



## 2025 On-the-Ground Project Application Form

### 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.

Primary Contact  Title

Address  City  State  Zip Code

Phone Number  Email

Signed by:   
Signature    
2D7AED0BA327442...

**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

Signed by:   
Signature    
3C3D8BC07BD446A...

**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, signatory and landowner must sign the application. Signatures must be either signed electronically, or wet-signed, scanned and sent electronically.

Landowner Name

Landowner Signature

Landowner Name

Landowner Signature

Landowner Name

Landowner Signature

**Explanation:** Landowner signatures are required. Signing the application does not obligate the landowner to implement a project. Instead, it is an indication that the landowner has read the application and agrees, in principle, with the project concept and goals.

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

TDV5K69XURE7

**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?

Y

**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.

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

MACD employs staff with formal education and experience in natural resources, grant management, and administration. MACD also manages a federal cooperative agreement, and multiple state and foundation grants. These grants and programs are geared towards capacity building and on-the-ground project implementation. The MACD Programs Manager has over ten years of experience in managing grants, is very familiar with federal and state procurement laws, and attends grant trainings regularly. MACD has also managed multiple 319 contracts with DEQ, with two being for the Ranching for Rivers program.

## 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. Use the following examples to help determine when to 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)

# Project Form

A separate Project Form (including providing separate attachments) must be submitted for each project included in your application

**Project Name:**

Ranching for Rivers Grant Program

## 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 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 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.

### Project Location Map

**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.

MACD currently administers the Ranching for Rivers program with DEQ 319 funding. This additional funding would allow the grant program to continue. MACD has administered three rounds of funding, with seven projects closed and one project undergoing contracting. These additional funds would allow MACD to offer another round of funding in 2026.

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).

NA

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

The Ranching for Rivers program assists landowners with riparian grazing management through funding provided to implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) to reduce pollutant loading to impaired waterbodies.

**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?
		<input type="checkbox"/>
		<input type="checkbox"/>
		<input type="checkbox"/>
		<input type="checkbox"/>

Project Partner	Contributions to Project	Letter of Support Attached?
Stacey Barta State Coordinator for Rangelands	Subject matter expert and member of the review committee	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Molly Masters Coordinator Missouri River Conservation District Council (MRCDC)	Subject matter expert and member of the review committee	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		<input type="checkbox"/>
		<input type="checkbox"/>
		<input type="checkbox"/>

## 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 2025)?	To Be Completed as Contract Deliverable?
*Draft Project Designs .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
*Final Project Designs .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Consultation With Potential Regulators .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Necessary Permits .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cultural Resources Inventory ( <i>may be relevant</i> ) .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other: <input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other: <input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other: <input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

*\*\*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 2025).**

The MACD Programs Manager has worked with our DEQ Contract Officer to update the Ranching for Rivers application, reporting form and created an invoice template for awardees. The updated application ensures MACD is capturing the information the review committee needs when scoring applications.

**Describe any additional project planning and coordination that will need to be completed after the execution of a contract (October 2025).**

MACD will work with our DEQ Contract Officer to update all program templates as needed to ensure we are meeting all program requirements and collecting all information needed. MACD will issue a call for applications specifying project eligibility requirements, project criteria, and the process for submitting applications for funding. Applications will be accepted on a quarterly basis and all projects must be designed to reduce nonpoint source pollution in waterbodies identified on Montana’s current List of Impaired Waters as being impaired due to sediment, nutrients, temperature, E. coli, or habitat alterations. All projects must be located in an area with a DEQ approved WRP.

# 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 (Oct 2025)?	To Be Completed as Contract Deliverable?
Draft Landowner Agreement(s) .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Final Landowner Agreement(s) .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Grazing Management Plan .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other: <input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other: <input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



## 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. Project effectiveness success criteria should be time-bound and assess each project objective quantitatively. Success criteria should clearly define adaptive management thresholds. Examples may include: a minimum 25% decrease in sediment/nitrogen/phosphorus load within 2 years; a 70% survival rate of containerized plantings after one year.

**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:

Goals will be determined with each individual grant project and MACD is currently working with our DEQ Contract Officer on a robust monitoring plan. MACD plans to work with CDs on the project monitoring efforts moving forward, as they are the subject matter experts in their areas. MOUs will be put in place between the CD and MACD for this task. This will lead to more consistent high quality pre and post monitoring.

