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Conservation and Resource Development Division



The people who work in the Conservation and Resource Development Division are proud of the services we provide to the people of Montana and in improving the State's natural resources. I hope you find the following newsletter informative. We are always glad to hear from you. If you have questions please do not hesitate to call, 444-6667.

-Ray Beck, Division Administrator

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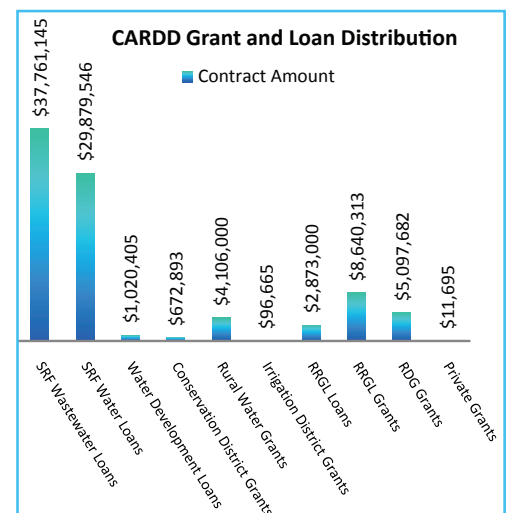


How the Conservation and Resource Development Division works for Montana

Between July and the end of December 2009, Conservation and Resource Development Division (CARDD) processed grant and project contracts on 282 projects for \$17,837,158 and closed on 140 State Revolving Fund loans for \$69,639,691. In just over half a year, CARDD has made over \$87 million available to Montana communities to start work on projects that benefit Montana's citizens and natural resources!

What does this mean for Montana citizens?

- **Conservation:** Conservation of millions of gallons of water from leaking water lines or irrigation ditches through improvements.
- **Preservation:** Surface water and groundwater resources will be protected from leaking sewer lines or lagoons and other contamination sources.
- **Management:** Montana communities can utilize our program to help manage their natural resources.
- **Development:** Providing communities with new wells, reliable, safe and good-quality drinking water and new irrigated acres.
- **Reclamation and Remediation:** Abandoned mines and hazardous waste sites will be cleaned up and restored.
- **Conservation Districts:** CDs will continue to help citizens conserve their soil, water, and other renewable natural resources.
- **Planning:** Communities have started planning projects that will benefit Montana citizens and our renewable resources.



Acronym Definitions: State Revolving Fund (SRF), Renewable Resource Grant and Loan (RRGL), Reclamation Development Grant (RDG)

Bureau Highlights

Efficiency Savings

Here are some ways that our division saves time and money every day throughout our bureaus:



- An estimated 795 hours of travel time and 15,840 miles were saved in August by simply using a conference telephone in place of attending meetings. Estimated combined savings were \$18,320 for the month of August!
- We participate in the Water, Wastewater, and Solid Waste Action Coordinating Team. The team has developed a Uniform Application and grant expenditures tracking spreadsheet that all agencies accept. This way, the application and grant tracking process is streamlined for projects using multiple funding sources, saving time and money for Applicants.
- We assist our grantees on their projects by coordinating with engineering firms and contractors.
- We work together with state, federal, local agencies to help Montanans get their projects done, by leveraging our dollars.

Financial Management Bureau

In 2009, Montana was awarded American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA) federal funding for the Montana State Revolving Fund for Drinking Water and Wastewater.

- The Drinking Water Program received \$17.6 million in funds for community projects. These funds are leveraged with other funding sources to complete \$37.3 million on drinking water systems. Thirty-two drinking water projects are in progress and funded with this money.
- The Wastewater Program received \$18.4 million of wastewater improvements for community projects. These funds are leveraged with other funding sources to complete work on \$68 million of wastewater improvements for thirty-two projects.

Because of the hard working efforts of the Financial Bureau staff, Montana obligated all ARRA funds by the February 17, 2010 deadline and has met the 20% "green infrastructure" requirement. The state will be eligible to apply for re-allocated money because of these efforts.

For more information on the SRF program please contact, Anna Miller, 444-6689.

Conservation Districts Bureau

Assisted by the technical and financial assistance provided by CARDD, the Yellowstone River Conservation District Council (YRCDC) unveiled the Channel Migration Zone (CMZ) Study. By mapping the historic channel patterns, the CMZ will provide information about the river location over the next 10 to 20 years. This information can be used to make resource decisions that not only protect the river but also meet the needs of the stakeholders. In 2009, a series of 10 workshops demonstrated the powerful impact that this study could make across the Yellowstone River Basin.

"You have to dance with the river, but the river has to lead..."

Don Youngbauer, YRCDC Chair

For more information on the CD Bureau please contact, Ray Beck, 444-6667

Resource Development Bureau-Rural Water

On January 13, 2010 residents of Fort Kipp, MT, opened their household faucets and saw clean, clear drinking water emerge-something they have never seen before. The event marked the first delivery of water to a Reservation community from one of Montana's regional water systems. The water was piped from the Culbertson Water Treatment Plant and is the result of a partnership between Dry Prairie Rural Water Authority and the Assiniboine and Sioux Rural Water Supply System. DNRC'S CARD Division has been involved from the start in supporting development of Montana's regional water systems. How bad was the local water? "They can't take showers with it," said Tom Escarcega, project manager for the Assiniboine and Sioux tribes. "The water turns food black when you cook with it. It corrodes fixtures to the extent some people just have only screws remaining to turn on their water."

Resource Development Bureau-Renewable Resource Grant and Loan Program

Mill Lake dam is a high-hazard wilderness dam located in the Bitterroot-Selway Wilderness Area about 15 miles west of Hamilton. Constructed early in the twentieth century, the dam raises the pool level of Mill Lake and provides irrigators in the Bitterroot Valley with late-season irrigation water.



Mill Lake Dam as constructed by early irrigators in 1910.

In recent years, the dam began to show signs of instability and seepage around its outlet pipe. An inspection revealed the pipe to be badly corroded and leaking. To prevent further seepage and the possibility of a dam breach, the Mill Creek Irrigation District was awarded an emergency grant through the Renewable Resource Grant and Loan Program, and the outlet pipe was lined with a cured-in-place liner.

The District also applied to the Renewable Resource Grant and Loan Program for \$600,000 in grant and loan funding and proceeded with the design and construction of total rehabilitation of the century-old structure.

In 2009, work was completed that included lining and riprap replacement on the upstream face of the dam to prevent seepage and erosion; reconstruction of a portion of the dam's crest; and spillway modifications necessary to bring the dam into compliance with current state and federal high-hazard regulations.



Parshall Flume installed below Mill Lake Dam.

For more information on the RDB program please contact, Alice Stanley 444-6687

For more information about the CARDD program, please visit: <http://www.dnrc.mt.gov/cardd/default.asp>