

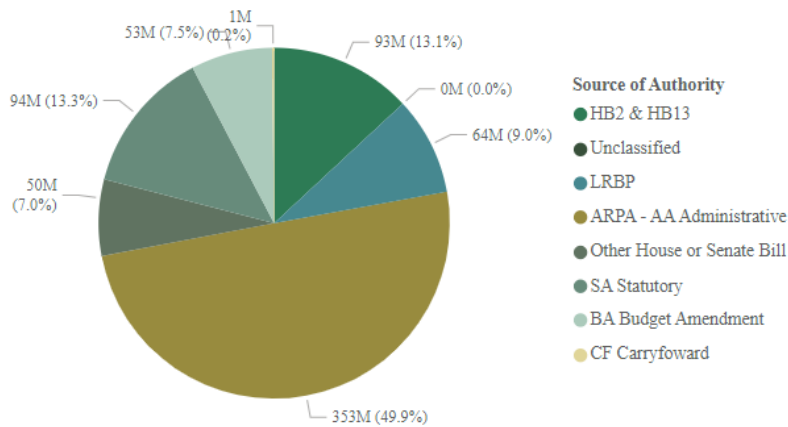
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION

Interim Budget Committee Report for March 2024

TOTAL APPROPRIATION AUTHORITY

The total appropriation authority for the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation is shown in the pie chart below. HB 2 and HB 13 provide 13.1% of the total authority for this agency. All types of appropriation authority for this agency are described below, including total budget and the percent expended by source of authority.

Total Modified Budget by Source of Authority



Source of Authority	Modified Budget	Expended Budget	% Expended
HB2 & HB13	92,504,149	50,199,990	54.3%
BA Budget Amendment	52,999,691	9,630,440	18.2%
CF Carryforward	1,349,976		
LRBP	63,955,311	7,982,036	12.5%
Other House or Senate Bill	49,735,970	775,564	1.6%
SA Statutory	93,930,989	24,920,832	26.5%
Unclassified	11,222		
ARPA	352,752,979	63,654,103	18.0%
Total	707,240,287	157,162,966	22.2%

Budget Amendments

The Budget Amendments Statute grants agencies the authority to modify the budget to tap into potential federal revenue sources that may arise during the interim period (referenced in 17-7-402(1)(a)(i), MCA). The total budget amendments amounts to \$53.0 million. Currently, a portion equivalent to 18.2%, or \$9.6 million, has been expended.

Major projects funded through budget amendments include:

- FEMA Cooperating Technical Partners (CTP) program, \$13.2 million budgeted

FEMA CTP program provides support for flood plain mapping, national flood insurance program, community assistance programs, and dam safety programs.

- Forestry grants, \$8.4 million
- Federal grants for wastewater treatment programs, \$4.4 million
- Federal grants for drinking water programs, \$3.6 million
- Milk River rehabilitation project, \$2.5 million
- Hazardous fuel reduction projects, \$3.3 million
- Park County flood reclamation, \$2.0 million
- Good neighbor authority federal revenue, \$745,000
- Other federal funding supporting projects for water quality, administration, and other forest management, \$14.9 million.

Other Bills

Through various bills other than HB 2, the legislature appropriated \$49.7 million: \$32.6 million in state special revenue, \$16.5 million in federal special revenue, and \$638,300 in general fund. The appropriations within the Conservation and Resource Development Division totaled \$48.0 million, and \$1.3 million within the Water Resources Division. As of February 2024, only \$678,972, which accounts for 1.4% of the authorized funds, has been utilized.

The table below provides a summary of the authority from other house and senate bills.

