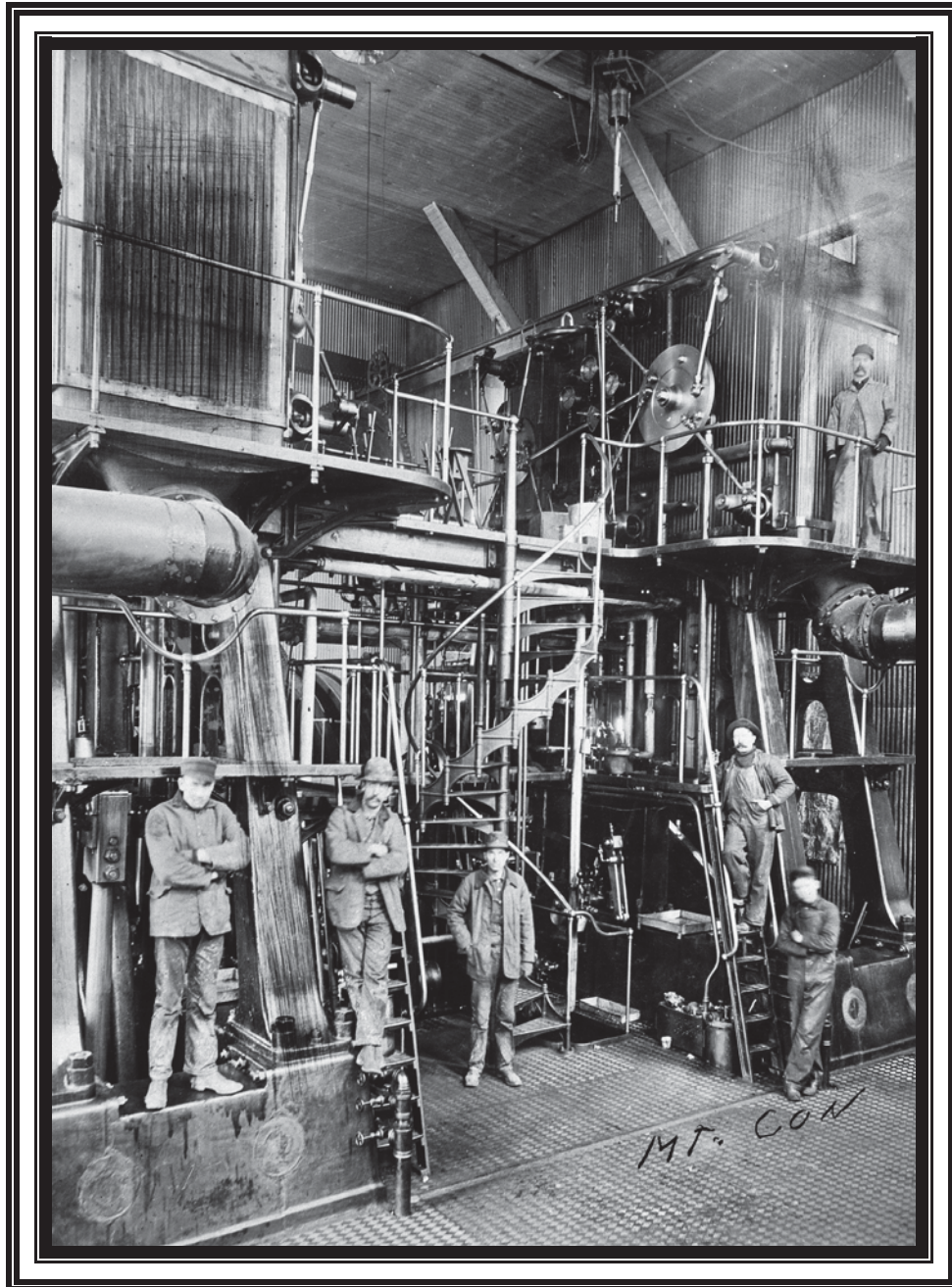


# MONTANA INDEX OF ENVIRONMENTAL PERMITS



MONTANA ENVIRONMENTAL  
QUALITY COUNCIL

Mountain Con Mine, Butte, Montana  
Montana Historical Society Research Center Photograph Archives, Helena, MT

# MONTANA INDEX OF ENVIRONMENTAL PERMITS

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Compiled by Steven Perlmutter  
1976

Revised by the Legislative Environmental Policy Office

Nineteenth Edition  
2014

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## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

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The members and staff of the Environmental Quality Council would like to thank the many individuals from the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Environmental Quality, the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, the Department of Public Service Regulation, the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, the Department of Transportation and others who generously contributed their time and expertise toward completing this project.



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# INTRODUCTION

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## PERMIT INDEX

The *Montana Index of Environmental Permits* is prepared by the Environmental Quality Council staff to provide a complete list of the permits and licenses needed to conduct activities that may affect the state's environment. The permit index lists the permits required, the permitting agencies and the statutes and rules that regulate each permit.

The permit index is **not** a legal document. Anyone planning an activity should contact the administering agency for detailed information before beginning a project.

## HOW TO USE THE PERMIT INDEX

Find the relevant activity through the index or table of contents.

On the appropriate page, the entry will look like this. ↓

### FLOODPLAINS AND FLOODWAYS

The text in the entry describes the permits and/or licenses that are required for the activity.

⇒

Listed below the text are the relevant statutes from the Montana Codes (MCA) available online at [http://leg.mt.gov/bills/mca\\_toc/index.htm](http://leg.mt.gov/bills/mca_toc/index.htm) and administrative rules (ARMs), available online at <http://mtrules.org/>. ⇒

Finally, the entry list the appropriate agency to contact. ⇒

Artificial obstructions and nonconforming uses within a designated floodplain or floodway require a permit from the local governing body. Local governments may adopt land use regulations, including floodplain management regulations within sheetflood areas, that may restrict development.

Statute: 76-5-401 through 76-5-406, MCA

Rule: ARM 36.15.601-36.15.801

Contact: LOCAL GOVERNMENT

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL  
RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION  
Water Resources Division

Next, if the activity is proposed in a specially designated area such as a conservation district or floodplain, check the land designation section located in the first 14 pages of the index. The land designation section is used primarily as a reference to complement information in the activity section.

It is important to note that if the action will affect any species or species habitat protected under the state or federal Endangered Species Acts, special regulations apply. See Nongame and Endangered Species, p. 99.

In addition, a project that may have an impact on the environment is subject to review under the provisions of the Montana Environmental Policy Act (p. 130).

## **THE STATE REGULATORY STRUCTURE**

Montana state government is divided into three branches: legislative, executive, and judicial. The laws governing the state are enacted by the Legislature, implemented by the Executive Branch, and interpreted by the Judicial Branch.

The state's environmental programs are administered by agencies of the Executive Branch. Each agency is headed by a governor-appointed director who is responsible for the operation of the department. The department is composed of divisions, that are divided into bureaus, that may be further divided into sections.

The Executive Branch agencies administer programs established by statute (contained in the *Montana Code Annotated*) and rule (contained in the *Administrative Rules of Montana*). The principal agencies involved in the issuance or review of environmental permits are the Department of Agriculture, Department of Environmental Quality, Department of Livestock, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, Department of Transportation, Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, and Public Service Commission.

## **FEDERAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT PERMITS**

Montana administers several federal environmental programs under agreement with the United States Environmental Protection Agency: air and water quality, solid and hazardous waste, and asbestos and pesticide regulation. Montana has also been certified by the U.S. Department of the Interior to administer the federal Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA). Some federal programs are mentioned in the permit index, but it is important to check with the appropriate state agency to determine if any associated federal permits are required for an activity.

Local governments such as town councils, county commissioners or local health officials also administer permits.

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

The permit index is a starting point for finding information on environmental regulations for certain activities. It does not replace assistance from agency personnel who have the responsibility to help citizens comply with Montana's environmental laws. To avoid difficulties, contact the permitting agencies as soon as possible and integrate environmental regulations into your planning process early.

For answers to general permit questions, call the Governor's Office (444-3111), the Environmental Quality Council (444-3742), or the Citizen's Advocate Office (444-3468, 1-800-332-2272).



# DIRECTORY OF PERMITS

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## LAND DESIGNATIONS

Lands with special designations have additional land use and activity restrictions.

## CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

### 1. General Requirements

Lands located within a conservation district may be subject to land use regulations designed to conserve soil and water resources and prevent and control erosion. Copies of the land use regulations are available from the district. These regulations are adopted with voter approval through a referendum and are administered by the Conservation District supervisors. Once the referendum is enacted, the district supervisors may compel compliance through a petition to District Court. Variances awarded upon demonstration of great practical difficulties or unnecessary hardship are allowed.

State law requires a 310 permit from a conservation district when a private, nongovernmental individual or entity proposes work in or near a stream on public or private land (see STREAM BEDS - STREAM BANKS - WETLANDS, p. 10).

Statute: 76-15-701, *et seq.*, MCA (land use regulations)  
75-7-101, *et seq.*, MCA (stream preservation)

Contact: CONSERVATION DISTRICT or  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION  
Conservation and Resource Development Division  
*Conservation Districts Bureau*

## CONSERVATION EASEMENTS

### 1. Types of Activities Regulated

A public body or qualified public organization may acquire an interest in real property for the purpose of preserving the land's open space, natural, scientific, educational or aesthetic resources. By granting this land interest, the landowner establishes a conservation easement on the land whereby the landowner agrees to limit the use of certain property rights in order to preserve the property's conservation values. The terms of the conservation easement may prohibit or limit construction, excavation, surfaces uses, and

## 2 LAND DESIGNATIONS

subdivision, etc. The easement holder has the responsibility to monitor and enforce the terms of the conservation easement. Conservation easements run with the property title.

Statute: 60-4-207, MCA  
76-6-103 and 76-6-201, *et seq.*, MCA  
87-1-209, 87-1-241 and 87-1-242, MCA

Rule: ARM 12.9.511, 12.9.512 and 12.9.702  
ARM 36.11.471

Contact: LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
County Clerk and Recorder

DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS  
Parks Division  
*Field Operations Bureau*

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

## FLOODPLAINS AND FLOODWAYS

### 1. Types of Activities Regulated

Artificial obstructions and nonconforming uses within a designated floodplain or floodway require a permit from the local governing body. Local governments may adopt land use regulations, including floodplain management regulations within sheetflood areas, that may restrict development.

Statute: 76-5-401 through 76-5-406, MCA (Floodplain and Floodway Management Act)

Rule: ARM 36.15.601-36.15.801

Contact: LOCAL GOVERNMENT (City or County)  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION  
Water Resources Division  
*Water Operations Bureau*

## 2. **Application Requirements**

The application for a permit for obstructions or uses in a designated floodplain or floodway must be submitted to the local government and must contain maps, plans, profiles, and specifications of the proposed project to include the obstruction or use of the water course or drainway.

Statute: 76-5-404, MCA

## 3. **Permitting Procedures**

Permit applications for obstructions or uses in a designated floodplain or floodway must be approved or denied within a reasonable time, usually 60 days after the receipt of a complete application.

Statute: 76-5-405(2), MCA

Rule: ARM 36.15.216

## 4. **Criteria**

The following criteria must be considered by the local government in evaluating a permit application: danger to life and property by water that may be backed up or diverted by the obstruction or use; danger that the obstruction or use may be swept downstream and cause injury; alternative methods of construction or alteration of obstruction or use which will minimize the danger; the availability of alternate locations; permanence of the obstruction or use; anticipated development in the area; and other factors specified by law.

Statute: 76-5-406, MCA

Rule: ARM 36.15.216

## **HERITAGE SITES**

### **ANTIQUITIES PERMITS**

#### 1. **Types of Activities Regulated**

Individuals or organizations proposing to excavate, remove or restore a heritage property or paleontological remains on state-owned land for scientific, educational or mitigation purposes must obtain an antiquities permit from the State Historic Preservation Officer.

## 4 LAND DESIGNATIONS

The preservation officer consults with the appropriate state land management agency in issuing a permit. Permits may not be granted unless the preservation officer is satisfied that the individuals carrying out the proposed work are qualified to guarantee proper excavation of those sites and objects.

Statute: 22-3-421 through 22-3-442, MCA (Montana Antiquities Act)

Rule: ARM 10.121.901-10.121.916

Contact: MONTANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
State Historic Preservation Office

### 2. **Criteria**

The heritage value of any historic or prehistoric site identified is determined by the National Register of Historic Places, Criteria for Evaluation.

### 3. **Additional Information**

Applicants for licenses or permits are encouraged to provide the permitting or licensing agency with specific information on the legal location of the proposed project, previous land use, and land condition. This information assists the agency and the State Historic Preservation Office in determining whether a cultural resource inventory of the proposed area is needed.

## **HUMAN SKELETAL REMAINS AND BURIAL MATERIALS**

### 1. **Types of Activities Regulated**

The state Burial Preservation Board must be petitioned for a permit for the scientific removal or analysis of human skeletal remains and burial material from any unmarked burial site on state or private land. The Board may issue a permit for limited scientific study of remains and material if it determines that the analyses is scientifically justifiable. In Montana it is presumed that remains and material will be reburied rather than scientifically analyzed. The State Historic Preservation Office assists with coordination and provides staff services for the Board. The Preservation Office also maintains a burial registry and must be contacted in the event of an inadvertent discovery of unmarked human remains.

Statute: 22-3-801 through 22-3-811, MCA (Human Skeletal Remains and Burial Site Protection Act)



Contact: MONTANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
State Historic Preservation Office

DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION  
Burial Preservation Board

## 2. Additional Information

For skeletal remains or funerary objects excavated before the passage of this Act (Human Skeletal Remains and Burial Site Protection Act), the Montana Repatriation Act provides a hearing process for the repatriation of culturally affiliated remains or funerary objects from unprotected burial sites currently in the possession or control of any state agency, museum or individual. The Act also requires agencies and museums to complete and provide a copy of an inventory of any remains or objects to the state Burial Preservation Board, the State Historic Preservation Office, and each tribal government.

Statute: 22-3-901 through 22-3-921, MCA (Montana Repatriation Act)

Contact: DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION  
Burial Preservation Board

## LAKESHORES

### 1. Types of Activities Regulated

If a local government has adopted lakeshore protection regulations, a permit is required for any work that will alter or diminish the course, current or cross-sectional area of a navigable lake or its shore. These activities include construction of channels or ditches; dredging of the lake bottom to remove muck, silt, or weeds; ponding; filling; and constructing breakwaters or wharves and docks.

Statute: 75-7-201 through 75-7-217, MCA

Rule: As adopted by local governments

Contact: LOCAL GOVERNMENT

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION  
Water Resources Division  
*Water Operations Bureau*

## 6 LAND DESIGNATIONS

### 2. **Application Requirements**

Specific application requirements are prescribed in regulations adopted by the local government.

### 3. **Permitting Procedures**

A. Local Regulations: Contact the local government for specific procedures.

- 1) The local government must seek the recommendations of the local planning board.
- 2) The local government may provide a summary procedure to permit work it finds has a minimal or insignificant impact on a lakeshore.
- 3) The planning board must report its recommendations to the local government on whether the proposed work conforms to the criteria for issuance of a permit, and it may require the applicant to submit additional information prior to making its recommendations.
- 4) A variance from local regulations may be obtained if an impact statement is prepared and a public hearing held.

B. Time requirements:

Unless the applicant for a lakeshore work permit agrees to an extension, the government must grant or deny the permit within 90 days.

Statute: 75-7-207 and 75-7-211 through 75-7-213, MCA

### 4. **Fees**

Permit fees set by local governments must be commensurate with the cost of administering the permit application. See 75-7-210, MCA, for more information.

### 5. **Criteria**

The following are minimum requirements and do not restrict a local government from adopting additional or more stringent regulations that may be authorized by other statutes.

The proposed work will not, during construction or its utilization:

- 1) materially diminish water quality;
- 2) materially diminish habitat for fish or wildlife;
- 3) interfere with navigation or other lawful recreation;
- 4) create a public nuisance; or
- 5) create a visual impact discordant with natural scenic values as determined by the local government when such values form the predominant elements of the landscape.

## 6. Additional Information

Landowners may petition the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation to adopt regulations for a particular lake until the local government adopts the necessary regulations.

## STATE LANDS

### 1. Types of Activities Regulated

Activities on state-owned land, including the beds of navigable waterways, generally require permits, licenses, leases or easements from the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) and approval from the Board of Land Commissioners. See HERITAGE SITES, p. 3; CROPLAND AND GRAZING LEASES, pp. 18 and 21; TIMBER SALES, p. 62; GEOTHERMAL LEASES, p. 41; HYDROELECTRIC POWER DEVELOPMENT, p. 44; MINING, p. 120; GEOPHYSICAL EXPLORATION, p. 135; and OIL AND GAS, p. 137.

Lessees, licensees and permitholders must control noxious weeds or adhere to the noxious weed management program of the person's weed management district or enter into and be in compliance with a noxious weed management agreement.

In addition, the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks and other state agencies should be contacted for information regarding rules and procedures on lands owned or administered by those agencies. See COMMERCIAL USE OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS LANDS, p. 74.

Statute: Title 77, chapters 1-6, MCA

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Rule: ARM 36.2.1001, *et seq.*

Contact: DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION  
Trust Land Management Division  
*Real Estate Management Bureau*

### 2. Easements

The Board of Land Commissioners may grant easements on state trust lands and across navigable rivers of the state for the public uses identified in statute. Applications for easements are submitted to the DNRC. Required elements of an application package vary based on the requested use, but in all instances an application processing fee and completed application form is necessary. Additionally, compensation for the area of land encumbered by the easement is assessed and must be the full market value of the land, plus any diminution in the value of adjacent state lands.

The Board may also grant easements under the historic right-of-way law for private access roads, county roads and utility facilities that have been in place on state trust lands without a legal easement. Applications for historic rights-of-way must be received by the DNRC by October 1, 2015. The processing and issuance of these easements sunsets in 2025, allowing time for applicants to plan for and secure funding to purchase easements under application to the DNRC.

A regional water authority may apply for an easement on non-trust lands as a public entity. The non-trust land managing entity may recommend that the easement be transferred to the regional water authority at full, partial or no compensation as described in 77-2-351, MCA.

Statute: 77-1-130, 77-2-101 through 77-2-107, MCA

### 3. Exchange of Land

The Board of Land Commissioners is authorized to exchange state land for private land provided that the private land is of equal or greater value than the state land and approximately equal in area. The estimated fair market value must be determined by a Montana-licensed and Montana-certified appraiser. The Board has a written policy and criteria for considering and processing land exchanges. Prior to the exchange, a public hearing must be held in the county where the state land is located. Objections to the exchange may be made at the hearing.

Statute: 77-2-201, *et seq.*, MCA

#### 4. Leases

State lands may be leased to any person over 18 years old, heads of families, and associations, partnerships, and corporations. When the DNRC receives an application to lease a tract, it will advertise for bids and accept the highest bid, unless the Board determines that the highest bid is not in the best interest of the trust beneficiaries. See *Types of Activities Regulated*, on p. 7, for references to specific types of leases.

Statute: 77-1-901, *et seq.*, MCA

#### 5. Sales of Land

The Board of Land Commissioners is authorized to sell state land. The estimated fair market value of the land must be determined by a Montana-licensed and Montana-certified appraiser. Some sales of land are restricted, for example, land that is likely to contain valuable mineral deposits or that is located in a navigable waterway. In addition, the DNRC administers a state program that allows the sale of state parcels with restrictions on the type of land for sale and to whom it may be sold. The use of the proceeds from the sales are used to purchase other land, easements or improvements that will provide a greater return to the state and consolidate public access.

Lessees are notified by the DNRC when they may submit their lease land for nomination. All sale of state land is conducted by public auction held in the county in which the land is located.

Statute: 77-2-301 through 77-2-367, MCA

Rule: ARM 36.25.128, 36.25.131, 36.25.701, *et seq.*, and 36.25.801, *et seq.*

Contact: DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION  
Trust Lands Management Division  
*Real Estate Management Bureau*

#### 6. Recreational Use License

A recreational use license is required for persons 12 years of age and older to participate in most types of general recreational activities on state trust lands. The license is issued for a 12 month period beginning March 1 and expires the last day of February the following year.

Under an agreement between the DNRC and the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, a person who obtains a wildlife conservation license is authorized to use legally

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accessible state lands for licensed hunting, fishing, and trapping<sup>1</sup>. All other general recreational activities, unless conducted in conjunction with licensed hunting, fishing, and trapping, require the possession of a recreational use license.

Special recreational use licenses are required for organized or concentrated recreational activities, commercial activities such as outfitting, and other activities not included within the definition of general recreational use. The licenses are available only from a DNRC office.

Certain categories of state trust lands, i.e., lands leased for military sites, home sites and cabin sites, commercial developments, and lands on which there are growing crops are closed to all recreational activities. Lessees of state land can also request approval from the DNRC to temporarily, seasonally, or permanently close state lands or restrict certain activities if damage has occurred or if access would interfere with agricultural or ranching activities. Additionally, the DNRC may close or impose restrictions on state lands for a number of reasons, including imminent threat to property and/or public safety or for other emergency situations.

The fee for a recreational use license is \$10 for persons 18-59 years old, \$5 for persons 12-17 years old or 60 years and older, and \$20 for a family license.

Statute: 77-1-804, MCA

Rule: ARM 36.25.143, *et seq.*

### **STREAM BEDS - STREAM BANKS - WETLANDS**

#### **1. Types of Activities Regulated**

- A. Private Projects: A private, nongovernmental individual or entity proposing to work in or near a stream on public or private land must apply for a 310 permit from the conservation districts' board of supervisors. Types of activities that may require a permit include the following: engineering operations for dams, dikes, ponds, ditches, fences, and other construction; stream crossings; bank stabilization projects; irrigation diversions, headgates, and pumpsite maintenance; and other activities that alter the condition of a stream or river. The applicant should contact the conservation district (Title 76, chapter 15, MCA) prior to initiating any activity.

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<sup>1</sup> Although the fee for trapping is included in the wildlife conservation license, a person who wishes to trap on state land must first obtain a special recreational use license described above.

Statute: 75-7-101, *et seq.*, MCA (Natural Streambed and Land Preservation Act)

Rule: ARM 36.2.401, *et seq.*

Contact: CONSERVATION DISTRICT;  
GRASS CONSERVATION DISTRICT;  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS; or

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND  
CONSERVATION

Conservation and Resource Development Division  
*Conservation Districts Bureau*

- B. Public Projects: An agency of state government, county, municipality, or other subdivision of the state of Montana, with the exception of irrigation districts, must apply for a Stream Protection Act (also called a 124) permit from the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) before beginning a project that may alter the bed or banks of any stream or river in Montana.

Statute: 87-5-501, 87-5-502, and 87-5-507, MCA

Contact: DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS  
Fisheries Division

## 2. **Permitting Procedures**

- A. Private Projects: An individual planning a project must obtain a permit application (joint application) prior to any activity in or near a stream. Applications are available at the Conservation District offices or at the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation website at <http://dnrc.mt.gov/permits/>. If a permit is required, a team composed of a district supervisor, a FWP biologist and the applicant conduct a site inspection. The supervisors have 60 days from the date of application to approve, modify or deny the permit.

Statute: 75-7-111 through 75-7-116, MCA

- B. Public Projects: An agency planning a project must submit a Notice of Construction (joint application) to the FWP at least 60 days before the anticipated date of construction. Within 30 days after the department receives project plans, it must notify the applicant whether or not the project will

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adversely affect fish or wildlife habitat. The FWP may require modifications to the project and make recommendations for alternative plans. If required, recommended construction conditions are outlined in the permit issued to the applicant. If the applicant refuses to modify the plans as outlined in the permit, and an agreement cannot be reached, an arbitration panel may be appointed by the District Court.

Statute: 87-5-502 through 87-5-505, MCA

### 3. **Emergencies**

- A. Private Projects: No prior notice or approval is necessary for emergency actions taken to safeguard life or property. However, notice must be given to the supervisors or commissioners within 15 days following the emergency action. A team will be called together to evaluate the project.

Statute: 75-7-113, MCA

- B. Public Projects: A 124 permit is not required from public agencies for situations requiring emergency response such as ice jams, floods, etc. An emergency is defined as an imminent threat to life or property that could not be foreseen.

Statute: 87-5-506, MCA

### 4. **Federal Actions**

The FWP observes federal agency actions and nonactions in Montana for their effect on the state's fish and wildlife resources. The department sends notifications to the agency stating its objections and keeps records of all communications with the agency.

The FWP also has a Memorandum of Understanding with the U.S. Forest Service and a Cooperative Agreement with the U.S. Bureau of Land Management whereby these agencies apply for a Stream Protection Act permit for projects affecting stream beds and stream banks on their lands.

Statute: 87-5-508, MCA



## 5. Other Information and Requirements

A land use license, lease or easement is required by an entity proposing a project on lands below the low water mark of navigable waters as designated by the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (see STATE LANDS, p. 7).

Statute: 77-2-101 through 77-2-107, MCA  
77-1-1109 through 77-1-1117, MCA

Contact: DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION  
Trust Land Management Division  
*Real Estate Management Bureau*

Under section 10, federal Rivers and Harbors Act, any structure or work on, over, under, or affecting navigable waters requires authorization from the U.S. Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers.

Under section 404 of the federal Clean Water Act, a permit is required from the U.S. Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers, for the placement of dredged or fill materials in United States' waters.<sup>1</sup> The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency develops environmental review criteria, reviews projects, and has enforcement authority under the Act.

The Montana Department of Environmental Quality must provide 401 water quality certification prior to issuance of Corps of Engineers permits. The certification process is handled internally through agreements between the agencies for the Corps of Engineer's nationwide permits. For the Corps of Engineers individual permits, the permit applicant is notified by the Corps to apply to the Montana Department of Environmental Quality for a 401 water quality certification.

Statute: 33 U.S.C. § 401, *et seq.* (Rivers and Harbors Act)  
33 U.S.C.A. § 1251, *et seq.* (Clean Water Act)

Rule: 33 C.F.R. 209 and 40 Federal Register 31319  
ARM 17.30.101, *et seq.* (401 certification)

Contact: U.S. Department of the Army  
Corps of Engineers  
*District Engineer*

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<sup>1</sup> Waters of the United States includes essentially all surface waters such as all navigable waters and their tributaries, all interstate waters and their tributaries, all wetlands adjacent to these waters, and all impoundments of these waters.

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U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
Montana Office, Helena

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
Permitting and Compliance Division  
*Water Protection Bureau*

A person planning new construction, including, but not limited to, placement of fill, roads, bridges, culverts, transmission lines, irrigation facilities, storage of equipment or materials, excavation, and new construction of or additions to mobile homes and residential and commercial buildings must check with the local governing body to determine if the activity is in a designated floodplain or floodway (see FLOODPLAINS and FLOODWAYS, p. 2).

Contact: LOCAL GOVERNMENT

A 318 authorization must be obtained from the DEQ prior to initiating a short-term activity that may cause unavoidable short-term violations of state water quality standards. The FWP may also issue 318 authorizations during the 310 or 124 permitting process.

Contact: DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
Permitting and Compliance Division  
*Water Protection Bureau*

# AGRICULTURE

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## AGRICULTURAL SEED

### 1. Types of Activities Regulated

The Montana Department of Agriculture (DOA) regulates seed producers, labelers, and dealers to ensure seed quality and seed products free of noxious or restricted weed seeds. Licenses are required, with some exceptions, for facilities in the state that condition<sup>1</sup> agricultural seed (producers), for when a person's name and address appear on the label of agricultural seed (labelers), and for a person who sells agricultural seed in Montana (dealers).

Statute: 80-5-120, *et seq.*, MCA

Rule: ARM 4.12.3002, *et seq.*

Contact: DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Agricultural Sciences Division

### 2. Application Requirements

A license application for a facility that conditions, labels or sells agricultural seed is available from the DOA. The application requests the applicant's name, place of business, and mailing address; the location of each seed conditioning facility if applying for a seed conditioning plant license; a sample label if applying for a seed labeler's license; and a list of persons who may be selling seed for the company. A license is required for each location where seed is located or sold. Licenses must be renewed annually and expire on June 30.

Statute: 80-5-130, *et seq.*, MCA

Rule: ARM 4.12.3008

### 3. Fees

The license fee for an out-of-state person selling seed in Montana is \$130. The license fee for a Montana producer, labeler or dealer is \$75.

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<sup>1</sup> A conditioned seed is one that is dried, cleaned, scarified, or altered in a way that changes its purity or germination properties.

Seed labelers located outside of Montana who sell agricultural seed in the state must report sales and pay an assessment of 25 cents per \$100 in gross annual sales. The report and fee are due July 31 for the preceding 12 month period.

Statute: 80-5-130, MCA

Rule: ARM 4.12.3009

#### 4. **Additional Information**

A label is required on all containers of seed sold in Montana. The labels must be truthful and appropriate to the product and contain specific information required by law.

Seeds offered for sale or sold must not contain any prohibited noxious weed seeds as designated under the Montana County Weed Act (7-22-2101(8)(a)(i), MCA).

Statute: 80-5-123, MCA

Rule: ARM 4.12.3010

## **ANIMAL FEEDING OPERATIONS**

See DISCHARGE PERMITS, ANIMAL FEEDING OPERATIONS, pp. 205 and 206.

## **BEE KEEPING (APIARIES)**

### 1. **Types of Activities Regulated**

The Montana Department of Agriculture (DOA) issues certificates of registration for four types of apiaries: general, pollination, landowner, and hobbyist.

Apiaries with a *general* certificate of registration must be located three or more miles apart to prevent the spread of diseases and pests. There is no distance limit for pollination, landowner, and hobbyist apiaries but other restrictions apply. For *landowner* certification, the applicant must own (or control for purposes other than placing honeybees) the land where the hives are located. *Pollination* apiaries are established for the pollination of commercial crops and certificates of registration are issued for a specific period designated by the DOA. *Hobbyist* beekeepers may only keep up to five hives (with a maximum of two hobby beekeepers in a family, for 10 hives per family) and registration is voluntary.

Honey bee colonies and beekeeping equipment moved into Montana must be inspected by the Department of Agriculture or an agency in the originating state that has been approved by the DOA.

Statute: 80-6-101, *et. seq.*, MCA  
Rule: ARM 4.12.102, *et seq.*  
Contact: DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Agricultural Sciences Division

## 2. Application Requirements

Apiary registration forms are available from the DOA or online at <http://agr.mt.gov/agr/Programs/Bees/forms/beeForm.doc>. Application requirements and conditions vary according to the type of certification requested. Apiaries must be registered by April 1 of each year.

Statute: 80-6-111 through 80-6-114, MCA

## 3. Fees

The annual registration fee for an apiary site is \$15. All sites must be associated with a registered beekeeper. There is a one-time fee of \$10 to register as a beekeeper. The fee for the issuance of a certificate of health for bees that are seasonally transported is \$125. A recent inspection is required for the issuance of a certificate of health.

Statute: 80-6-202, MCA

Rule: ARM 4.12.113

## 4. Additional Information

The Department offers sex-ratio, emergence testing and x-ray evaluation for live larvae, parasites, predators, and pathogens for basic and certified alfalfa leaf-cutting bee samples. Certified samples are collected by the Alfalfa Seed Committee or its agent. Application forms for certification and an explanation of the fees are available on the departmental website at <http://agr.mt.gov/agr/Producer/Bees/LeafcutterBees.html>. The sample is certified if departmental standards are met. Basic samples are submitted directly from the grower to DOA. In both cases, samples should consist of at least one quart of loose cells. A basic

sample analysis is \$30 per sample. Sex-ratio and percentage emergence testing is an additional \$20.

Statute: 80-6-1101, *et seq.*, MCA

## **CROPLAND LEASES ON STATE LANDS**

### **1. Types of Activities Regulated**

The Board of Land Commissioners may lease state lands for general agricultural use. Cropland leases are based on a crop share rental value of not less than one-fourth of the annual crop or the usual landlord's share prevailing in the area, whichever is greater. See also GRAZING, p. 20.

Statute: 77-6-501, *et seq.*, MCA

Rule: ARM 36.25.102, *et seq.*

Contact: DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION  
Trust Land Management Division  
*Agriculture and Grazing Management Bureau*

### **2. Leasing Procedures**

- 1) Leases go to the highest bidder unless the Board determines that this decision is not in the state's best interest.
- 2) Present lease holders have a preference right over others seeking to lease the same land. The lease holder may meet the highest bid made by any applicant by exercising their preference right except under certain conditions when the land has been subleased. Additionally, the preference is valid only if the lessee has not abused any conditions of the lease. Lessees may appeal the bid to the Board if they consider the bid excessive.
- 3) Lease terms are five or 10 years.

Statute: 77-6-201, *et seq.*, MCA

## FERTILIZER REGISTRATION

### 1. Types of Activities Regulated

- A. Fertilizer Registration: Fertilizers and soil amendments, except unmanipulated animal or vegetable manures, must be registered by the manufacturer or the supplier on behalf of the manufacturer with the Montana Department of Agriculture (DOA) before distribution in Montana.
- B. Fertilizer Distribution License: A person may not distribute any type of fertilizer or soil amendment, except unmanipulated animal or vegetable manures or specialty fertilizer, until a license to distribute has been obtained from the DOA for each facility distributing into the state and for each handling facility in the state. It is unlawful to distribute fertilizers or soil amendments adulterated with metals in amounts that exceed the levels identified in DOA rules.

Before distributing any commercial fertilizer or soil amendment into the state, a person must be licensed as a supplier.

- C. Anhydrous Ammonia Facilities: DOA approval is required for the construction and operation of anhydrous ammonia facilities.

Statute: 80-10-201, 80-10-202, and 80-10-503, MCA

Rule: ARM 4.12.601, *et seq.* and 4.12.701, *et seq.*

Contact: DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Agricultural Sciences Division

### 2. Application Requirements

- A. All applications for fertilizer registration must include the name and address of the applicant; the brand, grade, and guaranteed analysis of the fertilizer; and other detailed information about each product as required by the DOA. Fertilizers or soil amendments that contain a waste or sewage sludge must be identified as such in the registration application. The application must also state the source of the waste and the level of metals in the final product. Registrations expire on December 31 of each year.
- B. The application for a fertilizer distribution license must be on forms approved by the DOA. Licenses expire on December 31 of each year.

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- C. An application for an anhydrous ammonia facility must include written approval from the local governing body or a zoning permit issued by the county or town where the facility will be located. Storage tanks and associated equipment must meet applicable safety and design codes at the time of installation.

Statute: 80-10-201, *et seq.*, MCA  
80-10-501, *et seq.*, MCA (anhydrous ammonia)

Rule: ARM 4.12.601-4.12.604, 4.12.704, and 4.12.706-4.12.710

### 3. Fees

Applications for fertilizer registrations must be accompanied by a nonrefundable fee of \$20 for each fertilizer and soil amendment and a nonrefundable fee of \$35 for each specialty fertilizer. An additional \$10 fee is required for fertilizers and specialty fertilizers to fund the ground water protection responsibilities of the DOA.

New applicants for fertilizer distribution licenses, or those failing to renew by January 1, pay a nonrefundable \$75 fee. License renewals received before January 1 are \$50.

The DOA also assesses inspection fees and requires quarterly reports on the tonnage of fertilizer distributed, except for specialty fertilizers and unmanipulated animal and vegetable manures.

Statute: 80-10-103, 80-10-201, 80-10-202, 80-10-207, and 80-15-302, MCA

Rule: ARM 4.12.608

### 4. Additional Information

Commercial fertilizer and soil amendment containers must be labeled. The labels must be truthful and appropriate to the product and contain specific information required by the statutes and rules.

Statute: 80-10-204, MCA

Rule: ARM 4.12.604



## GRAZING

### 1. Grazing Districts

Three or more livestock operators owning or controlling property in an area may create a state grazing district—a nonprofit cooperative organization regulated by the Montana Grass Conservation Commission and authorized to ensure the protection of range resources. Membership in a district is limited to persons engaged in the livestock business, or those persons' agents, who own or lease forage-producing lands within or near the state district.

- 1) A permit is required from the state grazing district for a livestock owner or the person in control of the livestock to run the animals at large or under herd within the boundaries of a state district.
- 2) A person may obtain a permit (i.e., a grazing preference) by submitting an application to the district. Temporary permits may be issued to nonmembers on an annual basis.
- 3) Transfer of preferences are not allowed without the written consent of the owner of the property from which the transfer will be made. A transfer is not effective until approved by the Montana Grass Conservation Commission.
- 4) Prior to the transfer, a public hearing must be held before the Board of Directors of the district.
- 5) A person is not required to obtain a permit to graze livestock on land that the person owns or controls within a district if the stock being grazed are kept from running at large and from grazing on any other lands within the district.

Statute: 76-16-201, 76-16-302, 76-16-310, and 76-16-401, *et seq.*, MCA

Contact: STATE GRAZING DISTRICT

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION  
 Conservation and Resource Development Division  
*Montana Grass Conservation Commission*

### 2. State Leases

The Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) issues leases, through competitive bidding, for grazing on state lands.

Leasing Procedures

- 1) When the DNRC receives an application to lease state lands for grazing purposes, it must advertise for bids on the tract. The tract must be leased to the highest bidder unless the Board of Land Commissioners determines that the bid is not in the state's best interest. All bidding is by sealed bid mailed to the DNRC headquarters in Helena.
- 2) Present lease holders have a preference right over others seeking to lease the same parcel. A preference right entitles the lease holder to meet the highest bid made by any applicant and to appeal the bid to the Board if they consider the bid excessive. Certain conditions regarding subleasing must be met for a lease holder to exercise their preference right and the preference is valid only if the lessee has not abused any conditions of the lease.
- 3) A person bidding for the lease of state lands must deposit a certified check, cashier's check or money order in an amount equal to 20 percent of the annual rental bid for grazing land and an amount equal to \$1 per acre for agricultural land. The rental rate for leasing state grazing lands is based on the appraised animal-unit-month carrying capacity of the land.
- 4) Lease terms are five or 10 years.

Statute: 77-6-101, *et seq.* and 77-6-201, *et seq.*, MCA

Rule: ARM 36.2.1003 and 36.25.102, *et seq.*

Contact: DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION  
Trust Land Management Division  
*Agriculture and Grazing Management Bureau*

**3. Federal Leases**

The U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service issue grazing leases and grazing permits for federal land administered by those agencies.

Statute: Organic Administration Act  
Federal Land Policy and Management Act  
Public Rangelands Improvement Act  
Taylor Grazing Act, as amended

Rule: 43 C.F.R. § 4100, 36 C.F.R. § 222

Contact: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
 Bureau of Land Management  
*Resource Area or Field Office*

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
 Forest Service  
*Forest Supervisor*

## NATURAL BEEF CATTLE CERTIFICATION

### 1. Types of Activities Regulated

Certification for natural beef cattle and natural grass-fed beef cattle is available through a cooperative program between the Montana Department of Agriculture and the Montana Department of Livestock. To qualify as Montana-certified natural beef cattle, the beef cattle must have been born and raised in Montana and finished following naturally raised protocols. To qualify as Montana-certified natural grass-fed beef cattle, the beef cattle must also have been finished on grass. Records of the birth of the beef cattle by month and health records for the beef cattle, including vaccine lot numbers, the vaccine manufacturer, and dates of vaccination must be kept.

Statute: 80-11-801, MCA

Rule: ARM 4.18.101, *et. seq.*

Contact: DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
 Agricultural Development Division

DEPARTMENT OF LIVESTOCK

### 2. Application Requirements

A producer who wishes to receive natural beef cattle certification must complete a Montana Natural Beef Program agreement, enroll the cattle in the program, and participate in an in-person evaluation. The certificate holder must also keep detailed records and renew the certificate annually.

### 3. Fees

The annual certification fee is \$100 and the inspection fee is \$2 per animal.

Rule: ARM 4.18.106

## **NOXIOUS WEED FREE FORAGE**

### **1. Types of Activities Regulated**

Certification of forage products, including pellets, cubes, grain, and wattles, as free of noxious weeds is available from the Montana Department of Agriculture (DOA). Forage products may be certified as free of Montana designated noxious weed seeds or may be certified as free of regional noxious weeds. Certified noxious weed seed free forage is required when horses or pack animals are used on public land in Montana. Additionally, local, state, and federal agencies and public utilities are required to use certified weed free mulches, bedding materials, and erosion control barriers.

Statute: 80-7-901, *et seq.*, MCA

Rule: ARM 4.5.301, *et. seq.*

Contact: DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Agricultural Sciences Division

### **2. Application Requirements**

Applications should be made with the DOA agent in the county in which the person resides or in the county in which the person owns or leases land on which forage will be produced. Noxious weed seed free forage must be certified annually. All manufacturers of noxious weed seed free product must submit an application for certification to DOA noxious weed seed free forage program coordinator annually.

Rule: ARM 4.5.301, *et. seq.*

### **3. Fees**

The annual field inspection fee is \$4.50/acre or \$45 for 10 acres or less. The inspection fee for manufacturers is \$44 per hour or \$88 minimum per facility.

Rule: ARM 4.5.313

## **NURSERIES**

### **1. Types of Activities Regulated**

A. Licensing: The Montana Department of Agriculture (DOA) requires licenses for firms, nurseries, plant dealers, or small plant vendors that sell or distribute

nursery stock (plants or parts of plants) in the state. Licensing requirements vary according to the value of gross annual sales and the number of distribution locations. Certain firms, nurseries, plant dealers, or small plant vendors that are licensed as a nursery in another state and have less than \$1,000 in gross annual sales are exempt from the licensing requirement.

- B. Certification: The DOA must be notified if any nursery stock or material becomes infested or infected with plant pests. Nursery stock and growing sites may be inspected by the DOA and certified as disease free. Applications for inspection and testing of registered stock for certification must be filed with the department by June 1.

Statute: 80-7-105, *et seq.* and 80-7-122, MCA

Rule: ARM 4.12.1405, *et seq.*

Contact: DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Agricultural Sciences Division

## 2. Fees

- A. For a firm, nursery, plant dealer, or small plant vendor with gross annual sales of at least \$1,000 but less than \$5,000, the license fee is \$25; for sales of \$5,000 or more, the license fee is \$100.

- B. Annual plant inspection certificates are \$50.

Statute: 80-7-106, MCA

Rule: ARM 4.12.1405, *et seq.*

## 3. Additional Information

The DOA may impose and administer quarantines to control injurious plant pests, plants capable of spreading plant pests, noxious weeds, and other exotic plants.

Statute: 80-7-402, *et seq.*, MCA (Montana Quarantine and Pest Management Act)

Rule: ARM 4.12.1409

## **ORGANIC CERTIFICATION**

### **1. Types of Activities Regulated**

Certification is required for production and handling operations that are selling and/or labeling products as organic in Montana.

Statute: 80-11-601, MCA  
USDA NOP Title 7, Part 205, Code of Federal Regulations

Contact: DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Agricultural Sciences Division

### **2. Application Requirements**

A producer or handler applying for organic certification must submit a completed application and organic system plan forms, along with applicable fees, to the Montana Department of Agriculture (DOA). The applicant must also establish and maintain necessary records and documentation of purchased materials, production or handling activities and product sales and cooperate with an inspector to schedule an onsite inspection.

Once granted, certification continues in effect until surrendered by the certified operation or suspended or revoked by the DOA. To continue certification, operations must annually submit an application and other information in compliance with the National Organic Program, pay certification fees and allow an onsite inspection.

Rule: ARM 4.17.105, *et seq.*  
USDA NOP Title 7, Part 205, Code of Federal Regulations

### **3. Fees**

Fees vary according to the size of the operation. A schedule of fees is available at ARM 4.17.106.

## PESTICIDES

### 1. Types of Activities Regulated

#### Pesticide Registrations

- A. The manufacturer, formulator, or distributor of a pesticide distributed, sold, offered for sale within the state, delivered for transportation or transported in intrastate commerce or between points within the state must register each pesticide annually with the Montana Department of Agriculture (DOA).

