



Section 319 Grant - Final Application

Final Applications are due Monday, October 1, 2012

Hand delivered on Oct 1st 2012
S. L. L. 10/1/12

Section I: General Information

Project Title North American Envirothon

Project Sponsor Information

Sponsor Name Soil and Water Conservation Districts of Montana, Inc.

Tax Identification # 23-7096823

County Lewis and Clark

Website _____

DUNS # 805140837

Primary Contact Jan Fontaine

Signatory Jeff Tiberi

Title Administrative Assistant

Title Executive Director

Address 790 Colleen Street

Address 790 Colleen Street

City Helena State Montana Zip Code 59601

City Helena State Montana Zip Code 59601

Phone Number 406.443.5711

Phone Number 406.443.5711

Fax Number 406.449.5039

Fax Number 406.449.5039

E-mail Address mail@macdnet.org

E-mail Address jtiberi@macdnet.org

Signature [Signature]

Signature [Signature]

Project Location

Statewide ☒ If project is not statewide please complete the rest of this section.

How is project related to a TMDL? _____

Watershed Name or HUC # _____

TMDL Planning Area _____

Project 1 Name	Latitude (1)	Longitude (1)
Project 2 Name	Latitude (2)	Longitude (2)
Project 3 Name	Latitude (3)	Longitude (3)
Project 4 Name	Latitude (4)	Longitude (4)
Project 5 Name	Latitude (5)	Longitude (5)

Nonpoint Source (NPS) Information

319 Project Category	<u>Education and Outreach</u>	Waterbody Type	<u>River/Stream</u>
Functional Category	<u>Statewide Education/Information Program</u>	Is waterbody on the 2010 Impaired Waters List?	<u>No</u>
1st Pollution Category	<u>Agriculture (Grazing Related Sources)</u>	Percent of Total (%)	<u>40</u>
2nd Pollution Category	<u>Agriculture (Non-Irrigated Crop Production)</u>	Percent of Total (%)	<u>20</u>
3rd Pollution Category	<u>Hydromodification (Removal of Riparian Vegetation)</u>	Percent of Total (%)	<u>20</u>
4th Pollution Category	<u>Silviculture (Forest Management)</u>	Percent of Total (%)	<u>20</u>

Project Funding

319 Funds Requested

Does the project sponsor have any open 319 contracts?

Matching Funds

State Match

State In-Kind Match

Local Funds

Other Match

Total Matching Funds

Other Federal Funds

Total Project Budget

Advance Requested* Administrative Fee

**Advances require additional justification and DEQ approval.*

Project Title Education & Outreach Minigrants

DEQ Contract Number 211070

319 Award \$30,000.00

Projected Closing Date June 30, 2013

Project Title Education & Outreach Minigrants

DEQ Contract Number 212068

319 Award \$25,000.00

Projected Closing Date June 30, 2014

Project Description

Methods: Please describe the specific activities of this project.

This grant will help fund the 2013 North American Envirothon, which Montana is very proud to host. The N.A. Envirothon is a natural resource scholarship competition for high school students. After teams from across the U.S., and Canada win their state/provincial/territorial competition, they gather at the annual N.A. Envirothon, a week-long culminating competition. Students are trained and tested in 5 natural resource areas: aquatics, soils, forestry, wildlife, and an issue that embraces a current problem from the host locale. Montana's local problem will be related to watershed health and sustainability in the rangeland ecosystem.

Objectives: Please describe the specific/measurable objectives that will ensure the achievement of the project goal(s).

The objectives are twofold: (1) test the environmental knowledge and understanding of high school students of local (host) resource issues; and (2) cultivate within high school students a desire to learn more about their natural world. Student teams will learn about and be tested on the importance and interactions of aquatics, soils, forestry, and wildlife to watershed health; the teams will investigate and ultimately understand the importance of healthy rangelands as related to water quality and non-point source pollution. Their measure of knowledge is the final test scores and final presentations by all teams; each team prepares a formal presentation addressing a specific local natural resource problem. In MT, the problem will incorporate natural resource health and water quality in a rangeland ecosystem incorporating aquatics, soils, forestry, and wildlife. Students will learn that proper rangeland management reduces non-point source pollution through healthy soils, forestry BMPs, riparian buffers, and wise water management (irrigation).

