



2026 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 _____


Signature 

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 

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 #)

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? **YES**

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).

Budget Form

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

Project Form

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

Splitting Examples (fill out multiple Project Forms)

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

Lumping Examples

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

Project Form

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

Project Name:

Required Attachments in Addition to This Form

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).



Letter of support from EACH landowner associated with the proposed project area (if applicable).



Budget Table (see Microsoft Excel Template).



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



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.

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/>

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.

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)

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

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

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 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?

Project Partner

Contributions to Project

Letter of
Support
Attached?

Project Coordination and Planning Task

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

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

	Completed?	Copy Attached?	To Be Completed Pre-Contract (Oct 2026)?	To Be Completed as Contract Deliverable?
*Draft Project Designs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
*Final Project Designs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Consultation With Potential Regulators			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Necessary Permits			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Cultural Resources Inventory (<i>if relevant</i>)			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Other:				
Other:				
Other:				

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

Describe any additional project planning that will have been completed prior to execution of a contract (October 2026).

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

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)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Final Landowner Agreement(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
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:

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 States Forest Service Photo Point Monitoring Handbook”.*
 - *[Riparian survey.]*
 - *[Other.]*

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

Project Implementation Task

Provide a **detailed description of the solution you are proposing** to implement to address a nonpoint source pollution problem.

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

Education, Outreach and Training Task

To get good projects on the ground, trained staff and board members and educated, enthusiastic landowners are required. To promote the development of future projects, DEQ encourages project sponsors to use up to \$5,000 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.

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.

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

Project Administration Task

Please use the task description below as a guide when calculating your budget for project administration. DEQ typically includes these requirements in every nonpoint source grant contract, with only minor variation. Funding applied to 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 1Q 2Q 3Q 4Q 1Q 2Q 3Q 4Q 1Q 2Q 3Q
2026 2027 2027 2027 2027 2028 2028 2028 2028 2029 2029 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.

