

## Section I: General Information

Project Title FY 2016 Education & Outreach Mini-Grants

### Project Sponsor Information

Sponsor Name Soil & Water Conservation Districts of Montana, Inc. (SWCDMI)

County all of state

Website macdnet.org

Tax Identification # 23-7096823

DUNS # 137350505

SAMs # 3P7F1

Primary Contact Jan Fontaine

Signatory Elena Evans

Title Admin. Assist.

Title Ex. Dir.

Address 1101 11th Avenue

Address 1101 11th Avenue

City Helena State Montana Zip Code 59601

City Helena State Montana Zip Code 59601

Phone Number 406-443-5711

Phone Number 406-443-5711

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E-mail Address mail@macdnet.org

E-mail Address eevans@macdnet.org

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

### Project Location

Watershed Name or HUC # any with accepted WRP

TMDL Planning Area any with accepted WRP

(1) Waterbody Name from 2014 List of Impaired Waters any impaired water body

(1) Probable Cause(s) of Impairment any cause of impairment

(2) Waterbody Name from 2014 List of Impaired Waters \_\_\_\_\_

(2) Probable Cause(s) of Impairment \_\_\_\_\_

(3) Waterbody Name from 2014 List of Impaired Waters \_\_\_\_\_

(3) Probable Cause(s) of Impairment \_\_\_\_\_

Activity 1 Name to be determined

Latitude (1) \_\_\_\_\_

Longitude (1) \_\_\_\_\_

Activity 2 Name \_\_\_\_\_

Latitude (2) \_\_\_\_\_

Longitude (2) \_\_\_\_\_

Activity 3 Name \_\_\_\_\_

Latitude (3) \_\_\_\_\_

Longitude (3) \_\_\_\_\_

### Nonpoint Source (NPS) Information

Which WRP does the project implement? Other

What is the WRP status? DEQ-Accepted

Does the project implement recommendations in a TMDL? Yes

Waterbody Type N/A

Functional Category Local (Specific Target) Education/Information Programs

1st Pollution Category Construction (Land Development or Redevelopment)

Percent of Total (%) 50

2nd Pollution Category Urban Runoff/Stormwater (Residential, e.g., non-commercial automotive/p

Percent of Total (%) 50

3rd Pollution Category \_\_\_\_\_

Percent of Total (%) \_\_\_\_\_

4th Pollution Category \_\_\_\_\_

Percent of Total (%) \_\_\_\_\_

### Project Funding

319 Funds Requested	<input type="text" value="\$25,000.00"/>	Does the project sponsor have any open 319 contracts?	<input type="text" value="Yes"/>
Matching Funds		Project Title	<input type="text" value="FY 2014 319 ED. AND OUTREACH MINI GRANT PROGR"/>
State Cash Match	<input type="text"/>	DEQ Contract Number	<input type="text" value="213022"/>
Local Cash Match	<input type="text" value="\$17,000.00"/>	319 Award	<input type="text" value="\$21,000.00"/>
In-Kind Match	<input type="text"/>	Projected Closing Date	<input type="text" value="June 30, 2015"/>
Total Match	<input type="text" value="\$17,000.00"/>	Project Title	<input type="text" value="FY 2015 319 ED. AND OUTREACH MINI GRANT PROGR"/>
Other Federal Funds	<input type="text"/>	DEQ Contract Number	<input type="text" value="214010"/>
Total Project Budget	<input type="text" value="\$42,000.00"/>	319 Award	<input type="text" value="\$25,000.00"/>
Administrative Fee	<input type="text" value="\$2,000.00"/>	Projected Closing Date	<input type="text" value="June 30, 2016"/>

### Project Description

**Methods:** Please describe the specific activities of this project.

This grant would fund education & outreach mini grants for FY2016, as well as management of the mini grant program for the state of Montana. Two or more calls for mini-grant applications will be completed - one in September 2015 and one in February 2016. Each call will be advertised with press releases in MT newspapers, advertisements through the Montana Association of Conservation Districts (MACD), Montana Watershed Coordination Council (MWCC), and Montana Watercourse list serves. A review committee made up of member of the MWCC E & O Committee will review and rank the applications.

