



Montana Department of Environmental Quality
PPA/WQP/WPS
Attention: Kristy Zhinin
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For Department Use Only:

Received By: _____

Date: _____

Application Number: _____

Budget Submitted: _____

Montana DEQ 319 Mini-Grant Application

Please limit your application to 5 pages total.

*Notice : Applicants **must** submit both a hardcopy and electronic application to DEQ NPS Outreach and Education Coordinator, Kristy Zhinin. kzhinin@mt.gov 406-444-7425. Please refer to mini-grant call for applications for more information. Make sure to **address all 13 items** in this application, in this format, to be eligible for the grant. If the item does not apply (example # 8- no site event) write N/A.*

Contact Information:

Applicant name, organization & contact information (address, phone, email, fax)

Laurie Riley, Executive Director
Bitter Root Water Forum
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Tax ID number for fiscal sponsor organization (Fiscal sponsors can be a school, community group, non-profit or other organization. Individuals cannot apply for this grant)

The BRWF is a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation.
Tax ID #43-2000515

Project Description:

1. Project title & location

Our Valley, Our Water - Educational Forum
Corvallis Grange Hall
Corvallis, MT

2. What nonpoint source pollution or water quality issue does this project address?

The BRWF educational forum of 4 presentations on Our Valley, Our Water will primarily address human impacts on water quality in the Bitterroot watershed. Growth and development is the single largest threat to our water quality. Understanding its impacts and how they might be reduced and controlled is vital to the maintenance of our clean and plentiful water supply. Development in our rural community adds to the number of

household septic systems and wells and severely impacts the irrigation practices on converted agricultural lands. Our forum of 4 presentations is designed to address concerns in ways that perhaps people have not previously considered. We hope to generate change in people's actions to maintain our clean and abundant water.

3. What education and/or outreach activity is planned to address the above issue?

Our Valley, Our Water is an educational series of four speaker and discussion forums addressing water quality in the Bitterroot watershed, with each building on the prior forum for a resulting comprehensive understanding of water quality issues and possible solutions in the Bitterroot watershed:

- 1) *Understanding our Water Resources* - speakers will present on surface and ground water resources along with a brief description of local geology as it affects water quality.
- 2) *Understanding Our Water History* - a history of water development in the watershed and how present water practices affect water quality and quantity.
- 3) *Understanding Developmental Pressure Impacts on Our Water* - presentation on public policy that can impact water quality.
- 4) *Understanding Climate Change on Our Water Resources* - presentation on current understanding of potential climate change impacts to water quantity and, therefore, water quality in the Bitterroot.

4. How does the project fit into larger watershed efforts in the region?

Our Valley, Our Water will present a watershed-wide understanding related to water quality of what we are facing as the second largest growth county in Montana. Ravalli County has been struggling with growth and development and the relationship to potential natural resource degradation. This 4-part forum fits well with helping citizens understand how we need to take positive action to protect our water resources.

5. Who are the collaborating partners and how will they contribute to the project?

We plan to host speakers from the MT Bureau of Mines and Geology, US Bureau of Reclamation, local irrigation districts, and the Univ of Montana. We will solicit support in publicizing the forums from the Ravalli County Planning dept, Environmental Health dept, Bitter Root Trout Unlimited, Ravalli County Fish & Wildlife Assoc, and local fish guiding shops.

Project Considerations:

6. Who are the instructors/project leaders & what are their qualifications?

BRWF Board Chair, Al Pernichele, is organizing the forum of 4 presentations. Pernichele serves as the Bitterroot River Water Commissioner, Painted Rocks Reservoir Manager, and Right to Farm & Ranch Board member. Proposed speakers include representatives from the MT Bureau of Mines and Geology, US Bureau of Reclamation, Univ of MT faculty, Bitterroot Valley irrigation districts, and a local historian.

7. If equipment is being purchased, where will it be housed & how will it be maintained?

No equipment will be purchased

8. If funding is needed for a specific site event: where is it, how will transportation be provided & what contingencies have been made for rain days or alternative locations?

We anticipate holding the 4 forums at the Corvallis Grange for a fee of \$80 per evening. Parking is ample and no contingencies need be made for bad weather.

Objectives, Goals & Outcomes

9. What skills and abilities are to be developed from the project & what knowledge is to be gained from the project activities?

It is the purpose of the 4 forums to encourage citizens to make changes in their activities that will reduce negative impacts to the valley's water. As the second largest growth county in Montana, we have many new citizens who do not have a good understanding of our ground water / surface water interactions and how their activities play a role in the water quality. The model for climate change reflects a severe reduction to stream flows. How can we reduce our water usage and keep pollutants and sediments out of the waterways and groundwater? How can we help reduce water temperature when water flows are reduced? What is the geological makeup of the valley and how does it direct water movement? What changes can be made to make our irrigation practices more efficient? These are the types of questions we are hoping to encourage people to think about and to help resolve.

10. How will pre & post-project participant knowledge, skills, or behaviors be evaluated?

We plan on having sign-in sheets for each forum. After a period of 2-3 weeks, we will send out questionnaires to those who have provided us with contact information and ask them if the forum encouraged them to make changes to their behaviors and activities. We will ask how they may be doing things differently or planning differently for the future based on what they learned. These results will be reported to DEQ.

11. What are the expected measurable outcomes and long-term impacts of the project?

Based on our experience holding educational presentations, we anticipate hosting between 30 to 60 people at each of the 4 forums. We would, therefore, be educating and enlightening approximately 120 to 240 citizens about water quality and water quantity issues impacting our watershed. We hope to outline these forums such that each carries a take home message of actions that citizens can take to make a positive difference to our valley's water usage and water quality.

Budget

12. What is the cost of the project & where will the 40% local non-federal in-kind or cash match come from? List by line-item all of the anticipated expenses and match sources, using the following format as a guide:

	319 Mini-Grant	Other Grant*	Other Grant*	Other Grant*	In Kind	TOTAL
BRWF E.D. salary	\$ 455					\$ 455
Speaker's meals/lodging	\$ 200					\$ 200
Speaker's travel	\$ 300					\$ 300
Meeting Hall	\$ 320					\$ 320
Refreshments	\$ 100					\$ 100
Postage/Mailing	\$ 125					\$ 125
Attendance*					\$ 3,420	\$ 3,420
TOTALS	\$ 1,500	0	0	0	\$ 3,420	\$ 4,920

*Forum attendance: 4 forums x average 45 people x \$19 = \$3240

Project Continuation

13. What Opportunities Exist for Project Continuation or Expansion?

Each forum will include a question and answer period where group discussion is encouraged. We will learn from these group discussions where future emphasis should be placed for additional presentations and forums. Additionally, based on what we all learn from the group discussions, we will try to direct citizen initiatives and identify potential projects where on-the-ground activities can take place to improve or maintain water quality. The Bitter Root Water Forum hopes to solicit feedback from forum attendees concerning the topics that interest them for future presentations and forums on water quality in our watershed. We remain current on relevant policy initiatives and our goal is to create and maintain an informed citizenry and informed land stewards who want to take positive action for water quality in our watershed.