

## Watershed Funding Opportunities

**Prepared by the Montana Watershed Coordination Council (MWCC) and the Natural Resource Grant Working Group - updated 4/8/2020\***

Funding Entity / Program Name	Purpose	Who Can Apply	Funding Type	Program Contact	Program Website	Application Due Dates	Match	Dollar Limits Per Application
AGR - Noxious Weed Trust Fund Grant	Development and implementation of weed management programs. Projects should complement and enhance the Montana Weed Management Plan. Projects fall into one of three categories: Research projects; education/development projects; local cooperative projects.	Government entities and private landowners eligible to do business in Montana	State	Greta Dige greta.dige@mt.gov 406-444-7882	<a href="http://agr.mt.gov/agr/Programs/Development/GrantsLoans/TrustFund/">http://agr.mt.gov/agr/Programs/Development/GrantsLoans/TrustFund/</a> or <a href="http://www.mtfunding.org">www.mtfunding.org</a>	Annually	Local Cooperative projects require a 50% cost-share for herbicides and commercial applications.	\$75,000
DEQ - Department of Environmental Quality / 319 Program	Address nonpoint source water pollution in streams and lakes identified as "impaired" on Montana's List of Impaired Waters, in watersheds with a DEQ-accepted Watershed Restoration Plan (WRP).	Governmental Entities and 501c(3) nonprofits	Federal	Kristy Fortman Kristy.Fortman@mt.gov 406-444-7425	<a href="http://www.deq.mt.gov/wqinfo/nonpoint/319Grants.mcp">http://www.deq.mt.gov/wqinfo/nonpoint/319Grants.mcp</a>	Annually in the fall.	Yes	Up to \$300,000 per project.
DEQ - Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) Loan Program	Drinking water projects which achieve or maintain compliance with the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act. All projects anticipating the use of SRF funding must be included on the Project Priority List and Intended Use Plan.	Community public water systems owned by private persons or municipalities; nonprofit, non-community water systems	80% Federal, 20% State.	Mark Smith marks@mt.gov 406-444-5325	<a href="http://deq.mt.gov/wqinfo/srf/DWSRF/default.mcp">http://deq.mt.gov/wqinfo/srf/DWSRF/default.mcp</a>	Open cycle.	No	100% of eligible project costs can be borrowed-planning costs covered; ability to repay loan must be shown.
DEQ - Volunteer Monitoring Laboratory Analysis Assistance	Support voluntary water quality monitoring efforts. DEQ-approved Sampling and Analysis Plan (SAP) must be in place prior to sampling.	Governmental Entities and 501c(3) nonprofits	Federal	Katie Makarowski kmarowski@mt.gov 406-444-3507	<a href="http://www.deq.mt.gov/wqinfo/nonpoint/nonpointsourceprogram.mcp">http://www.deq.mt.gov/wqinfo/nonpoint/nonpointsourceprogram.mcp</a>	First come-first serve basis.	No	\$3,000
DEQ - Water Pollution Control State Revolving Fund (WPCSRF) Loan Program	Wastewater or nonpoint source pollution projects. All projects anticipating the use of SRF funding must be included on the Project Priority List and Intended Use Plan for the fiscal year in which funding is anticipated.	Municipalities for wastewater projects- municipalities and private entities for nonpoint source projects	83% Federal, 17% State.	Mike Abrahamson MAbrahamson@mt.gov 406-444-6776	<a href="http://www.deq.mt.gov/wqinfo/srf/WPCSRF/default.mcp">http://www.deq.mt.gov/wqinfo/srf/WPCSRF/default.mcp</a>	Open cycle.	No	100% of eligible project costs can be borrowed-planning costs covered; ability to repay loan must be shown.
DNRC - "HB223" Grant	Provide funding for conservation district projects.	Conservation districts	State	Linda Brander LLBrander@mt.gov 406-444-0520	<a href="http://www.dnrc.mt.gov/grants-and-loans">www.dnrc.mt.gov/grants-and-loans</a>	Quarterly	Sometimes	\$20,000 for on-the-ground projects/ \$10,000 for education projects; over \$20,000 if 50:50 match provided.
