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

| Funding Entity /<br>Program Name                                                     | Purpose Purpose                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Who Can Apply                                                                                                                   | Funding<br>Type            | Program Contact                                         | Program Website                                                                      | Application Due<br>Dates      | Match                                                                                           | Dollar Limits Per<br>Application                                                                                             |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| AGR - Noxious<br>Weed Trust Fund<br>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<br>landowners eligible to do business in<br>Montana                                             | State                      | Greta Dige<br>greta.dige@mt.gov<br>406-444-7882         | http://agr.mt.gov/agr/Programs/Development/GrantsLoans/TrustFund/orwww.mtfunding.org | Annually                      | Local Cooperative projects require a 50% cost-share for herbicides and commercial applications. | \$75,000                                                                                                                     |
| DEQ - Department of<br>Environmental<br>Quality / 319<br>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<br>Kristy.Fortman@mt.gov<br>406-444-7425 | http://www.deq.mt.gov/wqinfo/nonpoint/319Gr<br>ants.mcpx                             | Annually in the fall.         | Yes                                                                                             | Up to \$300,000 per project.                                                                                                 |
| DEQ - Drinking<br>Water State<br>Revolving Fund<br>(DWSRF) Loan<br>Program           | Drinking water projects which achieve or maintain compliance with the Federal Safe<br>Drinking Water Act. All projects anticipating the use of SRF funding must be included<br>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,<br>20% State. | Mark Smith<br>marks@mt.gov<br>406-444-5325              | http://deq.mt.gov/wqinfo/srf/DWSRF/default.m<br>cpx                                  | Open cycle.                   | No                                                                                              | 100% of eligible project costs can be borrowed-planning costs covered; ability to repay loan must be shown.                  |
| DEQ - Volunteer<br>Monitoring<br>Laboratory Analysis<br>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<br>kmkarowski@mt.gov<br>406-444-3507   | http://www.deq.mt.gov/wqinfo/nonpoint/nonpoi<br>ntsourceprogram.mcpx                 | First come-first serve basis. | No                                                                                              | \$3,000                                                                                                                      |
| DEQ - Water<br>Pollution Control<br>State Revolving<br>Fund (WPCSRF)<br>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-<br>municipalities and private entities for<br>nonpoint source projects                  | 83% Federal,<br>17% State. | Mike Abrahamson<br>MAbrahamson@mt.gov<br>406-444-6776   | http://www.deq.mt.gov/wqinfo/srf/WPCSRF/de<br>fault.mcpx                             | Open cycle.                   | No                                                                                              | 100% of eligible project costs can be borrowed-planning costs covered; ability to repay loan must be shown.                  |
| DNRC - "HB223"<br>Grant                                                              | Provide funding for conservation district projects.                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Conservation districts                                                                                                          | State                      | Linda Brander<br>LLBrander@mt.gov<br>406-444-0520       | www.dnrc.mt.gov/grants-and-loans                                                     | Quarterly                     | Sometimes                                                                                       | \$20,000 for on-the-<br>ground projects/<br>\$10,000 for<br>education projects;<br>over \$20,000 if 50:50<br>match provided. |
| DNRC -<br>Conservation District<br>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<br>406-444-6669<br>Izeller@mt.gov         | www.dnrc.mt.gov/grants-and-loans                                                     | Quarterly                     | No                                                                                              | \$10,000                                                                                                                     |
| DNRC -Conservation<br>District<br>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<br>406-444-6669,<br>Izeller@mt.gov        | www.dnrc.mt.gov/grants-and-loans                                                     | Annual                        | No                                                                                              | Based on financial need.                                                                                                     |
| DNRC - Pollinator<br>Grant                                                           | Provide funding for conservation districts to improve pollinator habitat.                                                                                                                                                                                       | Conservation districts                                                                                                          | State                      | Mary Hendrix<br>444-4253<br>Mary.Hendrix@mt.gov         | www.dnrc.mt.gov/grants-and-loans                                                     | Open cycle                    | No                                                                                              | \$500 minimum<br>\$15,000 maximum                                                                                            |
