



Renewable
Resource
Grant
Stakeholder
Group

Meeting 3

November 30, 2023

1:00 – 3:00 PM

Helena, MT 59601



RRG Strategic Planning

AGENDA

1:00 PM – Welcome

1:15 PM – Renewable Resource Grant Program Comment Summary

1:45 PM –FINAL Renewable Resource Program Guidelines

2:45 PM – Next Steps

3:00 PM – Adjourn

dnrc.mt.gov/Conservation/Grant-and-Loan-Programs/Renewable-Resource-Grants-and-Loans/RRG-Strategic-Planning

[Home](#) / [Conservation](#) / [Grant-and-Loan-Programs](#) / [Renewable-Resource-Grants-and-Loans](#) / [RRG Strategic Planning](#)

Renewable Resource Grant Stakeholder Group

The Renewable Resource Grants Program is seeking input. DNRC's Goals for this process include:

1. To create clear and distinct grant programs that meet the purpose and policies in MCA 85-1-601.
2. To simplify the grant applications and grant administration for the benefit of applicants and DNRC.
3. To engage our stakeholders to ensure that grant programs are meeting the needs of our partners statewide.
4. Improve RRG Program transparency and accountability.

RRG Stakeholder Meeting 3: November 30, 2023 1:00



Welcome!

RRG Stakeholder Group Goals



Clear

Clear and distinct grant programs



Simplify

Simplify grant applications and administration



Engage

Engage stakeholders to benefit statewide partners



Improve

Improve RRG Program transparency and accountability

RRGL Stakeholder Process

Foundation –
Laws & Rules

Framework –
Program
Outlines

Sideboards –
Draft RRGL
Program
Guidelines

Finished
Product – Final
RRGL Program
Guidelines

Meeting 2 Comments

- Sorted by RRG Program Guideline Heading/Section
- Comment
- DNRC Response
- DNRC Action Item

1. Project Grants	1. Purpose	Final stages of completing the update to the Montana Drought Management Plan (Plan), and one of the major recommendations is to "Incorporate drought resilience measures into existing state programs." We are excited about the potential opportunities for achieving this through the RRG Program, and we encourage RRG staff to leverage programs in a way that encourages local entities to build drought resilience.	Thank you. The Reclamation Development Grant Program under Crucial State Need has established a category of grants specifically designed to incorporate drought resilience measures and will fund projects under the drought plan.	Coordination with RDG
1. Project Grants	2. Eligible Applicants	Currently watershed groups and other community-based conservation groups are facing a grant writing climate that requires government or government agency sponsorship prior to applying for funds -or requires government sponsorship to avoid match requirements. We view this as an unreasonable requirement for RRG grants collectively for a number of reasons, first and foremost being a concern that when local governments or agency personnel do not have the capacity to sponsor grants, it may jeopardize the project or watershed group's capacity to move forward at all. MCA 85-1-602 does not appear to limit entities eligible to apply to RRG grants. When governments or agencies are required to sponsor and sponsor in name only, small nonprofits and watershed groups are strapped with all of the grant administration, reporting, and oversight costs. This results in inefficiencies and inequities, because the local government is receiving the administrative allocation, but the nonprofit is doing the work and has to pay for administration with other funding.	MCA 85-1-605 restricts project grants, planning grants and emergency grants to state, local or tribal governments. The other grant programs within RRG, watershed groups and other community based conservation groups are eligible if they meet the definition in ARM 36.17.607. 2) "Applicant" means the following who submit an application under the act, meeting the purposes and policies of the act pursuant to 85-1-601, MCA: (a) a local governmental or state governmental entity eligible under 85-1-605, MCA; (b) a tribal government eligible under 85-1-605, MCA; or (c) a private person that is an individual, association, partnership, corporation, or other governmental entity that is not eligible for loans and grants under 85-1-605, MCA. To clarify further MCA 85-1-602 states the objectives of the grant program.	Final Guidelines
1. Project Grants	2. Eligible Applicants	Requiring government entities to sponsor grants is also potentially duplicative when it comes to financial administration tasks, a poor use of any staff person's time. Heightening the appearance of inequities in distributing RRG funds, we are concerned that Tribal governments have not been involved in the RRG Stakeholder group, when they are eligible for most RRG funding. We request the RRG group to be expanded to include Tribal governments and Tribal natural resources staff if they have not been invited. Additional considerations when requiring local government sponsorship (or local government sponsorship to avoid a required match) include:	DNRC does not "Require" sponsorship from an eligible local government, that is an option for ineligible entities to partner to fund eligible projects. Tribal governments in irrigation as well as infrastructure were invited to participate as stakeholders in the RRG Stakeholder Process.	
1. Project Grants	2. Eligible Applicants	Municipal boundaries do not necessarily align with watershed or other geographic boundaries or watershed natural resources challenges and local governments may be reluctant to engage in planning processes or sponsor grants outside of their administrative boundaries. Watershed groups and other conservation nonprofits on the other hand, DO follow watershed boundaries and can work across administration boundaries with multiple local governments, based on watershed boundaries and resource challenge needs.	Thank you for the comment.	
		Non-government entities often have the staff expertise to design, research,		

