

Section I: General Information

Project Title Lower Gallatin Watershed Restoration Plan

Project Sponsor Information

Sponsor Name Greater Gallatin Watershed Council (GGWC)

Tax Identification # 13-4293305

County Gallatin

Website www.greatergallatin.org

DUNS # _____

Primary Contact Sierra Harris

Signatory Heidi Giem

Title Watershed Coordinator

Title Treasurer, GGWC Board of Directors

Address P.O. Box 751

Address P.O. Box 751

City Bozeman State Montana Zip Code 59771

City Bozeman State Montana Zip Code 59771

Phone Number (406) 551-0804

Phone Number (406) 490-3473

Fax Number N/A

Fax Number N/A

E-mail Address info@greatergallatin.org

E-mail Address hgiem@jccscpa.com

Signature _____

Signature _____

Project Location

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

How is project related to a TMDL? Implementing a TMDL

Watershed Name or HUC # Lower Gallatin Watershed

TMDL Planning Area

Lower Gallatin Watershed

Project 1 Name Lower Gallatin Watershed Rest. Plan

Latitude (1) 45.6810

Longitude (1) -111.0330

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 Watershed Restoration

Waterbody Type

River/Stream

Functional Category Watershed Management

Is waterbody on the 2010 Impaired Waters List?

Yes

1st Pollution Category Urban Runoff/Stormwater (Municipal)

Percent of Total (%) 20

2nd Pollution Category Agriculture (Irrigated Crop Production)

Percent of Total (%) 30

3rd Pollution Category Agriculture (Grazing Related Sources)

Percent of Total (%) 30

4th Pollution Category Urban Runoff/Stormwater (Residential, e.g., non-commercial automotive/p

Percent of Total (%) 20

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 Phase 4, Lower Gallatin Watershed TMDL

DEQ Contract Number 209079

319 Award \$90,000.00

Projected Closing Date November 30, 2012

Project Title Integrating Wetlands into WRP Planning

DEQ Contract Number 211096

319 Award \$8,000.00

Projected Closing Date December 30, 2012

Project Description

Methods: Please describe the specific activities of this project.

This project will involve the process of developing a Watershed Restoration Plan (WRP) for the Lower Gallatin Watershed. The Lower Gallatin Watershed's Total Maximum Daily Load Plan (TMDL) is nearly complete (*currently in Public review process*). Utilizing public awareness of watershed issues, the development of a WRP for the Lower Gallatin area is a logical next step to take towards continuing improvements in water quality and habitat conditions in our local watershed. Recognizing that this is a very large project, GGWC plans to hire a contractor to work with the Board in developing a stakeholder committee and in the development of the Lower Gallatin's WRP.

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

Once funds are awarded in 2013, GGWC will coordinate stakeholders meetings and begin the process of developing and writing the Lower Gallatin Watershed Restoration Plan (LGWRP). GGWC will plan to provide a draft WRP to stakeholders for comment within one year of receiving funds. GGWC will plan to provide a finished WRP to the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (MT-DEQ) within 18 months of receiving funds. Throughout the writing process, GGWC will begin planning the design and implementation of the WRP. This overlap will allow stakeholders to prioritize project areas within the LGWRP. Once completed, GGWC will apply for additional 319 funds to begin the "on-the-ground" implementation portion of the WRP.

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

MDEQ has identified 14 streams with water quality pollutant impairments in the Lower Gallatin Watershed. Impairments include nutrients, e.coli/fecal coliform, and sediment. A draft TMDL document is currently under development for the Lower Gallatin Watershed. This document will provide the framework for a water quality improvement plan for area streams that have been determined to not meet water quality standards within our watershed. The Greater Gallatin Watershed Council serves as the area lead for the TMDL stakeholder and outreach activities. GGWC also maintains communication with the public and sponsors several tours/workshops and public meetings annually to educate the public about water quality and TMDLs.

The development and implementation of a WRP will serve as another tool to further educate our watershed community on non-point source (NPS) pollution issues and work to improve overall water quality in the Lower Gallatin Watershed (Figure 1). The Lower Gallatin Watershed encompasses several communities (Figures 2 and 3) and captures a broad diversity of land and water uses within southwestern Montana. The development of the LGWRP will require a significant amount of coordination effort and consensus building amongst the diverse Gallatin Valley communities. GGWC will especially need to focus collaborative efforts on the area's major landowners, which consists mainly of agricultural lands (with contacts and education through the Gallatin Conservation District and the Association of Gallatin Agricultural Irrigators) as well as the the United States Forest Service.

