



The Montana Department of  
**Natural Resources  
& Conservation**



# Renewable Resource Program

# Funding Options for Watershed Work

to achieve Our Watershed Restoration Goals

Montana DNRC

RRG would support technical assistance, drought  
and resulting projects

RRG planning grants get us to fund-able projects

RRG and Watershed Groups working together on projects



RRG – PLANNING TO  
SUPPORT WATERSHED  
PROJECTS



NEW! TECHNICAL  
ASSISTANCE



WATERSHED  
MANAGEMENT



PROJECT



PARTNERS



The Montana Department of  
Natural Resources  
& Conservation

# Planning Grants



- Divisions of local government, tribes, or state government.
- Resource Services - \$15,000
- Watershed Restoration Plan - \$40,000
- Watershed Restoration Plan - \$30,000



The Montana Department of  
**Natural Resources  
& Conservation**

# Technical Assistance- NEW!

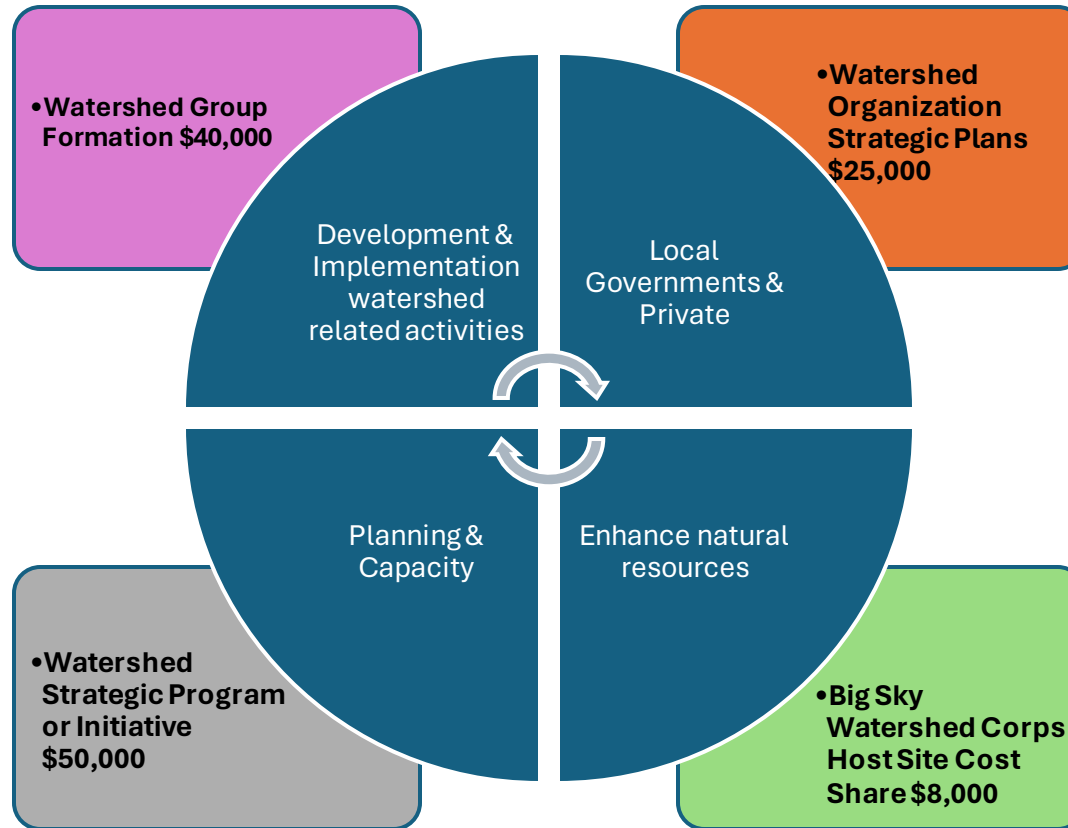


- Technical Assistance to apply to planning grants.
- 20 hours or \$3,000 in contracted services (managed by DNRC).
- No previous professional relationship with contracted services.
- Divisions of local government, tribes, or state government.

