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Renewable Resource Grant and Loan Program

Department of Natural Resources and Conservation

Conservation and Resource Development Division

Volume 6

Renewable Resource Grant and Loan Program

Project Evaluations and Funding Recommendations for the
2027 Biennium and 2025 Biennium Status Report

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List of Abbreviations

AC	Asbestos Cement
ARM	Administrative Rules of Montana
ARPA	American Rescue Plan Act
BOD	Biological Oxygen Demand
BOR	US Bureau of Reclamation
CD	Conservation District
CDBG	Community Development and Block Grant
CFS	Cubic Feet per Second
CIPP	Cured In Place Pipe
CST	Coal Severance Tax
DEQ	Montana Department of Environmental Quality
DNRC	Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation
EPA	US Environmental Protection Agency
FWP	Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks
GPM	Gallons Per Minute
HDPE	High-Density Polyethylene
I&I	Inflow and Infiltration
ID	Irrigation District
IDG	Irrigation Development Grant
MCA	Montana Code Annotated
MCEP	Montana Coal Endowment Program
NRCS	USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
PER	Preliminary Engineering Report
PVC	Polyvinyl Chloride
PVG	Private Grant
RD	USDA Rural Development
RRGL	Renewable Resource Grant and Loan
SCADA	Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition
SRF	State Revolving Loan Fund
SSRA	State Special Revenue Account
TSS	Total Suspended Solids
UV	Ultraviolet
WMG	Watershed Management Grant
WRDA	US Army Corps of Engineers Water Resources Development Grant
WSD	Water and Sewer District
WTP	Water Treatment Plant
WUA	Water Users Association
WWTP	Wastewater Treatment Plant

Alphabetical Index of Applications by Applicant

Alphabetical list of applications submitted to the Renewable Resource Grant and Loan Program for consideration in the 2027 Biennium. Page numbers correspond to the project evaluation contained within this report.

CHAPTER 1

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 Legislature for funding are described in Chapter 2.

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 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.

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 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 10 provides an update on all program grants, including Project Grants, active during the previous 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 3 provides more information about the program and about loans active during the previous 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 4 describes grants and loans active during the previous biennium.

Irrigation Development Grants assist producers and irrigation system managers with projects that would increase crop value or expand irrigated acreage in Montana. Chapter 5 provides more information about the program and projects active during the previous biennium.

Emergency Grants 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 6 provides more information about the program and describes emergency assistance provided during the previous 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 7 provides more information about the program and planning grants active during the previous biennium.

Watershed Management Grants support the development and implementation of locally led watershed resource management activities. Chapter 8 provides more information about the grant program and watershed management projects active during the previous biennium.

Nonpoint Source Pollution Reduction Grants provide financial assistance to projects which measurably preserve Montana's water resources. Projects must improve water quality or water quantity including stream flows and water storage in existing natural systems, such as riparian areas, flood plains and wetlands. Chapter 9 provides more information about the grant program and projects active during the previous 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

Funding for Renewable Resource Grants comes from the revenue deposited in the natural resources projects state special revenue account established in 5-38-302, MCA, Renewable Resource Loans from renewable resource bond proceeds deposited in the renewable resource loan proceeds account established in 85-1-617(5), MCA, and coal severance tax bonds authorized pursuant to 17-5-7, MCA. The Legislature may approve by appropriation or other appropriate means those grants and loans that it finds consistent with the policies and purposes of the program.

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 recommendations 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 2

Renewable Resource Grants to Public Entities

Grant Application Submission

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) on the agency grant and loan website.

Grant Application 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, irrigation districts, water and sewer districts, Tribal governments, and conservation districts. 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.

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 because 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 lower on the list.

RRGL project grants recommended to the Legislature for funding are described later in this chapter.

Grant Application Review

The criteria for eligibility and ranking RRGL grant applications are established in ARM 36.17.610. Private grants have additional ranking considerations outlined in MCA 85-1-609 and MCA 85-1-610.

Overview of DNRC RRGL Grant Application Review and Ranking Process

1. **Application Submission**
   - Applicant submits RRGL application to DNRC before deadline.
2. **Completeness and Eligibility Review**
   - DNRC reviews application for completeness and eligibility.
   - If DNRC identifies any deficiencies, the applicant is provided an opportunity to address them.
3. **Technical and Financial Feasibility – Primary Review**
   - DNRC assigns applications to technical reviewers for primary review according to area of expertise.
4. **Technical and Financial Feasibility – Secondary Review**
   - If needed, DNRC assigns applications to specialists for a secondary review according to area of expertise (e.g., water rights).
5. **Renewable Resource Benefits, Public Benefits, and Environmental Review**
   - DNRC reviews applications for renewable resource and public benefits.
   - DNRC performs review of potential environmental impacts.
6. **Score Reconciliation**
   - DNRC meets with Primary Reviewers to reconcile Technical and Financial Feasibility scores.
   - DNRC makes final determination regarding each application's technical and financial feasibility.
   - DNRC reconciles Renewable Resource Benefits and Public Benefits scores to assure consistency across reviewers.
7. **Final Scoring and Ranking**
   - DNRC calculates final scores and compiles results into draft ranked list.
8. **Final Funding Recommendation**
   - DNRC presents project ranking and funding recommendations to Governor for review.
   - DNRC presents Governor-approved project ranking and funding recommendations to Legislature in Governor's Executive Budget.

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.

Grant Application Ranking

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 are presented to the Legislature as part of this report (Table 1 and Table 2).

Table 1 shows infrastructure project grant applications and Table 2 shows irrigation project grant applications. Figure 2 shows the application distribution by project type. A map showing project locations is presented as Figure 1. These recommendations do not impose limits on the amount of funding the Legislature may provide to any governmental entity for a single grant project.

Grant Management

After an appropriations bill is enacted to authorize grants and loans, DNRC will notify applicants of their funding status. DNRC will not reimburse any project cost incurred before legislative authorization is given and an award letter is issued. Grant and loan recipients must work with DNRC to meet start-up conditions before DNRC will issue a loan or grant agreement.

Project Monitoring

Project monitoring is governed by a grant agreement between DNRC and the grant recipient. DNRC staff oversee hundreds of active grants at any given time. DNRC attempts to make site inspection visits to projects. Site visits allow DNRC to identify problems or respond to a request for assistance from the grant recipient. Budget and staffing constraints preclude DNRC site visits for every project.

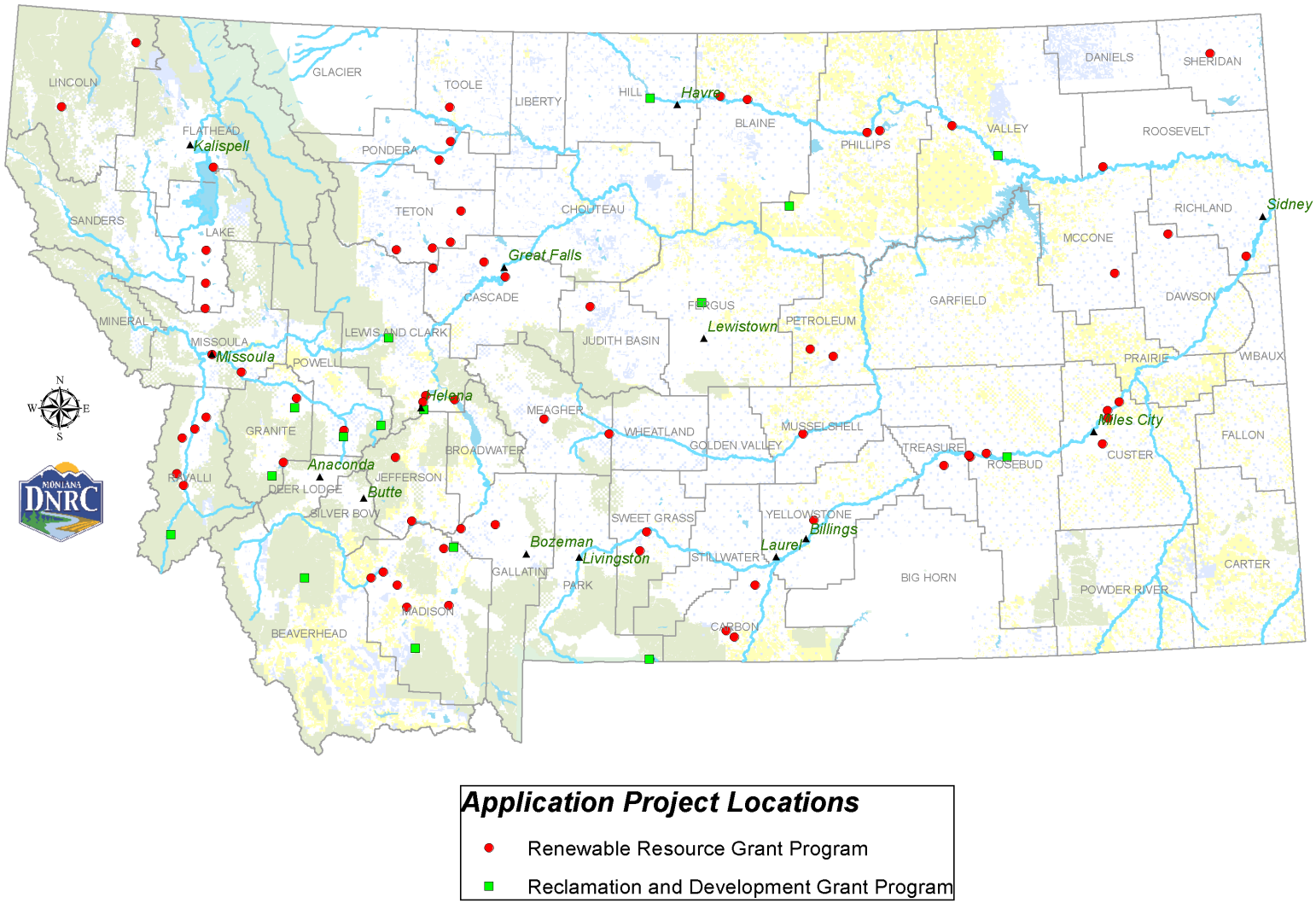
Grant agreements require progress reports, expenditure reports, and a final report. Program staff document decisions and conversations that affect ongoing projects. DNRC is flexible when considering scope changes if the project achieves the goals described in this document's project write-up. Amendments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

Grant recipients submit reimbursement requests and are reimbursed for allowable costs from DNRC. All costs must be fully supported by an invoice or receipt.

Project Evaluation

DNRC evaluates the 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. This 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.

Figure 1 *Renewable Resource Grant Program and Reclamation and Development Grant Program Application Project Locations*



Application Project Locations

- Renewable Resource Grant Program
- Reclamation and Development Grant Program

Figure 2 *2027 Biennium Renewable Resource Grant and Loan Applications by Project Type*

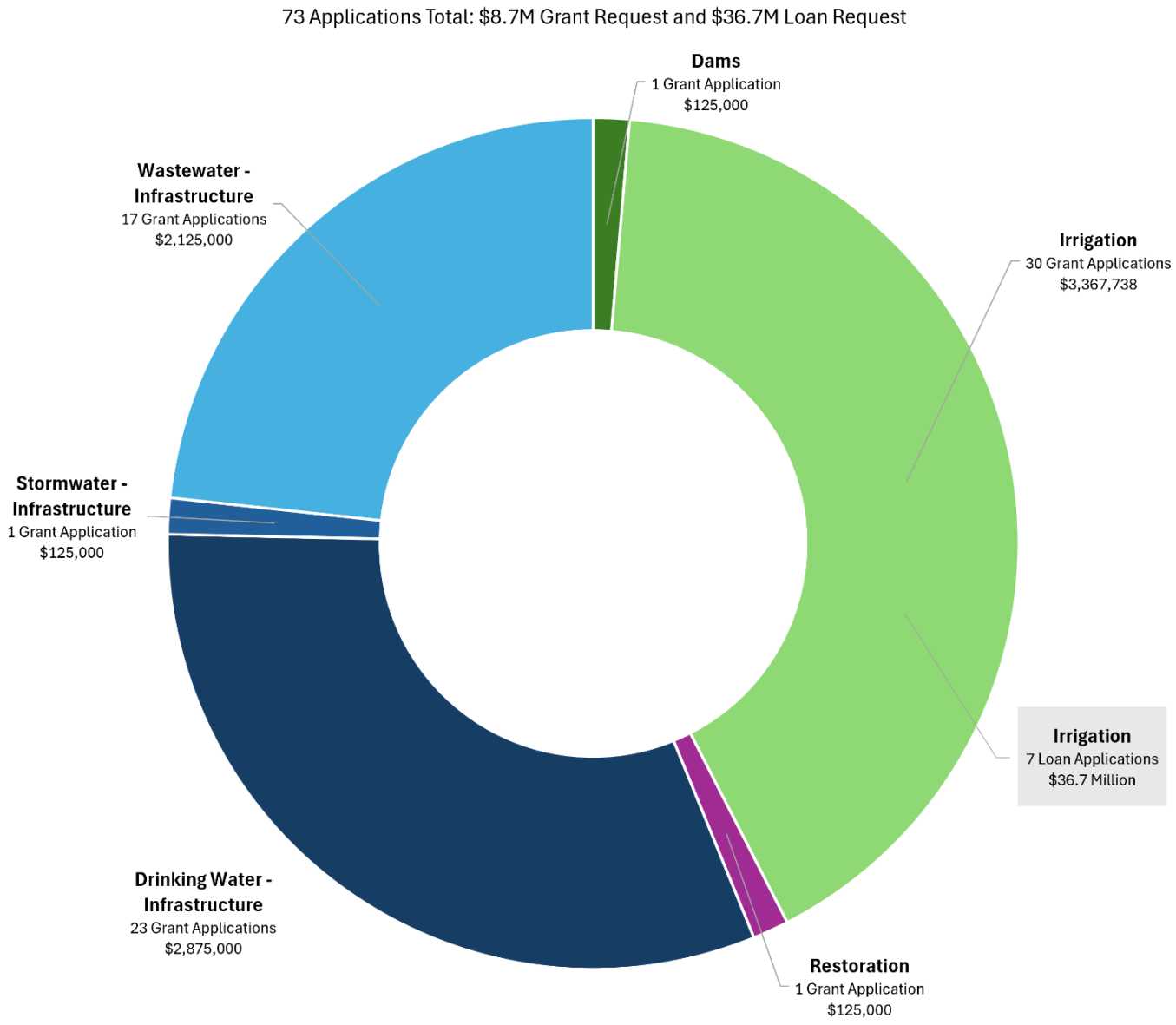


***Table 1** 2027 Biennium Infrastructure Grant and Loan Applications by Order of Ranking Recommendation*

RANK	APPLICANT	PROJECT TITLE	PROJECT TYPE	COUNTY	RRG GRANT RECOMMENDED (HB 6)	RRG LOAN REQUESTED (HB 8)	TOTAL MATCH	TOTAL PROJECT COST
1	Arlee Lake County Water and Sewer District	Arlee Lake County Water & Sewer District Wastewater System Upgrades	Wastewater – Infrastructure	Lake	$125,000	$0	$530,000	$655,000
2	Whitehall, Town of	Whitehall Drinking Water System Improvements	Drinking Water - Infrastructure	Jefferson	$125,000	$0	$1,556,951	$1,681,951
3	Deer Lodge, City of	Deer Lodge Wastewater Collection System Improvements	Wastewater – Infrastructure	Powell	$125,000	$0	$753,000	$878,000
4	Missoula, City of	Missoula Public Library Living Roof Stormwater Control	Stormwater – Infrastructure	Missoula	$125,000	$0	$387,090	$512,090
5	Harrison Water and Sewer District	Harrison Wastewater System Improvements	Wastewater – Infrastructure	Madison	$125,000	$0	$3,754,860	$3,879,860
5	Madison County	Madison County Pennington Bridge Big Hole River Restoration	Restoration	Madison	$125,000	$0	$652,359	$777,359
7	South Wind County Water and Sewer District	South Wind Drinking Water and Wastewater Improvements, Phase 4	Drinking Water - Infrastructure	Cascade	$125,000	$0	$2,004,588	$2,129,588

RANK	APPLICANT	PROJECT TITLE	PROJECT TYPE	COUNTY	RRG GRANT RECOMMENDED (HB 6)	RRG LOAN REQUESTED (HB 8)	TOTAL MATCH	TOTAL PROJECT COST
8	Willow Creek Sewer District	Willow Creek Sewer District Wastewater System Improvements	Wastewater – Infrastructure	Gallatin	$125,000	$0	$1,878,625	$2,003,625
9	Roundup, City of	Roundup Wastewater Lagoon System Upgrades	Wastewater – Infrastructure	Musselshell	$125,000	$0	$4,827,500	$4,952,500
10	Judith Basin County	Judith Basin County Geyser Wastewater Treatment System Improvements	Wastewater – Infrastructure	Judith Basin	$125,000	$0	$956,783	$1,081,783
10	Martinsdale Water and Sewer District	Martinsdale Water and Sewer District Water System Improvements	Drinking Water - Infrastructure	Meagher	$125,000	$0	$1,198,000	$1,323,000
12	Alder Water and Sewer District	Alder Water and Sewer District Wastewater System Improvements	Wastewater – Infrastructure	Madison	$125,000	$0	$1,722,000	$1,847,000
13	Fairfield, Town of	Fairfield Drinking Water System Improvements	Drinking Water - Infrastructure	Teton	$125,000	$0	$3,464,700	$3,589,700
14	Dutton, Town of	Dutton Drinking Water System Improvements, Phase 2	Drinking Water - Infrastructure	Teton	$125,000	$0	$1,593,700	$1,718,700
15	Circle, Town of	Circle Water System Improvements, Phase 5	Drinking Water - Infrastructure	McCone	$125,000	$0	$2,500,000	$2,625,000

RANK	APPLICANT	PROJECT TITLE	PROJECT TYPE	COUNTY	RRG GRANT RECOMMENDED (HB 6)	RRG LOAN REQUESTED (HB 8)	TOTAL MATCH	TOTAL PROJECT COST
16	Malta, City of	Malta Drinking Water System Improvements	Drinking Water - Infrastructure	Phillips	$125,000	$0	$3,652,000	$3,777,000
17	Red Lodge, City of	Red Lodge Wastewater System Improvements, Phases 2 and 3	Wastewater – Infrastructure	Carbon	$125,000	$0	$1,977,500	$2,102,500
18	Hysham, Town of	Hysham Drinking Water System Improvements, Phase 2	Drinking Water - Infrastructure	Treasure	$125,000	$0	$2,443,571	$2,568,571
19	Darby, Town of	Darby Wastewater System Improvements	Wastewater – Infrastructure	Ravalli	$125,000	$0	$1,959,993	$2,084,993
20	Sheridan, Town of	Sheridan Drinking Water System Improvements	Drinking Water - Infrastructure	Madison	$125,000	$0	$1,060,225	$1,185,225
21	Richey, Town of	Richey Drinking Water System Improvements, Phase 3	Drinking Water - Infrastructure	Dawson	$125,000	$0	$2,250,000	$2,375,000
22	Ennis, Town of	Ennis Drinking Water System Improvements	Drinking Water - Infrastructure	Madison	$125,000	$0	$3,883,000	$4,008,000
23	Basin Water and/or Sewer District	Basin Water and/or Sewer District Drinking Water System Improvements	Drinking Water - Infrastructure	Jefferson	$125,000	$0	$1,389,240	$1,514,240
24	Manhattan, Town of	Manhattan Water System Improvements	Drinking Water - Infrastructure	Gallatin	$125,000	$0	$1,047,000	$1,172,000

RANK	APPLICANT	PROJECT TITLE	PROJECT TYPE	COUNTY	RRG GRANT RECOMMENDED (HB 6)	RRG LOAN REQUESTED (HB 8)	TOTAL MATCH	TOTAL PROJECT COST
25	Cooke City Water District	Cooke City Drinking Water Infrastructure Improvements	Drinking Water - Infrastructure	Park	$125,000	$0	$1,669,205	$1,794,205
25	Treasure State Acres Water and Sewer District	Treasure State Acres Wastewater Treatment System Improvements	Wastewater – Infrastructure	Lewis and Clark	$125,000	$0	$390,000	$515,000
27	St. Ignatius, Town of	St. Ignatius Wastewater Collection Main Replacement	Wastewater – Infrastructure	Lake	$125,000	$0	$5,627,559	$5,752,559
28	Twin Bridges, Town of	Twin Bridges Drinking Water System Improvements	Drinking Water - Infrastructure	Madison	$125,000	$0	$1,994,800	$2,119,800
29	Libby, City of	Libby Wastewater System Improvements	Wastewater – Infrastructure	Lincoln	$125,000	$0	$934,000	$1,059,000
30	Sun Prairie Village County Water and Sewer District	Sun Prairie Village Drinking Water System Upgrades	Drinking Water - Infrastructure	Cascade	$125,000	$0	$2,113,000	$2,238,000
31	Plentywood, City of	Plentywood Drinking Water System Improvements	Drinking Water - Infrastructure	Sheridan	$125,000	$0	$2,208,268	$2,333,268
32	White Sulphur Springs, City of	White Sulphur Springs Drinking Water System Improvements	Drinking Water - Infrastructure	Meagher	$125,000	$0	$1,662,080	$1,787,080

RANK	APPLICANT	PROJECT TITLE	PROJECT TYPE	COUNTY	RRG GRANT RECOMMENDED (HB 6)	RRG LOAN REQUESTED (HB 8)	TOTAL MATCH	TOTAL PROJECT COST
33	Big Timber, City of	Big Timber Drinking Water Storage Improvements	Drinking Water - Infrastructure	Sweet Grass	$125,000	$0	$2,729,000	$2,854,000
34	Wolf Point, City of	Wolf Point Wastewater System Improvements, Phase 3	Wastewater – Infrastructure	Roosevelt	$125,000	$0	$2,375,000	$2,500,000
35	Bigfork County Water and Sewer District	Bigfork Drinking Water System Improvements	Drinking Water - Infrastructure	Flathead	$125,000	$0	$4,275,000	$4,400,000
36	Shelby, City of	Shelby Wastewater System Improvements	Wastewater – Infrastructure	Toole	$125,000	$0	$1,000,000	$1,125,000
37	Ronan, City Of	Ronan Wastewater System Improvements	Wastewater – Infrastructure	Lake	$125,000	$0	$12,359,000	$12,484,000
38	Bearcreek, Town of	Bearcreek Drinking Water System Improvements, Phase 1	Drinking Water - Infrastructure	Carbon	$125,000	$0	$917,627	$1,042,627
39	Conrad, City of	Conrad Wastewater System Improvements	Wastewater – Infrastructure	Pondera	$125,000	$0	$2,403,698	$2,528,698
40	Pinesdale, Town of	Pinesdale Drinking Water System Improvements	Drinking Water - Infrastructure	Ravalli	$125,000	$0	$1,894,541	$2,019,541

RANK	APPLICANT	PROJECT TITLE	PROJECT TYPE	COUNTY	RRG GRANT RECOMMENDED (HB 6)	RRG LOAN REQUESTED (HB 8)	TOTAL MATCH	TOTAL PROJECT COST
41	Hinsdale County Water and Sewer District	Hinsdale County Water and Sewer District Water System Upgrades	Drinking Water - Infrastructure	Valley	$125,000	$0	$4,000,400	$4,125,400
42	Joliet, Town of	Joliet Wastewater System Improvements	Wastewater – Infrastructure	Carbon	$125,000	$0	$1,531,685	$1,656,685
			Infrastructure Total		**$5,250,000**			

***Table 2** 2027 Biennium Irrigation Grant and Loan Applications by Order of Ranking Recommendation*

RANK	APPLICANT	PROJECT TITLE	PROJECT TYPE	COUNTY	RRG GRANT RECOMMENDED (HB 6)	RRG LOAN REQUESTED (HB 8)	TOTAL MATCH	TOTAL PROJECT COST
1	Granite County Conservation District	Granite County Flint Creek Dam Improvements	Dams	Granite	$125,000	$0	$0	$125,000
2	Pondera County Conservation District	Pondera County Conservation District S-Canal Pipeline Conversion	Irrigation	Pondera	$125,000	$0	$365,328	$490,328
3	Yellowstone County	Yellowstone County Billings Bench Water Association Rattlesnake Reservoir Water Management Improvements	Irrigation	Yellowstone	$125,000	$0	$404,150	$529,150
4	Yellowstone Irrigation District	Yellowstone Irrigation District Canal Rehabilitation	Irrigation	Rosebud	$125,000	$0	$5,700	$130,700
5	Lower Yellowstone Irrigation District #1	Lower Yellowstone Irrigation District Thomas Point Pump Station Rehabilitation, Phase 2	Irrigation	Richland	$125,000	$0	$290,364	$415,364
6	Savage Irrigation District	Savage Irrigation District Pumping Plant Rehabilitation, Phase 2	Irrigation	Richland	$125,000	$0	$286,596	$411,596

RANK	APPLICANT	PROJECT TITLE	PROJECT TYPE	COUNTY	RRG GRANT RECOMMENDED (HB 6)	RRG LOAN REQUESTED (HB 8)	TOTAL MATCH	TOTAL PROJECT COST
7	Clinton Irrigation District	Clinton Irrigation District Schoolhouse Lateral Pipeline Conversion, Phase 4	Irrigation	Missoula	$125,000	$0	$17,931	$142,931
7	Helena Valley Irrigation District	Helena Valley Irrigation District Lateral 26.6 and Lateral 20.7-3.3 Seepage Mitigation	Irrigation	Lewis and Clark	$125,000	$0	$56,360	$181,360
9	Helena Valley Irrigation District	Helena Valley Irrigation District Pumping Plant Automation	Irrigation	Lewis and Clark	$125,000	$0	$272,285	$397,285
10	Greenfields Irrigation District	Greenfields Irrigation District Check Replacement, Phase 2	Irrigation	Teton	$125,000	$0	$839,632	$964,632
11	Tongue and Yellowstone River Irrigation District	Tongue and Yellowstone River Irrigation District Cowels Creek Flume Replacement	Irrigation	Custer	$125,000	$0	$524,814	$649,814
12	Tongue and Yellowstone River Irrigation District	Tongue and Yellowstone River Irrigation District Jones Creek Flume and Canal Conversion	Irrigation	Custer	$125,000	$0	$1,169,637	$1,294,637

RANK	APPLICANT	PROJECT TITLE	PROJECT TYPE	COUNTY	RRG GRANT RECOMMENDED (HB 6)	RRG LOAN REQUESTED (HB 8)	TOTAL MATCH	TOTAL PROJECT COST
13	Bitterroot Conservation District	Bitterroot Conservation District Union Diversion Resource Improvements	Irrigation	Ravalli	$125,000	$0	$58,885	$183,885
14	Fort Belknap Irrigation District	Fort Belknap Irrigation District Main Canal Lining	Irrigation	Blaine	$125,000	$0	$209,983	$334,983
15	Petroleum County Conservation District	Petroleum County Conservation District McDonald Creek Diversion Structures Replacement	Irrigation	Petroleum	$125,000	$0	$700,050	$825,050
16	Malta Irrigation District	Malta Irrigation District Black Coulee Siphon Replacement	Irrigation	Phillips	$125,000	$0	$306,595	$431,595
17	Yellowstone Irrigation District	Yellowstone Irrigation District Lateral 17.6 Rehabilitation, Phase 1	Irrigation	Rosebud	$125,000	$0	$5,800	$130,800
18	Sweet Grass Conservation District	Sweet Grass Conservation District Crest Ditch Headgate Rehabilitation	Irrigation	Sweet Grass	$125,000	$0	$137,452	$262,452
19	Petrolia Irrigation District	Petrolia Irrigation District Main Canal Pipeline Conversion	Irrigation	Petroleum	$125,000	$0	$133,047	$258,047
20	Glen Lake Irrigation District	Glen Lake Irrigation District Doxie Slough Seepage Mitigation	Irrigation	Lincoln	$125,000	$0	$57,561	$182,561

RANK	APPLICANT	PROJECT TITLE	PROJECT TYPE	COUNTY	RRG GRANT RECOMMENDED (HB 6)	RRG LOAN REQUESTED (HB 8)	TOTAL MATCH	TOTAL PROJECT COST
21	Granite Conservation District	Granite Conservation District Allendale Ditch Rehabilitation	Irrigation	Granite	$125,000	$0	$0	$125,000
22	Hammond Irrigation District	Hammond Irrigation District Big Porcupine Siphon Rehabilitation	Irrigation	Rosebud	$125,000	$241,900	$364,231	$731,131
23	Greenfields Irrigation District	Greenfields Irrigation District J-Wasteway Modernization	Irrigation	Teton	$125,000	$0	$208,476	$333,476
24	Bitter Root Irrigation District	Bitter Root Irrigation District Diversion Control Modernization	Irrigation	Ravalli	$99,500	$0	$5,000	$104,500
28	Zurich Irrigation District	Zurich Irrigation District Brown Creek Siphon Rehabilitation	Irrigation	Blaine	$125,000	$872,884	$8,105	$1,005,989
28	Kinsey Irrigation District	Kinsey Irrigation District Harris Creek Spill Structure Rehabilitation	Irrigation	Custer	$125,000	$511,520	$6,140	$642,660
28	Kinsey Irrigation District	Kinsey Irrigation District Hammerbacker Lateral to Pipeline Conversion	Irrigation	Custer	$125,000	$840,823	$6,140	$971,963
28	Fort Shaw Irrigation District	Fort Shaw Irrigation District Simms Creek Siphon Replacement	Irrigation	Cascade	$125,000	$5,181,317	$13,755	$5,320,072

RANK	APPLICANT	PROJECT TITLE	PROJECT TYPE	COUNTY	RRG GRANT RECOMMENDED (HB 6)	RRG LOAN REQUESTED (HB 8)	TOTAL MATCH	TOTAL PROJECT COST
N/A	Sunset Irrigation District	Sunset Irrigation District Baker Ditch Oliver Split Headgate and Weirs	Irrigation	Ravalli	$0	$0	$0	$18,238
N/A	DNRC Water Resources Division	DNRC Willow Creek Dam Rehabilitation	Irrigation	Madison	$0	$14,000,000	$13,335,000	$27,335,000
N/A	DNRC Water Resources Division	DNRC Painted Rocks Dam Rehabilitation, Phase 1	Irrigation	Ravalli	$0	$15,000,000	$14,030,000	$29,030,000
			Irrigation Total		**$3,474,500**	**$36,648,444**		

Arlee Lake County Water and Sewer District
Arlee Lake County Water & Sewer District Wastewater System Upgrades
Infrastructure Rank: 1 (of 42)
Project Type: Wastewater – Infrastructure
County: Lake

PROJECT INFORMATION:
The Arlee Lake County Water and Sewer District Wastewater Improvements Project will address the failing sewer system and improve treatment by re-classifying lagoons.

Project History
The Arlee/Lake County Water and Sewer District provides wastewater service to the community of Arlee. The Jocko River borders the community to the east. The residents obtain drinking water from area wells. As such, protecting the area groundwater and surface water is of the utmost importance. The District's wastewater system was constructed in 2002 and consists of gravity collection mains, two lift stations, and a lagoon treatment system with spray irrigation disposal. The treatment lagoons were originally designed as two-celled aeration system with seasonal storage. Currently, the lagoons are classified by the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) as facultative treatment lagoons with mixers, which limits the available capacity of the lagoons. A new aeration system was installed in the lagoons in 2021. Community members have been opening manhole lids, which poses a safety risk and also introduces debris to the collection system. Houses west of the highway are served by individual septic systems that are failing and introducing contaminants into the groundwater. Components of the irrigation pump station are nearing the end of their useful life.

Proposed Solution
Specific tasks include:
- Install 15 new locking manhole lids;
- Extend sanitary sewer main underneath Highway 93 to service houses west of the highway;
- Reclassify the lagoons as aerated; and,
- Upgrade irrigation pump station with new pumps, valves, piping, controls and effluent flow meter.

Resource and Benefit Analysis
The wastewater system improvement project will protect the quality of the Jocko River by preventing raw and partially treated wastewater from contaminating area groundwater and surface water. The Jocko River is a core area for the endangered bull trout and is a known habitat for the westslope cutthroat trout. Extending the sewer system to serve residents with failing septic tanks will eliminate the contamination from the septic tanks.

The project will improve public health by reducing the potential for contamination of area groundwater and surface water. The project will also provide public safety benefits by eliminating the ability of residents to open manhole lids.

BUDGET INFORMATION:
Funding Recommendation
DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000. DNRC will provide an award letter to successful applicants. The applicant will be responsible for providing the documentation necessary to meet startup conditions within the timeframe identified in the award letter. Failure to meet startup conditions within a 24-month timeframe may result in a rescinded award.

Funding Source	Funding Amount	Funding Status
RRGL Grant Requested	$125,000	Recommended Funding 2027 Legislature
MCEP Grant	$327,500	Application Submitted
RD Grant	$50,625	Discussed/Not Applied
RD Loan	$151,875	Discussed/Not Applied
Project Total	$655,000	

RANKING DETAILS:

Scoring Category	Points Available	Application Score
Renewable Benefits	120	17.1
Public Benefits	30	6.6
Technical/Financial Feasibility	40	40.0
Application Clarity	10	10.0
Total Score	200	**73.7**
Overall RRG Rank		**2** (of 70)

Whitehall, Town of
Whitehall Drinking Water System Improvements
Infrastructure Rank: 2 (of 42)
Project Type: Drinking Water - Infrastructure
County: Jefferson

PROJECT INFORMATION:

The Whitehall system improvements project will address deficiencies in the drinking water distribution system. The proposed project will install new mainlines that will include properties currently using private wells high in uranium. The primary purpose of this project is to provide a safe and reliable drinking water.

Project History

The Town of Whitehall public water system includes two groundwater wells, storage reservoir and distribution system. The Town is currently installing a treatment system to address high levels of uranium in the source water. Residents of Sugar Beet Row and Liberty place are connected to the town's wastewater treatment system but use private wells thus contributing to the high levels of uranium in the wastewater. The project will connect the residents of Sugar Beet Row and Liberty Place to the drinking water distribution system, resulting in clean healthful drinking water and reduced uranium discharge from the waste treatment lagoon.

Proposed Solution

Specific tasks include:
• Install 2,300 feet of 6-inch PVC water main extension to serve Liberty Place.
• Install 2,200 feet of 6-inch PVC water main loop to serve Sugar Beet Row.
• Install associated hydrants, fittings, valves, and service connections.
• Construct non-potable well (Phase 2 if funds allow).

Resource and Benefit Analysis

This project will preserve the surface waters of the Jefferson Slough, Big Pipestone Creek, and the Jefferson River by improving storm water runoff

This project will provide local economic and human health and safety benefits by providing a safe and adequate drinking water supply.

BUDGET INFORMATION:

Funding Recommendation

DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000. DNRC will provide an award letter to successful applicants. The applicant will be responsible for providing the documentation necessary to meet startup conditions within the timeframe identified in the award letter. Failure to meet startup conditions within a 24-month timeframe may result in a rescinded award.

DNRC requires compliance with the Water Use Act Title 85, Chapter 2, MCA. Grant agreement is contingent upon: 1) The recipient providing verification of an executed loan agreement for the approved project scope; and, 2) The recipient providing verification of matching fund sources.

Funding Source	Funding Amount	Funding Status
RRGL Grant Requested	$125,000	Recommended Funding 2027 Legislature
MCEP Grant	$750,000	Application Submitted
SRF Loan	$59,951	Funds Committed
CDBG Grant	$750,000	Application Submitted
Project Total	$1,684,951	

RANKING DETAILS:

Scoring Category	Points Available	Application Score
Renewable Benefits	120	11.9
Public Benefits	30	8.2
Technical/Financial Feasibility	40	39.2
Application Clarity	10	10.0
Total Score	200	**69.3**
Overall RRG Rank		**3** (of 70)

Deer Lodge, City of
Deer Lodge Wastewater Collection System Improvements
Infrastructure Rank: 3 (of 42)
Project Type: Wastewater – Infrastructure
County: Powell

PROJECT INFORMATION:

Deer Lodge Wastewater Collection System Improvements Project will address the problem of inflow and infiltration on clean water into the system by rehabilitation of sewer mains, replace sewer connections. and improvements to the lift station.

Project History

The City provides centralized water and sewer service to approximately 3,000 residences and local businesses. The Clark Fork River flows from south to north bisecting the City. The City has progressively made efforts to advance its aging wastewater collection and treatment facilities, including the 2017 update to the treatment facility. The new facility experiences inflow volumes for treatment which greatly exceed those anticipated. The City has recently begun upgrading the wastewater collection system, as it is estimated that during peak groundwater periods, up to 50% of the treated wastewater is clean water entering the collection system though inflow and infiltration (I&I). The excessive non-wastewater flows are affecting the efficiency of the treatment plant and the quality of the effluent being discharged to the Clark Fork River. Impacts due to this additional inflow include reduced capacity and increased operation and maintenance costs. Environmental impacts are suspected to exist at transition zones between the wastewater collection system and the clean water sources. The proposed project is the second phase of collection system improvements, with a goal of reducing the non-wastewater flows entering the system.

Proposed Solution

Specific tasks include:
- Replace service laterals on Rainbow Avenue; and,
- Replace 12 manholes and reconnect 50 services on California Avenue.

