

August 31, 2012

Sun River Watershed Group
Alan Rollo
816 Grizzly Drive
Great Falls, MT 59404

RE: FY2013 319 Project Proposal: Muddy Creek Tributaries Riparian Improvements

Dear Sun River Watershed Group,

Thank you for submitting your 2013 Clean Water Act Section 319 grant project proposal entitled Muddy Creek Tributaries Riparian Improvements on behalf of the Sun River Watershed Group. This year we received 21 project proposals with a total request of about \$1,229,300; we anticipate being able to award about \$900,000 in 319 funds, therefore the competition for 2013 project funding will be high.

Attached are comments that DEQ is providing for your consideration in preparing your final application. These comments are meant to provide you with the technical advisory reviewers and DEQ's perspectives in hopes of helping you develop a successful grant application.

I recommend you contact and work closely with the Technical Coordinator listed below in developing a final grant application. The technical coordinator is your primary DEQ contact throughout this application process.

Name	Title	Telephone	Email
Mark Ockey	Technical Coordinator	406-444-5351	mockey@mt.gov

As a reminder, the final application needs to be e-mailed and a signed hard copy must be post-marked to me no later than 5:00 p.m. Monday, October 1, 2012. The Agency Review Panel will be meeting Tuesday, October 23, 2012 in Helena to review final applications; applicants should plan on attending the meeting to present and answer questions regarding applications. Additional details to follow.

Again, thank you for your project proposal submission and I hope your project is successful.

Sincerely,

Robert Ray, Manager
Watershed Protection Section
Water Quality Planning Bureau

Encl: Technical Review Comments
Change in Grant Application PDF Reader

Comments for FY2013, 319 Project Proposal

Category: Watershed Restoration
Sponsor: Sun River Watershed Group
Title: Muddy Creek Tributaries Riparian Improvements
319 Request: \$76,760

General Comments

- 319 funding is competitive this year. Please be thoughtful in your request for funds.
- Please ensure that your project relates to the goals and furthers the action plan of the 2012 NPS Management Plan.
- Please take the time to proofread the final application and ensure that it is consistent, free of errors and reads clearly.
- Please ensure that all the information in Section 1 of the Final Application is completed. This includes Project Location, Functional Category, Pollution Categories and relative Percents, Administrative Fee, Open Contracts (do not include mini-grants) and associated information.
- Please ensure timelines are included in the final application and that they are consistent with 319 funding, which will be available July 1, 2013.
- Please make sure that you include an Education and Outreach task and activities. The 319 funding request for E&O activities must be limited to no more than 10% of the total 319 funds request, however local match associated with E&O activities can exceed the 10% cap.
- Please ensure that a task is included to administer this contract. This task should include status reports, annual reports and a final report as well as appropriate billing and contract management. The 319 request for administrative activities must not exceed 10% of the total 319 funds request; however local match associated with administrative activities can exceed the 10% cap.
- Please ensure that you include a monitoring component for your project. For watershed restoration projects, monitoring is generally related to on-the-ground activities and relates to the impairment listings. For education & outreach monitoring is generally more of an evaluation of the project and how effective it was at achieving the desired outcomes.
- Late or incomplete applications will not be considered. If you have any questions please call your technical coordinator well before October 1, 2012.

Other Comments

- Several WAWG reviewers noted that this application looked like a placeholder. Concern was expressed over whether the projects identified in the application were actually tied to specific, geographical locations, land owners, and known pollutant sources.
- Please provide a more detailed explanation of the benefits of the project to water quality.
- What is the focus of the project. Is it for animal waste, nutrients, sediment, erosion, grazing, or something else? Please clarify.
- Will this project address nutrients in a stream listed as impaired for nutrients?
- In the application overview please address how the proposed activities address/support the Sun River Watershed Restoration Plan priorities.

- In the “Objectives” box on page 2 of the Project Proposal, the wording suggests that implementation of this project will directly result in meeting the TMDL targets. This is unrealistic. It will take a lot more than this project to clean up Muddy Creek.
- Check all your numbers; the math is not adding up between the tasks and the totals on the front page.
- Please identify exact project locations, descriptions, and purposes. More specific details are necessary for the entire application.
- Have the local landowners already agreed to this project? This needs to be spelled out more. Please include the specific landowners as project partners in the final application. Please submit letters of support from all of the landowners involved in the project(s).
- Please have the final application reviewed and edited by a competent technical editor before it is submitted.
- Has NRCS been approached for EQIP funding of these activities? Judging by the information in this application, these project activities could be eligible.
- Please identify any additional funding sources that will be contributing to the project. If there aren’t any additional sources (other than those listed in the Project Proposal), please explain why other appropriate funding sources are not participating?
- In the “Monitoring” box on page 2 of your project proposal, you state “A comprehensive Sampling and Analysis Plan (SAP) will be developed with DEQ as part of the TMDL/Water Quality Plan.” The TMDL/Water Quality Plan has been done for years. What is the SAP that you are referring to?
- Please identify the questions you will answer and the decisions you might make with the monitoring you are proposing.
- Please include development of load reduction estimates for sediment, nitrogen, and phosphorus (where applicable) in both the SAP task and the monitoring task.
- The dollar figure in Task 4 exceeds the 10% cap on E&O. Please reduce the amount of 319 funds requested for Task 4 to 10% or less of the total 319 funds requested.
- Please make sure that all aspects of the E&O task clearly relate to nonpoint source pollution.
- Please make sure that more of the E&O task deliverables tie back to the on-the-ground projects associated with this particular project proposal (e.g. the annual tour should probably include a stop at the proposed project sites).
- Please make sure that the land use workshops, the annual tours, and the annual meetings are all separate, distinct events.
- Please submit a letter of support from MSU, and a letter of support from Teton CD with the final application.
- DEQ requires justification for an advance grant payment. Include specific details on what the advance will be used for.

To: 319 Grant Applicants
From: MT DEQ (Stephanie Crider)
Date: August 17, 2012
Subject: Change in Grant Application PDF Reader

Recently, Adobe Acrobat changed its licensing agreement resulting in the immediate change of format for any editable PDF files created by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). The result of this is still an editable PDF file for the Final 319 Grant Application, however, it will likely need to be opened and edited in a different PDF reader.

When you go to the DEQ website to download the final application you will be directed to a page detailing this change (see below). There are several options for free PDF readers; Foxit Reader is very similar to Adobe Acrobat, and quite user friendly. If you have any questions regarding the format of the application and how to use a different reader, please direct them to me, Stephanie Crider, at scrider@mt.gov or 406-444-2478.

The screenshot shows the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) website. The header includes the "mt.gov" logo and the text "Montana's Official State Website". The navigation bar lists "DEQ Home", "Divisions", "Public Interest", "Online Services", "Contacts", and "Search". A search box contains the text "What are you looking for?". The breadcrumb trail reads "Home » Information Technology » PDF Downloads".

Adobe Acrobat Users

The PDF file you requested contains a form for entering information. Due to changes in Adobe's license agreement you will not be able to save this form using Adobe Acrobat Reader.

Please consider installing one of the alternate PDF readers listed below to enter and save your data.

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Project Proposal Form (fillable PDF form)

Alternate PDF Readers

Note: The State of Montana provides the following links only as suggestions, we do not support this software in any way.

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