2026 On-the-Ground Project Application Form

General Information

Project Name: Burma Road Sediment Capture Project

Applicant Name: Big Hole Watershed Committee

Is your organization registered with the Montana Secretary of State? Y

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)? Y

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: Nolan Salix | Title: Restoration Specialist

Address: PO Box 21 | City: Divide | State: MT | Zip Code: 59727

Phone Number: (406) 925-3643 | Email: nsalix@bhwc.org

Signature: Signed by: Nolan Salix BED2E92A4918455... | 2/18/2026

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

Signatory: Pedro Marques | Title: Executive Director

Address: PO Box 21 | City: Divide | State: MT | Zip Code: 59727

Phone Number: (406) 552-2369 | Email: pmarques@bhwc.org

Signature: DocuSigned by: Pedro Marques 7B9618DF52EF427... | 2/18/2026

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: Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation

Landowner Signature: Signed by: Tim Egan 5DAEA0DC650A4EC... | 2/20/2026

Landowner Name: Erik Kalsta

Landowner Signature: Signed by: Erik Kalsta CB65E91325A24A0... | 2/19/2026

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 #) CSRCLKWLHNT7

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).

This application is submitted by the Big Hole Watershed Committee (BHWC), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedica has five years of experience recruiting, training, and supervising restoration crews to implement innovative solutions to nonpoint source pollution, including projects completed in partnership with BHWC. Project administration and compliance will be supported by Associate Director Tana Lynch, who has more than 11 years of experience managing state grants.Since 2001, BHWC has successfully administered 13 Montana DEQ 319 contracts totaling $1,656,436, demonstrating a strong track record of responsible grant management and measurable water quality outcomes.

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)

Supplemental Project Form

A separate Project Form (including providing separate attachments) must be submitted for each project included in your application. When submitting your final application, use the "Supplier's Attachments Page" in eMACS.

Project Name West McCartney Mountain Sediment Capture Project

Applicant Name Big Hole Watershed Committee

Required Attachments

- [x] Letter of support from the organization that created or sponsored the creation of the DEQ-accepted Watershed Restoration Plan or the Tribe that created the EPA-approved Tribal Nonpoint Source Management Plan (*if applicable)*.
- [x] Letter of support from EACH landowner associated with the proposed project area (*if applicable)*.
- [x] Budget Table (see Microsoft Excel Template).
- [x] **Detailed Project site map(s)** Attach a map or set of maps showing the location and size of proposed activity if a site has been predetermined. 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. (*This is in addition to adding points of the project location to the website on page 4*).

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. Please no more than 20 pages.

- [ ] Project Design Plans/Drawings
- [ ] Preliminary Engineering Reports / Site Evaluations
- [ ] Landowner Agreements / Construction Permits / Floodplain Permits
- [x] Site photos
- [ ] Additional Letters of Support
- [ ] Other:
- [ ] Other:
- [ ] Other:

Project Area

Please provide as detailed a description of the project area as possible.

List the counties in which the project will be located.

Beaverhead County

List the 12-digit Hydrologic Unit Codes (HUCs), sometimes referred to as Sixth Code HUCS, in which the project will take place. Use the following link to help assist you in determining the HUCs: https://apps.nationalmap.gov/viewer/

100200041209

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.

Yes. This project is directly connected to both previous restoration work completed on the Kalsta Ranch and to the ongoing Burma Road sediment reduction project, forming a coordinated, watershed-scale approach to addressing nonpoint source sediment pollution. Approximately 15–20 years ago, BHWC deepened a shallow oxbow on the Kalsta Ranch that had been discharging water approaching 80°F into the Big Hole River. The oxbow was excavated to allow colder bottom water to be drawn into the river rather than warm surface overflow, significantly improving thermal conditions for fisheries. However, sediment delivered from McCartney Mountain—particularly during irrigation ditch overflow and high-precipitation events—is now depositing into that oxbow and threatening to diminish the depth and thermal benefits created by the earlier project. The proposed sediment control work directly protects and preserves that prior investment.