#### Licenses

- B. Licenses are required for commercial, noncommercial, public utility and government *pesticide applicators* and the licenses must be renewed annually. The DOA routinely inspects pesticide applicators for compliance with pesticide labeling requirements and state and federal statutes and rules.

Employees of certified applicators under certain conditions of use for general and restricted-use pesticides are required to obtain a *pesticide operators* license. A wastewater discharge permit may be required for any person applying pesticides into or over state surface water. Wastewater discharge permits are regulated by the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and the Montana Discharge Elimination System (MPDES) program.

*Farm applicators* planning to use a restricted-use pesticide must obtain a special-use permit.

- C. *Pesticide dealers* must be licensed annually. A separate dealer's license is required for each location or outlet from which pesticides are distributed, sold, held for sale or offered for sale. The department routinely inspects pesticide dealers for compliance with pesticide labeling and state and federal statutes.

Statute: 80-8-101, *et seq.*, MCA (Montana Pesticides Act)  
80-15-101, *et seq.*, MCA (Montana Agricultural Chemical Ground Water Protection Act)

Rule: ARM 4.10.101, *et seq.*, ARM 4.11.101, *et seq.* and ARM 17.30.1341

Contact: DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Agricultural Sciences Division

D. Aircraft Registration

An individual applying for a license to engage in aerial application of pesticides must certify on the application that the individual had met all the Federal Aviation Administration and Montana Department of Transportation requirements for aerial pesticide applicators.

Contact: DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
Aeronautics Division

2. **Application Requirements**

Pesticide Registrations

A. An applicant applying to register a pesticide must file a statement with the DOA with identifying information about the applicant or the person whose name and address will appear on the label. The statement must also include detailed information about the pesticide, including a copy of the pesticide label, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency registration number if the pesticide is registered, and a statement of claims made for the pesticide, including the trade and chemical name and directions for use. The DOA may also require a description of tests and the results upon which the claims are based. Federally-exempt Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) 25(b) minimal risk pesticides are also registered in Montana. The state must accept for registration all federally registered products. However, the state may restrict or prohibit the use or sale of a pesticide to prevent damage or injury to persons, animals, crops, pollinating insects, the environment, plants, wildlife, fish and other aquatic life. Registrations expire on December 31.

Licenses

B. Licensing requirements for *pesticide applicators* vary according to the scope and type of pesticide application, but generally include a completed application form, an examination, recordkeeping, a statement of financial responsibility, and the payment of fees. Licenses must be filed or renewed before pesticide application occurs in any calendar year. Applicants may maintain their qualifications in subsequent licensing years by attending training courses or requalifying by examination.

To obtain a license as a *pesticide operator*, a completed application form and an examination is required. Applicants must maintain their qualifications in subsequent licensing years by attending training courses.



*Farm applicators* using a restricted-use pesticide qualify for their first permit by completing the application form, paying the fee, passing a graded written examination, or attending a training course approved by the Montana State University Pesticide Safety Education coordinator and taking a quiz at the conclusion of the course. They must also maintain their qualifications by periodically attending training courses or requalifying by examination. Farm applicators must file for a new special-use permit and attend an approved training program every five years.

- C. An applicant for a *dealer's license* must certify by examination with the DOA and annually submit a completed application form with payment of fees. Dealers are required to maintain their qualifications in subsequent licensing years by attending training courses or requalifying by examination.

#### Aircraft Registration

- D. Individuals applying for a *license for aerial application* of pesticides must certify on the application that they have met all the Federal Aviation Administration, the Montana Department of Transportation, and the DOA requirements for aerial pesticide applicators.

Statute: 80-8-201, 80-8-203 through 80-8-209, 80-8-211, and 80-15-302, MCA

Rule: ARM 4.10.201-4.10.209, 4.10.401, 4.10.403-4.10.404, and 4.10.501-4.10.504

### 3. **Permitting Procedures**

#### A. Pesticide Registration

- 1) The Departments of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS); Agriculture; and Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) must review all applications for registration of an experimental-use permit or registration of a pesticide for special local needs. The departments utilize the same requirements and standards for reviewing registrations as established by the federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act.
- 2) The DPHHS and FWP must approve or disapprove applications within 10 days after receipt.
- 3) If the DOA, the Department of Public Health and Human Services, and the Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks are in agreement with the proposed registration, the department shall issue the registration.

Statute: 80-8-201(8), MCA

B. Licenses

Persons applying for an applicator, operator or dealer license must complete a license application on forms provided by the DOA. If the application is not complete or the qualifications for the license are not met, the department will return the application along with a notice of the deficiencies and the procedure for correcting the deficiencies. Licenses will not be issued until the application, fees and all examination or requalification requirements are completed and approved.

4. **Fees**

Pesticide Registration

- A. The fee for each registered pesticide is \$90 annually plus an additional \$95 to fund the ground water protection responsibilities of the DOA. If the application is for emergency exemptions requested by the state, a special local-need registration or an experimental-use permit registration, the fee is \$90.

Licenses

- B. The annual fee for a commercial applicator's license is \$55 (\$45 plus a \$10 fee to fund the state's waste pesticide and disposal program). The late renewal fee is \$25.

The annual fee for commercial pesticide operators is \$25 each for the first two operators and \$10 for each additional operator.

The annual fee for a government applicator's license is \$50 for each of the first four employees and an additional \$10 fee to fund the state's waste pesticide and disposal program. For each additional employee applicator there is a \$5 fee, and an additional \$10 waste pesticide disposal program fee, with a fee cap of \$600 for an agency.

The fee for a farm applicator special-use permit is \$50 for a five year permit.

- C. The annual application fee for a commercial dealer's license is \$55 (\$45 plus a \$10 fee to fund the state's waste pesticide and disposal program) and \$25 for a late renewal. The annual fee for a government dealer's license is \$60.

Statute: 80-8-201, 80-8-203, 80-8-205, 80-8-207, 80-8-209, 80-8-213,  
and 80-15-302(1), MCA

Rule: ARM 4.10.206(4)

## 5. **Criteria for Registration of Pesticides**

If it does not appear to the DOA that the pesticide warrants the proposed claims for the pesticide or if the article and its labeling do not comply with the Montana Pesticides Act, the department must notify the applicant to allow them an opportunity to make the necessary corrections. If the applicant does not make the corrections, the DOA may refuse to register the pesticide. The department's decision may be appealed.

Statute: 80-8-201(6), MCA

## 6. **Disposal**

Empty containers must be safely disposed of according to label instructions. Most empty pesticide containers must be triple rinsed, punctured and recycled or disposed of in a landfill.

Participants in the DOA's voluntary pesticide disposal program are not charged for the first 200 pounds of acceptable pesticides. The fee is 50 cents per pound for amounts greater than 200 pounds. Information about pesticide collection events is available at <http://agr.mt.gov/agr/Programs/Pesticides/Environmental/Disposal/>.

Statute: 80-8-111, MCA

Rule: ARM 4.10.1801, *et seq.*

## 7. **Public Notice**

The owner or manager of a public building must post a notice at the entryway to a building or room where certain pesticides have been applied that tells the name of the pesticide and a number to call for more information.

Statute: 80-8-107, MCA

## 8. Pesticide General Permit

To protect the state's water quality, a pesticide general permit is required for a person or entity who applies pesticides into or over state surface water. To receive a permit, the owner or operator must submit a Notice of Intent (NOI) and a Supplement E form to the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). The NOI is a legal notification by the owner or operator to the DEQ that they will comply with the terms of the pesticide general permit. A Section E supplement must be completed for each county to which pesticides will be applied. For general information on discharge permits, see WATER QUALITY PERMITTING, p. 205.

Contact: DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
Permitting and Compliance Division  
*Water Protection Bureau*

Rule: ARM 17.30.201 and 17.30.1341

## PLANT EXPORT

### 1. Types of Activities Regulated

The Montana Department of Agriculture (DOA) assists plant and plant product exporters in meeting the phytosanitary standards of importing states and countries by certifying that plants and plant products are free of pests. Applications for certification are available online through the USDA Phytosanitary Certificate Issuance & Tracking System (PCIT) <http://pcit.aphis.usda.gov/pcit/>.

Authority: Memorandum of Understanding with the U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service  
*Plant Protection and Quarantine*

Contact: DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Agricultural Sciences Division

### 2. Application Requirements

Exporters should contact the DOA before a commodity is ready for shipping to determine what the phytosanitary requirements are for the intended destination. Field inspections during the growing season, laboratory tests, soil analysis, and the completion of other testing requirements may be necessary before export certifications can be completed.

3. **Fees**

Phytosanitary certificates are either \$105, \$160, or \$180, based on the value of the shipment.

# BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION

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## BUILDING CODES AND RESTRICTIONS

### 1. Types of Activities Regulated

The statewide building code applies to all construction throughout the state with the exception of residential structures with fewer than five dwelling units; farm and ranch buildings; private garage and storage structures;<sup>1</sup> mine buildings on mine property regulated under state mining laws and subject to inspection under the federal Mine Health and Safety Act; and certain petroleum refineries, pulp and paper mills, and industrial process-related structures, vessels, and piping. Counties, cities, or towns, by adopting local ordinances or resolutions, may make the state building code applicable to these excepted properties. If counties, cities, or towns adopt local building codes, enforcement is by local rather than state authorities.

All residential construction, except farm and ranch buildings and garage and storage structures used by the owner, are required to meet the energy conservation provisions of the state building code. If the energy conservation codes are not enforced by local or state government for those residential buildings containing less than five dwelling units, the builder must certify to the owner that the building is constructed in compliance with the energy code. A person constructing a new residential building must attach a labeling sticker to the interior electrical panel stating the energy features of that building.

### 2. Application Procedures

A permit must be obtained from the appropriate authorities before construction may begin.

Statute: 50-60-101, *et seq.* and 50-60-801, *et seq.*, MCA

Rule: ARM 24.301.131

Contact: CITY OR TOWN COUNCIL

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY  
Business Standards Division

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<sup>1</sup> A private storage structure is a building used only for the storage of personal effects of the owner and not for items related to ventures that intend to transfer or exchange the items.

### 3. Fees

The various fees required for building, mechanical, plumbing, and electrical permits are listed in the Montana Department of Labor rules. Local governments certified to enforce the state building code may establish their own fees.

Rule: ARM 24.301.138 and 24.301.139

## ZONING

There are three basic legal elements local governments are authorized to use to address growth and development: comprehensive plans or growth policies, subdivision regulations (see SUBDIVISIONS, p. 172), and zoning regulations.

### 1. Applicability

Before beginning any development or related activity, a person should determine if local zoning regulations exist. Under Montana law, cities, towns, and counties may adopt zoning regulations and establish zoning districts for the regulation of land use, density, height, and size of buildings, percentage of lot occupied, size of yards, population density, location, and use of buildings, etc. If zoning exists, a permit for the development or activity may be required. Application of zoning regulations to various activities and entities is addressed separately in many places in the Montana Codes (MCA).

Statute: 76-2-101, *et seq.* and 76-2-201, *et seq.*, MCA (counties)  
76-2-301, *et seq.*, MCA (municipalities)  
67-7-101, *et seq.*, MCA (Airport Compatibility Act)

Contact: LOCAL GOVERNMENT

# COMMERCIAL - INDUSTRIAL - ENERGY

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## AIR QUALITY PERMITS: STATE

### 1. Types of Activities Regulated

An air quality permit and/or an air quality operating permit are required from the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) for the construction, installation, and operation of equipment or facilities that may cause or contribute to air pollution. Exceptions include residential heating units, motor vehicles, trains, aircraft, equipment for road construction (except stationary sources—permits are required for temporary crushers and asphalt plants), agricultural activity or equipment associated with the use of agricultural land, emergency equipment, forestry equipment used for forestry practices that remain in a single location for less than 12 months, and other sources which emit less than specified amounts. A city or county may administer its own air quality permit program in lieu of part or all of the DEQ's air quality permit program if the program is approved by the Montana Board of Environmental Review (BER).

Statute: 75-2-101, *et seq.*, MCA (Montana Clean Air Act)

Rule: ARM 17.8.740, *et seq.* and 17.8.1201, *et seq.*

Contact: LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
Health Department

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
Permitting and Compliance Division  
*Air Resources Management Bureau*

### 2. Application Requirements

Applicants for *air quality permits* must file an application with the DEQ at least 180 days before construction begins, or if construction is not required, at least 120 days before installation, alteration or use of the facility begins.

Owners and operators of registration-eligible oil and gas wells must register the facilities within 60 days after the date the well is completed. During operation, the facilities must stay within the emission limits described in DEQ rules.

Applicants for *air quality operating permits* for new major sources (as defined by DEQ rule) must submit operating permit applications within 12 months after beginning operation. Applicants required to obtain an operating permit revision must submit operating permit



applications within 12 months after beginning operation unless an existing operating permit would prohibit the construction or change in operation. If an existing operating permit would prohibit the construction or change in operation, the applicant must obtain the permit revision before beginning operation. Existing facilities are required to submit an application within 12 months of becoming subject to the operating permit program.

Statute: 75-2-211, MCA (air quality permit)  
75-2-217, MCA (operating permit)

Rule: ARM 17.8.748 and 17.8.1205

### 3. **Permitting Procedures**

#### A. Air Quality Permit

- 1) The application for an air quality permit is not considered filed until all filing requirements are completed. However, if the DEQ fails to notify the applicant within 30 days that an application is incomplete, the application is considered complete.
- 2) The applicant must post a public notice in a newspaper of general circulation in the area of the proposed facility within 10 days before or after submitting the application. The DEQ will supply the form of the notice.
- 3) Within 40 days after receipt of the complete and filed application, the DEQ makes a preliminary determination on whether the permit should be issued, issued with conditions, or denied. The department must notify both the applicant and the members of the public who requested notification of its preliminary determination. There is a 15 day comment period after the preliminary determination is issued for most minor source permits. There is a 30 day public comment period after the preliminary determination is issued for permits that are subject to certain federal air permitting provisions (see 42 U.S.C. 7475, 42 U.S.C. 7503 and 42 U.S.C. 7661), for incinerators (see pp. 40 and 157) and for permits that require an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), (see MONTANA ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT, p. 130). See timelines in the table on the following page.
- 4) The DEQ has 60 days after a completed and filed application is submitted to notify the applicant of its decision for most minor source permits. The DEQ has 75 days after a completed and filed application is submitted to the department to notify the applicant of its decision for permits that are subject to certain federal air permitting provisions (see above), for incinerators and for permits that require an EIS. Extensions may be granted under certain

conditions by written agreement of the DEQ and the applicant. If an EIS is required, final action must be taken within 180 days if the DEQ prepares the EIS. See timelines in the table below.

**Timeline for public comment and permit approval**

	Minor Sources	Project is subject to certain federal provisions or is an incinerator	Project for which an EIS is prepared by the DEQ	Projects for which an EIS is prepared by another agency or under Title 82, chapter 4, parts 1-3
Public comment period after preliminary determination is issued	15 days	30 days	30 days	30 days
Time period for DEQ to approve or deny the permit	60 days	75 days	180 days	30 days after issuance of the EIS

- 5) The applicant may appeal the DEQ's decision to the BER. Any person adversely affected by the decision to approve or deny the application may also appeal to the BER within 15 days of the DEQ's decision, upon affidavit, explaining the grounds for the appeal.

For energy development projects, a request for a hearing must be filed within 30 days of the DEQ's decision and include an affidavit explaining the grounds for the appeal. The person requesting a hearing may elect for the appeal to be heard in District Court. This election must occur within 15 days of receipt of the request for hearing with the BER and must be submitted to the BER.

- 6) The permit becomes final 15 days after the DEQ's decision unless a stay is granted.

Statute: 75-2-211, MCA

Rule: ARM 17.8.740, *et seq.*

**B. Operating Permit**

Operating permits must be obtained for all new and existing major sources of air pollution and are subject to the same completeness and appeal procedures as air quality permits. The application for an operating permit

requires more extensive public notification, including the requirement that the applicant notify the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). In addition, the DEQ must give notice to surrounding states of draft operating permit issuance. Operating permits must be renewed every five years.

Statute: 75-2-218, MCA

Rule: ARM 17.8.1203-17.8.1207

#### 4. Fees

The DEQ assesses an application fee and an operating fee from applicants and permit holders to fund the air quality permitting program and to implement and enforce the terms and conditions of the permit.

Statute: 75-2-220, MCA

Rule: ARM 17.8.501, *et seq.*

#### 5. Criteria

An air quality permit to construct or operate a new or altered air pollution source cannot be issued unless the source is able to comply with the standards, emission limitations, and other rules adopted under the Montana Clean Air Act, the applicable regulations and requirements of the federal Clean Air Act, and any applicable control strategy contained in the Montana State Implementation Plan. The applicant must also demonstrate that the source will not cause or contribute to a violation of a Montana or national ambient air quality standard.

Rule: ARM 17.8.749

#### 6. Additional Information

##### A. Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD)

- 1) When a major new source of air pollution is proposed to be constructed or modified in an area in compliance with ambient air quality standards, a more rigorous review procedure may apply. The review may include one year of pre-application baseline data, control technology review, air pollution impact modeling, and other measures.

- 2) The DEQ must: 1) advertise in a newspaper of general circulation in the air quality control region affected by the proposed source that an application has been received along with the DEQ's preliminary determination, the degree of increment consumption expected from the source, how written comments may be submitted, and how the DEQ's final decision may be appealed to the BER; and 2) forward copies of the advertisement to the applicant, Region VIII Administrator of the EPA, and to area officials and agencies affected by the proposed construction.

Rule: ARM 17.8.801, *et seq.*

B. New Source Review in Nonattainment Areas

Major new or modified sources of air pollution locating in or near areas that are not attaining ambient air quality standards must meet additional permitting criteria, including obtaining emission offsets and installing control equipment that meets the *lowest achievable emission rate* (LAER).

Rule: ARM 17.8.901-17.8.906

C. Incinerators - Commercial Medical or Hazardous Waste

Commercial medical waste and commercial hazardous waste incinerators have special requirements in addition to the permitting requirements under the Montana Clean Air Act (see AIR QUALITY PERMITS, p. 36); and the Montana Solid Waste Management Act (see SOLID WASTE - HAZARDOUS WASTE, p. 155), Commercial medical waste and commercial hazardous waste incinerators must achieve the lowest achievable emission rates as identified by DEQ rules for dioxins, furans, heavy metals, and other hazardous air pollutants to prevent risk to public health. The plan for a commercial hazardous waste incinerator must include a scheme for the cessation of burning if site-specific monitoring determines that inversion conditions, as defined by DEQ rule, exist. If the facility is close to a populated area, the department may require the owner or operator of an existing commercial hazardous waste incinerator or an applicant for an air quality permit for a commercial hazardous waste incinerator to provide telemetering service to the DEQ with an immediate notification system activated when emissions approach or exceed permitted limits.

The definition of commercial medical waste incinerator does not include hospital or medical facilities that primarily incinerate medical waste generated onsite.

A statement disclosing if the applicant has had a record of complaints and convictions for the violation of environmental protection laws is required for the issuance, transfer, or alteration of an air quality permit for a commercial medical waste or commercial hazardous waste incinerator. The DEQ may deny an application or impose conditions on a permit based on an applicant's compliance history.

Statute: 75-2-230 through 75-2-233, MCA

Contact: DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
Permitting and Compliance Division  
*Air Resources Management Bureau*  
*Waste and Underground Tank Management Bureau*

D. Variances

A person may apply to the BER for an exemption from applicable rules governing emissions. The variance may be issued if the BER finds there will be no adverse impact to public health or safety and that compliance with the rules would be an undue hardship on the applicant. The length of the variance is at the BER's discretion and may be renewed. An applicant for a variance must submit a sum of two percent of the cost of equipment needed to bring the facility into compliance with the rule from which the exemption is sought, but not less than \$500 nor more than \$80,000.

Statute: 75-2-212, MCA

Rule: ARM 17.8.120

## **AIR QUALITY PERMITS: FEDERAL**

For information about air quality permits on reservation lands, contact the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Contact: ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
Montana Office, Helena

## **GEOHERMAL LEASES**

Development of geothermal resources will generally require the appropriation of water (see WATER APPROPRIATIONS - GROUND WATER, p. 195) and may require a Certificate

of Compliance (see MAJOR FACILITY SITING ACT, p. 51). For general information, contact the Montana Department of Environmental Quality.

## **GEOHERMAL LEASES ON STATE LANDS**

### **1. Types of Activities Regulated**

The Board of Land Commissioners may lease state-owned lands, including the beds of navigable streams and water bodies, for the purposes of prospecting, exploration, well construction, or production of geothermal resources.

Statute: 77-4-101, *et seq.*, MCA

Rule: ARM 36.25.401, *et seq.*

Contact: DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION  
Trust Land Management Division  
*Minerals Management Bureau*

### **2. Permitting Procedures**

- 1) A person applying for a geothermal lease on state lands must submit a completed application to the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation. The required information is identified in the application and must include an adequate description of the land. A water right may also be required. See WATER APPROPRIATIONS, p. 195.
- 2) When sufficient applications have been received to warrant a sale, or at the director's discretion, a sale will be announced.
- 3) The notice of the sale must be published in a geothermal trade journal or in two newspapers of general circulation in Lewis and Clark County. Notice must be published for four weeks preceding the sale date. The sale may be offered by competitive bid.
- 4) A minimum bond of \$2,000 is required to protect the state's interest in the resource.
- 5) The term of a geothermal lease is 10 years. Compensation must be paid to the surface lessee for damage to the surface or the lease holder's interest.

Rule: ARM 36.25.404

### 3. Fees

The fee for a geothermal lease application is \$25. Rental and royalty charges are determined by the Board but are not less than \$1 per acre, not less than 10 percent of the amount or value of steam, heat, or energy produced and not more than five percent of any byproduct.

Rule: ARM 36.2.1003, 36.25.404, and 36.25.406

## HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES - COMMUNITY RIGHT TO KNOW

### 1. Types of Activities Regulated

The purpose of the federal Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act (EPCRA—also known as SARA Title III) is to provide local governments and the public with information about hazardous substances in their communities in order to encourage and support facility planning in the event of an accidental release or spill.

Under the EPCRA, the governor of each state appoints a State Emergency Response Commission (SERC), which in turn appoints Emergency Planning Districts and a Local Emergency Planning Commission (LEPC) for each district. In Montana, each county is a district, thus there are 56 districts and LEPCs. A person or facility with designated types and quantities of hazardous or toxic substances must compile information on the chemicals it uses, stores, and releases into the environment and provide this information to the SERC, the LEPC, and the local fire department. Montana's SERC requires that all reporting be completed through E-Plan, found here: [erplan.net](http://erplan.net). (Check at [deq.mt.gov](http://deq.mt.gov) under EPCRA reporting to find directions.) Local fire departments and LEPC may have access to E-Plan or may require individual submitting to them. The LEPCs receive and maintain information, assist in facility planning, and develop a district plan to prepare for chemical emergencies.

Rule: 42 U.S.C. 11001, *et seq.*, 40 C.F.R. § 301, *et seq.*

Contact: LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMISSION

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
Washington D.C.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
Director's Office, Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)  
- Tier II Chemical Inventory Information

DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AFFAIRS  
Disaster and Emergency Services Division

## HYDROELECTRIC POWER DEVELOPMENT

### 1. Types of Activities Regulated

Nonfederal hydroelectric power plants on navigable waters of the United States, those which occupy federal land or utilize water power from a government dam, or those which, under certain circumstances, affect the interest of interstate or foreign commerce, must be licensed by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). As a result, FERC is the lead agency in the licensing of new hydropower facilities and in the re-licensing of existing facilities. FERC, acting under the authority of the federal Power Act, as amended, and the National Energy Policy Act of 2005, processes and evaluates the federal applications required for all hydropower dams, diversions and other hydropower developments; reviews and analyzes environmental impacts of hydropower projects and determines appropriate mitigation and enhancement measures; and sets requirements governing the sale of the hydropower generation at the wholesale level.

There are six primary subject areas where state regulation of hydroelectric power must be considered in addition to the federal requirements under FERC. These areas (and the responsible state agencies) are:

- 1) Water rights permits: contact the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC), Water Rights Bureau, (see WATER APPROPRIATIONS - SURFACE DIVERSIONS, p. 199).
- 2) A 310 permit for altering a perennial stream: contact the DNRC, Conservation Districts Bureau or the local Conservation District supervisor (see CONSERVATION DISTRICTS, p. 1).
- 3) Water quality certification under Section 401 of the federal Clean Water Act: contact the Montana Department of Environmental Quality.
- 4) Fish and wildlife impact evaluation (no permit required): contact the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Fish and Wildlife Division, Helena.
- 5) Hydropower projects on state land (see page 45).
- 6) Hydropower projects on state-owned dams (see page 46).

In addition, a 404 permit is required from the U.S. Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers for any dredge and fill activity or other work affecting United State's waters<sup>1</sup> or

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<sup>1</sup> Waters of the United States includes essentially all surface waters such as all navigable waters and their tributaries, all interstate waters and their tributaries, all wetlands adjacent to these waters, and all impoundments of these waters.



wetlands. Contact the U.S. Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers, (see STREAM BEDS - STREAM BANKS - WETLANDS, p. 10).

Statute: federal Power Act, 16 U.S.C., chapter 12

Contact: FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION  
Office of Hydropower Licensing  
Washington D.C.

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION  
Regional Office  
Portland, Oregon

## HYDROELECTRIC POWER DEVELOPMENT ON STATE LANDS

### 1. Types of Activities Regulated

The Board of Land Commissioners may grant leases for the construction and operation of hydroelectric power sites on state lands to any person, corporation, or municipality. See HYDROELECTRIC POWER DEVELOPMENT, above.

Statute: 77-4-201, *et seq.*, MCA

Contact: DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION  
Trust Land Management Division  
*Real Estate Management Bureau*

### 2. Application Requirements

An application must be presented to the Board for a lease of or license for a power site on state lands. A preliminary examination of the proposed site's value for development is required. If the investigation requires further proceedings, the Board must publish a notice regarding the proposed lease or license for six weeks in two state newspapers, one of which must be from the affected area. The Board, at its meeting on the proposed site, may consider the original application along with any other filed applications. The Board has the authority to reject any or all bids. Acceptance depends on which offer is considered to be the most advantageous to the state. Bid preferences are given to municipalities. The term of the lease cannot exceed 50 years.

Statute: 77-4-203 through 77-4-211, MCA

## **HYDROELECTRIC POWER DEVELOPMENT AT STATE-OWNED DAMS**

### **1. Types of Activities Regulated**

The Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) may lease sites at state water projects that it determines to be feasible for energy generation and in the best interest of the state.

### **2. Application Procedures**

- 1) The DNRC must study the economic and environmental feasibility of construction and operation of a small-scale hydroelectric power generating facility on each of its dams and periodically update the studies. The studies are submitted to the Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee and the Water Policy Interim Committee. If the DNRC determines that hydroelectric generation at a state-owned dam is feasible based on the study, the department must publish an advertisement soliciting lease applications.
- 2) Following publication, individuals, public utilities, and electric cooperatives have 180 days to submit applications to the DNRC. Applications must include a statement of the capability of the applicant to achieve the annual production output estimated by the DNRC, the estimated time to make the project operational, the bid amount of the royalty, and other information the department may request to assist in evaluating the application.
- 3) The DNRC will hold a hearing to examine all applications and must decide whether to accept or reject applications within 180 days after the close of the application period.
- 4) The DNRC is authorized to hold any federal license, permit or exemption on a project at the department's discretion.
- 5) The duration of the lease may not exceed the term of the federal permits and may in no case exceed 55 years.
- 6) If no acceptable applications are received, the DNRC may reject all bids and proceed to develop the hydroelectric generation facility.

Statute: 85-1-501 through 85-1-514, MCA

Contact: DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION  
Water Resources Division

## INDOOR EMISSIONS - EMPLOYEE HEALTH AND SAFETY

### ASBESTOS CONTROL

#### 1. Types of Activities Regulated

The Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) issues asbestos project permits, asbestos facility permits, inspects asbestos projects, accredits persons engaged in asbestos-related work, approves and audits asbestos training course providers, and administers the asbestos National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP).

Statute: 75-2-501, *et seq.*, MCA

Rule: ARM 17.74.301, 17.74.343, 17.74.350-17.74.372, and 17.74.401-17.74.403

Contact: DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
Permitting and Compliance Division  
*Waste and Underground Tank Management Bureau*

#### 2. Permitting Requirements and Procedures

- 1) Any person impacting three square or linear feet of regulated asbestos containing material must be accredited by the state and operating under a special permit issued by the DEQ.
- 2) A person may not initiate an asbestos project without obtaining an asbestos project permit from the DEQ. Application materials include a completed, signed Montana Asbestos Project Permit Application and NESHAP Demolition/Renovation Notification form. Applicants must also pay the required permit fee.
- 3) The owner or operator of a facility may apply to the DEQ, under certain conditions, for an annual asbestos project permit. An annual asbestos project permit authorizes a facility to conduct asbestos projects within the confines of the facility's controlled area during the permit period. The application must include 1) a description of the facility and the asbestos work that will be performed over the year, 2) an asbestos health and safety plan, 3) a list of accredited asbestos contractor/supervisors and workers, 4) a signed statement that the asbestos-containing materials will be properly removed,

transported, and disposed of in accordance with state and federal asbestos regulations, and 5) the required annual permit application fee.

Statute: 75-2-503, 75-2-504, and 75-2-511, MCA

Rule: ARM 17.74.353-17.74.360, and 17.74.401

### **3. Accreditation Requirements**

A person seeking accreditation as an asbestos inspector, planner, project designer, contractor/supervisor, or a worker must submit a properly completed application form, asbestos training course certificate and the applicable fee to the DEQ.

Statute: 75-2-502 and 75-2-511, MCA

Rule: ARM 17.74.353, 17.74.362, 17.74.363, and 17.74.402

### **4. Asbestos Training Courses**

Asbestos training course providers must be approved by the DEQ and audited by the department on a regular basis. Asbestos training course providers must apply to become approved by submitting 1) a training course application, 2) a course curriculum with sample training certificate, 3) a list of instructors, 4) example examinations, 5) a course schedule and 6) the applicable fee.

Statute: 75-2-511, MCA

Rule: ARM 17.74.364-17.74.368 and 17.74.403

### **5. Fees**

Asbestos project permit fees are based on 10 percent of the contract volume (as defined in ARM 17.74.401(2)). All persons seeking accreditation or an application renewal for an asbestos-related occupation who have been trained by a Montana-approved asbestos training course provider must pay a \$170 fee, except for asbestos workers who are assessed a \$45 fee. A surcharge of \$35 is assessed to those persons who submit a training course certificate from a non-Montana approved asbestos training course provider (see ARM 17.74.402), except for asbestos workers who are assessed a \$15 surcharge. Asbestos training course approval and audit fees are based on the course provided (see ARM 17.74.403). Annual asbestos permits cost \$2,000 and annual permit amendments cost \$600.

Statute: 75-2-503 and 75-2-511, MCA

Rule: ARM 17.74.401-17.74.403

## 6. **Additional Information**

### National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP)

As a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency-delegated program, the DEQ administers portions of the asbestos NESHAP, which governs building demolition and renovation activities, inspections for asbestos prior to demolition/renovation, notification of building demolition renovation activities, disposal of asbestos waste, and control of asbestos emissions.

## **EMPLOYEE HEALTH AND SAFETY**

### 1. **Types of Activities Regulated**

The Montana Department of Labor and Industry (DLI) has the authority to regulate health and safety hazards in work places that are under the jurisdiction of state and local governments. The federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulates noise and exposure to certain hazardous chemicals in all privately owned work places.

Statute: 50-71-111, MCA

Contact: DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY  
Employment Relations Division  
*Safety Bureau*

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR  
Occupational Safety and Health Administration

## **RADIATION CONTROL**

### 1. **Types of Activities Regulated**

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission licenses users of byproduct materials, source materials, and special nuclear materials in Montana. A number of record-keeping and handling requirements apply.

The Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) has statutory authority to register and regulate machine sources of ionizing radiation (i.e., x-rays, accelerators, etc.). Registration of these machines is required of the owner after acquisition of the machine and prior to its use. Registration forms are available from the DPHHS or machines may be registered online at <https://app.mt.gov/radio>. A number of record-keeping and use requirements also apply.

In addition, the DPHHS has statutory authority to license users of naturally occurring and electronically produced radionuclides but does not operate a licensing program at this time.

Statute: 50-79-201, *et seq.*, MCA

Rule: ARM 37.14.301, 37.14.302, 37.14.306, 37.14.307, and 37.14.501, *et seq.*

Contact: NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
Quality Assurance Division  
*Licensure Bureau*

## **RADON CONTROL**

### **1. Types of Activities Regulated**

Prior to selling any inhabitable property, the seller or their agent must provide a designated disclosure statement (see 75-3-606, MCA) alerting the buyer to the existence of naturally occurring radon gas in some buildings in Montana and the associated health risks. Whenever a seller knows that a building has been tested for radon gas, the seller must provide the buyer with a result of the test and evidence of any subsequent mitigation or testing.

A person who wishes to be publicly listed by the Montana Department of Environmental Quality in a radon-related occupation must pass a proficiency examination administered by the National Environmental Health Association's National Radon Proficiency Program.

Statute: 75-3-601, *et seq.*, MCA (Montana Radon Control Act)

Rule: ARM 24.210.641(5)(x)

Contact: DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
Planning, Prevention and Assistance Division  
*Energy and Pollution Prevention Bureau*

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY  
Business Standards Division  
*Board of Realty Regulation*

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
Regional Office, Denver, CO

## MAJOR FACILITY SITING

### 1. Types of Activities Regulated

A Certificate of Compliance is required from the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) for certain major electric transmission line and large oil, natural gas, and coal slurry pipeline facilities or large facilities that utilize geothermal resources. Associated facilities such as transportation links, pipeline pump stations, and other facilities associated with the delivery of energy are included. Prior to certification, the applicant must receive the necessary permits from the DEQ for air emissions; wastewater discharges; the generation, transportation, storage, or disposal of hazardous wastes; and other relevant permits administered by the DEQ. Special procedures apply to large hydroelectric and interstate natural gas pipeline facilities also subject to the jurisdiction of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

Statute: 75-20-101, *et seq.*, MCA (Montana Major Facility Siting Act)

Rule: ARM 17.20.301-17.20.303

Contact: DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
Permitting and Compliance Division  
*Environmental Management Bureau*

### 2. Application Requirements

Applications for a certificate under the Montana Major Facility Siting Act (MFSA) must be filed with the DEQ. The information required varies according to the size and type of the facility, but generally includes a description of the proposed facility and its location, baseline data for proposed sites, and alternate site information.

Statute: 75-20-211, MCA

Rule: ARM 17.20.801-17.20.807

### 3. **Permitting Procedures**

- 1) The DEQ must notify an applicant within 30 days that the application is either complete or incomplete. If an application is resubmitted, the DEQ then has 15 days to review the information and notify the applicant that the application is complete and accepted or is not complete and accepted.
- 2) For projects that do not cross federal lands, within nine months following the acceptance of a complete application, the DEQ must issue a report that includes the department's studies, evaluations, recommendations, customer fiscal impact analysis, if required under 69-2-216, MCA, and other relevant documents. An Environmental Impact Statement or analysis may be included if there is compelling evidence that the facility construction and operation would have adverse environmental impacts (see MONTANA ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT, p. 130). During the environmental review process, the DEQ must designate a one-mile-wide facility siting corridor along the facility route for certain facilities and exempt future siting modifications within the corridor from MEPA review if the conditions in 75-20-303(6), MCA, are met. For a facility that is unlikely to result in adverse environmental impacts or a high level of public concern, the DEQ's decision must be returned in 90 days. Before issuing a decision, the DEQ will provide an opportunity for public review and comment.
- 3) Construction of a geothermal facility must begin within six years from the date of certification. Linear facilities must be completed within 10 years—except for transmission lines less than 30 miles in length, which must be completed within five years.
- 4) The DEQ's decision may be appealed to the Board of Environmental Review. Decisions of the Board may be appealed to a state District Court under the contested case provisions of the Montana Administrative Procedures Act (see MAPA, p. 129).

Statute: 75-20-216, 75-20-219, 75-20-223, 75-20-231, 75-20-301, 75-20-303, 75-20-304, and 75-20-406, MCA

Rule: ARM 17.4.501

### 4. **Fees**

The applicant for a certificate under the MFSA is required to deposit a filing fee based on the estimated cost of the project in an earmarked revenue fund for use by the DEQ to



administer the Act. A fee schedule is listed in the statute. Alternately, the applicant may contract with the DEQ for payment of fees.

Statute: 75-20-215, MCA

## 5. Criteria

The DEQ must issue an opinion and render a decision either granting or denying an application as filed, or granting the application with conditions or modifications. The department must grant a certificate to a geothermal facility if it does not pose a threat of serious injury or damage to the environment or area inhabitants. For a linear facility, the DEQ's decision is based on a number of factors, including need; the nature of probable environmental impacts and the minimization of impacts considering the state of available technology and the nature and economics of the alternatives; that the location of the proposed facility conforms to applicable state and local laws; that the facility will serve the public interest, convenience, and necessity; that the DEQ has issued all necessary decisions, opinions, orders, certifications, and permits; and that the use of public lands or federally designated energy corridors for the location of the facility was evaluated and public lands or federally designated energy corridors were selected whenever their use was compatible with MFSA and transmission line reliability siting criteria. The DEQ must deny the certificate if the above findings cannot be made.

The DEQ must waive the requirement for alternative site studies and the finding of minimum adverse environmental impact when a facility is proposed for construction in a county that has experienced severe unemployment problems because of plant closure.

Statute: 75-20-301 and 75-20-304, MCA

## 6. Definition of Facility and Exceptions

Under the MFSA, a facility is:

- 1) Each *electric transmission line* and associated facilities of a design capacity of more than 69 kilovolts, except that the term:
  - ▶ does not include an electric transmission line and associated facilities of a design capacity of 230 kilovolts or less and 10 miles or less in length;
  - ▶ does not include an electric transmission line with a design capacity of more than 69 kilovolts for which the person planning to construct the line has obtained right-of-way agreements or options for a right-of-way from more

than 75 percent of the owners who collectively own more than 75 percent of the property along the centerline;

- ▶ does not include electric transmission lines that are collectively less than 150 miles in length and are required under state or federal regulations and laws, with respect to reliability of service, for an electrical generation facility, as defined in section 15-24-3001(4), MCA, or a wind generation facility, biomass generation facility, or energy storage facility as defined in section 15-6-157, MCA, to interconnect to a regional transmission grid or secure firm transmission service to use the grid for which the person planning to construct the line or lines has obtained right-of-way agreements or options for a right-of-way from more than 75 percent of the owners who collectively own more than 75 percent of the property along the centerline or centerlines;

- ▶ does not include an upgrade to an existing transmission line of a design capacity of 50 kilovolts or more to increase that line's capacity, including construction outside the existing easement or right-of-way. Except for a newly acquired easement or right-of-way necessary to comply with electromagnetic field standards, a newly acquired easement or right-of-way outside the existing easement or right-of-way as described in this subsection (8)(a)(iv) may not exceed a total of 10 miles in length or be more than 10 percent of the existing transmission right-of-way, whichever is greater, and the purpose of the easement must be to avoid sensitive areas or inhabited areas or conform to state or federal safety, reliability, and operational standards designed to safeguard the transmission network and protect electrical workers and the public.

- ▶ does not include a transmission substation, a switchyard, voltage support, or other control equipment.

2) A *pipeline* greater than 25 inches in inside diameter and 50 miles in length, and associated facilities, except for:

- ▶ a pipeline within the boundaries of the state that is used exclusively for the irrigation of agricultural crops or for drinking water; or

- ▶ a pipeline greater than 25 inches in inside diameter and 50 miles in length for which the person planning to construct the pipeline has obtained right-of-way agreements or options for a right-of-way from more than 75 percent of the owners who collectively own more than 75 percent of the property along the centerline.

3) A *pipeline* greater than 17 inches in inside diameter and 30 miles in length, and associated facilities used to transport coal suspended in water. Aspects

of other pipeline projects may be covered by statutes listed under UTILITIES (p. 179).

- 4) A *geothermal resource* or addition designed for or capable of producing geothermally derived power equivalent to 50 megawatts, except for a compressed air energy facility as defined in section 15-6-157, MCA.
- 5) A plant capable of generating 50 megawatts of hydroelectric power or more, a unit, or other facility or addition subject to the jurisdiction of the Federal Regulatory Energy Commission, except for energy storage projects, as defined in section 15-6-157, MCA.

Statute: 75-20-104(8), MCA

## 7. Additional Information

The DEQ may not issue a certificate to construct a nuclear facility in Montana unless it meets the stringent criteria specified in 75-20-1203, MCA. All nuclear facilities must be subject to a public referendum in order to be approved.

## WIND ENERGY

### 1. Types of Activities Regulated

The Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) does not specifically permit wind power generating facilities but the following permits may be required depending on the location of roads, turbines, and powerlines.

- 1) An easement from the appropriate property owner may be required to ensure an undisturbed flow of wind across that property. If the affected property owner is the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC), the use of that land may be subject to permits, leases, or easements from the department and approval from the Board of Land Commissioners (see STATE LANDS, p. 7).
- 2) Activities that affect air or water quality such as facility construction or wastewater discharges may require permits from the DEQ (see AIR QUALITY PERMITS, p. 36 and WATER QUALITY PERMITTING, p. 205).
- 3) Project sponsors must file a Notice of Intent and a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan with the DEQ for construction activities that would disturb more than one acre of land.
- 4) A person who proposes to construct an energy-related project not considered a facility pursuant to 75-20-104(8), MCA, may petition the DEQ to review the

- project under the provisions of the Major Facility Siting Act. Transmission lines from a wind generating facility may be covered by the Act (see p. 51).
- 5) A 310 permit may be required if the project includes the alteration of a perennial stream: contact the DNRC, Conservation Districts Bureau or the local Conservation District supervisor (see CONSERVATION DISTRICTS, p. 1). A 318 permit may be required from the DEQ for work in a stream, lake or wetland, (see STREAM BEDS - STREAM BANKS - WETLANDS, p. 10).
  - 6) Section 401 water quality certification under the federal Clean Water Act provides a review of potential adverse water quality impacts associated with discharges of dredged or fill materials in wetlands and other waters: contact the DEQ.
  - 7) Activities that affect migratory bird populations are subject to the provisions of the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act (see p. 99).

Statute: 70-17-303 and 70-17-402, MCA (wind energy easements)  
77-1-301, MCA (DNRC easements, licenses, and permits)  
75-20-101, *et seq.*, MCA (Montana Major Facility Siting Act)

Rule: ARM 36.25.104, *et seq.* (DNRC easements, licenses, and permits)  
ARM 17.20.301-17.20.303 and 17.20.801, *et seq.* (facility siting)

Contact: PROPERTY OWNER

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION  
Trust Land Management Division

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
Permitting and Compliance Division  
*Environmental Management Bureau*

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
Montana Office, Helena

# FOOD PROCESSING AND SERVICE

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## DAIRIES

### 1. Types of Activities Regulated

A license is required for the operation of a dairy and application forms are available from the Montana Department of Livestock (DOL). Prior to construction, remodeling, or relocation of a dairy, detailed plans must be submitted to the DOL for review and approval. Also prior to construction, the applicant must obtain a wastewater discharge permit from the Montana Department of Environmental Quality for any discharge of wastes (see p. 206) and an air quality permit for the release of air pollutants (see p. 36). Local health agencies may investigate or sample the dairies in their area.

Statute: 81-22-201 through 81-22-209, 81-22-305, and 81-22-403, MCA

Contact: DEPARTMENT OF LIVESTOCK  
*Milk and Egg Bureau*

### 2. Fees

The license fees for a dairy range from \$5 to \$50.

