



MONTANA ASSOCIATION of CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

We're growing Montana's future.

August - September 2021 Programs Update

Grant-Funded Programs:

1. Education & Outreach Mini-Grant Program

- a. FY2019 contract: Ongoing, 5/11 subawards completed. 5/11 extended through 12/31/21. 1 subaward was canceled (remaining funding from this will roll over into the 2021 Call for Application)
- b. FY2020 contract: Ongoing, 10 total subawards.
- c. FY2021 contract: Pending execution (2022 Round of funding)

2. Flathead Basin Wastewater Partnership (FBWP)

- a. 08/18 - 08/22 BSWC Member, Jill, attended and coordinated volunteers for the NW Fair in Kalispell to promote the program
- b. Jill is developing an outreach event in partnership with Flathead CD for the community along Ashly Creek to promote NPS awareness on Oct. 2nd.
- c. Jill is also planning to promote the program through other opportunities such as a Sundown meeting for Realtors in Big Fork and Dayton Daze.
- d. Over 100 people have applied to the program, and 78 have thus far completed the program with eligibility for reimbursement.

1. Ranching for Rivers

- a. All funds have been encumbered, project contracts are set to expire on Nov. 1st
- b. Currently drafting language for a fall application to DEQ 319 funds for additional program funding
- c. We are looking at possibly having an MCC Fellow shared with Stacey Barta to add capacity to the program as well as assist with coordinating grazing management workshops. Additional potential partners have been identified to write grazing management plans for ranchers.

2. Watershed Stewardship Funding

- a. Ongoing. \$6,125 for BSWC member spent, the remaining fund are for Gallatin CD & admin

3. District Assistance & Communications

- a. ~ 5-6 months remaining in current DNRC agreement
- b. 2 new contracts (one for \$5,000 and one for \$10,000) have been executed for Eric and Rebecca to work with the Outreach Subcommittee, attend the EO training in Red Lodge, create an interactive CD map on the website, and work on a collaborative training and events calendar between MACD, the EO, and partners.

4. Conservation Menu

- a. WWF has received funding through an NFWF grant to update the print and digital versions of the Conservation Menu and is interested in a contract for services with MACD to do this work. (~\$3,000 - \$5,000). The timeline for the project will likely not begin until after November.

5. AmeriCorps Planning Grant

- a. ~\$63,000 secured for hiring a Coordinator and begin the planning process
- b. We will pursue another \$10-\$15,000 as match to the OCS
- c. Currently working on obtaining proper paperwork in order to conduct FBI fingerprinting checks required by AmeriCorps
- d. Shay Farmer has been offered and accepted the AmeriCorps Planning Grant Coordinator position. We are awaiting hiring paperwork and background checks to clear before Shay can begin working (tentatively to start Sept. 22nd)
- e. We will need to determine the feasibility of an AmeriCorps program by around February and the program grant application is due in April 2022.

NRCS Contribution Agreements

1. Conservation Delivery Agreement (Pollinators, Soil Health, & Conservation Stories)

- a. Soil Health Symposium:
 - i. \$ 15,690.80 in sponsorships secured
 - ii. Ongoing bi-monthly check-ins with the Symposium planning committee, sponsor follow-up, and speaker communications. Discussions on possible COVID restrictions will be revisited in October.
 - iii. Planning to send out event postcards in October

2. Montana Conservation Partnership Initiative

- a. Subawards
 - i. MRDC: \$ 49,436.64
 - ii. Valley CD/MRWA: \$ 100,000.00
 - iii. Blackfoot Challenge: \$ 30,000.00
 - iv. Bird Conservancy of the Rockies: \$ 174,043.60
 - v. Pheasants Forever: \$ 811,150.00
 - vi. Little Beaver CD: \$ 78,050.00
 - vii. YRDC: \$ 60,000
 - viii. TOTAL encumbered: \$ \$1,302,680.24 (Funds expire September 2022)
 - ix. Pending new subward for the Soil Health Initiative (\$30,000)
- b. Sage Grouse Initiative:
 - i. New SGI Range Conservationist started in Circle in August
 - ii. Pending WWF agreement for ~ \$5,800 towards to Malta SGI position
- c. Big Sky Watershed Corps Cost-Share
 - i. The application period for cost-share for 2022 host sites through NRCS funds has closed.

