

# **WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I Grants for Fiscal Year 2019**

**Funding Opportunity Announcement No. BOR-DO-19-F010**

**Watershed Restoration Project Prioritization and Water Supply  
Planning in the Lower Gallatin Watershed**

**November 13, 2019**

Proposal submission from:

Gallatin Watershed Council (GWC)

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## ABBREVIATIONS

CWMP: Cooperative Watershed Management Program

DEQ: Department of Environmental Quality (Montana)

DNRC: Department of Natural Resources and Conservation

EPA: Environmental Protection Agency

FWP: Fish Wildlife and Parks

GWC: Gallatin Watershed Council

GWTP: Gallatin Water Tomorrow Partnership

LGW: Lower Gallatin Watershed

LGWRP: Lower Gallatin Watershed Restoration Plan

MTDEQ: Montana Department of Environmental Quality

TMDL: Total Maximum Daily Load

WRP: Watershed Restoration Plan

## TECHNICAL PROPOSAL AND EVALUATION CRITERIA

### Executive Summary

Date: November 13, 2019

Applicant: Gallatin Watershed Council – Bozeman, Gallatin County, Montana

The Gallatin Watershed begins in the nation's first National Park, draining 1,800 square miles on its journey north before the Gallatin River confluences with the Madison and Jefferson Rivers to form the headwaters of the Missouri River, the longest river in North America. The Lower Gallatin Watershed (LGW) is the focus of this proposal and comprises the downstream portion of the Gallatin Watershed, draining a total of 997 square miles surrounding the Gallatin Valley, Montana. This Gallatin Watershed is the quintessential western headwaters ecosystem, with mountain snowpack supplying downstream users in more arid environments. While the upper Gallatin primarily runs through federal National Forest lands, the lower Gallatin meanders through a patchwork of private lands in both urban and rural settings. The agricultural background of Gallatin Valley has shaped both the culture and historic water usage. In 2004, the Gallatin Watershed Council (GWC) formed to serve as a forum for communication and coordination of activities in the watershed. Over the past 15 years, GWC has successfully facilitated watershed management and planning meetings between the various stakeholders present in our watershed: state and federal agencies, nonprofits, concerned citizens, municipalities, agriculture, and recreationists. GWC has operated citizen science initiatives related to water quality, coordinated stream enhancement projects, and served as a forum for collaboration across the watershed. This proposal aims to advance and expand GWC's planning and prioritization activities. Funds received will be used to **(1)** Analyze completed restoration projects and progress towards Lower Gallatin Watershed Restoration goals, **(2)** Assist in prioritization planning for future restoration work, **(3)** Advance GWC's collaborative water supply planning with watershed stakeholders, and **(4)** Increase community awareness and engagement in water planning efforts. The activities in this proposal related to restoration prioritization and Watershed Restoration Plan updating are critically important as the Montana Department of Environmental Quality will be directing federal 319 nonpoint source (NPS) funding toward the LGW beginning in 2022 to complete on-the-ground restoration work. With Gallatin County's rapid population growth and finite water resources, water supply planning is vital to ensuring watershed resiliency for the future. This funding will promote water reliability in the LGW and cooperation between stakeholders to reduce conflict, facilitate solutions to complex water issues, and assist in solving limited water supply issues. GWC is confident that with the requested funding, we can complete all outlined activities in this proposal from May 2020 to April 2022. None of the proposed activities are located on a federal facility.

## Background Data

The Gallatin Watershed originates high on the Yellowstone Plateau in the northwest corner of Yellowstone National Park. The Gallatin River flows north out of Wyoming, trenching a canyon between the Gallatin and Madison Mountain Ranges before braiding its way through the Gallatin Valley of Southwest Montana. The Gallatin then joins the Madison and Jefferson Rivers near Three Forks, MT, forming the headwaters of the Missouri, the longest river in North America. From mountain peaks, to lush valley bottoms, and the arid sagebrush grasslands in between, the Gallatin Watershed spans 1.2 million acres and is home to 23 major water bodies.

The Lower Gallatin Watershed (LGW) extends from the confluence of Spanish Creek with the Gallatin River and downstream to the Missouri's headwaters. Draining from the Gallatin Mountains, Bridger Range, Horseshoe Hills, and Madison Plateau, the LGW encompasses nearly 1000 square miles within the Gallatin Valley, fondly known as "The Garden Spot of Montana" since the late 1800s. Dominated by mountain snowpack, the Gallatin Watershed relies on spring snowmelt to supply its rivers, aquifers, and wetlands. The Upper Gallatin, the watershed's headwaters, receives an average of 400 inches of snow annually (equivalent to 67 inches of rain) compared to the lower watershed, near Logan, MT, receiving less than 12 inches of rain annually (Gallatin Watershed Sourcebook, 2017). This climatic diversity between the upper and lower sections of the watershed leads to variation in the issues faced by the watershed communities and their respective water resource management.

In addition to the Gallatin River's 22 tributaries, nearly 2,000 miles of irrigation canals redistribute water across the landscape, aiding in the growth of thousands of acres of cropland across the Lower Gallatin Watershed. The Gallatin Valley holds its roots in agriculture; however, it is facing rapid development and growth. These land use changes from agriculture to urban development can have major impacts on the water resources of the Lower Gallatin, which has critical importance to the health of the entire Missouri River Basin.

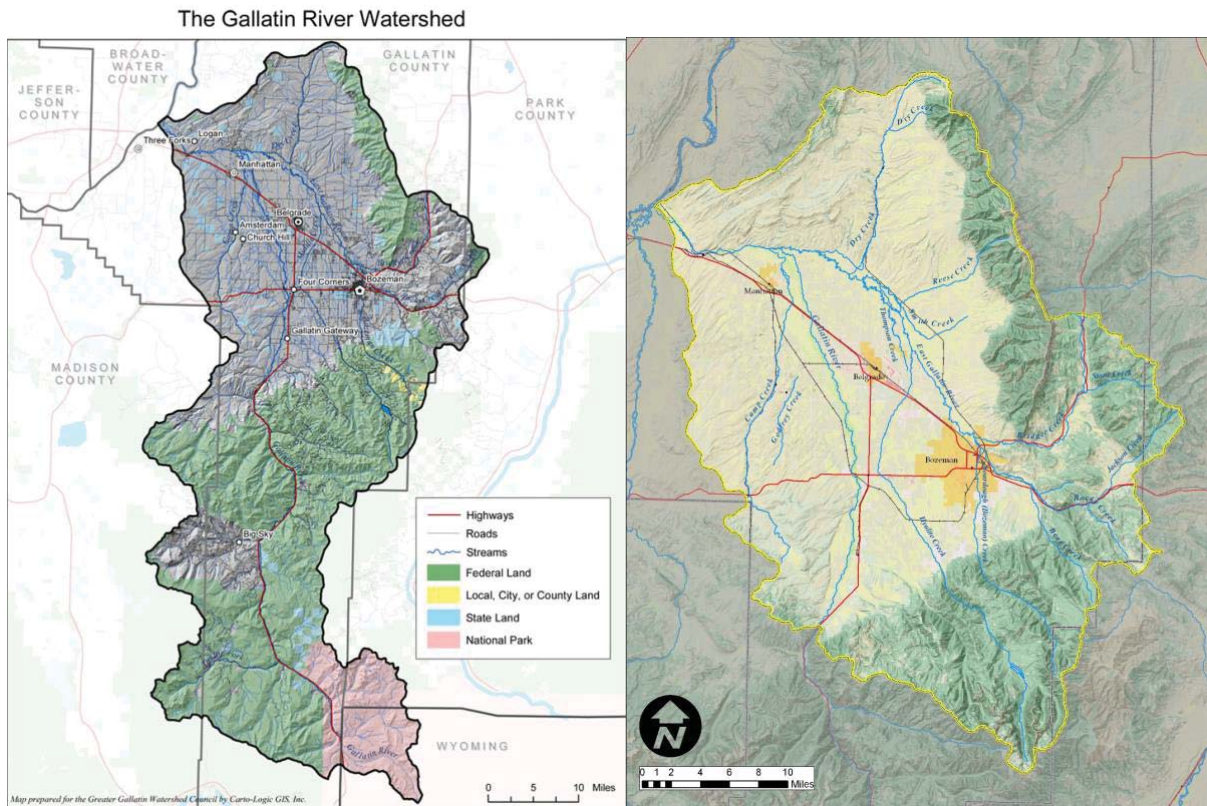
### Past Reclamation-Funded Projects

In 2016, GWC was the recipient of a \$20,000 grant from the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation to lay the foundation for drought resiliency planning in the Lower Gallatin Watershed. These funds were part of the Missouri Headwaters Drought Resilience Demonstration Project funded through the Bureau of Reclamation's Drought Contingency Planning Grant program.

## Project Location

The Lower Gallatin Watershed (LGW) is located in Southwest Montana, draining 997 square miles in the downstream-most portion of the Gallatin River Watershed (Hydrologic Unit Code: 10020008) (DEQ, 2013). The LGW comprises the northern part of Gallatin County, Montana, and is home to three primary tributaries of the Gallatin River – Hyalite Creek, Bridger Creek,

and the East Gallatin River. Bozeman, located centrally in the LGW, is one of the fastest growing micropolitan statistical areas in the country.



**Maps 1, 2.** (Left) The Gallatin Watershed of Southwest Montana. (Right) The Lower Gallatin Watershed.

## Technical Project Description and Milestones

### *Applicant Category*

Established in 2004, the Gallatin Watershed Council (GWC) is an existing watershed group that works with local volunteers, landowners, and community partners to bring water quality monitoring, stream restoration, and watershed education to the Gallatin Valley with the goal of improving water quality for all. GWC began as an informal group of agency professionals, Montana State University professors and scientists, environmental consultants, landowners, and agricultural producers. From its outset, GWC has served as a forum for communication and coordination of activities in the watershed. The following strategies have guided the organization since its inception:

- Non-advocacy focus. GWC is based on consensus-building in the watershed community on natural resource issues, not divisive. GWC brings opposing interests together to find livable solutions for all.
- Provide funding assistance. GWC provides funding assistance for large-scale stream and watershed restoration projects through cooperative efforts with local, state, and federal agencies.