## SLAUGHTERHOUSES - MEATPACKING PLANTS

### 1. Types of Activities Regulated

An annual license is required from the Montana Department of Livestock (DOL) to operate a slaughterhouse, meat packing house, mobile slaughter facility or meat storage facility. Plans for remodeling or new structures must be approved by the DOL prior to construction. The Montana Department of Environmental Quality retains jurisdiction over ensuring that the facility has an approved water supply and that wastes are disposed of properly.

Statute: 81-9-201, 81-9-202, 81-9-240, and 81-9-241, MCA

Rule: ARM 32.6.701-32.6.712

Contact: DEPARTMENT OF LIVESTOCK  
*Meat and Poultry Inspection Bureau*

# FORESTRY

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## BURNING PERMITS

### 1. Types of Activities Regulated

- A. Burning in Forested Areas: During the forest fire season (May 1 - September 30, or as extended), a permit is required from the recognized protection agency for the area (county, state or federal) to ignite a forest fire, slash-burning fire, land-clearing fire, debris-burning fire or an open fire on forest lands. A permit is not required in a designated, improved campground.
- B. County Permits: The county governing body may establish its own controlled burning seasons annually and require an official written permit or permission to ignite a fire, including a slash-burning, land-clearing, debris-burning or open fire within the county protection area on any residential or commercial property, forest land, range land or cropland.

If a person or entity has entered into and is in compliance with a fire hazard reduction agreement with the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, open burning may be conducted, subject to section 76-13-121, MCA, between October 1 and April 30 without obtaining a written permit or permission to set a fire if the person or entity obtains air quality and ventilation forecasts before igniting or setting the fire and notifies the county of the location of the burn area.

- C. Air Quality Permits for Burning: Air quality permits for major burns (open burning of approximately 100 acres in a given year) are required from the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). All open burners, major and minor, must comply with restrictions issued from September 1 through November 30 on the Ventilation Hotline (1-800-225-6779) or at the Monitoring Unit's web site at <http://smokemu.org>. To conduct open burning during December through February, a person conducting a major or minor burn must submit a written request to the DEQ demonstrating that the burn must be conducted prior to reopening of open burning in March, receive permission from the department for each burn, and adhere to dispersion forecast recommendations by calling the DEQ on the day of the burn. See AIR QUALITY PERMITS, p. 36.

The DEQ may issue conditional air quality open burning permits for certain materials, including clean untreated wood waste at landfills and industrial sources, as well as the burning of prohibited materials for the training of

firefighters, or open burning in emergency situations, if certain departmental requirements described in ARM 17.8.611-17.8.612 are followed.

- Statute: 7-33-2205, MCA (county permits)  
76-13-121, MCA (burning in forested areas)  
76-13-401, *et seq.* (fire hazard reduction)
- Rule: ARM 17.8.601, *et seq.* (air quality permits)
- Contact: DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION  
Land and Unit Offices (see APPENDIX 2), or  
Forestry Division  
*Fire and Aviation Management Bureau*
- U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Forest Service  
*Forest Supervisor*
- BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
- DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
Permitting and Compliance Division  
*Air Resources Management Bureau*

## 2. Fees

Air quality open burning permit fees are calculated by the DEQ. Contact the Air Resources Management Bureau.

- Rule: ARM 17.8.514

## CABIN SITES

### 1. Types of Activities Regulated

Leases for cabin sites on state forest lands may be obtained from the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation. State law and department rules govern lease fees and the use and maintenance of these sites.

Statute: 77-1-208, 77-1-235, and 77-1-236 <sup>1</sup> MCA

Rule: ARM 36.11.101 and 36.25.1001, *et seq.*

Contact: DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION  
Trust Land Management Division  
*Real Estate Management Bureau*

## HAZARD REDUCTION

### 1. Types of Activities Regulated

Before conducting any timber cutting or timber stand improvements on private lands or right-of-way clearing on private forest lands, the person conducting the work must be issued an exemption certificate or enter into a fire hazard reduction agreement with the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC), except where a minimum slash hazard exists. Exemption certificates are issued for lands that are within the exterior boundary of an incorporated town and release the applicant from the requirements for slash and hazard reduction. Applicants entering into fire hazard reduction agreements must pay administrative fees and post a bond to cover the potential cost to the DNRC in case of default of abatement measures. The department will issue a certificate of clearance and return the bond when the fire hazard has been appropriately reduced and the agreement for reduction of fire hazard has been executed. The DNRC must be notified at least 10 days prior to any clearing for right-of-way.

Statute: 76-13-401 through 76-13-415, MCA

Rule: ARM 36.11.221-36.11.232

Contact: DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION  
Land and Unit Offices (see APPENDIX 2)

Forestry Division  
*Forestry Assistance Bureau*

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<sup>1</sup> Senate Bill No. 409 (2011) and the associated rules concerning cabin site leasing are under a temporary injunction at the date of this publication (November 2014) until the court issues a final decision in the case.



## **STREAMSIDE MANAGEMENT ZONES**

### **1. Types of Activities Regulated**

While no permit is required to conduct forest practices in streamside management zones, special management standards do apply within and to varying widths on either side of a stream, lake, or other water body. The practices of broadcast burning, clearcutting, road construction (except when necessary to cross a stream or wetland), the operation of vehicles, use of hazardous or toxic materials, and the deposition of slash or sidecasting of road materials are prohibited except as provided for by alternative practices approved by the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation.

Statute: 77-5-301 through 77-5-307, MCA

Rule: ARM 36.11.302-36.11.313

Contact: DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION  
Forestry Division  
*Forestry Assistance Bureau*

## **TIMBER CONSERVATION LICENSE**

### **1. Types of Activities Regulated**

The Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC), under the direction of the Board of Land Commissioners, may issue a timber conservation license in lieu of the sale of timber on state trust lands (see TIMBER SALES, p. 62). The successful applicant for a license must furnish a surety bond and pay fees for forest improvement. Fees are not assessed on Morrill Act trust lands.

Statute: 77-5-204 and 77-5-208, MCA

Rule: ARM 36.11.451-36.11.456

Contact: DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION  
Trust Land Management Division  
*Forest Management Bureau*

### **2. Application Requirements**

During the environmental review process (see MONTANA ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT, p. 130) for a proposed timber sale, the applicant for a timber conservation license

must submit a written request to the DNRC to defer the sale or a portion of the sale. If the request is not received before the completion of the review process, the department may not issue a license.

### **3. Permitting Procedures**

Once the DNRC receives a written request, it will prepare the sale for consideration by the Board using the alternatives of the sale with and the sale without the timber conservation license. The DNRC will solicit bids for each alternative to ensure that full, fair market value for the sale is secured.

## **TIMBER HARVESTS/BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES**

### **1. Types of Activities Regulated**

Timber owners and operators must notify the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) prior to conducting a forest practice. Forest practices include timber cutting, road construction or reconstruction, site preparation, reforestation, or management of logging slash.

Within five working days of receiving notification of a forest practice, the DNRC will provide the operator with information on forestry Best Management Practices (BMPs) and issue a notice that the forest practice may proceed or request an onsite consultation. The DNRC encourages the use of BMPs to protect and conserve water, range, soil, and forest resources.

Statute: 76-13-101 and 76-13-420 through 76-13-424, MCA

Contact: DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION  
Forestry Division  
*Forestry Assistance Bureau*

## **TIMBER SALES**

### **1. Types of Activities Regulated**

Timber sales on state forest lands are administered by the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) and final approval is granted by the Board of Land Commissioners. Timber or forest products on state trust lands may be sold by a stumpage

or lump-sum method or marketed through the state's contract harvesting program.<sup>1</sup> See also TIMBER CONSERVATION LICENSE, p. 61.

Permits may be issued by the DNRC for the removal of green or salvage timber from state forests, without advertising the sale, to Montana citizens for commercial cutting, at commercial rates, in quantities less than 100,000 board feet, and in cases of emergency because of fire, insect, fungus, parasite or blow-down, or to address forest health, in quantities less than 500,000 board feet.

For sales in excess of the above limits, the sales must be advertised and competitively bid.

If the timber is on county forests, a permit is required from the Board of County Commissioners. Both the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the U.S. Forest Service require permits for fuel wood and Christmas tree cutting on BLM lands and national forest lands.

Statute: 7-8-2608, 7-8-2609, and 77-5-201 through 77-5-223, MCA

Contact: DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION  
Trust Land Management Division  
*Forest Management Bureau*

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
Bureau of Land Management  
*Resource Area or Field Office*

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Forest Service  
*Forest Supervisor*

## 2. Application Requirements

To apply for a timber permit for quantities less than 100,000 board feet, or in cases of emergency because of fire, insect, fungus, parasite, or blow-down or to address forest health, in quantities less than 500,000 board feet, a person must submit an application to the DNRC Office that is responsible for the management of the state land where the proposed sale is located (see APPENDIX 2 for the locations of regional offices). The

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<sup>1</sup> Under a contract harvest, the state pays a contractor to conduct the timber removal but then markets and sells the products.

applicant must also mark the area of the proposed sale with ribbon and designate the roads that will be used for timber removal on an approved map.

Timber proposed for sale in excess of 100,000 board feet must be advertised in a newspaper in the county in which the timber is located for at least 30 days, during which time the DNRC may receive sealed bids up to the hour of the bid closing. In cases of emergency due to fire, pest or blow-down, or in cases when the DNRC must act immediately to take advantage of access granted by permission of an adjoining landowner, a sale of up to 1,000,000 board feet may be advertised for not less than 10 days. In cases when the DNRC must act immediately to take advantage of access granted by permission of an adjoining landowner and there is only one potential buyer with legal access, the department may negotiate a sale of timber not in excess of 1,000,000 board feet without offering the timber for bid if the sale is for fair market value. On the award of sale, the purchaser must execute a formal agreement, approved by the Board, which describes the area where the timber is to be cut, the approximate quantity to be cut, by species, and the rate for each product of each species.

All timber permits require proof of vehicle liability insurance and \$1 million in commercial general liability insurance naming the state of Montana as an additional insured. For sales under 30,000 board feet, a performance bond of \$1,000 is required. For sales of 30,000 board feet or more, the performance bond is five percent of the estimated value of the timber sold.

Statute: 77-5-201, *et seq.*, MCA

### 3. Fees

Timber or other forest products removed from state land must not be sold for less than fair market value. The minimum value is appraised under the direction of the DNRC and approved by the Board of Land Commissioners. The Board also approves fees for forest improvement on state lands. Contact the DNRC for fee amounts.

Statute: 77-5-204, MCA

### 4. Additional Information

A detailed bill of sale is required before more than five coniferous trees may be transported over state highways. Also, transportation of more than 200 pounds of boughs from coniferous trees requires written authorization of the owner of the boughs.

Statute: 76-13-601, MCA

# HIGHWAYS - TRANSPORTATION

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## HIGHWAY ADVERTISING

### 1. Types of Activities Regulated

A permit is required from the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) for placing outdoor advertising signs visible to the traveling public along interstate, primary, and NHS (National Highway System) highways. Standards for maintenance of permitted advertising are outlined in the statutes and rules.

On the interstate highway system, advertising is allowed for FOOD, GAS, and LODGING through the LOGO SIGNS program and on primary routes for FOOD, GAS, LODGING, CAMPING, RECREATION, and TOURIST SERVICES through the Tourist Oriented Directional Sign (TODS) Program.

Statute: 75-15-101, *et seq.*, MCA (Outdoor Advertising Act)  
60-5-501 through 527, MCA (LOGO and TODS Programs)

Rule: ARM 18.7.301-18.7.336

Contact: DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
Engineering Division  
*Right of Way Bureau*

### 2. Application Requirements

Applications for outdoor advertising permits are available from the MDT Helena office and at the department website at <http://mdt.mt.gov/publications/forms.shtml>. The owner of the land affected must agree to the erection or maintenance of the advertising sign. Also, some cities, towns, and counties have local sign ordinances or regulations so written approval from the local zoning authority should be received before applying for a permit. Each sign is given a designated permit number and a permanent identification plate that must be attached to the structure. A permit is required for each sign site.

Statute: 75-15-101 through 75-15-336, MCA

Rule: ARM 18.6.201-18.6.271

### 3. Fees

The MDT requires a non-refundable initial inspection fee and an initial permit fee based on the square footage of the sign. Permits may be renewed every three years.

Statute: 75-15-122, MCA

Rule: ARM 18.6.211 and 18.6.214

## HIGHWAY APPROACH PERMITS

### 1. Types of Activities Regulated

Permits are required from the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) for the construction of driveways and other approaches intersecting public streets and highways.

Statute: 60-2-201, MCA

Rule: ARM 18.5.104, 18.5.105

Contact: DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
District and Area Offices (see APPENDIX 2)

### 2. Application Requirements

Applications and Environmental Checklist Forms are available at the MDT District Offices and at the department website at <http://mdt.mt.gov/publications/forms.shtml>. An application must be made by the owner of the property. A detailed site plan drawing of the proposed work and an Environmental Checklist Form must be included with the permit application.

Rule: ARM 18.5.104

### 3. Permitting Procedures

- 1) Any person wishing to construct a new approach, or modify or propose a change in use for an existing approach must obtain a permit from the department. The permit application must be submitted to the appropriate district office. A detailed site plan drawing, including the location of the work, and an Environmental Checklist Form must be included with the application.

- 2) The department will not review or approve a permit application until all necessary information has been provided.
- 3) The decision to grant, deny, or cancel an approach permit is solely within the discretion of the department. The department may make any changes, additions, repairs, or relocations to any approach within the highway right-of-way.

Rule: ARM 18.5.104 and 18.5.105

## **HIGHWAY ENCROACHMENTS - OCCUPANCY PERMITS**

### **1. Types of Activities Regulated**

Occupancy agreement, common use agreement or encroachment permit are the terms the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) uses for the documents an owner must secure prior to occupying a highway right-of-way, whether overhead, underground or on the surface. Encroachment permits are issued by the MDT for construction or maintenance of encroachments on or under highway rights-of-way. Agreements for occupancy or common use showing the conditions of the right-of-way occupancy may also be obtained from the MDT for encroachments on or across state highway rights-of-way. Encroachments include all private structures, devices, and facilities placed on, over, or under the right-of-way, including ditches, dikes, flumes, canals, or bridges. Encroachment permits are also required for landscaping on highway property by a private individual or agency. Public utility facilities such as water, sewer, electric, natural gas, and communications lines may occupy highway rights-of-way by occupancy agreement with the MDT.

Similar permission is required from the Board of County Commissioners for any work on county roads or rights-of-way.

### **2. Permitting Procedures**

Permits may be obtained from one of the MDT division offices (see APPENDIX 2) or at the department website at <http://mdt.mt.gov>.

Statute: 7-14-2139, MCA (county roads and rights-of-way)

Rule: ARM 18.7.101-18.7.108 (private occupancy of highway rights-of-way)  
ARM 18.7.201-18.7.206, 18.7.211, and 18.7.221-18.7.232 (utility occupancy of highway rights-of-way)

Contact: DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
Helena Office; or  
District and Area Offices (see APPENDIX 2)

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

See also HIGHWAY UTILITY EASEMENTS, p. 179.

## **OVER SIZE AND WEIGHT PERMITS**

### **1. Types of Activities Regulated**

A person may apply for a special use permit from the Montana Department of Transportation, its agent, or the local governing body for the movement of vehicles, loads, or objects with either width, height, length, or weight or a combination of width, height, length, or weight in excess of the statutory limits on a roadway for which the permitting entity is responsible.

Statute: 61-10-121, 61-10-124, and 61-10-125, MCA

Rule: ARM 18.8.101, 18.8.504, 18.8.512, 18.8.513, 18.8.517, 18.8.601, and 18.8.603

Contact: DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
Motor Carrier Services Division  
District and Area Offices (see APPENDIX 2)

### **2. Application Requirements**

The applicant for a special permit must specifically describe the powered or towing vehicle and generally describe the type of vehicle, combination of vehicles, load, or object to be operated or moved, and the roadways over which the operation or movement will take place. A special permit is a written or electronic document and may be granted for either a single trip or on a term basis.



## ROADSIDE JUNKYARDS

### 1. Types of Activities Regulated

The Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) may issue a license for a junkyard situated within 1,000 feet of a primary or interstate highway if the facility is screened from view or not visible from a main traveled course, located within an area zoned for industrial use or located within an unzoned area the MDT has defined as industrial based on actual uses. Junk includes scrap metals, rags, debris, etc. MOTOR VEHICLE WRECKING FACILITIES (see p. 162) and garbage dumps or sanitary landfills (see SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL, p. 164) are licensed by the Montana Department of Environmental Quality.

Statute: 75-15-201, *et seq.*, MCA

Contact: DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
Engineering Division  
*Right of Way Bureau*

# HUNTING - FISHING - TRAPPING - WILD LANDS & WILDLIFE PROTECTION

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The Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks is charged with the regulation of fishing, hunting, trapping, and wildlife protection and issues all hunting, trapping, and fishing permits and licenses in Montana. The department also issues permits for commercial activities involving free-ranging wildlife and/or captive-bred and privately owned wildlife. The only exceptions are aerial hunting permits for predators (Montana Department of Livestock, see below) and licenses for outfitters and professional guides (Montana Department of Labor and Industry, see p. 83).

The Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission establishes hunting and fishing seasons and restricts hunting, trapping, and fishing in certain areas.

Depending on the type and location of an activity, more than one permit may be required. Please check all sections that may apply to a proposed activity and contact the appropriate state agency.

## COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES

### AERIAL HUNTING OF PREDATORY ANIMALS

#### 1. Types of Activities Regulated

An individual planning to conduct an aerial hunt must first obtain a permit from the Montana Department of Livestock (DOL), with the exception of 1) government employees acting within the scope of their employment, or 2) resident landowners hunting on their own property who have followed the notification requirements of the DOL.

Statute: 81-7-101, 81-7-501, and 81-7-505, MCA

Contact: DEPARTMENT OF LIVESTOCK  
*Predator Control*

#### 2. Application Requirements

To obtain an aerial hunting permit, an applicant must complete the required forms available from the DOL. The permit must show the species of predator and the geographic areas that will be hunted. Permits will be issued only to individuals resident and living in Montana. Nonresident permits may be authorized by the Board of Livestock when adequate service cannot be provided by Montana permittees. Applicants must also be currently licensed as

pilots by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), must minimally have a private pilot's license and 200 flying hours, and the applicant and their aircraft must meet FAA and Montana Department of Transportation requirements.

Rule: ARM 32.22.102

Contact: DEPARTMENT OF LIVESTOCK  
*Predator Control*

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
Aeronautics Division

### 3. Fees

The DOL issues permits valid for a period of one to three years. Permit fees are \$30 for less than one year, \$40 for one to two years, and \$50 for two to three years. The DOL may also issue self-renewing multiple year permits dependant upon compliance with the rules and state law.

Rule: ARM 32.22.103

## ALTERNATIVE LIVESTOCK RANCHES/GAME FARMS

### 1. Types of Activities Regulated

A person may not operate an alternative livestock ranch in Montana without a license obtained from the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) prior to November 7, 2000. The license must be renewed annually and expires March 1 of each year. No new licenses may be applied for or granted. Existing alternative livestock ranches must comply with all applicable laws and rules administered by the Montana Department of Livestock (DOL) relating to marking, inspection, importation and interior facilities, transportation, and health of the animals. See also ROADSIDE ZOOS - POSSESSION OF WILD ANIMALS, p. 84.

Statute: 87-4-406, *et seq.*, MCA

Rule: ARM 12.6.1520, *et seq.* (licensing)  
ARM 32.4.101, *et seq.* (marking, inspection, and animal health)  
ARM 32.4.1301, *et seq.* (chronic wasting disease)

## 72 HUNTING - FISHING - WILD LANDS & WILDLIFE PROTECTION

Contact: DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS  
Wildlife Division  
Enforcement Division

DEPARTMENT OF LIVESTOCK  
Animal Health Division

### 2. **Renewal Fees**

Number of Animals	Renewal Fee
0 to 20 animals	\$100
21 to 60 animals	\$200
More than 60 animals	\$400

Statute: 87-4-411, MCA

The DOL may also assess a fee, not to exceed \$50, for each alternative livestock imported into the state.

### 3. **Additional Information**

Licensees must keep and maintain for three years written records of all alternative livestock purchases, transfers, sales, births, and deaths. The information must be reported to the FWP semi-annually.

An alternative livestock ranch license for a specific facility is not transferable.

The shooting of game animals or alternative livestock for a fee or other compensation on an alternative livestock ranch is not allowed.

Statute: 87-4-414 and 87-4-417, MCA

## **COMMERCIAL FISHING**

### 1. **Types of Activities Regulated**

A permit is required from the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) to harvest fish for sale or commercial purposes. Commercial harvest of nongame fish is limited to specific waters and is authorized by the Fish and Wildlife Commission. Commercial harvest of whitefish by anglers with hook and line or rod may be authorized

in waters specified by the Fish and Wildlife Commission. The taking of whitefish by seine or net is restricted to the Kootenai River and portions of its tributaries, requires a \$1,000 bond, and is regulated by the Commission.

Statute: 87-3-204, 87-4-601, 87-4-605, 87-4-609, and 87-4-610, MCA

Rule: ARM 12.7.101

Contact: DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS  
Fisheries Division

## 2. **Application Requirements**

An applicant for a commercial fishing license must submit their name and address, information about the waters they plan to fish, the types of fish harvested, and the equipment that will be used. There are three classes of permits for commercial fishing: Class A for taking all nongame species designated by the FWP for commercial purposes, Class B for taking all designated nongame species except smallmouth buffalo and largemouth buffalo, and Class X to be granted for one year only to take specific nongame species on an experimental basis.

Applications for commercial fishing for whitefish with hook and line are reviewed and issued by the FWP Region 1 office in Kalispell. Applications for commercial fishing for whitefish on the Kootenai River or tributaries with nets or traps must be submitted for the director's approval.

Rule: ARM 12.7.101 and 12.7.103

## 3. **Permitting Procedures**

The FWP requires permittees to keep records of operations relating to the taking, sale, or disposal of fish and to submit records within 30 days following the end of each month. All species not authorized in the permit must be released alive and unharmed to their originating waters. The department may impose special conditions regarding gear, limits, seasons, and closures, etc., on any water. Existing permit holders receive priority for retaining permits because only one permit per water body may be issued.

Rule: ARM 12.7.102, 12.7.104, and 12.7.105

#### 4. Fees

The fee for a Class A permit is \$500 and for a Class B permit, \$200. There is no charge for a Class X permit.

Rule: ARM 12.7.103

### COMMERCIAL USE OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS LANDS

#### 1. Types of Activities Regulated

A permit is required before conducting commercial use on land under the control, administration, and jurisdiction of the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP). The FWP administers two types of commercial use permits: fishing access site permits and restricted use permits.

An outfitter, guide, or water-based service provider must possess and have on their person a valid fishing access site permit when conducting commercial use at fishing access sites or other department land. A fishing access site permit is valid for the time period specified on the permit.

A restricted use permit is required for an outfitter or water-based service provider conducting commercial use at a fishing access site or other FWP land that provides access to a *restricted* water body and all other types of commercial use at a fishing access site, state park, wildlife management area, or FWP administrative site. The permit is valid for the time period specified on the permit, not to exceed five years.

Rule: ARM 12.14.101, 12.14.120, 12.14.125, and 12.14.140

Contact: DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS  
Fisheries Division  
Wildlife Division  
Parks Division  
Regional Offices (see APPENDIX 2)

#### 2. Application Requirements

##### A. Fishing Access Site Permit

A fishing access site permit may be obtained at a FWP regional office or through the department's internet licensing system. For an applicant to obtain a permit, the FWP may require a completed permit application form, an

outfitter or guide license number if providing angling services, an automated license system number, a permit fee, and proof of insurance.

Rule: ARM 12.14.130

**B. Restricted Use Permit**

A restricted use permit application must be submitted to the FWP regional office that oversees the site or sites where the use will occur. For an applicant to obtain a permit, the department may require a completed application, an outfitter or guide license number if providing angling services, an automated license system number, permit fee, deposit or damage security bond, proof of insurance, proof of workers' compensation and/or an independent contractor exemption certificate, information explaining how the proposed use would benefit the public's resources or the public's enjoyment of the site, and other relevant information. The completed application should be submitted at least 45 days before the use is intended to begin or at least 10 days before a special event, filming activity, or incidental commercial use lasting less than five days. Processing the application may require additional time if the FWP determines that an environmental analysis is required (see MONTANA ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT, p. 130).

Rule: ARM 12.14.145

**3. Fees**

The Fish and Wildlife Commission establishes fees for conducting commercial use on land owned or managed by the FWP. Fees may be adjusted on a case-by-case basis if a variety of conditions established in rule are met.

Rule: ARM 12.14.160

**4. Additional Information**

The FWP may require commercial users to report their use of department land and to maintain a logbook about the use. The department will include specific reporting requirements as permit stipulations. A commercial use permit is not transferable and is void when a business is sold or transferred.

Rule: ARM 12.14.120

## **FIELD TRIAL PERMIT**

### **1. Types of Activities Regulated**

A permit from the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) is required to conduct a field trial to determine if a dog can point, flush, or retrieve game birds. See also USE OF CAPTIVE-REARED BIRDS IN DOG TRAINING, p. 89.

Statute: 87-4-915, MCA

Rule: ARM 12.6.210

Contact: DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS  
Enforcement Division  
Regional Offices (see APPENDIX 2)

### **2. Application Requirements**

To obtain a field trial permit, an applicant must submit a written application on a form provided by the FWP to the regional office where the field trial will take place. The application must include the applicant's name and address, the name and address of any national affiliate, the location of the proposed field trial, the intended date of the field trial, whether live birds will be used, and any other related information requested by the FWP.

### **3. Permitting Procedures**

The application must be presented 20 days or more before the date of the proposed trial. The FWP director may deny the permit if it is determined that approving the application is not in the best interests of the protection, preservation, propagation, and conservation of game birds in the state. If denied, a notice must be mailed to the applicant within 10 days of receipt of the application and must state the reasons for the denial.

### **4. Additional Information**

If an application is granted, the applicant must flush all wild game birds from fields used for the field trial each day before the trial begins. Dogs are not permitted to run free in fields that have not been carefully flushed.

All live game birds used in a field trial must be tagged before being planted or released. Birds may only be planted and released in the presence of a FWP representative. If an untagged bird is shot, the permit holder must immediately replace it with a live bird.



## 5. Fees

There is no fee to obtain a field trial permit.

## FISH FARMS OR HATCHERIES

### 1. Types of Activities Regulated

The Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) may inspect a fish farm or hatchery and designate the facility as a concentrated aquatic production facility based on whether or not the facility significantly contributes to the pollution of state waters and meets the criteria in Appendix C of 40 C.F.R., part 122. If the facility meets the criteria for the designation, it is subject to the permitting requirements of the DEQ's wastewater permitting program. See WATER QUALITY PERMITTING, p. 205.

The director of the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks is responsible for the construction and control of state fish hatcheries.

Statute: 75-5-401 and 87-3-201, MCA

Rule: ARM 17.30.1331

Contact: DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
Permitting and Compliance Division  
*Water Protection Bureau*

DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS  
Director's Office

## FISH PONDS

### 1. Types of Activities Regulated

A permit is required from the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) to stock fish in a pond. The permit entitles the holder to stock the pond with fish from a lawful source. Permits are issued for a 10-year period.

A commercial pond license is required to sell fish, eggs, or fry from a private pond. The permitholder must furnish a \$500 surety bond conditioned to the effect that the licensee will not sell fish or spawn from public waters or violate the conditions of the license. Commercial pond licenses are issued for one year.

Statute: 87-4-603, MCA

Contact: DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS  
Fisheries Division

## 2. **Application Requirements**

An applicant for an instream private fish pond must provide reliable information to the FWP to verify that the tributary, spring, or stream does not support game fish or species of special concern and does not pose an unacceptable risk to game fish or fish species of special concern in adjacent waters.

A commercial pond licensee must keep accurate records of the species and quantities of fish or eggs sold or purchased, the dates of sale or purchase, the names of purchasers or sellers, and the locations to or from which fish or eggs were transferred. The licensee must report to the FWP annually.

## 3. **Permitting Procedures**

The FWP will designate the species of fish that may be stocked and may require measures to prevent fish from escaping into adjacent waters. If ownership or control of the fish pond changes, the new owner or operator must apply for a license transfer or a new permit. A private pond license expires on February 28 of the 10th year. Commercial pond licenses expire on February 28 of each year. Licenses must be renewed before they expire.

A license may be revoked for failure to operate or use the pond according to the terms of the license or state statutes, rules, or orders covering importation, transportation, or introduction of fish or eggs.

Statute: 87-4-606 and 87-4-607, MCA

## 4. **Fees**

Fish stocking permits are \$10 for 10 years and commercial pond licenses are \$10 per year.

## 5. **Additional Information**

The FWP may, under reasonable conditions and after notifying the landowner, inspect the pond for illegally stocked fish or diseases. Also, the license holder may request an inspection by the department.

## **FISHING DERBIES OR TOURNAMENTS**

### **1. Types of Activities Regulated**

A permit from the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) is required to offer or give a prize, gift, or anything of value for the taking of any fish that is protected by the state. An event with an entry fee or where 30 or more people are expected to compete for prizes or cash worth \$500 or more for the capture of an individual fish or combination of fish must be permitted.

Statute: 87-3-121 and 87-6-214, MCA

Rule: ARM 12.7.801

Contact: DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS  
Fisheries Division

### **2. Application Requirements**

An individual or organization that plans to sponsor a fishing contest on waters open to public fishing must submit an application on forms provided by the FWP to the department between May 1 and July 1 for ice fishing contests and between September 1 and November 1 for open waters contests. A fishing contest application will be evaluated based on 1) the impacts on fish populations, the aquatic ecosystem, and the immediate area; 2) the compatibility with fish management objectives for the water; 3) purse or participation limits (limits may or may not be imposed based on public comment); 4) conflicts with other contests proposed or approved; and 5) compliance with reporting requirements for previously sponsored events. Applications are available online at <http://fwp.mt.gov>.

Rule: ARM 12.7.802-12.7.804

### **3. Permitting Procedures**

Once the application is received, the FWP will provide an opportunity for public comment. For competing applications, the department will approve applications that offer the best opportunities for public benefits, have been approved historically, have had good participation, and have a good record of compliance. The FWP will approve, approve with modifications, or deny the application by February 1 for open water contests and by October 1 for ice fishing contests.

The sponsor of a fishing contest must submit a report to the FWP within 30 days after the contest. The report must include the number of participants, the number of fish caught, the

length and weight of the winning fish or the average length and aggregate weight of the winning fish, and the number of fish caught and released. The department may require more detailed catch information.

Rule: ARM 12.7.804-12.7.806

## **FUR DEALERS**

### **1. Types of Activities Regulated**

A person, firm, or corporation that buys, sells, trades, or deals in skins or pelts of furbearers or predators must secure a fur dealer's license from the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks. The license is issued annually and expires April 30 of each year.

Statute: 87-4-301, 87-4-303, and 87-4-305, MCA

Contact: DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS  
Enforcement Division

### **2. Fees**

The license fee for a resident fur dealer is \$10 and for a fur dealer's agent (buyer), \$10. The fee for a nonresident fur dealer's license is the same as the fee charged for a nonresident fur dealer's license in the applicant's state of residence. If the nonresident's state does not issue a nonresident fur dealer's license, the fee is \$50.

Statute: 87-4-304, MCA

## **FUR FARMS**

### **1. Types of Activities Regulated**

No person may own, control, or propagate furbearers for sale or sell captive-bred furbearers or the parts of captive-bred furbearers unless they hold a current fur farm license issued by the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP). The license is issued annually and expires January 31 of each year. License renewal requires submission of an annual report.

Statute: 87-4-1002 and 87-4-1005, MCA

Contact: DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS  
Enforcement Division

## 2. **Application Requirements**

An applicant for a fur farm license must submit a written application to the FWP which includes the person's name and address, the species of furbearers and any plans for propagation, the legal description of the land, the type of fence for enclosure, and the source of the furbearers. The license expires on January 31 following the date issued.

A fur farm license will only be issued to a responsible applicant who owns or leases the premises where the operations will be conducted. A nonresident fur farm owner must have a resident agent who is responsible for the daily operations of the fur farm and who is authorized by the nonresident owner to receive service of process.

Statute: 87-4-1003, MCA

## 3. **Permitting Procedures**

Within 30 days of receiving the application, the FWP must notify the applicant of its decision to approve or deny the application. If the application is denied, the department must specify the reasons for the denial. Before a fur farm permit is issued, the department must conduct an environmental assessment (see MONTANA ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT, p. 130) and complete an inspection of the final enclosure(s).

## 4. **Fees**

The initial fee for a fur farm license is \$25 and the renewal fee is \$15.

Rule: ARM 12.6.1701

## **GAME BIRD FARMS**

### 1. **Types of Activities Regulated**

No person may own, control, or propagate game birds unless the person holds a current game bird farm license issued by the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) with the exception of 1) a person who possesses game birds but does not sell the birds, or 2) a person who has a migratory game bird avicultural permit. The license expires on January 31 following the date issued. License renewal requires submission of an annual report.

Licensees may only sell live game birds within Montana to a person who has 1) a permit to possess captive-reared birds for noncommercial use, 2) a permit to kill captive-reared birds in dog training, 3) a permit to kill captive-reared birds in raptor training, 4) a permit to release live ring-necked pheasants, 5) a shooting preserve license, 6) a zoo or menagerie permit, 7) a permit to conduct a field trial, 8) a game bird farm license, or 9) an active Upland Game Bird Enhancement Program contract between the purchaser and the FWP for releasing ring-necked pheasants.

Statute: 87-4-901 through 87-4-916, MCA

Rule: ARM 12.6.1602

Contact: DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS  
Enforcement Division

## 2. **Application Requirements**

An applicant for a game bird farm license must submit an application to the FWP that includes that person's name and address, the species of game bird and plans for its propagation, the legal description of the proposed game bird farm location, the type of fence or enclosure, and the source of the game birds. If the applicant is a nonresident owner, they must provide the name and address of a local resident agent. The resident agent must be responsible for the daily operation of the farm and be authorized by the nonresident owner to receive service of process.

A game bird farm license will only be issued to a responsible applicant who owns or leases the premises where the operations will be conducted and who has properly fenced or otherwise enclosed the area.

## 3. **Permitting Procedures**

Within 30 days of receiving the application, the FWP must notify the applicant of its decision to approve or deny the permit. If the application is denied, the department must specify the reason for denial. A permit will not be issued until the enclosures are inspected by a FWP representative.

## 4. **Fees**

The initial fee for a game bird farm license is \$100 and the renewal fee is \$50.

Rule: ARM 12.6.1601

## OUTFITTERS AND GUIDES

### 1. Types of Activities Regulated

An individual who intends to provide services as an outfitter or guide must obtain a license from the Montana Department of Labor and Industry, Board of Outfitters.

A guide works under the supervision of a licensed outfitter. An outfitter may not hire a guide who does not hold a valid license. Licenses for outfitters and guides must be renewed by December 31 each year.

An outfitter's assistant works under the supervision of a licensed outfitter but is not required to obtain a license. An outfitter's assistant must carry proof of employment and register with the Board. An outfitter's assistant may not work more than 15 days in a calendar year for an outfitter unless the outfitter's assistant is actively obtaining a guide's license. (*The outfitter's assistant provision of state statute terminates August 31, 2015.*)

Permission and any needed permits from landowners (private, state, or federal) must be provided to the Board before an individual is licensed, or if licensed, immediately on receipt.

Statute: 37-47-101(8), 37-47-301, 37-47-308, and 37-47-325, MCA

Rule: ARM 24.171.407 *et seq.* and 24.171.2301

Contact: DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY  
Business Standards Division  
*Board of Outfitters*

### 2. Application Requirements

First Time Outfitter License: An applicant for an outfitter's license must file a completed license application, meet the licensing qualifications and requirements for experience, have a complete operations plan on file with the Board office, pass the required examinations, receive an approved equipment inspection, and if applicable, file a Net Client Hunter Use application. If the application is denied, the Board will notify the applicant of the denial and the reasons for the denial. If the deficiencies are corrected, a license will be issued on reapplication.

Guide: An applicant for a guide's license must meet the qualifications designated by the Board of Outfitters and submit a completed license application. Applicants must be at least 18 years old; be endorsed and recommended by an outfitter with a valid license, unless otherwise qualified under standards established by the Board; and

have been issued a valid conservation license. The applicant must also provide current proof of first aid certification.

Outfitter's Assistant: An applicant for outfitter's assistant must file a completed proof of employment form with the Board each time the outfitter's assistant is employed by a licensed outfitter.

Statute: 37-47-302 through 37-47-308, 37-47-311, 37-47-325, and 37-47-341, MCA

Rule: ARM 24.171.501, *et seq.*, 24.171.601, and 24.171.602

### 3. Fees

The Board charges fees for new, amended, and renewed licenses; operations plans and plan amendments; number of clients served each year; and for hunting camps added after January 1, 1999, to support the licensing program. For fee amounts see the statutes and rules listed below or contact the Board.

Statute: 37-1-134, 37-47-306, and 37-47-318, MCA

Rule: ARM 24.171.401

### 4. Additional Information

A *Net Client Hunter Use* designation is assigned to each licensed outfitter and establishes the maximum number of clients an outfitter may provide services for in a year.

Statute: 37-47-201 and 37-47-316, MCA

## ROADSIDE MENAGERIES - WILD ANIMAL MENAGERIES - ZOOS - POSSESSION OF WILD ANIMALS

### 1. Types of Activities Regulated

A. A permit is required from the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) for the following:

- 1) **Roadside menageries** that keep one or more wild animals, birds, or reptiles in captivity to exhibit or attract trade. Exhibits by educational institutions or a circus based outside of Montana are not included.



- 2) **Wild animal menageries** where one or more large bears or cats are kept in captivity for use other than public exhibition.
- 3) **Zoological gardens** operating as nonprofit corporations or accredited by the American Zoo and Aquarium Association and operating for the purpose of exhibiting wild animals.

Permits expire on December 31 and may be renewed by paying an annual fee and submitting a renewal application. Renewal applications for all roadside menageries and wild animal menageries must include an accounting of all wild animals on the facility.

- B. It is unlawful to possess a skunk, fox, raccoon, or bat except as part of a furbearing enterprise, roadside menagerie, zoo, or for scientific research.

Statute: 87-4-801 through 87-4-804, MCA  
50-23-102, MCA

Rule: ARM 12.6.1301-12.6.1309

Contact: DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS  
Enforcement Division (menageries and zoos)

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
Public Health and Safety Division  
*Communicable Disease Control and Prevention Bureau* (possession of foxes, skunks, bats, or raccoons)

## 2. Application Requirements

An application for a roadside menagerie, wild animal menagerie, or zoo permit may be obtained by completing forms provided by the FWP. A permit will not be issued until the department verifies that the animals will be cared for and the public protected, the menagerie is covered by an insurance policy to cover accidents on the premises, an environmental assessment (see MONTANA ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT, p. 130) is completed, and the FWP conducts a final inspection of the enclosures.

Statute: 87-4-803, MCA

Rule: ARM 12.6.1308

### 3. Fees

The annual permit fee for five or fewer animals is \$10. The annual fee for more than five animals is \$25.

Statute: 87-4-803, MCA

## SEINING

### 1. Types of Activities Regulated

A permit is required from the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks to seine for or otherwise capture any nongame bait fish in lakes, streams, or other bodies of water (except licensed private ponds) for sale or commercial purposes or to transport nongame bait fish within the state. Carp, goldfish, and rainbow smelt may not be harvested or used as bait fish. Seining nets may not exceed 12 feet by four feet, minnow traps may not exceed two feet by one foot by one foot, and dip nets may not exceed three feet by three feet. Persons with more than 24 dozen minnows in their possession must be licensed.

Statute: 87-3-203, 87-3-204, and 87-4-602, MCA

Rule: ARM 12.7.201

Contact: DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS  
Fisheries Division  
Regional Offices (see APPENDIX 2)

### 2. Application Requirements

The applicant for a commercial seining license must submit a form provided by the FWP stating their name and address, the waters desired for seining, and the equipment that will be used to seine for bait fish. Licenses expire on December 31.

Rule: ARM 12.7.201-12.7.202

### 3. Fees

The fee for a commercial seining license is \$10.

Rule: ARM 12.7.201(2)

#### 4. **Additional Information**

Bait fish may not be imported into the state of Montana for commercial or other purposes by a licensee or other person unless permitted by the FWP.

It is unlawful to transport live fish away from the body of water from which the fish were taken unless the transporter is a licensed commercial seining operator or within the boundaries of the Eastern Montana Fishing District. The FWP should be contacted for information on special regulations associated with Aquatic Invasive Species Management Areas.

Statute: 87-3-203 and 87-3-204, MCA

Rule: ARM 12.7.201(5)

### **SHOOTING PRESERVES**

#### 1. **Types of Activities Regulated**

The Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) issues licenses or permits to any person, partnership, association, or corporation for operating a shooting preserve. All persons hunting on shooting preserves must have a valid resident or nonresident upland game bird license or a three day nonresident shooting preserve bird hunting license. Game that may be artificially propagated and hunted on a preserve is limited to ring-necked pheasants with no color mutations, chukar partridges, Hungarian partridges, Merriam's turkeys, and other species designated by the FWP. The shooting preserve season is September 1 through March 31. Licenses are issued annually and expire March 31 each year.

Statute: 87-2-404, 87-4-501 through 87-4-504, and 87-4-522, MCA

Rule: ARM 12.6.1202

Contact: DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS  
Enforcement Division

#### 2. **Criteria**

Each shooting preserve is restricted to not more than 1,920 contiguous acres. No preserve may be located in an area that will substantially reduce hunting opportunities available to the public. The exterior boundary of each shooting preserve must be clearly defined and posted with signs placed around the extremity at intervals of 250 feet or less.

Statute: 87-4-502, MCA

### 3. **Additional Information**

All artificially propagated upland game birds released must be at least 14 weeks of age and must be marked prior to release in a manner that distinguishes them from wild birds. All harvested game must be tagged prior to removal from or consumption on the premises. The FWP will furnish self-sealing upland game bird tags to licensed shooting preserve operators for 10 cents each.

Statute: 87-4-522 and 87-4-525, MCA

Rule: ARM 12.6.1201

### 4. **Fees**

Fees for shooting preserve operating licenses or permits are \$100 per year for the first 320 acres of shooting preserve area plus \$40 per year for each additional 160 acres and any fraction of 160 acres.

Statute: 87-4-503, MCA

## **TAXIDERMY**

### 1. **Types of Activities Regulated**

A person in the business of making mounts of, preserving, or preparing the dead bodies of wildlife or parts of wildlife must have a license from the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks. A written record must be kept of all wildlife in the licensee's possession or control. The record should include information on who owns the wildlife, the kind and number of species, all articles of wildlife shipped, where shipped, and to whom. A state game warden may inspect the records of a taxidermist at any reasonable time. Licenses are issued annually and expire April 30 each year.

Statute: 87-4-201, MCA

Contact: DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS  
Enforcement Division

## 2. Fees

A taxidermy license is \$50.

## USE OF CAPTIVE-REARED BIRDS IN DOG TRAINING

### 1. Types of Activities Regulated

A person using captive-reared birds in the training of dogs must have a permit issued by the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP). Permits are valid from January 1 to December 31 of each year.

Statute: 87-4-902(1), MCA

Rule: ARM 12.6.215 and 12.6.220

Contact: DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS  
Enforcement Division  
Regional Offices (see APPENDIX 2)

### 2. Application Requirements

A person seeking a permit must submit an application on forms provided by the FWP to the regional office where the training is expected to take place.

### 3. Permitting Procedures

Applications are reviewed by regional enforcement personnel. If approved, a permit number is affixed to the permit application and that document returned to the applicant indicating authorization.