The WRP process will begin with the hiring of a contractor to assist GGWC in developing a stakeholder committee. Stakeholders involved in the TMDL process (Watershed Advisory Group and Technical Advisory Group) will be asked to continue working with GGWC on the WRP. New stakeholders will also be identified and invited to meetings throughout the planning process. A meeting schedule will be established and stakeholders will be invited to review maps, TMDL data, express concerns and provide information on prioritized area for implementation within the watershed. Following this, the contractor will write a draft LGWRP and provide the stakeholders with progress meetings and opportunities to review the document. The final WRP document will be submitted to MDEQ and will include a WRP as well as prioritized areas for implementation of the plan.

Section II: Background Information

A: Statement of Need and Intent

Need: GGWC received 319 Grant funding to assist in the writing of a TMDL Plan for the Lower Gallatin Watershed. The TMDL Plan is nearing completion and GGWC has begun to look at how the TMDL will be implemented within the Lower Gallatin Watershed. We hope to continue with the momentum and interest gained through the TMDL's public review process by continuing water quality improvement work through the writing and implementation of a Watershed Restoration Plan.

GGWC is currently wrapping up a pilot project with MDEQ on how to integrate wetlands into the WRP planning process. GGWC would like to capitalize on all of the efforts and data that have been collected in the Lower Gallatin watershed during this projects' tenure.. The WRP will also review and utilize the data and information provided in GGWC's Watershed Prioritization Plan.

Intent: To develop a WRP that organizes the lower Gallatin watershed into focus areas based on pollutant issues unique to those areas and then to prioritize these areas for water quality and water restoration implementation.

We also intend to maintain stakeholder's vested interest in their watershed that has already been gathered during the TMDL and Wetland Integration projects.

B: Collaborative Effort

Partner	Role
Gallatin Local Water Quality District	Collaborative partner and technical expertise
Montana State University - Water Quality Extension	Collaborative partner and technical expertise
City of Bozeman	Collaborative partner and technical expertise
National Park Service - Rivers and Trails Program	Collaborative partner and technical expertise

Additional Information (Collaborative Effort)

The above listed partners have specifically expressed an interest and written letters in support of a Watershed Restoration Plan. GGWC plans to continue the community discussion to include many other potential stakeholders in the collaboration process these include; Blue Water Task Force, Northern Rockies RC & D, MSU Gallatin County Extension, U.S. Forest Service, Association of Gallatin Area Irrigators (AGAI), Gallatin Valley Land Trust (GVLTL), Gallatin County Planning Department, Montana Wetlands Legacy Partnership, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks and the Gallatin Conservation District (GCD).

Funding Organization	Award Amount	Project Description	Project Status	Contact Information
Montana Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ)	\$90,000	MDEQ Contract -Lower GallatinTMDL Plan Received funds to research, collect data and provide public education and outreach on the TMDL process.	Active, Final report due 11/30/12	MDEQ- Christian Schmidt (406) 444-6777 cschmidt2@mt.gov GGWC - Sierra Harris (406) 551-0804 info@greatergallatin.org
MDEQ	\$8,000	MDEQ Contract Integrating Wetlands into Watershed Restoration Planning	Active, Final report due 12/30/12	GGWC - Sierra Harris (406) 551-0804 info@greatergallatin.org MDEQ - Steve Carpenedo (406) 444-3527 SCarpenedo2@mt.gov
Soil and Water Conservation Districts of Montana, Inc. (SWCDMI) and MDEQ	\$620.00	SWCDMI 319 Mini-Grant Received funds to print and install two Greater Gallatin Watershed maps along the Gallatin Valley Land Trust trail system	Active, final report due March 30, 2013	MT Association of Conservation Districts- Jan Fontaine- (406) 443-5711 mail@macdnet.org GGWC - Sierra Harris (406) 551-0804 info@greatergallatin.org
Montana Watershed Coordination Council (MWCC)	\$10,000	MWCC Water Quality Assistance Grant Received funds to purchase equipment for our 2013 Gallatin Stream Team work and partial funding to support a Big Sky Watershed Corps Member in 2013.	Received notice of funds in September 2012. Have not begun project work yet.	MWCC - Ann Schwend (406) 444-1806 ASchwend@mt.gov GGWC - Sierra Harris (406) 551-0804 info@greatergallatin.org
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Additional Information (Planning and Management)

GGWC has also recently received financial support from the following non-government entities; Willow Springs Foundation, Cinnabar Foundation, Sonoran Institute, Montana Import Group, and the Bozeman Brewing Company.

