

# Grant Writing: The Big Picture

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## Start with the basics



THINK BIG




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## What is the purpose?

**RDGP Project Grants**  
For projects that compensate Montana citizens for the effects of exploration and mining on Montana lands and serve the public interest and the State of Montana.

The 319 Project Program funds on-the-ground projects that reduce or prevent nonpoint source pollution. To improve the long-term sustainability of nonpoint source reductions, projects should focus on restoring natural processes (e.g., channel migration, floodplain connectivity, native riparian revegetation). A limited amount of funding may also be used to pay for local outreach and education activities.

**Future Fisheries Improvement Program**  
For almost two decades, MWPs Future Fisheries Improvement Program has worked to restore rivers, streams, and lakes to improve and restore Montana's wild fish habitat. Between \$30,000 and \$60,000 are available each year for projects that revitalize wild fish populations. Any entity proposing a project that would benefit wild fish will be considered for funding.

**Bring Back the Natives**  
Bring Back the Natives invests in conservation activities that restore, protect and enhance native populations of sensitive or listed fish species across the United States, especially in areas on or adjacent to federal agency lands. The program emphasizes coordination between private landowners and federal agencies, tribes, cooperatives and states to improve the ecosystem functions and health of watersheds.




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### What is the purpose?

**319**

- **Purpose:** reduce or prevent nonpoint source pollution
- Focus on restoring natural processes, some funding for local outreach and education activities

**Future Fisheries**

- **Purpose:** restore essential habitats for Montana's wild fish
- Must benefit wild fish, emphasis on natives and mineral reclamation






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### Where does your project fit?

- Record why and how your project meets the purpose of the program
  - Keep it somewhere handy
  - Reference that often
- Don't just answer the questions off the top of your head


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### Plan for expertise

- Don't know how the project could improve fish habitat?
- Don't know the best way to address nonpoint source or water quality goals?
- Unsure about the AIS priorities and why your work will help?
- What makes a project a "crucial state need?"
- *Ask (early). Find experts. Collaborate.*




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### Thread the purpose throughout

- Many application questions are set up to mirror ranking criteria (*more on that later*)
- You shouldn't match your project goals with the program purpose **once** [*Weave through the app*]
- Do not write one application and copy/paste to the rest




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### Thread the purpose throughout

A. Project Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 River, stream, or lake: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Location: Township: \_\_\_\_\_ Range: \_\_\_\_\_ Section: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Latitude: \_\_\_\_\_ Longitude: \_\_\_\_\_ (with project streamalign degree)

County: \_\_\_\_\_

B. Purpose of Project:  
 The purpose of this project is to reduce water quality impairments, and fix habitat that has been altered. The overarching goal is to restore to natural sediment deposition and functional habitat.

F. What was the cause of habitat degradation in the area of this project and how will the project correct the cause?  
 \_\_\_\_\_

G. What public benefits will be realized from this project?  
 \_\_\_\_\_

H. Will the project interfere with water or property rights of adjacent landowners? (explain):  
 \_\_\_\_\_




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### Thread the purpose throughout

A. Project Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 River, stream, or lake: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Location: Township: \_\_\_\_\_ Range: \_\_\_\_\_ Section: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Latitude: \_\_\_\_\_ Longitude: \_\_\_\_\_ (with project streamalign degree)

County: \_\_\_\_\_

B. Purpose of Project:  
 The purpose of this project is to improve habitat for spawning fish by reducing sediment inputs. Improvements to stream function are intended to improve overhead and resting habitat for native trout while returning natural stream function.

F. What was the cause of habitat degradation in the area of this project and how will the project correct the cause?  
 \_\_\_\_\_

G. What public benefits will be realized from this project?  
 \_\_\_\_\_

H. Will the project interfere with water or property rights of adjacent landowners? (explain):  
 \_\_\_\_\_




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### Thread the purpose throughout

**A. Project Name:**  
 River, stream, or lake: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Location: Township: \_\_\_\_\_ Range: \_\_\_\_\_ Section: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Latitude: \_\_\_\_\_ Longitude: \_\_\_\_\_  
(within project stream segment)


County: \_\_\_\_\_

**B. Purpose of Project:**  
 The purpose of this project is to improve habitat for spawning fish by reducing sediment inputs. Improvements to stream function are intended to improve overhead and resting habitat for native trout while returning natural stream function...

