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Renewable Resource Grant and Loan Program

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Renewable Resource Grant and Loan Program

Project Evaluations and Funding Recommendations
for the 2025 Biennium

and

2023 Biennium Status Report

Prepared by the

Montana
Department of Natural Resources
and Conservation

Conservation and Resource Development Division
Resource Development Bureau

Autumn Coleman, Bureau Chief
Lindsay Volpe, Program Manager

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AC ..... asbestos cement
ALM ..... Abandoned Mine Lands
ARPA ..... American Rescue Plan Act
BBWA ..... Billings Bench Water Association
BNSF ..... Burlington Northern Santa Fe
BRIPD1 ..... Buffalo Rapids Irrigation Project District, Phase 1
BRIPD2 ..... Buffalo Rapids Irrigation Project District, Phase 2
CARDD ..... Conservation and Resource Development Division
CD ..... Conservation District
CDBG ..... Community Development Block Grant
cfs ..... cubic feet per second
CST ..... Coal Severance Tax
DEQ ..... Montana Department of Environmental Quality
DNRC ..... Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation
DWSRF ..... Drinking Water State Revolving Fund
FDB ..... Financial Development Bureau
FY ..... Fiscal Year
gpm ..... gallons per minute
HDPE ..... high-density polyethylene
I&I ..... infiltration and inflow
ID ..... Irrigation District
IDG ..... Irrigation Development Grants
MCEP ..... Montana Coal Endowment Program
MDCP ..... Market Development Cooperator Program
NCIA ..... North Chinook Irrigation Association
NCWD ..... Newlan Creek Water District
NRCS ..... Natural Resources Conservation Service
PCCRC ..... Pondera County Canal and Reservoir Company
PER ..... Preliminary Engineering Report
PVC ..... polyvinyl chloride
RD ..... USDA Rural Development
RDB ..... Resource Development Bureau
RDGP ..... Resource Development Grant Planning
RRGL ..... Renewable Resource Grant and Loan
SAF ..... Saint Anthony Falls
SCADA ..... supervisory control and data acquisition
SRF ..... State Revolving Fund
SSRA ..... state special revenue account
TSS ..... total suspended solids
USBM ..... U.S. Bureau of Mines
USBR ..... U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
USFS ..... U.S. Forest Service
USGS ..... U.S. Geological Survey
UV ..... ultraviolet
VCP ..... vitrified clay pipe
VFD ..... variable frequency drive
WMG ..... Watershed Management Grant
WPCSRF ..... Wastewater Pollution Control State Revolving Fund
WRDA ..... Water Resources Development Grant
WSD ..... Water and Sewer District
WTP ..... Water Treatment Plant
WWTF ..... Wastewater Treatment Facility
WWTP ..... Wastewater Treatment Plant

ALPHABETICAL INDEX OF PROJECTS
Applications for Funding During the 2023 Biennium

This index provides an alphabetical list (by applicant) of the 70 grant and loan applications submitted in 2022 for the 2023 biennium. Page numbers correspond to the project evaluation contained in this report.

CHAPTER I
The Renewable Resource Grant and Loan Program

This report provides general information about the Renewable Resource Grant and Loan (RRGL) Program administered by the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC). RRGL project grants recommended to the 2023 Legislature for funding are described in **Chapter II**.

Background
The RRGL Program is the product of two earlier resource management programs: (1) Renewable Resource Development Program established in 1975; and (2) Water Development Program established in 1981. In 1993, the two natural resource grant programs were combined to form the RRGL Program. At that time, the DNRC Resource Development Bureau (RDB) assumed responsibility for administering the RRGL Program as stipulated under Title 85, part 6, MCA. Combining the two programs streamlined program administration but did not change applicant and project eligibility criteria.

RRGL grants are funded by revenue generated from resource extraction taxes. Portions of the following sources of revenue are deposited in the natural resource projects state special revenue account (SSRA): the resource indemnity and groundwater assessment (RIGWA) tax, the oil and gas production tax, and interest earnings from the resource indemnity trust (RIT) fund. Funds from the natural resource projects SSRA are shared by DNRC's two natural resource grant programs: (1) Reclamation and Development Grants Program; and the RRGL Program. The 2021 Legislature authorized American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding to fund a number of the authorized RRGL grants in addition to the State Special Revenue Natural Resources Project Account.

Purpose
The purpose of the RRGL Program is to further the state's policies, set forth in Section 85-1-101, MCA, regarding the conservation, development, preservation, and beneficial use of renewable resources and to invest in renewable resource projects that will preserve for the citizens of Montana the economic and other benefits of the state's natural heritage.

Project and Applicant Eligibility
Grants and loans are available for projects that conserve, manage, develop, or preserve the state's water, land, vegetation, fish, wildlife, recreation, and other renewable resources. Projects funded under this program primarily include water resource projects followed by forestry, soil conservation, renewable energy, and solid waste projects. Project funding is available for construction, research, design, demonstration, and planning.

The Legislature established that *this long-term RRGL Program to provide financial and administrative assistance to private for-profit, private, nonprofit, local government, state government, and Tribal government entities for RRGL projects*. (85-1-601 MCA). For the purposes of RRGL grants, eligible applicants include public entities (cities, towns, counties, irrigation districts (ID), conservation districts (CD), school districts, Tribal governments, and the State government) and private entities (individuals, associations, corporations, and other for profit or non-profit organizations). Grant programs described in this report provide grants to public and/or private entities. See specific grant and loan program descriptions for applicant eligibility requirements.

Renewable Resource Grants and Loans
Project Grants are available to government entities up to $125,000. These projects use the majority of the appropriated funds for the RRGL Program. Grants must be individually approved by the Montana Legislature. **Chapter II** provides more information about the program and about grants active during the 2023 biennium.

Public Loans are backed by the Coal Severance Tax (CST) and are available to public entities. These loans and their interest rates must be individually approved by the Montana Legislature. **Chapter III** provides more information about the program and about loans active during the 2023 biennium.

Private Grants and Loans are available to non-government entities only. These projects must benefit or develop a renewable resource and provide a public benefit. **Chapter IV** describes grants and loans active during the 2023 biennium.

Irrigation Development Grants assist producers and irrigation system managers with projects that would increase crop value or expand irrigated acreage in Montana. **Chapter V** provides more information about the program and projects active during the 2023 biennium.

Emergency Grants and Loans are available to governmental entities to resolve water-related emergencies that, if delayed until the next regular legislative session, would result in substantial damages. **Chapter VI** of this report provides more information about the program and describes emergency assistance provided during the 2023 biennium.

Planning Grants provide funding to governmental entities for activities that lead to a well-prepared RRGL project grant application or assist a community with infrastructure planning or project prioritization. **Chapter VII** provides more information about the program and planning grants active during the 2023 biennium.

Watershed Management Grants support the development and implementation of locally led watershed resource management activities. **Chapter VIII** provides more information about the grant program and watershed management projects active during the 2023 biennium.

Funding Limitations
The law does not impose specific limitations on the amount of grant funding that the Legislature may provide for renewable resource projects proposed by governmental entities. Grant recommendations presented by DNRC to the Legislature Joint Subcommittee for Long Range Planning are limited to $125,000. DNRC limits grants to optimize public benefit from the investment of public funds. However, the Legislature has the authority to appropriate grants and loans in amounts it deems appropriate.

Funding Authority
The public and private renewable resource loan programs are funded through the issuance of General Obligation bonds and CST. The 2021 Legislature granted authority to fund loans backed by CST. Loans in HB 8 were authorized in the amount of $101,695 for nine loans.

In 2021, the Legislature appropriated the following: $9,470,788 for renewable resource project grants; $1,000,000 was appropriated for planning grants, $300,000 for irrigation development grants, $100,000 for emergency grants, $100,000 for private grants and $300,000 for watershed management grants. House Bill 632 enacted the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) which funded RRGL projects and programs in House Bill 6 and House Bill 14 with Montana's State Fiscal Recovery Funds.

Program Implementation
DNRC's role in the management of the RRGL Program is specified in Part 6 of Title 85. By statute (85-1-605, MCA). DNRC presents funding recommends to the Legislature for the authorization to appropriate funding for project grants and authorizes loans to governmental entities consistent with the policies and purposes of the program. In presenting recommendations to the Legislature, DNRC provides information about each project for legislative consideration. All public grant requests are ranked by DNRC to demonstrate the potential value of a given project compared to all other grant requests. Grant requests that do not meet minimum technical and financial standards are not recommended by DNRC for funding. DNRC manages the grants and loans according to conditions set out in the DNRC report to the Legislature (this report) and in the legislative appropriations bill.

DNRC provides the staffing necessary to administer the RRGL Program. DNRC publicizes the statutes and rules that govern these loans and sets application deadlines. Private entities also comply with additional eligibility criteria, as set forth in 85-1-609 and 610, MCA.

Rule-Making Authority
DNRC may propose and adopt rules to clarify statutory requirements and cannot expand or limit the mission of the RRGL beyond legislative intent. DNRC does not have the authority to narrow the range of eligible grants based on DNRC priorities. Title 85, MCA, directs DNRC to adopt rules that prescribe the application

fee and content for grant and loan applications. DNRC also determines the ranking criteria used to evaluate and prioritize public grant applications and the process for awarding grants and loans to private entities according to statute. DNRC authority provides for the servicing of loans and determination of the terms and conditions for making grants and loans.

Program Goals
DNRC seeks to meet program purpose through the following practices:

- Effectively administer grants and loans to ensure funds are used for allowable costs and that projects are executed in accordance with conditions set by the Legislature in compliance with Title 85, MCA, and other applicable laws, without undue burden to the recipient.
- Conduct project oversight to ensure State tax monies are used for the purposes outlined in this report and in-house bills appropriating funds for RRGL projects.
- Inform the public and private sectors of grant and loan funding for water and other renewable resource projects is available, that certain applicant eligibility criteria for obtaining funds exist, and that projects that meet the purposes of Title 85, MCA, qualify for funding.
- Coordinate with other state and federal agencies to support projects using multiple funding sources, facilitate a uniform application process for infrastructure projects, and to award funds without duplication.
- Solicit public comment and suggestions for improvements to the program.
- Evaluate grant projects on technical merit and the resource benefits established in statute.
- Offer loans at the most affordable rates available through the sale of bonds.
- Adequately secure loans to protect the investment of public funds.
- Advise the Legislature concerning DNRC efforts to effectively administer the program according to statute and legislative intent.

CHAPTER II
Renewable Resource Grants to Public Entities

Application Administration and Project Review Procedures
The Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) Resource Development Bureau accepts applications for public grants and loans submitted or postmarked by May 15 of each even-numbered year. Applications are submitted online (www.grants.dnrc.mt.gov) the agency grant and loan website. This website provides grant program information, on-line application, and grant management services for multiple Montana state agencies.

Project Solicitation
DNRC solicits project applications from all eligible applicants for all eligible project types. DNRC maintains an extensive mailing list to promote the program and to solicit applications from eligible applicants. Mailing lists include Montana county governments, cities and towns, the university system, state agencies, environmental organizations, water user associations (WUA), irrigation districts (ID), water and sewer districts (WSD), Tribal governments, and conservation districts (CD). In addition, DNRC staff conduct workshops and present program information at conferences to local governments and other eligible entities. Application guidelines are available in hard copy and online on the DNRC website.

DNRC received 70 applications in May 2022 requesting a total of $8,750,000. In the previous 2020 application cycle, 76 applicants were received requested $9,470,788 in grant funding.

The RRGL application requests the following information for each project:

- A proposal abstract.
- A technical narrative describing the project's purpose, history, and prior efforts; specific goals and objectives, as well as a discussion of project alternatives; and documentation supporting the technical narrative.
- A financial narrative and budget forms describing the project's funding structure.
- Affordability data used to evaluate the local financial commitment for infrastructure projects, including a description of the applicant's ability to pay, such as potential to generate revenue through fees or taxes.
- A project management plan.
- A discussion of public and natural resource benefits achieved by the proposed project.
- An environmental checklist identifying adverse environmental impacts which may occur as a result of the project.

Those projects that meet statutory priorities rank the highest. Projects that meet program purpose to a lesser extent and appear to be less feasible than others tend to rank the lower on the list.

Application Review
All applications received by the deadline were evaluated for completeness. The DNRC notified applicants of missing documentation, application fees, or other basic requirements and provided time for applicants to submit additional material. Once approved for eligibility, the DNRC distributed the applications to a team of reviewers for evaluation. These primary reviewers included DNRC staff, engineers, and consultants. Contracted reviewers were procured by DNRC. Projects were assigned based on the reviewer's area of expertise.

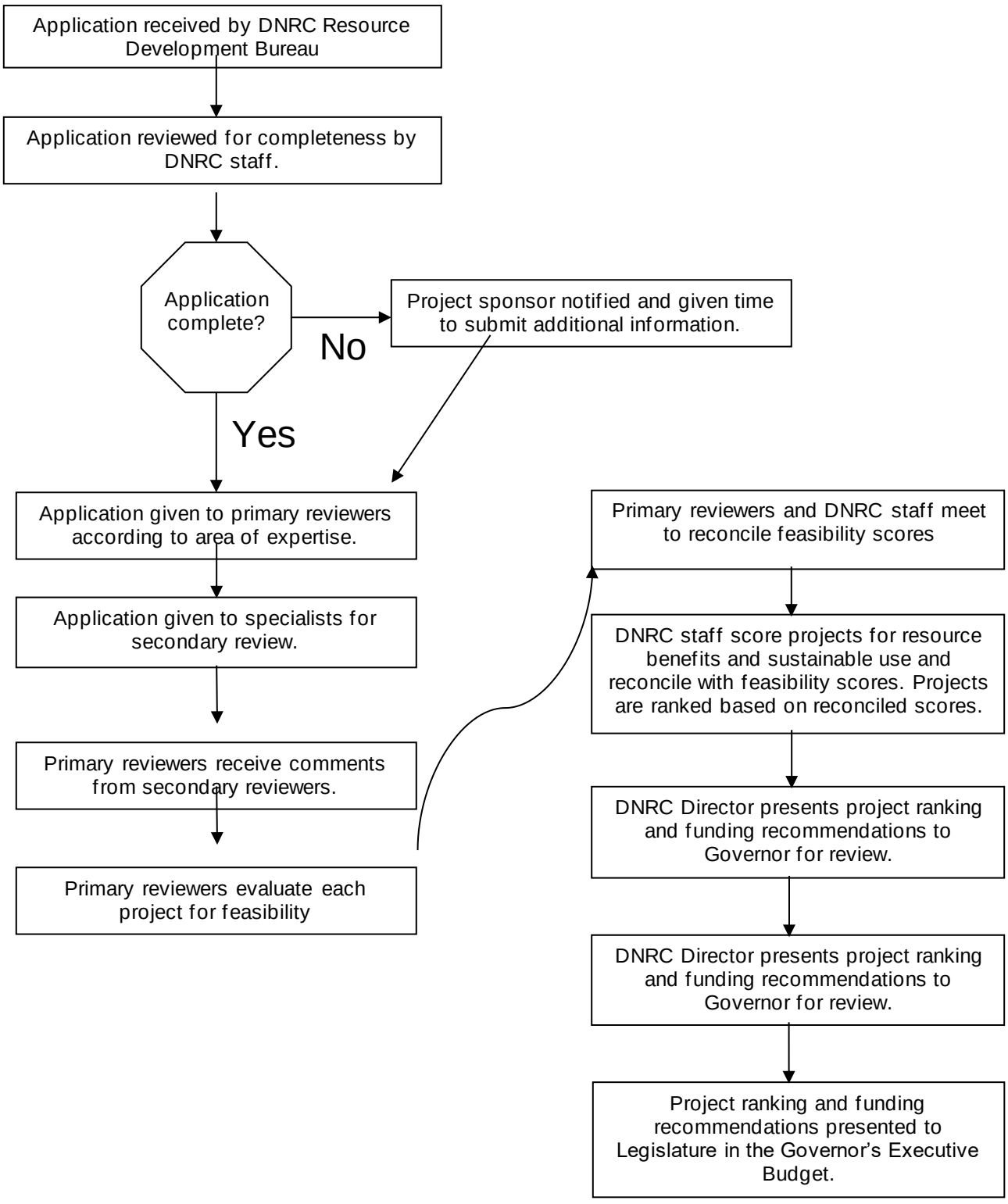
Applications were subject to secondary reviews based on project type. Secondary reviewers provided information on regulatory requirements, existing natural resource management plans, and specialized technical issues. Secondary reviewers included staff from DNRC, other government agencies, specialized nonprofits, and contracted specialists.

Figure 1 shows the flow of the grant application review and ranking process. The technical review team evaluated each application to ensure the proposal was technically and financially feasible. The reviewers were directed to request additional detailed technical and financial information from applicants to clarify applications. With the results of their own evaluations and comments from secondary reviewers, primary

reviewers assessed and documented the merits of each proposal based on standard review criteria outlined in review guidance.

During application review, DNRC also sought views of interested and affected parties. Local, state, and federal agencies, environmental groups, private organizations, and universities are solicited for input during the technical review of applications. DNRC developed guidelines specifically for application review to ensure a consistent basis for reviewing applications.

FIGURE 1 Flowchart of DNRC RRGL Grant Application Review and Ranking Process



Project Ranking Criteria
DNRC developed review guidance containing review instructions and guidelines. Each key reviewer completes a ranking form for each application to document the proposal and the resulting score.

Each primary reviewer assigns a score to reflect project merit under the following five primary categories:

- Resource and Citizen Benefits
- Technical Feasibility
- Project Management and Implementation
- Financial Feasibility
- Environmental Impact

After scoring, primary reviewers meet to discuss the technical merits and deficiencies of the projects and reconcile scores for project feasibility. Discussion by the entire review committee increases ranking fairness by minimizing inconsistencies between scores given by individual reviewers. After project feasibility scores are reconciled, DNRC staff meets to evaluate applications based on the degree to which a project will conserve, develop, or preserve renewable resources. Finally, DNRC staff develops a ranked list based on all scoring criteria (feasibility plus how well the project meets program purpose) for recommendation to the DNRC director.

Funding Recommendations
All eligible grant requests were ranked according to standard criteria to select those that would meet the program's purpose as defined in state statute. Funding recommendations for project applications submitted June 2022 are presented to the Legislature as part of this report **(Table 1A and Table 1B)**.

Grant applications from **Table 1A** include infrastructure projects and Table 1B include irrigation projects **Figure 2** shows the distribution by project type: drinking water, wastewater, irrigation, dams, stormwater, study, other, and water and wastewater. A map showing project locations is presented as **Figure 3**. These recommendations do not impose limits on the amount of funding the Legislature may provide to any governmental entity for a single grant project.

Project Management
After an appropriations bill is enacted to authorize grants and loans, DNRC will notify applicants of their funding status. Sponsors of funded projects are reminded that work on their projects may not begin before entering into a grant or loan agreement with DNRC. DNRC will not reimburse any project cost incurred before legislative authorization is given and before a formal funding agreement is executed.

Project Monitoring
Procedures for monitoring projects are governed by a grant contract agreement between DNRC and the project sponsor. Four DNRC staff oversee 300–350 active projects at any given time. DNRC attempts to make site inspection visits to all large projects during the construction phase. Site visits are made to spot check for problems or to respond to a request for assistance from the project sponsor. Budget and staffing constraints preclude DNRC site visits for every project.

Grant agreements require progress reports, expenditure reports, and a final report. Program staff document decisions and conversations that affect ongoing projects. DNRC is flexible when considering scope changes if the project achieves the goals described in this document's project write-up. Amendments to grant agreements are prepared and issued in response to any problems that require changes to the timeline or budget.

Project sponsors submit claims and obtain reimbursement of allowable costs from DNRC. Invoices may be submitted monthly, and all costs must be fully supported by an invoice or receipt.

Project Evaluation

DNRC evaluates the ultimate success of renewable resource grants through a final report. Upon project completion, DNRC requires a report that documents project history and results of the expenditure of grant dollars. Evaluation through a final project report enables DNRC to measure how well the project implemented program goals. Projects are considered successful if they complete the scope of work outlined in the grant agreement and achieve predicted renewable resource benefits.

Table 1A 2022 Infrastructure Grant and Loan Applications by Order of Ranking Recommendation

Ranked Order	Project Sponsor/Project Name	Recommended Grant Funding Amount	Cumulative Recommended Amount	Recommended RRG Loan Funding
1	**Cooke Pass, Cooke City Silver Gate County Sewer District** Wastewater Treatment and Collection System	$125,000	$125,000	
2	**West Yellowstone, Town of** Wastewater Treatment Plant	$125,000	$250,000	
3	**Red Lodge, City of** Wastewater System Improvements	$125,000	$375,000	
4	**Superior, Town of** Wastewater System Improvements	$125,000	$500,000	
5	**Choteau, City of** Water System Improvements	$125,000	$625,000	
6	**Cascade, Town of** Wastewater System Improvements	$125,000	$750,000	
7	**Sand Coulee, Town of** Wastewater Improvements	$125,000	$875,000	
8	**Kalispell, City of** Morning Star Court Water and Wastewater Improvements	$125,000	$1,000,000	
9	**Saco, Town of** Wastewater System Improvements	$125,000	$1,125,000	
10	**Drummond, Town of** Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrade	$125,000	$1,250,000	
11	**Craig County WSD** Wastewater System Improvements	$125,000	$1,375,000	
12	**Gallatin Canyon County WSD** Gallatin Canyon Sewer Project, Phase 1.2	$125,000	$1,500,000	
13	**Thompson Falls, City of** Water System Improvements	$125,000	$1,625,000	
14	**Corvallis County Sewer District** Wastewater Collection System Improvements	$125,000	$1,750,000	
15	**Helena, City of** Red Mountain Flume Repairs and Upgrade	$125,000	$1,875,000	
16	**Havre, City of** Water System Improvements, Phase 1	$125,000	$2,000,000	
17	**Bigfork County WSD** West Trunk Sewer Replacement and Collection Basin Rehabilitation	$125,000	$2,125,000	
18	**Belt, Town of** Water System Improvements	$125,000	$2,250,000	

Ranked Order	Project Sponsor/Project Name	Recommended Grant Funding Amount	Cumulative Recommended Amount	Recommended RRG Loan Funding
19	**Lincoln County** Libby Creek Community Water and Wastewater Improvements	$125,000	$2,375,000	
20	**Richey, Town of** Water Main Replacement, Phase 2	$125,000	$2,500,000	
21	**Geraldine, Town of** Water System Improvements	$125,000	$2,625,000	
22	**Victor WSD** Wastewater Collection and Treatment Improvements	$125,000	$2,750,000	
23	**Forsyth, City of** Water System Improvements	$125,000	$2,875,000	
24	**Townsend, Town of** Water System Improvements	$125,000	$3,000,000	
25	**Martinsdale WSD** Water System Improvements	$125,000	$3,125,000	
26	**Twin Bridges, Town of** Water System Improvements, Phase 1	$125,000	$3,250,000	
27	**Dodson, Town of** Water System Improvements	$125,000	$3,375,000	
28	**Sunburst, Town of** Wastewater Distribution and Treatment	$125,000	$3,500,000	
29	**Philipsburg, Town of** Water System Repairs Alley Duffy	$125,000	$3,625,000	
30	**Missoula, City of** Comprehensive Stormwater Plan	$125,000	$3,750,000	
31	**Denton, Town of** Wastewater System Upgrades, Phase 1	$125,000	$3,875,000	
32	**Dutton, Town of** Water System Improvements	$125,000	$4,000,000	
33	**Circle, Town of** Waterline Replacement, Phase 4	$125,000	$4,125,000	
34	**Clancy WSD** Water System Improvements	$125,000	$4,250,000	
35	**Basin County WSD** Water System Improvements, Phase 2	$125,000	$4,375,000	
36	**Wolf Point, City of** Wastewater System Improvements, Phase 2	$125,000	$4,500,000	
37	**Hideaway Community County WSD** Hideaway Court Sewer Project	$125,000	$4,625,000	
38	**Chester, Town of** Wastewater System Improvements	$125,000	$4,750,000	
39	**Troy, City of** Water System Improvements	$125,000	$4,875,000	

Ranked Order	Project Sponsor/Project Name	Recommended Grant Funding Amount	Cumulative Recommended Amount	Recommended RRG Loan Funding
40	**Lockwood WSD** Mid Zone Reservoir	$125,000	$5,000,000	
41	**Hot Springs, Town of** Sewer Lagoon Rehabilitation	$125,000	$5,125,000	
42	**Hingham, Town of** Wastewater System Improvements	$125,000	$5,250,000	
43	**Chester, Town of** Water System Improvements	$125,000	$5,375,000	
44	**Shelby, City of** Wastewater Improvements	$125,000	$5,500,000	
45	**Conrad, City of** Stormwater Project	$125,000	$5,625,000	
46	**Absarokee WSD** Water System Improvements	$125,000	$5,750,000	
47	**North Cut Bank Glacier County WSD** Wastewater Lift Station Improvements	$125,000	$5,875,000	
48	**Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch County WSD** Wastewater System Improvements	$125,000	$6,000,000	
49	**Judith Gap, Town of** Water Line and Meter Upgrade	$125,000	$6,125,000	
50	**Boulder, City of** Drinking Water System Improvements	$125,000	$6,250,000	
		$6,250,000	**$6,250,000**	**$0**

Table 1B 2022 Irrigation and Resource Project Grant and Loan Applications by Ranked Order of Recommendation

Ranked Order	Project Sponsor/Project Name	Recommended Grant Funding Amount	Cumulative Recommended Amount	Recommended RRG Loan Funding
1	**Greenfields ID** Pishkun Inlet Hydroelectric	$125,000	$125,000	$1,570,069
2	**Lower Yellowstone ID #1** Thomas Point Pumping Plant Rehabilitation	$125,000	$275,000	
3	**Lower Yellowstone ID Project** Critical Structures Rehabilitation	$125,000	$375,000	
4	**Helena Valley ID** Regulating Reservoir Preservation and Bypass Project	$125,000	$500,000	
5	**Buffalo Rapids ID Project 2** Shirley Main Canal Rehabilitation, Phase 2	$125,000	$625,000	

Ranked Order	Project Sponsor/Project Name	Recommended Grant Funding Amount	Cumulative Recommended Amount	Recommended RRG Loan Funding
6	**Pondera County CD** PCCRC Birch Creek Diversion Automation	$125,000	$750,000	
7	**Madison County** Big Hole Watershed	$125,000	$875,000	
8	**Ruby Valley CD** Upper Jefferson Channel Restoration	$125,000	$1,000,000	
9	**Newlan Creek WD** Newlan Creek Dam Safety Improvements	$125,000	$1,125,000	
10	**Savage ID** Pump Station Rehabilitation	$125,000	$1,250,000	
11	**Pondera County CD** PCCRC C-Canal Headworks Automation	$125,000	$1,375,000	
12	**East Bench ID** Carter Creek Lining and Headgate Automation	$125,000	$1,500,000	
13	**Buffalo Rapids ID Project 1** Eiker Reach Canal Rehabilitation	$125,000	$1,625,000	
14	**Hill County** Beaver Creek Dam Tailwater Channel Restoration	$125,000	$1,750,000	
15	**Granite CD** Allendale Ditch Rehabilitation	$125,000	$2,875,000	
16	**Blaine County** NCIA North Chinook Reservoir Dam Outlet Rehabilitation	$125,000	$2,000,000	
17	**Paradise Valley ID** Hillside Ditch Pipeline Conversion, Phase 2	$125,000	$2,125,000	
18	**Huntley Project ID** Highline Discharge Line Replacement	$125,000	$2,250,000	
19	**Tin Cup WSD** Tin Cup and Mill Creek Ditch Improvements	$125,000	$2,375,000	
20	**Billings, City of** BBWA Rim Tunnel Rehabilitation	$125,000	$2,500,000	
		$2,500,000	**$2,500,000**	**$1,570,069**

