



2024 Nonpoint Source Application - On-the-Ground Projects

General Information

Project Name Addressing Spike in NPS Pollution Inputs Post-Wildfire in the Tolan Creek Drainage of Impaired East Fork Bitterroot

Applicant Name Bitterroot Water Partnership (BWP)

Is your organization registered with the Montana Secretary of State?

Explanation: Each applicant must be registered with the Montana Secretary of State to do business in the state of Montana. Registration with the Secretary of State may be completed via the following website: <https://sosmt.gov/business/>

Is your organization registered with the federal System for Award Management (SAM)?

Explanation: Each applicant is required to register with SAM. To register or check your organization's status, go to <https://sam.gov/content/home>. If you get an "Unsupported Browser" error, copy, and paste the link into a Google Chrome browser window.

Your organization's Unique Entity Identifier number (UEI #) C7ZKKJG1ECN3

Explanation: Each applicant is required to have a current UEI number. The UEI number replaces the old DUNS number. If your organization had a DUNS number, you should have received a notification from the federal government indicating that your DUNS number has been changed to a UEI number. If you did not receive this notification, or if you never had a DUNS number, you will need to go to the federal government's System for Award Management (SAM - <https://sam.gov/content/home>) to obtain your UEI number. DEQ recommends starting this process early as it is very time-consuming, requires providing documentation-sometimes with follow-up requests for additional information, and can take up to 2 months to complete. If you need assistance, you may contact the federal help desk at 866-606-8220 Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. through 8:00 p.m. EST.

Does your organization have adequate liability insurance for the risks associated with your project?

Explanation: Each applicant must have or obtain liability insurance coverage meeting the requirements stated in the Draft Sample Contract and/or requirements negotiated based on the appropriate level of risk associated with the project.

Primary Contact Heather Mullee Barber **Title** Executive Director

Address 162 S 2nd St **City** Hamilton **State** MT **Zip Code** 59840

Phone Number 4063752272 **Email** heather@bitterrootwater.org

Signature Heather Mullee Digitally signed by Heather Mullee
Date: 2024.04.05 14:26:29 -06'00'

Explanation: This is the person who DEQ would routinely contact to discuss project progress, billing, etc.

Signatory Heather Mullee Barber **Title** Executive Director

Address 162 S 2nd St **City** Hamilton **State** MT **Zip Code** 59840

Phone Number 4063752272 **Email** heather@bitterrootwater.org

Signature Heather Mullee Digitally signed by Heather Mullee
Date: 2024.04.05 14:26:50 -06'00'

Explanation: This is the person who can legally sign contracts and other binding documents on behalf of the applicant (e.g., a board chair)

Note: The primary contact and the signatory must both sign the application. Signatures must be either signed electronically, or wet-signed, scanned and emailed.

Describe the technical and administrative skills your organization will use to effectively and efficiently complete your proposed project(s).

Budget Form

Please fill out the On-the-Ground Project Budget Template (Excel file). Cells highlighted in yellow may be edited to fit the needs of your particular project. DEQ uses a template to construct nonpoint source grant contracts. The Budget Template contains tasks and typical deliverables that match up with the grant contract template. Please see the Example Contract and Scope of Work Template for a more detailed look at typical task requirements and deliverables.

Project Form

A separate Project Form (including providing separate attachments) must be submitted for each project included in your application. y lump and when to split projects.

Splitting Examples (fill out multiple Project Forms)

- Stream restoration work occurring on two separate streams..
- Two projects with significantly different sets of project partners.
- Two projects that address substantially different pollution sources (e.g., one project move a corral off of a streambank, and another removes mine tailings, with both projects being on the same property).

Lumping Examples

- Contiguous stream restoration work spanning multiple land parcels.
- Three projects that address similar sources of pollution on a single land parcel (e.g., moving a corral off a stream, implementing a grazing management plan, and relocating a manure storage facility out of the floodplain, all on the same ranch)

Required Attachments

Letter of support from the author of the DEQ-accepted Watershed Restoration Plan or EPA-approved Tribal Nonpoint Source Management Plan.

Letter of support from EACH landowner, lessee, or land manager associated with the proposed project area.

Budget Table (see attached Microsoft Excel Template).

Project Form

Detailed Project site map(s) Attach a map or set of maps showing the location and size of proposed activity. The map scale must be between 1:1,000 and 1:12,500. The map(s) must have an aerial photo background (e.g., USDA NAIP photography, Google Earth imagery, etc.). The map(s) must show the latitude, longitude, site name, and landowner for the activity site. The map(s) should also identify waterbodies affected by the pollution that the activity is designed to address.