In its early years of operation, GWC's programmatic successes included developing and coordinating Gallatin Stream Teams, a community volunteer stream monitoring program, installing rain gardens at local schools and City of Bozeman offices, and planning watershed tours and Annual Meetings.

In 2014, GWC worked with community stakeholders to develop the Lower Gallatin Watershed Restoration Plan (WRP), which provides a framework for implementing water-quality improvements so that the addressed streams are no longer considered impaired by the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). GWC began working on stream restoration projects identified in the Lower Gallatin WRP in 2015. The Story Mill Community Park project was completed in 2016 in partnership with the Trust for Public Land and Trout Unlimited and was our first on-the-ground project restoring wetlands and floodplains to Bozeman Creek and the East Gallatin River, providing important habitat for fish and wildlife. Our second restoration project was in partnership with NRCS and an agricultural producer. This project included riparian fencing, off-stream stock water, and streambank revegetation on Camp Creek and was completed at the end of 2017. Starting in 2018 and continuing into 2019, GWC partnered with Trout Unlimited, a private landowner, and a private consultant to restore entrenched channels on Dry Creek. This large-scale streambank stabilization project restored 1.3-miles of streambank, increased riparian vegetative cover, and resulted in improved aquatic habitat on Dry Creek. Additionally, over the past two years, GWC partnered with Trout Unlimited Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, and small acreage landowners along the East Gallatin River, utilizing soft engineering techniques to stabilize streambanks and enhance flood resilience.

Most recently, in 2018, GWC launched the Gallatin Watershed Restoration Inventory, an effort to catalog completed projects across the watershed, identify the next feasible and high priority restoration projects identified in the WRP and begin coordinating project stakeholders. In 2019, GWC initiated the Gallatin Water Tomorrow Partnership to unify efforts around addressing water quantity and extend water supply planning efforts beyond city limits.

As water quantity and quality issues increase in the Lower Gallatin Watershed, GWC continues to bring together stakeholders with a focus on consensus-building to conserve and enhance our community's water resources.

### ***Eligibility of Applicant***

The Gallatin Watershed Council is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, with a Board of Directors representing the variety of stakeholders in the Lower Gallatin Watershed. This grassroots organization formed in an effort to facilitate collaborative natural resource management between local landowners, volunteers, government agencies, nonprofit organizations, and the community at-large. Current Board members include:

<b>Name of Board Member</b>	<b>Board Position</b>	<b>Occupation</b>
Tom Michalek	Board Chair	Hydrologist, RESPEC, Inc.
Lilly Deford	Vice Chair and Contracted Restoration Coordinator	Civil Engineer, McLane Construction
Tom Langmo	Treasurer	CPA, Wipfli, LLP
Peter Brown	Director	Stewardship Director, Gallatin Valley Land Trust
Leeanne Roulson	Director	Fisheries Biologist and Environmental Policy Specialist, HydroSolutions
Jamie McEvoy	Director	Assistant Professor of Geography, Montana State University
Hannah Jaicks	Director	Program Manager, Future West
John Nehring	Director	Senior Buyer and Production Planner, SIMMS Fishing Products

### ***Goals***

The mission of the Gallatin Watershed Council is to facilitate collaboration between local volunteers, landowners, and community partners to bring water quality monitoring, stream restoration and watershed education to the Gallatin Valley, with the goal of improving water quality for all.

Goals of the Collaborative Watershed Management Program proposal are to:



- Identify progress toward goals listed in the 2014 Lower Gallatin Watershed Restoration Plan (LGWRP).
- Incorporate water quantity concerns and solutions into the LGWRP by engaging a diverse group of stakeholders in water supply planning. The goals of this initiative are to identify common goals and on-the-ground projects for increasing water supply resiliency in the Lower Gallatin.
- Update the LGWRP to include a re-prioritization of stream restoration project locations based on an analysis of completed projects, new watershed growth and development, funding availability, riparian health, and landowner interest.
- Bolster partnerships, collaboration, and community participation through strategic outreach efforts.
- Strengthen collaborative watershed planning efforts in anticipation of Montana DEQ 319 funds being prioritized in the Gallatin Watershed in the near future.

## ***Approach***

### **Task A - Watershed Group Development:**

GWC is not proposing any activities related to Task A.

### **Task B - Watershed Restoration Planning:**

#### ***B1. Analysis of stream restoration progress and prioritization for future projects***

In 2014, GWC completed the Lower Gallatin Watershed Restoration Plan (LGWRP), a blueprint for stream restoration projects to improve water quality and remove streams from DEQ’s List of Impaired Waters. Since then, GWC has brought coordination and financial assistance towards the completion of several restoration projects but is not the only entity doing this work. In the Lower Gallatin Watershed there are many agencies, municipalities, non-profit organizations, and private landowners interested in improving water quality, such as the NRCS, Trout Unlimited, Trust for Public Land, The Nature Conservancy, and the Sacajawea Audubon Society, among others. Currently, there is no central location or mechanism to track and share project data, making progress towards goals in the LGWRP difficult to ascertain. The Lower Gallatin Planning Area TMDLs & Framework Water Quality Improvement Plan, created by the MTDEQ, recommends that “Information about specific locations, spatial extent, designs, contact information, and any effectiveness evaluation should be compiled about each project. Information about all restoration projects along with tracking overall extent of BMP implementation should be compiled into one location for the entire watershed” (MTDEQ, 2013). This report also recommends “expanding knowledge of existing conditions” to further quantify a baseline for watershed health and assist in tracking progress over time.

Starting in 2018, with support from the Soil and Water Conservations Districts of Montana, the Yellowstone Club Community Foundation, and Four Corners Community Foundation, GWC has taken several steps toward developing an inventory of restoration projects completed in the Lower Gallatin Watershed. GWC has designed the database structure and a form to collect data about completed restoration projects. Additionally, GWC has collaborated with SciGaia, an international software engineering company, to develop software to house the database, provide an interactive map of all restoration projects, including embedded project documents, and run and export reports. Throughout this process, GWC has held several public and targeted meetings to gain input and support from stakeholders in the community. GWC has also been working closely with several restoration practitioners and Trout Unlimited for their expertise and long-term institutional knowledge of restoration work in the area.

GWC has also taken steps to further understand baseline watershed health. MTDEQ has developed a draft method for assessing riparian health called the Riparian Evaluation Method (REM). According to the draft procedure manual, REM has two primary goals: 1) “track water quality improvements over time, using riparian health as a surrogate for water quality” and 2) “identify specific locations where on-the-ground projects may be implemented to improve water quality.” This past summer, in partnership with Montana State University (MSU) and MTDEQ, GWC developed an undergraduate class based around applying REM. The students used aerial imagery to map and categorize riparian vegetative cover and stressors along the length of all impaired streams in the Lower Gallatin Watershed. GWC is now equipped with this geodatabase to assist in watershed restoration planning, guide targeted outreach efforts to landowners, and help track progress toward the goals listed in the LGWRP.

GWC is poised to take the next steps in analyzing progress toward the LGWRP. With the software nearly complete, GWC will begin working with restoration practitioners to collect details about completed projects and enter this data into the database. Once the database is populated, streambank miles restored, and techniques used on each reach of stream will be easily accessible. GWC will then work with DEQ to perform load reduction estimates.

Re-prioritizing locations for future restoration work will be an essential part of updating the LGWRP. Determining where GWC should strategically focus its resources will require interfacing with local land use and growth policy planning efforts and the efforts of other restoration and conservation groups. GWC will also consider analysis of the newly collected REM data to determine areas where restoration efforts are most needed and will be most effective. GWC will then make a targeted list of landowners in priority restoration areas and work closely with its partners in land conservation, the NRCS, and TU to develop a landowner outreach plan. The outcome of these efforts will be an updated list of deliberately chosen and feasible projects that will be aligned with MTDEQ focused funding and other watershed funding sources.

Ultimately it will be important to synthesize the results from the analysis of restoration progress and project re-prioritization into an updated LGWRP. GWC will seek guidance and feedback from MTDEQ during this process. This will ensure the updated document will be a blueprint to successfully guide the Gallatin as the next priority focus watershed and will align with the larger vision for improved water quality across the state.

Tasks, milestones and proposed timelines associated with Task B1 are detailed below.

