

Overview and general information about the NWTF grant program.



NOXIOUS WEED TRUST FUND

- **Established in 1985**
 - **Facilitated by MDA Staff**

- **NWTF Funding**
 - **Vehicle Registration Fee**
 - **Interest on \$10 Million Trust Fund**
 - **General Fund**
 - **Cooperative Forestry Funds**
 - **MDT Pass Through Funds**



NWTF program operates under state statute, 80-7-801 through 821, MCA and administrative rules, 4.5.101 through 4.5.112, ARM.

- Original enabling legislation for NWTF program included a 1% herbicide surcharge on the sale of herbicides to fund the trust fund. Surcharge ended on July 31, 1992 when the permanent NWTF reached its original goal of \$2.5 million.
- Original funding for the NWTF grants program included a \$1,000,000 grant from the Montana Resource Indemnity Trust Fund [RIT].
- Half of the RIT funds started the permanent NWTF and half funded grants for the first two years of the program.
- 1987 Legislature increased funding for the grants program by enacting a \$.50 fee on each vehicle registered in MT.
- 1989 Legislature increased the weed vehicle fee to \$1.50 for each registered vehicle.
- 1999 Legislature added an additional \$2.25 (DOT non-restricted HWY Account) million to the Trust Fund.
- In 2005 HB 266 implemented the constitutional amendment passed in November 2004 and also clarified that any reverted monies go back to the Trust Fund.
- Reverted grant funds increased funding to permanent trust starting in FY-06.
- 2007 Legislature passed House Bill 2 to include a one time transfer of \$5,000,000 to the permanent Trust Fund with the addition of a one time only FTE for another grant coordinator position.
- In 2007 SB285 changed the \$1.50 collected on vehicle fees to 1.5% on vehicle fees.
- In 2008 the Permanent Trust reached \$10,000,000 million.

Funding Recipients:



Community Groups



Tribes



Educators



Researchers



Counties

FUNDING RECIPIENTS:

Funding is available to:

Landowner / community groups

Tribes

Educators

Researchers

Counties

Collaborating Organizations:



Weed
District

University

County or
Tribe

Extension
Office

Conservation
District

COLLABORATING ORGANIZATIONS:

Grant applicants collaborate with an organization, such as:

County or Tribal Weed District
Extension Office
Conservation District
University

Organizations serve as the recipient for funding reimbursements from the NWTF.



TYPES OF GRANTS:

Emergency Grants – After fires, floods, finding of new invader weed

- Due by Nov. 1st (maximum of \$25,000 per application)

Special Co/Res - \$7,500 available each year to counties and 7 reservations. Can be used for weed related salaries, equipment, etc.

- Due by Jan. 6th (\$7,500 per County/Reservation each year)

MDT Funding – Awarded to each county - \$1,785 each year.

NWTF Grants – Research, Education/Planning, and Local Cooperative Projects.

- Due by Jan. 6th (maximum \$75,000 per application)

NOXIOUS WEED TRUST FUND

- **Education / Development Grants**
 - Planning
 - Mapping
 - Monitoring
 - Education
- **Research Grants**
 - Chemical
 - Non-Chemical
 - Biological
 - Integrated Weed Management



NWTF Grants

Education / Development Grants:

- Includes mapping, monitoring, planning and education
- Does not require matching funds – but beneficial to have cooperative effort
- Should promote public awareness and build partnerships

Coordinate with State Education Coordinator Shantell Frame-Martin for available materials, suggestions, etc. (ph# 328-4785)

Research Grants:

- Should **address land management needs, increase knowledge or improve aspects of weed management and effectively disseminate project results**
- May include chemical, non-chemical, or biological & integrated approaches to weed control
- Does not require matching funds, but in-kind or forgone indirect costs can be described

Biocontrol Projects: Coordinate mapping release sites, insect collection opportunities, with State Biocontrol Coordinator Melissa Maggio-Kassner (ph# 258-4223)

Both Education & Research projects need:

- A detailed plan of action
- Specific measurable and attainable objectives
- Specific plans for project evaluation

NOXIOUS WEED TRUST FUND

Local Cooperative Grants

- ☞ On the ground treatment in CWMA's
- ☞ Mapping, Biological, Grazing, Revegetation
- ☞ 50% cost-share for herbicide, commercial applicator and seed
- ☞ EA's required for NEW projects



NWTF Local Cooperative Grants:

- Provide on the ground treatment of noxious weeds
- Requires participation of at least 3 adjacent landowners

Project participants develop a cooperative weed management area, map noxious weeds in the project area, and develop long term weed control plans.