### 4. Additional Information

The FWP may allow a person training dogs to use a maximum of 50 captive-reared birds per year, or more than 50 birds if the applicant provides written justification. All captive-reared birds used must have a streamer of fluorescent surveyor tape conspicuously attached to the leg prior to release at the training site, may only be killed by the permittee or persons accompanying the permittee and assisting in training, and may only be killed on land that the permittee owns, leases, or has permission to use for dog training. Birds may only be killed on the day they are released. All released birds not killed become the

property of the state. Captive-reared birds killed during dog training must remain in the possession of the permittee unless the permittee transfers the birds to a person who also possesses a valid permit. The permittee may assign ownership of killed birds to a nonpermitholder by written documentation that is signed by the permittee.

## 5. Fees

There is no fee for a permit to use captive-reared birds in dog training.

## USE OF CAPTIVE-REARED BIRDS IN FALCONRY TRAINING

### 1. Types of Activities Regulated

A person using captive-reared birds in the training of raptors must have a permit issued by the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP). The permit is valid from August 1 through March 31 and must be renewed annually.

Statute: 87-4-902(1), MCA

Rule: ARM 12.6.215 and 12.6.220

Contact: DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS  
Enforcement Division

### 2. Application Requirements

A person seeking a permit must submit a completed application on forms provided by the FWP to the regional office where the training is expected to take place.

### 3. Permitting Procedures

Applications are reviewed by regional enforcement personnel. If approved, a permit number is affixed to the permit application and the document returned to the applicant indicating authorization.

### 4. Additional Information

All captive-reared birds used must have a streamer of fluorescent surveyor tape conspicuously attached to the leg prior to release at the training site. When captive-reared

birds are used in raptor training, birds may only be released on land that the permittee owns, leases, or has permission to use for raptor training. Captive-reared birds killed during raptor training must remain in the possession of the permittee unless the permittee transfers the birds to a person who also possesses a valid permit. The permittee may assign ownership of killed birds to a nonpermitholder by written documentation that is signed by the permittee.

## **WILDCRAFTING**

### **1. Types of Activities Regulated**

A person or organization collecting or transporting wild plant material for commercial purposes must have in their possession a bill of sale, a signed permission form, or a permit from the landowner of the property from which the plants are taken. Another permit issued by a land management or government agency may be valid in lieu of the wildcrafting permit. A permit or written permission are not required for a landowner to harvest wild plants on their own land or for a person to collect the amount of plant material that the landowner or other jurisdictional entity determines is for incidental or personal use.

Statute: 76-10-101, *et seq.*, MCA

Contact: PROPERTY OWNER

STATE OR FEDERAL LAND MANAGEMENT AGENCY

### **2. Application Requirements**

The written permission form or permit must include the beginning and end dates for which the permission or permit are valid; basic information about the landowner, the permit or permission holder, and the plants that will be wildcrafted; a description of the location of the activity; and the license plate number of the vehicle used for wildcrafting.

### **3. Additional Information**

A buyer of wildcrafted plant material must keep records with specific information outlined in state law about purchases or acquisitions for three years.

Statute: 76-10-105, MCA

## FISHING, HUNTING, AND TRAPPING LICENSES

### 1. Types of Activities Regulated

All persons wishing to pursue, hunt, trap, take, shoot, or kill any game animal, game bird or furbearing animal must have a license from the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks.

- Statute: 87-2-301, *et seq.*, MCA (fishing licenses)  
 87-2-401, *et seq.*, MCA (game bird licenses)  
 87-2-501, *et seq.*, MCA (game animal licenses)  
 87-2-601, *et seq.*, MCA (trapping licenses)  
 87-2-701, *et seq.*, MCA (special licenses)
- Rule: ARM 12.3.104-12.3.175, and 12.3.402-12.3.406
- Contact: DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS  
 Licensing Division  
 Regional Offices (see APPENDIX 2)

### 2. Application Requirements

An applicant for a hunting, fishing, or trapping license must first acquire a wildlife conservation license. Wildlife conservation, hunting, trapping or fishing licenses can be obtained at a private sector license agent, at Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks' offices or online at <http://fwp.mt.gov>. Annual hunting and fishing licenses expire on the last day of February and trapping licenses on the last day of June.

- Statute: 87-2-106 and 87-2-201, MCA

### 3. Permitting Procedures

General hunting and fishing licenses are issued at the time of application. Special hunting licenses are issued via a random computer drawing process. Application deadlines are outlined below.

License Type	Deadline
Bull/either sex elk and buck deer permits	March 15
Deer B, Elk B, and antelope licenses	June 1



Moose, sheep, and goat licenses	May 1
Nonresident combination big game licenses are limited and are issued on a first-come, first-served or drawing basis.	March 15

**4. Fees**

Fees vary according to the type of license issued. Contact the FWP.

**5. Criteria**

All applicants are eligible if they meet residence, hunter safety instruction, and age requirements. Licenses and permits must be in the person's possession at the time of the activity.

**FISHING, HUNTING, AND TRAPPING REGULATIONS**

**1. Types of Activities Regulated**

Certain fishing, hunting, and trapping regulations are established annually by the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) depending on a number of factors: the current population of a species, climatic conditions, etc. Check with the FWP for the latest requirements for a specific area or species.

Contact: DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS  
Enforcement Division

**WILDLIFE PROTECTION**

**AERIAL HERDING PERMIT**

**1. Types of Activities Regulated**

A property owner experiencing damage to the owner's property or crops from big game animals may apply for an aerial herding permit from the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) that allows the owner to use an aircraft or helicopter during certain times of the year for the purpose of herding, driving, or hazing wild animals. The permit may be conditioned to address the individual circumstances of each application.

## 2. **Application Requirements**

To obtain an aerial herding permit, the applicant must submit a completed form to the FWP, written concurrence from affected property owners, and other related information requested by the department. Aerial herding authorized under a permit may not occur from May 1 to July 15 and for one week prior to and during the hunting season for the species being herded.

Statute: 87-3-126, MCA

Rule: ARM 12.6.2301-12.6.2310

Contact: DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS  
Enforcement Division

## **CAPTIVE BREEDING OF RAPTORS**

### 1. **Types of Activities Regulated**

The Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) requires a permit for the captive breeding of raptors. The department may grant a permit whether or not the permittee is a licensed falconer. See also WILD BIRD PERMITS, p. 104 and NONGAME AND ENDANGERED SPECIES, p. 99.

Statute: 87-5-210, MCA

Contact: DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS  
Enforcement Division, or;

FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION

### 2. **Application Requirements**

A person wishing to apply for a captive breeding permit must submit an application on a form provided by the FWP. Applications must be accompanied by a copy of a current federal captive breeding permit. Permits are issued for a five year period or a portion thereof with, and shall expire on the date designated on the face of the permit, unless amended or revoked.

Rule: ARM 12.6.1401

Contact: U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Regional Office  
Permits Division

**3. Fees**

The state fee for a captive breeding permit is \$100.

Rule: ARM 12.6.1401

**4. Additional Information**

Captive raptors must be banded with a numbered, nonreusable marker provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Permitholders must submit a copy of the required federal report annually.

**CONTROLLED EXOTIC SPECIES PERMIT**

**1. Types of Activities Regulated**

A permit is required to possess, sell, purchase, breed or exchange a controlled exotic wildlife species in Montana. Any exotic wildlife species that is not native to Montana must be classified prior to authorization for shipment into Montana. Classification may be in the noncontrolled category (no permit required), the controlled category (permit required), or the prohibited category (permits limited to zoos, roadside menageries, or research organizations).

Statute: 87-5-705(2), MCA

Rule: ARM 12.6.2201, *et seq.*

Contact: DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS  
Enforcement Division

**2. Application Requirements**

An applicant for a controlled exotic wildlife species permit must submit an application to the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) that includes that person's name and address, the species of exotic wildlife, the purpose of the possession, the type of facilities in which the wildlife species will be held, compliance with city and county ordinances, and the means of identification for the species.

### 3. **Permitting Procedures**

Within 30 days of receiving the application, the FWP must notify the applicant of its decision to approve or deny the permit. If the application is denied, the department must specify the reason for denial. Depending on the species requested and the type of enclosures required for the species, an inspection may be required prior to issuing a controlled exotic wildlife permit and specific conditions may be attached to the permit.

### 4. **Fees**

The fee to obtain or renew a controlled exotic wildlife species license for simple possession is \$25. If the applicant intends to sell, breed, or exchange a controlled species, the fee to obtain or renew a license is \$100. Licenses expire on January 31 following the date issued.

Rule: ARM 12.6.2210

## **FALCONRY PERMIT**

### 1. **Types of Activities Regulated**

A permit is required from the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) to practice the sport of falconry. There are three classes of falconry permits with different requirements and allowances: apprentice, general, and master. Montana resident permits are valid for up to three years and are renewable and nontransferable. Nonresident permits are valid June 1 through March 31 and only for the species specified on the permit. Raptors taken from the wild may not be purchased or sold. See also WILD BIRD PERMITS, p. 104 and CAPTIVE BREEDING OF RAPTORS, p. 94.

Statute: 87-5-204, MCA

Rule: ARM 12.6.1103, 12.6.1112, 12.6.1120, and 12.6.1136

Contact: DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS  
Enforcement Division

### 2. **Application Requirements**

New applicants for an apprentice falconry permit must pass an examination administered by the FWP. Before a permit is issued, the department inspects the raptor housing equipment and facilities.

Nonresident permits are available through a drawing. Applicants must submit their application to the Department by March 15. If chosen in the drawing, the applicant must purchase the permit by May 1.

The bald eagle and any species listed under the state or federal endangered species acts may not be captured in Montana for the sport of falconry.

Statute: 87-5-205, MCA

Rule: ARM 12.6.1106, 12.6.1109, 12.6.1122, and 12.6.1136

### 3. Fees

The state permit falconry fee for a Montana resident is \$125. A permit for a first-time apprentice falconer is \$50. Permits are issued for a three year period or a portion thereof and expire on the date designated on the permit. The state permit fee for a nonresident is \$200 and the permit is valid from June 1 through March 31.

Rule: ARM 12.6.1120, 12.6.1136

## GAME PRESERVES

### 1. Types of Activities Regulated

It is unlawful for a person to hunt for, trap, capture, kill, or take game animals, furbearing animals, or birds within a game preserve established by the Legislature or by the Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission. It is also unlawful within the limits of a preserve for a person to carry or discharge firearms, create an unusual disturbance to frighten or drive away game animals or birds or to chase game or birds with dogs.

Permits to capture birds or animals for the purpose of propagation or for scientific purposes, to trap furbearing animals or to kill certain predatory animals or birds within a preserve may be granted by the FWP director on the payment of a fee and in accordance with rules established for the preserve by the Commission.

Statute: 87-5-401 through 87-5-406, MCA

Rule: ARM 12.9.202, 12.9.206, 12.9.207, and 12.9.209

Contact: DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS  
Wildlife Division

## **IMPORTATION OR INTRODUCTION OF FISH OR FISH EGGS**

### **1. Types of Activities Regulated**

It is unlawful to bring fish or fish gametes into Montana except for fish imported for aquariums without obtaining a permit and written certification that the fish are free of diseases as specified in Montana Department of Fish Wildlife and Park (FWP) rules. The department may inspect shipments of imported fish or eggs at any point in the state to ensure compliance with these regulations. The FWP may impound shipments for further testing if reasonable cause exists.

Statute: 87-3-210, 87-3-221, 87-3-222, and 87-6-219, MCA

Rule: ARM 12.7.502, 12.7.505, and 12.7.701

Contact: DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS  
Fisheries Division

## **IMPORTATION OR INTRODUCTION OF WILDLIFE**

### **1. Types of Activities Regulated**

It is unlawful to import for introduction or transplant or to introduce any wildlife into Montana without authorization from the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP). Only specified species of wildlife may be approved by the FWP for introduction or transplantation (see 87-5-714, MCA, for a list of species).

Statute: 81-2-701 through 81-2-708 and 87-5-701 through 87-5-721, MCA

Rule: ARM 12.6.2201, *et seq.*

Contact: DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS  
Wildlife Division

DEPARTMENT OF LIVESTOCK  
Animal Health Division

## **MIGRATORY BIRDS**

### **1. Types of Activities Regulated**

- A. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) establishes laws relating to migratory birds. Under these regulations, no person is allowed to take, possess, import, export, transport, sell, purchase, or barter for any migratory bird, or the parts, nests or eggs of these birds except under the terms of a valid permit. The USFWS list of migratory birds may be found in 50 C.F.R. § 10.13.

Rule: Migratory Bird Treaty Act, 16 U.S.C. 703-712

Contact: U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
Law Enforcement, Billings

- B. Hunting seasons for migratory game birds are established by the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) through Fish and Wildlife Commission action. The seasons must fall within the federal frameworks established by the USFWS in consultation with the Flyway Councils, states, and other interested parties. Persons wishing to hunt migratory game birds must possess the appropriate license. See FISHING, HUNTING, AND TRAPPING LICENSES, p. 92.

Statute: 87-2-411, MCA

Contact: DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS  
Enforcement Division

## **NONGAME AND ENDANGERED SPECIES**

### **1. Types of Activities Regulated**

No person may take, possess, transport, export, process, sell, or offer for sale or ship or receive for shipment any species or subspecies of nongame wildlife including species identified by the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) to be in need of management or listed as endangered by the state or the United States or on the United States list of endangered foreign fish and wildlife.

The designation of a species as endangered, threatened, or in need of management may change and species may be added and removed from the lists. Contact the FWP and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for current listings.

The exceptions for the taking of endangered species are 1) in emergency situations; and 2) when necessary to prevent property damage or to protect human health if a permit is first obtained from the director of the FWP, and where possible, done by or under the supervision of a department agent. See also federal Threatened and Endangered Species Act, below.

Certain taking of nongame wildlife is specifically provided for in law in a number of ways, including via a management plan; a zoo/menagerie permit (see ROADSIDE ZOOS, p. 84); a rehabilitation permit; a raptor/falconry permit (see CAPTIVE BREEDING OF RAPTORS, p. 94 and FALCONRY PERMIT, p. 96) or an avicultural permit. The FWP director may permit the taking of endangered species for special purposes such as scientific research or for propagation in captivity.

In response to the exploitation of several nongame species for the pet trade, the Legislature specifically protected the northern flying squirrel, pika, pygmy rabbit, all native amphibians, and all reptiles native to Montana, except the prairie rattlesnake, from removal from the wild for commercial purposes.

Statute: 87-5-101, 87-5-102, 87-5-105 through 87-5-109, 87-5-116, and 87-6-202, MCA

Rule: ARM 12.2.501 and 12.5.201

Contact: DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS  
Wildlife Division

## 2. **Additional Information**

### Federal Threatened and Endangered Species Act

Under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA), as amended, special protection is provided to a species or its habitat if the species is listed as endangered (in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range), or threatened (likely to become endangered in the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range).

The ESA requires that all federal agencies, in consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) must insure that any action authorized, funded, or carried out by the agency is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any threatened or endangered species. Federal agencies involved in major construction actions requiring the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement are required to request a species list and prepare a biological assessment for the purpose of



identifying any endangered or threatened species that is likely to be adversely affected by the action.

The ESA prohibits any person or agency from *taking*<sup>1</sup> any listed species without a special exemption/permit. Species may be added to or removed from the list. Contact the USFWS for current listings.

Statute: 16 U.S.C. 1531-1544 (federal Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended)

Contact: U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
Montana Field Office

## **POSSESS CAPTIVE-REARED BIRDS FOR NONCOMMERCIAL PURPOSES**

### **1. Types of Activities Regulated**

A permit from the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) is required to purchase live captive-reared upland game birds from Montana licensed game bird farms and to possess those birds for noncommercial purposes.

Statute: 87-4-902(1), MCA

Rule: ARM 12.6.230

Contact: DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS  
Enforcement Division  
Regional Offices (see APPENDIX 2)

### **2. Application Requirements**

A person who wishes to possess captive-reared birds for noncommercial purposes not associated with training, release, or field trials must file a completed application on a form provided by the FWP at the regional office in the region where the person will keep the birds.

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<sup>1</sup> To take is defined as to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect or attempt to engage in these actions.

### **3. Permitting Procedures**

Applications will be reviewed by regional enforcement personnel and an inspection may be required of the enclosures in which the birds will be housed. If the application is approved, a permit number will be affixed to the permit application and that document returned to the applicant indicating authorization. Permits expire on December 31 of the year issued.

### **4. Additional Information**

A permittee must confine captive-reared birds in fencing designed to prevent the entry of wild game birds and to prevent the escape of captive-reared birds into the wild. A permittee may not release captive-reared birds into the wild without authorization from the FWP.

### **5. Fees**

There is no fee for a permit to possess captive-reared birds for noncommercial purposes.

## **RELEASE RING-NECKED PHEASANTS FOR NONCOMMERCIAL PURPOSES**

### **1. Types of Activities Regulated**

A person who wishes to release ring-necked pheasants for noncommercial purposes must file a completed application on a form provided by the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) at the regional office in the region where the birds will be released.

Statute: 87-4-902(1), MCA

Rule: ARM 12.6.225

Contact: DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS  
Enforcement Division  
Regional Offices (see APPENDIX 2)

### **2. Application Requirements**

To obtain a permit, a person must own the land where the release of birds is planned or have the written permission of the landowner. A nonlandowner must provide written proof of landowner permission to the FWP before the department may issue the permit.

### **3. Permitting Procedures**

Applications will be reviewed by regional enforcement personnel and an inspection may be required to ensure the requested release will not have detrimental effects on the environment. If approved, a permit number will be affixed to the permit application and that document returned to the applicant indicating authorization.

### **4. Additional Information**

A permittee may release a maximum of 200 ring-necked pheasants on an annual basis on one contiguous parcel of property. A permittee may release ring-necked pheasants only between March 1 and September 15. Once released, captive-reared pheasants are considered wild birds and fall under all upland game bird hunting regulations. Permits must be renewed annually.

## **SCIENTIFIC COLLECTORS PERMIT**

### **1. Types of Activities Regulated**

A permit is required from the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) for taking, killing, capturing, or possessing certain species for use in scientific studies. The permit holder may only take as many animals as are necessary for the investigation. A permit may not be granted for any species for which a taking is prohibited by statute or rule.

Statute: 87-2-806, MCA

Contact: DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS  
Fisheries Division  
Wildlife Division

### **2. Application Requirements**

A person or organization applying for a collection permit for a scientific investigation must submit an application to the FWP. The department may require the applicant to submit a plan of operations that includes the purpose for the collection, the methodology to be employed, and the qualifications of the collectors.

### **3. Permitting Procedures**

The FWP may issue a permit with conditions on the time and number of animals that may be collected. The department may deny the permit if it determines the applicant is not qualified, the collection is not necessary for the investigation, the collection method is not appropriate, the collection may threaten the viability of a species or there is no valid reason for the proposed investigation.

The permit holder is required to submit a report before December 31 that indicates the species, number of individuals taken, and the locations of the collections. A permit holder who fails to file a report may be denied another permit.

Scientific collectors permits are not transferable and must be in the possession of the permittee at the time of the collection. Permits expire within the calendar year issued.

### **4. Fees**

There is no fee for a collection permit for an educational institution or government agency. The fee for an individual is \$50.

## **USE OF POISON BAIT ON DEPARTMENT LANDS**

### **1. Types of Activities Regulated**

No 1080 baits can be placed on Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks lands without written permission from the Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission.

Statute: 87-1-201 and 87-1-301, MCA

Contact: DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS  
Wildlife Division

## **WILD BIRD PERMITS**

### **1. Types of Activities Regulated**

- A. No person may hunt, capture, kill, possess, purchase, offer or expose for sale, or transport any nongame wild bird or part of a wild bird or take or destroy nests or eggs without a certificate or permit from the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP). Exceptions are 1) house

sparrows, crows,\* starlings, magpies,\* rock doves, Eurasian collared doves,<sup>1</sup> blackbirds\* and other species and their eggs or nests designated by the FWP, and 2) possession or transportation of parts or plumage of eagles used for religious purposes by a member of a Native American tribe when permitted by federal law.

- B. Licenses are required for any person to trap, possess, sell, or transfer possession of a raptor or to train a raptor in the practice of falconry. The bald eagle and any species listed under the state or federal endangered species acts may not be captured in Montana for the sport of falconry (see FALCONRY PERMITS, p. 96).
- C. The FWP may grant permits for the holding of raptors for captive breeding purposes under certain specific conditions (see CAPTIVE BREEDING OF RAPTORS, p. 94).
- D. A permit is required from the FWP to take, capture, or possess a wild bird for the purposes of banding for scientific studies, salvaging birds killed in accidents, or collecting abandoned birds' nests for school or museum collections and nursing sick or injured birds.

A person seeking a scientific collection permit, rehabilitation permit, bird banding permit, or salvage permit must first obtain a federal permit from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Migratory Bird Permit Office in Denver before the state may issue a permit for any of those activities involving birds protected under the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

Statute: 87-5-201 through 87-5-210, MCA

Rule: ARM 12.9.301

Contact: DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS  
Enforcement Division

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<sup>1</sup> The Fish and Wildlife Commission added Eurasian collared doves by rule (annual) in 2007 to the list of exotic bird species that may be taken without a license.

\* Crows, blackbirds and magpies are protected by federal laws, (see MIGRATORY BIRDS, p. 99).

# MINING

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## COAL AND URANIUM MINING: OPERATING PERMITS

### 1. Types of Activities Regulated

A permit is required from the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) prior to initiating strip or underground mining operations. Mined lands must be reclaimed and revegetated. See also WATER QUALITY PERMITTING, p. 205 and AIR QUALITY PERMITS, p. 36.

The Employment Relations Division of the Montana Department of Labor and Industry enforces mine safety regulations. The division's Safety and Health Bureau works with the mine operator and mining contractors to ensure worker safety.

Statute: 82-4-201, *et seq.*, MCA (Strip and Underground Mine Reclamation Act), and  
50-73-101, *et seq.*, MCA (Montana Coal Mining Code for mine safety)

Rule: ARM 17.24.301-17.24.1309 and 24.30.1302

Contact: DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
Permitting and Compliance Division  
*Industrial and Energy Minerals Bureau*

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY  
Employment Relations Division  
*Safety and Health Bureau*

### 2. Application Requirements

#### A. Permit

An applicant for a coal or uranium mine operating permit must submit a complete and detailed plan for the mining, reclamation, revegetation, and rehabilitation of the resources that may be affected by the proposed operations. The application must include information on the climate, geology, hydrology, neighboring surface and ground waters, and vegetation, etc., and two copies of all maps that meet the requirements outlined in statute. An applicant for a coal mining permit must also submit a certificate issued by an insurance company authorized to do business in Montana certifying that the

applicant has a public liability insurance policy for the strip or underground mining and reclamation operations described in the permit application.

Prior to the issuance of a permit, the operator must file a bond payable to the state of Montana with the DEQ in a sum to be determined by the department of not less than \$200 for each acre of the land affected, with a minimum bond of \$10,000. If federal coal is involved, the bond must also be made payable to the U.S. Department of Interior, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement. Permits may be renewed on each five-year permit anniversary by applying for a renewal. In order to renew a permit, the operator must be in compliance with the permit requirements.

#### B. Reclamation Plan

The reclamation plan for a coal or uranium mine must describe in detail how the applicant will comply with provisions regarding grading, backfilling, highwall reduction, subsidence stabilization, water control, topsoiling, reclamation and coal conservation, and measures that will be taken to eliminate damage to public and private lands from soil erosion, subsidence, landslides, water pollution, and hazards. In addition, the plan must list the steps that will be taken to comply with applicable air and water quality laws and rules and any applicable health and safety standards. Provisions also must be made for the protection and/or reclamation of alluvial valley floors and prime farmlands.

Statute: 82-4-221, 82-4-222, 82-4-227, and 82-4-231, MCA

Rule: ARM 17.24.302-17.24.327

### 3. **Permitting Procedures**

- 1) An application is required for a permit or a major revision or amendment of a permit or reclamation plan. The DEQ reviews the application materials and determines if the application is administratively complete. Once the department makes its determination, it sends written notice to the applicant and if an Environmental Impact Statement is required (see MONTANA ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT, p. 130), it will also send notice of this determination at this time.

The applicant must publish a notice in an area newspaper and the DEQ must notify various local governments, planning agencies, sewage and water treatment authorities, and water companies in the area of the proposed mine. Any person having an interest that is or may be adversely affected or an

officer of a federal, state, or local government agency may file written objections to the application within 30 days of the last publication of the applicant's public notice or receipt of the DEQ's notice. If written objections are filed and an objector requests an informal conference, the DEQ must hold the conference in the area of the proposed mining and publish a public notice of the informal conference. The DEQ may proceed with the application review while the written objections and conference findings are assessed.

- 2) The DEQ must notify the applicant in writing within 120 days after receipt of the complete application whether the plan is acceptable. If the plan is not acceptable, the DEQ must indicate its reasons. The applicant may then revise the application. The DEQ then has another 120 days to make its decision concerning the acceptability of the application.
- 3) An acceptable application triggers public notice by the DEQ of the acceptability of the proposal. Again, any person having an interest that is or may be adversely affected by the department's decision may file written objections and/or request an informal conference. The informal conference must be held within 20 days of the request. The DEQ must issue its decision within 10 days of the conference.
- 4) An applicant, permittee, or person with an interest that is or may be adversely affected by the approval or denial of an application for a permit, a revision, or amendment of a permit or reclamation plan or a permit transfer or renewal may request a hearing before the Board of Environmental Review by submitting a written request within 30 days of the decision. The contested case provisions of the Montana Administrative Procedure Act apply (see MAPA, p. 129).

Statute: 82-4-206, 82-4-225, and 82-4-231, MCA

Rule: ARM 17.24.401-17.24.404

#### **4. Criteria**

The permit for a coal or uranium mining operation may be denied for a number of reasons, including, but not limited to, an inadequate reclamation plan, adverse reclamation possibilities, exceptional topographic or scientific characteristics or cultural resources, historic or geologic importance, critical biological productivity or ecological fragility, the threat of a public hazard, or designation of the land as unsuitable for mining.

Statute: 82-4-227 and 82-4-228, MCA

Rule: ARM 17.24.1131-17.24.1148



## COAL AND URANIUM MINING: PROSPECTING PERMITS

### 1. Types of Activities Regulated

A person interested in prospecting for coal or uranium must obtain a prospecting permit from the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) if the land is not already included in a current operating permit (see p. 106) and if the prospecting is conducted to determine the location, quality, or quantity of mineral deposits. A reclamation plan and bond must be submitted. The permit is valid for one year and may be renewed.

A prospecting permit is not required for an operation that is conducted for the purpose of gathering environmental data to evaluate the conditions of an area before beginning strip or underground mining or conducted to determine drill hole locations and access routes prior to submittal of an application to prospect to determine the location, quality, and quantity of a mineral reserve provided the area to be disturbed is not one designated as unsuitable for coal mining (see 4. Criteria. p. 111). However, a notice of intent must be filed that meets the requirements in ARM 17.24.1018.

Statute: 82-4-226, *et seq.*, MCA (Strip and Underground Mine Reclamation Act)

Rule: ARM 17.24.1001-17.24.1018

Contact: DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
Permitting and Compliance Division  
*Industrial and Energy Minerals Bureau*

### 2. Application Requirements

The application for a prospecting permit must be made in writing, notarized, and submitted to the DEQ on forms provided by the department. The application form and permitting requirements vary according to the size and nature of the coal prospecting operation (see below) but will include a detailed prospecting map, a description of the proposed method of prospecting, the type of equipment to be used, and a reclamation plan.

A *short form* application is available for coal prospecting that does not remove more than 250 tons of coal and that does not substantially disturb the natural land surface (defined in ARM 17.24.301(121)). The information required for a short form application is described in 82-4-226(8), MCA. A *long form* application is required for prospecting conducted to determine the location, quality, or quantity of a uranium deposit or for coal prospecting that would substantially disturb the natural land surface. The information required for a long form application is outlined in ARM 17.24.1001.

### 3. **Permitting Procedures**

- 1) Short Form Applications: Within 10 working days of receipt of the application, the DEQ must notify the applicant in writing whether the application is complete and preliminarily acceptable. If the application is incomplete, the DEQ will provide information to the applicant on how to complete the application requirements. Within five working days of receipt of an applicant's response to the identified deficiencies, the DEQ reviews the response and determines if the application is complete and preliminarily acceptable. On receipt of the department's determination of preliminary acceptability, the applicant must advertise the public notice once in a newspaper of general circulation in the locality of the proposed prospecting. A 10 day public comment period follows the advertisement of the public notice. Within five working days following the end of the public comment period, the DEQ must notify the applicant as to whether the application is acceptable. If public comments are received, the department has 10 days to make this determination.

Long Form Applications: There are no established review timelines for long form applications, however, as a general guideline, the timelines for mine operating permit application review are used. All operations that are permitted under the long form must be conducted in compliance with ARM 17.24.1002 through 17.24.1013.

- 2) Prior to obtaining a prospecting permit, the applicant must file a reclamation bond with the DEQ based on the estimated cost of the required reclamation and restoration work as determined by department guidelines. The bond may be no less than \$200 per acre with a minimum bond of \$10,000.
- 3) At least 15 days prior to the permit's anniversary date, the operator may submit an application for a permit renewal stating the number of holes permitted and drilled, listing surface disturbances, and supplying an updated map.
- 4) An applicant, permittee, or person with an interest that is or may be adversely affected by the approval or denial of an application for a permit may request a hearing before the Board of Environmental Review by submitting a written request within 30 days of the decision. The contested case provisions of the Montana Administrative Procedure Act apply (see MAPA, p. 129).

Statute: 82-4-206 and 82-4-226, MCA

Rule: ARM 17.24.1001, 17.24.1003, 17.24.1016, and 17.24.1102

#### 4. **Criteria**

The permit for prospecting for coal and uranium may be denied for a number of reasons, including, but not limited to, adverse reclamation possibilities, exceptional topographic or scientific characteristics or cultural resources, historic or geologic importance, critical biological productivity or ecological fragility, the threat of a public hazard, or designation of the land as unsuitable for mining.

Statute: 82-4-227 and 82-4-228, MCA

Rule: ARM 17.24.1131-17.24.1148

### **COAL MINING: IN SITU COAL GASIFICATION**

#### 1. **Types of Activities Regulated**

The Montana Legislature authorized the Montana Board of Environmental Review to establish rules to regulate underground mining using in situ coal gasification. In situ coal gasification is the use of a conduit or well to inject or recover a liquid, solid, sludge, or gas that causes the leaching, dissolution, gasification, liquefaction, or extraction of the coal.

Statute: 75-5-103(29), 82-4-203(27), and 82-4-203(44), MCA

Contact: DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
Permitting and Compliance Division  
*Industrial and Energy Minerals Bureau*

### **HARD-ROCK MINING: EXPLORATION**

#### 1. **Types of Activities Regulated**

A state exploration license is required from the Montana Department of Environmental Quality to conduct mineral exploration activities for ores and rock or rock products that result in a material disturbance of the land surface for the purpose of determining the presence, location, extent, depth, grade, and economic viability of mineralization (82-4-303(7), MCA). An exploration license is a statewide license and only one is issued per individual or company. Any additional projects are considered amendments to the license and each must be individually approved and bonded. A bulk sample of up to 10,000 short tons of material may be taken at each project for metallurgical testing.

Following exploration, an Operating Permit (see HARD-ROCK MINING: OPERATING PERMITS, p. 113) must be obtained for production mining. Exploration and mining for oil,

gas, bentonite, clay, coal, sand, gravel, peat, soil, or uranium are regulated under other statutes.

Statute: 82-4-331, *et seq.*, MCA  
Rule: ARM 17.24.101, *et seq.*  
Contact: DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
Permitting and Compliance Division  
*Environmental Management Bureau*

## 2. Application Requirements

To obtain an exploration license, the applicant must propose a specific project to the DEQ. The department has available a sample plan of operations that shows the level of information required. The DEQ also accepts copies of U.S. Forest Service or U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management operating plans as long as an adequate map is provided. Once the DEQ receives and reviews an exploration plan, an on-site visit is scheduled among the DEQ, the applicant, and usually, a representative from the appropriate federal agency, to calculate the amount of reclamation bond required for the project. Joint bonds with the DEQ and the federal agency are accepted to avoid duplicate bonding. The applicant must agree to post the bond, reclaim any damaged land, and not be in default of any other reclamation law.

Statute: 82-4-331 and 82-4-332, MCA  
Rule: ARM 17.24.103-17.24.104

## 3. Permitting Procedures

On approval of the exploration plan by the DEQ and after the bond is submitted, the applicant will receive a hard-rock exploration license. The operator cannot legally begin explorations, however, until approval by any other state or federal agency, if applicable, is also granted. The license is renewable annually by filing an annual report and payment of the renewal fee.

Rule: ARM 17.24.103

## 4. Fees

The application fee for an exploration license is \$100 and the yearly renewal fee is \$25.

Statute: 82-4-332, MCA

## HARD-ROCK MINING: OPERATING PERMITS

### 1. Permit Categories and Activities Regulated

<p><b>Large Scale Operations— an operating permit is required for:</b></p>	<p><b>Small Mine Operations— a Small Miner Exclusion Statement (SMES) may be filed to exclude an operation from the requirement to obtain an operating permit if:*</b></p>	<p><b>Recreational Miners—are not regulated by the state provided the miner:</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ land disturbance in anticipation of mining activities</li> <li>■ mining ore, some industrial minerals, and rock products</li> <li>■ ore processing</li> <li>■ ore reprocessing</li> <li>■ mill construction</li> </ul> <p>In addition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Annual reports and fees are required.</li> <li>■ A reclamation bond and a reclamation plan must be submitted and the DEQ conducts annual or more frequent inspections for compliance with the reclamation plan.</li> <li>■ Community impact plans are required (see 6. Additional information). See also AIR QUALITY PERMITS, p. 36, WATER APPROPRIATIONS, p. 195, and WATER QUALITY PERMITTING, p. 205.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ The operation leaves no more than five acres disturbed and unreclaimed at any one time or has two operations that leave no more than five acres disturbed and unreclaimed at one time and that are at least one mile apart. There is no limit on total disturbed and reclaimed acreage over time.</li> <li>■ The small miner does not hold an operating permit that exceeds 100 acres.</li> </ul> <p>* An operating permit <u>is</u> required for that portion of an SMES operation that uses cyanide or other metal leaching agents.</p> <p>In addition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ the DEQ has the authority to require a maximum \$10,000 reclamation bond on placer and dredge mines and to recover costs over the \$10,000 limit by filing for the additional amount in District Court, and</li> <li>■ an operator must post a performance bond and obtain approval for the design, construction, operation, and reclamation of any hard rock tailings impoundment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ does not use motorized excavation equipment</li> <li>■ does not use blasting agents</li> <li>■ does not disturb more than 100 ft<sup>2</sup> or 50 yd<sup>3</sup> of material at any site</li> <li>■ does not leave unreclaimed sites that are less than one mile apart</li> <li>■ does not use mercury</li> <li>■ does not use cyanide or other metal leaching solvents</li> <li>■ A statewide permit is available for suction dredges with an intake of 4" or less. A one-time <i>application</i> fee of \$25 for Montana residents and \$100 for nonresidents is required. An <i>annual</i> fee of \$25 for Montana residents and \$100 for nonresidents is also required at the time of application and each year the permit is renewed. A person using a suction dredge must obtain a discharge permit from the DEQ (see MPDES Permits, p. 207) and a 310 permit from the county Conservation District (see STREAM BEDS - STREAM BANKS - WETLANDS, p. 10).</li> </ul>

## 114 MINING

Statute: 82-4-301, *et seq.*, MCA  
Rule: ARM 17.24.101, *et seq.*  
Contact: DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
Permitting and Compliance Division  
*Environmental Management Bureau*

The Employment Relations Division of the Montana Department of Labor and Industry enforces mine safety regulations. The division's Safety and Health Bureau works with the mine operator and mining contractors to ensure worker safety.

Statute: 50-72-101, *et seq.*, MCA  
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY  
Employment Relations Division  
*Safety and Health Bureau*

## 2. **Application Requirements**

### A. Operating Permit

An applicant for an operating permit must submit an application for each mine complex, with the exception of mines for rock products at multiple sites which, under certain conditions, may be authorized under one permit. The application consists of several parts: a description of the present condition of the area, i.e., hydrology, soils, vegetation, cultural resources, wildlife, etc; an operating plan describing the type and size of the operation, equipment, etc; reclamation plans, stating the reclamation objectives and how they will be implemented; monitoring plans; contingency plans; and closure plans, including water treatment, if necessary.

For mines starting operations after November 3, 1998, open pit mining for gold or silver using heap leaching or vat leaching with cyanide ore-processing reagents is prohibited.

Statute: 82-4-335 through 82-4-338, MCA  
Rule: ARM 17.24.116

B. Small Mine Operations

The small mine operator must sign a Small Miner Exclusion Statement (SMES), available at the DEQ, which consists of a signed and notarized affidavit stating that the applicant will stay within the requirements or conditions of the exclusion. The applicant must submit a one page plan of operation and a map locating the mine site. Placer mines are bonded for reclamation up to \$10,000. An annual report and renewal are required to maintain SMES status.

3. **Permitting Procedures**

Operating Permit

- 1) Once a plan is submitted, the DEQ has 90 days for an initial review and 30 days for any subsequent review of the application to determine if it is complete and compliant with the requirements of the Metal Mine Reclamation Act (MMRA) and associated rules.
- 2) If incomplete, the applicant is mailed a deficiency or completeness review letter on or before the review deadline. The letter alerts the applicant to additional resource or plan information required by the department. If it is a joint state/federal action (if permits are required by both the DEQ and the U.S. Forest Service or U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management), a joint deficiency letter is sent that includes comments from both the state and federal agencies. During the application process, the DEQ inspects the proposed site. If the site is not accessible because of extended adverse weather conditions, the DEQ may extend the review period by a term agreed to by the applicant.
- 3) There are no constraints on the amount of time an applicant has to prepare a response. Once a response is submitted, the DEQ again has 30 days to review the information. This process continues until the application is complete and compliant.
- 4) Once the application is deemed complete and compliant, the DEQ will declare in writing that it is complete and compliant, detail the substantive requirements of the MMRA and how the application complies with those requirements, and issue a draft permit.
- 5) Issuance of the draft permit as a final permit is the state action subject to review under the Montana Environmental Policy Act (see p. 130).

- 6) The DEQ will calculate the amount of the reclamation bond required for the project and notify the applicant. The final permit will be issued after completion of the MEPA review or when one year has elapsed from the issuance of the draft permit, the reclamation bond has been received, and the DEQ has determined that the final permit meets the substantive requirements of the MMRA.
- 7) The DEQ can place stipulations in a draft or final permit, either with the consent of the applicant or by providing the applicant in writing the reason for the stipulation and a citation to the statute or rule that gives the DEQ the authority to impose the stipulation. For a stipulation in the final permit that was not contained in the draft permit, the DEQ has to state the reason the stipulation was not contained in the draft permit (82-4-337(2)(b), MCA).
- 8) Legal actions challenging the DEQ's decision to grant or deny a permit have to be filed within 90 days after the decision is made (82-4-349(1), MCA). The applicant for an operating permit may request an administrative hearing on a denial of an application by submitting a written request for a hearing before the Board of Environmental Review within 30 days of the denial (82-4-353(2), MCA). For hearings before the board, the contested case provisions of the Montana Administrative Procedure Act apply (see MAPA, p. 129).
- 9) The final operating permit must provide that the reclamation plan may be modified by the DEQ, upon proper application of the permittee or after timely notice and opportunity for hearing, at any time during the term of the permit and for any of the following reasons: to modify the requirements so that they will not conflict with existing laws; when the previously adopted reclamation plan is impossible or impracticable to implement and maintain; or when significant environmental problem situations not permitted under the terms of regulatory permits held by the permittee are revealed by field inspection and the DEQ has the authority to address them under the MMRA (82-4-337(4), MCA).
- 10) The DEQ may also require the operator to submit an amended reclamation plan and post a temporary bond to guarantee the amended plan if it determines, based on unanticipated circumstances that are discovered following the issuance of a permit, that there is a substantial and imminent danger to public health, public safety, or the environment (82-4-338(7), MCA).

Statute: 82-4-337, 82-4-338, 82-4-349, and 82-4-353, MCA



#### 4. Fees

The application fee for a hard-rock mining permit is \$500. The fee for filing the annual report is \$100.

Statute: 82-4-335, MCA

Rule: ARM 17.24.116 and 17.24.118

#### 5. Criteria

An operating permit may be denied if the plan of development—mining or reclamation—conflicts with the Montana Clean Air Act (75-2-101, *et seq.*, MCA, p. 36), the Montana Water Quality Act (75-5-101, *et seq.*, MCA, p. 205), the Public Water Supply Act (75-6-101, *et seq.*, MCA, p. 189), or if the reclamation plan is insufficient to accomplish the proposed reclamation.

Additional criteria apply if the applicant has outstanding enforcement or reclamation responsibilities.

Statute: 82-4-351, MCA

#### 6. Additional Information

##### Large Scale Developments

- 1) When a proposed mining project will employ more than 75 people in a consecutive six-month period in the construction or operation of a mine or associated milling facilities, the applicant must submit an economic impact plan to the affected counties and to the Hard-Rock Mining Impact Board. The plan must include development timetables, work-force and population immigration projections, and the increased local government service and facility needs, costs, and revenues expected to result from the development. The developer must commit to pay to the affected local governments the increased costs identified in the approved plan, and if requested, must provide financial or other assistance to help local governments prepare for and evaluate the impact plan.
- 2) After the plan is submitted for review, the affected governing bodies have 90 days to submit objections to the Impact Board. If objections cannot be resolved by the developer and local governments, the Impact Board will hold

a contested case hearing. Impact plan review is conducted concurrently with the DEQ mine operating permit review.

- 3) Within 30 days after receipt of the approved plan, the developer must provide to the Board and the DEQ a written guarantee that it will make all payments according to the plan schedule. If the plan requires prepayment of taxes, the developer must also provide a third-party financial guarantee acceptable to the Board. Compliance with the terms of an approved impact plan is a statutory condition of the DEQ's operating permit.
- 4) Under certain circumstances, as specified by statute or by the plan itself, the developer or an affected county may petition the Board for an amendment to the impact plan. Jointly, they may petition for an amendment at any time.

Statute: 15-37-111, 82-4-335, 82-4-339, and 90-6-301, *et seq.*, MCA

Rule: ARM 8.104.201, *et seq.*

Contact: BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
Community Development Division  
*Hard-Rock Mining Impact Board*

## LANDOWNER NOTIFICATION

### 1. Types of Activities Regulated

When surface and mineral rights are in separate ownership, the surface owner must be notified and give approval in writing of the proposed operations before any prospecting, exploration, or development of subsurface minerals may take place.

Statute: 82-2-301, *et seq.*, MCA (Landowner Notification Act)

Contact: SURFACE OWNER

## **MINING RIGHT-OF-WAY**

### **1. Types of Activities Regulated**

The owner of mining rights may establish a right-of-way over adjacent lands if necessary to work the claim. The right-of-way may be for roads, ditches, flumes, and other mine-related purposes. Application is made to the District Court.

Statute: 82-2-201, *et seq.*, MCA

Contact: DISTRICT COURT

### **2. Permitting Procedures**

- 1) If the mine owner cannot obtain the agreement of adjacent landowners for right-of-way, the mine owner may file a complaint in District Court requesting that a right-of-way be created.
- 2) After receipt of the complaint, the district judge must issue a summons to the parties requiring appearance before the court. The court appearance must be 10 or more days from the date of service of the summons.
- 3) If the judge determines that the right-of-way is warranted, the judge must award the mine owner the right-of-way and establish a commission of three persons to assess damages to the lands used as right-of-way.
- 4) Use of right-of-way can only begin upon payment of the assessed damages.