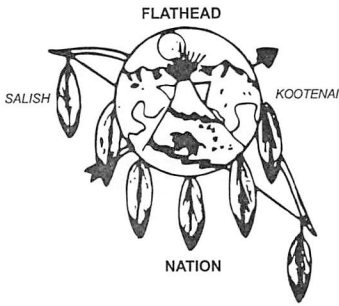
BUDGET

2025 Nonpoint Source Pollution Reduction Application - On-Site Ground Project Budget Template

Project Title	Funding Request*	Non-Federal Match**	Other Funding**	Match Source	Match Secured? (Y/N)	Total Project Cost	Additional Information***
Project Planning							
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.							
Professors site investigation, data, and site maps	\$ 5,000.00		\$ 5,000.00	Western Montana Conservation Commission Grant	Y	\$ 5,000.00	The Flathead Lakers received grant funds from the Western Montana Conservation Commission for \$5000 in site investigations and planning.
Required Permits	\$ 250.00					\$ 250.00	153 Funds are requested to fund the acquisition of any required permits.
Drift Project Designs	\$ 15,000.00			Landowner Contribution	Y	\$ 15,000.00	The Polson Bay Golf Course are committed to \$15000 in funding for drift project designs.
Final Project Designs	\$ 10,480.00			Landowner Contribution	Y	\$ 10,480.00	The Polson Bay Golf Course are committed to \$10480 in funding for final project designs.
Total	\$ 20,730.00	\$ 25,480.00	\$ 5,000.00			\$ 30,610.00	
Landowner Agreements							
Drift Landowner Agreement	\$ 500.00					\$ 500.00	153 Funds are requested to fund the development of a drift landowner agreement.
Final Landowner Agreement	\$ 250.00					\$ 250.00	153 Funds are requested to cover costs related to finalizing the landowner agreement.
Grass Management Plan							
Total	\$ 750.00	\$ -	\$ -			\$ 750.00	
Effectiveness Monitoring							
Drift Monitoring Plan	\$ 500.00					\$ 500.00	153 Funds are requested to fund the development of a drift monitoring plan.
Final Monitoring Plan	\$ 250.00					\$ 250.00	153 Funds are requested to cover costs related to finalizing a monitoring plan.
Written Summary of all Monitoring Activities	\$ 1,000.00			Flathead Lakers Cash in hand	Y	\$ 1,000.00	The Flathead Lakers will use currently held funds to summarize and report on project monitoring activities described in our proposal. These activities will be carried out by Flathead Lakers staff, volunteers, and project partners.
Water Quality Monitoring	\$ 2,088.00		\$ 5,300.00	Flathead Lakers Cash in hand and \$5,300 from the Flathead Lake Biological Station Pesticide Stewardship and Prevention Program	Y	\$ 7,388.00	The Flathead Lakers will use currently held funds to collect and analyze water quality samples before, during and after project implementation. The Flathead Lake Biological Station charges \$56 per sample analyzed. We will collect two samples each week for 10 weeks each year in 2027 and 2028 at Bonanza Park.
Plant health checks and erosion monitoring	\$ 804.00			Volunteer Hours	Y	\$ 804.00	The Flathead Lakers will use volunteers to perform plant health checks and erosion monitoring at the project site. Each month a volunteer will spend one hour (531.40hrs) checking on conditions at the project site. This will take place for two years after the project implementation has begun.
Total	\$ 7,642.00	\$ 5,300.00	\$ 5,300.00			\$ 18,242.00	
Project Implementation							
This task 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.							
Materials	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 8,542.00		Polson Community Foundation, Bone Family Foundation, and materials provided by the Polson Bay Golf Course	Y	\$ 18,542.00	153 Funds are requested to help cover the cost of native plants and planting materials needed to establish vegetative buffers around retention ponds and other project elements. Additional funds from private foundation and from the Polson Bay Golf Course.
Labor	\$ 49,000.00	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 27,500.00	Polson Community Foundation, Bone Family Foundation, WMCC Grant and PSPP Grant	Y	\$ 124,000.00	153 Funds are requested to pay for contract services involving excavation, material removal, creating the retention pond, a new meandering outflow, and associated tasks. Additional funding from this effort has been approved from the Western Montana Conservation Commission.
Equipment costs	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 4,000.00		Landowner Contribution	Y	\$ 20,000.00	153 Funds are requested to pay for contract service costs involving the use of excavation, hauling and other equipment. The Polson Bay Golf Course has committed to providing at least \$4000 of equipment use for this effort.
Construction oversight & on-site supervision	\$ 3,300.00	\$ 2,201.00		WMCC Grant, Cash in hand	Y	\$ 5,501.00	The Flathead Lakers will use currently held funds to pay for staff time related to project and construction oversight. Additional funding has been approved from the Western Montana Conservation Commission.
Photo Documentation	\$ 200.00			Cash in hand	Y	\$ 200.00	The Flathead Lakers will use currently held funds to pay for photo documentation of the project before, during and after implementation.
Landowner recommendation labor	\$ 100.00			Landowner Contribution	Y	\$ 100.00	The Polson Bay Golf Course provided \$100 in value to the project by providing a landowner recommendation letter.
Recontouring slopes and grades to improve drainage	\$ 5,000.00			Landowner Contribution	Y	\$ 5,000.00	The Polson Bay Golf Course has committed to providing at least \$5000 in work to recontour slopes and grades to ensure upslope areas are draining to the new retention pond and outflow.
Retouring irrigation systems	\$ 5,000.00			Landowner Contribution	Y	\$ 5,000.00	The Polson Bay Golf Course has committed to providing at least \$5000 in work to recontour laboring irrigation systems to accommodate the new retention pond and outflow.
Total	\$ 78,000.00	\$ 26,243.00	\$ 27,500.00			\$ 131,743.00	
Education and Outreach							
This task includes costs to develop and improve organizational capacity and to incorporate education and outreach into each on the ground projects. Provide a detailed budget and add a row if needed.							
Volunteer Coordination	\$ 1,378.00	\$ 1,378.00		Cash in hand	Y	\$ 4,678.00	The Flathead Lakers will use currently held funds to partially cover the cost of staff time related to volunteer recruitment and coordination. Additional funding for this work has been approved from the Western Montana Conservation Commission.
Event/Tour Planning	\$ 550.00			Cash in hand	Y	\$ 550.00	The Flathead Lakers will use currently held funds to cover the cost of staff time needed to offer tours and educational workshops at the project site.
Outreach/Publication materials	\$ 3,600.00			Cash in hand	Y	\$ 3,600.00	The Flathead Lakers will provide \$3,600 in value through the development of project specific education and outreach materials to be distributed to shoreline communities throughout the Flathead Watershed.
Total	\$ 5,528.00	\$ 2,756.00	\$ -			\$ 8,284.00	
Administration							
Funding applied to Project Administration task must not exceed 20% of the total amount of funding requested per project, or \$12,000, whichever is lower. Project admin includes normal business expenses and reporting requirements.							
M&A/Administrative Reports and Billing Statements	\$ 978.00			Cash in hand	Y	\$ 978.00	The Flathead Lakers will use currently held funds to pay for project tracking, billing, reporting and other administrative tasks taking place during the implementation phase of the project.
Drift/Final Report and Billing Statement	\$ 978.00			Cash in hand	Y	\$ 978.00	The Flathead Lakers will use currently held funds to pay for project billing, reporting and other administrative tasks.
Communication with DNR	\$ 250.00					\$ 250.00	153 Funds are requested to help ensure consistent communication with DNR.
Total	\$ 2,206.00	\$ 964.00	\$ -			\$ 3,170.00	
Grand Totals	\$ 73,000.00	\$ 26,006.00	\$ 8,177.00			\$ 107,183.00	