Overview: Please provide a brief summary of the proposed project.

N.A. Envirothon's mission is to develop knowledgeable, skilled, dedicated citizens with an understanding of healthy, sustainable natural resources and water quality, and who are willing and prepared to work toward achieving and maintaining a balance between quality of life and quality of the environment. This is accomplished by developing an understanding of the principles and practices of natural resource management and ecology and through practice dealing with complex resource management decisions on a watershed scale. Envirothon annually awards scholarships totaling \$107,000 for 50 students on the top ten teams. We anticipate greater participation than the 2010 competition that hosted more than 600 students, advisors, resource professionals, volunteers and guests representing 45 states and 9 Canadian provinces. The competition is an action-packed week of training, tours, and presentations: Sunday is Opening Day; Monday is Training Day; Tuesday is Testing Day; Wednesday is Tour Day; Thursday is Presentation Preparation Day; Friday is Finals Presentation Day; and Saturday is Departure Day. Local, volunteer resource professionals will run 5 training stations (aquatic, soil, forestry, wildlife, and rangeland health) and the teams are subsequently tested in each natural resource focus. Team members compete in ensuing years until they graduate from high school. Each team is made up of 5 students. Representatives from MT who will benefit from this unique and important educational experience include our 5 team members, 2-3 station leaders at each of the 5 training stations, 10-15 volunteers at each training station, 60 judges, and upwards of 100 additional volunteers who will be present for the final team presentations and awards ceremony. The publicity from the event will reach thousands of Montanans with enthusiasm and pride in the event carrying forward for multiple years.

The specific problem for student teams in the 2013 N.A. Envirothon in MT is a highly guarded secret. The theme of the problem relates to managing for sustainability and natural resource health across different land uses in an agricultural (rangeland) environment. According to the EPA, non-point source pollution generally results from land runoff, precipitation, atmospheric deposition, drainage, seepage, or hydrologic modification and results from excess fertilizers, herbicides and insecticides from agricultural lands, sediment from improperly managed crop and forest lands, salt from irrigation practices, eroding streambanks, bacteria and nutrients from livestock, and hydromodification. Improperly managed agricultural lands (grazed forest, irrigated and non-irrigated croplands, hay lands, and grazing lands) in MT can contribute greatly to our non-point source pollution problem. Participants at the 2013 N.A. Envirothon will not only learn about the causes of non-point source pollution and the importance of water quality to healthy rangeland ecosystems, but they will be involved in solving a complex problem to address the issue. They will then present the results of their training and research, therefore learning how to carry an important message forward to the media and public-at-large. Additionally, educational guides from the 5 training stations will be available for all youth and adult education programs for years to come across Montana.

Section II: Background Information

A: Statement of Need and Intent

According to the EPA, the nation's largest water quality problem is non-point source pollution and the latest National Water Quality Inventory indicates that agriculture is the leading contributor to water quality impairment. Montana has 2,550,000 cattle/calves and 255,000 sheep/lambs. In 2009 all field crops harvested in MT were valued at \$1.8 billion. Our most valuable crop is wheat (3rd in total production) followed by hay. The total land area of the state is 93.1 million acres, of which 66% is dedicated to agriculture in 29,500 farms and ranches. It is imperative to the water quality of our state that our farms and ranches are managed properly and sound management practices come from education.

Through hosting the 2013 N.A. Envirothon, we have an unparalleled and significant opportunity to reach over 150 Montana participants directly and thousands of Montanans indirectly through educational materials and media exposure with the strong message that proper rangeland stewardship leads to healthy natural resources and clean water. We will make a difference on the ground because we are hosting an event where 300+ students are solving complex rangeland health problems. Agricultural producers will be inspired to match and exceed the bar set by these forward thinking and creative high school students. Additionally, we expect this event to generate increased interest in the annual Montana Envirothon, which this year included 190 students from Montana high schools. These students are the future of Montana agriculture.

Another asset from this competition will be that the educational guides prepared for the training will be available for all youth and adult education programs for years to come across Montana. This is one of the highest values for the state's non-point source pollution education and outreach program.