| DNRC -Conservation<br>Education Mini-grant<br>Program                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Conservation districts; projects from other organizations if the project is approved and sponsored by the conservation district | State                      | Linda Brander<br>406-444-0520<br>LLBrander@mt.gov       | www.dnrc.mt.gov/grants-and-loans                                                     | Quarterly                     | No                                                                                              | \$100 minimum<br>\$500 maximum                                                                                               |

# **Watershed Funding Opportunities**

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| Funding Entity / Program Name                              | Purpose                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Who Can Apply                                                                                                                                                        | Funding<br>Type | Program Contact                                               | Program Website                                                                                                                                                    | Application Due<br>Dates             | Match                                        | Dollar Limits Per<br>Application                                                                                                                                 |
|------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| DNRC - Watershed<br>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<br>entities. Private entities that provide a cost<br>share of 75% in in-kind services and/or<br>cash                             | State           | Jorri Dyer<br>444-6839<br>Jorri.Dyer2@mt.gov                  | http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/cardd/resource-<br>development/renewable-resource-grant-<br>program/watershed-management-grant-<br>program                            | April 17, 2016.                      | No for government entities, yes for private. | \$20,000                                                                                                                                                         |
| DNRC - Renewable<br>Resource Planning<br>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<br>444-9766<br>Imvolpe@mt.gov                   | http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/cardd/resource-<br>development/renewable-resource-grant-<br>program                                                                   | May 15th in even-<br>numbered years. | No                                           | \$10,000 for<br>Preliminary<br>Engineering/Technic<br>al Investigation and<br>Feasibility; \$5,000 for<br>administrative/<br>\$50,000 for<br>Watershed Planning. |
| DNRC - Reclamation<br>and Development<br>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 Folnagy 444<br>6691<br>handersonfolnagy@mt.gov | http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/cardd/resource-<br>development/reclamation-and-development-<br>grants-program/reclamation-and-development-<br>planning-grants-program | Fall                                 | Yes, must be<br>non-state<br>funds.          | \$50,000                                                                                                                                                         |
| DNRC - Reclamation<br>and Development<br>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<br>entities                                                                                                                      | State           | Heidi Anderson Folnagy 444<br>6691<br>handersonfolnagy@mt.gov | http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/cardd/resource-<br>development/reclamation-and-development-<br>grants-program                                                         | May 15th in even-<br>numbered years. | Yes, must be<br>non-state<br>funds.          | \$500,000                                                                                                                                                        |
| DNRC - Renewable<br>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<br>444-9766<br>Imvolpe@mt.gov                   | http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/cardd/resource-<br>development/renewable-resource-grant-<br>program                                                                   | May 15th in even-<br>numbered years. | No                                           | \$125,000                                                                                                                                                        |
| DNRC - Renewable<br>Resource<br>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<br>444 2951<br>dclarson@mt.gov                   | http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/cardd/resource-<br>development/renewable-resource-grant-<br>program/renewable-resource-emergency-<br>grants-and-loans                 | Open cycle                           | No                                           | \$30,000 per project.                                                                                                                                            |
| DNRC - Renewable<br>Resource Grants to<br>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<br>444-0552<br>shoeglund@mt.gov                | http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/cardd/resource-<br>development/renewable-resource-grant-<br>program/renewable-resource-grants-to-private-<br>entities                 |                                      | Yes                                          | \$5,000 or 25% of the project cost, whichever is less.                                                                                                           |
| DNRC - Renewable<br>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<br>444-9766<br>Imvolpe@mt.gov                   | http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/cardd/resource-<br>development/renewable-resource-grant-<br>program                                                                   | May 15th in even-<br>numbered years. | No                                           | Limited by the applicant's debt capacity.                                                                                                                        |
| DNRC - Renewable<br>Resource<br>Emergency Loan             | 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;<br>conservation districts; irrigation districts;<br>water and sewer districts                                               | State           | David Larson<br>444 2951<br>dclarson@mt.gov                   | http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/cardd/resource-<br>development/renewable-resource-grant-<br>program/renewable-resource-emergency-<br>grants-and-loans                 | Open cycle                           | No                                           | Up to \$10 million in emergency loan financing each biennium. Amount of each loan limited by applicant's bonded debt capacity. Loan term limited to 20 years.    |

