

HOUSE BILL NO. 7

INTRODUCED BY J. FITZPATRICK

BY REQUEST OF THE OFFICE OF BUDGET AND PROGRAM PLANNING

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECLAMATION AND DEVELOPMENT GRANTS PROGRAM; APPROPRIATING MONEY TO THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION FOR GRANTS UNDER THE RECLAMATION AND DEVELOPMENT GRANTS PROGRAM; PRIORITIZING PROJECT GRANTS AND AMOUNTS; ESTABLISHING CONDITIONS FOR GRANTS; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

**NEW SECTION. Section 1. Appropriations for reclamation and development grants.** (1) There is appropriated up to ~~\$1.5 million~~ TO \$750,000 from the natural resources projects state special revenue account established in 15-38-302 to the department of natural resources and conservation for grants for planning reclamation and development projects to be awarded by the department over the course of the biennium beginning July 1, 2025.

~~(2) — There is appropriated up to \$5.3 million from the natural resources projects state special revenue account established in 15-38-302 to the department of natural resources and conservation for grants for pilot water storage planning and projects to be awarded by the department over the course of the biennium beginning July 1, 2025.~~

~~(3)~~(2) There is appropriated ~~\$7,110,975~~ ~~\$3,774,208~~ \$5,523,260 from the natural resources projects state special revenue account established in 15-38-302 to the department of natural resources and conservation for grants to political subdivisions and local governments during the biennium beginning July 1, 2025. The funds in this subsection ~~(3)~~ (2) must be awarded by the department to the named entities for the described purposes and in the grant amounts set out in subsection ~~(5)~~ (4) subject to the conditions set forth in [sections 2 and 3] and the contingencies described in the reclamation and development grants program report to the 69th legislature titled: "Governor's Executive Budget Fiscal Years 2026–2027 Volume 5".

(4)(3) Funds must be awarded up to the amounts approved in this section in the order of priority listed in subsection (5) (4) until the available funds are expended. Funds not accepted or used by higher-ranked projects must be provided for projects farther down the priority list that would not otherwise receive funding. After all eligible projects are funded, any remaining funds may be used for any reclamation and development project authorized under this section.

(5)(4) The prioritized grant applicants and projects are as follows:

Rank	Applicant/Project	Amount
1	Powell County	
	Upper Little Blackfoot Watershed Mine Reclamation Project	\$495,123
2	Lewis and Clark County	
	Upper Blackfoot Mining Complex Water Treatment Plant Upgrades	\$479,085
3	Montana Department of Environmental Quality	
	DEQ Landusky Biological Treatment Plant Improvement	\$500,000
4	Powell County	
	Milwaukee Roundhouse Soil Remediation Phase 2	\$500,000
5	Cooke Pass, Cooke City, Silver Gate Sewer District	
	Cooke City Wastewater System	\$500,000
6	Beaverhead Conservation District	
	Elkhorn Mine and Mill Remedy and Restoration	\$300,000
7	DNRC Water Resources Division	
	<del>DNRC Painted Rocks Dam Rehabilitation Phase 1</del>	
	<u>DNRC WILLOW CREEK DAM REHABILITATION</u>	<u>\$500,000</u>
8	DNRC Water Resources Division	
	DNRC East Fork of Rock Creek Dam Rehabilitation	\$500,000
9	Montana Department of Environmental Quality	
	DEQ CR Kendall Mine Long-Term Seep Water Management	\$290,352
10	Ruby Valley Conservation District	
	Upper Ruby River Habitat Rehabilitation Demonstration	\$458,700

1	11	DNRC Water Resources Division	
2		<del>DNRC Willow Creek Dam Rehabilitation</del>	
3		<u>PAINTED ROCKS DAM REHABILITATION PHASE I</u>	\$500,000
4	12	<del>Granite County</del>	
5		<del>Flint Creek Watershed Resiliency and Drought Mitigation</del>	<del>\$300,000</del>
6	13 12	Milk River Joint Board of Control	
7		Milk River Joint Board of Control Fresno Dam and Spillway Rehabilitation Project	\$500,000
8	14 13	Glasgow, City of	
9		Glasgow Levee Improvements	\$243,445
10	15 14	Forsyth, City of	
11		Forsyth Slaughterhouse Creek Flood Mitigation	\$500,000
12	16 15	DNRC Water Resources Division	
13		DNRC Front Range Flood Preparedness	\$310,000
14	17 16	Montana Technological University	
15		Phytomining Remediation and Minerals Recovery Demonstration	\$234,270

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17 NEW SECTION. **Section 2. Coordination of fund sources for grants to political subdivisions**

18 **and local governments.** A grant recipient listed under ~~[section 1(5)]~~ [SECTION 1(4)] may not receive funds from

19 both the reclamation and development grants program and the renewable resource grant and loan program for

20 the same project during the same biennium.

