



2026 Nonpoint Source Pollution Reduction Application - Capacity Building/Education Outreach Projects

General Information

Project Name _____

Applicant Name _____

Is your organization registered with the Montana Secretary of State?

Explanation: Each applicant must be registered with the Montana Secretary of State to do business in the state of Montana. Registration with the Secretary of State may be completed via the following website: <https://sosmt.gov/business/>

Is your organization registered with the federal System for Award Management (SAM)?

Explanation: Each applicant is required to register with SAM. To register or check your organization's status, go to <https://sam.gov/content/home>. If you get an "Unsupported Browser" error, copy, and paste the link into a Google Chrome browser window.

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

Explanation: Each applicant is required to have a current UEI number. The UEI number replaces the old DUNS number. If your organization had a DUNS number, you should have received a notification from the federal government indicating that your DUNS number has been changed to a UEI number. If you did not receive this notification, or if you never had a DUNS number, you will need to go to the federal government's System for Award Management (SAM - <https://sam.gov/content/home>) to obtain your UEI number. DEQ recommends starting this process early as it is very time-consuming, requires providing documentation-sometimes with follow-up requests for additional information, and can take up to 2 months to complete. If you need assistance, you may contact the federal help desk at 866-606-8220 Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. through 8:00 p.m. EST.


Does your organization have adequate liability insurance for the risks associated with your project?

Explanation: Each applicant must have or obtain liability insurance coverage meeting the requirements stated in the Draft Sample Contract and/or requirements negotiated based on the appropriate level of risk associated with the project.

Primary Contact _____ Title _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone Number _____ Email _____

Signature 

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 and the signatory must both sign the application. Signatures must be either signed electronically, or wet-signed, scanned and emailed.

Project Form

Project Type

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

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

Required Attachments in Addition to This Form

Letter of support or from each organization critical to the project (*if applicable*)

Letter of support from each landowner associated with any on-the-ground component of the project (*if applicable*)

Budget Table (see Microsoft Excel Template)

Activity Location

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

Activity Description

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

Budget Form

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

Capacity Building Projects

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

Need and Opportunity

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

Measurement and Sustainability

Describe how you will measure an increase in capacity and how you would sustain this in to the future

Timeline

Describe your anticipated project timeline

Education and Outreach Projects

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

Behavioral Change

Identify the behavior change you are targeting and the target audience. From a nonpoint source pollution perspective, why is the change in behavior important and what impact would it have?

Barriers

What are the existing barriers to changing the behavior? How will your proposed activities address the identified barriers and lead to behavior change?

Evaluation

How will you measure the extent of the behavioral change achieved because of your project?

Timeline

Describe your anticipated timeline

Project Partners and Roles

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

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.

Project Administration

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

Report Format:

- *Contractor shall submit each Attachment B Billing Statement, Status Report and Final Report using the most current reporting guidance and templates provided by the DEQ project manager.*
- *Contractor shall ensure each Status Report and Final Report contains adequate documentation to justify accompanying reimbursement requests and match reporting, to the satisfaction of the DEQ project manager.*
- *Contractor shall ensure that the Final Report is a standalone document describing all contract activities and containing copies of all contract deliverables (even if the deliverables were previously submitted).*

Reporting Schedule:

- *Status Reports: Due June 15th and December 15th of each year the Contract is in effect.*
- *Draft Final Report: Contractor shall submit a complete draft Final Report for DEQ review and comment at least 15 days prior to the contract expiration date.*
- *Final Report: Contractor shall submit a Final Report, addressing DEQ comments on the draft Final Report, on or before the Contract expiration date.*
- *Attachment B Billing Statements: Contractor shall submit an Attachment B Billing Statement with each Status Report, or Final Report submitted to DEQ while the Contract is in effect. To maintain cash flow, Contractor may submit interim Attachment B Billing Statements as frequently as monthly during the term of the Contract. However, each interim Attachment B Billing Statement must be accompanied by an Interim Report.*

Additional Information

Use the space below to include anything additional for the review panel to consider. Attach additional items and information that could help reviewers better understand your project. Please be conscious of reviewers' time, as they may not have time to read lengthy studies and reports. Please do not attach copies of TMDL documents or watershed restoration plans. Please no more than 20 pages.

