

BITTER ROOT Water FORUM

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October 3rd, 2013

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

RE: Bitter Root Water Forum 319 Grant Application - *Riparian Restoration on Rye Creek*

Dear 319 Review Committee:

Thank you for taking the time to review our initial application to the 319 Grant Program: *Riparian Restoration on Rye Creek*. We are excited about the prospect of working with landowners in the Rye Creek drainage to implement projects that will help reduce sediment delivery to this TMDL listed stream.

That said, we are not submitting a final 319 application at this time. After further consideration regarding the "readiness" of the project, we believe that more time is needed to ensure that we have a design prepared that is to the liking of both landowners and our board of directors. Without a final design in hand, we did not feel comfortable moving forward with a final application by the October 4th deadline.

We are committed to working on restoration projects in the Bitterroot watershed that will help delist TMDL listed streams. We intend to complete a project design on Rye Creek—utilizing our current DEQ 319 contract #213024—as soon as we are able to work with our Project Manager, Laura Anderson, to subcontract with an engineer.

Thank you again for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Heather Mullee
Executive Director