

1 HOUSE BILL NO. 6  
2 INTRODUCED BY M. HOPKINS  
3 BY REQUEST OF THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION, OFFICE OF  
4 BUDGET AND PROGRAM PLANNING

5  
6 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RENEWABLE RESOURCE GRANT AND  
7 LOAN PROGRAM; APPROPRIATING MONEY TO THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND  
8 CONSERVATION FOR GRANTS UNDER THE RENEWABLE RESOURCE GRANT AND LOAN PROGRAM;  
9 PRIORITIZING PROJECT GRANTS AND AMOUNTS; ESTABLISHING CONDITIONS FOR GRANTS;  
10 PROVIDING FOR A TRANSFER OF FUNDS FROM THE STATE GENERAL FUND TO THE NATURAL  
11 RESOURCE PROJECTS STATE SPECIAL REVENUE ACCOUNT; APPROPRIATING MONEY FOR A  
12 GRANT FOR THE SAINT MARY'S SIPHON REPLACEMENTS PROJECT; PROVIDING FOR  
13 COORDINATION OF FUNDING; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE."

14  
15 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

16  
17 **NEW SECTION. Section 1. Appropriations for renewable resource grants.** (1) For the biennium  
18 beginning July 1, 2023, there is appropriated to the department of natural resources and conservation from the  
19 natural resources projects state special revenue account established in 15-38-302 up to:

- 20 (a) \$300,000 for emergency projects grants to be awarded by the department over the biennium;  
21 (b) \$3,500,000 for planning grants to be awarded by the department over the biennium;  
22 (c) \$500,000 for irrigation development grants to be awarded by the department over the  
23 biennium;  
24 (d) \$500,000 for watershed grants to be awarded by the department over the biennium;  
25 (e) \$100,000 for private grants to be awarded by the department over the biennium; and  
26 (f) \$2,500,000 for nonpoint source pollution reduction grants to be awarded by the department  
27 over the biennium.

**\*\*\*\*Amendment - 1st Reading-white - Requested by: Mike Lang - (H) Joint Appropriations Subcommittee on Long Range Planning**

- 2023

68th Legislature 2023

Drafter: ~~Julie Johnson~~Katy Callon, ~~406-444-4024~~406-444-4421

HB0006.001.001

1 (2) The amount of \$6,250,000 is appropriated to the department of natural resources and  
2 conservation from the natural resources projects state special revenue account established in 15-38-302 for the  
3 biennium beginning July 1, 2023. The funds referred to in this subsection must be awarded by the department  
4 to the named entities for the described purposes and in the grant amounts listed in subsection (4), subject to  
5 the conditions set forth in [sections 2 and 3] and the contingencies described in the renewable resource grant  
6 and loan program January 2023 report to the 68th legislature titled: "Governor's Executive Budget Fiscal Years  
7 2023-2025 Volume 6".

8 (3) Funds must be awarded up to the amounts approved in subsection (4) in the following listed  
9 order of priority until available funds are expended. Funds not accepted or used by higher-ranked projects must  
10 be provided for projects farther down the priority list that would not otherwise receive funding. If at any time a  
11 grant sponsor determines that a project will not begin before June 30, 2025, the sponsor shall notify the  
12 department of natural resources and conservation. After all eligible projects are funded, remaining funds may  
13 be used for any renewable resource project authorized under this section.

14 (4) The following are the prioritized infrastructure grant projects:

15 RENEWABLE RESOURCE INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT PROJECTS

16 Applicant/Project	Amount
17 Cooke City	
18 Cooke City Wastewater Treatment and Collection System	\$125,000
19 West Yellowstone, Town of	
20 West Yellowstone Wastewater Treatment Plant Project	\$125,000
21 Red Lodge, City of	
22 Red Lodge Wastewater System Improvements	\$125,000
23 Superior, Town of	
24 Superior Wastewater System Improvements Project	\$125,000
25 Choteau, City of	
26 Choteau Water System Improvements	\$125,000
27 Cascade, Town of	