2026 Nonpoint Source Pollution Reduction Application - Capacity Building Education & Outreach Budget Template

Project Title:		Funding Request*	Non-Federal Match**	Other Funding***	Match Source	Match Secured? (Y/N)	Total Project Cost	Additional Information****
<p>Instructions</p> <p>This task may include the initial stages of, for example, developing the Plan, demonstration project, outreach program, educational materials or planning project tours. Please include anticipated deliverables and a detailed budget.</p>	Project and Program Development							
	Development of stakeholder engagement strategy	\$ 1,000.00					\$ 1,000.00	
	Attend and present at Upper Yellowstone Watershed Group, Working Lands Group, and Park Co Water Initiative meetings	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 3,000.00		In kind (partner and landowner time)		\$ 4,000.00	
	At least 5 one-on-one meetings with key partners (City of Livingston, Park County, FWP, DNRC, etc.)	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00		In kind (partner time)	Y	\$ 2,000.00	
							\$ -	
							\$ -	
							\$ -	
	Total	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ -			\$ 7,000.00	
<p>This task would include, for example, the time getting stakeholder involvement and writing the Plan, leading the project tours or outreach program, and coordinating volunteers. Please include anticipated deliverables and a detailed budget.</p>	Implementation							
	Review and synthesis of existing studies and plans	\$ 4,000.00					\$ 4,000.00	
	Review and synthesis of existing water quality data and identification of key data gaps	\$ 7,000.00					\$ 7,000.00	
	Send one MFP staff member to Water Quality Monitoring Training at Flathead Lake Bio Station (May 2027)	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00		Scholarship	N	\$ 3,000.00	
	Develop outline and roadmap for full WRP development	\$ 5,000.00					\$ 5,000.00	
	Write basin overview, history, and background sections of WRP	\$ 7,400.00	\$ 1,500.00		In kind (partner time)		\$ 8,900.00	
	Identify and apply for additional funding to complete WRP		\$ 3,000.00		MFP unrestricted funds	Y	\$ 3,000.00	
	Total	\$ 24,900.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ -			\$ 30,900.00	
<p>This task includes costs for evaluating the success of your project or program. This may include surveys, community readiness factors, landowner buy in for projects, completion of a Plan, etc. Please include anticipated deliverables and a detailed budget.</p>	Effectiveness Monitoring						\$ -	
							\$ -	
							\$ -	
							\$ -	
							\$ -	
							\$ -	
	Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -			\$ -	
<p>Funding applied to Project Administration must not exceed 10% of the total amount of nonpoint funding requested, or \$3,000, per project whichever is lower. Project includes normal business expenses and reporting requirements.</p>	Administration							
	Mid/Annual/Interim Reports and Billing Statements	\$ 700.00					\$ 700.00	
	Draft/Final Report and Billing Statements	\$ 700.00					\$ 700.00	
	Communication with DEQ	\$ 700.00					\$ 700.00	
							\$ -	
							\$ -	
	Total	\$ 2,100.00	\$ -	\$ -			\$ 2,100.00	
Grand Totals	Funding Request*	\$ 30,000.00	Non-Federal Match**	\$ 10,000.00	Other Funding***	\$ -	Total Project Cost	\$ 40,000.00

*Funding Request - Must not exceed \$30,000
 **Non-Federal Match - Can include in-kind materials.
 ***Other Funding - Include federal match here, or, for example, other funding that is supporting the project but cannot be reported as match on this grant because it is matching another funding source.
 ****Additional Information - Use to specify non-federal match and other funding sources, or use to justify cost if needed (e.g., hourly rates, rental costs, etc.)