We are requesting \$25,000 in 319 grant funding for 3 tasks totaling \$95,000. This \$25,000 grant represents 5.9 percent of the total N.A. Envirothon expenses of \$422,550. The balance will come contributions, sponsorships, grants, and fees.

B: Collaborative Effort

Partner	Role
Fergus County Conservation District	The Fergus County Conservation District Administrator is Co-Chair of the 2013 North American Envirothon and the CD is supporting hours of her time while she organizes and oversees the event. They will also make a cash contribution.
Petroleum County Conservation District	The Petroleum County Conservation District Administrator is Chair of the fundraising committee and the CD is supporting hours of her time while she oversees raising the revenue to fund the event. They will also make a cash contribution.
Montana Salinity Control Association and MT Chapter Soil & Water Conservation	The MSCA Program Director is a committee member organizing the event and MSCA and MCSWC are co-sponsoring and leading the Yellowstone National Park field trip.
Montana State University	The 2013 North American Envirothon will be held at MSU, who will be supplying the lodging and meals.
Missouri River Conservation Districts Council	The MRCDC Coordinator is a member of the fundraising committee. MRCDC is supporting hours of her time while she applies for grants and solicits sponsors and donors. MRCDC has also made a \$1,000 cash contribution to the event.

Additional Information (Collaborative Effort)

This week-long scholarship event scheduled two years in advance is an enormous undertaking that involves thousands of hours of volunteer effort from the planning stages through the event week and beyond as we continue to promote our success and the message that good rangeland management leads to healthy natural resources and improved water quality through reduced non-point source pollutants. Additional partners and volunteers include DNRC, NRCS, USFWS, NW Farm Credit Service, MSU-Extension, North American Envirothon, prior state hosts, and anticipated sponsors, contributors and grantors yet to be determined.

Funding Organization	Award Amount	Project Description	Project Status	Contact Information
BLM	\$25,000 \$25,000 \$20,000	Using mini grants promote conservation of sage grouse with proper range management & education Continuation of above Continuation of above	on going on going on going	Lori Anderson 406.896.5196 landerson@blm.gov
DEQ	\$100,000	Conservation Advisor for Livestock Operations (CALO) - project coordination, farm assessments, and mini grants	on going	Mark Ockey 406.444.5351 mockey@mt.gov
DEQ	\$30,000 \$30,000 \$25,500	Education & Outreach mini grants to conservation districts & other government entities, watersheds, non-profits, and teachers. Same as above Same as above	completed on going on going	Laura Andersen 406.444.0549 landersen3@mt.gov
DEQ	\$20,000 \$20,000 \$25,000	Strengthening watershed communities through education & outreach for the Montana Watershed Coordination Council Same as above Same as above	completed completed on going	Robert Ray 406.444.5319 rray@mt.gov
DEQ	\$100,000	Water Quality Assistance & Support for watersheds and conservation districts to assist in the restoration of water quality and remove the need for a TMDL	on going	Mark Bostrom 406.444.2680 mbostrom@mt.gov

Additional Information (Planning and Management)

DRNC	\$25,000	For the past fifteen plus years SWCDMI has held a 1 1/2 day yearly high school education event called the Montana Envirothon where 150-200 students compete for college scholarships	on going	Laura Zeller 406.444.6669 lzeller@mt.gov
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Section III: Project Components

A: Education and Outreach: Please briefly describe the education and outreach component of this proposal and the target audience.

Our target audience is tiered. The primary focus of Envirothon is natural resource education for high school students, an audience that has shown consistent interest in natural resource and environmental issues. The MT team to the N.A. Envirothon consists of 5 students who won the MT Envirothon. We expect over 300 students from around North America. The MT team promotes Envirothon and their success as the state champions by making presentations throughout the forthcoming year(s) at schools, conservation district meetings, the annual MT Association of Conservation Districts convention, and civic group meetings where they explain what they learned about natural resource issues and solutions. This outreach helps empower new students to participate in Envirothon and promotes practices, that from the 2013 event, will reduce non-point source pollution through agricultural BMPs. Our audience also includes the 150+ volunteers, whose assistance and dedication will make this event a success. Volunteers come from various areas, backgrounds, and interests from all over MT. Everyone who participates in this 5-day event will come away with a clear understanding of natural resource and water quality (non-point source pollution) concerns and solutions in a rangeland ecosystem, that includes irrigated and non-irrigated cropland, grazing lands, forested range, and riparian areas. A large component of our target audience is the general public who will be reached through event promotion, publicity and media reporting. Hosting the 2013 N.A. Envirothon is an enormous opportunity for MT and all involved are proud to highlight our state's primary industry and our efforts toward natural resource and water quality protection. Lessons learned from a successful N.A. Envirothon will be shared and emphasized by participants in ensuing years.

