
Montana Rangeland Resources Program

2024 Strategic Plan



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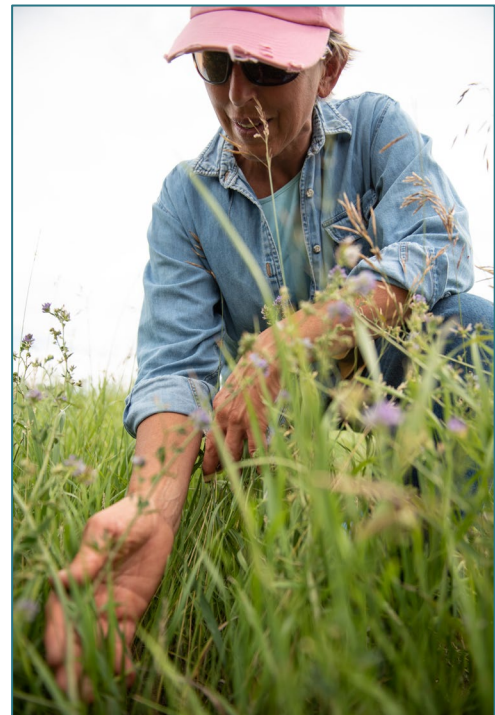


INTRODUCTION

Rangeland is Montana’s largest resource—over 65 million acres are classified as rangeland, grasslands and grazeable woodland. Too often the importance of this vast resource is underestimated, and in many ways, almost taken for granted. These lands rarely receive the attention or the credit they deserve as a vital part of our state’s economic and ecological complex. Likewise, the stewardship of the owners and managers of our rangelands also has gone largely unrecognized.

The Rangeland Resources Committee (RRC) is administratively attached to the Montana Department of Natural Resources Conservation Service (DNRC) per MCA 2-15-121. The RRC has been in existence since 1979 and is comprised of Governor appointed ranchers from select geographic areas in Montana. The Committee is statutorily mandated to make recommendations to and provide guidance for the Rangeland Resources Program (RRP) to DNRC. The RRC also has the responsibility of providing support and guidance to the State Coordinator for Rangeland Resources. The State Coordinator is also defined in MCA 76-14-105 and has specific roles within the program.

The following strategic plan is the roadmap to where the RRP wants to be in 10 years. The plan serves to guide the work of the State Coordinator, reaffirm priorities that determine which activities are appropriate to further the vision and values of the program, and prevent distraction from work that does not move the program toward its mission. The strategic plan constantly keeps the mission of the program at the forefront of all undertakings and provides guidelines for the State Coordinator to determine which activities are appropriate for the program. Although meant to guide actions for decades, the plan is flexible enough to change as the program develops with implementation.



MISSION, VISION, CORE VALUES



The strategic planning process reaffirms the mission and vision of the RRP, outlines the strategic priorities to accomplish the vision, and confirms the core values as the Program continues to develop.

Mission

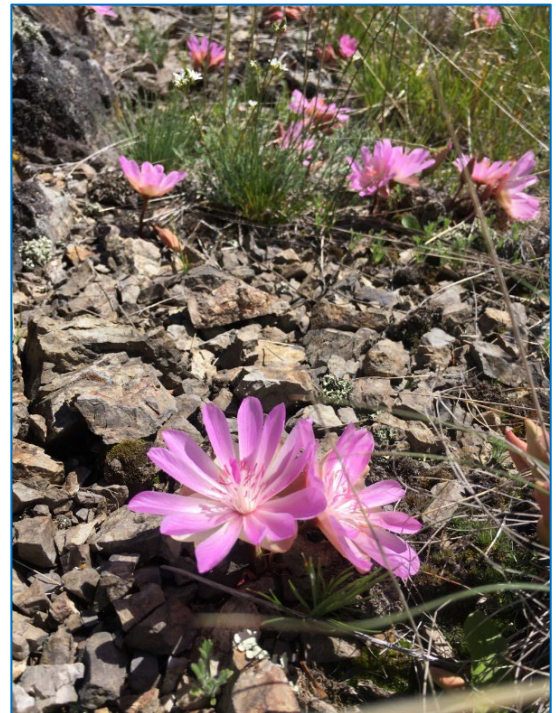
The work of the RRP will promote healthy sustainable rangelands that support people, wildlife, recreation, clean water, and the natural scenic beauty of Montana.