**F. What was the cause of habitat degradation in the area of this project and how will the project correct the cause?**  
 Channelization, rip rap, and grazing. This project will repair the damage by reconstructing the stream channel and reconnecting the floodplain.

**G. What public benefits will be realized from this project?**

**H. Will the project interfere with water or property rights of adjacent landowners? (explain):**




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### Thread the purpose throughout

**A. Project Name:**  
 River, stream, or lake: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Location: Township: \_\_\_\_\_ Range: \_\_\_\_\_ Section: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Latitude: \_\_\_\_\_ Longitude: \_\_\_\_\_  
(within project stream segment)


County: \_\_\_\_\_

**B. Purpose of Project:**  
 The purpose of this project is to improve habitat for spawning fish by reducing sediment inputs. Improvements to stream function are intended to improve overhead and resting habitat for native trout while returning natural stream function...

**F. What was the cause of habitat degradation in the area of this project and how will the project correct the cause?**  
 Channelization, rip rap, and grazing led to increased erosion that impacted trout spawning by covering the gravels with silt. The lack of overhead cover and overwide channel increased temperatures and limited fish population size. This project will...

**G. What public benefits will be realized from this project?**

**H. Will the project interfere with water or property rights of adjacent landowners? (explain):**




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### Thread the purpose throughout

**A. Project Name:**  
 River, stream, or lake: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Location: Township: \_\_\_\_\_ Range: \_\_\_\_\_ Section: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Latitude: \_\_\_\_\_ Longitude: \_\_\_\_\_  
(within project stream segment)


County: \_\_\_\_\_

**B. Purpose of Project:**  
 The purpose of this project is to improve habitat for spawning fish by reducing sediment inputs. Improvements to stream function are intended to improve overhead and resting habitat for native trout while returning natural stream function...

**F. What was the cause of habitat degradation in the area of this project and how will the project correct the cause?**  
 Channelization, rip rap, and grazing led to increased erosion that impacted trout spawning by covering the gravels with silt. The lack of overhead cover and overwide channel increased temperatures and limited fish population size. This project will...

**G. What public benefits will be realized from this project?**  
 Natural water storage and better water quality.

**H. Will the project interfere with water or property rights of adjacent landowners? (explain):**




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# Thread the purpose throughout

**A. Project Name**

Rev: stream, or lake

Location: Township: Range: Section:

Latitude: Longitude: within project (decimal degrees)

County:

**B. Purpose of Project**

The purpose of this project is to improve habitat for spawning fish by reducing sediment inputs. Improvements to stream function are intended to improve overhead and resting habitat for native trout while returning natural stream function...

**C. Brief Project Description (attach additional information to end of project report)**

**F. What was the cause of habitat degradation in the area of this project and how will the project correct the cause?**

Channelization, rip rap, and grazing led to increased erosion that impacted trout spawning by covering the gravels with silt. The lack of overhead cover and overwide channel increased temperatures and limited fish population size. This project will...

**G. What public benefits will be realized from this project?**

Improved fish habitat will benefit anglers both in the project reach and downstream by increasing spawning opportunities and improving conditions for growth and survival. Improved water quality will also benefit the community. There will also be aesthetic value as the project is near a hiking trail.

**H. Will the project interfere with water or property rights of adjacent landowners? (explain):**

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# Review & go full circle

- Before you submit, after your final checks, review for purpose
- Is it obvious and clear?
- Don't make assumptions
- Remember, you are being graded on how well you meet the purpose of the program
- Can be the difference between \$\$, \$, or no \$



**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

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