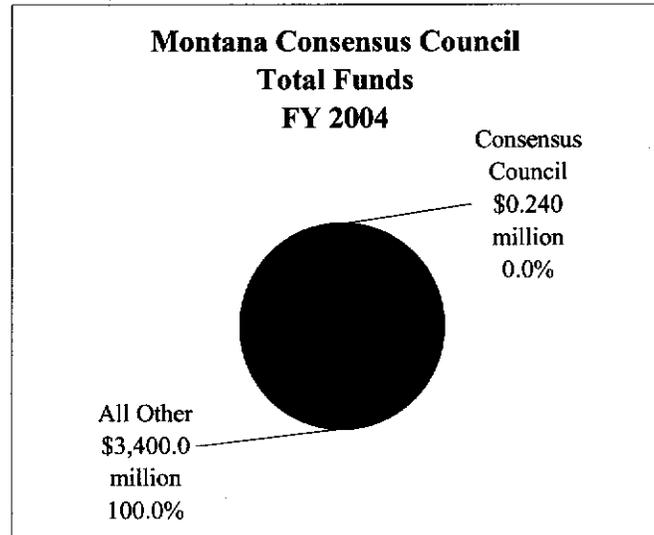
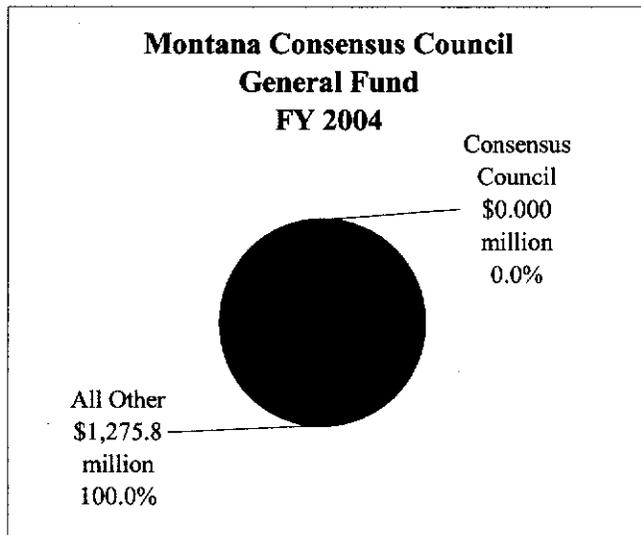


Montana Consensus Council Agency Profile¹



WHAT DOES THE AGENCY DO?

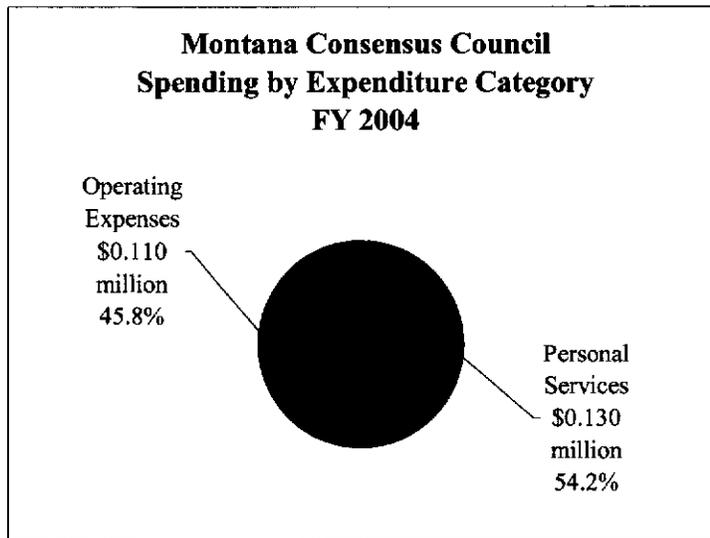
Montana Consensus Council is established in Montana law to promote fair, effective, and efficient processes for building agreement on natural resource and other public policy issues that are important to Montanans. The council facilitates a consensus process for engaging citizens and officials to build agreements and resolve disputes.

