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Per MCA 90-1-181, the Montana Department of Commerce is required to “...*(d) report to an appropriate legislative interim committee regarding the number of requests, the types of requests, and the number of responses handled annually. The department shall post the information under this subsection (2)(d) on its website along with a summary of each requested analysis.*”

**Status:** During the 2013 biennium, the Montana Department of Commerce has not received any requests from local governments to provide a socioeconomic impact review and analysis of significant federal land management proposals.

## Montana Code Annotated 2011

**90-1-181. Functions of department of commerce -- socioeconomic advocacy.** The department of commerce may, if funds are available, advocate on behalf of local governments, as defined in 7-11-1002, by reviewing, analyzing, and commenting on prospective impacts on local socioeconomic conditions from federal land management proposals.

**History:** En. Sec. 1, Ch. 245, L. 2011.

**90-1-182. State assistance to local governments in review of and comment on federal land management proposals -- rulemaking.** (1) In carrying out the provisions of 90-1-181, the department of commerce may conduct on behalf of local governments a socioeconomic impact review and analysis of significant federal land management proposals. The department of commerce may use the review and analysis to comment in a timely manner on the federal proposals regarding projected impacts on local government.

(2) The department of commerce may:

(a) establish a minimal procedure for local governments to request from the department a review and analysis of significant federal land management proposals that may have a direct socioeconomic impact on the community for which the local government has requested the review. The request must include sufficient details about the federal land management proposal for the department of commerce to determine a deadline by which the review must be conducted.

(b) contract with a unit of the Montana university system experienced in technical, doctorate-level analysis of the socioeconomic impacts of federal land management proposals to provide an

independent economic analysis of the federal proposals;

(c) advocate on behalf of the local government before the agency issuing the federal land management proposals, using the reports generated under this subsection (2); and

**(d) report to an appropriate legislative interim committee regarding the number of requests, the types of requests, and the number of responses handled annually. The department shall post the information under this subsection (2)(d) on its website along with a summary of each requested analysis.**

(3) The department of commerce may adopt rules to implement this section.

**History:** En. Sec. 2, Ch. 245, L. 2011.

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Title

1. QUALITY SCHOOLS GRANT PROGRAM: 2015 Biennium Project Funding Recommendations and 2013 Biennium Emergency, Planning, and Project Grants Report
2. TREASURE STATE ENDOWMENT PROGRAM: 2015 Biennium Project Funding Recommendations and 2013 Biennium Emergency, Planning, and Project Grants Report

Abstract

1. Quality Schools grant applications for school facility projects to be funded with 2015 biennium funding are currently being accepted by the Department. The deadline for applications is October 1, 2012. Once the applications have been ranked and scored, the Department will recommend school facility projects to be funded, including the amount of grant assistance for each project, and submit these recommendations to the Governor. The Governor will then review the recommendations and submit the recommendations to the Legislature. The Legislature will make the final decisions and necessary appropriations.
2. TSEP grant applications for infrastructure projects to be funded with 2015 biennium funding are currently being ranked and scored by the Department. Once this process is complete, the Department will recommend infrastructure projects to be funded, including the amount of grant assistance for each project, and submit these recommendations to the Governor. The Governor will then review the recommendations and submit the recommendations to the Legislature. The Legislature will make the final decisions and necessary appropriations. The Department must also provide a report of those 2013 biennium grant awards that have not met start-up conditions by January 1, 2013.
3. Both reports are expected to be available electronically on the Department website at <http://comdev.mt.gov/Grantsbureau/grantsbureau.mcp>x in November or December 2012.
4. The Department recommends that paper copies of the reports be printed and distributed to the members of the Long-Range Planning Joint Appropriations Subcommittee (approximately 10 of each).