Vision Statement

The RRP is committed to creating a program to ensure that rangeland resource is acknowledged as the largest and most important natural resource supporting people, wildlife, recreation, clean water, natural scenic beauty, and the economy of Montana.

Core Values

RRP provides opportunities to bring together people who care to learn from one another and collaborate on common goals. The program focuses on building relationships with diverse groups, sharing perspectives and ideas while creating positive relationships proactively working together with other groups while advocating for healthy rangelands.



CURRENT PROGRAM ANALYSIS

Strengths – *existing programmatic efforts and resources that can build the RRP.*

- Montana Code Annotated 76.14.1
- Conduit to educational opportunities such as Ranching for Profit, grazing schools, etc. through NRCS and statewide non-profits
- Long standing program based on a local grassroots connection with Conservation Districts, Grazing Districts, Stakeholders and NGOs
- Range Improvement Loan Program – long history of providing a loan program for rangeland improvements

Weaknesses – *some items can be addressed through more funding, while others need to be addressed through the Program Coordinator and partners. Weaknesses can be changed – they are not fixed qualities.*

- Lack of public understanding of the importance of rangelands and the role they play in the economic and ecological health of Montana
- Decision and policymakers lack of knowledge of the importance and relevancy of rangelands to Montana's ecology and economy
- Inadequate funding to support program at an effective level
- 2 staff personnel for the whole state

Opportunities – *external trends, patterns and factors that provide opportunities for RRP.*

- Tours, speakers, and workshops hosted by other partners that staff and committee attend
- Professional development opportunities for State Coordinator & Program Specialist
- Development of new partnerships and projects to further increase awareness of the importance of rangelands
- Increased involvement in review process and issues with grazing on public lands
- Participate, and when appropriate, provide input and comments on State Water Plan, Forest Revisions, watershed plans, resource management plans, State and Federal land management agencies' rangeland program revisions
- Increased level of participation with Montana University Systems research on rangelands in Montana

CURRENT PROGRAM ANALYSIS CONTINUED

Threats - *those things that the RRP has little or no control over. Strategy is mitigation of risk / threat.*

- Economic changes that could affect budgets
- Montana is a vast state and considerable amount of travel is required for the State Coordinator & Program Specialist
- Competing interests from similar programs
- Changes in organizational structure and personnel



STRATEGIC PRIORITIES AND ACTIVITIES

Based upon the Mission, Vision, and Core Values the RRC has defined three Strategic Priorities and supporting activities to chart a path for the future of the program. These priorities are also the program's purpose as defined in MCA 76-14-102 Montana Rangeland Resources Act.

A. To Promote the importance of Montana's rangeland with respect to livestock, forage, wildlife habitat, high-quality water production, pollution control, erosion control, recreation, and the natural beauty of the state is recognized.

Activities to achieve this priority:

- Workshops/educational outreach
- Support to partners
- Working Lands Internship Program
- Rangeland Improvement Loan Program
- Rangelands in the Rotunda
- 406 Grazing Academy
- Rangeland Appreciation Month

B. Create a program in which cooperation and coordination of range management activities between persons and organizations charged with or having the management of rangeland, whether private or public, can be promoted and developed.

Activities to achieve this priority:

- Montana Rangelands Monitoring Program
- Section 8 MOU
- 406 Rangelands (RRP Programmatic Newsletter)
- Working Lands Internship Program
- 406 Grazing Academy
- Rangeland Appreciation Month

C. To develop a program to recognize those who are doing exceptional work in range management.

Activities to achieve this priority:

- Leopold Conservation Award
- Montana Range Tour
- 406 Rangelands (RRP Programmatic Newsletter)
- Rangeland Appreciation Month

PRIORITIZATION OF ACTIVITIES



Under direction of the RRC the activities set forth in this plan are evaluated for programmatic effectiveness to ensure that all activities of the RRP strive to meet or exceed programmatic goals set forth by the Committee while working to attain the mission and vision set forth for the RRP. The RRP prioritizes programmatic activities based on the promotion of the core values specific to the program.

