



# RESPONSES TO COVID-19:

AGENCY OVERVIEWS, UPDATES, AND CHANGES IN SERVICE

4/6/2020

Joe Kolman

## NATURAL RESOURCES & CONSERVATION

Public access at DNRC locations statewide is limited. Offices remain open, however walk-in traffic is not allowed. Signs at each office include contact numbers for staff. About 95% of agency staff are teleworking. Services continue to be provided by phone, email, and online resources. In-person assistance is provided by appointment.

- Envirothon, a natural resources high school competition in Lewistown, is cancelled. The Montana Envirothon Steering Committee canceled the Montana Envirothon out of concern for the health of the participants and to prevent the spread of COVID-19
- The deadline for Renewable Resource planning grants is extended to April 10, 2020. The deadline for Renewable Resource Grant / Loan applications is June 1, 2020. Click the link for more [details](#) or call (406) 444-9766.
- The Sage Grouse Program is processing fewer applications and is using time to tackle backlogged work.
- Preparations for the upcoming fire season are underway with COVID-19 considerations. DNRC created a team to work with interagency partners across Montana and the West.
- Commercial leases of state trust lands make quarterly payments and the department is working with one lessee to navigate impacts on the leased business.
- For home site leases, the department is following the governor's order for all landlords. Leases affected are a few where payment was not received by February 1. Lessees are encouraged to make payment as soon as possible. The Department will take no actions to collect payment until June 10, sixty days after the current executive order expires.
- Lease payments for grazing leases were nearly all paid earlier this year. Agricultural leases are due in the fall when harvest occurs.
- The Drought and Water Supply Committee canceled meetings in April. A June meeting is planned when summer stream flows are better understood.
- After the Idaho earthquake, the Dam Safety Program responded to the Idaho reviewed the data, which indicated no seismic indicators exceeded criteria that would demand immediate inspections

[DNRC Division](#)  
[Contacts](#)  
[Staff Phone Directory](#)