Section III: Project Components

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

The education and outreach component of this proposal will be achieved through the following methods:

1. Collaborative stakeholder meetings (up to 8 public meetings)
2. GGWC brochures and flyer providing information to watershed community to attend meetings and provide feedback.
3. WRP information, project updates, meeting schedule and contact information to be listed on GGWC webpage.
4. Press release and other public notices to inform community about WRP draft comment period.
5. During the write-up of the WRP, a section of the plan will indicate how education and outreach will be used to inform the watershed community of the plans existence, goals, and prioritized focus areas for implementation.

C: Operation and Maintenance

The operation and maintenance of the writing and implementation of the LGWRP will need to be detailed and ongoing throughout the entire process. The WRP is a large-scale project that encompasses a large amount of area and a wide variety of stakeholders. Once 319 Grant funding is secured, GGWC will begin the process of putting together stakeholder meetings by working with local agencies, professionals, City and County government officials to identify people who need to be a part of the WRP process. This will require a lot of detailed documentation, public education and outreach, as well as coordination with other conservation groups throughout the Gallatin Valley.

The project will take some up-front organization to keep all of the tasks, meetings and people coordinated and GGWC is planning to hire a contract to assist with the project. GGWC is familiar with this type of work as we have been doing similar work with MDEQ throughout the entire Lower GallatinTMDL planning process.

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

The monitoring component of this proposal will be evaluated by documenting the number of participants who assist in the collaborative writing process as well as comments/concerns voiced by participants at public stakeholder meetings. We plan to request public participation in the WRP writing process in much the same way that the Lower Gallatin TMDL Planning process was conducted in the Gallatin Valley. We will hold a variety of meetings throughout the writing process and ask for public input, request the stakeholders review WRP drafts and assist with prioritizing tasks for implementation of the TMDL.

Section IV: Scope of Work

Task 1 Title Contract Administration

Description

The current GGWC Watershed Coordinator and Board treasurer will be responsible for contract administration. The Coordinator will document hours, keep track of allowable costs and provide necessary contract-related deliverables to MDEQ. The Treasurer will work with the Coordinator and MDEQ contract staff to provide detailed invoices and other financial deliverables to MDEQ.

Deliverables

Deliverables include project work invoices, status reports, annual reports and all other documentation described in the contract agreement between GGWC and MDEQ. In addition, the GGWC Coordinator will keep detailed records of time spent on WRP tasks by the Coordinator, Members of the GGWC Board and other associated parties.

Task 1 Funding

319 Funds

Non-Federal Match

Other Federal Funds

Total Cost

Is Match Secured?

Timeline June 1, 2013 through December 30, 2014

Match Source GGWC General Funds/Unrestricted Funds/In-kind hours

Task 2 Title WRP stakeholder planning and development meetings

Description

The GGWC Board of Directors plans to hire a Contractor to assist with locating, coordinating and inviting stakeholders to the WRP planning and development meetings. GGWC plans to hold up to six planning meetings within a six month period to gather information from the stakeholders for the Lower Gallatin's WRP.

Deliverables

1. Flyers/posters - detailing intent of WRP and stakeholder meeting schedule.
2. Information posted to GGWC's website detailing information from Deliverable #1
3. Contractor and/or GGWC staff to compile notes, comments and data into one document for use by Contractor in the writing of the WRP.

Task 2 Funding

319 Funds

Non-Federal Match

Other Federal Funds

Total Cost

Is Match Secured?

Timeline June 1, 2013 through December 1, 2013

Match Source GGWC General Funds/Unrestricted Funds/In-kind hours

Description

Once the stakeholders have provided input on the Lower Gallatin WRP, the Contractor can begin the writing process of the WRP. The Contractor will utilize all data and documentation captured throughout the stakeholder planning process, as well as data from the TMDL plan and GGWC's Watershed Prioritization Plan.

Deliverables

Draft WRP within 6 months of final stakeholder meeting.