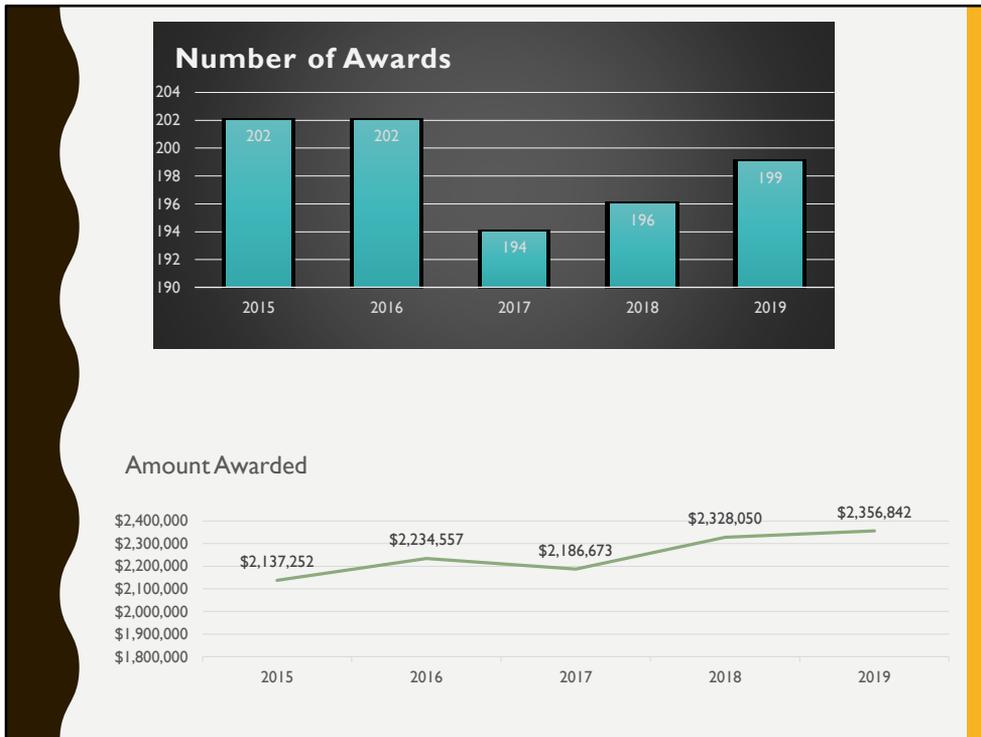
Local Cooperative grants:

- provide up to 50% of herbicide/seed costs - applied by landowners
- provide up to 50% of herbicide/seed and application cost - by commercial applicators

Two types of Local Cooperative Applications – Continuing or New Project

Local Cooperative NEW application is used for first year grants – requires completing Environmental Assessment (EA) forms for the project area.

Work with State Education and/or State Biocontrol Coordinators for these aspects of local cooperative grants.



Figures includes:

- Special County /Reservation \$7,500 grants
- Emergency grants
- MDT pass through awards to counties
- NWTF grant hearing awards
- Re-awarded funds