Task	Milestones
<p><b>B1.1 Analyze completed restoration projects and progress towards LGWRP goals</b>  <i>Dates: May 2020 - January 2022</i>  <i>Year 1 Cost: \$5,550</i>  <i>Year 2 Cost: \$3,308</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Contractor compiles details about restoration projects completed in the watershed (<i>May 2020-May 2021</i>)</li> <li>● Incorporate collected data into database (<i>May 2020-May 2021</i>)</li> <li>● Contractor works with DEQ to complete load reduction estimates based on compiled data (<i>May 2021-January 2022</i>)</li> </ul>
<p><b>B1.2 Re-prioritize locations for future restoration work</b>  <i>Dates: September 2020 - April 2022</i>  <i>Year 1 Cost: \$8,630</i>  <i>Year 2 Cost: \$8,740</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Analyze riparian evaluation and existing data to more specifically identify priority restoration locations (<i>September 2020-January 2021</i>)</li> <li>● Assemble list of targeted landowners in priority locations (<i>January 2021</i>)</li> <li>● Develop landowner outreach plan (<i>January 2021-April 2021</i>)</li> <li>● Conduct outreach to targeted landowners to gauge interest and feasibility of project locations (<i>May 2021-April 2022</i>)</li> <li>● Meet with targeted restoration groups to investigate opportunities for increased collaboration (i.e. TU, NRCS, Audubon) (<i>May 2020-May 2021</i>)</li> </ul>
<p><b>B1.3 Ensure goals in LGWRP are included and consistent across municipal/agency/community planning efforts</b>  <i>Dates: May 2020 - May 2022</i>  <i>Year 1: Cost: \$4,995</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Participate in planning efforts that affect water resources (i.e. Gallatin Triangle Community Planning, NRCS Local Working Groups) (<i>May 2020-May 2022</i>)</li> </ul>

<p><i>Year 2: Cost: \$4,995</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Investigate opportunities for increased collaboration with land conservation efforts (<i>May 2020-May 2022</i>)</li> </ul>
<p><b>B1.4 Write report to include results from Tasks B1.1-B1.3 into LGWRP</b>  <i>Dates: January 2022 - April 2022</i>  <i>Year 1: Cost: \$0</i>  <i>Year 2: Cost: \$7,400</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Develop draft report summarizing restoration project inventory and location prioritization (<i>January 2022-February 2022</i>)</li> <li>● Collect and incorporate edits and suggestions from stakeholders and DEQ (<i>March 2022-April 2022</i>)</li> <li>● Incorporate into updated LGWRP (<i>April 2022</i>)</li> </ul>

***B2. Gallatin Water Tomorrow Partnership - Collaborative Water Supply Planning***

Rapid growth, climate variability, drought, and cumulative impacts from land use and recreation challenge the future ability to preserve high quality river, riparian, and wetland systems as well productive landscapes and the agricultural heritage of the Gallatin Valley. Projections for water supply needs suggest that current capacity to meet community needs will be met by 2036 in some areas and no further water rights can be allocated in the Gallatin Watershed (Gallatin Watershed Sourcebook, 2017).

In 2016, GWC was the recipient of a \$20,000 grant from the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation to lay the foundation for drought resiliency planning in the Lower Gallatin Watershed. These funds were part of the Missouri Headwaters Drought Resilience Demonstration Project funded through the Bureau of Reclamation’s Drought Contingency Planning Grant program. Goals of this demonstration project were to increase awareness of drought vulnerabilities and impacts and build capacity for planning efforts across sectors like municipalities, agriculture, and recreation. Outcomes from this project in the Lower Gallatin included:

- Identified drought monitoring tools and compiled into a Gallatin County Drought Resilience Index;
- Identified and built enduring relationships with key stakeholders including the Gallatin Conservation District, the Association of Gallatin Agricultural Irrigators, and the City of Bozeman’s Water Conservation Division;

- Conducted stakeholder interviews with 18 individuals representing municipal, non-profit, agency and agricultural producer sectors to identify drought perceptions, concerns and vulnerabilities;
- Coordinated drought forums in four communities across the Lower Gallatin Watershed including Bozeman, Belgrade, Manhattan and Four Corners;
- Conducted community awareness and outreach activities including a drought resilient garden tour, the development of an interactive drought visual, the development of a river conditions web tool and hosting a public meeting highlighting stories of individuals with firsthand experiences of drought;
- Initiated the development of a collaborative group of key stakeholders, the Gallatin Water Tomorrow Partnership to address concerns and potential solutions collaboratively.

The Gallatin Water Tomorrow Partnership (GWTP) was initiated by the Gallatin Watershed Council during the spring of 2019 to unify efforts to address water supply concerns in the LGW by formalizing collaborative efforts and identifying opportunities that will enable collective action in the face of rapid growth, land-use change, and climate variability. Through the process of drought resiliency planning, GWC found that stakeholders seemed to resonate more closely with the ideas of “water supply and availability” versus “drought”. The Gallatin Water Tomorrow Partnership formed as a result of the Drought Resilience Demonstration Project but addresses water supply in a larger context and is not specifically focused on drought planning.

Attendees of the initial GWTP included representatives from the Association for Gallatin Agricultural Irrigators, the City of Bozeman, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Gallatin Local Water Quality District, Gallatin Valley Land Trust, and the Fishing Outfitters Association of Montana. Attendees participated in an exercise to prioritize watershed concerns. Top concerns included (1) Water supply/in-stream flows, (2) Changing weather/climate change, and (3) Water quality. Attendees agreed that the focus of this collaborative group should be on water supply and availability as other efforts are underway to address water quality. Attendees engaged in a preliminary discussion of potential solutions to address water supply concerns including:

- Water storage and retention - on and off-farm water management and efficiency strategies, high flow aquifer recharge, surface water reservoir/dam feasibility
- Water slowing - beaver mimicry, maintaining healthy wetland and riparian corridors, riparian and floodplain connectivity
- Water conservation - median strip planting, residential indoor and outdoor efficiency, extending current City of Bozeman conservation incentives to county residents
- Forest management practices that enhance water supply.

Finally, attendees stressed the importance of collaboration, the need for a strategic plan, and the desire for the Gallatin Watershed Council to lead an effort to bring stakeholders together.

With GWC’s history of collaborative water initiatives and rapport with stakeholders, we are well positioned to move forward with this work. We propose hiring an independent facilitator, unaffiliated with any of the participating groups to help moderate and facilitate the process of identifying shared goals developing a water supply plan to include as a new section in the LGWRP. Together, the contracted facilitator and Watershed Coordinator will develop an outline for a series of 4-6 stakeholder meetings to occur during the first year and a half of the grant period. Part of this process will include engaging stakeholders that were not present at the initial GWTP meeting, including Trout Unlimited, Custer Gallatin National Forest, Fish, Wildlife and Parks, and city and county planners.

Goals and future structure, including working committees, for the partnership will be defined by the group, but GWC envisions compiling existing relevant studies to inform decisions, identifying monitoring and data needs, developing a metric tool for ranking potential projects, and developing a prioritized list of specific, on-the-ground, feasible projects that we will incorporate as a new section in the updated Lower Gallatin Watershed Restoration Plan. The GWC Watershed Coordinator will work to coordinate stakeholders, conduct community outreach, ensure full, diverse participation and will compile results into the updated LGWRP. The GWTP Facilitator will assist with developing meeting content outlines and facilitating and moderating stakeholder meetings.

Tasks, milestones and proposed timelines associated with Task B2 are detailed below.

Task	Milestones
<p><b>B2.1 Develop framework for Gallatin Water Tomorrow Partnership</b>  <i>Dates: May 2020 - September 2020</i>  <i>Year 1 Cost: \$6,515</i>  <i>Cost: \$0</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Conduct independent facilitator search and selection process <i>(May 2020 - June 2020)</i></li> <li>● Develop outline for stakeholder meeting content and schedule <i>(July-August 2020)</i></li> <li>● Develop outline for stakeholder communications and coordination efforts <i>(July-August 2020)</i></li> <li>● Conduct initial outreach to stakeholders, engage new partners, ensure all groups are represented</li> </ul>

	<i>(August-September 2020)</i>
<p><b>B2.2 Coordinate and conduct 4-6 collaborative water supply stakeholder meetings</b></p> <p><i>Dates: May 2020 - October 2021</i></p> <p><i>Year 1 Cost: \$13,290</i></p> <p><i>Year 2 Cost: \$7,137</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Stakeholder group identifies group structure, goals, bylaws <i>(October 2020)</i></li> <li>● Gather information, research existing studies related to water supply and availability <i>(May 2020-October 2020)</i></li> <li>● Identify existing monitoring and data needs <i>(October 2020-February 2021)</i></li> <li>● Develop metric tool for ranking potential projects <i>(February 2021-March 2021)</i></li> <li>● Identify on-the-ground water supply projects <i>(January 2021-October 2021)</i></li> </ul>
<p><b>B2.3 Increase community awareness and engagement in water planning efforts</b></p> <p><i>Dates: May 2020 - April 2022</i></p> <p><i>Year 1 Cost: \$5,291</i></p> <p><i>Year 2 Cost: \$5,291</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Communicate water planning efforts to the community through newsletters, website content and press releases <i>(May 2020-April 2022)</i></li> <li>● Participate in planning efforts that affect water supply and availability (i.e. NRCS Long Range Planning, Big Sky Headwaters Alliance, Gallatin Triangle Plan) <i>(May 2020-April 2022)</i></li> <li>● Identify and present project goals and results at 3 established, well attended events (i.e. MWCC Annual Meeting, AWRA Conference, TEDxBozeman, etc.) <i>(May 2020-April 2022)</i></li> </ul>
<p><b>B2.4 Write report to include results from Tasks B2.1-B2.3 into LGWRP</b></p> <p><i>Dates: November 2021 - April 2022</i></p> <p><i>Year 1 Cost: \$0</i></p> <p><i>Year 2 Cost: \$7,400</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Develop draft report summarizing results from stakeholder meetings into draft report <i>(November 2021-February 2022)</i></li> <li>● Collect and incorporate edits and suggestions from stakeholders and DEQ <i>(February 2022-March 2022)</i></li> <li>● Incorporate into updated LGWRP <i>(April 2022)</i></li> </ul>

### **Task C - Watershed Management Project Design:**

GWC is not proposing any activities related to Task C.

## **Evaluation Criteria**

### ***Evaluation Criterion A – Watershed Group Diversity and Geographic Scope (30 points)***

#### **Sub-criterion No. A1. Watershed Group Diversity**

Stakeholders in the watershed include residents, landowners, industry and land managers, as well as those who recreate, use, and value water resources in the Lower Gallatin Watershed.