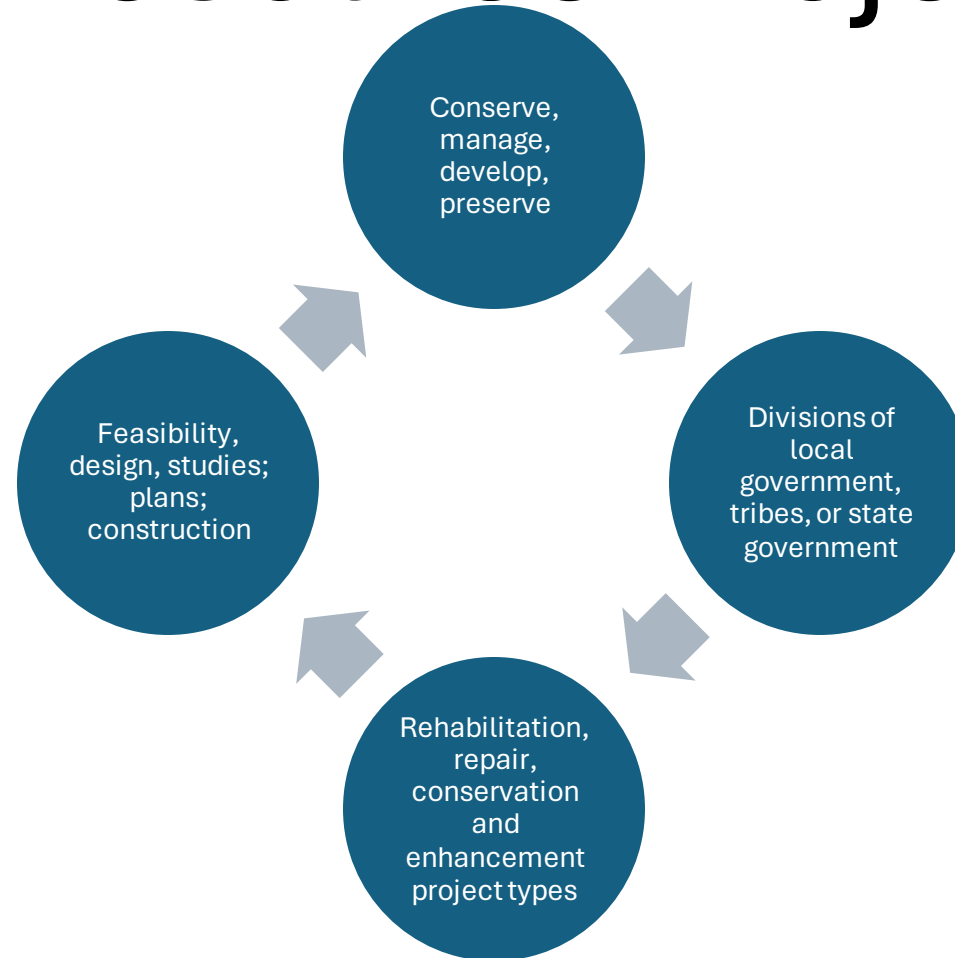


The Montana Department of  
**Natural Resources  
& Conservation**

# Watershed Management



# Renewable Resource Projects



# Partners



Collaboration  
needed to  
obtain funding

Shared  
resource  
mission/goals

Leverage  
funding



The Montana Department of  
**Natural Resources  
& Conservation**

<https://dnrc.mt.gov/docs/conservation/RD-Bureau/RRGL/RRGL-Program-Guidelines-2025-Biennium.pdf>



