STATE OF IDAHO
DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

# Nonpoint Source Funding

Considerations for Application Ranking

This document recommends elements Basin Advisory Groups (BAGs) might consider when reviewing and ranking applications for Nonpoint Source grant funds. Nonpoint Source grant funds are available through the state Agricultural BMP fund and through Federal §319 Grant program. These grant funds can be used to provide direct project support or support of public or private nonprofit organizations organized for the purpose of implementing projects to reduce Nonpoint Source pollution.

The elements below are intended to provide consistency and transparency for use in thoughtful and objective application review, deliberation, and selection.

This document will be available for BAGs, project applicants, and others who may be interested in DEQ's priorities as they relate to funding projects that address nonpoint source pollution across the state of Idaho.

*Nonpoint Source Funding Considerations for Ranking*

- Is there a clear water quality and funding need?
- Where is the proposal area in relationship to a 303(d) listed waterbody, identified water quality concern, Nitrate Priority Area (NPA), or other point of concern and does the project have a strong likelihood of improving water quality?
- What are the beneficial uses, pollutants, and approved TMDL(s) and or watershed plan(s) being addressed through implementation of the proposal?
- Is there an associated conservation plan, implementation plan, or other on-farm or watershed scale plan.
- Are there calculated Load Reduction Estimates (LRE) and are the expected costs reasonable in proportion to expected benefits.
- What is the expected lifespan of the project and is there reasonable assurance that the project will meet the expected lifespan? This would include plant maintenance (i.e. land sales, operation and maintenance costs, plant care and survivability etc.).
- Is this a shovel ready project with a reasonable implementation schedule and guaranteed match? Can they spend the amount of money they are asking for in a reasonable period of time?
- Does the applicant have sufficient knowledge, experience, and capability to implement 319 or State Ag BMP funded projects; have they successfully completed 319 or State Ag BMP funded projects in the past? If so, were the projects completed and money spent within the contract period, was the contract followed and work completed?
- Does the project propose to monitor BMP effectiveness and share the results with the public?
- Does the project include an educational outreach component to support long-term community support and stewardship?
- Does the application demonstrate community support for implementation of the project?