This project also builds on earlier BHWC-led restoration efforts on the Kalsta property that identified McCartney Mountain ephemeral channels as recurring, high-volume sediment sources. Lessons learned regarding structure spacing, anchoring, and maintenance inform the current design. In addition, the project intentionally complements the Burma Road Sediment Capture Project, which treats a parallel canyon on the opposite side of McCartney Mountain under the same hydrologic regime. Together, these coordinated efforts address the two primary sediment delivery pathways from the McCartney Mountain complex, increasing overall effectiveness, cost efficiency, and long-term protection of water quality in the Big Hole River.

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) (*Not required for HAB reduction projects)*

Middle and Lower Big Hole - Big Hole Watershed Committee

Y — Letter of support from author, or if the author was contracted, the author sponsor, attached? *(If no, explain why below.)*

The Big Hole Watershed Committee is the author of the Middle and Lower Big Hole River Watershed Restoration Plan. Our Letter of Support for the project is attached.

IMPAIRMENT LISTINGS: Projects that address water quality impairments on Montana's 2020 List of Impaired Waters are preferred though not a requirement. Funding may be used for projects that protect waterbodies that are demonstrated to be healthy.

Waterbody name from the 2020 List of Impaired Waters: Big Hole River

Probable causes of impairment to be addressed: Episodic deposition of substantial sediment into irrigation ditch. During heavy flow, water and sediment overflow the ditch and feed into an oxbow pond, which BHWC deepened and restored years ago to feed cooler water in Big Hole.

Waterbody name from the 2020 List of Impaired Waters:

Probable causes of impairment to be addressed:

HEALTHY WATERSHEDS: While project funding is prioritized to addressing known impairments, funding can be used to protect healthy waters from becoming impaired.

Name of healthy waterbody to be protected:

Description of identified threat:

Name of healthy waterbody to be protected:

Description of identified threat:

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 if project site(s) have been predetermined.*)

Landowner	Contributions to Project	Letter of Support Attached?
Erik Kalsta, Rancher	knowledge, youth mentoring, housing, rocks for weirs and sediment pits	☑
		☐
		☐
		☐

Project Partner	Contributions to Project	Letter of Support Attached?
Montana Youth Challenge Academy	project implementation	☐
University of Montana Western students	project implementation	☐
		☐
		☐
		☐

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 2026)?	To Be Completed as Contract Deliverable?
*Draft Project Designs	✔	✔	☐	☐
*Final Project Designs	☐	☐	☐	✔
Consultation With Potential Regulators	☐	☐	☐	☐
Necessary Permits	☐	☐	☐	☐
Cultural Resources Inventory *(if relevant)*	☐	☐	☐	☐
Other: Monitoring Plan	☐	☐	☐	✔
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 2026).

Prior to contract execution in October 2026, the Big Hole Watershed Committee will complete key advance planning to ensure the project is ready to proceed upon award. This work will include preliminary field assessments, development of conceptual designs and structure layouts, initial hydrologic sizing assumptions, and refinement of project scope, quantities, and cost estimates. BHWC will also coordinate early with landowners and partners to confirm access, feasibility, and overall project approach.

In addition, BHWC will initiate permitting discussions, identify material sources, and outline construction sequencing and monitoring methods consistent with DEQ minimum design standards. Internal project management planning—including timelines, contractor procurement strategy, and draft monitoring and maintenance frameworks—will be completed so that final design, permitting, and implementation can move forward efficiently once the contract is executed.

Describe any additional project planning and coordination that will need to be completed after the execution of a contract (October 2026).

Following contract execution in October 2026 (if selected), the Big Hole Watershed Committee will complete final planning and coordination to prepare the project for implementation. This will include confirming landowner access agreements, coordinating schedules with contractors and partners, and working with the DEQ Contract Manager to finalize reporting, monitoring protocols, and deliverable timelines. Any remaining permitting or compliance requirements will also be completed during this period.

BHWC will conduct pre-construction site visits to confirm structure locations, construction methods, and design standards, and will finalize logistics such as material sourcing, staging areas, and access routes. Baseline monitoring and photo points will be established prior to construction to ensure the project is fully ready for efficient implementation and compliance with DEQ requirements.