DNRC - Conservation District Development Grant	Provide funds to increase conservation district employee's hours to assist in planning, securing funding, and implementing programs that improve public outreach, improve conservation district administrative capabilities, and implement conservation plans.	Conservation districts	State	Laurie Zeller 406-444-6669 lzeller@mt.gov	<a href="http://www.dnrc.mt.gov/grants-and-loans">www.dnrc.mt.gov/grants-and-loans</a>	Quarterly	No	\$10,000
DNRC -Conservation District Administrative Grant	Provide funding for conservation districts that do not have enough funding to cover basic operation costs, such as administrative salaries, insurance, office supplies, communications, and insurance.	Conservation districts	State	Laurie Zeller 406-444-6669, lzeller@mt.gov	<a href="http://www.dnrc.mt.gov/grants-and-loans">www.dnrc.mt.gov/grants-and-loans</a>	Annual	No	Based on financial need.
DNRC - Pollinator Grant	Provide funding for conservation districts to improve pollinator habitat.	Conservation districts	State	Mary Hendrix 444-4253 Mary.Hendrix@mt.gov	<a href="http://www.dnrc.mt.gov/grants-and-loans">www.dnrc.mt.gov/grants-and-loans</a>	Open cycle	No	\$500 minimum \$15,000 maximum

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DNRC -Conservation Education Mini-grant Program	Provide funding for student and adult education projects that focus on water, weeds, or other natural resources.	Conservation districts; projects from other organizations if the project is approved and sponsored by the conservation district	State	Linda Brander 406-444-0520 LLBrander@mt.gov	<a href="http://www.dnrc.mt.gov/grants-and-loans">www.dnrc.mt.gov/grants-and-loans</a>	Quarterly	No	\$100 minimum \$500 maximum
DNRC - Watershed Management Grant	Watershed related planning and management activities which conserve, develop, manage or preserve Montana's renewable resources and/or support the implementation and development of the state water plan.	Local, state, and Tribal government entities. Private entities that provide a cost share of 75% in in-kind services and/or cash	State	Jorri Dyer 444-6839 Jorri.Dyer2@mt.gov	<a href="http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/cardd/resource-development/renewable-resource-grant-program/watershed-management-grant-program">http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/cardd/resource-development/renewable-resource-grant-program/watershed-management-grant-program</a>	April 17, 2016.	No for government entities, yes for private.	\$20,000
DNRC - Renewable Resource Planning Grant	To fund planning efforts, for public entities, for projects that conserve, manage, develop, or preserve renewable resources in Montana.	State agencies and universities, counties, incorporated cities and towns, conservation districts, irrigation districts, water/sewer/solid waste districts and tribes	State	Lindsay Volpe 444-9766 lvolpe@mt.gov	<a href="http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/cardd/resource-development/renewable-resource-grant-program">http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/cardd/resource-development/renewable-resource-grant-program</a>	May 15th in even-numbered years.	No	\$10,000 for Preliminary Engineering/Technical Investigation and Feasibility; \$5,000 for administrative/\$50,000 for Watershed Planning.
DNRC - Reclamation and Development Planning Grant	Provide funding for projects that: help plan Reclamation and Development Grants Program projects; provide site assessment; support grant writing for natural resource cleanup grants. Project examples: Abandoned mine reclamation planning; Brownfields cleanup planning; abandoned hazardous waste site cleanup planning; abandoned oil and gas well cleanup planning; crucial state needs planning.	Local, state, and Tribal government entities	State	Heidi Anderson Fohnagy 444-6691 handersonfohnagy@mt.gov	<a href="http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/cardd/resource-development/reclamation-and-development-grants-program/reclamation-and-development-planning-grants-program">http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/cardd/resource-development/reclamation-and-development-grants-program/reclamation-and-development-planning-grants-program</a>	Fall	Yes, must be non-state funds.	\$50,000
DNRC - Reclamation and Development Project Grant	Using the interest income from the Resource Indemnity Trust Fund, provide funding for projects that compensate Montana citizens for the effects of exploration and mining on Montana lands, and/or serve the public interest and the State of Montana. Project examples: abandoned mine reclamation; Brownfields cleanup; abandoned hazardous waste site cleanup; abandoned oil and gas well cleanup; mining related erosion control; crucial state needs.	Local, state, and Tribal government entities	State	Heidi Anderson Fohnagy 444-6691 handersonfohnagy@mt.gov	<a href="http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/cardd/resource-development/reclamation-and-development-grants-program">http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/cardd/resource-development/reclamation-and-development-grants-program</a>	May 15th in even-numbered years.	Yes, must be non-state funds.	\$500,000
DNRC - Renewable Resource Grant	Projects that conserve, manage, develop or protect Montana's renewable resources.	State agencies and universities, counties, incorporated cities and towns, conservation districts, irrigation districts, water/sewer/solid waste districts and tribes	State	Lindsay Volpe 444-9766 lvolpe@mt.gov	<a href="http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/cardd/resource-development/renewable-resource-grant-program">http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/cardd/resource-development/renewable-resource-grant-program</a>	May 15th in even-numbered years.	No	\$125,000
DNRC - Renewable Resource Emergency Grant	To fund emergency projects that address an immediate threat to the beneficial management of renewable resources and, if delayed, will cause substantial damage or legal liability to the entity seeking assistance. Past projects have included dike repair, emergency dam repair, and emergency repairs to municipal drinking water and wastewater systems.	Counties; incorporated cities and towns; conservation districts; irrigation districts; water and sewer districts	State	David Larson 444 2951 dclarson@mt.gov	<a href="http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/cardd/resource-development/renewable-resource-grant-program/renewable-resource-emergency-grants-and-loans">http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/cardd/resource-development/renewable-resource-grant-program/renewable-resource-emergency-grants-and-loans</a>	Open cycle	No	\$30,000 per project.
