

Montana Watershed Planning, Management, and Restoration: Relevant Funding Sources 2022

Source	Description	Project Types	Timing	Funding Caps	Who Can Apply?	URL
FEDERAL SOURCES						
American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)	HB 632 created four commissions with oversight over federal EPA funds, including an "Infrastructure Advisory Commission" which is staffed by the DNRC. This commission assigns \$582 million towards Infrastructure and State/Local Water and Wastewater projects.	Infrastructure Improvements, water planning	Water and Sewer Program accepting apps thru November 1, 2022. (Minimum allocation grants)	Varies	Cities, towns, counties	https://arpa.mt.gov
USBR WaterSMART: Water and Energy Efficiency Grants	The Water and Energy Efficiency Grants of the USBR WaterSMART Program will fund on-the-ground water management improvement projects, including projects to conserve water and address water supply liability.	Water Efficiency	Varies; Current round of applications due July 28 2022	Up to \$500,000 for projects completed within two years; up to \$2 million for projects to be completed within three years, and up to \$5 million for large projects to be completed within three years. Non-Federal Costs Share: 50% or greater.	States, Indian tribes, irrigation districts, water districts, or other organizations with water or power delivery authority. Also includes non-profit conservation organizations partnering with those entities.	https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/index.html
USBR WaterSMART: Drought Resiliency Projects	Funding for on-the-ground projects and modeling tools that will increase water reliability and improve water management.	Drought Resiliency, Water Management	Varies; check website	Up to \$200,000 per year up to two years for Phase 1. Up to \$100,000 per year per project for a two year project for Phase 2. No non-federal cost share required for Phase 1; 50% required for Phase 2.		
USBR WaterSMART: Environmental Resources Projects	Funding for projects that result in quantifiable and sustained water savings and benefit ecological values; water management or infrastructure improvements to mitigate drought-related impacts to ecological values; and watershed management or restoration projects benefiting ecological values that have a nexus to water resources or water resource management.	Ecological restoration that contributes to drought resiliency.	Varies; check website	Up to \$2 million for a project to be completed within three years; up to \$5 million for large projects to be completed within three years. Non-Federal Cost Share: 25-50%		
USBR WaterSMART: Applied Science Grants	Funding for projects that develop hydrologic information and water management tools and to improve modeling and forecasting capabilities.	Data collection and modeling	Varies; check website	Up to \$200,000 per agreement for a project that can be completed within two years. Non-Federal Cost Share: 50% or greater.		

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USBR WaterSMART: Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase 1	Watershed group development, watershed restoration planning, and watershed management project design.	Watershed group capacity, planning, and design	Varies; check website	Up to \$200,000 may be awarded to an applicant per year, for a period of up to two years. NO non-federal cost share required.	States, Indian tribes, irrigation districts, water districts, or other organizations with water or power delivery authority. Also includes non-profit conservation organizations partnering with those entities.	https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/index.html
USBR WaterSMART: Drought Contingency Planning	Funding for developing or updating comprehensive drought plans.	Drought Planning	Varies; check website	Up to \$200,000 per project. Non-Federal Cost Share: 50% or greater.		
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)	FEMA has grant programs that relate to Hazard Mitigation and Preparedness. FEMA currently has a special program called Nature-Based Solutions that includes a “natural infrastructure” component that could be especially relevant to floodplain connectivity projects, which would be funded under the Hazard Mitigation Program.	Natural Infrastructure Floodplain Connectivity Flood Hazard Mitigation	Varies	Varies	State, local or tribal governments	https://www.fema.gov/grants/mitigation
FSA Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)	Land conservation program administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA) . In exchange for a yearly payment, farmers agree to remove environmentally sensitive land from agricultural production. Includes CRPs for grasslands, rivers, wildlife enhancement, and wetlands.	Agricultural lands protection	Varies	Varies; payments generally range from \$10 per acre to nearly \$300 per acre.	Landowners	http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mt
FSA Emergency Conservation Program (ECP)	Helps farmers and ranchers to repair damage to farmlands caused by natural disasters and to help implement methods for water conservation during severe drought	Agricultural lands protection, drought resiliency	Varies	Limited to \$500,000 per person or legal entity per disaster. Cost Share: 10%-25%	Landowners	http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/
NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)	NRCS provides agricultural producers with financial resources and one-on-one help to plan and implement NRCS Conservation Practices.	Agricultural Conservation Practices	Continuous	Varies by program	Private landowners who meet approval requirements	http://www.nrcs.usda.gov
NRCS Montana Focused Conservation: Targeted Implementation Plans (TIPS)	The NRCS has a program called “Montana Focused Conservation” that begins with county-level Long Range Plans. Based on those plans, the NRCS can create Target Implementation Plans (TIPs) to guide project implementation.	High priority resource needs	Varies	Varies	Organized by NRCS	