Bridger Plant Materials Center

- No updates at this time. The next meeting will be on October 14th (Stephanie will be gone and Rebecca intends, at this point, to attend)

Other Completed Activities since 07/20/2021 :

- July 22nd - 23rd: Stephanie attended the quarterly MRDC meeting and River Rendezvous
- August 10th: Attended both meetings pertaining to the development of the Soil Health Coalition

- August 11th: Forestry Subcommittee meeting
- August 11th - 12th: AmeriCorps Training and Networking Event in Helena
- August 17th: Ranching Education Networking Event in Lewistown
- August 18th: AmeriCorps Planning Grant Orientation
- August 23rd: Conducted interviews for the AmeriCorps Planning Grant Coordinator
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2021 Program Funding Budget Overview (09-03-2021)

PROGRAM INCOME	2021 Budget	2021 Actual	Grant Expiration
FEDERAL			
NRCS MT Conservation Partnership Initiative	\$ 730,552.93	\$ 355,207.56	Sep. 2022
NRCS Conservation Delivery	\$ 86,827.13	\$ 42,971.13	Jun. 2021
DEQ 319 FY20 Mini-Grant	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 3,861.00	Mar. 2023
DEQ 319 FY19 Mini-Grant	\$ 24,379.05	\$ 11,336.25	Mar. 2022
DEQ 319 FY18 Mini-Grant		\$ 3,642.55	Closed
DEQ 319 Septic System	\$ 50,244.38	\$ 23,708.30	Jun. 2022
DEQ 319 Ranching for Rivers	\$ 83,036.24	\$ 4,421.00	Dec. 2022
*OCS AmeriCorps Planning Grant	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	Aug. 2022
STATE			
FWP - Sage Grouse Initiative Contribution	\$ 20,000.00	-	Dec. 2022
DNRC - Watershed Stewardship Agreement	\$ 18,785.50	\$ 7,603.25	Dec. 2021
DNRC - RD-SWCD-636	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	Closed
DNRC - RD-MACD-643	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 6,557.05	Mar. 2022
*DNRC - RD-SWCD-648	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	Mar. 2022
*LCCD/DNRC - 30E-21-538	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	Mar. 2022
LOCAL / NGO			
WWF - Sage Grouse Initiative Contribution	\$ 5,800.00		Jan. 2021
Big Sky Watershed Corps MOU	\$ 14,500.00	\$ 14,500.00	Annual
Soil Health Sponsorship/ Registration	\$ 17,000.00	\$ 15,680.60	for 2022 Event
Website Hosting	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 695.00	
TOTAL Program Income	\$ 1,092,125.23	\$ 519,676.18	
Pending Income:		\$ 37,670.62	

PROGRAM EXPENSES (Passthrough)	2021 Budget	2021 Actual
Partner Subawards	\$ 486,866.13	\$ 257,430.60

2022 Soil Health Symposium	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 3,500.00
Mini Grant Subawards	\$ 21,559.05	\$ 12,890.95
Ranching for Rivers Cost-Share	\$ 75,000.00	\$ 12,629.00
Flathead Septic Cost-Share Program	\$ 26,625.00	\$ 6,860.00
BSWC Cost-Share	\$ 24,500.00	\$ 24,500.00
MACD BSWC	\$ 12,250.00	\$ 12,250.00
TOTAL Passthrough Expenses	\$ 651,800.18	\$ 330,060.55

Sage Grouse Initiative Employees	2021 Budget	2021 Actual
Payroll Expenses,	\$217,919.10	\$ 91,463.44
Travel & Supplies	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 586.58
TOTAL SGI Expenses	\$229,919.10	\$ 92,050.02

**New Agreements, not part of original 2021 Budget*