Optional Attachments

Attach additional items and information that could help reviewers better understand your project. Information could describe public health risks, opportunities to leverage other funding sources, etc. However, application reviewers may have limited time available, and excessively long, optional attachments might not get reviewed. Do not attach copies of TMDL documents, TMDL implementation evaluations, Watershed Restoration Plans, Tribal Nonpoint Source Plans, or large comprehensive studies. The following attachments may be included.

Project Design Plans/Drawings

Preliminary Engineering Reports / Site Evaluations

Landowner Agreements / Construction Permits / Floodplain Permits

Site photos

Additional Letters of Support

Other: _____

Other: _____

Other: _____

Project Name

PROJECT AREA: Use the tools below to provide as detailed a description of the project area as possible.

List the counties in which the project will be located.

List the 12-digit Hydrologic Unit Codes (HUCs), sometimes referred to as Sixth Code HUCs, in which the project will take place. If you need assistance in determining the HUCs, please contact DEQ.

In addition to providing your own project site map, please go to the following website and follow the instructions to add your project location to the map.

<https://gis.mtdeq.us/portal/apps/storymaps/stories/42f4a668285c4ef6aa94b1623f10df57>

Connection to a Previous or Ongoing Project

Is this project tied to a previous or ongoing project? If so, please describe the connection.

Project Purpose

Select the watershed restoration plan or tribal nonpoint source plan that your project will help implement (please type in if missing from list).

Letter of support from author entity attached? (If no, explain why below.)

IMPAIRMENT LISTINGS: Unless addressing healthy watersheds (see below), all projects must address probable causes of impairment on a waterbody identified in the 2020 List of Impaired Waters.

Waterbody name from the 2020 List of Impaired Waters

Probable causes of impairment to be addressed

Waterbody name from the 2020 List of Impaired Waters

Probable causes of impairment to be addressed

HEALTHY WATERSHEDS: While the majority of the project funding is dedicated to addressing known impairments, a limited amount of funding can be used to protect non-impaired waters (healthy waters) from becoming impaired.

Name of healthy waterbody to be protected

Description of identified threat to non-impairment status

Name of healthy waterbody to be protected

Description of identified threat to non-impairment status

Project Partners

Identify each of the project partners and describe their contribution to the project. Include landowners, land managers, project designers, funders, and your own organization. Indicate whether each partner, other than your organization, has provided a letter of support. *(Note: each landowner must provide a letter of support.)*

Landowner

Contributions to Project

Letter of
Support
Attached?

Project Partner

Contributions to Project

Letter of
Support
Attached?

Project Coordination and Planning Task

This task would include completion of all applicable planning tasks from the list below, as well as coordination and oversight of the efforts of all project partners.

Identify the status of the following project planning tasks, where applicable.

| | Completed? | Copy Attached? | To Be Completed Pre-Contract (Oct 2024)? | To Be Completed as Contract Deliverable? |
|---|------------|-------------------|---|---|
| *Draft Project Designs | | | | |
| *Final Project Designs | | | | |
| Consultation With Potential Regulators | | | | |
| Necessary Permits | | | | |
| Cultural Resources Inventory (<i>may be relevant</i>) | | | | |
| Other: | | | | |
| Other: | | | | |
| Other: | | | | |

***See Call for Applications Section 5.1 for minimum design standards.*

Describe any additional project planning that will have been completed prior to execution of a contract (October 2024).

Describe any additional project planning and coordination that will need to be completed after the execution of a contract (October 2024).

Landowner Agreement Task

DEQ includes the following language in every nonpoint source contract involving on-the-ground activities:

Contractor shall submit signed landowner agreement(s) verifying that Contractor and DEQ staff may access the project site, at reasonable times and with prior notification, for the purposes of project planning, implementation, and post-implementation monitoring. The agreement(s) must ensure appropriate operation and maintenance of all structures, vegetation, and management measures for the life of the project (typically 10 years). If grazing will be allowed within the project area, the agreement(s) must include a sustainable management plan for livestock grazing, designed to protect and enhance riparian function. If a signed landowner agreement does not meet the above-stated minimum requirements, Contractor shall negotiate an amended agreement with the landowner that ensures appropriate operation and maintenance of all structures, vegetation, management measures, and includes a sustainable management plan for any livestock grazing for the life of the project (typically 10 years).

Identify the status of the following landowner agreement tasks, where applicable.

| | Completed? | Copy Attached? | To Be Completed Pre-Contract (Aug 2024)? | To Be Completed as Contract Deliverable? |
|------------------------------------|------------|----------------|--|--|
| Draft Landowner Agreement(s) | | | | |
| Final Landowner Agreement(s) | | | | |
| Grazing Management Plan | | | | |
| Other: | | | | |
| Other: | | | | |

Project Effectiveness Monitoring Task

If you will be conducting any on-the-ground implementation work, you will be required to complete the monitoring activities described in the task language below, as applicable. Describe below how you plan to determine the effectiveness of your project.

