



Nutrient Trading/Offset Work Group Meeting

March 17, 2026, 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Butte-Silverbow Emergency Operations Center

3619 Wynne Ave., Butte, MT 59701

Join via Zoom:

[Zoom Link](#)

Dial by Phone: 1 (206) 337-9723, Webinar ID: 871 8193 7612

Relevant Documents

- [HB736](#)
- [Circular DEQ-13](#)
- [ARM 17.30.1701](#)

Preliminaries

- Agenda
- Roll Call
- Approve [February 12, 2026 meeting minutes](#) and share any post-meeting thoughts or ideas

Eligible BMPs (HB736 Section 4; DEQ-13 Section IV.3)

- Recommended pre-reading:
 - Draft updated Montana Nonpoint Source Management Plan [Appendix A: BMPs](#)
 - “Minimum design standards” from Nonpoint Source Pollution Reduction Projects [Call for Applications](#)
- HB736 directed BMPs:
 - *riparian fencing programs based on the number of feet of streambank;*
 - *riparian vegetation programs based on the number of acres vegetated;*
 - *development of wetlands in areas of irrigation water return flows based on the number of acres*
- Lessons learned from Nonpoint Source and Wetlands Section long-term effectiveness reviews
- Minimum design standards
- [NRCS Practice Standards](#)

- Consider practices already listed in DEQ-13. Are there any worth revising or removing? Any practices worth explicitly designating ineligible? DEQ generally recommends adding new practices, otherwise keeping existing list.

1:15 – 1:30 Break

HUC12 Boundaries

- How these boundaries are applied

Offset Quantification

- Recommended pre-reading: [NPSW's Load Reduction Guide](#)
- Model-based credit quantification
- Site-specific credit quantification
- Seasonality
- Life of practice
- Role responsible for quantification
- Brainstorm necessary updates to Load Reduction Guide

2:30—2:45 Break

Offset Verification

- Implementation verification
- Maintenance verification
- Performance verification
- Role responsible for verification and data storage

Funding responsibility/eligibility

- Who is responsible for funding?
- Is grant funding eligible?

Strategy for Next Meeting

General Comments from Work Group Members & Public Comment

Upcoming Meeting Topics

- Sequencing of credits and permit issuance/renewal
- Offset ratios
- Program promotion
- Other changes required for successful implementation