



## 2025 Nonpoint Source Pollution Reduction Application - Capacity Building/Education Outreach Projects

### General Information

Project Name

Applicant Name

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 #)

**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  Title

Address  City  State  Zip Code

Phone Number  Email

Signature  Digitally signed by Gretchen Watkins  
Date: 2025.03.06 15:16:19 -07'00'

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

Signatory  Title

Address  City  State  Zip Code

Phone Number  Email

Signature  Digitally signed by Brian C. Chaffin  
Date: 2025.03.06 14:25:12 -07'00'

**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.

## Project Description

### Project Type

Is this a Capacity Building Project, or is it an Education and Outreach Project?

Capacity Building Project

**Explanation:** DEQ supports education and outreach efforts that focus on changes in behavior that will prevent or reduce nonpoint source pollution. Our goal is to encourage adoption of Community Based Social Marketing concepts to produce measurable, sustainable change. We also want to support activities that improve local capacity to develop and implement on-the-ground projects to prevent or reduce nonpoint source pollution. In so doing, we are making a distinction between capacity building projects, and education and outreach projects. The selection you make above will be used to determine which questions on the Scoring Sheet reviewers will use to evaluate your project.

### Activity Location

List the watershed(s) where your proposed work will happen.

Central Clark Fork Watershed to include, Bear HUC # 1701020206, Cramer HUC # 1701020214, Rattlesnake HUC # 1701020401, Mill HUC # 1701020402, Petty HUC # 1701020404, Fish HUC # 1701020405, Trout HUC # 1701020406, and Dry HUC # 1701020408.

### Activity Description

Describe your project goals and your proposed activities. Explain why the proposed work is an appropriate next step towards preventing or reducing nonpoint source pollution.

The purpose of this project is to build the capacity of the Clark Fork Coalition (CFC) to collaborate on larger-scale stream restoration in the Central Clark Fork River watershed. CFC will partner with key stakeholders to finalize the Watershed Restoration Plan (WRP) for the region and position it for successful implementation. WRPs have been completed for the Upper and Lower portions of the Clark Fork Basin, as well as several tributaries, but a significant planning gap exists between Drummond and the confluence with the Flathead River. Dr. Vicky Watson, University of Montana, led a WRP development effort for this region in 2019-20. She worked with two graduate students to do stakeholder outreach and compile information. Their effort focused on the impairments described in the two Total Maximum Daily Load reports for the region. CFC will continue this effort by developing the remaining elements of the plan, providing a strategic framework for restoration of water quality, aquatic ecosystems, and watershed health. CFC will conduct pre-award activities to support project success. The nine watersheds included in this approach will also include the mainstream of the middle Clark Fork River that has not been addressed. This approach will take a holistic look to protecting the Clark Fork River along with key tributaries. We have already conducted preliminary meetings with U.S. Forest Service representatives and with the three conservation district (CD) boards in the basin; all are supportive of completing the WRP. In addition, CFC received support from the Western Montana Conservation Commission and Vicky Watson to build on the previous work. Also, a UM Master's student will review, organize, and synthesize the two TMDL documents and other reports for the basin during the summer of 2025. This project will provide a foundation for her thesis and will help us draft the remaining plan elements. With support from this grant, CFC will distribute the draft plan to partners and conduct a broad education and outreach campaign over late fall and winter of 2025-26. This effort will include three public meetings, presentations at three CD meetings, an online survey, and personal communications with landowners and land managers. We will use these opportunities to educate the public about the plan, and we will collect public input on concerns, potential projects, and priorities. We will meet with interested landowners and conduct site visits of potential projects to evaluate needs and costs. All the public input will be used to prioritize projects and finalize the draft WRP for submission to DEQ in spring 2026. We will use the summer of 2026 to address DEQ comments and prepare for the 2027-319 application call by continuing to meet with interested landowners; assessing design and construction needs; and exploring non-federal funding opportunities. The final WRP will be submitted to DEQ by October of 2026. The approved WRP can be used by stakeholders throughout the basin to plan and implement projects to improve water quality in the Clark Fork, and the capacity gained through this grant funding will help CFC develop and maintain key partnerships to facilitate on-the-ground education and outreach, setting the stage for project implementation.