If you are applying for nonpoint source grant funding for project design only, and not for project implementation, you may either skip this task, or describe below which parts of this task you intend to complete:

Example Task Language

Contractor shall, in consultation with the DEQ Project Manager, develop a reasonable method or set of methods for evaluating and reporting on the effectiveness of the project in addressing water quality issues. Contractor shall complete a monitoring plan to guide monitoring activities. Contractor shall complete the following monitoring activities:

- *Estimate the sediment load reductions (tons/year) achieved through implementation of the proposed restoration activities and management practices.*
- *Estimate the nitrogen load reductions (pounds/year) achieved through implementation of the proposed restoration activities and management practices.*
- *Estimate the phosphorus load reductions (pounds/year) achieved through implementation of the proposed restoration activities and management practices.*
- *For projects designed to address pollution from pollutants other than nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment, evaluate and report on the effectiveness of the project in addressing water quality issues.*
- *Contractor shall collect data, as directed by the DEQ Project Manager, to be used in estimating sediment, nitrogen, and phosphorus load reductions achieved through implementation of restoration activities and management practices designed to address these pollutants.*
- *Use the following measures to evaluate the sustainability of restoration activities and management practices:*
 - *[Vegetation mortality rate.]*
 - *Pre- and post-construction photo point monitoring consistent with the “Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board Guide to Photo Monitoring” methodologies, or a similar published photo point monitoring method accepted by DEQ. The U.S. Forest Service provides additional photo point monitoring guidance in the “United States Forest Service Photo Point Monitoring Handbook”.*
 - *[Riparian survey.]*
 - *[Other.]*

Please describe any additional monitoring you intend to do as part of the project.

Project Implementation Task

Provide a detailed description of the solution you are proposing to implement to address a nonpoint source pollution problem. Describe the practices you intend to design and/or implement to solve the problem (what, where, when, how much or how many). Describe the anticipated maintenance needs (what, where, who, how long). Refer to the minimum design standards in the Call for Applications. ***Please fill out this section to the best of your ability, even if you are only seeking funding for project design.***

Education, Outreach and Training Task

To get good projects on the ground, trained staff and board members and educated, enthusiastic landowners are required. To promote the development of future projects, DEQ encourages project sponsors to use up to \$5,000 of funding to support training and conduct education and outreach. Example training topics might include: project management, public procurement, technical writing, GIS, water quality monitoring, web design, public speaking, human resource management, photo journalism, UAV (drone) piloting, financial management, and restoration techniques. Education and outreach activities might include targeted landowner outreach, conducting project site tours for local landowners, tabling at community events, holding a watershed festival, providing stipends and travel reimbursements for speakers and participants to attend a nonpoint source pollution prevention workshop, or generating articles for social media. The primary requirement for training and outreach is clearly explaining how the activity will support efforts to address nonpoint source pollution. Funding may not be used to pay for food and beverages, or for honorariums and gifts.

Describe the education and outreach activities you will complete to promote or facilitate future efforts to reduce nonpoint source pollution.

Identify the specific target audience.

Describe how the proposed training and/or outreach will increase local capacity and interest for addressing nonpoint source pollution.

Identify the goals of the education and outreach and describe how you will evaluate the effectiveness of the proposed activities.

Project Administration Task

Please use the task description below as a guide when calculating your budget for project administration. DEQ typically includes these requirements in every nonpoint source grant contract, with only minor variation. Funding applied to Project Administration must not exceed 10% of the total amount of funding requested, or \$12,000, whichever is lower.

Example Task Language

Contractor shall oversee and be accountable for the completion of all tasks. Contractor shall maintain regular contact with the DEQ project manager. Contractor shall prepare and submit Mid-Year, Interim, Annual, and Final Reports and Attachment B Billing Statements according to the format and schedule described below.

Report Format

- *Contractor shall submit each Attachment B Billing Statement, Mid-Year Report, Interim Report, Annual Report, and Final Report using the most current reporting guidance and templates provided by the DEQ project manager.*
- *Contractor shall ensure each Mid-Year, Interim, Annual, and Final Report contains adequate documentation to justify accompanying reimbursement requests and match reporting, to the satisfaction of the DEQ project manager.*
- *Contractor shall ensure that the Final Report is a standalone document describing all contract activities and containing copies of all contract deliverables (even if the deliverables were previously submitted).*