Department of Natural Resources and Conservation				
Appropriation Through Other House or Senate Bills				
General Fund	Fund	Appropriated	Expended	% Expended
HB 114 Revise timelines for water right permit and change process	General Fund	\$638,299	\$274,021	42.9%
	Total General Fund	\$638,299	\$274,021	42.9%
State Special Revenue	Fund	Appropriated	Expended	% Expended
HB 114 Revise timelines for water right permit and change process	Water Right Appropriation	\$638,299	\$239,227	37.5%
HB 11 Regional water system projects	MT Coal Endowment Reg Wtr Sys	10,000,000	40,724	0.4%
HB 7 Planning reclamation and development Grants	Natural Resources Projects	5,653,347	-	0.0%
HB 6 Renewable resource infrastructure grant projects	Natural Resources Projects	6,350,000	125,000	2.0%
HB 6 Renewable resource grants and loans	Natural Resources Projects	7,400,000	-	0.0%
HB 6 Renewable resource irrigation grant projects	Natural Resources Projects	2,560,000	-	0.0%
HB 5 Unit Residence Maintenance	Trust Lands Administration	20,536	-	0.0%
	Total State Special	\$32,622,182	\$404,951	1.2%
Capital Projects	Fund	Appropriated	Expended	% Expended
HB 540 Bonding for the Saint Mary's water project improvements	DNRC Capital Projects Fund	\$6,574,656	\$0	0.0%
HB 540 Fort Belknap water compact infrastructure	DNRC Capital Projects Fund	9,500,000	-	0.0%
HB 10 Long Range IT Projects	Long Range IT Projects	400,833	-	0.0%
	Total Capital	\$16,475,489	\$0	0.0%
Total Other House and Senate Bills	Total Funding	\$49,735,970	\$678,972	1.4%

Long Range Building and Planning

The agency has expended \$8.0 million of \$64.0 million appropriated from federal special revenue for long range programs. Long range expenditures budgeted for the agency include orphaned oil and gas wells (\$21.5 million), infrastructure improvements and grants within forestry and conservation divisions (\$42.5 million).

The long-range building program (LRBP) is 9.0% of the agency's authority. For more information on long range building projects, see the infrastructure map at: [Long Range Building Projects Map](#)

Carryforward Authority

After each fiscal year, 30% of the unexpended and unencumbered HB 2 appropriation in the prior fiscal year for personal services, operating expenses, and equipment, may be re-appropriated in the following two fiscal years (17-7-304(4)(a), MCA).

The agency had \$1.3 million in total authority carried forward from FY 2022. The carryforward authority consists of \$339,800 in general fund and \$1.0 million in state special revenue. This authority was allocated to operating expenses and is unexpended as of February 2024.

Statutory

Statutory appropriations are set in statute and do not require renewed authorization by the legislature. Although the agency may include expenditure estimates in their budget, they expend the authority at a level sufficient to meet the requirements of the statute that created the authority. The Department of Natural Resources and Conservation has statutory authority for state special and federal revenues; the expenditures are discussed below.

State Special Revenue

Wildfire suppression account - (76-13-150, MCA)

The wildfire suppression account is statutorily appropriated for fire suppression, fuel reduction, and fire suppression equipment. It is anticipated that FY 2024 expenditures for fire suppression will be \$42.3 million. HB 883 appropriated \$45.0 million for forest fire mitigation, fire preparedness, and support of local fire forces. Assuming fire costs forecast by the Forestry Division and full utilization of newly authorized fire suppression efforts, the 2024 fiscal year-end balance in the fire fund is anticipated to be \$106.4 million.

Fire Suppression Fund Estimated FY 2024 Ending Fund Balance As of February 29, 2024		
	Actual FY 2024 YTD	FY 2024 Forecast
Beginning Balance	\$185,363,884	\$185,363,884
Revenues		
Board of Investment	7,030,451	-
Executive Unexpended Emergency Appropriation	10,297,724	10,297,724
General Fund Transfers	-	-
Other Revenues	21,781	21,781
Total Revenues	17,349,956	10,319,505
Expenditures		
Fire Suppression	21,398,520	42,300,000
MT Forest Action	1,490,484	30,000,000
Fire Preparedness	1,211,641	15,000,000
County Cooperative Equipment	558,223	2,000,000
Total Expenditures	24,658,868	89,300,000
Ending Fund Balance	\$178,054,972	\$106,383,389

Sage grouse stewardship account – (87-5-909, MCA)

The sage grouse stewardship account is statutorily appropriated to maintain, enhance, restore, expand, or benefit sage grouse habitat and populations. The agency has budgeted \$984,700, and the agency has expended \$60 of this authority as of February 2024.