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- 2023

68th Legislature 2023

Drafter: ~~Julie Johnson~~[Katy Callon](mailto:Katy.Callon@legislature.mt.gov), ~~406-444-4024~~[406-444-4421](tel:406-444-4421)

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1	Cascade Wastewater System Improvements	\$125,000
2	Sand Coulee, Town of	
3	Sand Coulee Wastewater Improvements	\$125,000
4	Kalispell, City of	
5	Kalispell Morning Star Court Water and Wastewater Improvement Project	\$125,000
6	Saco, Town of	
7	Saco Wastewater System Improvements	\$125,000
8	Drummond, Town of	
9	Drummond Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrade	\$125,000
10	Craig County WSD	
11	Craig Wastewater System Improvements	\$125,000
12	Gallatin Canyon County Water Sewer District	
13	Gallatin Canyon County Water Sewer District Gallatin Canyon Sewer Project Phase 1.2	
14		\$125,000
15	Thompson Falls, City of	
16	Thompson Falls Water System Improvements Project	\$125,000
17	Corvallis County Sewer District	
18	Corvallis Wastewater Collection System Improvements	\$125,000
19	Helena, City of	
20	Helena Red Mountain Flume Repairs Project #22-05	\$125,000
21	Havre, City of	
22	Havre Water System Improvements Project	\$125,000
23	Bigfork County Water and Sewer District	
24	Bigfork County Water and Sewer District West Trunk Sewer Replacement and Collection Basin	
25	Rehabilitation Project	\$125,000
26	Belt, Town of	
27	Belt Water System Improvements	\$125,000

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1	Lincoln County	
2	Lincoln County Libby Creek Community Water and Wastewater Improvements	\$125,000
3	Richey, Town of	
4	Richey Water Main Replacement Phase 2	\$125,000
5	Geraldine, Town of	
6	Geraldine Water System Improvements	\$125,000
7	Victor Water and Sewer District	
8	Victor Wastewater Collection and Treatment Improvements Project	\$125,000
9	Forsyth, City of	
10	Forsyth Water System Improvements	\$125,000
11	Townsend, Town of	
12	Townsend Water System Improvements Project	\$125,000
13	Martinsdale Water and Sewer District	
14	Martinsdale Water and Sewer District Water System Improvements	\$125,000
15	Twin Bridges, Town of	
16	Twin Bridges Water System Improvements	\$125,000
17	Dodson, Town of	
18	Dodson Water System Improvements	\$125,000
19	Sunburst, Town of	
20	Sunburst Wastewater Distribution and Treatment Project	\$125,000
21	Philipsburg, Town of	
22	Water Main Replacement Alley between Broadway and Stockton (Duffy-Sansome)	\$125,000
23	Missoula, City of	
24	Missoula Comprehensive Stormwater Plan	\$125,000
25	Denton, Town of	
26	Denton Wastewater System Upgrades Phase 1	\$125,000
27	Dutton, Town of	

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1	Dutton Water System Improvements	\$125,000
2	Circle, Town of	
3	Circle Waterline Replacement Project Phase 4	\$125,000
4	Clancy Water and Sewer District	
5	Clancy Water and Sewer District Water System Improvements	\$125,000
6	Basin County Water and/or Sewer District	
7	Basin Water System Improvements Project	\$125,000
8	Wolf Point, City of	
9	Wolf Point Wastewater Project Phase 1	\$125,000
10	Hideaway Community County Water & Sewer District	
11	Hideaway Court Community Sewer Project (HCCWSD)	\$125,000
12	Chester, Town of	
13	Chester Wastewater Improvements Project	\$125,000
14	Troy, City of	
15	Troy Water System Improvements Project	\$125,000
16	Lockwood Water and Sewer District	
17	Lockwood Water and Sewer District Mid Zone Reservoir	\$125,000
18	Hot Springs, Town of	
19	Hot Springs Sewer Lagoon Rehabilitation Project	\$125,000
20	Hingham, Town of	
21	Hingham Wastewater System Improvements Project	\$125,000
22	Chester, Town of	
23	Chester Water System Improvements Project	\$125,000
24	Shelby, City of	
25	Shelby Wastewater Improvements Project	\$125,000
26	Conrad, City of	
27	Conrad Storm Water Project	\$125,000