Reporting Schedule

- *Mid-Year Reports: Due June 1st of each year the Contract is in effect.*
- *Annual Reports: Due December 1st of each year the Contract is in effect.*
- *Interim Reports: Due whenever reimbursement is requested outside of the normal Mid-Year, Annual and Final reporting periods while the Contract is in effect.*
- *Draft Final Report: Contractor shall submit a complete draft Final Report for DEQ review and comment at least 15 days prior to the contract expiration date.*
- *Final Report: Contractor shall submit a Final Report, addressing DEQ comments on the draft Final Report, on or before the Contract expiration date.*
- *Attachment B Billing Statements: Contractor shall submit an Attachment B Billing Statement with each Mid-Year, Interim, Annual, or Final Report submitted to DEQ while the Contract is in effect. To maintain cash flow, Contractor may submit interim Attachment B Billing Statements as frequently as monthly during the term of the Contract. However, each interim Attachment B Billing Statement must be accompanied by an Interim Report.*
- *Exception to the Reporting Schedule: The Final Report and associated Attachment B Billing Statement will replace the last required Mid-Year or Annual Report.*

Project Timeline

4Q 1Q 2Q 3Q 4Q 1Q 2Q 3Q 4Q 1Q 2Q 3Q
2024 2025 2025 2025 2025 2026 2026 2026 2026 2027 2027 2027

Project Coordination and Planning Task

Landowner Agreement Task

Project Effectiveness Monitoring Task

Project Implementation Task

Education, Outreach and Training Task

Project Administration Task

Environmental Justice

Environmental justice can be defined as: The fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income, with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. This goal will be achieved when everyone enjoys:

- The same degree of protection from environmental and health hazards, and
- Equal access to the decision-making process to have a healthy environment in which to live, learn, and work

DEQ is committed to carrying out the nonpoint source pollution reduction projects in an environmentally just manner. We encourage applicants to apply the principles of environmental justice in their development and implementation of nonpoint source pollution prevention projects. Below are a few examples of how applicants might apply these principles. DEQ will award additional points in the scoring form for projects that address environmental justice.

- Project planning included consultation with Tribal Nations
- Project will benefit socially or economically disadvantaged communities
- Project will occur in a community that has not previously received nonpoint source pollution reduction grant funding
- Project will address nonpoint source pollution in a community that has been disproportionately burdened by impacts from legacy pollution (e.g., SuperFund sites, legacy mine waste, etc)

Please use this section to highlight connections your project may have to addressing environmental justice. .