Pre-project site visit monitoring will include: 4-6 photo points, vegetation estimates of invasive species based on random 1ft square within the riparian area, water quality monitoring data based on measurement protocols of MT DEQ, closest stream gauge measurement on gauged water bodies for the day visited

Post project monitoring will include all the above steps plus: additional photos, notes on any deviation from original monitoring plan, pollutant load reduction estimates (if applicable and data will be submitted to DEQ), and vegetation mortality measurements. Each project also has a 10 year long-term maintenance agreement in place to ensure sustainability of the project.

### 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.

MACD will follow up with awardees six months after the close of their project to gather information on their experience with the grant process, and to get more information on the impact 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.***

With this funding MACD would continue to administer the Ranching for Rivers grant program. This program is designed to assist landowners in protecting riparian health through improved ranching practices. Past projects include purchasing 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. Landowners, Conservation Districts, and Watershed Groups who are working within areas with a DEQ-approved Total Maximum Daily Load Plan / Watershed Restoration Plan can apply for program funding.

If funded, MACD would identify conservation districts (CDs) who would like to be more involved in this program in two ways. The first would be to ask CDs to reach out to landowners in their area that they think might have projects that will fit the grant criteria. If a project is awarded in a CDs area, MACD would initiate an MOU with the CD to complete the pre and post monitoring at the project site. Having on-the-ground experts in the area will lead to high quality monitoring and better relationships with awardees. MACD would also continue to do state-wide outreach to ensure the Call for Applications is reaching a wide audience.

With this funding, MACD could put out a call for the next round of Ranching for Rivers applications in late 2025 with an application deadline in February 2026. MACD will continue to work with Stacey Barta, State Coordinator for Rangelands, Molly Masters, Coordinator for MRCDC, and Meagan Gilmore, DEQ Contract Manager, on the review committee, as they are all subject matters experts and provide valuable insight into project proposals. MACD will use DEQ approved scoring criteria, and will work with their DEQ Contract Manager to update criteria as needed.

The MACD Program Manager will be responsible for contracting with each awardee, and contracting will be done within 30-60 days so landowners can start their projects as quickly as possible. Award periods will be one year with potential to extend if the grant allows. The Program Manager will also have one-on-one meetings with each awardee to ensure they understand the grant requirements and 40% non-federal match requirement. Currently MACD has asked for 50% match, but would like to reduce that to 40% which is what the 319 grant requires. MACD would also like to explore ways to further reduce the match burden for the landowners by possibly offering them free registration at the MACD Annual Convention or opportunities to attend technical trainings throughout their award period. MACD would also like to ask for more funding so we can offer awards up to \$20,000 to align with inflation and higher prices on materials. Past projects have requested on average around \$8,000-\$10,000 but the total project costs are usually \$20,000-\$40,000. This higher award amount might also be more appealing to landowners who are doing larger projects with bigger impacts. MACD does not have a current list of landowners with projects, but would like to work with CDs to identify folks in their areas that would be interested in this program. We will continue to also advertise statewide through partner newsletters, social media, and tabling at events. MACD has awarded over \$80,000 to landowners since administering the program.

MACD will provide final reporting and invoicing templates to all awardees to ensure constancy in the reporting. We will also provide monitoring plan templates to the CDs so they have the tools they need to be successful. MACD will be responsible for all reporting and invoicing to DEQ and the MACD Program Manager is familiar with DEQ reporting and invoicing forms and requirements. MACD has heard from CDs speaking about other grants, they don't have the capacity to fully manage all the reporting and grant requirements. By contracting with CDs to take care of monitoring requirements, MACD is able to expand CDs capacity and get them involved without a large commitment of their time and resources. MACD believes this program will gain momentum by working with CDs who are already in contact with landowners and can help identify innovative projects. This funding would support the first year of the program with a higher award cap and MACD would meet with DEQ to evaluate the effectiveness of the changes in fall of 2026. MACD's current contract for this program ends 12/15/2026, so a new award would allow MACD to continue the program with additional funding for the 2026 round.

## 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 generate behavior change 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 behaviors or facilitate future efforts to reduce nonpoint source pollution.

