduction of 58.79 lb/yr of Nitrogen and 58.71 lb/yr of Phosphorous.

The Ranching for Rivers program provides an extremely valuable service to landowners and promotes on-the-ground restoration. The Flathead Conservation District strongly supports the continuation of this program and encourages you to approve the application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Hailey Graf". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Hailey Graf,
Resource Conservationist
Flathead Conservation District



October 19, 2021

Water Protection Bureau
Mark Ockey
Department of Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 200901
Helena, MT 59620-0901

Dear Mark Ockey:

On behalf of the Missouri River Conservation Districts Council, I am submitting this letter of support for the Soil and Water Conservation Districts of Montana's (DBA Montana Association of Conservation Districts, MACD) application to the DEQ FY2022 Federal 319 Nonpoint Source Program for their Ranching for Rivers Program. The Ranching for Rivers Program, starting in 2016, is a program in partnership with the Council, MACD, and Department of Natural Resources' (DNRC) Rangeland Resource Commission to provide cost-share to landowners looking to implement ranch management practices along impaired water bodies that improve grazing as well as improve the health of the riparian habitat and protect water quality.

Ranching for Rivers began as a program under MRCDC, so the Council knows and sees the value the program has added to property along the Missouri River. It has helped to improve riparian areas through changing livestock grazing management practices with both fencing projects and adding stock tank infrastructure in some situations. Doing these projects has helped improve water quality, as well as improve the health and management of the riparian vegetation.

Over the last couple of years, MACD and partners have witnessed increased interest and opportunities to work with local conservation organizations and landowners to implement Ranching for Rivers projects that will benefit from this cost-share and help kick-start better riparian management on their land as well as encourage the implementation of Grazing Management Plans.

Please accept this letter as a commitment of support for the MACD Ranching for Rivers proposal.

Sincerely,



Laura Kiehl
MRCDC Chair

Supplemental Information



MONTANA ASSOCIATION of CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

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Ranching for Rivers

Ranching for Rivers is a cost-share program designed to assist landowners protect riparian health through improved ranching practices. Through the Montana Department of Environmental Quality, Ranching for Rivers offers 50% cost-share for fencing material, off-site water infrastructure, and developing grazing management plans. Funding is also available for Conservation Districts and Watershed Groups to provide technical assistance on ranching management projects to local landowners in their area.

Program Eligibility and Priorities

Eligible Groups

- Conservation Districts and Watershed Groups with identified projects
- Individual landowners who are working with a local Conservation District or Watershed Group
- Riparian pasture projects must be located on waterbodies listed by DEQ as impaired by sediment, nutrients, E-coli, or habitat alterations, or contributing such pollution to an impaired waterbody downstream. The list of impaired waterbodies can be found on:
<https://deq.mt.gov/Water/Resources/report>
- **Projects must be completed by Nov. 1st, 2021**

Priority Projects

- Priority funding will be given to projects that fall within an area with a DEQ-approved Watershed Restoration Plan. A status list of Watershed Restoration Plans can be found on:
<https://deq.mt.gov/Water/SurfaceWater/WatershedRestoration>

Cost-Share

The Ranching for Rivers program offers 50% cost-share for project implementation and/or the development of a Grazing Management Plan. The 50% cost-share will be provided in the form of reimbursement following a completed project. Upon application acceptance, landowners are required to complete a landowner agreement requiring maintenance of the installed practice(s) for the expected life of the practice(s) (typically 10 years).

Eligible Costs:

- Fencing Material for complete exclusions or “riparian pastures”
- Livestock pipeline
- Materials for stream crossing
- Permanent drinking tanks & winter tanks with storage
- Contracted costs for the development of a Grazing Management Plan by a range specialist

- Conservation District and Watershed Group staff time for technical assistance and administrative/reporting assistance

Ineligible Costs:

- Time & labor costs by associated with project installation
- Fencing/equipment maintenance or replacement

Match:

50% nonfederal match must be recorded and reported to SWCDM along with final project expenses and reporting. Match may include:

- Dollars provided by other non-federal grants used to complete the project
- Dollars provided directly by the landowner.
- Time & labor costs by associated with project installation Time & labor costs by associated with project installation (see [DEQ's Estimating the Value of Volunteer Labor](#))
- Assistance & administrative time costs by a Conservation District, Watershed Group, or partner group not already being charged directly to the Ranching for Rivers program.

Conservation District/ Watershed Group Staff Time Reimbursement

The Ranching for Rivers Program also includes partial funding for reimbursing CD & Watershed Groups for staff time associated with the program. Timesheets will be provided to the designated affiliate upon application acceptance for tracking project time and accomplishments. Timesheets and request for reimbursement can be reported following project completion.

- Aiding landowners in developing an application
- Aiding in Scope of Work/Contract/ Operations & Maintenance forms, and obtaining signatures
- Project site visitation for pre- and post-project evaluation & photos
- Calculating Load Reduction Estimations
- Final project reporting

Application Process

- Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis January – September, 2021
- Applications should be submitted to Stephanie Adams, MACD, electronically to stephanie@macdnet.org
- Applications will be reviewed by a panel consisting of MACD, DEQ, and MRCDC representatives.
- MACD will submit a letter of acceptance, rejection, or recommendations within 60 days of application submission.
- If recommendations are presented to the applicant, the applicant must resubmit the application with suggested amendments for full consideration.
- If accepted, the landowner & associated Conservation District/Watershed Group will work with MACD to complete a Scope of Work, Operations & Maintenance Agreement, and Cost-Share Contract that must be completed and signed by all parties within 90 days of the acceptance letter.