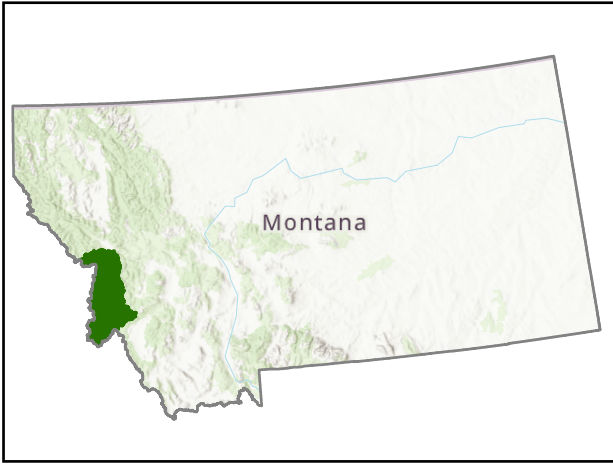
BUDGET





2024 Nonpoint Source Pollution Reduction Application - On-the-Ground Project Budget Template

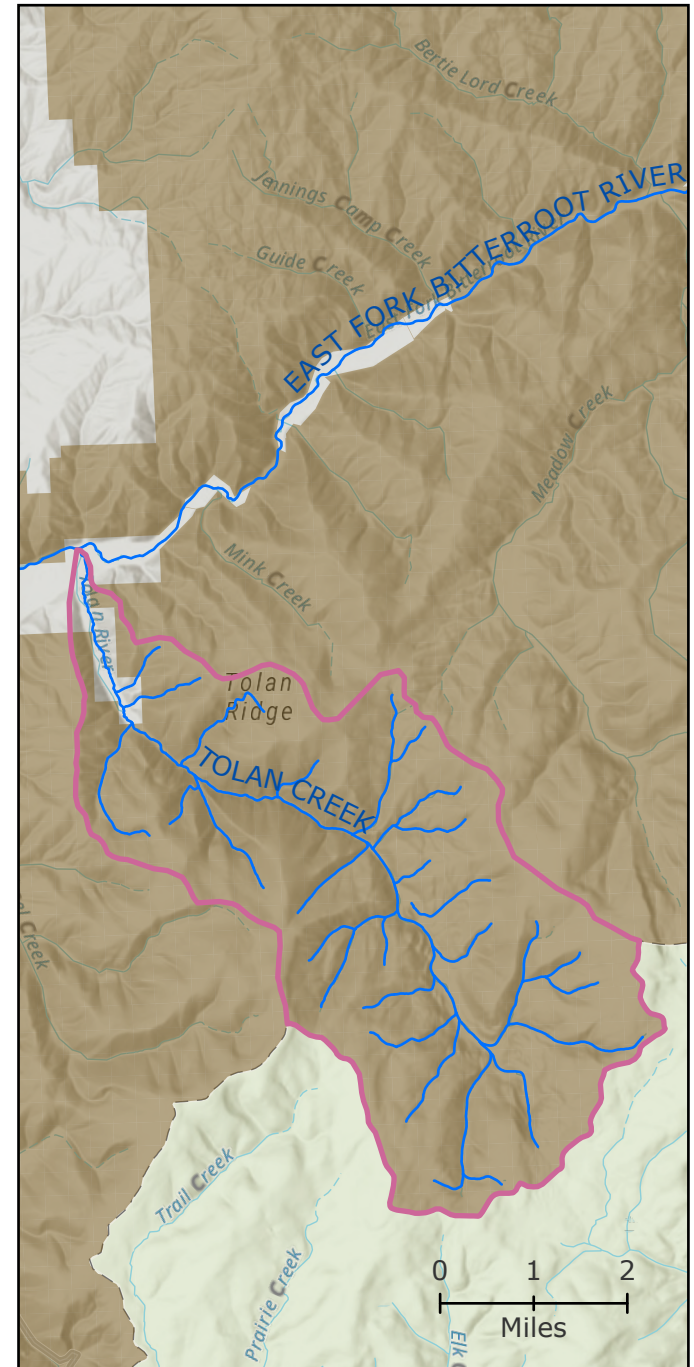
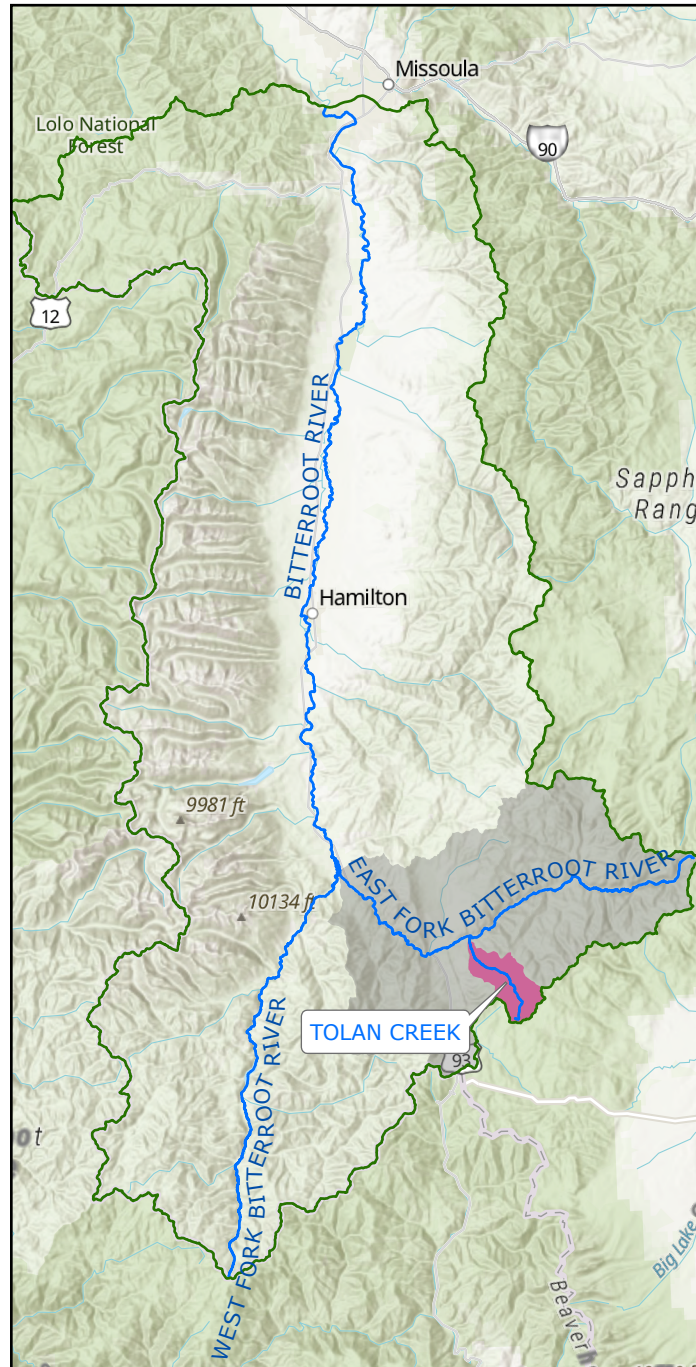
| Project Title: | | | | | | | | |
|---|--|----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|--------------|----------------------|----------------------|---|
| Instructions | Tasks and Potential Deliverables | 319 Funding Request* | Non-Federal Match** | Other Funding*** | Match Source | Match Secured? (Y/N) | Total Project Cost | Additional Information**** |
| <i>This task includes completion of all planning tasks and coordination and oversight of the efforts of all project partners. Provide a detailed budget and add a row if needed.</i> | Project Planning | | | | | | | |
| | Preliminary site investigation data and site maps | \$ 1,720.00 | | | | | \$ 1,720.00 | 40 BWP staff hours at \$43/hr |
| | Draft Project Designs | \$ 3,440.00 | | | | | \$ 3,440.00 | 80 BWP staff hours at \$43/hr |
| | Final Project Designs | \$ 1,720.00 | | | | | \$ 1,720.00 | 40 BWP staff hours at \$43/hr |
| | Contractor RFP, Agreements and SOW | \$ 860.00 | | | | | \$ 860.00 | 20 BWP staff hours at \$43hr |
| | Total | \$ 7,740.00 | \$ - | \$ - | | | \$ 7,740.00 | |
| <i>This task includes costs for developing and managing landowner agreements and developing grazing management plans as applicable. Provide a detailed budget and add a row if needed.</i> | Landowner Agreements | | | | | | | |
| | Draft Landowner Agreement | \$ 129.00 | | | | | \$ 129.00 | 3 BWP staff hours at \$43/hr |
| | Final Landowner Agreement | \$ 129.00 | | | | | \$ 129.00 | 3 BWP staff hours at \$43/hr |
| Total | \$ 258.00 | \$ - | \$ - | | | \$ 258.00 | | |
| <i>This task includes costs for developing and implementing a monitoring plan to evaluate effectiveness to reduce nonpoint source pollution. See example contract template or application instructions for required monitoring activities. Provide a detailed budget and add a row if needed.</i> | Effectiveness Monitoring | | | | | | | |