Oil and gas production damage mitigation account – (82-11-161, MCA)

The oil and gas production damage mitigation account is statutorily appropriated to cover the reasonable costs of properly plugging wells and either reclaiming or restoring a drill site or other production area damaged by oil and gas operations. This is utilized where the Montana Board of Oil and Gas determines the site has been abandoned and that the responsible party cannot be identified or located or refuses to take proper action. The agency has included \$200,100 in the budget for this statutory appropriation, and as of February it is unexpended.

Environmental contingency account – (75-1-1101, MCA)

The Environmental Contingency State Special Revenue is funded by interest earned from the Resource Indemnity Trust (15-38-202, MCA). Funds are statutorily appropriated to support communities that face unanticipated, imminent, or emergency needs in the areas of water development, renewable resources, mineral development, and hazardous wastes or materials. The agency has budgeted \$329,000 from this account for fire and flood restoration. As of February the agency has expended \$105,800.

Morrill trust lands administration account – (77-1-108(5)(a), MCA)

The Morrill Trust Lands State Special Revenue account is statutorily appropriated to the department for the purposes of administering the land granted to the state pursuant to the Morrill Act of 1862 and 1890. The account receives an \$80,000 transfer from the general fund at the beginning of each biennium. The agency has budgeted \$80,000 and has expended \$7,900.

Forestry – slash forfeited bonds account (76-13-417, MCA)

The Forestry Slash Forfeited Bonds account revenue comes from forfeited performance bonds posted by persons or entities cutting any forest product, constructing any road in contemplation of cutting any forest product, or conducting timber stand improvement, such as but not limited to precommercial thinning, weeding, or pruning, upon private forest lands. The balance in the account is statutorily appropriated to the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation for the purposes of authorizing, managing, and completing fire hazard reduction activities. The agency has budgeted \$40,000 and expended \$16,304.

Federal Special Revenue

Good Neighbor Authority (76-13-151, MCA)

The Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) allows the USDA Forest Service to enter into agreements with the DNRC forestry and trust land division to perform forest management and restoration work on federal lands. The agency anticipates \$5.6 million in revenue for GNA projects, and has expended \$62,400.

Non-budgeted Proprietary Fund Authority

Non-budgeted proprietary funds are supported with revenue from the state nursery and charges for air operations. The agency has expended \$2.4 million in non-budgeted proprietary funds. State nursery operations total \$362,600 and air operations total \$2.3 million.

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

HB 632 (2021 Session) created two grant programs for water and sewer infrastructure, a competitive grant program, and a minimum allocation grant program. The DNRC is responsible for reviewing and ranking projects, as well as recommending them for funding to the Infrastructure Advisory Commission. Continuing authority totals \$352.8 million. The agency has expended \$63.7 million in the current fiscal year.

Information on projects reviewed by the Infrastructure Advisory Commission can be found at: [Infrastructure Advisory Commission](#)

HB 2 BUDGET MODIFICATIONS

The following chart shows the HB 2 budget as passed by the legislature, including the pay plan, and the HB 2 modified budget from July 1, 2023, through February 28, 2024. Net modifications to the budget include operating plan changes from one expenditure account to another, program transfers, reorganizations, and agency transfers of authority. The **positive modifications** and **negative modifications** are shown by program, expenditure account, and fund type.