Resource and Benefit Analysis

The wastewater collection system improvement project will preserve manage and conserve surface and groundwater by decreasing the amount of clean water infiltrating the system and being processed as wastewater.

the wastewater collection system improvements project will provide a local public health and safety benefit by improving water quality. It will also provide a local economic benefit by decreasing the treatment costs due to inflow and infiltration.

BUDGET INFORMATION:

Funding Recommendation

DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000. DNRC will provide an award letter to successful applicants. The applicant will be responsible for providing the documentation necessary to meet startup conditions within the timeframe identified in the award letter. Failure to meet startup conditions within a 24-month timeframe may result in a rescinded award.

Funding Source	Funding Amount	Funding Status
RRGL Grant Requested	$125,000	Recommended Funding 2027 Legislature
MCEP Grant	$439,000	Application Submitted
SRF Loan	$314,000	Application Submitted
Project Total	$878,000	

RANKING DETAILS:

Scoring Category	Points Available	Application Score
Renewable Benefits	120	17.0
Public Benefits	30	7.4
Technical/Financial Feasibility	40	35.6
Application Clarity	10	8.0
Total Score	200	**67.9**
Overall RRG Rank		**4** (of 70)

Missoula, City of
Missoula Public Library Living Roof Stormwater Control
Infrastructure Rank: 4 (of 42)
Project Type: Stormwater – Infrastructure
County: Missoula

PROJECT INFORMATION:
The Missoula Living Roof Project will provide increase stormwater capacity and energy conservation while also increasing habitat for pollinator species.

Project History
The Missoula Public Library (Library), newly constructed and opened in 2021, is a city-county library located in downtown Missoula, Montana that sees over 180,000 visitors annually. The Missoula Public Library has 13,000 square feet of roof space covered with conventional rock ballast. There is significant heat flux that occurs between the roof and the building, exacerbating the urban heat island effect. This heat flux increases the temperature of the building, creating additional stress on the air-cooling system, in turn increasing energy usage and greenhouse gas emissions from conventional power sources. Additionally, stormwater runoff that is generated by the roof is captured by a drainage system that does not include any quality pre-treatment or retention. The stormwater system is not resilient to intense precipitation events anticipated as the climate changes. The proposed project will replace 6,228 square feet (SF) of rock ballast roof with a living roof, comprised of 6 inches of soil, a variety of plant species, and a 3-inch water retention layer. The goal of the proposed project is to aid in the reduction of stormwater runoff, conserve energy, provide habitat for pollinator species, and help mitigate the effects of climate change. The highly visible location from the Library windows will allow the new living roof to demonstrate the benefits of green infrastructure. An exhibit will be installed in the Library to educate visitors on the resource benefits provided by the living roof.

Proposed Solution
Specific tasks include:
- Remove rock ballast from 6,228 square feet of roof space;
- Install 6,228 square feet of roof slip sheet membrane;
- Install LiveRoof modules over 6,228 square feet of roof area;
- Install an irrigation system; and,
- Install an educational exhibit for public viewing.

Resource and Benefit Analysis
The living roof project will help to manage and preserve surface water by filtering stormwater and reducing the amount of run off. The project will also develop habitat for pollinator species. The project will also conserve energy by reducing the demand on the cooling system.

The living roof project will provide a regional recreation opportunity as an educational tool to demonstrate the benefits of a green infrastructure.

BUDGET INFORMATION:
Funding Recommendation
DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000. DNRC will provide an award letter to successful applicants. The applicant will be responsible for providing the documentation necessary to meet startup conditions within the timeframe identified in the award letter. Failure to meet startup conditions within a 24-month timeframe may result in a rescinded award.

Grant agreement is contingent upon the recipient providing verification of matching fund sources and the applicant providing a more thorough structural engineering evaluation of the building to support the living roof.

Funding Source	Funding Amount	Funding Status
RRGL Grant Requested	$125,000	Recommended Funding 2027 Legislature
Applicant Cash	$171,216	Discussed/Not Applied
Applicant In-Kind Contribution	$2,960	Funds Committed
Other Grant	$212,914	Application Submitted
Project Total	$512,090	

RANKING DETAILS:

Scoring Category	Points Available	Application Score
Renewable Benefits	120	14.4
Public Benefits	30	4.6
Technical/Financial Feasibility	40	38.0
Application Clarity	10	10.0
Total Score	200	**67.1**
Overall RRG Rank		**6** (of 70)

Harrison Water and Sewer District
Harrison Wastewater System Improvements
Infrastructure Rank: 5 (of 42)
Project Type: Wastewater – Infrastructure
County: Madison

PROJECT INFORMATION:

The Harrison water and sewer district wastewater system improvements project will address deficiencies in the collection and treatment systems by rehabilitation of the lift station, increasing lagoon storage, increasing land application irrigation acres, replacing the irrigation pump and adding ultraviolet disinfection to the treatment process. The primary purpose of this project is to improve the quality of effluent discharged from the treatment facility.

Project History

Harrison is a Census Designated Place in the Willow Creek Valley of northern Madison County. The Harrison Water and Sewer District formed in response to a moratorium issued on new septic permits by the County Sanitarian. Shallow groundwater contributes a significant burden to the treatment system. The result is elevated lagoon levels, excessive groundwater infiltration, and excessive wastewater discharge to the irrigation crop resulting in surface water runoff contaminating surface water. Successful completion of this project will allow the district to connect 24 households that are currently waiting.

Proposed Solution

Specific tasks include:
- Expand lagoon Cell 2 by 2.5 million gallons.
- Rehabilitate existing pivot, replace irrigation pump and expand pivot irrigated acres to by 1.9 acres.
- Install new ultraviolet disinfection system.
- Remove sludge from lagoon Cell 1.

Resource and Benefit Analysis

The wastewater system improvements project will result in a measurable conservation benefit to ground water by reducing the amount of water infiltrating the collection system. Other benefits include preservation of surface water, groundwater, soils, and fish and aquatic habitat. Additionally, conservation of renewable energy resources will result with lowered pumping requirements with reduced inflow and infiltration.

This project will provide local economic and health and human benefits by reducing contamination of groundwater drinking water sources and improving the quality of discharge from the treatment facility. The improvements to the treatment facilities will enable the District add 24 waiting households to the waste collection system. Other benefits include a regional recreation benefit with the ability to support tourism growth.

BUDGET INFORMATION:

Funding Recommendation

DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000. DNRC will provide an award letter to successful applicants. The applicant will be responsible for providing the documentation necessary to meet startup conditions within the timeframe identified in the award letter. Failure to meet startup conditions within a 24-month timeframe may result in a rescinded award.

Grant agreement is contingent upon the recipient providing verification of matching fund sources.

Funding Source	Funding Amount	Funding Status
RRGL Grant Requested	$125,000	Recommended Funding 2027 Legislature
MCEP Grant	$750,000	Application Submitted
RD Grant	$1,002,537	Discussed/Not Applied
RD Loan	$1,252,323	Discussed/Not Applied
CDBG Grant	$750,000	Discussed/Not Applied
Project Total	$3,879,860	

RANKING DETAILS:

Scoring Category	Points Available	Application Score
Renewable Benefits	120	12.8
Public Benefits	30	6.5
Technical/Financial Feasibility	40	39.8
Application Clarity	10	8.0
Total Score	200	**67.0**
Overall RRG Rank		**7** (of 70)

Madison County
Madison County Pennington Bridge Big Hole River Restoration
Infrastructure Rank: 5 (of 42)
Project Type: Restoration
County: Madison

PROJECT INFORMATION:
Big Hole River restoration project at Pennington Bridge to address aggradation, erosion, scalloping and sedimentation. These efforts will protect the natural resources and infrastructure in the area by stabilizing the bank and floodplain.

Project History
Years of aggradation, sedimentation, and erosion have created difficulties with retaining the Pennington and Burma Bridges on the lower Big Hole River that are causing difficulties for irrigators, recreationists and aquatic habitat. Rip rap has been used extensively above both bridges with some success and decades of bulldozing the riverbed downstream to chase irrigation water has negatively impacted the floodplain.

Proposed Solution
Specific tasks include:
- Install a permanent irrigation diversion in the north channel above the Burma Bridge and associated 18-inch pipeline;
- Armor about 1500 feet of riverbank associated with the two bridges; and,
- Reactivate and harden the bottom of a channel that connects the north and south channels above the bridges.

Resource and Benefit Analysis
The Big Hole River is an important resource and these efforts will result in measurable benefits to the surface water as well as likely surface water preservation by preventing sedimentation and erosion. There will also be quantifiable benefits to soil management and preservation through bank stabilization efforts. Restoring the bank and the floodplain to allow nature processes to occur on the river will also develop fish and aquatic habitat and wetlands as a more natural bank allows for natural flooding and habitat. There is also likely preservation of fish and aquatic habitat and wildlife habitat by preventing further degradation.

There is a likely benefit to the local and regional economy by taking the actions to restore the river channel as many people in the agricultural industry use the river as a resource in their operations. A lot of local businesses also rely on the attraction of the Big Hole River to draw clientele. There is a likely benefit to human safety as preventing the bank degradation will help prevent any hazards that could come with changing water and weather conditions. The most noticeable benefit is in the scope of recreation as the Big Hole River draws a large crowd specifically for fishing. This benefit is quantifiable as the impact on local businesses can be measured.

BUDGET INFORMATION:
Funding Recommendation
DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000. DNRC will provide an award letter to successful applicants. The applicant will be responsible for providing the documentation necessary to meet startup conditions within the timeframe identified in the award letter. Failure to meet startup conditions within a 24-month timeframe may result in a rescinded award.

Grant agreement is contingent upon the recipient providing an executed Memorandum of Understanding between the recipient and the sponsored entity clarifying the roles, responsibilities and shared project costs.

Funding Source	Funding Amount	Funding Status
RRGL Grant Requested	$125,000	Recommended Funding 2027 Legislature
Applicant Cash	$5,700	Funds Committed
Other Grant	$634,089	Discussed/Not Applied
Project Total	$764,789	

RANKING DETAILS:

Scoring Category	Points Available	Application Score
Renewable Benefits	120	15.5
Public Benefits	30	6.6
Technical/Financial Feasibility	40	38.0
Application Clarity	10	7.0
Total Score	200	**67.0**
Overall RRG Rank		**7** (of 70)

South Wind County Water and Sewer District
South Wind Drinking Water and Wastewater Improvements, Phase 4
Infrastructure Rank: 7 (of 42)
Project Type: Drinking Water - Infrastructure
County: Cascade

PROJECT INFORMATION:
South Wind Water and Sewer District Drinking Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Improvements Project: Conduct Hydrogeologic Study to Complete Application for Water Rights for Drinking Water Secondary Water Well, Water Well Head Protection Fencing installation. Wastewater improvements include expansion of the treated wastewater drain field.

Project History
The South Wind Water and Sewer District provides water and sewer services to the Crossroads Mobile Home Community (formerly the Trailer Terrace Community) which was originally constructed in the 1950s and 1960s as temporary housing for Minuteman Missile construction employees. The District was formed to address severe deficiencies in the water and wastewater utilities. Since its inception, the District has followed a phased approach to address the most critical improvements. The remaining water and sewer deficiencies include a lack of a secondary water source, auxiliary power source, or well head protection; five existing water wells in an arsenic-contaminated aquifer that need to be abandoned; former water storage tanks that need to be removed; 420 feet of sewer collection main that needs to be re-lined; and a saturated drain field that needs to be replaced or expanded. The South Wind Phase 4 Water and Wastewater Improvements project expands the drain field, constructs a new secondary water well, and provides fencing for well head protection. It also includes a hydrogeologic study and water rights application. If more funding becomes available, the other deficiencies will be addressed. The goal of this project is to conserve surface water (Missouri River), preserve the local shallow aquifer (Alluvium and Kootenai Aquifers), and develop safe water facilities for the community.

Proposed Solution
Specific tasks include:
· Expand the drain field;
· Construct new secondary water well;
· Conduct hydrogeologic study and complete water rights application; and,
· Provide fencing for well head protection.

Resource and Benefit Analysis
The project will measurably develop, manage and preserve groundwater by drilling a redundant backup well and improvements to the sewer system. The project will likely benefit surface water in the Missouri River by reducing a source of nitrates and preserve soil quality by reducing sanitary survey overflows.

The project will provide quantified economic benefits as well as quantified human health and safety benefits to the residents in South Wind Water and Sewer District. Protection of the water quality in the Missouri River could provide a regional recreation benefit.

BUDGET INFORMATION:
Funding Recommendation
DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000. DNRC will provide an award letter to successful applicants. The applicant will be responsible for providing the documentation necessary to meet startup conditions within the timeframe identified in the award letter. Failure to meet startup conditions within a 24-month timeframe may result in a rescinded award.

Grant agreement is contingent upon the recipient providing verification of matching fund sources.

Funding Source	Funding Amount	Funding Status
RRGL Grant Requested	$125,000	Recommended Funding 2027 Legislature
MCEP Grant	$750,000	Application Submitted
SRF Loan	$200,000	Discussed/Not Applied
WRDA Grant	$500,000	Discussed/Not Applied
Other Grant	$554,588	Application Submitted
Project Total	$2,129,588	

RANKING DETAILS:

Scoring Category	Points Available	Application Score
Renewable Benefits	120	11.9
Public Benefits	30	6.7
Technical/Financial Feasibility	40	36.4
Application Clarity	10	10.0
Total Score	200	**65.0**
Overall RRG Rank		**12** (of 70)

Willow Creek Sewer District
Willow Creek Sewer District Wastewater System Improvements
Infrastructure Rank: 8 (of 42)
Project Type: Wastewater – Infrastructure
County: Gallatin

PROJECT INFORMATION:
Willow Creek Wastewater System Improvements Project will address deficiencies in the collection and treatment by extending sewer mains, connecting new users, upgrading the lift station, and installing irrigation discharge. The primary purpose of the project is to prevent wastewater contamination of the area's groundwater.

Project History
Willow Creek Sewer District was formed in 1973 to provide centralized wastewater collection and treatment service to the community. The dependency on individual wells paired with shallow groundwater poses a significant risk of drinking water contamination from sources such as exfiltration from sewer mains and sanitary sewer overflows, and inadequate septic systems and drainfields. The collection system has experienced continual buildup with fats, oil, and grease that ultimately reach the lift station. Development at the edges of the District boundaries currently require on-site treatment which contaminates groundwater. The lift station’s wet well has some deterioration and degrading electrical components with potential to cause failure or explosion from igniting combustible gases produced by wastewater. The District has violated MPDES discharge permit limits recently for effluent flow and exceedances of biological oxygen demand (BOD), total suspended solids (TSS), pH, and E. coli. These persistent issues with the treatment facility have resulted in an excessive amount of contaminants entering the Madison River watershed which can lead to the degradation of waters downstream and elevates the risk of detrimental health impacts to the public and the environment.

Proposed Solution
Specific tasks include:
• Extend sewer mains on Broadway and Main to connect new users.
• Upgrade existing lift station electrical components and wet well and install new flow meter.
• Install irrigation discharge equipment for summer months at the treatment plant.

Resource and Benefit Analysis
The collection expansion project will likely and measurably preserve surface water in the receiving surface water Willow Creek, fish and aquatic habitat, ground water used as drinking water, and soil by preventing contamination of wastewater through septic sources and insufficient effluent treatment. The project will also develop and manage crop land by discharging treated effluent as irrigation water. There is a likely benefit of energy conservation due to pump improvements in the lift station.

The project will provide local economic benefits, local and regional human health and safety and local recreation benefits by supporting business and residential hook up and reducing potential exposure to biohazards to the public.

BUDGET INFORMATION:
Funding Recommendation
DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000. DNRC will provide an award letter to successful applicants. The applicant will be responsible for providing the documentation necessary to meet startup conditions within the timeframe identified in the award letter. Failure to meet startup conditions within a 24-month timeframe may result in a rescinded award.

Funding Source	Funding Amount	Funding Status
RRGL Grant Requested	$125,000	Recommended Funding 2027 Legislature
MCEP Grant	$750,000	Application Submitted
SRF Grant	$185,526	Application Submitted
SRF Loan	$193,099	Application Submitted
CDBG Grant	$750,000	Discussed/Not Applied
Project Total	$2,003,625	

RANKING DETAILS:

Scoring Category	Points Available	Application Score
Renewable Benefits	120	14.4
Public Benefits	30	6.6
Technical/Financial Feasibility	40	38.4
Application Clarity	10	5.0
Total Score	200	**64.4**
Overall RRG Rank		**14** (of 70)

Roundup, City of
Roundup Wastewater Lagoon System Upgrades
Infrastructure Rank: 9 (of 42)
Project Type: Wastewater – Infrastructure
County: Musselshell

PROJECT INFORMATION:
Roundup Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrade: New Headworks, New SGR Beds Backup Generator, Collection System Inspection and Replacement Program

Project History
The applicant operates a wastewater collection system dating back to 1915, with the current partial mixed aerated lagoon treatment system placed online in 2000. Despite upgrades, portions of the collection system experience slow drainage and increase the risk of sanitary sewer overflows and sewer backups into homes. One of the two lift stations is in the floodplain of the Musselshell River and was inundated during a significant flood event in 2011. The wastewater treatment system chronically fails to meet current discharge permit requirements due to excessive accumulation of sludge, seasonal turnover, and inadequate mixing. This project consists of wastewater treatment improvements to meet current permit limits and achieve nitrification for ammonia removal from the wastewater effluent.

Proposed Solution
Specific tasks include:
- Remove accumulated sludge from the existing wastewater lagoons;
- Construct a new headworks facility;
- Install a new backup power generator; and,
- Integrate a submerged attached growth reactor treatment process and related equipment.

Resource and Benefit Analysis
The project will result in preservation of surface water quality in the Musselshell River, fish and aquatic habitat and associated wetlands in the area of discharge. There is also a likely benefit to preserve groundwater quality and soils. The project will likely conserve energy by using upgraded equipment.

The project's public benefits include local economic benefits, quantifiable human health and safety benefits and regional recreation benefits.

BUDGET INFORMATION:
Funding Recommendation
DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000. DNRC will provide an award letter to successful applicants. The applicant will be responsible for providing the documentation necessary to meet startup conditions within the timeframe identified in the award letter. Failure to meet startup conditions within a 24-month timeframe may result in a rescinded award.

Funding Source	Funding Amount	Funding Status
RRGL Grant Requested	$125,000	Recommended Funding 2027 Legislature
MCEP Grant	$750,000	Application Submitted
RD Grant	$1,762,500	Discussed/Not Applied
RD Loan	$1,684,000	Discussed/Not Applied
Applicant Cash	$131,000	Funds Committed
Other Grant	$500,000	Discussed/Not Applied
Project Total	$4,952,500	

RANKING DETAILS:

Scoring Category	Points Available	Application Score
Renewable Benefits	120	12.8
Public Benefits	30	3.8
Technical/Financial Feasibility	40	38.6
Application Clarity	10	9.0
Total Score	200	**64.2**
Overall RRG Rank		**15** (of 70)

Judith Basin County
Judith Basin County Geyser Wastewater Treatment System Improvements
Infrastructure Rank: 10 (of 42)
Project Type: Wastewater – Infrastructure
County: Judith Basin

PROJECT INFORMATION:

The Geyser wastewater treatment system is facing deficiencies due to an aging system and aims to upgrade the system to increase efficiencies, provide system monitoring and address potential leakage. This will bring the system up to code and allow for better monitoring to prevent any issues that would affect human health.

Project History

Geyser is an unincorporated rural village located within Judith Basin County located along Montana Highway 200, 46 miles east of Great Falls. The sanitary wastewater system was constructed in 1983. The system consists of approximately 9,000 lineal feet of 8" PVC (polyvinyl chloride) gravity sewer main with 58 service connections. The gravity main discharges into a duplex lift station which pumps into a two-cell facultative lagoon. No significant improvements or modifications have been made to the system since its construction. The system has experienced frequent disruption and backups due to ongoing issues with the lift station and a lack of valve controls around the lagoon system. Infiltration is suspected to be an operational problem along with concerns about the remaining operational life of the existing lagoon liners.

Proposed Solution

Specific tasks include:
- Replace lagoon liner system in two existing facultative cells;
- Install new control valving and monitoring system in lagoon cells;
- Replace lift station with new duplex lift station with backup generation and appurtenances; and,
- Install new flow measurement and SCADA equipment.

Resource and Benefit Analysis

The Geyser wastewater system upgrades will provide measurable management of ground water with the use of new monitoring system. This will also likely benefit surface water management by monitoring leakage and discharge. The system upgrades will also likely preserve surface, ground water and soil with upgraded and more efficient systems that meet code. Upgrades equipment also has a likely renewable energy benefit as newer equipment is more efficient.

The Geyser wastewater system has a quantifiable benefit backed by the community's support regarding both economics and human health. The more efficient system with increased monitoring capabilities and meeting current code requirements will decrease the costs for the community using the system and prevent any health concerns by meeting proper discharge requirements and preventing leakage. The human health benefit could be observed regionally given the vast groundwater system the area covers.

BUDGET INFORMATION:

Funding Recommendation

DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000. DNRC will provide an award letter to successful applicants. The applicant will be responsible for providing the documentation necessary to meet startup conditions within the timeframe identified in the award letter. Failure to meet startup conditions within a 24-month timeframe may result in a rescinded award.

Funding Source	Funding Amount	Funding Status
RRGL Grant Requested	$100,000	Recommended Funding 2027 Legislature
MCEP Grant	$520,891	Application Submitted
SRF Loan	435,892	Application Submitted
Project Total	$1,081,783	

RANKING DETAILS:

Scoring Category	Points Available	Application Score
Renewable Benefits	120	11.9
Public Benefits	30	7.4
Technical/Financial Feasibility	40	35.4
Application Clarity	10	8.0
Total Score	200	**62.7**
Overall RRG Rank		**22** (of 70)

Martinsdale Water and Sewer District
Martinsdale Water and Sewer District Water System Improvements
Infrastructure Rank: 10 (of 42)
Project Type: Drinking Water - Infrastructure
County: Meagher

PROJECT INFORMATION:
Martinsdale water system improvements project will address deficiencies in the distribution system by replace asbestos cement main line with polyvinyl chloride (PVC) pipe and installing additional pipe to remove dead ends. The primary purpose of this project is to provide safe and reliable drinking water.

Project History
The Martinsdale Water and Sewer District owns and operates a public water system (PWS) in Meagher County. The PWS serves 57 full time residents and an estimated summer population of 120 people. The PWS includes two spring sources, two storage tanks, chlorination treatment, and asbestos cement distribution system. Deterioration of the infrastructure results in a water loss estimated to be 70% of supply. The proposed Phase 2 project will include distribution improvements to provide safe drinking water, improve water system efficiency, and promote sustainability of the natural groundwater resources.

Proposed Solution
Specific tasks include:
- Replace the remaining 1,400 feet of asbestos cement pipe with new 6-inch polyvinyl chloride (PVC) pipe;
- Install 2,400 feet of 6-inch PVC to eliminate dead ends in the system;
- Install associated hydrants, fittings, valves, and service connections; and,
- Install 11 service meters to be relocated in new meter pits at property lines.

Resource and Benefit Analysis
The water distribution project will conserve, preserve, and assist with the management of groundwater and conserve energy by reducing pumping requirements.

This project will provide local economic and safety benefits by providing a safe and adequate drinking water for permanent and seasonal residents.

BUDGET INFORMATION:
Funding Recommendation
DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000. DNRC will provide an award letter to successful applicants. The applicant will be responsible for providing the documentation necessary to meet startup conditions within the timeframe identified in the award letter. Failure to meet startup conditions within a 24-month timeframe may result in a rescinded award.

Grant agreement is contingent upon the recipient providing verification of matching fund sources.

Funding Source	Funding Amount	Funding Status
RRGL Grant Requested	$125,000	Recommended Funding 2027 Legislature
MCEP Grant	$661,500	Application Submitted
CDBG Grant	$536,500	Discussed/Not Applied
Project Total	$1,323,000	

RANKING DETAILS:

Scoring Category	Points Available	Application Score
Renewable Benefits	120	9.3
Public Benefits	30	6.5
Technical/Financial Feasibility	40	39.8
Application Clarity	10	7.0
Total Score	200	**62.7**
Overall RRG Rank		**22** (of 70)

Alder Water and Sewer District
Alder Water and Sewer District Wastewater System Improvements
Infrastructure Rank: 12 (of 42)
Project Type: Wastewater – Infrastructure
County: Madison

PROJECT INFORMATION:
Alder Water and Sewer District Wastewater System Improvements project will address deficiencies in the treatment and disposal by installing a new disinfection system, flow meters, pumps and blowers, and fencing. The primary purpose of the project is to prevent wastewater contamination of the area's groundwater.

Project History
In 2004, Alder Water and Sewer District constructed the current collection, conveyance, treatment, and effluent disposal irrigation system. Prior to the installation of this system, the entire community was on individual septic systems, which were failing and threatening the quality of drinking water due to a relatively high groundwater in the area. The treatment system consists of lagoons and a currently non-functional ultraviolet disinfection before discharging to a full-circle irrigation pivot. Without adequate flow meters, such as at the irrigation pivot, it is difficult for the District to have accurate measure of flows. The existing ultraviolet disinfection system is currently inoperable which puts the system in violation of the Montana Public Water Supply Act due to the irrigation pivot buffer zone size. The existing lagoon and lift station both are unfenced leaving the lagoons open to wildlife to potentially spread disease. The center pivot is 20 years old, and the controls are outdated and unreliable, as well as the pump and blower which are leaking and require frequent repair.

Proposed Solution
Specific tasks include:
• Install new ultraviolet treatment and effluent filter system;
• Install flow meter to the irrigation pivot;
• Upgrade irrigation pivot controls;
• Replace irrigation pumps and blower; and,
• Install fencing around existing lift station and lagoons.

Resource and Benefit Analysis
The treatment improvements project will likely preserve surface water, measurably preserve ground water used as drinking water, and likely preserve soil by preventing contamination of wastewater through septic sources and insufficient effluent treatment. The project will also benefit management of ground water and crop land by improving effluent flow measurement and control onto irrigated crop land.

The project will provide local and regional economic benefits, local human health and safety and local recreation benefits by supporting business and residential hook up and reducing potential exposure to biohazards to the public.

BUDGET INFORMATION:
Funding Recommendation
DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000. DNRC will provide an award letter to successful applicants. The applicant will be responsible for providing the documentation necessary to meet startup conditions within the timeframe identified in the award letter. Failure to meet startup conditions within a 24-month timeframe may result in a rescinded award.

Funding Source	Funding Amount	Funding Status
RRGL Grant Requested	$125,000	Recommended Funding 2027 Legislature
MCEP Grant	$750,000	Application Submitted
RD Grant	$427,400	Discussed/Not Applied
RD Loan	$534,600	Discussed/Not Applied
Project Total	$1,837,000	

RANKING DETAILS:

Scoring Category	Points Available	Application Score
Renewable Benefits	120	11.9
Public Benefits	30	7.4
Technical/Financial Feasibility	40	37.2
Application Clarity	10	6.0
Total Score	200	**62.5**
Overall RRG Rank		**24** (of 70)

Fairfield, Town of
Fairfield Drinking Water System Improvements
Infrastructure Rank: 13 (of 42)
Project Type: Drinking Water - Infrastructure
County: Teton

PROJECT INFORMATION:

Fairfield Drinking Water System Improvements project will address deficiencies in the source and distribution by replacing leaking pipes, drilling new wells, and rehabilitating existing wells. The purpose of the project is to provide safe and reliable drinking water.

Project History

The Town of Fairfield's public water system consists of four infiltration galleries, four groundwater wells, two elevated water storage reservoirs, and a network of distribution mains. The original water system was constructed in the 1940's, system upgrades were completed 1979, 2013 and recently in 2023. The majority of the distribution system is comprised of asbestos concrete pipe which needs to be replaced. The Town has been struggling to meet water demand due to losses from leaking pipes, operational issues with existing wells, and increasingly low water levels.

Proposed Solution

Specific tasks include:
• Construct two new water supply wells;
• Replace 4,800 LF of 6-in asbestos concrete (AC) pipe and install a loop; and,
• Rehabilitate existing wells.

Resource and Benefit Analysis

The distribution system improvement, well drilling, and well rehabilitation project will measurably benefit the management of groundwater by decreasing the quantified losses from leaking pipes, develop new use of groundwater, and conserve water in the third bench of the Fairfield Bench Aquifer. The project will likely conserve energy by improving well pump efficiency.

This project will provide local economic, human health and safety, and recreation benefits by providing a safe and adequate drinking water supply.

BUDGET INFORMATION:

Funding Recommendation

DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000. DNRC will provide an award letter to successful applicants. The applicant will be responsible for providing the documentation necessary to meet startup conditions within the timeframe identified in the award letter. Failure to meet startup conditions within a 24-month timeframe may result in a rescinded award.

Grant agreement is contingent upon: 1) The recipient providing verification of matching fund sources; and, 2) The recipient providing verification that the project is in compliance with the Water Use Act Title 85, Chapter 2, MCA.

Funding Source	Funding Amount	Funding Status
RRGL Grant Requested	$125,000	Recommended Funding 2027 Legislature
MCEP Grant	$500,000	Application Submitted
SRF Grant	$1,000,000	Discussed/Not Applied
SRF Loan	$1,754,700	Discussed/Not Applied
Applicant Cash	$210,000	Funds Committed
Project Total	$3,589,700	

RANKING DETAILS:

Scoring Category	Points Available	Application Score
Renewable Benefits	120	10.2
Public Benefits	30	4.4
Technical/Financial Feasibility	40	36.6
Application Clarity	10	10.0
Total Score	200	**61.2**
Overall RRG Rank		**28** (of 70)

Dutton, Town of
Dutton Drinking Water System Improvements, Phase 2
Infrastructure Rank: 14 (of 42)
Project Type: Drinking Water - Infrastructure
County: Teton

PROJECT INFORMATION:
The Dutton Water System, Phase 2 Drinking Water System Improvements project will install a new pipe, as well as water loss prevention and chlorination systems.

Project History
The Town of Dutton's public water system is supplied by a caisson well located northeast of the Town near the Teton River. Water is treated for iron and manganese with polyphosphate and then disinfected with sodium hypochlorite before being pumped to the distribution system. The distribution system was originally constructed in 1935 of wood stave pipe, and currently consists of 31,040 lineal feet of polyvinyl chloride (PVC) and asbestos concrete (AC) piping that ranges in size from 4 to 10 inches in diameter. Each water service in the system is metered. A 500,000-gallon bolted steel water storage tank is located south of Town and is connected to the distribution system via a 10-inch diameter PVC transmission main. An older 120,000-gallon elevated water tank is located in Town and is currently disconnected from the system. The Town has completed several water system improvements over the past several decades, however, system deficiencies still exist, including leaky water mains, the presence of asbestos concrete water mains, a belowground chlorination vault, and the lack of a bulk fill water dispensing system. The proposed project will replace the existing chlorination vault with an aboveground building and upgrade existing asbestos concrete pipe near the public school. The project will make distribution system and treatment system improvements to the Town of Dutton’s water system that will improve the efficiency, reliability, and public safety of the system.

Proposed Solution
Specific tasks include:
- Replace 3,200 feet of 6-inch and 8-inch asbestos concrete pipe with new 8-inch polyvinyl chloride (PVC) water main;
- Install a new bulk fill water station; and,
- Replace the existing chlorine vault with a new aboveground precast concrete building.

Resource and Benefit Analysis
The project will measurably manage groundwater, the primary drinking water source for Dutton by preventing water loss through the distribution system. The project will also likely conserve energy by reducing pumping of groundwater lost to seepage.

The project will benefit human health and safety and the regional economy by providing safe and adequate drinking water to Dutton which serves not only a local population but potential regional recreation population.

BUDGET INFORMATION:
Funding Recommendation
DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000. DNRC will provide an award letter to successful applicants. The applicant will be responsible for providing the documentation necessary to meet startup conditions within the timeframe identified in the award letter. Failure to meet startup conditions within a 24-month timeframe may result in a rescinded award.

Funding Source	Funding Amount	Funding Status
RRGL Grant Requested	$125,000	Recommended Funding 2027 Legislature
MCEP Grant	$750,000	Application Submitted
SRF Grant	$627,500	Application Submitted
SRF Loan	$215,950	Application Submitted
Project Total	$1,718,450	

RANKING DETAILS:

Scoring Category	Points Available	Application Score
Renewable Benefits	120	7.6
Public Benefits	30	7.4
Technical/Financial Feasibility	40	38.6
Application Clarity	10	7.0
Total Score	200	**60.6**
Overall RRG Rank		**29** (of 70)

Circle, Town of
Circle Water System Improvements, Phase 5
Infrastructure Rank: 15 (of 42)
Project Type: Drinking Water - Infrastructure
County: McCone

PROJECT INFORMATION:
The Town of Circle water system aims to maintain adequate flow conditions to continue to be able to serve the community. Phase 5 of this project will address replacing a section of water main to prevent leakage and contamination and meet fire flow conditions.

Project History
The Town of Circle is the county seat for McCone County and has a population of 481 residents with a median household income of $43,523. The Town is located approximately 50 miles northwest of Glendive, at the intersection of State Highways 13 and 200. The Town's original distribution system was installed in the 1930s and 1940s and was comprised of 31,200 lineal feet of asbestos cement (AC) and cast-iron distribution main. Approximately 15% of the water mains are 4" AC or cast-iron and are around 80 years old. The pipes are undersized, aging, and deteriorating, causing excessive leaks and lack of fire flow. Phase 5 improvements will include replacing up to 3,200 linear feet of 4-inch asbestos cement water main with 8-inch PVC and appropriate fire hydrants. In 2018, the Phase 1 project included replacing six blocks of water main, followed by an additional six blocks in 2019. Phase 2 included replacing six blocks of water main in 2020, while Phase 3 involved replacing 12 blocks of water main, which was substantially completed in August 2023. Phase 4 of the project is expected to replace another 11 blocks of water mains in 2024.

Proposed Solution
Specific tasks include:
- Replace approximately 3,200 linear feet of 4-inch asbestos concrete (AC) water line with 8-inch polyvinyl chloride (PVC);
- Install 10 hydrants with valving at intersections; and,
- Replace existing water services through the new water line section.

Resource and Benefit Analysis
The Circle water system improvements addressed in phase 5 will have a quantifiable benefit to ground water by minimalizing water loss in the drinking water system. There is also likely management of surface water as leaking water resulting in pulling more from the ground water system also effects surface water levels. There is a likely renewable energy conservation benefit as less leakage requires the system to draw less water.

The circle drinking water system has a quantifiable benefit to the local economy as improved pipes decrease water consumption and water rates. This economic benefit may be recognized regionally as circle serves a large regional area. There is also a likely benefit to human health locally and regionally as anyone using the water system will not be faced with potential contamination concerns.

BUDGET INFORMATION:
Funding Recommendation
DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000. DNRC will provide an award letter to successful applicants. The applicant will be responsible for providing the documentation necessary to meet startup conditions within the timeframe identified in the award letter. Failure to meet startup conditions within a 24-month timeframe may result in a rescinded award.

Funding Source	Funding Amount	Funding Status
RRGL Grant Requested	$125,000	Recommended Funding 2027 Legislature
MCEP Grant	$750,000	Application Submitted
SRF Loan	$250,000	Application Submitted
SRF Grant	$750,000	Application Submitted
CDBG Grant	$750,000	Discussed/Not Applied
Project Total	$2,625,000	

RANKING DETAILS:

Scoring Category	Points Available	Application Score
Renewable Benefits	120	9.2
Public Benefits	30	5.2
Technical/Financial Feasibility	40	38.2
Application Clarity	10	7.0
Total Score	200	**59.6**
Overall RRG Rank		**33** (of 70)

Malta, City of
Malta Drinking Water System Improvements
Infrastructure Rank: 16 (of 42)
Project Type: Drinking Water - Infrastructure
County: Phillips

PROJECT INFORMATION:

Malta Drinking Water System Improvements project will address deficiencies in water storage by replacing their storage tank. The purpose of the project is to provide safe reliable drinking water and meet fire flow demands.

Project History

The City of Malta's drinking water system serves 1,063 residential and commercial customer connections for a population of about 1,980. Malta's water source is four domestic wells that draw water from Milk River alluvial deposits. Water is stored in two above-grade steel storage tanks, a 176,000-gallon tank constructed in the 1940s and a 400,000-gallon tank constructed in 1981. Significant leaks have threatened the structural integrity of the 176,000-gallon tank and it has been determined that it is at the end of its useable life. The goal of the project is to improve management and conservation of the water.

Proposed Solution

Specific tasks include:
• Install a new 850,000-gallon concrete water tank.

Resource and Benefit Analysis

The storage tank project will measurably benefit the management of groundwater by decreasing the quantified losses from the leaking storage tank. The project will likely conserve energy by reducing the electricity demands of the pumps.

This project will provide local economic, human health and safety, and recreation benefits by providing a safe and adequate drinking water supply.

BUDGET INFORMATION:

Funding Recommendation

DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000. DNRC will provide an award letter to successful applicants. The applicant will be responsible for providing the documentation necessary to meet startup conditions within the timeframe identified in the award letter. Failure to meet startup conditions within a 24-month timeframe may result in a rescinded award.