Total FTE: 2.00 FTE

How Services Are Provided

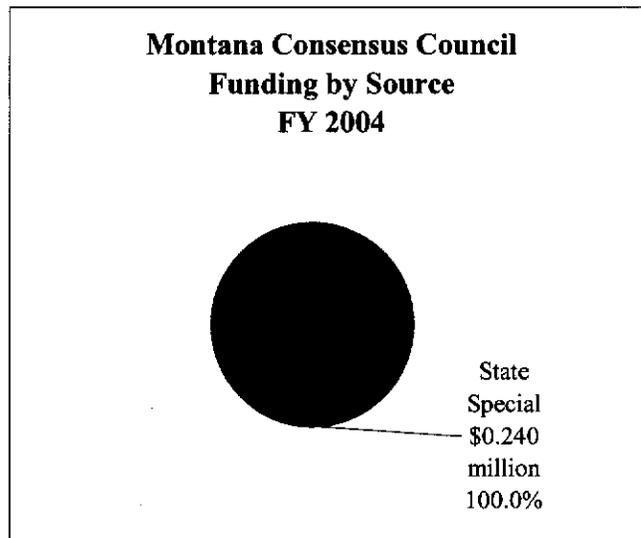
The Montana Consensus Council consists of one division that provides consensus-building services on natural resource and other public policy issues. The council provides services primarily through a group of professional contract mediators and facilitators with project activities directed and overseen by state employees. The council is governed by an eight-member board of directors, jointly appointed by the Governor and legislative leadership from both political parties. It is attached to the Department of Administration for administrative purposes only and receives accounting, budgeting, and human resources related services from the department for a fee.

¹ For an explanation of terms used in this profile, consult the



How Services are Funded

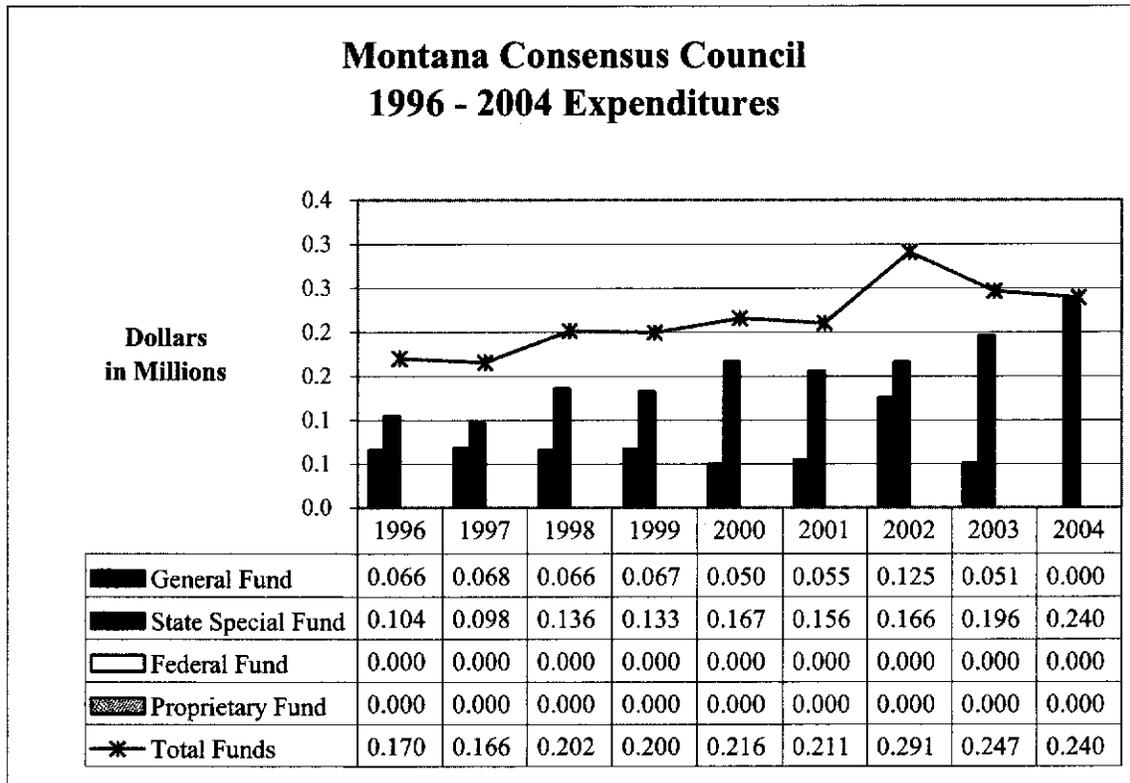
Services of the Montana Consensus Council are funded with state special revenue funds derived from fees charged for services.