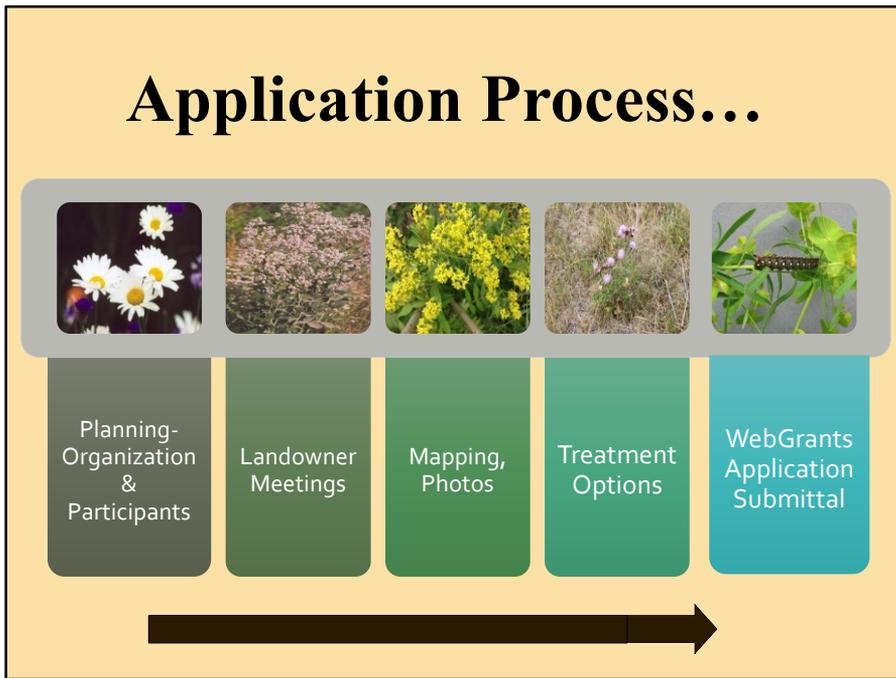
Number of Annual Awards

Average ~ 200 grants per year

Funding Amounts

Average ~ \$2 million awarded per year

Application Process...



APPLICATION PROCESS...

Planning:

- Participant understanding of **Reimbursable grant program**
- **Participant commitment** – estimated acres, financial commitment, etc.
 - Having each landowner submit a WMP will help organize the budget
- Determine what **Organization will be the funding recipient** – organization will submit claims to MDA for reimbursement and disperse funds to the project participants.
- **Grant term** is 18 months, provides 2 seasons to complete activities. Application should be for activities planned to be completed in the first year of the project. Second season should be used only as a back-up in case of drought, etc.

Landowner meetings throughout project. IWM and educational components should be a part of all projects.

Weed mapping, photos.- Required before and after photos and mapping or sharing data with EDDMapS

Treatment Options: planning / cost estimates / landowner matching agreements

Specify herbicides for use in project - discuss with applicators

NWTF cannot cover costs for herbicides not approved in application and contract.

NWTF cannot cover costs for biocontrol insects.

Applications are submitted electronically through WebGrants.

MDA is available to provide help and assist with questions.

PLANNING

- Have a landowner meeting, send WMPs, get commitment
 - What weeds are present and need controlling
 - How many acres to spray
 - What products have they been using
 - What type of application do they want
 - How much are they willing to spend
- Define the boundary (Not too big, not too small, but just right!)
 - County lines, watershed, placement of public lands, etc.
- Explain Requirements & Define Objectives/Goals
 - Reimbursable, time sensitive objectives, keep and submit receipts, mapping & photos, site visit, education, grant hearings
- Get a history on the area and past management/ownership
 - Herbicide, targeted grazing, biocontrol, non-compliance, etc.

These are all questions on the application.

- Get details from landowners in advance.
- Have a landowner be the lead and help write different sections of the application
- Send out Weed Management Plans to all interested parties to help with the budget and goals

WHAT CAN YOU BE REIMBURSED FOR?

- Supplies and materials
 - Travel
 - Grazing
 - Seed
 - Re-seeding costs
 - Herbicide (State Bid Prices- no more than 15% over)
 - Herbicide application costs
- * Up to 3% (or \$1,000) for Administrative Costs if eligible

What can you be reimbursed for?

- **Approved expenses as shown on the grant contract and final budget.**
- **Expenses must occur within term dates of grant.**
- **Herbicide and/or applicator costs that were approved on the herbicide worksheet – specified by active ingredients.**
- **May submit claims at anytime during the grant - should be for \$500 or more.**



GRANT HEARINGS

15 minutes for each application presentation & questions.

CONTRACTS

Grantees must follow project activities as approved in the application and contract. Reimbursable grant program.

Noxious Weed Management Advisory Council

10 Voting Members plus MDA Director

12 Agency Representatives

Council reviews and scores applications (hearings = approximately 100 applications).

Deliberates on funding recommendations for final approval from MDA Director.

Council attends week long grant hearings + 2 or more 1 day meetings each year.

Grant Hearings:

Applicants are notified of the date and time scheduled for their presentation (PowerPoint if desired) to the council.

Allotted 10 minutes for presentation and 5 minutes for questions from council.

Suggest bringing a copy of application for questions.

Competitive grant funding process

Council funding deliberations on Friday - Director has final approval.

Funding letters –May receive partial funding, which requires application revisions.

Contracts:

Read thoroughly - Start date / Term date / Status report dates

Reimbursement is allowed only for project activities, herbicides, reseeding, etc. that are specified in the application and grant contract.