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 2026)?	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. 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:

Contractor shall, in consultation with the DEQ Project Manager, develop and implement a monitoring plan to evaluate the effectiveness of sediment reduction efforts in the unnamed west-side channel of McCartney Mountain. Contractor shall estimate sediment load reductions (tons/year) by quantifying sediment captured (cubic yards converted to tons) behind Sediment Control Structures (SCS) and mechanical sediment capture pits following the first major post-construction runoff event and annually thereafter. Monitoring shall include sediment pins to measure aggradation (inches), pre- and post-project drone imagery to calculate percent reduction in depositional footprint at the canyon exit/oxbow reach, structural integrity inspections to determine functional retention rates, and permanent geo-referenced photo points to document vegetation response.

Project success criteria include: capture of ≥150 cubic yards of sediment during the first qualifying runoff season; ≥25% reduction in depositional footprint within two years; ≥80% functional retention of installed SCS after two runoff seasons; and ≥15% increase in vegetative ground cover within three years. If sediment capture is <100 cubic yards, depositional reduction is <15%, or structural retention falls below 75%, Contractor shall implement adaptive measures, including additional structure installation, design modification, or expanded mechanical capture capacity, and report actions in Years 1, 3, and 6.

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 (and for harmful algal bloom reduction projects, carbon sequestration/emissions 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 Stated Forest Service Photo Point Monitoring Handbook".*
    - *[Riparian survey.]*
    - *[Other.]*

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

In addition to effectiveness monitoring, Contractor shall document implementation and long-term channel response through supplemental monitoring activities. These shall include as-built GPS mapping of all installed Sediment Control Structures (SCS) and mechanical capture pits; annual maintenance logs documenting repairs, sediment removal from pits, and structural modifications; and photo documentation immediately post-construction and following major runoff events to track headcut stabilization, channel alignment, and structure performance. Contractor shall also record precipitation and runoff event timing to correlate sediment capture volumes with storm magnitude.

Contractor intends to conduct a follow-up drone survey approximately five years post-construction to assess longer-term changes in channel morphology, sediment storage progression, and vegetation establishment trends. Observations of upstream incision, new headcut formation, or bypass flow development will be documented to inform future watershed-scale treatment prioritization on McCartney Mountain. All supplemental monitoring results will be incorporated into adaptive management planning and shared with DEQ and project partners.

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.*

This project will address nonpoint source sediment pollution from a high-priority unnamed ephemeral channel on McCartney Mountain by restoring and protecting natural geomorphic and hydrologic processes in accordance with the minimum design standards outlined in the 2026 DEQ 319 Call for Applications. Led by the Big Hole Watershed Committee, the solution focuses on intercepting sediment before it reaches the valley floor and the Big Hole River through low-tech, process-based practices that slow runoff, stabilize headcuts, and promote channel bed aggradation. Project design will include field surveys, hydrologic assessment, structure sizing, and construction drawings, followed by landowner agreements and required permitting. All practices are consistent with the Montana Nonpoint Source Management Plan and are intended to restore natural conditions rather than harden channels or protect infrastructure alone.

Implementation will occur along approximately 1.3 miles of confined ephemeral channel on the west side of McCartney Mountain. The project will install 100 or more sediment control structures, including hand-built Zeedyk-style one-rock dams and rock sediment capture structures placed at riffle crests, knick points, and active headcuts to reduce flow velocity and retain fine sediment. In the lower canyon near the channel outlet, mechanically constructed sediment containment features will be keyed into the bed and banks using angular rock (and woody material where appropriate) to create durable grade control and high-capacity sediment storage prior to discharge onto the valley floor. Construction will be scheduled during low-flow conditions to minimize disturbance and ensure proper installation. Any revegetation associated with disturbed areas will use only native, site-appropriate plant species, will not result in a net loss of wetlands or wetland function, and will allow for future beaver colonization, consistent with DEQ minimum design standards.