Statute: 82-2-203 through 82-2-208, MCA

### **3. Additional Information**

Any party may appeal the commissioners' assessment of damages to the District Court within 10 days after the report is filed.

Statute: 82-2-209 through 82-2-212, MCA

## OPENCUT MINING

### 1. Types of Activities Regulated

The Opencut Mining Act and the related regulations apply to the mining of bentonite, clay, scoria, peat, soil, sand, or gravel. An operator may not remove over 10,000 cubic yards of material and overburden until the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has issued a permit for the mining and reclamation of affected lands. An operator conducting a number of opencut operations, each of which results in the removal of less than 10,000 cubic yards of materials and overburden but that result in the removal of 10,000 cubic yards or more of materials and overburden in the aggregate, must obtain an opencut mine permit(s), except as follows. Exemptions may be available for operators currently holding a reclamation permit if the new operations will result in the removal of 5,000 cubic yards or less of material and overburden and the total area of excavation does not exceed five

acres. There are specific requirements for this exemption, however, and a completed form provided by the DEQ must be submitted.

The Employment Relations Division of the Montana Department of Labor and Industry enforces mine safety regulations. The division's Safety and Health Bureau works with the mine operator and mining contractors to ensure worker safety.

All opencut sand and gravel operations must comply with applicable zoning regulations.

An air quality permit (see AIR QUALITY PERMITS, p. 36) from the DEQ is required for the operation of any mineral crushing or other processing plant.

Statute: 82-4-401, *et seq.*, MCA (Opencut Mining Act)  
50-72-101, *et seq.*, MCA (mine safety)

Rule: ARM 17.24.201, *et seq.*

Contact: DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
Permitting and Compliance Division  
*Industrial and Energy Minerals Bureau*

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY  
Employment Relations Division  
*Safety and Health Bureau*

## 2. Application Requirements

An operator must submit an application for a mining permit on a form furnished by the DEQ. A bond calculated by the DEQ as the cost to the department of reclaiming the affected land, a zoning compliance form, plans of the intended operations, and other details of the mine operation are also required. Government agencies are exempt from the bond requirement.

Statute: 82-4-432 through 82-4-434, MCA

Rule: ARM 17.24.203-17.24.223

## 3. Permitting Procedures

- 1) The application materials (application/permit forms, bond, map(s), plan of operation, names of surface landowners within one-half mile of the proposed permit boundary using the most current known owners of record, etc.) are initially reviewed for completeness to ensure that each required item has been submitted.
- 2) The DEQ has five working days to notify the applicant whether the application is complete. If the application is not complete, the department must list the information necessary to make the application complete. This process continues for subsequent incompleteness responses until the application is complete.
- 3) An on-site evaluation is conducted, as necessary, to determine if the land has the capacity to be mined and reclaimed and to make sure site conditions are as specified in the application. The site inspection may be conducted with the applicant and other interested persons.
- 4) Within 15 days after the DEQ notifies the applicant that the application is complete, the applicant must publish public notice of its proposed operation and how to request a public meeting in a relevant newspaper, send the notice to the above-identified surface landowners and to the county commissioners of the affected county, and post the notice at the proposed mine site.
- 5) The DEQ must accept requests for a public meeting for 45 days after the department sends notice to the applicant of a complete application. A public meeting must be held if a certain percentage or number of surface landowners request a meeting.

- 6) Within the 45-day period above and unless a public meeting is required, the DEQ must notify the applicant whether the application is acceptable, and if not, include a detailed list of all deficiencies. An application is acceptable if it contains all of the information required by the law and applicable rules. If the DEQ and the applicant determine that a public meeting will not be required, the DEQ must issue the acceptability notification to the applicant within 30 days of the notice of a complete application. See also MONTANA ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT, p. 130.
- 7) If a public meeting is required, within 30 days of the closing of the public meeting request period (a total of 75 days from the notice of completeness of the application), the DEQ must issue the notice of acceptability to the applicant, or notify the applicant whether an extended review, as a result of the public meeting, will be required. For applications requiring an extended review, the DEQ must, within 60 days from the date the department determines the application warrants an extended review, issue the notice of acceptability to the applicant; the DEQ may, for sufficient cause, extend this review period an additional 30 days if it provides prior notification to the applicant.
- 8) The DEQ has 10 working days to review deficiency responses and notify the applicant whether or not the application is acceptable. This process continues for subsequent deficiency responses. For applications requiring an extended review (see item 6) above), the DEQ has 30 days to review deficiency responses and notify the applicant whether or not the application is acceptable; the DEQ may, for sufficient cause, extend this review period an additional 30 days if it provides prior notification to the applicant.
- 9) An applicant, permittee, or person with an interest that is or may be adversely affected by the approval or denial of an application for a permit may request a hearing before the Board of Environmental Review by submitting a written request stating the reasons for the appeal within 30 days of the decision. The contested case provisions of the Montana Administrative Procedure Act apply (see MAPA, p. 129).

Statute: 82-4-427 and 82-4-432, MCA

Rule: ARM 17.24.212

#### 4. **Criteria**

The DEQ will issue a permit only if the bond, reclamation plan, and other requirements of Title 82, chapter 4, part 4 are fulfilled. The reclamation plan must ensure that the applicant

will establish a productive post-mining land use, will appropriately protect ground and surface water, and will properly bury waste, etc.

Statute: 82-4-432 through 82-4-434, MCA

Rule: ARM 17.24.203-17.24.223

## **OPERATIONS ON STATE LANDS: COAL MINING**

### **1. Types of Activities Regulated**

Coal mining leases on state lands are awarded by competitive bidding at no less than fair market value. The primary lease term is 10 years and may be extended if coal continues to be produced in commercial quantities and the terms of the lease have been met. Rent and royalties are required. Corporations not incorporated in Montana must obtain a certificate of authority from the Montana Secretary of State. See also WATER QUALITY PERMITTING, p. 205.

Statute: 77-3-301, *et seq.*, MCA

Rule: ARM 36.25.301, *et seq.*

Contact: DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION  
Trust Land Management Division  
*Minerals Management Bureau*

### **2. Application Requirements**

Applications are made on a form furnished by the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC). The application must include an adequate and sufficient description of the proposed tracts. All leases must comply with the requirements of the Strip and Underground Mine Reclamation Act, (82-4-201, *et seq.*, MCA, pp. 106-111). Mining operations must be as systematic as possible to prevent the waste of coal and to facilitate subsequent operations.

Statute: 77-3-306, MCA

Rule: ARM 36.25.304

### 3. **Permitting Procedures**

- 1) When a sufficient number of applications for leases have been received, or at the director's discretion, a lease sale will be announced through publication in a trade journal of general circulation in the coal mining industry or in Montana's major newspapers for four weeks preceding the sale.
- 2) A lease may not be issued until the coal resources and the surface of the tract have been evaluated or competitively bid by the Montana Board of Land Commissioners to determine the lease's value.
- 3) Sales of state coal leases are through competitive bidding. The DNRC may require a bid deposit in any amount it may determine, up to 10 percent of the appraised value of the coal offered for lease.
- 4) If no competitive bids are offered, the Board may enter into a lease that is at least at the fair market value as determined by an appraisal.

Statute: 77-3-312, MCA

Rule: ARM 36.25.304

### 4. **Fees**

A fee of \$50 is required for a lease application. Rent on a state coal lease cannot be less than \$2 per acre. The DNRC may authorize the bonus bid to be amortized for a period of up to five years. The lessee must pay a cash royalty on all coal produced from the leased premises at a rate of not less than 10 percent of the coal's value.

Statute: 77-3-316, MCA

Rule: ARM 36.2.1003, 36.25.309, 36.25.310, and 36.25.321

## **OPERATIONS ON STATE LANDS: METALLIFEROUS MINERALS AND GEMS**

### 1. **Types of Activities Regulated**

The Board of Land Commissioners leases state lands for the purpose of mining for metalliferous minerals (gold, silver, lead, zinc, copper, platinum, iron, and all other metallic minerals) and gems (sapphires, rubies, and other precious or semiprecious stones). Royalties must be at least five percent of the full market value of the metalliferous minerals recovered under the lease. The primary lease term is 10 years and may be extended if



minerals continue to be produced in commercial quantities and the terms of the lease have been met.

Statute: 77-3-101, *et seq.*, MCA

Rule: ARM 36.25.601

Contact: DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION  
Trust Land Management Division  
*Minerals Management Bureau*

## 2. Application Requirements

Applications are made on a form furnished by the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC). The application must include an adequate and sufficient description of the proposed tracts.

Statute: 77-3-111, MCA

Rule: ARM 36.25.604

## 3. Permitting Procedures

- 1) Leases may be issued on a first-come, first-served basis or by competitive bid.
- 2) When the DNRC receives an application for a lease, it may advertise for written bids on the tract of land for a reasonable time in trade journals and/or the official county newspaper of the county where the tract is located.
- 3) If bids are accepted, the tract will be leased to the highest bidder unless the Montana Board of Land Commissioners determines that the bid is not in the state's best interest.
- 4) A lease may not be issued until the mineral resources and the surface of the tract have been evaluated by the Board to determine the lease's value. The DNRC may require the applicant to pay up to \$500 for the evaluation.
- 5) The lease will contain provisions for prospecting and mining, royalties, etc. The Board also may require payment of a bond.

Statute: 77-3-111 through 77-3-112 and 77-3-119 through 77-3-121, MCA

Rule: ARM 36.25.602, *et seq.*

#### 4. Fees

A fee of \$50 is required for a lease application. Rent on a state metalliferous and gem lease is \$1 per acre for the first three years, \$2.50 per acre for the fourth and fifth years, then \$3 per acre until the lease terminates. The lessee must pay a cash royalty on all minerals produced from the leased premises at a rate of not less than five percent of the mineral's value.

Rule: ARM 36.2.1003, 36.25.606, and 36.25.607

## OPERATIONS ON STATE LANDS: PROSPECTING

### 1. Types of Activities Regulated

Permits may be issued by the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) to non lease holders for prospecting for metalliferous metals (gold, silver, lead, zinc, copper, platinum, iron, and all other metallic minerals) and gems (sapphires, rubies, and other precious or semiprecious stones) on state lands. See also OPERATIONS ON STATE LANDS: METALLIFEROUS MINERALS AND GEMS, p. 124.

Statute: 77-3-101, *et seq.*, MCA

Contact: DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION  
Trust Land Management Division  
*Minerals Management Bureau*

### 2. Fees

The applicant for a prospecting permit on state lands is required to pay an issuance fee and an annual fee during the life of the permit. The prospecting permit fee is set by the DNRC and approved by the Board of Land Commissioners. Contact the DNRC for fee information.

Statute: 77-1-302, MCA

Rule: ARM 36.2.1003

## **OPERATIONS ON STATE LANDS: STONE, GRAVEL AND OTHER NONMETALLIFEROUS MINERALS**

### **1. Types of Activities Regulated**

Leases for the mining of nonmetallic minerals (i.e., stone, limestone, oil shale, clay, bentonite, calcite, talc, mica, ceramic, asbestos, marble, diatomite, gravel and sand, phosphate, sodium, potash, sulphur, fluorite, barite, or any other nonmetallic mineral, excluding coal, oil, or gas) on state lands are issued on a royalty basis for up to a 10-year period. The lessee may have a preferential right of renewal of a producing lease under the readjustment of terms and conditions determined by the Montana Board of Land Commissioners to be in the best interest of the state. Monthly reports are required. The Board may issue permits on its terms and conditions to the Montana Department of Transportation, the Board of County Commissioners, or other local government entities for the removal and use of stone, gravel, or sand from state land for the construction and maintenance of streets, bridges, highways, etc. Compliance with air quality laws is also required. See AIR QUALITY PERMITS, p. 36 and OPENCUT MINING, p. 120.

Statute: 77-3-201, *et seq.*, MCA

Contact: DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION  
Trust Land Management Division  
*Minerals Management Bureau*

### **2. Application Requirements**

Applications must be made on forms supplied by the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation.

### **3. Permitting Procedures**

See OPERATIONS ON STATE LANDS: METALLIFEROUS MINERALS AND GEMS, p. 124.

### **4. Fees**

An application fee of \$40 is required for a nonmetalliferous lease.

Statute: 77-3-202, MCA

Rule: ARM 36.2.1003

## RECORDING OF MINING CLAIMS

### 1. Types of Activities Regulated

A person who discovers a vein, lode or ledge of rock on federal land bearing valuable mineral deposits and who wishes to locate a mining claim must follow these procedures:

- 1) Post a written notice at the point of discovery;
- 2) Within 30 days, mark the boundaries of the site;
- 3) Within 60 days, comply with United States mining laws and record the location with the county clerk and recorder, who in turn must provide a copy within 20 days to the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation. The claimant must also, within 90 days, record the claim with the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Montana State Office in Billings; and
- 4) File an affidavit of performance of annual work with the appropriate county. Claim maintenance fees must be paid or the applicant must comply with the BLM small miner maintenance fee waiver provisions by September 1 of each year. Small miners taking advantage of the fee waiver provisions must still file annual assessment filings on or before December 30 of each year.

Statute: 82-2-101, *et seq.*, MCA

Contact: COUNTY CLERK AND RECORDER

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
Bureau of Land Management  
*Montana State Office*

# MONTANA ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES ACT

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## 1. **Types of Activities**

Whenever a statute requires a license or permit decision to be preceded by a hearing, the contested case provisions of the Montana Administrative Procedures Act (MAPA) apply.

Statute: 2-4-102, MCA and 2-4-601, *et seq.*, MCA

Rule: ARM 1.3.101, *et seq.*

## 2. **MAPA Procedures**

In a contested case, all parties must be given an opportunity for a hearing after reasonable notice. The notice must include the reason for and details of the meeting. Parties are entitled to be represented by an attorney. If formal hearing procedures are followed, the rules of discovery and evidence, right to cross-examine witnesses, rules of privilege, etc., will apply except as otherwise provided by the statute. If all parties agree, less formal procedures may be followed. A hearing officer may be appointed to make findings and recommendations to the agency decisionmakers. A transcript of the hearing will be made available upon request. Within 30 days after the agency's final decision, an aggrieved party may appeal the decision to District Court.

Statute: 2-4-601, *et seq.* and 2-4-702(2)(a), MCA

# MONTANA ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT

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## 1. Types of Activities Reviewed

As outlined in the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) and agency MEPA Administrative Rules, all agencies of the state must conduct an environmental review when making decisions or planning activities that may have an impact on the environment. Depending on the scope and significance of the project, the agency must prepare either an Environmental Assessment (EA), a Mitigated Environmental Assessment (Mitigated EA), or an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The environmental review process applies not only to actions initiated by the agency, but also to the issuance of state permits and licenses.

Statute: 75-1-101, *et seq.*, MCA

## 2. Review Process

### A. Environmental Assessments (EA)

A state agency must prepare an EA when it is considering an action that may impact the environment and it is unclear whether an EIS is needed, or it is clear that the impacts of the proposed action are not significant, or statutory requirements do not allow sufficient time for the agency to prepare an EIS. The level of analysis required for an EA depends on the complexity of the proposed action, the environmental sensitivity of the area affected, the degree of uncertainty as to whether the proposed action will have a significant impact on the environment, and the need for and complexity of mitigation required to avoid significant impacts. If an EIS is not needed, the agency must explain why an EA is sufficient.

### B. Mitigated Environmental Assessment (Mitigated EA)

A state agency may, as an alternative to preparing an EIS, prepare an EA whenever the action is one that might normally require an EIS, but effects that might otherwise be deemed significant appear to be mitigable below the level of significance through design, or enforceable controls or stipulations, or both, imposed by the agency or other government agencies.

### C. Environmental Impact Statements (EIS)

A state agency must prepare an EIS whenever an EA indicates an EIS is necessary, or when the agency determines that the proposed action is a

major action that will significantly affect the state's environment. An EIS must discuss the environmental impact of the proposed action, any adverse environmental effects that cannot be avoided should the action be taken, alternatives to the proposed action if it is a state-sponsored project, the relationship between the short-term uses of the environment and the maintenance and enhancement of long-term productivity, and any irreversible and irretrievable commitments of resources that would be involved if the proposed action were taken.

Prior to preparing an EIS, the agency must solicit public comment to determine the scope of the analysis.

The agency must then prepare a draft EIS and distribute it for public comment. Depending on the comments received, the agency may revise the draft EIS and publish a final EIS, or adopt the draft as the final EIS. The final EIS must include a summary of the major conclusion and supporting information from the draft EIS; a list of all sources of oral and written comments on the draft EIS; the agency's responses to those comments; information obtained subsequent to circulation of the draft EIS; and the agency's recommendation, preferred alternative, or proposed decision together with an explanation of the reasons for the decision.

### 3. **Actions Excluded or Exempted from Environmental Review**

The agency is not required to prepare an EA or an EIS for the following categories of action:

#### A. **Actions Exempted By Statute**

23-2-657, MCA	The Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) when taking actions as a snowmobile area operator or providing funding assistance to snowmobile area operators if the action or funding has been previously subject to an environmental review
30-16-103(3)(b), MCA	Small business licenses under the Montana Small Business Licensing Coordination Act
61-10-121, MCA	Issuance of an oversized load permit when existing roads through existing right-of-ways are used
75-1-201(1)(b), MCA	Legislation

75-1-201(1)(d), MCA	A transfer of an ownership interest in a lease, permit, license, certificate, or other entitlement for use or permission to act by an agency does not trigger review if there is not a material change in terms or conditions of the entitlement or unless otherwise provided by law
75-1-201(3), MCA	Montana Public Service Commission activities
75-2-211(5), MCA	The transfer of permits for portable emission sources
75-20-303(6)(c)(1), MCA	Siting modifications within a major facility siting corridor
77-1-121(2), MCA	Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation's (DNRC) or Montana Board of Land Commissioner's issuance of lease renewals and state leases and licenses subject to further permitting by the Montana Department of Environmental Quality
77-1-121(3), MCA	DNRC's issuance of lease renewals
77-1-121(3), MCA	Nonaction on the part of the DNRC or the Board even though it has the authority to act
77-1-121(4), MCA	DNRC and Board action in relation to and compliance with local government actions concerning planning and zoning
77-1-130(6), MCA	Issuance of historic right-of-way deeds across state lands
77-1-617(2), MCA	A qualified exemption for reciprocal access agreements on state land
77-1-1112(7), MCA	Authorization of historic use of navigable river beds
77-2-363(6)(b), MCA	Sale of a parcel formerly leased as a cabin or home site
77-5-201(3)(c), MCA	Certain emergency timber sale situations or time dependent access situations involving timber
82-4-250(4), MCA	Transfer of certain coal mine operating permits
82-4-342(5), MCA	Certain actions that involve minor amendments to a hard-rock mine operating permit
87-1-303(3), MCA	Domestic livestock trailing on land owned or controlled by the FWP
90-4-310(6), MCA	Emergency energy orders issued by the Governor



- B. Actions that qualify for a categorical exclusion as defined by rule or justified by a programmatic review. In the rule or programmatic review, the agency must identify any extraordinary circumstances in which a normally excluded action requires an EA or EIS (MEPA Model Rule III(5); DEQ, ARM 17.40.318, Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, ARM 12.2.454, DNRC, ARM 36.11.447, Montana Department of Commerce, Coal Board, ARM 8.101.203, Montana Department of Transportation, ARM 18.2.261);
- C. Administrative actions: routine, clerical or similar functions of a department, including but not limited to administrative procurement, contracts for consulting services, and personnel actions (MEPA Model Rule III(5));
- D. Minor repairs, operations or maintenance of existing equipment or facilities (MEPA Model Rule III(5));
- E. Investigation and enforcement: data collection, inspection of facilities, or enforcement of environmental standards (MEPA Model Rule III(5));
- F. Ministerial actions: actions in which the agency exercises no discretion, but rather acts upon a given state of facts in a prescribed manner (MEPA Model Rule III(5));
- G. Actions that are primarily social or economic in nature and that do not otherwise affect the human environment (MEPA Model Rule III(5)); and
- H. Actions taken that are immediately necessary to control the impacts of an emergency (MEPA Model Rule XIX).

#### 4. Fees

If the cost of preparing the EIS exceeds \$2,501, the agency may collect a fee from the applicant to pay the costs of EIS preparation. A fee schedule based on the cost of the proposed project is outlined in the statute.

Statute: 75-1-203, MCA

#### 5. Additional Information

When a single project requires permits from two or more agencies, a lead agency will be designated to collect the EIS fee and to coordinate preparation of the document.

Statute: 75-1-101, *et seq.*, MCA

Rule:           Agriculture:  
                    ARM 4.2.312, *et seq.*  
                    Commerce:  
                    ARM 8.2.302, *et seq.*  
                    Fish, Wildlife, and Parks:  
                    ARM 12.2.428, *et seq.*  
                    Environmental Quality:  
                    ARM 17.4.601, *et seq.*  
                    Livestock:  
                    ARM 32.2.221, *et seq.*  
  
                    Natural Resources:  
                    ARM 36.2.521, *et seq.*  
                    Transportation:  
                    ARM 18.2.235, *et seq.*

Contact:        Specific Agency

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COUNCIL  
LEGISLATIVE SERVICES DIVISION  
Legislative Environmental Policy Office

# OIL AND GAS

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## GEOPHYSICAL EXPLORATION

### 1. Types of Activities Regulated

A person or firm planning to conduct geophysical exploration must have a geophysical exploration permit issued by the county clerk and recorder.<sup>1</sup>

Statute: 82-1-101, MCA

Contact: COUNTY CLERK AND RECORDER

### 2. Application Requirements

- 1) Before beginning exploration, the applicant must file a notice of intent with the clerk and recorder in each county where the exploration will occur.
- 2) The Montana Secretary of State's Office requires the designation of an authorized resident agent to contact in case of legal action related to the exploration. In addition, a surety bond or other guarantee must be filed with the Secretary of State to indemnify property owners against potential property damage resulting from the exploration.

Statute: 82-1-102 through 82-1-104, MCA

### 3. Permitting Procedures

- 1) When notified that a surety bond or other guarantee has been filed with the Secretary of State, the county clerk and recorder will issue an exploration permit valid for that calendar year. The county clerk forwards a notice of the application to the Board of Oil and Gas Conservation (BOGC), which then advises the clerk's office whether or not the applicant is in compliance with all applicable laws and rules. The BOGC is responsible for taking action to ensure compliance.

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<sup>1</sup> Most geophysical exploration in Montana is conducted using seismic equipment to identify the physical properties of subsurface rocks and minerals, in particular the potential presence of oil or gas, by measuring shock waves.

- 2) Before beginning operations, the person or firm conducting seismic activity must notify the surface owner of the schedule of exploration activities and provide copies of applicable laws<sup>1</sup>, and, if available, the publication *A Guide to Split Estates in Oil and Gas Development*.<sup>2</sup> If requested, the permitholder must also provide the name and address of the exploration firm, proof of a valid permit, evidence of insurance, the number of the surety bond, a description and locations of planned activities, and the need, if any, to use water.

The surface owner is responsible for providing the permitholder with the name of a person to contact during operations. The surface owner must also provide the name and address of the permitholder to any lessees, tenants, or other parties responsible for surface operations on the property. Written permission from the surface owner is required to discharge shot holes within a prescribed distance from some structures and water features.

- 3) Within three months after any firing of shot points in seismic exploration, the permitholder must file a report with the county clerk and recorder. Shot holes must be plugged as specified by the BOGC unless otherwise agreed to between the surface owner and the company. When the exploration is completed, the land surface must be restored.
- 4) Exploration crews operating in the state must comply with crew identification requirements established by the BOGC.

Statute: 82-1-101 through 82-1-108, MCA

Rule: ARM 36.22.501-36.22.504

Contact: COUNTY CLERK AND RECORDER

BOARD OF OIL AND GAS CONSERVATION

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION  
Oil and Gas Conservation Division

SECRETARY OF STATE  
*Business Services Bureau*

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<sup>1</sup> Title 82, chapter 10, part 5 and Title 82, chapter 1, part 1, MCA.

<sup>2</sup> *A Guide to Split Estates in Oil and Gas Development* is a brochure published by the Environmental Quality Council and is available online at <http://leg.mt.gov/content/publications/environmental/hb790brochure.pdf>.

#### 4. Fees

The fee for a geophysical exploration permit is \$5 per year.

Statute: 82-1-105, MCA

## OIL AND GAS

### 1. Types of Activities Regulated

A notice of intention to explore and drill for oil and gas on private or state lands<sup>1</sup> must be filed with the Montana Board of Oil and Gas Conservation (BOGC) and permits to drill are required. Wells must comply with spacing units and be operated in compliance with the BOGC's regulations and established pooling orders. Operators must also comply with the Montana Department of Environmental Quality's discharge regulations. See WATER QUALITY PERMITTING, p. 205. If water discharged from a well is to be put to a beneficial use, a permit from the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation may be required (see WATER APPROPRIATIONS - GROUND WATER, p. 195 and WATER APPROPRIATIONS - SURFACE DIVERSIONS, p. 199).

Statute: 82-11-101, *et seq.*, MCA

Rule: ARM 36.22.601, *et seq.*

Contact: BOARD OF OIL AND GAS CONSERVATION

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION  
Oil and Gas Conservation Division

### 2. Application Requirements

The notice of intention to drill must include information identifying the area where the proposed activity will occur. Well logs must be kept and filed with the BOGC; surface lands restored, fresh water supplies protected, and wells drilled, cased, operated, and plugged in accordance with Board rules. A bond must be posted to guarantee proper abandonment procedures. No exploration or development drilling may take place until a permit is issued.

Rule: ARM 36.22.601-36.22.602

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<sup>1</sup> The BOGC's jurisdiction over federal lands is limited to the authority granted by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management in a Memorandum of Understanding. The BOGC has no jurisdiction over wells drilled on land held in trust by the United States for tribes or Indian allottees.

### 3. Permitting Procedures

- 1) An oil or gas operator or developer must give written notice of the proposed drilling operations to the surface owner of record and any purchaser under contract for deed at least 20 but not more than 180 days prior to any activity that will disturb the land surface. The notice must include a copy of applicable laws<sup>1</sup>, and, if available, the publication *A Guide to Split Estates in Oil and Gas Development*.<sup>2</sup> The surface owner is responsible for providing the name and address of the oil and gas developer to any lessees, tenants, or other parties responsible for surface operations on the property. The owner or operator of an oil or gas well on state-owned land must notify the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation before beginning operations.
- 2) The operator is responsible for advertising a notice of pending permit for a well in undeveloped (wildcat) areas in the *Helena Independent Record* and in a newspaper of general circulation in the county where the well is located. Wells located in BOGC delineated fields do not need to be advertised, except under certain conditions. Advertisements must follow a format prescribed by the BOGC in rule and must advise of the procedure required to request a hearing. If no request for hearing is received within the 10-day notice period, the permit may be administratively approved. The staff is required to refer an application for permit to drill to the BOGC for notice and public hearing.
- 3) If an operator will be using hydraulic fracturing or other well stimulation techniques as part of the well completion process, additional requirements apply. Operators must generally obtain approval from the BOGC before fracturing occurs and submit a report of the actual work performed to the Board. In addition, operators must disclose the composition of the fracturing fluids (if a trade secret exemption is not applicable) either to the BOGC or through FracFocus.org or a similar website. Finally, the Board mandates specific construction and testing requirements for wells in which hydraulic fracturing will be used.
- 4) Prior to the development of a coal bed methane well, the developer must offer a reasonable water mitigation agreement to each ground water right holder with a well that is within one mile of the coal bed methane well or within 1/2 mile of a well that is adversely affected by the coal bed methane

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<sup>1</sup> Title 82, chapter 10, part 5, MCA.

<sup>2</sup> *A Guide to Split Estates in Oil and Gas Development* is a brochure published by the Environmental Quality Council and is available online at <http://leg.mt.gov/content/publications/environmental/hb790brochure.pdf>.

well. See also WATER APPROPRIATIONS - GROUND WATER: Coal Bed Methane Wells, p. 198.

- 5) If the project complies with applicable statutes, rules, and regulations, a permit is issued. Operations must occur within the terms and conditions of the permit and the BOGC administrator has the authority to impose additional permit conditions if they are warranted.

Statute: 82-10-503, 82-11-122, 82-11-123, and 82-11-175, MCA

Rule: ARM 36.22.601, 36.22.602, 36.22.604, 36.22.608, 36.22.1010, 36.22.1015, 36.22.1016, and 36.22.1106

#### 4. Fees

Permit fees for oil or gas well drilling are:

- 1) For each well with an estimated depth of 3,500 feet or less, \$25;
- 2) For depths of 3,501 feet to 7,000 feet, \$75; and
- 3) For depths of 7,001 feet and deeper, \$150.

The BOGC also collects a privilege and license tax to fund the services of the Board that is 3/10 of one percent of the value of each barrel of crude petroleum and each 10,000 cubic feet of natural gas produced, stored, saved, or marketed.

Statute: 82-11-118, 82-11-131, and 82-11-137, MCA

Rule: ARM 36.22.603

## OPERATIONS ON STATE LANDS: GEOPHYSICAL EXPLORATION

### 1. Types of Activities Regulated

The Montana Board of Land Commissioners may issue a geophysical exploration permit on state- owned lands for the purpose of prospecting and exploring for oil and gas.

Rule: ARM 36.25.230, *et seq.*

Contact: BOARD OF LAND COMMISSIONERS  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION

Trust Land Management Division  
*Minerals Management Bureau*

**2. Application Requirements**

A person wishing to prospect for oil and gas by geophysical methods on state land for which an oil and gas lease is not held must submit two copies of a permit application to the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC). The application must include a legal description of the areas where the exploration will take place. Descriptions of multiple sections of state-owned land are allowed. A permit from the Montana Board of Oil and Gas Conservation is also required (see OIL AND GAS, p. 137).

Rule: ARM 36.25.230, *et seq.*

**3. Permitting Procedures**

- 1) The applicant must be registered to do business in Montana and file a surety bond with the Montana Secretary of State's office. The name and permanent address of the geophysical exploration firm that will be doing the actual seismic work must also be submitted.
- 2) The applicant must provide proof that the surface owner or lessee has been notified of the approximate time schedule of activities. Permission from oil and gas lessees is also required to conduct exploration on lands covered by an oil and gas lease.
- 3) A geophysical exploration permit is valid for one year and does not grant any rights to an oil and gas lease or any other interests in the land.
- 4) There are several conditions for conducting exploration activities designed to protect the land surface.

Rule: ARM 36.25.231 and 36.25.232

Contact: SECRETARY OF STATE  
*Business Services Bureau*



#### 4. Fees

A fee of \$50 is required for a seismic permit application. The DNRC charges \$50 per shot hole or \$100 per mile for vibroseis, surface charges, or other surface activity, depending on the exploration procedures used.

Rule: ARM 36.2.1003 and 36.25.236

### OPERATIONS ON STATE LANDS: OIL AND GAS

#### 1. Types of Activities Regulated

The Montana Board of Land Commissioners is authorized to lease any state-owned minerals for the purpose of oil and gas exploration or drilling and development. This includes private or state oil and gas rights beneath state surface-owned land and state oil and gas rights beneath non-state-owned land. Corporations not incorporated in Montana must obtain a certificate of authority to transact business in the state from the Montana Secretary of State's office prior to applying for a lease.

Statute: 77-3-401, MCA

Rule: ARM 36.25.203 and 36.25.204

Contact: DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION  
Trust Land Management Division  
*Minerals Management Bureau*

SECRETARY OF STATE  
*Business Services Bureau*

#### 2. Permitting Procedures

- 1) A person wishing to lease state lands for oil and gas operations must submit an application on forms available from the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) offices or online at <http://dnrc.mt.gov/Trust/MMB/OG/Forms/ApplicationForm.pdf>.
- 2) Sale of oil and gas leases are normally held once each quarter (March, June, September, and December). Notice of each sale is published in a publication of general circulation in Montana and at least twice in a publication of general circulation in each county where a tract is nominated for sale. Notice is also

posted on the DNRC, Minerals Management Bureau website and mailed to an interested persons mailing list.

- 3) The sale of each lease takes place through competitive oral bidding. The successful applicant is required to pay the first year's rental for the lease within 10 days following the lease sale.
- 4) The primary term of an oil and gas lease is generally five to 10 years. An oil and gas lease issued on state lands may not exceed 640 acres with the exception that any section surveyed by the United States containing more than 640 acres may be included under one lease. Leased lands must be generally compact and contiguous.
- 5) Owners of state oil and gas leases may enter into agreements with others for drilling and other operations. Pooling agreements are also possible. The Board may approve assignment of oil and gas leases to qualified assignees.
- 6) The owner or operator of an oil or gas well on state-owned land must notify the DNRC in advance of any operations.
- 7) The lessee is required to submit a plan for the location of all facilities to the surface owner or lessee and is required to consult with the surface owner or lessee regarding reasonable location of access roads.
- 8) Oil and gas operations on state lands are subject to other applicable state regulatory authorities (see OIL and GAS, p. 137).

Statute: 77-3-404, 77-3-405, 77-3-411, 77-3-421, 77-3-429, 77-3-430, and 77-3-438, MCA

Rule: ARM 36.25.203, 36.25.205, 36.25.206, 36.25.216, and 36.25.217

### 3. Fees

The fee for an oil and gas lease application is \$15 and \$25 for a lease issuance. The lease rental fee is \$1.50 per acre but not less than \$100 per year. The delay drilling penalty is \$1.25 per acre in year six of the lease and \$2.50 per acre in years seven through 10 of the lease in addition to the rental fee. The royalty rate is 16.67 percent.

Rule: ARM 36.2.1003 and 36.25.208-36.25.210

## UNDERGROUND INJECTION CONTROL

### 1. Types of Activities Regulated

Underground injection control permits are required from the Montana Board of Oil and Gas Conservation (BOGC) for new injection wells (wells where fluids are injected into porous rock formations or below the soil layer) or to convert existing wells to injection for the purposes of disposal, storage, or enhanced recovery of oil or gas (class II wells).

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency regulates the classes of injection wells listed in the table below.

Class I	Injection of hazardous and nonhazardous wastes or municipal wastewater below the lowermost underground source of drinking water.
Class II wells on reservation lands except for within the boundaries of the Fort Peck Reservation where the tribe has been approved by the EPA to enforce its own UIC class II regulations.	
Class III	Injection of fluids associated with solution mining to extract minerals.
Class IV	Injection of hazardous or radioactive wastes into or above underground sources of drinking water are banned unless authorized under a federal or state ground water remediation project.
Class V	Injection wells that are not included in categories I-III and are usually shallow on-site disposal systems for nonhazardous fluids.
Class VI	Injection of carbon dioxide (CO <sub>2</sub> ) for long term storage (sequestration).

Statute: 82-11-101, *et seq.*, MCA

Rule: ARM 36.22.1401, *et seq.*

Contact: BOARD OF OIL AND GAS CONSERVATION  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION  
Oil and Gas Conservation Division

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
Montana Office, Helena

### 2. Application Requirements

- 1) The application for an underground injection well filed with the BOGC must show the location of all wells and pipelines, a description of the formation, a

description of the injection zone, logs and lithologic information, a description of the injected fluids, and the names and addresses of the lease holders and surface owners. In addition, the applicant must submit a corrective action plan and fulfill bonding requirements.

- 2) A notice of application for an underground injection permit must be mailed to each current operator, lease owner, and surface owner within the review area on or before the date the application is mailed to or filed with the BOGC.
- 3) Well abandonment plans must be filed with and approved by the BOGC. When wells have been plugged and the project completed, the land surface must be restored.

Rule: ARM 36.22.1307 and 36.22.1403-36.22.1425

### 3. Fees

The BOGC collects an annual fee of \$200 for each injection well.

Rule: ARM 36.22.1423

## UNDERGROUND STORAGE OF NATURAL GAS ON STATE LANDS

### 1. Types of Activities Regulated

The Board of Land Commissioners is authorized to lease state lands for the underground storage of natural gas to public utilities that transport or distribute natural gas for public use.

Statute: 77-3-501, *et seq.*, MCA

Contact: DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION  
Trust Land Management Division  
*Minerals Management Bureau*

### 2. Permitting Procedures

- 1) The Board may order a hearing prior to issuance of a lease. A lessee must furnish a bond to indemnify the state against damage or loss.
- 2) Lease terms may not exceed 20 years. The lessee has a preferential right to renewal.

3. **Criteria**

The lessee must use all reasonable precautions to prevent waste of oil or gas developed on the land or injury to oil or gas deposits.

# PARKS AND RECREATION

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## BOATING

### 1. Types of Activities Regulated

All owners of motorboats and sailboats 12 feet in length or longer<sup>1</sup> must obtain a certificate of title from the Montana Department of Justice or the local county treasurer's office before operating the boat in state waters. Vessels must be properly numbered and display registration and validation decals. Validation decals are available from the FWP offices and online at <http://fwp.mt.gov>. See also RIVER RECREATION, p. 149.

Statute: 23-2-508 and 23-2-511, MCA  
61-3-101, *et seq.*, MCA

Rule: ARM 12.11.325, 21.11.330, and 12.11.340

Contact: COUNTY TREASURER

DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS  
Enforcement Division (for general information)

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
Motor Vehicle Division

### 2. Additional Information

#### A. Boat Racing

Written permission from the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) is required for any person who plans to conduct a boating race, regatta or other marine event on Montana's waters. Letters of application should be sent to the FWP at least 30 days before the scheduled event.

Contact: DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS  
Enforcement Division

#### B. Aquatic invasive species inspection stations

Vessels intended for launching on any water in Montana are subject to inspection by the FWP for aquatic invasive species. Vessels approaching an

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<sup>1</sup> Canoes and kayaks using sails are exempt.

inspection station must stop if directed by the department. Any vessel at an inspection station found with an invasive species will be decontaminated as arranged by the FWP and must pass a second inspection prior to launching in Montana waters.

Rule: ARM 12.11.340 and 12.11.341

C. Noise Restrictions

Motorboats or personal watercraft that emit noise greater than 86 dbA when measured at a distance of 50 feet or emit exhaust noise in excess of 90 dbA when measured at a distance of one meter from the muffler at idle speed are considered a public nuisance and constitute disorderly conduct. Noise standards for certain lakes are more restrictive because of population density and heavy recreational use.

Statute: 23-2-521(3), 23-2-523(9), and 23-2-526(3), MCA

Contact: DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS  
Enforcement Division

D. Discharge of Waste Prohibited

It is illegal to discharge garbage, refuse, waste, or sewage from any vessel into or near state waters.

Statute: 23-2-522, MCA

Contact: DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS  
Enforcement Division

## **CAMPGROUNDS - TRAILER COURTS - WORK CAMPS - YOUTH CAMPS**

### **1. Types of Activities Regulated**

Licenses from the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) are required for operating campgrounds, trailer courts, work camps, and youth camps and validation must be obtained from the local health officer or sanitarian. Acceptable plans must be submitted to the DPHHS and the local health department. Operators of water supply systems for trailer courts must be certified by the Board of Water and Wastewater Operators. Trailer courts, work camps, and campgrounds may also require review under the subdivision laws. See PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY, p. 189 and SUBDIVISIONS, p. 172.

Statute: 50-52-101, *et seq.*, MCA

Rule: ARM 37.111.201, *et seq.* (trailer courts and tourist campgrounds)  
ARM 37.111.601, *et seq.* (work camps)  
ARM 37.111.501, *et seq.* (youth camps)

Contact: LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
Health Department

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
Public Health and Safety Division  
*Food and Consumer Safety Section*

## 2. Application Requirements

An application for a license to operate a tourist campground, trailer court or youth or work camp must be made to the DPHHS on the appropriate forms. All applicants must submit detailed information about the proposed facilities to the DPHHS and the local health authority for approval before beginning construction. Licenses expire December 31 of the year issued.

Statute: 50-52-201 and 50-52-203, MCA

## 3. Permitting Procedures

- 1) The local health officer must validate the license within 15 days after issuance by the DPHHS. If the local health officer refuses to validate the license on finding that not all conditions of the license have been met, the health officer must notify the applicant and the DPHHS in writing, stating the reasons for the refusal.
- 2) A refusal to validate by the local health officer may be appealed to the local Board of Health within 30 days after receiving written notification of the local health officer's decision.

Statute: 50-52-208 and 50-52-209, MCA

## 4. Fees

The application fee for a new license or a license renewal is \$40 annually for a campground or trailer court with 10 or fewer spaces available for rental; \$60 annually for a campground



or trailer court with 11 to 25 spaces available for rental; and \$120 annually for a campground or trailer court with more than 25 spaces available for rental. A late fee of \$25 is assessed for failure to renew a license prior to its expiration date.

Statute: 50-52-202, MCA

## OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLES

### 1. Types of Activities Regulated

No off-highway vehicle may be operated on public lands, trails, easements, lakes, rivers, or streams unless issued a certificate of title and registered with the county treasurer's office. Registration decals must be displayed at a conspicuous place on the vehicle as proof that fees have been paid.

An off-highway vehicle owned by a nonresident that is not registered in another state may not be operated in Montana without a nonresident temporary-use permit.

Statute: 23-2-801, *et seq.*, MCA  
61-3-101, *et seq.*, MCA

Contact: COUNTY TREASURER

DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS  
Enforcement Division (for general information)

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
Motor Vehicle Division

## RIVER RECREATION

### 1. Types of Activities Regulated

The public has the right to the recreational use of the state's rivers and streams regardless of streambed ownership, but the Montana Parks and Recreation Board has the authority to limit, restrict, or prohibit activities to promote public health, safety, and welfare and to protect property and public resources. Restrictions on uses such as the use of motorized watercraft exist in a number of areas. For use and area restrictions, contact the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP). See also BOATING, p. 146.

Statute: 23-2-301, *et seq.*, 23-2-522, *et seq.*, 87-1-303, and 87-1-306, MCA

Rule: ARM 12.4.101, *et seq.* and 12.11.301-12.11.650

Contact: MONTANA PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS  
Enforcement Division (for general information)

## 2. **Additional Information**

### A. Beaverhead and Big Hole River Recreation Rules

There are FWP administrative rules that regulate fishing outfitting, nonresident float fishing, and watercraft launches. A Restricted Use Permit is required to conduct commercial use on these two rivers. Contact the FWP Region Three Headquarters in Bozeman for more information (see APPENDIX 2 for the locations of regional offices).

Rules: ARM 12.11.202, *et seq.* and ARM 12.14.101, *et seq.*

### B. Blackfoot River Special Recreation Permit

A Special Recreation Permit is required to conduct commercial use, a competitive event, or an organized group activity on the Blackfoot River and lands adjacent to the river that are owned or managed by the department. Contact FWP Region Two Headquarters in Missoula for more information (see APPENDIX 2 for the locations of regional offices).

Rule: ARM 12.11.6501, *et seq.* and ARM 12.14.101, *et seq.*

### C. Clark Fork (Alberton Gorge) River Recreation Rules

The Parks Biennial Fee Rule limits the number of commercial users authorized to use the Alberton Gorge of the Clark Fork River. A Restricted Use Permit is required to conduct commercial use. Contact FWP Region Two Headquarters in Missoula for more information (see APPENDIX 2 for the locations of regional offices).

Rule: ARM 12.14.101, *et seq.* and Parks Biennial Fee Rule

### D. Madison River Special Recreation Permit

A Special Recreation Permit is required to conduct commercial use, a competitive event, or an organized group activity on the Madison River and

lands adjacent to the river that are owned or managed by the department. Contact FWP Region Three Headquarters in Bozeman for more information (see APPENDIX 2 for the locations of regional offices).

Rule: ARM 12.14.101, *et seq.* and Parks Biennial Fee Rule

E. Smith River State Park Float Permit

A permit is required for private and commercial groups to float the 59 mile reach of the Smith River between Camp Baker and Eden Bridge. This does not apply to a landowner conducting a day float solely for the purpose of performing maintenance on the landowner's contiguous fee title property. A permit authorizes one private or commercial group to launch and float the Smith River with a maximum group size of 15 people. Floater fees are also charged in accordance with the Montana State Parks and Recreation Board Smith River Biennial Fee Rule.

