

Kelsey Jencso, PhD

32 Campus Drive Missoula, MT 59812

phone 406.243.6793

email state.climatologist@umontana.edu

web https://climate.umt.edu

July 19, 2021

To the USDA NIFA AFRI Crosscutting Programs review committee:

The Montana Climate Office (MCO) is committed to collaborating in the project as outlined in the proposal entitled, "Native Climate: Strengthening the role of Climate Hubs in Indian Country" submitted by Dr. Maureen McCarthy through the Desert Research Institute to the USDA NIFA AFRI crosscutting program, *Extension*, *Education & USDA Climate Hubs Partnership* (A1721). In particular, we are excited to host the Native Climate Data Fellow, and to coordinate with the Fellow, USDA Climate Hubs, and other climate data providers (including the other state climate offices) in order to provide Tribal agricultural producers timely, relevant climate information. If funded, the Montana Climate Office is prepared to execute project activities rapidly in accordance with the project description and timeline.

Sincerely,

Kelsey Jencso, PhD

State Climatologist, Montana Climate Office

Associate Professor of Hydrology, WA Franke College of Forestry and Conservation