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

This grant should fund a minimum of ten individual education & outreach mini grants of up to \$2,000 each and be awarded in areas with an accepted WRP, as found on the DEQ web site. Eligible entities include: schools; nonprofit organizations; agencies; and volunteer groups, etc. In the past these mini grants have funded a variety of education and outreach projects: volunteer monitoring; purchasing of equipment for non-point source education; producing educational pamphlets, documents, calendars; water festivals or tours; producing radio, television, billboard, newspaper, magazine messages, etc. Grants awarded under this program may be similar but could include new ideas or programs. Education must be focused on non-point source pollution, or issues dealing with cumulative impacts on water quality. Because the projects at this time are unknown the mini grants will be consistent with WRP & pollutants.

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

Two or more calls for applications will be done, one in September 2015 then another in February 2016 through press releases and e-mails sent to conservation districts, watersheds groups, educators in Montana and the general public. A minimum of ten individual education & outreach mini grants of up to \$2,000 each will be funded and will only be awarded in areas with an accepted WRP, as found on the DEQ web site (see link below). With a quick turn around from the time of the call until funds are available, this program meets local needs and put funding on the ground to assist with non-point source pollution issues.

SWCDMI has been awarded five Section 319 Grants in the past for mini-grants. The first grant had two calls for applications, the first in June 2010 where we received five applications and four were awarded. The second call was in January 2011 where we received eighteen applications and eight were awarded. This grant closed in June 2012. The second grant had two calls for applications, the first in July 2011 where we received eight applications and five were awarded. The second call was in February 2012 where we received ten applications and nine were awarded. The third grant will had its first call for applications in August 2012 where five mini grants were funded and it's second call in February 2013 where eight mini grants were funded. The fourth grant had its first call for applications in September 2013 where five mini grants were funded and it's second call in February 2013 where five mini grants were funded. The fifth grant will have it's first call in September 2014.

Conservation districts, watersheds groups, educators in Montana and the general public have used these 319 funds to support successful volunteer monitoring projects; water festivals or tours; educational pamphlets; to purchase equipment for non-point source education volunteer monitoring; and purchasing of equipment (see statement of need section).

### A: Statement of Need and Intent

- Fulfills need for immediate funding of small projects
  - Reporting for sub-awards is manageable
- In the past mini grants have been awarded to fund the following:
- Four volunteer monitoring projects
  - Three educational pamphlets, documents, calendars, etc. projects
  - Nine water festivals or tours
  - One mapping project
  - Three soil/rain garden projects
  - Twenty six water projects
  - One wildlife project

### B: Collaborative Effort

Partner	Role
DEQ	assistance and oversight of the project
MWCC	members make up the committee that will review applications
Conservation Districts/Watershed Groups	those awarded mini grant
Local Government	those awarded mini grant

#### Additional Information (Collaborative Effort)

**C: Project Planning and Management**

<b>Funding Organization</b>	<b>Award Amount</b>	<b>Project Description</b>	<b>Project Status</b>	<b>Contact Information</b>
DNRC	\$40,000	Legal services for Montana's 58 conservation districts	ongoing	Laurie Zeller 444-6669 lzeller@mt.gov
BLM	\$110,000	Sage grouse mini grants - 23 have been awarded to help with keeping the sage grouse off the endangered species list	ongoing	Lori Anderson 896-5196 landerso@blm.gov
DEQ	\$100,000	Conservation Advisor for Livestock Operations (CALO) - a self assessment was created for producers to use along with awarding mini grants for improvements to operations	ongoing	Mark Ockey 444-5351 MOckey@mt.gov

*Additional Information (Planning and Management)*

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### **Section III: Project Components**

#### **A: Education and Outreach: Please briefly describe the education and outreach component of this proposal, the target audience, and the method of delivery.**

The main focus of these mini-grant applications is education and outreach focused on non-point source pollution and will only be awarded in areas with an accepted WRP, as found on the DEQ (see link below).