Figure 2 Requested Funding by Project Type

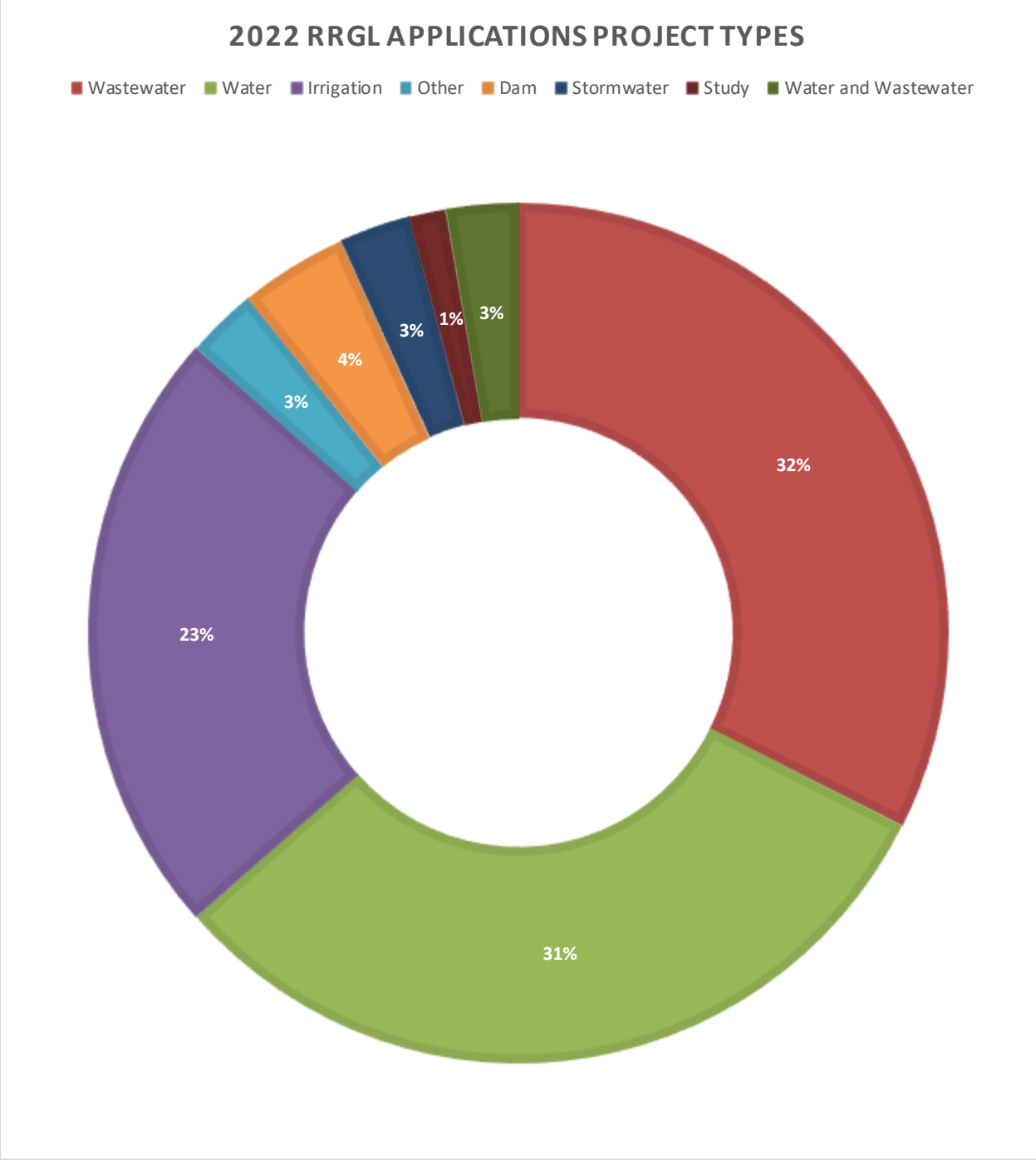
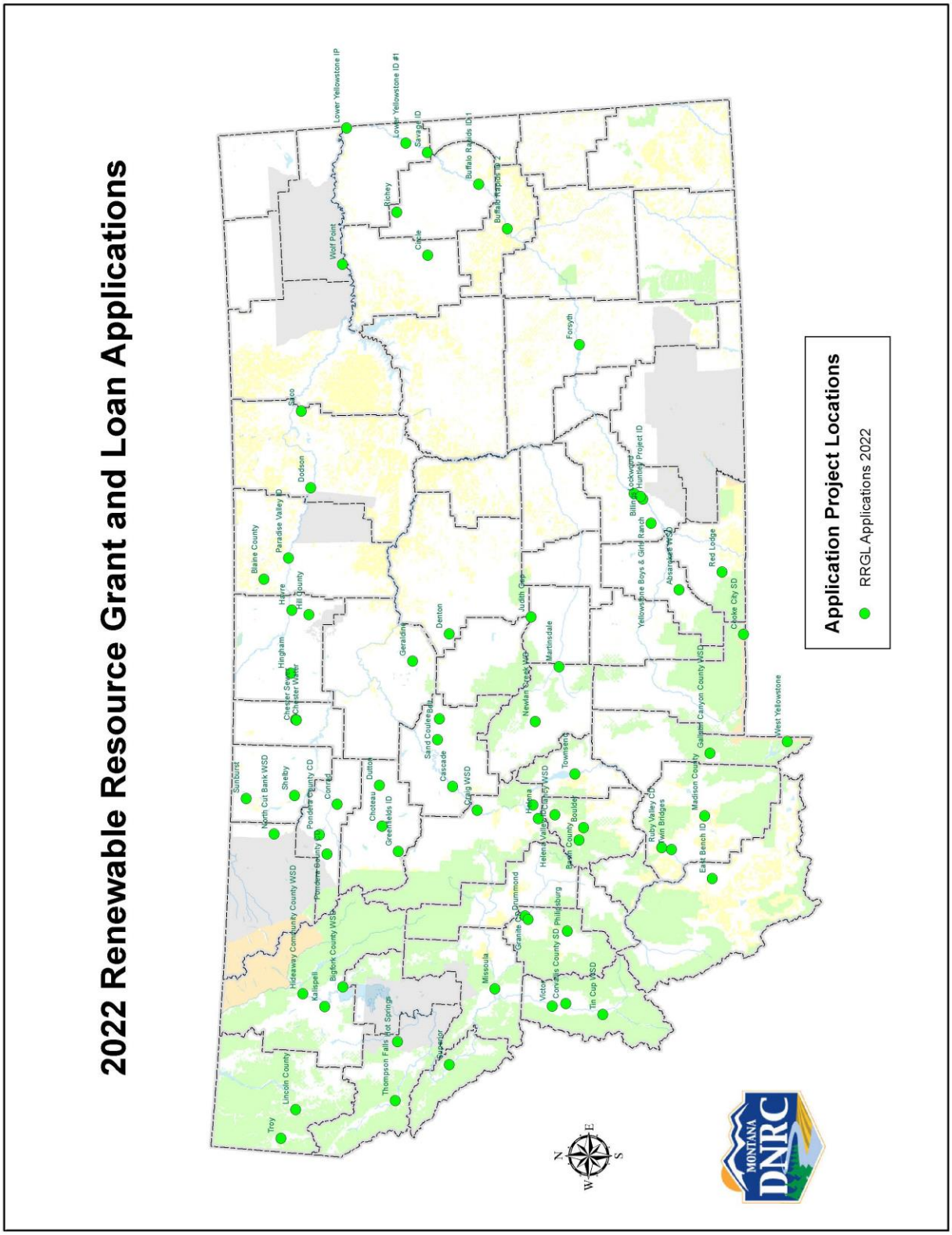


Figure 3 2022 RRGL Applications – Location Map



Renewable Resource Grant and Loan Project Evaluation Summary – Infrastructure Projects

Project No. 1

Applicant Name	Cooke Pass, Cooke City Silver Gate County Sewer District	
Project Name	Wastewater Treatment and Collection System	
Amount Requested	$ 125,000	
Other Funding Sources	$ 750,000	MCEP
	$2,058,186	SRF Loan
	$1,000,000	WRDA
Total Project Cost	$3,933,186	
Amount Recommended	$ 125,000	

Project History
Cooke Pass, Cooke City, Silvergate Sewer District was formed in 1973. The district boundary includes three (3) communities in the immediate area, including Cooke City, which is the subject of this application. Cooke City also has a separate and operational water district whose boundary is limited to Cooke City proper. Although Cooke City has a permanent resident population of 41, more than 250,000 recreationalist and tourists pass through the district and use its infrastructure during the summer. Additionally, the National Park Service documented 1,221 snowmobile recreationalists through three (3) months of tracking during the winter of 2019. Cooke City does not have a central wastewater collection or treatment system. All wastewater management is achieved through septic and drainfield systems. Systems within the community range from cesspool pits to Level 2 advanced treatments systems and have been found in various conditions throughout the community. County records are incomplete and it is unknown how many systems are installed, which properties are served, or the location and how many lots share a system.

Proposed Solution
Specific tasks include:

- Acquire USFS land for treatment/disposal system;
- Install 13,028 linear feet of 6-inch diameter gravity effluent collection system;
- Install new lift station and 3,015 linear feet of 4-inch diameter force main;
- Install 26,000-gallon dosing tank with 75,000 square foot community drainfield; and
- Replace 31 on-lot septic tanks and 11 pre-treatment systems by connecting users to the community wastewater system.

Resource and Citizen Benefits Analysis
This project will preserve surface and groundwater quality, and aquatic and riparian habitats in Soda Butte Creek and downstream into the Lamar River in Yellowstone National Park by eliminating leaking and undertreated wastewater from septic tanks. Soda Butte Creek and the downstream Lamar River are an important recreational resource as well critical aquatic and terrestrial habitat. This project will protect public health and safety by lowering the risk of septic failure or backup. The project will also benefit the local and regional economy by allowing new development in Cooke City which will benefit tourism in the area.

Funding Recommendation
DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000 upon development and approval of the final scope of work, administration, budget, and funding package.

Project No. 2

Applicant Name	West Yellowstone, Town of	
Project Name	Wastewater Treatment Plant	
Amount Requested	$ 125,000	
Other Funding Sources	$ 3,012,483	ARPA Grants
	$ 600,000	CDBG
	$ 1,500,000	Local Resort Tax
	$ 750,000	MCEP
	$16,000,000	RD Loan
	$ 4,000,000	RD Grant
	$ 7,127,217	SRF Loan
Total Project Cost	$33,114,700	
Amount Recommended	$ 125,000	

Project History
The Town of West Yellowstone is served by a lagoon system for wastewater treatment. The facility was constructed in 1993, and modifications to the treatment system have been implemented over the last 25 years. Due to continued growth and tourism in the community, the treatment capacity of the current system exceeds the demand and inadequately treated wastewater is threatening groundwater quality. The town's proposed solution is to construct a mechanical WWTP that will effectively treat for wastewater constituents to protect the groundwater against increased nutrient loadings. The mechanical WWTP will be sized to treat the increasing flows due to tourism and the reasonably anticipated population growth. The provision of safe wastewater treatment is essential to support the tourism which the town depends for its economic health.

Proposed Solution
Specific tasks include:

- Construct mechanical wastewater treatment system and purchase equipment.

Resource and Citizen Benefits Analysis
This project will preserve groundwater and surface water quality by improving the quality of effluent discharged from the wastewater treatment facility. The project will benefit health and safety of the local citizens by protecting groundwater that serves local private wells. The project will also improve the economy by providing the community with reliable wastewater infrastructure that will accommodate reasonably anticipated growth and tourism.

Funding Recommendation
DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000 upon development and approval of the final scope of work, administration, budget, and funding package.

Project No. 3

Applicant Name	Red Lodge, City of	
Project Name	Wastewater System Improvements	
Amount Requested	$ 125,000	
Other Funding Sources	$ 200,000	Local ARPA Funds
	$ 500,000	City Reserves
	$ 500,000	MCEP
Total Project Cost	$1,325,000	
Amount Recommended	$ 125,000	

Project History
Red Lodge's wastewater collection system was originally installed in the early 1900s and consisted primarily of vitrified clay pipe (VCP). Although a few areas of the collection system have been replaced with newer PVC, most of the system still consists of VCP sewer mains. Over 33,080 feet of sewer main are severely outdated and in need of replacement. Problems with these sections of the collection system include infiltration of groundwater through cracks and joints in the pipe; large areas of root and deposit buildups causing sewer backups; and leaking sewer through holes and fractures in the VCP sewer main. The city owns and operates a lift station in the northernmost part of the city, adjacent to Highway 212. The lift station was installed in 1983 to pump the wastewater from the hospital and new development to the city's wastewater treatment system. The lift station was upgraded in 2017, however, the pumps tend to clog which requires operator attention at least once a month. Clogged pumps can lead to sewer backups and potential public health and safety risk due to exposure to untreated wastewater.

Proposed Solution
Specific tasks include:

- Line 1,080 feet of existing 16-inch VCP sewer main using cured-in-place-pipe (CIPP) technology;
- Replace 1,310 feet of existing 12-inch VCP sewer main with new PVC pipe;
- Replace 710 feet of existing 10-inch VCP sewer main along with new manholes; and
- Install a grinder in a manhole upstream of the Highway 212 lift station.

Resource and Citizen Benefits Analysis
New and rehabilitated sewer mains will preserve groundwater and surface water quality in Rock Creek by reducing leaking sewage from the collection system and reducing nutrients and other contamination in the WWTP effluent. New and repaired sewer mains will protect public health and safety by reducing the potential for drinking water contamination and sewer backups. Preserving surface water quality in Rock Creek benefits aquatic and riparian habitats, downstream irrigators and protects the regional recreation economy.

Funding Recommendation
DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000 upon development and approval of the final scope of work, administration, budget, and funding package.

Project No. 4

Applicant Name	Superior, Town of	
Project Name	Wastewater System Improvements	
Amount Requested	$ 125,000	
Other Funding Sources	$ 222,132	Local ARPA Funds
	$2,197,163	ARPA Grants
	$ 600,000	CDBG
	$ 500,000	County Funds
	$ 400,000	Local Funds
	$ 750,000	MCEP
	$ 15,000	MCEP Planning Grant
	$ 15,000	RRGL Planning Grant
Total Project Cost	$4,824,295	
Amount Recommended	$ 125,000	

Project History
The Town of Superior wastewater system consists of gravity collection mains, force mains, four lift stations, and a centralized WWTP. Wastewater is treated by an aerated lagoon system constructed in 1969. The existing lagoon liners are the original liners installed in 1969 and are prone to leakage which can contaminate soil, groundwater, and nearby surface waters. The liners and liner vents should be replaced to ensure reliable wastewater treatment. Portions of the collection and treatment system have exceeded their design lift and need replacement. Collection mains are prone to back-ups and leakage.

Proposed Solution
Specific tasks include:

- Replace and rehabilitate collection mains;
- Uncover and raise manhole lids;
- Remove sludge;
- Replace lagoon liners and Cell #2 baffle;
- Replace existing blower building and install new blowers;
- Install new aeration diffusers in both treatment cells;
- Construct a new headworks building equipped with mechanical screening; and
- Improve guiderails at lift stations.

Resource and Citizen Benefits Analysis
This project will preserve surface water quality in the Clark Fork River by improving the quality of the effluent discharged from the wastewater treatment system. This project will preserve groundwater and surface water quality by reducing leaking sewage from the collection system and replacing the lagoon liners. The project will benefit health and safety of the local citizens by reducing sewer backups into local homes and businesses. Surface water quality benefits aquatic and riparian habitat as well as downstream water users. Improved water quality will benefit the regional recreation economy by preserving a blue-ribbon trout stream

Funding Recommendation
DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000 upon development and approval of the final scope of work, administration, budget, and funding package.

Project No. 5

Applicant Name	Choteau, City of	
Project Name	Water System Improvements	
Amount Requested	$ 125,000	
Other Funding Sources	$ 400,000	Applicant
	$ 625,000	MCEP
	$4,512,499	RD Loan
	$2,105,357	RD Grant
Total Project Cost	$7,767,856	
Amount Recommended	$ 125,000	

Project History
The City of Choteau operates a water system originally constructed in the 1910s. The distribution system has been expanded with asbestos cement (AC) pipe, and a second water tank was added in 1949. The system experiences water loss in the range of forty percent on average, undersized water main limit the ability to provide adequate fire protection, and areas of the community served by private wells are susceptible to flooding. The existing water storage facilities are aging, leaking, and undersized to meet operational and emergency volume requirements. The city plans on drilling a new well, but the exact location will depend on the results of a hydrogeologic assessment.

Proposed Solution
Specific tasks include:

- Construct a new water storage tank with a capacity of 810,000-gallons;
- Extend 12,300 feet of new 8-inch water main to residents currently served by private wells; and
- Complete surface restoration activities.

Resource and Citizen Benefits Analysis
The proposed project will preserve and conserve groundwater in the Teton River Aquifer. This project will benefit health and safety of local citizens by providing safe and reliable drinking water. The city plans on drilling a new well, but the exact location will depend on the results of a hydrogeologic assessment.

Funding Recommendation
DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000 upon development and approval of the final scope of work, administration, budget, and funding package. DNRC requires compliance with Montana Water Use Act Title 85, chapter 2, MCA. The applicant must finalize new water rights or finalize changes to existing water rights prior to initiating a contract with the DNRC.

Project No. 6

Applicant Name	Cascade, Town of	
Project Name	Wastewater System Improvements	
Amount Requested	$ 125,000	
Other Funding Sources	$ 173,000	Local ARPA Funds
	$1,148,000	ARPA Grants
	$ 600,000	CDBG
	$ 625,000	MCEP
	$ 210,000	SRF Forgiveness Loan
	$ 210,000	SRF Loan
Total Project Cost	$3,091,000	
Amount Recommended	$ 125,000	

Project History
In the 1940s, the Town of Cascade constructed a centralized wastewater system, consisting of clay pipe and a small pump station on Russell Drive. The town added two facultative lagoons in 1963 which were reconstructed in 1998, along with a lift station on Main Street. In the early 2000s, the town began a sewer main replacement program. However, the town continues to spend significant time addressing blocked sewer mains. Additionally, a proposed subdivision will increase flows to the Russell Drive lift station, necessitating adjustment of the controls to meet the increased demand. This project replaces the existing clay tile pipe, replaces the Russell Drive lift station pumps, equipment, and the Russell Drive forcemain.

Proposed Solution
Specific tasks include:

- Replace existing clay tile pipe with PVC or HDPE pipe;
- Replace Russell Drive lift station pumps and equipment; and
- Remove and replace existing Russell Drive forcemain.

Resource and Citizen Benefits Analysis
This project will preserve groundwater and surface water quality by reducing leaking sewage from the collection system. This project will also provide energy conservation by increasing the efficiency of the system. The project will benefit health and safety of the local citizens by reducing sewer backups into local homes and businesses. This project will also provide an economic benefit by providing the community with reliable wastewater infrastructure. Surface water quality benefits aquatic and riparian habitat as well as downstream water users. The Missouri River is important to the regional recreational economy.

Funding Recommendation
DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000 upon development and approval of the final scope of work, administration, budget, and funding package.

Project No. 7

Applicant Name	Sand Coulee County Water and Sewer District	
Project Name	Wastewater Improvements	
Amount Requested	$ 125,000	
Other Funding Sources	$ 400,000	ARPA Grants
	$2,876,492	DEQ-AML
	$ 15,000	DNRC Planning
	$ 15,000	MCEP Planning
	$ 40,000	RDGP
Total Project Cost	$3,471,492	
Amount Recommended	$ 125,000	

Project History
Sand Coulee originated as a "company town" for the Great Northern Railroad's Coal Company. The town does not have a community wastewater system; it is currently served by individual septic tanks. The Sand Coulee area has been studied extensively by DEQ, USBM, and USGS specific to coal mining impacts, as there are presently 29 abandoned mine inventory sites and 157 separate water quality monitoring site records on file. In the 1990s, DEQ-AML began plugging/sealing many of the mine adits in the Sand Coulee area to help retain acidic waters within the mine cavities, and to reduce the flow of acidic waters to area streams. In 2018, a study determined that the previous mine adit sealing may be contributing to the apparent elevated groundwater levels and causing the flooding/failure of private drain fields. The study concluded that the groundwater table in the area has risen by as much as nine feet since 2010.

To address the recent changes in groundwater elevation and the resulting bacteriological (fecal) contamination of area groundwater and surface due to intermixing of septic tank effluent, this project proposes to construct a community sewer system for the Town of Sand Coulee.

Proposed Solution
Specific tasks include:

- Install 12,500 linear feet of 8-inch PVC gravity main;
- Install 38 sewer manholes;
- Install 9,450 linear feet of 4-inch service line;
- Install 93 service line connections to the main;
- Install a grinder pump & force main;
- Install a submersible duplex lift station;
- Construct a 2-cell lagoon treatment system; and
- Construct a spray irrigation disposal system.

Resource and Citizen Benefits Analysis
This project will preserve groundwater and surface water quality by untreated sewage from the septic systems. The project benefits arable lands by developing an irrigation disposal system. The project will benefit health and safety of the local citizens by reducing exposure to untreated sewage in homes and surface waters as well as providing a local economic benefit by providing the community with reliable wastewater infrastructure.

Funding Recommendation
DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000 upon development and approval of the final scope of work, administration, budget, and funding package. Prior to entering into an agreement with the DNRC, applicant must secure match funding. DNRC requires compliance with Montana Water Use Act Title 85, chapter 2, MCA. The applicant must finalize new water rights or finalize changes to existing water rights prior to initiating a contract with the DNRC.

Project No. 8

Applicant Name	Kalispell, City of	
Project Name	Morning Star Court Water and Wastewater System Improvements	
Amount Requested	$ 125,000	
Other Funding Sources	$ 25,000	Applicant
	$ 600,000	CDBG
	$ 750,000	MCEP
	$ 467,595	SRF Loan - Drinking Water
	$ 137,100	SRF Loan - Water Pollution Control
Total Project Cost	$2,104,695	
Amount Recommended	$ 125,000	

Project History
Morning Star Court is a small mobile home community in Kalispell. The community consists of 41 residential units. In 2017, the residents purchased the property and acquired the water and wastewater systems that serve the community. Both the water and wastewater systems have deficiencies related to public health and safety, are well beyond their expected useful life, and in need of replacement. The wastewater system is discharging inadequately treated wastewater which is likely causing groundwater contamination and potentially impacting the Flathead Lake Aquifer. The drinking water supply is untreated and is at risk from the contaminated groundwater. The proposed project will construct public water and sewer main extensions connecting to the Kalispell infrastructure. These improvements will improve public health and water quality and provide long term solutions for the community's water and wastewater problems.

Proposed Solution
Specific tasks include:

- Install 1,700 linear feet of drinking water distribution system mains with associated fittings, hydrants and valves;
- Install 41 drinking water service connections and meters;
- Install 2,000 linear feet of sewer collection system mains and manholes; and
- Install sewer service connections to 41 homes.

Resource and Citizen Benefits Analysis
This project will preserve groundwater and surface water quality in Flathead Lake with the abandonment of 21 failing septic tanks and leaking collection system. Conservation of water will be achieved with the installation of water meters at each residence. This project will benefit the health and safety of the local citizens by providing safe and reliable drinking water from Kalispell and eliminating the use of local groundwater. Conservation of water will be achieved with the installation of water meters at each residence.

Funding Recommendation
DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000 upon development and approval of the final scope of work, administration, budget, and funding package.

Project No. 9

Applicant Name	Saco, Town of	
Project Name	Wastewater System Improvements	
Amount Requested	$ 125,000	
Other Funding Sources	$ 600,000	CDBG
	$ 500,000	MCEP
	$ 212,000	RD Grant
	$ 258,000	RD Loan
Total Project Cost	$1,695,000	
Amount Recommended	$ 125,000	

Project History
The Saco wastewater system was originally constructed prior to 1950. This project replaces collection main piping throughout the town and makes additional improvements to the lagoon system. The improvements will improve water quality and reliability of discharges to Beaver Creek/Nelson South Canal a tributary of the Milk River and will minimize the release of untreated sewage through leaking mains to the local groundwater. The goal of the project is to replace leaking sewer mains, stabilize lagoon embankments, remove accumulated sludge, improve lagoon area valving and add fencing around the lagoons.

Proposed Solution
Specific tasks include:

- Replace approximately 1,600 feet of sewer main;
- Replace four (4) manholes;
- Remove and dispose of approximately 2.5-million-gallons of accumulated sludge;
- Rebuild existing lagoon embankments with approximately 800-cubic yards of embankment;
- Install approximately 500-cubic yards of riprap for bank stabilization;
- Replace the lagoon influent splitter structure; and
- Replace approximately 2,000 feet of fencing around the lagoons.

Resource and Citizen Benefits Analysis
This project will preserve groundwater and surface water quality in the Milk River by reducing sewage leaks in the collection system and improving the quality of effluent discharged from the wastewater treatment lagoons. The project will benefit health and safety of the local citizens by reducing sewer backups into local homes and businesses.

Funding Recommendation
DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000 upon development and approval of the final scope of work, administration, budget, and funding package. The project appears to be located within sage grouse habitat designated for conservation under Executive Orders 12-2015 and 21-2015. If funded, the applicant will need to document consultation with the Montana Sage Grouse Habitat Conservation Program. Approval by the Montana Sage Grouse Oversight Team may be required before contracting with DNRC for grant funds.

Project No. 10

Applicant Name	Drummond, Town of	
Project Name	Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrade	
Amount Requested	$ 125,000	
Other Funding Sources		
	$1,405,963	ARPA Grants
	$ 500,000	MCEP
	$ 258,904	SRF Loan Forgiveness
	$ 258,904	SRF Loan
Total Project Cost	$2,548,861	
Amount Recommended	$ 125,000	

Project History
The Town of Drummond's residents obtain their potable drinking water from individual, shallow aquifer wells. The town owns and operates a public wastewater system which includes a gravity collection system and lift station that convey the wastewater from town to a single-cell facultative lagoon. Effluent is discharged to the Clark Fork River under the State of Montana's General Permit for Domestic Sewage Treatment Lagoons for Batch Discharge. Studies of the WWTF completed in 1998 and 2003 indicated the lagoon was experiencing a significant amount of leakage in excess of the current DEQ allowable standards. The partially treated wastewater seeps from the lagoon into the shallow groundwater aquifer. A controlled, deliberate discharge has not been made from the lagoon since 2006. The town has improved its aging wastewater collection system over the past decade to eliminate infiltration, but the treatment facility has not been improved since its original construction in 1961.

Proposed Solution
Specific tasks include:

- Remove and dispose of existing sludge in the lagoon via land application;
- Construct two new berms within the lagoon footprint to create three distinct treatment cells;
- Install impermeable synthetic membrane liner;
- Construct UV disinfection system; and
- Install lagoon control structures and piping.

Resource and Citizen Benefits Analysis
This project will preserve surface water quality in the Clark Fork River by improving the quality of effluent discharged from the wastewater treatment facility. The project will benefit health and safety of the local citizens by reducing exposure to contaminants in surface waters. Surface water quality benefits aquatic and riparian habitat as well as downstream water users. The project will benefit the local economy by providing the community with reliable wastewater infrastructure and preserving the regional tourism economy.

Funding Recommendation
DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000 upon development and approval of the final scope of work, administration, budget, and funding package.

Project No. 12

Applicant Name	Craig County Water and Sewer District	
Project Name	Wastewater System Improvements	
Amount Requested	$ 125,000	
Other Funding Sources	$ 275,000	CDBG
	$ 400,000	MCEP
Total Project Cost	$ 800,000	
Amount Recommended	$ 125,000	

Project History
The Craig County WSD wastewater system was constructed in the early 1980s and included treatment via a community drain field. The drain field was eliminated by connecting to the central collection system in 2017. The sewer service area, including the individual septic systems and pressure mains, became part of the sewer district. The existing infrastructure uses a "step system" involving several inefficient pumps and vaults and has encountered several issues. This project disconnects, abandons, or removes existing septic tanks and step pump vaults; installs new grinder pump stations at each residence; installs lateral kits; constructs low pressure main and lines from pumps to main; upgrades the telemetry and control system; and installs a new mixer at the Augusta lift station. The goal of the project is to address the deficiencies within the existing wastewater system documented in the 2022 Wastewater Preliminary Engineering Report (PER).

Proposed Solution
Specific tasks include:

- Disconnect, abandon, or remove existing septic tanks and step pump vaults;
- Install grinder pump stations at each residence;
- Install lateral kits;
- Construct low pressure main;
- Construct lines from grinder pumps to collection main;
- Construct a horizontal directional drill under the railroad line;
- Restore gravel street;
- Upgrade the telemetry and control system; and
- Install a mixer at the Augusta lift station.

Resource and Citizen Benefits Analysis
The project will address leakage of raw sewage to groundwater and the Missouri River. Eleven septic systems will be replaced with a collection system, preserving surface and groundwater quality in the area immediately adjacent to the Missouri River, a blue-ribbon trout fishery. Energy will be saved by decreasing pumping. The project includes a new SCADA/Telemetry system so that the wastewater system can be more efficiently managed. Improved water quality will benefit recreation-based tourism, the foundation of Craig's economy.

Funding Recommendation
DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000 upon development and approval of the final scope of work, administration, budget, and funding package.

Project No. 12

Applicant Name	Gallatin Canyon County Water and Sewer District	
Project Name	Gallatin Canyon Sewer Project, Phase 1.2	
Amount Requested	$ 125,000	
Other Funding Sources	$ 250,000	Local ARPA Funds
	$ 9,750,000	Big Sky Area District Funds
	$ 750,000	MCEP
	$11,625,000	SRF Loan
Total Project Cost	$22,500,000	
Amount Recommended	$ 125,000	

Project History
The "Canyon Area," along the Gallatin River and Highway 191 near Big Sky is an unincorporated community with a large tourism-based transient population. The proposed project will serve approximately 750 people. This development corridor consists of a sprawling mix of commercial-industrial area, residential areas with relatively low density, and open space. The existing septic systems generate low quality effluent that result in nutrients and other contaminants discharging into the Gallatin River. Septic discharge poses a risk to health and safety, potentially contaminating private wells throughout the canyon corridor. The Gallatin Canyon County Water Sewer District was formed in December 2020, with the intention of pursuing a new solution to wastewater management in the district. The community has shown general support for central wastewater management in the Canyon Area and voted for a 1% resort tax to fund infrastructure, earmarking $12 million for this project and creating a long-term funding mechanism to support improved wastewater management.

Proposed Solution
Specific tasks include:

- Install 5-miles of new gravity sewer collection mains;
- Install a Canyon Area Lift Station and Force Main to Big Sky Water Resource Recovery Facility (Membrane Bioreactor); and
- Effluent disposal through reuse and aquifer recharge.

Resource and Citizen Benefits Analysis
This project will have the capacity to reduce nutrient loading to the Gallatin River by replacing aging, inconsistently maintained septic systems with centralized sewer collection and treatment at the newly upgraded treatment plant. High quality effluent will be discharged to groundwater in the canyon and reused as irrigation water. This project will preserve water quality by reducing nitrogen and other contaminant loading to the Gallatin River and groundwater aquifer. The public health and safety benefits include reduced exposure to wastewater contaminants. This project provides a mechanism for long term management of wastewater, ensuring the renewable resource benefits are sustained. The project will have local economic and regional recreational benefits.

Funding Recommendation
DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000 upon development and approval of the final scope of work, administration, budget, and funding package.

Project No. 13

Applicant Name	Thompson Falls, City of	
Project Name	Water System Improvements	
Amount Requested	$ 125,000	
Other Funding Sources	$ 364,512	Local ARPA Funds
	$ 319,951	ARPA Grant
	$ 750,000	MCEP
	$2,179,945	RD Loan
	$1,783,592	RD Grant
Total Project Cost	$5,523,000	
Amount Recommended	$ 125,000	

Project History
The applicant operates a water system originally constructed by the railroad in the 1800s. The city purchased the water system in 1936, expanded the system in 1949, and has completed various improvements to the system. The existing water supply system lacks adequate redundancy with respect to capacity, the water storage facilities do not meet stipulated volume requirements, and aging portions of the water distribution system are undersized, experience excessive leakage, and are prone to breaks, which contributes to an excessive lost water rate of 53%.

Proposed Solution
Specific tasks include:

- Install a new well with a capacity of approximately 500 gpm;
- Construct a water storage tank with a capacity of 400,000-gallons;
- Replace a two-block section of water main with 6-inch and 8-inch pipe and related appurtenances;
- Replace 3,200 linear feet of 6-inch wrapped steel water main with new 8-inch pipe and related appurtenances; and
- Complete surface restoration activities.

Resource and Citizen Benefits Analysis
The renewable resource benefits of this project are conservation of surface water and ground water by reducing water loss in the system. Energy conservation will be achieved by reducing the pumping demand on the well pumps. The citizen benefits of the project include public health and safety due to reduced backflow and cross-connection contamination and an increase in the community's ability to have a reliable water source for firefighting. This project would also improve recreation activities and tourism.

Funding Recommendation
DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000 upon development and approval of the final scope of work, administration, budget, and funding package. DNRC requires compliance with Montana Water Use Act Title 85, chapter 2, MCA. The applicant must finalize new water rights or finalize changes to existing water rights prior to initiating a contract with the DNRC.

