

# Treasure State Endowment Regional Water Program

Updated February 2014

## Purpose

To finance the state's match to local and federal dollars for regional drinking water systems that supply water to rural users in large geographical areas. Systems such as the Rocky Boys – North Central project in north central Montana and the Fort Peck-Dry Prairie System in northeastern Montana will provide water for domestic use to rural communities.

## Administrating Agency:

Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, Conservation and Resource Development Division

## Approving Authority:

U.S. Congress (for regional water designation and federal funding) and Montana Legislature (for spending authorization)

## Statutory Reference:

Regional Water Authorities: Title 75, Chapter 6, Part 3

State Program and Funding: Title 90, Chapter 6, Part 7, MCA

## Eligible Applicants:

Congressionally authorized regional water authorities

## Statutory Evaluation Criteria Include:

Construction grants provide the state match to local contributions and federal regional water appropriations

## Types of Projects:

- Water treatment plant construction and upgrades
- Transmission and delivery pipeline construction



## [2015 Biennium Projects](#)

## [Coal Severance Tax Explained](#)

## Source of Funding:

Grant funding for the program is derived from the investment earnings of the Treasure State Endowment Regional Water trust. In the 2015 biennium, total trust earnings were estimated to be \$6.9 million. In the 2013 biennia, the legislature transferred \$8.4 million from the general fund to expand project funding. This action provided total program funding of \$15.3 million.

## **Legislative Appropriations:**

In addition to the Department of Natural Resource and Conservation administrative costs, appropriations from the regional water trust funds include administrative costs for the regional water authorities. In the 2015 biennium, \$17 million was appropriated for regional water construction matching funds.

The list of projects that are expected to be funded with the appropriation provided by the 2013 Legislature can be viewed at: <http://www.leg.mt.gov/content/Publications/fiscal/FR-2015/Section%20F/tserwp.pdf>

## **Grant Limits:**

The state share of the match of the total estimated cost of the regional water project.

## **Matching Fund Requirements:**

The federal government match for each regional water project state and local dollar is between \$9 and \$12. The local match is split evenly between the state and the local regional water authority, unless hardship is proved. In cases of hardship, the split is 75% for the state and 25% for the regional water authority.

## **Application Deadline:**

N/A

## **General Application Requirements:**

Construction grants may only be issued for the state match to federally authorized regional water projects.

## **For Further Agency Information Contact:**

Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, Conservation and Resource Development Division

1625 Eleventh Avenue

Helena, Montana 59620-1601

Phone: (406) 444-1879

Fax: (406) 444-6721

For more information: <http://dnrc.mt.gov/cardd/ResourceDevelopment/regionalwater/default.asp>