RENEWABLE  
RESOURCE  
GRANT  
PROGRAM

## Final Grant Program Guidelines 2025 Biennium

November 30, 2023



**RENEWABLE RESOURCE GRANT AND LOAN PROGRAM – SUMMARY TABLE**

	Eligible Applicants	Eligible Projects	Grant Limits	Match	Eligible Expenses	Funding Cycles	Grant Admin	Apply Online	Program Contact
Private Grants	Private Person	Septic system replacement, repair or municipal connection	\$5,000.00	75% total project cost	Contracted professional services Contracted construction services. Equipment, materials, supplies Project related costs	Open and awarded until funds have been expended.	Award One reimbursement Closeout	www.grants.dnrc.mt.gov	David Larson 406-444-2951 dclarson@mt.gov
		Septic system upgrade	\$7,500.00						
		Other projects	\$5,000.00						
Emergency Grants	Local Governments	Emergency Repair or Rehabilitation Projects	\$10,000 - \$30,000	Not required	Contracted professional services Contracted construction services. Equipment, materials, supplies Project related costs	Open and awarded until funds have been expended.	Award Grant Agreement DNRC may waive Progress Reports and Final Report based on need and urgency	www.grants.dnrc.mt.gov	David Larson 406-444-2951 dclarson@mt.gov
Irrigation Development Grants	Private Person Small, family, on-farm projects	Irrigation Development Projects	\$50,000.00	50% total project cost	Contracted professional services Contracted construction services. Equipment, materials, supplies Project related costs	Cycle #1 February 2024 Cycle #2 November 2024	Award Letter Startup Conditions Grant Agreement Reimburse eligible expenses (date of Award Letter) Reimbursement Requests with progress report Withhold 10% Final Report	www.grants.dnrc.mt.gov	Ann L Kulczyk 406-228-4129 akulczyk@mt.gov
Watershed Management Grants	Local Governments --- Private Non-Government	Watershed Group Formation	\$40,000.00	Not required for local governments --- 50% total project cost for non-government entities	Staff time - project management and grant administration Costs associated with stakeholder meetings. Contracted professional services associated with monitoring, design, grant writing or development of natural resource management plans. Conferences or training for staff development. Equipment, materials, supplies Project related costs Travel expenses must comply with the State of Montana Travel Policy	Cycle #1 January – February 2024 Cycle #2 October – November 2024	Award Letter Startup Conditions Grant Agreement Project Kickoff Meeting Progress Meetings Reimburse eligible expenses (date of Award Letter) Quarterly reporting Reimbursement Requests Withhold 10% Final Report	www.grants.dnrc.mt.gov	Melissa Downing 406-444-0697 melissa.downing@mt.gov
		Watershed Organization Strategic Plans	\$25,000.00						
		Watershed Strategic Program or Initiative	\$50,000.00						
		Big Sky Watershed Corps Host Site Fee	\$8,000.00						

RENEWABLE RESOURCE GRANT AND LOAN PROGRAM – SUMMARY TABLE

RENEWABLE RESOURCE GRANT PROGRAMS 2025 BIENNIUM SUMMARY TABLE

	Eligible Applicants	Eligible Projects	Grant Limits	Match	Eligible Expenses	Funding Cycles	Grant Admin	Apply Online	Program Contact
Project Grants	Local Governments	Infrastructure	\$125,000.00	Not required for local governments	Staff time - project management and grant administration Contracted professional services Contracted construction services Equipment, materials, supplies Project related costs	Applications due May 15, 2024	Award Letter Startup Conditions Grant Agreement Project Kickoff Meeting Progress Meetings Reimburse eligible expenses (date of Award Letter) Quarterly reporting Reimbursement Requests Withhold 10% Final Report	www.grants.dnrc.mt.gov	Lindsay Volpe 406-444-9766 lmvolve@mt.gov
		Irrigation							
		Dams							
		Renewable Energy							
		Restoration							
		Studies							
Planning Grants	Local Governments	Infrastructure PER	\$40,000.00	Not required for local governments	Contracted professional services	MCEP/CDBG Planning Grant Match Cycle – October 2023	Award Letter Grant Agreement Reimbursement 50% with draft document Final reimbursement with final document	www.grants.dnrc.mt.gov	Lindsay Volpe 406-444-9766 lmvolve@mt.gov
		Irrigation PER/ Technical Narrative	\$30,000.00			---			
		PER or Technical Narrative Update	\$20,000.00			Planning Grant Cycle #1 – December 2023 - April 2024 Review and Award January 2024 Review and Award April 2024			
		Resource Services (Plans or Studies)	\$15,000.00			----			
		Watershed Restoration Plan	\$40,000.00			Planning Grant Cycle #2 – September 2024 - December 2024 Review and Award October 2024 Review and Award January 2025			
		Watershed Restoration	\$30,000.00			---			