Anticipated maintenance will focus on ensuring long-term structural function and sediment retention. During years one through three, BHWC will conduct semiannual inspections following spring runoff and in the fall, as well as targeted inspections after major storm events. Maintenance actions may include repairing flanking or undercutting, resetting crest elevations, reinforcing tie-ins, and managing sediment capacity in high-load areas. Years four and five will transition to annual inspections with targeted repairs as needed. BHWC will be responsible for inspections, monitoring, light maintenance, and reporting throughout the project term, coordinating with landowners and partners as appropriate. This phased approach ensures compliance with DEQ minimum design and monitoring requirements while delivering measurable, durable reductions in nonpoint source sediment pollution.

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 per project 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 generates 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 or training you will complete to promote behaviors or facilitate future efforts to reduce nonpoint source pollution. Additionally, identify the goals of the training/education and outreach activities.

The Big Hole Watershed Committee will implement targeted education and outreach activities to promote adoption of low-tech, process-based restoration practices that reduce nonpoint source sediment pollution. Project outreach will include at least one on-site field tour during or after construction on McCartney Mountain for landowners, agency staff, and local contractors to demonstrate Sediment Control Structures (SCS), mechanical sediment capture pits, and monitoring methods. BHWC will also present project results at a public watershed meeting and develop a short project summary (webpage, factsheet, and social media content) highlighting sediment reduction outcomes, lessons learned, and applicability to other incised ephemeral channels in the watershed.

The goals of these activities are to: (1) increase landowner and partner understanding of how untreated ephemeral channels contribute sediment to the Big Hole River; (2) build local capacity to design, install, and maintain low-tech sediment control structures consistent with DEQ standards; and (3) encourage voluntary replication of similar treatments in other priority tributaries. By demonstrating measurable sediment capture and cost-effective implementation, the project will serve as a scalable model to facilitate future nonpoint source pollution reduction efforts across the watershed.

Identify the specific target audience and method of delivery. Additionally, describe how the proposed training and/or education and outreach will increase local capacity and interest for addressing/promoting behavior change to reduce nonpoint source pollution.

The primary target audience includes local landowners and ranch managers on and near McCartney Mountain, county road and infrastructure staff, local contractors, and community members invested in the health of the lower Big Hole River. Outreach will be delivered through on-site, hands-on field demonstrations during construction of sediment control structures, small group site visits before and after runoff events, and direct coordination meetings led by the Big Hole Watershed Committee to explain how low-tech, process-based sediment capture practices function and where they are most effective in ephemeral canyon systems.

This approach will increase local capacity by providing practical, place-based training that demonstrates how sediment control structures reduce erosion, stabilize headcuts, and trap sediment before it reaches the valley floor and river. Sharing monitoring results and visible on-the-ground outcomes will build confidence in these techniques, encourage voluntary adoption on neighboring properties, and promote long-term behavior change that reduces nonpoint source pollution while strengthening local expertise in watershed restoration.

Describe how you will evaluate the effectiveness of the proposed activities.

The effectiveness of the proposed activities will be evaluated through baseline documentation, post-construction monitoring, and follow-up assessments of both physical and outreach outcomes. The Big Hole Watershed Committee will use fixed photo points, drone imagery, and post-runoff inspections to assess structure functionality, sediment retention, and headcut stabilization. Outreach effectiveness will be evaluated by documenting participation in field demonstrations, follow-up interest from landowners or partners, and evidence of practice replication elsewhere in the McCartney Mountain area.

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 the Project Administration Task on each project 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 2026	1Q 2027	2Q 2027	3Q 2027	4Q 2027	1Q 2028	2Q 2028	3Q 2028	4Q 2028	1Q 2029	2Q 2029	3Q 2029
Project Coordination and Planning Task	✔	✔	✔									
Landowner Agreement Task	✔											
Project Effectiveness Monitoring Task	✔		✔		✔							
Project Implementation Task			✔	✔								
Education, Outreach and Training Task		✔	✔	✔	✔							
Project Administration Task	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔							

Co-Benefit Considerations

DEQ is committed to carrying out nonpoint source pollution reduction projects within engaged communities where the impact stretches beyond improving water quality. DEQ will award additional points in the scoring form where co-benefits extend beyond the project. Below are a few examples of how projects might exemplify co-benefits.