Legislative Budget Compared to Modified Budget - HB 2 Only

Agency Name	HB 2 Budget	Modified Budget	Net Modifications
Dept Nat Resource/Conservation	92,514,606	92,504,149	-10,457
21 DIRECTORS OFFICE	10,011,383	10,010,884	-499
22 OIL & GAS CONSERVATION DIV	2,363,649	2,363,495	-154
23 CONSERVATION&RESOURCE DEV DIV	14,558,062	14,557,703	-359
24 WATER RESOURCES DIVISION	25,951,097	25,949,383	-1,714
35 FORESTRY & TRUST LANDS	39,630,415	39,622,684	-7,731
Total	92,514,606	92,504,149	-10,457

Expenditure Type	HB 2 Budget	Modified Budget	Net Modifications
61000 Personal Services	48,289,789	48,473,855	184,066
62000 Operating Expenses	30,149,968	29,974,665	-175,303
63000 Equipment & Intangible Assets	1,886,936	1,867,716	-19,220
65000 Local Assistance	3,058,090	3,058,090	
66000 Grants	4,737,714	4,718,884	-18,830
67000 Benefits & Claims	400,000	400,000	
68000 Transfers-out	1,728,343	1,747,173	18,830
69000 Debt Service	2,263,766	2,263,766	
Total	92,514,606	92,504,149	-10,457

Fund Type	HB 2 Budget	Modified Budget	Net Modifications
01 General	38,396,016	38,389,622	-6,394
02 State/Other Spec Rev	51,997,048	51,993,201	-3,847
03 Fed/Other Spec Rev	2,121,542	2,121,326	-216
Total	92,514,606	92,504,149	-10,457

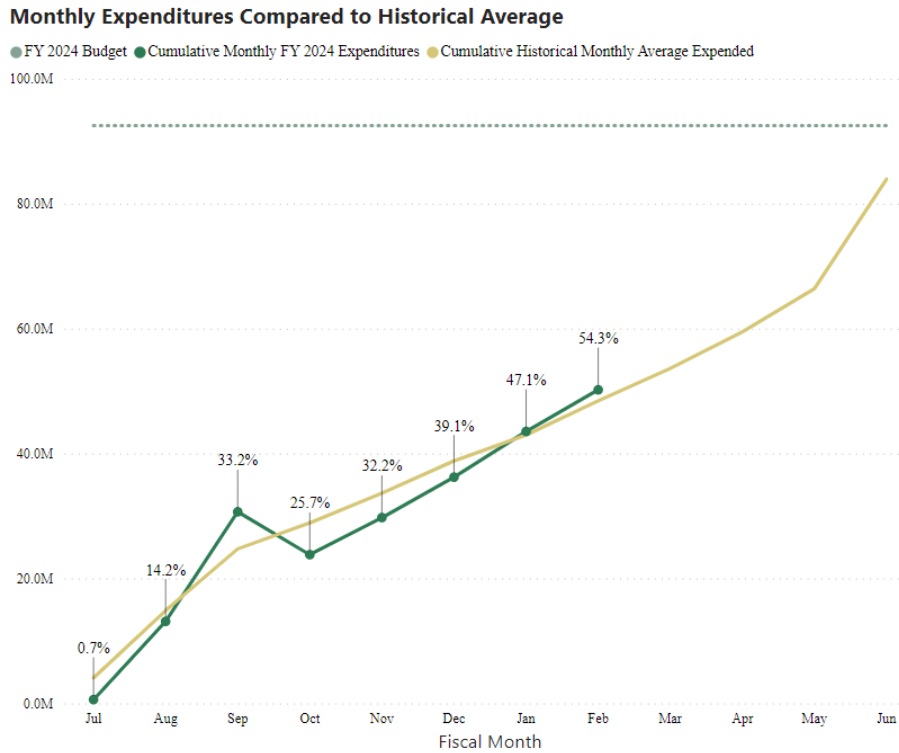
The Department of Natural Resources and Conservation HB 2 modifications slightly decreased the agency budget.

Adjustment to workers compensation premiums totaled \$10,457 and the authority was reverted to the originating fund. The workers compensation adjustment primarily impacted the Forestry and Trust Lands Division, and the Water Resources Division.

Changes to the operating plan moved \$175,300 from operations and \$19,220 from equipment and intangible assets to personal services. Other modifications moved \$18,830 from grants to transfers.

HB 2 APPROPRIATION AUTHORITY

The following chart shows the appropriated budget for the agency compared to expenditures through February 29, 2024.



