



STATE OF IDAHO

DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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C.L. "Butch" Otter, Governor
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Application Solicitation—2012 Funding Cycle for Competitive Nonpoint Source Water Quality §319 Subgrants

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is announcing the start of the 2012 Nonpoint Source Water Quality §319 grants funding cycle.

The grant pre-application and application will be available online as of April 11, 2011 at [http://www.deq.idaho.gov/Applications/319G New](http://www.deq.idaho.gov/Applications/319G_New). The *Project Application Guidance* and information on how to submit an application can also be found at this web address.

Please distribute this notice within your agency or organization and to others who may have viable projects that could qualify for grant funds under this program.

Project Eligibility and Review

An eligible project will include goals and objectives that focus on maintaining or restoring water quality in areas affected by nonpoint sources of pollution. Work on the project is expected to be performed by dedicated staff whose goals are to successfully implement and complete the project on a timely basis and within budget. The project application should include efforts to monitor the effects of the project on water quality, and should also show that all management practices will be fully maintained for a specific period of time following completion of the project.

Once the application period closes in August the evaluation process begins. Over the next three months all applications will be reviewed and the merits of each project weighed. At the end of this process in December, recommendations on how funding should be allocated will be made. All applicants will be notified in writing of their project's funding status no later than January 30, 2012.

Funding will be made available to successful projects by the end of May, 2012.

DEQ's general priorities for projects seeking funding in 2012 are listed below. DEQ anticipates continuing to direct available funding to those projects that most closely address the highest priority nonpoint source related water quality concerns from across the state.

Project applications that address at least one of the following water quality priority categories are likely to receive the strongest consideration for funding under the 2012 grant cycle. Priority consideration will be given to projects that:

- I. Fulfill a goal and/or objective of the FY2011-14 DEQ Strategic Plan and the 2010 Idaho Water Quality Performance Partnership Agreement entered into with USEPA (both available online at deq.idaho.gov/water):

- Implement surface and/or ground water protection using a watershed approach. All efforts must be focused on waters impacted by a nonpoint source(s) of pollution.
 - Agricultural practices, silviculture, and mining are areas where DEQ expects to continue to focus its resources in the coming year.
- II. Direct efforts at meeting the goals and objectives of an established Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL), TMDL implementation plan or other water quality management plan.
- III. Address anti-degradation of other priority non-TMDL waters.
- IV. Promote comprehensive or conjunctive management of ground water, with particular emphasis on nitrate priority areas.

Funding Target and Timeframe

Upwards of \$1.9 million is expected to be available to award to projects in the 2012 grant funding period. Projects ranging in cost of up to \$250,000 can be funded through this program.

Submittal of an optional project pre-application will provide DEQ with early information of a general nature on the type, location, and anticipated budget of the project under consideration. A pre-application also provides DEQ with the opportunity to contact the applicant if there are questions about the proposal, or to provide advice to the applicant on how to enhance the content of the full application prior to its submittal. The pre-application time frame is from April 11, 2011 to May 8, 2011.

The last day to submit a final application is Monday, August 1, 2011. Prior to submitting an application the applicant and local DEQ regional office personnel are expected to meet or otherwise convene to coordinate efforts, and to ensure that the proposed project has an opportunity to be addressed before the local watershed advisory group to gain approval to move forward.

Application Review Process, Schedule, and Additional Information

Enclosed is a schedule of important dates in the application process. Please note that DEQ may find it necessary to revise some dates in the schedule at a later time to address unexpected circumstances. You are encouraged to routinely check the schedule on DEQ's website for information for any changes and schedule adjustments that may occur.

A link to the *1999 Idaho Nonpoint Source Management Plan* has been provided on the website. Chapter 8 of the *Plan* provides additional information on the policy DEQ continues to adhere to in administering the Nonpoint Source Program.

For information on EPA's Nonpoint Source Program authorities and guidelines for State programs please access the EPA website at <http://www.epa.gov/owow/nps/cwact.html>.

If you have any questions please contact Dave Pisarski at (208) 373-0502, or at david.pisarski@deq.idaho.gov.

Sincerely,



Barry N. Burnell
Water Quality Division Administrator

BNB: DP:mm

NPS 319 Application Process Schedule

The schedule below includes key dates in the grant application process. Fixed calendar dates are displayed in bold font. In some cases date ranges are used to allow for flexibility in scheduling.

- **April 11, 2011:** Optional project pre-application period opens. DEQ asks that all parties who intend to seek funding in 2011 for a proposed project consider submitting a pre-application. The pre-application form can be found at <http://www.deq.idaho.gov/Applications/319G>.
- **May 8, 2011:** The pre-application period will close.
- **May 31, 2011:** Pre-application reviews are to be completed by this date. DEQ will contact the project applicant with any questions or comments regarding the pre-application.
- **August 1, 2011:** A complete, online application is due at DEQ. All projects will have been presented to the local Watershed Advisory Group (WAG) for approval and to allow the application to move forward towards funding consideration.
- **August 8 – September 9, 2011:** DEQ and DMA's (Designated Management Agencies), as needed, evaluate each project application to determine technical completeness. An application must be technically complete and meet all substantive requirements of the program to advance to final review and funding consideration.
- **September 12, 2011:** Technically complete project applications are sent by DEQ to all respective Basin Advisory Group (BAG) representatives for subsequent review and ranking purposes.
- **October 1 - 31, 2011:** Each applicant is required to present their project to the respective BAG membership for discussion and to address questions. After presentations conclude the BAG members will convene and rank each project based on its' merit, the amount of funding being requested, and any other factors determined to be relevant at the time.
- **November 4, 2011:** The results from each regional BAG project ranking meeting are forwarded to each regional BAG Chairman. Each Chairman or his designee is expected to review the applications and supplementary information for each ranked project in preparation for upcoming deliberations on project funding.
- **December 7, 2011:** DEQ personnel and the Chairman of each regional BAG meet in Boise to discuss a select group of the highest ranked projects. From this group the delegates will rank in priority order the projects they recommend be funded in 2012.
- **December 31, 2011:** DEQ will announce the list of projects to be funded in 2012.
- **Mid-January, 2012:** The applications of each funded projects are transmitted to EPA for review and approval. EPA's review is expected to be completed in 30 days, or less. EPA may comment on or otherwise choose to intervene on any project application or funding recommendation. If necessary, DEQ will address EPA's comments according to established procedures.
- **Mid-February, 2012:** A complete NPS program grant application package, including the list of projects recommended for funding in 2012, is submitted to the DEQ Director for review and approval.
- **Mid-March, 2012:** DEQ applies to EPA for a 2012 §319 federal grant award to the State of Idaho.
- **June 1, 2012:** DEQ expects to receive its grant obligation letter from EPA. All 2012 project applicants are subsequently notified in writing of their project's funding status. All funded projects must then submit a subgrant development request form to finalize the process of transferring funding to the project.