

## **Big Sky Watershed Corps Evaluation Scope of Work – Request for Proposals**

### **Organizational Overview**

Modeled after the Civilian Conservation Corps of the 1930's, the Montana Conservation Corps (MCC) is a 501(C)3 nonprofit, founded in 1991 and currently operating from five regional offices across Montana and a state office located in Bozeman, MT. Our mission is to *"inspire young people through hands on conservation service to be leaders, stewards of the land and engaged citizens who improve their communities"*. Each year, the MCC engages 400+ AmeriCorps members, 100+ youth and 1000+ volunteers in 180+ natural resource and community service projects. The MCC utilizes these projects and a individual placement and/or crew-based structure as the vehicles to foster the skills and ethic of active citizenship.

### **Program Overview**

Big Sky Watershed Corps (BSWC) is an AmeriCorps program that assists Montana's watershed communities to make a measurable difference in local conservation efforts while strengthening the experience of young professionals. The BSWC is funded by an AmeriCorps grant through the Governor's Office of Community Service and AmeriCorps. The grant is administered by the Montana Conservation Corps.

BSWC Members are placed with watershed groups, NGO's, Conservation Districts and other state and local organizations throughout Montana. Members focus on watershed research, planning and project implementation, watershed education and outreach, and community engagement. Participants serve from early January through mid November and supply host organizations with increased capacity via direct service.

**The BSWC intends to establish an ongoing evaluation method and process that can help inform decisions about projects related to drought resiliency – Low-Tech Process Based Restoration – including their overall effectiveness, criteria for prioritization and impacts on the landscape, local ecology, and drought mitigation.**

### **Objectives**

The objectives of the BSWC Evaluation are to:

- Provide high quality, meaningful evaluation data relevant to the impact and effectiveness of Low-Tech Process Based Restoration (LTPBR) projects implemented by Big Sky Watershed Corps members and volunteers
- Develop evaluation instruments and processes that can be utilized in the future for ongoing project assessment
- Aid the Program's leadership in analyzing and interpreting data to gain insight and better inform decision-making and planning for the future

## **Project Scope of work**

The evaluation will seek to measure the impact BSWC members and member-trained volunteers have on the health of Montana's watersheds specific to the planning and implementation of LTPBR projects.

## **Deliverables**

1. Literature review (to include but not limited to current research on LTPBR practices and criteria for evaluating impacts).
2. Evaluation/research plan including identification of key evaluation questions, description of evaluation methodologies and development of data collection tools.
3. Quantitative and/or qualitative analysis of level of success the BSWC program has in mitigating drought in MT via LTPBR initiatives and projects.
4. Well-written, insightful report of results detailing quantitative and qualitative findings and recommendations

## **Evaluation Timeline**

- Proposal due by January 19, 2024
- Begin work by February 1, 2024
- Final report submitted that includes the above listed deliverables no later than October 1, 2025

## **Proposal Content**

Organizations should include the following information in their proposal:

- Name, Address, Phone, Fax, Email, Website and Contact Person
- Legal status (sole proprietorship, partnership, corporation, etc.)
- Brief corporate history (if applicable)
- A description of qualifications and experience on similar projects and/or a resume of the lead project manager(s)
- Contact information for client references
- Names, roles and qualifications of team members likely to work on this project
- All costs for the evaluation
- General payment schedule
- Proposed approach: How do you propose to address this work?
- Demonstrated ability to implement an evaluation meeting a demanding timeline
- What other issues or areas do you think need to be addressed in the assessment?

**Proposals should be submitted electronically to:** [bryan@mtcorps.org](mailto:bryan@mtcorps.org)

## **Contract Conditions**

Any reports and information will be the property of MCC and must be accompanied by an irrevocable, royalty-free, nonexclusive license from the owner authorizing its use by MCC. Any component of reports or other materials owned by third parties that are included must be accompanied by an unrestricted royalty-free right to publish extending to MCC.

We will require that the contractor warrant that any information contained in the reports does not infringe upon any third party copyright or other proprietary right, and to indemnify MCC against any such claims. The contractor must also agree to the inclusion of an indemnification clause providing that MCC will be held harmless against any third party claims.