Key stakeholders include:

- **Agriculture:** The Gallatin Valley is home to some of the most prime agricultural lands in the state with its fertile soils and bountiful water resources. The primary agricultural activities within the watershed are wheat, barley, hay, and cattle production. The Association of Gallatin Agricultural Irrigators works to preserve water rights, maintain water conveyance across the valley to aid in crop production, and protect the agricultural industry.
- **Municipalities:** Multiple cities and towns are located in the LGW, including Bozeman, Belgrade, Manhattan, Gallatin Gateway, Amsterdam-Churchill, amongst other smaller communities. These municipal influences play a large role in natural resource planning and management in the watershed.
- **Recreation:** The Gallatin River is a world-class fly fishing destination, making recreational tourism a critical aspect of the region's economy.
- **Private residents and landowners:** The Lower Gallatin River meanders primarily through private property, making private residents a pivotal player for maintaining riparian health on a local scale.
- **Montana State University:** Montana State University is a public land-grant research university located in Bozeman, MT. MSU provides outreach services to citizens and communities both locally and statewide through its agricultural experiment station and 60 county and reservation extension offices.

Representatives from the following groups have participated in GWC meetings and activities:

- Gallatin Conservation District;
- Association of Gallatin Agricultural Irrigators;
- City of Bozeman (Water Conservation Division and Stormwater Division);
- Gallatin Local Water Quality District;
- Montana Department of Environmental Quality;



- Montana Department of Natural Resources;
- Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Region 3;
- Natural Resources Conservation Service;
- Department of Natural Resources and Conservation;
- Montana Watershed Coordination Council (a statewide nonprofit);
- Montana State University;
- Gallatin Valley Land Trust (local nonprofit);
- Soil and Water Conservation Districts of Montana (a statewide nonprofit);
- Madison Gallatin Trout Unlimited (local chapter of a national nonprofit);
- The Nature Conservancy (a national nonprofit);
- Four Corners Community Foundation (a local nonprofit);
- Gallatin River Task Force (a local nonprofit).

While the GWC has strong partnerships from diverse interests, there are additional key stakeholders with whom we plan to further strengthen relationships and engagement, including:

- City and county commissioners
- Custer Gallatin National Forest
- Landowners, small acreage property owners
- General public - increased public engagement
- Other water recreationists outside of anglers (i.e. kayakers, skiers)

One of the primary goals of this proposal is to bolster partnerships, collaboration, and community participation through strategic outreach efforts. We plan to better engage stakeholders through the following efforts:

- Develop a strategic outline and plan for stakeholder communications and coordination efforts;
- Communicate planning efforts and outcomes to the community through newsletters, website content and press releases;
- Participate in planning efforts that affect water resources to ensure goals in LGWRP are included and consistent across municipal/agency/community planning efforts. Examples of current local planning efforts that affect water resources include the Gallatin Triangle Community Plan, NRCS Long Range Planning, and the Big Sky Headwaters Alliance, among others.
- Identify and present planning goals and results at already established, well attended local or regional events.

## **Sub-criterion No. A2. Geographic Scope**

The specific tasks and goals outlined in this proposal address water resource issues across the entire Lower Gallatin Watershed, the downstream-most portion of the Gallatin River Watershed (Hydrologic Unit Code: 10020008). The Lower Gallatin Watershed covers approximately 997 square miles and includes both urban and agricultural stakeholders. During the development of the LGWRP, GWC divided the Lower Gallatin Watershed into four areas: North, East, West, and Bozeman (Map 3). Varying land ownership and land use patterns along with varying stream types and conditions between these areas provide an opportunity for GWC to implement restoration measures and water supply planning that address the concerns of individual stakeholder groups.

### Lower Gallatin Watershed - Bozeman

The area in and around Bozeman is highly urbanized and includes impaired segments on Bozeman Creek, Bridger Creek, Mandeville Creek, and the East Gallatin River. Primary stakeholders in this area include the City of Bozeman, Montana State University, Gallatin Conservation District, Gallatin County, United States Forest Service, agricultural producers, private landowners, local residents, businesses, and non-profit organizations.

### Lower Gallatin Watershed - East

The eastern portion of the Lower Gallatin Watershed includes impaired segments on Bear Creek, Bozeman Creek, Bridger Creek, Hyalite Creek, Jackson Creek, Mandeville Creek, Rocky Creek, Stone Creek, and the East Gallatin River. Primary stakeholders in this area include the City of Bozeman, Montana State University, Gallatin Conservation District, Gallatin County, United States Forest Service, agricultural producers, private landowners, local residents, businesses, and non-profit organizations, including the Gallatin Valley Land Trust and Montana Land Reliance.

### Lower Gallatin Watershed - North

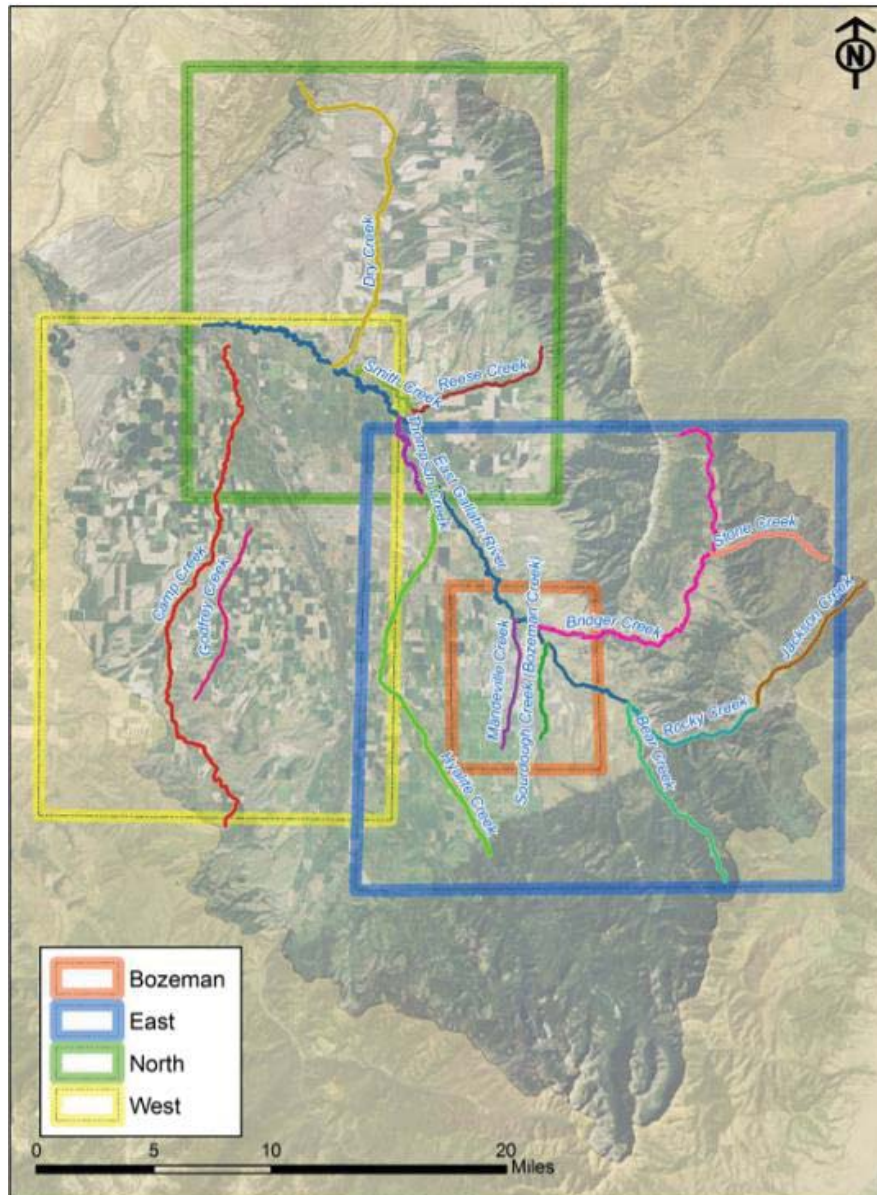
The northern portion of the Lower Gallatin Watershed includes impaired segments on Dry Creek, Reese Creek, Smith Creek, Thompson Creek, and the East Gallatin River. Primary stakeholders in this area include the Gallatin Conservation District, Gallatin County, United States Forest Service, Gallatin Valley Land Trust, Montana Land Reliance, agricultural producers, and private landowners.

### Lower Gallatin Watershed - West

The western portion of the Lower Gallatin Watershed includes impaired segments on Camp Creek and Godfrey Creek. Primary stakeholders in this area include Gallatin Conservation

District, Gallatin County, Gallatin Valley Land Trust, Montana Land Reliance, agricultural producers, and private landowners.

As noted in the Watershed Group Diversity section, GWC has already built solid foundations with most all of the stakeholders included in our geographic scope. Funding through this application would enable us to strengthen these relationships and further engage stakeholders in water supply planning and restoration project prioritization in a holistic and collaborative way.



**Map 3.** Lower Gallatin Watershed Areas - Bozeman, East, North and West.

## ***Evaluation Criterion B – Addressing Critical Watershed Needs (35 points)***

### **Sub-criterion No. B1. Critical Watershed Needs or Issues**

Primary challenges facing watershed restoration and conservation in the Lower Gallatin Watershed include:

- Water quality concerns
- Rapid rate of growth and development, including land use changes
- Water supply and availability concerns exacerbated by increased climate variability and drought
- Lack of public understanding, engagement and coordinated efforts to address water quantity concerns

#### ***Water Quality Concerns***

Fifteen of the 23 streams in the Lower Gallatin Watershed are listed on the Montana Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ) 2012 List of Impaired Waters. This prompted the DEQ to identify the sources of pollution to those impaired streams and the total pollutant load that a particular waterbody can sustain while still supporting its designated uses – fish & aquatic life, wildlife, agriculture, recreation, industry, and drinking water – through the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Program. Nearly 90% of the water pollutants across Montana are contributed through nonpoint sources (NPS), as there is no regulatory framework to address NPS water quality concerns.