**RENEWABLE RESOURCE GRANT AND LOAN PROGRAM – SUMMARY TABLE**

	Eligible Applicants	Eligible Projects	Grant Limits	Match	Eligible Expenses	Funding Cycles	Grant Admin	Apply Online	Program Contact
<b>Nonpoint Source Pollution (NPS) Reduction Grants</b>	Local Governments	Municipal Sewer Connections	\$100,000 total \$5,000 per connection	Not required for local governments	Staff time - project management and grant administration Contracted professional services for investigation, design, and oversight. Contracted construction services.	Open August - September 2024	Award Letter Startup Conditions Grant Agreement Project Kickoff Meeting Progress Meetings Reimburse eligible expenses (date of Award Letter) Quarterly reporting Reimbursement Requests Withhold 10% Final Report	www.grants.dnrc.mt.gov	Lindsay Volpe 406-444-9766 lmvolve@mt.gov
	Local Governments	NPS Implementation Projects	\$50,000.00	Not required for local governments	Equipment, materials, supplies Project related costs	Open August - September 2024			
	Private Non-Government			50% total project cost for non-government entities	Travel expenses must comply with the State of Montana Travel Policy  Purchases of goods, services or supplies must meet the Montana Procurement Act and/or local procurement regulations.				
	See DEQ 319 Program Regulations	DEQ 319 Funded Project Match	See DEQ 319 Program Regulations	Up to 30% of total project cost	See DEQ 319 Program Regulations	See DEQ 319 Program Regulations	See DEQ 319 Program Regulations	See DEQ 319 Program Regulations	



# Reclamation and Development Grants Program



2008



*Soda Butte Creek*

2013

# Reclamation and Development Grant Program (RDGP)

- Reclamation and Development Grant Program was established in 1987
- Funding for RDGP comes from:
  - Resource Indemnity Trust Fund
  - Resource Indemnity Groundwater Assessment Tax
  - Oil and Gas Production Tax
- The purposes of the RDGP are to:
  - Repair, reclaim, and mitigate environmental damage to public resources from nonrenewable resource extraction; and
  - Develop and ensure the quality of public resources for the benefit of all Montanans (MCA 90-2-1102)





Conservation and  
Resource  
Development  
Division

# Using DNRC Grant Programs to Achieve Watershed Restoration Goals

## What types of projects qualify for RDG Grants?

Mineral Development Projects: Projects that **repair, reclaim or mitigate environmental damage** to natural resources from **mining, oil and gas development, and hazardous waste**

Crucial state need projects: Projects that develop, promote, or protect Montana's total environment and the general health, safety, welfare, and public resources of Montana's citizens and communities. **Projects must have regional or statewide importance to natural resources.**

Apply at [grants.dnrc.mt.gov](https://grants.dnrc.mt.gov)

## Grants Available

### Planning Grants

- Up to \$75,000 for planning activities
- Next: March 21, 2024 by 5 PM
- Applications due throughout the biennium

### Project Grants

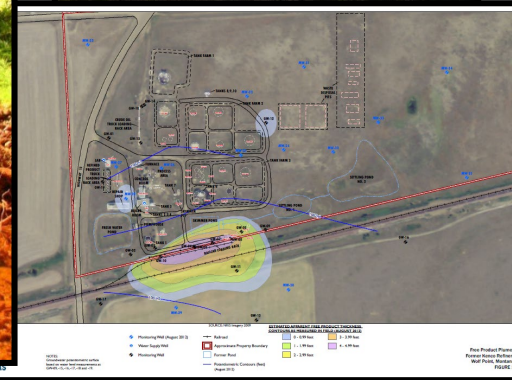
- \$500,000 for project implementation
- Applications due May 15, 2024 by 5 PM