DNRC - Renewable Resource Grants to Private Entities	Primarily to fund projects that assist small, privately owned water systems. The following may NOT be funded: Feasibility studies; research; public information projects.	Private entities	State	Sonja Hoeglund 444-0552 shoeglund@mt.gov	<a href="http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/cardd/resource-development/renewable-resource-grant-program/renewable-resource-grants-to-private-entities">http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/cardd/resource-development/renewable-resource-grant-program/renewable-resource-grants-to-private-entities</a>		Yes	\$5,000 or 25% of the project cost, whichever is less.
DNRC - Renewable Resource Loan	Provide funding for development and improvements to the following: Municipal drinking water and wastewater systems; solid waste; irrigation; renewable resource projects such as dams, soil and water conservation, and forest enhancement.	State agencies and universities, counties, incorporated cities and towns, conservation districts, irrigation districts, water/sewer/solid waste districts and tribes	State	Lindsay Volpe 444-9766 lvolpe@mt.gov	<a href="http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/cardd/resource-development/renewable-resource-grant-program">http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/cardd/resource-development/renewable-resource-grant-program</a>	May 15th in even-numbered years.	No	Limited by the applicant's debt capacity.

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DNRC - Renewable Resource Loans to Private Entities	Private water development projects. For example, irrigation system improvements for conversion from flood to sprinkler irrigation.	Private entities	State	Bill Herbolich 406-444-6686 Wherbolich@mt.gov	<a href="http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/cardd/resource-development/renewable-resource-grant-program/renewable-resource-loans-to-private-entities">http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/cardd/resource-development/renewable-resource-grant-program/renewable-resource-loans-to-private-entities</a>	Open cycle	No	Loans to individual private entities may not exceed the lesser of \$400,000 or 80% of the fair market value of the security given for the project. Loans to water user associations and ditch companies may not exceed \$3 million.
DNRC - Aquatic Invasive Species Grant	Prevention and control of aquatic invasive species (AIS). Preference given to priority waters, as well as to on-the-ground projects such as surveys and removal that result in measurable control of AIS. Priority species include eurasian watermilfoil, Quagga mussels, Zebra mussels. Flowering rush and Curly-leaf pondweed control will be considered on a case-by-case basis.	City, county, tribes, and other local political subdivisions. Non-profits may be eligible for technical service contracts	State	Stephanie Criswell scriswell@mt.gov 406-444-0547	<a href="http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/cardd/resource-development/aquatic-invasive-species">http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/cardd/resource-development/aquatic-invasive-species</a>	March 15, 2016, though off-cycle grants may be considered based on funding and need.	Encouraged but not required.	Up to \$50,000 for most projects.
DNRC - Irrigation Development Grant	Multi-purpose: Increase irrigation efficiencies through water conservation; expand or sustain irrigated acreage; increase production of high-value crops; Improve management of irrigation systems; improve interbasin cooperation among all water users	Private for-profit; private nonprofit; governmental entities; tribal entities	State	Ann Kulczyk 406-228-4129 akulczyk@mt.gov	<a href="http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/cardd/resource-development/loan-and-grant-programs-for-irrigation-development">dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/cardd/resource-development/loan-and-grant-programs-for-irrigation-development</a>	Annual, usually in the spring.	Government entities alone - 0%; government entities on behalf of a private entity - 25% cash match from the private entity; private entity alone - 75% cash match.	\$300 minimum, \$20,000 maximum.