#### **C: Operation and Maintenance**

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

Individual projects should include a self evaluation and will only be awarded in areas with an accepted WRP, as found on the DEQ web site (see link below).

SWCDMI will monitor/evaluate the effectiveness of the mini-grant programs as a whole by doing:

- A survey of effectiveness of program
- Compile benefits
- Implement suggestions

## Section IV: Scope of Work

Task 1 Title Review grant applications and award

### Description

A minimum of 10 individual mini-grants for education & outreach activities will be selected using a competitive state-wide process and shall not exceed \$2,000 and potentially eligible entities include: schools; nonprofit organizations; agencies; and volunteer groups. Educational activity types can include but are not limited to: start-up for volunteer monitoring; purchasing of equipment for NPS education; producing educational pamphlets, documents, and calendars; water festivals or tours; producing radio, television, billboard, newspaper, and magazine messages. Education must be focused on NPS pollution, or issues dealing with cumulative impacts on water quality.

Sub-award will only be awarded in areas with an accepted WRP, as found on the DEQ (see link below).

### Deliverables

10 sub-awarded grants

### Task 1 Funding

319 Funds	<input type="text" value="\$21,000.00"/>
Non-Federal Match	<input type="text" value="\$17,000.00"/>
Other Federal Funds	<input type="text"/>
Total Cost	<input type="text" value="\$38,000.00"/>
Is Match Secured?	<input type="text" value="No"/>

Timeline June 30, 2017

Match Source individual sub-awardees

Task 2 Title Promote/management of the mini grant program

### Description

An application form and criteria for selection of mini-grant projects will be developed. Promote the mini-grant program; solicit applications through Montana Watershed Coordination Council Education & Outreach Committee and other appropriate forums. Two or more calls for mini grants will be released, one in September 2015 the other in February 2016. A committee will review grant applications and select the most competitive projects. Grants will be awarded, subject to DEQ approval, and administer contracts.

Sub-award will only be awarded in areas with an accepted WRP, as found on the DEQ (see link below). Applicants will be required to have a letter of support from the WRP sponsor.

### Deliverables

Press release  
Application  
Updated call for applications  
Review panel spreadsheet  
Notifications to sub-awards  
Payments of sub-awards

### Task 2 Funding

319 Funds	<input type="text" value="\$2,000.00"/>
Non-Federal Match	<input type="text"/>
Other Federal Funds	<input type="text"/>
Total Cost	<input type="text" value="\$2,000.00"/>
Is Match Secured?	<input type="text"/>

Timeline June 30, 2017

Match Source \_\_\_\_\_

Description

SWCDMI will submit quarterly status reports with match statements and requests for reimbursement, annual reports, and a final report.

Deliverables

Quarterly Reports  
Yearly Report  
Final Report  
Deal with DEQ

Task 3 Funding

319 Funds	<input type="text" value="\$2,000.00"/>
Non-Federal Match	<input type="text"/>
Other Federal Funds	<input type="text"/>
Total Cost	<input type="text" value="\$2,000.00"/>
Is Match Secured?	<input type="text"/>

Timeline	<input type="text" value="June 30, 2017"/>	Match Source	<input type="text"/>
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Description

Deliverables

Task 4 Funding

319 Funds	<input type="text"/>
Non-Federal Match	<input type="text"/>
Other Federal Funds	<input type="text"/>
Total Cost	<input type="text"/>
Is Match Secured?	<input type="text"/>

Timeline	<input type="text"/>	Match Source	<input type="text"/>
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Task 5 Title \_\_\_\_\_

Description

Deliverables

Task 5 Funding

319 Funds	<input type="text"/>
Non-Federal Match	<input type="text"/>
Other Federal Funds	<input type="text"/>
Total Cost	<input type="text"/>
Is Match Secured?	<input type="text"/>

Timeline \_\_\_\_\_ Match Source \_\_\_\_\_

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

Description

Deliverables

Task 6 Funding

319 Funds	<input type="text"/>
Non-Federal Match	<input type="text"/>
Other Federal Funds	<input type="text"/>
Total Cost	<input type="text"/>
Is Match Secured?	<input type="text"/>

