**Comments for FY2016 319 Nonpoint Source Preliminary Project Proposal**

**Sponsor:** Green Mountain Conservation District

**Project Title:** Improving Water Quality and Native Fish Habitat in the Vermilion River

**319 Request:** $185,000

**DEQ Prj Mgr:** Eric Trum (406) 444-0531 [etrum@mt.gov](mailto:etrum@mt.gov)

* 319 funding is competitive this year. Your funding request needs to be adequate, but not excessive.
* Prior to filling out the Final Project Proposal form, do the following:
  + Reread the Call For Project Proposals for FY2016, especially Attachment A – Project Scoring Sheet
  + Reread the Instructions for Completing 319 NPS Preliminary and Final Project Proposals (the Form Instructions)
  + Contact your DEQ Project Manager (noted above) for additional assistance
* Your Final Project Proposal must clearly demonstrate that all aspects of your project meet the following eligibility requirements:
  + Address nonpoint source pollution
  + Address impairments identified in Montana’s 2014 List of Impaired Waters
  + Implement goals and objectives identified in the 2012 Montana Nonpoint Source Management Plan
  + Directly implement projects or activities identified in a DEQ-accepted Watershed Restoration Plan (WRP)
* Proofread your Final Project Proposal. You may wish to read it out loud or ask a colleague to read it and provide comment.
* Complete all elements of the Final Project Proposal form. Pay special attention to the information requested in Section 1, as it seems to be a common source of errors. In Section 1 of the Final Project Proposal form, you do not need to include SWCDMI mini-grants in the list of open contracts.
* Section IV: Scope of Work must contain a separate task for each of the activities identified below where applicable. Attachment B of the Call For Project Proposals for FY2016 contains example template language for each of the four tasks:
  + Monitoring – For proposals involving on-the-ground projects, monitoring should evaluate the success of the project at reducing nonpoint source pollution. For projects addressing nitrogen, phosphorus or sediment, the monitoring task must include estimation of annual pollutant load reductions. For E&O projects, monitoring should include an evaluation of the activities’ effectiveness in reaching the target audience and achieving the desired outcomes.
  + Education and Outreach (E&O) – For proposals involving on-the-ground projects, E&O activities should be directly related to the project. To a limited extent, project sponsors may apply for funding for E&O projects that are not specifically related to an on-the-ground project, provided that the E&O projects are identified in their Watershed Restoration Plan.
  + Operation and Maintenance, Landowner Agreements – This only applies to contracts involving on-the-ground projects. Landowner agreements must address project design and implementation, revegetation of disturbed areas, operation and maintenance (for the life of the practice), and site access.
  + Contract Administration – Deliverables include status reports, annual reports and a final report as well as appropriate billing and contract management. The 319 funds requested for administrative activities must not exceed 10% of the total 319 funds request in your proposal; however, local match associated with administrative activities can exceed the 10% cap.
* Review all task timelines, the project milestone table, and other date-related information in the Final Project Proposal. Dates must be consistent with the anticipated 319 funding schedule. Funding is not likely to be available until late June or July, 2016, and contract work needs to be completed within 2 to 3 years.
* Remember to include all applicable attachments (see Section IV of the Final Project Proposal form).
* Late or incomplete Final Project Proposal Forms will not be considered. If you have any questions please call your DEQ Project Manager well before the Final Project Proposal due date of September 28, 2015.

*Other Comments*

* Further describe why this is the appropriate next step and necessary approach to removing the listed impairment causes to the Vermilion River.
* Further articulate the process for ensuring that the restored project area will be protected from historical and new causes of degradation to riparian and stream channel habitats, such as mining, livestock grazing, and timber harvest.
* Please provide the most up to date design plans and any additional data that support the need for this project.
* The timeline identified in your Project Proposal indicate that you hope to start implementation by July 2016. Funding will likely not be awarded until June or July of 2016. Review the timeline to ensure that they are feasible given funding availability.
* Describe the source of materials, including vegetation and large woody debris that will be used on this project.
* Describe the maintenance efforts that you will use to ensure the survival of riparian plantings, which are critical to the long term success of the project.