C: Operation and Maintenance

An Operation and Maintenance component is necessary if the proposed project includes installation of on-the-ground practices. This section does not apply to our Education & Outreach project.

D: Monitoring: Please briefly describe the monitoring component of this proposal.

Monitoring is outlined in section 4.0, Criteria Specifically for Watershed Restoration Projects. This section does not apply to our Education & Outreach project. However, our method for measuring success includes examination of the final tests and the final presentations required from each team. Another measure of success is our analysis of increased participation from high school students in the 2014 MT Envirothon. How these students carry their learning forward as they become the land stewards of the future is more difficult to measure. Water quality in MT rangeland ecosystems should continue to improve as non-point source pollutants are identified and reduced or eliminated through education from projects such as this.

Section IV: Scope of Work

Task 1 Title Administration

Description

Manage project financial responsibilities and execute all contracts in accordance with State contracting requirements. Project invoices, payments, financial reports, and project budgeting shall be administered by project sponsor, Soil and Water Conservation Districts of Montana, Inc.

Deliverables

Management and reporting of funds; preparation and distribution of final report.

Task 1 Funding

319 Funds

Non-Federal Match

Other Federal Funds

Total Cost

Is Match Secured?

Timeline Oct 10, 2013 (60 days from event culmination) Match Source N/A

Task 2 Title Student Team Training Stations

Description

- Our volunteer leader of the Soils Training Station is a professional soil scientist with the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). He is responsible for developing the training curriculum on soil structure, map interpretation, land form evaluation and soil characteristics that effect agricultural and development issues, addressing non-point source pollutants and water quality.
- Our volunteer leader of the Aquatics Training Station is a professional fisheries biologist with MT Fish Wildlife & Parks. Students will work alongside the station leader to assess the quality of delicate aquatic ecosystems. They also learn to identify aquatic organisms, manage watersheds, and determine non-point source pollution.
- Our volunteer leader of the Forestry Training Station is retired from the U.S. Forest Service. With the guidance of professional foresters, students will learn basic forestry principles and best management practices - from tree identification and forest structure and dynamics to sediment reduction and erosion control.
- Our volunteer leader of the Range Training Station is a rangeland management specialist with NRCS. Students will learn basic range BMPs and how sound practices can reduce run-off, increase soil infiltration, reduce salinity, improve riparian health, and reduce non-point source pollutants.

Deliverables

Teams rotate through the each training station as they prepare for taking teams tests and begin laying the ground work for their final presentations. We will provide the educational guides prepared for the training stations with our final report.

Task 2 Funding

319 Funds

Non-Federal Match

Other Federal Funds

Total Cost

Is Match Secured?

Timeline Oct 10, 2013 (60 days from event) Match Source MT Dept Natural Resources & Conservation

Description

A full day is devoted for team testing. Teams will be taken off site (location is secret until arrival) to an area where they undergo extensive hands-on learning and tying together everything they learned from the training stations. This site also prepares students for addressing the current, local issue/problem that will be presented to teams on day-5. Teams will rotate around the five testing stations and take written exams.

Deliverables

Teams will be tested on the knowledge obtained from each training station and they will be required to incorporate aspects of from each training station into addressing the local environmental problem in their final presentations. We will report test results in our final report. We will report results on the awards scholarships totaling \$107,000 for 50 students on the top ten teams. (The tests can not be shared).