blow reduction projects
 **Non-Federal Match: Can include in-kind materials.
 ***Other Funding: Include federal match here, or for example, other funding that is use to satisfy cost if needed (e.g., hourly rates, rental costs, etc.)

**LETTERS
OF
SUPPORT**



A Confederation of the Salish,
Pend d' Oreille
and Kootenai Tribes

THE CONFEDERATED SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES
OF THE FLATHEAD NATION

P.O. BOX 278
Pablo, Montana 59855
406-275-2700
Fax: council.fax@cskt.org
Website:www.cskt.org



A People of Vision

TRIBAL COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Michael Dolson - Chairman
Tom McDonald - Vice Chair
Martin Charlo - Secretary
James Steele Jr - Treasurer
Carole Lankford
James "Bing" Matt
Len Twoteeth
Jim Malatare
Jennifer Finley
Danielle Matt

February 9, 2026

Montana Department of Environmental Quality
1520 E 6th Ave
Helena, MT 59601

Re: Letter of Support for the Flathead Lakers' 2026 Nonpoint Source Pollution Reduction Grant Program Grant Proposal

Dear Grant Review Committee,

The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes Natural Resources Department is proud to support the Flathead Lakers' proposal to the Montana DEQ 2026 Nonpoint Source Pollution Reduction Grant Program. This initiative to reduce stormwater runoff carrying nutrients, pesticides, and bacteria in order to improve water quality at Boettcher Park and the Polson Bay Golf Course is an important step towards protecting Flathead Lake.

As a partner in this project, our Forestry Division will provide native plants, such as Black Cottonwood, Red Osier Dogwood, and Snowberry, essential for creating effective riparian buffer zones. These plants will filter nutrients and pollutants from stormwater runoff, preventing them from entering the lake and contributing to issues like elevated E. coli bacteria levels and swimmer's itch, which affect the community during peak summer use.

Our Natural Resource Division staff will also assist in advising on project plans and the long-term maintenance of the buffer zones and stormwater catchment basin created by this project. This guidance will ensure the project's ecological success while serving as a model for similar restoration efforts throughout the Flathead watershed. We are committed to serving as a resource for individuals and groups inspired by this project, helping to expand its impact beyond the immediate area.

This initiative aligns with our mission to preserve and restore natural systems that sustain our cultural heritage and local communities. We strongly encourage your support of this critical project to protect Flathead Lake's water quality, shoreline stability, and habitat for future generations.