## Budget Form

Please fill out the Capacity Building and/or Education Outreach 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.

## Capacity Building Projects

*(only complete this page if you selected "Capacity Building Project" on the top of page 2; otherwise, leave this page blank)*

### Need and Opportunity

Describe your organization's need for increased capacity, and how the proposed project activities will help you meet those needs. Describe the local interest and opportunities for using the capacity you create to prevent or reduce nonpoint source pollution.

Development of a Watershed Restoration Plan for the Central Clark Fork Watershed will help the Clark Fork Coalition develop and strengthen partnerships and position it to implement on-the-ground restoration projects. Currently, no WRP exists for this stretch of the Clark Fork that spans Granite, Missoula, and Mineral Counties. The basin encompasses a diverse landscape of wilderness, working lands, Superfund sites, and some of Montana's fastest growing communities. Mineral County has fewer resources due to its low population. Missoula is experiencing rapid high-density population growth, and the entire basin has legacy impairments from mining, logging, industry, and agriculture. Currently, collaboration between jurisdictions along the main stem of the Central Clark Fork is limited, and there is limited understanding of Clean Water Act Programs and access to restoration resources. This is why we are taking a holistic approach and including the 9 watersheds along the mainstream that have not benefited from watershed planning. The larger tributaries that have approved Watershed Restoration Plans will be included in the success stories and planning of the main stem of the Clark Fork Plan. In these water sheds people value face to face interactions, but planning efforts tend to be isolated due to limited resources and the large planning area. To address these challenges, we have the opportunity to build our capacity by working directly with landowners and land managers and collaborating with the Missoula, Mineral, and Granite Conservation Districts (CDs) to understand impairments and identify and prioritize areas for restoration. The CDs are interested in working to engage landowners and land managers in the WRP process and are excited to work with CFC to facilitate partner dialogue. By bringing together partners and building on the previous WRP development effort (2019-20), we can enhance the overall connection in the watershed. We will bring together Conservation Districts (CDs) and their partners through a series of meetings, fostering a spirit of collaboration and shared purpose. Education and outreach will be key components, as we highlight success stories and demonstrate the tangible benefits of working together. Together, we will develop restoration projects, an implementation schedule, set milestones, and establish criteria for success. This will enable us to create a collaborative, informed, and proactive community dedicated to preserving this vital resource. Together, we can build a legacy of clean water and healthy ecosystems for generations to come.

### Measurement and Sustainability

Describe how you will measure the increase in capacity. Describe how will sustain the capacity you generate on into the future.

To measure the increase in capacity, we'll track stakeholder participation in meetings, workshops, and training sessions, noting the diversity of participants, including landowners, managers, and representatives from various jurisdictions. We'll document the number and types of non-point source management measures identified and implemented, and gather feedback through surveys and interviews to assess engagement and understanding. To sustain this capacity, we'll continue collaborating with Conservation Districts and partners, holding regular meetings to review progress and plan future activities. We'll provide ongoing training and educational opportunities, implement a robust monitoring and evaluation system, and foster strong community relationships to ensure continued support and participation. These strategies will help maintain and enhance the capacity built over time. Also the proposed thesis for the Wyss Scholarship Master's candidate examines how outreach to landowners and managers encourages participation in restoration implementation. Using this information pre-award we will tailor our outreach and education during post-award engagement.