| | Draft Monitoring Plan | \$ 215.00 | | | | | \$ 215.00 | 5 BWP staff hours at \$43/hr |
| | Final Monitoring Plan | \$ 215.00 | | | | | \$ 215.00 | 5 BWP staff hours at \$43/hr |
| | Sediment load reduction data collection and analysis | \$ 2,222.50 | | | | | \$ 2,222.50 | 40 BWP staff hours at \$43/hr (5, 8 hour days of data collection - 2 days pre-construction, 3 post-); 750 miles at \$.67/mi |
| | Pre- and post- construction photo point monitoring | \$ 2,332.00 | \$ 3,816.00 | | in-kind | y | \$ 6,148.00 | 48 BWP staff hours at \$43/hr; 400 miles at \$.67/mi; 120 volunteer hours at \$31.80/hr |
| | Vegetation survival rates | \$ 3,096.00 | \$ 3,816.00 | | in-kind | y | \$ 6,912.00 | 72 BWP staff hours at \$43/hr (3, 8 hours days over 3 years); 120 volunteer hours at \$31.80 |
| | Written Summary of all Monitoring Activities | \$ 1,032.00 | | | | | \$ 1,032.00 | 24 BWP staff hours at \$43/hr |
| Total | \$ 9,112.50 | \$ 7,632.00 | \$ - | | | \$ 16,744.50 | | |
| <i>This tasks includes all costs for implementation of the plans developed in the Project Planning task. If you are requesting funding for design only, leave this task blank. Provide a detailed budget and add a row if needed.</i> | Project Implementation | | | | | | | |
| | Roadway minor repairs | | | \$ 18,800.00 | USFS | y | \$ 18,800.00 | BRF |
| | Culvert installation at Stone Creek | | | \$ 5,000.00 | USFS | y | \$ 5,000.00 | BRF |
| | Roadway Level 2 Storage | \$ 80,000.00 | | \$ 72,000.00 | USFS | y | \$ 152,000.00 | BRF = 4.5 miles of road work; 319 = 5 miles of Level 2 Road Storage at \$16K/mi |
| | Contractor + Construction oversight/mgmt | \$ 4,300.00 | | | | | \$ 4,300.00 | 100 BWP staff hours at \$43/hr |
| | Herbicide application | | | \$ 12,000.00 | USFS | y | \$ 12,000.00 | BRF |
| | Riparian shrubs | | | \$ 5,000.00 | USFS | y | \$ 5,000.00 | BRF |