If you have any questions or need further information, please feel free to contact me (406) 675-2700.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Dolson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "M".

Michael Dolson
Chairman, Tribal Council
Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes
Michael.Dolson@cskt.org



February 12, 2026

Montana Department of Environmental Quality
DEQ Nonpoint Source Pollution Reduction Grant Program

Re: Letter of Support for the Flathead Lakers' Grant Proposal

Dear Grant Review Committee,

On behalf of the Polson Bay Golf Course, I am writing to express our strong support for the Flathead Lakers' proposal to the Montana Department of Environmental Quality Nonpoint Source Pollution Reduction Grant Program. This project will serve to filter pollutants and nutrients from 25 acres of land adjacent to Flathead Lake directly downslope of US Highway 93. We are committed to managing the golf course in a way that protects Flathead Lake and its renowned water quality and ecosystem health for future generations.

Our guiding principle, in alignment with the Best Management Practices (BMPs) established by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America and the Peaks & Prairies Golf Course Superintendents Association, is to ensure that the golf course acts as a filter to prevent pollution from entering Flathead Lake, rather than being a source of pollution. This proposed project, which will restore the shoreline with riparian buffer zones, create a retention pond to allow nutrients to settle out of the water column, and reestablish a more natural outflow path is a significant step toward achieving that goal.

By incorporating natural buffer zones and a retention pond, this project will enhance the ability of the land to intercept and filter stormwater runoff, removing nutrients and pollutants before they enter the lake. This is critical for addressing challenges such as elevated E. coli levels and other water quality concerns that affect both the environment and the health of the community. The proposed project will also stabilize the shoreline and provide habitat for

Polson Bay Golf Course
111 Bayview Dr, Polson, MT 59860
(406) 883-8230



wildlife and enhance the aesthetic and recreational value of the area.

As a partner in this initiative, Polson Bay Golf Course is committed to collaborating on the project's planning and implementation. We will work with the Flathead Lakers and other stakeholders to ensure that the project elements are designed and maintained effectively, furthering our shared goal of protecting Flathead Lake.

This project embodies the collaborative, science-based approach that is essential for balancing the needs of recreation, water quality, and environmental sustainability. We are proud to support this effort and strongly encourage your investment in this transformative initiative.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at golf@cityofpolson.com or (406)883-8234

Sincerely,

Pat Nowlen
Polson Bay Golf Course Superintendent
406 883 8234
golf@cityofpolson.com

Polson Bay Golf Course
111 Bayview Dr, Polson, MT 59860
(406) 883-8230

LAKE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

64352 US Highway 93

Ronan, Montana 59864-8738

Phone: 406-676-2811, ext. 102

Cell: 406-747-0895



Montana Department of Environmental Quality
Nonpoint Source Pollution Prevention Grant

February 3, 2026

Re: Letter of Support for the Flathead Lakers' Grant Proposal

Dear Grant Review Committee,

The Lake County Conservation District strongly supports Flathead Lakers' proposals to the Montana Department of Environmental Quality. These projects, focused on Boettcher Park and Polson Bay Golf Course as well as riparian restoration projects in Flathead County, represent critical investment in protecting Flathead Lake's water quality and natural ecosystems. Restoring shoreline buffer zones and capturing surface water runoff are essential for preventing pollution from entering Flathead Lake. By restoring these natural systems, these projects will intercept and filter stormwater runoff, removing nutrients and pollutants before they can reach the lake. These efforts are particularly important in addressing issues such as elevated levels of E. coli bacteria and swimmer's itch, which frequently occur during the summer when the lake is most heavily used by families and visitors.

The Lake County Conservation District is committed to supporting these initiatives through co-promotion, volunteer recruitment, and active participation by our staff and Big Sky Watershed Corps members when available. Our team will support planning, educational outreach, and community engagement to ensure project success and foster broader understanding of the importance of natural shoreline restoration. Restoring natural processes along Flathead Lake's shoreline is not only vital for water quality but also for enhancing wildlife habitat, stabilizing shorelines, and creating opportunities for recreation and education. By partnering with the Flathead Lakers, we aim to inspire further conservation efforts throughout the region and ensure a sustainable future for our lake and community.