Statute: The Smith River Management Act, 23-2-401 through 23-2-410, MCA, authorizes the board to provide for the administration of the Smith River waterway and adopt rules for this purpose. Other statutes and rules applicable to this rule are: 87-1-301 and 87-1-303, MCA

Rule: Montana State Parks and Recreation Board Smith River Biennial Fee Rule  
ARM 12.14.101, 12.14.105, 12.14.115, 12.14.120, 12.14.125, 12.14.130, 12.14.140, 12.14.150, 12.14.155, 12.14.160, and 12.14.165 (commercial use)  
ARM 12.8.213 (recreation use fees)

## **SNOWMOBILES**

### **1. Types of Activities Regulated**

Before operating a snowmobile on public lands, trails, easements, lakes, rivers, streams, roadways or shoulders of roadways, streets or highways, the owner must obtain a certificate of title and registration decal from the Montana Department of Justice or the local county treasurer's office. The registration decal must be displayed in a conspicuous place on the cowl of the vehicle.

A valid driver's license is required to operate a snowmobile on a public roadway unless the operator has taken an approved snowmobile safety education course and is in the presence and under the supervision of a person who is 18 years of age or older.

Nonresidents who own and wish to operate an out-of-state snowmobile in Montana must obtain a nonresident temporary-use permit prior to operation.

Statute: 23-2-601, 23-2-611, 23-2-614, and 23-2-616, MCA  
61-3-101, *et seq.*, MCA

Contact: COUNTY TREASURER

DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS  
Enforcement Division (for general information)

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
Motor Vehicle Division

## 2. **Additional Information**

### A. Noise Restrictions

Snowmobiles must be equipped at all times with noise-suppression devices, including an exhaust muffler in good working order. In addition, the following noise levels, measured at a distance of 50 feet, may not be exceeded:

- 1) 82 dB(A) for machines manufactured from June 30, 1972 to June 30, 1975, and
- 2) 78 dB(A) for machines manufactured after June 30, 1975.

The noise restrictions do not apply to snowmobile races or competitive events held on private lands or those held on public lands provided consent from the appropriate government authority is obtained and the total sound produced does not exceed 50 dB(A) at any point 50 feet or more outside the area under the control of the sponsoring entity.

Statute: 23-2-634, MCA

Rule: ARM 12.6.602

### B. Use on Public Waters

All public waters within the state of Montana are closed to snowmobile operation. Snowmobiles may cross or enter upon a public water if the water is frozen or if it is necessary to cross a small stream to continue travel on

snow. When it is necessary to cross a stream, the stream crossing must be perpendicular to the flow of the stream.

Statute: 23-2-501, 23-2-632, and 87-1-303, MCA

Rule: ARM 12.11.331

## STATE PARKS

### 1. Rules and Regulations

The Parks Division of the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) has rules and regulations in place to help protect the park resources and ensure that visitors have a safe and quality experience. Examples include restrictions on the discharge of firearms and designated areas where campfires may be burned.

Montana residents are entitled to use any of our state parks. Parks are funded in part by a fee included with a person's motor vehicle registration. Residents who do not intend to use state parks or fishing access sites may opt out of this fee. Nonresident visitors pay an entrance fee. Overnight camping fees apply to residents and nonresidents.

Statute: 15-1-122 and 61-3-321, MCA

Rule: ARM 12.8.201 through 210, 12.8.212, 12.8.213, and 12.8.217 through 219 (parks public use regulations)

Contact: DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS  
Parks Division, Helena Headquarters

### 2. Additional Information

#### Group Use and Special Uses

A group or special use permit is required for all groups or events of 30 or more people using a state park or fishing access site. Examples of groups or events that may require a special use permit include but are not limited to wedding parties, family reunions, competitive events, fishing contests, and research activities. Contact any FWP Regional Office (see APPENDIX 2 for the locations of regional offices) or FWP Headquarters for more information.

Statute: 23-1-106, MCA

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Rule: ARM 12.8.205 (camping, day, and group use)  
ARM 12.8.213 (recreation use fees)  
Montana State Parks and Recreation Board, Parks Division Biennial  
Fee Rule

Contact: DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS  
Parks Division  
Fisheries Division

Commercial Use

A Commercial Use Permit is required to conduct commercial use in a state park.

Statute: 23-1-106, MCA

Rule: 12.14.101, 12.14.105, 12.14.115, 12.14.120, 12.14.130, 12.14.150,  
12.14.155, 12.14.160, and 12.14.165 (commercial use)

Montana State Parks and Recreation Board, Parks Division,  
Commercial Use Fee

Contact: DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE, AND PARKS  
Parks Division  
Fisheries Division  
Wildlife Division

# SOLID WASTE - HAZARDOUS WASTE

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## HAZARDOUS WASTE DISPOSAL

### 1. Types of Activities Regulated

A waste meets the definition of hazardous waste if it is included in an EPA list of specific hazardous wastes, demonstrates any of the characteristics of ignitability, corrosiveness, reactivity, or toxicity under standard test procedures, or is a mixture of any waste and one or more listed hazardous wastes. Hazardous wastes may only be transported, stored, treated, disposed of, or used for the purposes of resource conservation or recovery in a manner consistent with state and federal law. Hazardous wastes must be properly contained and labeled.

A permit from the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is required to construct or operate a hazardous waste management facility for the treatment, storage or disposal of hazardous wastes.

Certain wastes are exempt from the regulations of the Montana Hazardous Waste Act: for information on these exempt wastes, contact the DEQ.

Statute: 75-10-401, *et seq.*, MCA (Montana Hazardous Waste Act)

Rule: ARM 17.53.101, *et seq.*

Contact: DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
Permitting and Compliance Division  
*Waste and Underground Tank Management Bureau*

### 2. Application Requirements

The permit application for a hazardous waste management facility is divided into two parts, A and B. Part A is a short standard form calling for general information that includes the name of the applicant and a description of the activities of the facility.

Part B is the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) permit application and requests specific technical information on how the facility proposes to meet the relevant regulatory requirements.

A permit may be issued for a period specified by the DEQ and is subject to either renewal or revocation depending on compliance with the permit's provisions.

Statute: 75-10-406, MCA

Rule: ARM 17.53.1201 and 17.53.1202

### 3. **Permitting Procedures**

- 1) The DEQ may, in the event of an imminent and substantial danger to public health or the environment, issue a temporary emergency permit to any person for the treatment, storage, or disposal of hazardous waste or to any facility to handle hazardous waste not covered by the existing facility permit.
- 2) The DEQ may grant permits to certain hazardous waste management facilities if the owner or operator already holds a license or permit from the DEQ pursuant to other state environmental statutes, or for an interim period, until final administrative action on a permit application is made.
- 3) If it is determined that an application for a certificate under the Montana Major Facility Siting Act (MFSA) will result in the generation, transportation, storage, or disposal of hazardous wastes, the DEQ must conduct its review concurrently with the studies of air and water quality conducted under the provisions of the MFSA. See MAJOR FACILITY SITING, p. 51.

Statute: 75-10-405, 75-10-406, and 75-10-407, MCA

### 4. **Fees**

The DEQ assesses an application fee and a permit modification fee to defray the costs of processing applications for permits or permit modifications.

Statute: 75-10-405(1)(i), 75-10-432, and 75-10-433, MCA

Rule: ARM 17.53.112

### 5. **Criteria**

The DEQ may deny an application or impose conditions on a permit if the applicant, within the five years before the date of application, has a record of complaints and convictions for the violation of environmental protection laws. In making the decision to deny a permit or impose conditions, the DEQ will consider the number and severity of the violations, the culpability and cooperation of the applicant, and other factors.

Statute: 75-10-427, MCA



## 6. Additional Information

### A. Generators/Transporters

Generators and transporters of hazardous waste must comply with state and federal reporting requirements, including the use of a manifest system for tracking the movement of all hazardous wastes.

Persons who generate hazardous waste, with certain exceptions, are required to maintain an annual generator registration and to pay a registration fee each year, in addition to obtaining an identification number.

Persons who transport hazardous wastes are required to notify the DEQ and to obtain an identification number. A hazardous waste transfer facility must also comply with regulations established by the DEQ.

Rule: ARM 17.53.601, *et seq.* and 17.53.701, *et seq.*

### B. Variances

A person who is a generator or transporter of hazardous wastes or who owns or operates a hazardous waste management facility may apply to the Montana Board of Environmental Review for a variance or partial variance from the application of or compliance with any requirement of the Montana Hazardous Waste Act or any rule adopted under the act.

Statute: 75-10-408, MCA

## INCINERATORS - HAZARDOUS WASTE/BOILERS AND INDUSTRIAL FURNACES

### 1. Types of Activities Regulated

A permit is required for a boiler and industrial furnace that burns hazardous waste or for a hazardous waste incinerator. The owner or operator must submit an application to the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) prior to construction or operation. In addition, the applicant must obtain an air quality permit, or if applicable, an air quality permit modification from the DEQ prior to construction or operation (see AIR QUALITY PERMITS, p. 36).

Statute: 75-10-401, *et seq.*, MCA

Rule: ARM 17.53.801, *et seq.* (hazardous waste incinerators)

ARM 17.53.1001, *et seq.* (BIFs)

40 C.F.R. § 264, subpart O (hazardous waste incinerators)

40 C.F.R. § 266, subpart H (BIFs)

Contact: DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
Permitting and Compliance Division  
*Air Resources Management Bureau*  
*Waste and Underground Tank Management Bureau*

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
Montana Office, Helena

## 2. Application Requirements

The permit application is divided into two parts, A and B. Part A is a short standard form calling for general information which includes the name of the applicant and a description of the activities of the facility.

Part B is the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) permit application and requests specific technical information on how the facility proposes to meet the relevant regulatory requirements. Part B must also contain the *trial burn plan*, describing the engineering details of the system and outlining a plan for demonstrating compliance with performance standards and for establishing limits on certain operating conditions that will become part of the facility's permit.

Statute: 75-10-405 and 75-10-406, MCA

Rule: ARM 17.53.1201 and 17.53.1202

## 3. Permitting Procedures

- 1) The applicant must submit parts A and B of the application to the DEQ.
- 2) The DEQ conducts a completeness review of the application to determine that all required information and documents have been included in the application. If the application is incomplete, the agency issues a Notice of Deficiency (NOD). When the applicant has submitted all the required information and documentation, the DEQ will issue a notice of completeness.

- 3) The DEQ then conducts a technical review, analyzing the technical information submitted in the application to determine whether the facility will meet the appropriate requirements. Additional NODs may be issued.
- 4) The DEQ will then issue a draft permit or a notice of denial.
- 5) Public notice is given and a public hearing is held.
- 6) The DEQ then makes a final decision and issues a final permit. The department must respond to public comments on the final permit and must indicate where changes to the draft permit have been made.
- 7) If applicable, appeals are made. The facility owner/operator may challenge the denial of a permit or a condition of a permit.

#### 4. Fees

The DEQ assesses an application fee and a permit modification fee to defray the costs of processing applications for permits or permit modifications.

Statute: 75-10-405(1)(i), 75-10-432 and 75-10-433, MCA

Rule: ARM 17.53.112

#### 5. Additional Information

Commercial Medical Waste or Hazardous Waste Incinerators

See AIR QUALITY PERMITS, 6. C., p. 40.

## INFECTIOUS WASTE

### 1. Types of Activities Regulated

Persons who are licensed by a board or department to operate a health care facility or to engage in a related profession or occupation must comply with the board or department rules for generating, storing, or transporting infectious waste. The associated boards and departments must adopt rules and may impose fees to pay for the cost of regulation.

Infectious waste must be separated from other waste at the source. It must be stored, transported, and disposed of in a container marked with the biohazard warning. Infectious

waste other than sharps (items or implements that are capable of puncturing or cutting human skin) must be contained in closed, moisture-proof plastic bags that will not tear or burst under normal conditions of handling and use. Sharps must be stored, transported, and disposed of in leak-proof, rigid, puncture resistant containers that stay closed.

Transporters of infectious waste must register annually with DEQ and submit a transportation and management plan to ensure waste is hauled and stored according to specific standards.

All infectious waste must arrive at the treatment facility with the containers intact and lids securely in place. Prior to final disposal, the infectious waste must be rendered sterile by chemical or steam sterilization, incineration, or other DEQ approved techniques. Liquid or semi-solid infectious wastes, after having been chemically sterilized, may be disposed of in municipal sanitary sewers that convey wastes to a secondary treatment plant.

All infectious waste containers that have been autoclaved must be marked with heat-sensitive tape or labels so that it is visually apparent that the wastes have been sterilized. If chemical or other sterilization techniques have been used the containers must be labeled appropriately.

Statute: 75-10-1005 and 75-10-1006, MCA

Rule: ARM 24.111.402, 24.138.405, 24.147.901, 24.156.1006, 24.156.1308, 24.156.1413, 24.156.1626, 24.156.2775, 24.225.415, 37.104.208, 37.106.1738, 37.106.1829, 37.106.2432, and 37.112.137, and 17.501501 through 1508.

Contact: DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
Permitting and Compliance Division  
*Waste and Underground Tank Management Bureau*

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

## **METHAMPHETAMINE LABS - CLEANUP OF CLANDESTINE OPERATIONS**

### **1. Types of Activities Regulated**

The Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has the authority to establish minimum standards for the training and certification of clandestine methamphetamine laboratory (CML) cleanup contractors who are to perform assessment or remediation of inhabitable property contaminated by precursors of meth manufacture or meth residues.

If a property owner chooses to decontaminate a CML under the CML program, the property owner must use certified CML contractors.

Statute: 75-10-1304, MCA

Rule: ARM 17.74.507-17.74.512, 17.74.517, and 17.74.518

Contact: DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
Permitting and Compliance Division  
*Waste and Underground Tank Management Bureau*

## 2. Certification Requirements

A person seeking certification as a CML contractor must submit a properly completed application form, along with a fee, to the DEQ. The applicant must also complete a CML training course approved by the DEQ and provide evidence of successful completion of Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response training (29 C.F.R. 1910.120).

Certification of CML contractors is valid for two years from the date of issuance.

Statute: 75-10-1304, MCA

Rule: ARM 17.74.507-17.74.510, 17.74.517, and 17.74.518

## 3. Fees

All persons seeking certification or certification renewal for CML contractor must submit fees with their certification applications. Fees are nonrefundable and must be in the form of check or money order made payable to the DEQ.

The fee to be submitted with each initial, renewal or reciprocal CML contractor application is \$500.

Statute: 75-10-1304, MCA

Rule: ARM 17.74.518

## **MOTOR VEHICLE WRECKING FACILITIES**

### **1. Types of Activities Regulated**

An annual license is required from the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to operate a motor vehicle wrecking facility. Possession at a single location of four or more junk vehicles is presumptive evidence that the possessor is operating a motor vehicle wrecking facility. One or more junk vehicles at a single location must be shielded from public view.

Statute: 75-10-502, 75-10-505, and 75-10-511, MCA

Rule: ARM 17.50.201, *et seq.*

Contact: DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
Permitting and Compliance Division  
*Waste and Underground Tank Management Bureau*

### **2. Application Requirements**

An application for a license to operate or maintain a private wrecking facility or a county program junk vehicle graveyard can be obtained from the DEQ and must include certification from the appropriate local government office that the proposed facility does not violate local zoning ordinances. The DEQ will consider the effect of the proposed facility on adjoining landowners and land uses and will inspect the property before issuing a license. Rules regarding what materials may be used for shielding the facility from public view must be met. The license expires on December 31 of the year issued.

Statute: 75-10-504, 75-10-511, and 75-10-516, MCA

Rule: ARM 17.50.201-17.50.203

### **3. Permitting Procedures**

- 1) The DEQ will continue to process an application that the local government has certified as complying with local zoning ordinances. Applications certifying that the facility does not comply are denied. If the local government makes no statement, then the DEQ will make its own determination.
- 2) The DEQ may deny, suspend, or revoke a motor vehicle wrecking facility's license for reasons of theft, forgery, omission, fraud, or rule violation.

- 3) The DEQ's decision to deny, suspend, or revoke a license may be appealed by the applicant to the Board of Environmental Review within 30 days of the decision.

Statute: 75-10-514 and 75-10-515, MCA

Rule: ARM 17.50.201 and 17.50.206

#### 4. Fees

The DEQ requires an annual fee of \$100 for a motor vehicle wrecking facility license.

Statute: 75-10-511, MCA

#### 5. Additional Information

The owner of a motor vehicle wrecking facility must keep a record of every junk vehicle obtained and mail a quarterly report to the Montana Department of Justice, Motor Vehicle Division, with the required information.

Statute: 75-10-512, MCA

Contact: DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
Permitting and Compliance Division  
*Waste and Underground Tank Management Bureau*

## RADIOACTIVE WASTE DISPOSAL

### 1. Types of Activities Regulated

Disposal of a *large quantity* of radioactive material, byproduct material, and special nuclear material is prohibited in Montana. The prohibition includes nuclear fuels, nuclear power plant wastes, and uranium or thorium mill tailings. Certain special use materials (educational, scientific, research, and medical, etc.) are exempt from this prohibition.

Statute: 50-79-101 and 50-79-302, MCA (Montana Nuclear Regulation Act)

Contact: DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
Quality Assurance Division

## **SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL (NONHAZARDOUS)**

### **1. Types of Activities Regulated**

A license is required from the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) for the disposal of solid waste and for the operation of a solid waste management system. In certain circumstances, the on-site disposal of solid wastes from a person's household or farm and certain categories of on-site industrial waste disposal operations are excluded from this licensing requirement. Sites are approved and licensed by the DEQ and validated by local health officials. *Solid waste* means all putrescible and nonputrescible wastes, including but not limited to garbage; rubbish; refuse; ashes; sludge from sewage treatment plants, water supply treatment plants or air pollution control facilities; construction and demolition wastes; dead animals; discarded home and industrial appliances; and wood products or byproducts and inert materials. Solid waste does not mean municipal sewage, industrial wastewater effluents, mining wastes, slash and forest debris regulated by the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, or marketable wood byproducts.

Statute: 75-10-201, *et seq.*, MCA (Solid Waste Management Act)

Rule: ARM 17.50.501, *et seq.*, 17.50.1001, *et seq.*, 17.50.1101, *et seq.*, 17.50.1201, *et seq.*, 17.50.1301, *et seq.*, and 17.50.1401, *et seq.*

Contact: DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
Permitting and Compliance Division  
*Waste and Underground Tank Management Bureau*

### **2. Application Requirements**

Prior to disposing of solid waste or operating a solid waste management system or expanding the boundary of an existing system, a person must submit a license application to the DEQ on department-supplied forms. Details about the proposed facility and surrounding waterways; site and landfill design plans; geological, hydrological, and soil information; operation and maintenance, and closure plans; maps; a demonstration project, if applicable; and other information described in department rules or necessary to protect human health are required.

Statute: 75-10-221, MCA

Rule: ARM 17.50.508, 17.50.509, 17.50.1001-17.50.1009, and 17.50.1201-17.50.1205



### 3. Licensing Procedures

- 1) The DEQ has 60 days to evaluate an application for completeness and conduct public scoping, if necessary. The department also notifies the health officer in the county of the proposed solid waste system. If the application is incomplete, the DEQ notifies the applicant within 15 days after the initial review is completed. If the DEQ has not received the necessary additional information within 90 days after the applicant has been notified, a new application and application fee are required.
- 2) Once the application is complete, the DEQ has 90 days to conduct an Environmental Assessment or 180 days if an Environmental Impact Statement is necessary (see MONTANA ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT, p. 130). The public hearing requirements of the DEQ's MEPA administrative rules apply.
- 3) After the comment period has ended, the DEQ makes its final decision and notifies the applicant, the local health officer, and other interested persons.
- 4) If the department decides to issue the license, the local health officer has 15 days after receiving written notice to make a final decision on whether the license will be validated. If the local health officer refuses to validate the license based upon a finding that the requirements of the solid waste management laws and rules cannot be met, the officer sends written notice to the applicant, the DEQ, and any other interested person.
- 5) The applicant or any person aggrieved by the decision of the DEQ or the local health officer may appeal the decision to the Board of Environmental Review within 30 days after receiving written notice of the decision. The hearing before the board must be held under the contested case provisions of the Montana Administrative Procedure Act (see MAPA, p. 129).

Statute: 75-10-222 through 75-10-224, MCA

Rule: ARM 17.4.610, 17.4.620, 17.4.636, 17.50.513, and 17.50.514

### 4. Fees

The DEQ charges a license application fee for any new solid waste management facility or for a substantial change to an existing facility. The department also charges an annual license renewal fee to cover the costs of annual renewals and inspections. Disposal facilities pay a base fee for the type and size of the facility and an annual per-ton fee on wastes received by the facility. This disposal fee is set at 40 cents per ton for in-state waste

and an additional 27 cents for out-of-state waste. All fees are deposited into an earmarked revenue account and are used to support a portion of the costs of the DEQ's solid waste program.

Statute: 75-10-115, MCA

Rule: ARM 17.50.410, 17.50.411, 17.50.415, and 17.50.416

## 5. Additional Information

### A. Variances

A person may apply to the Board of Environmental Review for a variance from the rules issued pursuant to the Montana Solid Waste Management Act. The Board may grant a variance if it finds that 1) failure to comply with the rules does not result in a danger to public health or safety, or 2) compliance with the rules would produce hardship to the applicant without producing benefits to the public health and safety that outweigh the hardship.

Statute: 75-10-206, MCA

Rule: ARM 17.50.602, 17.50.603, 17.50.605, 17.50.606, and 17.50.609-17.50.611

### B. Cesspools, Septic Tanks and Privies

See SEPTIC TANKS, CESSPOOLS AND PRIVIES, p. 192.

## UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANKS

### TANK INSTALLERS AND INSPECTORS

#### 1. Types of Activities Regulated

A valid Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) license is required for all individuals who install, close, inspect or oversee the installation, closure, compliance, or inspection of underground storage tanks (UST). Within 30 days of completion of a UST system activity, the licensee must submit a completed checklist and a copy of the signed permit to the department and to the owner or operator of the tank. A permit is required from the DEQ for most tank work on most UST systems (see exceptions on the following page). All active UST facilities must have a compliance inspection conducted by a DEQ-licensed compliance inspector every three years.

Statute: 75-11-201, *et seq.*, MCA (Montana Underground Storage Tank Installer and Inspector Licensing and Permitting Act)  
75-11-509, MCA (Montana Underground Storage Tank Act)

Rule: ARM 17.56.1301, *et seq.* and 17.56.1401, *et seq.*

Contact: DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
Permitting and Compliance Division  
*Waste and Underground Tank Management Bureau*

## 2. License Application Requirements

An applicant for a license must be at least 18 years of age, submit a license application on a form provided by the DEQ, pass the licensing examination, and pay the required fee.

Statute: 75-11-210, MCA

Rule: ARM 17.56.1401, *et seq.*

## 3. Fees

The license application and examination fee is \$100 and the annual renewal fee is \$100.

Rule: ARM 17.56.1404

## TANK OWNERS AND OPERATORS

### 1. Types of Activities Regulated

#### A. Tank Registration and Standards

Owners and operators of underground storage tanks (USTs) and aboveground storage tanks with underground lines must register each tank with the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). UST registration fees are assessed annually even for tanks that are out of service. Tank systems must meet certain standards for construction and design, corrosion protection, and leak detection.

B. Permits for Tank Installations, Modifications, Repairs or Closures

The DEQ requires permits for tank or piping installations or closures, modifications, or repairs and for the installation of cathodic protection (to prevent corrosion). See also TANK INSTALLERS AND INSPECTORS, p. 166.

C. Operating Permit

An owner or operator of a UST may not place a regulated substance in or otherwise operate a tank unless the owner or operator has a current DEQ operating permit.

D. Exceptions

Certain underground tanks are not included in the definition of underground storage tanks and the provisions of the Montana Underground Storage Tank Act do not apply. These include: noncommercial motor fuel tanks and heating oil tanks and their underground piping *provided that* 1) they are located at farms or residences, 2) they have a capacity of 1,100 gallons or less, and 3) they were installed prior to April 27, 1995.

E. Exemptions

Certain other underground tanks are included in the definition of underground storage tanks but are exempted from some subchapters of Montana's UST regulations. These exemptions are detailed in ARM 17.56.102.

Statute: 75-11-501, *et seq.*, MCA (Montana Underground Storage Tank Act)  
42 U.S.C. §§ 6901-6987 (federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act)

Rule: ARM 17.56.101, *et seq.* and 17.56.803(15)

Contact: DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
Permitting and Compliance Division  
*Waste and Underground Tank Management Bureau*

## 2. Application Requirements

### A. Permits for Tank Installations, Modifications, Repairs or Closures

Permit applications must be submitted at least 30 days before beginning any tank work. In the event of an emergency requiring immediate UST system work, the DEQ may issue an emergency permit valid for no more than 10 days.

### B. Operating Permit

In order to obtain an operating permit, the owner or operator of a UST system must file with the DEQ an inspection report signed by a licensed inspector that certifies that the operation and maintenance of the tank comply with relevant DEQ laws and rules.

Rule: ARM 17.56.308 and 17.56.1301, *et seq.*

## 3. Installation, Operation and Closure Requirements

### A. Permits for Tank Installations, Modifications, Repairs or Closures

Tank installations or closures must either be completed by a person licensed for UST work, or if completed by the owner or operator, then the work must be inspected by a licensed inspector. For tank installations, the licensee, owner, or operator must certify that the tank and piping are properly installed according to industry standards, that the tank and piping are protected from corrosion, that the system will be monitored to detect a release within a 30 day period, and that the tank is equipped with devices that prevent spills and overfills. A licensee, owner or operator must notify the DEQ of a suspected or actual leak within 24 hours of discovery. The owner or operator must retain proof of financial responsibility on file guaranteeing that cleanup costs can be paid should a tank leak occur. For tank closures, an environmental site assessment must be conducted that includes the collection and analysis of soil samples to evaluate the condition of the site after tank closure or removal. See PETROLEUM TANK RELEASE CLEANUP FUND, p. 171.

### B. Operating Permit

The DEQ will issue an operating permit and a permanent non-expiring tag for each UST in compliance with the program's requirements. The department may authorize a temporary permit for tanks that do not meet the operating permit requirements. The DEQ will require that the noncompliance be

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corrected at the earliest practicable time. Operating permits are valid for three years.

Rule: ARM 17.56.308, 17.56.309, 17.56.311, and 17.56.1301, *et seq.*

### 4. Fees

The annual registration fee for a tank with a capacity of 1,100 gallons or less is \$36, and for a tank with a capacity greater than 1,100 gallons, \$108. Fees are assessed even if the tank is out of service.

Permit review and inspection fees are assessed for tank installations, closures, and modifications. Fees vary according to the type of tank and the intended work.

Rule: ARM 17.56.1001 and 17.56.1301, *et seq.*

### 5. Variances

A person may apply for a variance from a requirement or procedure of the underground storage tank program by requesting the approval of an alternative from the DEQ. Certain conditions apply.

Rule: ARM 17.56.105

### 6. Additional Information

#### A. Aboveground Storage Tanks

The Montana Department of Justice, Fire Prevention and Investigation Section, regulates the installation, operation, and removal of aboveground storage tanks to ensure safety from fire and verify compliance with the International Fire Code (2012 Edition) and referenced materials. The unauthorized discharge or release of flammable or combustible liquids and petroleum waste products must be handled as set forth in IFC Sections 2701.3.3.4, spill mitigation, and 2703.3, release of hazardous materials. Discharges or releases may also be regulated under the federal Clean Water Act in the event the discharge or release enters navigable waters.

Contact: DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
Division of Criminal Investigation  
*Fire Prevention and Investigation Section*

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
Remediation Division  
*Hazardous Waste Site Cleanup Bureau*

Rule: ARM 17.57.101, *et seq.* and 17.58.326 (Petroleum Tank Release Fund reimbursement for releases)

B. Petroleum Tank Release Cleanup Fund:

The state has established a Petroleum Tank Release Cleanup Fund to financially assist owners and operators with the cleanup and damages caused by an accidental tank release. Contact the Petroleum Release Compensation Board for information on qualifying for financial assistance with tank releases.

Statute: 75-11-301 through 75-11-321, MCA

Rule: ARM 17.58.101-17.58.344

Contact: PETROLEUM TANK RELEASE COMPENSATION BOARD

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
Remediation Division  
*Hazardous Waste Site Cleanup Bureau*

# SUBDIVISIONS

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When land is subdivided, that division of land is subject to the requirements of both chapter 3 (Subdivision and Platting Act) and chapter 4 (Sanitation in Subdivisions Act) of Title 76, Montana Code Annotated. An explanation of each chapter follows.

## **SANITATION IN SUBDIVISIONS (Title 76, chapter 4)**

The Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) sets standards for the review and approval of water systems for subdivisions to protect the quality of water for public uses and to assure that adequate sanitation facilities can be constructed, operated, and maintained to support each division of land. Review under the sanitation in subdivisions regulations is limited to sanitation facilities, including water supply, sewage disposal, solid waste disposal, and storm drainage systems. Review of certain subdivisions and enforcement of these requirements may be delegated to a local department or board of health.

### **1. Types of Activities Regulated**

Divisions of land that create a parcel of less than 20 acres and any condominium, mobile home park, and recreational vehicle park, regardless of size, are subject to sanitary review. A person may not dispose of any lot within a subdivision, erect any facility for the supply of water or disposal of sewage or solid waste, erect any building or shelter in a subdivision that requires facilities for the supply of water or disposal of sewage or solid waste, or occupy any permanent buildings in a subdivision until the subdivision has been reviewed and approved by the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) or by the local reviewing authority if the DEQ has certified a local department or board of health. Subdivisions within the jurisdictional areas that have growth policies that meet the requirements described in statute (76-4-127, MCA), or within a first-class or second-class municipality and for which municipal water, sewage disposal, solid waste, and storm drainage will be provided are not subject to review, but will be required to provide a notice of certification of adequate municipal facilities (municipal facilities checklist).

Statute: 76-4-101, *et seq.*, MCA (Sanitation in Subdivisions Act)

Rule: ARM 17.36.101-17.36.800, *et seq.*, local regulations  
ARM 17.36.900, *et seq.*, minimum standards

Contact: DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
Permitting and Compliance Division  
*Public Water and Subdivisions Bureau*



LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
Health Department

## 2. Application Requirements

An applicant planning to subdivide land must submit a completed subdivision application form, supporting information (see ARM 17.36.103), and public comment collected by the governing body regarding water and sanitation information to the DEQ. If the DEQ has certified a local department or board of health to review subdivisions, the application must be submitted to the local reviewing authority. Application forms are available from the DEQ or on the department website at <http://deq.mt.gov/wqinfo/sub/subreviewforms.mcp>.

Statute: 76-3-504 (1)(g)(iii)(B), 76-3-604, 76-3-622, 76-4-104, and 76-4-125, MCA

Rule: ARM 17.36.101-17.36.104

## 3. Review Procedures

A. The DEQ has 55 days for final action on receipt of a subdivision application, resubmittal or additional information provided by the applicant. If an Environmental Impact Statement is required, final action must be taken within 120 days. See MONTANA ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT, p. 130.

B. If a local government or board of health has been certified as the reviewing authority, it has 45 days to recommend action on the application to the DEQ. The DEQ then has 10 days to take final action. If the application is denied, the statutory time limits begin again once a response has been received.

Statute: 76-4-104 and 76-4-125, MCA

Rule: ARM 17.36.106 and 17.36.108

## 4. Criteria

The DEQ's rules set standards and procedures relating to size of lots, topography, geology, hydrology, type of facilities proposed, and other factors affecting public health and the quality of water for uses relating to agriculture, industry, recreation, and wildlife. There must be adequate water supply, drainage, sewage, and solid waste disposal systems. The DEQ will issue a certificate of subdivision approval when it is satisfied that adverse impacts to state waters will not occur and the water supply is of adequate quantity, quality, and

## 174 SUBDIVISIONS

dependability; the sewage disposal facility is sufficient in terms of capacity and dependability; and the solid waste disposal and storm drainage plans and designs are in accordance with state and local laws and regulations.

Rule: ARM 17.36.101, *et seq.*

### 5. Fees

A schedule of fees is set out in the rules. Contact the DEQ, see the fee schedules in the rules, or the fee checklist with the application materials.

Statute: 76-4-105, MCA

Rule: ARM 17.36.801, *et seq.*

### 6. Additional Information

If there is a denial of approval of the subdivision that relates to environmental health facilities, the aggrieved developer may request a hearing before the Board of Environmental Review.

Statute: 76-4-126, MCA

## **SUBDIVISION AND PLATTING ACT (Title 76, chapter 3)**

The purpose of the Montana Subdivision and Platting Act is to promote orderly development and protect public health and safety. The Act requires local governments to adopt subdivision regulations that are consistent with state law. Subdivision regulations are one of the three basic legal elements local governments are authorized to use to address growth and development. Comprehensive plans (or growth policies) and zoning regulations are the other two.

### 1. Types of Activities Regulated

All divisions of land creating parcels less than 160 acres in size for sale, rent, lease, or other conveyance, including condominiums and manufactured home or recreational vehicle parks, are regulated under the Montana Subdivision and Platting Act and rules pursuant to the Act, unless exempt (see next page).

Title to land may not be sold or transferred until a certificate of survey or a final subdivision plat (if required) approved by the governing body has been filed with the county clerk and recorder.

Exemptions: There are numerous exemptions outlined in Title 76, chapter 3, part 2, MCA, that exclude certain divisions of land from surveying requirements, local subdivision review, or both. As an example, local subdivision review is not required for the following divisions of land under certain conditions, although applicable zoning regulations apply and a certificate of survey and certification that property taxes and special assessments have been paid are required: divisions for the purpose of relocation of common boundaries, a one-time gift or sale to an immediate family member (one per family member per county), and transfers that include a covenant running with the land that limits the use of the land exclusively to agriculture.

Exemptions may not be used for the purpose of evading the Montana Subdivision and Platting Act. Local governments must adopt evasion criteria as part of their subdivision regulations. These criteria are used to evaluate whether or not a proposed exemption represents an intention to evade the requirements of the Act.

Statute: 76-3-101, *et seq.*, Title 76, chapter 3, part 2, and 76-3-302, MCA

Rule: ARM 24.183.1101, *et seq.*

Contact: LOCAL GOVERNMENT

## 2. Review Procedures

- 1) General Information: Cities, counties, and towns are required to adopt subdivision regulations that establish procedures for submission and review of subdivision plats. The procedures and requirements vary depending on the size and nature of the proposed subdivision and whether or not a planning board has been appointed. A general overview of the procedures that apply to most major subdivisions (a *major subdivision* creates six or more parcels; a *minor subdivision* creates five or fewer parcels) is provided below, but all of Title 76, chapter 3, parts 5 and 6 and local regulations should be consulted.

For jurisdictions with planning boards, the review may be two-tiered: the planning board conducts the initial review and acts in an advisory capacity, and the final decision is made by the governing body. For areas without planning boards, the governing body is the only reviewing entity. Whether or not a hearing or a subsequent hearing will be held depends on the

circumstances. In most jurisdictions, a subdivision administrator (planner or sanitarian) will be the subdivider's initial contact person and liaison.

- 2) The state Act requires that local subdivision regulations provide for a preapplication meeting between the subdivider and subdivision administrator. The Act also requires that the local governing body provide certain information to the subdivider at the preapplication stage. Local regulations may also require a list of information that must be submitted by the subdivider at the preapplication stage.
- 3) A subdivision application, including, in most cases, either an environmental assessment or a summary of probable impacts, must be submitted to the governing body or its authorized agent or agency. A fee may be assessed by the governing body to defray the expense of subdivision review.
- 4) The local governing body, after notice and a public hearing (if a hearing is required), may approve, conditionally approve, or deny the proposed subdivision. Depending on the size of the major subdivision, the governing body must make its final decision within 60 or 80 working days of a determination that the application is sufficient for review (35 working days for certain minor subdivisions) unless the parties mutually agree to an extension or suspension of the review period or a subsequent public hearing is scheduled upon the receipt of new information regarding the subdivision application. A penalty may be assessed if the governing body does not act on a major subdivision within the statutory time limits.
- 5) The governing body shall consider all relevant evidence relating to the public health, safety, and welfare, including the environmental assessment, if required, to determine whether a subdivision application should be approved, conditionally approved, or denied by the governing body. As part of the subdivision review process, the governing body must collect public comment submitted at a hearing or hearings regarding the water and sanitation information presented and make the comments available to the subdivider within 30 days after conditional approval or approval of the subdivision application and preliminary plat. The subdivider must, as part of the application for sanitation approval, forward the comments provided by the governing body to the DEQ or its certified agent for subdivisions that will create one or more parcels containing less than 20 acres and to the local health department or board of health for proposed subdivisions that will create one or more parcels containing 20 acres or more and less than 160 acres.

- 6) In general, the developer of a major subdivision and some minor subdivisions must donate a portion of the subdivided land for public parks. A cash contribution may be accepted in lieu of a land donation.
- 7) Once the governing body approves, conditionally approves, or denies the subdivision, it must provide a written statement to the applicant within 30 days following its decision. The written statement must identify the regulations and statutes used in reaching the decision and an explanation of how they apply; the facts and conclusions that are the basis for the decision, including documents, testimony, or other materials that form the basis of the decision; the conditions that must be satisfied before the final plat may be approved; and information regarding the appeal process.
- 8) If a governing body approves or conditionally approves a subdivision, it grants preliminary plat approval to the applicant. The preliminary plat may be approved for one to three years. During this time frame, the subdivider must meet the conditions of preliminary plat approval, file for, and obtain final plat approval before it may move forward with the subdivision. Certain extensions to the preliminary plat time frame are permitted under the Act.
- 9) Final subdivision plats must be prepared and certified by a licensed professional land surveyor. The final plat and certificate of title must be submitted to the governing body. The final plat must be approved by the governing body only if it conforms with the conditions imposed on the preliminary plat and all property taxes and special assessments have been paid.
- 10) Compliance with the Sanitation in Subdivisions Act is required before a final plat that creates one or more parcels of less than 20 acres may be filed with the county clerk and recorder. See SANITATION IN SUBDIVISIONS, p. 172.
- 11) The subdivider may bring an action in District Court to recover damages caused by a decision of the governing body that is arbitrary or capricious under the Subdivision and Platting Act. Certain other aggrieved parties, including contiguous landowners and county commissioners, may appeal a decision on a preliminary or final plat to the District Court within 30 days from the date of the written decision.

Statute: 76-3-402, 76-3-501 through 76-3-510, 76-3-601 through 76-3-612, 76-3-615, 76-3-616, 76-3-620 through 76-3-622, 76-3-625, and 76-4-122, MCA

### 3. **Subdivision Review Criteria**

The Montana Subdivision and Platting Act establishes minimum requirements for local subdivision regulations. Local subdivision regulations include both procedural and substantive requirements. Among other requirements, the regulations must include standards for design of lots, streets, and roads; grading and drainage; and for water supply, sewage, and solid waste disposal at least as stringent as Montana Department of Environmental Quality rules.

In reviewing a proposed subdivision, the governing body must consider: 1) compliance with local subdivision regulations and the Title 76, chapter 3, part 6 review procedure; 2) compliance with surveying requirements; 3) provision and recording of legal and physical access to each lot within the subdivision; 4) provision of easements within and to the proposed subdivision for any planned utilities; and 5) the subdivision's impact on agriculture, agricultural water user facilities, local services, the natural environment, wildlife, wildlife habitat, and public health and safety (*primary criteria*). In specific circumstances, the local government may waive certain requirements and procedures in areas where a growth policy and zoning regulations are in place.

Statute: 76-3-501 through 76-3-511, 76-3-608, and 76-3-616, MCA

### 4. **Water and Sanitation Information**

Unless exempt from review under Title 76, chapter 4, MCA, (see SANITATION IN SUBDIVISIONS, p. 172), information about water and sanitation must be submitted to the governing body, or its agent or agency, with the subdivision application for a proposed subdivision that will include new water supply or wastewater facilities, including gray water irrigation. Public comment about the water and wastewater facilities will be provided to the subdivider for submission to the DEQ.

Statute: 76-3-604 and 76-3-622, MCA

# UTILITIES

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## HIGHWAY UTILITY EASEMENTS

### 1. Types of Activities Regulated

Utility facilities used to transport or distribute hydrocarbons, electric power, energy, communication signals, water, and sewage are authorized to occupy highway rights-of-way if they conform to certain standards approved by the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) (see also HIGHWAY ENCROACHMENTS, p. 67). All other facilities are considered privately owned and must receive a permit from the MDT before being constructed in a highway right-of-way. City councils and Boards of County Commissioners may grant similar approval along city streets and county roads.

Statute: 7-13-2101 and 7-13-4101, MCA

Rule: ARM 18.7.201, *et seq.* and 18.7.221-18.7.232

Contact: CITY OR TOWN COUNCIL

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
Division Office

### 2. Permitting Procedures

- 1) The utility must prepare and submit a notice of its proposed occupancy to the appropriate division office of the MDT. The notice must be submitted in triplicate and accompanied by utility plans showing the locations of the proposed facilities in relation to the highway centerline and right-of-way.
- 2) The Division Maintenance Chief or Division Utility Agent will review the occupancy proposed by the utility. If the proposal conforms to certain standards, specified by rule, the supervisor must sign it, and if not, the supervisor must specify in writing the reasons the proposal is not in compliance. Standards include preserving the natural environment to the greatest extent possible, maintaining the facility, and avoiding hazards or conflicts between the highway and the facility.

- 3) The utility may resubmit its proposal after making the necessary changes to comply with the standards.

Rule: ARM 18.7.232

## IMPROVEMENT AND UTILITY DISTRICTS

### 1. Types of Activities Regulated

A number of means of funding are available to cities and counties for the construction of capital improvements such as streets, malls, lighting, parking, water, and sewer systems, etc. Provisions vary, but typically, an improvement district may be established by the local government. In some cases, a petition by residents of the district is required. A board of directors may be elected or appointed, or the local government itself may be the authority. The district may sell bonds to finance the improvements, and an assessment is levied on benefitted property to service the bond debt and to operate and maintain the improvements. In some cases, user fees may be assessed. Potential developers should contact local authorities to determine applicable requirements.

Statute: Business Improvement Districts:  
7-12-1101, *et seq.*, MCA  
Consolidated Local Government Water Supply and Sewer Districts:  
7-13-3001, *et seq.*, MCA  
County Water/Sewer Districts:  
7-13-2201, *et seq.*, MCA  
Fire Hydrant Maintenance Districts:  
7-12-4601, *et seq.*, MCA  
Industrial Revenue Bonds:  
90-5-101, *et seq.*, MCA  
Lighting Districts:  
7-12-2201, *et seq.* and 7-12-4301, *et seq.*, MCA  
Local Water Quality Districts:  
7-13-4501, *et seq.*, MCA  
Metropolitan Sanitary/Storm Sewer Districts:  
7-13-101, *et seq.*, MCA  
Municipal Revenue Bonds:  
7-7-4401, *et seq.*, MCA  
Municipal Sewage/Water Systems:  
7-13-4301, *et seq.*, MCA  
Overhead Facilities Converted to Underground Location:  
69-4-301, *et seq.*, MCA  
Public Sewer Systems:  
7-13-4201, *et seq.*, MCA



Rural Fire Districts:  
     7-33-2101, *et seq.*, MCA  
 Rural Improvement Districts:  
     7-12-2101, *et seq.*, MCA  
 Service Districts:  
     7-11-1001, *et seq.*, MCA  
 Special Improvement Districts:  
     7-12-4101, *et seq.*, MCA  
 Street Maintenance Districts:  
     7-12-4401, *et seq.*, MCA  
 Street Parking Districts:  
     7-12-4501, *et seq.*, MCA  
 Wildland Fire Protection Districts:  
     76-13-201, *et seq.*, MCA

## NATURAL GAS SUPPLIERS

### 1. Types of Activities Regulated

Gas suppliers must be licensed by the Public Service Commission before offering natural gas for sale to retail customers. Licensed suppliers must complete and maintain an electronic registration form on the Commission internet site (<http://psc.mt.gov/Energy/GSupplierRegistration.asp>) and file annual reports.