- Project will reduce economic hardship such as from livestock mortalities, cost and energy needs to treat municipal drinking and wastewater treatment, or loss of income from recreation
- Project will benefit underserved markets
- Project will improve or create equitable access to a clean and healthy environment
- Project planning included consultation with Tribal Nations
- Project will improve flood and drought resilience of the landscape
- Project impacts will benefit a downstream community and other natural systems (e.g., drinking water sources, human health, wildlife habitat, etc)

Please use this section to highlight co-benefits your project may have.

This project provides multiple co-benefits that extend beyond water quality improvement by addressing economic, environmental, and community resilience needs in the lower Big Hole River corridor. By reducing episodic sediment delivery from ephemeral channels, the project protects downstream fisheries and recreation-based livelihoods, helps maintain water clarity relied upon by anglers and outfitters, and reduces long-term maintenance and emergency repair costs for public infrastructure such as roads and drainage features. Slowing and capturing runoff improves flood resilience by reducing erosive energy during high-intensity storm events and promotes longer-term sediment storage and moisture retention that supports drought resilience. The project benefits downstream communities and natural systems by improving aquatic habitat, wildlife use areas, and overall river health, while ensuring equitable access to a clean and healthy environment through transparent, community-centered implementation. Led by the Big Hole Watershed Committee, the project emphasizes local participation, coordination with public agencies, and shared watershed benefits that extend well beyond the immediate project footprint.

BUDGET

DEQ PROPOSED BUDGET

	319 Funds	State Cash Match	Local Cash Match	In-Kind Match	Federal Funds	Total Costs
Task 1: Project Planning	$12,700.00					***$12,700.00***
Task 2: Land Owner Agreements	$10.00					**$10.00**
Task 3: Project Effectiveness Monitoring	$4,000.00					**$4,000.00**
Task 4: Project Implementation	$75,400.00			$51,570.88		**$126,970.88**
Task 5: Education and Outreach	$5,200.00					**$5,200.00**
Task 6: Project Administration (10%)	$9,731.00					**$9,731.00**
Total Requested	**$107,041.00**	**$0.00**	**$11,873.87**	**$51,570.88**	**$0.00**	**$158,611.88**

McCartneyProjectArea

	319 Funds	Match	Local Cash Match	In-Kind Match	Federal Funds	Total Costs
Task 1: Project Planning	$5,200.00					**$5,200.00**
Task 2: Land Owner Agreements	$5.00					**$5.00**
Task 3: Project Effectiveness Monitoring	$0.00					**$0.00**
Task 4: Project Implementation	$44,300.00			$30,454.48		**$74,754.48**
Task 5: Education and Outreach	$0.00					**$0.00**
Task 6: Project Administration (10%)	$4,950.00					**$4,950.00**
Total Requested	**$54,455.00**	**$0.00**	**$3,509.31**	**$30,454.48**	**$0.00**	**$84,909.48**

Burma RoadProjectArea

	319 Funds	State Cash Match	Local Cash Match (WCS)	In-Kind Match	Federal Funds	Total Costs
Task 1: Project Planning	$7,500.00					**$7,500.00**
Task 2: Land Owner Agreements	$5.00	$320.00				**$325.00**
Task 3: Project Effectiveness Monitoring	$4,000.00					**$4,000.00**
Task 4: Project Implementation	$33,900.00			$21,116.40		**$55,016.40**
Task 5: Education and Outreach	$5,200.00					**$5,200.00**
Task 6: Project Administration (10%)	$5,060.50					**$5,060.50**
Total Requested	**$55,665.50**	**$320.00**	**$9,724.36**	**$21,116.40**	**$0.00**	**$77,101.90**

LETTERS OF SUPPORT

KALSTA RANCH CO
PO BOX 320104
GLEN, MT 59732-0104
Phone number: 406.926.1204
ekalsta@westernlandowners.org
02/18/2026

To: Montana Department of Environmental Quality

Re: Letter of Support for the West McCartney Sediment Containment Structure Project (DEQ 319 Grant), submitted by the Big Hole Watershed Committee

Dear Reviewers,

I am writing in enthusiastic support of the Big Hole Watershed Committee's supplemental proposal, "West Side McCartney Mountain," part of the "Burma Road Unnamed Channel Sediment Control Expansion." This 319 grant request will benefit both my ranch and the broader Big Hole River ecosystem.