one water restoration new group
organizations work apply funding
drought project required
stakeholder projects plan use management
support grant bswc applicants costs funds
strategic time local staff provide conservation
match know grants meeting capacity
wmg program small application eligible
governments planning groups reporting
need requirements government
technical



RENEWABLE
RESOURCE
GRANT
PROGRAM

Final Grant Program Guidelines
2025 Biennium

November 30, 2023

RENEWABLE RESOURCE GRANT AND LOAN PROGRAM – SUMMARY TABLE

RENEWABLE RESOURCE GRANT PROGRAMS 2025 BIENNIUM SUMMARY TABLE

	Eligible Applicants	Eligible Projects	Grant Limits	Match	Eligible Expenses	Funding Cycles	Grant Admin	Apply Online	Program Contact
Project Grants	Local Governments	Infrastructure	\$125,000.00	Not required for local governments	Staff time - project management and grant administration Contracted professional services Contracted construction services Equipment, materials, supplies Project related costs	Applications due May 15, 2024	Award Letter Startup Conditions Grant Agreement Project Kickoff Meeting Progress Meetings Reimburse eligible expenses (date of Award Letter) Quarterly reporting Reimbursement Requests Withhold 10% Final Report	www.grants.dnrc.mt.gov	Lindsay Volpe 406-444-9766 lvolpe@mt.gov
		Irrigation							
		Dams							
		Renewable Energy							
		Restoration							
		Studies							
Planning Grants	Local Governments	Infrastructure PER	\$40,000.00	Not required for local governments	Contracted professional services	MCEP/CDBG Planning Grant Match Cycle – October 2023	Award Letter Grant Agreement Reimbursement 50% with draft document Final reimbursement with final document	www.grants.dnrc.mt.gov	Lindsay Volpe 406-444-9766 lvolpe@mt.gov
		Irrigation PER/ Technical Narrative	\$30,000.00			---			
		PER or Technical Narrative Update	\$20,000.00			Planning Grant Cycle #1 – December 2023 - April 2024 Review and Award January 2024 Review and Award April 2024			
		Resource Services (Plans or Studies)	\$15,000.00			---			
		Watershed Restoration Plan	\$40,000.00			Planning Grant Cycle #2 – September 2024 - December 2024 Review and Award October 2024 Review and Award January 2025			
		Watershed Restoration Project Plan	\$30,000.00			---			
		Technical Assistance	\$3,000.00			Technical Assistance - January 2024			

RENEWABLE RESOURCE GRANT AND LOAN PROGRAM – SUMMARY TABLE

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

RENEWABLE RESOURCE GRANT AND LOAN PROGRAM – SUMMARY TABLE

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



RRG Project Grants

Projects that conserve, manage, develop or protect Montana's renewable resources.

A photograph of two individuals in blue work clothes and hats standing on a metal grate structure in a dry, brushy landscape. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent dark grey box containing text.

Planning Grants \$3,500,000

Funding for professional and technical services necessary to produce a high-quality RRGL project grant application.