Priority 1

Working Lands Internship Program (WLIP) - The WLIP is an opportunity for college students not from a ranching or agriculture background to experience life as a producer utilizing natural resources to produce food and fiber for our country. Over the course of the internship period interns travel the state and stay two-to-three-week stints at five to six host ranches; interns stay with each ranch host, eat meals with them,

and assist with all aspect of ranch life during their stay. The list of exposure and experience for these students is long and varied. The purpose behind the WLIP is to give students pursuing a degree in natural resources the opportunity to learn how a production agriculture operation participates in conservation efforts. This opportunity also helps develop interns' communication skills and provides them with an on the ground perspective for working agriculture lands in Montana.

Leopold Conservation Award (LCA) - In partnership with the Sand County Foundation, the RRP honors those doing exceptional work on the landscape [MCA-76-14-102(3)]. This prestigious award is presented annually to deserving ranching operations in Montana and was the first recipient was awarded in in 2019. Named in honor of Aldo Leopold, the LCA makes an impact by publicly recognizing extraordinary achievement in voluntary conservation. It inspires other landowners representing millions of acres and helps to increase the general publics' understanding of the importance of private working lands.

Rangeland Appreciation Month (RAP) - The fourth largest state in the country, Montana is home to millions of acres of rangeland with unparalleled sunrises and sunsets. The diverse ecology of rangeland provides a unique way of life for thousands of Montanans; and rangeland provides recreational opportunities for Montanans and millions more, such as hunting and fishing, generating significant revenue for our economy and rangeland communities. Rangeland sequesters more than 20 percent of the world's terrestrial carbon and provides erosion control and nutrient cycling; and rangeland supports many different types of wildlife and provides forage to support Montana's \$1.5 billion livestock industry as it provides a relatively low-input option for raising livestock. Farmers and ranchers have been stewards of the land for generations, as the sustainability of rangeland is vital for the future of agriculture; and Montana's rangeland is the backbone of our rich history and a leader in the future of Montana. In 2023 the Montana Legislature declared that the month of June is Rangeland Appreciation Month.

Outreach - Rangelands cover 68 million acres of land, which equates to 70 percent of Montana's landscape. This important land base provides habitat for wildlife, forage for livestock and a host of ecosystem goods and services to the state. RRP works with partners to promote conservation of working lands and to celebrate Montana's excellent land stewards; project examples include: the creation of digital videos, photography, written articles, social media, and design of written promotional materials that capture conservation efforts and partnerships from across Montana. In 2024, the program will update historic program material, such as the 'Montana Rangeland Resource Program' 1986 publication.

Priority 2

Montana Range Tour (MRT) - MRT works closely with Conservation Districts, agency personnel, non-governmental organizations and groups, and private landowners to showcase rangelands. MRT highlights and showcases many NRCS conservation funded projects including watering and grazing systems, stream restoration, conservation easements, cover crops, fencing, wildlife habitat and improvements. Montana Range Tour incorporates the winner of the Leopold Conservation Award operation as a highlight.



406 Grazing Academy - The 406 Grazing Academy is a 3-day, hands-on workshop for ranchers wanting to hone their skills for solving grazing management challenges on their ranch. The Academy is offered cooperatively by the Rangeland Resources Program in the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, Montana State University (MSU)

Extension, and the Dan Scott Ranch Management Program in the MSU Department of Animal and Range Sciences. The Academy provides participants practical information to help make strategic decisions on their ranch by showcasing successful Montana Ranchers, range managers, and MSU educators.

Rangelands in the Rotunda (RITR) - This event is hosted by the RRC and joined by agricultural partners in rangeland from across the state. RITR is a celebration of Montana's largest natural resource through education and awareness. This is also an educational opportunity aimed at increasing lawmakers' knowledge and understanding of rangeland's economic, social, and environmental importance to our State.

Collaboration - The program will continue to support Conservation Districts (CD's) with education, outreach and support for rangeland workshops and activities. This also includes information transfer of important issues affecting CD's and their producers in a timely and efficient manner. The RRP will focus on working with state Grazing Districts, the Public Lands Council, Montana Grass Conservation Commission, Montana Grazing Lands Coalition, and other partners to promote collaboration on common goals.