### Timeline

Describe your anticipated project timeline

Pre-award activities will focus on working with conservation districts and document review to summarizing impairments, mapping locations, and synthesizing partner reports. We'll engage with partners like FWP, NRCS, USFWS, USFS, MT DNRC, WMCC, and CSKT to compile information. Post-award, we'll hold three public meetings with CDs hosting in early November 2025, follow up with interested landowners and managers, send survey, design and estimate costs, and draft comments during winter-spring 2026. Spring 2026 we will organize potential projects, disseminate information, and conduct education and outreach. Summer field visits will help finalize prioritized reaches and tributaries. The Watershed Restoration Plan will be drafted, reviewed by partners, revised, and submitted to DEQ for approval before October 2026.

## Education and Outreach Projects

*(only complete this page if you selected "Education and Outreach Project" on the top of page 2; otherwise, leave this page blank)*

### Behavioral Change

Identify the behavior you will be working to change. What is the behavior? From a nonpoint source pollution perspective, why is the change in behavior important? What are the existing barriers to changing the behavior? How will your proposed activities address the identified barriers? How will you measure the extent of the behavioral change?

### Timeline

Describe your anticipated timeline

## Community Engagement

DEQ is committed to carrying out nonpoint source pollution reduction projects within engaged communities. We encourage applicants to apply the principles of community engagement in 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 emphasize community engagement.

- Project planning included consultation with Tribal Nations
- Project will benefit underserved markets
- 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 underserved markets.

## Project Partners and Roles

Identify the partners that will be working on the project, and their roles.

## Project Administration

Each contract will have a Project Administration Task. Take the requirements (listed below) into consideration when planning logistics and budget for your project. Project administration includes bookkeeping, invoicing, interim/annual/final report preparation, office supplies, rent, communications, etc. Nonpoint source funding applied to this task must not exceed 10% of the total amount of funding requested, or \$3,000, whichever is lower. Like all other tasks, payment is by reimbursement for actual expenses incurred.

### *Report Format:*

- *Contractor shall submit each Attachment B Billing Statement, Status Report and Final Report using the most current reporting guidance and templates provided by the DEQ project manager.*
- *Contractor shall ensure each Status Report 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:*

- *Status Reports: Due June 15th and December 15th of each year 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 Status Report, 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.*

## Additional Information

Use the space below to include anything additional for the review panel to consider. Attach additional items and information that could help reviewers better understand your project. Please be conscious of reviewers' time, as they may not have time to read lengthy studies and reports. Please do not attach copies of TMDL documents or watershed restoration plans.

As a part of this Watershed Restoration plan the W.A. Franke College of Forestry and Conservation Masters Program Wyss Scholarship recipient will study how other watershed plans were implemented and what were the best tools to get landowner buy-in to doing a restoration. Learning from others success will help us to create the best possible plan that will get the most on the ground restoration projects installed.

Tribal perspectives and restoration priorities is essential. If given the opportunity, we would revise our answer to this question by formally approaching the Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes, Natural Resources Department, Water Division (e.g., Director Casey Ryan, Hydrologist Seth Makepeace) with our early-stage draft of the plan to garner their feedback on improvements and potential additions from a Tribal perspective. As advised by CSKT staff, we would then proceed to meet with the CSKT Cultural Council and/or Tribal Council to gather additional feedback, share our intentions, and open an ongoing dialogue about opportunities to collaborate on or coordinate restoration projects so that they address Tribal priorities in the Middle reach of the Clark Fork River basin.