Project No. 14

Applicant Name	Corvallis County Sewer District	
Project Name	Wastewater Collection System Improvements	
Amount Requested	$ 125,000	
Other Funding Sources	$ 500,000	MCEP
	$ 498,210	SRF Loan
Total Project Cost	$1,123,210	
Amount Recommended	$ 125,000	

Project History
Corvallis County Sewer District serves an unincorporated community within Ravalli County. The community has a public wastewater system and residents are served by individual groundwater wells. The district serves a population of about 1,369 people. The wastewater system consists of gravity sewer lines and a local lift station that concentrates to a single lift station. The school lift station and force main were originally constructed in 1978. The force main is routed south of the school and then across the highway, an irrigation ditch and through a mobile home park. The force main does not have any provisions for isolating the highway crossing or irrigation ditch crossing. The force main has not been able to be inspected, flushed, or maintained. If this line was to be removed from service for repair the community would be without sewer service.

Proposed Solution
Specific tasks include:

- Install a new parallel force main connecting the school lift station to the WWTP.

Resource and Citizen Benefits Analysis
The renewable resource benefits of this project are identified as ground water conservation and increased water quality of groundwater and surface water. Habitat along the Bitterroot and its tributaries would also benefit from the project. The citizen benefits of this project are identified as health and safety with regards to improved management and quality of the wastewater system. Regional recreational benefits will result from this project.

Funding Recommendation
DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000 upon development and approval of the final scope of work, administration, budget, and funding package.

Project No. 15

Applicant Name	Helena, City of	
Project Name	Red Mountain Flume Repairs and Upgrade	
Amount Requested:	$ 125,000	
Other Funding Sources	$1,641,262	ARPA Grant
	$ 601,790	SRF Loan
Total Project Cost	$2,368,052	
Amount Recommended	$125,000	

Project History

The Red Mountain Flume in the Ten Mile Creek watershed is operated and maintained by the City of Helena. The flume, built in the 1860s, diverts water from Banner Creek and other creeks and conveys it over five miles to Chessman Reservoir. The flume consists of open earthen ditch with sections of wooden flume supported by trestles. The city relies heavily on the availability of spring runoff water. Water from Chessman is released into Beaver Creek and then diverted into a seven-mile-long pipeline located along Rimini Road that supplies raw water for the Ten Mile Water Treatment Plant (TMWTP). Currently, the Red Mountain Flume loses 70-85% of its flow to leakage, about a half a billion gallons of water annually. The flume is susceptible to the adverse effects of forest fires and timber downfall. This project will replace the leaky flume with a buried 30-inch diameter pipe for roughly the final 2.5 miles to increase the flume's efficiency.

Proposed Solution

Specific tasks include:

- Replace existing flume with a buried 2.5 mile 30-inch diameter pipe.

Resource and Citizen Benefits Analysis

This project will significantly increase the resilience of an integral part of the city's water system and conserve surface water. The applicant states that excess water will stay within Banner, Beaver, and Ten Mile creeks, thus conserving the riparian areas. The project is part of a greater coordinated effort by the city to replace and upgrade the raw water system feeding TMWTP and will have local economic benefits. The local streams and recreation will benefit with the additional water.

Funding Recommendation

DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000 upon development and approval of the final scope of work, administration, budget, and funding package.

Project No. 16

Applicant Name	Havre, City of	
Project Name	Water System Improvements, Phase 1	
Amount Requested	$ 125,000	
Other Funding Sources	$2,947,412	ARPA Grants
	$1,445,581	Local ARPA Funds
	$ 500,000	MCEP
	$ 500,000	SRF Loan Forgiveness
	$2,817,397	SRF Loan
Total Project Cost	$8,335,390	
Amount Recommended	$ 125,000	

Project History
The City of Havre's original distribution system was installed in 1893. The city has 120,000 linear feet (22-miles) of cast iron pipe. The over 100-year-old cast iron pipe documented an excessive number of leaks each year, 46 in the last two (2) years. Havre's distribution system has water loss, inadequate fire flow, lead service lines and possible cross connections with sanitary sewer flush tanks. The city's preferred alternative is to replace as much cast iron water main as fiscally possible.

Proposed Solution
Specific tasks include:

- Replace 18,968 linear feet of 6-inch water main with PVC;
- Replace 1,452 linear feet of 8-inch water main with PVC;
- Replace 1,175 linear feet of 12-inch water main with PVC;
- Replace 1,436 linear feet of 16-inch water main with PVC; and
- Replace 7,000 linear feet of lead service line with PVC.

Resource and Citizen Benefits Analysis
This project has regional water conservation benefits to the drought-stricken Milk River by pulling less water out of the river for municipal use. The project will also conserve energy with less pumping required for operations. The public health and safety of the community will benefit by having lead service lines replaced, improved fire flows and the removal of cross-connections in the system.

Funding Recommendation
DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000 upon development and approval of the final scope of work, administration, budget, and funding package.

Project No. 17

Applicant Name	Bigfork County Water and Sewer District	
Project Name	West Trunk Sewer Replacement and Collection Basin Rehabilitation	
Amount Requested	$ 125,000	
Other Funding Sources	$ 10,000	Applicant
	$ 169,666	Local ARPA Funds
	$ 339,331	ARPA Grant
	$ 500,000	MCEP
	$2,971,003	SRF Loan
Total Project Cost	$4,115,000	
Amount Recommended	$ 125,000	

Project History
The West Trunk Sewer serves a large service area along the west side of the Bigfork WSD, adjacent to Flathead Lake. Recently, the district identified several areas in this line which could trap solids causing sewer to overflow to Flathead Lake or backup into residences or businesses. The collection system receives large spikes of I&I during precipitation events using up main and lift station capacity, increasing energy consumption and disrupting WWTP processes which lead to poor quality effluent discharged into Flathead Lake. The proposed project includes replacement of the West Trunk Sewer and collection system rehabilitation in Lake Pointe and Harbor Village. Rehabilitation of the collection system in Lake Pointe and Harbor Village includes lining of leaking manholes and installation of watertight manhole covers. This will reduce I&I during rain events. Reduction of I&I will reducing pumping and improve effluent quality to Flathead Lake.

Proposed Solution
Specific tasks include:

- Replace approximately 4,400 linear feet of the sewer collection system;
- Rehabilitate manholes; and
- Install backup generators at two lift stations.

Resource and Citizen Benefits Analysis
The project will preserve surface and groundwater quality by reducing the risk of sanitary sewer overflow and improve the quality of discharge into Flathead Lake. The project will conserve energy by reducing run time of the lift station pumps. The project protects the health and safety of citizens by reducing backups into homes or surface water. Sewer overflow into Flathead Lake would have a detrimental effect on the local economy.

Funding Recommendation
DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000 upon development and approval of the final scope of work, administration, budget, and funding package.

Project No. 18

Applicant Name	Belt, Town of	
Project Name	Water System Improvements	
Amount Requested	$ 125,000	
Other Funding Sources	$ 38,000	Applicant
	$2,047,716	ARPA Grants
	$ 144,284	Local ARPA Funds
	$ 500,000	MCEP
Total Project Cost	$2,855,000	
Amount Recommended	$ 125,000	

Project History
The Town of Belt is a small community in Cascade County. Belt's water system was originally constructed in the 1920s and 1930s, with additions and replacements in the 1950s and 1973. The old cast-iron water supply line to and from the tank was replaced with PVC in the 1990s. The two municipal water supply wells and pump houses were constructed between 1978 and 1982. The older galvanized steel tank was constructed in 1959, and the new glass fused-to-steel tank and telemetry system were constructed in 2014. Water meters were installed in residences in 2016.

The town has multiple issues with its current water system, including significant water loss due to leaky pipes, lead service lines, lack of sufficient fire flows, freezing issues, insufficient storage, and several security and reliability issues.

Proposed Solution
Specific tasks include:

- Complete lead service line inventory;
- Replace 4,850 linear feet of 2.5-inch, 4-inch, and 6-inch pipe with new 8-inch PVC;
- Replace 1,200 linear feet of the existing 8-inch AC pipe;
- Replace 1,550 linear feet of existing 4-inch pipe;
- Replace fire hydrant laterals with 6-inch PVC pipe;
- Replace 1,550 linear feet of existing 6-inch pipe;
- Install 25 curb stops and boxes;
- Install 20 new fire hydrants; and
- Replace lead service line connections where encountered.

Resource and Citizen Benefits Analysis
This project will conserve 11-million-gallons of groundwater per year from the Madison Aquifer. The project will help to conserve energy and preserve the aquifer by reducing leakage from the water system. Health and safety will be improved with an improved fire flow for wildfire protection, reduced potential for backflow contamination, and fewer lead connections. A more reliable water system will promote economic health.

Funding Recommendation
DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000 upon development and approval of the final scope of work, administration, budget, and funding package.

Project No. 19

Applicant Name	Lincoln County	
Project Name	Libby Creek Community Water and Wastewater System Improvements	
Amount Requested	$ 125,000	
Other Funding Sources	$ 400,000	Local ARPA Funds
	$1,363,000	ARPA Grant
	$ 460,000	MCEP
	$ 15,000	RRGL Planning Grant
Total Project Cost	$2,363,000	
Amount Recommended	$ 125,000	

Project History
Libby Creek Community is a small mobile home park located south of Libby. The community consists of 14 residential units. In 2018, the residents purchased the property and acquired the failing water and wastewater systems that serve the community. Both the water and wastewater systems have deficiencies related to public health and safety, are well beyond their expected useful life, and in need of replacement. The existing septic systems are old, undersized, and structurally unsound. Residents complain of raw wastewater surfacing in several locations and there is risk of direct contact with untreated wastewater. Inadequately treated wastewater is also entering the groundwater aquifer. The drinking water supply is provided by three wells. The water supply is untreated and is at risk from contaminated groundwater. The proposed project will construct a public water main extension connecting to the City of Libby water system. A new sewer collection system will be constructed within the community to convey wastewater to a new subsurface wastewater treatment system. These improvements will improve public health and water quality and provide long term solutions for the community's water and wastewater problems.

Proposed Solution
Specific tasks include:

- Extend the water main to provide potable water service to community;
- Install 19 water service connections and meters;
- Construct new subsurface wastewater treatment system;
- Install 2,000 linear feet of new sewer collection system mains and manholes; and
- Install sewer service connections to 19 homes.

Resource and Citizen Benefits Analysis
The new system removes sources of sewage contact risk (from back-ups into home, unsecured septic tanks, and surfacing in areas where kids play). Replacing the existing failing septic systems with a single Level 2 treatment system will also reduce the wastewater-related nutrient and pathogen loading to groundwater which is a drinking water source for neighboring properties. The nutrient loading to the surface water will be reduced as well. The project will preserve water quality in both surface water and groundwater as well as conserving energy by hooking into City of Libby public water supply and abandoning individual wells.

Funding Recommendation
DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000 upon development and approval of the final scope of work, administration, budget, and funding package.

Project No. 20

Applicant Name	Richey, Town of	
Project Name	Water Main Replacement, Phase 2	
Amount Requested	$ 125,000	
Other Funding Sources	$ 600,000	CDBG
	$ 500,000	MCEP
	$ 312,500	SRF Loan Forgiveness
	$ 312,500	SRF Loan
Total Project Cost	$1,850,000	
Amount Recommended	$ 125,000	

Project History
Richey's water distribution system was constructed of AC pipe in 1937 and the 1950s and 1960s. Other water system assets include two water supply wells, a storage tank, and membrane treatment system. The distribution system is aging, comprised of small diameter pipe sections that fail to provide adequate fire protection, reportedly experiences excessive water main breaks and leakage, and is plagued by inoperable valves and hydrants. The storage tank lacks sufficient storage volume to meet fire flow requirements.

Proposed Solution
Specific tasks include:

- Replace 3,940 feet of water main by installing new 8-inch pipe and related appurtenances; and
- Complete surface restoration activities.

Resource and Citizen Benefits Analysis
This project will conserve groundwater water by replacing the deteriorating leaking pipes of the distribution system and conserve energy by reducing pumping. This project will benefit the health and safety of the town's residents by adding fire hydrants and improving fire flow.

Funding Recommendation
DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000 upon development and approval of the final scope of work, administration, budget, and funding package.

Project No. 21

Applicant Name	Geraldine, Town of	
Project Name	Water System Improvements	
Amount Requested	$ 125,000	
Other Funding Sources	$ 600,000	CDBG
	$ 500,000	MCEP
	$ 638,000	RD Grant
	$ 780,000	RD Loan
Total Project Cost	$2,643,000	
Amount Recommended	$ 125,000	

Project History
The Town of Geraldine's public water system is supplied by the Meissner Ranch/Square Butte Springs, located approximately 3.5 miles south of the Town of Square Butte. The springs were developed in the 1980s to replace the use of the old well in town and to provide water to Geraldine and two rural public water connections. A 6-inch PVC transmission line delivers the water by gravity to all the users. The distribution system primarily consists of 1950s piping that is made up of mostly 4-inch and smaller AC pipe. The town reported that the AC pipe experiences water main breaks. Geraldine proposes water system improvements to the distribution system, spring assessment, and rehabilitation of spring 5.

Proposed Solution
Specific tasks include:

- Replace 6,700 feet of pipe; and
- Complete a detailed Phase 2 assessment of the springs and spring 5 rehabilitation.

Resource and Citizen Benefits Analysis
The project will conserve water by replacing the distribution piping that experiences 40 to 60% of the town's water loss. The assessment of the springs and spring 5 rehabilitation will help to preserve the water source for future use. The public health and safety of the town will benefit by upgrading and assessing their only quality water source for the future.

Funding Recommendation
DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000 upon development and approval of the final scope of work, administration, budget, and funding package.

Project No. 22

Applicant Name	Victor Water and Sewer District	
Project Name	Wastewater Collection and Treatment Improvements	
Amount Requested	$ 125,000	
Other Funding Sources	$ 500,000	MCEP
	$ 658,000	SRF Loan
Total Project Cost	$1,283,000	
Amount Recommended	$ 125,000	

Project History
The Victor Water and Sewer District serves an unincorporated community within Ravalli County that has a public wastewater system and residents are served by individual groundwater wells. The wastewater system consists of gravity sewer lines and several septic tank effluent pump (STEP) systems that flow to a single lift station. The Victor Crossing lift station was constructed in 1976 as a dry pump pit wet well station. Maintaining or servicing the pumps requires entry into a confined space. The treatment building includes original blowers and wastewater transfer pump. Blowers are rotary lobe blowers that generate excessive heat and noise, and the building louvers for heat dissipation are not functional and are currently blocked open. The project will rehabilitate the lift station and replaces the blowers and lagoon aeration system.

Proposed Solution
Specific tasks include:

- Conduct a collection system inflow and infiltration study;
- Convert wet well dry pit lift station to above ground self-priming lift station;
- Install a new UV system and flow meter; and
- Replace aged blowers and aeration equipment.

Resource and Citizen Benefits Analysis
The goal of the project is to modernize the existing Victor Crossing lift station to reduce energy consumption, optimize dissolved oxygen transfer to the treatment cells, protect groundwater by enhancing treatment, and protect the Bitterroot River by reducing nutrient discharges. The project will have local economic and regional recreational benefits. Reduction in pollution will help stabilize population in the area and improve the local economy. Water quality of the Bitterroot River will benefit from the project.

Funding Recommendation
DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000 upon development and approval of the final scope of work, administration, budget, and funding package.

Project No. 23

Applicant Name	Forsyth, City of	
Project Name	Water System Improvements	
Amount Requested	$ 125,000	
Other Funding Sources	$ 250,000	Applicant
	$ 428,549	Local ARPA Funds
	$2,420,625	ARPA Grants
	$ 500,000	MCEP
	$ 100,000	Montana Coal Board
	$ 806,057	SRF Loan
Total Project Cost	$4,630,231	
Amount Recommended	$ 125,000	

Project History
Forsyth receives its drinking water from the Yellowstone River. The intake for the system, date back to the 1930s and are located on the river's edge on the west side of town. The city is served by asbestos-cement (AC) pipe installed in the 1960s. The city reports water loss and main breaks in the system. The WTP controls system is obsolete.

Proposed Solution
Specific tasks include:

- Install screens in the wet well;
- Rehabilitate existing intake pump house;
- Replace existing 14-inch intake line;
- Replace obsolete WTP controls;
- Replace/upsize 6-inch AC to 10-inch PVC, Oak Street from 3rd to 4th.
- Install elevated 80,000-gallon storage tank; and
- Provide a portable generator at upper pressure zone.

Resource and Citizen Benefits Analysis
The project will conserve water by replacing the intake pipe, alleviating a 35% water loss, and conserve energy by installing variable frequency drive (VFD) pumps and pumping less water from the river. The project will enhance public health and safety by ensuring continuous reliable water distribution for the town. A 50-unit retirement community will greatly benefit from improved pressure and fire flows with the addition of the elevated storage tank. The project will have local economic benefits.

Funding Recommendation
DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000 upon development and approval of the final scope of work, administration, budget, and funding package. The project appears to be located within sage grouse habitat designated for conservation under Executive Orders 12-2015 and 21-2015. If funded, the applicant will need to document consultation with the Montana Sage Grouse Habitat Conservation Program. Approval by the Montana Sage Grouse Oversight Team may be required before contracting with DNRC for grant funds.

Project No. 24

Applicant Name	Townsend, City of	
Project Name	Water System Improvements	
Amount Requested	$ 125,000	
Other Funding Sources	$ 551,359	Local ARPA Funds
	$ 364,188	ARPA Grant
	$ 750,000	MCEP
	$ 15,000	MCEP Planning Grant
	$ 9,325,551	SRF Loan
Total Project Cost	$11,131,098	
Amount Recommended	$ 125,000	

Project History
The City of Townsend's drinking water is supplied by three groundwater wells. However, with the largest producing well out of service, the other two wells cannot meet the maximum day demand as required by DEQ. In the event of a maximum day water demand situation with the largest well out of service, the distribution system may experience a reduction in system pressure that can create negative pressure and allow contaminants to enter the drinking water compromising health and safety of all water system users.

The storage capacity of the water system is not sufficient to meet daily demands and provide adequate fire protection. Many of the existing fire hydrants located throughout the water distribution system were installed in the 1960s and have long exceeded their useful life. Additionally, most of the fire hydrants lack hydrant isolation valves and when repairs are needed.

Proposed Solution
Specific tasks include:

- Install a new 1.25-million-gallon elevated composite water storage tank and transmission main;
- Install a new groundwater well and associated piping;
- Replace existing well pumps with new vertical turbine pumps;
- Replace 45 fire hydrants; and
- Install nine new water main isolation valves.

Resource and Citizen Benefits Analysis
The goals of the project are to develop additional water supply capacity and reliability, increase the storage capacity in the system, and upgrade the distribution system to improve operational reliability and improve fire flow capabilities. The project will conserve energy and develop groundwater. The project will have local economic and regional recreational benefits.

Funding Recommendation
DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000 upon development and approval of the final scope of work, administration, budget, and funding package. DNRC requires compliance with Montana Water Use Act Title 85, chapter 2, MCA. The applicant must finalize new water rights or finalize changes to existing water rights prior to initiating a contract with the DNRC.

Project No. 25

Applicant Name	Martinsdale Water and Sewer District	
Project Name	Water System Improvements	
Amount Requested	$ 125,000	
Other Funding Sources	$ 300,000	ARPA Grant
	$ 600,000	CDBG
	$ 750,000	MCEP
	$ 223,000	SRF Loan Forgiveness
Total Project Cost	$1,998,000	
Amount Recommended	$ 125,000	

Project History
The Martinsdale WSD owns and operates a public water system, which includes two spring sources, two steel storage tanks, and a distribution system. The current full-time population in the district is estimated at 57 and the summertime population is estimated at 120 people. The original water system was constructed in 1967 and consisted of one spring source (Galt Spring), a storage tank and a distribution system. The Johnson Spring was added to the system in 1974 to supplement the water supply. Water system deficiencies include leaky AC water mains which are susceptible to contamination, water losses estimated at 70 percent, undersized lines, dead end mains, non-functioning water meters, insufficient capacity, and redundancy issues.

Proposed Solution
Specific tasks include:

- Replace 4,800 linear feet of 6-inch PVC water main;
- Replace or relocate all water meters in the system; and
- Install a flow meter on the tank outlet to accurately measure water entering the system.

Resource and Citizen Benefits Analysis
The proposed project results in energy and water conservation and preserves groundwater by reducing the amount of water being lost through leaking water mains. The project will provide benefits to one resource, groundwater, by installing water meters and reducing water losses in the system. The project will also improve the economy for the community by providing reliable drinking water and fire flows. The proposed project will replace leaking water mains and install meters and flow measurement equipment to better track water use in the system.

Funding Recommendation
DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000 upon development and approval of the final scope of work, administration, budget, and funding package.

Project No. 26

Applicant Name	Twin Bridges, City of	
Project Name	Water System Improvements, Phase 1	
Amount Requested	$ 125,000	
Other Funding Sources	$ 600,000	CDBG
	$ 750,000	MCEP
	$ 282,500	SRF Loan Forgiveness
	$ 282,500	SRF Loan
Total Project Cost	$2,040,000	
Amount Recommended	$ 125,000	

Project History
Twin Bridges' water system was constructed in 1917, with several upgrades and extensions completed since that time. An extensive project was completed in 1999 that consisted of replacing undersized and failing water main, constructing a new storage tank and transmission pipeline, and installing a control system. The capacity of the wells has declined, and the pump house structures are in a deteriorated condition. The exterior of the water storage tank needs to be recoated and additional storage capacity may be necessary in the future. Portions of the water distribution system are aging and undersized, consist of cast iron pipe with lead joints, and lack reliability due to failing valves and hydrants.

Proposed Solution
Specific tasks are:

- Rehabilitate two wells;
- Recoat the exterior of the water storage tank;
- Install distribution system improvements;
- Replace 800 linear feet of water main with new 8-inch pipe; and
- Complete surface restoration activities.

Resource and Citizen Benefits Analysis
The goals of the project are to provide reliable drinking water for the town and meet fire flow standards. The project will conserve energy and develop groundwater. The project will have local economic benefits.

Funding Recommendation
DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000 upon development and approval of the final scope of work, administration, budget, and funding package.

Project No. 27

Applicant Name	Dodson, Town of	
Project Name	Water System Improvements	
Amount Requested	$ 125,000	
Other Funding Sources	$2,020,081	ARPA Grants
	$ 5,219	Local ARPA Funds
	$ 600,000	CDBG
	$ 500,000	MCEP
Total Project Cost	$3,250,300	
Amount Recommended	$ 125,000	

Project History
The Town of Dodson is served by a central water distribution system consisting of two wells that pump water directly to a buried 100,000-gallon concrete tank that feeds the distribution system. The Town's water system was originally installed in the early 1900s, with only one subsequent project completed in the 1970s. The water system currently has many deficiencies that do not meet DEQ requirements. Currently one of the well pumps is non-operational and the other pump is nearing the end of its design life and in need of replacement. The water distribution and transmission system are undersized and do not provide adequate fire flow. In addition, if a fire hydrant is opened, the system can fall below the required pressure, increasing the susceptibility to contaminants entering the water system. The water mains are also suspected to be leaking, but the system lacks water meters, so the actual amount of water loss is hard to quantify.

Proposed Solution
Specific tasks include:

- Replace 6,000 linear feet of 6-inch cast iron transmission main with 8-inch PVC.

Resource and Citizen Benefits Analysis
Resource benefits identified in this project include groundwater conservation by fixing leaks and encouraging conservation through metering. Improving the infrastructure would allow the town to better manage the groundwater resource. Citizen benefits identified in this project include health and safety by protecting drinking and groundwater and increasing fire flow.

Funding Recommendation
DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000 upon development and approval of the final scope of work, administration, budget, and funding package.

Project No. 28

Applicant Name	Sunburst, Town of	
Project Name	Wastewater Distribution and Treatment	
Amount Requested	$ 125,000	
Other Funding Sources	$ 288,547	ARPA Grant
	$ 84,806	Local ARPA Funds
	$ 625,000	MCEP
	$ 561,647	SRF Loan Forgiveness
	$ 560,000	SRF Loan
Total Project Cost	$2,245,000	
Amount Recommended	$ 125,000	

Project History
Sunburst's wastewater collection system was originally constructed in 1938. A lift station and facultative wastewater lagoon system were constructed in 1983, along with sewer extensions and force main. Sewer service was extended to a Homeland Security Facility in 2009 via the addition of a second lift station and force main. The collection system was recently televised to identify numerous issues related to root intrusion, debris, sags, cracks, offset joints, and structural failure of portions of clay tile pipe. Over half of the system could not be televised because of the issues encountered. The primary lift station pumps require replacement, the lift station lacks auxiliary power, and the lagoon system fails to meet discharge permit limits due to inadequate mixing.

Proposed Solution
Specific tasks include:

- Clean and televise 10,500 linear feet of the collection system;
- Replace sewer main with new pipe;
- Rehabilitate 3,301 linear feet of sewer main with cured-in-place pipe;
- Replace 38 manholes;
- Replace pumps in the primary lift station;
- Install a new generator and service disconnect;
- Replace the lagoon system discharge structure and flow measuring device; and
- Complete surface restoration activities.

Resource and Citizen Benefits Analysis
The completion of the project will preserve water quality in groundwater by preventing contamination from replacing leaking sewer mains. A functioning sewer system will improve economy for the community by maintaining a healthy environment and reduce sewer backup into homes.

Funding Recommendation
DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000 upon development and approval of the final scope of work, administration, budget, and funding package.

Project No. 29

Applicant Name	Philipsburg, Town of	
Project Name	Water System Repairs Alley Broadway Duffy	
Amount Requested	$ 125,000	
Other Funding Sources	$ 116,955	MCEP
Total Project Cost	$ 241,955	
Amount Recommended	$ 125,000	

Project History
The Town of Philipsburg water system serves about 1,000 people through 570 service connections. The town has many undersized, old, leaking water mains. The highest priority, as identified by the town, is the alley between Broadway and Stockton, from Duffy to Sansome. This water main is 3-inch steel and has had numerous leaks which can be disruptive to businesses, resulting in economic losses. This project will replace the 3-inch steel water main with a 6-inch PVC water main.

Proposed Solution
Specific tasks include:

- Replace 740 feet of existing 3-inch steel water main with a 6-inch PVC water main.

Resource and Citizen Benefits Analysis
This project will conserve surface water in Fred Burr Creek and groundwater sources by replacing a leaking water line. Local citizen benefits were described as a more reliable water system to support economic growth and surface water conservation will benefit recreation.

Funding Recommendation
DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000 upon development and approval of the final scope of work, administration, budget, and funding package.

Project No. 30

Applicant Name	Missoula, City of	
Project Name	Comprehensive Stormwater Plan	
Amount Requested	$ 125,000	
Other Funding Sources	$ 32,200	Applicant In-Kind
	$ 95,000	Applicant
Total Project Cost	$ 252,200	
Amount Recommended	$ 125,000	

Project History

The City of Missoula operates a stormwater utility as a small municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4), which requires a permit under the Clean Water Act through the Montana Pollutant Discharge Elimination Program. The program is designed to reduce the discharge of pollutants from the city's MS4 to the maximum extent practicable and to protect water quality. However, the city lacks baseline information to manage and implement improvements that would help it comply with discharge requirements and protect water resources and public health. The lack of information causes inconsistent maintenance, inability to focus management on priority issues, and potential for unforeseen infrastructure failure, which could cause a costly and hazardous damage control event. The city needs to establish the location and condition of existing infrastructure, evaluate permit compliance, delineate contributing basins to outfalls, conduct computer modeling of runoff patterns, and identify water quality improvement opportunities. The goal of the project is to collect and analyze this information to better manage the stormwater utility and comply with the requirements of the discharge permit. The proposed plan will assist the city in managing and preserving surface water quality within the 33,280-acre service area by completing a thorough inventory, establishing runoff patterns and flow conditions for critical outfalls, and by developing a water quality-based project recommendations list.

Proposed Solution

Specific tasks include:

- Collect information on the stormwater system;
- Delineate the topography of catchment areas for storm systems;
- Develop an existing condition hydraulic model;
- Identify and rank potential locations for green infrastructure and runoff treatment;
- Draft project scopes and estimate cost for the top ten priority ranked projects; and
- Prepare a final Comprehensive Stormwater Plan.

Resource and Citizen Benefits Analysis

The plan objectives would be to preserve surface water quality, groundwater quality, and riparian and aquatic habitat, in six water bodies in the Missoula valley: Bitterroot River, Clark Fork River, Miller Creek, Grant Creek, Rattlesnake Creek, and the Missoula valley aquifer. To help with these objectives, Missoula seeks to manage the natural storage systems with a comprehensive GIS data base and hydraulic model. The applicant intends to create a prioritized list of projects based on their ability to preserve or improve water quality. Preserving the quality of Missoula's sole source aquifer is a health and safety and economic benefit.

Funding Recommendation

DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000 upon development and approval of the final scope of work, administration, budget, and funding package.

Project No. 31

Applicant Name	Denton, Town of	
Project Name	Wastewater System Upgrades, Phase 1	
Amount Requested	$ 125,000	
Other Funding Sources	$ 59,517	Local ARPA Funds
	$2,093,671	ARPA Grants
	$ 750,000	MCEP
	$ 861,912	SRF Loan
Total Project Cost	$3,890,100	
Amount Recommended	$125,000	

Project History
The Town of Denton's wastewater collection system is mostly comprised of aging clay tile pipe. An I&I investigation showed extensive cracking and groundwater infiltration. Additionally, the existing facultative lagoon liners have tears, causing leakage into the ground. The lagoon embankments are eroded in places. The treatment process lacks a disinfection system, leading to pathogen violations over the past several years. The project includes temporary liner repairs, replaces/rehabilitates targeted sections of the wastewater collection system, repairs lagoon embankments, replaces the synthetic liners in lagoons, and constructs UV disinfection and flow monitoring systems.

Proposed Solution
Specific tasks include:

- Replace/rehabilitate targeted sections of wastewater collection system;
- Repair lagoon embankments;
- Replace synthetic liners in lagoons; and
- Construct UV disinfection and flow monitoring systems.

Resource and Citizen Benefits Analysis
Denton's project will preserve water quality by improving the quality of wastewater system discharges to groundwater and effluent discharges to surface water in Wolf Creek. Associated riparian areas and wetlands, and fish habitat will also be preserved. The project would address health and safety by improving the quality of the water for recreation.

Funding Recommendation
DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000 upon development and approval of the final scope of work, administration, budget, and funding package.

Project No. 32

Applicant Name	Dutton, Town of	
Project Name	Water System Improvements	
Amount Requested	$ 125,000	
Other Funding Sources	$ 20,400	Local ARPA Funds
	$2,252,276	ARPA Grants
	$ 625,000	MCEP
	$ 500,000	SRF Loan Forgiveness
	$ 556,324	SRF Loan
Total Project Cost	$4,079,000	
Amount Recommended	$ 125,000	

Project History
Dutton reported water losses of up to 48% of the water pumped from the well (2010–2015). Most of the water loss has been attributed to the transmission pipeline. In the last six years, 8,200 linear feet of pipe was replaced leaving 12,000 linear feet of AC pipe to be replaced. The town plans to replace 12,000 linear feet of 10-inch transmission main and 5,300 linear feet of 4- and 6-inch AC distribution mains to address poor pipe conditions, water loss due to leaks, main breaks, and undersized distribution lines.