Newsletter - *406 Rangelands* Newsletter was launched in January of 2020 using GovDelivery. Initially there were 250 subscribers and now there are over 1,700. This publication is a means to share information and important issues affecting rangelands in Montana as a monthly publication.

Rangeland Improvement Loan Program (RILP) - The RILP was started in 1979 as part of the RRP (MCA 76-14-111). It makes low-interest loans available to Montana's farmers and ranchers for rangeland improvements and provides low-interest loans as an incentive for private landowners to undertake range improvement practices. The RRC evaluates and sets the interest rate every year. As of 2024 there have been 281 applications, 170 loans, and no defaults.

Priority 3

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) - The RRP has two MOUs the Section 8 Public Lands Grazing and Montana Rangelands Monitoring Program.

Montana Rangelands Monitoring Program - was created in partnership with Montana State University (MSU) to foster agreement and standardize monitoring methods for landowners and permittees to use on lands they own or manage. The MOU was updated in 2017 and signed by all land management agencies in Montana.

IMPLEMENTATION AND PERFORMANCE INDICATORS



Implementation

The strategic planning exercise is beneficial for articulating a shared vision of the RRP's values, priorities, and activities. To gain the full benefit of the strategic plan it must be implemented in a way that helps to guide all actions of the RRC and administration. For the strategic plan to be effective, it must remain integrated in annual planning, decision making, and reporting. Finally, it must also remain at the forefront of the direction of the RRP.

For successful and continued implementation:

- a. New committee members review the strategic plan upon agreeing to serve on the RRC,
- b. State Coordinator and RRC to review the strategic plan annually,
- c. The strategic plan is used to set annual goals and allocate financial resources (budgeting),
- d. Use as the basis for State Coordinator's reports to the RRC,
- e. Align Department Administrator and State Coordinator expectations for RRP performance and progress,
- f. Post the strategic plan prominently on the RRP website,
- g. Use the strategic plan framework to formulate yearly outreach and awareness campaign for Rangeland Appreciation Month.

Performance Indicators

The RRP has a definable purpose in Montana Statute, where the identified activities and priorities are intended to achieve several performance targets. Performance indicators for success can be difficult to measure or quantify due to the human element of varied interactions.

One way to gauge program success - a performance target, is the level of participation or increased inclusion of rangelands in non-tradition venues and groups. A great way to gauge increased awareness could be to provide pre and post evaluation surveys to participants at the varied educational events that the RRP provides across the state. Events such as the 406 Grazing Academy, Montana Range Tour and the Working Lands Internship Program would provide the perfect opportunity to gauge the increase in knowledge of those who participated.

A second performance target source could be increased public and decision maker awareness and support of the RRP. Rangelands in the Rotunda could serve as an event that may assist to

increase decision/ policy maker awareness regarding the importance of the rangeland resource in Montana. Again, a pre and post attendance evaluation survey or annual polling opportunity could provide some insight into the effectiveness of this outreach event.

TITLE 76. LAND RESOURCES AND USE
CHAPTER 14. RANGELAND RESOURCES
Part 1. Rangeland Management

Short Title

76-14-101. Short title. This part shall be known as the "Montana Rangeland Resources Act".

History: En. 76-301 by Sec. 1, Ch. 408, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 76-301.

Purpose

76-14-102. Purpose. The purpose of this part is to establish a program of rangeland management whereby:

(1) the importance of Montana's rangeland with respect to livestock, forage, wildlife habitat, high-quality water production, pollution control, erosion control, recreation, and the natural beauty of the state is recognized;

(2) cooperation and coordination of range management activities between persons and organizations charged with or having the management of rangeland, whether private or public, can be promoted and developed; and

(3) those who are doing exceptional work in range management can receive appropriate recognition.

History: En. 76-302 by Sec. 2, Ch. 408, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 76-302.

Definitions

76-14-103. Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Committee" means the Montana rangeland resources committee selected as provided in **2-15-3305**(2).

(2) "Department" means the department of natural resources and conservation.

(3) "Montana rangeland resource program" means the rangeland resource program administered by the conservation districts division of the department of natural resources and conservation in concert with the Montana conservation districts law and the Grass Conservation Act to maintain and enhance the rangeland resources of the state.

