



# Section 319 Grant - Project Proposal Form 7/25/13

FY2014 Project Proposals are due Friday July 26, 2013

Project Title Riparian Restoration on Rye Creek

### Project Sponsor Information

Name <u>Bitter Root Water Forum</u>	Tax Identification Number <u>43-2000515</u>
Address <u>PO Box 1247</u>	Website <u>www.brwaterforum.org</u>
City <u>Hamilton</u> State <u>Montana</u>	Zip Code <u>59840</u> County <u>Ravalli</u>
Primary Contact <u>Heather Mullee</u>	Signatory <u>Dave Schultz</u>
Title <u>Executive Director</u>	Title <u>Board President</u>
Phone Number <u>406-375-2272</u>	Phone Number <u>406-381-2355</u>
Fax Number <u>na</u>	Fax Number <u>na</u>
E-mail Address <u>heather@brwaterforum.org</u>	E-mail Address <u>schultz_dv@msn.com</u>
Signature <u>Heather Mullee</u>	Signature <u>Dave Schultz, Pres.</u>

### Project Funding

319 Funds Requested	\$45,500.00
Matching Funds	
State Match	
State In-Kind Match	\$5,000.00
Local Match	
Other Match	\$26,000.00
Total Matching Funds	\$31,000.00
Other Federal Funds	
Total Project Budget	\$76,500.00
Administrative Fee	\$4,000.00

Does the project sponsor have any open 319 contracts?  Yes

Project Title Bitterroot Watershed Restoration Planning

DEQ Contract Number 212054

319 Award \$21,000.00

Projected Closing Date September 30, 2013

Project Title Watershed Restoration Plan Implementation

DEQ Contract Number 213024

319 Award

Projected Closing Date June 30, 2014

### Nonpoint Source (NPS) Information

Functional Category	Riparian Projects
1st Pollution Category	Agriculture (Grazing Related Sources)
2nd Pollution Category	Hydromodification (Channel Erosion/Inc
3rd Pollution Category	
Waterbody Type	River/Stream

### Project Location

Which WRP does this project implement?

What is the status of the WRP?

Does the project implement a TMDL?

Watershed Name or HUC # 17010205

(1) Waterbody Name from 2012 List of Impaired Waters  
Rye Creek

(1) Probable Cause(s) of Impairment  
Sedimentation

(2) Waterbody Name from 2012 List of Impaired Waters

(2) Probable Cause(s) of Impairment

Activity 1 Name Rye Creek Riparian Restoration Activities

Latitude (1) 45.965508 Longitude (1) -114.127025

Activity 2 Name

Latitude (2)  Longitude (2)



**Project Description**

Methods: Please describe the specific activities of this project.

Specific project activities will include the protection of recovering areas using riparian fencing enclosures and managed grazing, active restoration techniques to reestablish a stable bed, streambank, and floodplain in limited locations, and outreach to local citizens concerning project opportunities and best management practices to reduce sediment delivery in Rye Creek.

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

Up to two miles of riparian fencing enclosures, 200 feet of channel/floodplain reshaping, 1,000 feet of bio-engineered, geo-textile fabric installation to help stabilize eroding banks, one or more mailings to local residents regarding projects, and one tour of project sites to demonstrate remedies for local impairments.

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

The lower reach of Rye Creek has a history of instability and degraded riparian corridor dating to the early 1990s. Loss of riparian vegetation and channelization in the former Big Velvet Elk Ranch caused extensive channel and vertical instability in reaches up and downstream. In 1994 the Big Velvet Elk Ranch was cited with water quality violations by the U.S Army Corps of Engineers. Among other violations, the construction of five on-stream dams (which subsequently failed) resulted in a debris flow that severely degraded the channel. Concurrent with the dams failure, the channel downcut by as much as four feet over the course of several thousand feet of channel length. Vertical and lateral instability was widespread over two miles of stream directly east of Highway 93. Downstream of the Elk Ranch, the Elliot property was severely impacted as the channel adjusted to degraded conditions. The Elliot irrigation intake was left suspended above the lowered channel grade and large areas of pasture experienced erosion. Upstream, the headcutting channel accelerated bank and terrace erosion on the McAlpin and Rye Creek Lodge properties. Large amounts of sediment (both bedload and fine material) were delivered to the Bitterroot River.

Channel instability and ongoing sedimentation are significant issues and result in a TMDL listing. With a change in land use/ownership (the Elk Ranch closed in 2002), natural recovery has been quite promising in the past 10 years. Recovery would benefit substantially from restoration efforts that protect or enhance riparian vegetation and channel integrity. In particular, riparian enclosure is an important component of insuring recovery and protecting the improving conditions. The project is still in the developmental stage and the full scope of the potential effort is not yet known. The Elliot and Rye Creek Lodge properties have expressed interest in enhancing the stream corridor and reducing instability and erosion. Both are expected participants. The prospect for meaningful, long-lasting, cost-effective restoration is excellent.

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

Photo point monitoring - photos showing changes in vegetation structure and streambank erosion - will be used to evaluate the efficiency of management activities and plantings, determining whether project objectives are being met. The potential for additional monitoring, including sediment modeling or physical pebble counts, will be discussed with DEQ staff experienced in monitoring for sediment.