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1	Absarokee Water and Sewer District	
2	Absarokee Water and Sewer District Water System Improvements	\$125,000
3	North Cut Bank Glacier County Water and Sewer District	
4	North Cut Bank Glacier County Wastewater Lift Station Improvements	\$125,000
5	Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch County Water and Sewer District	
6	Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch County WSD Wastewater System Improvements	
7		\$125,000
8	Judith Gap, Town of	
9	Judith Gap Wastewater Water Line and Meter Upgrade Project	\$125,000
10	Boulder, City of	
11	Boulder Drinking Water System Improvements	\$125,000

12 (5) The amount of \$2,500,000 is appropriated to the department of natural resources and  
13 conservation from the natural resources projects state special revenue account established in 15-38-302 for the  
14 biennium beginning July 1, 2023. The funds referred to in this subsection must be awarded by the department  
15 to the named entities for the described purposes and in the grant amounts listed in subsection (7), subject to  
16 the conditions set forth in [sections 2 and 3] and the contingencies described in the renewable resource grant  
17 and loan program January 2023 report to the 68th legislature titled: "Governor's Executive Budget Fiscal Years  
18 2023-2025 Volume 6".

19 (6) Funds must be awarded up to the amounts approved in subsection (7) in the following listed  
20 order of priority until available funds are expended. Funds not accepted or used by higher-ranked projects must  
21 be provided for projects farther down the priority list that would not otherwise receive funding. If at any time a  
22 grant sponsor determines that a project will not begin before June 30, 2025, the sponsor shall notify the  
23 department of natural resources and conservation. After all eligible projects are funded, remaining funds may  
24 be used for any renewable resource project authorized under this section.

25 (7) The following are the prioritized irrigation grant projects:

26 RENEWABLE RESOURCE IRRIGATION GRANT PROJECTS

27 Applicant/Project	Amount
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1	Greenfields Irrigation District	
2	Greenfields Irrigation District Pishkun Inlet Hydroelectric Project	\$125,000
3	Lower Yellowstone Irrigation District #1	
4	Lower Yellowstone Irrigation District #1 Thomas Point Pumping Plant Rehabilitation	\$125,000
5	Lower Yellowstone Irrigation Project	
6	Lower Yellowstone Irrigation Project Critical Structures Rehabilitation Project	\$125,000
7	Helena Valley Irrigation District	
8	Helena Valley Irrigation District Regulating Reservoir Preservation & Bypass Project	\$125,000
9	Buffalo Rapids Irrigation Project 2	
10	Shirley Main Canal Rehabilitation Phase 2	\$125,000
11	Pondera County Conservation District	
12	Pondera County Conservation District Birch Creek Diversion Automation Project	\$125,000
13	Madison County	
14	Madison County Big Hole River Restoration Design and Permitting	\$125,000
15	Ruby Valley Conservation District	
16	Ruby Valley CD Upper Jefferson Channel Restoration Project	\$125,000
17	Newlan Creek Water District	
18	Newlan Creek Water District Newlan Creek Dam Safety Improvements	\$125,000
19	Savage Irrigation District	
20	Savage Irrigation District Pump Station Rehabilitation	\$125,000
21	Pondera County Conservation District	
22	Pondera County Conservation District PCCRC C-Canal Headworks Automation	\$125,000
23	East Bench Irrigation District	
24	East Bench Irrigation District Carter Creek Lining & Headgate Automation	\$125,000
25	Buffalo Rapids Irrigation Project 1	
26	Eiker Reach Canal Rehabilitation Project	\$125,000
27	Hill County	