Task 3 Funding

319 Funds	<input type="text" value="\$10,000.00"/>
Non-Federal Match	<input type="text" value="\$30,000.00"/>
Other Federal Funds	<input type="text"/>
Total Cost	<input type="text" value="\$40,000.00"/>
Is Match Secured?	<input type="text" value="Yes"/>

Timeline Oct 10, 2013 (60 days from event culmination)

Match Source North American Envirothon

Task 4 Title Student Team Presentations

Description

A full day is devoted for teams to work on their final presentations. On the morning of presentation day, teams are given the current, local problem/issue that they need to address in their presentation. As previously explained, this issue will be related to natural resource and water quality protection in a rangeland ecosystem in Montana. The detailed problem is a highly guarded secret. The top 3 current issue presentations are delivered to the entire Envirothon preceding an awards ceremony and dinner the evening before departure.

Deliverables

Teams will put together presentations incorporating what they have learned and applying that knowledge to solving a current, local environmental problem in a rangeland ecosystem. We will summarize the winning presentation in our final report.

Task 4 Funding

319 Funds	<input type="text" value="\$5,000.00"/>
Non-Federal Match	<input type="text" value="\$20,000.00"/>
Other Federal Funds	<input type="text"/>
Total Cost	<input type="text" value="\$25,000.00"/>
Is Match Secured?	<input type="text" value="No"/>

Timeline Oct 10, 2013 (60 days from event culmination)

Match Source Various Conservation Districts across Montana

Section V: Supporting Documents

A: Detailed Project Budget

	Cash Match			In-Kind Match				
Task Number and Specific Action	Private	State	Federal	Private	State	Federal	319 Funds	Total Costs
1. Administration							\$0	\$0
2. Student Team Training Stations		\$20,000					\$10,000	\$30,000
3. Student Team Testing	\$30,000						\$10,000	\$40,000
4. Student Team Presentations	\$20,000						\$5,000	\$25,000
TOTAL	\$50,000	\$20,000					\$25,000	\$95,000

B: Project Milestone Table: Please complete the following Project Milestone Table by entering task numbers and titles in the left hand column, then check the box(es) for the appropriate quarter(s) and year(s) in which the task will take place. 10/4/12

Milestone	2QT 2013	3QT 2013	4QT 2013	1QT 2014	2QT 2014	3QT 2014	4QT 2014	1QT 2015	2QT 2015	3QT 2015	4QT 2015	1QT 2016
1. Administration	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Student Team Training Stations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Student Team Testing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Student Team Presentations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Please ensure that you submit a project map(s) and letters of support along with this Final Application form. If design drawings are available please provide those as well. For on-the-ground work please include copies of the applicable permits.

☐ **C: Project Map**

☒ **D: Letters of Support**

☐ **E: Design Drawings**

☐ **F: Applicable Permits**

G: Comments: Please use the space provided for any additional information that may not have been captured by this application form.

This annual natural resource scholarship competition that spans North America is an excellent hands-on education program for all the high school student teams, and everyone else who participates. It is to the credit of Montana's strong annual state Envirothon program that the North American competition will be held here in 2013. We have selected native range as the primary focus for the competition. Range lands are a major source of watershed filtration and ground water recharge providing improved water quality and quantity. Grazing lands represent the single largest watershed cover type in the U.S., with nearly 600 million acres of non-federal grazing lands.

The 30 teams preparing for this competition will learn the importance of rangelands and how to effectively steward these lands. This competition will lead directly to improved water quality and increased water quantity from our Montana and nation's rangelands by reaching out to a pro-active group of youth that will in turn educate an even wider audience. The youth will use the values they gain from this broad-based educational opportunity in their future careers. And the media attention this event will draw will carry the message that properly managed rangelands lead to improved water quality across Montana.



Fergus Conservation District

211 McKinley, Suite 3
Lewistown, MT 59457

Phone: 406-538-7401 ext. 101
Fax: 406-538-9353

September 24, 2012

To Whom It May Concern:

Montana is very excited in hosting the 2013 North American Envirothon.

This event will allow us to showcase our beautiful state as well as our natural resource protection measures.

Montana's topic is Range management, so water quality and non-point source pollution will be highlighted in each of the 5 stations. These stations are: Aquatic/ecology, Soils/land use, Forestry, Wildlife, and of course the current issue of Rangelands will address resource concerns associated with a healthy range ecosystem. Properly managed rangeland provides a healthy environment for clean water.