# Reclamation and Development Planning Grants

## Reclamation Project Planning: \$75,000

- **Reclamation** of land, water, or other resources adversely impacted by mineral development
- **Mitigation** of damage to public resources caused by mineral development
- **Research, demonstration, or technical assistance** to promote the wise use of Montana minerals
- **Investigation and remediation** of sites where hazardous wastes or regulated substances threaten public health or the environment
- Research to **assess existing or potential environmental damage** resulting from mineral development



# Reclamation and Development Planning Grants

## Crucial State Need Projects

Prevent or eliminate severe and unacceptable damage to natural resources OR capture extraordinary public benefit that would otherwise be lost

- Regional, watershed, or Statewide Scale
- Benefits Natural Resources
- Requires Supporting Documentation

DNRC – St. Mary  
Supply System and  
the greater Milk  
River Project



- **Drought Management Plan (\$50,000)**: Development of a drought management plan for a watershed or region of the state. Drought management plans must identify drought mitigation projects to implement.
- **Drought Mitigation Project Planning (\$50,000)**: Planning for specific projects that address drought across a watershed, as the main purpose of the project. The project must be identified in an existing plan such as a drought management plan or a watershed management plan that ties the need for the project to the watershed for region.
- **High Hazard Dams (\$75,000)**: High hazard dam (Montana Dam Safety Act, MCA 85-15-106) projects that will mitigate damage to natural resources as a result of failure. Planning grants must clearly demonstrate natural resource benefits.
- **Channel Migration Zone (CMZ) Mapping (\$75,000)**: Channel migration zone (CMZ) mapping projects that plan for large-scale flood assessment or other natural resource benefits to a watershed or region of the state. Projects must identify the natural resource needs of the area and include prioritization of projects benefiting natural resources.
- **Other Crucial State Need (\$50,000)**: Projects that meet a crucial state need must prevent or eliminate severe and unacceptable damage to natural resources or capture extraordinary public benefit that would otherwise be lost. They must have a regional, watershed, or statewide importance. Public benefit from this type of project must directly relate to natural resources.





# Examples of Planning Projects

## Activities include:

- Problem analysis
- Feasibility or design studies
- Environmental monitoring
- Remedial action plans or implementation
- Technology demonstration
- Research
- Site assessment
- Grant writing for a RDGP project grant application
- Other related actions that lead to cleanup of contamination, mitigation of damage, or protection of Montana's environment.

## To Apply, a Project Must:

- Be technically and financially feasible
- Be the most cost-effective alternative to address a problem or attain an objective
- Comply with statutory and regulatory standards protecting environmental quality
- Be from an applicant able and willing to enter into an agreement with DNRC for the implementation of the proposed project.
- Cannot relieve a liable party or include work on an actively permitted site



# Reclamation and Development Project Grants: \$500,000

## Mineral Development

- **Reclamation** of land, water, or other resources adversely impacted by mineral development
- **Mitigation** of damage to public resources caused by mineral development
- **Research, demonstration, or technical assistance** to promote the wise use of Montana minerals
- **Investigation and remediation** of sites where hazardous wastes or regulated substances threaten public health or the environment
- Research to **assess existing or potential environmental damage** resulting from mineral development

## Crucial State Need Projects:

- **Drought Mitigation**: Projects that address drought as the main purpose of the project **and** have been identified in an existing plan such as a drought management plan or watershed management plan that ties the need for the project to a specific watershed or region of the state.
- **High Hazard Dams**: High hazard dam projects that will mitigate damage to natural resources as a result of failure.
- **Other Crucial State Need**: Other projects that meet the criteria of a crucial state need project as described above. Projects must clearly be identified in an existing plan that identifies the need for this project to a specific watershed or region of the state, or include a letter of support from a knowledgeable and authoritative source, preferably a state agency, describing the need for this project for a specific watershed or region of the state.