# BUDGET

2025 Nonpoint Source Pollution Reduction Application - Capacity Building Education & Outreach Budget Template

Project Title: <b>Central Clark Fork Watershed Resotration Plan Development</b>								
Instructions	Tasks and Potential Deliverables	Nonpoint Source Request*	Non-Federal Match**	Other Funding***	Match Source	Match Secured? (Y/N)	Total Project Cost	Additional Information****
This task may include the initial stages of, for example, developing the Plan, demonstration project, outreach program, educational materials or planning project tours. Please include anticipated deliverables and a detailed budget.	<b>Project and Program Development</b>							
	Outreach and educational materials for project partners	\$ 1,000.00					\$ 1,000.00	
	3 Outreach events	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,500.00		CFC	y	\$ 2,500.00	
	3 Educational classroom activities	\$ 500.00	\$ 1,500.00		CFC	y	\$ 2,000.00	
	Field visits	\$ 500.00	\$ 1,500.00		CFC	y	\$ 2,000.00	
							\$ -	
							\$ -	
							\$ -	
	<b>Total</b>	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 4,500.00	\$ -			\$ 7,500.00	
This task would include, for example, the time getting stakeholder involvement and writing the Plan, leading the project tours or outreach program, and coordinating volunteers. Please include anticipated deliverables and a detailed budget.	<b>Implementation</b>							
	Time going over comments and revisions	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 500.00		CFC	y	\$ 2,500.00	
							\$ -	
							\$ -	
							\$ -	
							\$ -	
							\$ -	
							\$ -	
	<b>Total</b>	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 500.00	\$ -			\$ 2,500.00	
This task includes costs for evaluating the success of your project or program. This may include surveys, community readiness factors, landowner buy in for projects, completion of a Plan, etc. Please include anticipated deliverables and a detailed budget.	<b>Effectiveness Monitoring</b>							
	Survey to gage landwowner readiness for restoration	\$ 2,000.00					\$ 2,000.00	
	Completion of the plan	\$ 8,750.00	\$ 500.00		CFC	y	\$ 9,250.00	
							\$ -	
							\$ -	
							\$ -	
							\$ -	
	<b>Total</b>	\$ 10,750.00	\$ 500.00	\$ -			\$ 11,250.00	
Funding applied to Project Administration must not exceed 10% of the total amount of nonpoint funding requested, or \$3,000, whichever is lower. Project includes normal business expenses and reporting requirements.	<b>Administration</b>							
	Mid/Annual/Interim Reports and Billing Statements	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 750.00		CFC	y	\$ 1,750.00	
	Draft/Final Report and Billing Statements	\$ 250.00	\$ 750.00				\$ 1,000.00	
	Communication with DEQ	\$ 500.00					\$ 500.00	
							\$ -	
							\$ -	
							\$ -	
	<b>Total</b>	\$ 1,750.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ -			\$ 3,250.00	
<b>Grand Totals</b>		<b>Nonpoint Funding Request*</b>	<b>Non-Federal Match**</b>	<b>Other Funding***</b>				
		\$ 17,500.00	\$ 7,000.00	\$ -				
							<b>Total Project Cost</b>	
							<b>\$ 24,500.00</b>	

\*Funding Request - Must not exceed \$30,000

\*\*Non-Federal Match - Can include in-kind materials.

\*\*\*Other Funding -Use this space for funding that will be used to support creation of task deliverables, but will not be

\*\*\*\*Additional Information - Use to justify cost if needed. (Hourly rates, rental costs, etc.)





# LETTERS OF SUPPORT

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March 6, 2025

Meagan Gilmore, Water Quality Specialist  
Nonpoint Source and Wetlands Section/Water Quality Planning Bureau  
Montana Department of Environmental Quality  
1520 E 6th Ave., Helena, MT 59601



Dear Ms. Gilmore and Members of the Grant Review Committee:

On behalf of the Missoula Conservation District (MCD), I am writing to express our strong support for the Central Clark Fork Basin Watershed Restoration Plan (WRP) proposed by the Clark Fork Coalition. This comprehensive initiative aims to provide a strategic framework for the restoration of water quality, aquatic ecosystems, and overall watershed health in this vital region. MCD is proud to be an active partner in this planning process, contributing funding and coordination assistance to the watershed.

While Watershed Restoration Plans have already been developed for the upper and lower sections of the Clark Fork Basin, the central portion of the river remains without a comprehensive plan. The completion of the Central Clark Fork Basin WRP will fill this crucial gap and provide essential direction for restoration efforts in this area.