Timeline \_\_\_\_\_ Match Source \_\_\_\_\_



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

Description

Deliverables

Task 7 Funding

319 Funds	<input type="text"/>
Non-Federal Match	<input type="text"/>
Other Federal Funds	<input type="text"/>
Total Cost	<input type="text"/>
Is Match Secured?	<input type="text"/>

Timeline \_\_\_\_\_ Match Source \_\_\_\_\_

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

Description

Deliverables

Task 8 Funding

319 Funds	<input type="text"/>
Non-Federal Match	<input type="text"/>
Other Federal Funds	<input type="text"/>
Total Cost	<input type="text"/>
Is Match Secured?	<input type="text"/>

Timeline \_\_\_\_\_ Match Source \_\_\_\_\_

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

Description

Deliverables

Task 9 Funding

319 Funds	<input type="text"/>
Non-Federal Match	<input type="text"/>
Other Federal Funds	<input type="text"/>
Total Cost	<input type="text"/>
Is Match Secured?	<input type="text"/>

Timeline \_\_\_\_\_ Match Source \_\_\_\_\_

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Task 10 Title \_\_\_\_\_

Description

Deliverables

Task 10 Funding

319 Funds	<input type="text"/>
Non-Federal Match	<input type="text"/>
Other Federal Funds	<input type="text"/>
Total Cost	<input type="text"/>
Is Match Secured?	<input type="text"/>

Timeline \_\_\_\_\_ Match Source \_\_\_\_\_

## Section V: Supporting Documents

## A: Detailed Project Budget

<b>Task Number and Specific Action</b>	<b>319 Funds</b>	<b>State Cash Match</b>	<b>Local Cash Match</b>	<b>In-Kind Match</b>	<b>Federal Funds</b>	<b>Total Costs</b>
Task I						
10 Sub-awards	\$21,000		\$17,000			\$38,000
Task II						
Press Release	\$200					\$200
Review Applications	\$200					\$200
Coordinate Review Committee	\$500					\$500
Notify Sub-awardees	\$200					\$200
Make payments to sub-awardees	\$900					\$900
Task III						
Quarterly Reports	\$1,000					\$1,000
Yearly Reports	\$500					\$500
Final Report	\$500					\$500
<b>TOTAL</b>	\$25,000		\$17,000			\$42,000

**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.

Milestone	Spring 2015	Summer 2015	Fall 2015	Winter 2016	Spring 2016	Summer 2016	Fall 2016	Winter 2017	Spring 2017	Summer 2017	Fall 2017
July 2015 - Design Application	<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"/>
August 2015 - First call for applications	<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"/>
October 2015 - Mini grants awarded	<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"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
October 2015 - Quarterly report	<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"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
January 2016 - Annual/Quarterly report	<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"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
February 2016 - Second call for applications	<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"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
March 2016 - Mini grants awarded	<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"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
April 2016 - Quarterly report	<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"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
July 2016 - Quarterly report	<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"/>
October 2016 - Quarterly report	<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"/>
January 2017 - Annual/Quarterly Report	<input type="checkbox"/>	<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"/>

Please ensure that you submit a **project map(s)** and **letters of support (at least 3)** 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: Draft of amended WRP (if applicable)**

☐ **H: Photos**

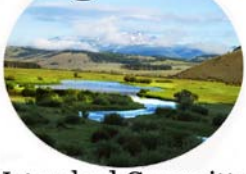
**I: Please use the space provided for any additional information that may not have been captured by this application form.**

Sub-awards through the mini-grant program will only be awarded in areas with an accepted WRP, as found on the DEQ web site <http://montananps319grants.pbworks.com/w/page/40496302/Watershed%20Restoration%20Plans>