DNRC - Rangeland Improvement Loan	Develop and improve private rangeland to benefit natural resources. Typical projects include fencing, seeding, & stock water supply.	Private landowners	State	Stacey Barta 406-594-8481 sbarta@mt.gov	<a href="http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/cardd/conservation-districts/range-improvement-loan-program">http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/cardd/conservation-districts/range-improvement-loan-program</a>	Open cycle	No	Up to \$75,000 @ 1.5% interest for 10 years.

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DNRC - Landscape Scale Restoration (LSR) Grant	Intended for implementation of watershed-level, forest-based projects and activities which address the three State and Private Forestry national themes: conserve and manage working forests; protect forests from threats; and enhance public benefits from private forests.	DNRC is the applicant; may collaborate externally with nonprofit organizations, conservation districts, county and municipal governments, etc. to develop application	Federal	Erik Warrington 406-542-4303 ewarrington@mt.gov	<a href="http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/forestry/forestry-assistance/forest-stewardship/landscape-scale-restoration-competitive-grants">http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/forestry/forestry-assistance/forest-stewardship/landscape-scale-restoration-competitive-grants</a>	Annual, Spring	25% match	\$300,000
DNRC - Montana Tree City of the Year	To recognize communities that demonstrate excellence in urban forestry. This award promotes innovative and significant projects that raise awareness through urban forestry.	Montana communities with designated Tree City USA(tm) status	State	Jamie Kirby 406-542-4288 jamiekirby@mt.gov	<a href="http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/forestry/forestry-assistance/urban-and-community-forestry/urban-and-community-forestry-grants">http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/forestry/forestry-assistance/urban-and-community-forestry/urban-and-community-forestry-grants</a>	Fall	Encouraged but not required.	\$10,000
DNRC - Arbor Day Grant	For the purchase and planting of one or more trees in the celebration of Arbor Day.	Montana communities	State	Jamie Kirby jamiekirby@mt.gov 406-542-4288	<a href="http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/forestry/forestry-assistance/urban-and-community-forestry/urban-and-community-forestry-grants">http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/forestry/forestry-assistance/urban-and-community-forestry/urban-and-community-forestry-grants</a>	Winter	Encouraged but not required.	\$750 for Tree City USA communities, \$300 for all other communities.
DNRC - (forestry) Program Development Grant	To conduct tree inventories, develop an Urban Forest Management Plan, write a Tree Ordinance, or conduct an innovative urban forestry project.	Local governments	Federal	Jamie Kirby jamiekirby@mt.gov 406-542-4288	<a href="http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/forestry/forestry-assistance/urban-and-community-forestry/urban-and-community-forestry-grants">http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/forestry/forestry-assistance/urban-and-community-forestry/urban-and-community-forestry-grants</a>	Fall	100% match required.	\$2,000 to \$10,000
DNRC - Hazardous Fuel Reduction Grant	Hazardous fuel reduction on private lands to protect communities adjacent to National Forest System Lands. USFS prescribed fire activities must be planned to occur within 3 years of the award.	Nonprofit organizations; conservation districts; counties; municipal governments; fire departments, DNRC field staff	Federal	Erik Warrington 406-542-4303 ewarrington@mt.gov	NA	Open cycle	25% match	Up to \$50,000 depending upon availability of funding.