We urge your support for these important projects. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Caroline McDonald', with a decorative flourish at the end.

Caroline McDonald, *Conservation Coordinator*

Lake County Conservation District

Office: 406-676-2811, ext. 102

LakeCD@macdnet.org



Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

**Between the Flathead Lakers and the Polson Bay Golf Course
For the Flathead Lakers Boettcher Park Stormwater Capture and Filtration Project**

I. Purpose

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) establishes the partnership between the **Flathead Lakers**, a nonprofit organization based in Polson, Montana, and the **Polson Bay Golf Course**, operated by the City of Polson, for the implementation of the *Boettcher Park Stormwater Capture and Filtration Project*. The purpose of this MOU is to outline the roles, responsibilities, and commitments of each partner to ensure the successful construction, outreach, and long-term maintenance of the project.

II. Background

Stormwater runoff from the Polson Bay Golf Course and surrounding impervious areas currently contributes sediment, nutrients, and bacteria to Flathead Lake. The Boettcher Park Stormwater Capture and Filtration Project will construct green stormwater infrastructure (GSI) features designed to capture and filter runoff, restore shoreline habitat, and improve water quality in Polson Bay.

III. Responsibilities of the Flathead Lakers

The **Flathead Lakers** agree to:

1. **Grant Administration and Financial Management:**
 - Manage and track project expenditures, issue invoices, and handle financial tasks in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP).
2. **Construction Oversight:**
 - Construct a **1,000 sq. ft. stormwater retention pond** and **205-ft vegetated meandering outflow** to capture and filter runoff from the Polson Bay Golf Course before it enters Flathead Lake.



3. Habitat Restoration:

- Restore approximately **450 linear feet of shoreline** using native vegetation and install deer fencing to protect plantings.

4. Public Education and Outreach:

- Develop and distribute educational outreach materials, interpretive signage, and digital content to engage residents, businesses, and schools.

5. Community Engagement:

- Host volunteer planting days, community workshops, and field trips for students and local groups to promote stormwater stewardship.

6. Monitoring and Maintenance:

- Conduct ongoing **water quality monitoring** and provide site maintenance to ensure long-term function and success of the GSI installations.

7. In-Kind Digital Outreach Contribution:

- Provide at least **five months (or \$50,000 in value)** of Google Ad Grants digital advertising to promote the project and increase public awareness of stormwater reduction and pollution prevention.

IV. Responsibilities of the Polson Bay Golf Course

The **Polson Bay Golf Course** agrees to:

1. Engineering and Site Design:

- Finalize site design and engineering plans for the stormwater retention pond and meandering outlet.

2. Irrigation System Redesign:

- Redesign and relocate irrigation system zones to accommodate the new retention pond and outlet. The value of this work will be provided as **in-kind**



match to the project.

3. Site Recontouring and Preparation:

- Recontour and reshape lands upslope of the proposed retention pond to maximize its effectiveness. Design and execution of this work will be provided as **in-kind match**.

4. Materials Contribution:

- Provide approximately **\$2,000 in mulch and soil** as in-kind match for project construction.

5. Maintenance Commitment:

- Contribute up to **\$1,000 per year for two years** in long-term maintenance funds to support continued functionality of the stormwater infrastructure.

V. Financial and In-Kind Contributions

- Flathead Lakers' committed contributions include project management, outreach, construction oversight, and in-kind digital advertising valued at **\$50,000**.
- Polson Bay Golf Course's committed in-kind match includes irrigation and earthwork redesign and implementation, materials, and two years of maintenance valued at approximately **\$14,000** (final value to be documented in project reporting).

VI. Effective Date and Term

This MOU shall become effective upon the date of the last signature and will remain in effect through **December 31, 2028**, unless modified or terminated in writing by mutual consent of both parties.

VII. Amendments

This MOU may be amended at any time through mutual written agreement between both parties.