Date	Organization	Project	Amount Awarded	Match
<b>GRANT I #210145- Awarded \$30,000 - Required Match \$18,000 - Completed</b>				
Aug2010	Fairfield School District #21	Big Coulee Stream Bank Stabilization	1,500.00	
	Judith Basin Conservation District	"What's In Your Water" Public Meetings	1,500.00	
	Lewis & Clark City-County Health Depart	Septic System Maintenance Program	1,500.00	
	Ruby Valley Conservation District	Madison/Beaverhead Soil Health Seminar	1,500.00	
Feb 2011	Bitter Root Water Forum	Sula Community Engagement	1,500.00	
	Broadwater Conservation District	Deep Creek Streambank Revegetation	1,194.94	
	Clark Fork Watershed Education Program	Anaconda High School Enviro Club	557.09	
	Greater Gallatin Watershed Council	Sacajawea Middle School Rain Garden	1,500.00	
	Helena School District #1, SACC	What's In a Body of Water	1,307.76	
	Lewis & Clark Conservation District	EVMS Flood Awareness Day	1,500.00	
	Lolo Watershed Group	Ebb & Flow-Understanding Streambak Stabilization	1,500.00	
	Madison Conservation District	Jack Creek Water Monitoring Project	1,500.00	
	Park County Environmental Council	Protecting Shields Valley Water Resources	759.60	
	Ruby Valley Conservation District	2011 Welcome to the Neighborhood	1,500.00	
	Trout Conservancy	Alternative Beaver Management	1,460.50	
	Montana Watershed Coordination Council	Fall 2011 Training	3,300.00	
	SWCDMI Management		3,000.00	
	<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>26,579.89</b>	<b>62,333.31</b>
<b>GRANT 2 #211070 - Awarded \$30,000 - Required Match \$20,000.00 - Completed</b>				
Sept 2011	Bitter Root Water Forum	East Fork Revegetation Project	1,946.79	
	Blue Water Task Force	Ophir School Rain Garden	2,000.00	
	Future West	After the Floods Workshop	2,000.00	
	Hyalite Elementary School	Riparian Classroom Celebration	1,500.00	
	Montana 4 H Foundation	Water Days on the Crow Indian Reservation	2,000.00	
March 2012	Beaverhead Conservation District	Beaverhead Watershed Committee Display Board	1,700.00	
	Bitter Root Water Forum	FFA Field Trip	1,495.00	
	Bitter Root Water Forum	East Fork Revegetation Project	2,000.00	
	Clark Fork Coalition	Kids River Expo 2012	2,000.00	
	Greater Gallatin Watershed Council	Greater Gallatin Watershed Map Installation	620.00	
	Sun River Watershed Group	Sun River Volunteer Monitoring	2,000.00	
	Teton River Watershed Group	Teton River Volunteer Monitoring	2,000.00	

	Watershed Restoration Coalition	1st Annual Clark Fork River Festival	1,775.00	
	SWCDMI Management		3,000.00	
	<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>26,036.79</b>	<b>33,143.40</b>
<b>GRANT 3 #212068 - Awarded \$25,500 - Required Match \$17,000 - Completed</b>				
Oct 2012	Bitter Root Water Forum	Revegetation on E. Fork	2,000.00	
	Flathead Lakers	Flathead River Steward	2,000.00	
	Mt. Watercourse	Ground Water Trunk	2,000.00	
March 2013	Greater Gallatin Watershed	Gallatin Stormwater Awareness Project	840.00	
	Lolo Watershed Group	Channel Migration - Erosion on Lolo Creek	2,000.00	
	Mt. FW&P	Pumpkin Creek Willow Stabilization	1,600.00	
	Sweet Grass County Conservation District	"4 - W's Workshop"	1,149.96	
	Whitefish Lake Institute	Viking Creek Investigation	1,570.00	
	SWCDMI Management		2,000.00	
	SWCDMI Administration		2,500.00	
	<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>17,659.96</b>	<b>46,067.44</b>
<b>GRANT 4 #213022 - Awarded \$21,000 - Required Match \$14,000</b>				
Oct 2013	Clark Fork Coalition	Educating River Stewards of Tomorrow	1,900.00	
	Beaverhead Watershed Committee	Bioengineering Workshop	1,900.00	
	Bitter Root Water Forum	Improving Water Quality/Landowner O&A	1,900.00	
	Greater Gallatin Watershed Council	Restoring the Gallatin Valley's Wetland Landscape	1,025.00	
	Madison Conservation District	Madison Stream Team	1,775.00	
March 2014	Blue Water Task Force	Trout Friendly Landscaping Program	2,000.00	
	Gallatin Valley Land Trust	Sourdough Canyon: Reduce the Poop	1,000.00	
	Helena School District	It's All Downhill From Here	2,000.00	
	Jack Creek Preserve	Water Quality Monitoring	1,500.00	
	Livingston School District-D. Pettit	Riparian Mapping	2,000.00	
	SWCDMI Management		2,000.00	
	SWCDMI Administration		2,000.00	
	<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>21,000.00</b>	