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1	Hill County Beaver Creek Dam Tailwater Channel Restoration	\$125,000
2	Granite Conservation District	
3	Granite Conservation District - Allendale Ditch Rehabilitation	\$125,000
4	Blaine County	
5	Blaine County NCIA North Chinook Reservoir Dam Outlet Rehabilitation Project	\$125,000
6	Paradise Valley Irrigation District	
7	Paradise Valley Irrigation District Hillside Ditch Pipeline Conversion Phase 2	\$125,000
8	Huntley Project Irrigation District	
9	Highline Discharge Pipeline Rehabilitation	\$125,000
10	Tin Cup Water and Sewer District	
11	Tin Cup and Mill Ditch Improvements	\$125,000
12	Billings, City of	
13	Rim Tunnel Rehabilitation Project	\$125,000
14		

15 **NEW SECTION. Section 2. Coordination of fund sources for grants to political subdivisions**  
16 **and local governments.** A project sponsor listed under [section 1(4) or section 1(7)] may not receive funds  
17 from both the reclamation and development grants program and the renewable resource grant and loan  
18 program for the same project during the same biennium.

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

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

27 (2) The project sponsor shall show satisfactory completion of conditions described in the



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1 recommendation section of the project narrative of the program report to the legislature for the biennium ending  
2 June 30, 2025, or, in the case of planning grants issued under [section 1(1)(b)], completion of conditions  
3 specified at the time of written notification of approved grant authority.

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

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

8  
9 **NEW SECTION. Section 4. Appropriations established.** There is appropriated to any entity of state  
10 government that receives a grant under [section 1] the amount of the grant upon award of the grant by the  
11 department of natural resources and conservation. Grants to entities from prior bienniums are reauthorized for  
12 completion of contract work.

13  
14 **NEW SECTION. Section 5. Approval of grants -- completion of biennial appropriation.** The  
15 legislature, pursuant to 85-1-605, approves the renewable resource programs grants listed in [section 1]. The  
16 authorization of these grants constitutes a biennial appropriation from the natural resources projects state  
17 special revenue account established in 15-38-302.

18  
19 **NEW SECTION. Section 6. Notification to tribal governments.** The secretary of state shall send a  
20 copy of [this act] to each federally recognized tribal government in Montana.

21  
22 **NEW SECTION. Section 7. Transfer of Funds.**

23 By July 1, 2023, the state treasure shall transfer \$53 million from the general funds to the natural  
24 resources projects state special revenue account established in 15-38-302.

25  
26 **NEW SECTION. ~~Section 8.~~Section 7. Appropriation.**

27 There is appropriated \$53 million to the department of natural resources and conservation for the

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1 biennium beginning July 1, 2023, from the natural resources projects state special revenue account established  
2 in 15-38-302 for a grant to the Milk River Joint Board of Control for the project stakeholder cost share for the  
3 Saint Mary's unit siphon replacement projects.  
4

5 COORDINATION SECTION. ~~Section 9.~~[Section 7.](#) Coordination instruction. (1) If both [this act]  
6 and an act that provides additional funding for renewable resource grant and loan program grants from a  
7 source other than the natural resources projects state special revenue account established in 15-38-302 are  
8 passed and approved, the projects listed in [section 1(4) and section 1(7) of this act] that do not receive funding  
9 from the appropriations in [section 1(2) and section 1(5) of this act] may receive funding from the appropriation  
10 in the other act designated for renewable resource grant and loan program grants in the order of completion of  
11 the conditions of [section 3 of this act] and to the extent that there is appropriation authority available.

12 (2) Appropriations made in [section 1(1)(a) through (1)(f)] may be adjusted within [section 1(1)(a)  
13 through (1)(f)] within the biennium based on demand or emergencies.  
14

15 NEW SECTION. ~~Section 10.~~[Section 8.](#) Severability. If a part of [this act] is invalid, all valid parts that  
16 are severable from the invalid part remain in effect. If a part of [this act] is invalid in one or more of its  
17 applications, the part remains in effect in all valid applications that are severable from the invalid applications.  
18

19 NEW SECTION. ~~Section 11.~~[Section 9.](#) Effective date. [This act] is effective July 1, 2023.  
20

- END -