Task 3 Funding

319 Funds	\$8,000.00
Non-Federal Match	\$2,000.00
Other Federal Funds	
Total Cost	\$10,000.00
Is Match Secured?	No

Timeline December 1, 2013 - August 1, 2014

Match Source GGWC General Funds/Unrestricted Funds/In-kind hours

Task 4 Title OUTLINE TASKS ONLY: WRP Design and Implementation

Description

Following the completion of the Draft LGWRP, GGWC will begin to revisit and incorporate the nine critical elements of an Environmental Protection Agency WRP with prioritized projects throughout the watershed. Several potential projects have been suggested by GGWC Board and community members. These ideas will be further researched and prioritized for potential on the ground projects during the actual implementation portion of the WRP.

Some of the projects suggested at this time are wetlands rehabilitation along Matthew Byrd Creek, continuation of restoration work along Bozeman Creek as part of the Bozeman Creek Enhancement Plan (National Park Service, Rivers and Trails program), assisting Bozeman High School and Montana State University with restoration projects along Mandeville Creek, and funding additional signs, maps and kiosks, in partnership with Gallatin Valley Land Trust (GVL), that promote NPS pollution awareness and education.

Deliverables

List of WRP prioritization projects within the Lower Gallatin Planning Area. This document can be added as an attachment to the Draft WRP that will become available during the public review period. This document can then be used as a spring board for on-the-ground implementation once the WRP has been approved and GGWC has requested additional 319 funding for implementation.

Task 4 Funding

319 Funds	\$2,000.00
Non-Federal Match	\$3,000.00
Other Federal Funds	
Total Cost	\$5,000.00
Is Match Secured?	No

Timeline December 1, 2013 - June 1, 2014

Match Source GGWC General Funds/Unrestricted Funds/In-kind hours

Description

After the Contractor has written the draft WRP, the document will be made available first to the Stakeholder review committee and then to the public at large. All comments will be submitted within a 30-day period and will be incorporated into the final WRP.

Deliverables

Stakeholder and public comments will be included and available as an attachment in the final document.

Task 5 Funding

319 Funds	\$5,000.00
Non-Federal Match	\$5,000.00
Other Federal Funds	
Total Cost	\$10,000.00
Is Match Secured?	

Timeline August 1, 2014 - October 1, 2014

Match Source

Task 6 Title Final edits and comments incorporated in DRAFT Lower Gallatin WRP document

Description

Contractor will incorporate all final edits and comments into the document. FINAL WRP will be submitted to and approved by GGWC Board of Directors before submission to MDEQ.

Deliverables

Final Lower Gallatin WRP document

Task 6 Funding

319 Funds	\$3,000.00
Non-Federal Match	\$4,000.00
Other Federal Funds	
Total Cost	\$7,000.00
Is Match Secured?	No

Timeline October 1, 2014 - December 30, 2014

Match Source GGWC General Funds/Unrestricted Funds/In-kind hours

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. Contract Administration	\$500			\$2,500			\$2,000	\$5,000
2. WRP Stakeholder Meetings	\$1,000			\$2,000			\$10,000	\$13,000
3. Write DRAFT WRP	\$500			\$1,500			\$8,000	\$10,000
4. OUTLINE: Design & Implement	\$1,000			\$2,000			\$2,000	\$5,000
5. Stakeholder Review & Comment	\$2,000			\$3,000			\$5,000	\$10,000
6. Final edits to DRAFT WRP	\$2,000			\$2,000			\$3,000	\$7,000
TOTAL	\$7,000			\$13,000			\$30,000	\$50,000

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. 10/3/12

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. Contract Administration	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<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"/>
2. WRP Stakeholder Meetings	<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"/>
3. Write DRAFT WRP	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<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"/>
4. OUTLINE: Design & Implement	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<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"/>
5. Stakeholder Review & Comment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input 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"/>
6. Final edits to DRAFT WRP	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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.

Lat/Long given for project site, is actually for Bozeman Creek as it flows past Bozeman City Hall (general project location).

The Gallatin Stream Team, in collaboration with the Gallatin Local Water Quality District, has been collecting volunteer water quality monitoring data since 2007. This data is currently being used by MDEQ to make TMDL management decisions in the Lower Gallatin Watershed. The Gallatin Stream Team will continue to collect data on impaired streams in our watershed and GGWC will use these results to guide the writing of the WRP.