VIII. Signatures



**FLATHEAD
LAKERS**
DEFENDERS OF THE WATERSHED


Flathead Lakers

By: Coby Gierke

Coby Gierke, Executive Director

Date: 10/1/2025

Polson Bay Golf Course / City of Polson

Signed by:
By: 
CA8D9BB5ED5E49C...

Patrick Nowlen, Golf Superintendent

Date: 11/3/2025



Program Lead: Dr. Rachel Malison
pspp@flbs.umt.edu; (406) 872-4518
32125 Bio Station Lane
Polson, Montana, U.S.A. 59860
<http://flbs.umt.edu/monitoring/mt-pspp/>



FLATHEAD LAKE
BIO STATION
UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA

3 February 2026

Montana Department of Environmental Quality
Nonpoint Source Program
Section 319 Grant Review Committee

To the Review Committee,

The Flathead Lake Biological Station's Pesticide Stewardship Partnership Program (PPSP) is pleased to provide this letter of support for the Flathead Lakers' proposed Nonpoint Source Pollution Prevention Project aimed at reducing chemical and nutrient runoff to Flathead Lake at the Polson Bay Golf Course.

Nonpoint source pollution associated with fertilizers, herbicides, pesticides, and stormwater runoff represents an ongoing risk to Flathead Lake's water quality and ecological integrity. The PPSP recognizes the importance of addressing these diffuse sources through science-based, preventative approaches that reduce pollutant inputs before they reach surface waters.

The Flathead Lakers' proposal appropriately applies green infrastructure and nature-based solutions, including stormwater retention features, vegetated drainage channels, and native shoreline buffer gardens, to intercept and treat runoff at high-use public sites such as Boettcher Park and the Polson Bay Golf Course. These practices are consistent with established best management practices for reducing nonpoint source pollution and improving watershed resilience. The Flathead Lakers' have been working with our PSPP to plan appropriate before and after monitoring efforts to document resulting improvements in water quality following the completion of the project.

We also support the project's emphasis on education and outreach to shoreline property owners and the broader community. Increasing awareness of how landscaping practices and chemical use affect water quality is essential to reducing long-term pollutant loading and promoting sustainable land management throughout the watershed. The PSPP looks forward to being about to help use this project to highlight and promote practices to improve and/or protect water quality for our waters in Montana.




The PPSP supports this project and believes it represents a well-designed, preventative approach to protecting Flathead Lake from nonpoint source pollution. We appreciate the Flathead Lakers' leadership in advancing practical, science-based solutions that benefit both water quality and the community.

Sincerely,

Rachel L Malison
Assistant Research Professor
Pesticide Stewardship Partnership Program
Flathead Lake Biological Station
University of Montana
rachel.malison@umontana.edu; 406-872-4518



WESTERN MONTANA
**Conservation
Commission**

 655 Timberwolf Pkwy, Kalispell, MT
 dnrcarddwccc@mt.gov
 westernMTwaters.com

2/19/2026

Montana Department of Environmental Quality
Section 319 Non-Point Source Program
2401 Colonial Dr.
Helena, MT. 59601

Dear Grant Review Committee,

The Western Montana Conservation Commission (WMCC) is writing in support of the Flathead Lakers' proposal to the Montana Department of Environmental Quality's Section 319 Nonpoint Source Program for the shoreline restoration and stormwater treatment improvement project at Polson Bay Golf Course.

WMCC supports collaborative, locally led solutions that address priority nonpoint source water quality concerns in western Montana. We believe this project aligns with Section 319 Program goals and will deliver measurable environmental benefits to Flathead Lake and downstream waters while serving as a model for community Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) implementation. In recognition of this project's importance, WMCC awarded the Flathead Lakers a \$50,000 grant in May 2025 through our Stormwater and Septic Leachate Toxics Reduction Grant Program.

Protecting Flathead Lake's water quality from the cumulative impacts of untreated stormwater runoff is essential to maintaining the lake's ecological and recreational value. By restoring natural shoreline function and increasing stormwater infiltration capacity at Polson Bay Golf Course, this project will demonstrate how GSI practices and water quality protection can be successfully integrated into recreational and managed landscapes throughout the watershed.

