

Fact Sheet:



SFY18 State General Fund Agricultural BMP Program

Idaho Department
of Environmental
Quality

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In the 2017 session of the Idaho Legislature, a motion was made to appropriate \$500,000 from the general fund to the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) for use in state fiscal year 2018 (SFY18) to apply statewide agricultural best management practices (BMPs). The legislature's intent was for the funding to be used to implement BMPs in high priority watersheds throughout Idaho. DEQ was directed to administer the general funds through existing BMP grant procedures, which are through the federal Clean Water Act (CWA) §319 program, and personnel.

SECTION 6. LEGISLATIVE INTENT – AGRICULTURAL BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES. It is the intent of the Legislature that \$500,000 of the ongoing General Fund moneys appropriated to the Water Quality Program for trustee and benefit payments, in Section 1 of this act, be used for a statewide grant program to support implementation of agricultural Best Management Practices (BMPs) in high-priority watersheds throughout Idaho. The department is to administer this funding through existing BMP grant procedures and personnel. Funding is to be used by farmers and ranchers to modify their agricultural practices in order to improve water quality and help meet the objectives of Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs). (Senate Bill No. 1187)

Over the last 4 years, DEQ has experienced a decline of over \$1 million in federal CWA §319 funding that had been available for grants to support implementing agricultural BMPs. These grant funds were matched with contributions from farmers and ranchers to reduce sediment and phosphorus loads in waters that were being managed under the terms of an established TMDL and associated implementation plan.

TMDL Prioritization

DEQ classifies the priority of certain waters found across the state based on certain key attributes including: availability of data, DEQ resources, and the severity of risk to designated or existing beneficial uses (Idaho Code §39-3609). Interested parties can find more information on priority waters and TMDLs in DEQ's 2014 Integrated Report, particularly Appendix O, which can be found at www.deq.idaho.gov/water-quality/surface-water/monitoring-assessment/integrated-report/.

Section 303(d) of the CWA requires states to develop lists of impaired waters that do not meet water quality standards (33 USC §1313(d)(1)(A)). The law then requires the state to establish priority rankings on the lists and develop TMDLs for these waters. DEQ's 2014 Integrated Report lists 18 high-priority watersheds from across the state (Table 1).

Table 1. High-priority watersheds.

DEQ Region	USGS Cataloging Unit Name	Hydrologic Code	Priority
Coeur d'Alene	Priest	17010215	High
	Upper Spokane	17010305	High
	Pend Oreille Lake	17010214	High
	Lower Kootenai	17010104	High
	Pend Oreille River	17010216	High
	South Fork Coeur d'Alene	17010302	High
	Coeur d'Alene Lake	17010303	High
Twin Falls	Mid-Snake/Upper Snake Rock	17040212	High
	Little Lost	17040217	High
Boise	Bruneau	17050102	High
	Lower Boise	17050114	High
	Payette	17050122	High
	Brownlee	17050201	High
Idaho Falls	Salmon River—Upper	17060201	High
	Pahsimeroi	17060202	High
	Middle-Salmon/Panther Creek	17060203	High
Lewiston	South Fork Clearwater	17060305	High
	Lower North Fork Clearwater	17060308	High

State General Fund Solicitation Process

The State General Fund of \$500,000 becomes available July 1, 2017 (the first day of SFY18). It is the intent of the legislature that this money be used for a statewide grant program to support implementation of agricultural BMPs in high-priority watersheds throughout Idaho. These funds will be awarded to agricultural and ranching projects that are located in a high-priority watershed and will be used by farmers and ranchers to modify their agricultural practices to improve water quality and help meet the objectives of TMDLs.

FFY17 Federal Project List

In order to assist in the facilitation of state general funding requests, DEQ is releasing the list of federal CWA §319 projects that were included in DEQ's application to EPA for federal fiscal year 2017 (FFY17) funding. FFY17 runs from October 1, 2016, through September 30, 2017. Table 2 lists these projects by title, basin, grant amount, and match amount.

Table 2. FFY17 proposed federal projects.

Project Title	Basin	Grant Amount (\$)	Match Amount (\$)
Upper Bear River Bank Stabilization	Bear	84,125	56,850
Middle Bear Bank Stabilization	Bear	220,905	164,425
Potlatch River Watershed Management	Clearwater	209,998	196,200
St Joe River Bank Stabilization and Planting	Panhandle	39,140	26,760
Fernan Lake Phosphorus Reduction	Panhandle	36,016	31,666
Little Sawmill Creek Restoration	Salmon	250,000	168,614
Lower Payette River TMDL—Phase V	Southwest	163,589	258,000
Continued Treasure Valley BMP	Southwest	250,000	166,700
Weiser Confluence Bank Stabilization	Southwest	59,230	45,350
Teton County Soil Health Initiative	Upper Snake	74,366	66,500
Total		1,387,369	1,181,065

SFY18 Funding Process

The solicitation process for SFY18 funding is described below.

1. DEQ will open a 45-day solicitation process from July 1 through August 15, 2017.
2. Applicants will use the existing §319 online application process (www.deq.idaho.gov/water-quality/grants-loans/nps-319-subgrants/) and will need to mark the application as “State General Fund SFY2018 <Insert Project Name>.”
3. Projects will be reviewed by the Basin Advisory Group (BAG) at the late August/early September meeting. Readiness to proceed or “shovel ready” projects will be considered by the BAG when ranking projects. Projects should be completed by June 30, 2018. Additionally, the cost per pound pollutant removed may be an appropriate secondary ranking method.
4. BAGs will forward their ranked projects to DEQ.
5. DEQ will decide the projects to fund and inform all applicants of the decision.
6. State General Fund subgrant awards will be issued by October 1, 2017.

All projects soliciting funds must meet the following requirements:

- Projects must be agricultural or ranching BMPs.
- Applicants must be from a high-priority watershed as listed in Table 1.
- Projects must follow the 60:40 grant-to-match and 10% administration policies, and the grant portion is capped at \$250,000.