

HOUSE BILL NO. 7

INTRODUCED BY M. HOPKINS, J. FITZPATRICK

BY REQUEST OF THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION, OFFICE OF BUDGET AND PROGRAM PLANNING

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT 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:

NEW SECTION. **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 \$2,000,000 for grants for planning reclamation and development projects to be awarded by the department over the course of the biennium beginning July 1, 2023.

(2) The amount of \$3,653,347 is appropriated to the department of natural resources and conservation from the natural resources projects state special revenue account established in 15-38-302 for grants to political subdivisions and local governments during the biennium beginning July 1, 2023. 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 grants program report to the 68th legislature titled: "Governor's Executive Budget Fiscal Years 2023 - 2025 Volume 5".

(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. After all eligible projects are funded, remaining funds may be used for any reclamation and development project



1 authorized under this section.

2 (4) The following are the prioritized grant projects:

3 Applicant/Project	4 Amount
5 Beaverhead Conservation District	
6 Grasshopper Creek Mine Tailings Stream Bank Stabilization	\$419,180
7 DNRC - State Water Projects Bureau	
8 Willow Creek Dam Rehabilitation Project	\$500,000
9 DNRC - State Water Projects Bureau	
10 East Fork of Rock Creek Dam Rehabilitation	\$500,000
11 Chester, Town of	
12 Chester Motors Petroleum Cleanup	\$300,000
13 Black Eagle-Cascade County Water and Sewer District	
14 Black Eagle Sewer System Improvements 2023	\$125,000
15 Harlowton, City of	
16 Asbestos Removal, Cleanup, and Restoration of Contaminated Soils at Harlowton Roundhouse	\$500,000
17 Deer Lodge, City of	
18 Milwaukee Roundhouse Site Passenger Refueling Area Remediation	\$342,500
19 Philipsburg, Town of	
20 Philipsburg Wastewater Project	\$316,667
21 Cascade Conservation District	
22 Muddy Creek Restoration and Resilience Project	\$500,000
23 DNRC - Water Management Bureau	
24 Expansion of Water Resources Division Hydrology Data Portal	\$150,000

26 **NEW SECTION. Section 2. Coordination of fund sources for grants to political subdivisions**  
 27 **and local governments.** A project sponsor listed under [section 1(4)] may not receive funds from both the  
 28 reclamation and development grants program and the renewable resource grant and loan program for the same

1 project during the same biennium.

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3 **NEW SECTION. Section 3. Conditions of grants.** Disbursement of funds under [section 1] is

4 subject to the following conditions that must be met by the project sponsor:

5 (1) A scope of work, schedule, and budget for the project must be approved by the department of  
6 natural resources and conservation. Any changes in scope of work or budget subsequent to legislative approval  
7 may not change project goals and objectives. Changes in activities that would reduce the public or natural  
8 resource benefits as presented in department of natural resources and conservation reports and applicant  
9 testimony to the 68th legislature may result in a proportional reduction in the grant amount.

10 (2) The project sponsor shall show satisfactory completion of conditions described in the  
11 recommendation section of the project narrative of the program report to the legislature for the biennium ending  
12 June 30, 2025, or, in the case of planning grants issued under [section 1(1)], completion of conditions specified  
13 at the time of written notification of approved grant authority.

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

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

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19 **NEW SECTION. Section 4. Other appropriations.** There is appropriated to any entity of state  
20 government that receives a grant under [section 1] the amount of the grant upon award of the grant by the  
21 department of natural resources and conservation. Grants to entities from prior bienniums are reauthorized for  
22 completion of contract work.

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

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