MACD would like to offer the awarded landowners more technical training options. These trainings are TBD as MACD would like to ask the landowners what topics would be most beneficial to them. We would incorporate some of these trainings into the Annual MACD Convention or Soil Health Symposium. Trainings might also be offered virtually and recorded so landowners can watch them when they have time. MACD also plans to use the cost of some of these trainings as match to help reduce the amount of match landowners have to provide. The Program Manager would meet with all the awardees as a group to get a sense of what they are most interested in and what would be most beneficial to all.

Trainings will help landowners build their knowledge in the areas they are interested in and help them identify other potential projects that can address nonpoint source pollution.

Identify the specific target audience and method of delivery.

Landowners with Ranching for Rivers grants

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

By asking landowners what would benefit them the most, MACD can offer trainings that will both be of interest and help landowners find creative solutions to nonpoint source pollution. MACD does not want to assume we know what landowners need.

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

The goal for these trainings will be to help landowners build their skill set so they continue work that addresses nonpoint source pollution. MACD will do follow up evaluations with landowners to judge how effective and useful the trainings were and if they have lead to them changing practices or implementing new ideas.

## 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 Status Reports, 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, 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, and each time an Attachment B Billing Statement is submitted.*
- *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.*

Project Timeline

	4Q 2025	1Q 2026	2Q 2026	3Q 2026	4Q 2026	1Q 2027	2Q 2027	3Q 2027	4Q 2027	1Q 2028	2Q 2028	3Q 2028
Project Coordination and Planning Task												
Landowner Agreement Task												
Project Effectiveness Monitoring Task												
Project Implementation Task												
Education, Outreach and Training Task												
Project Administration Task												

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.

# BUDGET

2025 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****
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.	<b>Project Planning</b>							
	Preliminary site investigation data and site maps						\$ -	
	Required Permits						\$ -	
	Draft Project Designs						\$ -	
	Final Project Designs						\$ -	
	Planning with DEQ	\$ 850					\$ 850	Program Manager Year 1-20hrs @ \$42.50 per hour All rates include MACD Fringe and 5% salary increase each year*
	<b>Total</b>	\$ 850	\$ -	\$ -			\$ 850	
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.	<b>Landowner Agreements</b>							
	Draft Landowner Agreement						\$ -	
	Final Landowner Agreement						\$ -	
	Grazing Management Plan						\$ -	
	Contracting with landowners and coordination of review committee	\$ 1,700					\$ 1,700	Program Manager 40hrs @ \$42.50 per hour
							\$ -	
	<b>Total</b>	\$ 1,700	\$ -	\$ -			\$ 1,700	
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.	<b>Effectiveness Monitoring</b>							
	Draft Monitoring Plan						\$ -	
	Final Monitoring Plan						\$ -	
	Written Summary of all Monitoring Activities	\$ 669					\$ 669	Program Manager, collectin all CD writeups, summarizing and sending to DEQ 15hrs @ \$44.62/hr
	Time for conservation districts to do pre and post monitoring and write ups	\$ 8,400					\$ 8,400	Conservation district staff, average of \$35/hr at 40 hours per project, target of 6 projects=120 hrs
	Supplies for monitoring	\$ 3,000					\$ 3,000	Conservation district monitoring supplies (camera, paper, clipboards, tapemeasures, GPS, ect.)
	<b>Total</b>	\$ 12,069	\$ 1,260	\$ -	CDs	Will be with MOU	\$ 13,329	Average of 300 miles per project, 1800 miles at .70 per mile
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.	<b>Project Implementation</b>							
	Materials						\$ -	
	Labor						\$ -	
	Equipment costs						\$ -	
	Construction oversight						\$ -	
	As-built surveys						\$ -	
	Photo documentation						\$ -	
	Landowner recommendation letter						\$ -	
	Funds for grants to landowners	\$ 120,000	\$ 80,000		Awardees	Yes-will be as we contract with each awardee	\$ 200,000	Up to \$20,000 for each project, target of 6 projects, 40% non-federal match
	Coordinating with conservation districts	\$ 850					\$ 850	Program Manager = 20hrs @ \$42.50 per hour
<b>Total</b>	\$ 120,850	\$ 80,000	\$ -			\$ 200,850		
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.	<b>Education and Outreach</b>							
	Volunteer Coordination						\$ -	
	Event/Tour Planning	\$ 1,000			MACD	Yes	\$ 1,000	MACD tableting costs and staff time for 2 events promoting the program
	Outreach/Publication materials	\$ 1,579					\$ 1,579	Printed materials for labeling events and conseration districts to hand out to landowners (\$500), MACD Comms redesign of materials and website maintenance 30hrs @ \$35.95= \$1078.50
	Trainings at MACD Annual Convention/virtual trainings	\$ 5,000	\$ 10,000		MACD	Yes	\$ 15,000	Contract fees and materials for trainings at MACD Events
	<b>Total</b>	\$ 5,000	\$ 12,579	\$ -			\$ 17,579	
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.	<b>Administration</b>							
	Mid/Annual/Interim Reports and Billing Statements	\$ 2,614					\$ 2,614	Program Manager-Year 1 20hrs @ \$42.50=\$850; Year 2-20hrs @ \$44.62=\$892.40 (two reports/invoices per year) + Year 1 two quarterly invoices= 10hrs @ \$42.50=\$425 and Year 2 5 hours two quarterly invoices=10hrs @ \$44.62=\$446.20
	Draft/Final Report and Billing Statements	\$ 446					\$ 446	Program Manager 10hrs @ \$44.62 (2026 rate)
	Communication with DEQ	\$ 1,742					\$ 1,742	Program Manager Year 1= 20hrs @ \$42.50=\$850 and Year 2 =20hrs @ \$44.62=\$896.40
	General grant support	\$ 1,005					\$ 1,005	MACD Operations Manager-Year 1=15 hours of general support for invoicing @ \$32.69=\$490.35, Year 2=15hrs @ \$34.32=\$5143.80
	MACD Executive Director		\$ 2,521					General Oversight Year 1= 20 hrs @ \$61.49=\$1229.80, Year 2= 20 hrs @ \$64.57=\$1291.40
	General MACD office and supply costs		\$ 4,000		MACD	Yes	\$ 4,000	Office space, internet, printing, office supplies, Office Suite, ZOOM, Bill.com \$2000 average per year, two years of administration
	<b>Total</b>	\$ 5,807	\$ 6,521	\$ -			\$ 9,807	
	<b>Grand Totals</b>	\$ 146,277	\$ 100,360	\$ -			\$ 244,116	