(4) "Person" means any individual or association, partnership, corporation, or other business entity.

(5) "Range condition" means the current condition of the vegetation on a range site in relation to the natural potential plant community for that site.

(6) "Range management" means a distinct discipline founded on ecological principles and dealing with the husbandry of rangelands and range resources.

(7) "Rangeland" means land on which the native vegetation (climax or natural potential) is predominantly grasses, grass-like plants, forbs, or shrubs suitable for grazing or browsing use.

(8) "State coordinator" means the state coordinator for the Montana Rangeland Resources Act provided for in **2-15-3304**.

(9) "Tame pastureland" means land that has been modified by mechanical cultivation and that has current vegetation consisting of native or introduced species, or both.

(10) "Users of rangeland" means all persons, including but not limited to ranchers, farmers, hunters, anglers, recreationists, and others appreciative of the functional, productive, aesthetic, and recreational uses of rangelands.

History: (1) thru (6), (8)En. 76-303 by Sec. 3, Ch. 408, L. 1977; Sec. 76-303, R.C.M. 1947; (7)En. by Code Commissioner, 1979; R.C.M. 1947, 76-303(part); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 171, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 66, Ch. 44, L. 2007.

Types Of Land Included As Rangeland

76-14-104. Types of land included as rangeland. The term "rangeland" includes lands revegetated naturally or artificially to provide a forage cover that is managed like native vegetation. Rangelands include natural grasslands, savannahs, shrublands, most deserts, tundra, alpine communities, coastal marshes, and wet meadows.

History: En. 76-303 by Sec. 3, Ch. 408, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 76-303(part).

Role Of State Coordinator

76-14-105. Role of state coordinator. The state coordinator shall:

- (1) serve as an advisor, counselor, and coordinator for and between persons and agencies involved in range management;
- (2) strive to create understanding and compatibility between the many users of rangeland, including hunters, anglers, recreationists, ranchers, and others;
- (3) promote and coordinate the adoption and implementation of sound range management plans to minimize conflicts between governmental agencies and private landowners;
- (4) participate in zoning and planning studies to ensure that native ranges are adequately represented at sessions for development of zoning and planning regulations;
- (5) coordinate range management research to help prevent duplication and overlap of effort in this area.

History: En. 76-304 by Sec. 4, Ch. 408, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 76-304(2); amd. Sec. 2524, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

Duties of Rangeland Resources Committee

76-14-106. Duties of rangeland resources committee. (1) The committee shall:

- (a) review and recommend annual and long-range work programs;
 - (b) suggest priorities of work;
 - (c) provide advice and counsel to the coordinator for carrying out the rangeland resource program.
- (2) The committee may consult with state and federal agencies and units of the university system as it considers appropriate in performing its duties.

History: En. 76-307 by Sec. 7, Ch. 408, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 76-307; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 44, L. 1985.

Through 76-14-110 Reserved

Rangeland Improvement Loan Program

76-14-111. Rangeland improvement loan program. The department may make rangeland improvement loans for rangeland development and improvement, including but not limited to stock water development, cross fencing, establishment of grazing systems, reseeding, mechanical renovation, sagebrush management, and weed control.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 171, L. 1983.

6-14-107 through 76-14-110 reserved.

Rangeland Improvement Loan Special Revenue Account

76-14-112. Rangeland improvement loan special revenue account. (1) There is created a rangeland improvement loan special revenue account within the state special revenue fund established in **17-2-102**.

(2) There must be allocated to the rangeland improvement loan earmarked account any principal and accrued interest received in repayment of a loan made under the rangeland improvement loan program and any fees or charges collected by the department pursuant to **76-14-116** for the servicing of loans, including arrangements for obtaining security interests.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 171, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 48, Ch. 281, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 14, Ch. 418, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 55, Ch. 16, L. 1991.

Eligibility For Loans

76-14-113. Eligibility for loans. (1) Any person may apply for a loan to finance rangeland improvements to be constructed, developed, and operated in Montana who:

- (a) is a resident of Montana;
 - (b) is engaged in farming or ranching; and
 - (c) possesses the necessary expertise to make a rangeland loan practical.
- (2) All loans must be for rangeland improvement or development exclusively.