The tables below show expenditure rates through February 2024 of 54.3% for the agency compared to average expenditure rates over the previous five years of 52.4%.

Program Name	Modified Budget	Expended Budget	% Expended
21 DIRECTORS OFFICE	10,010,884	5,820,660	58.1%
22 OIL & GAS CONSERVATION DIV	2,363,495	1,029,926	43.6%
23 CONSERVATION&RESOURCE DEV DIV	14,557,703	5,616,109	38.6%
24 WATER RESOURCES DIVISION	25,949,383	11,267,913	43.4%
35 FORESTRY & TRUST LANDS	39,622,684	26,465,382	66.8%
Total	92,504,149	50,199,990	54.3%

Expenditure Type	Modified Budget	Expended Budget	% Expended
Personal Services	48,473,855	30,678,452	63.3%
Operating Expenses	29,974,665	13,663,762	45.6%
Equipment & Intangible Assets	1,867,716	482,069	25.8%
Local Assistance	3,058,090	1,098,139	35.9%
Grants	4,718,884	1,392,467	29.5%
Benefits & Claims	400,000		
Transfers-out	1,747,173	1,681,221	96.2%
Debt Service	2,263,766	1,203,880	53.2%
Total	92,504,149	50,199,990	54.3%

Fund Type	Modified Budget	Expended Budget	% Expended
01 General	38,389,622	29,765,089	77.5%
02 State/Other Spec Rev	51,993,201	19,973,456	38.4%
03 Fed/Other Spec Rev	2,121,326	461,445	21.8%
Total	92,504,149	50,199,990	54.3%

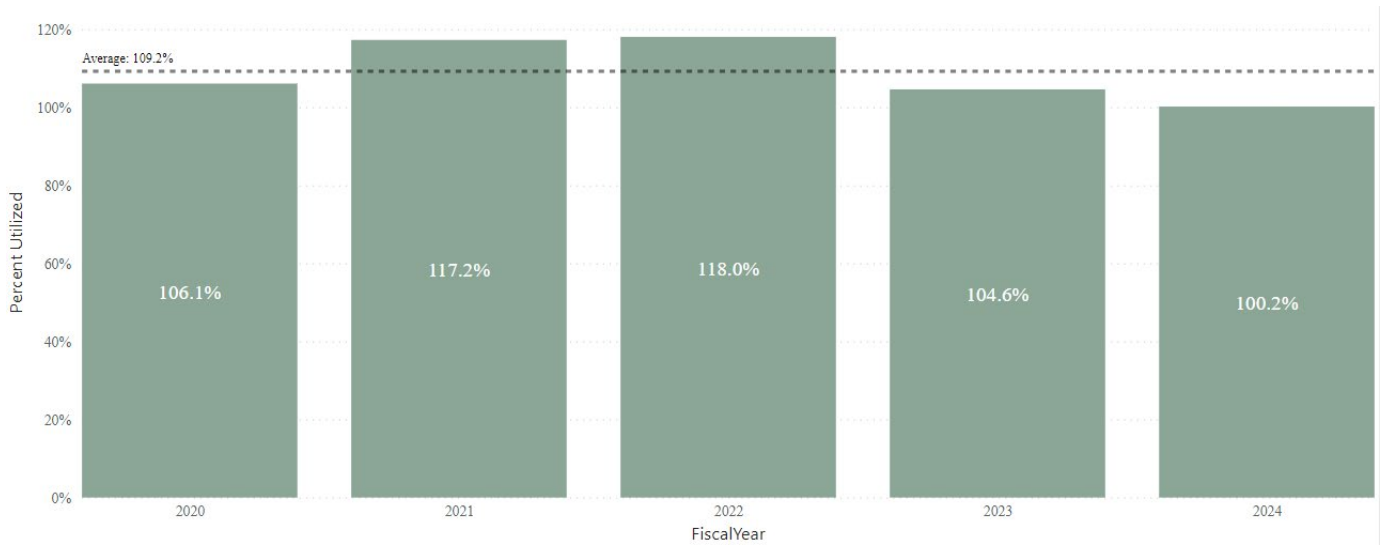
The DNRC expended 54.3% of its \$92.5 million HB 2 modified budget through February 29, 2024. The agency expended \$1.8 million more than would be expected based on average expenditure rate in the previous five years of 52.4%. Expenditures for personal services and equipment were higher than historical averages. Expenditures for Equipment year-to-date have been primarily for stream gages, good neighbor authority, and fire suppression equipment. Local assistance expenditures have supported rangeland improvement loans and conservation programs related to non-point-source pollution.