Reporting

- In order to receive the fully requested 50% cost-share, *all receipts and invoices* associated with project implementation must be reported to MACD.
- Completed and approved Scope of Work, Landowner Agreement, and Operations & Maintenance agreement.
- A Final Report using the provided reporting template, detailing final project outcomes and load reduction estimates (See “Reporting Load Reduction Estimates).
- Before and After Photos

Reporting Load Reduction Estimates

Completed Projects must include estimate load reductions for Total Nitrogen (lbs./yr.), Total Phosphorous (lbs./yr.), And Total Sediment (ton/yr.).

- Common equations used for these calculation include the Mass Balance Equation: More details on the Mass Balance Equation can be found on page 33 of the [Montana DEQ Load Reduction Estimation Guide](#).
- Other methods used to calculate nutrient load reduction include the Agricultural (Livestock) Loading Estimate from [DEQ’s Lower Blackfoot Nutrients TMDLs and Water Quality Improvement Plan, Section 5.5.1.1](#).
- Measurements and photos required for load reduction calculations should be taken prior to project implementation.
- Questions regarding load reduction should be directed to either Stephanie Adams, MACD (stephanie@macdnet.org) or to Christina Stanten, DEQ (CStaten@mt.gov).

Grazing Management Plans

Grazing Management Plans are eligible for cost-share funding and are highly encouraged in conjunction with a proposed structural project.

- NRCS has the capability to write GMPs free of cost, but focus on landowners enrolled in one of the conservation programs
- MSU County Extension Offices have resources/staff to develop GMPs
- Landowners can hire a consultant to write a GMP (pricing generally based on acreage)



MONTANA ASSOCIATION of CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

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Ranching for Rivers Cost-Share Application – 202X

- Applications are accepted on a rolling basis.
- Submit Application and required supporting documents to stephanie@macdnet.org
- Please review the Program Information and Application Instructions before applying

This funding is available as pass through from Clean Water Act, Section 319, and has been made available to SWCDM from the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). Funding is available for 50% of all materials and use of equipment. Labor is not included in the cost share eligibility, but may be used as nonfederal match.

Applicant Information

Applicant Name / Affiliation: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Is this project part of an overall conservation plan for your ranch? If so, please explain

Location of Project

Landowner Name (if different than Applicant): _____

Name of Conservation District/ Watershed
Group/ Partners you are working with: _____

County of Project Location: _____

Watershed Restoration Plan

Watershed Restoration Plan Name: _____

River/Stream where project is located: _____

DEQ-listed Impairments: _____

Project Description

Please give a brief description of the project, including proposed grazing use:

Please explain how this project fits in with conservation goals of the ranch:

Project Timeline

Estimated completion date of project:

Additional Funding Sources

Have you applied for additional funding sources? If so, please list:

Secured funding sources:

TASK 1: Fencing Project Information

Estimated feet of fencing needed:

Type of fencing to be installed:

Estimated acreage affected:

Estimated streambank mileage affected:

Estimated total fencing project cost:

TASK 2: Water Development Project Information

Description of water development to be installed:

Estimated feet of pipeline needed:

Estimated total water development project cost:

TASK 3: Grazing Management Plan Development

Identified Consultant or Approved Entity:

Estimated total consultant cost:

TASK 4: Conservation District (CD) / Watershed Staff - Technical Assistance

Activities proposed to be completed:

Estimated staff hours: _____

Estimated total staff cost: _____

Itemized Estimated Project Cost

What is the cost of the project and how will the 50% non-federal match be met? List by line-item or task all anticipated expenses and match sources. When combining/clumping costs in the budget table, clarify specific costs in the description below.

ITEM/ TASK	REQUESTED FUNDING (50% MAX)			IN-KIND MATCH	TOTAL
TOTAL					

[The Fiscal Year 2019 NRCS Field Office Technical Guide offers state rates and methods for many practices. This document may be used to help guide cost-estimates.](#)

Describe specific budget items, other secured funding sources, and in-kind match listed in the budget table. Please include volunteer rates where necessary and refer to [DEQ's Estimating the Value of Volunteer Labor](#) for guidance

****Please attach a map of the proposed project to this application. Maps can be obtained through Google Earth or from your local conservation district.**

Questions on this application?

Contact Stephanie Adams, MACD
406-443-5711 / stephanie@macdnet.org



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[INSTRUCTIONS: Fully complete each section of the reporting template – all information in red font (including these instructions) should be deleted prior to report submission.]

This final report is intended to be a stand-alone document that describes the project from beginning to end, including the results of the project and a brief explanation of why the project was done in the first place. Please provide specifics where appropriate and make sure the ALL sections are complete before submitting.

REPORTING CHECKLIST:

- ☐ **Landowner Agreement with Operations and Maintenance**
- ☐ **Receipts & Invoices:** Attach all associated receipts along with an invoice document which displays itemized costs and provides documentation of the 50% non-federal in-kind or cash match.
- ☐ **Before and After Photos:** Include photos in JPEG or PNG format with proper labels
- ☐ **Grazing Management Plan:** If a grazing management plan was developed as a part of the Ranching for Rivers program, attach a complete copy.
- ☐ **Final Project Summary:** Complete the one-page final project summary

Landowner: _____

Water Body: _____

Watershed Restoration Plan: _____

Date of Report Submission: _____

1. **Project Description** (*describe the project location, project goals, and outcomes*):

2. **Measurable Outcomes**

Total Mileage of Protected Streambank: _____

Total Acreage Protected: _____

Sediment Load Reduction (Ton/Yr.): _____

Method of calculation used: _____

Total Nitrogen Load Reduction (lbs./Yr.): _____

Method of calculation used: _____

Total Phosphorous Load Reduction (lbs./Yr.): _____

Method of calculation used: _____

3. **Budget and Financials**

ITEM/ TASK	GRANT AWARDED	GRANT SPENT	NON-FEDERAL MATCH	IN-KIND MATCH	TOTAL
TOTAL					