My wife Jami and I operate a sheep and cattle ranch along the Big Hole River in southwestern Montana. The ranch has been in our family for over 125 years—now entering its fifth generation—and represents a legacy of stewardship that blends working lands with habitat conservation. My passion for ranching extends to the wildlife, native vegetation, and open spaces that define this landscape.

Our property lies directly downstream of some of the unnamed channels targeted in this proposal. These channels are documented point sources that discharge sediment onto our valley floor, an oxbow pond, and into the Big Hole River. Without intervention, episodic sediment pulses threaten prior conservation investments, including the protection of that oxbow pond.

The project is more than sediment control; it is an investment in landscape resilience. The proposed approach—combining hand-built Zeedyk-style structures in the upper channel with mechanically built sediment capture pits at canyon exits—is both innovative and practical. These methods slow down water, stabilize head-cuts, promote aggradation, and help retain moisture in our arid environment. They align with our ranch's ethic of proactive land management. Over the decades, we have built dozens of similar structures on our own land and witnessed their positive impact. Partnering now with BHWC and DEQ, we can expand that work.

I am committed to sharing knowledge about ranching and ecosystem health. Our ranch has hosted educational groups from the University of Montana-Western, the Wild Rockies Field Institute, the Montana Conservation Corps, and others. I look forward to mentoring youth and young professionals through this project as well.

As a landowner whose property and conservation values will benefit directly, I strongly urge DEQ to approve this supplemental proposal. The Big Hole Watershed Committee has a proven record of successful, partnership-driven implementation. This project will protect prior on-ground investments, improve water quality in the Big Hole River, and enhance watershed function—a win for both private working lands and public resources.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Erik Kalsta

Kalsta Ranch Co.

Signed by:
Erik Kalsta
469518B297534E9...

2/19/2026

Big Hole Watershed Committee
PO Box 21
Divide, MT 59727
(406) 960-4855
info@bhwc.org
bhwc.org

February 13, 2026

Dear Ms. Gilmore,

On behalf of the Big Hole Watershed Committee (BHWC), we write in our capacity as the author and steward of the DEQ-accepted Watershed Restoration Plan for the lower Big Hole River to express support for the proposed McCartney Mountain Sediment Capture Project. As both the watershed planning entity and the project applicant, BHWC has identified this project as a high-priority implementation action directly aligned with documented sediment reduction needs and restoration objectives in the watershed plan.