Upon completion, the WRP will help prioritize key tributaries and sections of the main stem that are in need of restoration. Furthermore, the WRP will enhance stakeholders' understanding of existing water quality conditions, promote collaboration among partners, and serve as an educational resource for local communities eager to improve the health of their waterways.

MCD is confident that the successful implementation of this plan will be a significant step toward the long-term sustainability and vitality of the watershed. We strongly encourage you to consider funding this important project, which will safeguard Montana's natural resources for future generations.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Radley Watkins", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Radley Watkins  
Executive Director



03/05/2025

Meagan Gilmore  
Water Quality Specialist  
Nonpoint Source and Wetlands Section/Water Quality Planning Bureau  
Montana Department of Environmental Quality  
[Meagan.gilmore@mt.gov](mailto:Meagan.gilmore@mt.gov)  
406-755-8985

Dear Meagan,

I am writing to express my support for the funding request submitted by the Clark Fork Coalition (CFC) for the development of a Watershed Restoration Plan (WRP) for the Central Clark Fork Basin. WRPs have been successfully completed in the Upper and Lower portions of the Clark Fork Basin; however, as you're aware, a WRP has not been completed for the Central Clark Fork. Working with collaborative partners, including MT DEQ, the Lolo has utilized WRPs as an important framework for watershed protection and restoration awareness, planning and prioritization, vital funding, design, and implementation. Another outcome that we support is WRPs service as an educational tool for local communities interested in improving the health of their home waterways.

As I understand, the Central Clark Fork Watershed is defined as the section of the Clark Fork River between its confluence with Flint Creek near Drummond and its confluence with the Flathead River. The Lolo NF comprises much of the land and tributaries in this large watershed. Although many of the tributaries are in very good condition, impairments exist, and sources of impairment are diverse. We have a long-standing partnership with the CFC that has focused on restorative actions towards reducing or eliminating impairments. The CFC has also produced high-quality assessments that we've utilized, such as a citizen science-based beaver inventory, and the Lolo's Watershed Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment – one of the U.S. Forest Service's most thorough and progressive climate change assessments to date, including an uncommon management implications section. I have full confidence that the CFC would produce a very thorough and high quality WRP if funding were available.

In addition, and with your support, the Lolo would be committed to working with the CFC in sharing information of both completed projects, and known issues needing remediation. I strongly believe that this effort and consequent funding support will significantly contribute to the long-term health of the Central Clark Fork Watershed. Thank you for your consideration of their proposal.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Traci Sylte*

Traci Sylte  
Watershed Program Manager  
Lolo National Forest



# THE MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE: (406) 444-2074  
PO BOX 201601



1539 ELEVENTH AVENUE  
HELENA, MONTANA 59620-1601

GOVERNOR GREG GIANFORTE

DNRC DIRECTOR AMANDA KASTER

February 25, 2025

Montana Department of Environmental Quality  
319 Grant Review Committee  
1520 E 6th Ave, Helena, MT 59601

Dear Members of the Grant Review Committee,

The Western Montana Conservation Commission (WMCC) strongly supports the Central Clark Fork Basin Watershed Restoration Plan (WRP) proposed by the Clark Fork Coalition. The goal of the WRP is to provide a strategic framework for the restoration of water quality, aquatic ecosystems, and overall watershed health in this vital region. WMCC is an active partner in the planning process by funding and providing coordination assistance within the watershed.

Watershed Restoration Plans have been completed for the upper and lower portions of the Clark Fork Basin but a plan for the Central Clark Fork River has not yet been developed. The completion of this WRP will provide essential guidance for this critical area.

Upon completion, the WRP will prioritize key tributaries and areas along the main stem in need of restoration. Additionally, the WRP will enhance stakeholder knowledge of existing water quality conditions and foster partnerships in this important portion of the Clark Fork River. It will also serve as an educational tool for local communities interested in improving the health of their home waterways.

WMCC believes that this plan will be instrumental in achieving the long-term sustainability and health of the watershed. Please consider funding this project to protect Montana's natural resources for generations to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Koopal".