Fergus Conservation District has supported the Montana Envirothon and the North American Envirothon over the past sixteen years. Shonny Nordlund, Fergus Conservation District Administrator has coordinated the Montana Envirothon for the past 15 years, serves on the North American Committee and served on the Board of Directors (Canon Envirothon) now known as the North American Envirothon, she also served as Chairman of the Board of Directors for 2 terms. She is well versed with the program and impacts this program can have on students in Montana and North America. Many students who have participated in the Envirothon have received college degrees in Natural Resources, which could bring in new employees to any of the Natural Resource jobs available in North America.

Shonny Nordlund is co-chair of the North American 2013 event to be held in Montana and was active in getting the event hosted in Montana. Each year the Envirothon touches and positively influences the lives of over 500,000 young people across the country. This number continues to grow, and now includes 45 US states and nine Canadian provinces. By the year 2014, the North American Envirothon hopes to have all 50 states participating as well as additional Canadian provinces and territories.

The requested grant funding will assist the 2013 North American planning committee in making preparations for hundreds of students, advisors and others to visit Montana and participate in North America's largest natural resource competition for high school students. The 26th North American Envirothon will be held at Montana State University located in Bozeman on August 4-10, 2013.

We thank you in advance for your financial assistance in hosting this extraordinary event in Montana.

Sincerely,


Dan Stilson
Chairman, FCD

Local Common Sense Conservation

1601 2nd Ave. North, Ste. 601
Great Falls, MT 59401



Phone: (406) 454-0056
mrcdc@MissouriRiverCouncil.info
www.MissouriRiverCouncil.info

October 1, 2012

Robert Ray, Watershed Protection Section Supervisor
Water Quality Planning Bureau, Department of Environmental Quality
1520 E. Sixth Avenue
P.O. Box 200901
Helena, MT 59620-0901

Re: Soil and Water Conservation Districts of Montana, Inc. 319 Grant Application

Dear Mr. Ray:

On behalf of the Missouri River Conservation Districts Council, which represents the 15 conservation districts that border the Missouri River in Montana, I encourage you to fully fund the Education and Outreach 319 grant submitted by the Soil and Water Conservation Districts of Montana, Inc. This grant will help fund the 2013 North American Envirothon, which Montana is privileged to host. The N.A. Envirothon is a week-long event where state, provincial, and territorial winning teams meet in a culminating natural resource scholarship competition.

The topic for the 2013 N.A. Envirothon is healthy and sustainable rangeland ecosystems and according to the EPA, agriculture is a leading contributor to water quality impairment. Preventing non-source point pollutants on rangelands is imperative to protecting water quality in our state.

The N.A. Envirothon is a unique and important opportunity to reach over 150 Montana students, volunteers and participants in one event. Additionally, the media exposure and promotion has the capability of reaching thousands more in our state with information about the importance of rangeland BMPs to reducing non-point source pollution and protecting water quality.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Nick Schultz

Nick Schultz
Chair

Gallatin Conservation District
Broadwater Conservation District
Lewis & Clark Conservation District
Cascade Conservation District
Chouteau County Conservation District

Blaine County Conservation District
Big Sandy Conservation District
Fergus Conservation District
Petroleum County Conservation District
Phillips Conservation District

Garfield County Conservation District
Valley County Conservation District
McCone Conservation District
Roosevelt County Conservation District
Richland County Conservation District

Montana Salinity Control Association

P.O. Box 909
Conrad, Montana 59425
Phone and Fax (406) 278-3071
Email msca@3rivers.net

Saline Seep Reclamation Areas



September 24, 2012

Robert Ray
Watershed Protection Section
Water Quality Planning Bureau/DEQ
Helena, MT 59620-0901

Dear Robert,

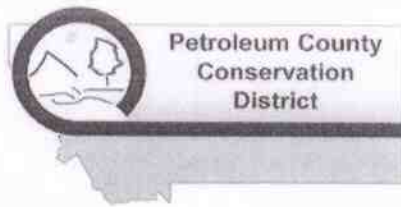
On behalf of the MT Salinity Control Association, I urge you to support and fully fund the application for the 2013 North American Envirothon competition. The annual natural resource competition program is highly regarded as an excellent hands-on education program for the winning teams. It is to the credit of Montana's strong annual program that the national competition will be held here in 2013. Montana has chosen native range as the primary focus for the competition. Range lands are a major source of watershed filtration and ground water recharge providing improved water quality and quantity. Grazing lands represent the single largest watershed cover type in the U.S., with nearly 600 million acres of non-federal grazing lands.