Funding Source	Funding Amount	Funding Status
RRGL Grant Requested	$125,000	Recommended Funding 2027 Legislature
MCEP Grant	$500,000	Application Submitted
SRF Loan	$2,402,000	Application Submitted
CDBG Grant	$750,000	Discussed/Not Applied
Project Total	$3,777,000	

RANKING DETAILS:

Scoring Category	Points Available	Application Score
Renewable Benefits	120	6.7
Public Benefits	30	5.2
Technical/Financial Feasibility	40	39.4
Application Clarity	10	8.0
Total Score	200	**59.3**
Overall RRG Rank		**34** (of 70)

Red Lodge, City of
Red Lodge Wastewater System Improvements, Phases 2 and 3
Infrastructure Rank: 17 (of 42)
Project Type: Wastewater – Infrastructure
County: Carbon

PROJECT INFORMATION:

Red Lodge wastewater system improvements project will construct a mechanical wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) that will effectively treat for wastewater constituents to protect the groundwater against increased nutrient loadings, thereby enhancing public safety and wellbeing. The mechanical WWTP will be sized to treat the increasing flows due to tourism and the reasonably anticipated population growth.

Project History

The City of Red Lodge is in Carbon County, Montana. The City's waste treatment system is challenged by inflow and infiltration of collection mains, root intrusion, deposit build up and exfiltration of raw sewage in surrounding soils and groundwater. This project will replace portions of the sewer collection mains to reduce inflow and infiltration of groundwater into the collection system.

Proposed Solution

Specific tasks include:

- Trenchless installation of 1,360 linear feet of cured in place pipe (CIPP) in 12" sewer mains.
- Trenchless installation of 1,015 linear feet of CIPP in 1'' sewer mains.
- Trenchless installation of 1,200 linear feet of CIPP in 8" sewer mains.
- Conventional installation of 2,020 linear feet of 8" sewer mains.

Resource and Benefit Analysis

The wastewater improvements project will provide preservations benefits to surface water and fish and aquatic habitats by preventing raw sewage from entering Rock Creek. Additionally, the project will provide preservation benefits to groundwater and soils by reducing exfiltration of collected sewage from the leaking mains. The sewer main replacement project will provide a measurable benefit to renewable energy by reducing pumping costs.

This project will provide local economic and health and human benefits by reducing contamination of groundwater and surface water from leaking mains and a burdened treatment facility. Other benefits to regional recreational will occur with an improvement to the surface water quality of Rock Creek.

BUDGET INFORMATION:

Funding Recommendation

DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000. DNRC will provide an award letter to successful applicants. The applicant will be responsible for providing the documentation necessary to meet startup conditions within the timeframe identified in the award letter. Failure to meet startup conditions within a 24-month timeframe may result in a rescinded award.

Funding Source	Funding Amount	Funding Status
RRGL Grant Requested	$125,000	Recommended Funding 2027 Legislature
MCEP Grant	$500,000	Application Submitted
SRF Loan	$690,700	Application Submitted
SRF Loan Forgiveness	$286,800	Discussed/Not Applied
Applicant Cash	$500,000	Funds Committed
Project Total	$2,102,500	

RANKING DETAILS:

Scoring Category	Points Available	Application Score
Renewable Benefits	120	10.2
Public Benefits	30	3.0
Technical/Financial Feasibility	40	39.4
Application Clarity	10	6.0
Total Score	200	**58.6**
Overall RRG Rank		**35** (of 70)

Hysham, Town of
Hysham Drinking Water System Improvements, Phase 2
Infrastructure Rank: 18 (of 42)
Project Type: Drinking Water - Infrastructure
County: Treasure

PROJECT INFORMATION:
Hysham drinking water system improvements project will address deficiencies in the water treatment facility by upgrading the Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system, replacement of the backwash and raw water pumps, electrical upgrades, piping replacements, infiltration gallery and clear well improvements and chemical room improvements. The purpose of this project is safe reliable drinking water.

Project History
The Town of Hysham is located in the southeastern region of Montana and is the county seat of Treasure County. The Hysham water system is comprised of a surface water intake/infiltration gallery on the Yellowstone River, a surface water treatment plant, an elevated storage tank and a water distribution system. The primary issue faced by the Hysham water system at this time is the inability of the water treatment plant (WTP) to provide clean, safe drinking water consistently and adequately to the Town. From May to December 2023, the Town was under a Do Not Consume order from DEQ. After emergency upgrades to the water treatment plant were completed, the Order was downgraded to a Health Advisory. The town has entered a Notice of Violation and Consent Order with DEQ. Hysham is currently working on phase 1 of this project, with further improvement required to comply with DEQ Consent Order.

Proposed Solution
Specific tasks include:
- o SCADA upgrades and panel additions.
- o Backwash pump and inlet piping replacement.
- o Wet Well Rehabilitation.
- o Raw water pump replacement.
- o Process piping replacement.
- o Electrical upgrades.
- o Chemical room improvements.
- o Building improvements.
- o Infiltration gallery improvements; and,
- o Clear well improvements.

Resource and Benefit Analysis
The wastewater improvements project will result in a measurable management benefit to the Yellowstone River with the installation of a SCADA system. This system will allow the operators to monitor diversions and adjust them in a timely manner for treatment processes. Additional benefits of this project include conservation of surface water, the Yellowstone River, and renewable energy sources by adjusting pumping and system run times to those that meet the needs of the community. Other benefits include the preservation of fish and aquatic habitat of the Yellowstone River by reduced pumping because of the newly monitored system.

This project will provide local economic and health and human benefits by providing a safe reliable drinking water for the community currently under a Health Advisory with DEQ. The residents are currently paying for a water utility that is unsuitable for household or drinking water purposes. The Do Not Consume order also affects the local economy as businesses that cannot operate without a safe drinking water. Additionally, the recreational visitors will benefit with businesses that can operate as result of safe drinking water.

BUDGET INFORMATION:

Funding Recommendation

DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000. DNRC will provide an award letter to successful applicants. The applicant will be responsible for providing the documentation necessary to meet startup conditions within the timeframe identified in the award letter. Failure to meet startup conditions within a 24-month timeframe may result in a rescinded award.

Grant agreement is contingent upon the recipient providing verification of matching fund sources.

Funding Source	Funding Amount	Funding Status
RRGL Grant Requested	$125,000	Recommended Funding 2027 Legislature
MCEP Grant	$750,000	Application Submitted
SRF Loan Forgiveness	$750,000	Discussed/Not Applied
SRF Loan	$693,571	Discussed/Not Applied
Other Grant	$250,000	Discussed/Not Applied
Project Total	$2,568,571	

RANKING DETAILS:

Scoring Category	Points Available	Application Score
Renewable Benefits	120	9.3
Public Benefits	30	3.8
Technical/Financial Feasibility	40	39.0
Application Clarity	10	6.0
Total Score	200	**58.1**
Overall RRG Rank		**37** (of 70)

Darby, Town of
Darby Wastewater System Improvements
Infrastructure Rank: 19 (of 42)
Project Type: Wastewater – Infrastructure
County: Ravalli

PROJECT INFORMATION:

The Darby wastewater system improvements project will address deficiencies in the collection and treatment systems by replacing identified compromised portions of the main collection lines and installation of ultraviolet (UV) disinfection. The primary purpose of this project is to improve the quality of effluent discharged from the treatment facility.

Project History

The Town of Darby is in Ravalli County in western Montana. The town is currently under a Consent Order with DEQ to address wastewater discharge permit violations. This project will reduce wastewater inflow and infiltration and exfiltration within severely compromised portions of the collection system with cured in place pipe and install an ultraviolet (UV) disinfection system to bring the town back into compliance. Completion of project will provide both renewable resource and public benefits and increase the operation efficiency of the system.

Proposed Solution

Specific tasks include:
• Rehabilitate 1,500 linear feet of sewer main and 2 manholes.
• Install new piping with the waste treatment facility.
• Install new pump station to provide adequate flow from the waste treatment facility to the UV disinfection system.
• Install new ultraviolet disinfection system.

Resource and Benefit Analysis

The wastewater system improvements project will result in preservation benefits to surface water, groundwater and wildlife and fish and aquatic habitat of the Bitterroot Valley. Other benefits of the project include conservation of renewable energy resources.

This project will provide local economic and health and human benefits by improving the quality of discharge from the treatment facility. Other benefits include a regional recreation benefit to the Bitterroot River.

BUDGET INFORMATION:

Funding Recommendation

DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000. DNRC will provide an award letter to successful applicants. The applicant will be responsible for providing the documentation necessary to meet startup conditions within the timeframe identified in the award letter. Failure to meet startup conditions within a 24-month timeframe may result in a rescinded award.

Grant agreement is contingent upon the recipient providing verification of matching fund sources.

Funding Source	Funding Amount	Funding Status
RRGL Grant Requested	$125,000	Recommended Funding 2027 Legislature
MCEP Grant	$750,000	Application Submitted
SRF Loan	$459,993	Discussed/Not Applied
CDBG	$750,000	Application Submitted
Project Total	$2,084,993	

RANKING DETAILS:

Scoring Category	Points Available	Application Score
Renewable Benefits	120	6.8
Public Benefits	30	3.8
Technical/Financial Feasibility	40	40.0
Application Clarity	10	7.0
Total Score	200	**57.6**
Overall RRG Rank		**38** (of 70)

Sheridan, Town of
Sheridan Drinking Water System Improvements
Infrastructure Rank: 20 (of 42)
Project Type: Drinking Water - Infrastructure
County: Madison

PROJECT INFORMATION:
Sheridan Water System Improvements: water mains - looping and replacement

Project History
The Town of Sheridan is proposing improvements to its water distribution system. The existing water system is made up of three operational groundwater wells, a ground level steel storage tank, and a water distribution system. The Town does not currently treat its water, but it maintains a chorine disinfection system in the event treatment was required. The treatment system operated in 2006 due to failed bacteria tests but received approval from DEQ in 2013 to cease treatment. Current problems with the existing system are inadequate fire flows from the existing water tank, distribution system improvements, and fire hydrants; and the presence of leaky and dead-end water mains. The proposed project will upsize a 6-inch main to an 8-inch main and loop dead-end mains within the distribution system. Making these improvements will achieve the goals of allowing greater flexibility and delivery of water to residents, lowering the potential for contamination, and better utilizing the existing groundwater source. The project will make distribution system improvements to the Town of Sheridan's water system that will improve the efficiency, reliability, and public safety of the system.

Proposed Solution
Specific tasks include:
- Install 1,890-feet of 8-inch polyvinyl chloride (PVC) water main on Washington Street, Ray Lane, and Madison Street;
- Install 300-feet feet of 8-inch PVC water main between Water Street and the existing building;
- Replace 900-feet of existing 6-inch water main with 8-inch PVC water main along Highway 287;
- Install 3 new fire hydrants along Highway 287 water main; and,
- Secure land acquisitions or easements for Washington Street main.

Resource and Benefit Analysis
The project will measurably manage groundwater as the source of drinking water for the town. The project will also likely conserve energy by reducing pumping demand.

The project will provide local human health and safety benefits by providing clean, safe and adequate drinking water to the community.

BUDGET INFORMATION:
Funding Recommendation
DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000. DNRC will provide an award letter to successful applicants. The applicant will be responsible for providing the documentation necessary to meet startup conditions within the timeframe identified in the award letter. Failure to meet startup conditions within a 24-month timeframe may result in a rescinded award.

Funding Source	Funding Amount	Funding Status
RRGL Grant Requested	$125,000	Recommended Funding 2027 Legislature
MCEP Grant	$500,000	Application Submitted
SRF Loan	$560,225	Application Submitted
Project Total	$1,185,225	

RANKING DETAILS:

Scoring Category	Points Available	Application Score
Renewable Benefits	120	6.8
Public Benefits	30	6.1
Technical/Financial Feasibility	40	34.2
Application Clarity	10	10.0
Total Score	200	**57.0**
Overall RRG Rank		**40** (of 70)

Richey, Town of
Richey Drinking Water System Improvements, Phase 3
Infrastructure Rank: 21 (of 42)
Project Type: Drinking Water - Infrastructure
County: Dawson

PROJECT INFORMATION:
Town of Richey Drinking Water Infrastructure Rehabilitation and Improvement Project: Distribution System Replacement, Replacement of Fire Hydrants and Appurtenances

Project History
The applicant operates a water distribution system, most of which was originally constructed of asbestos cement pipe in 1937. The remaining portions of the distribution system were constructed in 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. This project will continue the progress achieved under the prior two phases by replacing prioritized areas of the water distribution system to address the aging and undersized distribution network, address inoperable gate valves and fire hydrants, and remove lead service lines, if encountered.

Proposed Solution
Specific tasks include:
- Replace up to 3,130 feet of water main by installing new 8-inch pipe and related appurtenances;
- Install 14 new gate valves;
- Install 4 new fire hydrants;
- Install 540 feet of new service line to 18 metered connections; and,
- Complete surface restoration activities.

Resource and Benefit Analysis
The project will measurably manage groundwater as the source of drinking water for the town. The project will also measurably conserve energy by reducing pumping demand.

The project will provide local human health and safety benefits by providing clean, safe and adequate drinking water to the community.

BUDGET INFORMATION:
Funding Recommendation
DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000. DNRC will provide an award letter to successful applicants. The applicant will be responsible for providing the documentation necessary to meet startup conditions within the timeframe identified in the award letter. Failure to meet startup conditions within a 24-month timeframe may result in a rescinded award.

Funding Source	Funding Amount	Funding Status
RRGL Grant Requested	$125,000	Recommended Funding 2027 Legislature
MCEP Grant	$500,000	Application Submitted
SRF Grant	$750,000	Application Submitted
SRF Loan	$250,000	Application Submitted
CDBG Grant	$750,000	Discussed/Not Applied
Project Total	$2,375,000	

RANKING DETAILS:

Scoring Category	Points Available	Application Score
Renewable Benefits	120	7.6
Public Benefits	30	2.9
Technical/Financial Feasibility	40	37.4
Application Clarity	10	9.0
Total Score	200	**56.9**
Overall RRG Rank		**41** (of 70)

Ennis, Town of
Ennis Drinking Water System Improvements
Infrastructure Rank: 22 (of 42)
Project Type: Drinking Water - Infrastructure
County: Madison

PROJECT INFORMATION:
The Ennis Water System Improvements project will construct a new wellhouse, develop two new redundant water supply wells, and replace the existing storage tank.

Project History
Portions of Ennis' present water system date back to 1961. Throughout the years, the system has undergone analysis and improvements. In recent years, there have been growing concerns with water supply capacity. The water supply does not meet DEQ standards to provide the maximum daily demand with the highest capacity well out of service. Also, the existing 29-year-old water storage tank is leaking, and the storage capacity is not sufficient to meet system demands and provide fire protection. The Ennis Water System Improvements project constructs a new wellhouse, develops two new redundant water supply wells, and replaces the existing storage tank with a new 700,000-gallon prestressed concrete storage tank. The goal of this project is to improve the water system to conserve water, address the future water resource needs of the Town, ensure the delivery of safe and dependable drinking water, and optimize the efficiency of the water infrastructure.

Proposed Solution
Specific tasks include:
· Construct a new wellhouse;
· Develop 2 new redundant water supply wells; and,
· Replace existing storage tank with a new 700,000-gallon prestressed concrete storage tank.

Resource and Benefit Analysis
The project will measurably develop and manage groundwater as the source of drinking water for Ennis. There will likely be energy conservation because of the project.

The project will provide local economic benefits to the rate payers in Ennis by reducing overall costs. There will be a measurable benefit to human health and safety in the region as Ennis drinking water serves not only the local community but a significant tourist population.

BUDGET INFORMATION:
Funding Recommendation
DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000. DNRC will provide an award letter to successful applicants. The applicant will be responsible for providing the documentation necessary to meet startup conditions within the timeframe identified in the award letter. Failure to meet startup conditions within a 24-month timeframe may result in a rescinded award.

Grant agreement is contingent upon: 1) The recipient providing verification of matching fund sources; and, 2) The recipient providing verification that the project is in compliance with the Water Use Act Title 85, Chapter 2, MCA.

Funding Source	Funding Amount	Funding Status
RRGL Grant Requested	$125,000	Recommended Funding 2027 Legislature
MCEP Grant	$500,000	Application Submitted
SRF Grant	$500,000	Discussed/Not Applied
SRF Loan	$2,183,000	Discussed/Not Applied
Applicant Cash	$10,867	Funds Committed
Other Grant	$439,133	Funds Committed
Project Total	$3,758,000	

RANKING DETAILS:

Scoring Category	Points Available	Application Score
Renewable Benefits	120	6.8
Public Benefits	30	5.2
Technical/Financial Feasibility	40	37.6
Application Clarity	10	7.0
Total Score	200	**56.6**
Overall RRG Rank		**42** (of 70)

Basin Water and/or Sewer District
Basin Water and/or Sewer District Drinking Water System Improvements
Infrastructure Rank: 23 (of 42)
Project Type: Drinking Water - Infrastructure
County: Jefferson

PROJECT INFORMATION:
The Basin Water and Sewer District Water System needs improvements consisting of a new well, pipe and main replacement, looping and fire hydrant upgrades. These upgrades will prevent leakage and contamination as well as improving flows.

Project History
The Town of Basin's existing water system has problems with the supply capacity, adequate fire flows, asbestos concrete and undersized iron mains, dead-end mains, lack of auxiliary power, excessive leaking, and various other distribution system needs. The 8-inch asbestos concrete and 4-inch iron mains were installed in the 1970s and are near or at the end of the 50-year design life. The District would like to eliminate the asbestos concrete pipe from the system since it is hazardous if it becomes friable. Looping dead-end mains will eliminate the long service runs, provide alternate paths for water to reach the same service, and increase fire flow through smaller mains. The excessive leaking results in unnecessary electrical and chemical costs to pump and treat the additional water. The existing wells are under capacity and do not meet DEQ capacity requirements. The project goals are to make incremental upgrades to the water system which will improve water supply capacity and eliminate potential health impacts. The project will make phased improvements to the Town of Basin's water system which will improve the efficiency, reliability, and public safety of water delivery.

Proposed Solution
Specific tasks include:
- Replace Well #1 with the construction of a new well near existing Well #2 and Well #3;
- Replace 2,400 feet of asbestos concrete water main with polyvinyl chloride (PVC) main; and,
- Replace 4 fire hydrants.

Resource and Benefit Analysis
The Basin Water Systems Improvements has a measurable benefit in ground water development as water loss will go down with the replacement of leaking pipes. There is also a measurable benefit in ground water management with the installation of a new well and improved pipes as they are better able to compare water usage and water consumption with less error. There is a likely renewable energy benefit by looping and replacing pipes with better flow rates and less loss.

There is a measurable benefit backed by public support for the local economy as these improvements will improve water distribution and lower costs for residents. There is an equal benefit to human health by replacing aging pipes that could contribute to contamination and looping pipes to prevent stagnant water.

BUDGET INFORMATION:
Funding Recommendation
DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000. DNRC will provide an award letter to successful applicants. The applicant will be responsible for providing the documentation necessary to meet startup conditions within the timeframe identified in the award letter. Failure to meet startup conditions within a 24-month timeframe may result in a rescinded award.

Grant agreement is contingent upon recipient providing verification that the project is in compliance with the Water Use Act Title 85, Chapter 2, MCA.

Funding Source	Funding Amount	Funding Status
RRGL Grant Requested	$125,000	Recommended Funding 2027 Legislature
MCEP Grant	$500,000	Application Submitted
SRF Loan	$100,000	Application Submitted
CDBG Grant	$750,000	Application Submitted
Applicant Cash	$39,240	Funds Committed
Project Total	$1,514,240	

RANKING DETAILS:

Scoring Category	Points Available	Application Score
Renewable Benefits	120	8.6
Public Benefits	30	6.0
Technical/Financial Feasibility	40	33.6
Application Clarity	10	8.0
Total Score	200	**56.2**
Overall RRG Rank		**43** (of 70)

Manhattan, Town of
Manhattan Water System Improvements
Infrastructure Rank: 24 (of 42)
Project Type: Drinking Water - Infrastructure
County: Gallatin

PROJECT INFORMATION:
The Manhattan drinking water system improvements project will address the distribution system issues.

Project History
The Town's water system consists of an infiltration gallery, a booster station, a gas chlorination disinfection system, two domestic water supply wells, an elevated storage tank and a distribution system. The distribution system consists of approximately 47,800 lineal feet of asbestos cement pipe that is nearing the end of its service life. Leakage in the distribution system is significant, as the Town loses approximately 50% of their pumped water annually due to water main leaks and breaks. The unaccounted-for water results in inadequate water supply and storage capacity. The source capacity is not sufficient to meet peak demands. Water main breaks result in low pressures which increase the potential for infiltration of potential contaminants. Due in part to the Town's proximity to Belgrade and Bozeman, and the recent growth seen in the region, the Town is expecting to experience an average annual growth of 3.5% over the next 20 years, which will further stress the water supply, should system leakage not be addressed. The proposed project is the first phase of a planned multi-phase improvement program to reduce system leakage.

Proposed Solution
Specific tasks include:
- Replace 4,200 lineal feet of existing water main.

Resource and Benefit Analysis
The drinking water project will conserve groundwater for the Gallatin Valley Aquifer by fixing the current leaky distribution system. The project will provide the system with better management and energy conservation due to better efficiency of the system.

The project will provide local health and safety benefits by upgrading the existing distribution system, leakage will be minimized. The Town will be able to better provide sufficient water to meet max day demand and fire flow requirements as outlined by DEQ in the event of a fire.

BUDGET INFORMATION:
Funding Recommendation
DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000. DNRC will provide an award letter to successful applicants. The applicant will be responsible for providing the documentation necessary to meet startup conditions within the timeframe identified in the award letter. Failure to meet startup conditions within a 24-month timeframe may result in a rescinded award.

Funding Source	Funding Amount	Funding Status
RRGL Grant Requested	$125,000	Recommended Funding 2027 Legislature
MCEP Grant	$500,000	Application Submitted
RD Grant	$99,250	Discussed/Not Applied
RD Loan	$297,750	Discussed/Not Applied
Applicant Cash	$150,000	Funds Committed
Project Total	$1,172,000	

RANKING DETAILS:

Scoring Category	Points Available	Application Score
Renewable Benefits	120	6.7
Public Benefits	30	4.4
Technical/Financial Feasibility	40	37.0
Application Clarity	10	8.0
Total Score	200	**56.1**
Overall RRG Rank		**44** (of 70)

Cooke City Water District
Cooke City Drinking Water Infrastructure Improvements
Infrastructure Rank: 25 (of 42)
Project Type: Drinking Water - Infrastructure
County: Park

PROJECT INFORMATION:
The Cook City Water District Water System Improvement Project will construct new water mains and repair the well house, well heads, and storage tank.

Project History
The applicant operates a water system dating back to 1947, but the system was officially incorporated in 1967. Significant updates in 2010 consisted of three water supply wells, a water storage tank, and distribution system improvements. The system has several dead-end mains that cause freezing, low pressures, restricted fire flows, and stagnant water. A flush hydrant is used to move water through the system but contributes to an excessive amount of wasted water and related energy consumption to operate the wells and pump system. Other challenges include a failing well building roof, failing electrical wires that provide power to the wells, and a failed mixer in the water storage facility. The proposed improvements eliminate the dead-end mains and the need to operate the flush hydrant by strategically looping the system and correct deficiencies identified for the well system and storage tank.

Proposed Solution
Specific tasks include:
- Install 4,367 feet of new 6-inch water main;
- Install 6 new gate valves;
- Install 100 feet of 6-inch pipeline using jack and bore and directional drilling methods;
- Reconnect 3 metered service lines;
- Replace the well building roof;
- Repair the electrical service wiring to the well heads;
- Replace the mixer in the water storage facility; and,
- Complete surface restoration activities.

Resource and Benefit Analysis
The project will measurably manage groundwater as the source of drinking water for Cooke City. The project will likely conserve energy.

The project will protect human health and safety for both the local population as well as the significant tourism population that is served by Cooke City.

BUDGET INFORMATION:
Funding Recommendation
DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000. DNRC will provide an award letter to successful applicants. The applicant will be responsible for providing the documentation necessary to meet startup conditions within the timeframe identified in the award letter. Failure to meet startup conditions within a 24-month timeframe may result in a rescinded award.

Funding Source	Funding Amount	Funding Status
RRGL Grant Requested	$125,000	Recommended Funding 2027 Legislature
MCEP Grant	$750,000	Application Submitted
SRF Grant	$836,030	Application Submitted
Applicant Cash	$32,000	Funds Committed
Project Total	$1,711,030	

RANKING DETAILS:

Scoring Category	Points Available	Application Score
Renewable Benefits	120	6.8
Public Benefits	30	3.6
Technical/Financial Feasibility	40	36.0
Application Clarity	10	9.0
Total Score	200	**55.4**
Overall RRG Rank		**45** (of 70)

Treasure State Acres Water and Sewer District
Treasure State Acres Wastewater Treatment System Improvements
Infrastructure Rank: 25 (of 42)
Project Type: Wastewater – Infrastructure
County: Lewis and Clark

PROJECT INFORMATION:

The Treasure State Acres wastewater treatment improvement project will address deficiencies in the effluent irrigation system. The proposed project will install a new pivot to meet the Nutrient Management and Irrigation Plan. The primary purpose of this project is to increase management of effluent discharge.

Project History

The Treasure State Acres County Sewer District is situated in the Helena Valley, just under a mile north of Helena. The sewage system for the Treasure State subdivision was built during the late 1960s. The existing wastewater system consists of a gravity sewer main network that generally flows from the Treasure State subdivision east under I-15 to the Sewer District's two-cell facultative treatment lagoons. The treated wastewater effluent is discharged to an irrigation wheel line. The existing lagoons are 4.4 and 6.2 acres at the normal operating level. The existing wheel line and irrigated acres are not sufficient to manage the nutrient levels in the effluent from secondary storage lagoon. The project proposes to increase the application area of the effluent by installing a pivot on crop land two acres larger in size.

Proposed Solution

Specific tasks include:
• Installation of a 21-acre pivot.
• Connect lagoon discharge to pivot.

Resource and Benefit Analysis

The wastewater project will provide a measurable benefit to cropland by developing an additional 2 acres of irrigation. Other benefits of the project include the preservation of the surface water of Prickly Pear Creek, groundwater, soils and range land by preventing the application and potential run-off of inadequately treated effluent

The project will provide a local economic benefit by supporting and increasing irrigation of area crop and a likely recreation benefit with reducing potential exposure to untreated effluent in Prickly Pear Creek and Lake Helena.

BUDGET INFORMATION:

Funding Recommendation

DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000. DNRC will provide an award letter to successful applicants. The applicant will be responsible for providing the documentation necessary to meet startup conditions within the timeframe identified in the award letter. Failure to meet startup conditions within a 24-month timeframe may result in a rescinded award.

Funding Source	Funding Amount	Funding Status
RRGL Grant Requested	$125,000	Recommended Funding 2027 Legislature
Applicant Cash	$390,000	Funds Committed
Project Total	$515,000	

RANKING DETAILS:

Scoring Category	Points Available	Application Score
Renewable Benefits	120	10.2
Public Benefits	30	5.0
Technical/Financial Feasibility	40	30.2
Application Clarity	10	10.0
Total Score	200	**55.4**
Overall RRG Rank		**45** (of 70)

St. Ignatius, Town of
St. Ignatius Wastewater Collection Main Replacement
Infrastructure Rank: 27 (of 42)
Project Type: Wastewater – Infrastructure
County: Lake

PROJECT INFORMATION:

St. Ignatius Wastewater Collection Main Replacement Project will address deficiencies in the collection by replacing failing mains. The purpose of the project is to fix system backflow issues and prevent wastewater contamination of groundwater.

Project History

The Town of St. Ignatius has an 80-year-old wastewater collection system consisting of clay tile pipe. The entire system is failing because of its age and vulnerability to cracking, root intrusion, and joint separations. The current condition of the mains has obstructed the flow of wastewater and led to major blockages, frequent backups, and mass exfiltration to the underlying aquifer system. An investigation concluded at least 7,000 gallons per day (gpd) of sewage exfiltration occurs in the most compromised areas of the system. The backups and exfiltration of raw sewage have contaminated surrounding soil, groundwater, and likely the surface water of Mission Creek.

Proposed Solution

Specific tasks include:

• Replacing all clay tile mains with appropriately sized polyvinyl chloride (PVC), approximately 12,640 lineal feet.

Resource and Benefit Analysis

The collection system pipe replacement project will likely preserve surface water quality and fish and aquatic habitat in the nearby Mission Creek, measurably preserve groundwater, likely preserve soil, and likely benefit the management of groundwater by preventing raw wastewater leakage.

The project will provide local and regional economic benefits, human health and safety and recreation benefits by supporting business and residential wastewater management and reducing potential exposure to biohazards in Mission Creek through wastewater contamination.

BUDGET INFORMATION:

Funding Recommendation

DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000. DNRC will provide an award letter to successful applicants. The applicant will be responsible for providing the documentation necessary to meet startup conditions within the timeframe identified in the award letter. Failure to meet startup conditions within a 24-month timeframe may result in a rescinded award.

Funding Source	Funding Amount	Funding Status
RRGL Grant Requested	$125,000	Recommended Funding 2027 Legislature
MCEP Grant	$750,000	Application Submitted
RD Grant	$3,095,669	Discussed/Not Applied
RD Loan	$1,031,890	Discussed/Not Applied
CDBG Grant	$750,000	Discussed/Not Applied
Project Total	$5,752,559	

RANKING DETAILS:

Scoring Category	Points Available	Application Score
Renewable Benefits	120	10.2
Public Benefits	30	6.0
Technical/Financial Feasibility	40	32.0
Application Clarity	10	7.0
Total Score	200	**55.3**
Overall RRG Rank		**47** (of 70)

Twin Bridges, Town of
Twin Bridges Drinking Water System Improvements
Infrastructure Rank: 28 (of 42)
Project Type: Drinking Water - Infrastructure
County: Madison

PROJECT INFORMATION:
Twin Bridges Drinking Water System Improvements will address deficiencies in the distribution by rehabilitating wells and replacing leaking pipes, valves and hydrants. The purpose of the project is to provide safe reliable drinking water and meet fire flow demands.

Project History
The Town's original system was installed in 1917 with 4-inch, 6-inch, and 8-inch cast iron. Asbestos cement lines were added in the 1960s and 1970s, and polyvinyl chloride (PVC) was put in place from the 1980s to the present. Over 18 percent of the distribution system is still comprised of cast iron and asbestos cement water lines that are very likely contributing to system leakage and pose a health risk to residents due to leaded joints. Additionally, approximately 10 percent of the distribution system is four-diameter or smaller, which does not meet DEQ standards. Numerous distribution system valves and hydrants experience leaks, as documented by the Town's Public Works Department. Addressing concerns with the water supply system is a high priority for the Town due to reduced pumping rates, the advanced age of the existing well equipment, and deteriorating pump house structures.

Proposed Solution
Specific tasks include:
• Rehabilitate water supply wells;
• Replacing and upsizing mains; and,
• Replacing approximately 20 valves and 20 hydrants.

Resource and Benefit Analysis
The distribution system improvement project will manage groundwater by improving function of the existing wells and decreasing losses from leaking pipes and valves. The project will likely conserve energy by improving well pump efficiency.

This project will provide local economic, human health and safety, and recreation benefits by providing a safe and adequate drinking water supply.

BUDGET INFORMATION:
Funding Recommendation
DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000. DNRC will provide an award letter to successful applicants. The applicant will be responsible for providing the documentation necessary to meet startup conditions within the timeframe identified in the award letter. Failure to meet startup conditions within a 24-month timeframe may result in a rescinded award.

Funding Source	Funding Amount	Funding Status
RRGL Grant Requested	$125,000	Recommended Funding 2027 Legislature
MCEP Grant	$750,000	Application Submitted
SRF Grant	$247,400	Application Submitted
SRF Loan	$247,400	Application Submitted
CDBG Grant	$750,000	Discussed/Not Applied
Project Total	$2,119,800	

RANKING DETAILS:

Scoring Category	Points Available	Application Score
Renewable Benefits	120	5.0
Public Benefits	30	5.2
Technical/Financial Feasibility	40	38.6
Application Clarity	10	6.0
Total Score	200	**54.8**
Overall RRG Rank		**48** (of 70)

Libby, City of
Libby Wastewater System Improvements
Infrastructure Rank: 29 (of 42)
Project Type: Wastewater – Infrastructure
County: Lincoln

PROJECT INFORMATION:
Libby Wastewater System Improvements Project will address deficiencies in the collection by replacing the failing lift station. The primary purpose of the project is to prevent wastewater contamination from the leaking lift station.

Project History
The City of Libby operates three lift stations to collect and convey wastewater to their treatment plant. The Montana Avenue Lift Station is the oldest of the City's lift stations and is located near the Kootenay River directly upstream of a popular boat launch and recreation area. The lift station includes a failing concrete wet well and packaged, below grade steel dry pit that is well beyond its useful life. The City's operator reports that rags and other debris routinely plug the pumps and check valves which have caused the lift station to fail and raw sewage to back up into residences and businesses. Due to its age, replacement parts are difficult to find leading to prolonged station outages. The access tube to the dry pit is slightly offset making it a safety hazard and difficult to enter the lift station for routine maintenance and required repairs. Sewer overflows or leaking wastewater from the existing wet well pose significant health and safety concerns for the public.

Proposed Solution
Specific tasks include:
• Install a new package lift station.

Resource and Benefit Analysis
The lift station replacement project will likely preserve surface water quality and fish and aquatic habitat in the nearby Kootenay River, groundwater, and soil by preventing raw wastewater leakage.

The project will provide local economic benefits, local and regional human health and safety and local recreation benefits by supporting business and residential wastewater management and reducing potential exposure to biohazards in the Kootenay River through wastewater contamination.

BUDGET INFORMATION:
Funding Recommendation
DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000. DNRC will provide an award letter to successful applicants. The applicant will be responsible for providing the documentation necessary to meet startup conditions within the timeframe identified in the award letter. Failure to meet startup conditions within a 24-month timeframe may result in a rescinded award.

Funding Source	Funding Amount	Funding Status
RRGL Grant Requested	$125,000	Recommended Funding 2027 Legislature
MCEP Grant	$500,000	Application Submitted
CDBG Grant	$434,000	Discussed/Not Applied
Project Total	$1,059,000	

RANKING DETAILS:

Scoring Category	Points Available	Application Score
Renewable Benefits	120	8.6
Public Benefits	30	4.6
Technical/Financial Feasibility	40	37.4
Application Clarity	10	3.0
Total Score	200	**53.6**
Overall RRG Rank		**49** (of 70)

Sun Prairie Village County Water and Sewer District
Sun Prairie Village Drinking Water System Upgrades
Infrastructure Rank: 30 (of 42)
Project Type: Drinking Water - Infrastructure
County: Cascade

PROJECT INFORMATION:
Sun Prairie Village Drinking Water System Upgrades project will address the main problem of leaking reservoir and lack of safety structures by repairing leaks, replacing pump station components and installing a security fence.

Project History
Sun Prairie Village County Water and Sewer District (District) is in Cascade County, west of Great Falls. The District supplies water to a population of approximately 1,188. Water is supplied by four groundwater wells and treated with a reverse osmosis system prior to disinfection. A semi-buried 450,000-gallon reservoir, also known as a clearwell, provides storage and serves as the chlorine contact basin. A pump station discharges treated water into the distribution system and into the second 85,000-gallon reservoir, a ground surface reservoir located at elevation. The treatment system and distribution mains are in good condition. The semi-buried reservoir has a deteriorating roof support structure, hairline cracks throughout the concrete walls, and a gap between the reservoir wall and the roof around the entire structure. The pump station is nearly 50 years old and in need of replacement. The ground surface reservoir leaks and lacks cathodic protection to prevent corrosion of the tank coating. The four groundwater wells lack security fencing.

Proposed Solution
Specific tasks include:
- Repair and replace structural roof supports, repair cracks in the walls, and install a screen;
- Replace the pump station components and building;
- Repair the existing leaks, reseal and cathodic protection to the ground surface reservoir; and,
- Install security fencing around the four wells.

Resource and Benefit Analysis
The water system upgrades project will manage the groundwater source by repairing the leaking system.

The water system upgrades project will provide increased public safety by installing security fences around the groundwater wells.

BUDGET INFORMATION:
Funding Recommendation
DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000. DNRC will provide an award letter to successful applicants. The applicant will be responsible for providing the documentation necessary to meet startup conditions within the timeframe identified in the award letter. Failure to meet startup conditions within a 24-month timeframe may result in a rescinded award.

Funding Source	Funding Amount	Funding Status
RRGL Grant Requested	$125,000	Recommended Funding 2027 Legislature
MCEP Grant	$500,000	Application Submitted
SRF Loan	$1,613,000	Application Submitted
Project Total	$2,238,000	

RANKING DETAILS:

Scoring Category	Points Available	Application Score
Renewable Benefits	120	5.9
Public Benefits	30	3.5
Technical/Financial Feasibility	40	37.0
Application Clarity	10	7.0
Total Score	200	**53.4**
Overall RRG Rank		**50** (of 70)

Plentywood, City of
Plentywood Drinking Water System Improvements
Infrastructure Rank: 31 (of 42)
Project Type: Drinking Water - Infrastructure
County: Sheridan

PROJECT INFORMATION:
City of Plentywood drinking water improvements project will address the issues of leakage and low flows by replacing 2,921 linear feet of undersized water mains and install 237 linear feet of new main.