# To Apply, a Project Must:

- Be technically and financially feasible
- Be the most cost-effective alternative to address a problem or attain an objective
- Comply with statutory and regulatory standards protecting environmental quality
- Be from an applicant able and willing to enter into an agreement with DNRC for the implementation of the proposed project.
- Cannot relieve a liable party or include work on an actively permitted site

# Examples of Projects Include:

- Abandoned Mine Reclamation
- Brownfields Cleanup
- Abandoned Hazardous Waste Site Cleanup
- Abandoned Oil and Gas Well Cleanup
- Mining Related Mitigation Projects
- Crucial State Needs (a documented set of circumstances or conditions that require action to prevent or eliminate severe and unacceptable damage to Montana's environment) ; including drought and high hazard dams



# Who is Eligible to Apply?

Reclamation and Development Grant funding is available for:

- Tribal governments
- State agencies
- Cities
- Counties
- Towns
- Universities
- Rural improvement districts
- Conservation districts
- Irrigation districts
- County sewer districts
- County water districts

\* Federal entities are not eligible



**FLATHEAD**  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT



Conservation and Resource  
Development Division

# Available Reclamation and Development Grants

## Planning Grants

- Up to \$75,000
- Approved by DNRC
- Applications due throughout year
- Awards issued within 6 months
- Funding available after grant cycle

**Next deadline:**  
March 21, 2014

## Project Grants

- Up to \$500,000
- Approved by Legislature
- Applications due May 15 of even years
- Awards issued after session (~1 year from application)
- Funding available in 1-2 years of grant cycle

**Next deadline:**  
May 15, 2024



# Watersheds - Planning to Projects

## Flathead Conservation District Trumbull Creek

- WMG in 2015 for a WRP
- RRG planning in 2017 for planning
- RRG project in 2019 for implementation and construction.
- WMG in 2022 for project planning

## Sun River Watershed Group Muddy Creek

- WMG in 2022 for capacity and project development
- WMG in 2022 to update project prioritization and include mapping
- BOR funding for Muddy Creek Planning
- RDG project in 2023 for Muddy Creek construction



# Where Does Your Watershed Work Fit in CARDD?



Conservation and Resource  
Development Division



## Watershed Program Grants

Watershed Group Formation -> [WMG](#)

Watershed Group Strategic Plan -> [WMG](#)

Watershed Group Strategic Program/Initiative -> [WMG](#)

Big Sky Watershed Corps Cost Share -> [WMG](#)



## Watershed Planning Grants

Technical Assistance Program -> [RRG Planning](#)

Watershed Restoration Plan -> [RRG Planning](#)

Channel Migration Zone Mapping -> [RDG Planning](#)



## Drought Management Grants

Drought Management Plan -> [RDG Planning](#)

Drought Management Project Plan -> [RDG Planning](#)

Drought Management Project -> [RDG Project](#)



## Restoration Grants

Watershed Restoration Project Plan -> [RRG Planning](#)

Stream Restoration Projects -> [RRG Project](#)

Mine Reclamation Project Plan -> [RDG Planning](#)

Mine Reclamation Projects -> [RDG Project](#)



## Watershed Management Grants ([WMG](#))

- Melissa Downing, [melissa.downing@mt.gov](mailto:melissa.downing@mt.gov)

## Renewable Resource Grants ([RRG](#))

- Lindsay Volpe, [Lmvolpe@mt.gov](mailto:Lmvolpe@mt.gov)
- Kylee Hughes, [kylee.hughes@mt.gov](mailto:kylee.hughes@mt.gov)

## Reclamation Development Grants ([RDG](#))

- Samantha Treu, [samantha.treu@mt.gov](mailto:samantha.treu@mt.gov)