Related Data and Statistics

<i>Element</i>	<i>1996</i>	<i>2004</i>	<i>Significance of Data</i>
Number of major projects in which the council participated	4	10	Workload

Expenditure History



The expenditures for the Montana Consensus Council from fiscal 1996 through fiscal 2003 are shown only to illustrate the expenditure growth trend and funding of the council while it was a part of the Governor's Office and are included in the expenditures for the agency profile of the Governor's Office. The 2003 legislature passed HB 741 and moved the council from being a part of the Governor's Office to being a separate agency administratively attached to the Department of Administration, effective in fiscal 2004.

Consensus Council		
Fund	Percent of Total (2004)	Average Growth (1996 - 2004)
General Fund	0.0%	-100.0%
State Special Fund	100.0%	11.0%
Federal Fund	0.0%	0.0%
Proprietary Fund	0.0%	0.0%
Total Funds	100.0%	4.4%

Reasons for Expenditure Growth/Change

Except for fiscal 2002 when general fund jumped by \$75,000, the council general fund expenditures have declined while expenditures of state special revenue have increased. The 2001 legislature approved one-time funding from the general fund to match grants awarded to the council. From fiscal 1996 through fiscal 2001 the general fund actually declined an average of 3.6 percent per year. After removing the one-time general fund expenditures, the decline would have increased to an average of 4.3 percent per year from fiscal 1996 through fiscal 2002.

Agency Functions, State Purposes Served, and Customers

The Montana Consensus Council is structured to perform certain functions. The functions are in support of overarching policy objectives. The following lists the major functions, overarching policy objectives, and primary customers served. Please note that LFD staff has both identified general state overarching policy objectives and assigned functions. For an explanation of the overarching policy objectives and how they were derived, please refer to the "Background on the Agency Profiles" document.

<i>Policy Objectives</i>	<i>Major Agency Functions</i>	<i>Customers</i>
Protection, Enhancement, Remediation of Natural Resources	Montana Consensus Council	General public

HOW CAN THE LEGISLATURE EFFECT CHANGE?

In order to change expenditure levels and/or agency activity, the legislature must address one or more of the following basic elements that drive costs.

Predictability of funding – Currently, the council markets its services and participates in natural resource and other public policy deliberation processes when contracted by parties interested in the issue. When the council was first established, it was supported with general fund appropriations with the intent that it would work to be self-supporting and operate with funding raised from fees charged for services and other non-state funds raised by the council. Statute directs that the board of directors hire an executive director to administer the duties of the council. Personal services for the statutorily directed executive director and for the expenses incidental to providing basic office operations represent fixed cost expenses for the self-supported funding of the council. In order to effect change for the council, the legislature may wish to address the relationship between funding predictability and the statutory direction and use of the office.

Statewide Factors with Impact

In addition to the factors above, a number of factors common to many agencies will also impact changes in expenditures over time.

- o More than half of the council budget funds personal services. Therefore any decisions that change FTE levels or personal services cost components such as level of the pay plan and benefits have a direct impact on council budget.

Statutory References

The primary statutory reference defining duties and responsibilities of the department are found at the following location.

2-15-1027, MCA - Montana consensus council -- purpose -- composition -- administration -- executive director