Project History
The original water source for the City's water system were wells located in the southeast corner of the City. The wells were drilled between 1936 and 1953. In 2015, the City abandoned the wells and connected to the Assiniboine and Sioux Dry Prairie Rural Water System. Most of the City's distribution mains are over 60 years of age, deteriorating, and leaking. Over the last three years, the City's water system has seen over 26 million gallons of leakage per year. Besides being outdated and leaking, over 11 percent of the distribution mains are undersized. Dead-end mains are present in the distribution system. The undersized lines and dead-end mains limit fire flows and result in insufficient pressures during peak demand periods.

Proposed Solution
Specific tasks include:
- Replace approximately 2,921 lineal feet of undersized water mains; and,
- Install 237 lineal feet of new 8-inch water main and 901 lineal feet of new 6-inch water main to loop dead-end mains.

Resource and Benefit Analysis
The drinking water project will conserve surface water by better managing the drink water by decreasing leaky pipes.

The drinking water project will provide a public health and safety benefit by increasing pressure which will decrease the risk of contamination due to low flows and pressure.

BUDGET INFORMATION:
Funding Recommendation
DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000. DNRC will provide an award letter to successful applicants. The applicant will be responsible for providing the documentation necessary to meet startup conditions within the timeframe identified in the award letter. Failure to meet startup conditions within a 24-month timeframe may result in a rescinded award.

Funding Source	Funding Amount	Funding Status
RRGL Grant Requested	$125,000	Recommended Funding 2027 Legislature
MCEP Grant	$325,000	Application Submitted
SRF Loan	$1,883,268	Application Submitted
Project Total	$2,333,268	

RANKING DETAILS:

Scoring Category	Points Available	Application Score
Renewable Benefits	120	5.9
Public Benefits	30	4.4
Technical/Financial Feasibility	40	37.0
Application Clarity	10	6.0
Total Score	200	**53.2**
Overall RRG Rank		**51** (of 70)

White Sulphur Springs, City of
White Sulphur Springs Drinking Water System Improvements
Infrastructure Rank: 32 (of 42)
Project Type: Drinking Water - Infrastructure
County: Meagher

PROJECT INFORMATION:
White Sulphur Springs Drinking Water System Improvements Project will address the problem of water shortages by rehabilitating the surface water intake structure.

Project History
The City of White Sulphur Springs' municipal water system is supplied by two sources; (1) a surface water diversion and intake reservoir on the South Fork of Willow Creek, and (2) a pair of groundwater wells located in the northeast part of the city. The Willow Creek water source, however, has been unreliable for the past three years because of turbidity issues and operational and maintenance challenges. Without this water source, the City depends on the groundwater wells and the current maximum daily demand exceeds the capacity of the wells. The water system improvements will result in social, economic, and environmental benefits. Specifically, rehabilitating the surface water source on the South Fork of Willow Creek would almost eliminate the need to pump groundwater from the city's wells, thereby conserving energy, reducing operational costs, and preserving the local groundwater aquifer.

Proposed Solution
Specific tasks include:
- Drain and dredge the intake pond (Willow Creek Reservoir);
- Core underdrain filter sand, assess the condition, and remove and replace filter sand;
- Inspect and evaluate the condition of the filter fabric and graded drain gravel layer;
- Demolish the existing catwalk and replace it with a new aluminum frame catwalk with grating and handrails;
- Replace flushing valve;
- Minor access road improvements and grading near the intake facility; and,
- Installation of a battery/solar-powered raw water turbidimeter at the pond.

Resource and Benefit Analysis
The water system improvements project will preserve ground water by allowing the town to utilize the surface water and conserve energy due to upgrades to the facility.

The water system improvements project will provide local public health and safety benefits by ensuring a reliable source of drinking water.

BUDGET INFORMATION:
Funding Recommendation
DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000. DNRC will provide an award letter to successful applicants. The applicant will be responsible for providing the documentation necessary to meet startup conditions within the timeframe identified in the award letter. Failure to meet startup conditions within a 24-month timeframe may result in a rescinded award.

Funding Source	Funding Amount	Funding Status
RRGL Grant Requested	$125,000	Recommended Funding 2027 Legislature
MCEP Grant	$625,000	Application Submitted
SRF Grant	$750,000	Application Submitted
SRF Loan	$287,080	Application Submitted
Project Total	$1,787,080	

RANKING DETAILS:

Scoring Category	Points Available	Application Score
Renewable Benefits	120	6.7
Public Benefits	30	4.4
Technical/Financial Feasibility	40	34.0
Application Clarity	10	8.0
Total Score	200	**53.1**
Overall RRG Rank		**52** (of 70)

Big Timber, City of
Big Timber Drinking Water Storage Improvements
Infrastructure Rank: 33 (of 42)
Project Type: Drinking Water - Infrastructure
County: Sweet Grass

PROJECT INFORMATION:
Big Timber Drinking Water Storage Improvements project will address deficiencies in storage and distribution by building a new storage tank and new main transmission line. The purpose of the project is to provide safe reliable drinking water.

Project History
The City of Big Timber's drinking water comes from an infiltration gallery influenced by the Boulder River. The water source is classified as Groundwater Under the Direct Influence of Surface Water. The system is currently facing a water storage problem as it lacks sufficient storage capacity for both operations and fire suppression. In October of 2023 a third-party utility company drilled through the City's transmission main which provides water from the existing storage tank to the distribution system. As a result, the water tank was taken out of service due to the lack of redundancy in the system. The loss is pressure in the system led to a Boil Water Advisory by the DEQ. An additional 500,000-gallon water storage tank and new water transmission main would create redundancy in the system and prevent another pressure loss scenario.

Proposed Solution
Specific tasks include:
• Build a 500,000-gallon water storage tank; and,
• Install a new water transmission main.

Resource and Benefit Analysis
The storage tank and mainline project will measurably benefit the management of groundwater under the influence of surface water by increasing storage and pressure in the system and having a redundant transmission line in case of a failure.

This project will provide local economic, human health and safety, and recreation benefits by providing a safe and adequate drinking water supply.

BUDGET INFORMATION:
Funding Recommendation
DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000. DNRC will provide an award letter to successful applicants. The applicant will be responsible for providing the documentation necessary to meet startup conditions within the timeframe identified in the award letter. Failure to meet startup conditions within a 24-month timeframe may result in a rescinded award.

Funding Source	Funding Amount	Funding Status
RRGL Grant Requested	$125,000	Recommended Funding 2027 Legislature
MCEP Grant	$500,000	Application Submitted
SRF Grant	$750,000	Application Submitted
SRF Loan	$1,479,000	Application Submitted
Project Total	$2,854,000	

RANKING DETAILS:

Scoring Category	Points Available	Application Score
Renewable Benefits	120	5.0
Public Benefits	30	4.6
Technical/Financial Feasibility	40	39.0
Application Clarity	10	4.0
Total Score	200	**52.7**
Overall RRG Rank		**53** (of 70)

Wolf Point, City of
Wolf Point Wastewater System Improvements, Phase 3
Infrastructure Rank: 34 (of 42)
Project Type: Wastewater – Infrastructure
County: Roosevelt

PROJECT INFORMATION:

Wolf Point wastewater improvements project will address deficiencies in the wastewater collection system. The proposed project will replace existing vitrified clay pipe collection mains with cured in place pipe or open cut pipe. The primary purpose of this project is to reduce inflow and infiltration, exfiltration, and potential sanitary sewer overflows.

Project History

The City of Wolf Point's wastewater collection system was constructed in the 1930s out of vitrified clay pipe and concrete pipe. The collection system consists of 96,700 linear feet of pipe and 250 manholes. Sewer system issues include corroding steel sewer mains and deteriorating concrete, clay and polyvinyl chloride (PVC) mains, infiltration of groundwater, root intrusion and build up, and exfiltration of raw sewage to the surrounding soils and groundwater. The City has completed phases 1 and 2 of the wastewater system improvements project that include the replacement of 44,365 linear feet of sewer mains and 5 aeration blowers in the primary treatment cells. This phase (3) of the project will replace or rehabilitate 12,350 linear feet of sewer mains and associated manholes.

Proposed Solution

Specific tasks include:
• Cured in place pipe (CIPP) lining 1,350 linear feet of 8-inch vitrified clay pipe (VCP);
• Open cut replacing 300 linear feet of 12-inch vitrified clay pipe (VCP);
• Open cut replacing 425 linear feet of 10-inch vitrified clay pipe (VCP);
• Open cut replacing 2,700 linear feet of 8-inch vitrified clay pipe (VCP), including replacing manholes; and,
• Bore and jack 150 linear feet with 10-inch carrier pipe.

Resource and Benefit Analysis

The wastewater improvements project will result in conservation and preservation benefits to groundwater, soils and the Missouri River by reducing inflow and infiltration of groundwater, and exfiltration of raw sewage into surrounding areas. Additional benefits include the conservation of renewable energy through reduced inflow and infiltration (I&I) of groundwater which increases pumping into the treatment process.

The project will provide local economic, human health and safety and recreation benefits by supporting local business and residential hook up, reducing potential exposure to sanitary sewer overflow and reducing the chances of sewage migration to the Missouri River.

BUDGET INFORMATION:

Funding Recommendation

DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000. DNRC will provide an award letter to successful applicants. The applicant will be responsible for providing the documentation necessary to meet startup conditions within the timeframe identified in the award letter. Failure to meet startup conditions within a 24-month timeframe may result in a rescinded award.

Funding Source	Funding Amount	Funding Status
RRGL Grant Requested	$125,000	Recommended Funding 2027 Legislature
MCEP Grant	$625,000	Application Submitted
SRF Grant	$345,250	Application Submitted
SRF Loan	$654,750	Application Submitted
CDBG Grant	$750,000	Discussed/Not Applied
Project Total	$2,500,000	

RANKING DETAILS:

Scoring Category	Points Available	Application Score
Renewable Benefits	120	9.3
Public Benefits	30	3.6
Technical/Financial Feasibility	40	33.6
Application Clarity	10	5.0
Total Score	200	**51.6**
Overall RRG Rank		**56** (of 70)

Bigfork County Water and Sewer District
Bigfork Drinking Water System Improvements
Infrastructure Rank: 35 (of 42)
Project Type: Drinking Water - Infrastructure
County: Flathead

PROJECT INFORMATION:
The Bigfork Water and Sewer District Drinking Water System Improvement Project will install a new generator at the well site, reconfigure the distribution system, and extend the new water supply main.

Project History
The applicant operates a water system comprised of four wells, approximately 25 miles of distribution pipeline, and five water storage facilities. The well pumps lack sufficient backup power, and source redundancy is desired to access a different area of the aquifer or a different aquifer. Portions of the distribution system consist of steel pipe material installed in the 1960s and 1970s and asbestos cement pipe that is prioritized for replacement. The system is also experiencing growth. The proposed improvements address prioritized needs consisting of inadequate backup power generation for the well system, low operating pressures in areas of the system, and single points of failure for areas of the distribution system.

Proposed Solution
Specific tasks include:
- Replace an existing 200-kilowatt generator with a new 500-kilowatt generator;
- Replace an existing pressure reducing valve with two pressure reducing valves;
- Install approximately 1,100 linear feet of 10-inch water main;
- Connect each end of the new 10-inch water main to the existing distribution system; and,
- Complete surface restoration activities.

Resource and Benefit Analysis
The Bigfork water system project will help the community better manage groundwater as a source of drinking water supply.

The project will benefit human health and safety and the regional economy by providing safe and adequate drinking water to Bigfork which serves not only a local population but a significant tourist population.

BUDGET INFORMATION:
Funding Recommendation
DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000. DNRC will provide an award letter to successful applicants. The applicant will be responsible for providing the documentation necessary to meet startup conditions within the timeframe identified in the award letter. Failure to meet startup conditions within a 24-month timeframe may result in a rescinded award.

Grant agreement is contingent upon the recipient providing verification of matching fund sources.

Funding Source	Funding Amount	Funding Status
RRGL Grant Requested	$125,000	Recommended Funding 2027 Legislature
MCEP Grant	$500,000	Application Submitted
SRF Loan	$3,670,000	Discussed/Not Applied
Applicant Cash	$105,000	Funds Committed
Project Total	$4,400,000	

RANKING DETAILS:

Scoring Category	Points Available	Application Score
Renewable Benefits	120	4.2
Public Benefits	30	3.8
Technical/Financial Feasibility	40	37.8
Application Clarity	10	5.0
Total Score	200	**50.8**
Overall RRG Rank		**57** (of 70)

Shelby, City of
Shelby Wastewater System Improvements
Infrastructure Rank: 36 (of 42)
Project Type: Wastewater – Infrastructure
County: Toole

PROJECT INFORMATION:

Shelby wastewater improvement project will address deficiencies in the wastewater collection systems by installing and/or rehabilitating of 2,800 feet of collection mains with 8- and 10-inch polyvinyl chloride (PVC) standard dimension ratio 35 mainline pipe. The primary purpose of this project is to safely and reliably collect raw sewage for treatment purposes.

Project History

The City of Shelby's wastewater system dates to 1919, when the initial collection system was installed. Today, approximately 3,000 linear feet of pipe installed in 1919 remain in the system. As a result of age and deterioration, the sewer treatment system is burdened by inflow of groundwater into the system and blockages that cause sanitary sewer overflows. The City is looking at phased collection system improvements to replace or rehabilitate the outdated pipe beginning with the 1919 and 1920s sections. Phase 1 of this project will replace approximately 2,800 feet of collection mains.

Proposed Solution

Specific tasks include:
• Replace 2,800 feet of gravity 8- and 10- inch polyvinyl chloride (PVC) collection mains.

Resource and Benefit Analysis

The wastewater improvements project will result in preservation benefits to soil, groundwater and the Marias River by reducing exfiltration of raw sewage into the surrounding areas. Additional benefits include the conservation of groundwater and renewable energy. These benefits occur through reduced inflow and infiltration (I&I) of groundwater which increases pumping into the treatment process.

The provision of safe wastewater treatment is essential to support the tourism and recreation which the town depends on for its economic health. The project will reduce health hazards by reducing the potential for sanitary sewer overflows and exposure of biohazards to the public.

BUDGET INFORMATION:

Funding Recommendation

DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000. DNRC will provide an award letter to successful applicants. The applicant will be responsible for providing the documentation necessary to meet startup conditions within the timeframe identified in the award letter. Failure to meet startup conditions within a 24-month timeframe may result in a rescinded award.

Funding Source	Funding Amount	Funding Status
RRGL Grant Requested	$125,000	Recommended Funding 2027 Legislature
MCEP Grant	$750,000	Application Submitted
Applicant Cash	$250,000	Funds Committed
Project Total	$1,125,000	

RANKING DETAILS:

Scoring Category	Points Available	Application Score
Renewable Benefits	120	7.0
Public Benefits	30	5.0
Technical/Financial Feasibility	40	32.6
Application Clarity	10	6.0
Total Score	200	**50.6**
Overall RRG Rank		**58** (of 70)

Ronan, City Of
Ronan Wastewater System Improvements
Infrastructure Rank: 37 (of 42)
Project Type: Wastewater – Infrastructure
County: Lake

PROJECT INFORMATION:
The Ronan Wastewater Infrastructure Upgrades project will upgrade the Wastewater Treatment Plant for compliance with DES permit limits, install influent Flow Meters, remove sludge, and modernize the aeration system and SCADA system.

Project History
The City of Ronan's existing wastewater lagoon system is comprised of three lagoon ponds and additional wetland areas that discharge into surface waters. The lagoon system was designed in the 1960s, has outdated equipment dating back to 1996, and has an inadequate ultraviolet (UV) disinfection system from 2007. US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has issued an Administrative Order on Consent to bring the Ronan wastewater treatment facility into compliance with ammonia limits. The Ronan Modernizing Wastewater Treatment Infrastructure for Environmental Compliance project transitions to a Submerged Attached Growth Reactor (SAGR) system for compliance with DES permit limits, installs advanced influent flow meters, conducts sludge removal, makes structural repairs, modernizes the aeration system, integrates a radio communication network, and enhances the headworks screening facility. The goal of this project is to enhance natural treatment processes, reduce energy consumption, and recycle waste into usable resources, thereby investing in the long-term sustainability of Ronan.

Proposed Solution
Specific tasks include:
· Transition to a Submerged Attached Growth Reactor (SAGR) system;
· Install advanced influent flow meters;
· Conduct sludge removal;
· Make structural repairs;
· Modernize the aeration system;
· Integrate a radio communication network; and,
· Enhance the headworks screening facility.

Resource and Benefit Analysis
The project will result in preservation of surface water quality in Crow Creek, fish and aquatic habitat and associated wetlands in the area of discharge. There is also a likely benefit to preserve groundwater quality and soils.

The project's public benefits include local economic benefits, quantifiable human health and safety benefits and regional recreation benefits.

BUDGET INFORMATION:
Funding Recommendation
DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000. DNRC will provide an award letter to successful applicants. The applicant will be responsible for providing the documentation necessary to meet startup conditions within the timeframe identified in the award letter. Failure to meet startup conditions within a 24-month timeframe may result in a rescinded award.

Funding Source	Funding Amount	Funding Status
RRGL Grant Requested	$125,000	Recommended Funding 2027 Legislature
MCEP Grant	$750,000	Application Submitted
RD Grant	$1,300,500	Discussed/Not Applied
RD Loan	$433,500	Discussed/Not Applied
CDBG Grant	$750,000	No Contact
Other Grants	$7,500,000	No Contact
Project Total	$10,859,000	

RANKING DETAILS:

Scoring Category	Points Available	Application Score
Renewable Benefits	120	8.5
Public Benefits	30	3.0
Technical/Financial Feasibility	40	36.0
Application Clarity	10	2.0
Total Score	200	**49.6**
Overall RRG Rank		**59** (of 70)

Bearcreek, Town of
Bearcreek Drinking Water System Improvements, Phase 1
Infrastructure Rank: 38 (of 42)
Project Type: Drinking Water - Infrastructure
County: Carbon

PROJECT INFORMATION:

Bearcreek Drinking Water System Improvements Phase 1 will address deficiencies in distribution by replacing and upsizing leaking pipes and appurtenances and adding a redundant transmission main. The purpose of this project is to meet fire flow requirements and to supply safe and reliable drinking water.

Project History

The Town of Bearcreek, Montana, has developed its water infrastructure through a series of upgrades since the 1930s, centered around the use of spring boxes as the primary water source. In 1968, a new transmission main connecting the spring boxes to the town was installed. Further improvements were made in 1993 when the existing 3-inch polyvinyl chloride (PVC) transmission main was replaced with 6-inch PVC piping, enhancing the flow capacity and overall system reliability. Portions of the distribution main within the town are undersized and do not provide adequate system pressure during fire flow events; some areas drop to negative pressure which could lead to collapsing mains and possible of contamination into the water system. Numerous distribution system valves and hydrants experience leaks.

Proposed Solution

Specific tasks include:
• Install approximately 2,970 linear feet of 6-Inch polyvinyl chloride (PVC) redundant transmission main;
• Install 2 new Hydrants on 1st Street;
• Replace and upsize Water Main on North 1st Street; and,
• Replace old water services and failing appurtenances.

Resource and Benefit Analysis

The distribution system improvement project will manage groundwater by decreasing the losses from leaking pipes and appurtenances and increasing system pressure. The project will likely conserve energy by reducing the electricity demands of the pumps.

This project will provide local economic, human health and safety, and recreation benefits by providing a safe and adequate drinking water supply.

BUDGET INFORMATION:

Funding Recommendation

DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000. DNRC will provide an award letter to successful applicants. The applicant will be responsible for providing the documentation necessary to meet startup conditions within the timeframe identified in the award letter. Failure to meet startup conditions within a 24-month timeframe may result in a rescinded award.

Grant agreement is contingent upon the recipient providing: 1) documented consultation with Montana Department of Transportation and 2) adequate project management plan.

Funding Source	Funding Amount	Funding Status
RRGL Grant Requested	$125,000	Recommended Funding 2027 Legislature
MCEP Grant	$500,000	Application Submitted
SRF Grant	$97,000	Application Submitted
SRF Loan	$320,627	Application Submitted
Project Total	$1,042,627	

RANKING DETAILS:

Scoring Category	Points Available	Application Score
Renewable Benefits	120	4.2
Public Benefits	30	5.2
Technical/Financial Feasibility	40	36.0
Application Clarity	10	3.0
Total Score	200	**48.4**
Overall RRG Rank		**60** (of 70)

Conrad, City of
Conrad Wastewater System Improvements
Infrastructure Rank: 39 (of 42)
Project Type: Wastewater – Infrastructure
County: Pondera

PROJECT INFORMATION:

The City of Conrad wastewater system improvements project will address deficiencies in the collection and treatment systems. The purpose of this project is to improve the quality of effluent that discharges into an unnamed tributary of the Dry Fork of the Marias River.

Project History

The City of Conrad is in Pondera County, in northwestern Montana. The City's waste treatment system is challenged by numerous inefficiencies throughout the system. This project will remove outdated and unused equipment and replace or rehabilitate portions of the system. This project will increase operational efficiencies and effectiveness of the treatment plant.

Proposed Solution

Specific tasks include:
• Install 2,430 feet of polyvinyl chloride (PVC) sewer main, 8-inch through 16-inch;
• Install 7 concrete sewer manholes;
• Demolish the existing Central Avenue Lift Station;
• Replace the fine screen, plug valves, check valves, air release valves and pressure gauge
• Replace the treatment plant polymer system;
• Install a cover over the treatment plant aeration basin and plant clarifier launders;
• Demolish and remove the treatment plant non-potable water system;
• Demolish and remove the treatment plant rotary drum thickener;
• Conduct a nutrient analysis of the treatment plant influent;
• Conduct an analysis of the treatment plant heating system; and
• Evaluate the treatment plant ultraviolet disinfection system.

Resource and Benefit Analysis

The wastewater improvements project will provide preservations benefits to surface water and fish and aquatic by preventing high nutrient effluent from entering an Unamend Tributary to the Dry Fork Marias River and the Marias River. Additionally, the sewer main replacement project will provide a measurable benefit to renewable energy by reducing pumping costs.

This project will provide local economic and health and human benefits by reducing the contamination of groundwater and surface water by leaking mains and a burdened treatment facility. Other benefits to regional recreational will occur with an improvement to the surface water quality of Marias River and an unnamed tributary.

BUDGET INFORMATION:

Funding Recommendation

DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000. DNRC will provide an award letter to successful applicants. The applicant will be responsible for providing the documentation necessary to meet startup conditions within the timeframe identified in the award letter. Failure to meet startup conditions within a 24-month timeframe may result in a rescinded award.

Funding Source	Funding Amount	Funding Status
RRGL Grant Requested	$125,000	Recommended Funding 2027 Legislature
SRF Grant	$1,653,698	Application Submitted
SRF Loan	$750,000	Application Submitted
Project Total	$2,528,698	

RANKING DETAILS:

Scoring Category	Points Available	Application Score
Renewable Benefits	120	7.6
Public Benefits	30	2.3
Technical/Financial Feasibility	40	33.2
Application Clarity	10	3.0
Total Score	200	**46.1**
Overall RRG Rank		**61** (of 70)

Pinesdale, Town of
Pinesdale Drinking Water System Improvements
Infrastructure Rank: 40 (of 42)
Project Type: Drinking Water - Infrastructure
County: Ravalli

PROJECT INFORMATION:
The Pinesdale Drinking Water Distribution System and Water Treatment System Improvement Project will extend and loop water mains, replace existing chemical feed pumps, and install an ultraviolet treatment unit.

Project History
The Pinesdale Public Water System was developed in 1983 and receives its water from surface water sources in the area and three groundwater wells that serve as backup. Since 2008, the Town has been under numerous administrative orders to reduce turbidity levels to bring the drinking water into compliance. A new treatment plant was constructed in 2016. The current problems include lack of fire protection due to an insufficient number of hydrants, stagnation at dead ends within the system, inadequate bury depth of pipes, undersized water mains, plugging of strainer during high flows, and undersized and often inoperable chemical metering pumps. The Pinesdale Water System Improvements project extends and loops mains, replaces the strainer and chemical metering feed pumps, and adds an ultraviolet (UV) treatment unit. The goal of this project is to ensure safe and reliable drinking water, better utilize water from the streams and aquifer, and reduce dead end mains, thereby requiring less flushing to prevent stagnation.

Proposed Solution
Specific tasks include:
· Extend a 6-inch water main 800 feet down 18th Street;
· Loop a 6-inch water main 350 feet between Hillside Drive and Willow Way;
· Loop a 6-inch water main 400 feet on 16th Street;
· Loop a 6-inch water main 800 feet on 25th Street;
· Extend the Willow Way water main to Mulberry Road and along Mulberry Road for 900 feet;
· Replace the strainer;
· Replace the chemical feed pumps; and,
· Install an ultraviolet (UV) treatment unit.

Resource and Benefit Analysis
The project will measurably manage surface water for the purpose of drinking water.

The project will provide local human health and safety benefits by providing clean, safe and adequate drinking water to the community.

BUDGET INFORMATION:
Funding Recommendation
DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000. DNRC will provide an award letter to successful applicants. The applicant will be responsible for providing the documentation necessary to meet startup conditions within the timeframe identified in the award letter. Failure to meet startup conditions within a 24-month timeframe may result in a rescinded award.

Grant agreement is contingent upon the recipient providing verification of matching fund sources.

Funding Source	Funding Amount	Funding Status
RRGL Grant Requested	$125,000	Recommended Funding 2027 Legislature
MCEP Grant	$750,000	Application Submitted
SRF Loan	$147,883	Discussed/Not Applied
CDBG Grant	$750,000	Application Submitted
Applicant Cash	$246,658	Funds Committed
Project Total	$2,019,541	

RANKING DETAILS:

Scoring Category	Points Available	Application Score
Renewable Benefits	120	4.2
Public Benefits	30	1.5
Technical/Financial Feasibility	40	36.8
Application Clarity	10	2.0
Total Score	200	**44.6**
Overall RRG Rank		**64** (of 70)

Hinsdale County Water and Sewer District
Hinsdale County Water and Sewer District Water System Upgrades
Infrastructure Rank: 41 (of 42)
Project Type: Drinking Water - Infrastructure
County: Valley

PROJECT INFORMATION:
Hinsdale drinking water line replacement is to address relocating a section of the transmission main due to the risk of erosion at the current main location.

Project History
Hinsdale County Water and Sewer District's water system was constructed in the 1930's as part of the Public Works Administration. Most of the mains that have been identified are constructed of Cast Iron (CI) or Asbestos Cement (AC). Recent repairs indicate that the existing CI mains have extreme tuberculation which has reduced the interior diameter of the pipes to roughly half of their original capacity. Pipe tuberculation has also caused corrosion, pinholes, and leaks in the pipes. The Town has also experienced water shortages throughout various times of the year. The system does not include water meters.

Proposed Solution
Specific tasks include:
- Install 11,150 linear feet of 6-inch polyvinyl chloride (PVC) water main.
- Install 32 6-inch gate valves.
- Install 16 fire hydrants.
- Install 100 water meters.
- Install 4,000 linear feet of water service line.
- Install 100 water service connections and other water main appurtenances.

Resource and Benefit Analysis
Replacing the transmission main will likely benefit surface and ground water by preventing the leakage of water from the pipes causing higher usage of the source ground water. The surface water will likely benefit by preventing leakage from the transmission mains into the nearby surface water and contributing to erosion. Preventing leakage also likely benefits renewable energy due to less water loss and therefore less water draw.

There are likely local economic and health safety benefits due to better drinking water accessibility with less water loss. This also benefits the local community with lower personal water costs. This economic benefit may also be seen regionally for the expanding community. There are likely local and regional recreation benefits by preventing erosion and preventing leakage to the milk river.

BUDGET INFORMATION:
Funding Recommendation
DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000. DNRC will provide an award letter to successful applicants. The applicant will be responsible for providing the documentation necessary to meet startup conditions within the timeframe identified in the award letter. Failure to meet startup conditions within a 24-month timeframe may result in a rescinded award.

Grant agreement is contingent upon the recipient providing verification of matching fund sources.

Funding Source	Funding Amount	Funding Status
RRGL Grant Requested	$125,000	Recommended Funding 2027 Legislature
MCEP Grant	$500,000	Application Submitted
SRF Loan	$477,400	Funds Committed
RD Grant	$3,023,000	Application Submitted
Project Total	$4,125,400	

RANKING DETAILS:

Scoring Category	Points Available	Application Score
Renewable Benefits	120	5.9
Public Benefits	30	3.8
Technical/Financial Feasibility	40	27.4
Application Clarity	10	5.0
Total Score	200	**42.1**
Overall RRG Rank		**65** (of 70)

Joliet, Town of
Joliet Wastewater System Improvements
Infrastructure Rank: 42 (of 42)
Project Type: Wastewater – Infrastructure
County: Carbon

PROJECT INFORMATION:
Joliet Wastewater System Improvements project will address treatment deficiencies by connecting a backup generator and upgrading aeration equipment. The purpose of the project is to improve the water quality of the discharged effluent.

Project History
The Town of Joliet has a lagoon wastewater treatment system consisting of three aerated cells operated in series. The Town has been issued violations from DEQ for biochemical oxygen demand, total suspended, ammonia, and pH limits in discharge effluent to Rock Creek. The facility has a backup generator but is not connected to all mechanical equipment in the facility and therefore poses a risk that under treated effluent is discharged to Rock Creek during a sustained power outage. This project also proposes a change in lagoon operation and an upgrade in aeration to better treat the wastewater.

Proposed Solution
Specific tasks include:
• Connect all equipment to a backup generator system;
• Upgrade the aeration equipment; and,
• Adjust the operational configuration to address the permit exceedances.

Resource and Benefit Analysis
The aeration improvements and backup power project will likely preserve water quality in Rock Creek, which receives the wastewater effluent, by better treating the wastewater and remaining operational during power outages. Untreated wastewater has the potential to be discharged into Rock Creek in the event of a power outage.

The project will provide local economic benefits, human health and safety and recreation benefits by supporting business and residential wastewater management.

BUDGET INFORMATION:
Funding Recommendation
DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000. DNRC will provide an award letter to successful applicants. The applicant will be responsible for providing the documentation necessary to meet startup conditions within the timeframe identified in the award letter. Failure to meet startup conditions within a 24-month timeframe may result in a rescinded award.

Grant agreement is contingent upon the recipient providing verification of matching fund sources. DNRC recommends the Town consider other treatment alternatives to address DEQ discharge requirements for nutrients.

Funding Source	Funding Amount	Funding Status
RRGL Grant Requested	$125,000	Recommended Funding 2027 Legislature
MCEP Grant	$625,000	Application Submitted
SRF Grant	$76,685	Discussed/Not Applied
SRF Loan	$80,000	Discussed/Not Applied
CDBG Grant	$750,000	Application Submitted
Project Total	$1,656,685	

RANKING DETAILS:

Scoring Category	Points Available	Application Score
Renewable Benefits	120	2.5
Public Benefits	30	2.3
Technical/Financial Feasibility	40	26.8
Application Clarity	10	1.0
Total Score	200	**32.6**
Overall RRG Rank		**66** (of 70)

Granite County
Granite County Flint Creek Dam Improvements
Irrigation Rank: 1 (of 28)
Project Type: Dams
County: Granite

PROJECT INFORMATION:
Granite County Flint Creek Dam improvements project will do the following: address the condition of dam features, new concrete installation, tubimeter, testing thickness of steel intake pipes. The dam is primarily used for water storage and supply.

Project History
Flint Creek Dam is located on the north side of Georgetown Lake and along Montana Highway 1. Flint Creek Dam is comprised of an earth-fill dam with a rigid masonry core and reinforced earth wall to extend the dam crest. The dam impounds Georgetown Lake located in the Flint Creek basin, a tributary of the Clark Fork River. The dam's primary function is to manage the storage of water at Georgetown Lake for recreation use, downstream irrigation, hydroelectric power generation, and flood control. An inspection in 2021 identified the following deficiencies associated with the Flint Creek Dam: concrete deterioration at the outlet works, potential piping of dam embankment material through the tile drains, and potential corrosion of the two 30-inch steel intake pipes. This project will improve the integrity of the dam.

Proposed Solution
Specific tasks include:
- Construct a new concrete floor slab;
- Install a turbidimeter system to monitor sediment discharge from the dam core; and,
- Conduct an on-site investigation to determine the internal condition and thickness of the two intake pipes.

Resource and Benefit Analysis
The project will measurably manage and preserve surface water quality by maintaining reservoir levels.

The project will result in regional economic benefits as the primary function is to store water at Georgetown Lake for regional recreation, and downstream irrigation. The project will likely benefit public safety by addressing components of the dam to maintain proper function.

BUDGET INFORMATION:
Funding Recommendation
DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000. DNRC will provide an award letter to successful applicants. The applicant will be responsible for providing the documentation necessary to meet startup conditions within the timeframe identified in the award letter. Failure to meet startup conditions within a 24-month timeframe may result in a rescinded award.

Grant agreement is contingent upon the recipient providing an executed Memorandum of Understanding between the recipient and the sponsored entity clarifying the roles, responsibilities and shared project costs.

Funding Source	Funding Amount	Funding Status
RRGL Grant Requested	$125,000	Recommended Funding 2027 Legislature
Project Total	$125,000	

RANKING DETAILS:

Scoring Category	Points Available	Application Score
Renewable Benefits	120	17.9
Public Benefits	30	11.1
Technical/Financial Feasibility	40	38.0
Application Clarity	10	8.0
Total Score	**200**	**75.0**
Overall RRG Rank		**1** (of 70)

Pondera County Conservation District
Pondera County Conservation District S-Canal Pipeline Conversion
Irrigation Rank: 2 (of 28)
Project Type: Irrigation
County: Pondera

PROJECT INFORMATION:

The Pondera County CD Pondera County Canal and Reservoir Company (PCCRC) S-Canal Pipeline Conversion will address deficiencies in the water supply system by bypassing a private reservoir and a portion of the canal to connect F-Canal with S-canal via a pipeline that will enable a more efficient supply to downstream irrigators. The purpose of this project is to supply adequate water to irrigated acres within the easternmost portion of the PCCRC system.

Project History

The Pondera County Canal & Reservoir Company (PCCRC) was created in 1909 and is state's largest private irrigation project generally located in Pondera County, near Valier. PCCRC operates a gravity irrigation delivery system of over 500 miles of canals and an extensive network of laterals and ditches. This project will bypass a private reservoir, remove 2.5 miles of canal and install 2,800 feet of pipeline. The primary purpose of the conversion project is the installation of pipeline that will preserve natural resources and improve the management of the irrigation system.

Proposed Solution

Specific tasks include:
- Excavation and grading pipeline route.
- Installation of pipe.
- Installation inlet screen, outlet structure, measuring devices and appurtenances.
- Revegetation and regrading of disturbed areas.

Resource and Benefit Analysis

The pipeline conversion project will result in measurable surface water management and preservation benefits by enabling the district to better control the diversion and supply in the canal systems and reduce soil erosion. Additional measurable benefits include the conservation of renewable energy and development of crop land. With increased control over irrigation waters, crop production will increase, and energy consumption will decrease. Other benefits include preservation of fish and aquatic habitat.

This project will provide local economic and recreational benefits by supporting the local agricultural economy and improving resource base recreation dependent on water quality and quantity.

BUDGET INFORMATION:

Funding Recommendation

DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000. DNRC will provide an award letter to successful applicants. The applicant will be responsible for providing the documentation necessary to meet startup conditions within the timeframe identified in the award letter. Failure to meet startup conditions within a 24-month timeframe may result in a rescinded award.

DNRC requires compliance with the Water Use Act Title 85, Chapter 2, MCA.

Funding Source	Funding Amount	Funding Status
RRGL Grant Requested	$125,000	Recommended Funding 2027 Legislature
Applicant Cash	$365,329	Funds Committed
Project Total	$490,329	

RANKING DETAILS:

Scoring Category	Points Available	Application Score
Renewable Benefits	120	12.8
Public Benefits	30	5.0
Technical/Financial Feasibility	40	39.6
Application Clarity	10	10.0
Total Score	**200**	**67.4**
Overall RRG Rank		**5** (of 70)

Yellowstone County
Billings Bench Water Association Rattlesnake Reservoir Water Management Improvements
Irrigation Rank: 3 (of 28)
Project Type: Irrigation
County: Yellowstone

PROJECT INFORMATION:
The Billings Bench Water Assocation diverts water from the Yellowstone River for irrigation and recreation. The diversion structure and headgates are debilitated and do not provide adequate water control so the goal is to install an automatic system and updated diversion structure to better manage waters.

Project History
The Billings Bench Water Association (BBWA) diverts water from the Yellowstone River near Laurel, MT through 63 miles of canal, serving over 18,000 acres of land. The proposed project is located north of Billings, at Rattlesnake Reservoir. BBWA utilizes the Rattlesnake Reservoir as short-term storage before releasing water back to the main canal. Storing and releasing of Rattlesnake Reservoir-water is controlled by a diversion structure that spans the main canal. The current diversion structure is nearly 100 years old, with visible crumbling/cracks of the concrete, and exposed rebar. The current diversion structure requires frequent maintenance, intensive operation/monitoring, and is susceptible to failure. The goal of the project is to replace the existing diversion structure with a new diversion structure that will feature a SCADA system with gates to enhance the precision of water resource management and decrFease operational demands. In doing so, BBWA will optimize storage and delivery of water to users, thereby reducing the potential for water losses.

