



Gallatin Local Water Quality District

1709 W. College Street, Suite 104 – Judge Guenther Memorial Center – Bozeman, MT 59715
(406) 582-3148 www.gallatin.mt.gov/GLWQD



December 8, 2008

Dear Robin Rung and 319 Grant Review Committee:

I am writing this letter to express my support for the Montana Watercourse grant application "Riparian and Wetland Buffer Education." Healthy riparian and wetland buffers are a common sense, economical and effective way to protect Montana's water quality. These valuable areas are disappearing at an alarming rate. Buffer education and resources for Montana's youth and their mentors is needed to promote a culture that truly understands the value of these areas and works to restore and protect them. MTWC is a trusted source of information and programs for water resources and is in a good position to deliver effective on the ground buffer education.

Montana Watercourse proposes to target Montana's educators and students in areas that are experiencing development and that are also targeted in a Riparian Campaign currently being funded by a 319 grant. By leveraging awareness generated through this campaign and the resources of local partners, MTWC will provide complimentary, on the ground, buffer-related resources and programs. With support from this grant and partnerships with local groups and experts, MTWC will conduct outreach to educators and students through buffer service learning projects, tours, curriculum, resource development and a mini symposium for partners of Eric Vincent's "Riparian Repair Teams". Leveraging other statewide watershed efforts, MTWC will coordinate with other statewide entities such as the Governor's Riparian Task force and the Montana Watershed Coordination Council. An educational campaign aimed at educators and students will be a powerful way to involve Montana's youth in first-hand, experiential learning of the importance of riparian protection.

The Gallatin Local Water Quality District has agreed to house and administer educational trucks that would be available for local educators and others participating in education on the importance of riparian and wetland area buffers. If you have any questions regarding are participation in this program please feel free to call me at (409) 582-3148.

Sincerely,

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

Alan English, Manager