

## **Autumn Coleman**

Arpa.mt.gov look for links to grant applications coming soon. Department of Commerce hiring technical assistance teams to help communities apply. Competitive Grants due July 15, multiple rounds. Limit \$25 million per project. Must bring match. Ranked based on health/safety, affordability, conservation, and readiness to proceed plus match. Minimum allocation grants – city, town, county only. Must be a water & sewer infrastructure project. See the Drinking Water SRF and Clean Water SRF programs for eligibility.

Sage Grouse – Carolyn Sime has left DNRC for a job with USFWS. Her position is currently being recruited.

CD Program Manager – being recruited currently. The title of program manager is as a result of the recent statewide reclassification effort. Program Managers are essentially supervisors and bureau chiefs. After the Program Manager is hired, they will be in charge of the outreach and targeted hiring efforts to staff the CD Bureau.

## **Lindsay Volpe**

RRG program will provide \$1.125 million for 9 CD projects (and will fund all project grant applications submitted to the program). This is so great! Lets see if we can keep up the work with CD to develop more projects for the next funding cycle.

- Lower Musselshell County Conservation District- DMWUA Main Canal Diversion Gates Automation Project
- Beaverhead County Conservation District- Irrigation Efficiency and Water Measurement Project
- Stillwater Conservation District- Mendenhall Ditch Intake and Drop Structure Rehabilitation Project
- Sweet Grass County Conservation District- Post-Kellogg Ditch Headworks Improvement Project
- Lewis and Clark Conservation District- Beaver Creek Restoration Project, Phase 2.
- Pondera County Conservation District- PCCRC Dupuyer Creek Diversion Automation Project
- Teton Conservation District- Eureka Dam Safety Improvements
- Bitterroot Conservation District- River Irrigation Management Study
- Petroleum County CD Petrolia Dam Outlet Works Headgate Replacement

The RRG program is starting to work with applicants which submitted applications last spring to the Planning Grant Program. Starting in July, we will begin contracting with those applicants.

We will also be offering a NEW planning grant cycle this summer. Its never too early to start planning your next project. RRGL project grants will be due May 15, 2022.

- The legislature approved \$1 million for the biennium.

The Irrigation Development Program just closed a funding opportunity with 23 applications requesting \$355,900. 5 Conservation Districts submitted applications. Funding for these applications will be awarded this summer.

- The legislature approved \$300,000 for the biennium

The Watershed Management Grant Program will also begin developing new funding rounds and will be open this fall.

- The legislature approved \$300,000 for the biennium.

The Emergency Grant program has mostly spent down the current account. Contact DNRC if you have any flooding or other unplanned emergencies this spring.

- The legislature approved \$250,000 for this biennium

The private grant program is for any private water related project. Typically, the program funds septic replacements and other private water projects.

- The legislature approved \$100,000 for the biennium

The DNRC will begin a new process for evaluating environmental conditions based on the Montana Environmental Protection Act (MEPA) for all projects (not activities). Current RRGL applicants will need to provide an updated Environmental Checklist prior to contracting with DNRC. We are in the process of hiring a MEPA coordinator for this work. Heidi has been working with the MEPA group and can provide more info.

**Stacey Barta – Rangeland Resources Program:**

4 working lands interns are on their second ranch of 6.

Montana Range Tour September 8 & 9-Malta

2021 Leopold Award Winner Announcement Malta September 8

Youth Range Camp cancelled

Range Improvement Loan Program recently published ARMS

3 new Range Committee Members

Leah Lewis

Jim Anderson

Ron Devlin

Check out the Biennial report on the program at <http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/cardd/rangeland-resource-program>

### **Kate Wilson**

Upper Columbia Conservation Commission:

Big kudos to FWP and inspection partners for a record watercraft inspection season! Already 25 mussel-fouled boats intercepted at inspection stations state-wide, many of these detections happening at CD run eastern stations. Keep up the good work!

Helping to organize a Watercraft Inspectors Appreciation Week August 2-8. Will be needing help from partners to help plan events, run ads in local papers, potentially sponsor/deliver a meal/snacks or donate prizes/awards. Please contact Kate Wilson or Liz Lodman to assist.

Flathead Basin Commission:

Focusing on non-point source pollution projects in the basin with a focus on septic leachate and stormwater

Submitted Groundwater Investigation Program (GWIP) proposal to study nitrates and water quantity issues with wells in the West Valley of the Flathead Basin. Thanks to Flathead Conservation District for the support!

Planning to participate/support the Flathead River erosion study (WPIC) – results likely to benefit waterbodies statewide (re: impacts of wake/jet boats on erosion)

Next meeting Sept 8<sup>th</sup>, Polson (KwaTuqNuk Resort)