Call MDA for assistance if running into problems.



Once your grant is awarded... Grant Process

Complete the project activities – as outlined in application and grant contract.

Record keeping – Retain all spray records, invoices, etc. as outlined in contract (retain for 8 years).
Project related invoices are scanned and submitted with claims for reimbursement.

Site visits by MDA – MDA will arrange site visits to view project activities and to provide assistance if needed.

Status reports – Completed online, due April 15 and November 30th. Semi-annual and a final report.

Claims – Reimbursable Grant Program

Can only be reimbursed for activities and/or chemicals approved on application and grant contract.

Claims are submitted online, Local Cooperative projects use the Excel form (provided on claim) to itemize invoices. Attach receipts and invoices to claim.

MDA is available to assist ☺

START OFF RIGHT

- **Set the budget up correctly**
 - Appropriate categories
 - Correct amounts
 - 10% deviation allowed for budgeted categories
- **Communication between project coordinator and project participants**
 - Allowable expenses
 - Allowable herbicides
 - Required receipt documentation
- **Maintain accurate and complete records**

Start Off Right

Set the budget up correctly on your grant application

- Use the correct categories for your expenses – herbicides in herbicide section, etc.
- Estimate costs as closely as possible
- 10% deviation is allowed for categories that have a budget – cannot add new categories after grant approval.

Good communication with all project participants – everyone should know:

- What expenses are allowed for reimbursement
- What herbicides are allowed for reimbursement
- Requirements of receipts, photos, etc.

Maintain good records

Utilize the instructions on the MDA website

PROJECT SUCCESSES

A snippet of past projects that have used the NWTF and IWM with great success!



Past and on-going projects that have found success using the NWTF and IWM techniques.

RESEARCH

BIOCONTROL

- Toadflax
- Hawkweeds
- Whitetop
- Russian Knapweed
- Russian Olive
- Common Tansy
- Oxeye Daisy
- Flowering Rush

GRAZING / REVEGETATION

- Grazing Capacity
- Altering Planting Dates
- Targeted Grazing Effects
- Secondary Infestations
- Patterns of Invasions
- Plant Community Responses
- Developing New Biocontrols

Collaborators: MSU, UMT, MWCA, County Weed Districts

Efforts made through research and testing to find new and improved techniques to curb the spread of noxious weeds.

Most projects are done through one of the University systems, Non-profit organizations and some through the County Weed Districts

The most recent biocontrol projects include research and testing new agents that may help control

- Toadflax
- Hawkweeds
- Whitetop
- Russian Knapweed
- Russian Olive
- Common Tansy
- Oxeye Daisy
- Flowering Rush

Other research projects include plot testing and research on efficient and effective ways to use targeted grazing and revegetation as tools for integrative weed management.

EDUCATION / DEVELOPMENT

Biocontrol Education

- Whitehall Insectary
- Ravalli County Bio-Kids
- Madison County Biocontrol
- Montana Biocontrol Coordination Project



Public Weed Education

- MT AG Network Radio Show
- Ready-Set-Action – Weed Videos
- Youth Forest Monitoring Program
- Montana Noxious Weed Education Campaign

Weed Management Tools

- Weed Coordinator Training
- EDDMapS West
- Weed ID & IWM Strategies



Collaborators: MWCA, County Weed Districts, MSU, UMT, WBWCP

There are many different methods of educating the public and weed community on weed management and control.

Most projects are completed by County Weed Districts, the Universities and other Non-Profit groups.

Recent Education Grants helped fund:

- School and County insectaries
- Biocontrol Workshops and Collection Days
- Education Campaigns including outreach to youth and school groups
- Public Outreach through media: videos, radio show
- Helena/Lewis & Clark FS Youth Education Program

Development grants include mapping, monitoring and planning different types of projects

- EDDMapS West
- Data analysis of field collections (National Heritage Program)
- Mapping and monitoring new infestations

LOCAL COOPERATIVES

Central MT

- Musselshell River Corridor, Musselshell Co.
- Urban Spurge, Sweet Grass Co.
- Sweet Grass Hills, Liberty Co.
- Lower Spring Creek, Fergus Co.
- Eden Grant, Cascade Co.

Western MT

- Big Hole/ Wise River, Beaverhead Co.
- Middle Fork, Granite Co.
- Jack Creek, Madison Co.
- Beck Hill, Powell Co.