DNRC - Rural Fire Capacity Program Grant	Organize, train and equip local firefighters to prevent and suppress wildfires.	Montana communities under 10,000 in population. Smaller communities may join together in a group and or county effort to submit an application, even if their combined population is over 10,000	Federal	Rhea Blankenship 406-542-4267 rheablankenship@mt.gov	<a href="http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/forestry/fire-and-aviation/fire-grants">http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/forestry/fire-and-aviation/fire-grants</a>	Varies annually	10% non-federal match required.	None
DNRC - Western States Wildland Urban Interface Grant	National Fire Plan funds to mitigate risk from wildland fire within the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI).	DNRC is the applicant. May collaborate externally with nonprofit organizations; conservation districts; counties; etc. to develop applications	Federal	Erik Warrington 542-4303 ewarrington@mt.gov	<a href="http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/forestry/forestry-assistance/forest-stewardship/western-wildland-urban-interface-grant-program">http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/forestry/forestry-assistance/forest-stewardship/western-wildland-urban-interface-grant-program</a>	Annual, Spring	25% match	\$300,000
FWP - Community Ponds Grant	The objective of the Community Pond Program is to enhance fishing opportunities in or near Montana communities by providing funding that may be used to construct or improve public fishing ponds. Preference will be given to projects that create or enhance opportunities for youth/family angling and youth/family angler education.	State government, angler groups, civic organizations, or other community-based organizations can sponsor a project; they must be working with a representative of Fish, Wildlife, & Parks—usually a fisheries biologist	State	Michelle McGree 406-444-2432 mmcgree@mt.gov	<a href="http://fwp.mt.gov/fishAndWildlife/habitat/fish/communityPond/default.html">http://fwp.mt.gov/fishAndWildlife/habitat/fish/communityPond/default.html</a>	February 1 of each year.	Must provide a minimum of 30% match. May use in-kind services.	Limited by availability of funding. Typically, FWP has \$25,000 each year (grant cycle).
FWP - Future Fisheries Grant	Program funding may be provided for costs of design/build, construction, and maintenance of projects that restore, enhance, or protect habitat for wild fishes. Funding cannot be used for administration, coordination, overhead, monitoring, watershed assessments, design alone, or contingency costs. Preference will be given to projects that restore habitats for native fishes.	Any group or individual. FWP strongly recommends applicants consult with their local, FWP fisheries biologist prior to submitting an application	State	Michelle McGree 406-444-2432 mmcgree@mt.gov	<a href="http://fwp.mt.gov/fishAndWildlife/habitat/futureFisheries/default.html">http://fwp.mt.gov/fishAndWildlife/habitat/futureFisheries/default.html</a>	Prior to December 1 and June 1 of each year.	Not required, but strongly encouraged and makes a project more competitive.	Limited by availability of funding. Typically, FWP has from \$150,000 to \$350,000 available (total) for each grant cycle.

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NFWF Grant (various)	NFWF provides funding on a competitive basis to projects that sustain, restore, and enhance our nation's fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats. NFWF manages approximately 70 different grant programs. Many of the programs apply to specific regions of the U.S. Roughly 10 are applicable to some part of Montana.	Federal, state, and local governments, educational institutions, and nonprofit organizations are welcome to apply twice annually for matching grants from NFWF conservation priority programs. For other funding opportunities, application timelines, scope and guidelines vary	Federal/private	Varies by individual grant program. See website for details.	<a href="http://www.nfwf.org/whatwedo/programs/Pages/home.aspx">http://www.nfwf.org/whatwedo/programs/Pages/home.aspx</a>	Varies, but typically annually.	For most grants, a minimum of 1:1.	Varies greatly by individual grant program.
MWCC - Watershed fund	Increase the capacity of local communities to advance community-based, locally led conservation using the Watershed Approach.	MWCC Watershed Partners	Federal/State/Private	Terri Nichols	<a href="https://mtwatersheds.org/app/the-watershed-fund/">https://mtwatersheds.org/app/the-watershed-fund/</a>	Varies	Yes	Varies; Up to \$20,000
SWCDM - Mini-grant Program	Provide a mechanism to improve nonpoint source-related water quality through education and outreach activities at the local level. The priority of the mini-grants is not to sustain current activities, but rather to promote new activities and partnerships.	Governmental Entities and 501c(3) nonprofits	Federal	Stephanie Adams 443-5711 stephanie@macdnet.org	<a href="http://www.macdnet.org">www.macdnet.org</a>	Varies	Yes	\$2,000
FEMA - Hazard Mitigation Grant Program	FEMA offers a variety of disaster assistance programs with different eligibility requirements. HMGP provides funds to states, tribes, and local communities after a disaster declaration to protect public or private property through various mitigation measures. Hazard mitigation includes long-term efforts to reduce the impact of future events.	States; Tribes; Local governments are eligible subapplicants and can sponsor applications on behalf of individuals, businesses and private nonprofits to submit to the applicant	Federal	Sara Hartley (Montana DES) 324-4794 Sara.Hartley@mt.gov	<a href="https://www.fema.gov/hazard-mitigation-grant-program">https://www.fema.gov/hazard-mitigation-grant-program</a>		25%	