Personal Services

Appropriations for personal services in the DNRC total \$48.3 million and are 63.3% expended through February 1, 2024. The department has 540.61 HB 2 FTE of which 71.81 FTE are vacant this is an increase of 16.4 FTE since November 2023. The table below summarizes the budgeted FTE for DNRC.

Department of Natural Resources and Conservation HB 2 FTE			
<u>Program</u>	<u>Filled</u>	<u>Vacant</u>	<u>Total</u>
Directors Office	57.75	4.00	61.75
Oil & Gas Conservation Division	14.00	5.50	19.50
Conservation & Resource Development	29.17	1.00	30.17
Water Resources Division	112.46	23.80	136.26
Forestry and Trust Lands Division	255.42	37.51	292.93
Total	468.80	71.81	540.61

The chart below shows the hourly utilization percentage for the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation between July 1 and February 1 for each fiscal year. Overall, the department has utilized 100.2% of the hours budgeted for FY 2024, as shown in the chart below. It is not unusual for the agency to exceed 100.0% utilization in the summer months due primarily to fire activity. The Forestry and Trust Lands Division utilized 107.1% of total budgeted hours during the period; the remaining divisions combined utilized 92.4% of total hours budgeted.



Increases in vacant positions since November include 9.3 FTE in the Water Resources Division, 5.6 FTE in the

Forestry and Trust Lands Division, 1.00 FTE in the Conservation and Resource Development Division, and 0.50 FTE in the Director’s Office. The chart below shows the vacant FTE in each division, the number of months each position has been vacant, and the midpoint hourly pay rate.