CITY OF LIVINGSTON

330 Bennett Steet
Livingston, MT 59047
406.222.5667
LivingstonMontana.org

Montana Department of Environmental Quality
Nonpoint Source Program
1520 E. Sixth Avenue
PO Box 200901
Helena, MT 59620

Dear Members of the DEQ Nonpoint Source Funding Review Panel,

On behalf of the City of Livingston, I am pleased to express our support for Montana Freshwater Partners' application for a capacity grant to initiate development of a Watershed Restoration Plan (WRP) for the Upper Yellowstone Watershed.

The proposed planning area from Gardiner downstream to the confluence of the Shields River below Livingston includes the City of Livingston and several waterbodies that are important to our community. These include Fleshman Creek, Billman Creek, and the lagoon system within Sacajawea Park, as well as the Yellowstone River itself. The health of these waters is directly tied to our community's environmental quality, recreational opportunities, infrastructure resilience, and long-term economic vitality.

A collaboratively developed Watershed Restoration Plan would provide an important framework for identifying priority water quality concerns, opportunities for restoration and protection, and strategies to improve watershed resilience to drought, flooding, and other stressors. The City recognizes the value of coordinated, watershed-scale planning that brings together local governments, landowners, agencies, and nonprofit partners to develop practical, community-supported solutions.

While this request is specifically to support staff capacity to begin the planning process, we understand that this early investment is critical to building partnerships, engaging stakeholders, and developing a strong technical foundation for future implementation projects.



The City of Livingston supports Montana Freshwater Partners' efforts to pursue this capacity funding and looks forward to participating in and staying engaged with the Watershed Restoration Plan development process.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Shannon Holmes".



SHANNON HOLMES

*Public Works Department
Director*

☎ 406-222-5667

✉ sholmes@livingstonmontana.org

📍 330 Bennett St. Livingston, MT

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Water Resources Division
1424 9th Ave
Helena, MT 59601
(406) 444-6601

February 10, 2026

MT Department of Environmental Quality
319 Nonpoint Source Program
1520 E. Sixth Avenue
PO Box 200901
Helena, MT 59620

Dear DEQ Nonpoint Source Funding Review Panel,

On behalf of The Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) Water Resources Division, I am writing to express my support for Montana Freshwater Partners' proposal for capacity funding from the 319 Grant Program to initiate development of a Watershed Restoration Plan (WRP) in the Upper Yellowstone Watershed. The DNRC is engaged in and committed to continuing collaborative work on watershed management, monitoring, and planning in the Upper Yellowstone. The proposed development of an up-to-date WRP is aligned with the needs and priorities of water users in the region and has substantial support from NGOs, irrigators, and agencies, such as the DNRC, representing an excellent opportunity to further improve understanding and management of water resources in the Upper Yellowstone Watershed.

An approved WRP effectively outlines projects and priorities to improve water quality and overall watershed health. Thus, a WRP serves as a framework to guide coordination and funding for on-the-ground projects in the watershed through data synthesis and gap identification. Additionally, development of a WRP with 319 Nonpoint Source Funding will grant water users access to Section 319 implementation funding for restoration projects. This effort is timely as a recently completed DNRC Water Balance study and hydrologic model highlight drought vulnerability and mitigation options; the Upper Yellowstone Watershed Group is preparing a Drought Management Plan for the watershed; and the Park County Water Initiative (PCWI) has coordinated practitioners to work collaboratively with water users on local restoration and management efforts. Each of



these happenings will inform development of a WRP with brand new data, well-established monitoring networks, community engagement and support.

The DNRC recognizes the need for increased capacity to identify and support the implementation of projects to address nonpoint source pollution in the Upper Yellowstone. Montana Freshwater Partners has demonstrated leadership and collaboration with partners and water users in the region and brings a wealth of local and technical experience to this work. The group is well suited to convene water users, synthesize data, and lead development of a WRP in the Upper Yellowstone. Their proposal aligns with simultaneous and recently completed efforts in the watershed and will enable significant and positively impactful projects and water quality outcomes. The DNRC believes this work is urgent and offers full support for this proposal and the community and natural resource benefits it will prove.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sale Rhodes". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "S" and "R".