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|-----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| DNRC - Renewable<br>Resource Loans to<br>Private Entities | Private water development projects. For example, irrigation system improvements for conversion from flood to sprinkler irrigation.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Private entities                                                                                                                                                      | State           | Bill Herbolich<br>406-444-6686<br>Wherbolich@mt.gov    | http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/cardd/resource-<br>development/renewable-resource-grant-<br>program/renewable-resource-loans-to-private-<br>entities | 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<br>Invasive Species<br>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<br>subdivisions. Non-profits may be eligible<br>for technical service contracts                                       | State           | Stephanie Criswell<br>scriswell@mt.gov<br>406-444-0547 | http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/cardd/resource-<br>development/aquatic-invasive-species                                                              | March 15, 2016,<br>though off-cycle<br>grants may be<br>considered based on<br>funding and need. | Encouraged<br>but not<br>required.                                                                                                                                           | Up to \$50,000 for most projects.                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| DNRC - Irrigation<br>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;<br>governmental entities; tribal entities                                                                                      | State           | Ann Kulczyk<br>406-228-4129<br>akulczyk@mt.gov         | dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/cardd/resource-<br>development/loan-and-grant-programs-for-<br>irrigation-development                                       | 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; private entity alone 75% cash match. | \$300 minimum,<br>\$20,000 maximum.                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| DNRC - Rangeland<br>Improvement Loan                      | Develop and improve private rangeland to benefit natural resources. Typical projects include fencing, seeding, & stock water supply.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Private landowners                                                                                                                                                    | State           | Stacey Barta<br>406-594-8481<br>sbarta@mt.gov          | http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/cardd/conservation-<br>districts/range-improvement-loan-program                                                      | Open cycle                                                                                       | No                                                                                                                                                                           | Up to \$75,000 @<br>1.5% interest for 10<br>years.                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| DNRC - Landscape<br>Scale Restoration<br>(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<br>406-542-4303<br>ewarrington@mt.gov  | http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/forestry/forestry-<br>assistance/forest-stewardship/landscape-<br>scale-restoration-competitive-grants               | Annual, Spring                                                                                   | 25% match                                                                                                                                                                    | \$300,000                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| DNRC - Montana<br>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<br>Tree City USA(tm) status                                                                                                       | State           | Jamie Kirby<br>406-542-4288<br>jamiekirby@mt.gov       | http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/forestry/forestry-<br>assistance/urban-and-community-<br>forestry/urban-and-community-forestry-grants                | Fall                                                                                             | Encouraged<br>but not<br>required.                                                                                                                                           | \$10,000                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| DNRC - Arbor Day<br>Grant                                 | For the purchase and planting of one or more trees in the celebration of Arbor Day.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Montana communities                                                                                                                                                   | State           | Jamie Kirby<br>jamiekirby@mt.gov<br>406-542-4288       | http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/forestry/forestry-<br>assistance/urban-and-community-<br>forestry/urban-and-community-forestry-grants                | Winter                                                                                           | Encouraged<br>but not<br>required.                                                                                                                                           | \$750 for Tree City USA communities, \$300 for all other communities.                                                                                                                                                               |
| DNRC - (forestry)<br>Program<br>Development Grant         | To conduct tree inventories, develop an Urban Forest Management Plan, write a<br>Tree Ordinance, or conduct an innovative urban forestry project.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Local governments                                                                                                                                                     | Federal         | Jamie Kirby<br>jamiekirby@mt.gov<br>406-542-4288       | http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/forestry/forestry-<br>assistance/urban-and-community-<br>forestry/urban-and-community-forestry-grants                | Fall                                                                                             | 100% match required.                                                                                                                                                         | \$2,000 to \$10,000                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |

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|---------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| DNRC - Hazardous<br>Fuel Reduction Gran                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Nonprofit organizations; conservation districts; counties; municipal governments; fire departments, DNRC field staff                                                                                                                                                             | Federal                   | Erik Warrington<br>406-542-4303<br>ewarrington@mt.gov              | NA                                                                                                                                  | Open cycle                                         | 25% match                                                                                  | Up to \$50,000<br>depending upon<br>availability of<br>funding.                                                                              |
| DNRC - Rural Fire<br>Capacity Program<br>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<br>406-542-4267<br>rheablankenship@mt.go<br>V     | http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/forestry/fire-and-<br>aviation/fire-grants                                                             | Varies annually                                    | 10% non-<br>federal match<br>required.                                                     | None                                                                                                                                         |
| DNRC - Western<br>States Wildland<br>Urban Interface<br>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<br>542-4303<br>ewarrington@mt.gov                  | http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/forestry/forestry-<br>assistance/forest-stewardship/western-<br>wildland-urban-interface-grant-program | Annual, Spring                                     | 25% match                                                                                  | \$300,000                                                                                                                                    |
| FWP - Community<br>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<br>406-444-2432<br>mmcgree@mt.gov                  | http://fwp.mt.gov/fishAndWildlife/habitat/fish/co<br>mmunityPond/default.html                                                       | February 1 of each<br>year.                        |                                                                                            | Limited by availability<br>of funding. Typically,<br>FWP has \$25,000<br>each year (grant<br>cycle).                                         |
| FWP - Future<br>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<br>406-444-2432<br>mmcgree@mt.gov                  | http://fwp.mt.gov/fishAndWildlife/habitat/fish/fut<br>ureFisheries/default.html                                                     | Prior to December 1<br>and June 1 of each<br>year. | Not required,<br>but strongly<br>encouraged<br>and makes a<br>project more<br>competitive. | Limited by availability<br>of funding. Typically,<br>FWP has from<br>\$150,000 to<br>\$350,000 available<br>(total) for each grant<br>cycle. |
| NFWF Grant<br>(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/<br>private       | Varies by individual grant<br>program. See website for<br>details. | http://www.nfwf.org/whatwedo/programs/Page<br>s/home.aspx                                                                           | Varies, but typically<br>annually.                 | For most<br>grants, a<br>minimum of<br>1:1.                                                | Varies greatly by<br>individual grant<br>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/<br>Private | Terri Nichols                                                      | https://mtwatersheds.org/app/the-watershed-<br>fund/                                                                                | Varies                                             | Yes                                                                                        | Varies; Up to<br>\$20,000                                                                                                                    |
| SWCDM - Mini-gran<br>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<br>443-5711<br>stephanie@macdnet.org               | www.macdnet.org                                                                                                                     | Varies                                             | Yes                                                                                        | \$2,000                                                                                                                                      |

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| Funding Entity /<br>Program Name                                                                | Purpose                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Who Can Apply                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Funding<br>Type | Program Contact                                                                                                       | Program Website                                                                      | Application Due<br>Dates                                                                                                            | Match               | Dollar Limits Per<br>Application                                                                                                        |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| FEMA - Hazard<br>Mitigation Grant<br>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)<br>324-4794<br>Sara.Hartley@mt.gov                                                         | https://www.fema.gov/hazard-mitigation-grant-<br>program                             |                                                                                                                                     | 25%                 |                                                                                                                                         |