Department of Natural Resources and Conservation Vacancies								
As of February 1, 2024								
<u>Division</u>	<u>FTE</u>	<u>Months Vacant</u>	<u>Midpoint Pay Rate</u>		<u>FTE</u>	<u>Months Vacant</u>	<u>Midpoint Pay Rate</u>	
Directors Office				Forestry & Trust Lands Division				
Accounting Technician 2	1.00	2.0	\$20.30	Administrative Assistant 2	0.50	1.8	\$18.15	
Lawyer 2	1.00	8.4	55.14	Administrative Assistant 3	1.00	1.0	21.48	
Accounting Technician 2	1.00	2.0	20.30	Auditor 2	1.00	5.6	32.69	
Business Executive	1.00	2.6	75.89	Comm. Preparedness and Fire Pr	1.00	7.0	27.86	
Division Total / Average¹	4.00	3.8	\$42.91	Compliance Technician 1	1.00	5.6	22.07	
Oil & Gas Conservation Division				Dispatcher 1	1.00	2.4	20.64	
Administrative Assistant 2	1.00	21.7	\$18.15	Engine Boss	0.50	7.0	24.86	
OIL & GAS CONSER BD-PROF	1.00	2.9	54.54	Fire Prevention Team Lead	0.75	3.8	29.33	
Data Processor 1	0.50	87.8	13.13	Fire Operations Specialist	0.50	3.8	29.33	
Compliance Technician 1	1.00	10.0	22.07	Forester	6.00	2.5	33.02	
Compliance Specialist 2	1.00	16.7	34.04	Forestry Technician	0.95	7.7	15.47	
OIL & GAS CONSER BD-PROF	1.00	18.0	54.54	GIS Specialist 3	1.00	7.5	45.80	
Division Total / Average¹	5.50	20.6	\$34.53	Helicopter Coordinator	0.50	7.0	15.47	
Water Resources Division				Helicopter Manager	1.00	3.6	20.17	
Compliance Specialist 3	4.00	5.9	\$42.55	Management Forester	1.00	1.9	34.51	
Compliance Supervisor	1.00	9.7	39.86	Planner 2	1.00	4.8	43.30	
Compliance Technician 1	0.25	3.8	22.07	Program Specialist 1	3.00	1.4	27.86	
Data Processor 3	1.00	0.9	19.45	Program Specialist 2	3.00	2.6	36.35	
Engineer Supervisor	2.00	3.1	45.06	Program Supervisor	2.00	3.6	36.25	
GIS Specialist 3	1.00	2.0	45.80	Real Property Agent 1	1.00	0.6	38.50	
Grants Contracts Coordinator 2	1.00	5.6	31.98	Rural Fire Coordinator	1.00	7.0	29.33	
Hydrologist 1	2.00	7.9	26.38	Safety Officer 1	0.81	1.5	34.45	
Hydrologist 2	1.90	2.9	33.63	Senior Engine Boss	1.50	7.0	15.47	
Professional Engineer 1	2.00	5.6	40.97	Unit Fire Mgmt Officer	1.00	1.5	36.25	
Public Relations Specialist 1	1.00	8.4	30.55	Wildland Firefighter 1	0.50	3.3	19.69	
Public Relations Supervisor	1.00	8.4	38.65	Wildland Firefighter 2	4.25	6.5	24.86	
Regional Water Planner	1.00	3.7	43.30	Wildland Firefighter 3	0.75	2.9	29.33	
Water Conservation Specialist1	3.00	2.9	25.57	Division Total / Average¹	37.51	3.9	\$29.46	
Water Conservation Specialist2	1.65	3.7	32.99	Conservation and Resources Development Division				
Division Total / Average¹	23.80	4.9	\$35.51	Accountant 2	1.00	1.0	29.57	
					Grand Total¹	71.81	5.5	\$32.60

¹ Averages for months vacant and pay rate are weighted by FTE

Turnover for the agency since July 2023 includes 22 persons who left state employment, 18 retirements, and seven employees that transferred to another agency within state government.

OTHER ISSUES

Information Technology Project Expenditures

Large Information Technology Projects Original and Revised Budgets						
<u>Project</u>	<u>Start Date</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Original Budget</u>	<u>Revised Budget</u>	<u>Expended</u>	<u>Percent Expended</u>
Trust Lands Management System II (TLMSII)	7/16/2018	Executing	3,063,000	5,488,393	3,377,064	61.5%
Water Rights Information System II	6/21/2019	Executing	4,167,174	4,167,174	3,776,271	90.6%

Trust Lands Management System II

Although the total budget of this project has increased, the total scope has as well. Once the build was initiated, the agency realized there were more efficiencies to be gained by rolling additional business functions into the application or making enhancements to existing workflows. The expanded scope and cost have provided value to the program and is on-track from both a business and IT perspective. The agency anticipates wrapping up this phase of development in 2024.

Water Rights Information System II

This project is ongoing with other tasks for additional improvements and an additional build out for the CSKT Water Rights Information System under authority received in HB 10 in the 2023 legislative session.

Status of Line-Itemed Decision Packages, 2023 Legislature

The table below summarizes the agency's expenditures against legislative appropriations for decision packages that appear as line items in HB 2. A detailed discussion of each decision package is provided below.