We strongly encourage your favorable consideration of this proposal. Thank you for your time and consideration in processing this request.

Sincerely,

Mike Koopal
Commission Chair
Western Montana Conservation Commission
Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation



MAPS/ DESIGNS

Polson Bay Golf Course, Old Nine Overview.

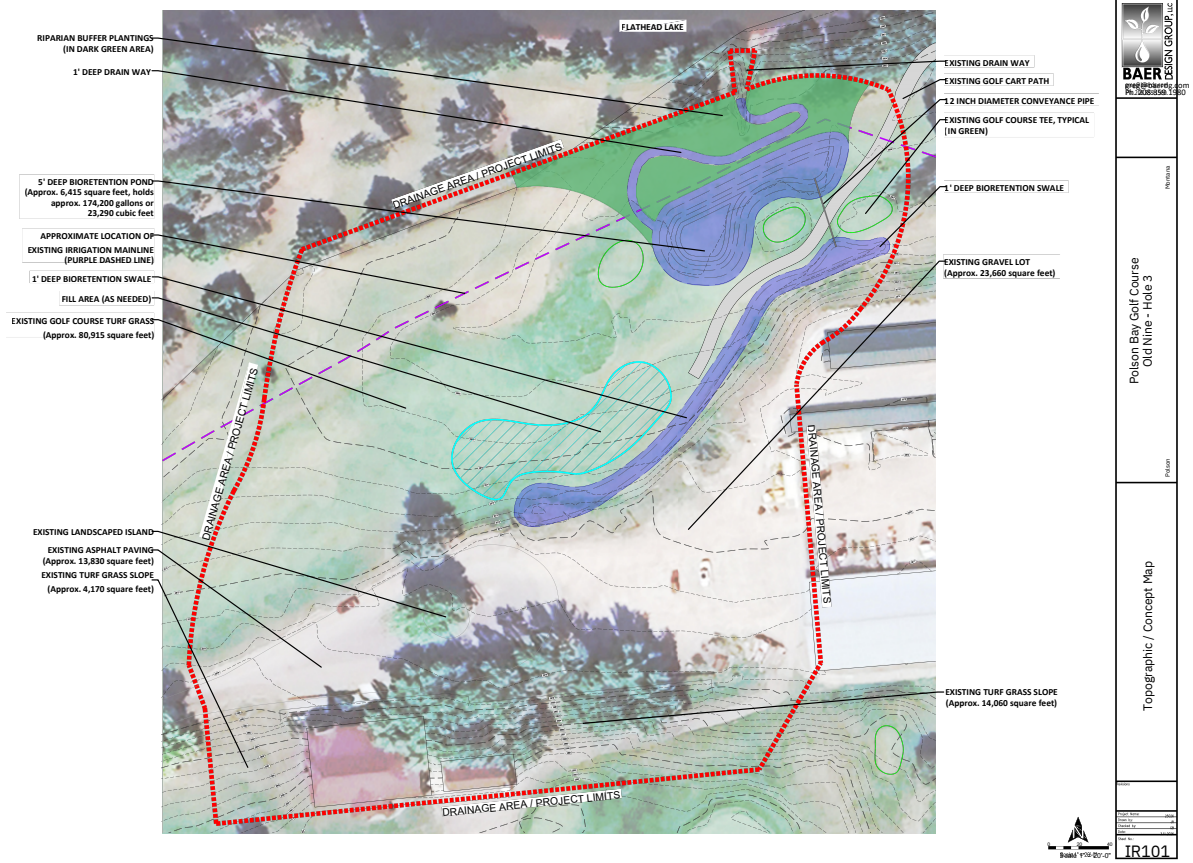
Polson Bay Golf Course Pollution Prevention Project Area circled in yellow



Polson Bay Golf Course Pollution Prevention Project Regional Overview



Design Details



Polson Bay Golf Course Pollution Prevention Project Project Site Photos



OTHER ATTACHMENTS