FEMA - Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grants	This program awards planning and project grants and provides opportunities for raising public awareness about reducing future losses before disaster strikes. Mitigation planning is a key process used to break the cycle of disaster damage, reconstruction, and repeated damage.	States; Tribes; Local governments are eligible subapplicants and can sponsor applications on behalf of homeowners to submit to the applicant	Federal	Sara Hartley (Montana DES) 324-4794 Sara.Hartley@mt.gov	<a href="https://www.fema.gov/pre-disaster-mitigation-grant-program">https://www.fema.gov/pre-disaster-mitigation-grant-program</a>	Varies; Typically January 31		
USDA, NRCS Agricultural Conservation Easement Program - Agricultural Land Easements (ACEP-ALE)	NRCS provides financial assistance to eligible partners for purchasing Agricultural Land Easements that protect the agricultural use and conservation values of eligible land. In the case of working farms, the program helps farmers and ranchers keep their land in agriculture. The program also protects grazing uses and related conservation values by conserving grassland, including rangeland, pastureland and shrubland. Eligible partners include Indian tribes, state and local governments and non-governmental organizations that have farmland or grassland protection programs.	Land must be enrolled in ACEP-ALE through an eligible land trust. A list of entities eligible to hold ACEP-ALE land easements may be obtained from the following website: <a href="http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/mt/programs/easements/acep/?cid=nrcseprd401007">http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/mt/programs/easements/acep/?cid=nrcseprd401007</a>	Federal	Lisa McCauley, NRCS, 406-587-6970, lisa.mccauley@mt.usda.gov	<a href="https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/easements/acep/">https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/easements/acep/</a>	Annual	Varies	50 to 75% of the fair market value of the land easement.
USDA, NRCS Agricultural Conservation Easement Program - Wetlands Reserve Easements (ACEP-WRE)	NRCS provides technical and financial assistance directly to private landowners and Indian tribes to restore, protect, and enhance wetlands through the purchase of a wetland reserve easement. For acreage owned by an Indian tribe, there is an additional enrollment option of a 30-year contract. Land eligible for wetland reserve easements includes farmed or converted wetland that can be successfully and cost-effectively restored. NRCS will prioritize applications based the easement's potential for protecting and enhancing habitat for migratory birds and other wildlife.	To enroll land through wetland reserve easements, NRCS enters into purchase agreements with eligible private landowners or Indian tribes that include the right for NRCS to develop and implement a wetland reserve restoration easement plan	Federal	Lisa McCauley, NRCS, 406-587-6970, lisa.mccauley@mt.usda.gov	<a href="https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/easements/acep/">https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/easements/acep/</a>	Continuous	Varies	Varies by easement duration and other factors. 50 to 100% of the value of the easement, and 50 to 100% of the cost of restoration work.

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USDA, NRCS Conservation Innovation Grant	Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) is a voluntary program intended to stimulate the development and adoption of innovative conservation approaches and technologies while leveraging Federal investment in environmental enhancement and protection, in conjunction with agricultural production. CIG enables NRCS to work with other public and private entities to accelerate technology transfer and adoption of promising technologies and approaches. Funding comes from the USDA, NRCS, EQIP program.	Non-Federal governmental or non-governmental organizations, Tribes, or individuals	Federal	Erik Suffridge, NRCS, 406-587-6873, Erik.Suffridge@mt.usda.gov	<a href="https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/cig/">https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/cig/</a>	Varies	Varies	Varies
USDA, NRCS Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)	CSP participants will receive an annual land use payment for operation-level environmental benefits they produce. Under CSP, participants are paid for conservation performance: the higher the operational performance, the higher their payment. CSP offers participants two possible types of payments: Annual payment for installing and adopting additional activities, and improving, maintaining, and managing existing activities; Supplemental payment for the adoption of resource-conserving crop rotations.	Landowners and land managers with control of Tribal and/or private agricultural lands and non-industrial private forest land	Federal	Jeanne LaSorte, NRCS, 406-587-6849, Jeanne.LaSorte@mt.usda.gov or contact your local USDA Service Center	<a href="https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/csp/">https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/csp/</a>	Continuous, though annual deadlines exist for application evaluation, ranking and approval. See website for details.	None	Varies