Private Grants \$100,000

The renewable resource grants to private entities are available for any water-related project. They promote the conservation, development, and beneficial use of Montana's water resources to secure maximum economic and social prosperity for its citizens.

N W C P
815-265-3265

An aerial photograph of a large dam with multiple spillways. Water is cascading over the spillways, creating a white, frothy appearance. The dam structure is dark and curved, following the shape of the spillways. The background shows a wide expanse of water and some land in the distance.

Emergency Project Grants \$300,000

Grants are available for emergency projects that pose an immediate threat to the beneficial management of a renewable resource and, if delayed, will cause substantial damage or legal liability.



Watershed Management Grants \$500,000

Funding for watershed related planning and management activities.



Municipal Sewer Connections

Eliminate Septic Systems

A yellow Hyundai excavator is positioned on a rocky and sandy shoreline. A person in dark clothing stands near the excavator. The background shows a body of water with some ice or snow, and a line of trees under a cloudy sky. The excavator's arm is raised, and the word "HYUNDAI" is visible on its side.

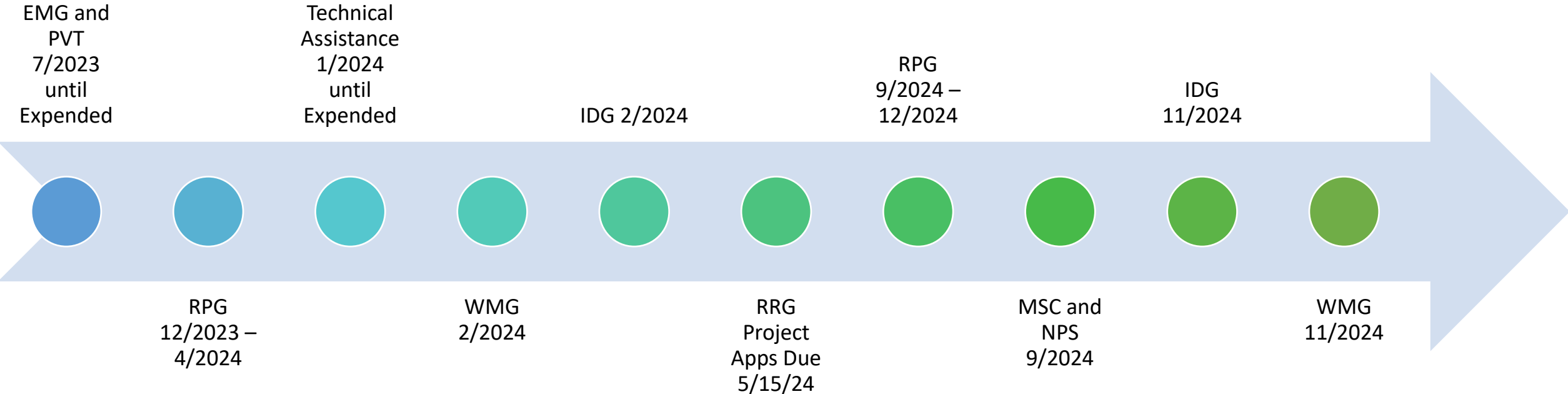
Nonpoint Source Implementation Projects

A map of Montana with various regions highlighted in green and blue. The green areas represent projects that meet both DEQ 319 and RRG requirements, while the blue areas represent projects that meet only DEQ 319 requirements. The map includes labels for geographical features like the Cabinet Mountains, Lewis Range, Absaroka Range, and Big Horn Mountains, as well as cities like Helena and Billings. The state name 'Montana' is also visible in the center.

DEQ 319 Match

- Non-Federal Match Requirements
- DNRC Transfer Funds to DEQ
- DEQ Administer Grants
- DEQ Monitor Projects
- Projects Meet 319 + RRG Requirements

Renewable Resource Grants Timeline



EMG = Emergency Grants
MSC = Municipal Sewer Connection
PVT = Private Grants
WMG = Watershed Management Grants

IDG = Irrigation Development Grants
NPS = Nonpoint Source Implementation
RPG = Planning Grants

MONTANA

DONOR

Thank you!