Proposed Solution
Specific tasks include:
- Redesign the diversion structure;
- Demolish existing structure and dispose of related materials.
- Construct new concrete structure and install gates.
- Install SCADA components.
- Run a new electrical line to the site or install solar panels.

Resource and Benefit Analysis
The water in this irrigation system serves a large community for irrigation and recreation purposes making it important to the area. The proposed plan allows for measurable benefits to surface water with the ability to track the water levels and there are likely preservation benefits to surface water with less error and loss. This also provides measurable management benefits to crop and range land with better allocation and control of water to irrigators allowing for better yields and longer seasons. There are potential preservation benefits to soil and fish and aquatic habitat by better regulating water levels.

The water users will benefit economically and support the project as better water management decreases costs for them and gives better yield from adequate and longer irrigation seasons. This also benefits the regionally economy with the agriculture business supporting the area. There are potential local and regional human health benefits due to lower likelihoods of water shortages. The reservoir is used for hunting so better water level management supports local recreation as well.

BUDGET INFORMATION:
Funding Recommendation
DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000. DNRC will provide an award letter to successful applicants. The applicant will be responsible for providing the documentation necessary to meet startup

conditions within the timeframe identified in the award letter. Failure to meet startup conditions within a 24-month timeframe may result in a rescinded award.

Grant agreement is contingent upon the recipient providing:
1) A Capital Improvement Plan or feasibility study on the overall Billings Bench irrigation system that includes a ranked risk assessment of the Rattlesnake Reservoir and existing facilities prior to prioritizing funds for the Rattlesnake Reservoir project;
2) An executed Memorandum of Understanding between the recipient and the sponsored entity clarifying the roles, responsibilities and shared project costs; and,
3) A procurement plan demonstrating compliance with local procurement laws/rules as well as the Montana Procurement Act.

Funding Source	Funding Amount	Funding Status
RRGL Grant Requested	$125,000	Recommended Funding 2027 Legislature
Applicant Cash	$204,575	Funds Committed
Other Grant	$199,575	Discussed/Not Applied
Project Total	$529,150	

RANKING DETAILS:

Scoring Category	Points Available	Application Score
Renewable Benefits	120	13.6
Public Benefits	30	6.6
Technical/Financial Feasibility	40	38.6
Application Clarity	10	8.0
Total Score	**200**	**66.8**
Overall RRG Rank		**9** (of 70)

Yellowstone Irrigation District
Yellowstone Irrigation District Canal Rehabilitation
Irrigation Rank: 4 (of 28)
Project Type: Irrigation
County: Rosebud

PROJECT INFORMATION:

Yellowstone Irrigation District Canal Rehabilitation project will address water loss in the irrigation canal system by lining a section of the main canal. The primary purpose of this project is to manage irrigation water for the purposes of improving water use efficiency.

Project History

The Yellowstone Irrigation District (YID) operates a gravity flow system that diverts water from the Yellowstone River west of Hysham and irrigates 13,121 acres in Treasure and Rosebud Counties. The YID main canal runs along the valley margin of the Yellowstone River for 28.8 miles between Hysham and Forsyth. Sugar beets, corn, barley, hay, and small grain are the primary irrigated crops. Seepage, bank slumping, and salinity are the primary issues impacting operations. The proposed project will line 1,053 feet of the Main Canal to mitigate water loss due to seepage.

Proposed Solution

Specific tasks include:
• Install 1,053 feet of a geocomposite liner in the Yellowstone Irrgation District Main Canal.

Resource and Benefit Analysis

The lining project will result in measurable benefits to the management of surface water, specifically the Yellowstone River, and the development and management of crop land. Additional project benefits are preservation of surface water quality as result of reduced soil erosion.

The project will provide local and regional economic benefits by supporting the local agricultural economy through increased crop production on existing acres and increasing the number acres of irrigation. There is also a local recreational benefit resulting from improved water quantity and quality in the Yellowstone River.

BUDGET INFORMATION:

Funding Recommendation

DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000. DNRC will provide an award letter to successful applicants. The applicant will be responsible for providing the documentation necessary to meet startup conditions within the timeframe identified in the award letter. Failure to meet startup conditions within a 24-month timeframe may result in a rescinded award.

Funding Source	Funding Amount	Funding Status
RRGL Grant Requested	$125,000	Recommended Funding 2027 Legislature
Applicant Cash	$5,700	Funds Committed
Project Total	$130,700	

RANKING DETAILS:

Scoring Category	Points Available	Application Score
Renewable Benefits	120	12.8
Public Benefits	30	4.4
Technical/Financial Feasibility	40	40.0
Application Clarity	10	9.0
Total Score	**200**	**66.1**
Overall RRG Rank		**10** (of 70)

Lower Yellowstone Irrigation District #1
Lower Yellowstone Irrigation District Thomas Point Pump Station Rehabilitation, Phase 2

Irrigation Rank: 5 (of 28)
Project Type: Irrigation
County: Richland

PROJECT INFORMATION:

Lower Yellowstone Irrigation District #1 Thomas Point Pump Station Rehabilitation Phase 2 project will address deficiencies in the water supply system by replacing a vertical turbine pump, tying the new pump to an existing variable frequency drive (VFD) and connecting it to the existing Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system. The purpose of this project is to supply adequate water 2,650 irrigated acres within the Lower Yellowstone Irrigation District.

Project History

The Thomas Point Pumping station was constructed in 1952 and supplies water for 2,650 irrigated acres in the Lower Yellowstone Irrigation District #1. The middle vertical turbine pump and associated infrastructure have deteriorated to the point of requiring replacement. The primary goal of the project is to replace the pump and associated appurtenances to conserve energy and water, improve the management of the system.

Proposed Solution

Specific tasks include:
• Removal of existing pump and motor.
• Installation of new pump and required accessories.
• Connection to existing variable frequency drive and supervisory control and data acquisition system.

Resource and Benefit Analysis

The rehabilitation project will result in measurable surface water management and preservation benefits by enabling the district to better control the diversion and supply in the canal systems and reduce soil erosion. Additional measurable benefits include the conservation of renewable energy and development of crop land. With increased control over irrigation waters, crop production will increase, and energy consumption will decrease. Other benefits include preservation of fish and aquatic habitat and soils with reduced erosion.

This project will provide local economic and recreational benefits by supporting the local agricultural economy and improving resource base recreation dependent on water quality and quantity.

BUDGET INFORMATION:

Funding Recommendation

DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000. DNRC will provide an award letter to successful applicants. The applicant will be responsible for providing the documentation necessary to meet startup conditions within the timeframe identified in the award letter. Failure to meet startup conditions within a 24-month timeframe may result in a rescinded award.

Funding Source	Funding Amount	Funding Status
RRGL Grant Requested	$125,000	Recommended Funding 2027 Legislature
Applicant Cash	$290,364	Funds Committed
Project Total	$415,364	

RANKING DETAILS:

Scoring Category	Points Available	Application Score
Renewable Benefits	120	12.8
Public Benefits	30	5.0
Technical/Financial Feasibility	40	40.0
Application Clarity	10	8.0
Total Score	**200**	**65.8**
Overall RRG Rank		**11** (of 70)

Savage Irrigation District
Savage Irrigation District Pumping Plant Rehabilitation, Phase 2
Irrigation Rank: 6 (of 28)
Project Type: Irrigation
County: Richland

PROJECT INFORMATION:

Savage Irrigation District Pumping Plant Rehabilitation Phase 2 project will address pump deficiencies by replacing the pumps and installing a remote monitoring and control system. The primary purpose of this project is to manage irrigation water for the purpose of improving water use efficiency.

Project History

The Savage Irrigation District (SID) diverts water from the Lower Yellowstone Irrigation Project (LYIP) Main Canal as the sole source of water for 2,423 acres of land. Water is diverted from the Yellowstone River into the Main Canal via the Lower Yellowstone Diversion Dam. Their Primary Pumping Plant consists of a concrete substructure, steel superstructure and 3 vertical turbine pumps, but it is dated, inefficient and difficult to maintain. The goal of the project is to achieve fast and precise modifications to water delivery through more efficient and operable pumps so that water management is improved.

Proposed Solution

Specific tasks include:
• Replace one pump.
• Install a remote monitoring and control system.

Resource and Benefit Analysis

The rehabilitation project will result in likely surface water management and preservation benefits by enabling the district to better control the diversion and supply in the canal systems. Measurable benefits include the conservation of renewable energy and the management and development of crop land. With increased control over irrigation waters, crop production will increase, and energy consumption will decrease.

This project will provide local economic, human health and safety, and recreational benefits by supporting the local agricultural economy and improving resource base recreation dependent on water quality and quantity. Human health and safety will be benefitted by fencing off the pump house from the public.

BUDGET INFORMATION:

Funding Recommendation

DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000. DNRC will provide an award letter to successful applicants. The applicant will be responsible for providing the documentation necessary to meet startup conditions within the timeframe identified in the award letter. Failure to meet startup conditions within a 24-month timeframe may result in a rescinded award.

Funding Source	Funding Amount	Funding Status
RRGL Grant Requested	$125,000	Recommended Funding 2027 Legislature
Applicant Cash	$286,596	Funds Committed
Project Total	$411,596	

RANKING DETAILS:

Scoring Category	Points Available	Application Score
Renewable Benefits	120	11.1
Public Benefits	30	5.7
Technical/Financial Feasibility	40	40.0
Application Clarity	10	8.0
Total Score	**200**	**64.8**
Overall RRG Rank		**13** (of 70)

Clinton Irrigation District
Clinton Irrigation District Schoolhouse Lateral Pipeline Conversion, Phase 4
Irrigation Rank: 7 (of 28)
Project Type: Irrigation
County: Missoula

PROJECT INFORMATION:
Clinton Irrigation District Schoolhouse Lateral Phase 4 Pipeline Conversion Project includes irrigation infrastructure planning, and conversion construction from open to pipeline

Project History
The Schoolhouse Lateral, which branches off of the main canal, is experiencing significant water loss due to seepage and evapotranspiration. While part of this lateral has been previously converted from an open lateral to a closed pipeline, there is a portion of the lateral that remains open and thus is continuing to experience high rates of water loss, poor water quality, inflated operation and maintenance, and loss of prime fields due to lack of irrigation capability. This portion of the lateral passes through the Clinton School property and the adjacent high density residential neighborhood. This area is highly used by small children, and putting the open lateral into a closed pipe will provide a safer condition for children at play. By completing this pipeline conversion on a 700-foot section of the lateral, the proposed project will conserve 142 acre-feet of water to be used for further irrigation.

Proposed Solution
Specific tasks include:
- Install 700-feet of 18-inch diameter pipeline.

Resource and Benefit Analysis
The project will both provide measurable management benefits and likely preservation benefits of surface water quality in the Clark Fork River by reducing pollutant runoff as well as help control temperature in return flows. There is a likely benefit to preserving fish and aquatic habitat. The project will measurably develop new acres of cropland by delivering water to those acres.

The conversion of open canal to pipeline will provide measurable benefits to the local economy by developing new acres of cropland. By reducing the open canal in the area of homes and the school, the project will provide likely human health and safety benefits to local children. There is potential of a regional recreational benefit by improving the fish and aquatic habit in the Clark Fork.

BUDGET INFORMATION:
Funding Recommendation
DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000. DNRC will provide an award letter to successful applicants. The applicant will be responsible for providing the documentation necessary to meet startup conditions within the timeframe identified in the award letter. Failure to meet startup conditions within a 24-month timeframe may result in a rescinded award.

Funding Source	Funding Amount	Funding Status
RRGL Grant Requested	$125,000	Recommended Funding 2027 Legislature
Applicant In-Kind Contribution	$17,931	Funds Committed
Project Total	$142,931	

RANKING DETAILS:

Scoring Category	Points Available	Application Score
Renewable Benefits	120	9.4
Public Benefits	30	5.8
Technical/Financial Feasibility	40	40.0
Application Clarity	10	9.0
Total Score	**200**	**64.1**
Overall RRG Rank		**16** (of 70)

Helena Valley Irrigation District
Helena Valley Irrigation District Lateral 26.6 and Lateral 20.7-3.3 Seepage Mitigation
Irrigation Rank: 7 (of 28)
Project Type: Irrigation
County: Lewis and Clark

PROJECT INFORMATION:

Helena Valley Irrigation District mitigation project will address water loss in the irrigation canal system by clay lining identified lateral sections. The primary purpose of this project is to manage irrigation water for the purposes of improving water use efficiency.

Project History

The Helena Valley Irrigation District (HVID) is in Lewis and Clark County near the City of Helena and provides irrigation water to approximately 22,235 acres. Laterals 26.6 and 20.7-3.3 provide water to approximately 300 and 200 acres, respectively. The laterals were constructed in highly porous soils and lose a combined 8 cubic feet per second of water to seepage. To meet demands at the end of each lateral, HVID must increase the amount of diverted water to irrigate the acreage. The high rates of flow result in flooding of the adjacent homes and must be discontinued after more than 12 hours, severely limiting the amount of water delivered to the downstream users and significantly reducing/limiting crop production.

Proposed Solution

Specific tasks include:
• Remove organic materials.
• Adjust the canal geometry for consistent bottom and side slopes.
• Install clay liner.

Resource and Benefit Analysis

The mitigation project will result in measurable benefits of surface water management, crop development and energy consumption by increasing the canal efficiency and water delivery capabilities within the system. Additional project benefits are preservation of surface water quality and fish and aquatic habit as result of reduced soil erosion.

The project will provide local economic benefits by supporting the local agricultural economy through increased crop production on existing acres and increasing the number acres of irrigation. Additional benefits from this project include a human health and safety benefit from reduced flooding of basements and mold growth in houses adjacent to the canal system and a recreational benefit resulting from sustained reservoirs and fisheries.

BUDGET INFORMATION:

Funding Recommendation

DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000. DNRC will provide an award letter to successful applicants. The applicant will be responsible for providing the documentation necessary to meet startup conditions within the timeframe identified in the award letter. Failure to meet startup conditions within a 24-month timeframe may result in a rescinded award.

Funding Source	Funding Amount	Funding Status
RRGL Grant Requested	$125,000	Recommended Funding 2027 Legislature
Applicant Cash	$56,360	Funds Committed
Project Total	$181,360	

RANKING DETAILS:

Scoring Category	Points Available	Application Score
Renewable Benefits	120	10.9
Public Benefits	30	5.0
Technical/Financial Feasibility	40	39.2
Application Clarity	10	9.0
Total Score	**200**	**64.1**
Overall RRG Rank		**16** (of 70)

Helena Valley Irrigation District
Helena Valley Irrigation District Pumping Plant Automation
Irrigation Rank: 9 (of 28)
Project Type: Irrigation
County: Lewis and Clark

PROJECT INFORMATION:
The Helena Valley Irrigation District Pumping Plant Automation project will install a SCADA system to manage flows from Missouri River to water users.

Project History
The Helena Valley Irrigation District (HVID) is located near the City of Helena and encompasses nearly all of the Helena Valley to provide irrigation water to approximately 22,235.3 acres and 450 water users. The HVID system was constructed by the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) between 1957-1959 and was transferred to the HVID immediately following construction. The HVID delivery system consists of a pump intake on the Missouri River below Canyon Ferry Dam; a tunnel and canal that transports irrigation water to the Helena Valley Regulating Reservoir; and a canal conveyance system containing approximately 92 miles of canals and laterals for water delivery to users. The HVID is applying for funds to implement an electronic Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system at the HVID Pump Station to remotely control and monitor the pump station. Currently, the pump station is run by manual controls located at the pump station below Canyon Ferry Dam. By having remote control and monitoring systems in place, the HVID will be able to make real-time decisions regarding water delivery and pumping rates from the Missouri River. The proposed project has been identified by the HVID and the BOR as a priority for the HVID system due to its aged condition, increasing operations and maintenance costs, water conservation benefits, safety hazards, and its potential for failure. Signs of wear are evident within the control and monitoring instrumentation. Many of the gages are old dial type gages that have glass protective faces that are in poor condition or are inoperable. These problems are resulting in significant additional operations and maintenance by the HVID to be able to monitor the system. The result of the proposed project will improve irrigation delivery efficiency and effectiveness; eliminate safety hazards; increase crop yield; reduce sediment loading to downstream Lake Helena; and conserve water diverted from the Missouri River.

Proposed Solution
Specific tasks include:
- Replace existing manual monitoring instrumentation with a SCADA system; and,
- Replace existing manual control instrumentation with SCADA system.

Resource and Benefit Analysis
The project will measurably manage surface water for irrigation. The project will likely provide management benefits to soils, fish and aquatic habitat, rangeland and cropland through the continued delivery of irrigation water.

The project will provide measurable local economic benefits and unquantifiable recreation benefits in the Lake Helena area.

BUDGET INFORMATION:
Funding Recommendation
DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000. DNRC will provide an award letter to successful applicants. The applicant will be responsible for providing the documentation necessary to meet startup conditions within the timeframe identified in the award letter. Failure to meet startup conditions within a 24-month timeframe may result in a rescinded award.

Funding Source	Funding Amount	Funding Status
RRGL Grant Requested	$125,000	Recommended Funding 2027 Legislature
Applicant In-Kind Contribution	$272,285	Funds Committed
Project Total	$397,285	

RANKING DETAILS:

Scoring Category	Points Available	Application Score
Renewable Benefits	120	11.1
Public Benefits	30	5.9
Technical/Financial Feasibility	40	38.4
Application Clarity	10	8.0
Total Score	**200**	**63.4**
Overall RRG Rank		**18** (of 70)

Greenfields Irrigation District
Greenfields Irrigation District Check Replacement, Phase 2
Irrigation Rank: 10 (of 28)
Project Type: Irrigation
County: Teton

PROJECT INFORMATION:
The Greenfields Irrigation District is a three phase project with this phase, Phase 2, consisting of constructing a new check structure on the canal with automated gates. This allows for better and more precise management of irrigation waters.

Project History
The Greenfields Irrigation District (GID) provides irrigation water to 83,230 acres on the Fairfield Bench. Water released from Pishkun Reservoir flows into the Sun River Slope canal, which supplies all irrigation water for the District and can take up to 3 days before it is delivered to the furthest downstream water users, which puts an enormous strain on the producer's crops during the hot and dry summer months. The GID is in the process of implementing a three-phase Project in order to re-regulate the water coming from Pishkun Reservoir. Phase 1 has been completed and included the replacement of the SRS-71 turnout with an automated gate. Phase 2 (this project) includes constructing a new check structure on the SRS canal with automated gates. Phase 3 includes creating a re-regulation area upstream of the new check structure with a maximum operational capacity of 940 acre-feet. This proposed project will continue to modernize their irrigation system by allowing the District to manage the water remotely. With the completion of all three phases, the GID will be able to effectively manage and re-regulate water resources allowing for more efficient water delivery and therefore improved crop production. The overall Project also has the potential to benefit fish habitat by releasing water back into the Sun River during normal years when the irrigation water allotments are satisfied.

Proposed Solution
Specific tasks include:
- Construct a new check structure on the SRS Main canal with automated gates.

Resource and Benefit Analysis
The Greenfields Irrigation District serves a large agricultural area that is dependent on the irrigation water to sustain their crops and livelihood. This project manages surface water in a quantifiable way and is an important resource to the area. The automated system allow for better tracking and management of the surface water. This will likely also lead to some surface water preservation with less error. By properly regulating flows there will likely be some soil preservation as well as fish and aquatic habitat. This project aims to develop wetlands with the new ability to sustain water flows through the canal. Another measurable benefit to an important resource is the management of crop land with this project as they can better allocate water to the farmers that rely on it.

The Greenfields automated check structure has a quantifiable benefit economically not just locally but also regionally and statewide as farming is a primary source of income for the people this irrigation district serves. This area is a predominant agriculture region in the state producing much of the state crop harvest and benefiting statewide economies as a result. There is also a likely local-statewide human health benefit with this controlled irrigation and maintaining crop yield that the people need. The Sun Valley where this irrigation source originates is a popular recreation destination with the large rivers and dammed lakes, so water management benefits the recreators hoping to also use the water sources.

BUDGET INFORMATION:

Funding Recommendation

DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000. DNRC will provide an award letter to successful applicants. The applicant will be responsible for providing the documentation necessary to meet startup conditions within the timeframe identified in the award letter. Failure to meet startup conditions within a 24-month timeframe may result in a rescinded award.

Grant agreement is contingent upon the recipient providing an executed Memorandum of Understanding between the recipient and the sponsored entity clarifying the roles, responsibilities and shared project costs.

Funding Source	Funding Amount	Funding Status
RRGL Grant Requested	$125,000	Recommended Funding 2027 Legislature
Applicant In-Kind Contribution	$839,632	Funds Committed
Project Total	$964,632	

RANKING DETAILS:

Scoring Category	Points Available	Application Score
Renewable Benefits	120	14.4
Public Benefits	30	9.8
Technical/Financial Feasibility	40	29.0
Application Clarity	10	10.0
Total Score	**200**	**63.3**
Overall RRG Rank		**19** (of 70)

Tongue and Yellowstone River Irrigation District
Tongue and Yellowstone River Irrigation District Cowels Creek Flume Replacement
Irrigation Rank: 11 (of 28)
Project Type: Irrigation
County: Custer

PROJECT INFORMATION:
The Tongue and Yellowstone River Irrigation District Cowles Creek Flume Replacement project will move the existing headgate and demolish the old structure to reduce maintenance requirements, enhance safety, and provide a long-term solution to water management in this agricultural region.

Project History
The Tongue and Yellowstone Irrigation District (TYID) provides irrigation water to 11,155 acres just south of Miles City. This project aims to replace the deteriorating flume located approximately 7.7 miles downstream from the TYID diversion and intake structure. The existing structure poses significant risks due to accelerated deterioration of its concrete and steel components. This project is expected to reduce maintenance requirements, enhance safety, and provide a long-term solution to water management in this agricultural region.

Proposed Solution
Specific tasks include:
- Design and permitting (Phase 1);
- Demolition of deteriorated flume (Phase 2);
- Construction of the underpass concrete box culvert (Phase 2);
- Reconstruction of the upstream channel (Phase 2);
- Incorporate the wasteway structure (Phase 3);
- Reseed the project area (Phase 3); and,
- Implement erosion control measures (Phase 3).

Resource and Benefit Analysis
The project will measurably manage surface water for the purposes or irrigation. The project will likely preserve surface water quality by reducing sediment in return flows into the Yellowstone River which will likely benefit fish and aquatic habitat. The project will preserve the acres of irrigated land served by the system.

The project will result in local economic benefits. The project will likely result in regional recreation benefits by preserving fish and aquatic habitat in the Yellowstone River.

BUDGET INFORMATION:
Funding Recommendation
DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000. DNRC will provide an award letter to successful applicants. The applicant will be responsible for providing the documentation necessary to meet startup conditions within the timeframe identified in the award letter. Failure to meet startup conditions within a 24-month timeframe may result in a rescinded award.

Funding Source	Funding Amount	Funding Status
RRGL Grant Requested	$125,000	Recommended Funding 2027 Legislature
Applicant Cash	$524,813	Funds Committed
Project Total	$649,813	

RANKING DETAILS:

Scoring Category	Points Available	Application Score
Renewable Benefits	120	12.8
Public Benefits	30	8.2
Technical/Financial Feasibility	40	33.2
Application Clarity	10	9.0
Total Score	**200**	**63.2**
Overall RRG Rank		**20** (of 70)

Tongue and Yellowstone River Irrigation District
Tongue and Yellowstone River Irrigation District Jones Creek Flume and Canal Conversion

Irrigation Rank: 12 (of 28)
Project Type: Irrigation
County: Custer

PROJECT INFORMATION:

The Tongue and Yellowstone River ID Jones Creek Flume and Canal Conversion project will address deficiencies in the water supply system by replacing the existing wooden flume and convert an open canal into a piped system that will decrease water loss fromseepage and operational challenges. The purpose of this project is to enhance the reliable supply of adequate water for irrigated acres within the Tongue and Yellowstone River Irrigation District system.

Project History

The Tongue and Yellowstone River Irrigation District (TYID) was established as a public irrigation district in 1911and is generally located in Custer County near Miles City, Montana. TYID provides water to 9,789 acres of irrigate cropland. The District has identified the deteriorated and inefficient Jones Creek Flume and the main canal between the flume and Kelly Creek Crossing as a priority project due to significant water loss and operational challenges. This project will replace the Jones Creek Flume and install a pipeline between the new flume and the Kelly Creek Crossing. Completion of project will provide both renewable resource and public benefits and increase the operation efficiency of the system.

Proposed Solution

Specific tasks include:
• Site specific survey and dewatering.
• Removal of existing flume structure.
• Installation of 36-inch siphon, head and wing walls.
• Installation of pipeline system in open canal.
• Revegetation and regrading of disturbed areas.

Resource and Benefit Analysis

The flume replacement and pipeline conversion project will result in a measurable benefit of developed crop land. Other benefits of the project include preservation of surface water and fish and aquatic habitat and management of surface waters of the Tongue and Yellowstone Rivers.

This project will provide local economic and recreational benefits by supporting the local agricultural economy and improving resource base recreation dependent on water quality and quantity.

BUDGET INFORMATION:

Funding Recommendation

DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000. DNRC will provide an award letter to successful applicants. The applicant will be responsible for providing the documentation necessary to meet startup conditions within the timeframe identified in the award letter. Failure to meet startup conditions within a 24-month timeframe may result in a rescinded award.

Grant agreement is contingent upon the recipient providing verification of matching fund sources.

Funding Source	Funding Amount	Funding Status
RRGL Grant Requested	$125,000	Recommended Funding 2027 Legislature
Applicant Cash	$584,818	Funds Committed
Other Grant	$584,818	Discussed/Not Applied
Project Total	$1,294,636	

RANKING DETAILS:

Scoring Category	Points Available	Application Score
Renewable Benefits	120	8.5
Public Benefits	30	5.8
Technical/Financial Feasibility	40	39.6
Application Clarity	10	9.0
Total Score	**200**	**62.9**
Overall RRG Rank		**21** (of 70)

Bitterroot Conservation District
Bitterroot Conservation District Union Diversion Resource Improvements
Irrigation Rank: 13 (of 28)
Project Type: Irrigation
County: Ravalli

PROJECT INFORMATION:
The Bitterroot Diversion Project will address the main problem by installation of a new irrigation diversion structure with an adjustable gate to optimize level control and fish passage, as well as a metal walkway to increase operator safety.

Project History
The Union Diversion structure spans the Mitchell Slough, a side channel of the Bitterroot River, and diverts irrigation water into the Union Ditch. The deteriorating existing concrete structure has exceeded its intended design life and is at risk of failure, threatening several renewable resources. Failure of the structure will adversely impact several renewable resources including surface water, arable land, rangeland, fish, and habitat. The primary purpose of the project is to improve the structure, prevent failure and deliver renewable resource benefits. The primary purpose of the project is to conserve and manage the many renewable resources associated with the Union Diversion by correcting its critical structural and design problems. By replacing the aging and outdated diversion with one that has increased structural stability, longevity, management, and safety features, this project will avoid the negative water quality, water management, and economic impacts of a structure failure. It will also improve water security for farms and ranches dependent on the Union Ditch, operability for ditch managers, and aquatic habitat in the Mitchell Slough.

Proposed Solution
Specific tasks include:
- Set up temporary diversion of the Mitchell Slough.
- Demolish existing structure.
- Construct formwork and steel reinforcement for new structure.
- Place concrete for new structure.
- Place backfill and compact around new structure.
- Place rip-rap protection Restore site and any disturbed areas.

Resource and Benefit Analysis
The Diversion Improvements Project will preserve and manager surface water by adding a gate that will allow the operators to better manage flows at the diversion and prevent bank failure which would introduce sediment into the system. The project will also develop fish habitat by creating a fish passage reconnecting 1,200 feet of fish habitat.

The Diversion Improvements Project will provide recreation benefits due to the increased health of the fisheries due to the fish passage. This will also provide regional economic benefits due to the Bitterroot River being a blue-ribbon trout fishery that attracts tourists. This project will also have local economic benefits to the ranchers and farmers due to increase efficiency and water management.

BUDGET INFORMATION:
Funding Recommendation
DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000. DNRC will provide an award letter to successful applicants. The applicant will be responsible for providing the documentation necessary to meet startup conditions within the timeframe identified in the award letter. Failure to meet startup conditions within a 24-month timeframe may result in a rescinded award.

Funding Source	Funding Amount	Funding Status
RRGL Grant Requested	$125,000	Recommended Funding 2027 Legislature
Other Grant	$10,500	Discussed/Not Applied
Applicant In-Kind Contribution	$4,100	Funds Committed
Other In-Kind Contribution	$17,900	Funds Committed
Project Total	$157,500	

RANKING DETAILS:

Scoring Category	Points Available	Application Score
Renewable Benefits	120	13.6
Public Benefits	30	6.0
Technical/Financial Feasibility	40	34.2
Application Clarity	10	8.0
Total Score	**200**	**61.8**
Overall RRG Rank		**25** (of 70)

Fort Belknap Irrigation District
Fort Belknap Irrigation District Main Canal Lining
Irrigation Rank: 14 (of 28)
Project Type: Irrigation
County: Blaine

PROJECT INFORMATION:
Fort Belknap Irrigation District Main Canal Lining Project will address the seepage tha is occuring by lining a 1,200 foot section of the canal.

Project History
The Fort Belknap Irrigation District (FBID) was formed in the early 1900s and provides irrigation water to 6,393 acres within the Milk River Valley near the Town of Chinook. A diversion dam on the Milk River just north of Lohman, MT diverts water for irrigation into a single irrigation canal that supplies water to the Fort Belknap (6,393 acres), Alfalfa Valley (3,072 acres), and Zurich (7,732 acres) Irrigation Districts. As part of the FBID's system-wide analysis, the FBID has identified two sections of the main canal that are leaking significant amounts of water. These two sections include an approximate 1,000-foot stretch of the main canal downstream of its crossing of Redrock Road and an approximate 1,200-foot section of the main canal just east of the St Gabriel Cemetery leading up to the siphon crossing of Lodge Creek. The project intends to mitigate the excessive seepage and would promote conservation, management, preservation and development of Montana's water. The project intends to restore full water delivery to over 11,000 acres of irrigated cropland downstream of the project area.

Proposed Solution
Specific tasks include:
- Complete site preparation, canal shaping, and clearing and grubbing work along 2,200 lineal feet of the canal;
- Haul and dispose 3,933 cubic yards of excess excavated material;
- Procure and haul 2,622 cubic yards of clay liner material from a local borrow source;
- Install 2,200 feet of canal liner; and,
- Reclaim areas disturbed by construction.

Resource and Benefit Analysis
The main canal lining porject will allow the irrigation district to better manage surface water.

The main canal lining project will benefit the local economy by providing reliable water to irrigated croplands.

BUDGET INFORMATION:
Funding Recommendation
DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000. DNRC will provide an award letter to successful applicants. The applicant will be responsible for providing the documentation necessary to meet startup conditions within the timeframe identified in the award letter. Failure to meet startup conditions within a 24-month timeframe may result in a rescinded award.

Funding Source	Funding Amount	Funding Status
RRGL Grant Requested	$125,000	Recommended Funding 2027 Legislature
Applicant Cash	$209,983	Funds Committed
Project Total	$334,983	

RANKING DETAILS:

Scoring Category	Points Available	Application Score
Renewable Benefits	120	10.2
Public Benefits	30	4.4
Technical/Financial Feasibility	40	39.0
Application Clarity	10	8.0
Total Score	**200**	**61.6**
Overall RRG Rank		**26** (of 70)

Petroleum County Conservation District
Petroleum County Conservation District McDonald Creek Diversion Structures Replacement
Irrigation Rank: 15 (of 28)
Project Type: Irrigation
County: Petroleum

PROJECT INFORMATION:
The McDonald Creek diversion structures serving the McDonald Creek Water Users Association has two failing diversion points along the distribution system and seepage issues leading to water control issues and shortages. The diversion structures repairs will allow for better management of the water and longer irrigation seasons for the users.

Project History
The Petroleum County Conservation District (PCCD), on behalf of the McDonald Creek Water Users Association (MCWUA), is proposing a Diversion Structure Rehabilitation Project in Petroleum County, Montana. The project targets the system diversion points along McDonald Creek, crucial for irrigating approximately 3,125 acres that have historically been subjected to a 70% shorter irrigation season than regional average (45-days versus 153-days). Water shortages are a direct result of management and conservation inefficiencies stemming from the existing infrastructure. The Upper Diversion, situated 4.2 miles west of Winnett, features a decrepit wood-framed structure with minimal flow control capabilities. The Lower Diversion, 3.3 miles west of Winnett, consists of a deteriorated concrete headgate and a riprap diversion with severe seepage. The MCWUA identified this as a top priority due to the critical role these structures play in sustaining irrigation on the system. Inefficient operation during low-flow months hampers management, shortens the irrigation season, and threatens water supply reliability. The project involves rehabilitating the existing structures with new, efficient structures and converting the upper canal intake to a headgate-controlled system. The project ensures the sustainability of resources for MCWUA members and contributes to broader conservation, preservation, development, and management goals in Montana.

Proposed Solution
Specific tasks include:
- Replace Upper Diversion with a reinforced concrete structure;
- Install new steel slide gate at Upper Diversion; and,
- Replace Lower diversion with a reinforced concrete structure.

Resource and Benefit Analysis
The McDonald Creek water distribution system has a measurable benefit to the surface water with the ability to better control and track water use and also preventing water loss. There is also preservation benefits to fish, aquatic and wildlife habitat by better controlling flows in the creek to sustain the aquatic and surrounding habitat. With better water management there is a likely benefit to crop and range land as the primary users of the water.

The water users of the McDonald Creek system are in support of the project as better managing flows and preventing leakage lowers the rates that the users will have to pay and also has potential crop yield benefits by creating longer irrigation seasons. There could also be a benefit to local human health with accessible water. There is also potential for a recreation benefit for people that use McDonald Creek.

BUDGET INFORMATION:
Funding Recommendation
DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000. DNRC will provide an award letter to successful applicants. The applicant will be responsible for providing the documentation necessary to meet startup

conditions within the timeframe identified in the award letter. Failure to meet startup conditions within a 24-month timeframe may result in a rescinded award.

Grant agreement is contingent upon the recipient providing an executed Memorandum of Understanding between the recipient and the sponsored entity clarifying the roles, responsibilities and shared project costs.

Funding Source	Funding Amount	Funding Status
RRGL Grant Requested	$125,000	Recommended Funding 2027 Legislature
Other Cash	$700,050	Funds Committed
Project Total	$825,050	

RANKING DETAILS:

Scoring Category	Points Available	Application Score
Renewable Benefits	120	11.1
Public Benefits	30	5.2
Technical/Financial Feasibility	40	38.0
Application Clarity	10	7.0
Total Score	**200**	**61.3**
Overall RRG Rank		**27** (of 70)

Malta Irrigation District
Malta Irrigation District Black Coulee Siphon Replacement
Irrigation Rank: 16 (of 28)
Project Type: Irrigation
County: Phillips

PROJECT INFORMATION:
Malta Irrigation District Irrigation Infrastructure project will replace the Black Coulee Siphon to mitigate ditch leakage and better manage water flows.

Project History
Malta Irrigation Distirct provides irrigation water to approximately 44,600 acres within the Milk River Project. Current objectives include mitigating ditch leakage, building facilities to better manage water flow during low and high flows, and replacing failing siphon infrastructure. With a primary objective of minimizing water loss and improving the efficiency in water delivery, the proposed project consists of replacing the Black Coulee Siphon, which was originally constructed in 1916 and reportedly leaked approximately 45 cubic feet per second of water for a period of 60 days in 2020. This project replaces a failing asset in the water conveyance system and reduces the risk of water loss in the future.

Proposed Solution
Specific tasks include:
- Remove existing concrete headwalls and concrete conveyance structures;
- Install 2 new 78-inch conveyance pipes made of high density polyethylene material;
- Construct new concrete headwalls at the inlet and outlet of the new siphon pipes;
- Construct a new concrete slab over the siphon to allow passage of agricultural equipment; and,
- Complete surface restoration activities.

Resource and Benefit Analysis
The project will measurably manage surface water for irrigation. The project will likely result in preservation of wetlands, fish and aquatic habitat, wildlife habitat as a result of continued delivery of water diverted from the Milk River to Bowdoin Wildlife Refuge and Nelson Reservoir. The project will also likely preserve irrigated cropland served by the system.

The project will provide likely benefits to the local economy by continuing to provide irrigation water to acres served by the system. The project will maintain critical infrastructure that ensures that Bowdoin Wildlife Refuge receives surface water which has a regional recreational benefit.

BUDGET INFORMATION:
Funding Recommendation
DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000. DNRC will provide an award letter to successful applicants. The applicant will be responsible for providing the documentation necessary to meet startup conditions within the timeframe identified in the award letter. Failure to meet startup conditions within a 24-month timeframe may result in a rescinded award.