# Big Hole



Watershed Committee

## Big Hole Watershed Committee

Post Office Box 21  
Divide, MT 59727  
(406) 960-4855  
info@bhwc.org  
www.bhwc.org

September 10, 2014

Montana Department of Environmental Quality  
Water Quality Planning Bureau  
PO Box 200901  
Helena, Montana 59620

Dear Mr. Robert Ray,

The Big Hole Watershed Committee would like to extend our support to continue to Montana Department of Environmental Quality Mini-Grants program administered through the Soil and Water Conservation Districts of Montana, Inc.

While many watershed projects to improve water quality can be addressed through the standard grant program, the mini-grant program provides a unique resource to address opportunities to improve water quality on a smaller scale, whether on a short time scale or a small, inexpensive issue, and on a year round basis. While we have not yet taken advantage of this resource, we do hope to in the coming year now that we have greater staff resources. I believe it will be helpful for some of our smaller projects and for implementing our Watershed Restoration Plans.

I hope that you will consider continuing this program as it is an important resource for watershed groups working hard to improve water quality in their areas.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Downing  
Executive Director



Blue Water Task Force, Inc.  
PO Box 160513  
Big Sky, Montana 59716  
[www.bluewatertaskforce.org](http://www.bluewatertaskforce.org)

September 04, 2014

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: 319 Grant Application Support Letter

Dear 319 Review Committee:

On behalf of the Blue Water Task Force, a nonprofit watershed group dedicated to promoting the stewardship of the Gallatin River, I would like to express our support for the 319 application from the Soil & Water Conservation Districts of Montana, Inc. ("SWCDMI") for 319 Mini-Grants. As a past recipient of several 319 Mini-Grants, we greatly appreciate the opportunity the mini grant funding has afforded our group to conduct critical educational campaigns to address local water quality issues. We strongly believe that an educated community can be one of the best combatants of nonpoint source pollution.

In the future the Blue Water Task Force could use Mini-Grant program to help cover cost that would directly implement projects or activities identified in our DEQ accepted Watershed Restoration Plan.

In conclusion, we fully support the efforts of the Soil & Water Conservation Districts of Montana, Inc. to provide education and outreach funds to watershed groups across the state.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kristin Gardner  
Executive Director, Blue Water Task Force





"Local Common Sense Conservation"

415 South Front Street

Townsend, MT 59644

Phone: 406-266-3146 Ext. 104

Fax: 406-266-5429

[Denise.Thompson@mt.nacdn.net](mailto:Denise.Thompson@mt.nacdn.net)

September 18, 2014

Soil & Water Conservation Districts of Montana, Inc.

C/O Jan Fontaine

1101 11th Avenue

Helena, MT 59601

Email: [mail@macdn.net](mailto:mail@macdn.net)

Phone: (406)443-5711

Fax: (406)443-0174

Dear SWCDMI,

It is my pleasure to write a letter in support of the Soil & Water Conservation Districts of Montana, Inc.'s mini-grant program for education and outreach activities.

Numerous watershed groups/conservation districts have been fortunate recipients of this grant program. In fact BCD received funding for a streambank revegetation project in 2011. Without help from SWCDMI projects would not be placed on the ground and natural resource concerns would not be addressed and Montanans would have fewer opportunities to understand the value of soil and water conservation across the state.