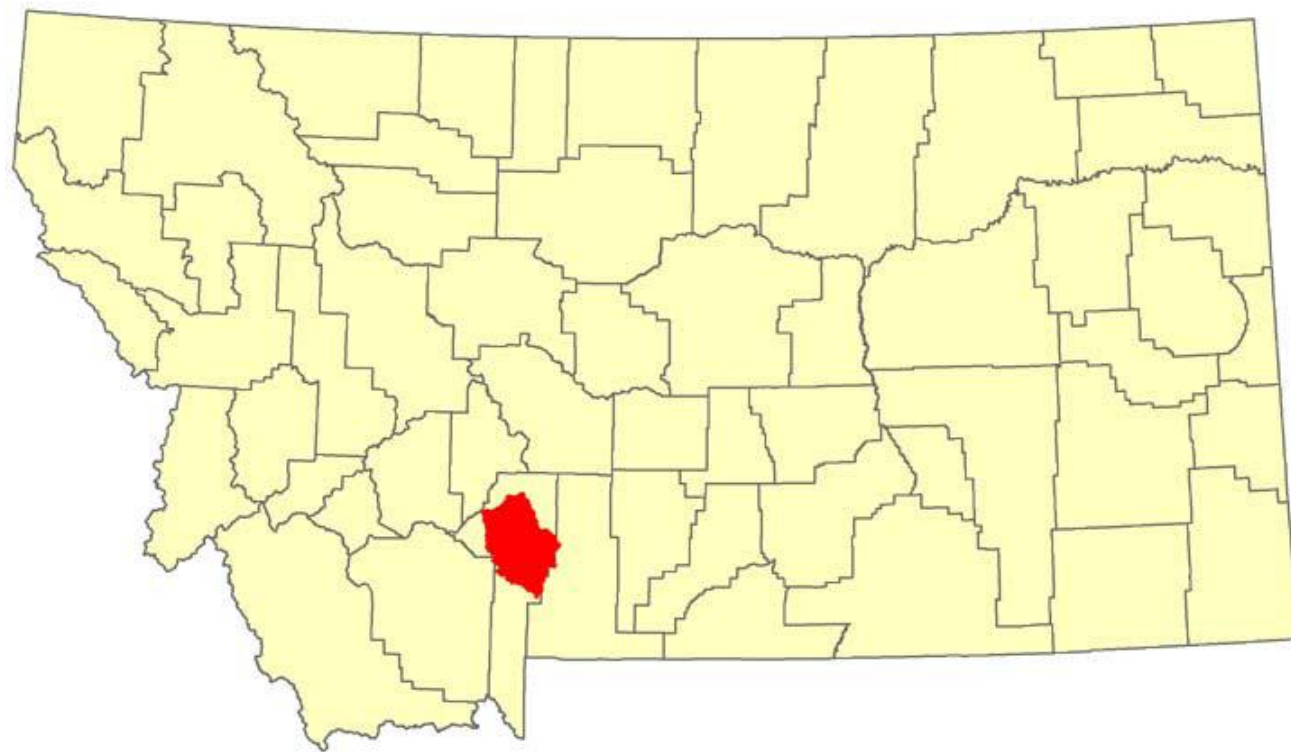


Figure 1: Location map for the Lower Gallatin TMDL Planning Area and proposed WRP

0 5 10 20 Miles



Three Forks •

Manhattan •

East Gallatin River

Smith Creek

Bridger Creek

Reese Creek

Thompson Creek

Jackson Creek

Belgrade •

Camp Creek

Godfrey Creek

Four Corners •

Bozeman •

Mandeville Creek

Bozeman Creek

Gallatin River

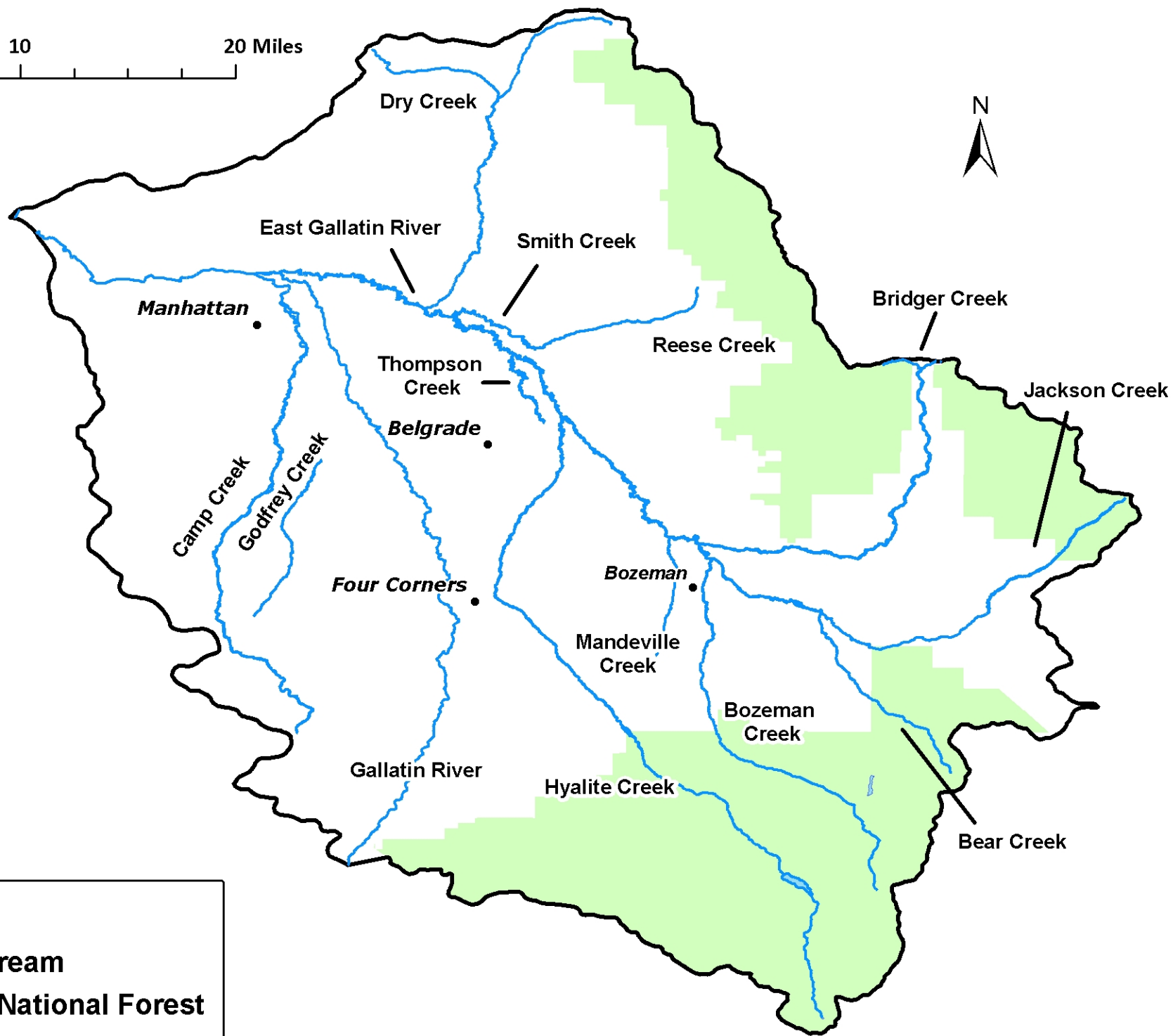
Hyalite Creek

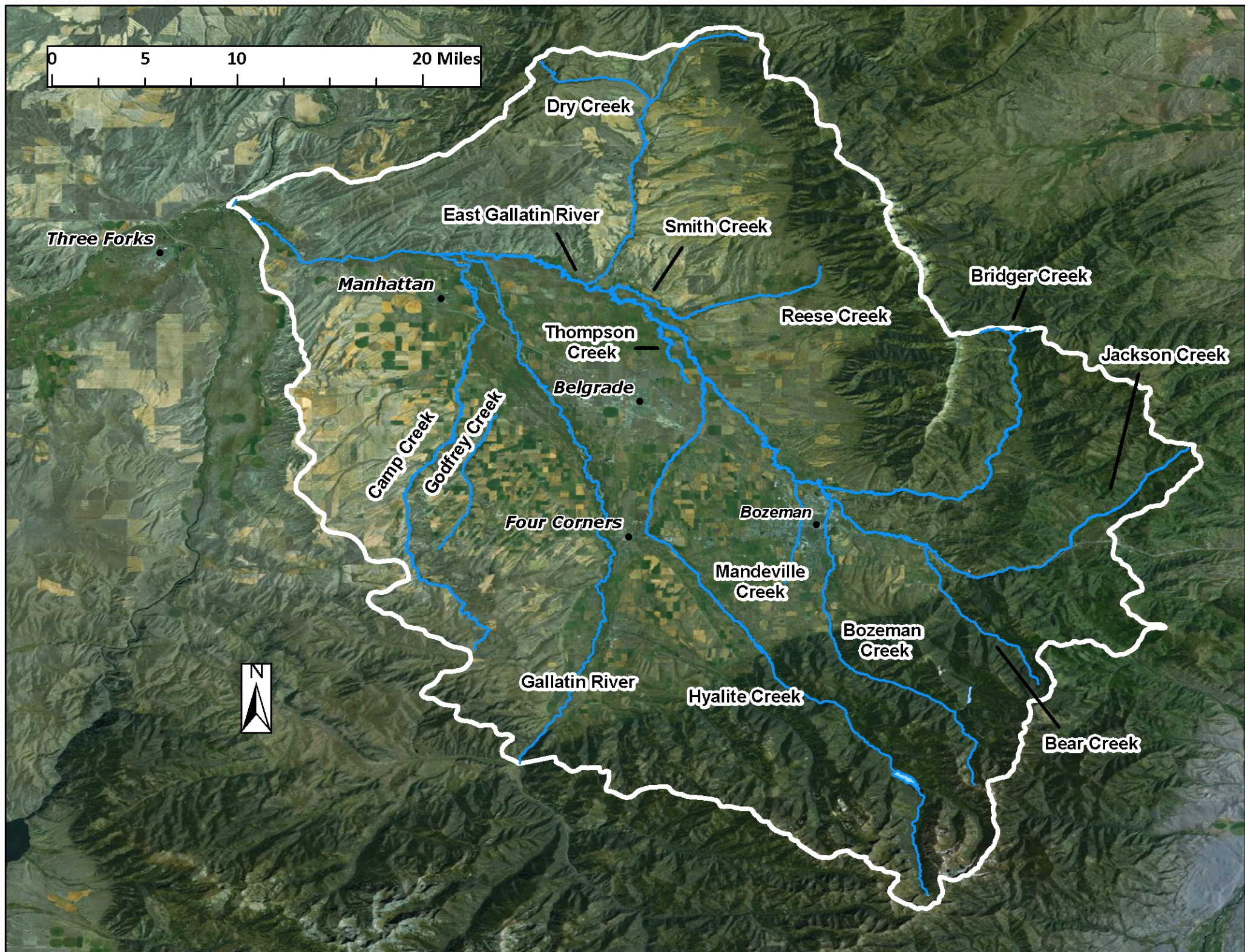
Bear Creek

Legend

— Major Stream

■ Gallatin National Forest







Gallatin Local Water Quality District

215 W. Mendenhall, Suite 300 – Bozeman, MT 59715
(406) 582-3148 www.gallatin.mt.gov/GLWQD



September 27, 2012

RE: Support for Completion of Lower Gallatin Watershed Restoration Plan by GGWC

319 Review Committee
Montana Department of Environmental Quality
1520 E. Sixth Avenue
P.O. Box 200901
Helena, MT 59620-0901

Dear 319 Review Committee:

I would like to express my support for the Greater Gallatin Watershed Council's 319 project proposal to draft a Lower Gallatin Watershed Restoration Plan. The Council has been successfully working with stakeholders in the Lower Gallatin Watershed for several years to develop TMDL allocations for the Lower Gallatin. The proposed project will allow for completion and implementation of the TMDL by completing the required Watershed Restoration Plan.

The Gallatin Local Water Quality District has a strong interest in protecting and improving water quality throughout the Gallatin Watershed, and will collaborate with GGWC and other stakeholders to aid with completion of the Lower Gallatin Watershed Restoration Plan. I am confident that the GGWC is well positioned to complete this project and will do an excellent job.

Overall, I think this is a solid, logical project proposal that will allow for implementation of the Lower Gallatin TMDL, and help improve the health of the watershed. For all of the reasons stated above I encourage the Review Committee to fund this project. If during the review process you have any questions for me regarding this application, please feel free to call me at 582-3148 or email me at alan.english@gallatin.mt.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alan English".

Alan English
Manager



CITY OF BOZEMAN
Bozeman, Montana

September 20, 2012

Rose Vallor, Chair
Greater Gallatin Watershed Council
PO Box 751
Bozeman, MT 59771-0751

Dear Ms. Vallor:

The City of Bozeman strongly supports your application to Montana Department of Environmental Quality for the development of a Watershed Restoration Plan for the Lower Gallatin Watershed. As a collaborator on this project, the City has assisted with the development of your 2013 Clean Water Act Section 319 grant proposal and looks forward to assisting GGWC and other collaborators with implementation of the WRP.