Statute: 69-3-1401, *et seq.*, MCA  
 Rule: ARM 38.5.7010-38.5.7016  
 Contact: PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
 Regulatory Division

### 2. Application Requirements

The license application requests detailed information about the company's organization and services to ensure that the supply will be provided as offered and is of adequate quality, safety, and reliability. Unless rejected for cause, a license application becomes effective 30 days after filing.

Statute: 69-3-1405, MCA  
 Rule: ARM 38.5.7010

Contact: PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
Regulatory Division

## **PIPELINES: UNDERGROUND EXCAVATION**

### **1. Types of Activities Regulated**

#### **A. Common Carrier Pipelines**

An entity owning, operating, or managing a pipeline for others for the transportation of crude petroleum, coal, the products of crude petroleum or coal, or carbon dioxide from a plant or facility that produces or captures carbon dioxide may obtain the right to construct and operate pipelines in public streams or highways by filing a written agreement with the Montana Public Service Commission (PSC) to become a common carrier pipeline. Entities constructing pipelines must follow statutory condemnation procedures. The pipelines may not be placed in public streets or alleys without obtaining permission from the city.

Statute: 69-13-101, *et seq.*, MCA

Rule: ARM 38.7.101 and 38.7.102

Contact: PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
Regulatory Division

CITY OR TOWN COUNCIL

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

#### **B. Natural Gas Pipelines**

The PSC enforces the safety regulations adopted under the Natural Gas Pipeline Safety Act of 1968, as amended. This authority extends over intrastate pipeline operators and systems. The PSC also has the power to investigate all methods and practices of pipeline owners and operators, make report filing requirements, issue informal reports of probable violations and orders to show cause, establish formal enforcement procedures, hold hearings, and enter onto the property and inspect books and records relevant to the PSC's enforcement responsibilities.

Statute: 69-3-207, MCA

Rule: ARM 38.5.2201, *et seq.*

Contact: PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
Regulatory Division

### C. Underground Excavations

Prior to moving earth, rock, or other ground material, excluding surface road grading, an excavator must first obtain information from a one-call notification center on the possible location of any underground facility. Every public utility, municipal corporation, underground facility owner, or person with the right to bury underground facilities must be a member of a one-call notification center in the region where the facilities are located.

Before beginning a project, the excavator must notify the owners of underground facilities through the center. The owners must mark the locations of the facilities within two business days or respond immediately if informed it is an emergency. If the excavator has not excavated within 30 days, the excavator must request relocations and marks and is responsible for the associated costs.

Architects and engineers designing projects requiring excavation in a public right-of-way or easement must obtain information on underground facilities from the owners and then make the information part of the plan by which the contractors operate.

Statute: 69-4-501 through 69-4-504, MCA

Contact: PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
Regulatory Division

CITY OR TOWN COUNCIL

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

## UTILITY AND MOTOR CARRIER REGULATION

### 1. **Types of Activities Regulated**

The Public Service Commission (PSC) regulates the rates and services of privately owned public utilities and has the authority to inquire into their management. Public utilities are defined as entities owning, operating, or controlling plant or equipment for delivering or furnishing heat, light, power, water, sewer, or telecommunications services to others.

## 184 UTILITIES

Utilities owned or controlled by a municipality, town, or village or by a county or city-county water or sewer district or water or sewer association are excluded from PSC regulation. The rates and services for these systems are determined by the local government, district, or association.

The PSC regulates certain types of intrastate motor carriage transportation—issuing Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity to certain carriers of passengers, household goods, and garbage.

Cooperative or reciprocal vehicle registration licenses are issued through the Montana Department of Transportation, Motor Carrier Services Division. To receive a license, carriers traveling interstate must show proof of insurance with the Federal Highway Administration.

Statute: 69-3-101, *et seq.*, 69-7-101, *et seq.*, MCA (public and municipal utilities)  
69-12-101, *et seq.*, MCA (motor carriers)  
61-3-708 through 61-3-710, MCA (cooperative or reciprocal vehicle registration)

Rule: ARM 38.3.401, *et seq.* (motor carriers)

Contact: PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
Regulatory Division

MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT  
City or City-County water or sewer district

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
Motor Carrier Services Division

## UTILITY LINES

### 1. Types of Activities Regulated

#### A. Construction or Extension of Electric/Telecommunication Lines: Underground Facilities

The city or town council may regulate the erection of poles and stringing of wires, rods, or cables in the streets or alleys or within the limits of the city or town, but not within highway rights-of-way. Corporations, persons, or public bodies owning or operating electric power or telecommunication service and supply facilities are authorized to install and construct power or

telecommunications lines or wires along and on any public roads, streets, and highways in the state, and to erect posts, piers, and abutments necessary to support the wires provided that they do not endanger the public in its use of roads, streets, or highways. An entity exercising the right to use these public rights-of-way to construct electric distribution lines and facilities in a new service area must install underground lines where technically and economically feasible.

Landowners, cities, towns, counties, rural electric cooperatives, or public utilities that wish to convert existing overhead electric and communication facilities to underground locations may institute special improvement district proceedings. The governing body on its own initiative or by petition signed by 60 percent of the property owners owning 60 percent of the land of a proposed district can pass a resolution, make a study, and make the study available for inspection in the governing office.

Utilities or customers wishing to extend transmission lines to new subdivisions or areas must comply with the Territorial Integrity Act. Agreements are generally submitted to the PSC for review.

The Public Service Commission (PSC) enforces the National Electric Safety Code, which governs all construction (overhead and underground electrical supply and communication lines) involving wires for power, heat, light, telephone, telegraph, or signal transmission or reception. There are exceptions for railroad electrification and private construction of wires less than 450 volts. Cities and towns in the state may not enact any ordinance that conflicts with any provisions of the code, and conflicting ordinances are void.

Statute: 7-13-4106, 69-4-101 through 69-4-103, and 69-4-301, *et seq.*, MCA  
69-4-102, 69-4-201 through 69-4-204, 69-5-121 and 69-5-122, MCA

Rule: ARM 38.5.1002

Contact: CITY OR TOWN COUNCIL

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
Regulatory Division

B. Moving/Raising or Cutting Overhead Utility Lines or Poles

- 1) A person moving a structure through an area in which wires, cables, or poles will interfere with the move must provide at least 10 days written notice of the time and place of the move to the person owning or controlling the utility lines or poles and to that person's office nearest to the move.
- 2) At least three days prior to the move or within 10 days after the receipt of the notice, whichever is sooner, the owner must give the person moving the structure a written estimate of the total cost of raising or cutting the wires or cables and moving the poles. The owner or person controlling the utility lines or poles furnishes the workers.
- 3) The costs of the move are the responsibility of the person moving the structure, except, if the structure is owned by a person for occupancy and use by that person, the person moving the structure and the person owning or controlling the utility lines or poles must split the expenses. Prepayment of the estimate by the person moving the structure is required in some instances.
- 4) Public utilities, cable television companies, and unregulated telecommunications providers must file with the PSC, by April 1 of each year, an application for approval of a cost schedule for labor and equipment for all work related to raising wires or cables or moving poles. The cost schedule is effective on a temporary basis, subject to a rebate and a surcharge pending a final order by the PSC.
- 5) The owner of agricultural lands may petition the District Court for permission to relocate overhead lines for the purposes of installing an agricultural improvement. After a hearing, the court may grant or deny the petition. The owner of the land must pay the costs of relocating the overhead lines.

Statute: 69-4-601, *et seq.* and 69-4-401, *et seq.*, MCA

Rule: ARM 38.5.2410 and 38.5.2414

Contact: PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
Regulatory Division

# WATER

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If the project requires water use, a water supply, or discharges wastes into state waters, the following regulations may apply.

## DAMS AND RESERVOIRS

### 1. Types of Activities Regulated

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission licenses and inspects hydropower dams (see HYDROELECTRIC POWER DEVELOPMENT, p. 44). The U.S. Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers ensures compliance with regulations governing navigable waters (see STREAM BEDS - STREAM BANKS - WETLANDS, p. 10). If the proposed dam facility will be on a stream located on state-owned lands, a lease or license must be obtained from the Montana Board of Land Commissioners (see STATE LANDS, p. 7). The Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) should be contacted to acquire any necessary water permit or change authorization (see WATER APPROPRIATIONS - SURFACE DIVERSIONS, p. 199).

A person proposing to construct a dam or reservoir must submit an application to the DNRC for a determination of whether the dam or reservoir is classified as high-hazard.<sup>1</sup> A dam owner must also obtain a dam safety construction permit from the DNRC prior to constructing, enlarging, removing, extensively repairing, or altering a high-hazard dam. Before operating a high-hazard dam, a dam safety operation permit must be obtained from the department. There are several categories of dams that are exempt from these requirements, including federal dams and reservoirs and dams regulated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. At its discretion, or upon complaint, the DNRC may inspect any dam on state waters.

Statute: 85-15-105, *et seq.*, MCA (Montana Dam Safety Act)

Contact: DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION  
Water Resources Division  
*Water Operations Bureau*

### 2. Application Requirements

- A. For a hazard classification, the dam owner must apply for a determination from the DNRC. The owner must submit an application to the department

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<sup>1</sup> A high-hazard dam is a dam or reservoir with an impounding capacity of 50 acre-feet or more at the maximum normal operating pool, the failure of which would be likely to cause loss of life.

with information describing the dam or reservoir, including its capacity, purpose, and location.

- B. For a construction permit, the dam owner must submit an application form, an engineering design report, and three sets of construction plans and specifications.
- C. For an operation permit, the dam owner must submit an application that includes an operation plan. An inspection report is also required except for in the case of a new dam for which a construction permit has been issued.

Statute: 85-15-209 through 85-15-212, MCA

Rule: ARM 36.14.201-36.14.204, 36.14.301, *et seq.*, and 36.14.401-36.14.403

### 3. **Permitting Procedures**

- A. The DNRC will notify the applicant for a dam hazard classification of its receipt of the application within 10 days and advise the applicant if it requires additional information. The DNRC will then schedule an inspection with the dam owner to gather information to make a hazard determination. The department will base its decision on the potential loss of life downstream resulting from dam failure, not the safety of the structure. The DNRC has 60 days after the receipt of a completed application to make its determination.
- B. Within 30 days after receipt of an application for a construction permit, the DNRC will notify the applicant of any errors or omissions and request any additional information necessary to evaluate the application. The DNRC has 60 days after receiving the application to issue the permit, deny the permit, or issue the permit with conditions or modifications.
- C. Within 30 days after receipt of an application for an operating permit, the DNRC will notify the applicant of any errors or omissions and request any additional information necessary to evaluate the application. After receipt of all required information, the DNRC has 90 days to issue or deny the permit. The permit is valid for up to five years.

Rule: ARM 36.14.205-36.14.208, 36.14.301, *et seq.*, and 36.14.401, *et seq.*



#### 4. Fees

There is a \$125 inspection fee for a hazard classification.

Rule: ARM 36.14.204

### PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY

#### 1. Types of Activities Regulated

A water system that has at least 15 service connections or that regularly serves at least 25 persons daily for any 60 or more days in a calendar year is regulated as a public water supply by the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). Plans and specifications for public water supply sources and plans for construction, alteration, or extensions of any water system or treatment facilities must be approved. Operators in charge of community public water supplies and nontransient noncommunity public water supplies must be certified by the DEQ.

Water supply systems for food and lodging establishments that do not serve 15 or more service connections or 25 or more people for any 60 or more days in a calendar year are regulated by the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services.

Statute: 37-42-101, *et seq.*, MCA (water treatment plant operators)  
50-50-101, *et seq.*, MCA (private systems for food and lodging establishments)  
75-6-101, *et seq.*, MCA (public water supply systems)

Rule: ARM 17.38.101-17.38.607 (public water supply systems)  
ARM 17.40.201-17.40.215 (water treatment plant operators)  
ARM 37.110.217-37.10.218 (private systems for food and lodging establishments)

Contact: DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
Permitting and Compliance Division  
*Public Water and Subdivisions Bureau*

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
Public Health and Safety Division  
*Food and Consumer Safety Section*

## 2. **Application Requirements**

- 1) Prior to operating, constructing, altering, or extending a public water supply, the applicant must submit an engineering report along with the necessary plans and specifications to the DEQ or a delegated division of local government for review and written approval.
- 2) The engineering report, plans, and specifications for a community public water supply must be prepared and designed by a professional engineer according to specific engineering criteria. An engineer may be required to prepare plans and specifications for a noncommunity public water supply when the complexity of the proposed system warrants that level of involvement by an engineer.
- 3) The applicant must identify the legal entity responsible for the ownership, operation, maintenance, and perpetuation of the public water supply system. If a change of ownership occurs, the DEQ must receive written notice within 30 days.
- 4) The department will provide a written response to the applicant within 60 days that either approves, approves with conditions, describes additional information that must be submitted, or denies the proposal, except that a regional public water system's initial review will be completed within 40 calendar days and re-reviews will be completed within 20 working days. The DEQ or a delegated division of local government will issue a written approval for a public water supply system if it determines that the design report, plans, and specifications are complete and the applicant has complied with department rules.
- 5) If construction, alteration, or extension of the community public water supply system has not been completed within three years after approval, the applicant must resubmit all of the information required in 1-3 above. A regional public water system, as defined in 75-6-301, MCA, may not be subject to changes in design and construction standards or issued deviations for 72 months after approval.
- 6) A person may not begin operation of any portion of a public water supply system subject to plan review until the project engineer (for community systems) or owner (for noncommunity systems) certifies to the DEQ that the required work was completed according to the approved plans and specifications. Within 90 days after completion of construction, a complete set of certified as-built drawings must be submitted to the department.

Statute: 75-6-131 and 75-6-301, *et seq.*, MCA (regional water supply systems)

Rule: ARM 17.38.101

### 3. Fees

A schedule of fees for plan review is listed in ARM 17.38.106. The fees must be paid before plan approval may be issued.

An annual fee is required and must be postmarked or delivered to the DEQ by March 1. The annual fee for a community public water supply system is \$2 per active service connection, with a \$100 fee minimum. The annual fee for a nontransient, noncommunity public water supply system is \$100 and for any other noncommunity public water supply system, \$50.

Water treatment operators must pay a \$70 application fee that entitles the applicant to take one or more exams for 12 months from the date of application. Each exam is \$70. The annual renewal fee is \$30 and must be postmarked or delivered to the DEQ by June 30.

Statute: 37-42-304, 75-6-103, and 75-6-108, MCA

Rule: ARM 17.38.106, 17.38.248, and 17.40.212

### 4. Additional Information

#### Wellhead and Source Water Protection Programs

The DEQ has the authority to administer wellhead protection and source water assessment programs that involve delineation of the boundaries of the assessment areas from which a public water system receives supplies of drinking water, certification of local source water protection areas, assessment of source water susceptibility to regulated contaminants, and the review of source water protection area ordinances. A supplier of a public water supply system may voluntarily submit a petition to the DEQ to establish a source water protection program for the system. The governing body of a county in which a source water protection area or areas exist may adopt an ordinance to regulate, control, and prohibit conditions that threaten the quality of water used within the source water protection area or areas.

Statute: 75-6-120, MCA

Contact: DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
Planning, Prevention and Assistance Division  
*Technical and Financial Assistance Bureau*

## **SEPTIC TANKS, CESSPOOLS AND PRIVIES**

### **1. Types of Activities Regulated**

A person may not engage in the business of cleaning cesspools, septic tanks, portable toilets, privies, grease traps, car wash sumps or similar treatment works, or disposal of septage and other wastes from these sources, unless licensed by the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). Hazardous wastes are regulated separately (see HAZARDOUS WASTE DISPOSAL, p. 155).

Statute: 75-10-1211 through 75-10-1223, MCA

Rule: ARM 17.50.801, *et seq.*

Contact: DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
Permitting and Compliance Division  
*Waste and Underground Tank Management Bureau*

### **2. Application Requirements**

Applications for licenses must be made to the DEQ on forms provided by the department. The application must contain the licensee's name and address, a list of counties in which business will be conducted, a list and information about proposed disposal sites, an equipment certification by the local health officer, the estimated volume of septage and other wastes to be disposed of at each disposal site annually, and other information requested by the department. Licenses expire on December 31 of each year and are nontransferable.

Statute: 75-10-1211 and 75-10-1212, MCA

Rule: ARM 17.50.803

### **3. Permitting Procedures**

The DEQ will review an application for a new or renewed license to ensure that it is complete. If additional information is required, the DEQ will send the applicant written notification. After receiving a completed application, the DEQ will notify the relevant local

health officer or designated representative. The department may not issue a license until 14 days after notifying local officials in order to allow them a period for review and comment. A license is issued within 30 days after the DEQ's decision to approve the license.

Statute: 75-10-1202, 75-10-1210, 75-10-1212, and 75-10-1221, MCA

Rule: ARM 17.50.806

#### 4. Fees

The annual license fee is \$300. A late fee of \$125 is assessed by the DEQ for failure to renew a license before January 31 of the year following the license expiration.

Statute: 75-10-1201 through 75-10-1223, MCA

Rule: ARM 17.50.803

## SEWER SYSTEMS

### 1. Types of Activities Regulated

Approval from the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is required to construct, alter, or extend a public sewer system serving 15 or more families or 25 or more persons daily for any 60 or more days in a calendar year. Plans and specifications must be approved for construction, alteration, or extension of any wastewater system or treatment facilities. Operators in charge of public wastewater treatment systems must be certified by the DEQ.

Statute: 75-6-101, *et seq.*, MCA (public sewage systems)  
37-42-101, *et seq.*, MCA (wastewater treatment plant operators)

Rule: ARM 17.38.101-17.38.103  
ARM 17.40.201-17.40-215

Contact: DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
Permitting and Compliance Division  
*Public Water and Subdivisions Bureau*

BOARD OF WATER AND WASTEWATER OPERATORS

## 2. **Application Requirements**

- 1) Prior to operating, constructing, altering, or extending a public sewer system, the applicant must submit an engineering report along with the necessary plans and specifications to the DEQ or a delegated division of local government for review and written approval.
- 2) The engineering report, plans, and specifications for a public sewer system must be prepared and designed by a professional engineer licensed in the state of Montana according to specific engineering criteria developed by the DEQ. However, basic subsurface sewage treatment plans do not require an engineer.
- 3) The applicant must identify the legal entity responsible for the ownership, operation, maintenance, and perpetuation of the public sewer system. If a change of ownership occurs, the DEQ must receive written notice within 30 days.
- 4) The DEQ has 60 days to approve, approve with conditions, deny the application, or to request more information. The DEQ or a delegated division of local government will issue a written approval for a public sewer system if it determines that the design report, plans, and specifications are complete and the applicant has complied with department rules.
- 5) If construction, alteration, or extension of the public sewer system has not been completed within three years after approval, the applicant must resubmit all of the information required in 1-3 above.
- 6) A person may not begin operation of any portion of a public wastewater system subject to plan review until the project engineer (for community systems) or owner (for noncommunity systems) certifies to the DEQ that the required work was completed according to the approved plans and specifications. Within 90 days after completion or construction, a complete set of as-built drawings must be submitted to the department.

Rule: ARM 17.38.101

## 3. **Fees**

A schedule of fees for plan review is listed in ARM 17.38.106. The fees must be paid before plan approval may be issued.

Wastewater treatment operators must pay a \$70 application fee that entitles the applicant to take one or more exams for 12 months from the date of application. Each exam is \$70. The annual renewal fee is \$40 and must be postmarked or delivered to the DEQ by June 30.

Statute: 76-6-103, MCA

Rule: ARM 17.38.106 and 17.40.212

#### 4. **Additional Information**

The Montana Legislature authorized the Montana Board of Environmental Review to establish rules to regulated reclaimed wastewater from public sewage systems and to adopt treatment standards, monitoring, recordkeeping, and reporting requirements.

Statute: 75-6-102(15) and 75-6-103(2)(k), MCA

Contact: DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
Permitting and Compliance Division  
*Public Water and Subdivisions Bureau*

## **WATER APPROPRIATIONS - GROUND WATER**

### 1. **Types of Activities Regulated**

In 1973, the state of Montana developed a permitting system for the new use (appropriation) of state waters. By law, Montana waters may be appropriated for *beneficial uses*. These uses include, but are not limited to, agricultural, domestic, fish and wildlife, mining, industrial, irrigation, municipal, power, recreational uses, and aquifer recharge or mitigation (see 85-2-102(4), MCA, for a complete definition). The Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) administers the permitting system and regulates all new ground water uses or changes to existing ground water rights. Specific requirements are outlined below. Application forms for these activities are available on the DNRC website or at the Water Rights Bureau Office in Helena and the local Water Resources Regional Offices.

- A. A ground water appropriation that will exceed 35 gallons of water a minute or 10 acre-feet of water a year or is located within a compact area<sup>1</sup> must be permitted by the DNRC before the water is put to beneficial use.
- B. Inside the boundaries of an established controlled ground water area, water use must be permitted or granted according to the requirements of the rules established for the area before the water is put to beneficial use. (See CONTROLLED GROUND WATER AREA, p. 198, for more information.)
- C. Outside the boundaries of a controlled ground water area, a person appropriating 35 gallons of water a minute or less, with an annual volume of 10 acre-feet or less, is not required to obtain a permit before beginning a project. However, within 60 days after the well is completed or the ground water spring is developed and the water put to beneficial use, the individual must file a notice of completion of ground water development with the DNRC. A certificate of water right will be issued. See also WATER WELLS, p. 213.

If the person appropriating water does not have a possessory interest in the property from which the water will be withdrawn, they must notify the landowner 30 days before any related construction or appropriation begins.

A combined appropriation of two or more wells or developed springs from the same source that exceeds these allowable conditions requires a permit.

- D. Except for municipal use, public water supplies or for irrigation of cropland owned and operated by the applicant—for appropriations of ground water in excess of 3,000 acre-feet per year, the DNRC's decision to grant a permit must be affirmed by the Legislature.
- E. A permit is not required for a water user who must replace an existing well if the well does not exceed 35 gallons a minute and 10 acre-feet a year or, for a municipal well, 450 gallons a minute. The existing well must be abandoned and the volume and rate of water used by the replacement well must be equal to or less than the existing well. In addition, the new well must draw from the same aquifer and a replacement well notice must be filed with the DNRC after the replacement well is completed.
- F. A permit is not required for ground water appropriations for emergency fire developments by a local governmental fire agency where the appropriation is used only for emergency fire protection, which may include enclosed

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<sup>1</sup> A compact area is one in which the Montana Reserved Water Rights Compact Commission has completed a negotiated settlement with a tribal group or federal agency.



storage. The development must be completed before a department approved form is filed and a certificate issued.

- G. A permit is not required for ground water appropriations for completed developments where the water has been put to use for nonconsumptive geothermal heating or cooling with a maximum use of 350 gallons of water per minute. The development must be completed before a department approved form is filed and a certificate issued.
- H. A change in place of use, point of diversion, place of storage, or purpose of use of an appropriated water right requires approval by the DNRC. Also, an application to change must be submitted if a water right will be leased to someone or if a temporary change is desired. The historic flow rate and volume diverted, consumed volume, and use of the water right to be changed must be provided.
- I. An appropriator may change a water right without the prior approval of the DNRC to construct a redundant water supply well in a public water supply system if the new water supply well withdraws water from the same source as the original well and is required by a state or federal agency. Only one well may be used at one time. Within 60 days of completion of a redundant water supply well, the appropriator must file a redundant well construction notice with the DNRC.
- J. Approval from the DNRC is not required for leasing all or part of an appropriation right for road construction or dust abatement as long as the DNRC's requirements for the lease are met. The public must be given notice at least 30 days before the use of the water. A copy of the public notice and the lease agreement must be submitted to the DNRC at least two days before the use of the water. In addition to other conditions, the lease term may not exceed 90 days or 60,000 gallons of water per day or the quantity of the existing lease, whichever is less.

Statute: 85-2-301, *et seq.*, MCA

Rule: ARM 36.12.101-36.12.122 and 36.12.1301-36.12.2001

Contact: DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION  
Water Resources Division  
*Water Rights Bureau Office in Helena*; or local Water Resources  
Regional Offices (see APPENDIX 2)

## 2. **Application Requirements**

For application permitting procedures for obtaining a water right permit or a change authorization, see WATER APPROPRIATIONS - SURFACE DIVERSIONS, next page.

## 3. **Permitting Procedures**

For permitting procedures for obtaining a water right permit or a change authorization, see WATER APPROPRIATIONS - SURFACE DIVERSIONS, next page.

## 4. **Fees**

Fees vary according to the type of application and are due at the time the application is submitted. For a schedule of fees see ARM 36.12.103 or contact the DNRC.

Statute: 85-2-113, MCA

Rule: ARM 36.12.103

## 5. **Additional Ground Water Information**

### A. Controlled Ground Water Area

To protect water availability or quality, controlled ground water areas may be established by the DNRC or by petition of a state or local public health agency, municipality, county, conservation district, or local water quality district, or proposed by petition of local users. Several controlled ground water areas have been established in Montana. In a controlled ground water area, anyone wishing to appropriate water must apply for and receive a permit or follow the requirements of the controlled ground water area rules. Contact the DNRC to determine the location of controlled ground water areas and to determine special requirements applicable to a particular controlled ground water area.

Statute: 85-2-506, 85-2-508, 85-2-523, and 85-2-524, MCA

### B. Coal Bed Methane Wells

Ground water produced as a result of coal bed methane development has special management requirements. The produced water must be put to beneficial use, reinjected to an acceptable subsurface area, discharged to

the surface or surface waters in compliance with permit requirements, or managed by other legal means. Developers of coal bed methane wells must offer mitigation agreements to area appropriators whose point of diversion is within one mile of the coal bed methane well or within 1/2 mile of a well that is adversely affected by the coal bed methane well.

Statute: 82-11-175, MCA

## WATER APPROPRIATIONS - SURFACE DIVERSIONS

### 1. Types of Activities Regulated

In 1973, the state of Montana developed a permitting system for the new use (appropriation) of state waters. By law, Montana waters may be appropriated for *beneficial uses*. These uses include, but are not limited to, agricultural, domestic, fish and wildlife, mining, industrial, irrigation, municipal, power, recreational uses, and aquifer recharge or mitigation (see 85-2-102(4), MCA, for a complete definition). The Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) administers the permitting system and regulates all new surface water use or changes to existing surface water rights. Specific requirements are outlined below. Application forms for these activities are available on the DNRC website or at the Water Rights Bureau Office in Helena and the local Water Resources Regional Offices.

- A. A permit to appropriate water for a beneficial use is required from the DNRC before beginning a project that proposes the use of unappropriated surface water.
- B. A permit to appropriate water is not required for construction of a pit or reservoir for use by livestock if: 1) the pit or reservoir has a maximum capacity of less than 15 acre-feet of water, 2) the impoundment is constructed on and will be accessible to a parcel of land that is owned or controlled by the applicant and is at least 40 acres in size, and 3) the appropriation is less than 30 acre-feet per year and is from a nonperennial flowing stream. However, an application for a provisional permit for a completed stockwater pit or reservoir must be submitted to the DNRC within 60 days after construction of the pit or reservoir. If the pit or reservoir adversely affects prior water rights, the DNRC may require modifications or revoke the permit.
- C. An applicant may apply for a temporary permit to appropriate water if the use is for a limited period of time, i.e., for road construction or oil and gas exploration. The applicant must meet the criteria listed in 3.(2) on p. 203. Permits expire on the date noted in the application.

## 200 WATER

- D. A change in place of use, point of diversion, place of storage, or purpose of use of an appropriated water right also requires approval by the DNRC. An application to change must be submitted if a water right will be leased to someone or if a temporary change is desired. The historic use of the water rights to be changed must be provided.
- E. A water user or the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks may apply to temporarily change or lease a water right for instream flow to maintain or enhance instream flow to benefit the fishery resource.
- F. The state, the federal government, or their subdivisions may apply for reservations of water for existing or future beneficial uses, or to maintain a minimum flow, level, or quality of water. The application must be filed with the DNRC which has the authority to grant, deny, or modify the reservation.

Statute: 85-2-301, *et seq.* and 85-2-402, *et seq.*, MCA

Rule: ARM 36.12.101-36.12.106 and 36.16.103-36.12.106

Contact: DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION  
Water Resources Division  
*Water Rights Bureau Office in Helena*; or local Water Resources  
Regional Offices (see APPENDIX 2)

## 2. Application Requirements

An application for a beneficial water use permit or an application to change a water right must be made on forms available from the DNRC. The department has 180 days to review the application and notify the applicant of any defects. During this time the department also conducts an environmental review to determine the impacts of the proposed project (see MONTANA ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT, p. 130). If the DNRC does not notify the applicant of any defects within 180 days, the application is considered correct and complete. An incorrect or incomplete application does not lose its filing priority if it is corrected and refiled within 30 days or as the DNRC may allow, up to 90 days. An application not corrected within 90 days is by law terminated.

To apply for a water reservation, the state or a political subdivision or the federal government must submit an application to the DNRC. Individuals may not make this application. Applications are processed and investigated by the department. The DNRC must make findings concerning the purpose and need for the water reservation, the amount of water necessary, and whether the proposed use is in the public interest.

Statute: 85-2-301, *et seq.* and 85-2-402, MCA

Rule: ARM 36.12.101-36.12.122, 36.12.1301-36.12.2001, and 36.16.101-36.16.122

### 3. Application Procedures

- 1) The application process for a permit or change approval is as follows. If the DNRC finds that an application may be preliminarily granted, the DNRC will prepare a draft preliminary determination and publish the application one time in an area newspaper.
- 2) Individuals may file written objections to the permit or change application within the time period stated on the public notice associated with the application. An objection must be correct and complete and include the name and address of the objector.
  - A. For a *permit* application, an objector must provide information that explains why one or more of the criteria in 85-2-311, MCA, cannot be met. These criteria are:
    - (1) There is water physically available at the proposed point of diversion in the amount that the applicant seeks to appropriate.
    - (2) Water can reasonably be considered legally available during the period in which the applicant seeks to appropriate, in the amount requested.
    - (3) The water rights of a prior appropriator under an existing water right, a certificate, a permit, or a state water reservation will not be adversely affected.
    - (4) The proposed means of diversion, construction, and operation of the appropriation works are adequate.
    - (5) The proposed use of water is a beneficial use.
    - (6) The applicant has possessory interest, or the written consent of the person with the possessory interest, in the property where the water will be put to beneficial use.
    - (7) The water quality of a prior appropriator will not be adversely affected.

- (8) The proposed use will be in accordance with the water classification for the source of supply.
- (9) The ability of a discharge permit holder to satisfy effluent limitations will not be adversely affected.

B. For a *change* application, an objector must provide information that explains why one or more of the criteria in 85-2-402, MCA, cannot be met. These criteria are:

- (1) The proposed change in appropriation right will not adversely affect the use of existing water rights.
- (2) Except for lease applications related to the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) water leasing program, a temporary change in an appropriation right authorization to improve stream flows, or for mitigation or marketing for mitigation—the proposed means of diversion, construction, and operation of the appropriation works are adequate.
- (3) The proposed use of water is a beneficial use.
- (4) Except for lease applications related to the FWP water leasing program, a temporary change in an appropriation right authorization to improve stream flows or for mitigation or marketing for mitigation—the applicant has possessory interest or the written consent of the person with possessory interest in the property where water will be put to beneficial use or, if on national forest system lands, the applicant is authorized by federal law to use the lands for water diversion, impoundment, storage, transportation, withdrawal, use, or distribution.
- (5) If the change in appropriation right involves salvaged water, the proposed water-saving methods will salvage at least the amount of water asserted by the applicant.
- (6) The water quality of an appropriator will not be adversely affected.
- (7) The ability of a discharge permit holder to satisfy effluent limitations will not be adversely affected.

- 3) The DNRC will hold a hearing if:
  - (1) The department determines any objections are valid after the application has been publicly noticed and the objection period has ended.
  - (2) The department proposes to deny an application prior to public notice and the applicant does not withdraw the application.
- 4) If a hearing is held on objections to an application, a final or proposed order may be prepared and sent to all parties of record in the case. A party who disagrees with a proposed order may file an exception and request an oral argument hearing before a final order is issued. The applicant or objector may file an appeal to a final order with the District Court within 30 days after receiving notice of the decision.
- 5) If no objection to the application is filed, and the DNRC preliminarily determined to grant the application, the DNRC will grant the application.
- 6) The DNRC may issue a permit for less than the amount of water requested, but in no case may it issue a permit for more water than is requested or that can be beneficially used. The DNRC must state the time limits for commencement of the appropriation work, completion of construction, and actual application of the water to the proposed beneficial use.
- 7) PERMITS ARE PROVISIONAL UNTIL ALL CLAIMS OF EXISTING WATER RIGHTS IN A BASIN OR SUBBASIN HAVE BEEN ADJUDICATED IN THE STATE WATER COURT.<sup>1</sup>
- 8) Change authorizations are limited to the amount of the historic flow rate and volume diverted, consumed volume, and use of the water right recognized by the DNRC. If the historic use is reduced under adjudication proceedings, the authorization will be limited to the lesser amount.

Statute: 85-2-307 through 85-2-315, 85-2-402, and 85-2-420, MCA  
2-4-101, *et seq.*, MCA (Montana Administrative Procedures Act)

Rule: ARM 36.12.101-36.12.2001 and 36.16.107

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<sup>1</sup> Permits for new or additional water use have been required since July 1, 1973. Water rights claimed before that date are currently being quantified and recorded through a statewide water adjudication process. Contact the Montana Water Court or the DNRC for adjudication procedures.

#### 4. Fees

Fees vary according to the type of application and are due at the time the application is submitted. For a schedule of fees see ARM 36.12.103 or contact the DNRC.

Statute: 85-2-113, MCA

Rule: ARM 36.12.103

#### 5. Criteria

Regardless of whether objections are received, the DNRC must base its decision for issuance of a permit on the criteria found in 85-2-311, MCA. Approval for an Application to Change a Water Right is based on the criteria in 85-2-402, MCA. All permits and change applications are subject to prior existing water rights and the final determination of those rights. Other conditions may be imposed to protect the rights of other water right appropriators on a case-by-case basis.

Statute: 85-2-311, 85-2-312, and 85-2-402, MCA

#### 6. Additional Information

##### A. Closed Basins

Several highly appropriated basins have been closed by the Legislature or the DNRC. Issuance of water use permits in these basins is limited, although issuance of permits for certain uses is usually allowed. Contact the DNRC to determine the location of basin closures and the limits that apply to a particular basin.

Statute: 85-2-319 through 85-2-370 and Title 85, chapter 20, parts 1-16, MCA

Rule: ARM 36.12.120 and 36.12.1010, *et seq.*

##### B. Water Right Ownership Update

A change of ownership of a water right must be disclosed with a realty transfer certificate. The DNRC will update the ownership of a water right based upon the information received from the Montana Department of Revenue once the proper fee is paid.



Statute: 85-2-423, 85-2-424, and 85-2-426, MCA

Rule: ARM 36.12.103

## WATER QUALITY PERMITTING

The Department of Environmental Quality, under the authority of the Montana Water Quality Act ( 75-5-101, *et seq.*, MCA), regulates the discharge of pollutants into state waters through the adoption of water quality standards and the permit application process. Water quality standards specify what changes in water quality are allowed during the use of state waters and establish a basis for wastewater discharge permitting.

## ANIMAL FEEDING OPERATIONS

### 1. Types of Activities Regulated

Animal feeding operations (AFOs) are areas where animals are kept in confined conditions. Waste from these operations may be discharged to state waters<sup>1</sup> as a result of precipitation or infiltration. Discharges of waste to state waters are regulated by the Montana Water Quality Act. A Montana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (MPDES) permit is generally required from the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) for a concentrated animal feeding operation (CAFO) when the following conditions are met:

The lot or facility meets *both* of the following criteria (see 75-5-801(1)):

- 1) Animals have been, are, or will be stabled or confined and fed or maintained for a total of 45 days or more in a 12-month period; and
- 2) Crops, vegetation, forage growth, or post-harvest residues are not sustained in the normal growing season over any portion of the lot or facility.

*And* the facility meets at least one of the following criteria for a concentrated animal feeding operation:

- 1) The animal confinement numbers and discharge requirements described in 75-5-801, MCA.

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<sup>1</sup> Section 75-5-103(34), MCA, describes a state water as a body of water, irrigation system, or drainage system, either surface or underground. The term does not apply to: ponds or lagoons used solely for treating, transporting, or impounding pollutants or irrigation waters or land application disposal waters when the waters are used up within the irrigation or land application disposal system and the waters are not returned to state waters.

- 2) The facility is designated as a CAFO by the DEQ. Criteria for designation by the DEQ are described in ARM 17.30.1330

Other permits may also be required. See STREAMBEDS, STREAM BANKS, WETLANDS, p. 10 and CONSERVATION DISTRICTS, p. 1.

Statute: 75-5-801 through 75-5-803, MCA

Rule: ARM 17.30.201 through 17.30.1301, *et seq.*

Contact: DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
Permitting and Compliance Division  
*Water Protection Bureau*

## 2. Application Requirements

A CAFO operator applies for a discharge permit by completing *DEQ Form 2B* for concentrated animal feeding operations and a *Nutrient Management Plan* (NMP). The information required in the application includes details on the design and operation of the facility and a map or series of maps. The information required in the NMP includes how animal wastes are handled, removed, and disposed of and how the facility will protect water quality. An environmental review (see MONTANA ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT, p. 130) and other items may also be required as part of the application process. See DISCHARGE PERMITS, next page, for additional information on application requirements and permitting procedures or contact the DEQ, Water Protection Bureau.

## 3. Fees

For a schedule of fees see 75-5-803, MCA.

# DISCHARGE PERMITS

## 1. Types of Activities Regulated

A Montana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (MPDES) permit or a Montana Ground Water Pollution Control System (MGWPCS) permit is required from the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to construct, modify, or operate a disposal system or to construct or use any outlet for discharge of sewage or industrial or other wastes into state surface or ground water. A permit is not required for the discharge of certain wastes under specific circumstances (see ARM 17.30.1022 and 17.30.1310 and 75-5-401(1)(b) and 75-5-401(5), MCA).

Statute: 75-5-101, *et seq.*, MCA (Montana Water Quality Act)

Rule: ARM 17.30.1301, *et seq.* (MPDES permit )  
ARM 17.30.1001, *et seq.* (MGWPCS permit)

Contact: DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
Permitting and Compliance Division  
*Water Protection Bureau*

## 2. **Application Requirements**

### MPDES Permits - General

The DEQ may issue a general MPDES permit to cover all facilities that engage in a general type of activity in a discrete geographical region, or statewide. These categories include, among others, storm water point sources,<sup>1</sup> suction dredge mining operations, and construction dewatering operations. Applications must be submitted 30 days before the initiation of a proposed discharge.

### MPDES Permits - Individual

Individual MPDES permits are required for facility-specific industrial, commercial, or municipal discharges. An application must be filed at least 180 days prior to the operation of a point source. Application information must include plans and specifications, site plans, descriptions of adjacent state waters, soil conditions, ground water characteristics, process and waste flow diagrams, and the volume and nature of projected discharges. Storm water discharges may be incorporated into this application, permitted under a separate individual MPDES permit, or permitted under a general MPDES permit.

### MGWPCS Permits

An application for a Montana Ground Water Pollution Control System (MGWPCS) permit must be filed at least 180 days prior to the operation of a point source. Application information must include a site plan; the location of treatment works and disposal systems; the location of adjacent surface waters; a list of surface owners and lessees, water supply wells and springs, and a description of ground water quality and uses within one mile of the source; and other information that the DEQ considers necessary to process the application.

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<sup>1</sup> A point source is an identifiable point where pollutants are discharged, including pipes, ditches, channels, sewers, and tunnels.

Statute: 75-5-401, *et seq.*, MCA

Rule: ARM 17.30.1023

### 3. **Permitting Procedures**

#### MPDES General Permits

- 1) Within 30 days of receiving a completed application, the DEQ will issue an authorization to operate under a general MPDES permit, or notify the applicant that the source does not qualify, citing one or more of the reasons listed in ARM 17.30.1341(4).
- 2) If an authorization to operate under a general MPDES permit is denied, the DEQ may process the application as an individual MPDES permit, with the receipt of additional fees, unless the application is withdrawn.
- 3) All MPDES permits are issued for a fixed term, not to exceed five years.

#### MPDES Individual and MGWPCS Permits

- 1) Once the application is received, the DEQ must evaluate the information for completeness and notify the applicant if additional information is needed. If a determination has been made to deny the permit, then public notice is required. At least 30 days are provided for written comments from the public regarding the application.
- 2) The DEQ has 60 days to review new permit applications for completeness and 30 days for completeness review of deficiency responses. During the processing of applications, the DEQ also determines discharge limits and the length of mixing zones<sup>1</sup> to ensure water quality standards are met. Hearings must be held in the geographical area of the proposed discharge.
- 3) If the DEQ denies the discharge permit, the applicant may appeal the decision to the Board of Environmental Review (BER). The hearing must be held within 30 days of the receipt of the written request.
- 4) All MPDES permits are issued for a fixed term, not to exceed five years. All MGWPCS permits are issued for a fixed term, not to exceed 10 years.

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<sup>1</sup> Mixing zones are established areas where water quality standards may be exceeded while a discharge is mixed with receiving waters. Applicants must apply to be granted a mixing zone. One is not automatically granted in the permitting action (see ARM 17.30.501, *et seq.*).

Statute: 75-5-403, MCA

Rule: ARM 17.30.1301, *et seq.* and 17.30.1024, *et seq.*

#### 4. Fees

The DEQ assesses fees sufficient to cover the costs of implementing the water quality program. For a schedule of fees see ARM 17.30.201.

Statute: 75-5-516, MCA

Rule: ARM 17.30.201

#### 5. Additional Information

Short-term Exemptions: The DEQ may authorize short-term turbidity standards for construction projects that affect water bodies (318 standards). The DEQ may also authorize short-term exemptions from the water quality standards (308 exemptions) for the purposes of emergency remediation that has been approved, authorized, or required by the DEQ. The DEQ must issue the authorization before the applicant may begin the activity.

Leaching pads, tailing ponds, or water, waste, or product holding facilities must be designed and constructed, operated, and maintained to prevent discharge, seepage, drainage, infiltration, or flow which may result in the pollution of state waters. Plans and specifications for tailings ponds, leaching pads, and holding facilities used in ore processing must be submitted to the DEQ for review and approval at least 180 days prior to the beginning of operations.

Statute: 75-5-308 and 75-5-318, MCA

Rule: ARM 17.30.637

#### 6. Criteria

All discharges of pollutants into state waters authorized by a discharge permit must be consistent with the conditions of the permit. The discharge of pollutants into state waters in excess of the permit's restrictions constitutes a violation of the permit. State waters must be free of discharges that settle to form sludge deposits; create floating debris; produce odors; create toxic concentrations harmful to human, animal, plant, and aquatic life; or create conditions capable of producing undesirable aquatic life. All discharges must meet water quality standards.

## 210 WATER

Rule: ARM 17.30.637, 17.30.1030, and 17.30.1342

### GRAY WATER REUSE PERMIT

#### 1. Types of Activities Regulated

The Montana Legislature authorized the Montana Board of Environmental Review to establish rules to allow the diversion of gray water (generally, wastewater from laundry, dishwashing, and bathing) from wastewater treatment systems and to address when and how gray water may be used.