| | Native weed-free seed mix | | | \$ 18,000.00 | USFS | y | \$ 18,000.00 | BRF |
| | Riparian planting | \$ 1,720.00 | \$ 3,180.00 | | in-kind | y | \$ 4,900.00 | 40 BWP staff hours at \$43/hr; 100 volunteer hours at \$31.80/hr |
| | Seeding | \$ 860.00 | \$ 3,180.00 | | in-kind | y | \$ 4,040.00 | 20 BWP staff hours at \$43/hr; 100 volunteer hours at \$31.80/hr |
| | Riparian fencing | \$ 860.00 | | | in-kind | y | \$ 860.00 | 20 BWP staff hours at \$43/hr |
| | Total | \$ 87,740.00 | \$ 6,360.00 | \$ 130,800.00 | | | \$ 224,900.00 | |
| <i>This task includes costs to develop and improve organizational capacity and to incorporate education and outreach into on-the ground projects. Provide a detailed budget and add a row if needed.</i> | Education and Outreach | | | | | | | |
| | Training (for BWP, UAV, restoration techniques, etc) | \$ 1,750.00 | | | | | \$ 1,750.00 | \$1000 training expenses, 18 BWP staff hours at \$43/hr |
| | E+O (newsletters, videos, social media, stipends) | \$ 1,750.00 | | | | | \$ 1,750.00 | \$500 stipends, 30 BWP staff hours at \$43/hr |
| | Outreach/Publication materials | \$ 1,500.00 | | | | | \$ 1,500.00 | Printing newsletters and educational materials |
| Total | \$ 5,000.00 | \$ - | \$ - | | | \$ 5,000.00 | | |
| <i>319 Funding applied to Project Administration must not exceed 10% of the total amount of 319 funding requested, or \$12,000, whichever is lower. Project includes normal business expenses and reporting requirements.</i> | Administration | | | | | | | |
| | Mid/Annual/Interim Reports and Billing Statements | \$ 2,500.00 | | | | | \$ 2,500.00 | BWP staff, board, etc |
| | Draft/Final Report and Billing Statements | \$ 3,000.00 | | | | | \$ 3,000.00 | BWP staff, board, etc |
| | Communication with DEQ | \$ 4,000.00 | | | | | \$ 4,000.00 | BWP staff, board, etc |
| | Total | \$ 9,500.00 | \$ - | \$ - | | | \$ 9,500.00 | |
| Grand Totals | | \$ 119,350.50 | \$ 13,992.00 | \$ 130,800.00 | | | \$ 264,142.50 | |