(3) An application for a loan must be in the form prescribed by the department and accompanied by a resource conservation plan, which may be prepared in consultation with the United States natural resources conservation service.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 171, L. 1983; amd. Sec. 280, Ch. 42, L. 1997.

Criteria For Evaluation Of Loan Applications

76-14-114. Criteria for evaluation of loan applications. The following criteria must be considered in selecting loan recipients:

- (1) Loan applications must be ranked according to the following priorities:
 - (a) Range improvement or development projects undertaken on native rangeland, resulting in the improvement of native range condition and of benefit to more than a single operator, have first priority.
 - (b) Range improvement or development projects undertaken on native rangeland, resulting in the improvement of native range condition but of benefit to only a single operator, have second priority.
 - (c) Range improvement or development projects undertaken on either native rangeland or tame pastureland used in conjunction with native rangeland, or both, resulting in the improvement of native range condition and the condition of the tame pastureland used in conjunction with native rangeland, have third priority.
 - (d) Range improvement or development projects undertaken on tame pastureland, resulting in the improvement of the tame pastureland exclusively, have fourth priority.
 - (e) Range improvement or development projects undertaken to return to rangeland status land that was once native rangeland and that has since been cultivated have fifth priority.
- (2) Consideration must be given to the number of related resources that will benefit, including but not limited to water quality, wildlife habitat, and soil conservation.
- (3) Consideration must be given to the amount of funding from other sources.
- (4) Consideration must be given to the feasibility and practicality of the project.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 171, L. 1983.

Selection Of Loan Recipients

76-14-115. Selection of loan recipients. (1) Conservation district supervisors shall initially review loan applications for feasibility and prioritize applications for referral to the department.

(2) The department shall organize and review applications for clarity and completeness prior to committee review.

(3) The committee shall consider applications and make recommendations to the department.

(4) The department shall finally approve or disapprove applications recommended by the committee and shall select loan recipients.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 171, L. 1983.

Rules

76-14-116. Rules. The department shall adopt rules:

(1) prescribing the form and content of applications for loans and the required conservation plan;

(2) governing the application of the criteria for awarding loans and the procedure for the review of applications by conservation district supervisors, the committee, and the department;

(3) providing for the servicing of loans, including arrangements for obtaining security interests and the establishment of reasonable fees or charges;

(4) providing for the confidentiality of financial statements submitted; and

(5) prescribing the conditions for making loans.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 171, L. 1983.

Montana Code Annotated 2017

TITLE 2. GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE AND ADMINISTRATION

CHAPTER 15. EXECUTIVE BRANCH OFFICERS AND AGENCIES

Part 33. Department of Natural Resources and Conservation

State Coordinator For Rangeland Resources

2-15-3304. State coordinator for rangeland resources. The department shall maintain and staff the office of state coordinator for the Montana Rangeland Resources Act.

History: En. 76-304 by Sec. 4, Ch. 408, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 76-304(1); amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 44, L. 2007.

Rangeland Resources Committee

2-15-3305. Rangeland resources committee. (1) The governor may select a committee of six members in accordance with subsection (2) that is composed of:

(a) a presiding officer who is a rancher;

(b) a vice presiding officer who is a rancher;

(c) a rancher from the eastern area of the state;

(d) a rancher from the northern area of the state;

(e) a rancher from the area of the state west of the continental divide;

(f) a rancher from the southern area of the state.

(2) The governor shall select the members described in subsection (1) from a list submitted by the executive committee of the association of conservation districts and the board of directors of the Montana association of state grazing districts.

(3) The committee members shall serve without compensation.

(4) All persons appointed to the committee shall serve at the pleasure of the governor.

(5) The committee is allocated to the department for administrative purposes only as provided in **2-15-121**.

History: En. 76-305, 76-306 by Secs. 5, 6, Ch. 408, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 76-305, 76-306; amd. Sec. 24, Ch. 184, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 218, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 44, L. 1985; amd. Sec. 92, Ch. 61, L. 2007.