Statute: 75-5-305, 75-5-317, and 75-5-325 through 75-5-327, MCA

Rule: ARM 17.38.101, 17.36.319, and 17.36.919

Contact: DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
Permitting and Compliance Division  
*Public Water and Subdivisions Bureau*

LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
Health Department

### NONDEGRADATION REVIEW

The state's nondegradation policy outlines three levels of water protection, stipulating what level of degradation, if any, is allowed in each level. For waters classified as *outstanding resource waters* (see p. 212), the DEQ may not grant an authorization to degrade. The state may authorize degradation of *high quality waters* up to but not exceeding water quality standards. For *other waters* not classified as outstanding resource waters or high quality waters, there is no nondegradation review requirement, but water quality standards and discharge permit conditions still apply.

#### 1. Types of Activities Regulated

A person proposing an activity that may degrade *high quality waters* must 1) make a self-determination that the activity is nonsignificant using the standards in ARM 17.30.715 and 17.30.716, 2) receive a determination of nonsignificance from the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) or, 3) if the activity is not within the definition of nonsignificant, petition the DEQ for an authorization to degrade. For all activities that are licensed, permitted, approved or otherwise authorized by the DEQ, the department will make the determination whether the activity may cause degradation.

Statute: 75-5-303 and 75-5-317, MCA  
Rule: ARM 17.30.701-17.30.708, 17.30.715, and 17.30.716  
Contact: DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
Permitting and Compliance Division  
*Water Protection Bureau*

## 2. Application Requirements

If a proposed activity will cause significant degradation of high quality waters and the applicant wishes to continue with the proposed activity, the DEQ will require the applicant to submit information necessary for the department to determine: 1) the degradation is necessary because there are no feasible modifications to the proposed project that would result in no degradation, 2) the proposed project will result in important economic or social development and the benefit of the development exceeds the costs to society of degrading high quality waters, 3) existing and anticipated use of state waters will be fully protected, and 4) the least degrading water quality protection practices determined by the DEQ to be economically, environmentally, and technologically feasible will be fully implemented by the applicant prior to, during, and after the proposed activity.

Statute: 75-5-303, MCA  
Rule: ARM 17.30.706-17.30.708

## 3. Permitting Procedures

- 1) The DEQ must review an Application for Determination of Significance and make its decision on the application within 60 days. If the DEQ determines that the activity will cause degradation, and the applicant wishes to proceed with the activity as planned, then the applicant must complete an application to degrade state waters.
- 2) The DEQ will issue a preliminary decision either authorizing or denying the degradation within 180 days of the receipt of a completed application. This time period may be extended by agreement of the applicant or whenever an Environmental Impact Statement is required to comply with the Montana Environmental Policy Act (see p. 130).

- 3) The DEQ will issue its preliminary decision and provide public notice and a 30 to 60 day comment period. The department will hold a hearing if it determines there is a significant degree of public interest.
- 4) Within 60 days after the close of the public comment period, the DEQ will issue a final decision accompanied by a statement of basis for the decision and, if applicable, a statement of conditions. An interested person<sup>1</sup> wishing to challenge the final decision may request a hearing before the Board of Environmental Review within 30 days of the DEQ's decision.

Statute: 75-5-303, MCA

Rule: ARM 17.30.706-17.30.708

#### 4. **Additional Information**

##### Outstanding Resource Waters

State surface waters located wholly within the boundaries of areas designated as national parks or national wilderness areas as of October 1, 1995, are classified as outstanding resource waters. Other state waters classified as outstanding by the Board of Environmental Review (BER) and approved by the Legislature may receive the designation.

The DEQ may not grant an authorization to degrade waters in this classification or allow a new or increased point source discharge that would result in a permanent change in water quality.

A person may petition the BER to classify waters as outstanding resource waters and the Board will base its determination on specific criteria. If the BER rejects the petition, it will specify in writing the reasons for the rejection and state the petition's deficiencies. If the BER accepts the petition, it will require the completion of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) (see MONTANA ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT, p. 130). The petitioner is responsible for all costs associated with the EIS. The classification is not effective until approved by the Legislature.

The BER may deny an accepted outstanding resource water petition if the criteria for establishing outstanding resource waters have not been met or if, based on the information available to the Board from the EIS or other sources, approving the

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<sup>1</sup> Interested person is defined in statute as the applicant or a person who has a real property, economic, or watered right that is or may be directly and adversely affected by the DEQ's decision, (75-5-103(13), MCA).



outstanding resource waters classification petition would cause significant adverse environmental, social, or economic impacts.

Statute: 75-5-103 and 75-5-315 through 75-5-317, MCA

Rule: ARM 17.30.617, 17.30.638, and 17.30.705

## **WATER POLLUTION: FEDERAL - INDIAN RESERVATIONS**

### **1. Types of Activities Regulated**

Under the federal Clean Water Act, a person who discharges pollutants from a point source into waters of the United States<sup>1</sup> must obtain a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. For information on wastewater permitting within the boundaries of Montana's Indian reservations, contact the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Statute: 33 U.S.C. 1251, *et seq.* (federal Water Pollution Control Act)

Contact: U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
Montana Office, Helena

## **WATER WELLS**

### **1. Types of Activities Regulated**

All wells must be drilled by a water well contractor, water well driller or monitoring well constructor licensed by the Board of Water Well Contractors (BWWC) or by a person who has obtained a permit from the BWWC to drill a well on their own land for agricultural or residential use.

Within 60 days after completion of the well, water well contractors and drillers must file a well log report form with the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology (MBMG). Drillers must provide a location for the well using at least two methods as specified on the report form. Forms may be mailed to the Ground Water Information Center at the MBMG or filed electronically at <http://mbmaggwic.mtech.edu>.

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<sup>1</sup> Waters of the United States includes essentially all surface waters such as all navigable waters and their tributaries, all interstate waters and their tributaries, all wetlands adjacent to these waters, and all impoundments of these waters. (See <http://www.nwo.usace.army.mil/html/od-r/reg-intro.html#Waters>.)

Wells drilled by individuals for private use must conform to the minimum construction standards set by the BWWC. See also WATER APPROPRIATIONS - GROUND WATER, p. 195.

Statute: 37-43-101, *et seq.*, MCA  
85-2-516, MCA

Rule: ARM 36.21.634, *et seq.*

Contact: DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION  
Water Resources Division office in Helena; or local Water Resources  
Regional Offices (see APPENDIX 2)

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION  
BOARD OF WATER WELL CONTRACTORS

MONTANA TECH OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA  
Bureau of Mines and Geology

## 2. **Application Requirements**

A person planning the drilling, making, construction, alteration, or rehabilitation of one or more water or monitoring wells for underground water must file a license application with the BWWC. The application must include verification of one or more years in the water well or monitoring field or equivalent education, experience, or both.

Individuals applying for a permit to drill a well on their own property must show interest in the land on which the well will be constructed and the method of construction to be used. Permits are often issued the same day if the application is complete.

## 3. **Permitting Procedures**

Water well driller and monitoring well constructor license applications are reviewed for completeness by the DNRC. Once the application is reviewed, then an exam may be taken at a DNRC office in Helena or at the Water Resources Division regional offices. A bond or its equivalent must be posted by water well contractors and monitoring well constructors. Licenses are issued when the exam is passed and any required bonds are submitted.

Rule: ARM 36.21.402, *et seq.*

4. **Fees**

A. There is a fee of \$125 for filing a Notice of Completion of Ground Water Development.

B. Driller's license application and license renewal fees are:

<b>Category</b>	<b>Application Fee</b>	<b>Renewal Fee</b>	<b>Dates Valid</b>
Water Well Contractor	\$300	\$270	July 1 - June 30
Water Well Driller	\$250	\$170	July 1 - June 30
Monitoring Well Constructor	\$300	\$270	July 1 - June 30

C. There is no fee for filing the well log report form. There is no licensing fee for drilling a well on one's own property.

Statute: 37-43-307, MCA

Rule: ARM 36.12.103 and 36.21.415

# WEATHER MODIFICATION

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## 1. Types of Activities Regulated

A license and permit from the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) are required to engage in weather modification and control activities. License and permit forms are available from the department.

Statute: 85-3-101 through 85-3-401, MCA

Rule: ARM 36.20.102-36.20.401

Contact: DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION  
Water Resources Division  
*Water Management Bureau*

## 2. Application Requirements

### A. License

An applicant for a weather modification license must demonstrate competence in the field of meteorology and complete an application form available from the Water Resources Division of the DNRC. A license expires at the end of the calendar year. Qualified licensees may apply for a renewal.

### B. Permit

A person holding a valid weather modification license must receive a permit before engaging in actual weather modification and control activities. Separate permits are required for each operation. A permit applicant must also file a notice of intention. The notice must include the applicant's name and address; the nature, purpose, and objective of the intended operation and the person or organization on whose behalf the operation will be conducted; the approximate time during which the operation will be conducted; the area affected; and the materials and methods that will be used. The DNRC must publish the notice at least once a week for two consecutive weeks in a newspaper having general circulation in the affected county(ies).

Statute: 85-3-201 through 85-3-210, MCA

### 3. **Permitting Procedures**

#### A. License

Information provided in the license applications is corroborated by the DNRC. The DNRC then approves or denies the application based upon the statutory criteria.

#### B. Permit

Permit applications must be submitted at least 180 days prior to the date the weather modification operation is scheduled to begin. If the operation is new, the applicant is advised to consult with the DNRC prior to submitting a permit application. Once received, the application is evaluated, and an Environmental Impact Statement (see MONTANA ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT, p. 130) must be prepared by the DNRC. A hearing may be required at the applicant's expense. The DNRC may approve, approve with conditions, or reject an application based on the criteria described below.

Statute: 85-3-206, MCA

Rule: ARM 36.20.301

### 4. **Fees**

- A. The fee for a license or license renewal to conduct weather modification operations is \$100.
- B. The fee for a permit to conduct weather modification operations is one percent of the estimated cost of the operation.
- C. The applicant must reimburse the DNRC for all costs associated with any public meetings or hearings, preparing the report, and preparing the EIS.

Statute: 85-3-202(1), 85-3-205, 85-3-206(2d), and 85-3-212, MCA

### 5. **Criteria**

#### A. License

Competence in the field of weather modification and meteorology must be demonstrated by the applicant's experience and education or certification by a nationally recognized weather modification professional society, agency, or

organization. A minimum of one year of experience in management and control of a weather modification operation is required.

B. Permit

The following approval criteria must be met.

- 1) the person in charge is licensed to conduct weather modification activities in Montana;
- 2) the project has been properly noticed;
- 3) the project has been insured in a manner that would protect victims of any unintended weather modification results;
- 4) the fees have been or will be paid, in accordance with the statute; and
- 5) the project is determined by the DNRC to be for the general welfare and public good.

Statute: 85-3-206, MCA

**6. Additional Information**

On petition of county residents, a county may establish a weather modification authority to engage in weather modification activities.

Statute: 85-3-401, *et seq.*, MCA

# APPENDIX 1: MONTANA STATE AGENCIES

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## DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION

Director, Sheila Hogan  
Mitchell Building  
125 N. Roberts St.  
P.O. Box 200101  
Helena, MT 59620-0101  
(406) 444-2032  
<http://doa.mt.gov>

### **Burial Preservation Board**

Chief Legal Counsel, Michael P. Manion  
P.O. Box 200101  
(406) 444-3310  
[mmanion@mt.gov](mailto:mmanion@mt.gov)

*Human skeletal remains and burial materials*

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Director, Ron de Yong  
Agriculture and Livestock Building  
302 N. Roberts St.  
P.O. Box 200201  
Helena, MT 59620-0201  
(406) 444-3144  
<http://agr.mt.gov>

### **Agricultural Sciences Division**

Administrator, Greg Ames  
(406) 444-2944  
[games@mt.gov](mailto:games@mt.gov)

*Aerial pesticide applications*  
*Agricultural seed dealers, cleaners, and labelers*  
*Anhydrous ammonia dealers*  
*Beekeeping*  
*Fertilizer registration and distribution*  
*Noxious weed free forage*

*Nurseries*  
*Organic certification*  
*Pesticide applicators*  
*Pesticide registration*  
*Plant exportation*

**Agricultural Development Division**

Administrator, Joel Clairmont  
(406) 444-5406  
jclairmont@mt.gov

*Natural beef cattle certification*

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

Director, Meg O'Leary  
301 S. Park Ave.  
P.O. Box 200501  
Helena, MT 59620-0501  
(406) 841-2700  
<http://commerce.mt.gov>

**Community Development Division**

Administrator, Kelly Lynch  
301 S. Park Ave.  
P.O. Box 200523  
Helena, MT 59620-0523  
(406) 841-2770

**Hard-Rock Mining Impact Board**

Administrative Specialist, Aaron Pratt  
(406) 841-2789  
apratt@mt.gov

*Hard-rock mining, community impact*

**Community Technical Assistance Program**

Program Manager, Allison Mouch  
(406) 841-2598  
amouch@mt.gov

*Subdivisions (general information)*



**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**

Director, Tracy Stone-Manning  
1520 E. 6th Ave.  
P.O. Box 200901  
Helena, MT 59620-0901  
(406) 444-2544  
<http://deq.mt.gov>

**Director's Office**

Director, Tracy Stone-Manning  
(406) 444-2544

*Community Right to Know*

**Permitting and Compliance Division**

Administrator, John DeArment  
1520 E. 6th Ave.  
P.O. Box 200901  
(406) 444-0496  
[jdearment@mt.gov](mailto:jdearment@mt.gov)

**Air Resources Management Bureau**

Chief, Dave Klemp  
Ph: (406) 444-0286  
[dklemp@mt.gov](mailto:dklemp@mt.gov)

*Air quality permits  
Burning permits  
Incinerators*

**Environmental Management Bureau**

Chief, Warren McCullough  
(406) 444-6791  
[wmccoullough@mt.gov](mailto:wmccoullough@mt.gov)

*Hard-rock mining  
Major Facility Siting Act  
Milling/reprocessing  
Pipelines  
Small miner exemption  
Wind energy (for general information)*

**Industrial and Energy Minerals Bureau**

Chief, Ed Coleman  
2001 11th Ave.  
(406) 444-4973  
ecoleman@mt.gov

*Coal mining*  
*Gravel pits/opencut mining*  
*In situ coal gasification*

**Public Water and Subdivisions Bureau**

Chief, Jon Dilliard  
(406) 444-2409  
jdilliard@mt.gov

*Gray water reuse permits*  
*Public sewer systems*  
*Public water supplies*  
*Subdivisions, sanitary restrictions*

**Waste and Underground Tank Management Bureau**

Chief, Ed Thamke  
(406) 444-6748  
ethamke@mt.gov

*Asbestos control*  
*Landfills*  
*Hazardous and medical waste incinerators*  
*Hazardous waste*  
*Methamphetamine labs - cleanup of illegal labs*  
*Motor vehicle wrecking facilities*  
*Roadside junkyards*  
*Solid waste*  
*Septic tank, cesspool, and privy cleaning*  
*Underground storage tanks*

**Water Protection Bureau**

Chief, Jon Kenning  
(406) 444-0420  
jkenning@mt.gov

*308 and 318 authorizations*  
*401 permitting*  
*Animal confinement facilities*  
*Discharge permits*

*Feedlots*  
*Nondegradation review*  
*Oil and gas wells*  
*Outstanding resource waters*  
*Storm water permits*  
*Water pollution discharge permits*

**Planning, Prevention and Assistance Division**

Administrator, George Mathieus  
1520 E. 6th Ave.  
(406) 444-7423  
gemathieus@mt.gov

**Energy and Pollution Prevention Bureau**  
1520 E. 6th Ave.  
(406) 444-6697

*Air quality monitoring*  
*Energy planning and technical assistance*  
*Public buildings and renewable energy*  
*Radon control*

**Technical and Financial Assistance Bureau**

Chief, Todd Teegarden  
1520 E. 6th Ave.  
(406) 444-5324  
tteegarden@mt.gov

*Drinking water revolving fund*  
*Source water protection*  
*Water pollution control revolving fund*  
*Wellhead protection*  
*Wetland program*

**Water Quality Planning Bureau**

Acting Chief, Michael Pipp  
1520 E. 6th Ave.  
(406) 444-2680

*Water data management*  
*Watershed management*  
*Water quality monitoring and standards*

**Remediation Division**

Administrator, Jenny Chambers  
1100 N. Last Chance Gulch  
P.O. Box 200901  
(406) 841-5001  
jchambers@mt.gov

**Hazardous Waste Site Cleanup Bureau**

Chief, Mike Trombetta  
(406) 841-5045  
mtrombetta@mt.gov

*Contaminated site cleanup  
Leaking underground storage tanks  
Petroleum releases  
Site response*

**Abandoned Mines Lands**

Supervisor, Autumn Coleman  
(406) 841-5026  
acoleman@mt.gov

*Abandoned mine waste cleanup*

**Federal Superfund Bureau**

Chief, Tom Stoops  
(406) 851-5035  
tstoops@mt.gov

Superfund hotline (800) 246-8798

*Superfund*

**ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COUNCIL**

Legislative Branch, Legislative Environmental Policy Office  
Legislative Environmental Analyst, Joe Kolman  
State Capitol, Room 171  
P.O. Box 201704  
Helena, MT 59620  
(406) 444-3742  
<http://leg.mt.gov/eqc>

MEPA  
*Environmental Assessments*  
*Environmental Impact Statements*

**DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS**

Director, Jeff Hagener  
1420 E. 6th Ave.  
P.O. Box 200701  
Helena, MT 59620  
(406) 444-3186  
<http://fwp.mt.gov>

*Fish farms or hatcheries*  
*Registration of experimental use pesticides*  
*Recreational use of rivers*  
*Smith River float permits*

**Chief of Administration**

Sue Daly  
(406) 444-3107  
[sdaly@mt.gov](mailto:sdaly@mt.gov)

**Licensing Bureau**

Hank Worsch  
(406) 444-2663  
[hworsch@mt.gov](mailto:hworsch@mt.gov)

*Fish, hunting, and trapping licenses and regulations*

**Chief of Staff**

Mike Volesky  
(406) 444-4600  
[mvolesky@mt.gov](mailto:mvolesky@mt.gov)

**Enforcement Division**

Chief of Law Enforcement, Jim Kropp  
(406) 444-5657  
[jkropp@mt.gov](mailto:jkropp@mt.gov)

*Aerial herding permit*  
*Alternative livestock ranches*  
*Avicultural permit*  
*Boating (for general information)*

*Captive breeding of raptors*  
*Commercial use of Fish, Wildlife and Parks lands*  
*Controlled exotic species permit*  
*Falconry permit*  
*Field trial permit*  
*Fishing, hunting, trapping regulations*  
*Fur dealers*  
*Game bird or fur farms*  
*Game farms*  
*Ice fishing shelters*  
*Killing upland game birds in dog training*  
*Migratory birds*  
*Off-highway vehicles (for general information)*  
*Possessing live upland game birds*  
*Possessing wild animals*  
*Releasing ring-necked pheasants*  
*Roadside menageries*  
*Shooting preserves, shooting preserve bird tags*  
*Snowmobiles (for general information)*  
*Taxidermy*  
*Trapping*  
*Using captive-reared birds in dog training*  
*Using captive-reared game birds in falconry training*  
*Wild animal menageries*  
*Zoos*

**Fisheries Division**

Administrator, Bruce Rich  
(406) 444-3183  
brich@mt.gov

*Commercial fishing or seining*  
*Commercial pond license*  
*Fish ponds*  
*Fishing derbies*  
*Importation of fish or fish eggs*  
*Nongame and endangered fish species*  
*Private pond license*  
*River recreation*  
*Salmon eggs*  
*Scientific collectors permit (fish)*  
*Seining*  
*Streambed protection*

**Wildlife Division**

Administrator, Ken McDonald  
(406) 444-5645  
kcdonald@mt.gov

*Baits on FWP lands*  
*Game preserves*  
*Importation or introduction of wildlife*  
*Nongame and endangered wildlife species*  
*Scientific collectors permit (wildlife)*  
*Use of poison bait on FWP lands*  
*Wild bird permits*

**Parks Division**

Administrator, Chas Van Genderen  
(406) 444-3750  
cvangenderen@mt.gov

*Commercial use of Fish, Wildlife and Parks lands*  
*Restricted use permit*  
*State fishing access site permit*  
*State parks*

**Field Operations**

Assistant Administrator, Roger Semler  
1400 8th Ave.  
(406) 444-3756  
rsemler@mt.gov

*Conservation easements*  
*Habitat preservation*

**MONTANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Director, Bruce Whittenberg  
225 N. Roberts St.  
P.O. Box 201201  
Helena, MT 59620-1201  
Ph: (406) 444-5485  
<http://mhs.mt.gov>

**State Historic Preservation Office**

Stan Wilmoth, State Archeologist  
1410 8th Ave.  
P.O. Box 201202  
(406) 444-7719  
swilmoth@mt.gov

*Antiquities permits*  
*Burial site preservation*  
*Heritage site preservation*

**DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**

Attorney General, Tim Fox  
215 N. Sanders St., 3rd Floor  
P.O. Box 201401  
Helena, MT 59620  
(406) 444-2026  
<http://doj.mt.gov>

**Division of Criminal Investigation**

Administrator, Bryan Lockerby  
2225 11th Ave.  
P.O. Box 201417  
(406) 444-3874  
contactdci@mt.gov

**Fire Prevention and Investigation Section**

State Fire Marshall, Allen Lorenz  
P.O. Box 201415  
(406) 444-2050  
alorenz@mt.gov

*Aboveground storage tanks*

**Motor Vehicle Division**

Administrator, Brenda Nordlund  
303 N. Roberts St., Scott Hart Building  
P.O. Box 201430  
(406) 444-3933  
bnordlund@mt.gov



**Title and Registration Bureau**

Chief, Joann Loehr  
1003 Buckskin Dr.  
Deer Lodge, MT 59722  
(406) 846-6000  
jloehr@mt.gov

*Boat registration*  
*Motor vehicle wrecking facility quarterly reports*  
*Off-highway vehicle registration*  
*Snowmobile registration*

**DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY**

Commissioner, Pam Bucy  
1327 Lockey, Walt Sullivan Building  
P.O. Box 1728  
Helena, MT 59624  
(406) 444-9091  
<http://dli.mt.gov>

**Business Standards Division**

Acting Administrator, Adam de Yong  
301 S. Park Ave.  
P.O. Box 200517  
Helena, MT 59620  
(406) 841-2243  
adeyong2@mt.gov

**Building Standards Section**

Chief, David Cook  
(406) 841-2053  
dcook@mt.gov

*Building codes*

**Business and Occupational Licensing Bureau**

Chief, Jeannie Worsch  
(406) 841-2302  
jworsch@mt.gov

Board of Outfitters and Guides  
Executive Officer, Steve Gallus

301 S. Park Ave., 4th Floor  
P.O. Box 200513  
(406) 841-2370  
dlibsout@mt.gov

*Outfitters and guides*

Board of Realty Regulation  
Executive Officer, Marilyn Willson  
(406) 841-2320  
dlibsdrre@mt.gov

*Radon disclosure statements (general information)*

**Employment Relations Division**

Administrator, Diana Ferriter  
1805 Prospect Ave.  
P.O. Box 8011  
(406) 444-1574  
diferriter@mt.gov

**Safety and Health Bureau**

Chief, Bryan Page  
1625 11th Ave.  
P.O. Box 1728  
(406) 444-1605  
bpage@mt.gov

*Coal mining safety regulations*  
*Hard-rock mining safety regulations*  
*Health and safety - public buildings*  
*Opencut mining safety regulations*

**DEPARTMENT OF LIVESTOCK**

Executive Officer, Christian MacKay  
Scott Hart Building, 3rd Floor  
301 N. Roberts St.  
P.O. 202001  
Helena, MT 59620  
(406) 444-7323  
<http://mt.gov/liv/>

**Meat and Poultry Inspection Bureau**

Chief, Gary Hamel  
(406) 444-5293  
ghamel@mt.gov

*Slaughterhouses and meatpacking plants*

**Milk and Egg Bureau**

Chief, Dan Turcotte  
(406) 444-2043  
dturcotte@imt.net

*Dairies*

**Animal Health Division**

Administrator/State Veterinarian, Dr. Martin Zaluski  
(406) 444-2043  
mzaluski@mt.gov

*Animal health  
Importation of livestock*

**Brands Enforcement Division**

Administrator, John Grainger  
Scott Hart Building, Second Floor  
(406) 444-2045  
jgrainger@mt.gov

*Livestock inspection  
Predator control*

**DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION**

Director, John Tubbs  
USF&G Building  
1625 11th Ave.  
P.O. Box 201601  
Helena, MT 59620  
Ph: (406) 444-2074  
<http://dnrc.mt.gov>

**Conservation and Resource Development Division**

Administrator, Ray Beck  
(406) 444-6671  
rbeck@mt.gov

**Conservation Districts Bureau**

Chief, Laurie Zeller  
(406) 444-6669  
lzeller@mt.gov

*Conservation districts  
Stream banks, stream beds*

**Forestry Division**

Administrator, Bob Harrington  
2705 Spurgin Rd.  
Missoula, MT 59804  
Ph: (406) 542-4301  
rharrington@mt.gov

**Fire and Aviation Management Bureau**

Chief, Ted Mead  
(406) 542-4304  
tmead@mt.gov

*Burning permits*

**Forestry Assistance Bureau**

Chief, Paula Short  
(406) 542-4303  
paulashort@mt.gov

*Best Management Practices  
Hazard reduction  
Slash disposal  
Streamside management zones*

**Oil and Gas Conservation Division**

Administrative Officer, VACANT  
1625 11th Ave.  
(406) 444-6675

See also APPENDIX 2: State agency regional offices

*Geophysical exploration  
Oil, gas, and coal bed methane development*

**Trust Land Management Division**

Administrator, Shawn Thomas  
(406) 444-4978  
sthomas@mt.gov

**Agriculture and Grazing Management Bureau**

Chief, Kevin Chappell  
(406) 444-3847  
kchappell@mt.gov

*Cropland leases on state land  
Grazing leases on state land*

**Forest Management Bureau**

Chief, Sonya Germann  
2705 Spurgin Rd.  
(406) 542-4300  
sgermann@mt.gov

*Contract timber harvesting  
Timber conservation license  
Timber removal  
Timber sales*

**Minerals Management Bureau**

Chief, Monte Mason  
USF&G Building  
(406) 444-3843  
mmason@mt.gov

*Mineral leases on state land  
Underground storage of natural gas*

**Real Estate Management Bureau**

Chief, John Grimm  
USF&G Building  
(406) 444-3844  
jgrimm@mt.gov

*Cabin leases*  
*Easements on state land*  
*Exchanges of state land*  
*Hydroelectric sites*  
*Leases of state land*  
*Land use licenses*  
*Navigable waters*  
*Recreational use licenses*  
*Sales of state land*

**Water Resources Division**

Administrator, Tim Davis  
1424 9th Ave.  
(406) 444-6601  
timdavis@mt.gov

**State Water Projects Bureau**

Chief, Kevin Smith  
(406) 444-2932  
ksmith@mt.gov

*State water projects - canals, dams, hydropower*

**Water Management Bureau**

Chief, Paul Azevedo  
(406) 444-6635  
pazevedo@mt.gov

*Water planning*  
*Weather modification*

**Water Operations Bureau**

Chief, Laurence Siroky  
(406) 444-6816  
lsiroky@mt.gov

*Dams safety program*  
*Floodplain regulation*  
*Lakeshores*  
*Water measurement program*  
*Water well construction standards*

**Water Rights Bureau**

Chief, Millie Heffner  
(406) 444-6631  
mheffner@mt.gov

*Closed basins*  
*Coal bed methane water use*  
*Controlled ground water areas*  
*Water rights*

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

Director, Richard Opper  
111 N. Sanders St.  
P.O. Box 4210  
Helena, MT 59604  
(406) 444-5622  
<http://dphhs.mt.gov>

**Public Health and Safety Division**

Administrator, Todd Harwell  
Cogswell Building, 1400 Broadway  
P.O. Box 202951  
(406) 444-4141

**Communicable Disease Control and Prevention Bureau**

Chief, Jim Murphy  
(406) 444-4016  
jmurphy@mt.gov

Communicable Disease and Epidemiology Section  
Supervisor, Karl Milhon  
(406) 444-0921  
kmilhon@mt.gov

*Possession of wild animals*

Food and Consumer Safety Section  
Acting Supervisor, Jim Murphy  
(406) 444-5055  
jmurphy@@mt.gov

*Trailer courts, camp grounds, work, and youth camps*

**Quality Assurance Division**

Interim Administrator, Roy Kemp  
2401 Colonial Dr.  
(406) 444-2868  
rkemp@mt.gov

**Licensure Bureau**

Chief, Becky Fleming-Siebenaler  
(406) 444-7770  
bfleming@mt.gov

*Radiation control  
Radioactive waste disposal*

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

Chair, Bill Gallagher  
1701 Prospect Ave., Vista Square Building  
P.O. Box 202601  
Helena, MT 59620  
Ph: (406) 444-6199  
<http://psc.mt.gov>

**Regulatory Division**

Administrator, Kate Whitney  
(406) 444-3056  
kwhitney@mt.gov

*Motor carrier regulation  
Natural gas suppliers  
Pipelines  
Utilities*

**SECRETARY OF STATE**

Linda McCulloch  
1301 E. 6th Ave.  
State Capitol, Room 260  
P.O. Box 202801  
Helena, MT 59620  
Ph: (406) 444-2034  
<http://sos.mt.gov>



Business Services Bureau  
Deputy, Tana Gormely  
(406) 444-2896  
sosbusiness@mt.gov

*Certificate of authority (oil and gas)*  
*Surety bonds*

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

Director, Mike Tooley  
2701 Prospect Ave.  
P.O. Box 201001  
Helena, MT 59620-1001  
(406) 444-6201  
<http://mdt.mt.gov>

**Aeronautics Division**

Administrator, Debbie Alke  
2630 Airport Rd.  
P.O. Box 200507  
(406) 444-9569  
dalke@mt.gov

*Aerial pesticide application*

**Engineering Division**

Administrator, Dwane Kailey  
2701 Prospect Ave.  
(406) 444-6414  
dkailey@mt.gov

**Right-of-Way Bureau**

Chief, Rob Stapley  
(406) 444-6063  
rostapley@mt.gov

*Easements, encroachments*  
*Highway advertising*  
*Roadside junkyards*

**Maintenance Division**

Administrator, Jon Swartz  
2701 Prospect Ave.  
(406) 444-6158  
joswartz@mt.gov

**Area Maintenance Bureaus**  
(see APPENDIX 2)

*Approach permits*  
*Utility permits*

**Motor Carrier Services Division**

Administrator, Duane Williams  
2701 Prospect Ave.  
(406) 444-7312  
duwilliams@mt.gov

*Motor carrier regulation, interstate*  
*Over size and weight permits*

## APPENDIX 2: STATE AGENCY REGIONAL OFFICES

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### DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

- Billings: 321 S. 24th St. West  
Billings, MT 59102  
(406) 652-1917 or 652-3616
- Bozeman: 2273 Boothill Court, Suite 120  
Bozeman, MT 59715  
(406) 587-9067 or 556-4535
- Conrad: 300 N. Virginia St., Suite 302  
Conrad, MT 59425  
(406) 278-9120
- Forsyth: 270 S. Prospect  
Forsyth, MT 59327  
(406) 346-5483
- Glasgow: 605 2nd Ave. South, Room 204A  
Glasgow, MT 59230  
(406) 228-9510 or 228-8012
- Great Falls: 201 1st Street South, Suite 4  
Great Falls, MT 59401  
(406) 761-0655 or (406) 761-1926
- Kalispell 275 Corporate Dr., Suite 800  
Kalispell, MT 59901  
(406) 257-9019
- Missoula: 2681 Palmer St., Suite G  
Missoula, MT 59808  
(406) 329-1345 or 329-1346

## **DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**

Billings: Airport Industrial Park IP-9  
1371 Rimtop Dr.  
Billings, MT 59105-9702  
(406) 247-4445

Butte: Air Resources  
49 N. Main  
Butte, MT 59701  
(406) 782-2689

Kalispell: 655 Timberwolf Parkway, Suite 3  
Kalispell, MT 59901-1215  
(406) 755-8985

Miles City: (406) 247-4445

Missoula: 301 W. Alder  
Missoula, MT 59802  
Air Quality Office (406) 523-4907  
Subdivision Review Office (406) 258-3720

## **DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS**

Billings: Region 5  
2300 Lake Elmo Dr.  
Billings, MT 59105  
(406) 247-2940  
fwprg52@mt.gov

Bozeman: Region 3  
1400 S. 19th  
Bozeman, MT 59718  
(406) 994-4042  
fwprg3@mt.gov

Glasgow: Region 6  
54078 U.S. Hwy 2 West  
Glasgow, MT 59230  
(406) 228-3700  
fwprg62@mt.gov

Great Falls: Region 4  
4600 Giant Springs Rd.  
Great Falls, MT 59405  
(406) 454-5840  
fwprg42@mt.gov

Kalispell: Region 1  
490 N. Meridian Rd.  
Kalispell, MT 59901  
(406) 752-5501  
fwprg12@mt.gov

Miles City: Region 7  
352 I-94 Business Loop  
Miles City, MT 59301  
(406) 234-0900  
fwprg72@mt.gov

Missoula: Region 2  
3201 Spurgin Rd.  
Missoula, MT 59804  
(406) 542-5500  
fwprg22@mt.gov

## **DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION**

### **OIL AND GAS CONSERVATION DIVISION FIELD OFFICES**

Billings: Division Headquarters Office  
2535 St. Johns Ave.  
Billings, MT 59102  
(406) 656-0040

Helena: Board of Oil and Gas Conservation  
1625 11th Ave.  
P.O. Box 201601  
Helena, MT 59620-1601  
(406) 444-6675

Miles City: 903 Cale Avenue  
Miles City, MT 59301  
(406) 234-5420

Plentywood: 32 LaMigra  
Plentywood, MT 59254  
(406) 765-2574

Shelby: 165 Main St.  
P.O. Box 690  
Shelby, MT 59474-0690  
(406) 434-2422

Sidney: 618 5th Ave. SE  
Sidney, MT 59270  
(406) 433-2098

## **FORESTRY AND TRUST LAND MANAGEMENT FIELD OFFICES**

Billings: Southern Land Office  
Airport Industrial Park  
1371 Rimtop Dr.  
Billings, MT 59105  
(406) 247-4400

Helena: Central Land Office  
8001 N. Montana Ave.  
Helena, MT 59602  
(406) 458-3506

Kalispell: Northwestern Land Office  
655 Timberwolf Parkway, Suite 1  
Kalispell, MT 59901-1225  
(406) 751-2240

Lewistown: Northeastern Land Office  
USDA Building  
613 N. E. Main St.  
P.O. Box 1021  
Lewistown, MT 59457-1021  
(406) 538-7789

Miles City: Eastern Land Office  
321 Main St.  
Miles City, MT 59301  
(406) 232-2034

Missoula: Southwestern Land Office  
1401 27th Ave.  
Missoula, MT 59804  
(406) 542-4200

## **WATER RESOURCES DIVISION REGIONAL OFFICES**

Billings: Airport Industrial Park  
1371 Rimtop Dr.  
Billings, MT 59105-1978  
(406) 247-4415

Bozeman: 2273 Boothill Ct., Suite 110  
Bozeman, MT 59715  
(406) 586-3136

Glasgow: 222 Sixth St. South  
P.O. Box 1269  
Glasgow, MT 59230-1269  
(406) 228-2561

Havre: 210 Sixth Ave.  
P.O. Box 1828  
Havre, MT 59501-1828  
(406) 265-5516

Helena: 1424 9th Ave.  
P.O. Box 201601  
Helena, MT 59620-1601  
(406) 444-6637

Kalispell: 655 Timberwolf Parkway, Suite 4  
Kalispell, MT 59901-1215  
(406) 752-2288

Lewistown: 613 N. E. Main St., Suite E  
Lewistown, MT 59457-2020  
(406) 538-7459

Missoula: 2705 Spurgin Rd., Building C  
P.O. Box 5004  
Missoula, MT 59806-5004  
(406) 721-4284

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
DISTRICT OFFICES**

Billings: District 5  
424 Morey  
P.O. Box 20437  
Billings, Mt 59104-0437  
(406) 252-4138

Butte: District 2  
3751 Wynne  
P.O. Box 3068  
Butte, MT 59702-3068  
(406) 494-9600

Glendive: District 4  
503 N. River Ave.  
P.O. Box 890  
Glendive, MT 59330-0890  
(406) 345-8200

Great Falls: District 3  
200 Smelter Ave. NE  
P.O. Box 1359  
Great Falls, MT 59403-1359  
(406) 454-5880

Missoula: District 1  
2100 W. Broadway  
P.O. Box 7039  
Missoula, MT 59807-7039  
(406) 523-5800



## APPENDIX 3: LOCAL PERMITTING AUTHORITIES

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### CONSERVATION and GRAZING DISTRICT SUPERVISORS

For forms and a statewide list of conservation or grazing districts:

Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation  
Conservation and Resource Development Division  
Administrator, Ray Beck  
(406) 444-6671  
<http://dnrc.mt.gov/cardd/consdist/default.asp>

*Activities that affect stream banks or beds on private land (310 permit)*  
*Grazing*

### DISTRICT COURT

<http://courts.mt.gov/dcourt/default.mcp>

*Mining right-of-way*  
*Relocation of overhead lines for the purposes of installing an agricultural improvement*

### LOCAL GOVERNING BODIES: CITY OR TOWN COUNCILS OR BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

For general city or county information:

**Montana League of Cities and Towns**  
208 N. Montana Ave., Suite 201  
P.O. Box 1704  
Helena, Montana 59624-1704  
(406) 442-8768  
<http://mlct.org/>

**Montana Association of Counties**  
2715 Skyway Dr.  
Helena, MT 59602-1213  
(406) 449-4360  
<http://maco.cog.mt.us/>

*Air quality permits for cities that administer their own programs*  
*Building codes*  
*Burning permits*  
*Encroachments on county roads*  
*Floodway regulation*  
*Geophysical exploration*  
*Improvement districts*

*Lakeshore protection*  
*Large scale mining developments*  
*Licensing boats, off-highway vehicles or snowmobiles*  
*Mains, water, and sewer*  
*Overhead lines*  
*Pipelines in public streets and alleys*  
*Recording mining claims*  
*Stream preservation*  
*Subdivision plat approval*  
*Timber removal on county property*  
*Underground excavations*  
*Utility extensions*  
*Zoning*

## **LOCAL HEALTH OFFICIALS**

*Campgrounds*  
*Dairies*  
*Food service establishments*  
*Gray water permits*  
*Septic tanks, cesspools, and privies*  
*Solid waste disposal facilities*  
*Subdivisions, sanitary restrictions*  
*Tourist campgrounds*  
*Trailer courts*

## APPENDIX 4: FEDERAL AGENCIES

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### U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOREST SERVICE

#### Northern Region

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/>  
200 E. Broadway  
P.O. Box 7669  
Missoula, MT 59807  
(406) 329-3511

*Activities on Forest Service land  
burning permits, grazing leases, mining*

### U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

<http://www.nwo.usace.army.mil/html/od-rmt/mthome.htm>

Helena: Montana Regulatory Program  
Federal Building  
10 West 15th St., Suite 2200  
Helena, MT 59626  
(406) 441-1375 Fax: (406) 441-1380  
[todd.n.tillinger@usace.army.mil](mailto:todd.n.tillinger@usace.army.mil)

Billings: 1629 Avenue D  
P.O. Box 2256  
Billings, MT 59103  
(406) 657-5910

*Dams and reservoirs  
Stream preservation, wetlands*

### U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

<http://mt.blm.gov>

Billings: 5001 Southgate Dr.  
Billings, MT 59101  
(406) 896-5013

Butte: 106 N. Parkmont Ave.  
Butte, MT 59702  
(406) 533-7600

Dillon: 1005 Selway Dr.  
Dillon, MT 59725  
(406) 683-8000

Glasgow: 5 Lasar Dr.  
Glasgow, MT 59230  
(406) 228-3750

Great Falls: 1101 15th Street North  
Great Falls, MT 59401  
(406) 791-7000

Havre: 3990 Highway 2 West  
Havre, MT 59501  
(406) 262-2820

Lewistown: 920 N. E. Main St.  
Lewistown, MT 59457  
(406) 538-1900

Malta: 501 South 2nd St. East  
Malta, MT 59538  
(406) 654-5100

Miles City: 111 Garryowen Rd.  
Miles City, MT 59301-0940  
(406) 233-2800

Missoula: 3255 Fort Missoula Rd.  
Missoula, MT 59804  
(406) 329-3914

*Grazing leases  
Mine claim recording*

**U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE**

<http://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/>

Billings: 2900 4th Ave. N., Room 104  
Billings, MT 59101-1266  
(406) 247-7366

Helena: 585 Shepard Way, Suite 1  
Helena, MT 59601  
(406) 449-5225

Kalispell: 780 Creston Hatchery Rd.  
Kalispell, MT 59901  
(406) 758-6868

*Migratory birds*  
*Threatened and endangered species*  
*Wind energy*

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR**  
**OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION**  
<http://www.osha.gov/osmdir/mt.html>

2900 4th Ave. N., Suite 303  
Billings, MT 59101  
(406) 247-7494

*Indoor emissions*  
*Occupational noise*

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**  
**FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION**  
[http://www.faa.gov/airports/northwest\\_mountain/about\\_airports/contact\\_information/helena/](http://www.faa.gov/airports/northwest_mountain/about_airports/contact_information/helena/)  
Northwest Mountain Region  
Regional Administrator  
2725 Skyway Dr., Suite 2  
Helena, MT 59602-1213  
(406) 449-5271

*airport areas*

**U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

<http://www.epa.gov/aboutepa/region8.html>

Helena:       Region 8, Montana Office  
                  10 West 15th St., Suite 3200  
                  Helena, MT 59626  
                  (406) 457-5025  
                  (866) 457-2690

*Activities on tribal lands*  
*NPDES Permits*  
*Pesticide registration*

Denver:       U.S. EPA Region 8  
                  80C-EISC  
                  1595 Wynkoop St.  
                  Denver, CO 80202  
                  (303) 312-6312  
                  (800) 227-8917  
                  r8eisc@epa.gov

*Radon information*  
*Underground injection wells*

**U.S. FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION**

<http://www.ferc.gov/contact-us/tel-num/regional/portland.asp>

**Regional Office**

805 S. W. Broadway  
Fox Tower - Suite 550  
Portland, OR 97205  
(503) 552-2715

*Hydroelectric sites*

## APPENDIX 5: TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS

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### **BLACKFEET TRIBE**

<http://blackfeetnation.com>  
1 All Chiefs Square  
P.O. Box 850  
Browning, MT 59417  
(406) 338-7521

### **CHIPPEWA-CREE TRIBE**

<http://www.chippewacree.org/>  
Box 544  
Box Elder, MT 59521  
(406) 395-5705

### **CONFEDERATED SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES**

<http://cskt.org/>  
42487 Complex Blvd.  
P.O. Box 278  
Pablo, MT 59855  
(406) 675-2700

### **CROW TRIBE**

<http://www.crowtribe.com/>  
Bacheeitchche Avenue  
P.O. Box 159  
Crow Agency, Montana 59022  
(406) 638-3708

### **FORT BELKNAP TRIBE**

<http://ftbelknap.org/>  
Fort Belknap Indian Community  
656 Agency Main Street  
Harlem, MT 59526  
(406) 353-2205

### **FORT PECK TRIBES**

<http://fortpecktribes.org>  
501 Medicine Bear Rd.  
P.O. Box 1027  
Poplar, MT 59255  
(406) 768-2300

**NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBE**

<http://cheyennenation.com/>

600 Cheyenne Avenue

P.O. Box 128

Lame Deer, MT 59043-0128

(406) 477-6284



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