Bozeman's rapid urbanization has led to an increase of NPS pollution across the watershed. Developed areas with impermeable surfaces easily mobilize pollutants with rainwater as it runs off over land, roads, and parking lots, into storm drains, and directly into our streams. Oil, gas, and other fluids that can leak from cars, salt and sediment on the roadways, litter, fertilizers/pesticides, and pet waste are all examples of pollution that runoff of urban surfaces and into our waterways. Additionally, agriculture is one of the dominant industries in Gallatin Valley and is also a contributor of NPS pollution. Nutrients in fertilizers and manure easily dissolve in water, and in instances of heavy rain or over irrigation, they can be transported with runoff to nearby streams or canals, or infiltrate through the soil profile into the groundwater. Livestock in riparian areas trample streambanks and overgraze woody vegetation cover, which can ultimately lead to bank instability, erosion, and sediment pollution. Both the urban and rural influences within the Lower Gallatin Watershed contribute to water quality concerns.

#### ***Rapid Growth and Development***

Since 2010, Gallatin County has been one of the fastest growing counties in the State of Montana. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Gallatin County's population was 67,831 in 2000, 89,513 in 2010, and was estimated to be 111,876 in 2018, the latest year for which

population estimates are available. With an estimated 22% population growth for the time period between April 1, 2010 and July 1, 2018, Gallatin County was listed as the 36th fastest growing county in the U.S. It has taken from the mid-1800s until 2015 for the County's population to reach approximately 100,000 people, but if growth continues at even a modest 2.75% annual growth rate, Gallatin County will reach a population of 200,000 by 2040.

From 1990 to 2016, the number of single-family homes in Gallatin County grew by 150%, from roughly 11,640 homes in 1990 to 28,938 in 2016. More than a third were built on lots greater than 10 acres. From 1990-2016, 93,440 acres were converted from open space to sprawl—large lot (10+ acres) residential development. That's the equivalent of 146 square miles, or around six times the size of the City of Bozeman (Headwaters Economics, 2018b).

#### *Water Supply and Availability*

The Lower Gallatin Watershed possesses a finite supply of water that could potentially be surpassed as the demand for water increases with community growth. The LGW is located in a closed basin with respect to water rights, and existing water supplies are susceptible to the impacts of drought and climate change. In 2013, the City of Bozeman adopted an Integrated Water Resources Plan to guide Bozeman's water supply and use practices for the next 50 years. The Plan estimates that if current water uses are not reduced, Bozeman's demand for water will exceed available supply around 2036, or when the City's population exceeds 62,000 (Gallatin Watershed Sourcebook, 2017).

While the City of Bozeman's Integrated Water Resources Plan has identified alternatives to meet the estimated water balance gap, including water conservation and increasing available water supply capacity, this plan does not address the area outside of City boundaries: the larger Gallatin Valley and the Lower Gallatin Watershed.

Land use changes and conversions from flood to sprinkler irrigation have changed the "engineered watershed" by lessening the aquifer recharge from flood irrigation and ditch seepage. Drought, increased demand, and climate changes will also affect the timing of seasonal water level changes. Late season surface water flows will be affected the most, with groundwater levels in sensitive areas in the valley also showing some effect (Gallatin Watershed Sourcebook, 2017). Depending on weather and climate changes in the coming years, this trend may be variable affecting crop production, fish and wildlife habitat, recreation, and tourism.

*Public Understanding, Engagement and Coordination of Stakeholder Efforts*

The Lower Gallatin Watershed has an increasing influx of new community members, many of which may be unfamiliar with the ecological limitations of living in a headwaters watershed in a semi-arid environment. Ongoing education and outreach to landowners, Homeowners Associations, developers, real estate agents, and municipal water users will be a key component for the successful implementation of water quality and quantity efforts. Several federal, state, and regional planning efforts have been initiated to address water quality and quantity issues across Montana. In each of these plans, recommendations include increased public awareness, engagement and coordination. These plans and specific, relevant recommendations, as well as how GWC proposes to address these recommendations, are included in the Evaluation Criterion C section.

***Evaluation Criterion C – Implementation and Results (25 points)***

**Sub-criterion No. C1. Understanding of and Ability to Meet Program Requirements**

The GWC has reviewed the Collaborative Watershed Management Program requirements and the Board of Directors has passed an Official Resolution indicating that our organization can comply with all requisite timeframe and reporting. Our budget request has been split between the two funding years as required and can be completed within this two-year timeframe as indicated in the Approach section of our application. GWC has experience managing large grants and has allocated funds within the proposed budget for grant oversight and reporting. The attached letters of support indicate the willingness of stakeholders to support our efforts and their confidence that our proposed activities are feasible.

**Sub-criterion No. C2. Building on Relevant Federal, State, or Regional Planning Efforts**

The work proposed in this grant application builds on previous planning efforts conducted by Montana DEQ, Montana DNRC, Gallatin County Planning Coordination Committee, the Gallatin River Task Force (Upper Gallatin Watershed), and the City of Bozeman. Relevant recommendations and GWC proposed activities are included below:

<b><i>Planning Document</i></b>	<b><i>Relevant Recommendations</i></b>	<b><i>GWC Proposed Activities</i></b>
Lower Gallatin Planning Area TMDLs and Framework Water Quality Improvement Plan (MDEQ, 2013)	- Effectiveness monitoring of projects should include information about specific locations, spatial extent, designs, contact information and effectiveness	- Acquire and compile restoration project details into centralized database (Task B1.1)

	<p>evaluation and should be compiled into one location for the entire watershed</p>	
<p>Lower Gallatin Watershed Restoration Plan (RESPEC, 2014)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- LGWRP will be updated every five years to account for projects completed and guide future activities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lower Gallatin Watershed Restoration Plan Update Completion (Task B1.4)</li> </ul>
<p>City of Bozeman Integrated Water Resources Plan (AE2S, 2013)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Engage the public in active review and comment regarding water-resource possibilities open to Bozeman</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Bring together key stakeholders and engage the public to identify water-resource possibilities for the Lower Gallatin Watershed, including Bozeman (Task B2.2, B2.3)</li> </ul>
<p>Gallatin Triangle Planning Study (Sanderson Stewart, 2014)</p> <p>and</p> <p>Gallatin Triangle Community Plan (Boyer et al., 2019 <i>In progress</i>)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Protect surface and groundwater quality and availability</li> <li>- Identify, conserve, and protect wetlands</li> <li>- Increase community participation, communication, cooperation and coordination</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Collaboratively identify on-the-ground water supply projects (Task B2.2)</li> <li>- Increase community awareness and engagement in water planning efforts (Task B2.3)</li> </ul>
<p>Missouri Headwaters Drought Resilience Demonstration Project (MTDNRC, 2015)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Increase local community awareness of drought and supply planning, forecasting, mitigation</li> <li>- Develop a regional network to create a streamlined structure to share learning, coordinate and pursue funding</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Increase community awareness and engagement in water planning efforts (Task B2.3)</li> <li>- Gallatin Water Tomorrow Partnership - Coordinate and conduct 4-6 collaborative water</li> </ul>

	opportunities and deliver resources across the basin	supply stakeholder meetings (Task B2.2)
Big Sky Area Sustainable Watershed Stewardship Plan (RESPEC, 2018)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Action items for water supply and availability in the Upper Gallatin Watershed have been identified in this plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Build on water supply work already conducted in the Upper Gallatin Watershed, coordination and partnership with the Gallatin River Task Force (Task B2.3)</li> </ul>
Montana State Water Plan (MTDNRC, 2015)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Be better able to supply water to serve the needs of a growing population and thriving economy as well as the natural systems, habitats and species that our state is renowned for</li> <li>- Have a public that better understands the dynamics of our water supply and the water rights system they rely upon every day</li> <li>- Be better prepared to manage water in real-time to adjust to seasonal changes in supply and demand as well as prepare for longer term climatic changes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Gallatin Water Tomorrow Partnership - Coordinate and conduct 4-6 collaborative water supply stakeholder meetings (Task B2.2)</li> <li>- Increase community awareness and engagement in water planning efforts (Task B2.3)</li> <li>- Incorporate water supply projects and Gallatin Water Tomorrow Partnership recommendations into LGWRP (Task B2.4)</li> </ul>



### ***Evaluation Criterion D – Nexus to Department of the Interior Initiatives (10 points)***

As described in the Approach section, the tasks proposed in this application directly support the following Department of the Interior priorities:

1a. “Utilize science to identify best practices to manage land and water resources and adapt to changes in the environment.”

3b. “Expand the lines of communication with Governors, state natural resource offices, Fish and Wildlife offices, water authorities, county commissioners, Tribes, and local communities.”

## **ENVIRONMENTAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCE COMPLIANCE**

The proposed planning activities do not require compliance review.

## **REQUIRED PERMITS OR APPROVALS**

No permits or approvals are required for the proposed activities.