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22 NEW SECTION. **Section 3. Condition of grants.** The disbursement of funds under [section 1] is

23 subject to the following conditions that must be met by the grant recipient:

24 (1) The grant recipient must have a scope of work, schedule, and budget for the project that is

25 approved by the department of natural resources and conservation. Any changes in scope of work or budget

26 subsequent to legislative approval may not alter project goals and objectives. Changes in activities that would

27 reduce the public or natural resource benefits as presented in department of natural resources and

28 conservation reports and applicant testimony to the 69th legislature may result in a proportional reduction in the

1 grant amount.

2 (2) The grant recipient shall document that other matching funds required for the completion of the  
3 project are firmly committed.

4 (3) The grant recipient must have a project management plan that clearly outlines the roles of  
5 participating entities and that is approved by the department of natural resources and conservation.

6 (4) The grant recipient shall comply with the auditing and reporting requirements provided for in 2-  
7 7-503 and establish a financial accounting system that the department can reasonably ensure conforms to  
8 generally accepted accounting principles. Tribal governments shall comply with the auditing and reporting  
9 requirements provided for in 2 CFR 200.

10 (5) The grant recipient shall submit documentation to the department demonstrating satisfactory  
11 completion of the conditions of described in the recommendation section of the project narrative of the program  
12 report to the legislature for the biennium ending June 30, 2027, or, in the case of planning grants issued under  
13 [section 1(1)], complete the conditions specified at the time of written notification of the approved grant  
14 authority.

15 (6) The grant recipient shall execute a grant agreement with the department of natural resources  
16 and conservation.

17 (7) Any other specific requirements considered necessary by the department must be met to  
18 accomplish the purpose of the grant as evidenced from the application to the department or from the proposal  
19 as presented to the legislature.

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21 NEW SECTION. Section 4. Appropriations established. There is appropriated to any entity of state  
22 government that receives a grant under [section 1] the amount of the grant upon award of the grant by the  
23 department of natural resources and conservation. Grants to entities from prior biennia are reauthorized for the  
24 completion of contract work.

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26 NEW SECTION. Section 5. Approval of grants -- completion of biennial appropriation. The  
27 legislature, pursuant to 90-2-1111, approves the reclamation and development grants listed in [section 1]. The  
28 authorization of these grants constitutes a biennial appropriation from the natural resources projects state

special revenue account established in 15-38-302.

**NEW SECTION. Section 6. Notification to tribal governments.** The secretary of state shall send a copy of [this act] to each federally recognized tribal government in Montana.

**NEW SECTION. Section 7. Coordination instruction.** (1) If both [this act] and an act that provides additional funding for reclamation and development grants from a source other than the natural resources projects state special revenue account established in 15-38-302 are passed and approved, the projects listed in ~~[section 1(5) of this act]~~ [SECTION 1(4) OF THIS ACT] that do not receive funding from the appropriations in ~~[section 1(3) of this act]~~ IN [SECTION 1(2) OF THIS ACT] may receive funding from the appropriation in the other act designated for reclamation and development grants as follows:

(a) in the order of completion of the conditions of [section 3 of this act]; and

(b) to the extent that there is appropriation authority available.

(2) If both [section 1(1)(b) of House Bill No. 6] and [section 1(1) of this act] are passed and approved and if all of the ~~\$1.5 million~~ \$750,000 in grant funds authorized in [section 1(1) of this act] are not expended for planning reclamation and development projects by the end of the biennium, then projects eligible for funding under [section 1(1)(b) of House Bill No. 6] are eligible to apply for funding under [section 1(1) of this act] for renewable resource project planning grants.

**NEW SECTION. Section 8. Severability.** If a part of [this act] is invalid, all valid parts that are severable from the invalid part remain in effect. If a part of [this act] is invalid in one or more of its applications, the part remains in effect in all valid applications that are severable from the invalid applications.

**NEW SECTION. Section 9. Effective date.** [This act] is effective July 1, 2025.

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