In the future Broadwater Conservation District's watershed group could certainly benefit from the SWCDMI mini-grant program to help cover costs to implement projects and activities identified in our DEQ accepted Watershed Restoration Plan. Watershed groups and conservation districts have a strong desire to educate and reach students and adults about numerous natural resource concerns, but most face extensive financial constraints; hence they rely heavily on grant funds to implement such programs.

Broadwater CD and the Deep Creek Landowner Advisory Group fully support the efforts of the Soil & Water Conservation Districts of Montana, Inc. to provide education and outreach funds to groups across the state.

Respectfully,

Denise Thompson  
District Administrator

Board of Supervisors

Darrell Baum, Chairman  
Kelly Ingalls, Treasurer  
Jim Beck, Associate Member  
Herb Argabright, Associate Member  
Jeff Hoeffner, Associate Member

Rick Van Dyken, Vice Chairman  
Bob Hoppe, Member  
Gary Flynn, Member  
Toby Dundas, Associate Member  
Dennis Williams, Associate Member

Justin Meissner, District Conservationist



PO Box 1247  
Hamilton, MT 59840

(406) 375-2272  
brwaterforum@  
bitterroot.net

[www.brwaterforum.org](http://www.brwaterforum.org)

Executive Director  
Heather Mullee

AmeriCorps Member  
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Bookkeeper  
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Eddie Olwell  
Al Pernichele  
Cynthia Rademacher  
Ed Snook

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

September 5, 2014

Dear Robert,

It is my pleasure to write a letter in support of the Soil & Water Conservation Districts of Montana, Inc.'s mini-grant program for education and outreach activities.

The Bitter Root Water Forum has been the recipient of this grant program several times in recent years. Most recently, we received a mini-grant to complete an education and outreach project that allowed us to connect with landowners, and educate people about NPS pollution issues and solutions in priority watersheds as identified by our Watershed Restoration Plan. Without funding assistance from the Soil and Water Conservation District, this project would never have been possible.

In the future, Bitter Root Water Forum could use this program to help cover cost that would directly implement projects or activities identified in our DEQ accepted Watershed Restoration Plan. We already have an idea to host a bioengineering workshop highlighting the importance of "soft-stabilization" and training a cadre of volunteers to assist in getting a shovel-ready restoration project on the ground in the spring of 2015.

In conclusion, we fully support the efforts of the Soil & Water Conservation Districts of Montana, Inc. to provide education and outreach funds to watershed groups across the state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Heather Mullee".

Heather Mullee  
Executive Director



## GREATER GALLATIN WATERSHED COUNCIL

P.O. Box 751, Bozeman, MT 59771

(406) 551-0804

[info@greatergallatin.org](mailto:info@greatergallatin.org)

<http://greatergallatin.org>

September 9, 2014

Ms. Jan Fontaine  
Montana Association of Conservation Districts  
Soil & Water Conservation Districts of Montana, Inc.  
1101 11th Avenue  
Helena, MT 59601

Dear Ms. Fontaine:

I am writing on behalf of the Greater Gallatin Watershed Council (GGWC) in support of the Soil & Water Conservation Districts of Montana's application for 319 funding for FY 2016 Education and Outreach Mini-Grants.

GGWC has been the recipient of this grant program several times in recent years. In 2013, we received a mini-grant to assist with funding our annual Fall Tour. The topic of the tour was wetland restoration in the Gallatin Valley and approximately 60 people attended to view healthy and impaired wetlands and learn about restoration practices. The mini-grant helped fund a coach bus for the tour, printing a packet for participants, event promotion, and staff coordination. Funding from the Soil and Water Conservation District made the Fall Tour possible and allowed GGWC to educate a large and diverse group of Gallatin Valley residents.

