

August 31, 2012

Trout Unlimited
Heather Whiteley
111 N Higgins, Suite 500
Missoula, MT 59802

RE: FY2013 319 Project Proposal: East Fork Bitterroot River, Watershed Improvement Project

Dear Trout Unlimited,

Thank you for submitting your 2013 Clean Water Act Section 319 grant project proposal entitled "East Fork Bitterroot River, Watershed Improvement Project" on behalf of Trout Unlimited. 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
Elena Evans	Technical Coordinator	406-444-0531	eevans2@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: Trout Unlimited
Title: East Fork Bitterroot River, Watershed Improvement Project
319 Request: \$30,000

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

- All partners, including local watershed groups, should be listed. Please provide some discussion of TU's relationship with the Bitter Root Water Forum. How does the Bitter Root Forum's Watershed Restoration Plan inform your actions.
- Is the EA the primary watershed planning document? Please note if the EA is in lieu of a WRP.
- Describe the level of road closure and the associated costs, including cost per mile. commensurate with closure level costs in similar Forest Service road decommissioning projects.
- Identify how the project will meet SAP/QAPP requirements.
- Reviewers expressed concern regarding the monitoring aspect of the project, most specifically about how the limits of the three-year timeframe of a 319 contract might prevent your group from gathering adequate data, using the methods you are proposing, to draw defensible conclusions. Working with large structural pieces like woody debris often adds variability to the





river's response time. Changes in flow also can be difficult to characterize within a short period of time.

- Please consider using alternative methods for determining load reductions. You should look for more sensitive monitoring techniques or (preferably) identify modeling that can be used to calculate the load reductions.
- You will need to develop a Sampling and Analysis Plan (SAP) and perhaps a Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) for this kind of project. Reviewers were not sure if \$5,000 would cover the cost for the planning documents and the monitoring.
- Do not count on 319 monies being available in March; July 1st is more realistic.
- You need to add an overview of how you will partner with the Bitter Root Water Forum and the roles that each group will play.
- Please double check the cost per mile to decommission the roads. In your final application, please provide the details of how the cost was calculated.
- Reviewers noted some confusion around the terms 'administrative closure' and 'decommissioning.' Please clarify which strategy is going to be used. Please consider contacting the US Forest Service for help in sorting this out.

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.




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