Proposed Solution
Specific tasks include:

- Replace 12,000 linear feet of 10-inch transmission main;
- Replace 5,300 linear feet of 8-inch distribution main;
- Replace five fire hydrants;
- Replace 14 valves; and
- Replace 45 water services connections.

Resource and Citizen Benefits Analysis
This project will conserve water lost through the leaking water main and conserve energy by reducing the amount of pumping. The town's health and safety will benefit by having a reliable and safe drinking water supply, increased capacity to provide adequate fire flow.

Funding Recommendation
DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000 upon development and approval of the final scope of work, administration, budget, and funding package.

Project No. 33

Applicant Name	Circle, Town of	
Project Name	Waterline Replacement, Phase 4	
Amount Requested	$ 125,000	
Other Funding Sources	$ 600,000	CDBG
	$ 625,000	MCEP
	$ 325,000	SRF Loan Forgiveness
	$ 325,000	SRF Loan
Total Project Cost	$2,000,000	
Amount Recommended	$ 125,000	

Project History
The Town of Circle's water distribution system was originally constructed in the 1930s and 40s.The town currently uses three groundwater wells to provide service to approximately 481 residents through 368 connections. The town reports water loss in the distribution system and undersized mains which cannot supply adequate water for domestic use and fire flows in 44% of the system.

Proposed Solution
Specific tasks include:

- Replace approximately 4,000 linear feet of distribution main;
- Replace inoperable gate valves;
- Install additional gate valves;
- Replace old fire hydrants;
- Install additional fire hydrants; and
- Replace lead soldered water service lines.

Resource and Citizen Benefits Analysis
Water system improvements will protect the local public health and safety of the residents by providing safe, reliable drinking water and adequate supply for fire flow. Reducing water losses in the distribution system will conserve groundwater and energy.

Funding Recommendation
DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000 upon development and approval of the final scope of work, administration, budget, and funding package.

Project No. 34

Applicant Name	Clancy Water and Sewer District	
Project Name	Water System Improvements	
Amount Requested	$ 125,000	
Other Funding Sources	$2,250,000	ARPA Grants
	$ 450,000	CDBG
	$ 750,000	MCEP
	$ 500,000	SRF Loan Forgiveness
	$ 648,600	SRF Loan
	$ 200,000	WRDA
Total Project Cost	$4,923,600	
Amount Recommended	$125,000	

Project History
Clancy WSD in Jefferson County does not have an existing public water supply system, and residents rely on individual private wells which are close to private septic systems. The individual septic systems are aging and failing at an increasing rate. Well testing revealed elevated levels of nitrates and uranium. The project will create a new centralized public water supply and install water meters for all services within the district. The goal of the project is to provide safe drinking water, protect public health and safety, and promote conscious water use.

Proposed Solution
Specific tasks include:

- Install two wells with pumps and related components;
- Construct a storage tank;
- Install a transmission water main; and
- Construct a well/pump house and associated electrical equipment.

Resource and Citizen Benefits Analysis
A centralized public water supply system will improve the health and safety of the local residents by providing safe and reliable drinking water. Meters within the distribution system will result in conservation of groundwater.

Funding Recommendation
DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000 upon development and approval of the final scope of work, administration, budget, and funding package. This project includes drilling and producing water from new wells and the applicant has not yet identified the source aquifer. DNRC requires compliance with Montana Water Use Act Title 85, chapter 2, MCA. The applicant must finalize new water rights or finalize changes to existing water rights prior to initiating a contract with the DNRC.

Project No. 35

Applicant Name	Basin County Water and Sewer District	
Project Name	Water System Improvements, Phase 2	
Amount Requested	$ 125,000	
Other Funding Sources	$ 306,344	SRF Loan
	$ 305,000	SRF Loan Forgiveness
Total Project Cost	$ 736,334	
Amount Recommended	$ 125,000	

Project History
Basin is an unincorporated community in Jefferson County. Basin's water system was constructed more than 50 years ago. Improvements to the water system were last completed in 1975. This project consists of three separate phases to be completed over an estimated three-year period (2023 – 2026). The project includes locating and drilling a new higher capacity well with disinfection and corrosion control treatment. Subsequent phases will address undersized water mains, new fire hydrants, add new pains and loop to eliminate dead-end water mains to provide safe, reliable drinking water and adequate fire flows.

Proposed Solution
Specific tasks include:

- Locate, drill and develop a new high capacity well;
- Install new chlorine and anti-corrosion chemical feed equipment.
- Construct a chlorine contract system; and ;
- Connect new well to existing distribution system.

Resource and Citizen Benefits Analysis
Water system improvements will protect the local public health and safety of the residents by providing safe reliable drinking water.

Funding Recommendation
DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000 upon development and approval of the final scope of work, administration, budget, and funding package. DNRC requires compliance with Montana Water Use Act Title 85, chapter 2, MCA. The applicant must finalize new water rights or finalize changes to existing water rights prior to initiating a contract with the DNRC.

Project No. 36

Applicant Name	Wolf Point, City of	
Project Name	Wastewater System Improvements, Phase 2	
Amount Requested	$ 125,000	
Other Funding Sources	$ 600,000	CDBG
	$ 625,000	MCEP
	$ 650,000	SRF Loan
	$ 400,000	SRF Loan Forgiveness
Total Project Cost	$2,400,000	
Amount Recommended	$ 125,000	

Project History
Portions of the City of Wolf Point's Wastewater System have reached the end of their design life. Most of the collection system is made of VCP, steel and reinforced concrete pipe. The collection system is severely corroded leak wastewater to soils and groundwater. The collection system has root intrusion which has caused sewer backups, exposing residents to untreated wastewater. The city has prioritized portions of the collection system to be replaced based on the mains that are in the worst condition. In addition to the collection system issues, the treatment facility's blowers are at the end of their design life and in need of replacement. If these blowers fail, the treatment system will not be able to adequately treat wastewater before being discharged.

Proposed Solution
Specific tasks include:

- Replacement of 2,700 linear feet of existing 8-inch VCP;
- Rehabilitation of 1,170 linear feet of existing 8-inch VCP;
- Repair/replace sewer main underneath the BNSF Railroad and U.S. Highway No. 2; and
- Replacing all five blowers at the WWTF.

Resource and Citizen Benefits Analysis
Replacement of pipe will result in the preservation of both surface and groundwater quality. The replacement of blowers at the treatment facility will reduce the energy demands of the treatment process thereby reducing the city's overall carbon footprint. New and repaired sewer mains will protect public health and safety by reducing the potential for drinking water contamination and sewer backups.

Funding Recommendation
DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000 upon development and approval of the final scope of work, administration, budget, and funding package

Project No. 37

Applicant Name	Hideaway Community County Water and Sewer District	
Project Name	Hideaway Court Sewer Project	
Amount Requested	$ 125,000	
Other Funding Sources	$ 31,000	Local Match
	$ 750,000	MCEP
	$ 467,378	SRF Loan
Total Project Cost	$1,373,378	
Amount Recommended	$ 125,000	

Project History
Hideaway Court is a small mobile home community, consisting of 30 residential units, located west of Columbia Falls. There are no municipal wastewater or drinking water services in the vicinity of the property. Water service is provided by a private owner, on-site public water system and wastewater treatment and disposal is through five septic systems, each serving a cluster of homes. The septic systems ages range from 35 to at least 43 years old. All of the multi-user septic systems are beyond their expected useful life and long in need of replacement. The age of the systems and lack of maintenance have led to a growing concern that the groundwater may become contaminated with nitrates from partially treated wastewater.

Proposed Solution
Specific tasks include:

- Replace the entire existing collection system with new 4-inch service mains and 8-inch gravity sewer mains;
- Install two new 5,000-gallon septic tanks;
- Install a single Level 2 treatment system with 3,000-gallon dosing tank and a centralized drain field;
- Abandon the existing collection system mains, and;
- Abandon the multi-user septic systems and drain fields.

Resource and Citizen Benefits Analysis
The project goal is to improve the wastewater management for the Hideaway Court Community, which will benefit the public health and safety of the residents. Replacing old and failing septic systems with new systems will improve groundwater quality by reducing nitrate and other contaminant loading to the aquifer. Renewable resource benefits include preservation of water quality in both surface water and groundwater.

Funding Recommendation
DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000 upon development and approval of the final scope of work, administration, budget, and funding package.

Project No. 43

Applicant Name	Chester, Town of	
Project Name	Wastewater System Improvements	
Amount Requested	$ 125,000	
Other Funding Sources	$ 250,094	Local ARPA Funds
	$2,260,397	ARPA Grants
	$ 15,000	MCEP Planning Grant
	$ 500,000	MCEP
	$ 303,000	SRF Loan
Total Project Cost	$3,416,975	
Amount Recommended	$ 125,000	

Project History
The Town of Chester's wastewater collection system was originally constructed in 1940s and 1950s which includes four lift stations of varying age and condition and a facultative lagoon system constructed in 1984. System monitoring indicates excessive inflow and infiltration during flooding, and treatment performance is compromised by sludge accumulation in the lagoon system. The project will rehabilitate the wastewater collection system, remove sludge from the lagoon system, and improve the operational flexibility of the lagoon.

Proposed Solution
Specific tasks include:

- Rehabilitate 5,850 linear feet of sewer main with cured-in-place pipe;
- Replace 385 linear feet of sewer main with 8-inch PVC pipe;
- Replace 16 manholes;
- Reinstate 10 service connections;
- Remove and land apply sludge from Cell #1;
- Replace seven existing 10-inch gate valves and install one new 6-inch gate valve;
- Install new stop gates and three stop gate structures;
- Replace the outlet structure and flow measuring device of the lagoon system; and
- Complete surface restoration activities.

Resource and Citizen Benefits Analysis
This project will preserve water quality by reducing the potential for raw sewage to leak into the groundwater and conserve energy by reducing pumping during infiltration from flooding. The project protects the health and safety of the local citizens by reducing chances of sewer clogs and backups into homes or to the surface.

Funding Recommendation
DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000 upon development and approval of the final scope of work, administration, budget, and funding package.

Project No. 39

Applicant Name	Troy, City of	
Project Name	Water System Improvements	
Amount Requested	$ 125,000	
Other Funding Sources	$ 600,000	CDBG
	$ 65,000	Local Funds
	$ 15,000	MCEP Planning Grant
	$ 750,000	MCEP
Total Project Cost	$1,555,000	
Amount Recommended	$ 125,000	

Project History
The City of Troy has replaced a significant portion of the distribution system, but the system still suffers from significant water loss, 28% loss was measured in 2021. Troy's water system consists of mainly asphalt dipped and wrapped steel pipe. The coating on these water mains was damaged during backfill, which eventually led to moisture penetration, corrosion, and ultimately leaks in the water mains. Leaking pipes are permeable and are susceptible to microbiological contaminants entering the water distribution system when pressures drop during a water main break. The existing lines that fill the storage tanks are undersized which have lead to under filling of the tank, causing low pressures in the system and unusable storage in Tank #2. The existing water transmission main from Tank #1 is buried near surface and is susceptible to freezing and contamination. The proposed project will address leaking distribution and transmission water mains and water meters will allow the City to more accurately track the usage of water.

Proposed Solution
Specific tasks are:

- Replace aging, problematic, and undersized mains by open-dig methods;
- Remove unused and leaking water services; and
- Install water meters at the city and county shops.

Resource and Citizen Benefits Analysis
Installation of new water mains will improve the overall efficiency of the water distribution system by reducing the pipe friction losses and losses due to waterline leaks and breaks. The renewable resource benefits include conservation of energy by less pumping, and management of groundwater by adding new water meters. The local economy will benefit by having a reliable public water supply.

Funding Recommendation
DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000 upon development and approval of the final scope of work, administration, budget, and funding package.

Project No. 40

Applicant Name	Lockwood Water and Sewer District	
Project Name	Mid Zone Reservoir	
Amount Requested	$ 125,000	
Other Funding Sources	$ 750,000	MCEP
	$2,135,000	SRF Loan
Total Project Cost	$3,010,000	
Amount Recommended	$ 125,000	

Project History
The Lockwood WSD which serves over 8,000 people. Each pressure zone was evaluated individually based on a 20-year study period storage analysis. This 2016 study identifies additional storage needed in the mid zone district area to meet fire flow and domestic use requirements. Additional storage volumes will reduce booster pumping on the area. Construction of a 330,000-gallon reservoir in the mid zone will reduce reliability on the pump station, to better maintain stable pressures during peak demands, and increase fire flow protection.

Proposed Solution
Specific tasks include:

- Construct a 330,000-gallon concrete tank reservoir.

Resource and Citizen Benefits Analysis
This project will conserve energy by decreasing pumping. The new reservoir will benefit the public health and safety for the district's mid zone area residents by storing water for domestic use and fire protection.

Funding Recommendation
DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000 upon development and approval of the final scope of work, administration, budget, and funding package.

Project No. 41

Applicant Name	Hot Springs, Town of	
Project Name	Sewer Lagoon Rehabilitation	
Amount Requested	$ 125,000	
Other Funding Sources	$ 600,000	CDBG
	$ 750,000	MCEP
	$ 659,000	RD Loan
	$1,977,000	RD Grant
Total Project Cost	$4,111,000	
Amount Recommended	$ 125,000	

Project History

The Hot Springs Wastewater System is comprised of a collection system, a primary lift station, and a centralized WWTF. The WWTF consists of three cell, partially mixed, aerated lagoons located adjacent to Hot Springs Creek east of town. The WWTF was constructed in 1985 and several major components have far exceeded their design life. The lagoon cell liners and aeration system are original components and are showing significant signs of age and deterioration. The lagoon cell liners have required several repairs in recent years. A leaking liner would have adverse impacts to the groundwater and surface water in Hot Springs Creek. The aeration system is showing signs of decreased ability to treat wastewater and an airline has recently broken loose and is floating in Cell #1. Inadequate aeration treatment reduces the water quality in the wastewater discharge which has detrimental impacts on Hot Springs Creek. The aeration system blower system is outdated and has no flow adjustment capability which results in wasted energy when less air is needed for treatment. The town has experienced issues with the effluent chlorine disinfection system which has resulted in effluent discharge permit violations.

Proposed Solution

Specific tasks include:

- Remove and dispose sludge from all three cells;
- Replace lagoon liner in all three cells;
- Replace the aeration system in all three cells;
- Replace the aeration system air header pipe and laterals;
- Upgrade blower controls including new motor control center with VFD, blower air flow meter and discharge pressure gauge;
- Install disinfection system improvements;
- Complete flow measurement study.

Resource and Citizen Benefits Analysis

Replacement and upgrades at the wastewater treatment facility will improve the effluent water quality which will preserve groundwater and surface water quality. Upgrades to the lagoon aeration system will have an overall reduction in energy consumption thereby reducing the carbon footprint of the town's operations. The town will have a potential economic benefit with the ability to support population growth. The project protects the health and safety of citizens on nearby residential wells by reducing nutrients and contaminants in groundwater.

Funding Recommendation

DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000 upon development and approval of the final scope of work, administration, budget, and funding package.

Project No. 42

Applicant Name	Hingham, Town of	
Project Name	Wastewater System Improvements	
Amount Requested	$ 125,000	
Other Funding Sources	$ 31,880	Applicant
	$ 360,489	Local ARPA Funds
	$ 159,527	ARPA Grants
	$ 750,000	MCEP
	$1,577,669	RD Loan
	$ 525,890	RD Grant
Total Project Cost	$3,565,455	
Amount Recommended	$ 125,000	

Project History
The Town of Hingham's wastewater system primarily consists of 8-inch VCP collection pipes These sewer mains all gravity flow to a clay-lined, two-cell total retention lagoon system where wastewater is treated, and water evaporated. Most of the system was constructed and installed in 1954; the second cell was constructed in 1963. Several deficiencies with the existing Hingham wastewater system allow untreated wastewater to leak into the ground which can contaminate groundwater and surface water. The system is showing signs of significant leakage and the wastewater treatment system is well past its design life. The existing wastewater treatment lagoons are undersized. The piping around the lagoons is aged, corroded, coming apart at the joints, and leaking. Inlet piping to cell #1 is shallowly buried and risks freezing. At cell #2, the outfall structure and piping leaks when water levels rise and discharge untreated wastewater into a nearby ditch, a threat to public health and safety. A buildup of approximately two feet of sludge needs to be removed from both cells to maintain adequate wastewater treatment.

Proposed Solution
Specific tasks include:

- Sludge removal;
- Increase lagoon cell size and install cell liner;
- Replace inlet piping;
- Remove outfall structure;
- Install flow measurement device; and
- Install security fencing.

Resource and Citizen Benefits Analysis
The project will preserve groundwater and surface water quality and allow the town to manage treated wastewater discharge. There will be a local health and safety benefit by reducing exposure to untreated wastewater in surface waters and the town will benefit economically by having a reliable wastewater infrastructure.

Funding Recommendation
DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000 upon development and approval of the final scope of work, administration, budget, and funding package.

Project No. 43

Applicant Name	Chester, Town of	
Project Name	Water System Improvements	
Amount Requested	$ 125,000	
Other Funding Sources	$ 91,197	Local ARPA Funds
	$ 110,398	ARPA Grant
	$1,483,154	RD Loan
	$ 536,051	RD Grant
	$ 30,000	RD Search Grant
Total Project Cost	$2,375,800	
Amount Recommended	$ 125,000	

Project History
The Town of Chester's water supply and treatment system was originally constructed in the 1970s. Much of the equipment is nearing the end of its service life, and a cross connection exists between the treated water and the raw water transmission pipeline. Inadequate standby power is available to the water treatment facility, and the control system is outdated and susceptible to cybersecurity risks. Reconditioning of the elevated storage facilities is necessary due to failure of the coating systems.

Proposed Solution
Specific tasks include:

- Replace pumps at the intake facility, raw water pump station, and WTP;
- Remove a cross connection in the raw water pump station;
- Install new flow meters and actuated valves in the WTP;
- Install a new SCADA system;
- Recoat the interior and the exterior of elevated storage tanks; and
- Install a new standby generator at the WTP.

Resource and Citizen Benefits Analysis
The project will benefit health and safety of the local citizens by providing safe and reliable drinking water. This project will conserve energy by reducing pumping and allow the town to manage the water resource by installing modern flow meters and new SCADA control system.

Funding Recommendation
DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000 upon development and approval of the final scope of work, administration, budget, and funding package.

Project No. 44

Applicant Name	Shelby, City of	
Project Name	Wastewater Improvements	
Amount Requested	$ 125,000	
Other Funding Sources	$ 319,500	Applicant
	$ 444,500	MCEP
Total Project Cost	$ 889,000	
Amount Recommended	$ 125,000	

Project History
The City of Shelby's three-celled facultative wastewater treatment lagoons were constructed in 1959 with a fourth cell installed in 2019. The lift stations do not have emergency backup power, creating the potential for sanitary sewer overflow during power outages. In the Pamida lift station area, a new medical clinic is under construction. There is concern that the medical facility will generate waste (wipes, gloves, and other disposable products) that will clog the lift station's pumping mechanism. Additionally, the 2021 Compliance Evaluation Inspection Report identified an inoperable effluent flow meter that needs to be replaced and relocated to effectively measure the influent flow to the City's wastewater treatment lagoons. The Shelby Wastewater Improvements project installs backup power at the lift stations, replaces pumps at the Pamida lift station and replaces the inoperable effluent flow meter in the treatment facility.

Proposed Solution
Specific tasks include:

- Install backup power generation at the lift stations;
- Replace existing pumps at the Pamida lift station; and
- Replace the inoperable effluent flow meter in the treatment facility.

Resource and Citizen Benefits Analysis
This project will preserve surface water quality by eliminating the threat of overflows and backups during power outages. The project will benefit health and safety of the local citizens by reducing exposure to untreated sewage in the event of a power outage. The project will benefit the local economy by providing the medical facility with reliable wastewater infrastructure.

Funding Recommendation
DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000 upon development and approval of the final scope of work, administration, budget, and funding package.

Project No. 45

Applicant Name	Conrad, City of	
Project Name	Stormwater Project	
Amount Requested	$ 125,000	
Other Funding Sources	$ 460,000	Local ARPA Funds
	$1,830,000	ARPA Grants
	$1,363,313	SRF Loan
Total Project Cost	$3,778,313	
Amount Recommended	$ 125,000	

Project History
The east side of the City of Conrad is the lowest area of town and experiences significant drainage problems because it does not have a storm water system. Stormwater causes minor flooding, road damage, and infiltrates the city's wastewater collection system, resulting in increased volumes of wastewater that must be treated by the WWTP. Treating stormwater requires significant amounts of energy, produces unnecessary wear and tear on lift stations and the WWTP, requires increased operations and maintenance inputs, and has resulted in E. coli violations of the City's wastewater discharge permit. The primary goals of the project are to eliminate stormwater drainage problems in Conrad and to prevent future E. coli exceedances of the city's wastewater discharge permit. Secondary goals include improved public health and safety and reducing taxpayer expenditures on street repairs and pumping costs associated with removal of standing water.

Proposed Solution
- Install West Side stormwater improvements; and
- Create East Side stormwater collection system.

Resource and Citizen Benefits Analysis
This project would have minimal benefits to surface water quality. The west side stormwater improvements would result in improved effluent discharges to the Dry Fork of the Marias River. The east side stormwater collection system would reduce the amount of sediment and entrained pollutants in Pondera Coulee. The project will benefit health and safety of the local citizens by reducing exposure to contaminants in surface waters.

Funding Recommendation
DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000 upon development and approval of the final scope of work, administration, budget, and funding package.

Project No. 46

Applicant Name	Absarokee Water and Sewer District	
Project Name	Water System Improvements	
Amount Requested	$ 125,000	
Other funding sources	$ 500,000	MCEP
	$ 821,000	SRF Loan
Total Project Cost	$1,446,000	
Amount Recommended	$ 125,000	

Project History
The Absarokee WSD owns and operates the public water system, which includes four groundwater wells, storage facilities, and a distribution system. While no significant failures of a particular component of the system have been reported, the district has experienced severe leakage in the distribution system and noted leaks and areas of spalled and cracked concrete in the 200,000-gallon concrete tank. The district has also been forced to remove many of its water sources from service.

Most recently the district took the Hawkins Park infiltration gallery out of service after it was classified by DEQ as groundwater under the direct influence of surface water (GWUDISW). In addition, the Firehall well was removed from service due to a suspected casing failure and the Church well was taken offline also due to surface water contamination.

Proposed Solution
Specific tasks include:

- Reactivate an inactive groundwater infiltration gallery;
- Construct a new cartridge filtration treatment system; and
- Replace source water flow meters.

Resource and Citizen Benefit Analysis
The project will benefit health and safety of the local citizens by providing safe and reliable drinking water and pressure for fire flow. The project will develop a groundwater source. The project will benefit the local (regional) economy by providing the community with safe and reliable water infrastructure.

Funding Recommendation
DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000 upon development and approval of the final scope of work, administration, budget, and funding package. DNRC requires compliance with Montana Water Use Act Title 85, chapter 2, MCA. The applicant must finalize new water rights or finalize changes to existing water rights prior to initiating a contract with the DNRC.

Project No. 47

Applicant Name	North Cut Bank Glacier County Water and Sewer District	
Project Name	Wastewater Lift Station Improvements	
Amount Requested	$ 125,000	
Other Funding Sources	$ 20,000	Local
	$ 169,704	SRF Loan
Total Project Cost	$ 314,704	
Amount Recommended	$ 125,000	

Project History
The North Cut Bank Glacier County WSD sewer system was installed in 1989. The sewer system includes a collection system, lift station and wastewater treatment provided by the City of Cut Bank. The lift station components date back to the original construction date of 1989. The components generally function but are showing signs of corrosion and it is expected that continued degradation of the components will occur unless they are replaced. In addition, the generator is showing its age and the only way to get it operational is with assistance of a mechanic that is not part of the district staff. Lift station failures would impact a tributary to Cut Bank Creek.

Proposed Solution
Specific tasks include:

- Rehabilitate the existing lift station with new pumps and appurtenances; and
- Install new generator.

Resource and Citizen Benefits Analysis
This project will preserve surface water quality by reducing the potential of untreated sewage release as a result of a lift station failure. The project will benefit the local economy by providing access to reliable wastewater infrastructure.

Funding Recommendation
DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000 upon development and approval of the final scope of work, administration, budget, and funding package.

Project No. 48

Applicant Name	Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch County WSD	
Project Name	Wastewater System Improvements	
Amount Requested	$ 125,000	
Other Funding Sources	$ 47,954	Applicant
	$ 65,176	SRF Loan
Total Project Cost	$ 238,130	
Amount Recommended	$ 125,000	

Project History
The Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch WSD wastewater system was constructed in 1998 and lagoons were upgraded during 2017. This project seeks to upgrade and repair two lift stations and the lagoon discharge structure. The Lagoon Influent Lift Station was determined to have several deficiencies. The existing grinder pumps were approximately 15 years old at the time of inspection and nearing the end of their useful life. The effluent control weir in the lagoon discharge structure leaks due to a deteriorated rubber track seal. Therefore, manual control and flow rate monitoring of the effluent is severely impeded.

The facility needs automated effluent flow rate monitoring and recording. Currently, effluent discharge flows are intermittently calculated manually by measuring the depth of water passing over the existing v-notch weir. A dedicated lagoon discharge monitoring structure would allow the system operators to instantaneously monitor and confirm effluent flow rates resulting in enhanced operation of the wastewater treatment system. The East Campus Lift Station was determined to have several deficiencies. The pump guide rails and associated hardware are severely corroded.

The WSD needs to rehabilitate two lift stations, rehabilitate an effluent control weir, add reliable flow monitoring/logging, and update system controls/monitoring to effectively operate the wastewater treatment system.

Proposed Solution
Specific tasks include:

- Replace corroded pump rails and lifting hardware ;
- Add influent screen baskets ;
- Add pump controls and remote monitoring capabilities ;
- Add grinder pump;
- Add a flume and flow monitoring equipment and repair an existing weir at the lagoon discharge lift station lid and access hatch.

Resource and Citizen Benefits Analysis
This project will preserve groundwater and surface water quality in Canyon Creek by improving the quality of effluent discharged from the wastewater treatment facility. Surface water quality benefits aquatic and riparian habitat as well as downstream water users.

Funding Recommendation
DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000 upon development and approval of the final scope of work, administration, budget, and funding package.

Project No. 49

Applicant Name	Judith Gap, Town of	
Project Name	Water Line and Meter Upgrade	
Amount Requested	$ 125,000	
	$ 34,586	Applicant
	$ 32,026	Local ARPA Funds
	$ 58,388	ARPA Grant
Total Project Cost	$ 250,000	
Amount Recommended	$ 125,000	

Project History
The Judith Gap water system uses an artesian well, elevated storage tank, and transmission mains. The primary deficiency of the water system is the inoperable water meters installed in 2001. The water meters are aged so that replacement parts are no longer available or supported by the manufacturer, thus the existing water meters have been rendered unusable. The lack of water meters prevents the Town of Judith Gap with the means to conduct a water audit to evaluate water loss and promote water use efficiency.

Proposed Solution
Specific tasks include:

- Replace existing water meters

Resource and Citizen Benefits Analysis
The resource benefit of this project is identified as groundwater conservation due to better management of the water system by accurately tracking water usage, and to promote water use conservation. The project will benefit the local economy by providing the community with reliable water infrastructure.

Funding Recommendation
DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000 upon development and approval of the final scope of work, administration, budget, and funding package.

Project No. 50

Applicant Name	Boulder, City of	
Project Name	Drinking Water System Improvements	
Amount Requested	$ 125,000	
Other Funding Sources	$ 500,000	MCEP
	$ 916,500	RD Grant
	$ 916,500	RD Loan
Total Project Cost	$2,458,000	
Amount Recommended	$ 125,000	

Project History
The City of Boulder has identified several water system improvements to promote system resiliency and ensure that the city can reliably provide safe drinking water to the citizens. The city has observed a recent growing population trend which prompted an assessment of the water infrastructure to address growth. The city's four water supply wells lack backup generators and security fencing. The storage capacity of the water system is not sufficient to meet daily demands and provide adequate fire protection. The existing storage tanks need to be recoated to extend their service lives. The city lacks a way to monitor and charge for bulk water usage and protect the water system from harmful backflow from hauler's containers. Leakage in the distribution system is significant and needs to be identified and addressed. The city does not have an inventory of the number of lead service lines in the system and their locations.

Proposed Solution
Specific tasks include:

- Install backup generators and security fencing at the four wells;
- Construct a 450,000-gallon storage tank with security fence;
- Recoat the two existing storage tanks and install mixers;
- Construct a bulk water station;
- Install four fire hydrants;
- Complete system wide leak detection and repair identified services;
- Update the distribution system hydraulic model; and
- Conduct a lead and copper risk and resilience assessment.

Resource and Citizen Benefits Analysis
This project will conserve groundwater by reducing losses throughout the distribution system. This project will conserve energy by reducing pumping duration and frequency. The project will benefit health and safety of the local citizens by providing safe and reliable drinking water and adequate pressure for fire flow.

Funding Recommendation
DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000 upon development and approval of the final scope of work, administration, budget, and funding package. DNRC requires compliance with Montana Water Use Act Title 85, chapter 2, MCA. The applicant must finalize new water rights or finalize changes to existing water rights prior to initiating a contract with the DNRC.

Renewable Resource Grant and Loan Project Evaluation Summary –
Irrigation and Resource Projects

Project No. 1

Applicant Name	Greenfields Irrigation District	
Project Name	Pishkun Inlet Hydroelectric Project	
Amount Requested	$ 125,000	
Other Funding Sources	$ 822,102	Applicant In-Kind
	$ 650,000	Applicant
	$1,570,069	RRGL Loan
	$1,999,990	USBR WaterSmart Grant
Total Project Cost	$5,167,161	
Amount Recommended	$ 125,000	

Project History
The Greenfields ID provides water to 83,230 acres of cropland. Construction of the delivery system started in the early 1900s and sections of the system are over 100 years old. The delivery system requires repairs and modernization to maintain its dependability. The existing Pishkun Inlet Drop was designed to dissipate energy and high velocities that develop at this location due to the large elevation drop. The structure is on the Pishkun Supply Canal which receives its water from the Sun River where water is diverted from the river at Sun River Diversion Dam. The Pishkun Inlet Drop has exceeded its design life and the continual degradation of the structure has led to significant annual maintenance. The purpose of the Pishkun Inlet Hydroelectric Project is to upgrade the existing degraded Pishkun Inlet Drop structure and at the same time develop a hydropower energy source. The elevation relief and large flows through the canal provide optimal conditions to generate a source for hydropower.