Mike Koopal  
Chair, Western Montana Conservation Commission



655 Timberwolf Pkwy | Kalispell, MT | [WesternMTWaters.com](http://WesternMTWaters.com)

*The Western Montana Conservation Commission is administratively attached to the Montana DNRC.*





PO Box 174  
304 4<sup>th</sup> Ave. E.,  
Superior, MT 59872  
Tel: 406-822-3452  
Fax: 406-822-0786  
Chairperson: Lane Hansen  
Administrator: Stephanie Todd

Feb 1, 2025

Subject: Letter of Support Clark Fork Coalition Restoration Plan 2025

Dear Members of the Grant Review Committee,

On behalf of **Mineral County Conservation District (MCCD)**, I am writing to express our support of the Central ClarkFork Basin Watershed Restoration Plan (WRP) proposed by the Clark Fork Coalition. The goal of the WRP is to provide a strategic framework for the restoration of water quality, aquatic ecosystems, and overall watershed health in this vital region. MCCD is an active partner in the planning process by funding and providing coordination assistance within the watershed.

Watershed Restoration Plans have been completed for the upper and lower portions of the Clark Fork Basin but a plan for the Central Clark Fork River has not yet been developed. The completion of this WRP will provide essential guidance for this critical area.

Upon completion, the WRP will prioritize key tributaries and areas along the main stem in need of restoration. Additionally, the WRP will enhance stakeholder knowledge of existing water quality conditions and foster partnerships in this important portion of the Clark Fork River. It will also serve as an educational tool for local communities interested in improving the health of their home waterways.

MCCD believes that this plan will be instrumental in achieving the long-term sustainability and health of the watershed. Please consider funding this project to protect Montana's natural resources for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Layne Hansen  
Chair, Mineral County Conservation District





**Environmental Studies Program**

Jeannette Rankin Hall 106A

University of Montana

Missoula, MT 59812-4320

Phone: (406) 243-6273

Email: [evst@mso.umt.edu](mailto:evst@mso.umt.edu)

<https://www.umt.edu/environmental-studies/>

March 4, 2025

Montana Department of Environmental Quality

319 Grant Review Committee

1520 E 6<sup>th</sup> Ave., Helena, MT 59601

Dear Grant Review Committee Members:

The Clark Fork Coalition's proposal to develop a Watershed Restoration Plan for the Central Clark Fork deserves your strong support. The Central Clark Fork is the only part of the larger Clark Fork basin that does not have a WRP. The upper river and the lower river and the major tributaries have WRP's. But their full recovery depends on the health of the Central Clark Fork. The Central Clark Fork presents the extra challenge of having one of the largest and fastest growing cities in Montana and some of the fastest growing counties. It also includes some state superfund sites, part of the upper Clark Fork Superfund complex and the Smurfit-Stone pulp mill superfund site.

An effort to develop a Central Clark Fork WRP was started several years ago by the Clark Fork Kootenai River Basins Council. There was a lot of good public input and an initial draft was developed. However, the covid pandemic stalled out that effort. Citizens of the Central Clark Fork are delighted to see that the Clark Fork Coalition has stepped up to update that effort and bring it to completion.

This is no small task. The challenges of population growth and superfund sites have already been mentioned. And key inputs like the mainstem's Voluntary Nutrient Reduction Plan/TMDL have not been updated in decades. But the Coalition's science and outreach staff & partners are up to the task of updating the scientific information and the community outreach.

I look forward to assisting with the effort as a partner to such a dedicated crew and to seeing the considerable effort put in earlier finally be completed. This area needs the Watershed CPR (Conservation, Preservation and Restoration) that a WRP can help to move forward.

Please support this effort to complete a Watershed Restoration Plan for the Heart of the Clark Fork.

Sincerely,

*Vicki Watson*

Dr. Vicki Watson, Professor Emeritus, University of Montana Environmental Studies