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

Gaining access to the Rye Creek drainage through work on private land will give BRWF a platform to conduct further outreach with citizens in the drainage. BRWF will send mailings to residents to inform them of restoration efforts and will conduct educational tours of the restoration sites for citizens of Rye Creek (and other impaired) drainages.

Collaborative Effort: Please briefly describe project partners. Include other agencies, organizations and private citizens and their role in this project.

Partner	Role
MT Fish, Wildlife & Parks	Volunteer recruitment, project oversight, future monitoring
Bitterroot National Forest	Project oversight, information sharing on upstream projects, monitoring, and modeling
Bitter Root Land Trust	Landowner relationship building, project assistance
Private Citizens	Volunteer restoration activities: fence installation, geo-textile fabric installation, maintenance



**Scope of Work- Outline**

**Task 1 Title** Elliot Property Streambank Restoration

319 Funds	\$20,000.00
Non-Federal Match	\$10,500.00
Other Federal Funds	
<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>\$30,500.00</b>

**Description**  
 BRWF will work with contractors and volunteers to 1) install a riparian enclosure to protect recovering riparian vegetation from un-managed grazing, 2) repair/replace several key woody debris structures, 3) consider limited channel/floodplain reshaping in the upper 200 feet of the incised section of the reach.

**Timeline** 7/15/14-5/15/15

**Task 2 Title** McAlpin Property Streambank Restoration

319 Funds	\$8,000.00
Non-Federal Match	\$8,000.00
Other Federal Funds	
<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>\$16,000.00</b>

**Description**  
 BRWF will, 1) review the need for riparian enclosure and pursue if deemed necessary, 2) restore eroding banks to reduce sediment load and enhance channel stability (proposed treatments are not determined at this time, but may include the installation of geo-textile fabric and/or willow chutes).

**Timeline** 7/15/14-5/15/15

**Task 3 Title** Rye Creek Lodge Property Streambank Restoration

319 Funds	\$12,000.00
Non-Federal Match	\$8,000.00
Other Federal Funds	
<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>\$20,000.00</b>

**Description**  
 BRWF will, 1) review the applicability of a long-term riparian enclosure and pursue fencing if deemed necessary, and 2) restore eroding banks and create bankfull bench using bio-engineered geo-textile lifts.

**Timeline** 7/15/14-5/15/15

**Task 4 Title** Rye Creek Drainage Education and Outreach

319 Funds	\$1,500.00
Non-Federal Match	\$2,500.00
Other Federal Funds	
<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>\$4,000.00</b>

**Description**  
 Mailings to Rye Creek residents regarding improvements in the drainage; tours of Rye Creek project sites to demonstrate project opportunities and best practice remedies.

**Timeline** 7/15/14-6/30/15

**Task 5 Title** Administration

319 Funds	\$4,000.00
Non-Federal Match	\$2,000.00
Other Federal Funds	
<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>\$6,000.00</b>

**Description**  
 Contract management and administration; completion and submission of quarterly and annual reports; timely billing.

**Timeline** 7/15/14-6/30/15



Task 6 Title \_\_\_\_\_

319 Funds	<input type="text"/>	Description
Non-Federal Match	<input type="text"/>	
Other Federal Funds	<input type="text"/>	
Total Cost	<input type="text"/>	
Timeline	_____	

Task 7 Title \_\_\_\_\_

319 Funds	<input type="text"/>	Description
Non-Federal Match	<input type="text"/>	
Other Federal Funds	<input type="text"/>	
Total Cost	<input type="text"/>	
Timeline	_____	

Task 8 Title \_\_\_\_\_

319 Funds	<input type="text"/>	Description
Non-Federal Match	<input type="text"/>	
Other Federal Funds	<input type="text"/>	
Total Cost	<input type="text"/>	
Timeline	_____	

Task 9 Title \_\_\_\_\_

319 Funds	<input type="text"/>	Description
Non-Federal Match	<input type="text"/>	
Other Federal Funds	<input type="text"/>	
Total Cost	<input type="text"/>	
Timeline	_____	

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

Due to Rye Creek's reputation as one of the largest contributors of sediment to the Bitterroot River, it has long been one of the most sought after places to pursue sediment reduction projects in the Bitterroot watershed . That said, Rye Creek also has a reputation of being a hard place to make inroads with landowners to pursue projects on private land. This project offers an incredible opportunity to begin working with private landowners in Rye Creek, opening the door for increased restoration activity in the area as we build relationships with nearby landowners and demonstrate local resources available to assist with future projects. Three property owners on Rye Creek are currently interested in streambank improvements and potential exists to explore project opportunities on a third property. The former Elk Ranch is settled between interested project participants but is currently in foreclosure; efforts are being made to gain access to the property to assess current conditions and determine if the property is a candidate for improvement. BRWF currently has an open 319 contract, "Watershed Restoration Plan Implementation", the purpose of which is to design a project on an impaired area as identified in the local Watershed Restoration Plan; the proposed project fits the criteria and a complete proposal including assessment, design, and implementation phases will be developed for 319 funding consideration.