Proposed Solution
Specific tasks include:

- Construct new bypass/intake and powerhouse to house a turbine;
- Install roller gate;
- Install new penstock;
- Construct an access road; and
- Install an overhead transmission line to the facility.

Resource and Citizen Benefits Analysis
The project will have multiple benefits to two resources. The project will develop a new hydropower energy source and develop irrigated cropland. Completion of the project will also preserve air quality by creating green energy reducing the use of fossil fuels. Regional economic benefits include generating revenue from hydropower and increased crop production on a regional scale and increased tax revenue on both hydropower and crop production to a lesser extent. Development of 6,110 megawatt hours per year of electricity will be transferred to the power company's distribution grid and transferred to areas of highest need.

Funding Recommendation
DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000 upon development and approval of the final scope of work, administration, budget, and funding package. DNRC requires compliance with Montana Water Use Act Title 85, chapter 2, MCA. The applicant must finalize new water rights or finalize changes to existing water rights prior to initiating a contract with the DNRC.

Project No. 2

Applicant Name	Lower Yellowstone Irrigation District #1	
Project Name	Thomas Point Pump Station Rehabilitation	
Amount Requested	$ 125,000	
Other Funding Sources	$ 340,359	Applicant In-Kind
Total Project Cost	$ 465,359	
Amount Recommended	$ 125,000	

Project History
This project will replace the north pump at the Thomas Point pump station. The pumps at this pumps station need replacement due to their 50+ year age. The pumps require annual refurbishment and operate at a significant inefficiency of about 70 percent and none of the pumps include a VFD. This leaves little ability to adjust water delivery to meeting the demand, resulting in typically over-delivery of water and increased return flows to the Yellowstone River. Pump replacement, addition of a VFD on one pump, and added remote sensing telemetry will improve operations and maintenance, improve water management, and avoid future costs of pump refurbishment.

Proposed Solution
Specific tasks include:

- Install pump and telemetry system.

Resource and Citizen Benefits Analysis
Upgrading the pump and telemetry system will improve water management and conserve energy by reducing pump inefficiency. The project will also allow development of arable land by delivering irrigation water to crops efficiently. Increased irrigation efficiency within the Lower Yellowstone ID #1 system will lead to a 10% increase in crop production . The project has local economic benefits.

Funding Recommendation
DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000 upon development and approval of the final scope of work, administration, budget, and funding package.

Project No. 3

Applicant Name	Lower Yellowstone Irrigation Project	
Project Name	Critical Structures Rehabilitation	
Amount Requested	$ 125,000	
Other Funding Sources	$ 480,231	ARPA Grant
	$ 113,320	Applicant In-Kind
Total Project Cost	$ 718,551	
Amount Recommended	$ 125,000	

Project History
This project will replace three failing structures that help deliver irrigation water, the Beef Slough underpass and headgate structures for the K and PP laterals. Each is failing due to its 50+ year age and is best replaced with modern materials and design standards. Each structure requires annual maintenance and near daily operation during irrigation season. By replacing these structures with modern irrigation infrastructure and remote sensing ability, the Irrigation District can save operations and maintenance costs. The remote sensing ability will also allow the district to better manage water delivery.

Proposed Solution
Specific tasks include:

- Remove structures;
- Construct new underpass and headgates structures;
- Install weirs and telemetry sensors; and
- Verify the structure and remote sensing operations.

Resource and Citizen Benefits Analysis
Completion of this project will enhance management of irrigation water and develop arable land by providing irrigation water to 26,000 acres of irrigated land. Agricultural producers and local economy will benefit as a result of increased crop production.

Funding Recommendation
DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000 upon development and approval of the final scope of work, administration, budget, and funding package.

Project No. 4

Applicant Name	Helena Valley Irrigation District	
Project Name	Regulating Reservoir Preservation and Bypass Project	
Amount Requested	$ 125,000	
Other Funding Sources	$1,470,025	Applicant
Total Project Cost	$1,595,025	
Amount Recommended	$ 125,000	

Project History
The Helena Valley ID, near the City of Helena supplies water from the Helena Valley ID canal and laterals to 18,000 acres and 450 water users. The Helena Valley Regulating Reservoir is a critical component of the Helena Valley ID irrigation system. An existing energy-dissipating drop structure near the inlet to the regulating reservoir is old and ineffective causing erosion at the outlet. Erosion in the canal is depositing sediment in regulating reservoir, reducing storage volume. The reservoir was also constructed with a bypass canal designed to deliver water in the event of drought when lake levels are low. The bypass channel has deteriorated and is no longer functional.

Proposed Solution
Specific tasks include:

- Install drop structure;
- Install bypass canal;
- Suction dredge reservoir and to remove sediment; and
- Install SCADA system.

Resource and Citizen Benefits Analysis
The project will have multiple benefits to renewable resources. The project will improve management of surface water, preserve surface water quality, aquatic and terrestrial habitats increase crop production on arable land and increase irrigated acreage. Agricultural producers and the local economy will benefit as a result of increased crop production and increased recreational opportunities. The project will sustain the ability to deliver municipal water when needed for the City of Helena.

Funding Recommendation
DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000 upon development and approval of the final scope of work, administration, budget, and funding package.

Project No. 5

Applicant Name	Buffalo Rapids Irrigation Project District 2	
Project Name	Shirley Main Canal Rehabilitation, Phase 2	
Amount Requested	$ 125,000	
Other Funding Sources	$ 122,183	Applicant In-Kind
Total Project Cost	$ 247,183	
Amount Recommended	$ 125,000	

Project History
The Buffalo Rapids Irrigation Project District (BRIPD2) covers nearly 64 miles in southeastern Montana from Miles City to Glendive. District 2 serves 11,621 acres beginning 17 miles east of Miles City and ending just east of Fallon along the south side of the river, servicing 55 farms and 70 households throughout the district. The BRIPD2 irrigation water is supplied by five pumping stations throughout the district. The project includes Phase 2 reach of the Shirley Main Canal near the halfway point of the delivery system. The Phase 2 reach has historically experienced severe seepage and conveyance losses resulting in damage to adjacent acres and poor irrigation delivery efficiency to 2,000 acres downstream of the reach.

Proposed Solution
Specific tasks include:

- Install 0.75 miles of geomembrane liner and appurtenant features; and
- Replace headgate structure.

Resource and Citizen Benefits Analysis
The project will have singular benefits to multiple resources. The project will conserve and improve the management surface water, diverted from the Yellowstone River. The project will conserve energy by reducing pumping and increase crop production with timely and adequate water deliveries to on-farm projects. Agricultural producers and the local economy will benefit as a result of increased crop production.

Funding Recommendation
DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000 upon development and approval of the final scope of work, administration, budget, and funding package.

Project No. 6

Applicant Name	Pondera County Conservation District	
Project Name	PCCRC Birch Creek Diversion Automation	
Amount Requested	$ 125,000	
Other Funding Sources	$ 260,460	PCCRC
Total Project Cost	$ 385,460	
Amount Recommended	$ 125,000	

Project History
The Pondera County Canal and Reservoir Company (PCCRC) plans to automate the gate controls by installing a remote monitoring and control system at the PCCRC Birch Creek Diversion as well as construct a new concrete weir downstream of the diversion. This new weir will allow PCCRC to measure Birch Creek base flows downstream of the diversion. The diversion consists of a concrete structure with three 10-foot-wide steel radial arm gates through the diversion to the B-Canal, one 10-foot-wide radial arm gate that returns flows back to the natural Birch Creek channel, and a long overflow weir that diverts flows back to Birch Creek below the diversion during flood events. The return-flow gate ensures consistent delivery to the BIA - Blackfeet Tribal Irrigation project, the Kingsbury Diversion, and the Ryan Lauffer Diversion. The current diversion gates are controlled manually via hand wheels.

Proposed Solution
Specific tasks include:

- Automate the diversion control gates;
- Install flow monitoring system;
- Install SCADA system; and
- Install a concrete weir.

Resource and Citizen Benefits Analysis
Resource benefits identified by this project include preservation of riparian and aquatic habitat, energy conservation and management of irrigation water. The improvements to this system would provide better management of the water flow for irrigators and allow PCCRC to better control water flow for downstream users and habitat areas. The upgrades to the system would improve the efficiency resulting in energy conservation. Agricultural producers and the local economy will benefit as a result of increased crop production. Improved water management would allow for more water to remain in the reservoir thus creating a better recreational experience.

Funding Recommendation
DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000 upon development and approval of the final scope of work, administration, budget, and funding package.

Project No. 7

Applicant Name	Madison County	
Project Name	Big Hole Watershed Restoration	
Amount Requested	$ 125,000	
Other Funding Source	$ 5,700	Applicant
Total Project Cost	$ 130,700	
Amount Recommended	$ 125,000	

Project History
The project is located near the Pennington Bridge on the Big Hole River located in Madison County. The river in the project area has experienced extensive migration and avulsion over the past 100 years and is a complex, wide floodplain with large bedload sizes and volumes that alter the river. The river's primary asset in the area is irrigation water, aquatic habitat, and recreational activities. The project area is dominated by a range of wetland and riparian ecological systems. Years of aggradation, sedimentation and erosion have created difficulties with retaining the Pennington and Burma Bridges on the lower Big Hole River that are impairing irrigation and recreation and degrading aquatic habitat.

Proposed Solution
Specific tasks include:

- Design and permit the three highest priority projects;
- Perform a topographic site survey and necessary field measurements; and
- Complete hydraulic analysis of the project area and river.

Resource and Citizen Benefits Analysis
Resource benefits were identified as improved surface water quality, preservation and improvement of aquatic and riparian habitat, and soil preservation due to decreased erosion. This project would also eliminate the need for river dredging. Citizen resource benefits were identified as improved recreation due to stabilization of the river system. Local economic benefits related to improved irrigation function for landowners.

The project appears to be located within sage grouse habitat designated for conservation under Executive Orders 12-2015 and 21-2015. If funded, the applicant will need to document consultation with the Montana Sage Grouse Habitat Conservation Program. Approval by the Montana Sage Grouse Oversight Team may be required before contracting with DNRC for grant funds.

Funding Recommendation
DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000 upon development and approval of the final scope of work, administration, budget, and funding package.

Project No. 8

Applicant Name	Ruby Valley Conservation District	
Project Name	Upper Jefferson Channel Restoration	
Amount Requested	$ 125,000	
Other Funding Sources	$ 201,325	ARPA Grant
	$ 5,000	DNRC Administrative Grant
	$ 817,500	USBOR WaterSmart Grant
	$ 40,000	MT FWP Future Fisheries Grant
Total Project Cost	$1,188,325	
Amount Recommended	$ 125,000	

Project History
The Jefferson River supports healthy fish and wildlife communities as well as numerous ranchers who make a living off the landscape in the Jefferson River Valley. The morphology of the Jefferson River includes a constantly evolving series of braided channels as the river naturally migrates across its floodplain. The natural evolution and migration of the river is threatening to abandon a side channel that conveys irrigation water to the Gideon-Root ditch.

The project aims to restore a separate side channel on the Jefferson River to better convey water, replacing irrigation infrastructure with a fish-friendly diversion and headgate, narrowing and re-grading the side channel to improve sediment transport and fish habitat, and manipulating a bank to improve connectivity between the Jefferson River and Hells Canyon Creek while directing flow toward the restored side channel.

Proposed Solution
Specific tasks include:

- Design and permit channel restoration;
- Replace irrigation infrastructure;
- Restore side channel and improve fish passage and habitat;
- Construct placement of gravel; and
- Reclamation of gravel piles at head of existing channel.

Resource and Citizen Benefits Analysis
This project is likely to have conservation, management, and preservation benefits to multiple renewable resources such as surface and groundwater, aquatic, riparian and wetland habitat, however, the applicant needs to complete a feasibility study and needs to define details of the plan. Irrigation efficiency will be improved to 800 acres of arable lands. Surface water and groundwater connectivity and groundwater storage will be improved in the new channel. The project has local economic and recreational benefits.

Funding Recommendation
DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000 upon development and approval of the final scope of work, administration, budget, and funding package.

Project No. 9

Applicant Name	Newlan Creek Water District	
Project Name	Newlan Creek Dam Safety Improvements	
Amount Requested	$ 125,000	
Other Funding Sources	$ 4,301	Applicant In-Kind
	$ 7,890	Applicant
Total Project Cost	$ 137,191	
Amount Recommended	$ 125,000	

Project History
The Newlan Creek Water District (NCWD) manages Newlan Creek Reservoir North of White Sulphur Springs and provides irrigation water in Meagher County. The dam has a total storage capacity of 14,030 acre-feet. Uses for the water include water storage for irrigation and flood control, flood prevention, recreation, fish and wildlife, and sediment control. The upstream guardian gate is leaking is reported to remain open approximately 2-inches. Water bypasses the gate and loses an estimated 2,984.8 acre-feet each year during the non-irrigation season. This water loss from storage cannot be used during the following irrigation season.
The DNRC Dam Safety Program issued a renewal of the five-year operating permit which included a permit condition requiring NCWD to repair or replace the gate if necessary. Water leaking into the outlet conduit from concrete pipe joints impacting soils in the dam embankment.

Proposed Solution
Specific tasks include:

- Rehabilitate guardian gate;
- Complete construction improvements to the gate hydraulic system; and
- Repair the outlet conduit.

Resource and Citizen Benefits Analysis
Repair of the gate will result in natural resource benefits by improving surface water management and allowing increased arable land development. Repairs will conserve 972,600,000-gallons of water per year during the non-irrigation season. The NCWD will be able to manage the water flowwith a new hydraulic pump on the gate more efficiently. Completing rehabilitation of the gate and outlet works will continue to support recreation and wildlife habitat.

Funding Recommendation
DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000 upon development and approval of the final scope of work, administration, budget, and funding package.

Project No. 10

Applicant Name	Savage Irrigation District	
Project Name	Pump Station Rehabilitation	
Amount Requested	$ 125,000	
	$ 386,000	Applicant
Total Project Cost	$ 511,000	
Amount Recommended	$ 125,000	

Project History
The Savage ID is proposing to rehabilitate their primary pumping plant from the Lower Yellowstone Irrigation Project Main Canal. The project is generally located about 3.8 miles southwest of Savage. The existing pump station is old, inefficient and has recently become difficult to keep running due to the age and obsolesce. The proposed improvements will conserve up to 15.5-cfs, making this pump station more efficient and leaving more water in the system for periods of drought and provide the full water right to many farmers when needed during drought conditions.

Proposed Solution
Specific tasks include:

- Replace west 250 HP pump;
- Install a primary pump, motor, and switchgear;
- Install VFD on the pump to allow more flexibility in pumping; and
- Install remote monitoring and control system.

Resource and Citizen Benefits Analysis
The completion of this project will result in single benefits to multiple resources. The replacement of the pumping plant and installation of a VFD will result in energy conservation. Additionally, the installation of remote monitoring and controls will allow the district to better manage the diverted surface water and provide for timely and effective deliveries. Timely delivery of water will result in increased crop production. A reduction in pumping and diversion demands and installation of remote monitoring and controls will reduce district travel thereby reducing the district's overall carbon footprint. Agricultural producers and the local economy will benefit as a result of increased crop production.

Funding Recommendation
DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000 upon development and approval of the final scope of work, administration, budget, and funding package

Project No. 11

Applicant Name	Pondera County Conservation District	
Project Name	PCCRC C-Canal Headworks Automation	
Amount Requested	$ 125,000	
Other Funding Sources	$ 368,867	PCCRC
Total Project Cost	$ 493,867	
Amount Recommended	$ 125,000	

Project History
The Pondera County Canal and Reservoir Company (PCCRC) operates the North Dike and Kunkle Drop sites located in Pondera County, MT. The proposed C-Canal Headworks Automation Project will address is the challenges operating the C-Canal inputs effectively. The headworks at the North Dike of Lake Frances require staff to be on-site multiple times each day, particularly during peak irrigation season, to monitor water levels and coordinate gate positions to match inflows and headwater elevations at each location to downstream demands. The combination of the improvements at each headworks site will allow full automation of C-Canal flows. The project will allow the PCCRC to conserve water, enhance management of the irrigation system, develop crop yield increased on existing irrigated acres, preserve aquatic habitat and the municipal water supply for Valier, Brady, and Conrad.

Proposed Solution
Specific tasks include:

- Install SCADA system at the North Dike location; and
- Install remote flow monitoring capabilities at Knuckle Drop.

Resource and Citizen Benefits Analysis
Resource benefits identified by this project include protection of riparian and aquatic habitat, energy conservation and management of irrigation system. The improvements to this system would provide water flow management for irrigators and allow PCCRC to better control water flow for downstream users and habitat areas. The upgrades to the system would also improve the energy conservation. Citizen benefits identified by this project include economic and recreation benefits.

Funding Recommendation
DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000 upon development and approval of the final scope of work, administration, budget, and funding package.

Project No. 12

Applicant Name	East Bench Irrigation District	
Project Name	Carter Creek Lining and Headgate Automation	
Amount Requested	$ 125,000	
	$ 251,593	Applicant
Total Project Cost	$ 376,593	
Amount Recommended	$ 125,000	

Project History
The East Bench ID is in southwest Montana in Beaverhead County. Water stored at Clark Canyon Reservoir is diverted into the East Bench Canal to provide irrigation to 17,200 acres of irrigable land on East Bench. The East Bench ID has identified the Carter Creek and Wilson Check Structures as critical water distribution infrastructure that need rehabilitation because of water management concerns, safety hazards, leakage, and difficult to operate structures. To ensure adequate water is delivered to irrigators, flows are increased in the canal by over 20-cfs and much of this additional flow is subsequently spilled through wasteways and lost to the system. The East Bench ID found 600 feet of the main canal upstream of the Carter Creek check structure cannot efficiently convey water to the users of the system because of leakage. Seepage from the canal has saturated a portion of the canal bank, making it unstable and prone to failure.

Construction activities will include installation of new gear boxes, low-voltage motors and a solar-powered automation system. The proposed project will also install 600 feet of new liner in the main canal to improve water management and eliminate seepage. Construction activities will include cleaning and reshaping the canal prism, the installation of a liner system, keying in the liner system into each bank of the canal, gluing or heat bonding the liner seams, the installation of ballast in the bottom of the canal, and minor grading.

Proposed Solution
Specific tasks include:

- Install canal lining; and
- Install solar powered check structure and gate automation components.

Resource and Citizen Benefits Analysis
This project will have singular benefits to multiple resources. The project will increase the ID's ability to manage the surface water diverted from Carter and Wilson Creek with the addition of remote monitoring and control capabilities. They will divert at lower rate preserving surface water quality through reduced sedimentation in return flows into the Beaverhead and Ruby rivers. Agricultural producers and the local economy will benefit as a result of increased crop production.

Funding Recommendation
DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000 upon development and approval of the final scope of work, administration, budget, and funding package.

Project No. 13

Applicant Name:	Buffalo Rapids Irrigation Project District 1	
Project Name:	Eiker Reach Canal Rehabilitation	
Amount Requested:	$ 125,000	
Other Funding Sources	$ 144,985	Applicant In-Kind
Total Project Cost:	$ 269,985	
Amount Recommended:	$ 125,000	

Project History
The Buffalo Rapids Irrigation Project District 1 (BRIPD1) lies in southeastern Montana spanning from Miles City to Glendive, covering nearly 64 miles. BRIPD1 supplies nearly 28,000 acres with irrigation water from two districts. District 1 is between Glendive and Fallon along the north side of the Yellowstone River, where this project is located. The water delivery system for District 1 consists of a 34-mile Main Canal, 24 laterals, and 26 drains.

The project targets the "Eiker Reach" of the Shirley Main Canal near the lower third of the delivery system. The Eiker Reach has historically experienced severe seepage and conveyance losses resulting in damage to adjacent acres and poor irrigation delivery efficiency to nearly 4,000 acres downstream of the reach. The project is to install seepage abatement measures in the form of a canal liner through the Eiker Reach (approx. 4,400 linear feet) along with replacement of the existing headgate structures.

Proposed Solution
- Install new geomembrane liner and headgates.

Resource and Citizen Benefits Analysis
Implementation of this project will have individual benefits to multiple resources. The installation of canal lining and replacement of headgate structures will increase the district's ability to manage the diverted surface water by providing adequate and timely water delivery for 4,000 acres. Adequate water delivery will increase crop production on existing acres and put saturated acres back into production.
Agricultural producers and the local economy will benefit as a result of increased crop production.

Funding Recommendation
DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000 upon development and approval of the final scope of work, administration, budget, and funding package.

Project No. 14

Applicant Name	Hill County	
Project Name	Beaver Creek Dam Tailwater Channel Restoration	
Amount Requested	$ 125,000	
Other Funding Sources	$ 22,000	Applicant
Total Project Cost	$ 147,000	
Amount Recommended	$ 125,000	

Project History
Located approximately 10 miles south of Havre in Hill County, Beaver Creek Reservoir is one of the two reservoirs within the boundaries of Beaver Creek Park. Owned by Hill County, Beaver Creek Park is the largest county park by area in the U.S. and is a popular recreation destination.

Previous dam inspections recommended performing a hydraulic analysis of the tailwater conditions for the Saint Anthony Falls (SAF) stilling basin. It was suspected that downstream channel conditions have degraded, widened and down cut, reducing tailwater depths against the stilling basin, causing it to be less efficient at energy dissipation. The analysis confirmed the channel needs repair. The tailwater channel is integral to the function of the SAF stilling basin and principal spillway. If the tailwater channel is left in its current state, it will continue to degrade and erode the channel banks. This leads to further erosion and scour around the stilling basin. A worst-case scenario would be that the erosion in the stilling basin reaches a point that it compromises the principal spillway and toe of the dam embankment, leading to dam failure. This scenario could mean catastrophic flooding of the downstream area, including campgrounds, residential areas, and agricultural land. Irrigators downstream who depend on water stored by Beaver Creek Reservoir to sustain crops through the dry Montana summers would not be serviced.

Proposed Solution
Specific tasks include:

- Install riprap and geotextile material;
- Install cast in place concrete cutoff wall; and
- Revegetate stilling basin area and install improvements.

Resource and Citizen Benefits Analysis
The resource benefits identified in this project include preservation of wetland and riparian habitat downstream of the dam. Arable land would be protected from potential flooding. The citizen benefits include health and safety due to protection from flooding, a local economic benefit is also attributed to this project due to better management of the system. Stable water levels will benefit recreation in the area.

Funding Recommendation
DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000 upon development and approval of the final scope of work, administration, budget, and funding package.

Project No. 15

Applicant Name	Granite Conservation District	
Project Name	Allendale Ditch Rehabilitation	
Amount Requested	$ 125,000	
Other Funding Sources	$ 125,000	ARPA Grant
Total Project Cost	$ 250,000	
A**mount Recommended**	$ 125,000	

Project History
The Allendale Ditch Company's distribution network is southwest of Drummond in Granite County. It includes a 5.5-mile main canal fed by Flint Creek and is owned and operated by the Allendale Ditch Company which delivers water to 15 users for irrigation of approximately 3,600 acres. Over time, the existing ditch has become susceptible to seepage. The ditches must be improved to reduce ditch loss and extend the life of the system. Catastrophic failures are imminent, but the proposed upgrades and repairs will solve problems throughout the system to conserve water and maximize use of the resource. Seepage is particularly severe on the south end of the network, which experiences the highest initial flows. Drop structures on the north end of the network are beginning to fail after more than 50 years of service and high rates of ditch loss require more water to be drawn from the source. Flint Creek is designated as an impaired water body for both aquatic life and drinking water purposes as existing sediment loads are currently over three times the desired levels from erosion.

Proposed Solution
Specific tasks include:

- Remove five historic drop structures;
- Install 750 linear feet of 24-inch pipe to replace drop structures; and
- Install 2,250 linear feet of ditch liner.

Resource and Citizen Benefits Analysis
Resource benefits identified in this project include preservation of surface water quality due to decrease in sediment from erosion. Wildlife and aquatic habitat will also be protected with managed water flows. These benefits are regional due to Flint Creek flowing into the Clark Fork River. Citizen benefits identified in this project include health and safety by improving the surface water quality of the Flint Creek and Clark Fork River water users. Citizen benefits include improved recreation. The Clark Fork River is a popular recreational river for fishing, floating, and camping.

Funding Recommendation
DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000 upon development and approval of the final scope of work, administration, budget, and funding package.

Project No. 16

Applicant Name	Blaine County	
Project Name	NCIA North Chinook Reservoir Outlet Rehabilitation	
Amount Requested	$ 125,000	
Other Funding Sources	$ 152,501	NCIA
Total Project Cost	$ 277,501	
Amount Recommended	$ 125,000	

Project History
The North Chinook Reservoir is about 13 miles northwest of the City of Chinook in Blaine County. The reservoir is used for storage and regulation of water diverted from Lodge Creek and is operated by the North Chinook Irrigation Association (NCIA). NCIA serves 1,948 acres and 9 water users. The NCIA system was constructed between 1899 and 1905; the outlet structure was most recently rehabilitated around 1950. Due to its age, the reservoir outlet pipe has developed holes and a sag. Furthermore, the gate system no longer seals, allowing an applicant-estimated 2 to 5 cubic-feet per second of water to discharge from the reservoir even when the gate is closed. At times during the irrigation season, NCIA personnel are unavailable to make these adjustments, resulting in either several days' worth of excess water being released or insufficient water for irrigation needs. The project objective is to conserve water by repairing the reservoir outlet structure and improve operating efficiency by installing a remote monitoring and control system on the reservoir outlet.

Proposed Solution
Specific tasks include:

- Replace headwall, end wall, outlet pipe, and gate;
- Install SCADA system; and
- Install associated automation equipment and training.

Resource and Citizen Benefits Analysis
Completion of this project will have two benefits to two resources. It will enhance management of surface water and development of arable land by continuing to provide water to 1,948 acres of irrigated land. These are localized benefits to the area. Citizens may benefit through increased recreational opportunities on the large reservoir.

The project appears to be located within sage grouse habitat designated for conservation under Executive Orders 12-2015 and 21-2015. If funded, the applicant will need to document consultation with the Montana Sage Grouse Habitat Conservation Program. Approval by the Montana Sage Grouse Oversight Team may be required before contracting with DNRC for grant funds.

Funding Recommendation
DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000 upon development and approval of the final scope of work, administration, budget, and funding package.

Project No. 17

Applicant Name	Paradise Valley Irrigation District	
Project Name	Hillside Ditch Pipeline Conversion, Phase 2	
Amount Requested	$ 125,000	
Other Funding Sources	$ 366,817	Applicant
Total Project Cost	$ 491,817	
Amount Recommended	$ 125,000	

Project History
The Hillside Ditch is a 3.2-mile irrigation canal lateral located about 5.5 miles southeast of Chinook. Hillside Ditch is operated by the Paradise Valley ID, which diverts water from the Milk River and is part of the Milk River Irrigation Project. The last two miles of the Hillside Ditch are constructed in soils prone to leaking substantial quantities of water, which led to the design of a ditch-to-pipeline conversion project by the NRCS. In 2010, the first l mile of the Hillside Ditch was converted to pipeline, but the second mile remains an open canal. The remaining un-piped mile of Hillside Ditch leads to approximately 500 acres of cropland being under-irrigated due to leakage and evapotranspiration losses from the ditch.

Proposed Solution
Specific tasks include:

- Convert a 1-mile-long reach of the Hillside Ditch to a pipeline.

Resource and Citizen Benefits Analysis
The completion of this project will result in single benefits to multiple resources. The replacement of an open, seeping canal with pipe will provide better management of surface water for on-farm delivery. Benefits are identified as preservation of surface water quality with reduced return flows in the Milk River, increased in crop production on existing acres and increased number of irrigated acres and energy conservation through reduced pumping demands. Agricultural producers and the local economy will benefit as a result of increased crop production.

The project appears to be located within sage grouse habitat designated for conservation under Executive Orders 12-2015 and 21-2015. If funded, the applicant will need to document consultation with the Montana Sage Grouse Habitat Conservation Program. Approval by the Montana Sage Grouse Oversight Team may be required before contracting with DNRC for grant funds.

Funding Recommendation
DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000 upon development and approval of the final scope of work, administration, budget, and funding package

Project No.18

Applicant Name	Huntley Project Irrigation District	
Project Name	Highline Discharge Line Replacement	
Amount Requested:	$ 125,000	
Other Funding Sources	$ 870,244	Applicant In-Kind
	$ 995,214	USBR WaterSmart Grant
Total Project Cost	$1,990,458	
Amount Recommended	$ 125,000	

Project History
Huntley Project ID is in Yellowstone County 10 miles east of Billings and runs along the south side of the Yellowstone River. Huntley Project ID includes the towns of Huntley, Worden, Ballantine, and Pompey's Pillar. Huntley Project ID is a USBR facility built in 1905 to serve 32,500 acres of irrigable land and over 1,200 landowners between Huntley and Pompey's Pillar. The improvements will correct a major conveyance inefficiency within the system and eliminate leakage losses of 3,505 acre-feet of water lost annually, directly attributed to the discharge line. Not only does the discharge line lose water due to leakage, but it also restricts the amount of flow that can be conveyed to the Highline Canal. Increasing the carrying capacity of the Highline Canal Discharge Line would increase the efficiency of the entire irrigation system. The project also supplies Anita Reservoir with water to support wildlife habitat and recreation. Water conservation from the project will increase instream flows in the Yellowstone River periodically through the summer, benefitting the pallid sturgeon and whooping crane, both endangered species in the Yellowstone River along with numerous migratory birds.

Proposed Solution
Specific tasks include:

- Install 1,900 feet of 36-inch HDPE pipe.

Resource and Citizen Benefits Analysis
Completion of this project will result in singular benefits to multiple resources. The rehabilitation of the discharge pipeline will increase crop production and develop additional acres of arable land, increase management of surface water and preserve aquatic and wildlife habitat. A reduced need for higher flows will reduce energy consumption thereby reducing the district's overall carbon footprint. Agricultural producers and the local economy will benefit as a result of increased crop production.

Funding Recommendation
DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000 upon development and approval of the final scope of work, administration, budget, and funding package.

Project No. 19

Applicant Name	Tin Cup Water and Sewer District	
Project Name	Tin Cup and Mill Ditch Improvements	
Amount Requested	$ 125,000	
Other Funding Sources	$ 185,000	ARPA Grant
	$ 40,000	Applicant
Total Project Cost	$ 350,000	
Amount Recommended	$ 125,000	

Project History
The Tin Cup WSD has submitted an RRGL application on behalf of the Tin Cup ID and the Mill Ditch Irrigation Company to make improvements to the irrigation delivery system associated with the Tin Cup Dam. Numerous projects have been implemented in the past to improve and maintain the irrigation system, but additional work is needed. The existing Bunkhouse diversion structure experiences significant leakage, wasting surface water and preventing accurate management of flows in the ditch network. In addition, a 40-foot-wide existing diversion dam that diverts water from Tin Cup Creek to the Mill Ditch Irrigation Company's network is unsafe and ineffective. The dam splashboards are manually erected each year, requiring operators to enter the creek at peak flows to insert weir boards. The existing concrete spillway at the Tin Cup Dam has been damaged from rocks falling onto the splashpad.