Local Cooperative Projects involve on-the-ground treatment of noxious weeds and...

- Include IWM techniques: Chemical Control, Cultural and Mechanical Control, Biological Control, Mapping, Education and Outreach

Recent Central Montana Grants

- Upper Musselshell E, C, & S
 - Due to river floods in 2011, 2014, and 2018 the producers in this valley are controlling new infestations of weeds along the river
 - Private and contracted spraying of spurge, salt cedar, common tansy and thistles
 - Spring & Fall producer meeting
- Urban Spurge
 - Only documented site in MT; has spread to Golden Valley Co.
 - Samples sent to lab for genetic testing in 2019; some biocontrol is present
 - Old grant has been re-vamped and includes new landowners
 - Goal is to contain and reduce the infestation
- Sweet Grass Hills
 - Landowners joined with BOR, BLM, DNRC and two County Weed Districts
 - Sheep to graze leafy spurge and release biocontrol agents
 - Use helicopter to spray large infestations of knapweed and spurge
 - Ag in the Classroom- noxious weed bumper sticker contest
- Lower Spring Creek
 - 1,831 acres treated since 2016; target weeds common tansy, spotted knapweed and

- houndstongue
 - The CWMA works to treat the Lower Spring Creek corridor
- Eden Grant
 - Landowner driven grant; new coordinator this year
 - Spring and Fall landowner meeting + grantee specific training/yr
 - NWTF Council toured part of the project area in 2019
 - Ventenata found in project area this summer
- **Western Montana Grants**
- Big Hole/Wise River
 - Cooperators include 20+ private landowners, BLM, Madison Co, Butte Co., Deer Lodge Co, Big Hole CWMA, Big Hole Outfitters, USFS (2 districts)
 - Host the Weed Wacker's Ball each year as fundraiser
 - BLM & USFS doing helicopter work along river
 - County holds 8-10 spray days in area to boost participation
- Middle Fork
 - Small group of landowners
 - Using funds to do more aerial work in steep terrain
 - New infestation of sulfur cinquefoil
- Jack Creek
 - Cooperators include Co, Madison Valley Ranch Group, Jack Creek Preserve, FS, and private landowners
 - Preserve hosts educational summer camps for kids
 - Biocontrol releases
 - Coop days for the group- huge turn-out in 2019
- Beck Hill
 - Haven't had a since 2013; Cooperators include BLM, Co., DNRC, FWP, MDT, USFS, and several private landowners
 - Annual spring meetings and landowner trainings
 - Cooperative aerial spray with fed/state agencies
 - Biocontrol releases

LOCAL COOPERATIVES

Eastern MT

- Little Beaver Creek, Carter Co.
- Powder River LS Project, Custer Co.
- Valley County WMA, Valley Co.

New Invaders

- Rush Skeletonweed (Lincoln Co., Sanders Co., Ravalli Co.)
- Dyer's Woad, Beaverhead Co.
- Tansy Ragwort, Lincoln Co.
- Blueweed, Ravalli Co.

Eastern Montana Grants

- Little Beaver Creek
 - 2nd year grant; private landowners, BLM, Co., DNRC
 - 2 Range tours, targeted grazing, controlling weeds after drought
 - New landowners joined in yr. 2
- Powder River Leafy Spurge
 - Project began in 2001 and now has 73 cooperators (66 landowners)
 - Use sheep to graze leafy spurge and more than 90 biocontrol releases made since the beginning
 - Long time landowners assist in educating and mentoring new landowners in the area
- Valley County
 - New grant in 2018; small landowner base
 - Grant used to contain and reduce the infestation size of knapweeds
 - New perennial pepperweed site
- **New Invaders- Weed Task Forces**
 - Each taskforce works with state, federal and county agencies as well as landowners and landmanagers to stop "new invaders" from spreading to other parts of Montana

- Rush Skeletonweed
 - Inventory, map, monitor and treat known Rush sites
 - Educate and promote preventative measures and grazing management

- Dyer's Woad
 - Support the Dyer's Woad Task Force- statewide effort
 - Use detector dogs to locate plants

- Tansy Ragwort
 - Two projects, private and government groups, with one goal
 - Surveying, Mapping and Monitoring, chemical treatment and biocontrol agents

- Blueweed
 - Controlling the spread of blueweed on land and river
 - Stopping vectors, education of public, hand pulling and monitoring