## **PROJECT BUDGET**

### **Budget Proposal**

	Price per Unit	Quantity	Units	Total Request	Year1 Request	Year2 Request
<b>TASK B1 Analysis of stream restoration progress and prioritization for future projects</b>						
<b>B1.1 Analyze completed restoration projects and progress towards LGWRP goals</b>						
Contracted Labor, Restoration Coordinator (GWC)	\$37.00	230	hours	\$8,510	\$5,550	\$2,960
Travel (3 roundtrips from Bzn-Helena)	0.58	600	miles	\$348		\$348
<b>Subtotal</b>				<b>\$8,858</b>	\$5,550	\$3,308
<b>B1.2 Re-prioritize locations for future restoration work</b>						
Contracted Labor, Restoration Coordinator (GWC)	\$37.00	390	hours	\$14,430	\$6,290	\$8,140
GPS Unit	\$1,900.00	1	lump	\$1,900	\$1,900	

Chest waders and boots	\$220.00	2	lump	\$440	\$440	
Printing and postage	\$3.00	200	pieces	\$600		\$600
<b>Subtotal</b>				<b>\$17,370</b>	\$8,630	\$8,740
<b>B1.3 Ensure goals in LGWRP are included and consistent across municipal/agency/community planning effort</b>						
Contracted Labor, Restoration Coordinator (GWC)	\$37.00	270	hours	\$9,990	\$4,995	\$4,995
<b>Subtotal</b>				<b>\$9,990</b>	\$4,995	\$4,995
<b>B1.4 Write report to include results from Tasks B1.1-B1.3 into LGWRP</b>						
Contracted Labor, Restoration Coordinator (GWC)	\$37.00	200	hours	\$7,400		\$7,400
<b>Subtotal</b>				<b>\$7,400</b>	\$0	\$7,400
<b>TASK B1 Subtotal</b>				<b>\$43,618</b>	<b>\$19,175</b>	<b>\$24,443</b>
<b>TASK B2 Gallatin Water Tomorrow Partnership - Collaborative water supply planning</b>						
<b>B2.1 Develop framework for Gallatin Water Tomorrow Partnership</b>						
Contracted Labor, Watershed Coordinator (GWC)	\$37.00	95	hours	\$3,515	\$3,515	
Contracted Labor, Gallatin Water Tomorrow Facilitator	\$100.00	30	hours	\$3,000	\$3,000	
<b>Subtotal</b>				<b>\$6,515</b>	\$6,515	\$0
<b>B2.2 Coordinate and conduct 4-6 collaborative stakeholder meetings</b>						
Contracted Labor, Watershed Coordinator (GWC)	\$37.00	225	hours	\$8,325	\$6,244	\$2,081
Contracted Labor, Gallatin Water Tomorrow Facilitator	\$100.00	115	hours	\$11,500	\$6,595	\$4,906
Printing	\$0.10	3000	pieces	\$300	\$150	\$150
Meeting supplies	\$301.00	1	lump	\$301	\$301	
<b>Subtotal</b>				<b>\$20,426</b>	\$13,290	\$7,137
<b>B2.3 Community outreach and engagement</b>						
Contracted Labor, Watershed Coordinator (GWC)	\$37.00	350	hours	\$12,950	\$6,475	\$6,475
<b>Subtotal</b>				<b>\$12,950</b>	\$6,475	\$6,475

<b>B1.4 Write report to include results from Tasks B1.1-B1.3 into LGWRP</b>						
Contracted Labor, Watershed Coordinator (GWC)	\$37.00	200	hours	\$7,400		\$7,400
<b>Subtotal</b>				<b>\$7,400</b>	\$0	\$7,400
<b>TASK B2 Subtotal</b>				<b>\$47,291</b>	<b>\$26,280</b>	<b>\$21,012</b>
<b>Compliance with Reporting Requirements</b>						
Contracted Labor, Watershed Coordinator (GWC)	\$37.00	64	hours	\$2,368	\$1,184	\$1,184
<b>Subtotal</b>				<b>\$2,368</b>	\$1,184	\$1,184
<b>Environmental and Regulatory Compliance Cost</b>						
Reclamation's cost to review environmental compliance documentation	\$	0	hours			
<b>Subtotal</b>				<b>\$0</b>	\$0	\$0
<b>TOTAL DIRECT COSTS</b>				<b>\$90,909</b>	<b>\$45,455</b>	<b>\$45,455</b>
	<b>Type</b>	<b>Percentage</b>	<b>Base</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Year 1</b>	<b>Year 2</b>
<b>Indirect Costs</b>						
GWC Administration	de minimis	10%	\$90,909	\$9,091	\$4,545	\$4,545
<b>TOTAL INDIRECT COSTS</b>				<b>\$9,091</b>	<b>\$4,545</b>	<b>\$4,545</b>
<b>TOTAL PROJECT COST</b>				<b>\$100,000</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>

## Budget Narrative

### Salaries and Wages

There are no salaries or wages requested in this proposal.

### Fringe Benefits

There are no fringe benefit requests in this proposal.

### Travel

Travel expenses consist of mileage reimbursement, based on the 2019 federal rate of \$0.58/mile. Proposed travel includes round trip mileage between Bozeman, MT and Helena, MT

for 3 trips (Contracted Restoration Coordinator, 200 miles/trip). Travel will be required for meeting with staff of Montana DEQ during the process of estimating load reductions during the process of the LGWRP update, as outlined in the project proposal. No lodging costs are requested.

### Materials and Supplies

Item	Price	Quantity	Unit	Total	Description
B1.2 GPS Unit	\$1900	1	lump	\$1900	GPS unit will be necessary for on-site data collection for completed and potential restoration projects
B1.2 Chest waders and boots	\$220	2	pieces	\$440	Chest waders will be necessary for ground truthing the Riparian Evaluation Method and landowner stream tours
B1.2 Printing and postage	\$3.00	200	pieces	\$600	Necessary for printing and postage for outreach mailing to targeted landowners
B2.2 Printing	\$.10	3000	pieces	\$300	Necessary for printing meeting materials for Gallatin Water Tomorrow Partnership stakeholder meetings
B2.3 Meeting supplies (flipcharts, markers, tape, etc.)	\$301	1	lump	\$301	Necessary for engaging stakeholders in

					Gallatin Water Tomorrow Partnership meetings
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>\$3,541</b>	

**Contractual**

Contracted work is clearly identified in the budget proposal and includes work to be completed by a GWC contracted Watershed Coordinator and contracted Restoration Coordinator as well as independent contracted Gallatin Water Tomorrow Partnership Facilitator. GWC’s current Watershed Coordinator and Restoration Coordinator are hired as independent contractors. Independent facilitator contractor rates for the Gallatin Water Tomorrow Partnership have been estimated at \$100/hr based on conversations with three separate, local facilitators. Current GWC contractor rates are set at \$37/hour. If the project is funded, GWC will conduct an open, competitive bid and hiring process for all contractors, so exact rates are currently unknown. We will submit a request of approval if new rates are required.

**Environmental and Regulatory Compliance**

No compliance assessments or costs will be required for the proposed activities.

**Other Expenses**

None

**Indirect Costs**

The GWC is requesting 10% of the base direct costs to cover indirect expenses. This rate is in alignment with other grants received by GWC.

**REFERENCES**

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## ATTACHMENTS

### Letters of Support

Attachments below include letters of support from:

- Association of Gallatin Agricultural Irrigators
- Montana Department of Environmental Quality
- Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation
- Four Corners Foundation
- Future West
- Gallatin Conservation District
- Gallatin Local Water Quality District
- Gallatin Valley Land Trust
- Gallatin River Task Force
- Montana Institute on Ecosystems
- Montana Water Center
- The Nature Conservancy
- Trout Unlimited

### Official Resolution

Attached below is an official resolution from the GWC Board of Directors in support of this application.



THE ASSOCIATION OF  
**GALLATIN**  
AGRICULTURAL  
**IRRIGATORS**

PO Box 1308  
Belgrade, MT 59714  
info@agaimt.com

CWMP Grant Review Committee

Committee Members:

The Association of Gallatin Agricultural Irrigators requests your support of the grant proposal of the Gallatin Watershed Council to the Bureau of Reclamation's Water Smart Cooperative Watershed Management Program.

The Gallatin Watershed Council grant proposal project fits the criteria of the grant perfectly, "to engage a diverse group of stakeholders in water supply planning." In April, the Gallatin Water Tomorrow Initiative was begun under the leadership of the Gallatin Watershed Council. It brought together a wide range of organizations and individuals interested in the health of the Gallatin River basin. Several AGAI members participated in the initial organizational meeting and pledged to continue working with the group to further identify common goals and on-the-ground projects for increasing water supply in the Lower Gallatin. The group envisions a year-long process of 4-6 facilitated stakeholder meetings to identify and prioritize projects, followed by the development of a water supply plan for the entire watershed. This plan will provide a roadmap that will enable groups to seek funding for specific, prioritized projects. Working with this group fits within the scope of our strategic plan.

The mission of AGAI is to be the guardian and advocate of the Gallatin River System through the protection of its historically decreed water rights. We represent over 500 irrigators through a majority of the ditches/canals/water conveyance systems using water from the Gallatin River. The livelihood of our irrigators depends on the availability of water. We are committed to working with groups who value the water and understand the water issues facing the Gallatin Watershed. It will be our privilege to work with the Gallatin Watershed Council to complete the work outlined in their proposal.

On behalf of our Board of Directors I ask you to give serious consideration to the grant proposed by the Gallatin Watershed Council.

Sincerely,  
Ilene Casey, President  
AGAI

*The mission of the Association of Gallatin Agricultural Irrigators is to be the guardian and advocate of the Gallatin River System through the protection of its historically decreed water rights.*





November 8, 2019

Bureau of Reclamation  
Financial Assistance Support Section  
P.O. Box 25007  
Denver, CO 80225

Dear Ms. James,

The Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is submitting this letter to express strong support for the WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program proposal being submitted by the Gallatin Watershed Council (GWC). DEQ provides technical and financial support, through Clean Water Act Section 319 funding, to local organizations implementing practices and projects that address nonpoint source pollution. An up-to-date watershed restoration plan is a requirement for project funding. In order to have the greatest impact and demonstrate measureable water quality improvement, the DEQ Watershed Protection Section (WPS) has developed a 20 year vision that articulates our strategy to focus resources within a single focus watershed for two to four years.

WPS has selected the lower Gallatin watershed as our next focus watershed. The goal is to commit up to \$500,000 per year for projects in the lower Gallatin beginning in 2022. GWC, as a key stakeholder for planning, facilitating, and implementing water quality improvement projects will play a major role in ensuring that our focus approach is successful. The goals of their WaterSMART proposal will ensure necessary plans are in place and relationships have been built to proceed as effectively and efficiently as possible. Prior to 2022, DEQ is committed to providing additional capacity support to GWC to help lay the ground work for project implementation. However, our resources for this type of planning support are limited, which makes this an auspicious opportunity to leverage resources that meet common agency goals and increase impacts on water quality and quantity and communities in this area.