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NRCS Regional Conservation Partnership Program	The Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCP) promotes coordination between NRCS and its partners to deliver conservation assistance to producers and landowners. Partners, working closely with producers and communities, define and propose projects that will achieve collective natural resource goals while also meeting complementary local conservation priorities.	Agricultural Conservation Practices	Varies	Varies	Some of the eligible partners are producer associations, state or local governments, and water and irrigation districts.	
NRCS Wetlands Reserve Enhancement Partnership (WREP)	WREP offers landowners the means to restore, enhance, and protect wetlands on their property through permanent easements. The NRCS also provides technical and financial assistance to private landowners and Indian tribes to restore, protect, and enhance wetlands through the purchase of a wetland reserve easement.	Wetland protection, restoration, enhancement	Continual	Varies	Landowners Much of east-central Montana is prioritized as part of a Greater Sage Grouse Landscape Conservation Initiative	http://www.nrcs.usda.gov
US Fish and Wildlife Service State Wildlife Grant Program (SWG)	The State Wildlife Grants program provides federal grant funds for developing and implementing programs that benefit wildlife and their habitats, including species not hunted or fished. Priority is placed on projects that benefit species of greatest conservation need. The funds must be used to address needs identified within a State's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan/Strategy.	Wildlife habitat		Varies: \$992 K allocated to Montana for FY 2022	State entities	https://www.fws.gov/program/state-wildlife-grants
USDA Rural Development	The USDA Rural Development Program invests in businesses and infrastructure in Montana. In April of 2022 the USDA announced an \$800 million investment into climate-smart infrastructure in forty states, which includes funding for Montana's rural small business to purchase and install renewable energy systems and make energy efficiency improvements.	Climate smart infrastructure, Energy efficiency				http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services
STATE SOURCES						
DEQ/SWCDM Ranching for Rivers	Funding for riparian pasture management for improvement of fish habitat, instream flows, and riparian areas	Fencing materials, off-site water infrastructure, and grazing management plans	Applications accepted on a rolling basis; check website	Cost share covers up to 50% of a project	Private Landowners, Conservations Districts and Watershed Groups Priority given where a DEQ approved Watershed Restoration Plan has been completed	https://swcdm.org/programs/r4r/ https://swcdm.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/7/2021/01/R4R_Overview2021.pdf

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DNRC HB223 Grants	Funding for Conservation District projects	Any CD- sponsored project.	Biannual-- fall and spring	\$20,000 for on-the-ground projects/\$10,000 for education projects	Conservation Districts	
DNRC Irrigation Development Grants	Projects typically address irrigation efficiency, expansion of irrigated acreage, improved production, improved management, and/or improved inter-basin cooperation among water users.	Irrigation	Varies: Check with Program Manager	\$300-\$20,000 Private individuals are eligible for 50% of project costs up to a program maximum of \$20K.	Private for-profit, non-profit, governmental and Tribal entities	
DNRC Reclamation and Development Grants (RDG) Planning Grants Project Grants	Projects that repair, reclaim, and mitigate environmental damage to public resources from non-renewable resource extraction. Also funds projects that protect Montana's environment and ensure the quality of public resources for the benefit of all Montanans. Planning grants are available to prepare the project grant application.	Mining impacts, public resource protection	Planning Grants: Spring Project Grants: May 15th of even numbered years	Planning Grants: up to \$50,000 Project Grants: up to \$500,000	Local government, counties, tribes, and conservation districts.	http://dnrc.mt.gov/grants-and-loans
DNRC Renewable Resource Grants (RRGL) Planning Grants Project Grants	Projects that conserve, manage, develop, or protect Montana's renewable resources. Planning grants are available to prepare the project grant application.	Renewable resource conservation, management, development, or preservation	Planning Grants: Cycles updated quarterly Project Grants: May 15th of even numbered years	Planning Grants: up to \$15,000 Project Grants: up to \$125,000	State, local, or tribal government entities, conservation districts, irrigation districts.	
DNRC Watershed Management Grant	Watershed planning and management activities that conserve, develop, manage, or preserve Montana's renewable resources and/or support the implementation and development of the Montana State Water Plan.	Watershed planning	April	\$35,000	Local, state, and tribal government entities.	
DEQ-SWCDM Mini Grants	Water quality related outreach and education	Water quality related outreach and education	Annually	\$3,000	Governmental entities or a nonprofit organization	https://swcdm.org/programs/mini-grants/
FWP Future Fisheries	For more than a decade, FWP's Future Fisheries Improvement Program (FFIP) has worked to restore rivers, streams and lakes to improve and restore Montana's wild fish habitats. Funding is for on-the-ground projects.	Fisheries, aquatic habitat	May and November of each year.	Limited by availability, typically there are 10-20 applications per cycle with ~\$300,000 available.	Any group or individual. Should include consultation with local FWP biologist.	https://fwp.mt.gov/ffip

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Montana Department of Environmental Quality 319	The Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) 319 grant program funds projects related to watershed restoration and education/outreach. DEQ issues a Call for Grant Applications every year under Section 319(h) of the Federal Clean Water Act (CWA).	Addresses non-point-source (NPS) pollution in waterbodies listed as impaired.	Annually in the fall	\$300,000 per project	Governmental entities or a nonprofit organization; watersheds must have DEQ-accepted Watershed Restoration Plan	https://deq.mt.gov
OTHER SOURCES						
National Wildlife Foundation (Private non-profit)	The NWF funds projects that sustain, restore, and enhance the nation's fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats. Several programs are available for Montana	Habitat	Typically annually	Varies	Federal, state, and local governments, educational institutions, non-profits	https://www.nfwf.org/programs
Monitoring Montana Waters: Flathead Lake Biological Station	FLBS program that provides scientific expertise and guidance to citizen-led watershed monitoring groups.	Citizen water quality monitoring	Annually on March 1st	Varies	Watershed groups with approved SAPs or SOPs	https://flbs.umt.edu/newflbs/outreach/mmw/monitoring-montana-waters/
Cinnabar Foundation Special Projects Grants	Funding for programs, projects, and campaigns that address issues related to climate action, conservation, public lands, sustainable agriculture, water quality, fisheries.	A wide range of natural resource conservation projects	Varies; contact grant manager	\$1,000 to \$15,000 50% match required	Non-Profits that serve Montana or the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem.	https://www.thecinnabarfoundation.org/special-project-grants.html