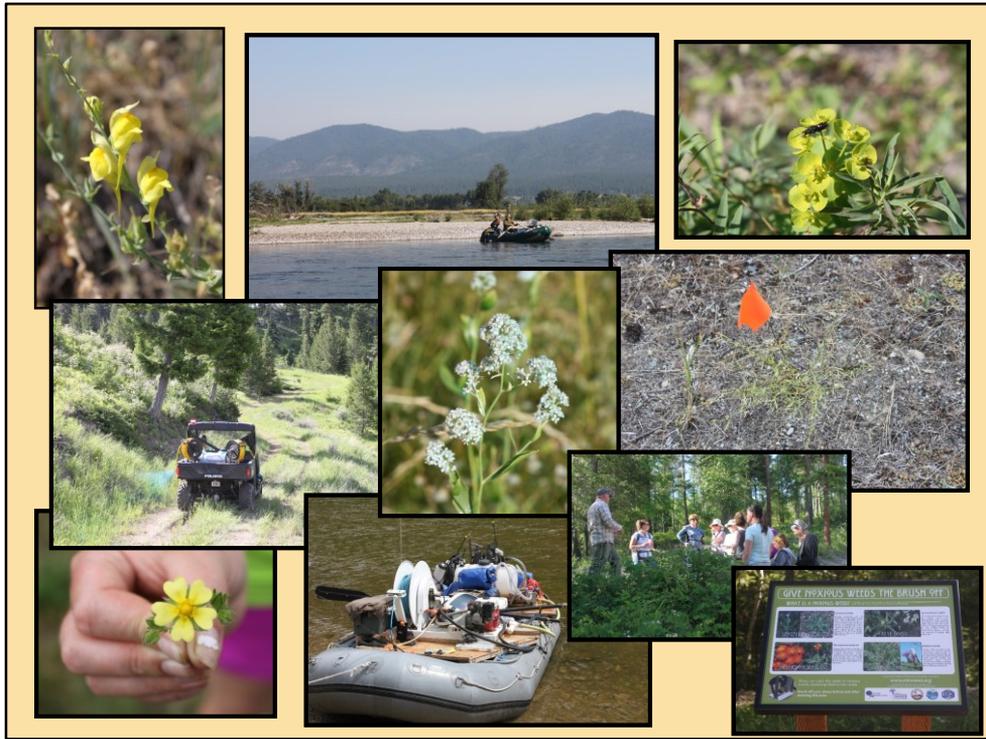
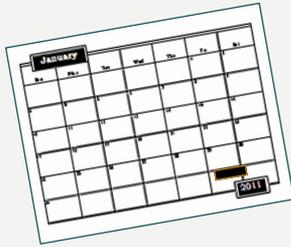


Photo Points - Project Activity Photos

Great for presentation to council.

Before & After photos are required for final status reports.



IMPORTANT DATES...

Nov. 1st - Emergency Applications Due

Nov. 30 & April 15th - Status Reports Due

January 6th - NWTF Applications Due

January 6th - Special Co/Reservation Applications Due

March 2th – 6th Grant Hearings

Contract Return Date, Start & End Dates

FY 20 Special County / Reservation and Emergency applications - due January 6th

NWTF applications for the 2020 grant hearings are due by January 6th

**Grant hearings: March 2nd, 2020 – March 6th, 2020
Great Northern Hotel, Helena, MT**

Funding letters mailed asap after hearing deliberations and approval by MDA Director.

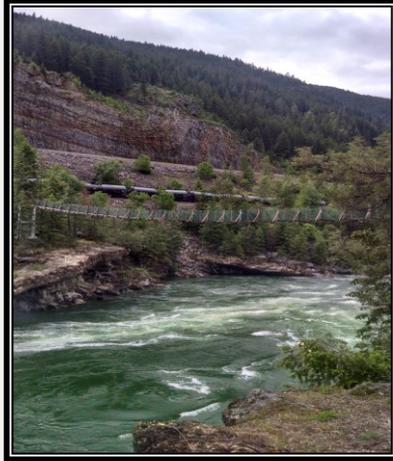
Contracts mailed for grantee signatures in April or May – note due date for contract return.

Contract start date is typically April 1 – review contract for exact date.

Contract end date is typically October 31 of the following calendar year (provides 18 months to complete project), review contract for exact date.

List of Important Dates can be found on MDA website www.agr.mt.gov

QUESTIONS?



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