Proposed Solution
Specific tasks include:

- Replace the bunkhouse diversion structure
- Install measuring devices;
- Replace the existing Mill Ditch diversion with a mechanically operated dam; and
- Fabricate and install steel cover.

Resource and Citizen Benefits Analysis
Resource benefits identified in the project include management of the water resource and arable lands preservation. This project would allow the district to better manage the water resource to decrease water needed to be diverted from Tin Cup Creek. Agricultural producers and the local economy will benefit as a result of increased crop production.

Funding Recommendation
DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000 upon development and approval of the final scope of work, administration, budget, and funding package.

Project No. 20

Applicant Name	Billings, City of	
Project Name	BBWA Rim Tunnel Rehabilitation	
Amount Requested	$ 125,000	
Other Funding Sources	$ 13,000	BBWA
Total Project Cost	$ 138,000	
Amount Recommended	$ 125,000	

Project History

The Billings Bench Water Association (BBWA) diverts water from the Yellowstone River to serve more than 16,000 shareholders in the City of Billings and surrounding area and to irrigate about 17,000 acres for crops, livestock, recreation, city parks, golf courses, schools, and yards. The BBWA's Rim Tunnel was constructed in 1905 to convey water through a sandstone outcrop on the north side of Billings called The Rims. Portions of the tunnel have a concrete floor, concrete half walls and timber post and beams to support the upper wall and roof. The Rim Tunnel, exhibits serious problems, including deteriorating timbers and unstable sections. Consequently, the Rim Tunnel needs extensive repairs to reduce the risk of continued degradation or catastrophic failure. A blockage in the tunnel could result in a canal breach and embankment collapse in the downtown Billings area.

The BBWA has already experienced several major canal breaches resulting in downstream flooding and damage of residential, commercial and city property. The Yellowstone County Disaster and Emergency Services (DES) has identified potential loss of life and economic damages in the range of tens of millions of dollars.

Proposed Solution

Specific tasks include:

- Analyze existing studies and engineering reports;
- Conduct surveys and structural assessments to evaluate the tunnel's structural integrity;
- Develop and evaluate alternatives to modernize the tunnel; and
- Conduct stakeholder outreach and engagement and develop a funding plan.

Resource and Citizen Benefits Analysis

The project will improve management of surface water. This project will lead to the construction to improve the tunnel and result in improved surface water management, water conservation, increased conveyance efficiency, improved public safety, groundwater recharge, maintain an irrigation source to 1,700 acres of arable land, and maintain the delivery of water to Lake Elmo, preserving fish habitat in Lake Elmo. These potential natural resource benefits are not the direct result of the study.

Funding Recommendation

DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000 upon development and approval of the final scope of work, administration, budget, and funding package. The DNRC requires the applicant to complete a feasibility study on the overall system that includes a risk assessment of the Rim Tunnel and existing facilities prior to prioritizing funds for a comprehensive geotechnical investigation on the Rim Tunnel to repair or modernize the facility. The investigation is required to include modernization costs along with the anticipated lifespan of the Rim Tunnel and the risks to downstream residents factored before fully committing funds to a geotechnical investigation.

CHAPTER III
Coal Severance Tax Loans to Public Entities

Application Administration and Project Review Procedures
Applications for public loans are accepted by the Department of Natural Resource and Conservation (DNRC) Resource Development Bureau (RDB) until May 15 of each even-numbered year concurrently with the are due from public applicants under this program. These loans are provided with proceeds from the sale of Coal Severance Tax (CST) secured bonds and are offered at a subsidized interest rate. The subsidy is paid with coal tax revenues.

Project Solicitation
Applications for public loans are solicited through the public grant applications described in **Chapter II**. The availability of low-interest loan funds is widely advertised through press releases and contacts made during promotional workshops conducted jointly by DNRC, Montana Department of Commerce, and Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). The same application form can be used for both grant and loan applications.

Application Review
All public loan applications are evaluated for completeness. Those missing documentation, application fees, or other basic requirements are notified and allowed time to submit additional material. After applications are reviewed for completeness and any additional information needed has been obtained from the sponsor, completed applications are given to the review team for evaluation. Loan applications are reviewed to determine financial, environmental, and technical feasibility, as well as renewable resource and citizen benefits.

Funding Recommendations
Feasible public loan applications receive a funding recommendation if the applicant demonstrates the ability to repay the loan. DNRC's recommendation includes the amount of financing needed to meet project and financing expenses and a suggested interest rate. The loans have no maximum allowable funding levels. Public loans are limited to the amount the applicant can repay under standard repayment terms and by DNRC's bonding capacity. Loans can be reauthorized from prior sessions.

Availability of Loan Funds
In 1981, the Legislature adopted Senate Bill 409 to provide up to $250 million in Montana CST bonds. CST bonds are issued for financing projects and activities specifically authorized by the Legislature. Statutes dictate that loans made from CST bond proceeds are to be administered by DNRC, and that DNRC is to review each application to determine its technical and financial feasibility.

Although the legislation was adopted in 1981, CST loans were not issued for the first three years since the constitutionality of the state's bonding authority under this program was initially challenged. In February 1984, the Montana Supreme Court ruled in the state's favor in *Grossman v. State of Montana*, and the first Montana CST bond was sold to finance loans during that same year.

In September 1985, the Board of Examiners adopted a general resolution pursuant to which all subsequent CST bonds have been issued. A copy of this resolution may be obtained from DNRC. The general resolution requires that the bonds issued be secured on a parity basis. This means that all subsequent CST bond issues have the same rights on proceeds flowing into the trust fund to pay bondholders. However, to assure bondholders there will always be enough CST revenue to meet debt service payments, the general resolution restricts the cumulative amount of bonds that can be issued. This restriction is more constraining than the $250 million statutory limit. The general resolution does not allow any additional CST bonds to be issued if annual debt payments exceed 50% of the CST revenue allocated to the trust, plus 50% of the loan repayments received from local government borrowers.

Loan Repayment
CST revenue is used to pay the difference between payments received from local government borrowers and the state CST bond payments. The CST bonds are paid with revenue from payments from local government borrowers along with CST proceeds.

To implement these repayment provisions, the statute established a fund structure within the permanent coal tax trust fund. 50% of CST proceeds flowing to the permanent trust fund are first deposited in the CST bond fund. A portion of the proceeds deposited in the bond fund is transferred to the debt service account to pay for the interest rate subsidies. An amount equal to a year's debt service payment on all CST bonds is held in reserve in the bond fund.

The interest earnings are transferred to the CST income fund. These interest earnings are then transferred to the general fund.

DNRC currently has 43 CST Loans that are currently outstanding as of September 1, 2022 **(Table 2)**. The total amount outstanding is $14,414,579.

Table 2 Coal Severance Tax Loans/Resource Development Public Loan Balances as of September 1, 2022

Belt, Town of	$ 401,440		Libby, City of	$ 157,602
Bigfork County WSD	$ 770,370		Libby, City of	$ 516,987
Brady County WSD	$ 82,675		Lima, Town of	$ 320,412
Bridger Pines WSD	$ 727,821		Lockwood WSD	$ 534,645
Bridger, Town of	$ 51,689		Lockwood WSD	$ 236,164
DNRC-Ackley Lake Dam Rehabilitation	$ 70,117		Malta ID	$ 182,677
DNRC-Cottonwood, Middle Creek WU	$ 550,456		Manhattan, Town of	$ 637,596
DNRC-Deadmans Basin WUA	$ 11,538		Medicine Lake, Town of	$ 237,988
DNRC-Deadmans Basin WUA	$ 181,003		Mill Creek ID	$ 229,525
DNRC-Deadmans Basin WUA	$ 367,425		Moore, Town of	$ 117,594
DNRC-East Fork Siphon	$ 130,530		Riverside County WSD	$ 296,820
DNRC-North Fork of the Smith WUA	$ 89,411		Ronan, Town of	$ 439,536
DNRC-Nevada Creek Dam	$ 30,221		St. Ignatius, Town of	$ 12,996
DNRC-Ruby Dam	$ 1,061,791		Sunburst, Town of	$ 10,036
DNRC-Ruby River WUA	$ 1,014,283		Sunburst, Town of	$ 92,475
DNRC-Ruby River WUA	$ 1,023,866		Ten Mile Creek Estates Pleasant Valley	$ 171,686
Froid, Town of	$ 125,062		Ten Mile Creek Estates Pleasant Valley	$ 158,772
Harlowton, City of	$ 722,061		Thompson Falls, City of	$ 134,630
Highwood County WSD	$ 104,590		Troy, City of	$ 1,346,893
Hysham, Town of	$ 363,878		Upper Musselshell WUA	$ 30,329
Lewis and Clark, East Clark Street WSD	$ 166,144		Vaughn Cascade County WSD	$ 47,352
Lewistown, Town of	$ 39,511		Yellowstone Boys & Girls Ranch WSD	$ 637,993
			Total	**$14,636,590**

Interest Rates

Loans may be provided at a rate less than the rate at which the state bond is sold for all or part of the term. During the financial review of each loan application, DNRC prepares a funding recommendation that includes a recommended interest rate. Recommendations are developed to be consistent with past direction provided by the Long-Range Planning Subcommittee of the Legislature.

The basic interest rate on CST loans is determined by the bond market at the time CST bonds are sold. The rate of interest on most loans from the program will vary in accordance with the rate on the state CST bonds. The basic rate of interest for each public loan financed from the proceeds of a single bond issue is the same. Subsidies vary, depending on legislative authorization.

Project Management

DNRC reviews each public loan application to determine if the project is technically and financially feasible. A project is considered financially feasible if sufficient funds can be made available to complete the project, and if sufficient revenue can be obtained to repay the loan and to operate, maintain, and replace the project. After a public loan is authorized by the Legislature and the project sponsor is ready to secure financing, DNRC performs a review of the applicant's ability to repay the loan. At this time DNRC may require access to the applicant's most recent financial statement, budget documents, and other documentation to assess if the proposed project is financially feasible.

A loan agreement is prepared and executed to make specific requirements and covenants with respect to the project being financed if the borrower provides documentation to the ability to repay a loan and all legal

requirements to incur debt are met. Borrowers must acquire all property rights necessary for the project including easements required for a project's construction, operation, and maintenance. As appropriate, these and other stipulations also are contained in a bond resolution. Unless otherwise authorized, each loan, including principal and interest, shall be payable over a term approved by DNRC not to exceed the term authorized by the Legislature.

Each borrower must agree not to sell, transfer, lease, or otherwise encumber the project, any portion of the project, or interest in the project without DNRC's prior written consent. Further, the borrower must notify DNRC of any changes or modifications in a project both before and during construction. Borrowers are required to acquire and maintain, with respect to the project, property, casualty, and liability insurance. Insurance policies must name DNRC as a certificate holder for notification purposes.

Local government revenue bonds borrowers must establish a system fund to segregate the revenue of the system or district. Within the system or district fund, the following accounts are generally established: construction account, operating account, revenue bond account, bond reserve account, replacement and reserve account, and surplus account. These accounts ensure that the system's revenue and other funds are properly applied in a manner reasonably satisfactory to DNRC.

Loans are disbursed by the state treasurer in accordance with the provisions of this rule and the bond resolution. No disbursement of any loan funds shall be made unless DNRC has received from the borrower: 1) a duly adopted and executed bond resolution in a form acceptable to DNRC; 2) an executed bond in a principal amount equal to the loan amount, also in a form acceptable to DNRC; 3) a certificate from an official of the governmental unit stating that no litigation is threatened or pending that would challenge the governmental unit's authority to undertake the project, to incur the loan, to issue the bonds, and to collect revenue; 4) an opinion from the bond counsel that the bond is a valid and binding obligation of the borrower payable in accordance with its terms; and 5) any other closing certificates or documents that DNRC or the bond counsel may require.

Project Monitoring

Borrowers must maintain proper and adequate records of accounts that show the complete and correct entries of all receipts, disbursements and other transactions related to the project and, if applicable, the monthly gross revenue derived from the project's operation. Any segregation and application of the gross revenue resolution must also be shown in reasonable detail as determined by the borrower to be in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices and principles.

Projects are closely monitored during construction for compliance with approval contract documents and the loan agreement. The loan agreement requires an annual financial report for the life of the loan.

CHAPTER IV
Renewable Resource Grants and Loans to Private Entities

Grant Application Administration and Project Review Procedures
Applications for water-related projects from any individual, association, for-profit corporation, or not-for-profit corporation, may be considered for funding. Only water-related projects may be funded. Projects must have quantifiable benefits that will exceed costs. Projects must also provide public benefits in addition to any private benefits.

Grant Project Solicitation
To solicit applications from private entities that provide significant public benefits, the DNRC Conservation and Resource Development Division (CARDD) has chosen to target public water systems operated by private water user associations, small agricultural projects that need help, and individuals mandated to upgrade their private septic systems. The agricultural projects have included inspection on private high-hazard dams, and water measuring devices on chronically dewatered streams. Dam and water measuring projects were solicited by the Dam Safety Bureau and the Water Management Bureau of the Water Resources Division of the DNRC. In addition to the projects solicited by the above-mentioned organizations, DNRC also accepts applications at any time from any water system. Grantees are given one year to complete the project.

Grant Application Review
All applications received by CARDD are evaluated and ranked by the staff of the Resource Development Bureau (RDB) according to the extent each application presents a project that is critically needed, will protect public health, provides opportunities for resource conservation, and improves the environment. Applications received by the Dam Safety Bureau and Water Management Bureau are reviewed and submitted to the RDB staff with a recommendation. All applicants must hold or be able to acquire all necessary lands other than public lands and interests in the lands and water rights necessary for the construction, operation, and maintenance of the project.

Criteria for evaluating private grants are similar to the criteria outlined in Chapter II for public grants. As with public grants, private grants are also evaluated to determine the potential adverse environmental impacts. Projects that would result in significant impacts would not be recommended for funding until an environmental assessment or an environmental impact study has been completed. Recommendations are made to minimize impacts and to ensure that appropriate steps are taken to protect the environment. Any potable water system project must be approved by the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to ensure that it meets state standards.

Grant Funding Recommendations
According to the Montana Constitution, the Legislature may not appropriate funds to private individuals. However, state entities have the authority to distribute public funds to private individuals. To provide for private grants, the 1993 Legislature appropriated $100,000 to DNRC to fund grants for private entities. Since 1993, with the exceptions of the 2003 and 2015 sessions, the Legislature has appropriated funds each biennium for grants to private entities.

RDB staff reviews and screens grant requests to determine whether the proposed projects are technically and financially feasible and will make recommendations based on criteria outlined in statute. DNRC will not recommend feasibility studies, research, and/or public information projects for funding. By law, grant funding for any project may not exceed 50% of the total estimated cost of the project up to a maximum amount depending on funding.

Grant Project Management
RDB staff notifies applicants of their funding status after approval. DNRC does not reimburse any project cost incurred before a formal funding agreement is executed.

Grant Project Monitoring
The project grant contract agreement between DNRC and the project sponsor includes monitoring procedures to ensure that the project meets program intent. The equivalent of one full-time staff administers active private grants and private loans. Budget and staffing constraints preclude site involvement by RDB staff at all projects.

Project sponsors must: (1) pay all project costs, (2) submit a claim and obtain a reimbursement of allowable costs from DNRC, or (3) arrange for an advance of funds. Invoices may be submitted monthly, and all costs must be supported by invoices, receipts, or both.

Grant Project Evaluation
Grant agreements require expenditure reports and a final report. During the contract term, the project sponsor must submit quarterly reports to RDB staff. These reports must reflect the percentage of the project completed, project costs to date, any problems encountered, and the need for any amendment to the grant contract. In response to changes in project scope of work, timeline, or budget, amendments to the grant agreement may be prepared and issued. Amendments will continue to be the technique used to modify projects to adjust for changes in scope, budget, or timeliness.

DNRC approved 13 private grants, totaling $38,719.38, during FY 2021 and FY 2022 (**Table 3**).

Table 3 Private Grant Applications Approved Fiscal Year 2021 and Fiscal Year 2022

Location of Project				Location of Project		
City	**County**	**Amount**		**City**	**County**	**Amount**
Columbia Falls	Flathead	$1,031.25		Bozeman	Gallatin	$5,000.00
Helena	Lewis and Clark	$1,903.50		Hamilton	Ravalli	$2,505.64
Helena	Lewis and Clark	$5,000.00		Great Falls	Cascade	$4,497.50
Helena	Lewis and Clark	$1,198.29		Helena	Lewis and Clark	$4,235.00
Helena	Lewis and Clark	$2,344.90				
Helena	Lewis and Clark	$2,693.29				
Bozeman	Gallatin	$5,000.00				
Helena	Lewis and Clark	$1,133.75				
Helena	Lewis and Clark	$2,175.50				
					Total	**$38,719.38**

Private Loan Application and Project Review Procedures
Loan funding became available in 1981 when the Legislature earmarked $350,000 under the former Renewable Resource Development program to finance loans to private individuals. DNRC was given the authority to issue general obligation bonds to finance private loans. Loans to private individuals must promote and advance the beneficial use of water and allow Montana citizens to fully use state waters.

Loan Project Solicitation
DNRC solicits applications for loan funds through staff presentations at various industry functions, press releases, public meetings, and word of mouth. Irrigation equipment dealers, Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) offices, and conservation districts also promote the program.

Loan Application Review
Loan applications may be submitted at any time. Financial Development Bureau (FDB) staff reviews the application for completeness and requests additional information when needed. Technical aspects of the project are usually completed by NRCS or a private engineer. If the project is not designed by a qualified professional, FDB staff will closely review the project design and specifications. Financial review is completed by FDB staff and includes an evaluation of the applicant's financial strengths, weaknesses, and risk-taking capacity. The review also includes an evaluation of the security offered and a determination of the relative security position. All of these factors are considered in the recommendation to the loan committee.

Loan Funding Recommendations
Projects must be technically and economically feasible and must pay for themselves over the life of the installation through water savings, increased crop production, or other measurable benefits. Applications that meet feasibility and eligibility criteria are funded if the applicant demonstrates the ability to repay the loan.

The maximum loan amount allowable for private individuals under the Renewable Resource Loan program is $400,000. The 1997 Legislature amended the statute to allow DNRC to accept applications and loan funds to water user associations. These loans are limited to $3,000,000 rather than the $400,000 for private individuals. Loans are for a term not longer than either 30 years or the estimated useful life of the equipment purchased, or materials installed. For new irrigation equipment, the allowable term is 15 years; for used irrigation equipment, the term usually is 10 years or shorter.

Availability of Loan Funds
DNRC has authority to issue up to $30 million in general obligation Renewable Resource bonds to finance private loans. Changes made by the 1995 Legislature allow DNRC to have up to $30 million of general obligation Renewable Resource bonds outstanding. To finance loans, DNRC sells bonds. Since the program's inception until June 30, 2022, bonds totaling about $60 million have been issued to finance private loans. Presently, $14,636,590 in loans are outstanding.

Interest Rates
The rate of interest on the state's general obligation bond determines the interest rate for private loans. The basic rate for private loans has varied from 3.30% to 9.50% since the inception of the program in the 1980's.

Tax law affects the interest rate. Before 1986, state bonds sold to finance DNRC projects were tax-exempt. The tax law of 1986 prohibited the use of tax-free bonds to finance private ventures. Although bond sales to finance private projects are now subject to federal tax, they remain exempt from Montana State tax.

In addition to interest costs, borrowers also pay a share of bond issuance costs proportionate to the percentage of the bond used to finance their loans. Closing costs include a $150 nonrefundable application fee and title insurance. Higher interest rates and issuance cost charges have made private loans less attractive than those offered when the program first started. Although less attractive, private loans remain competitive with conventional financing because the rate on taxable bonds maybe slightly lower than interest rates obtainable from conventional financing. DNRC loans also provide financing at a fixed interest rate for a period longer than that available to borrowers through their local financial institutions. Longer terms and competitive fixed interest rates, in most cases, continue to make these loans attractive to borrowers interested in long-term financing for major equipment or system purchases.

Loan Project Management

Borrowers must acquire all property rights necessary for the project, including rights-of-way and interest in land needed for the construction, operation, and maintenance of the project. Title insurance, a title opinion, or other documents showing the ownership of the land, mortgages, encumbrances, or other liens must be provided to DNRC.

Loans must be secured with real property valued higher than the loan amount requested. According to statute, security equal to at least 125% of the loan value is required. Loans may be secured with a first or second real estate mortgage, an assignment of accounts receivable, certificates of deposit, or similar securities, or other security as accepted by DNRC. To adequately secure the state's interest, DNRC requires a security equal in value to at least 150% of the loan. For example, a loan application for $100,000 would require real estate security of $150,000. DNRC will accept a second mortgage on property if the state's interest can be adequately secured. DNRC may require an appraisal of real property used for securing a loan. Cost of the appraisal must be paid by the applicant.

After an application is approved for financing, interim financing may be secured by the applicant, with interest costs included in the DNRC loan financing. The Renewable Resource Loan program does not refinance existing loans; only new ventures are eligible.

Loans to private entities are disbursed by the state treasurer. Before disbursement can occur, all loan documents must be properly signed, security documents must be filed with the county clerk and recorder, the final title insurance policy must be in force, and an invoice must be submitted by the borrower to document the use of funds.

Loan Project Monitoring
Project construction is monitored by NRCS if the project includes a federal cost-share, and by the borrower because he has a vested interest in the successful completion of the project. The FDB staff monitors project construction through field visits, when possible.

Borrowers must maintain proper and adequate records of accounts that show the complete and correct entries of all receipts, disbursements, and other transactions related to the project. If applicable, borrowers must document the monthly gross revenue derived from project operations. Any segregation and application of the gross revenue resolution also must be shown in such reasonable detail, as may be determined by the borrower in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices and principles.

Loan Project Evaluation
FDB staff conducts ongoing monitoring to evaluate the projects funded under the Renewable Resource Loan program. FDB staff will continue to review each final report that documents whether the project successfully completed the objectives outlined in the original application and as specified in the loan agreement.

Private Loan Projects Previously Funded
As of June 30, 2020, 568 private loans had been approved under the Renewable Resource Loan program. DNRC approved 10 private loans in FY 2021 and FY 2022 (**Table 4**). Loans have been used to finance new and refurbished irrigation systems, and for irrigation wells in these locations.

TABLE 4 Private Loan Applications to Individuals Approved Fiscal Year 2021 and Fiscal Year 2022

City	County	Loan Amount
Power	Teton	$86,300
Townsend	Broadwater	$147,919
Miles City	Custer	$254,835
Savage	Richland	$253,569
Harrison	Madison	$230,000
Two Dot	Wheatland	$205,249
Billings	Yellowstone	$400,000
Richland	Valley	$242,328
Choteau	Teton	$400,000
Power	Teton	$277,000
	TOTAL	**$2,497,200**

CHAPTER V
Irrigation Development Grants

Background
The Irrigation Development Grants (IDG) Program was initiated by the 1999 Legislature to foster development of new irrigation projects and production of high-value crops. Program staff provides financial and technical assistance to government and private entities in the development and the sustainment of irrigation infrastructure issues throughout the state.

Grants from this program range from $1,000 to $20,000 per project. Project examples include sponsoring grant-writing workshops; purchasing water measurement equipment; funding feasibility studies for irrigation system improvements; developing capital improvement plans; developing new irrigation projects, Geographic Information System, or topographic surveys; or funding of agriculture tours to inform producers on new technology.

Over the last two decades, the program has assisted producers and irrigators throughout the state in development of over 33,587 acres of new irrigation and has continued to play a prominent role in improving the management and conservation of water on over 305,350 acres of sustainable irrigation.

Project Solicitation and Review
Applicants are required to submit an online application during the funding cycle. The application must describe the proposed project or activity, identify the sources and uses of funding, and discuss the implementation schedule for completion of the project tasks or phases.

Applications are evaluated for completeness and compliance with the intended purposes of the Renewable Resource Grant and Loan program. Requests for irrigation development funds are reviewed by DNRC staff and funded on a competitively ranked basis.

A list of IDG grants awarded during the 2023 Biennium to October 1, 2022, are presented in **Table 5**.

Table 5 Irrigation Development Grants Approved During the 2023 Biennium to October 1, 2022

Project Sponsor	Project Title	Amount
Blackfoot Challenge	Irrigation Efficiency Program	$ 10,300
Brovold Community Orchard	Brovold Community Orchard Drip Irrigation	$ 1,339
Compass Hospitality, LLC	3780 Eames Lane Irrigation Project	$ 20,000
Eric Casazza	Casazza Irrigation Improvement	$ 15,000
Garfield County CD	Ditch Rehab to Increase Flow and Acres	$ 15,000
Green Mountain CD	Harlow Ranch Irrigation System Design	$ 20,000
Jonald Jorgensen	Pivot Irrigation Development	$ 20,000
Mill Creek Farm, Inc.	Mill Creek Farm Pivot Updates	$ 12,955
North Chinook Irrigation Association	NCIA East Dam Erosion Repair	$ 20,000
Pat Haughian	Haughian's Power Unit Replacement	$ 20,000
Scott Davies	Davies Pipeline	$ 15,000
	Total	**$149,594**

CHAPTER VI
Emergency Grants and Loans

In addition to the regular funding available during each Renewable Resource Grant and Loan (RRGL) Program funding cycle, limited funds are available for projects necessary to address qualified emergencies. These funds are reserved to help finance emergency projects otherwise eligible for grant or loan funding which, if delayed until legislative approval, would result in substantial damages or legal liability for the project sponsor.

Applications for emergency grants and loans are accepted online (grants.dnrc.mt.gov) by DNRC from public entities when an emergency occurs. No application fee is required.

Project Solicitation
Emergency grant applications can be submitted at any time. No formal solicitation for applications is conducted. Public entities are informed of the availability of emergency grants during promotional workshops to provide information about all RRGL programs.

To request funds, applicants submit the following:

- The problem description;
- A statement of when the problem occurred;
- The proposed solution;
- Cost estimates with documentation; and
- Documentation of the community's financial condition and ability to otherwise pay for the proposed repairs.

Application Review
As with funding for other renewable resource projects, emergency funds must be used for projects that benefit renewable resources through conservation, management, development, or preservation; for assessing feasibility or planning; for implementing renewable resource projects; or for similar purposes approved by the Legislature. All applications submitted are evaluated for completeness. Sponsors for those applications needing more documentation are notified to submit additional material.

Requests for emergency funds are reviewed by DNRC's RRGL Engineer to to determine feasible alternatives. The project is evaluated to determine its eligibility and must meet the statutory requirements of 85-1-605 (4), MCA, as a minimum to merit funding. Engineers and technical experts from other state agencies may be solicited for technical opinions, guidance, and information.

Funding Recommendations
Statute allows DNRC to request up to 10 percent of the grant funds available each biennium to fund emergency projects. DNRC typically requests $100,000 for emergency grants.

Funding recommendations are made on a case-by-case basis within the constraint of available funding. As information is available, a staff report with funding recommendations is written and presented to Conservation and Resource Development Division's (CARDD) Administrator and DNRC's Director for an official funding decision. The limited total amount of funding available each biennium dictates close management of funding limits for each emergency project.

Project Management
The application sponsor is notified of the funding status determination and approval from the DNRC Director. If successful, the applicant and the DNRC enter into a formal agreement, and the project is managed in the same manner as other grant and loan projects funded by the RRGL Program.

Emergency Grant and Loan Applications in Fiscal Year 2021 and Fiscal Year 2022

Each emergency grant request submitted during FY 2021 and FY 2022 was reviewed by DNRC staff and based on staff recommendation, was approved, or denied for funding by DNRC's Director. Total funding for all emergency grants may not exceed the legislative biennial appropriation for emergency projects under the RRGL Program. Ten million dollars per biennium is available for emergency loans.

Authorized Emergency Grant Projects
The following emergency grants have been awarded during the 2021-2022 biennium:

Gallatin County Conservation District **$10,000**
High Line Canal Breach
September 2021
The High Line Canal Company operates an irrigation water delivery system (29 miles) with the diversion point approximately 3.25 miles south of Gallatin Gateway on the west side of the Gallatin River. There are 43 water users on the Canal. Due to the late dates of priority, the water rights are considered "flood rights" and water supply is shut-off no later than July 15th each year. The canal runs above a county road along the contour of a hillside. In the evening of June 17, 2021, a roughly 50 to 60-foot section of the lower canal bank sloughed and breached the canal bank. The breach sent water down the hill and washed out a county road, flooded fields, and left large amounts of sediment and rock. Immediately a contractor was hired to rebuild the canal, fill the wash-out and clean up the sediment and large rock that washed into the fields. Local material mixed with bentonite was used to repair the canal banks and a plastic liner laid through the breach area. Total cost of the repairs was $73,074.32.

Pondera County Conservation District (PCCRC) **$10,000**
Lake Francis East Dam Operating Gate Repair
December 2021
The PCCRC operates a gravity irrigation delivery network, which includes over 500 miles of main canals and a network of laterals and ditches. The PCCRC receives the majority of its water supply from Birch Creek, the Dry Fork Marias River, and Dupuyer Creek. Birch and Dupuyer Creek waters are stored and delivered from Lake Frances (130,000 ac-ft) which is located within near Valier, Montana. On April 13, 2021, PCCRC crews were performing planned maintenance on the Lake Frances East Dam outlet conduit. While being raised the right-hand bronze gate seat sprung and completely delaminated from the surrounding gate frame. The upstream emergency gate was fully operational, closed, and watertight leaving minimal risk for uncontrolled discharge. The PCCRC Board held an emergency meeting and decided to hire a machinist to perform temporary repairs to the gate frame for the 2021 season and work with the manufacture to negotiate a replacement gate to install during the off season. Total cost of the repairs was $25,037.86.

Park County Commission **$10,000**
Bear Creek Ditch Breach
May 2022
Bear Creek is a tributary to the Yellowstone River about a mile west of Gardiner, MT. The irrigation diversion on Bear Creek is approximately 8.5 miles NW of Gardiner near Jardine. The Bear Creek Irrigation Ditch serves the Custer Gallatin National Forest and other associated private landowners for stock drinking water and irrigation purposes. The Ditch washed out May 20, 2021. About 100 feet of bank gave way and eroded a 15-ft deep channel off the downhill side of the ditch. A contractor was hired, and ideas vetted for a repair. To rebuild the ditch, a retaining wall was built through the washout on the downhill side. The retaining wall was constructed out of boulders from a local construction site. Material from onsite was backfilled and compacted behind the retaining wall. An 18-in plastic corrugated pipe/culvert was placed roughly 140' across the washout location and covered with native material and seeded with native grass. The Forest Service supplied the gravel and provided $14,800 to the contractor. Total cost of the repairs was $33,500.00.