\*319 Request - Must not exceed \$300,000

\*\*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 reported as match.

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



# LETTERS OF SUPPORT

# THE MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION

GOVERNOR GREG GIANFORTE



DNRC DIRECTOR AMANDA KASTER

Helena Unit  
8001 N Montana Ave  
Helena, MT 59602  
(406) 458-3500

March 4, 2025

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 application to the DEQ Federal 319 Nonpoint Source Program for the Ranching for Rivers Program. I was part of the original Ranching for Rivers Program in 2016 that 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 year, 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.MT.GOV**

March 4, 2025

Department of Environmental Quality  
P.O. Box 200901  
Helena, MT 59620-0901

RE: MACD Ranching for Rivers DEQ 319 grant application

Dear Mr. Ockey:

The Missouri River Conservation Districts Council (MRCDC/Council) is a coalition of the fifteen conservation districts along the Missouri River in Montana. Spanning 725 miles of river corridor from its headwaters in Gallatin County to Richland County at the North Dakota border, MRCDC seeks to be the united voice for conservation of the Missouri River, its tributaries, and its associated uplands. MRCDC member districts are organized according to Montana statute contained in Title 76, Chapter 15, Section 102.

The Council is submitting this letter of support for the Montana Association of Conservation Districts (MACD) application for the Ranching for Rivers Program. Ranching for Rivers is a program in partnership with the MRCDC, MACD, and Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) Rangeland Resource Program 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 in 2016 as a program under MRCDC, so the Council knows and sees the value the program has added to property along the Missouri River and its tributaries. It has helped to improve riparian areas through changing livestock grazing management practices with both fencing projects and adding livestock watering infrastructure. Doing these projects has helped improve water quality, as well as improve the health and management of the riparian vegetation.

Please accept this letter as a commitment of support for the MACD Ranching for Rivers proposal. The Council would be happy to answer any questions you may have. We can be reached at 406-454-0056, or by email at [mrcdc@macdnet.org](mailto:mrcdc@macdnet.org).

Sincerely,



Karl Christians, Chairman  
Missouri River Conservation Districts Council