USDA, NRCS Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP)	The Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program responds to emergencies created by natural disasters. It is not necessary for a national emergency to be declared for an area to be eligible for assistance. NRCS provides technical and financial assistance to install measures that reduce post-flood and fire damage. The measures are intended to reduce threats to life or property, retard runoff, restore capacity of waterways, prevent flooding and/or soil erosion and reduce damage from sediment and debris. The removal of debris deposited by the disaster that is a health or safety hazard can be a part of such measures as well. Flood easement option as well.	Units of government with authority under state law to accept financial assistance	Federal	Steve Becker, NRCS, 406-587-6828, steve.becker@mt.usda.gov	<a href="https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/landscape/ewpp/">https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/landscape/ewpp/</a>	As needed.	25% non-federal	Varies
USDA, NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)	The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a voluntary conservation program that helps agricultural producers in a manner that promotes agricultural production and environmental quality as compatible goals. Through EQIP, agricultural producers receive financial and technical assistance to implement structural and management conservation practices that optimize environmental benefits on working agricultural land.	Agricultural producers and owners of non-industrial private forestland and Tribes are eligible to apply for EQIP. Eligible land includes cropland, rangeland, pastureland, non-industrial private forestland and other farm or ranch lands	Federal	Jeanne LaSorte, NRCS, 406-587-6849, Jeanne.LaSorte@mt.usda.gov or contact your local NRCS Field Office	<a href="https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/eqip/">https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/eqip/</a>	Continuous, though annual deadlines exist for application evaluation, ranking and approval. See website for details.	NRCS pays a set rate for installation of practices. The balance must be paid by the producer.	Varies
USDA, NRCS Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)	The Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) promotes coordination between NRCS and its partners to deliver conservation assistance to producers and landowners. NRCS provides assistance to producers through partnership agreements and through program contracts or easement agreements.	Agricultural or silvicultural producer associations, farmer cooperatives or other groups of producers, state or local governments, American Indian tribes, municipal water treatment entities, water and irrigation districts, conservation-driven nongovernmental organizations and institutions of higher education	Federal	Erik Suffridge, NRCS, 406-587-6873, Erik.Suffridge@mt.usda.gov	<a href="https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/rcpp/">https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/rcpp/</a>	Annually	Yes	Varies

## Watershed Funding Opportunities

Prepared by the Montana Watershed Coordination Council (MWCC) and the Natural Resource Grant Working Group - updated 4/8/2020\*

Funding Entity / Program Name	Purpose	Who Can Apply	Funding Type	Program Contact	Program Website	Application Due Dates	Match	Dollar Limits Per Application
USFWS North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) U.S. Standard Grant and U.S. Small Grant	The NAWCA Grants Program is a competitive, matching grants program that supports public-private partnerships carrying out projects in the United States that further the goals of the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA). These projects must involve long-term protection, restoration, and/or enhancement of wetlands and associated uplands habitats for the benefit of all wetlands-associated migratory birds.	Unrestricted	Federal	Contact the Joint Venture Coordinator for your region. <a href="http://www.fws.gov/birds/management/bird-conservation-partnership-and-initiatives/migratory-bird-joint-ventures/joint-venture-directory.php">http://www.fws.gov/birds/management/bird-conservation-partnership-and-initiatives/migratory-bird-joint-ventures/joint-venture-directory.php</a>	<a href="http://www.fws.gov/birds/grants/north-american-wetland-conservation-act.php">http://www.fws.gov/birds/grants/north-american-wetland-conservation-act.php</a>	Annually	Minimum of 1:1.	\$75,000 for Small Grants program; approximately \$1 million for Standard Grants program.

**\*DISCLAIMER:** This table is a work-in-progress, being prepared by the Natural Resource Grant Working Group and the Montana Watershed Coordination Council. The majority of the information contained in this table was obtained directly from funding entity websites and program contacts. Information will be added and updated on a periodic basis. Always contact the funding entity directly for information on current program requirements. The table focuses primarily on publicly-funded programs administered by SWCDM, DNRC, FWP, DEQ, AGR, NRCS, USFWS, MWCC, and NFWF. Other public and private entities have equally valuable programs that watershed groups can actively seek out and participate in. If you have any information regarding programs that should be added or corrections that need to be made, please email Eric Trum at [etrum@mt.gov](mailto:etrum@mt.gov). The following is a partial acronym list for funding entity names: Montana Watershed Coordination Council (MWCC); Soil and Water Conservation Districts of Montana, Inc. (SWCDM); Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC); Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP); Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ); Montana Department of Agriculture (AGR); United States Department of Agriculture (USDA); Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS); United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS); National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF).