



Chair:

Diane Ahlgren

Vice-Chair:

John Hollenback

Members:

Sigurd Jensen

Jim Anderson

Leah Lewis

Ron Devlin

State Coordinator:

Stacey Barta

Program Specialist

Shantell Frame-Martin

Rangeland Resources Committee

Meeting Agenda

March 24, 2025

Noon-4:00pm

DNRC Headquarters, The Montana Room
1539 Eleventh Ave.
Helena, MT 59601

- Call meeting to order
- Welcome, Introductions
- New Business-
 - Officer selection
 - Actionable Items
- Updates
 - Budget & Funding (Mark Bostrom)
 - Introduce Janelle Painter
 - Strategic Plan Review
 - State Lands Rep on RRC
 - MRAM Promotion
 - Meeting type (2 in-person, 2 virtual?)
 - WLIP
 - Intern Intros
 - Savannah Deuter (@2:30)
 - Isak Lenz (@2:30)
 - MSGOT (Therese Hartman @3:00)
 - MT Happenings (2 min. limit)
 - Committee member updates
 - Advisory member updates
- Public Comment
- Meeting Adjourned



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Rangeland Resources Committee

Consent Agenda

March 24, 2025

Noon-4:00pm

- Minutes from 10/8/2024
- Updates-
 - Coordinator's Corner:
 - Events & Activities report
 - Stacey
 - Shantell
 - Updates for:
 - RILP
 - LCA
 - 406 & Next Bite
 - MRT
- 2025 meeting dates
 - March 26 - Helena (Rotunda day)
 - May 20 (8:00-11:00am) – virtual (RILP rate discussion)
 - July 22 (8:00-11:00am) - virtual
 - October – Field tour (by an RRC member)

Grant Status/Funding Update

BLM #L25AC00146- Received an email from BLM on 2/18 stating the agreement didn't comply with 3 executive orders and the agreement is on pause. I have not charged anytime to this agreement as it was just obligated 12/31/2024. This is a pass through to Montana Conservation Corps to do Low tech-based restoration in a specific geography. I have talked to MCC and we will just wait this out and see what happens.

BLM - L24AC00202-00 – ORG 3023 last email I received was 2/11/25, that this is also on pause, stay tuned. This is largely a pass-through agreement and do charge time to this agreement, but since it is paused, we have not. I have notified Sub awardees.

MSU WSARE- G292-24-WA511 ORG 3014 received email 2/5/2025 stating the following:” MSU requests that all awardees please pause their spending until further notice. Specifically, MSU has learned that all activities that could potentially be associated with diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) need to cease effective as of January 29, 2025.”

This grant supports the 2 grazing schools the RRP puts on, we have a plan “B”, but this does affect our program. We do not charge personnel services to this grant.

NR200325XXXXC005 ORG 3013 and NR240325XXXXC002 ORG 3017 Spoke with Kyle Tackett, acting STC for NRCS on 2/20. He looked up our agreements and they are not tied to any EO as of today and we are still good to submit payments.

Conservation & Resources Development Division
Expenses through February 28, 2025

Rangeland Executive

Row Labels	Standard Budget	Actuals Amt	Balance	%Spent
3008 RANGELAND RESOURCE OPERATIONS	168,813.00	114,389.52	54,423.48	67.76%
01100 General Fund	108,682.00	75,497.21	33,184.79	
540H1 CARDD - HB2	108,682.00	75,497.21	33,184.79	
02048 Conservation District Acct	60,131.00	38,892.31	21,238.69	
540H1 CARDD - HB2	60,131.00	38,892.31	21,238.69	
3011 RANGELAND INTERNS	25,000.00	8,582.52	16,417.48	34.33%
01100 General Fund	12,500.00	4,291.26	8,208.74	
540H1 CARDD - HB2	12,500.00	4,291.26	8,208.74	
02576 Natural Resources Operations	12,500.00	4,291.26	8,208.74	
540H1 CARDD - HB2	12,500.00	4,291.26	8,208.74	
3012 RANGELAND RESOURCE EXEC. COMM.	81,206.00	20,536.26	60,669.74	25.29%
02052 Rangeland Improvement Loans	81,206.00	20,536.26	60,669.74	
540H1 CARDD - HB2	81,206.00	20,536.26	60,669.74	
3013 NRCS-RANGELAND	74,080.14	36,247.74	37,832.40	48.93%
03178 Res Dev & Cons - Fed	74,080.14	36,247.74	37,832.40	
540B1 NRCS RANGELAND 9/29/25	74,080.14	36,247.74	37,832.40	
3013M NRCS MATCH	0.00	10,892.60	(10,892.60)	0.00%
02048 Conservation District Acct	0.00	10,892.60	(10,892.60)	
540H1 CARDD - HB2	0.00	10,892.60	(10,892.60)	
3014 RANGELAND REGISTRATIONS	0.00	99.50	(99.50)	0.00%
01100 General Fund	0.00	65.67	(65.67)	
540H1 CARDD - HB2	0.00	65.67	(65.67)	
02048 Conservation District Acct	0.00	33.83	(33.83)	
540H1 CARDD - HB2	0.00	33.83	(33.83)	
3014GAMSU GRAZING ACADEMY MSU	98,954.00	0.00	98,954.00	0.00%
03178 Res Dev & Cons - Fed	98,954.00	0.00	98,954.00	
540CN 406 GRAZ ACADEMY-WSARE 9/30/26	98,954.00	0.00	98,954.00	
3017 NRCS-Rangeland Resources	164,292.50	0.00	164,292.50	0.00%
03178 Res Dev & Cons - Fed	164,292.50	0.00	164,292.50	
540CM NRCS RANGELAND 9/30/29	164,292.50	0.00	164,292.50	
3023 BLM-GRASSLAND PARTNERSHIP	968,788.43	5,721.50	963,066.93	0.59%
03178 Res Dev & Cons - Fed	968,788.43	5,721.50	963,066.93	
540CQ BLM-GRASSLAND PARTNER 6/17/29	968,788.43	5,721.50	963,066.93	
Grand Total	1,581,134.07	196,469.64	1,384,664.43	12.43%

Conservation & Resources Development Division
Expenses through February 28, 2025

Rangeland Executive
Expense Allocations

Row Labels	Standard Budget	Actuals Amt	Balance	%Spent
3008 RANGELAND RESOURCE OPERATIONS	168,813.00	114,389.52	54,423.48	67.76%
61000 Personal Services	82,164.00	101,009.46	(18,845.46)	
61100 Salaries	58,565.00	72,156.30	(13,591.30)	
61400 Employee Benefits	23,599.00	28,853.16	(5,254.16)	
62000 Operating Expenses	86,649.00	13,380.06	73,268.94	
62100 Other Services	73,317.00	3,080.72	70,236.28	
62200 Supplies & Materials	0.00	1,687.25	(1,687.25)	
62300 Communications	4,000.00	661.36	3,338.64	
62400 Travel	9,332.00	4,645.73	4,686.27	
62500 Rent	0.00	480.00	(480.00)	
62700 Repair & Maintenance	0.00	1,285.23	(1,285.23)	
62800 Other Expenses	0.00	1,539.77	(1,539.77)	
3011 RANGELAND INTERNS	25,000.00	8,582.52	16,417.48	34.33%
61000 Personal Services	0.00	8,267.52	(8,267.52)	
61100 Salaries	0.00	2,174.65	(2,174.65)	
61200 Hourly Wages	0.00	5,250.00	(5,250.00)	
61400 Employee Benefits	0.00	842.87	(842.87)	
62000 Operating Expenses	25,000.00	315.00	24,685.00	
62100 Other Services	25,000.00	180.00	24,820.00	
62300 Communications	0.00	135.00	(135.00)	
3012 RANGELAND RESOURCE EXEC. COMM.	81,206.00	20,536.26	60,669.74	25.29%
61000 Personal Services	500.00	0.00	500.00	
61300 Other Compensation	500.00	0.00	500.00	
62000 Operating Expenses	5,706.00	2,282.26	3,423.74	
62100 Other Services	5,706.00	0.00	5,706.00	
62400 Travel	0.00	2,246.52	(2,246.52)	
62800 Other Expenses	0.00	35.74	(35.74)	
65000 Local Assistance	75,000.00	18,254.00	56,746.00	
65100 From State Sources	75,000.00	18,254.00	56,746.00	
3013 NRCS-RANGELAND	74,080.14	36,247.74	37,832.40	48.93%
61000 Personal Services	10,652.22	5,270.37	5,381.85	
61100 Salaries	10,652.22	855.00	9,797.22	
61200 Hourly Wages	0.00	3,937.50	(3,937.50)	
61400 Employee Benefits	0.00	477.87	(477.87)	
62000 Operating Expenses	63,427.92	30,977.37	32,450.55	
62100 Other Services	56,597.92	110.98	56,486.94	
62400 Travel	0.00	6,942.80	(6,942.80)	
62500 Rent	0.00	2,000.00	(2,000.00)	
62800 Other Expenses	6,830.00	21,923.59	(15,093.59)	
3013M NRCS MATCH	0.00	10,892.60	(10,892.60)	0.00%
61000 Personal Services	0.00	10,892.60	(10,892.60)	
61100 Salaries	0.00	8,084.67	(8,084.67)	
61400 Employee Benefits	0.00	2,807.93	(2,807.93)	
3014 RANGELAND REGISTRATIONS	0.00	99.50	(99.50)	0.00%
62000 Operating Expenses	0.00	99.50	(99.50)	
62400 Travel	0.00	99.50	(99.50)	

Row Labels	Standard Budget	Actuals Amt	Balance	%Spent
3014GAMSU GRAZING ACADEMY MSU	98,954.00	0.00	98,954.00	0.00%
62000 Operating Expenses	98,954.00	0.00	98,954.00	
62100 Other Services	37,170.00	0.00	37,170.00	
62200 Supplies & Materials	18,000.00	0.00	18,000.00	
62300 Communications	15,000.00	0.00	15,000.00	
62400 Travel	20,739.00	0.00	20,739.00	
62800 Other Expenses	8,045.00	0.00	8,045.00	
3017 NRCS-Rangeland Resources	164,292.50	0.00	164,292.50	0.00%
62000 Operating Expenses	114,292.50	0.00	114,292.50	
62200 Supplies & Materials	105,000.00	0.00	105,000.00	
62800 Other Expenses	9,292.50	0.00	9,292.50	
66000 Grants	50,000.00	0.00	50,000.00	
66200 From Federal Sources	50,000.00	0.00	50,000.00	
3023 BLM-GRASSLAND PARTNERSHIP	968,788.43	5,721.50	963,066.93	0.59%
61000 Personal Services	59,608.55	0.00	59,608.55	
61100 Salaries	44,484.00	0.00	44,484.00	
61400 Employee Benefits	15,124.55	0.00	15,124.55	
62000 Operating Expenses	5,275.00	0.00	5,275.00	
62800 Other Expenses	5,275.00	0.00	5,275.00	
66000 Grants	903,904.88	5,721.50	898,183.38	
66200 From Federal Sources	903,904.88	5,721.50	898,183.38	
Grand Total	1,581,134.07	196,469.64	1,384,664.43	12.43%

Coordinator's Corner

Stacey Updates:

Completed tasks:

- Document Composition/Editing:
 - worked with Shantell on several items for this summer's events, program outreach updates, and rotunda.
- Outreach:
 - Newsletter, met with potential sponsors for events, social media posts,
- Other:
 - Drafted Subaward for BLM MCC agreement, Ranch Boot camp planning, Sand County Foundation funding meeting, Federal Grants Process- CARDD, WLIP logistics and host ranch outreach.
- Events & Meetings attended:
 - Soil Health Symposium (2/4-2/6)
- Projects in the works:
 - Agendas and speakers for 406, MRT, LCA, Next Bite
 - monitoring notebook & classroom workbook & worksheet updates
 - Monitoring kits

Shantell Updates:

Completed tasks:

- Graphic Design/Document Composition/Editing:
 - Website edits
 - Range in Rotunda sponsorship tracking
 - Range in Rotunda "Thank you" poster
 - Finalized Sponsor Level list
 - Designed a new RILP flier
 - Designed a programmatic information sheet for Range in Rotunda
- Outreach:
 - Assisted with February 406 Rangelands Newsletter
 - Social media posts (Facebook)
 - 27 Likes & 157 Followers
- Other:
 - Secured 40 Below Public House for 406 in Havre
 - Secured Fairgrounds for 406 in Havre
 - Secured porta potties for Next Bite
 - Assisted with WLIP Internship interviews
- Events & Meetings attended:
 - Soil Health Symposium (2/4-2/6)

Projects in the works:

- Logistics for 406, MRT, LCA, Next Bite
- MRAM promotion & outreach

Programmatic Updates

- **RILP-** no new applications
- **LCA-**
 - Will host Wickens Salt Creek Ranch LCA award dinner on 6/17 at Judith Mountain Lodge, Lewistown, MT
 - Working on “Thank You’s,” and other promo materials for this event.
 - Digital invites have been designed and are ready to send out.
 - RSVP Microsoft Form will be developed to gauge attendance.
 - Applications for 2025
 - 6 applications received, 4 of those are repeats.
- **406 & Next Bite-** funding issue, other challenges.
 - 406 Updates:
 - Registrations opened 3/3. Can provide registrations to date if requested.
 - Working on editing classroom workbook and monitoring notebook.
 - Catering secured:
 - Lunch: The Lunchbox and dinners: 40 Below Public House.
 - Hotel block has been set up.
 - Northern Ag Research Center reserved.
 - Great Northern Fairgrounds reserved for dinners.
 - Registration will close 5/16.
 - Cost \$250/person
 - Next Bite Updates:
 - Since this is a level 2 course, registration priority will be given to those who have attended level 1. Registrations will open to past participants on 4/15 and if there are spots left after past participants have signed up, registration for the general public will open 5/27.
 - Working on composing classroom workbook and worksheets.
 - Catering secured:
 - lunch: Brooks Market and dinners: Tall Boys & Pine Elks.
 - Porta potties and bus services have been reserved.
 - Hotel block has been set up.
 - Cost is TBD due to funding freeze of SARE Grant.
- **MRT-**
 - Registrations will open 4/1.
 - Cost \$70/person.
 - Working on composing information packet for attendees.
 - Catering secured:
 - breakfast: local 4H group, lunch: Brooks Market. Will use Wickens beef for BBQ beef sandwiches.
 - Porta potties and bus services have been reserved.
 - Tent, tables and chairs have been reserved.

- Additional hands secured: Winnett ACES, local 4H club, FFA/BPA class from Winifred.
- Winifred School secured for morning events.
- Hotel blocks have been set up.
- Speaker: Byron Shelton, The Savory Institute

DRAFT

RANGELAND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MINUTES
Wednesday October 9, 2024
9:00 AM-12:00 PM

IN ATTENDANCE

Members:

Chair Diane Ahlgren

Member Leah Lewis

Member, John Hollenback

Member, Ron Devlin

Advisory Member, Reyer Rens

Staff:

Stacey Barta, DNRC State Rangeland Resources Program Coordinator

Shantell Frame-Martin, DNRC Rangeland Resource Program Specialist

Public:

Carol Hollenback, Rancher

Bob Lee, National GLCI (joined for the last 20 minutes of the meeting)

Call to Order

Chair Diane Ahlgren called the meeting to order at 9:07 am. Everyone in attendance introduced themselves.

Diane asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes from 7/31/2024. Ron made the motion and John seconded. No discussion, motion passed

New Business

Stacey provided an outline of the EPA Pollution Reduction Grant through DNRC. DEQ, MDA & DNRC received a \$50 million grant that has seven different components. DEQ broke off and did a \$50 million grant on their own. DNRC had 3 weeks to complete all of the necessary paperwork and submit. MDA was awarded \$10 million for a Ranchlands Stewardship Program (Measure 6) and they will hire for the position. The focus of Measure 6 is to focus on regenerative grazing to capture carbon. The group discussed how best to move forward and what their involvement as a committee may be. Stacey suggested a few ideas including hiring people to monitor and buying virtual fencing items that could be rented out to landowners. The committee agreed that besides helping with the path forward, the RRC plans and illustrate their track record of successes and knowledge.