Hysham, Town of **$10,000**
Drinking Water Storage Tank Valve Repair
May 2022

In 2016, the Town of Hysham completed construction of a 250,000-gallon elevated steel water storage reservoir. Late January of 2022, a leak was noticed from the valves located at the base of the water tower bowl. The leak was estimated at approximately 20-gpm. Montana Rural Water was contacted for advice. They advised the town to call Maguire Iron, Inc., to come and assess the problem and make the repairs. Maguire Iron arrived on site March 3rd, evaluated the situation, and gave the town an estimate for repairs. One valve inside the tank and one outside the tank needed to be replaced. Four release valves were placed on hydrants around town and the storage tank was drained and the two leaking tank valves were replaced by March 5th. When the tank interior was dry enough damaged insulation was replaced and the tank filled. Water samples passed analysis and the tank was back on-line March 8th. Total cost of the repairs was $18,750.00.

Beaverhead County **$10,000**
Beaverhead-Jackson Water and Sewer District Pump Replacement
September 2022

The Beaverhead Jackson WSD serves the unincorporated Town of Jackson. MT. The district has a total of 38 service connections with a current population of 36 and a variable transient population from lodging in town. On July 19, 2022, two pumps that transfer effluent from the main collection tank wet well through a force main to a septic tank suddenly failed. The two check valves associated with the pumps piping also failed. District personnel were transferring the effluent from the wet well to the septic tank manually via trash pumps. The district called a Technical Assistance Provider with Midwest Assistance Program (MAP) to assist in contacting Peak Water Services (Advanced Pump & Equipment) of Belgrade to replace the pumps. The wet well was Hydro-Vac'd for pump installation and the pumps were installed. Manpower shortage of the pump supplier and delays in getting the pumps pushed out the installation date. The system was back on-line September 13, 2022. Total cost of the repairs was $23,706.00.

CHAPTER VII
Renewable Resource Project Planning Grants

Application Administration and Project Review Procedures
The 2021 Legislature authorized $1,000,000 for Renewable Resource Planning Grants. The intent of the program is to fund planning efforts for projects that will measurably conserve, develop, manage, preserve Montana's renewable resources. Planning grant funds must be used for contracted consulting or engineering services.

Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) accepts applications for planning grants from public entities in cycles. Staff reviews and ranks the grants. No application fee or match funding is required for planning grants.

Project Solicitation
No formal solicitation for applications is conducted. Engineering firms and other consultants likely to be involved with eligible studies have been informed that planning grant funding exists. During presentations to solicit applications for the regular public grant and loan program, the availability of planning grants is discussed.

To request funds, applicants are required to submit an application that describes the project, identifies the sources and uses of funding, and discusses the implementation schedule for the study. Applications are submitted online (grants.dnrc.mt.gov).

In this biennium, DNRC has awarded planning grants to public entities for 66 planning grants. $934,000 in grant funds has been obligated.

Application Review
Planning grant funds must be used to plan projects that enhance renewable resources through conservation, development, management, or preservation; for assessing feasibility or technical planning; or for similar purposes approved by the Legislature. All submitted applications are evaluated for completeness and compliance with the intended purposes of the program and are ranked accordingly.

Requests for planning grant funds are reviewed by DNRC staff. The scope of the project being considered is evaluated to determine funding eligibility under the Renewable Resource Grant and Loan Program. The proposed budget is analyzed to assure that the proposed costs are feasible.

Project Management
DNRC staff works closely with project sponsors and consultants during the planning stages of projects. For public facility studies, the applicant must contract with a registered professional engineer to prepare a PER that satisfies the requirements of the Uniform Application Supplement for Montana Public Facility Projects. This application is accepted by state agencies funding water, wastewater, and solid waste projects in Montana, and by the Montana Rural Development Rural Utilities Service. For all projects, draft submittals of planning documents prepared under this program are submitted to DNRC or other agency professionals for review before interim payments; a final report is required for review and approval before final payment.

Authorized Projects
The funded planning grant applications approved during the 2023 Biennium to October 1, 2022, are listed in **Table 6**.

Table 6 Planning Grants Approved During the 2023 Biennium to October 1, 2022

Project Types: Drinking Water, Wastewater, Irrigation, Water Management

Applicant	Project Title	Amount
Apsaalooke Water and WW Authority	WW PER - Pryor Census Designated Place	$ 15,000
Black Eagle County WSD	Water System PER	$ 15,000
Blaine County	NCIA Infrastructure Evaluation	$ 15,000
Broadview, Town of	WW System PER	$ 15,000
Butte-Silver Bow	Basin Creek Dam #2 Hydrology Study	$ 15,000
Butte-Silver Bow City and County	Moulton WTP Filter Replacement Alternative Analysis	$ 15,000
Cascade, Town of	Sewer System Improvements	$ 15,000
Choteau, City of	Water System PER Update	$ 8,000
Columbia Falls, City of	Biosolids Management Plant	$ 15,000
Conrad, City of	Stormwater PER Update	$ 8,000
Corvallis County SD	WW PER	$ 15,000
Custer County CD	KIC Muster Creek Syphon PER for Rehabilitation	$ 15,000
Custer County CD	Tongue & Yellowstone ID Sam Leo and Kircher Laterals PER	$ 15,000
Denton, Town of	WW PER	$ 15,000
Dodson, Town of	Dodson Water PER	$ 15,000
Drummond, Town of	Wastewater System PER	$ 15,000
Dutton, Town of	Water System PER	$ 15,000
East Bench ID	Carter Creek Lining and Headgate Automation	$ 15,000
Fort Benton, Town of	WW PER	$ 15,000
Gardiner Park County WSD	WW System Improvements PER Update	$ 8,000
Garfield County CD	Hell Creek Jordan PER	$ 15,000
Geraldine, Town of	Water System PER	$ 15,000
Granite CD	Ranch Creek Water Use Efficiency and Natural Storage	$ 15,000
Granite County	Flint Creek Dam Structural Assessment and Technical Narrative	$ 15,000
Greater Woods Bay SD	PER Update	$ 8,000
Greenfields ID	Pishkun Inlet Hydroelectric Project	$ 15,000
Havre, City of	Water System PER	$ 15,000
Helena Valley ID	Regulating Reservoir Preservation and Bypass	$ 15,000
Helena, City of	Chessman Dam Seepage Investigation	$ 15,000
Hill County	Beaver Creek Dam Spillway Tailwater	$ 15,000
Hill County CD	Bear Paw Ski Bowl Spring Development	$ 15,000
Hingham, Town of	WW System PER	$ 15,000
Hobson, Town of	Water Distribution System PER	$ 15,000
Huntley Yellowstone County WSD	Water System PER	$ 15,000
Judith Gap, Town of	Water and WW System PER	$ 15,000
Libby, City of	Water System PER	$ 15,000
Lincoln County	Libby Creek Water and WW System Evaluation	$ 15,000
Livingston, City of	View Vista Community Water and Sewer PER	$ 15,000
Lower Yellowstone ID #1	Thomas Point Pump Station Rehabilitation	$ 15,000
Malta ID	System Improvement PER	$ 15,000
Manhattan, Town of	Water Main Rehabilitation, Phase 1	$ 15,000
	Subtotal	**$ 587,000**

Table 6 Continued Planning Grants Approved During the 2023 Biennium to October 1, 2022

Applicant	Project Title	Amount
Martinsdale WSD	Martinsdale WSD PER	$ 15,000
Missoula, City of	Watershed-Based Stormwater Facility Plan	$ 8,000
Newlan Creek WD	Newlan Creek Dam Safety Improvements	$ 15,000
Paradise Valley ID	Hillside Ditch Pipeline Conversion, Phase 2	$ 15,000
Philipsburg, Town of	DW Distribution System and Storage	$ 15,000
Pondera County CD	PCCRC C-Canal Headworks Automation	$ 15,000
Pondera County CD	PCCRC Birch Creek Diversion Automation PER	$ 15,000
Powell County	Capital Improvements Plan	$ 8,000
RAE WSD	RAE WSD PER	$ 15,000
Rosebud WSD	Rosebud WSD PER	$ 15,000
Roundup, City of	WW PER	$ 15,000
Shelby, City of	WW PER	$ 15,000
South Wind County WSD	Water and Sewer Improvements PER, Phase 4	$ 15,000
Stillwater County	Park City Stormwater PER	$ 15,000
Sunburst, Town of	WW System Upgrades	$ 15,000
Superior, Town of	WW PER	$ 15,000
Sweet Grass County	Capital Improvements Plan	$ 8,000
Twin Bridges, Town of	Water System PER	$ 15,000
Victor SD	WW PER	$ 15,000
West Yellowstone, Town of	Collections PER	$ 15,000
Westby, Town of	Water System PER	$ 15,000
Wheatland County	Deadman's Basin Water PER	$ 15,000
White Sulphur Spring, City of	Water System PER	$ 8,000
Yellowstone CD	BBWA Five Mile Crossing Rehabilitation Plan	$ 15,000
Yellowstone ID	Yellowstone ID PER	$ 15,000
	Subtotal	**$ 587,000**
	Total	**$ 934,000**

Note:

CD = Conservation District
ID =Irrigation District
PER = Preliminary Engineering Report
SD = Sewer District
WD = Water District
WSD = Water and Sewer District
WW = Wastewater

CHAPTER VIII
Renewable Resource Watershed Management Grants

Application Administration and Project Review Procedures
The 2021 Legislature authorized $300,000 for the Renewable Resource Watershed Management Grant (WMG) Program. The intent of the program was to fund activities which conserve, manage, develop, and preserve Montana's renewable resources, and watershed related planning and management activities. WMGs serve as a component of the RRGL Program by supporting partnerships among businesses, local leadership, the state and other stakeholders working on strengthening local watersheds.

The Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) accepted applications for WMGs from public entities, watershed groups, conservation districts (CD), and private applicants. Grants were available up to $35,000 per biennium for a watershed management activity. No application fee was required.

Project Solicitation
No formal solicitation for applications was conducted. CDs and watershed groups were informed of the watershed management grant funding through website, emails, and presentations. Availability of WMGs were discussed during CD area meetings, conferences, and regular watershed group meetings.

Applicants were required to submit an application describing the project, identifying the sources and uses of funding, and discussing the proposed activity. Funded activities included those that developed the organization's management strategy, capacity building and planning, and prioritized the implementation of watershed projects.

DNRC awarded 14 WMGs. In total, $300,000 in WMG grant money was contracted between July 1, 2021, and October 2022.

Application Review
WMG funds were used for activities that enhanced renewable resources through conservation, development, management, or preservation; for development of staff or board leadership, financial management, fundraising, assessments of resource issues, development of self-sustaining education or outreach, use of technology, or for similar purposes approved by the Legislature. DNRC evaluated all applications for completeness and compliance with program purposes.

DNRC staff reviewed requests for WMG funds. The scope of the proposed activity was evaluated to determine funding eligibility under the RRGL Program. The proposed budget was analyzed to assure that proposed costs were feasible.

Project Management
Successful applicants and the DNRC entered into a formal contract for the proposed activities. The grants are managed under the guidelines of the RRGL Program.

Authorized Projects
In 2021, the Legislature authorized $300,000 for WMGs. Successful applications are listed in **Table 7.**

Table 7 Watershed Management Grants Approved During the 2023 Biennium

Applicant	Project Title	Amount
Blackfoot Challenge	Planning for Climate Resilience: Blackfoot Watershed Drought Planning	$ 10,000
Centennial Valley Association	Expanding and Sustaining the Centennial Valley's Water and Drought Awareness Program During Times of Prolonged Drought	$ 13,390
Clark Fork Coalition	Restoring Grant Creek	$ 35,000
Clarks Fork Yellowstone Partnership	Clarks Fork Yellowstone Watershed Group Development and Project Prioritization	$ 23,774
Flathead CD	Trumbull Creek Restoration and Aquifer Protection Project	$ 25,000
Flathead CD	Flathead River Erosion Prevention and Mitigation Study	$ 32,500
Lewis and Clark CD	Improving Structure and Capacity Development for Conservation District Support	$ 20,778
Madison CD	Watershed Restoration Plan	$ 16,119
MT Watershed Coordination Council	Building Capacity & Improving Funding Access for Watershed Conservation	$ 13,417
Richland County CD	Best Management Practices for Ground Water Irrigation in the West Crane Aquifer	$ 28,000
Sacajawea Audubon Society	Urban Wetlands and Communities: Bridging Ecological and Social Values	$ 9,335
Sun River Watershed Group	Building Capacity to Expand the Sun River Watershed Group	$ 24,157
Trout Unlimited	East Gallatin Low-Cost Process-Based Restoration Planning	$ 22,000
Trout Unlimited	North Burnt Fork Creek Restoration Planning on Lee Metcalf National Wildlife Refuge	$ 26,530
	Total	**$ 300,000**

CHAPTER IX
Summary of Grants to Public Entities, October 1, 2020 – September 30, 2022

Most Renewable Resource and Grant Loan project grants are completed within three years of legislative authorization. This section updates the status of all project grants. Project status is indicated by one of five categories: Completed, Active, Authorized but Not Yet Executed, and Terminated.

Grant Projects Completed Since October 1, 2020

Alberton, Town of
Water System Improvements
RRG-20-1745
The 2019 Legislature authorized $125,000 to install a control system that will monitor tank level, install sodium hypochlorite disinfection, replace a faulty diversion valve to allow diversion of spring water, and add flow meters. The project is complete, and all funds have been disbursed.

Black Eagle-Cascade County WSD
Sewer System Improvements
RRG-20-1746
The 2019 Legislature authorized a $125,000 grant to repair and replace drinking water distribution and wastewater collection mains to protect human health and preserve groundwater. The project is complete, and all funds have been disbursed.

Blaine County
AID Canal Realignment and Lining
RRG-20-1768
The 2019 Legislature authorized a $125,000 grant for the re-alignment and lining of the East Flynn Canal that is in danger of washing out due to channel migration of Battle Creek. The project is complete, and all funds have been disbursed.

Bigfork County Water and Sewer District
Wastewater System Improvements
RRG-20-1771
The 2019 Legislature authorized a $125,000 grant for wastewater system improvements to install a new lift station and 4-inch force man, replace an existing gravity main and convert 18 services to a low-pressure system. The project is complete, and all funds have been disbursed.

Buffalo Rapids Irrigation Project District 2
Shirley Main Canal Rehabilitation
RRG-20-1705
The 2019 Legislature authorized $125,000 for a canal lining and replacement of existing headgate structures. The project is complete, and all funds have been disbursed.

Canyon Creek Irrigation District
Canyon Lake Dam Rehabilitation
RRG-20-1722
The 2019 Legislature authorized a $125,000 grant to install a liner on the upstream dam embankment slope to minimize seepage and complete minor slope and crest improvements. The project is complete, and all funds have been disbursed.

Cascade, Town of
Water System Improvements
RRG-20-1720
The 2019 Legislature authorized a $125,000 grant to demolish and dispose of two existing 103,000-gaallon water storage tanks and build a new 206,000-gallon concrete tank along with additional related piping. The project is complete, and all funds have been disbursed.

Circle, Town of
Water System Improvements
RRG-20-1735
The 2019 Legislature authorized a $125,000 grant to replace 2,000 linear feet of 6-inch cast iron pipe with 8-inch PVC pipe, install 1,750 linear feet of 8-inch PVC pipe and abandoning same length of AC pipe. 12 new fire hydrants and 530 linear feet of new service lines will be installed. The project is complete, and all funds have been disbursed.

Clyde Park, Town of
Water System Improvements
RRG-20-1711
The 2019 Legislature authorized $125,000 for a water systems improvements project. Well house damage has caused the design and construction to be delayed repairs are complete. The project is complete, and all funds have been disbursed.

Columbia Falls, City of
Water System Improvements
RRG-20-1767
The 2019 Legislature authorized a $122,950 grant to develop additional water supply capacity through construction of a new well and identify the location of leaks in the distribution system through a water loss control program. The project is complete, and all funds have been disbursed.

Fallon County
Baker Lake Restoration
RRG-20-1743
The 2019 Legislature authorized $100,000 to deepen and oxygen Baker Lake for fisheries habitat and water quality improvements. The project is complete, and all funds have been disbursed.

Harlowton, City of
Wastewater Improvements
RRG-20-1728
The 2019 Legislature authorized a $125,000 grant to construct a new UV effluent disinfection system, remove sludge from existing lagoon cells and disposing via land application, and install new chopper pumps at the lift station. The project is complete, and all funds have been disbursed.

Hysham Irrigation District
Re-Lift Canal Improvements
RRG-20-1727
The 2019 Legislature authorized $125,000 for a re-lift canal improvements project. The project is complete, and all funds have been disbursed.

Hysham, Town of
Wastewater System Rehabilitation, Phase 1
RRG-20-1718
The 2019 Legislature authorized a $125,000 grant to replace Lift Station 1, rehabilitate Lift Station 2 and a portion of lagoon cell one. The project will replace flow control structure lids and 5 valves at the facility and complete a leakage study of the treatment lagoons. The project is complete, and all funds have been disbursed.

Froid, Town of

Wastewater System Improvements
RRG-18-1686
The 2017 Legislature authorized a $125,000 grant for wastewater improvements. The project will address issues with the collection system and total retention lagoon system. The project is complete, and all funds have been disbursed.

Granite County
Flint Creek Dam Rehabilitation
RRG-20-1726
The 2019 Legislature authorized $125,000 for the rehabilitation of the Flint Creek Dam. The project is complete, and all funds have been disbursed.

Hardin, City of
Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements
RRG-20-1760
The 2019 Legislature authorized $125,000 to upgrade wastewater collection and treatment system to preserve groundwater and surface water resources. The project is complete, and all funds have been disbursed.

Helena Valley Irrigation District
Lateral 14.8 Rehabilitation, Phase 1
RRG-19-1702
The 2017 Legislature authorized $125,000 to rehabilitate Pier 5 including the removal of all damaged concrete and grout, inspection of the embedded metalwork, and replacement of the metalwork to prevent operational failure. The project is complete and $114,753.04 has been disbursed.

Libby, City of
Water System Improvements
RRG-20-1719
The 2019 Legislature authorized a $125,000 grant to replace leaking water mains and transmission main. The project is complete, and all funds have been disbursed.

Lincoln-Lewis & Clark County Sewer District
Wastewater Improvement
RRG-19-1687
The 2017 Legislature authorized a $125,000 grant for pumping and power generation of the wastewater system. The project is complete, and all funds have been disbursed.

Lower Yellowstone Irrigation District
Lateral O Check and Terminal Wasteway
RRG-19-1690
The 2017 Legislature authorized a $125,000 grant to retrofit the Terminal Wasteway and Lateral O Check Structure with new gates. The project is complete, and all funds have been disbursed.

Lower Yellowstone Irrigation Project
Crane Wasteway & Pump Station Rehabilitation
RRG-20-1764
The 2019 Legislature authorized a $125,000 grant for the rehabilitation of the Crane Wasteway and Pump Station which includes new gates and SCADA systems. The project is complete, and all funds have been disbursed.

Manhattan, Town of
Water Reclamation Facility Improvements, Phase 1
RRG-22-1859A
The 2021 Legislature authorized a $125,000 grant to retrofit treatment trains, update wastewater system components, restore dita ditch, and construct groundwater discharge system. The project is complete, and all funds have been disbursed.

Medicine Lake, Town of
Wastewater System Rehabilitation
RRG-18-1680
The 2017 Legislature authorized a $125,000 grant for wastewater system improvements. The project is complete, and all funds have been disbursed.

Milk River Joint Board of Control
St. Mary Canal Drop 2 Replacement
RRG-20-1770
The 2019 Legislature authorized fund a $125,000 grant for the engineering and design of the St. Mary's drop structures. The project is complete, and all funds have been disbursed.

Missoula, City of
Rattlesnake Dam Removal
RRG-20-1741
The 2019 Legislature authorized $125,000 for the removal of Rattlesnake Dam and the reconstruction and revegetation of the disturbed area. The project is complete, and all funds have been disbursed.

Montana Department of Natural Resource and Conservation- Water Resources Division
Douglas Canal Rehabilitation
RRG-20-1724
The 2019 Legislature authorized $125,000 to install water measurement systems, rehabilitate and replace dilapidated and/or failing structures in the Douglas Canal System, and rehabilitate sections of stream bank along Nevada Creek. The project is complete, and all funds have been disbursed.

Montana Department of Natural Resource and Conservation- Water Resources Division
Broadwater Missouri Canal System Master Plan
RRG-20-1725
The 2019 Legislature authorized a $125,000 grant for an irrigation master plan detailing the structural and management problems of the canal system. The project is complete, and all funds have been disbursed.

Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation-Water Resources Division
Deadman's Supply Canal Rehabilitation
RRG-22-1798A
The 2021 Legislature authorized a $125,000 grant to design and construct 4,200 linear feet of the outlet canal. The project is complete, and all funds have been disbursed.

Neihart, Town of
Water System Improvements
RRG-17-1657
The 2015 Legislature authorized $125,000 to construct a new intake at Shorty Creek and to construct a new 120,000-gallon water storage tank. The project is complete, and all funds have been disbursed.

Plains, Town of
Wastewater System Protection
RRG-20-1739
The 2019 Legislature authorized a $125,000 grant to relocate a wastewater lagoon. The project has completed the design and will begin construction the Spring of 2021. The project is complete, and all funds have been disbursed.

Polson, City of
Wastewater System Improvements
RRG-16-1649
The 2015 Legislature authorized $125,000 to construct a SBR WWTF. The project is complete, and all funds have been disbursed.

Polson, City of
Wastewater System Improvements
RRG-20-1708
The 2019 Legislature authorized $125,000 for improvements to the wastewater collection system. The project is complete, and all funds have been disbursed.

Pondera County Conservation District
Kingsbury Turnout Automation
RRG-20-1713
The 2019 Legislature authorized $125,000 for automation of the Kingsbury turnout. Design is complete and the project is under construction. The project is complete, and all funds have been disbursed.

Pondera County Conservation District
Swift Dam Rehabilitation
RRG-20-1747
The 2019 Legislature authorized $125,000 for rehabilitation of Swift Dam. The project is complete, and all funds have been disbursed.

Ryegate, Town of
Wastewater System Improvements
RRG-19-1695
The 2017 Legislature authorized a $125,000 grant for wastewater system improvements. The project consists of a new total retention lagoon system. The project is complete, and all funds have been disbursed.

Savage Irrigation District
Infrastructure Rehabilitation
RRG-20-1749
The 2019 legislature authorized a $125,000 grant for the replacement of control structures with the electronic controls and data acquisition capabilities. The project is complete, and all funds have been disbursed.

Scobey, City of
Water System Improvements, Phase 2
RRG-20-1729
The 2019 Legislature authorized a $125,000 grant to replace 18,600 linear feet of cast-iron main with 8-inch PVC pipe, install new fire hydrants and replace water services from the main to the curb stop. The project is complete, and all funds have been disbursed.

Seeley Lake – Missoula County
Seeley Lake Sewer District Wastewater Improvements, Phase 2
RRG-20-1706
The 2019 Legislature authorized a $125,000 for wastewater system improvements. The project is the second phase of the project and will include a portion of the collection system. The project is complete, and all funds have been disbursed.

Sidney Water Users Irrigation District
Main Canal Pipeline Conversion, Phase 1
RRG-20-1715
The 2019 Legislature authorized a $125,000 grant for the conversion of 3,044 linear feet of open canal ditch to PVC irrigation pipe. The project is complete, and all funds have been disbursed.

Sidney Water Users Irrigation District
Main Canal Pipeline Conversion, Phase 2
RRG-21-1778
The 2019 Legislature authorized the conversion of 3,900 linear feet of main canal to pipeline. The project is complete, and all funds have been disbursed.

Simms County Sewer District
Wastewater System Improvements, Phase 2
RRG-20-1761
The 2019 Legislature authorized $125,000 to address deficiencies in two cells of the facultative lagoons, erosion, leakage, and the spray irrigation system. The project is scheduled for completion December 2022. $28,500.00 has been disbursed.

South Wind Water and Sewer District
Water and Wastewater System Improvements, Phase 3
RRG-19-1692
The 2017 Legislature authorized a $125,000 for wastewater system improvements. The project is complete, and all funds have been disbursed.

Ten Mile/Pleasant Valley Sewer District
Wastewater System Improvements
RRG-22-1825A
The 2021 Legislature authorized a $125,000 grant to remove and replace nine manholes in the subdivision. The project is complete and $124,715.11 was dispersed.

Tin Cup County Water and Sewer District
Water Conservation
RRG-20-1740
The 2019 Legislature authorized a $125,000 grant to install mechanical dam improvements for irrigation purposes. The project is complete, and all funds have been disbursed.

Vaughn Cascade County Water and Sewer District
Water System Improvements
RRG-20-1732
The 2019 Legislature authorized a $125,000 grant to construct a 150,000-gallon water storage tank, replace gate valves and fire hydrants and complete distribution looping through dead-end mains. The project is complete, and all funds have been disbursed.

Whitefish, City of
Wastewater Treatment System Improvements
RRG-20-1723
The 2019 Legislature authorized a $125,000 grant for I&I improvements to the wastewater system. The project is complete, and all funds have been disbursed.

Thompson Falls, City of
Wastewater System Improvements
RRG-18-1679
The 2017 Legislature authorized a $125,000 grant for wastewater improvements. The project has completed the installation of the new pumps and controls. The project is complete, and all funds have been disbursed.

Whitehall, Town of
Water Treatment Plant Improvements
RRG-20-1769
The 2019 Legislature authorized a $125,000 for drinking water system improvements. The project is complete, and all funds have been dispersed.

Winifred, Town of
Wastewater System Rehabilitation, Phase 1
RRG-20-1714
The 2019 Legislature authorized a $125,000 grant for a wastewater improvements project. The project consists of installation of a new water storage tank, water meters and a new water main. The project is complete, and all funds have been disbursed.

Active Grant Projects

Alberton, Town of
Water System Improvements
RRG-22-1853A
The 2021 Legislature authorized a $125,000 grant to upgrade the spring collection system and improve security measures. The project is in the engineering phase and will begin construction April 2023. The project is expected to be completed by December 2023. No funds have been disbursed.

Alfalfa Valley Irrigation District
East Flynn Canal Rehabilitation
RRG-22-1830A
The 2021 Legislature authorized the funding of a $125,000 grant to reshape and grade 1,760 linear feet of canal, install geomembrane liner and water flow measurement devices at each turnout. No funds have been dispersed.

Beaverhead County Conservation District
Irrigation Efficiency and Water Measurement
RRG-22-1797A
The 2021 Legislature authorized a $125,000 grant for irrigation system improvements. The project is finalizing the list of flumes to be replaced and will begin replacement the fourth quarter of 2022. The project is expected to be completed by December 2022. $750.00 has been dispersed.

Big Mountain Sewer District
Wastewater Collection System Improvements
RRG-22-1796A
The 2021 Legislature authorized a $125,000 grant for Big Mountain Sewer District to improve the wastewater collection system with improvements to 40 manholes, replacement of gravity sewer main and sewer pipe, and abandonment of one manhole. The project began construction in Spring 2022 and is scheduled to be complete in fall of 2022. $57,340 has been disbursed.

Big Sandy, Town of
Stormwater Improvements
RRG-22-1804A
The 2021 Legislature authorized a $125,000 grant for stormwater system improvements. The objective is to replace sections of the current stormwater infrastructure that are damaged, undersized, or otherwise not providing sufficient collection and removal along Main Street. The project began construction July 2022 and is scheduled to be complete in the fall of 2022. No funds have been disbursed.

Big Timber, City of
Water System Improvements
RRG-22-1834A
The 2021 Legislature authorized a $125,000 grant for water system improvements. The project will install 3,920 linear feet of new 8-inch PVC distribution mains, eight new fire hydrant assemblies, 20 new gate valves and 68 service re-connectors. Project is under construction and is scheduled to be complete in the Fall of 2022. $112,500 has been dispersed.

Bitter Root Irrigation District
Como Dam Water Resource Enhancement
RRG-20-1756
The 2019 Legislature authorized a $125,000 grant for irrigation system improvements to the outlet valves of the Como Dam. The project will be complete spring 2022. $69,453.99 has been disbursed.

Bitter Root Irrigation District
Water Efficiency, Modernization and Planning Study
RRG-22-1844A
The 2021 Legislature authorized a $125,000 grant for a planning study of the irrigation district's water delivery system to develop a Capital Improvements and Management Plan for the district. This project is underway and scheduled for completion in the fall of 2023. No funds have been disbursed.

Bitterroot Conservation District
Bitterroot River Irrigation Management Study
RRG-22-1810A
The 2021 Legislature authorized a $125,000 grant for a study to assess irrigation management and efficiency of water entitlements encompassing twenty irrigation systems spanning 60-miles of the Bitterroot River. This project is underway and is scheduled for completion by the end of 2022. $82,608.33 has been dispersed.

Buffalo Rapids Irrigation Project District 1
1 Lateral 1.7 Pipeline Conversion
RRG-20-1762
The 2019 Legislature authorized $125,000 for a pipeline conversion project. The project is in the design phase. $116,437.73 has been disbursed.

Buffalo Rapids Irrigation Project District 1
Irrigation System Automation
RRG-22-1826A
The 2021 Legislature authorized a $125,000 grant for the design and installation/implementation of an automated spillway device for level control on the main canal. The project is design phase and is scheduled for completion in Spring of 2023. No funds have been dispersed.

Buffalo Rapids Irrigation Project District 2
Lateral 1.6 Pipeline Conversion
RRG-21-1783
The 2019 Legislature authorized the conversion of approximately 13,200 linear feet of Lateral 1.6 from an open channel delivery system to a closed pipeline network. Funding shortages have delayed the project and it is expected to begin in 2021. The 2021 Legislature authorized a $125,000 grant to convert an open lateral to a closed pipe system with 5,005 linear feet of 18-inch irrigation pipe. The project is in the design stage and $32,420 has been dispersed.

Buffalo Rapids Irrigation Project District 2
Lateral 1.6 Pipeline Conversion, Phase 2
RRG-22-1829A
The 2021 Legislature authorized a $125,000 grant to convert an open lateral to pipeline. The project is in the design stage. No funds have been dispersed.

Butte-Silver Bow Government
Moulton Reservoir- Reclamation and Protection
RRG-17-1664
The 2015 Legislature authorized a $125,000 grant to protect source water supply for the city of Butte and improve recreational opportunities through reservoir reclamation and protection. The project is under design and no funds have been disbursed

Butte-Silver Bow Government
Rocker County Water and Sewer District
Wastewater System Improvements
RRG-19-1699
The 2015 Legislature authorized a $125,000 grant for wastewater system improvements. The project consists of the construction of a lift station and force main to the Butte-Silver Bow treatment facility. Design has been delayed due to funding shortages. The project has been delayed because of funding shortages and has secured additional funding On March 22, 2022, Rocker County WSD transferred to Butte-Silver Bow Government all rights and obligations by virtue of a Dissolution Resolution. $12,790 has been disbursed.