Funding Source	Funding Amount	Funding Status
RRGL Grant Requested	$125,000	Recommended Funding 2027 Legislature
Applicant Cash	$306,595	Funds Committed
Project Total	$431,595	

RANKING DETAILS:

Scoring Category	Points Available	Application Score
Renewable Benefits	120	11.0
Public Benefits	30	4.4
Technical/Financial Feasibility	40	37.0
Application Clarity	10	8.0
Total Score	**200**	**60.4**
Overall RRG Rank		**30** (of 70)

Yellowstone Irrigation District
Yellowstone Irrigation District Lateral 17.6 Rehabilitation, Phase 1
Irrigation Rank: 17 (of 28)
Project Type: Irrigation
County: Rosebud

PROJECT INFORMATION:
Yellowstone Irrigation District Irrigation Infrastructure Upgrades project will convert an open channel canal to pipeline to conserve water and better manage flow by preventing excess return water and seepage.

Project History
Servicing 13,121 acres in Treasure and Rosebud Counties, the Yellowstone Irrigation District consists of 30 miles of gravity flow canals and laterals that convey water from the Yellowstone River to Hysham, Montana. Lateral 17.6 is currently operated at a high capacity continuously throughout the growing season to ensure all water users are adequately supplied. The District lacks sufficient manpower to constantly monitor water demand for each lateral. Unused water is returned back to the Yellowstone River. It is estimated that 71% of the water that enters the laterals is lost due to seepage or excess return flows. The Yellowstone Irrigation District Lateral 17.6 Rehabilitation Project Phase 1 converts the lateral to a piped, on-demand system. Water will no longer be diverted from the main canal to the lateral unless it is actively being used for irrigation. The goal of this project is to conserve water and better manage flow by preventing excess return water and seepage. It will also eliminate the need for continuous operational adjustments at the main canal headgate.

Proposed Solution
Specific tasks include:
· Convert 450 feet of Lateral 17.6 into 21-inch pipeline.

Resource and Benefit Analysis
The project will measurably manage surface water for the purposes or irrigation. The project will likely preserve surface water quality by reducing sediment in return flows into the Yellowstone River which will likely benefit fish and aquatic habitat. The project will conserve energy and preserve the acres of irrigated land served by the system.

The project will result in local economic benefits and human health and safety benefits by preventing a canal failure and downstream hazards. The project will likely result in regional recreation benefits by preserving fish and aquatic habitat in the Yellowstone River.

BUDGET INFORMATION:
Funding Recommendation
DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000. DNRC will provide an award letter to successful applicants. The applicant will be responsible for providing the documentation necessary to meet startup conditions within the timeframe identified in the award letter. Failure to meet startup conditions within a 24-month timeframe may result in a rescinded award.

Funding Source	Funding Amount	Funding Status
RRGL Grant Requested	$125,000	Recommended Funding 2027 Legislature
Other In-Kind Contribution	$5,800	Funds Committed
Project Total	$130,800	

RANKING DETAILS:

Scoring Category	Points Available	Application Score
Renewable Benefits	120	10.2
Public Benefits	30	4.4
Technical/Financial Feasibility	40	36.4
Application Clarity	10	9.0
Total Score	**200**	**60.0**
Overall RRG Rank		**31** (of 70)

Sweet Grass Conservation District
Sweet Grass Conservation District Crest Ditch Headgate Rehabilitation
Irrigation Rank: 18 (of 28)
Project Type: Irrigation
County: Sweet Grass

PROJECT INFORMATION:
The Crest Ditch irrigation system aims to replace and relocate a structurally impaired headgate. Replacing the headgate allows for more consistent water distribution to the ditch users and management with the source Boulder River.

Project History
The Sweet Grass Conservation District (SGCD) is requesting funding to rehabilitate and improve the existing Crest Ditch headgate structure, located on the east bank of the Boulder River approximately 12.7 miles upstream of the Boulder River and Yellowstone River confluence. The current Headgate structure is in poor condition due to its age and the impact of a large flooding event on the Boulder River which occurred on June 13, 2022. The Crest Ditch headgate is now vulnerable to failure, which would have catastrophic consequences for the ditch users and properties adjacent to the Crest Ditch. The preferred alternative for the project consists of demolishing the existing concrete headgate structure and relocating and constructing a new concrete headgate structure in a more efficient location relative to the Boulder River. This project will improve the management and diversion of renewable water resources from the Boulder River into the Crest Ditch, ensure continued water delivery to the existing Crest Ditch irrigation system, minimize annual operation and maintenance of the headgate, and maximize benefits relative to cost.

Proposed Solution
Specific tasks include:
- Install new concrete headgate.

Resource and Benefit Analysis
The Crest Ditch headgate replacement will provide a quantifiable management benefit to the surface water by ensuring better water usage from the source Boulder River and reliable availability to the ditch users. Managing the surface water also manages the soil, range land and crop land as they are the primary recipients of the water. There is also a likely benefit to fish habitat with better flow management for the source and ditch.

There is public support and a quantifiable benefit to the local economic impact the improvements will make with the ditch users having reliable water to use on the surrounding agricultural and range land. This benefit can also likely be noticed regionally in the production of these lands. There is a likely local and regional benefit to human safety with the increased ability to control flow of the source water. The management of the Boulder River will be recognized from a recreation standpoint as it is a popular fishing river.

BUDGET INFORMATION:
Funding Recommendation
DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000. DNRC will provide an award letter to successful applicants. The applicant will be responsible for providing the documentation necessary to meet startup conditions within the timeframe identified in the award letter. Failure to meet startup conditions within a 24-month timeframe may result in a rescinded award.

Grant agreement is contingent upon the recipient providing an executed Memorandum of Understanding between the recipient and the sponsored entity clarifying the roles, responsibilities and shared project costs.

Funding Source	Funding Amount	Funding Status
RRGL Grant Requested	$125,000	Recommended Funding 2027 Legislature
Other Cash	$137,452	Funds Committed
Project Total	$262,452	

RANKING DETAILS:

Scoring Category	Points Available	Application Score
Renewable Benefits	120	11.1
Public Benefits	30	7.4
Technical/Financial Feasibility	40	34.4
Application Clarity	10	7.0
Total Score	**200**	**59.9**
Overall RRG Rank		**32** (of 70)

Petrolia Irrigation District
Petrolia Irrigation District Main Canal Pipeline Conversion
Irrigation Rank: 19 (of 28)
Project Type: Irrigation
County: Petroleum

PROJECT INFORMATION:

Petrolia Irrigation District Infrastructure Project will relocate a portion of the Main Canal further away from Flatwillow Creek and place 400 feet of the canal within a closed pipeline to better manage and conserve water.

Project History

Servicing 4,863 acres in eastern Montana, the Petrolia Irrigation District consists of an upstream storage reservoir and two main delivery canals – High Line and Main Canals. The water flows through mostly unlined earthen canals that were built on porous and well-drained soils, leading to severe seepage losses throughout the system. Also, a portion of Flatwillow Creek lies in close proximity to the Main Canal, sharing an earthen berm less than 100 feet wide. The Petrolia Irrigation District Main Canal Pipeline Conversion project relocates a portion of the Main Canal further away from Flatwillow Creek and places 400 feet of the canal within a closed pipeline. The goal of this project is to enhance water management capabilities, reduce operations and maintenance costs associated with monitoring the creek bank, and mitigate seepage, thereby conserving more water in Petrolia Reservoir to be released later in the irrigation season.

Proposed Solution

Specific tasks include:
· Relocate 1,067 feet of the Main Canal away from Flatwillow Creek; and,
· Place 400 feet of open canal within a closed pipeline.

Resource and Benefit Analysis

The project will measurably manage surface water for irrigation as well as likely preserve surface water quality in Flatwillow Creek by reducing the potential failure of the berm and sedimentation of the creek. Additionally, by preventing a catastrophic failure of the dam, the project will result in preservation benefits to soils, fish and aquatic habitat. The project will preserve the irrigated cropland currently served by the system.

The project will provide measurable local economic benefits and unquantifiable regional recreation benefits in Petrolia Reservoir.

BUDGET INFORMATION:

Funding Recommendation

DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000. DNRC will provide an award letter to successful applicants. The applicant will be responsible for providing the documentation necessary to meet startup conditions within the timeframe identified in the award letter. Failure to meet startup conditions within a 24-month timeframe may result in a rescinded award.

Funding Source	Funding Amount	Funding Status
RRGL Grant Requested	$125,000	Recommended Funding 2027 Legislature
Applicant Cash	$4,047	Funds Committed
Other Grant	$129,000	Discussed/Not Applied
Project Total	$258,047	

RANKING DETAILS:

Scoring Category	Points Available	Application Score
Renewable Benefits	120	11.1
Public Benefits	30	5.0
Technical/Financial Feasibility	40	33.4
Application Clarity	10	9.0
Total Score	**200**	**58.5**
Overall RRG Rank		**36** (of 70)

Glen Lake Irrigation District
Glen Lake Irrigation District Doxie Slough Seepage Mitigation
Irrigation Rank: 20 (of 28)
Project Type: Irrigation
County: Lincoln

PROJECT INFORMATION:
The primary purpose for the Doxie Slough Seepage Mitigation Project is to conserve water and improve the management efficiency of the Glen Lake Irrigation District Main Canal delivery system.

Project History
The GLID supplies irrigation water to approximately 4,656.6 acres within the Tobacco River Valley surrounding the town of Eureka. The GLID has identified the Doxie Slough portion of the Main Canal as a priority project due to the high seepage rates that have been identified through a water loss assessment conducted by Farmers Conservation Alliance in 2021. This section includes an approximate 2,000-foot stretch of the main canal located approximately 1 mile downstream of the Grave Creek diversion. Seepage losses and evapotranspiration have led to a lack of sufficient water to irrigate downstream crops. Thus, the crops grown on these downstream fields are producing at low rates due to water shortages. Implementation of an impermeable liner system within the Doxie Slough portion of the GLID Main Canal will drastically improve water delivery efficiency by eliminating seepage. Implementing the proposed improvements will improve water delivery and operational efficiency to the 4,656.6 acres of agricultural land downstream of this extreme seepage area. Improved operational management and water delivery efficiency will conserve large quantities of water each year, increasing the water quality of the downstream Glen Lake, increasing the flows in the upstream Grave Creek, and increasing safety around the canal in the residential and agricultural areas around the GLID Main Canal.

Proposed Solution
Specific tasks include:
- Install approximately 2,000 feet of liner.

Resource and Benefit Analysis
The irrigation seepage mitigation project will better manage the surface water and consergy by preventing water loss due to seepage by installing a liner.

The irrigation seepage mitigation project will provide a local economic benefit by increasing crop yield due to increased water in the system.

BUDGET INFORMATION:
Funding Recommendation
DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000. DNRC will provide an award letter to successful applicants. The applicant will be responsible for providing the documentation necessary to meet startup conditions within the timeframe identified in the award letter. Failure to meet startup conditions within a 24-month timeframe may result in a rescinded award.

Grant agreement is contingent upon the recipient submitting a capital improvement plan or feasibility study on the overall Glen Lake Irrigation system that includes a ranked risk assessment of the Doxie Slough and existing facilities prior to prioritizing funds for the Doxie Slough.

Funding Source	Funding Amount	Funding Status
RRGL Grant Requested	$125,000	Recommended Funding 2027 Legislature
Applicant Cash	$57,561	Funds Committed
Project Total	$182,561	

RANKING DETAILS:

Scoring Category	Points Available	Application Score
Renewable Benefits	120	7.6
Public Benefits	30	3.5
Technical/Financial Feasibility	40	38.0
Application Clarity	10	8.0
Total Score	**200**	**57.1**
Overall RRG Rank		**39** (of 70)

Granite Conservation District
Granite Conservation District Allendale Ditch Rehabilitation
Irrigation Rank: 21 (of 28)
Project Type: Irrigation
County: Granite

PROJECT INFORMATION:
Granite Conservation District Allendale Ditch Rehabilitation project aims to install a 45-millimeter reinforced polypropylene liner along approximately 1,500 linear feet of the North-South Traverse, the section of the canal experiencing the most severe water loss. The proejct will address both immediate water management challenges and long-term environmental sustainability in the region.

Project History
The Allendale Ditch Company's distribution network, located southwest of Drummond in Granite County, Montana, plays a crucial role in the region's agricultural operations. Established to support local agriculture, this network includes a 5.5-mile main canal fed by Flint Creek. It is managed by the Allendale Water User's Association, which provides irrigation water to 15 users, covering approximately 3,600 acres of farmland. The water delivered through this network is vital for sustaining crop production, supporting the livelihoods of local farmers, and contributing to the overall agricultural economy of Granite County. Despite its importance, the Allendale Ditch network has seen only modest improvements over the years. Much of the ditch remains unlined, which has led to significant water losses due to seepage. These losses are particularly pronounced at the southern end of the network, where the highest initial flows occur. In this area, the ditch's deteriorated state has resulted in a documented water loss of approximately 30%, equating to about 600 miner's inches over a stretch of 1.2 miles. This seepage not only reduces the efficiency of the irrigation system but also diminishes the amount of water available for downstream users, leading to potential conflicts over water rights and usage. Flint Creek, the primary water source for the Allendale Ditch, is designated as an impaired water body for aquatic life and drinking water purposes. The creek is currently burdened with sediment loads that exceed the desired levels by more than threefold, primarily due to erosion. The excessive sediment not only impacts water quality but also poses a risk to the health of aquatic ecosystems and the overall availability of clean water for the community. The proposed rehabilitation project is a critical step toward addressing these issues. It aims to install a 45-millimeter reinforced polypropylene liner along approximately 1,500 linear feet of the North-South Traverse, the section of the canal experiencing the most severe water loss. This intervention is expected to substantially reduce seepage losses within the unlined portion of the canal, thereby conserving a significant volume of water within Flint Creek. By reducing the need for excessive diversions from Flint Creek, the project will help maintain historic flow levels in the creek, which is essential for preserving the health of riparian areas along its banks. These riparian zones are vital for maintaining biodiversity, protecting against erosion, and supporting the natural filtration of water. By conserving surface water resources and improving the efficiency of the irrigation system, the project will enhance water quality and availability for all users, including those downstream. Furthermore, the project will provide broader environmental and economic benefits. By improving the efficiency of water delivery, it will support the sustainability of local agriculture, which is a cornerstone of the Granite County economy. The reduced sediment loads in Flint Creek will contribute to a healthier aquatic environment, benefiting both wildlife and local communities that rely on the creek for drinking water and recreation.

Proposed Solution
Specific tasks include:
- Install new geomembrane liner.

Resource and Benefit Analysis
The project will measurably manage surface water for irrigation. Additionally, by preventing a canal slumping or failure, the project may result in preservation benefits to surface water quality soils, fish and aquatic habitat. The project will preserve the irrigated cropland currently served by the system.

The project will provide measurable local economic benefits, and unquantifiable regional recreation benefits the area.

BUDGET INFORMATION:

Funding Recommendation

DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000. DNRC will provide an award letter to successful applicants. The applicant will be responsible for providing the documentation necessary to meet startup conditions within the timeframe identified in the award letter. Failure to meet startup conditions within a 24-month timeframe may result in a rescinded award.

Grant agreement is contingent upon the recipient providing an executed Memorandum of Understanding between the recipient and the sponsored entity clarifying the roles, responsibilities and shared project costs.

Funding Source	Funding Amount	Funding Status
RRGL Grant Requested	$125,000	Recommended Funding 2027 Legislature
Project Total	$125,000	

RANKING DETAILS:

Scoring Category	Points Available	Application Score
Renewable Benefits	120	10.2
Public Benefits	30	7.6
Technical/Financial Feasibility	40	26.8
Application Clarity	10	8.0
Total Score	**200**	**52.6**
Overall RRG Rank		**54** (of 70)

Hammond Irrigation District
Hammond Irrigation District Big Porcupine Siphon Rehabilitation
Irrigation Rank: 22 (of 28)
Project Type: Irrigation
County: Rosebud

PROJECT INFORMATION:
The siphon rehabilitation project will address the deteriorating siphon by installing a new pipe for the siphon and new outlet structure.

Project History
Hammond Irrigation District (HID) manages a 11.4-mile-long canal in Rosebud County, Montana passes underneath Big Porcupine Creek (creek) via the Big Porcupine Creek Siphon (siphon). The siphon is comprised of 48-inch corrugated metal pipe (CMP) with a cast-in-place concrete headworks structure and wooden outlet headwall. The concrete headworks structure is aged, and the concrete is visibility cracked and deteriorated. The siphon has a large hole approximately 6-inches in diameter that is leaking irrigation water into the creek. There is also a large dent in the siphon pipe that restricts flow and has the potential to rupture. The siphon is at the end of its serviceable life. A siphon failure would require shut down of the HID Canal, which could result in up to $3,000,000 of economic losses to the local community. Negative environmental impacts are also occurring along Big Porcupine Creek caused by excess flow from the leaking siphon. It's been estimated that the siphon is losing between 2-3 cubic feet per second (CFS) through the siphon, which is enough to irrigate approximately 100 acres. Extra water needs to be pumped from the Yellowstone River to mitigate losses from the leak, resulting in direct costs for every CFS of water being pumped into the canal. The goals of the project are to conserve water, ensure continued water delivery to HID irrigators, reduce pumping cost, and reduce erosion in Porcupine Creek and sediment delivery to the Yellowstone River.

Proposed Solution
Specific tasks include:
- Excavate and remove the existing 48-inch corrugated metal pipe (CMP) siphon and concrete inlet & outlet structures;
- Install a new 54-inch High-Density Polyethylene (HDPE) siphon pipe with a 22.5-degree elbow;
- Construct a cast-in-place concrete inlet structure at the headworks of the siphon;
- Install a 24-inch canal gate and a 24-inch HDPE adjacent to the siphon opening for excess spill;
- Install a cast-in-place concrete outlet structure with riprap protection;
- Backfill, grade, and compact the earthen embankment above the outlet;
- Regrade the bank lines of Big Porcupine Creek to match existing contours;
- Revegetate all disturbed soils; and,
- Monitor the project to evaluate success and identify any maintenance needs.

Resource and Benefit Analysis
The siphon rehabilitation project will help manage surface water by fixing the leaking structure allowing the irrigation district to better administer water..

The siphon rehabilitation project will benefit the local economy by increasing the stability of the irrigation system.

BUDGET INFORMATION:
Funding Recommendation
DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000 and a loan of $241,900. DNRC will provide an award letter to successful applicants. The applicant will be responsible for providing the documentation

necessary to meet startup conditions within the timeframe identified in the award letter. Failure to meet startup conditions within a 24-month timeframe may result in a rescinded award.

Grant agreement is contingent upon the recipient providing an updated project schedule and budget which demonstrate the recipient has adequate time to expend its DNRC ARPA funds by December 31, 2025.

Funding Source	Funding Amount	Funding Status
RRGL Grant Requested	$125,000	Recommended Funding 2027 Legislature
RRGL Loan Requested	$241,900	Recommended Funding 2027 Legislature
Applicant Cash	$74,500	Funds Committed
Other Grant	$304,731	Funds Committed
Project Total	$746,131	

RANKING DETAILS:

Scoring Category	Points Available	Application Score
Renewable Benefits	120	6.9
Public Benefits	30	3.0
Technical/Financial Feasibility	40	37.6
Application Clarity	10	5.0
Total Score	**200**	**52.5**
Overall RRG Rank		**55** (of 70)

Greenfields Irrigation District
Greenfields Irrigation District J-Wasteway Modernization
Irrigation Rank: 23 (of 28)
Project Type: Irrigation
County: Teton

PROJECT INFORMATION:
The Greenfields Irrigation District J-Wasteway Modernization Project will address the concern of water loss by installing flow measurement devices and a new gates to prevent operational losses at the end of the system.

Project History
The proposed project would include increasing the operational capacity of the J-wasteway, implement automation and programming for the recently replaced GM-100 and Spring Coulee headworks automated gates, and installing a new flow measuring device on Spring Coulee to conserve water that would typically be permanently lost to the Spring Coulee drainage. Implementation of the project would conserve 5,471 acre-feet of water that may be stored in Gibson Reservoir until the end of the irrigation season. Conserved water will be used to supplement water delivery through the system to facilitate increased production.

Proposed Solution
Specific tasks include:
- Construct a 25,300 cubic yard embankment expansion;
- Install 1 parshall flume;
- Install gate automation on existing flow control gates; and,
- Program and install flow measurement and automation equipment on gates and flume.

Resource and Benefit Analysis
The irrigation modernization project will manage surface water by installing automated gates and flow measurement devices to help prevent water loss.

The irrigation modernization project would provide a local economic benefit by improving efficiency of the system.

BUDGET INFORMATION:
Funding Recommendation
DNRC recommends grant funding of $125,000. DNRC will provide an award letter to successful applicants. The applicant will be responsible for providing the documentation necessary to meet startup conditions within the timeframe identified in the award letter. Failure to meet startup conditions within a 24-month timeframe may result in a rescinded award.

Grant agreement is contingent upon the recipient providing a procurement plan demonstrating compliance with local procurement laws/rules as well as the Montana Procurement Act.

Funding Source	Funding Amount	Funding Status
RRGL Grant Requested	$125,000	Recommended Funding 2027 Legislature
Other In-Kind Contribution	$208,476	Funds Committed
Project Total	$333,476	

RANKING DETAILS:

Scoring Category	Points Available	Application Score
Renewable Benefits	120	8.6
Public Benefits	30	3.0
Technical/Financial Feasibility	40	28.4
Application Clarity	10	6.0
Total Score	**200**	**46.0**
Overall RRG Rank		**62** (of 70)

Bitter Root Irrigation District
Bitter Root Irrigation District Diversion Control Modernization
Irrigation Rank: 24 (of 28)
Project Type: Irrigation
County: Ravalli

PROJECT INFORMATION:
Bitter Root Irrigation District Diversion Control Modernization project will address intake deficiencies by replacing the headgate equipment, including a remote monitoring and control system. The primary purpose of this project is to manage irrigation water for the purpose of improving water use efficiency.

Project History
The Bitter Root Irrigation District (BRID), established over 100 years ago, manages 16,665 irrigated acres and serves approximately 1,500 water users. The BRID operates and maintains the 72-mile-long Big Ditch, which conveys water from Lake Como and other sources to water users in the Bitterroot Valley. In 2004, an initial control system and equipment were installed at the Lost Horse Diversion, Como Dam gatehouse, and Rock Creek Headworks. However, the system faces issues with communication between the BRID offices and these sites due to unreliable radio connections. Additionally, the SCADA software is now outdated and incompatible with available technology. Manually operating the diversions and headgates is inefficient for the BRID and their water usage. Remote monitoring and controls will improve the BRID's ability to efficiently and effectively operate their system, which will positively impact surface water quality and quantity.

Proposed Solution
Specific tasks include:
• Install updated control and monitoring systems at Lost horse Creek, Como Dam, and Rock Creek Headworks.

Resource and Benefit Analysis
The modernization project will result in measurable surface water management and preservation benefits by enabling the district to better control the diversion and supply in the canal systems. Additional measurable benefits include the development and management of crop land. With increased control over irrigation waters, crop production will increase. Other benefits include preservation of fish and aquatic habitat with in-stream flows and lower water temperature.

This project will provide local economic and recreational benefits by supporting the local agricultural economy and improving resource base recreation dependent on water quality and quantity.

BUDGET INFORMATION:
Funding Recommendation
DNRC recommends grant funding of $99,500. DNRC will provide an award letter to successful applicants. The applicant will be responsible for providing the documentation necessary to meet startup conditions within the timeframe identified in the award letter. Failure to meet startup conditions within a 24-month timeframe may result in a rescinded award.

Grant agreement is contingent upon the recipient providing:
1) An adequate alternatives analysis that evaluates the environmental impact of each alternatives as well as cost;
2) A detailed budget narrative for the preferred alternative; and,
3) Documentation of secured matching funds for the project.

Funding Source	Funding Amount	Funding Status
RRGL Grant Requested	$99,500	Recommended Funding 2027 Legislature
Other Cash	$5,000	Funds Committed
Project Total	$104,500	

RANKING DETAILS:

Scoring Category	Points Available	Application Score
Renewable Benefits	120	9.4
Public Benefits	30	3.5
Technical/Financial Feasibility	40	28.6
Application Clarity	10	4.0
Total Score	**200**	**45.6**
Overall RRG Rank		**63** (of 70)

Zurich Irrigation District
Zurich Irrigation District Brown Creek Siphon Rehabilitation
Irrigation Rank: 28 (of 28)
Project Type: Irrigation
County: Blaine

PROJECT INFORMATION:

The Zurich Irrigation District rehabilitation project will address water loss in the irrigation canal system by replacing the Brown Creek siphon. The primary goal of this project is to manage irrigation for the purpose of improving water use efficiency.

Project History

The Zurich Irrigation District was formed in the 1900's and provides irrigation water to 7,732 acres within the Milk River Valley east of the Town of Chinook in Blaine County. The District has identified the deteriorated Brown Siphon as a priority project due to significant water loss and potential catastrophic failure. This project will replace the Brown Creek siphon with a pre-cast concrete box culvert. Completion of project will provide both renewable resource and public benefits and increase the operation efficiency of the system.

Proposed Solution

Specific tasks include:
- Demolition and removal of existing siphon structure and appurtenances.
- Dewatering and grade control.
- Installation of pre-cast concrete box culvert.
- Revegetation and regrading of disturbed areas.

Resource and Benefit Analysis

The siphon replacement project will result in measurables benefits of surface water management and development crop land. Other benefits of the project include preservation of surface water, fish and aquatic habitat of the Milk River and crop land within the Milk River Valley.

This project will provide local economic and recreational benefits by supporting the local agricultural economy and improving resource base recreation dependent on water quality and quantity.

BUDGET INFORMATION:

Funding Recommendation

DNRC conditionally recommends grant funding of $125,000 and a loan of $872,884 upon receipt of documetation demonstrating the applicant has the financial ability to repay the loan. DNRC will provide an award letter to successful applicants. The applicant will be responsible for providing the documentation necessary to meet startup conditions within the timeframe identified in the award letter. Failure to meet startup conditions within a 24-month timeframe may result in a rescinded award.

The applicant did not provide the required documentation to verify that the applicant is creditworthy and able and willing to enter into a loan agreement with DNRC for the proposed project as required by ARM 36.17.612. DNRC cannot verify the renewable resource or public benefits of the project without the assurance that the project is technically and financially feasible as required by ARM 36.17.610 and therefore will can not recommend this project for funding without an executed loan agreement.

Funding Source	Funding Amount	Funding Status
RRGL Grant Requested	$125,000	Recommended Funding 2027 Legislature
RRGL Loan Requested	$872,884	Recommended Funding 2027 Legislature
Applicant Cash	$8,105	Funds Committed
Project Total	$1,005,989	

RANKING DETAILS:

Scoring Category	Points Available	Application Score
Renewable Benefits	120	9.8
Public Benefits	30	3.6
Technical/Financial Feasibility	40	39.6
Application Clarity	10	9.0
Total Score	**200**	**62.1**
Overall RRG Rank		**70** (of 70)

Kinsey Irrigation District
Kinsey Irrigation District Harris Creek Spill Structure Rehabilitation
Irrigation Rank: 28 (of 28)
Project Type: Irrigation
County: Custer

PROJECT INFORMATION:
Kinsey Irrigation District Harris Creek Spill Structure Rehabilitation Project will address the problem of aging structures by replacing the existing spill structure with new automated system.

Project History
The Kinsey Irrigation District (KID), located within eastern Montana approximately 7 miles northeast of Miles City, provides water to 6,720 acres for irrigation along the north bank of the Yellowstone River. The Harris Creek Spill controls the water levels and flows at the end of the KID main canal irrigation delivery system, which controls water delivery to all irrigated farmland within the KID. The Harris Creek Spill Structure is an aging concrete water control structure with a leaking double bay wooden check board system that is used to control water levels in the Main Canal. The current structure leaks, is unable to effectively control changing water levels within the canal, is expensive to operate due to its location, requires manual operation over open water, is 30 feet tall and has eroded back to the point where it is endangering the integrity of the canal, and is a danger to KID personnel and the public. The KID is proposing to replace the Harris Creek Spill Structure, replace the existing gates with an automated gate system, and install a new measurement station with remote monitoring capabilities to transmit flows back to the KID pumping plant.

Proposed Solution
Specific tasks include:
- Complete site preparation and salvage of 83 cubic yards (CY) of topsoil within the rehabilitation area;
- Remove the existing concrete structure;
- Construct concrete intake, check, and outfall structures;
- Install 75 lineal feet of 48-inch diameter steel pipe with two mitered bends;
- Construct a concrete ramp flume with a stilling well;
- Install the Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system components;
- Complete excavation and backfill with compaction as needed for all constructed improvements;
- Install 423 square yards of nonwoven geotextile and 303 cubic yards of riprap; and,
- Complete topsoil replacement, final grading, and revegetation of areas disturbed by construction.

Resource and Benefit Analysis
The spill structure rehabilitation project will manage surface water by installing automated gates that will allow the operator to better manage flows.

The rehabilitation project will provide a local economic benefit by increasing efficiency of the irrigation system.

BUDGET INFORMATION:
Funding Recommendation
DNRC conditionally recommends grant funding of $125,000 and a loan of $511,520 upon receipt of documetation demonstrating the applicant has the financial ability to repay the loan. DNRC will provide an award letter to successful applicants. The applicant will be responsible for providing the documentation necessary to meet startup conditions within the timeframe identified in the award letter. Failure to meet startup conditions within a 24-month timeframe may result in a rescinded award.

The applicant did not provide the required documentation to verify that the applicant is creditworthy and able and willing to enter into a loan agreement with DNRC for the proposed project as required by ARM 36.17.612. DNRC cannot verify the renewable resource or public benefits of the project without the assurance that the project is technically and financially feasible as required by ARM 36.17.610 and therefore will can not recommend this project for funding without an executed loan agreement.

Funding Source	Funding Amount	Funding Status
RRGL Grant Requested	$125,000	Recommended Funding 2027 Legislature
RRGL Loan Requested	$511,520	Recommended Funding 2027 Legislature
Applicant Cash	$6,140	Funds Committed
Project Total	$642,660	

RANKING DETAILS:

Scoring Category	Points Available	Application Score
Renewable Benefits	120	10.2
Public Benefits	30	3.5
Technical/Financial Feasibility	40	38.6
Application Clarity	10	9.0
Total Score	**200**	**61.4**
Overall RRG Rank		**70** (of 70)

Kinsey Irrigation District
Kinsey Irrigation District Hammerbacker Lateral to Pipeline Conversion
Irrigation Rank: 28 (of 28)
Project Type: Irrigation
County: Custer

PROJECT INFORMATION:
The Kinsey Irrigation District Hammerback Lateral conversion project will address the problem by converting 7,600 linear foot of open ditch to pipe.

Project History
The Kinsey Irrigation District (KID), located within eastern Montana approximately 7 miles northeast of Miles City, provides water to 6,720 acres for irrigation along the north bank of the Yellowstone River. The Hammerbacker Lateral is a 7,600 lineal foot irrigation lateral that supports 166 acres of prime agricultural land within the KID (Lateral). It is estimated that the lateral is losing more than 50% of the amount of water diverted into the lateral to seepage. To address this problem, the Hammerbacker Lateral to Pipeline Conversion Project will convert the entire length of the Lateral from open ditch to a pipeline. Additionally, the Lateral runs along the bank of the Yellowstone River for approximately 3,000 lineal feet and is subject to constant erosion by the river.

Proposed Solution
Specific tasks include:
- Complete site preparation and salvage of 3,659 cubic yards (CY) of topsoil along 7,600 lineal feet of the lateral;
- Construct a pump house structure and install a pump;
- Install 7,600 feet of 15-inch diameter plastic irrigation pipe (PIP);
- Excavate and compact 7,881 cubic yards of earth materials as part of the pipe installation;
- Install 10 air relief valves;
- Construct an outlet structure;
- Install an in-line water measurement device; and,
- Complete topsoil replacement, final grading, and revegetation of 2.62 acres disturbed by construction.

Resource and Benefit Analysis
The irrigation conversion project will help manage surface water by decreasing seepage.

The conversion project will provide local economic benefits by increased efficiency of the irrigation system.

BUDGET INFORMATION:
Funding Recommendation
DNRC conditionally recommends grant funding of $125,000 and a loan of $840,823 upon receipt of documetation demonstrating the applicant has the financial ability to repay the loan. DNRC will provide an award letter to successful applicants. The applicant will be responsible for providing the documentation necessary to meet startup conditions within the timeframe identified in the award letter. Failure to meet startup conditions within a 24-month timeframe may result in a rescinded award.

The applicant did not provide the required documentation to verify that the applicant is creditworthy and able and willing to enter into a loan agreement with DNRC for the proposed project as required by ARM 36.17.612. DNRC cannot verify the renewable resource or public benefits of the project without the assurance that the project is technically and financially feasible as required by ARM 36.17.610 and therefore will can not recommend this project for funding without an executed loan agreement.

Funding Source	Funding Amount	Funding Status
RRGL Grant Requested	$125,000	Recommended Funding 2027 Legislature
RRGL Loan Requested	$840,823	Recommended Funding 2027 Legislature
Applicant Cash	$6,140	Funds Committed
Project Total	$971,963	

RANKING DETAILS:

Scoring Category	Points Available	Application Score
Renewable Benefits	120	10.2
Public Benefits	30	3.5
Technical/Financial Feasibility	40	39.2
Application Clarity	10	8.0
Total Score	**200**	**61.0**
Overall RRG Rank		**70** (of 70)

Fort Shaw Irrigation District
Fort Shaw Irrigation District Simms Creek Siphon Replacement
Irrigation Rank: 28 (of 28)
Project Type: Irrigation
County: Cascade

PROJECT INFORMATION:
Fort Shaw Irrigation District Infrastructure Design and Construction project will demolish the existing concrete Simms Creek Siphon and replace it with a steel siphon to better manage water.

Project History
The Fort Shaw Simms Creek Siphon is a major structure within the upper portion of the Fort Shaw Irrigation District (FSID) located approximately 2 miles southwest of the Town of Simms in Cascade County. The existing siphon is a crucial piece of infrastructure within the FSID canal system as it carries water from the Fort Shaw Canal over Simms Creek and provides water to 13,700 acres and 174 water users within the district. The existing 5-inch to 3-inch diameter concrete siphon was originally constructed in 1908 and has consistently experienced structural failures since 2009. The FSID has been repairing the siphon annually to prevent a catastrophic failure of the structure. In 2020, an inspection of the siphon structure revealed over 40 locations where the siphon was damaged and in need of repair. Field measurements performed by the FSID indicate that the siphon structure experiences an average water loss of 4 cubic feet per second equating to 1,213 acre-of water annually.

Proposed Solution
Specific tasks include:
- Demolish the existing 1,575-foot long concrete siphon; and,
- Install 1,575-foot long 728-inch diameter steel siphon within the existing right-of-way.

Resource and Benefit Analysis
The project will provide measurable management benefits to surface water used for irrigation. The project will likely develop cropland by increasing crop production on the entire service area.

The project will provide a quantifyable economic benefit to local producers that will receive increased water to existing acres. There is a potential safety benefit to the residents in the area by avoiding a catastrophic failure of the siphon.

BUDGET INFORMATION:
Funding Recommendation
DNRC conditionally recommends grant funding of $125,000 and a loan of $5,181,317 upon receipt of documetation demonstrating the applicant has the financial ability to repay the loan. DNRC will provide an award letter to successful applicants. The applicant will be responsible for providing the documentation necessary to meet startup conditions within the timeframe identified in the award letter. Failure to meet startup conditions within a 24-month timeframe may result in a rescinded award.

The applicant did not provide the required documentation to verify that the applicant is creditworthy and able and willing to enter into a loan agreement with DNRC for the proposed project as required by ARM 36.17.612. DNRC cannot verify the renewable resource or public benefits of the project without the assurance that the project is technically and financially feasible as required by ARM 36.17.610 and therefore will can not recommend this project for funding without an executed loan agreement.

Funding Source	Funding Amount	Funding Status
RRGL Grant Requested	$125,000	Recommended Funding 2027 Legislature
RRGL Loan Requested	$5,181,317	Recommended Funding 2027 Legislature
Applicant Cash	$13,755	Funds Committed
Project Total	$5,320,072	

RANKING DETAILS:

Scoring Category	Points Available	Application Score
Renewable Benefits	120	6.8
Public Benefits	30	5.0
Technical/Financial Feasibility	40	29.4
Application Clarity	10	8.0
Total Score	**200**	**49.2**
Overall RRG Rank		**70** (of 70)

Sunset Irrigation District
Sunset Irrigation District Baker Ditch Oliver Split Headgate and Weirs
Irrigation Rank: N/A—Not Recommended for Funding
Project Type: Irrigation
County: Ravalli

PROJECT INFORMATION:
Sunset Irrigation District Baker Ditch Rehabilitation Project will address the failing Oliver Split headaget by replacing it.

Project History
This project will replace the “Oliver Split” headgate on the Sunset Irrigation District's Baker Ditch. Replacing this headgate begins the multi-stage plan to improve irrigation efficiency as the district faces deteriorating infrastructure and continuing pressure due to water uncertainty and rising input costs (fuel, fertilizer, feed, electricity). The current head-gate is inefficient, causing inaccurate measurement and loss of irrigation water. This Baker Ditch “Oliver Split” head-gate impacts 37 of 149 total users and 590 acres (20%) of Sunset Irrigation’s 2,892 acres of agricultural land. The function of the “Oliver Split” headgate is to split water to the north and central parcels of the district irrigated by the Baker Ditch. The last major improvements to the Sunset Irrigation District were done approximately 62 years ago. The new head-gate will be a concrete, dual slide gate to feed the two ditches below the head-gate. This will allow water to pass under the gate rather than over the gate, ensuring pumps downstream do not shut off in times of low water, avoiding damage to pumps, and increased electrical charges for restarting pumps. The district will replace the weir with a Parshall flume and add one flume below the new headgate to facilitate metering water. Placing these flumes will improve the district's ability to accurately measure the irrigation water split to the areas, as well as measure for any water loss in the Baker Ditch between the “Oliver Split” and the weir upstream on Burnt Fork creek.