Coordinator's Corner:

Stacey provided an update on events she attended and projects she's been working on which include BLM subaward for RSA & ACES. This agreement had salary written into it for Stacey's time so that she is reimbursed for the work on this. She also shared a Good Neighbor Agreement that is possibly in the works that would use BLM funds for identified projects to be completed by MT Conservation Corps—the RRP would be a pass-through for the Restoration Landscapes Program. Stacey provided an update on 406 Grazing Academy which will be held in Havre at the Northern Ag. Research Station June 3-5, 2025. There will be a 406 Level 2 held in Lewistown August 18-20, 2025 and the grant funds received from Western SARE will be used to fund both events; with this addition of funds, the cost will go down for attendees. Stacey also mentioned

that there has been interest from Redmon salt, AgWest, and Agoro Carbon to help sponsor the 406. Stacey attended the ESAP tour on the Goggins Ranch outside of Ennis, WSE Expanding Markets Conference in Billings, and she shared that MRT will be June 18, 2025 in Winnifred/Hilger.

Stacey provided a brief outline of the WLIP regarding how the summer went with the interns. Overall it was good however there were a few hiccups but nothing major. Next year, there will only be 2 interns as that's what the budget will allow. She also mentioned that her and Rachel Frost are working collaboratively on a 3-day boot camp that would be incorporated into the current mandatory safety training to teach interns basic ranch skills and duties.

Shantell provided a brief update that included website progress, and other tasks she's been working on including logistics for the events next summer.

Budget:

Stacey presented the committee with a comprehensive budget that provided an overview of funds spent and funds available. The committee really liked the new budget layout and recommended that the format be used moving forward for updates.

Bylaws/Terms:

John stated that he would like to step aside and Stacey asked if John would like to remain on the committee as advisory and participate if/when he was able. He was agreeable to this, so when his term is over the end of December he will remain included on all RRC communications. If anyone wants to "re-up" they will need to reapply with the governor's office and that office will handle the nomination/appointment process to fill vacancies on the RRC.

Montana Happenings:

Committee members Ron, John, Leah, and Diane provided brief updates including reporting on precipitation/drought, hay crop and calf prices in their areas. Leah, Diane and John reported on various committees and groups they serve on and what they've been up to in those organizations.

Reyer- BLM; working to fill range vacancies across the state. Budgets are tight when it comes to operational dollars, and they're working on standardization for monitoring.

Rachel- MSU: (update provided via email, Stacey presented) Enrollment in the Dept of Animal & Range Science 19 in the program, 36 in wildlife, department total is 437. MSU's fall enrollment in 2024 was 17,000, freshman enrollment is down 9% and College of Ag is down 3%. Out of state students account for 60% of enrollment and 60% of College of Ag are female. Students from CA & CO makeup the majority of out-of-state enrollment. Stacey mentioned that she's on the Animal & Range committee and that they're actively working on recruitment for the College of Ag. with videos and other outreach to increase enrollment.

Bob Lee from National GLCI joined the meeting for the last 20 minutes and thanked the RRC for their commitment to rangelands and invited everyone to GCLI's National Convention that occurs every 3 years. Bob outlined the convention this year in Tuscon, AZ December 4-6, 2024.

Diane thanked everyone for attending the tour the Petroleum County Community Center, their place, and Cat Creek that took place on Tuesday 10/8. The RRC enjoyed the tour and dinner at the Ahlgren's.

Public Comment- no public comment.

ADJOURN

Diane asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting,

Ron motioned, Leah and John seconded. Motion carried; the meeting was adjourned at 12:06 p.m.

DRAFT

Strategic Plan

For ease of access, we've included 2 ways to view the *Strategic Plan*: QR code and a live link below. Hard copies will be provided at the meeting. For discussion purposes, please review the Plan prior to the meeting and come prepared with questions, concerns, suggestions, etc.

To access the 2024 Strategic Plan with QR Code, use your smart phone to scan the code below. To do this:

- 1.) Open your camera on your phone.
- 2.) Once the camera is open, put the QR code in the center of the camera screen like you were going to take a photo of it. Don't actually take a photo... read the next step!
- 3.) Once you have the camera centered on the QR, there will be a little button that appears at the bottom of your phone screen (sometimes yellow, sometimes a different color), CLICK the button.
- 4.) This should open a new browser that will take you to the Strategic Plan.
- 5.) You can also view the Strategic Plan at the link below:

--- > [Microsoft Word - Strategic Plan Final.docx](#) < ---

