



AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECLAMATION AND DEVELOPMENT GRANTS PROGRAM; APPROPRIATING MONEY TO THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION FOR GRANTS UNDER THE RECLAMATION AND DEVELOPMENT GRANTS PROGRAM; PRIORITIZING PROJECT GRANTS AND AMOUNTS; ESTABLISHING CONDITIONS FOR GRANTS; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

**Section 1. Appropriations for reclamation and development grants.** (1) There is appropriated to the department of natural resources and conservation from the natural resources projects state special revenue account established in 15-38-302 up to:

- (a) \$800,000 for planning reclamation and development projects to be awarded by the department over the course of the biennium;
- (b) \$500,000 to implement measures to control invasive aquatic species in state waters; and
- (c) \$214,000 for the Montana salinity control association.

(2) The amount of \$4,370,620 is appropriated to the department of natural resources and conservation from the natural resources projects state special revenue account for grants to political subdivisions and local governments during the biennium ending June 30, 2017. The funds in this subsection must be awarded by the department to the named entities for the described purposes and in the grant amounts set out in subsection (4) subject to the conditions set forth in [sections 2 and 3] and the contingencies described in the reclamation and development grant program January 2015 report to the 64th legislature.

(3) Funds must be awarded up to the amounts approved in this section in the order of priority listed in subsection (4) until available funds are expended. Funds not accepted or used by higher-ranked projects must be provided for projects farther down the priority list that would not otherwise receive funding.

(4) The following are the prioritized grant projects:

Applicant/Project	Amount
Montana Board of Oil & Gas Conservation	

(2015 Southern District)	\$300,000
Montana Board of Oil & Gas Conservation	
(2015 Northeast District)	\$300,000
Montana Department of Environmental Quality	
(Belt Water Treatment Project)	\$500,000
Montana Department of Environmental Quality	
(Black Pine Mine - South Fork Lower Willow Creek Fluvially Deposited Mill Tailings)	\$500,000
Missoula County	
(Martina Creek & Ninemile Creek Reclamation)	\$484,000
Deer Lodge Conservation District	
(French Gulch Placer Mining Restoration)	\$500,000
Montana Department of Environmental Quality	
(Landusky Bioreactor Rehabilitation)	\$500,000
Montana Department of Environmental Quality	
(Basin Creek Mine - Site Stability Project)	\$500,000
Montana Department of Environmental Quality	
(Sand Coulee Acid Mine Drainage Source Control)	\$332,443
Deer Lodge Conservation District	
(Moose-French Creek Placer Mining Restoration)	\$85,000
Montana Department of Environmental Quality	
(Mitigation of Threat to Harlowton Public Drinking Water)	\$82,440
Madison County	
(North Willow Creek Reclamation)	\$499,828
Cascade County	
(Identifying the Fate of Acid Mine Drainage and Potential Impacts to Madison Aquifer)	\$327,322
Montana Bureau of Mines & Geology	

(Enhance Monitoring Fox Hills - Hell Creek Aquifer)	\$499,109
Montana Bureau of Mines & Geology	
(Enhance Montana's Manufacturing Growth Through Production of Commodities from Remediation)	\$498,171
Roosevelt County	
(Kenco Refinery Highest Priority Cleanup)	\$150,000

**Section 2. Coordination of fund sources for grants to political subdivisions and local governments.** A project sponsor listed under [section 1] may not receive funds from both the reclamation and development grants program and the renewable resource grant and loan program for the same project during the same biennium.

**Section 3. Condition of grants.** Disbursement of funds under [section 1] is subject to the following conditions that must be met by the project sponsor:

(1) A scope of work and budget for the project must be approved by the department of natural resources and conservation. Any changes in scope of work or budget subsequent to legislative approval may not change project goals and objectives. Changes in activities that would reduce the public or natural resource benefits as presented in department of natural resources and conservation reports and applicant testimony to the 64th legislature may result in a proportional reduction in the grant amount.

(2) The project sponsor shall show satisfactory completion of conditions described in the recommendation section of the project narrative of the program report to the legislature for the biennium ending June 30, 2017, or, in the case of planning grants issued under [section 1], completion of conditions specified at the time of written notification of approved grant authority.

(3) The project sponsor must have a fully executed grant agreement with the department.

(4) Any other specific requirements considered necessary by the department must be met to accomplish the purpose of the grant as evidenced from the application to the department or from the proposal as presented to the legislature.

**Section 4. Other appropriations.** There is appropriated to any entity of state government that receives

a grant under [section 1] the amount of the grant upon award of the grant by the department of natural resources and conservation. Grants to entities from prior biennia are reauthorized for completion of contract work.

**Section 5. Approval of grants -- completion of biennial appropriation.** The legislature, pursuant to 90-2-1111, approves the reclamation and development grants listed in [section 1]. The authorization of these grants completes a biennial appropriation from the natural resources projects state special revenue account established in 15-38-302.

**Section 6. Notification to tribal governments.** The secretary of state shall send a copy of [this act] to each tribal government located on the seven Montana reservations and to the Little Shell Chippewa tribe.

**Section 7. Coordination instruction.** If House Bill No. 226 is passed and approved with a reduction of funds for the natural resources projects state special revenue account created in 15-38-302, then the appropriation for reclamation and development grants of \$4,370,620 provided in [section 1(2) of this act] is reduced to \$3,770,620 and the projects authorized in [section 1(4) of this act] titled Montana Board of Oil & Gas Conservation (2015 Southern District) at an amount of \$300,000 and Montana Board of Oil & Gas Conservation (2015 Northeast District) at an amount of \$300,000 are eliminated.

**Section 8. Severability.** If a part of [this act] is invalid, all valid parts that are severable from the invalid part remain in effect. If a part of [this act] is invalid in one or more of its applications, the part remains in effect in all valid applications that are severable from the invalid applications.

**Section 9. Effective date.** [This act] is effective July 1, 2015.

- END -

I hereby certify that the within bill,  
HB 0007, originated in the House.

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Chief Clerk of the House

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Speaker of the House

Signed this \_\_\_\_\_ day  
of \_\_\_\_\_, 2015.

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President of the Senate

Signed this \_\_\_\_\_ day  
of \_\_\_\_\_, 2015.

HOUSE BILL NO. 7

INTRODUCED BY M. CUFFE

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