Proposed Solution
Specific tasks include:
- Prepare site – demolition, ditch excavation, fill and gravel placement.
- Construct forms and finish concrete, install headgates.
- Purchase and install two Parshall flumes.

Resource and Benefit Analysis
The Baker Ditch rehabilitation project will manage surface water by deceasing leakage.

The project will provide an economic benefit to the applicant by decreasing costs.

BUDGET INFORMATION:
Funding Recommendation
DNRC cannot recommend this application for funding. The application did not provide an adequate alternative analysis, cost estimate, preferred alternative selection, project implementation plan and technical data as required in ARM 36.17.610. The application did not provide enough information for DNRC to determine that the project will not result in long-term adverse impact to pubic benefits: land, air, water, fish, wildlife or recreation opportunities as required in MCA 85-1-601.

Funding Source	Funding Amount	Funding Status
RRGL Grant Requested	$18,238	**Not Recommended for Funding**
Project Total	$18,238	

RANKING DETAILS:

Scoring Category	Points Available	Application Score
Renewable Benefits	120	0.0
Public Benefits	30	0.0
Technical/Financial Feasibility	40	0.0
Application Clarity	10	0.0
Total Score	**200**	**0.0**
Overall RRG Rank	**Not Recommended for Funding**	

DNRC Water Resources Division
DNRC Painted Rocks Dam Rehabilitation, Phase 1
Irrigation Rank: N/A – Loan Request Only
Project Type: Irrigation
County: Ravalli

PROJECT INFORMATION:
Painted Rocks Water Project is located on the West Fork of the Bitterroot River, approximately 30 miles southwest of the Town of Darby in Ravalli County, Montana. The project is owned by the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation and is managed and operated by the State Water Projects Bureau. The Painted Rocks Water Users Association is responsible for minor repairs and maintenance of the dam. The primary purpose of the Painted Rocks Dam Rehabilitation Project is to improve the safety and functionality of the dam for the purposes of agricultural irrigation, recreation, bull trout fisheries, and other beneficial uses.The project serves a vital role in water management for the Bitterroot River Watershed. This project will protect human health and satefy and environmental stability by replacing the aging spillway. A potential dam breach flood would impact more than 80 miles of the Bitterroot Valley corridor downstream to Missoula. Dam rehabilitation will protect over 9,000 citizens within the dam breach flood boundary.

Project History
From 2017-2021, a Feasbility Study of the Painted Rocks Water Project was performed to evaluated existing conditions and to developed alternatives for the remediation of the spillway, outlet works, and access to the lower embankment spillway. The Feasibility Study demonstrated the need for removal of the existing spillway and replacement with a concrete spillway and stilling basin similar in size and capacity to the current spillway; removal of existing outlet gates, installation of a new guard gate, lining and extending the downstream conduit, and installation of two outlet gates and association stilling basins; construction of an access road to toe of the dam; and instrumentation and automation of embankment, outlet, and reservoir monitoring devices.

Proposed Solution
Specific tasks include:
-Demolish the existing crest, chute, and stilling basin structures.
-Construct a new crest, chute, and stilling basin in reinforced concrete in nearly the same location as the existing structures.

Resource and Benefit Analysis
The project will measurably manage and preserve surface water quality in the Bitterroot River Watershed by reducing the probability of dam failure.

Painted Rocks Dam has extensive renewable resource benefits associated with irrigation and fisheries. Water contracted by FWP provides protection for the blue-ribbon trout stream and threatened bull trout. Reservoir recreation and instream flow accounts for $1.4 million in annual economic benefits, and over $50 million in present value, calculated over the 75-year, post-rehab performance lifetime. Improving dam safety protects more than 80 miles of the Bitterroot Valley corridor from a potential dam breach flood. The consequences of a dam failure are severe for natural resources. Damage to the Bitterroot River corridor may be irreparable as a dam failure flood could gouge the stream channel, disconnecting it from the floodplain. This would impair the water quality and stream habitat of the Bitterroot River. Painted Rocks resources could suffer for a long time as the dam likely could not be rebuilt for years, if at all. Therefore, the Bitterroot River system would lose a significant portion of its water supply. Dam rehabilitation significantly reduces the probability of a dam failure, thereby preventing loss of water resources in the affected drainages.

BUDGET INFORMATION:

Funding Recommendation

DNRC recommends a loan of $15,000,000. DNRC will provide an award letter to successful applicants. The applicant will be responsible for providing the documentation necessary to meet startup conditions within the timeframe identified in the award letter. Failure to meet startup conditions within a 24-month timeframe may result in a rescinded award.

Funding Source	Funding Amount	Funding Status
RRGL Loan Requested	$15,000,000	Recommended Funding 2027 Legislature
Applicant Cash	$3,230,000	Funds Committed
FWP Grant	$3,000,000	Application Submitted
Other Grants	$10,300,000	Funds Committed/Application Submitted
Project Total	$32,030,000	

RANKING DETAILS: N/A—Loan Request Only

DNRC Water Resources Division
DNRC Willow Creek Dam Rehabilitation
Irrigation Rank: N/A – Loan Request Only
Project Type: Irrigation
County: Madison

PROJECT INFORMATION:

Willow Creek Dam, near Harrison, is a High Hazard Dam and the National Dam Inventory lists the dam in poor condition due to spillway deficiencies. Reservoir storage restrictions were implemented because of due to the spillway's structural deficiencies. These temporary measures increase the safety of those living downstream, but they also negatively affect farming, ranching, and recreation. Rehabilitation of Willow Creek Dam is a crucial state need due to downstream human health and safety concerns, as well as and negative environmental and economic impacts. A dam breach would compromise natural resource benefits by substantially changing stream morphology. Even without a dam breach, natural resource, agricultural, and economic benefits of the reservoir project are not being maximized because of the reservoir pool restriction. The goal of Willow Creek Dam rehabilitation is to restore safe performance and extend the operational life of the dam.

Project History

The project will increase safety downstream of the dam and extend the life of the dam by rehabilitating the dam spillway.

Proposed Solution

Specific tasks include:
• Review preferred alternatives from the feasibility study, conduct field studies, prepare final design, acquire permits, provide construction management services.
• Construction of the preferred alternative, based on the environmental and final design plans.

Resource and Benefit Analysis

The project will measurably manage and preserve surface water quality downstream of the dam by reducing the probability of dam failure.

Willow Creek dam captures high spring flow and releases late season streamflow in the driest summer months. These late season flows are a benefit to both stream ecology and agricultural users. Currently, the reservoir storage restriction is negatively impacting the natural resource benefits the dam provides for the reservoir, instream flows, and irrigation. Rehabilitation will restore these lost benefits by replacing the aged spillway and enabling full reservoir storage. The project directly benefits public health with increased safety of downstream inhabitants and increased flood control.

BUDGET INFORMATION:

Funding Recommendation

DNRC recommends a loan of $14,000,000. DNRC will provide an award letter to successful applicants. The applicant will be responsible for providing the documentation necessary to meet startup conditions within the timeframe identified in the award letter. Failure to meet startup conditions within a 24-month timeframe may result in a rescinded award.

Funding Source	Funding Amount	Funding Status
RRGL Loan Requested	$14,000,000	Recommended Funding 2027 Legislature
Applicant Cash	$2,335,000	Funds Committed
Other Grants	$11,000,000	Funds Committed/ Application Submitted
Project Total	$27,335,000	

RANKING DETAILS: N/A—Loan Request Only

CHAPTER 3

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) in May 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 2. 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 applicant, 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 Coal Severance Tax (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 f lowing 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

Coal Severance Tax (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 f lowing 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.

Table 3 Coal Severance Tax Loans/Resource Development Public Loan Balances as of September 2024

APPLICANT	BALANCE DUE
Belt, Town of	$357,903
Bigfork County Water and Sewer District	$689,888
Brady County Water and Sewer District	$69,066
Bridger Pines Water and Sewer District	$558,595
Bridger, Town of	$41,330
DNRC-Ackley Lake Dam	$48,485

APPLICANT	BALANCE DUE
DNRC-Cottonwood Creek Water Users	$476,170
DNRC-Deadman's Basin (Supply Canal)	$322,352
DNRC-Deadman's Basin (Canal)	$134,793
DNRC-Deadman's Basin (Outlet)	$3,940
DNRC-East Fork Siphon	$117,388
DNRC-Ruby Dam Rehabilitation	$784,039
DNRC-Ruby River Water Users Association	$793,185
DNRC-Ruby River Water Users Association	$356,416
Froid, Town of	$111,477
Harlowton, City of	$674,551
Highwood County Water and Sewer District	$95,411
Hysham, Town of	$267,567
Froid, Town of	$137,885
Lewis & Clark, East Clark Street Water and Sewer District	$147,121
Lewistown, Town of	$34,760
Libby, City of	$439,311
Libby, City of	$132,651
Lima, Town of	$291,432
Livingston, City of	$817,186
Lockwood Water & Sewer District	$203,986
Lockwood Water & Sewer District	$398,321
Manhattan, Town of	$510,028
Medicine Lake, Town of	$216,826
Mill Creek Irrigation District	$161,560
Moore, Town of	$98,814
Ronan, Town of	$369,945
Sunburst, Town of	$35,967
Sunburst, Town of	$2,007
Ten Mile Creek Estates Pleasant Valley	$148,847
Ten Mile Creek Estates Pleasant Valley	$106,109
Thompson Falls, City of	$114,631
Troy, City of	$1,163,350
Upper Musselshell Water Users Association	$19,156
Vaughn Cascade Water and Sewer District	$6,993
Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch Water and Sewer District	$552,862
Total	**$11,874,359**

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 assess its technical and financial feasibility. A project is considered financially feasible if:

1. Sufficient funds are available for completion.
2. Sufficient revenue can be generated to repay the loan and cover operational, maintenance, and replacement costs.

Post-Authorization Review

Once a public loan is authorized by the Legislature and the project sponsor is ready to secure financing, DNRC conducts a further review to ensure the applicant's ability to repay the loan. This may involve reviewing financial statements, budget documents, and other relevant documentation.

Loan Agreement and Project Requirements

If the borrower demonstrates the ability to repay the loan and meets all legal requirements, a loan agreement is executed. This agreement outlines specific requirements and covenants related to the project, including:

- Property Rights: The borrower must acquire all necessary property rights, such as easements, for construction, operation, and maintenance.
- Project Changes: Any changes or modifications to the project must be notified to DNRC both before and during construction.
- Insurance: The borrower must maintain property, casualty, and liability insurance, naming DNRC as a certificate holder.

Local Government Revenue Bond Borrowers

Local government revenue bond borrowers must establish a system fund to segregate revenue. This fund typically includes:

- Construction account
- Operating account
- Revenue bond account
- Bond reserve account
- Replacement and reserve account
- Surplus account

These accounts ensure proper allocation of funds, as determined by DNRC.

Loan Disbursement

Loan disbursements are made by the state treasurer according to the provisions of this rule and the bond resolution. Before any disbursement, DNRC requires the following from the borrower:

1. A duly adopted and executed bond resolution.
2. An executed bond equal to the loan amount.
3. A certificate from a government official confirming no legal challenges to the project, loan, bond issuance, or revenue collection.
4. A legal opinion from bond counsel on the validity and enforceability of the bond.
5. Any additional closing certificates or documents required by DNRC or bond counsel.

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 f financial report for the life of the loan.

Renewable Resource Loans to Private Entities

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. DNRC staff review 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, DNRC staff will closely review the project design and specifications. Financial review is completed by DNRC 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 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 DNRC 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

DNRC staff conducts ongoing monitoring to evaluate the projects funded under the Renewable Resource Loan program. DNRC 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

Table 4 Private Loan Applications to Individuals Approved Fiscal Year 2023 and Fiscal Year 2024

CITY	COUNTY	LOAN AMOUNT
Choteau	Teton	$112,809
Valier	Pondera	$275,700
Boulder	Jefferson	$215,990
Big Timber	Sweet Grass	$290,000
Miles City	Custer	$400,000
Bynum	Chouteau	$209,305
Terry	Prairie	$181,500
Boulder	Jefferson	$19,000
Big Timber	Sweet Grass	$391,347
Miles City	Custer	$186,500
Boulder	Jefferson	$106,250
Harlowton	Wheatland	$381,000
Wilsall	Park	$112,000
White Sulphur Springs	Meagher	$177,707
Fallon	Prairie	$324,877
Big Timber	Sweet Grass	$400,000
Total		$3,783,985

CHAPTER 4

Renewable Resource Grants to Private Entities

Background

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 where project costs are expensed to and paid by the grant recipient. Projects must provide public benefits in addition to private benefits.

Grant Application Solicitation

To solicit applications from private entities that provide significant public benefits, DNRC targets outreach to public water systems operated by private water user associations, small agricultural projects, and individuals upgrading their private septic systems. The agricultural projects have included inspection on private high-hazard dams and water measuring devices on chronically dewatered streams.

Grant Application Review

All applications received by DNRC are evaluated and ranked by DNRC staff 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. 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 is like the criteria outlined in Chapter 2 for public grants. As with public grants, private grants are also evaluated to determine 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

DNRC staff review and screen 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 Management

DNRC 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 Monitoring

The project grant agreement between DNRC and the grant recipient includes monitoring procedures to ensure that the project meets program intent.

Grant recipients 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.

Authorized Private Grant Awards

The table below summarizes the private grants awarded during the prior biennium:

Table 5 Private Grants Authorized in the 2025 Biennium Total Appropriation $100,000

COUNTY	PROJECT TITLE	AUTHORIZED AMOUNT
GALLATIN	High Level Septic System Replacement	$7,500
PARK	Livingston Sewer Connect	$1,250
PARK	Livingston Sewer Connect	$820
PARK	Livingston Sewer Connect	$2,240
PARK	Livingston Sewer Connect	$1,013
PARK	Livingston Sewer Connect	$5,000
PARK	Livingston Sewer Connect	$1,500
PARK	Livingston Sewer Connect	$1,633
PARK	Livingston Sewer Connect	$1,313
PARK	Livingston Sewer Connect	$1,736
PARK	Livingston Sewer Connect	$258
PARK	Livingston Sewer Connect	$2,321
PARK	Livingston Sewer Connect	$1,594
PARK	Livingston Sewer Connect	$1,364
PARK	Livingston Sewer Connect	$1,750
PARK	Livingston Sewer Connect	$950
PARK	Livingston Sewer Connect	$1,125
PARK	Livingston Sewer Connect	$950
PARK	Livingston Sewer Connect	$4,565
PARK	Livingston Sewer Connect	$3,665
PARK	Livingston Sewer Connect	$2,125
PARK	Livingston Sewer Connect	$875

COUNTY	PROJECT TITLE	AUTHORIZED AMOUNT
PARK	Livingston Sewer Connect	$1,075
PARK	Livingston Sewer Connect	$2,276
PARK	Livingston Sewer Connect	$2,317
PARK	Livingston Sewer Connect	$1,366
PARK	Livingston Sewer Connect	$2,000
PARK	Livingston Sewer Connect	$1,500
PARK	Livingston Sewer Connect	$2,000
PARK	Livingston Sewer Connect	$3,336
PARK	Livingston Sewer Connect	$5,000
RAVALLI	Little Sleeping Child Dam Outlet Repairs	$5,000
PARK	Livingston Sewer Connect	$5,000
JEFFERSON	Septic Upgrade and Drainfield Replacement	$2,469
PARK	Livingston Sewer Connect	$1,450
CARBON	Septic Replacement	$4,562
	36 Total Grants	**$84,897**

CHAPTER 5

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 private entities in the development and the sustainment of irrigation infrastructure issues throughout the state.

Eligible projects must address the development or sustainment of Montana's irrigated agriculture and initiate or increase the grant applicant's water conservation or measurement efforts. Project examples include the advancement of farming practices that reduce agricultural chemical use, land leveling, installation of measurement or management devices, planning, new irrigation developments and repair or upgrades to aging infrastructure. Projects must provide a renewable resource benefit of conservation, management, development or preservation.

The Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) accepted applications for IDGs from private individuals or entities. Grants were available up to $50,000 per application for irrigation development and/or sustainment activities. Applicants must provide a 50% project cost match, either in cash or in-kind services.

Grant Application 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.

Grant Management

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

Authorized Irrigation Development Grant Awards

Grant awards are summarized in the table below:

Table 6 Irrigation Development Grants Authorized in the 2025 Biennium $500,000 Total Appropriation

COUNTY	RECIPIENT	PROJECT TITLE	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	AUTHORIZED AMOUNT	STATUS
Carbon	Ronald King	King Pivot	Installation of support infrastructure for new pivot	$50,000	Under Contract
Cascade	Wade Jacobsen	Jacobsen Lateral Dith to Pipe and Headgate	Open canal to pipeline conversion and headgate replacement	$27,250	To Be Contracted
Cascade	Ryan Smithmyer	Smithmyer Flood to Wheel Line Irrigation	Conversion of flood acres to sprinkler irrigation	$6,645	To Be Contracted
Golden Valley	Lee Burroughs	Burroughs Irrigation Repair and Wildlife Enhancement	Rehabilitation of flood irrigated acres resulting in wetland wildlife habitat	$22,748	To Be Contracted
Granite	McCattle Ranch, LLC	McCattle and Chor Ranches Irrigation Improvement	Rehabilitation of headgates and installation of measurement devices	$19,000	To Be Contracted
Missoula	Annick Smith	Smith's Peterson Ditch Rehabilitation	Wooden flume replacement	$50,000	Under Contract
Rosebud	Red Canyon Ranch, INC	Red Canyon Ranch Electric Power Irrigation	Installation powerline to service irrigation pumps	$50,000	To Be Contracted
			7 Total Awards	**$225,643**	

CHAPTER 6

Renewable Resource Emergency Grants

Background

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 funding which, if delayed until legislative approval, would result in substantial damages or legal liability for the grant recipient. Consistent with other renewable resource grant programs, emergency funds must be used for projects that benefit renewable resources through conservation, management, development, or preservation. The project must meet the statutory requirements of 85-1-605 (4), MCA, as a minimum to merit funding.

Statute allows DNRC to request up to 10 percent of the grant funds available each biennium to fund emergency projects. Funding recommendations are made on a case-by-case basis within the constraint of available funding. The limited total amount of funding available each biennium dictates funding limits for each emergency project.

Grant Application Solicitation

Applications for emergency grants and loans are accepted online by DNRC from public entities when an emergency occurs. No application fee is required. Emergency grant applications can be submitted at any time.

Grant 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.

Requests for emergency funds are reviewed by DNRC 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.

Grant Funding Recommendations

Statute allows DNRC to request up to 10 percent of the grant funds available each biennium to fund emergency projects. Funding recommendations are made on a case-by-case basis within the constraint of available funding. The limited total amount of funding available each biennium dictates close management of funding limits for each emergency project.

Grant Management

Grant applicants are notified when DNRC approves an application for funding. The applicant and the DNRC then enter into a formal agreement. The grant is managed in the same manner as other grant and loan projects funded by the RRGL Program.

Authorized Emergency Grant Awards

The table below summarizes the emergency grants awarded during this biennium.

Table 7 Emergency Grants Authorized in the 2025 Biennium $500,000 Total Appropriation

County	Recipient	Project Title	Amount Awarded	Status
GALLATIN	ANDERSON SCHOOL DISTRICT #41	Anderson School Water Mitigation Project	$30,000	Under Contract
MISSOULA	BIG FLAT IRRIGATION DISTRICT	Catastrophic Storm Damage	$30,000	Under Contract
HILL	MILK RIVER JOINT BOARD OF CONTROL	St. Mary Siphon Failure	$100,000	Under Contract
CASCADE	CENTERVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS	Septic Tank Failure	$20,000	Completed
CARBON	BEARCREEK TOWN OF	Spring Boxes Emergency Repairs	$10,000	Completed
HILL	HAVRE CITY OF	Wastewater Treatment Plant Repairs	$10,000	Completed
LAKE	ST IGNATIUS TOWN OF	Emergency Sewer Main Repairs	$12,000	Completed
JEFFERSON	BASIN COUNTY WATER & SEWER DISTRICT	Emergency Well Pump Repair/Replacement	$25,600	Completed
PHILLIPS	MALTA CITY OF	Emergency Force Main Bypass	$30,000	Completed
TOOLE	SHELBY, CITY OF	Collapsed Wastewater Main Repairs	$10,000	Completed
LAKE	ST IGNATIUS TOWN OF	Water Tower Leak Repair	$12,000	Completed
LINCOLN	GLEN LAKE IRRIGATION DISTRICT	Sinclair Siphon Failure Repair	$30,000	Completed
		12 Total Awards	**$319,600**	

CHAPTER 7

Renewable Resource Planning Grants

Background

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.

Grant Application 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).

Grant 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.

Grant Management

DNRC staff works closely with grant recipients 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 Planning Grant Awards

The table below summarizes the planning grants awarded during this biennium.

Table 8 Planning Grant Awards Authorized in the 2025 Biennium Total Appropriation $3,500,000

COUNTY	RECIPIENT	PROJECT TITLE	AUTHORIZED AMOUNT	STATUS
BEAVERHEAD	BEAVERHEAD CONSERVATION DISTRICT	Boot Dam PER	$30,000	Under Contract
BLAINE	FORT BELKNAP IRRIGATION DISTRICT	Main Canal Lining Project	$25,000	Completed
BLAINE	ZURICH IRRIGATION DISTRICT	Brown Creek Siphon Replacement	$25,000	Completed
CARBON	BEARCREEK TOWN OF	Bearcreek Drinking Water PER	$40,000	Under Contract
CARBON	CARBON COUNTY TREASURER	Carbon County Edgar Lagoon PER	$40,000	Under Contract
CARBON	RED LODGE CITY OF	Drinking Water PER Update	$20,000	Under Contract
CARBON	RED LODGE CITY OF	Stormwater PER Updates	$10,000	Under Contract
CASCADE	FORT SHAW IRRIGATION DISTRICT	Simms Creek Siphon Replacement	$20,000	Completed
CASCADE	SOUTH WIND WATER & SEWER DISTRICT	Drinking Water PER Phase 4	$40,000	Under Contract
CASCADE	STOCKETT WSD	Water System PER	$40,000	Under Contract
CASCADE	VAUGHN CASCADE COUNTY SEWER DISTRICT	Wastewater PER Update	$20,000	Under Contract

COUNTY	RECIPIENT	PROJECT TITLE	AUTHORIZED AMOUNT	STATUS
CHOUTEAU	BIG SANDY TOWN OF	Big Sandy Medical Center Stormwater Improvement PER	$40,000	Under Contract
CUSTER	KINSEY IRRIGATION DISTRICT	Hammerbacker Lateral to Pipeline Conversion PER	$25,000	Completed
CUSTER	KINSEY IRRIGATION DISTRICT	Harris Creek Spill Replacement	$25,000	Completed
CUSTER	MILES CITY TREASURER	Capital Improvements Plan	$15,000	Under Contract
CUSTER	TONGUE & YELLOWSTONE RIVER IRRIGATION DIST	Kelly Creek to Canal End PER	$25,000	Under Contract
DANIELS	SCOBEY CITY OF	Wastewater System PER	$20,000	Under Contract
DAWSON	RICHEY, TOWN OF	Water System PER Updates	$15,000	Under Contract
DAWSON	RICHEY, TOWN OF	Capital Improvements Plan	$5,000	Under Contract
FLATHEAD	BIGFORK WATER & SEWER DISTRICT	Water PER Update	$10,000	Under Contract
FLATHEAD	FLATHEAD COUNTY WATER DISTIRCT #1 EVERGREEN	Evergreen Wastewater PER MCEP Match	$30,000	Under Contract
FLATHEAD	FLATHEAD COUNTY WATER DISTIRCT #1 EVERGREEN	Evergreen Water Facility Plan PER	$40,000	Under Contract
FLATHEAD	FLATHEAD COUNTY WATER DISTIRCT #1 EVERGREEN	Evergreen Wastewater PER	$40,000	Under Contract
FLATHEAD	FOYS LAKESIDE COUNTY WSD	Drinking Water PER Update	$25,000	Under Contract

COUNTY	RECIPIENT	PROJECT TITLE	AUTHORIZED AMOUNT	STATUS
FLATHEAD	HIDEAWAY COMMUNITY WATER & SEWER DISTRICT	Groundwater Discharge Permitting Study	$15,000	Completed
FLATHEAD	HIDEAWAY COMMUNITY WATER & SEWER DISTRICT	Wastewater PER Updates	$17,500	Completed
FLATHEAD	KALISPELL CITY TREASURER	PFAS PER Armory & Old School Station Well	$40,000	Under Contract
FLATHEAD	KALISPELL CITY TREASURER	PFAS PER Grandview Well	$40,000	Under Contract
FLATHEAD	KALISPELL CITY TREASURER	Emerging Contaminant - PFAS Monitoring	$15,000	Under Contract
FLATHEAD	SOMERS COUNTY WATER & SEWER DISTRICT	Drinking Water System PER	$40,000	Under Contract
GALLATIN	BIG SKY COUNTY WATER & SEWER	Big Sky W&SD Mater Plan	$15,000	Under Contract
GALLATIN	GALLATIN CONSERVATION DISTRICT	Camp Creek Fish Passage & Temperature Project	$30,000	Under Contract
GALLATIN	LOGAN MONTANA COUNTY WATER SEWER DISTRICT	Wastewater Infrastructure PER	$40,000	Under Contract
GALLATIN	RAE WSD	Wastewater System PER	$30,000	Under Contract
GARFIELD	JORDAN TOWN OF	Water System PER	$30,000	Under Contract
GOLDEN VALLEY	RYEGATE, TOWN OF	Water System PER	$30,000	Under Contract
GRANITE	PHILIPSBURG TOWN OF	Drinking Water Transmission Line PER	$10,000	Under Contract
HILL	HAVRE CITY OF	Water PER Update	$8,000	Under Contract
HILL	HILL COUNTY TREASURER	Beaver Creek Dam Technical Narrative	$9,000	Under Contract

COUNTY	RECIPIENT	PROJECT TITLE	AUTHORIZED AMOUNT	STATUS
JUDITH BASIN	JUDITH BASIN COUNTY TREASURER	Geyser Wastewater PER	$17,389	Under Contract
LAKE	RONAN CITY OF	Water System PER	$19,000	Under Contract
LAKE	RONAN CITY OF	Wastewater PER Update	$20,000	Under Contract
LEWIS & CLARK	LEWIS & CLARK COUNTY TREASURER	Eastgate I & Eastgate II Drainage Feasibility Study	$30,000	Under Contract
LEWIS & CLARK	RANCHVIEW COUNTY WATER DISTRIC	Grid Integrated Solar Power for Water Delivery PER	$30,000	Under Contract
LINCOLN	GLEN LAKE IRRIGATION DISTRICT	Doxie Slough Seepage Mitigation PER	$25,000	Completed
LINCOLN	LINCOLN COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT	Grave Creek Restoration PER	$40,000	Under Contract
MADISON	MADISON CONSERVATION DISTRICT	Cataract Dam PER	$30,000	Under Contract
MADISON	SHERIDAN TOWN OF	Sheridan Drinking Water System PER	$8,000	To Be Contracted
MEAGHER	WHITE SULPHER SPRINGS, CITY OF	Stormwater PER	$35,000	Under Contract
MEAGHER	WHITE SULPHER SPRINGS, CITY OF	Wastewater PER	$35,000	Under Contract
MISSOULA	CLINTON IRRIGATION DISTRICT	Schoolhouse Lateral Phase 4 Pipeline Conversion PER Update	$20,000	Completed
MISSOULA	MISSOULA CITY OF	Missoula Public Library Living Roof Technical Narrative	$30,000	Completed

COUNTY	RECIPIENT	PROJECT TITLE	AUTHORIZED AMOUNT	STATUS
MISSOULA	MISSOULA, CITY OF	CFR Sewer Crossing	$40,000	To Be Contracted
MISSOULA	MISSOULA, CITY OF	High Park Drainage	$20,000	To Be Contracted
PARK	CLYDE PARK TOWN OF	Water System PER	$40,000	Under Contract
PARK	COOKE CITY WATER DISTRICT	Drinking Water PER	$40,000	Under Contract
PARK	WILSALL WATER DISTRICT	2023 Water PER Update	$10,000	Under Contract
PETROLEUM	PETROLEUM COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT	McDonald Creek Diversion Structures Replacement PER	$25,000	Completed
PETROLEUM	PETROLIA IRRIGATION DISTRICT	Low Line Canal Pipeline Conversion PER	$30,000	Completed
PHILLIPS	SACO TOWN OF	Capital Improvements Plan	$8,000	Under Contract
PONDERA	PONDERA COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT	S-Canal Pipeline Conversion PER	$25,000	Under Contract
POWELL	DEER LODGE CITY OF	Wastewater Treatment Plant PER Update	$15,000	Under Contract
POWELL	DEER LODGE VALLEY CD	Watershed Restoration Planning for High Meadow Storage	$40,000	Under Contract
RAVALLI	BITTERROOT COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT	Union Diversion Upgrade Technical Narrative	$20,000	Completed
RAVALLI	RAVALLI COUNTY TREASURER	Wastewater PER	$40,000	Under Contract
ROOSEVELT	FORT PECK TRIBES	Frazer Drinking Water PER	$40,000	Under Contract

COUNTY	RECIPIENT	PROJECT TITLE	AUTHORIZED AMOUNT	STATUS
ROOSEVELT	FORT PECK TRIBES	Lateral-42 Water Management Improvement Project	$25,000	Under Contract
ROSEBUD	NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBE	Lame Deer Creek Restoration Preliminary Study	$30,000	Under Contract
SANDERS	THOMPSON FALLS CITY OF	Stormwater PER	$40,000	Under Contract
SHERIDAN	PLENTYWOOD CITY OF TREASURER	Drinking Water PER	$29,000	Completed
SWEET GRASS	BIG TIMBER CITY OF	Wastewater PER	$20,000	Under Contract
SWEET GRASS	SWEET GRASS COUNTY CONS DISTRICT	Big Timber Creek Study	$15,000	Under Contract
TETON	CHOTEAU CITY OF	Capital Improvements Plan	$15,000	Under Contract
TETON	FAIRFIELD TOWN OF	Fairfield Wastewater PER	$40,000	Under Contract
TETON	POWER TETON COUNTY WATER & SEWER DISTRICT	Water System Connection Study	$15,000	Under Contract
TETON	GREENFIELDS IRRIGATION DISTRICT	Greenfields Irrigation District Mary Taylor Drop PER	$30,000	To Be Contracted
TOOLE	SHELBY, CITY OF	Water System PER	$9,000	Under Contract
TREASURE	YELLOWSTONE IRRIGATION DISTRICT	Canal Rehabilitation PER	$30,000	Under Contract
TREASURE	YELLOWSTONE IRRIGATION DISTRICT	Lateral Rehabilitation PER	$30,000	Under Contract
VALLEY	GLASGOW CITY OF	Drinking Water PER	$40,000	Under Contract
WIBAUX	WIBAUX TOWN OF	Water System PER	$30,000	Under Contract

COUNTY	RECIPIENT	PROJECT TITLE	AUTHORIZED AMOUNT	STATUS
YELLOWSTONE	HUNTLEY WSD	Huntley Yellowstone County WSD Water Sampling	$15,000	Under Contract
YELLOWSTONE	HUNTLEY WSD	Water PER Update	$20,000	Under Contract
YELLOWSTONE	LOCKWOOD WATER & SEWER DISTRICT	Lockwood W&SD Phase 1 PER	$40,000	Under Contract
YELLOWSTONE	LOCKWOOD WATER & SEWER DISTRICT	Sampling & Evaluation of Emerging Contaminants	$15,000	Under Contract
LEWIS & CLARK	RANCHVIEW COUNTY WATER DISTRICT	Technical Assistance - Ranchview County Water District Solar Development Planning Grant	$3,000	Completed
CASCADE	STOCKETT WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT	Technical Assistance - Stockett Water and Sewer District Water Planning Grant	$3,000	Completed
GALLATIN	LOGAN MONTANA COUNTY WATER SEWER DISTRICT	Technical Assistance - Logan Montana Water Sewer District Planning Grant	$3,000	Completed
		88 TOTAL AWARDS	**$2,223,889**	

CHAPTER 8

Renewable Resource Watershed Management Grants

Background

The intent of the program is 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 $50,000 per biennium for a watershed management activity. No application fee was required.

Grant Application 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.

Grant 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. 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.

Grant 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 Watershed Management Grant Awards

Successful applications are listed in the table below.

Table 9 Watershed Management Grants Authorized in the 2025 Biennium $500,000 Total Appropriation

COUNTY	RECIPIENT	PROJECT TITLE	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	AUTHORIZED AMOUNT	STATUS
Bitterroot	Bitterroot Water Partnership	Big Sky Watershed Corps (BSWC) Hosting Support	Cost share for a BSWC member to support programs focused on community involvement to protect waterways and further conservation practices.	$8,000	Under Contract
Broadwater	Broadwater Conservation District	Big Sky Watershed Corps Host Site Support	Deep Creek Watershed Restoration Plan	$8,000	To Be Contracted
Gallatin	Gallatin River Task Force	West Fork Gallatin River Master Watershed Restoration Plan	Completing phase 2 of the master watershed restoration plan including: completing field assessments and mapping, identifying restoration treatments, landowner outreach and education, and begin fundraising to install restoration treatments on 11 miles of stream in the headwaters of the West Fork drainage.	$50,000	To Be Contracted

COUNTY	RECIPIENT	PROJECT TITLE	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	AUTHORIZED AMOUNT	STATUS
Gallatin	Gallatin Conservation District	Gallatin CD - Association of Gallatin Agricultural Irrigators Support	To hire a coordinator to implement the goals in the strategic plan which include effective partner communication, public education, implementing shared priority water projects, and securing sustainable funding	$50,000	Under Contract
Lewis and Clark	Montana Watershed Coordination Council	Strategic Organizational, Watershed Program, & Education Planning	An update to an existing strategic plan to address new leadership and a need to include increased conservation district involvement.	$10,300	To Be Contracted
Lewis and Clark	Montana Discovery Foundation	Big Sky Watershed Corps Host Site Support	Grow existing programs and implement new programs in rural, underserved communities across the Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest,	$8,000	To
Lincoln	Yaak Valley Forest Council	Big Sky Watershed Corps Host Site Support	Kootenai River Watershed Restoration Project	$8,000	To Be Contracted
Missoula	City of Missoula	Big Sky Watershed Corps Hosting Support	Cost share for two BSWC members to support stormwater inventories and help with the Pattee Creek riparian restoration project.	$16,000	Under Contract
Missoula	City of Missoula	Missoula Pattee Creek Watershed Group Formation	Form a new community lead watershed group to address increased environmental pressures.	$40,000	Under Contract

COUNTY	RECIPIENT	PROJECT TITLE	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	AUTHORIZED AMOUNT	STATUS
Park	Park Conservation District	Upper Yellowstone Watershed Group's Strategic Plan	Develop a strategic plan for the next 3-5 years to provide framework for conservation and community action.	$20,000	Under Contract
Powell	Blackfoot Challenge	Blackfoot Challenge Community Recreation and Stewardship Program	Hire a coordinator to lead the Community Recreation and Stewardship Program to address increased river recreation related issues.	$45,000	To Be Contracted
			11 Total Awards	**$263,300**	

CHAPTER 9

Nonpoint Source Pollution Reduction Grants

Background

The purpose of the Nonpoint Source Pollution Reduction (NPS) Grant Program is to provide financial assistance to projects which measurably preserve Montana's water resources. Projects must improve water quality or water quantity including stream flows and water storage in existing natural systems, such as riparian areas, floodplains and wetlands. NPS grants can fund projects that provide public benefits such as erosion reduction, water quality enhancement, and sediment reduction. Nonpoint source pollution is the contamination or other alteration of the physical, chemical or biological properties of state waters. “State waters" means a body of water, irrigation system, or drainage system, either surface or underground.

The 2023 Legislature authorized $2,500,000 for grants in the 2025 biennium. DNRC, in working with stakeholders, identified three grant programs that would target nonpoint source pollution:

DEQ 319-Funded Project Match ($1,500,000)

- Projects must be approved by DEQ for 319 grant funds.
- Grant funds will be used as non-federal match to meet the 319 grant requirements.
- Projects must meet the same eligibility and other requirements of the 319-grant program.
- DEQ will co-administer the Renewable Resource Grant Program grants with the 319 funds, reducing the administrative burden for both the agencies and grant recipients.

Municipal Sewer Connections to eliminate individual or group septic systems ($500,000)

- Septic systems must be eliminated and reclaimed.
- Grants to government entities must directly offset or eliminate costs for individual homeowners to connect.
- Grants to private entities must meet the match requirement of 50% of the total project cost.
- Priority is given to connection projects that demonstrate septic risks to state waters.

Nonpoint Source Implementation Projects ($500,000)

- Projects activities must be identified in Montana NPS Appendix A - Best Management Practices.
- Projects identified in an approved Watershed Restoration Plan will receive priority.