The Department of Natural Resources and Conservation Legislative Appropriation and Expenditures for FY 2024				
<u>Decision Package</u>	<u>Legislative Appropriation</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Expended</u>	<u>Percent Expended</u>
DP 2110 - Weather Modification Feasibility Study (Restricted/Biennial/OTO)	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$6,868	4.6%
DP 2310 - Conservation District Augment (Restricted/Biennial/OTO)	750,000	750,000	118,252	15.8%
DP 2320 - Regional Water Authority Administration (OTO)	141,923	141,923	47,500	33.5%
DP 2303 - CARDD Infrastructure (Restricted/OTO)	150,000	150,000	22,976	15.3%
DP 2403 - WRD Montana Stream Gage Network Support (OTO)	831,598	831,598	280,660	33.7%
DP 2405 - WRD Safety and Reliability of State Projects (OTO)	136,000	136,000	-	0.0%
DP 2409 - WRD Willow Creek Rehab (Restricted/OTO)	500,000	500,000	-	0.0%
DP 2411 - Open ET (OTO)	296,000	296,000	4,167	0.0%
DP 2420 - CSKT-Montana Compact Implementation (RST)	100,000	100,000	25,000	25.0%
Total of HB 2 Line Itemed Decision Packages	\$3,055,521	\$3,055,521	\$505,423	16.5%

DP 2110 - Weather Modification Feasibility Study (Restricted/Biennial/OTO)

FY 2024 – \$125,000 General Fund
FY 2025 – \$125,000 General Fund
FY 2024 – \$25,000 State Special Revenue
FY 2025 – \$25,000 State Special Revenue

The legislature approved as one-time-only \$250,000 in general fund, and \$50,000 in state special revenue to conduct a study assessing the feasibility of implementing a watershed scale weather modification project in Montana.

DP 2310 - Conservation District Augment (Restricted/Biennial/OTO)

FY 2024 – \$750,000 State Special Revenue
FY 2025 – \$1,500,000 State Special Revenue

The legislature approved a one-time-only appropriation of state special revenue to support the operations of conservation districts.

DP 2320 - Regional Water Authority Administration (OTO)

FY 2024 – \$141,923 State Special Revenue
FY 2025 – \$141,923 State Special Revenue

The legislature approved a one-time-only appropriation of state special revenue to support the administration of the expansion of regional water systems.

DP 2303 - CARDD Infrastructure (Restricted/OTO)

FY 2024 – \$75,000 General Fund
FY 2025 – \$75,000 General Fund
FY 2024 – \$75,000 State Special Revenue
FY 2025 – \$75,000 State Special Revenue

The legislature approved funding for the anticipated increased workload that will occur with the Buy American Build American (BABA) and the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) federal programs. This will be funded with general fund and state special revenue. DNRC will establish modified FTE to support this work.

DP 2403 - WRD Montana Stream Gage Network Support (OTO)

FY 2024 – \$831,598 General Fund
FY 2025 – \$629,453 General Fund

The legislature approved an increase in general fund to support a network of 100 state-operated, year-round stream gages to gather and distribute real-time streamflow information on smaller streams and tributaries not monitored through the United States Geological Survey (USGS) program.

DP 2405 - WRD Safety and Reliability of State Projects (OTO)

FY 2024 – \$68,000 General Fund
FY 2025 – \$63,000 General Fund
FY 2024 – \$68,000 State Special Revenue
FY 2025 – \$63,000 State Special Revenue

The legislature approved a one-time-only increase in general fund and state special revenue to support a modified FTE to work on projects related to irrigation and dam infrastructure. State special revenue is generated from the sale of hydro-electric power generated from the Broadwater/Toston Dam.

DP 2409 - WRD Willow Creek Rehab (Restricted/OTO)

FY 2024 – \$500,000 General Fund
FY 2025 – \$500,000 General Fund

The legislature approved a one-time-only appropriation of general fund for the planning & design of the Willow Creek Dam rehabilitation. Scope of work will include final design, cost estimating, preparing final construction documents, final permitting, and advertising for bids.

DP 2411 - Open ET (OTO)

FY 2024 – \$296,000 General Fund
FY 2025 – \$176,000 General Fund

The legislature approved a one-time-only increase in general fund for a new water consumption monitoring program. The new system would replace the current system with a satellite-based data collection system.

DP 2420 - CSKT-Montana Compact Implementation (RST)

FY 2024 – \$100,000 General Fund
FY 2025 – \$100,000 General Fund

The legislature restricted \$100,000 of general fund in each year of the biennium to implement the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) (75-1-102, MCA), National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA)(42 U.S.C. §§ 4321 et seq.), and the protection and administration of state-based water rights.