There will be up to 30 teams preparing for this competition by learning the importance of rangelands and how to effectively steward these lands specifically within their own region and then for the protection on a national level. In Montana, the message will be to protect and utilize the resource for long-term conservation and economic viability. This competition will lead directly to improved water quality and increased water quantity from our nation's rangelands by reaching out to a pro-active group of youth that will in turn educate an even wider audience. The youth will use the values they'll gain from this broad-based educational opportunity in their future careers.

Another asset from this competition will be that the educational guides prepared for the training will be available for all youth and adult education programs for years to come across Montana. This is the perhaps the highest value for the state's non-point source education and out-reach program.

Sincerely,

Jane Holzer
Program Director



Petroleum County Conservation District

P.O. Box 118, Winnett, MT 59087-0118

406-429-6646 phone; 406-429-2015 fax

carie.hess@mt.nacdnet.net

Local Common Sense Conservation

Ralph Corbett, *Chairman*, **Craig Iverson** - *Vice Chair*, **Laura Kiehl** - *Treasurer*,
Rodney Rowton - *Supervisor*, **Diane Ahlgren** - *Supervisor MMWG, RC&D*, **Dave Skinner** - *Supervisor*
Nick Schultz - *Associate Supervisor & MRCDC*

September 24, 2012

Robert Ray
Watershed Protection Section
Water Quality Planning Bureau/ DEQ
Helena, Mt. 59620-0901

Dear Robert,

On behalf of the Petroleum County Conservation District, we urge you to support and fund the grant application for the 2013 North American Envirothon. Montana has been selected to host this event and thus it will allow us to showcase our beautiful state and the natural resources that it has to offer. Each year the Envirothon touches and positively influences the lives of over 500,000 young people across the country. Montana has chosen the topic of Range Management for this competition and will address the resource concerns associated with a healthy rangeland ecosystem. With this topic, water quality and non-point source pollution will be included in each of the 5 stations. Rangelands are a major source of watershed filtration and groundwater recharge, providing improved water quality and quantity. Grazinglands represent the single largest watershed cover type in the US with nearly 600 million acres of non-federal grazing lands. Properly managed rangeland provides a healthy environment for clean water.

The requested grant funding will assist the 2013 North American planning committee in making the preparations for hundreds of students, advisors, and others to visit Montana and participate in North America's largest natural resource competition for high school students.

We thank you for your time and consideration for this funding opportunity.

Sincerely,

Carie Hess, District Administrator

On behalf of Petroleum County Conservation District

Robert Ray, Watershed Protection Section Supervisor
Water Quality Planning Bureau, Department of Environmental Quality
1520 E. Sixth Avenue
P.O. Box 200901
Helena, MT 59620-0901

September 30, 2012

Re: 319 Grant – Letter of Support

Dear Mr. Ray,

We, the Rangeland Resources Executive Committee (RREC), would like to express support to the Soil and Water Conservation Districts of Montana Incorporated (SWCDMI) and the 319 Grant application for the 2013 North American Envirothon. The RREC is a committee of six ranchers from across the state, who are appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the governor.

As a committee devoted to the management and sustainability of Montana rangelands, we feel the Envirothon is an excellent way to teach youth about rangeland and how non-point source pollution can impact this resource. As stated in Title 76-14 of the MCA, we support *"the importance of Montana's rangeland with respect to livestock, forage, wildlife habitat, high-quality water production, pollution control, erosion control, recreation, and the natural beauty of the state is recognized."* This specific project is an exemplary way to show our support of education on rangelands and non-point source pollution.

As most of us on the RREC serve on Conservation District boards as well, we are supportive of Conservation Districts in Montana. We whole-heartedly support the SWCDMI in this grant application and look forward to seeing the successful results of the 2013 North American Envirothon.

If any further information is needed please do not hesitate to contact me at (406) 738-4332 or the Rangeland Resources Program Coordinator, Heidi Crum at hcrum@mt.gov (406) 444-6619.

Respectfully,

Steve Hedstrom
RREC Chairman