



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 Heather Hibbard
Date: 2025.03.07 15:30:45 -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 Amanda Duley
Date: 2025.03.07 16:15:24 -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.

Lolo Watershed

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 Lolo Watershed Group (LWG) is currently without paid staff and seeks to 1) continue programs as manageable by the board of directors, and 2) identify strategy to expand capacity and eventually hire a paid Watershed Coordinator. This proposal includes activities that will help LWG pursue these goals in the context of preventing or reducing NPS.

The first activity will be to host the 2026 and 2027 annual "speaker series", which features local professionals whose work aligns with LWG's mission, to promote the health of Lolo Creek through education, coordination, and stakeholder collaboration while emphasizing community conservation of the watershed. These events feature a range of topics, including nonpoint source pollution. The speaker series has been a key event for over 20 years (examples attached). Topics range from hydrology to fish habitat to beavers. As the 2026 and 2027 series is planned, LWG will be sure the topics tie to NPS.

LWG will also incorporate NPS education into our Kids' Fishing Day in July, likely to be coordinated with the summer quarter "speaker series" talk.

LWG plans to organize a volunteer event under this proposal, which will be a planting day or creek cleanup day, depending on whether additional funds can be acquired to cover the balance of event costs.

And finally, If this grant is awarded, LWG will hire a consultant to meet with and advise the board regarding hiring a Watershed Coordinator, developing a funding strategy, and applying for grants. As part of this process, the consultant will help LWG's board create a job description/work plan for the potential Watershed Coordinator. As LWG is currently without staff, Consultant may also advise the board on operations to maintain the organization until someone can be hired (develop a board work plan to continue operations without staff).

LWG's role in the community is to educate and facilitate action, in this case, awareness and activities to address NPS. This includes education at our events, as well as a hands-on community event, and hiring staff to help further address concerns in our Watershed Restoration Plan.

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.

LWG was formed to help engage and educate the community about watershed issues, guiding the public to understand, care about, and support work to address resource issues in the watershed. LWG worked with DEQ to develop a Watershed Restoration Plan to describe impairments and needs in the Lolo watershed and outline a plan to address these. This includes challenges like excessive sediment loading, chronic dewatering of the lower stream, ever-changing snowpack and precipitation, growing demand for surface and ground water, and increased wildfire risks. Much of the on-the-ground work is performed by partners, such as Clark Fork Coalition (CFC), Trout Unlimited (TU), USFS and FWP. LWG supports these partners by engaging the community, making the public aware of watershed issues, including NPS, the work to address these issues, and the organizations doing that work. Once staffed, LWG hopes to hold more of our own hands-on events, like volunteer plantings, data collection, and cleanups, that further support watershed help in coordination with our partners.

NPS is an important component of our WRP. The watershed is severely impacted by sediment entering Lolo Creek from roads and highways, reduced vegetation along stream banks, fish habitat impairments due to interruption of natural streamflow regimes, and more. The work of LWG's partners supports watershed health. The ultimate goal for LWG is to hire a Watershed Coordinator to take on the responsibility of running our organization and implementing the WRP, working with these important partners. Until budget allows, LWG is relying on volunteer board members, partners, and consultants to keep these balls in the air.

Without staff, LWG's ability to implement this WRP is reduced to tasks that can be performed by the board and volunteers. The board is working with TU and CFC to organize the 2025 speaker series. Kids' fishing day is run by our board, FWP, TU, and volunteers from the community. The funds from this proposal will help LWG continue our work, keep the community engaged with our work, and take steps toward hiring a Coordinator to lead future work and grow the organization.

Measurement and Sustainability

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

First, the speaker series will engage and excite the attendees, calling them to action. Second, we will host a volunteer day which will give the community an opportunity to get their hands dirty and help LWG directly address NPS issues. And finally, LWG will hire a consultant to help us get to the next steps of hiring a staff person to keep our work going.

Success will be measured by the number of people who respond to the event on social media - even if they can't attend, if they like or share the event, we know people are seeing our posts and are aware of our work. We can also measure success by how many people attend events and how engaged they are. We plan to do a verbal survey at the end of each event to measure participant satisfaction. For our volunteer event, success can be measured by the number of participants, bags of trash collected or number of trees planted (depending on the type of event we hold). And finally, LWG hopes to be prepared to hire an employee in the next 1-2 years, funding dependent.

Timeline

Describe your anticipated project timeline

Work will begin upon award and continue for two years (assuming award available fall 2025).

Speaker series: one speaker per quarter for two years.

Volunteer event: one event per year for two years.

Hiring consultant: to meet with board year 1, continuing work as funds allow.

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?

n/a

Timeline

Describe your anticipated timeline

n/a

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.

There are tribal communities served by the watershed. We acknowledge that we are recreating on the aboriginal land of the Séliš, Ksanka, and Qíispé people and want to ensure our actions make sincere attempts for these communities to participate in our community educational events on their native lands. LWG will actively partner with stakeholders to include indigenous specialists and topics in our outreach.

Both Lolo and Woodman Schools are Title 1 schools, indicating a high percentage of students from low-income families and demonstrating the economic need within this community. By serving the Lolo community, we aim to provide equitable access to environmental education and pollution prevention resources, ensuring that residents in economically disadvantaged areas benefit from cleaner, healthier environments.

Project Partners and Roles

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

Partners for the speaker series so far include Trout Unlimited and the Clark Fork Coalition (speakers for the April series) and the Travelers Rest Center, which will be where the talks are located. Other partners we anticipate including are the USFS, FWP, Westslope Chapter of Trout Unlimited, DEQ, and more.

Partners for the volunteer event will mostly be the community members who participate. Other partners depend on the kind of activity and location we select. It may be landowners, USFS, FWP, or others.

LWG has not selected a consultant to assist with the third task but will seek options once funds are awarded. We have spoken with two qualified candidates so far and based the budget estimates on those conversations.

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.

Project reports will be completed by Amanda or Heather from the LWG board of directors. Neither has done grant reporting for DEQ, though they have experience with other grants, so guidance would be appreciated.

BUDGET

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

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

OTHER ATTACHMENTS



SPEAKER SERIES: At The Confluence Of Water And Community

*All speaking events will be held Tuesdays, at
Traveler's Rest State Park at 5:00 pm*

July 6th, Investigating Lolo Watershed's Hydrology

*Speakers: Valerie Kurth and Todd Blyth, MT Department of Natural
Resources and Conservation*

July 20th, An Innovative Bull Trout Study on Lolo Crk.

*Speaker: Dr. Mike Schwartz, National Genomic Center for
Fish and Wildlife Conservation*

July 27th, Inspiration from the Big Hole Watershed

Speaker: Pedro Marques, Big Hole Watershed Committee



2021 Speaker Series Lineup (above)

2025 First Speaker (next page)

With board turnover, many of the previous agendas have been lost. However, if DEQ elects to fund this series for 2026 and 2027, we will be sure talks include NPS information.

JOIN US TO LEARN ABOUT PAST AND FUTURE
RESTORATION WORK ON LOLO CREEK.

Traveler's Rest State Park

APRIL 1, 2025
6 - 7:30 PM



Guest Speakers:

ROB ROBERTS, TROUT UNLIMITED
ERIC HULL, CLARK FORK COALITION
ADAM SWITALSKI, CLARK FORK COALITION



**TOPICS: FISHERIES AND HABITAT WORK IN THE
LOLO WATERSHED AND HOW LOCAL RESTORATION
GROUPS ARE INVOLVED.**

MORE INFORMATION



WWW.LOLOWATERSHED.COM
