

TSEP Regional Water Program RW

Purpose

The State of Montana, through the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) provides financial support and state coordination for four regional water systems in Montana. When built out, the Rocky Boys-North Central, Fort Peck-Dry Prairie, Central Montana, and Dry Redwater systems will provide clean drinking water to more than 65 communities in central and northern Montana. Two of the regional water systems benefit from Tribal partnerships, and are authorized by Congress. The other two are progressing through planning phases specified by the Department of Interior, and could both be federally authorized projects within the coming biennium.

Executive Recommendation

- Regional Water appropriates the state's share of regional water system construction funding. Grant funding is limited to \$5,000,000 of state revenue for construction projects conducted by the nontribal authorities for the Fort Peck-Dry Prairie and Rocky Boys-North Central systems.
- There is an appropriation in HB 2 for administration of \$1,500,000 per year.

Since the last session –

- In the 2021 Biennium, the Dry Prairie Regional Water Authority completed work on delivery of water to Scobey. The Dry Prairie system provides good quality and needed volume. The system has been a great help to those in Eastern Montana impacted by energy development. The entire system should be complete by December 2023.
- The North Central Regional Water system has completed the Oilmont to Shelby pipeline. The North Central system is also working on the pipeline to carry water from Tiber east to Loma and beyond. The construction completion date is estimated to be July 2023 and is expected to cost about \$20 million.
- The Central Montana Regional Water system continues its 3-year ground water study in the Judith Basin. It is looking at a first phase pipeline which will deliver water to Harlowton. The Dry Redwater Regional Water system is using Sidney as an interim water source to provide water to two subdivisions that were under a compliance order.