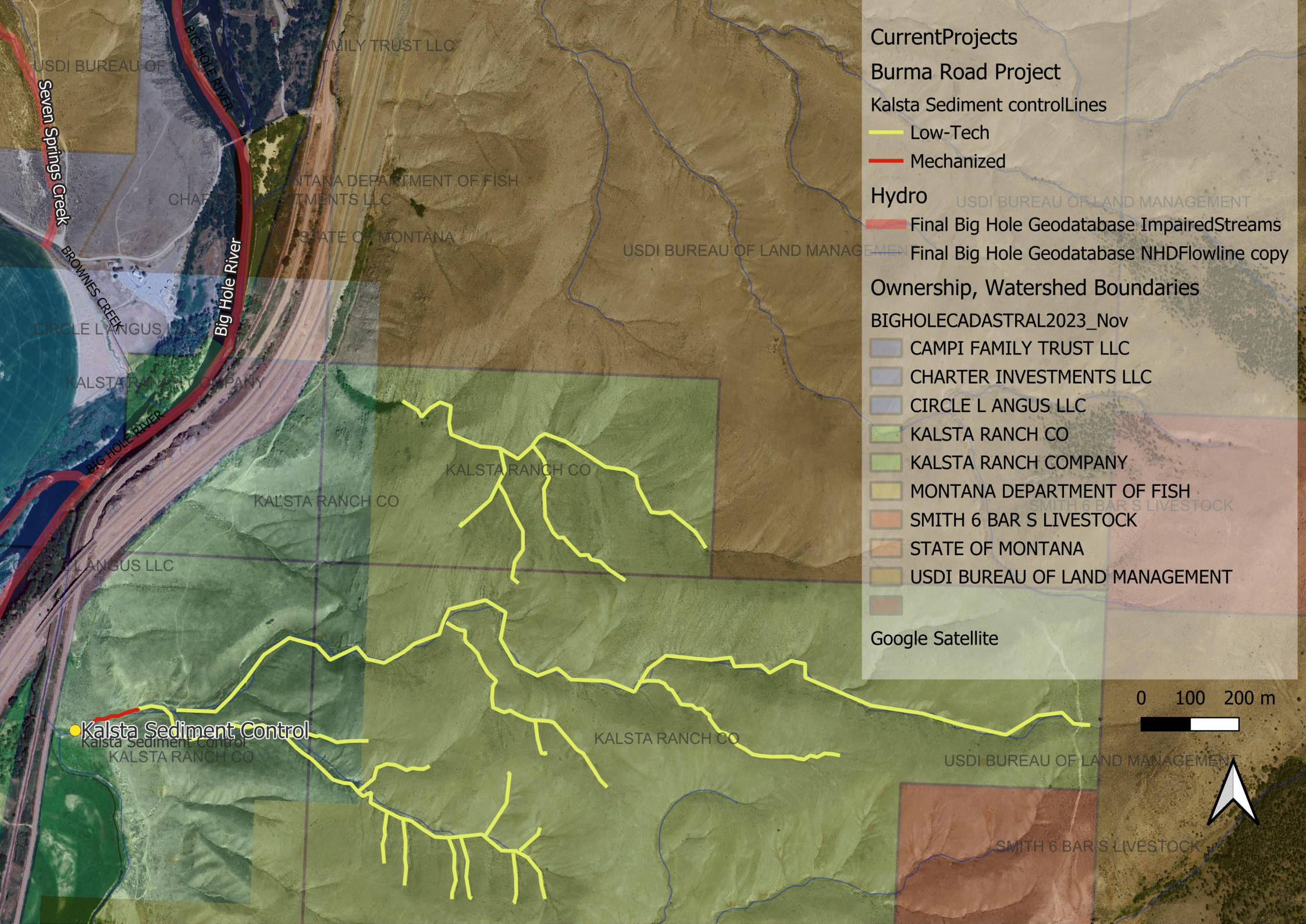
High-intensity storm and rain-on-snow events routinely mobilize large volumes of sediment from ephemeral channels draining McCartney Mountain, delivering fine sediment to the valley floor and the Big Hole River. These episodic sediment pulses contribute to increased turbidity, channel instability, and degradation of aquatic habitat downstream. The McCartney Mountain Sediment Capture Project directly addresses these priority sediment sources by installing low-tech, process-based grade control and sediment capture structures that slow runoff, stabilize headcuts, and promote sediment storage and channel bed aggradation upstream of the river.

From a watershed planning perspective, this project represents a strategic and cost-effective investment in protecting water quality, aquatic habitat, and downstream community resources while advancing the implementation priorities identified in the DEQ-accepted Watershed Restoration Plan. BHWC fully supports moving this project forward and appreciates the opportunity to pair sound watershed planning with on-the-ground action in the Big Hole watershed.

Sincerely,

Pedro Marques
Executive Director
Big Hole Watershed Committee

MAPS/ DESIGNS


CurrentProjects
Burma Road Project
Kalsta Sediment controlLines
Low-Tech
Mechanized
Hydro
Final Big Hole Geodatabase ImpairedStreams
Final Big Hole Geodatabase NHDFlowline copy
Ownership, Watershed Boundaries
BIGHOLECADASTRAL2023_Nov
CAMPI FAMILY TRUST LLC
CHARTER INVESTMENTS LLC
CIRCLE L ANGUS LLC
KALSTA RANCH CO
KALSTA RANCH COMPANY
MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF FISH
SMITH 6 BAR S LIVESTOCK
STATE OF MONTANA
USDI BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Google Satellite
0 100 200 m
Kalsta Sediment Control
Seven Springs Creek
BROWNES CREEK
Big Hole River
BIG HOLE RIVER
KALSTA RANCH CO
USDI BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
SMITH 6 BAR S LIVESTOCK

OTHER ATTACHMENTS