The Gallatin valley is developing at a rapid pace and DEQ realizes that our efforts alone are insufficient to protect and restore its water resources. We strongly encourage BOR's support for GWC's WaterSMART application. If you have questions about our focused approach or our work in general, feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tim Davis", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Tim Davis, Water Quality Division Administrator  
Montana Department of Environmental Quality  
1520 E 6th Ave  
Helena, MT 59601  
Email: [TimDavis@mt.gov](mailto:TimDavis@mt.gov)  
(406) 444-4632

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
AND CONSERVATION



STEVE BULLOCK, GOVERNOR

1625 ELEVENTH AVENUE

STATE OF MONTANA

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE: (406) 444-2074  
FAX: (406) 444-2684

PO BOX 201601  
HELENA, MONTANA 59620-1601

Bureau of Reclamation  
Cooperative Watershed Management Program Grant Review Committee

November 12, 2019

Re: Greater Gallatin Watershed Council's Gallatin Water Tomorrow application

Dear Review Committee Members,

I write this letter in support of the abovementioned grant application by the Greater Gallatin Watershed Council. As the DNRC water resource planner in the Upper Missouri Basin, I have been working closely with the Greater Gallatin Watershed (GGWC) as we initiated our drought planning efforts in the Missouri Headwaters Basin. Through the funding support of the BOR Upper Missouri Drought Contingency Plan (via MT DNRC), GGWC has been able to catalyze and engage water users in the lower Gallatin watershed, including the agricultural producers that are vital to this effort.

The proposed initiative will build on the recent and ongoing efforts of the City of Bozeman to expand the efforts across the watershed and develop a comprehensive water supply plan and identify potential projects to mitigate the water supply challenges that the area is currently facing. GGWC is poised to lead this integrated effort in partnership with many other water user and conservation organizations working in the lower Gallatin watershed and I encourage your support of the project and proposed funding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ann C. Schwend".

Ann Schwend  
DNRC Upper Missouri Water Planner  
[aschwend@mt.gov](mailto:aschwend@mt.gov)  
406-444-1806



Sharon Brodie  
Four Corners Foundation  
330 North Wallace Avenue  
Bozeman MT 59715

November 9, 2019

CWIP Grant Review Committee  
Bureau of Reclamation  
United States Department of the Interior

Members of the Committee,

My name is Sharon Brodie. I am the Director and Chairman of the Board of the Four Corners Foundation (4CF). We are a private foundation located in Gallatin County, Montana, where our watershed is lucky to benefit from the work of the Gallatin Watershed Council (GWC).

At 4CF, we believe that working toward a deep understanding of water availability – knowing exactly where our water comes from, how much of it there is, and where it goes – can help us keep the Gallatin Watershed resilient, healthy, and productive forever. We focus on three main goals:

- To advocate for the thoughtful and strategic use of water
- To encourage synergy between different groups of people
- And, to develop technology that allows people to work more effectively

Our work with and support of GWC serves all three of these goals and has made them an integral partner in our efforts to preserve and protect the Gallatin. With their assistance we have developed an interactive platform (hydroLogic™ Gallatin) to help their organization:

- Determine if current restoration efforts have a positive, negative, or non-substantive effect on the health of the watershed
- Update the lower Gallatin Watershed Restoration Plan based on this analysis and prioritize restoration projects based on overall effectiveness
- Leverage the interest generated through this project to extend the water quality conversation into a community based effort to actively plan for water supply resiliency in the future

For 4CF, the most exciting component of this work is that it is potentially replicable in other watersheds experiencing similar water quantity and water quality challenges.

4CF's support of GWC is exclusively technical, so we were pleased to see that they had applied for a grant with your agency. Leveraging their expertise into community action that ultimately results in an adopted water supply plan will require adequate funding, yes, but it has been my



experience that with GWC as a partner you get a lot of bang for your buck. They bring deep technical hydrological experience as well as a long, positive history of community involvement to the table and both the staff and board of directors are always willing to put in the extra effort and go the extra mile to ensure a project's success. I hope you will give them your most serious consideration when awarding your grant monies.

Finally, I think I speak for our entire water loving community when I say thank you for supporting watershed groups throughout the country. They are instrumental in bringing communities together around the increasingly volatile issue of water availability and your support of their work is much appreciated.

Sincerely,

Sharon Brodie

Director and Chairman of the Board, Four Corners Foundation

Sharon@fccfmt.org

(406) 579-7886



November 12, 2019  
Cooperative Watershed Program  
US Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Reclamation Policy and Administration  
Denver, CO.

Dear Cooperative Watershed Program Grant Review Committee,

On behalf of my organization, Future West, I want to voice enthusiastic support for the Gallatin Watershed Council's grant proposal to the WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program.

The Gallatin Watershed Council plays a vital role in ensuring the health of our regional surface and groundwater resources. At a time of explosive growth coupled with the impacts of climate change, their efforts are more important than ever. And they have a proven track record of completing challenging watershed conservation work in spectacular fashion.

This project is particularly important as it will bring key stakeholders together to collaboratively chart a course for ensuring that we will enjoy a healthy water supply now and into the future. In addition, this project will further efforts to restore watershed elements that have become degraded – an essential step in minimizing the impacts of climate change.

Thank you for offering these critically important grant opportunities. I hope that you will agree that this very well designed project merits full support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Dennis Glick'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'D'.

Dennis Glick  
Director, Future West



Est. 1949  
Conservation  
Development  
Self-Government

November 8, 2019

CWMP Grant Review Committee,

The Gallatin Conservation District has a longstanding partnership with the Gallatin Watershed Council. We have partnered on many projects relating to water conservation, the most recent being the Gallatin Water Tomorrow initiative. The goal of this initiative is to identify projects that could increase water supply in the Lower Gallatin. This work has the potential to positively impact many groups in our conservation partnerships; in our common quest of protecting our land, water, and quality of life in the Gallatin Valley.

Currently, the Gallatin Valley is experiencing rapid growth and urbanization. It is critical for conservation leaders in this valley to seek ways to protect our watershed. Searching for ways to increase the water supply is extremely beneficial to our area as we undergo rapid population increases. We are excited to be working with the Gallatin Watershed Council on such a paramount issue.

The Gallatin Conservation District supports the Gallatin Watershed Council in their work on this project, which will benefit our watershed in so many ways. We appreciate your consideration of them for this grant, which will help provide the funding to continue to develop this initiative and aid in the conservation of a most important natural resource.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

John Schutter, Chairman  
Gallatin Conservation District  
Manhattan, MT  
406-282-4350



# Gallatin Local Water Quality District

215 West Mendenhall Street, Suite 300 - Bozeman, MT 59715  
406-582-3168 www.glwqd.org



November 8, 2019

Dear CWMP Grant Review Committee,

I am writing in support of the Gallatin Watershed Council (GWC) proposal for funding from the Bureau of Reclamation Cooperative Watershed Management Program (CWMP).

The Gallatin Local Water Quality District (GLWQD) is a non-regulatory department of Gallatin County, Montana government. Our mission is to protect, preserve, and improve groundwater and surface water within the District through monitoring and research, education and outreach, and water quality data collection and dissemination. We have been a partner on many projects with the GWC over the years. The GWC is an integral organization for our watershed and has been notably successful in bringing together stakeholders from diverse backgrounds for water supply planning as well as for restoration planning and project implementation.

The Lower Gallatin Watershed is home to the cities of Bozeman and Belgrade, Montana as well as other small communities. Our watershed is experiencing unprecedented growth, and rapidly increasing pressure on water supply and water quality.

Through this CWMP grant program, the GWC seeks to continue the Gallatin Water Tomorrow initiative that was launched earlier in 2019. This initiative will continue dialogue on water supply planning, identify common goals among area stakeholders, and identify on-the-ground projects for increasing water availability. This initiative is timely and must continue in order for development of a comprehensive, much needed water supply plan for the watershed. This document will be the watershed's guidance for prioritizing future water supply projects.

As water supply challenges face our watershed, we are faced with increasingly complex water quality issues as well. The GWC, as the local lead on watershed restoration efforts, seeks to utilize CWMP grant funding to update the Lower Gallatin Watershed Restoration Plan in parallel with the Gallatin Water Tomorrow initiative. The current restoration plan is out of date and the GLWQD fully supports updating this document to include a re-prioritization of projects based on completed projects and current challenges.

The GWC, with the ability to bring stakeholders together and engage in fruitful partnerships with landowners, is the ideal organization to take on these important and timely tasks. I encourage full support of GWC's proposal for funding from the Bureau of Reclamation Cooperative Watershed Management Program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Christine Sundnas".

Christine Sundnas MS  
LWQD Manger

November 11, 2019

USDOI; Bureau of Reclamation  
Attn: Cooperative Watershed Management Program  
PO Box 25007  
Denver, CO 80225



Dear Grant Review Committee,

The Gallatin Valley Land Trust (GVLT) strongly supports the Gallatin Watershed Council (GWC) application to the US Department of Interior, Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) Cooperative Watershed Management Grant Program (CWMP). This grant opportunity will support GWC's ongoing critical work in the Lower Gallatin Watershed located in the headwaters reach of the Missouri River of Montana.

Gallatin County is the fastest growing county in Montana, having an effective, engaged, and well-funded watershed group that can help steward improvements to water quality and quantity is of utmost importance. GVLT believes that developing local water management solutions is critical work for a locally led group such as GWC; they have demonstrated this in the past by developing and publishing a Watershed Restoration Plan, which has produced a list of impaired streams that have measurable impacts that need addressing. Yet, a need still exists to develop a plan to address these impairments and to develop a capital strategy for funding this critical watershed work. GVLT is proud to count GWC as one of our watershed partners which has sought a collaborative and inclusive approach to address water resource issues that help to sustain agricultural resources and protect important biological functions within our community.