| FEMA - Pre-Disaster<br>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)<br>324-4794<br>Sara.Hartley@mt.gov                                                         | https://www.fema.gov/pre-disaster-mitigation-<br>grant-program                       | Varies; Typically<br>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: http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/mt/programs/easements/acep/?cid=nrcseprd401007 | Federal         | Lisa McCauley, NRCS, 406-<br>587-6970,<br>lisa.mccauley@mt.usda.gov                                                   | https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/mai<br>n/national/programs/easements/acep/ | Annual                                                                                                                              | Varies              | 50 to 75% of the fair<br>market value of the<br>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-<br>587-6970,<br>lisa.mccauley@mt.usda.gov                                                   | https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/mai<br>n/national/programs/easements/acep/ | 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. |
| USDA, NRCS<br>Conservation<br>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-<br>governmental organizations, Tribes, or<br>individuals                                                                                                                                                                                | Federal         | Erik Suffridge, NRCS, 406-<br>587-6873,<br>Erik.Suffridge@mt.usda.gov                                                 | https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/mai<br>n/national/programs/financial/cig/  | Varies                                                                                                                              | Varies              | Varies                                                                                                                                  |
| USDA, NRCS<br>Conservation<br>Stewardship<br>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<br>control of Tribal and/or private agricultural<br>lands and non-industrial private forest land                                                                                                                                       | Federal         | Jeanne LaSorte, NRCS, 406<br>587-6849,<br>Jeanne.LaSorte@mt.usda.g<br>ov or contact your local<br>USDA Service Center | https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/mai<br>n/national/programs/financial/csp/  | Continuous, though<br>annual deadlines<br>exist for application<br>evaluation, ranking<br>and approval. See<br>website for details. | None                | Varies                                                                                                                                  |
| USDA, NRCS<br>Emergency<br>Watershed<br>Protection Program<br>(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. |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Federal         | Steve Becker, NRCS, 406-<br>587-6828,<br>steve.becker@mt.usda.gov                                                     | https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/mai<br>n/national/programs/landscape/ewpp/ | As needed.                                                                                                                          | 25% non-<br>federal | 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<br>Type | Program Contact                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Program Website                                                                      | Application Due<br>Dates                                                                                                            | Match                                                                                                           | Dollar Limits Per<br>Application                                                                      |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| USDA, NRCS<br>Environmental<br>Quality Incentives<br>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-<br>industrial private forestland and Tribes are<br>eligible to apply for EQIP. Eligible land<br>includes cropland, rangeland, pastureland,<br>non-industrial private forestland and other<br>farm or ranch lands                                                            | Federal         | Jeanne LaSorte, NRCS, 406<br>587-6849,<br>Jeanne.LaSorte@mt.usda.g<br>ov or contact your local<br>NRCS Field Office                                                                                                         | https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/mai<br>n/national/programs/financial/eqip/ | Continuous, though<br>annual deadlines<br>exist for application<br>evaluation, ranking<br>and approval. See<br>website for details. | NRCS pays a<br>set rate for<br>installation of<br>practices. The<br>balance must<br>be paid by the<br>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-<br>587-6873,<br>Erik.Suffridge@mt.usda.gov                                                                                                                                                       | https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/mai<br>n/national/programs/financial/rcpp/ | Annually                                                                                                                            | Yes                                                                                                             | Varies                                                                                                |
| USFWS North<br>American Wetlands<br>Conservation Act<br>(NAWCA) U.S.<br>Standard Grant and<br>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<br>Coordinator for your region.<br>http://www.fws.gov/birds/ma<br>nagement/bird-conservation-<br>partnership-and-<br>initiatives/migratory-bird-joint<br>ventures/joint-venture-<br>directory.php | http://www.fws.gov/birds/grants/north-<br>american-wetland-conservation-act.php      | Annually                                                                                                                            | Minimum of<br>1:1.                                                                                              | \$75,000 for Small<br>Grants program;<br>approximately \$1<br>million for Standard<br>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. 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).