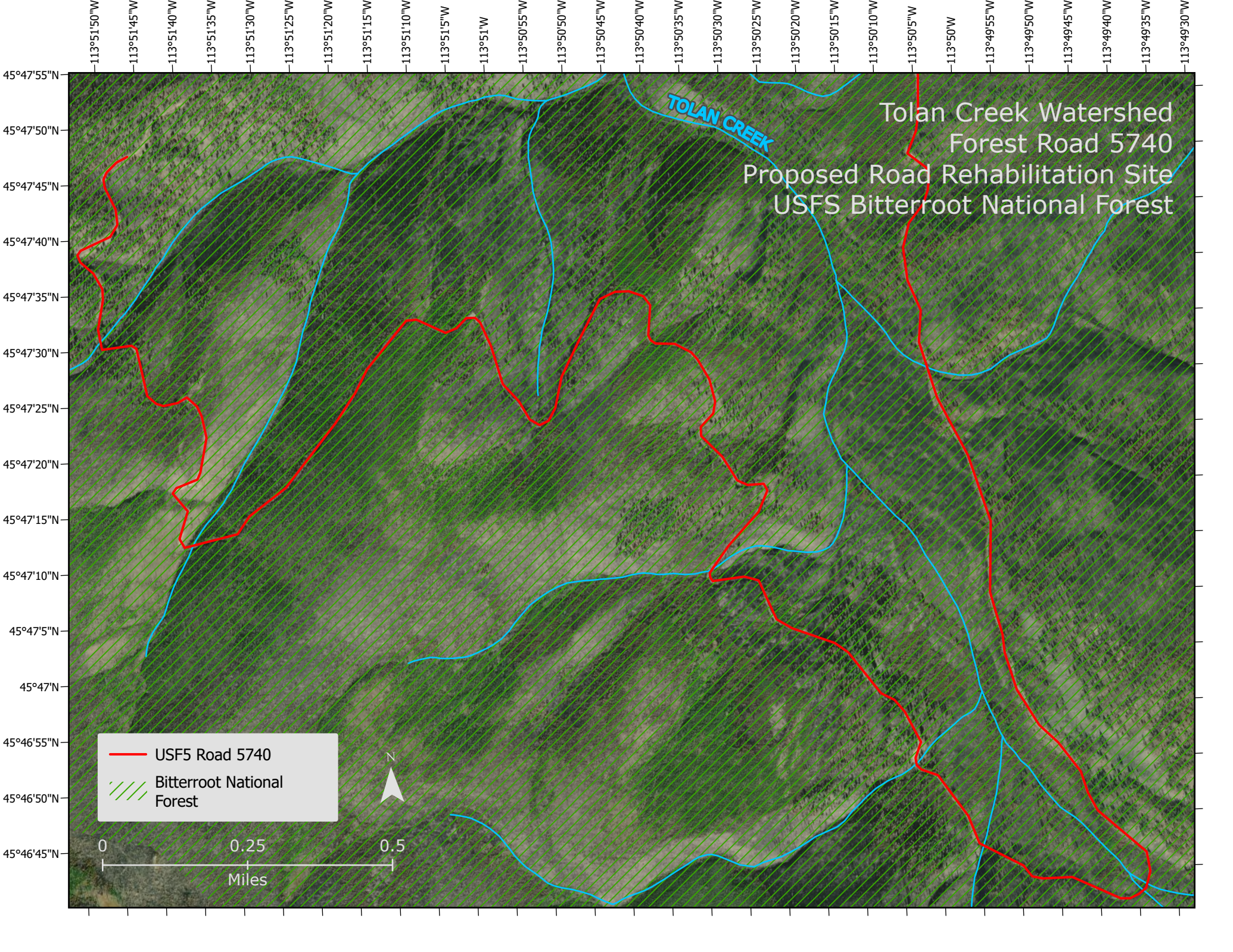
MAPS/ DESIGNS

Bitterroot Water Partnership
 2024 DEQ 319 Proposal
 "Partnering with the
 Bitterroot National Forest
 to address water quality impairments
 post-wildfire in the East Fork"



-  Bitterroot Watershed
-  East Fork Watershed
-  Tolan Creek Watershed
-  Bitterroot National Forest





TOLAN CREEK

Tolman Creek Watershed
Forest Road 5740
Proposed Road Rehabilitation Site
USFS Bitterroot National Forest

- USF5 Road 5740
- /// Bitterroot National Forest



**LETTERS
OF
SUPPORT**



USFS Northern Region
Bitterroot National Forest
Darby-Sula Ranger District

Montana Department of Environmental Quality
Water Quality Planning Bureau – Nonpoint Source Pollution Program
Attn: 319 Program Review Committee
PO Box 200901
Helena, MT 59620

Re: Bitterroot Water Partnership's (BWP) Nonpoint Source (NPS) Program 319 Grant Application

Dear 319 Program Review Committee,

The Bitterroot National Forest (BRF) is writing in support of the Bitterroot Water Partnership's (BWP) request for funding through the 2024 NPS Pollution Reduction 319 Program.

The BRF is focused on the restoration and maintenance of our landscapes in support of a diversity of terrestrial and aquatic species. As such, we seek opportunities to work with our partners to protect and restore critical habitats and watershed processes both on public and adjacent lands. We intend to work with BWP to develop and implement watershed-scale restoration projects in the Tolan Creek watershed.

In 2022, the Trail Ridge Fire burned 8,324 acres of the Tolan Creek watershed. The fire burned moderate to high severity in 62% of this watershed, destroying vegetation and soil organic matter. Fragile soils and lack of vegetation have cumulatively increased erosion and sedimentation into Tolan Creek and severely impacted the watershed's hydrologic function. This has negatively affected the critical bull trout spawning and rearing habitat in the watershed, along with the resident bull trout and westslope trout populations. Left unstabilized, we expect Tolan Creek to continue to degrade and mobilize fine sediments downstream.

BRF has secured Burn Area Rehabilitation (BAR) funds through 2025 to begin addressing these watershed health issues. Through this funding, BRF is working to establish a Partnership Agreement with BWP. The 319 Program would help to sustain this partnership and enhance our ability to accomplish water quality and habitat improvement goals in Tolan Creek in the following ways:

- Increase capacity and funding support to complete Phases 1-3 of restoration in the Tolan Creek Watershed through 2027.
- Store 9.4 miles of Forest Road 5740 to reduce sediment loads in Tolan Creek, its tributaries, and the East Fork of the Bitterroot. Road storage includes reestablishing surface drainage to prevent road capture of runoff, scarification, scattering of wood and slash, reseeding, and invasive weed spraying. Due to the recent burn in the watershed, we expect this to remain in storage well into the future.
- Remove stream crossings and culverts on Forest Road 5740 and restore the stream channel slope and dimensions, improving stream function and aquatic organism passage.



USFS Northern Region
Bitterroot National Forest
Darby-Sula Ranger District

- Restore stream channel and floodplain connectivity to improve watershed function and reduce risk of disturbance caused by sediment and debris flows.
- Revegetate riparian areas and floodplains with native seed and containerized plants to restore wildlife habitat and stabilize soils.

We value our partnership with the BWP as we continue our efforts to improve and protect the landscapes and watersheds in the Bitterroot Valley and I encourage the support of the 319 Program Review Committee to these efforts. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Steve Brown 4/11/24

Steve Brown, Darby-Sula District Ranger

OTHER ATTACHMENTS

Tolan Creek Watershed - 2023 aerial imagery from helicopter flyover provided by East Fork landowner