Through a successful application to the CWMP; GWC will engage diverse stakeholders in a water supply planning exercise and they will update the Lower Gallatin Watershed Restoration Plan (WRP). Addressing water supply in our watershed will identify common goals amongst a group of stakeholders that have competing demands on our finite water supply; this initiative will also identify on-the-ground projects that will help our watershed address water supply issues. GWC has already engaged the two most important members of this group; the City of Bozeman and our Agricultural Irrigators, an unlikely duo that collectively control a majority of the available water in our system. In tandem, GWC will also be updating its WRP to reflect this locally led water supply question and to document recent restoration improvements accomplished since the WRP was published. Including water supply in restoration planning is a critical ingredient of success.

Since 1990, the Gallatin Valley Land Trust has partnered with 110 families to conserve over 48,000 acres of working farms and ranches, wildlife habitat and river corridors in the Gallatin Valley and surrounding communities. We have also partnered with the City of Bozeman, Gallatin County and dozens of other organizations to create over 80 miles of trails in the *Main Street to the Mountains* trail system around Bozeman. Our work is based in watershed principles and our partnership with GWC and others has been critical to our collective success to conserve community values.

This funding opportunity for GWC will help inform our work and further our goals for conservation of the Gallatin Valley's most important resources. We encourage broad support of GWC as a recipient of these funds as they continue to steward our watershed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Peter Brown", is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Peter Brown  
Stewardship Director





PO Box 160513  
Big Sky, MT 59716

November 11, 2019

USDOI; Bureau of Reclamation  
Attn: Cooperative Watershed Management Program  
PO Box 25007  
Denver, CO 80225

Dear Grant Review Committee,

I am writing this letter to support the Cooperative Watershed Management Grant application from the Gallatin Watershed Council to update the Lower Gallatin Watershed Restoration Plan and engage a diverse group of stakeholders in water supply planning.

The Gallatin River Task Force is a non-profit watershed organization with a mission to *partner with our community to lead conservation and inspire stewardship of the Gallatin River Watershed*. Our organization focuses our efforts in the headwaters of the Gallatin River, upstream of the focus of the Gallatin Watershed Council.

We are strongly supportive of the proposed projects that will build on the work that our organization is doing upstream, allowing for continued communication, strong partnerships and increased resiliency across the entire Gallatin Watershed.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kristin Gardner".

Kristin Gardner  
Executive Director  
Gallatin River Task Force  
406.993.2519  
kristin@gallatinrivertaskforce.org

Partnering with our community to lead conservation and inspire stewardship of the  
Gallatin River Watershed



605 Leon Johnson Hall  
Montana State University  
Bozeman, MT 59717  
Ph: 406-994-5717  
Fax: 406-994-3933  
<http://www.montanaioe.org/>

November 8, 2019

To the CWMP Grant Review Committee:

On behalf of the Montana Institute on Ecosystems (IoE) at Montana State University, I would like to express full support for the Gallatin Watershed Council's (GWC) application to the Bureau of Reclamation's WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program.

The IoE is a community of scholars and partners with a shared vision to advance integrated environmental sciences and related fields. In 2017, IoE released the first Montana Climate Assessment. Climate change, rapid urban growth, and certain agricultural practices pose a threat to the quality and quantity of water resources in the Lower Gallatin Watershed. The watershed restoration planning and water supply planning proposed by GWC is critical for mitigating these impacts on water supplies and ecosystems in the Gallatin Watershed.

GWC has collaborated with students and faculty at Montana State University, including a recent project that mapped riparian health along impaired streams. GWC is already taking steps to update the watershed restoration plan. Funding through the WaterSMART program would help this group to successfully complete their proposed initiatives.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Dr. Bruce Maxwell  
Co-Director  
Montana Institute on Ecosystems





November 13, 2019

USDOI; Bureau of Reclamation  
Attn: Cooperative Watershed Management Program  
PO Box 25007  
Denver, CO 80225

CWMP Grant Review Committee:

I am pleased to write to you in support of the Greater Gallatin Watershed Council's (GGWC) grant proposal to the WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program. I was a coordinator for GGWC several years ago and am familiar with the organization's mission and goals. Recently, I had the opportunity to collaborate with GGWC on several programs and projects in my new role as the Nature Conservancy's Freshwater Conservation Project Manager.

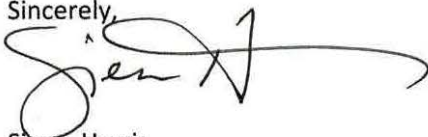
First and foremost, I live and work in the Gallatin Valley and understand that water is our most precious resource in southwest Montana; it drives agriculture, real estate, and biologic productivity. When watersheds function, they support diverse fish and wildlife communities; provide reliable water supplies for communities; and accommodate natural processes like flooding to reduce risk to infrastructure. Land use by multiple generations has left many rivers impaired and disconnected from floodplains and changing snowmelt and precipitation patterns now pose an even greater challenge to maintaining water for natural and human uses into the future. With already over-allocated water becoming scarcer, improving hydrologic resilience through community watershed projects is the best long-term investment for both the natural and human communities that depend on water in places like the Gallatin Valley.

To better facilitate this work, the Lower Gallatin Watershed Restoration Plan (WRP) needs to be reviewed and updated to include a prioritization of stream restoration project locations. This will require an analysis of currently completed projects, funding availability, riparian health, and landowner interest. Recently, Montana's Department of Environmental Quality made the decision to prioritize 319 funding in the Lower Gallatin watershed over the next few years. Funding to provide GGWC the capacity to update the WRP will ensure that restoration funds are utilized in the most effective way in the Gallatin Valley.

The Greater Gallatin Watershed Council is also spearheading a new initiative, Gallatin Water Tomorrow, to engage a diverse group of stakeholders in water supply planning. The objectives of this initiative are to identify common goals and on-the-ground projects for increasing water supply in the Lower Gallatin. GGWC envisions a year-long process of several facilitated stakeholder meetings to identify and prioritize projects, followed by the development of a water supply plan. Providing GGWC with capacity and support for this initiative will help them to develop the roadmap that will enable groups to seek funding for specific, prioritized projects that can be incorporated into the existing WRP.

Thank you for considering this CMWP Grant Proposal for the Greater Gallatin Watershed Council. Feel free to contact me if you have any further questions regarding the value of this project.

Sincerely,



Sierra Harris  
Freshwater Conservation Project Manager



**Patrick Byorth**

*Director of Montana Water, Western Water & Habitat Project*

USDOI; Bureau of Reclamation  
Attn: Cooperative Watershed Management Program  
PO Box 25007  
Denver, CO 80225

November 13, 2019

Dear Grant Review Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the Greater Gallatin Watershed Council's application for the Bureau of Reclamation's Cooperative Watershed Management Grant Program. This grant opportunity would support the Council's ongoing critical work in the Lower Gallatin Watershed located in the headwaters of the Missouri River. As a former board member of the Council and having partnered with the Council on many projects, I am encouraged that this application is worthy of your support.

I wanted to offer Trout Unlimited's support for the project. Trout Unlimited is a national organization of 140,000 angler-conservationists, with about 4,000 members in 13 Chapters across Montana. We focus on restoring and protecting coldwater habitats, fish passage, and streamflows. Our Montana Water program endeavors to restore drought-depleted streamflows by leasing water in key tributaries, improving irrigation efficiency, and identifying ways to mitigate drought.

The Council's application is a great opportunity to partner with our community to prepare for rapid growth, mitigate drought, and build partnerships in the fastest growing county in Montana. The Council has been a great partner and leader in watershed stewardship in our area and made improvements to water quality and quantity. For example, they led development of a Watershed Restoration Plan, which identified impaired streams in need of attention. Likewise, the Council was an able partner in the Story Mill Park restoration of the East Gallatin River. Yet, consistent capacity funding to operate the Council has been elusive. With so much work to be done and a capable organization to lead the work, a Cooperative Watershed grant comes at a critical time.

Through a successful Cooperative Watershed Grant, the Council will engage diverse stakeholders in water supply planning and update the Lower Gallatin Watershed Restoration Plan. These exercises will help our community prepare for drought, build resiliency into our watershed, and identify common goals for water use among a group of stakeholders with competing demands on our finite water supply. The Council will also revise its Watershed Restoration Plan to reflect this locally led water supply question and to document recent restoration improvements accomplished since the WRP was released.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Patrick Byorth



### Board Resolution

At the Gallatin Watershed Council (GWC) Board of Directors meeting on November 5, 2019, the following resolution pertaining to a grant application to the Bureau of Reclamation was proposed and approved by the Board of Directors:

WHEREAS the mission of the GWC is to work with local volunteers, landowners, and community partners to bring water quality monitoring, stream restoration, and watershed education to the Gallatin Valley with the goal of improving water quality for all;

WHEREAS the proposed activities in the prepared application support the mission of the GWC;

WHEREAS the GWC has the staff capacity and support from its Board and partners to perform the direct and indirect tasks proposed in this application;

Be it resolved:

1. That the GWC Board of Directors is in full support of the funding application, entitled "Watershed Restoration Project Prioritization and Water Supply Planning in the Lower Gallatin Watershed" to the WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase 1 Grants for Fiscal Year 2019, a program of the Bureau of Reclamation;
2. That GWC Watershed Coordinator, Holly Hill, is authorized to submit this application, via [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov), on behalf of the GWC; and
3. That GWC Board and staff will work with the Bureau of Reclamation to meet all established deadlines for entering into a grant or cooperative agreement and necessary for the completion of proposed activities.

Signed:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tom Michalek". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "T".

Tom Michalek  
GWC Board Chair