In collaboration with GGWC and other stakeholders, the City is aggressively pursuing several projects for improving the environmental quality of Bozeman Creek and restoring the stream channel to a more natural configuration. We have also established a stormwater utility and are diligently seeking ways to mitigate adverse environmental impacts associated with stormwater runoff. The WRP is a critical tool for achieving the goals and objectives of these projects while improving the environmental quality of all of our community's surface waters and wetlands.

Please let me know if the City can provide additional assistance to you and the Greater Gallatin Watershed Council in developing and implementing the WRP. I encourage DEQ to fund this important proposal in full and allow the continuation of the great work already achieved by GGWC in establishing TMDL's for the Lower Gallatin Watershed.

Sincerely,

Chris Kukulski
City Manager



United States Department of the Interior
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
INTERMOUNTAIN REGION
4030 Sourdough Road
Bozeman, Montana 59715



Robert Ray
Watershed Protection Services
Water Quality Planning Bureau
Montana Department of Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 200901
Helena, MT 59620-0901

September 19th, 2012

Dear Mr. Ray

The National Park Service's Rivers and Trails Program (RTCA) strongly supports the Greater Gallatin Watershed Council's (GGWC) grant application for \$30,000 in 319 funds to write a Watershed Restoration Plan for the Lower Gallatin Watershed. GGWC and Montana DEQ are nearly finished with the TMDL process, which is currently undergoing stakeholder review. Writing a WRP is the next logical step to take for continued improvement of water quality and habitat conditions in this watershed.

For the past two years, RTCA has coordinated a community-based process, called the Bozeman Creek Enhancement Project, to write a long-term enhancement plan for Bozeman Creek, a principal tributary to the lower Gallatin, while simultaneously identifying and working on high-priority early-action projects. Bozeman Creek is under-utilized and highly degraded as it flows through the heart of the city Bozeman, yet holds great promise to become a valued community asset.

The Bozeman Creek Enhancement Plan has four goals:

- Foster broad awareness of and appreciation for Bozeman Creek, leading to a strong community stewardship ethic.
- Restore the natural processes necessary for a functioning creek ecosystem
- Improve water quality to support aquatic life and primary contact recreation
- Provide ample public access and appropriate recreational opportunities along the creek corridor, while ensuring resource protection.

The plan identifies objectives, strategies, and actions to help accomplish each of these four goals, and was recently adopted as policy by the Bozeman City Commission.

The Bozeman Creek plan was developed with a great deal of public participation, and should provide a valuable resource to help inform development of the WRP. In turn, a WRP for the lower Gallatin will provide a watershed-wide context for the Bozeman Creek plan, helping to clarify project priorities from a watershed perspective. This will help ensure that limited funds



are used for maximum environmental benefit.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Gary Weiner".

Gary Weiner
Rivers and Trails Program
National Park Service
Bozeman, Montana



September 24, 2012

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

RE: Lower Gallatin Watershed Restoration Plan

Dear Mr. Ray:

Please accept this letter of support for the Greater Gallatin Watershed Council's (GGWC) 319 grant proposal. Montana State University Extension Water Quality (MSUEWQ) fully supports the efforts of GGWC to develop the Lower Gallatin Watershed Restoration Plan (LGWRP).

GGWC is well poised to develop the LGWRP as they have been involved with numerous stream and ground water monitoring studies in the Lower Gallatin and are well connected with the community and stakeholders. GGWC is familiar with the stream impairments in the Lower Gallatin and they have developed one of the most advanced citizen based monitoring groups in the state which makes GGWC an appropriate entity to take on the task of developing the LGWRP.

The LGWRP is crucial for developing remediation strategies to best address water quality issues identified in the TMDL. Having a well-developed and thought-out WRP is vital to increasing the likelihood of participation and behavior change among landowners and community members. MSUEWQ is confident that GGWC, along with their proposed collaborators, will develop an effective WRP for the Lower Gallatin.

Sincerely,

Katie Kleehammer
Water Quality Research Associate

**Land Resources and
Environmental
Sciences**

334 Leon Johnson Hall
P.O. Box 173120
Bozeman, MT 59717-3120

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