Montana Code Annotated 2017

TITLE 2. GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE AND ADMINISTRATION

CHAPTER 15. EXECUTIVE BRANCH OFFICERS AND AGENCIES

Part 1. General Provisions

Allocation For Administrative Purposes Only

2-15-121. (*Temporary*) Allocation for administrative purposes only. (1) An agency allocated to a department for administrative purposes only in this chapter shall:

(a) (i) exercise its quasi-judicial, quasi-legislative, licensing, and policymaking functions independently of the department and without approval or control of the department except as provided in subsection (1)(a)(ii);

(ii) accede, if the agency is a licensing board regulated by the department of labor and industry under Title 37, to the active supervision required by 37-1-121(1)(d);

(b) submit its budgetary requests through the department; and

(c) submit reports required of it by law or by the governor through the department.

(2) The department to which an agency is allocated for administrative purposes only in this title shall:

(a) direct and supervise the budgeting, recordkeeping, reporting, and related administrative and clerical functions of the agency;

(b) include the agency's budgetary requests in the departmental budget;

(c) collect all revenues for the agency and deposit them in the proper fund or account. Except as provided in 37-1-101, the department may not use or divert the revenues from the fund or account for purposes other than provided by law.

(d) provide staff for the agency. Unless otherwise indicated in this chapter, the agency may not hire its own personnel.

(e) print and disseminate for the agency any required notices, rules, or orders adopted, amended, or repealed by the agency.

(3) The department head of a department to which any agency is allocated for administrative purposes only in this chapter shall:

(a) represent the agency in communications with the governor;

(b) allocate office space to the agency as necessary, subject to the approval of the department of administration. (*Terminates July 1, 2021--sec. 8, Ch. 322, L. 2017.*)

2-15-121. (*Effective July 2, 2021*) Allocation for administrative purposes only. (1) An agency allocated to a department for administrative purposes only in this chapter shall:

-
- (a) exercise its quasi-judicial, quasi-legislative, licensing, and policymaking functions independently of the department and without approval or control of the department;
 - (b) submit its budgetary requests through the department;
 - (c) submit reports required of it by law or by the governor through the department.
- (2) The department to which an agency is allocated for administrative purposes only in this title shall:
- (a) direct and supervise the budgeting, recordkeeping, reporting, and related administrative and clerical functions of the agency;
 - (b) include the agency's budgetary requests in the departmental budget;
 - (c) collect all revenues for the agency and deposit them in the proper fund or account. Except as provided in 37-1-101, the department may not use or divert the revenues from the fund or account for purposes other than provided by law.
 - (d) provide staff for the agency. Unless otherwise indicated in this chapter, the agency may not hire its own personnel.
 - (e) print and disseminate for the agency any required notices, rules, or orders adopted, amended, or repealed by the agency.
- (3) The department head of a department to which any agency is allocated for administrative purposes only in this chapter shall:
- (a) represent the agency in communications with the governor;
 - (b) allocate office space to the agency as necessary, subject to the approval of the department of administration.



APPENDIX B

68th Legislature 2023

SJ 13



A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA ESTABLISHING JUNE AS RANGELAND APPRECIATION MONTH.

WHEREAS, the fourth largest state in the country, Montana is home to millions of acres of rangeland with unparalleled sunrises and sunsets; and

WHEREAS, the diverse ecology of rangeland provides a unique way of life for thousands of Montanans; and

WHEREAS, rangeland provides recreational opportunities for Montanans and millions more, such as hunting and fishing, generating significant revenue for our economy and rangeland communities; and

WHEREAS, rangeland sequesters more than 20 percent of the world's terrestrial carbon and provides erosion control and nutrient cycling; and

WHEREAS, rangeland supports many different types of wildlife and provides forage to support Montana's \$1.5 billion livestock industry as it provides a relatively low-input option for raising livestock; and

WHEREAS, farmers and ranchers have been stewards of the land for generations, as the sustainability of rangeland is vital for the future of agriculture; and

WHEREAS, Montana's rangeland is the backbone of our rich history and a leader in the future of Montana.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

That the month of June be declared Rangeland Appreciation Month.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State send copies of this resolution to the Governor, the MSU Extension, and the Director of the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation.



- 1 -

Authorized Print Version – SJ 13

ENROLLED BILL