Sale Rhodes
Regional Water Planner, Yellowstone River Basin
Planning, Implementation, and Compacts Bureau
Water Resources Division



MT Department of Environmental Quality
319 Nonpoint Source Program
1520 E. Sixth Avenue
PO Box 200901
Helena, MT 59620

Cc: Dustin Homan, Chair, Park Conservation District

Dear Members of the DEQ Nonpoint Source Funding Review Panel,

On behalf of the Upper Yellowstone Watershed Group, we are writing to express our support for Montana Freshwater Partners' proposal to obtain Capacity Funding from the 319 Grant Program to initiate the first phase of Watershed Restoration Plan (WRP) development in the Upper Yellowstone Watershed. The Upper Yellowstone Watershed Group is committed to being an active partner throughout this process.

In Park County, we have directly experienced the value of having an approved WRP in the Shields Watershed, where the plan has helped catalyze coordination, momentum, and funding for on-the-ground projects that improve water quality and overall watershed health. We understand that drafting a WRP for the Upper Yellowstone will fill an important planning gap and provide a road map for potential restoration efforts in the Upper Yellowstone watershed.

Montana Freshwater Partners brings together technical expertise through the Park Co. Water Initiative and have long standing involvement in the Upper Yellowstone Watershed Group. Their experience coordinating watershed-scale planning and restoration projects positions them to effectively convene stakeholders, synthesize existing data, and guide development of a strong foundation for a future WRP.

We support Montana Freshwater Partners' proposal to obtain Capacity Funding from the 319 Grant Program and are committed to working with them to continue building upon existing momentum and deliver impactful results for the environment and our Upper Yellowstone communities.

Thank you for your consideration of this important proposal.

Sincerely,

Bob Anderson, Chair
Upper Yellowstone Watershed Group





Local, Common Sense Conservation

5242 Highway 89 South
Livingston, MT 59047

(406) 223-1048

www.parkcd.org

parkcd.310permitting@gmail.com

January 29th, 2026

MT Department of Environmental Quality
319 Nonpoint Source Program
1520 E. Sixth Avenue
PO Box 200901
Helena, MT 59620

Re: 319 Grant Program Proposal- Letter of Support for Capacity Funding for WRP

Dear Members of the DEQ Nonpoint Source Funding Review Panel,

On behalf of the Park County Conservation District, we are writing to express our strong support for Montana Freshwater Partners' proposal to obtain Capacity Funding from the 319 Grant Program to initiate the first phase of Watershed Restoration Plan (WRP) development in the Upper Yellowstone Watershed. The Park County Conservation District is committed to being active partners throughout this process.

In Park County, we have directly experienced the value of having an approved WRP in the Shields Watershed, where the plan has helped catalyze coordination, momentum, and funding for on-the-ground projects that improve water quality and overall watershed health. Completing a WRP for the Upper Yellowstone will fill an important planning gap and provide essential guidance for restoration efforts across a large portion of Park County.

Montana Freshwater Partners has demonstrated leadership in fostering collaboration among water resource partners through the Park Co. Water Initiative, and their technical expertise and long involvement with the Upper Yellowstone Watershed Group make them well suited to lead this effort. Their experience coordinating watershed-scale planning and restoration projects positions them to effectively convene stakeholders, synthesize existing data, and guide development of a strong foundation for a future WRP.

The Park County Conservation District recognizes the need for increased and focused capacity to identify and implement on-the-ground projects that address nonpoint source pollution. This proposal aligns with ongoing drought planning, the recent completion of a comprehensive water balance and hydrologic model for the Upper Yellowstone, priorities identified in the Upper Yellowstone Watershed Group Framework for Action, and project planning and prioritization work already completed by Montana Freshwater Partners. We are confident that this funding will enable Montana Freshwater Partners to continue building upon existing momentum and deliver impactful results for the environment and our Upper Yellowstone communities. We believe that this funding will have a positive impact on the watershed and communities that depend on its health.

Thank you for your consideration of this important proposal.

Sincerely,

Dustin Homan
Board Chair
Park Conservation District