The mini-grant program is a wonderful benefit to GGWC and watershed groups across the state. This program is a strong compliment to the projects that watershed groups such as GGWC are applying for in their 319 grant applications because it allows for additional education and outreach activities that may not be directly related to restoration projects. We fully support the 319 grant application of the Soil & Water Conservation Districts of Montana to fund the Education & Outreach Mini-Grant program in FY 2016.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Sierra Harris", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Sierra Harris  
Watershed Coordinator  
Greater Gallatin Watershed Council

*Promoting the conservation and enhancement of our water resources  
while supporting the traditions of community, agriculture, and recreation.*



## Granite Conservation District

105 South Holland  
PO Box 926  
Philipsburg, MT 59858  
406-859-3291

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September 8, 2014

RE: The SWCDMI Education and Outreach Mini Grant Program

To Whom It May Concern:

Recently Granite Conservation District, in conjunction with the Granite Headwaters Watershed Group, sponsored the completion of a sediment and metals TMDL study. Metals in the water were identified as an area of concern for Flint Creek and its tributaries.

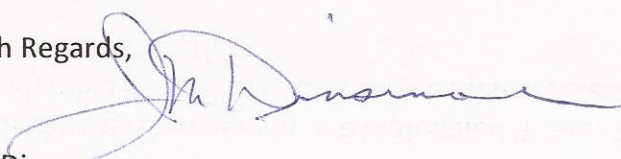
Following was the creation of a Watershed Restoration Plan. Local input indicated considerable interest in undertaking a mercury cleanup effort. Many entities are interested in this effort, indicating they're willing to partner heavily in the project as it progresses.

Currently two of the partners involved in the initial planning stages of the mercury cleanup effort are NRDP and DNRC. As activity progresses, we look forward to partnering with the Soil & Water Conservation Districts of Montana, Inc. (SWCDMI) as well; our project benefitting through their Education and Outreach Mini Grant Program.

In conclusion, we fully support the efforts of the SWCDMI to provide education and outreach funds to watershed groups such as ours. This funding directly benefits conservation projects across the state.

Thank you.

With Regards,



Jim Dinsmore  
Chairman



a non-profit organization benefiting all water users in the basin  
816 Grizzly Drive Great Falls, Montana 59404 406-727-4437

September 6, 2014

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

It is my pleasure to write a letter in support of the Soil & Water Conservation Districts of Montana, Inc.'s mini-grant program for education and outreach activities.

The Sun River Watershed Group (SRWG) has been the recipient of this grant program several times in recent years. Most recently, we received a mini-grant to complete a water quality monitoring project. The project was in cooperation with local schools that helped acquire an YSI 556 multi-probe meter to monitor the Sun River and tributaries while also educating youth about healthy waters. Without the help from the Soil and Water Conservation District, this project would never have been possible.

In the future SRWG could use this program to help cover cost that would directly implement projects or activities identified in our DEQ accepted Watershed Restoration Plan.

In conclusion, we fully support the efforts of the Soil & Water Conservation Districts of Montana, Inc. to provide education and outreach funds to watershed groups across the state.

Please help us improve our teamwork in the Sun River Watershed by funding this grant proposal. Call me at 406-727-4437 if you have any questions concerning our support for this project.

Sincerely,

Alan Rollo, Coordinator  
Sun River Watershed Group

Cc: SWCDMI



**Watershed Restoration Coalition for the Upper Clark Fork  
1002 Hollenback Road suite C  
Deer lodge, Montana 59722**

Sept. 17, 2014

Jan Fontaine  
Montana Association of Conservation Districts  
Soil & Water Conservation Districts of Montana, Inc.  
1101 11th Avenue  
Helena, MT 59601

Dear Jan

It is my pleasure to write a letter in support of the Soil & Water Conservation Districts of Montana, Inc.'s mini-grant program for education and outreach activities.

The Watershed Restoration Coalition (WRC) has been the recipient of this grant program several times in recent years. Most recently, we received a mini-grant to complete a local education program related to the restoration of the Clark Fork River and its tributaries. Without the help from the Soil and Water Conservation District, this project would never have been possible.

In the future WRC could use this program to help cover cost that would directly implement projects or activities identified in our DEQ accepted Watershed Restoration Plan.

In conclusion, we fully support the efforts of the Soil & Water Conservation Districts of Montana, Inc. to provide education and outreach funds to watershed groups across the state.

Sincerely

Ted Dodge  
Executive Director  
WRC  
406-579-3762