Carbon County Conservation District
Mutual Ditch Siphon Replacement
RRG-22-1800A
The 2021 Legislature authorized a $125,000 grant to remove the concrete siphon and install a new 60-inch diameter steel reinforced polyethylene pipe. The project is in design and no funds have been expended.

Chinook, City of
Water System Improvements
RRG-20-1730
The 2019 Legislature authorized a $125,000 grant to loop a dead-end water main, replace 2,800 linear feet of undersized water main, replace 13 fire hydrants, install 20 isolation valves, and construct a new bulk water station. This project is nearly complete. $106,209 has been dispersed.

Choteau, City of
Water System Improvements
RRG-22-1854A
The 2021 Legislature authorized a $125,000 grant for water system piping and installation of a new well. $77,356.93 has been disbursed and the project will be completed by the of 2024. No funds have been dispersed.

Circle, Town of
Water System Improvements, Phase 3
RRG-22-1824A
The 2021 Legislature authorized a $125,000 grant to replace 3,300 linear feet of water main, install eight new hydrants, install 11 new valves and replace water services. The project is in the design stage. No funds have been dispersed.

Clancy Water and Sewer District
WSD Water System Improvements
RRG-20-1759
The 2019 Legislature authorized $125,000 for a hydrogeological investigation of drinking water test wells. The project is underway. $113,690.43 has been disbursed.

Clinton Irrigation District
Schoolhouse Lateral Pipeline Conversion
RRG-22-1799A
The 2021 Legislature authorized a $125,000 grant for upgrades to the current Lateral irrigation system. The upgraded will replace 1,900 feet with an 18-inch pipeline. Project is scheduled to be completed by January 2023. $13,420.64 has been disbursed.

Cooke City Silvergate County Sewer District
Wastewater Collection and Treatment System
RRG-22-1814A
The 2021 Legislature authorized a $125,000 grant for improvements to the Cooke City wastewater system. The funds will cover initial engineering and surveys. There is $46,440 remaining in the grant.

Clyde Park, Town of
Water System Improvements
RRG-20-1711
The 2019 Legislature authorized $125,000 for a water systems improvements project. Well house damage has caused the design and construction to be delayed repairs are complete. $124,961.30 has been disbursed.

Crow Tribe
Wastewater Collection System Improvements
RRG-19-1693
The 2017 Legislature authorized the replacement of approximately 6,720 linear feet of wastewater main and the existing East Frontage Road lift station. Difficulty in acquiring easements has delayed the project and it is expected to begin in 2023. $7,092.00 has been disbursed.

Cut Bank, City of
Water System Improvements
RRG-20-1712
The 2019 Legislature authorized $125,000 for a drinking water improvements project that consists of water main and water tank replacement. The city plans on starting construction in spring 2021. $112,207.75 has been distributed.

Darby, Town of
Wastewater System Improvements
RRG-22-1856A
The 2021 Legislature authorized a $125,000 grant for improvements to Darby's wastewater system. The project will replace leaking manholes and service connections, remove sludge from three lagoon cells, as well as install a mechanical screen in an underground concrete vault ahead of the lift station. Project design is anticipated to be completed fall of 2022 with construction completed the fall of 2023. No funds have been disbursed.

Deer Lodge, City of
Wastewater Collection System Improvements
RRG-22-1843A
The 2021 Legislature authorized a $125,000 grant to rehabilitate and replace manholes, rehabilitate existing lift station wet well liner, slip line existing sewer mains, replace multiple service connections, develop stormwater collection system near historic theatre and install a manhole to replace a 4-way sanitary main joint connection. The project is in design stage. $21,635.16 has been dispersed.

Dillon, City of
Water Transmission and Distribution Main Replacement
RRG-20-1753
The 2019 Legislature authorized a $125,000 grant to upgrade the water transmission and distribution mains. The project will install 6,500 linear feet of 18-inch HDPE transmission main east of the river, 650 linear feet west of the river along with 200 linear feet bored, jacked and cased under the river. 7,020 linear feet of old water main will be replaced with 8- and 10-inch PVC. The project is nearly complete. $112,500 have been dispersed.

East Helena, City of
Water System Improvements
RRG-20-1716
The 2019 Legislature authorized a $125,000 grant to construct a 96-foot diameter 1,000,000-gallon water tank, including new piping, replacing two old tanks. The project will install a new floor over radial well caissons and replace existing pumps. The project is in construction and is nearly complete. $64,719.11 has been dispersed.

East Helena, City of
Wastewater System Improvements
RRG-22-1822A
The 2021 Legislature authorized a $125,000 grant to rehabilitate a portion of the wastewater collection system using cured-in-place-pipe, install new mechanical bar screen, install a vortex grit removal system, rehabilitate screw pumps and acquire/purchase land for new lift station. The project is in construction and expected completion is 1st quarter 2022. $72,234.65 has been dispersed.

Ekalaka, Town of
Water System Improvements
RRG-22-1837A
The 2021 Legislature authorized a $125,000 grant to reduce leaks in the town's water system and replace aging pipe in the distribution system. The project will construct 3,110 linear feet of new 8-inch PVC pipe to replace undersized and aging cast iron pipe and improve looping in the distribution system, construct 2,030 linear feet of 8-inch PVC pipe to replace undersized and aging cast iron water main, and complete surface restoration activities. Construction is scheduled to start fall of 2022 and be completed spring 2023. No funds have been disbursed.

Fairfield, Town of
Water System Improvements
RRG-22-1855A
The 2021 Legislature authorized a $125,000 grant to upgrade the towns distribution system by replacing 6,500 lineal feet of AC water lines with PVC pipe. Construction is anticipated to start fall 2022 and be completed by December 2023. $26,375.13 has been disbursed.

Flathead Conservation District
Trumbull Creek Restoration and Aquifer Protection
RRG-20-1750
The 2019 Legislature authorized a $125,000 grant for the reconstruction of about 7,150 feet of Trumbull Creek, remove a small on-line dam, and replace undersized culverts. Due to bidding difficulties the project might have to phase the project. Project completion date is December 2021. $31,443.70 has been disbursed.

Flathead Conservation District
Krause Creek Restoration
RRG-21-1782
The 2019 Legislature authorized a $125,000 grant for the construction of an inset floodplain associate riparian improvements. Project design is complete and $43,785.47 has been disbursed.

Flaxville, Town of
Water System Improvements
RRG-22-1827A
The 2021 Legislature authorized a $125,000 grant to replace 8,600 linear feet of new 8-inch PVC water mains, replace 34 gate valves, install 11 additional hydrants, replace and install a new meter reading system. Re-coating and general repairs will be made to the storage tank and a backup power source added to the tank site. No funds have been disbursed.

Fort Belknap Indian Community
Milk River Diversion Gate Automation
RRG-22-1848A
The 2021 Legislature authorized a $125,000 grant for the replacement of main diversion gates on the Milk River and installation of an automated flow management system. Engineering and design is currently under way and construction is anticipated to begin Spring of 2023. No funds have been disbursed.

Fort Benton, City of
Water System Improvements
RRG-22-1841A
The 2021 Legislature authorized a $125,000 grant for the construction of a new 900,000-gallon water storage tanks with a new transmission line to the existing distribution system. Construction is scheduled to start the fall of 2022 and be completed the fall of 2023. No Funds have been disbursed.

Fort Peck Tribes
Fort Peck Frazer and Wiota Pump Automation and Monitoring
RRG-22-1833A
The 2021 Legislature authorized a $125,000 grant for the installation of a SCADA system, remote flow monitoring stations, security surveillance camera system and fiver communication lines to both the Frazer and Wiota Pump Stations. Construction will begin fall of 2022 and the project scheduled to be completed summer of 2023. $2,569.90 has been disbursed.

Fort Smith Water & Sewer District
Wastewater System Improvements
RRG-22-1849A
The 2021 Legislature authorized a $125,000 grant for 14,000 linear feet of waste collection line, installation of 64 concrete manholes, a new waste treatment lagoon system, centralized lift system and 2,600 linear feet of forced main for the Fort Smith and Yellowtail wastewater project. Engineering and design are underway, construction is scheduled to begin summer of 2023 and completed winter of 2025. No funds have been disbursed.

Garfield County Conservation District
Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Range Monitoring Pilot
RRG-14-1583
The 2013 Legislature authorized a $99,994 grant to study a 60,000-acre area to verify that grazing improves the natural ecosystem and wildlife habitat. Specific tasks to be accomplished include data collection, developing a rangeland management plan, continued monitoring of the rangeland, and revision of management plans based on data collection and analysis. Project completion date is December 2020. $54,252.44 has been disbursed.

Geraldine, Town of
Wastewater System Improvements
RRG-20-1709
The 2017 Legislature authorized a $125,000 grant for wastewater improvements that includes replacing pipe and constructing a new UV disinfection. The project is under construction and is complete and working on closeout documents. $10,543.39 is remaining in the grant.

Glasgow Irrigation District
Spaniard Check Structure
RRG-22-1831A
The 2021 Legislature authorized a $125,000 grant to remove an existing irrigation check structure and install new stainless-slide gates, install a new checkboard weir and install new grated walkway and railings. No funds have been dispersed.

Glasgow Irrigation District
Glasgow V-63 Lateral Conversion
RRG-20-1757
The 2019 Legislature authorized $125,000 for a canal-to-pipeline conversion project. The project design is complete, and the project is scheduled to be complete fall 2022. $13,819.39 has been disbursed.

Glen Lake Irrigation District
Infrastructure Modernization Study
RRG-22-1802A
The 2021 Legislature authorized a $125,000 grant to study and map the Glen Lake Irrigation District infrastructure. The project is under design and no funds have been disbursed.

Greenfields Irrigation District
Arnold Coulee Hydroelectric
RRG-22-1812
The 2021 Legislature authorized $125,000 to replace the Arnold Coulee Drop structure with a new bypass structure and develop a new 2.5 MW hydroelectric facility which includes new transmission main. Construction is underway and $75,000 has been dispersed.

Greenfields Irrigation District
Spring Coulee Headworks Replacement
RRG-22-1815A
The 2021 Legislature authorized a $125,000 grant to Greenfields ID to mitigate erosion in Spring Coulee. Engineering is complete and equipment has been purchased. Construction will begin after irrigation season in 2022. $112,500 has been dispersed.

Greenfields Irrigation District
SRS-71 Headworks & SRS Re-Regulation
RRG-22-1850A
The 2021 Legislature authorized $125,000 to Greenfields ID to increase irrigation efficiency by replacing the existing headworks and check structure. Engineering is underway and $129,246 is remaining in the grant.

Harlowton, City of
Water System Improvements, Phase 5
RRG-22-1791A
The 2021 Legislature authorized a $125,000 grant to replace 7,200 linear feet of cast iron main with 6-inch PVC pipe, replace 700 linear feet of failing pipe near Leaking Underground Storage Tank (LUST) site with 6-inch ductile iron pipe and replace 12 fire hydrants. $51,132.09 has been dispersed.

Harlowton, City of
Roundhouse Wetland Restoration
RRG-20-1754
The 2019 Legislature authorized $125,000 to remove contaminated soil, restore wetland habitat, and develop a trail system. The project cannot move forward until the remediation and clean-up are complete. Project completion date is December 2023. No funds have been disbursed.

Havre, City of
Clear Creek Court Sanitary Sewer System Improvements
RRG-22-1819A
The 2021 Legislature authorized a $125,000 grant to install eight-inch and six-inch public sewer mains, install concrete manholes and install four-inch service mains for a mobile home community be connect to the city public wastewater system. Project is in the design stage and almost ready for DEQ review. No funds have been dispersed.

Helena Valley Irrigation District
Lateral 14.8 Rehabilitation, Phase 2
RRG-20-1742
The 2019 Legislature authorized $125,000 to demolish an existing gate, construct a new diversion structure to fit a new gate, and install a new gate with a SCADA system. Project completion is December 2022. $112,494.99 has been disbursed.

Helena Valley Irrigation District
11.9 Canal Conversion and Gate Rehabilitation
RRG-22-1835
The 2021 Legislature authorized a $125,000 grant to install canal pipeline, turnout structures, and a SCADA system. Construction is set to begin fall of 2022 and completion is scheduled for winter of 2023. No funds have been disbursed .

Hill County

Beaver Creek Dam Spillway Improvements
RRG-21-1773
The 2019 Legislature authorized a $125,000 grant for improvements to the dam spillway to aid in water management to protect downstream irrigated lands. This project is to be completed by December 2022 and all funds have been disbursed.

Hill County
Beaver Creek Dam Improvements
RRG-22-1809A
The 2021 Legislature authorize a $125,000 grant to provide improvements to the Beaver Creek Dam by adding measuring devices and repair irrigation outlet. No funds have been disbursed.

Huntley Project Irrigation District
Lower Main Canal Lining, Phase 2
RRG-19-1701
The 2017 Legislature authorized a $125,000 grant for canal lining on 4,000 linear feet of canal. Funding shortages have delayed this project. Project is in design stage. Construction proposed to begin winter of 2022. No funds have been dispersed.

Huntley Project Irrigation District
Yellowstone Riverbank Stabilization
RRG-22-1857A
The 2021 Legislature authorized a $125,000 grant to install riprap on the riverbank and repair an existing low water weir on the overflow channel to the north of the existing diversion structure. The project is in the design stage. No funds have been dispersed.

Hysham Irrigation District
Intake Improvement Project
RRG-22-1838
The 2021 Legislature authorized a $125,000 grant to riprap streambank, install weir and toe protection, and repair the headgate. The project is in the construction phase and no funds have been disbursed.

Joliet, Town of
Water System Improvements
RRG-22-1832A
The 2021 Legislature authorized a $125,000 grant to refurbish an existing well, rehabilitate one and replace another well house building, replace 1,150 linear feet of old water main with 8-inch PVC and install 150 linear feet of main under the Highway 212. The project is in the design stage. No funds have been dispersed.

Lewis and Clark Conservation District
Willow Creek Feeder Canal Rehabilitation
RRG-21-1774
The 2019 Legislature authorized a $125,000 grant for the rehabilitation of the Willow Creek Feeder Canal. The project is in design phase. $56,240.98 has been disbursed.

Lewis and Clark Conservation District
Beaver Creek Restoration, Phase 2
RRG-22-1807A
The 2021 Legislature authorized a $125,000 grant for restoration of lower Beaver Creek. The project is scheduled to be complete December 2022. $30,240.00 has been disbursed.

Lewistown, City of
Water System Improvements
RRG-22-1864A
The 2021 Legislature authorized $125,000 to Lewistown to address water quality violations. The grant will include funding for disinfection of the public water system and other improvements. No funds have been dispersed.

Libby, City of
Libby Wastewater System Improvements
RRG-22-1863A
The 2021 Legislature authorized a $125,000 grant to replace approximately 820 linear feet of gravity sewer main and replace the existing wastewater treatment facility control system with a new SCADA system. The project is in the design stage. No funds have been dispersed.

Lockwood Water and Sewer District
Drinking Water System Improvements
RRG-20-1736
The 2019 Legislature authorized a $125,000 grant to install third and fourth water clarification trains, add three UV disinfection reactors, expand the building to house additional piping and valves for the improvements. Construction is on-going and is scheduled to be completed 1st quarter of 2023. $112,500 has been dispersed.

Lockwood Water and Sewer District
CS3-1 Collection System Improvements, Phase 3
RRG-22-1817A
The 2021 Legislature authorized a $125,000 grant to install: 2,400 linear feet of 15-inch sewer main, 900 linear feet of 12-inch sewer main, 31,500 linear feet of 8-inch sewer main, 2,500 feet of 4-inch force main, two sanitary lift stations and 120 concrete manholes. The project is in the design stage. No funds have been dispersed.

Lower Musselshell Conservation District
Dephi Melstone Water Users Association Irrigation Efficiency and Water Measurement
RRG-21-1777
The 2019 Legislature authorized a $117,050.00 grant to upgrade water monitoring and measurement system. The project is in design and no funds have been disbursed.

Lower Willow Creek Irrigation District
Dam Right Subdrain Repair
RRG-22-1793
The 2021 Legislature authorized a $125,000 grant to repair the right toe drain by installing two 8-feet diameter manholes 300 feet apart and approximately 32-feet deep and slip line approximately 463 linear feet of 10-inch diameter perforated HDPE into the existing CMP drain. The project is in the design stage. No funds have been dispersed.

Lower Yellowstone Irrigation Project
Lateral V Check Structure & Lateral W Headgate Rehabilitation
RRG-22-1823A
The 2021 Legislature authorized a $125,000 grant to construct a new headgate, install a new check structure and install new automated gate controls. The project is in the design stage. No funds have been dispersed.

Malta Irrigation District
Exeter Siphon Rehabilitation
RRG-20-1755
The 2019 Legislature authorized a $125,000 grant to rehabilitate the irrigation siphon within the Malta ID delivery system. This project has been completed and the final invoice will be submitted upon the receipt of a final report. No funds have been disbursed.

Malta Irrigation District
Costin Lateral Pipeline Conversion
RRG-21-1784
The 2019 Legislature authorized the funding of a $125,000 grant for the conversion of the Costin Lateral from open ditch to pipeline transmission. Project is projected to be complete in 2022. No funds have been disbursed.

Malta Irrigation District
Main Canal Lining Wagner Reach
RRG-22-1847A
The 2021 legislature authorized a $125,000 grant to 1,460 feet of canal liner on a portion of the Wagner Reach within the Dodson South Canal. Construction is scheduled to begin fall of 2022. Project completion is set for fall 2023. No funds have been disbursed.

Milk River Joint Board of Control
St. Mary Diversion Dam & Headworks Design
RRG-22-1845A
The 2021 Legislature authorized a $125,000 grant to complete the final design for replacement of the St. Mary Diversion Dam and Headworks. Final design is set for fall of 2023. No funds have been disbursed.

Missoula, City/Parks and Recreation Department
Rattlesnake Creek Wilderness Dam
RRG-22-1839
The 2021 Legislature authorized a $125,000 grant for a pilot dam decommission project which includes: breech a portion of the McKinley Lake Dam, construct a new steam channel to convey a 100-year or larger flood even, reclaim head cut in spillway, install control sill to reduce sediment releases, remove existing outlet gates and gate tower; and backfill and seed the disturbed areas. The project is expected to be completed by the end of the fourth quarter 2024. No funds have been dispersed.

Missoula, City of
Caras Park Outfall-Stormwater Treatment Retrofit, Phase 2
RRG-20-1765
The 2019 Legislature authorized a $125,000 grant the stormwater infiltration treatment adjacent to the Clark Fork River. They design will be finalized by spring 2021. Project completion is September 2022. $76,121.89 has been disbursed.

Missoula County
Buena Vista Wastewater System Improvements, Phase 2
RRG-22-1870
The 2021 Legislature authorized a $125,000 grant to install 2,500 linear feet of new 8-inch PVC sewer mains, install nine manholes, connect 35 existing services in a mobile home community and connect the new collection system to city public wastewater services. Sludge will be removed from the existing lagoon cell and the area rehabilitated and seeded. $28,515.93 have been dispersed.

Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology
Measuring Groundwater Recharge in Flood to Pivot Irrigation Conversions
RRG-20-1766
The 2019 Legislature authorized a $125,000 grant to target fields scheduled to be converted to pivot irrigation and install eight monitoring wells on four fields to measure the quality and quantity of recharge to an alluvial aquifer. The project was delayed and field work is scheduled for next season. Projected completion is expected 2023. $59,005.53 has been disbursed.

Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology
Reducing Mobilization of Oil Brine Salt to Streams
RRG-20-1763
The 2019 Legislature authorized a $125,000 grant to study surface and groundwater geochemical markers to determine if the cause of elevated salinity in the tributaries is due to historic oil and gas development known to occur on two tributaries (North Willow Creek and Cat Creek) of the Musselshell River. The project was delayed, and completion is expected 2025. $9,768.48 has been disbursed.

Montana Department of Corrections
Powell Dam
RRG-22-1813
The 2021 Legislature authorized $125,000 to control seepage and rectify steep embankments that currently put the dam at risk. Engineering on the project is expected to begin in 2023. No funds have been dispersed.

Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation-Water Resources Division
Ackley Lake Outlet Canal Rehabilitation
RRG-22-1795A
The 2021 Legislature authorized a $125,000 grant to design and construct 2,800 linear feet of the outlet canal. The project beginning design and will be in construction the spring/summer of 2023. No funds have been disbursed.

Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation-Water Resources Division
Two Dot Canal Rehabilitation
RRG-22-1866A
The 2021 Legislature authorized a $125,000 grant to rehabilitate the irrigation canal due to seepage. The project beginning design and will be in construction the spring/summer of 2023. No funds have been disbursed.

North Havre County Water District
Water System Improvements
RRG-20-1731
The 2019 Legislature authorized a $125,000 grant to construct a new 50,000-gallon glass-fused storage tank, a 25,000-gallon concrete clear well, a new pumphouse bulk fill depot, and install control system upgrades. Funding expected was not received. Due to funding shortages the 50,000-gallon tank is not part of this project. Plans have been submitted to DEQ approval and is anticipated to be advertised for bids 4th quarter of 2022. No funds have been dispersed.

North Valley County W&SD
Water Improvements
RRG-22-1828A
The 2021 Legislature authorized a $125,000 grant to replace 3,800 linear feet of asphalt cement water main with PVC main, install 3 new sampling stations, install new heads on existing meters, install a solar-powered mixer on the existing storage tank and abandon/plug 17,902 linear feet of dormant water main. $20,000 have been dispersed.

Paradise Valley Irrigation District
Milk Riverbank Stabilization
RRG-22-1860A
The 2021 Legislature authorized a $125,000 grant to obtain all necessary permits and install approximately 660 feet of toe-wood riverbank protection. The project is in the design stage. No funds have been dispersed.

Petroleum County Conservation District
Horse Creek Coulee Water Storage
RRG-21-1781
The 2019 Legislature authorized a $125,000 grant to develop an off-stream storage site in the HCC to improve management of low flows in the Lower Musselshell River. The sponsor proposed a change to the project due to the Mosby Musselshell Watershed Group disbanding. They are requesting a conversion to the smaller Delphia-Melstone WUA regulating reservoir. The project is in the design phase and $15,000.00 has been disbursed.

Petroleum County Conservation District
Petrolia Dam Outlet Works Headgate Replacement
RRG-22-1858A
The 2021 Legislature authorized a $105,742 grant to improve the outlet works headgate of the Petrolia Dam. Design is complete and no funds have been disbursed.

Plentywood, City of
Wastewater Collection Upgrade, Phase 2
RRG-20-1734
The 2019 Legislature authorized a $125,000 grant to install CIP pipe, 13,260 linear feet of gravity sewer pipe, install 7,712 linear feet of 8-inch PVC sewer pipe and replace 41 manholes. The project is under construction and is scheduled for completion fall 2022. $112,500 has been dispersed.

Pondera County Conservation District
Dupuyer Creek Diversion Automation Project
RRG-23-1873
The 2021 Legislature authorized a $125,000 grant to install a SCADA monitoring system. Project design is complete, and construction will begin next quarter. No funds have been disbursed.

Power-Teton County Water & Sewer District
Drinking Water Improvements
RRG-21-1780
The 2019 Legislature authorized $125,000 to replace the source drinking water from Muddy Creek to groundwater wells. The funding package is currently being compiled and the project is expected to be completed December 2022. $25,179.90 has been disbursed.

Richey, Town of
Water System Improvements Phase I
RRG-23-1846A
The 2021 Legislature authorized $125,000 to replace water pipe, add a tank, valves and water meters to the system. Project is in design and no funds have been disbursed.

Roundup, City of
Water Main Improvements, Phase 6
RRG-22-1842A
The 2021 Legislature authorized $125,000 to the City of Roundup to replace cast iron pipe, install new fire hydrants, and install new gate valves. Construction has begun. No funds have been dispersed.

Savage Elementary School
Savage School Water System Repair
RRG-22-1806A
The 2021 Legislature authorized a grant for $250,000 for water line improvements to Savage School. The project is in the design phase and $54,924.70 has been disbursed.

Shelby, City of
Water System Infrastructure Improvements
RRG-22-1821A
The 2021 Legislature authorized a $125,000 grant to install 3,500 linear feet of 8-inch PVC water main, install 740 linear feet of 8-inch pipe through casing under highway, replace airport area altitude vault in storage tank and dispose of 800 feet of asphalt cement pipe. Project is in final design stages. $59,044.02 has been dispersed.

Stillwater Conservation District
Mendenhall Ditch Intake and Drop Structure Rehabilitation
RRG-22-1816A
The 2021 legislature authorized a $125,000 grant to replace the Mendenhall Ditch Company's intake structure, relocate a measurement device, replace multiple drop structures, and install and additional drop structure. Construction is underway and scheduled to conclude winter of 2022. No funds have been disbursed.

Stillwater County – Absarokee Sewer RSID
Wastewater System Improvements
RRG-19-1691
The 2017 Legislature authorized $125,000 for wastewater system improvements. The project consists of disinfection system improvements, rehabilitation of lagoons, and treatment system improvements. Funding shortages have delayed this project. The project is expected to be completed by December 2022. $112,500.00 has been disbursed.

Sweet Grass County CD
Post-Kellogg Ditch Headworks Improvements
RRG-22-1803A
The 2021 Legislature authorized a $125,000 grant to construct new headgates and a bypass structure on the Post-Kellogg ditch. The project is in the design stage and $21,989.88 has been disbursed.

Thompson Falls, City of
Wastewater System Improvements
RRG-20-1738
The 2019 Legislature authorized a $125,000 grant for sewer system upgrades. The project design is complete, and the project has begun construction process. The project will be complete December 2022. $106,612.30 has been disbursed.

Thompson Falls, City of
Wastewater System Improvements, Phase 3
RRG-22-1867A
The 2021 Legislature authorized a $125,000 grant to wastewater system upgrades. The project will construct 11,697 linear feet of 8-inch polyvinyl chloride sewer main, construct 16,200 linear feet of 4-inch gravity sewer service line, install 26 grinder pump service units, construct lift station No. 3, construct 1,400 linear feet of 4-inch force main, install 40 manholes and complete surface restoration activities. The project is in final design; construction will begin fall 2023 and complete fall 2024. No funds have been disbursed.

Three Forks, City of
Water System Improvements
RRG-22-1851A
The 2021 Legislature authorized a $125,000 grant to improve the water system. The project will construct new well(s) to replace the existing Well #2 and expand the system's capacity. The project will also expand the city's arsenic treatment plant. The project will be completed December 2023. No funds have been disbursed.

Valier, Town of
Wastewater System Improvements, Phase 3
RRG-22-1865A
The 2021 Legislature authorized a $125,000 grant to install influent screening at the treatment facility, replace 1,900 linear feet of collection main with new 8-inch PVC main, install three new manholes, and remove accumulated sludge from lagoons. The project is in the design stage. No funds have been dispersed.

Wibaux, Town of
Wastewater Treatment System Upgrade
RRG-20-1733
The 2019 Legislature authorized a $125,000 grant to make improvements to the wastewater system by constructing a land-application disposal system with pivot irrigation, modify the storage cell system to meet winter storage requirements and add disinfection, flow monitoring and effluent sampling systems. The project has been approved by DEQ but the land that was to be used for effluent discharge is now not available. A new area is being looked for. Project is scheduled to go to bid 4th quarter of 2022. $4,830 has been dispersed.

Wilsall Water District
Water System Improvements
RRG-20-1710
The 2019 Legislature authorized a $125,000 grant for a drinking water improvements project. The Town will pursue water treatment to their current wells but because of the high-cost treatment, the project has been delayed due to funding shortages. The city plans on starting construction in the spring 2023. $112,500 has been disbursed.

Winnett, Town of
Wastewater System Retrofit
RRG-20-1707
The 2019 Legislature authorized a $125,000 grant for wastewater system improvements. The project will replace sewer mains, remove sludge, install lagoon liners, and install new inter pond piping. Project is expected to be completed by December 2023. $46,522.26 has been disbursed.

Wolf Point, City of
Wastewater Collection System Improvements
RRG-22-1818A
The 2021 Legislature authorized a $125,000 grant to replace 3,700 linear feet of collection system with PVC pipe, install 9,600 linear feet of cured-in-place-pipe and rehabilitate the main lift station. The project is in the design stage. No funds have been dispersed,

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Authorized Grant Projects Not Yet Executed

Belgrade School District
Ridge View Elementary Solar Project
No Contract
The 2021 Legislature authorized the funding of a $125,000 grant for the installation of a 50-Kilowatt solar photovoltaic roof mount grid-tied system for a rural school consisting of 125, 400-watt solar panels and optimizers, and a 50 kW inverter. The project is scheduled for construction Spring 2023.

Butte-Silver Bow, City-County of
Basin Creek Dam #1 Rehabilitation
No Contract
The 2021 legislature authorized the funding of a $125,000 grant for rehabilitation of the Basin Creek Dam, which will include removal and replacement of the parapet wall, concrete overlay over the dam face and installation of post-tensioned anchorages through the mass concrete into the masonry core. The funding package is currently being compiled.

Glen Lake Irrigation District
Rolling Hills Canal Rehabilitation
No Contract
The 2021 legislature authorized the funding of a $125,000 grant to mitigate seepage water by installing a canal liner for 2,500 linear feet of the ditch. The project is scheduled for construction Spring 2023.

Lewistown, City of
Ditch Rehabilitation
No Contract
The 2021 Legislature authorized a $125,000 grant for the design and lining of the Lewistown Ditch. Shortages in engineering services have delayed this project; it is anticipated that engineering and construction will begin in 2023.

Malta Irrigation District
Costin Lateral Pipeline Conversion
No Contract
The 2019 Legislature authorized a $125,000 grant for the conversion of the Costin Lateral from open ditch to pipeline transmission. Funding shortages have delayed the project; it is projected to begin in 2021.

Teton Conservation District
Eureka Dam Safety Improvements
No Contract
The 2019 Legislature authorized a $125,000 grant to install a new toe drain to reduce pressure and seepage below the toe drain in the dam. The project is projected to begin in 2023.

Terminated Grant Projects

Carbon County Conservation District
Golden Ditch Diversion Structure Rehabilitation
No Contract
The 2019 Legislature authorized the funding of a $125,000 grant for the design and construction of a new diversion structure on the Clarks Fork River. Funding shortages have delayed the contracting of this project.

2023

Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation

1539 Eleventh Avenue
PO Box 201601
Helena, Montana 59620
406/444-6668
www.dnrc.mt.gov