Grant Application Solicitation

DNRC plans to develop grant applications and review criteria for the Municipal Connection and the Nonpoint Source Implementation Projects. It will also conduct outreach to impacted stakeholders to solicit grant applications. Applications will be published on DNRC’s website as they are opened late in 2024. Awards will be issued to eligible recipients prior to the end of the 2025 biennium.

The DEQ 319 Grant Program has a well established grant application, ranking, and review process. DEQ application guidelines are published on DEQ's website (Call For Applications). During the biennium, DEQ included the Renewable Resource Grant Program NPS grant funds in its review and recommendations. Those awards are summarized in the table below.

Grant Application Review

DNRC will evaluate all applications for completeness and compliance with the Renewable Resource Grant Program purpose. Renewable Resource Grant Program ranking criteria for applications is defined by the Administrative Rules of Montana, 36.17.610 which prioritizes a project's renewable resource benefits, public benefits, implementation of the State Water Plan, mitigation of human health or safety problems, and technical and financial feasibility.

DEQ reviewed 319 applications and made funding recommendations in accordance with EPA-approved scoring criteria.

Grant Management

DNRC grant recipients are required to enter into an agreement with the DNRC prior to requesting reimbursement for eligible project costs. State procurement law is required to be followed under this agreement. DNRC requires that grant recipients provide quarterly or more frequent progress reports. DNRC grants require final reports, deliverables, and invoices in compliance with the agreement to process final reimbursement. DEQ administers the RRG funding in the same contract as the awarded DEQ 319 funds to reduce the administrative burden of the agencies and the recipients. Contract provisions are defined by state and federal requirements for EPA subawards.

Authorized Nonpoint Source Pollution Reduction Grant Awards

Table 10 DEQ 319 Match Nonpoint Source Pollution Reduction Grants Authorized in the 2025 Biennium $1,500,000 Total Appropriation

COUNTY	RECIPIENT	PROJECT TITLE	DEQ 319 GRANT	RRGL NPS GRANT
BEAVERHEAD	Big Hole Watershed Committee	Elkhorn Ranch Bank Revegetation and Fencing Project	$60,641	$160,391
BITTERROOT	Bitterroot Water Partnership	Addressing Spike in NPS Pollution Inputs Post-Wildfire in the Tolan Creek Drainage of Impaired East Fork Bitterroot	$14,500	$104,850
GALLATIN	Gallatin Watershed Council	Spring Creek Farms: Camp Creek Restoration Phase II	$17,000	$282,299

COUNTY	RECIPIENT	PROJECT TITLE	DEQ 319 GRANT	RRGL NPS GRANT
GALLATIN	Trout Unlimited, Inc.	Camp Creek Headwaters Restoration	$75,450	$91,650
GRANITE	Trout Unlimited	Flint Creek Phase 3 Habitat Restoration Project	$94,500	$105,499
MISSOULA	Miller Creek 7 Mile Restoration	Miller Creek 7 Mile Restoration	$11,193	$35,482
MISSOULA	Trout Unlimited	Ninemile Reach 7 Placer Mine Reclamation	$5,800	$245,000
		7 Total Awards	**$279,084**	**$1,025,171**

CHAPTER 10

Summary of Program Grants Active in the 2025 Biennium

Most Renewable Resource Program grants are completed within three years of legislative authorization. This section updates the status of all program grants active during the past biennium not reported on in previous chapters. Project status is indicated by one of three categories: Completed, Under Contract, or Did Not Take Funds.

Table 11 Status of Renewable Resource Program Grants Active On or After October 1, 2022

County	RRG Program	Recipient	Project Title	Amount Awarded	Status
BEAVERHEAD	Planning Grant	EAST BENCH IRRIGATION DISTRICT	Carter Creek Lining and Headgate Automation PER	$15,000	Completed
BEAVERHEAD	Project Grant	DILLON CITY OF	Public Water System Improvements	$125,000	Completed
BEAVERHEAD	Project Grant	BEAVERHEAD CONSERVATION DISTRICT	Irrigation Efficiency and Water Measurement Project	$125,000	Completed
BEAVERHEAD	Watershed Management Grant	BEAVERHEAD CONSERVATION DISTRICT	Community Project Coordination and Capacity	$21,450	Completed
BEAVERHEAD	Watershed Management Grant	CENTENNIAL VALLEY ASSOCIATION INC	Expanding and Sustaining the CVA's Water and Drought Awareness Program	$13,390	Under Contract
BIG HORN	Planning Grant	CROW TRIBAL COUNCIL	Wastewater PER for Pryor Census Designated Place	$15,000	Did Not Take Funds
BIG HORN	Project Grant	CROW TRIBAL COUNCIL	Wastewater Collection System Improvement	$125,000	Under Contract

County	RRG Program	Recipient	Project Title	Amount Awarded	Status
BIG HORN	Project Grant	FORT SMITH & YELLOWTAIL WATER SEWER DISTRICTS	Wastewater System Improvement Project	$125,000	Under Contract
BLAINE	Irrigation Development Grant	NORTH CHINOOK IRRIGATION ASSOCIATION	North Chinook Irrigation Reservoir Dike Lining	$10,000	Completed
BLAINE	Planning Grant	BLAINE COUNTY TREASURER	North Chinook Irrigation Association Infrastructure Eval	$15,000	Completed
BLAINE	Planning Grant	PARADISE VALLEY IRRIGATION DISTRICT	Hillside Ditch Phase 2 Pipeline Conversion PER	$15,000	Completed
BLAINE	Project Grant	CHINOOK CITY OF	Water System Improvements	$125,000	Completed
BLAINE	Project Grant	FORT BELKNAP INDIAN COMMUNITY	Threemile Creek Pump Station Rehabilitation	$125,000	Under Contract
BLAINE	Project Grant	ALFALFA VALLEY IRRIGATION DISTRICT	East Flynn Canal Rehabilitation Project - Phase 2	$125,000	Under Contract
BLAINE	Project Grant	FORT BELKNAP INDIAN COMMUNITY	Milk River Diversion Gate Automation Project	$125,000	Did Not Take Funds
BLAINE	Project Grant	PARADISE VALLEY IRRIGATION DISTRICT	Milk River Bank Stabilization Project	$125,000	Under Contract
CARBON	Irrigation Development Grant	KING, RONALD	King Pivot Installation	$50,000	Under Contract
CARBON	Project Grant	CARBON COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT	Mutual Ditch Siphon Replacement	$125,000	Under Contract
CARBON	Watershed Management Grant	CLARK FORK YELLOWSTONE PARTNERSHIP	Watershed Group Development and Project Prioritization	$23,774	Under Contract

County	RRG Program	Recipient	Project Title	Amount Awarded	Status
CARTER	Project Grant	EKALAKA TOWN OF	Water System Improvements Project	$125,000	Under Contract
CASCADE	Irrigation Development Grant	FORT SHAW IRRIGATION DISTRICT	Canal Flow Monitoring Enhancement	$20,000	Completed
CASCADE	Irrigation Development Grant	SUN RIVER WATERSHED PROJECT	Irrigation Communication and Efficiency in SRWG	$9,000	Completed
CASCADE	Private Grant	Private Grant	Replace Septic System	$4,498	Completed
CASCADE	Planning Grant	UPPER & LOWER RIVER ROAD WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT	Wastewater PER Update	$5,000	Completed
CASCADE	Planning Grant	SAND COULEE WATER DISTRICT	Wastewater PER	$15,000	Completed
CASCADE	Planning Grant	BLACK EAGLE WSD	Water PER	$15,000	Completed
CASCADE	Planning Grant	CASCADE TOWN OF	Sewer System Improvements PER	$15,000	Completed
CASCADE	Planning Grant	SOUTH WIND WATER & SEWER DISTRICT	Phase 4 Water & Sewer Improvements PER	$15,000	Under Contract
CASCADE	Project Grant	SIMMS COUNTY SEWER DISTRICT	Wastewater System Improvements Phase II	$125,000	Completed
CASCADE	Project Grant	VAUGHN CASCADE COUNTY SEWER DISTRICT	Water System Improvements	$125,000	Completed
CASCADE	Watershed Management Grant	SUN RIVER WATERSHED PROJECT	Watershed Capacity Building and Project Development	$20,000	Completed
CASCADE	Watershed Management Grant	CASCADE COUNTY CD	Sun River Water Quality Improvement Project	$27,500	Completed

County	RRG Program	Recipient	Project Title	Amount Awarded	Status
CASCADE	Watershed Management Grant	SUN RIVER WATERSHED PROJECT	Building Capacity to Expand the Sun River Watershed Group	$24,157	Completed
CHOUTEAU	Planning Grant	FORT BENTON CITY OF	Wastewater PER	$15,000	Did Not Take Funds
CHOUTEAU	Planning Grant	GERALDINE TOWN OF	Water System PER	$15,000	Completed
CHOUTEAU	Project Grant	GERALDINE TOWN OF	Wastewater System Improvements	$125,000	Completed
CHOUTEAU	Project Grant	BIG SANDY TOWN OF	Stormwater System Improvements	$125,000	Completed
CHOUTEAU	Project Grant	FORT BENTON CITY OF	Water System Improvements Project	$125,000	Completed
CUSTER	Irrigation Development Grant	CUSTER COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT	KIC - Gabel Lateral Reorganization PER	$15,000	Completed
CUSTER	Planning Grant	CUSTER COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT	Kinsey Irrigation Company Muster Creek Syphon PER for Rehab	$15,000	Completed
CUSTER	Planning Grant	CUSTER COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT	Tongue and Yellowstone ID Same Leo and Kircher Laterals PER	$15,000	Completed
DANIELS	Project Grant	FLAXVILLE TOWN OF	Water Improvements Project	$125,000	Completed
DAWSON	Project Grant	BUFFALO RAPIDS IRRIGATION DISTRICT NO 1	Lateral 1.7 Pipeline Conversion	$125,000	Completed
DAWSON	Project Grant	BUFFALO RAPIDS IRRIGATION DISTRICT NO 1	Irrigation System Automation Project	$125,000	Under Contract
FALLON	Planning Grant	FALLON COUNTY TREASURER	Plevna Sewage Lagoon O&M Plan	$15,000	Completed

County	RRG Program	Recipient	Project Title	Amount Awarded	Status
FALLON	Project Grant	FALLON COUNTY TREASURER	Baker Lake Restoration Project	$100,000	Completed
FERGUS	Planning Grant	DENTON TOWN OF	Wastewater PER	$15,000	Completed
FERGUS	Project Grant	LEWISTOWN CITY OF	Water System Improvements	$125,000	Under Contract
FERGUS	Project Grant	LEWISTOWN CITY OF	Lewistown Ditch Rehabilitation Project	$125,000	Under Contract
FLATHEAD	Planning Grant	COLUMBIA FALLS CITY OF	Biosolids Management Plan	$15,000	Completed
FLATHEAD	Project Grant	FLATHEAD CONSERVATION DISTRICT	Trumbull Creek Restoration and Aquifer Protection	$125,000	Under Contract
FLATHEAD	Project Grant	BIGFORK WATER & SEWER DISTRICT	Wastewater System Improvements	$125,000	Completed
FLATHEAD	Project Grant	FLATHEAD CONSERVATION DISTRICT	Krause Creek Restoration	$63,500	Completed
FLATHEAD	Project Grant	BIG MOUNTAIN COUNTY SEWER DISTRICT	Wastewater Collection System Improvements	$125,000	Completed
FLATHEAD	Watershed Management Grant	FLATHEAD CONSERVATION DISTRICT	Trumbell Creek Restoration and Aquifer Protection Project	$25,000	Under Contract
FLATHEAD	Watershed Management Grant	FLATHEAD CONSERVATION DISTRICT	Flathead River Erosion Prevention and Mitigation Study	$32,500	Completed
GALLATIN	Emergency Grant	ANDERSON SCHOOL DISTRICT #41	Anderson School Water Mitigation Project	$30,000	Under Contract
GALLATIN	Private Grant	Private Grant	Bozeman Septic Failure	$5,000	Completed
GALLATIN	Planning Grant	WEST YELLOWSTONE TOWN OF	Collections Preliminary Engineering Report	$15,000	Completed
GALLATIN	Planning Grant	MANHATTEN TOWN OF	PER Water Main Rehab Phase 1	$15,000	Completed

County	RRG Program	Recipient	Project Title	Amount Awarded	Status
GALLATIN	Planning Grant	RAE COUNTY WATER & SEWER DISTRICT #313	Water PER	$15,000	Completed
GALLATIN	Project Grant	BELGRADE SCHOOL DISTRICT	Ridge View Elementary Solar Installation Project	$115,046	Under Contract
GALLATIN	Project Grant	THREE FORKS CITY OF	Water System Improvements	$125,000	Completed
GALLATIN	Project Grant	MANHATTEN TOWN OF	Water Reclamation Facility Improvements Phase 1	$125,000	Completed
GALLATIN	Watershed Management Grant	GALLATIN RIVER TASK FORCE	Upper Gallatin Water Supply & Availability Planning	$35,000	Completed
GALLATIN	Watershed Management Grant	GALLATIN CONSERVATION DISTRICT	Lower Gallatin Watershed Project Planning and Community Outreach	$8,900	Completed
GALLATIN	Watershed Management Grant	Montana Trout Unlimited	East Gallatin Low Cost Process Based Restoration Planning	$22,000	Under Contract
GALLATIN	Watershed Management Grant	SACAJAWEA AUDUBON SOCIETY	Next Urbon Wetlands Communities: Bridging Ecological and Social Values	$9,335	Completed
GARFIELD	Planning Grant	GARFIELD COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT	Hell Creek Jordan Water PER	$15,000	Under Contract
GARFIELD	Project Grant	GARFIELD COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT	CMR Range Monitoring Pilot Project	$99,994	Under Contract
GLACIER	Project Grant	CUT BANK CITY OF	Water System Improvements	$125,000	Completed

County	RRG Program	Recipient	Project Title	Amount Awarded	Status
GRANITE	Planning Grant	GRANITE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT	Ranch Creek Water Use Efficiency Improvement Project	$15,000	Completed
GRANITE	Planning Grant	DRUMMOND TOWN OF	Wastewater System PER	$15,000	Completed
GRANITE	Planning Grant	PHILIPSBURG TOWN OF	Drinking Water Distribution System and Storage Technical Narrative	$15,000	Completed
GRANITE	Planning Grant	GRANITE COUNTY TREASURER	Flint Creek Dam Structural Assessment and Technical Narrative	$15,000	Completed
GRANITE	Watershed Management Grant	GRANITE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT	Rock-Flint Watershed Capacity and Project Planning	$25,000	Under Contract
HILL	Emergency Grant	MILK RIVER JOINT BOARD OF CONTROL	St. Mary Siphon Failure	$100,000	Under Contract
HILL	Planning Grant	HILL COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT	Bear Paw Ski Bowl Spring Development Technical Narrative	$15,000	Completed
HILL	Planning Grant	HAVRE CITY OF	Water System PER	$15,000	Completed
HILL	Planning Grant	HINGHAM TOWN OF	Wastewater System PER	$15,000	Completed
HILL	Project Grant	HILL COUNTY TREASURER	Beaver Creek Dam Spillway Tailwater Technical Narrative	$15,000	Completed
HILL	Project Grant	NORTH HAVRE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT	Water System Improvements	$125,000	Completed
HILL	Project Grant	HILL COUNTY TREASURER	Beaver Creek Dam Spillway Improvements	$125,000	Completed
HILL	Project Grant	HILL COUNTY TREASURER	Beaver Creek Dam Improvements	$125,000	Completed

County	RRG Program	Recipient	Project Title	Amount Awarded	Status
HILL	Project Grant	MILK RIVER JOINT BOARD OF CONTROL	St. Mary Diversion Dam and Headworks Design Completion	$125,000	Completed
JEFFERSON	Project Grant	CLANCY WATER & SEWER DISTRICT	Water System Improvements	$125,000	Completed
JEFFERSON	Project Grant	WHITEHALL TOWN OF	Water Treatment Plant Improvements	$125,000	Completed
JUDITH BASIN	Planning Grant	HOBSON TOWN OF	Water Distribution System PER	$15,000	Completed
LAKE	Planning Grant	RONAN CITY OF	Wastewater PER Update	$8,000	Completed
LAKE	Planning Grant	GREATER WOODS BAY LAKE CO SEWER DISTRICT	Wastewater System PER	$8,000	Completed
LEWIS & CLARK	Private Grant	Private Grant	Septic System Replacement	$4,236	Completed
LEWIS & CLARK	Planning Grant	MT DEPT OF DNRC/WRD	Ruby Reservoir Storage Expansion Feasibility Project	$15,000	Completed
LEWIS & CLARK	Planning Grant	HELENA CITY OF	Chessman Dam Seepage Investigation Project	$15,000	Completed
LEWIS & CLARK	Planning Grant	HELENA VALLEY IRRIGATION DISTRICT	Helena Valley Regulating Reservoir Preservation and Bypass PER	$15,000	Completed
LEWIS & CLARK	Project Grant	HELENA VALLEY IRRIGATION DISTRICT	Lateral 14.8 Headgate Rehabilitation Phase 2	$125,000	Completed
LEWIS & CLARK	Project Grant	MT DEPT OF DNRC/WRD	Ackley Lake Outlet Canal Rehabilitation Project	$125,000	Completed

County	RRG Program	Recipient	Project Title	Amount Awarded	Status
LEWIS & CLARK	Project Grant	MT DEPT OF DNRC/WRD	Deadman's Supply Canal Rehabilitation Project Ph 2	$125,000	Completed
LEWIS & CLARK	Project Grant	LEWIS & CLARK CONSERVATION DISTRICT	Beaver Creek Restoration Project Phase 2	$125,000	Under Contract
LEWIS & CLARK	Project Grant	TEN MILE CREEK ESTATES/PLEASANT VALLEY COUNTY SEWER DISTRICT	Wastewater System Improvements	$125,000	Completed
LEWIS & CLARK	Project Grant	HELENA VALLEY IRRIGATION DISTRICT	Lateral 11.9 Canal Conversion and Gate Rehab Project	$125,000	Under Contract
LEWIS & CLARK	Project Grant	MT DEPT OF DNRC/WRD	Two Dot Canal Rehabilitation	$125,000	Under Contract
LEWIS & CLARK	Watershed Management Grant	LEWIS & CLARK CONSERVATION DISTRICT	Improving Structure and Capacity Development for CD Support	$20,778	Under Contract
LEWIS & CLARK	Watershed Management Grant	MONTANA WATERSHED COORDINATION COUNCIL	Building Capacity & Improving Funding Access for Watershed Conservation	$13,417	Completed
LINCOLN	Planning Grant	GLEN LAKE IRRIGATION DISTRICT	Glen Lake Dam Safety Improvements	$15,000	Under Contract
LINCOLN	Planning Grant	LINCOLN COUNTY TREASURER	Libby Creek Water & Wastewater System Evaluation	$15,000	Completed
LINCOLN	Planning Grant	LIBBY CITY OF	Water System PER	$15,000	Under Contract
LINCOLN	Project Grant	LIBBY CITY OF	Water System Improvements	$125,000	Completed
LINCOLN	Project Grant	GLEN LAKE IRRIGATION DISTRICT	Rolling Hills Rehabilitation Parsons Drop Structure Repair	$125,000	Under Contract

County	RRG Program	Recipient	Project Title	Amount Awarded	Status
LINCOLN	Project Grant	GLEN LAKE IRRIGATION DISTRICT	Infrastructure Modernization Study	$125,000	Under Contract
LINCOLN	Project Grant	LIBBY CITY OF	Wastewater System Improvements	$125,000	Under Contract
MADISON	Planning Grant	TWIN BRIDGES TOWN OF	Water System PER	$15,000	Completed
MADISON	Watershed Management Grant	MADISON CONSERVATION DISTRICT	Madison Watershed Restoration Plan - Completion and Early Implementation	$16,119	Completed
MCCONE	Project Grant	CIRCLE TOWN OF	Water System Improvements Ph 3	$125,000	Completed
MEAGHER	Planning Grant	WHITE SULPHER SPRINGS, CITY OF	Water System PER	$8,000	Under Contract
MEAGHER	Planning Grant	MARTINSDALE WATER & SEWER DISTRICT	Water System PER	$15,000	Completed
MEAGHER	Planning Grant	MEAGHER CNTY NEWLAN CR/WD	Newlan Creek Dam Safety Improvements	$15,000	Completed
MINERAL	Planning Grant	SUPERIOR TOWN OF	Wastewater PER	$15,000	Completed
MINERAL	Project Grant	ALBERTON TOWN OF	Water Improvements Project	$125,000	Under Contract
MISSOULA	Emergency Grant	BIG FLAT IRRIGATION DISTRICT	Catastrophic Storm Damage	$30,000	Under Contract
MISSOULA	Irrigation Development Grant	SMITH, ANNICK	Smith's Peterson Ditch Rehabilitation	$50,000	Under Contract
MISSOULA	Planning Grant	MISSOULA CITY OF	Comprehensive Watershed Based Stormwater Facility Plan	$8,000	Completed
MISSOULA	Project Grant	SEELEY LAKE COUNTY SEWER DISTRICT	Wastewater System Improvements Phase 2	$125,000	Completed

County	RRG Program	Recipient	Project Title	Amount Awarded	Status
MISSOULA	Project Grant	MISSOULA CITY OF	Caras Park Storm Water Treatment Retrofit-Phase II	$125,000	Completed
MISSOULA	Project Grant	CLINTON IRRIGATION DISTRICT	Schoolhouse Lateral Pipeline Conversion Project	$125,000	Completed
MISSOULA	Project Grant	MISSOULA CITY OF	Rattlesnake Creek Wilderness Dam Project	$125,000	Under Contract
MISSOULA	Project Grant	MISSOULA COUNTY TREASURER	Buena Vista Wastewater System Improvements PH 2	$125,000	Completed
MISSOULA	Watershed Management Grant	MISSOULA VALLEY WATER QUALITY DISTRICT	From Volunteers to Effective Community Leaders	$28,600	Completed
MISSOULA	Watershed Management Grant	Montana Trout Unlimited	North Burnt Fork Creek Restoration Planning on Lee Metcalf National Refuge	$35,000	Completed
MISSOULA	Watershed Management Grant	CLARK FORK COALITION	Restoring Grant Creek	$35,000	Completed
MISSOULA	Watershed Management Grant	MISSOULA CITY OF	Missoula Big Sky Watershed Corps Host Site Cost Share	$16,000	Under Contract
MUSSELSHELL	Planning Grant	ROUNDUP CITY OF	Wastewater System PER	$15,000	Completed
MUSSELSHELL	Project Grant	LOWER MUSSELSHELL CONSERVATION DISTRICT	Delphia Melstone WUA Irrigation Efficiency & Water Measurement	$117,050	Under Contract
MUSSELSHELL	Project Grant	ROUNDUP CITY OF	Water Main Improvements Phase 6	$125,000	Completed
PARK	Private Grant	Private Grant	Livingston Sewer Connect	$1,075	Completed

County	RRG Program	Recipient	Project Title	Amount Awarded	Status
PARK	Private Grant	Private Grant	Livingston Sewer Connect	$1,366	Completed
PARK	Private Grant	Private Grant	Livingston Sewer Connect	$2,000	Completed
PARK	Private Grant	Private Grant	Livingston Sewer Connect	$1,500	Completed
PARK	Private Grant	Private Grant	Livingston Sewer Connect	$2,000	Completed
PARK	Planning Grant	GARDINER PARK COUNTY WATER DISTRICT	Water System Study	$15,000	Completed
PARK	Planning Grant	GARDINER PARK COUNTY WATER DISTRICT	Wastewater System Improvements PER Update	$8,000	Did Not Take Funds
PARK	Planning Grant	LIVINGSTON, CITY OF	View Vista Community Water & Sewer PER	$15,000	Completed
PARK	Project Grant	WILSALL WATER DISTRICT	Water System Improvements	$125,000	Completed
PARK	Project Grant	CLYDE PARK TOWN OF	Water System Improvements	$125,000	Completed
PARK	Project Grant	COOKE CITY-SILVER GATE COUNTY WATER AND SEWER DIST	Cooke City Wastewater Collection and Treatment System Ph 1	$125,000	Completed
PARK	Project Grant	GARDINER PARK COUNTY WATER DISTRICT	Wastewater Improvements Project	$125,000	Under Contract
PARK	Project Grant	PARK COUNTY TREASURER	Bear Creek Ditch Emergency Repairs	$10,000	Completed
PARK	Watershed Management Grant	PARK COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT	Upper Yellowstone Watershed Group's Strategic Plan	$20,000	Under Contract

County	RRG Program	Recipient	Project Title	Amount Awarded	Status
PETROLEUM	Planning Grant	PETROLEUM COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT	Capital Improvements Plan for Petrolia Irrigation District	$8,000	Completed
PETROLEUM	Project Grant	PETROLEUM COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT	Horse Creek Coulee Water Storage Phase 1	$125,000	Completed
PETROLEUM	Watershed Management Grant	PETROLEUM COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT	Developing & Implementing Watershed Mgt Activities in Musselshell Watershed	$18,250	Completed
PHILLIPS	Planning Grant	DODSON TOWN OF	Water PER	$15,000	Completed
PHILLIPS	Planning Grant	MALTA IRRIGATION DISTRICT	System Improvement PER	$15,000	Under Contract
PHILLIPS	Project Grant	MALTA IRRIGATION DISTRICT	Exeter Siphon Project	$125,000	Completed
PHILLIPS	Project Grant	MALTA IRRIGATION DISTRICT	MID Costin Lateral Pipeline Conversion Project	$125,000	Under Contract
PHILLIPS	Project Grant	MALTA IRRIGATION DISTRICT	Main Canal Lining - Wagner Ranch	$125,000	Under Contract
PONDERA	Planning Grant	PONDERA COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT	C Canal Headworks Automation PER	$15,000	Completed
PONDERA	Planning Grant	CONRAD CITY OF	Stormwater PER Update	$8,000	Completed
PONDERA	Planning Grant	PONDERA COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT	PCCRC Birch Creek Diversion Automation PER	$15,000	Completed
PONDERA	Project Grant	PONDERA COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT	Lake Francis Reservoir - East Dam Operator Gate Repairs	$10,000	Completed

County	RRG Program	Recipient	Project Title	Amount Awarded	Status
PONDERA	Project Grant	VALIER TOWN OF	Wastewater System Improvements Ph 3	$125,000	Under Contract
POWELL	Planning Grant	POWELL COUNTY TREASURER	Capital Improvements Plan	$8,000	Completed
POWELL	Project Grant	MT DEPT OF CORRECTIONS	Powell Dam Rehabilitation Project	$125,000	Completed
POWELL	Project Grant	DEER LODGE CITY OF	Wastewater Collection System Improvements	$125,000	Under Contract
POWELL	Watershed Management Grant	BLACKFOOT CHALLENGE	Planning for Climate Resilience: Blackfoot Watershed Drought Planning	$10,000	Under Contract
PRAIRIE	Project Grant	BUFFALO RAPIDS PROJECT DISTRICT 2	Lateral 1.6 Pipeline Conversion	$125,000	Completed
PRAIRIE	Project Grant	BUFFALO RAPIDS PROJECT DISTRICT 2	Lateral 1.6 Pipeline Conversion Phase 2	$125,000	Under Contract
RAVALLI	Private Grant	Private Grant	Install Ditch Liner on 5th Right Ditch	$2,506	Completed
RAVALLI	Planning Grant	CORVALLIS COUNTY SEWER DISTRICT	Wastewater System PER	$15,000	Completed
RAVALLI	Planning Grant	VICTOR RAVALLI COUNTY WATER/SEWER DIST	Wastewater PER	$15,000	Completed
RAVALLI	Project Grant	BITTER ROOT IRRIGATION DISTRICT	Como Dam Water Resource Enhancement Project	$125,000	Completed
RAVALLI	Project Grant	BITTERROOT COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT	Bitterroot Irrigation Management Study	$125,000	Completed
RAVALLI	Project Grant	BITTER ROOT IRRIGATION DISTRICT	Water Efficiency, Modernization and Planning Study	$125,000	Under Contract

County	RRG Program	Recipient	Project Title	Amount Awarded	Status
RAVALLI	Project Grant	DARBY TOWN OF	Wastewater System Improvements	$125,000	Under Contract
RAVALLI	Watershed Management Grant	BITTERROOT WATER PARTNERSHIP	Planning to Build a Water Conservation Program for the Bitterroot	$16,500	Completed
RAVALLI	Watershed Management Grant	BITTERROOT WATER PARTNERSHIP	Big Sky Watershed Corps Hosting Support	$8,000	Under Contract
RICHLAND	Irrigation Development Grant	JORGENSEN, BRYCE	Irrigation Project	$20,000	Completed
RICHLAND	Planning Grant	LOWER YELLOWSTONE IRRIGATION PROJECT	Thomas Point Pump Station Rehabilitation PER	$15,000	Completed
RICHLAND	Project Grant	SAVAGE SCHOOL	Water System Repairs	$250,000	Completed
RICHLAND	Project Grant	LOWER YELLOWSTONE IRRIGATION PROJECT	Lateral V Check Structure & Lateral W Headgate Rehab	$125,000	Under Contract
RICHLAND	Watershed Management Grant	RICHLAND COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT	Best Management Practices for Ground Water Irrigation in the West Crane Aquifer	$28,000	Under Contract
ROOSEVELT	Project Grant	FORT PECK TRIBES	Frazer and Wiota Pump Automation and Monitoring	$125,000	Under Contract
ROSEBUD	Irrigation Development Grant	ROSEBUD COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT	Lower Hammond Irrigation District Pipeline PER Project	$15,000	Completed
ROSEBUD	Planning Grant	ROSEBUD SEWER AND WATER	Wastewater PER	$15,000	Completed
SANDERS	Project Grant	THOMPSON FALLS CITY OF	Wastewater System Improvements	$125,000	Under Contract

County	RRG Program	Recipient	Project Title	Amount Awarded	Status
SANDERS	Project Grant	THOMPSON FALLS CITY OF	Wastewater System Improvements Phase 3	$125,000	Under Contract
SANDERS	Watershed Management Grant	LOWER CLARK FORK WATERSHED GROUP	Private Land Engagement and Project Development	$17,500	Completed
SHERIDAN	Irrigation Development Grant	SHERIDAN COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT	Purchase and Installation of Groundwater Monitoring Equipment	$10,608	Completed
SHERIDAN	Planning Grant	WESTBY TOWN OF	Water System PER	$15,000	Completed
SHERIDAN	Project Grant	PLENTYWOOD CITY OF TREASURER	Wastewater Collection Improvements Ph 2	$125,000	Completed
SILVER BOW	Planning Grant	BUTTE SILVER BOW COUNTY TREASURER	Basin Creek Dam #2 Hydrology Study	$15,000	Completed
SILVER BOW	Planning Grant	BUTTE SILVER BOW COUNTY TREASURER	Moulton WTP Filter Replacement Alternative Analysis	$15,000	Completed
SILVER BOW	Project Grant	BUTTE SILVER BOW COUNTY TREASURER	Moulton Reservoir-Reclamation and Protection Project	$125,000	Completed
SILVER BOW	Project Grant	BUTTE SILVER BOW COUNTY TREASURER	Rocker Sewer Connection to TIFID Wastewater Pipeline	$125,000	Completed
SILVER BOW	Project Grant	MONTANA BUREAU OF MINES & GEOLOGY	Reducing Mobilization of Oil Brine Salt to Streams	$125,000	Completed
SILVER BOW	Project Grant	MONTANA BUREAU OF MINES & GEOLOGY	Measuring GW Recharge in Flood to Pivot Irrigation Conversion	$125,000	Completed
SILVER BOW	Project Grant	BUTTE SILVER BOW COUNTY TREASURER	Butte Silver Bow Basin Creek Dam #1	$125,000	Under Contract

County	RRG Program	Recipient	Project Title	Amount Awarded	Status
SILVER BOW	Watershed Management Grant	BIG HOLE WATERSHED COMMITTEE	Circling the Wagons for Water in the Big Hole	$25,300	Completed
STILLWATER	Planning Grant	STILLWATER COUNTY TREASURER	Park City Stormwater PER	$15,000	Completed
STILLWATER	Project Grant	STILLWATER COUNTY TREASURER	Absarokee Sewer Rural Special Improvement District	$125,000	Completed
STILLWATER	Project Grant	STILLWATER COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT	Mendenhall Drop Structures Rehabilitation Project	$125,000	Under Contract
SWEET GRASS	Planning Grant	BIG TIMBER CITY OF	Wastewater PER	$15,000	Completed
SWEET GRASS	Planning Grant	SWEET GRASS CO TREASURER	Capital Improvements Plan for Sweet Grass County	$8,000	Completed
SWEET GRASS	Project Grant	SWEET GRASS COUNTY CONS DISTRICT	Post-Kellog Ditch Headworks Improvement Project	$125,000	Under Contract
SWEET GRASS	Project Grant	BIG TIMBER CITY OF	Water System Improvements	$125,000	Completed
TETON	Irrigation Development Grant	GREENFIELDS IRRIGATION DISTRICT	Pishkun Supply Canal Tunnel No 3 Rehabilitation Design	$20,000	Completed
TETON	Planning Grant	Power Teton County Water & Sewer District	Wastewater PER	$15,000	Completed
TETON	Planning Grant	DUTTON TOWN OF	Water System PER	$15,000	Completed
TETON	Planning Grant	CHOTEAU CITY OF	Water System PER	$8,000	Completed
TETON	Planning Grant	GREENFIELDS IRRIGATION DISTRICT	Pishkun Inlet Hydroelectric PER	$15,000	Completed
TETON	Project Grant	Power Teton County Water & Sewer District	Water System Improvements	$125,000	Completed

County	RRG Program	Recipient	Project Title	Amount Awarded	Status
TETON	Project Grant	GREENFIELDS IRRIGATION DISTRICT	ARNOLD COULEE HYDROELECTRIC PH 1	$125,000	Completed
TETON	Project Grant	GREENFIELDS IRRIGATION DISTRICT	Spring Coulee Headworks Replacement Project	$125,000	Completed
TETON	Project Grant	GREENFIELDS IRRIGATION DISTRICT	SRS-71 Headworks & SRS Re-Regulation Project Phase I	$125,000	Under Contract
TETON	Project Grant	CHOTEAU CITY OF	Water System Improvements	$125,000	Under Contract
TETON	Project Grant	FAIRFIELD TOWN OF	Water System Improvements	$125,000	Under Contract
TOOLE	Planning Grant	SHELBY, CITY OF	Wastewater PER	$15,000	Completed
TOOLE	Planning Grant	SUNBURST TOWN OF	Wastewater System Upgrades PER	$15,000	Completed
TOOLE	Project Grant	SHELBY, CITY OF	Water System Infrastructure Improvements	$125,000	Completed
TREASURE	Planning Grant	YELLOWSTONE IRRIGATION DISTRICT	Irrigation Engineering Report	$15,000	Completed
TREASURE	Project Grant	HYSHAM TOWN OF	Wastewater System Rehab Phase I	$125,000	Completed
TREASURE	Project Grant	HYSHAM IRRIGATION DISTRICT	RE-LIFT CANAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT	$125,000	Completed
TREASURE	Project Grant	HYSHAM IRRIGATION DISTRICT	Intake Improvements Project	$125,000	Completed
TREASURE	Project Grant	HYSHAM TOWN OF	Drinking Water Storage Tank - Emergency Repair	$10,000	Completed
VALLEY	Project Grant	GLASGOW IRRIGATION DISTRICT	V-63 Lateral Conversion Project	$125,000	Completed

County	RRG Program	Recipient	Project Title	Amount Awarded	Status
VALLEY	Project Grant	NORTH VALLEY CO WATER & SEWER DISTRICT	Phase I Water System Improvements	$125,000	Under Contract
VALLEY	Project Grant	GLASGOW IRRIGATION DISTRICT	Spaniard Check Structure Rehabilitation	$125,000	Under Contract
WHEATLAND	Planning Grant	WHEATLAND COUNTY TREASURER	Deadman's Basin Water PER	$15,000	Completed
WHEATLAND	Planning Grant	JUDITH GAP TOWN OF	Water & Wastewater Systems PER	$15,000	Completed
WIBAUX	Project Grant	WIBAUX TOWN OF	Wastewater Treatment System Improvements	$125,000	Completed
YELLOWSTONE	Planning Grant	YELLOWSTONE CONSERVATION DISTRICT	BBWA Five Mile Crossing Rehab Plan	$15,000	Completed
YELLOWSTONE	Planning Grant	BROADVIEW CITY OF	Wastewater System PER	$15,000	Completed
YELLOWSTONE	Planning Grant	HUNTLEY WSD	Water PER	$15,000	Completed
YELLOWSTONE	Project Grant	HUNTLEY IRRIGATION DISTRICT	Lower Main Canal Lining, Phase 2	$125,000	Under Contract
YELLOWSTONE	Project Grant	LOCKWOOD WATER & SEWER DISTRICT	Drinking Water System Improvements	$125,000	Completed
YELLOWSTONE	Project Grant	HUNTLEY IRRIGATION DISTRICT	Yellowstone River Bank Stabilization Project	$125,000	Completed
			235 Total Grants	**$15,335,849**	

2025

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