



The Montana Department of  
**Natural Resources  
 & Conservation**

Department of Natural Resources and Conservation

Objective: **Serving Montanans First through Natural Resource Management**

Goal: **Identify and adopt tools that will enhance customer service experience**

Strategy	Initiative	Who?	Measure
Better manage our lands	Meet Trust Land Management Division Annual Sustainable Yield.	Program 35 Forestry and Trust Lands Division	Offer for sale 60MMBF/year.
	Improve and expand active forest management across all ownerships by utilizing all available tools.	Program 35 Forestry and Trust Lands Division	70,000 additional acres under active management, contract, or agreement in biennium.
	Modernize Montana's County Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs), starting in our most at risk counties, and secure funding for a second round of plan modernizations.	Program 35 Forestry and Trust Lands Division	10 completed CWPPs in Montana's most at risk counties.
Consistently, efficiently, transparently administer water	Evaluate and update the water right application process so that it is timely, transparent, streamlined, and consistent.	Program 24 Water Resources Division	Streamline statute and rules so they are clearer and transparent for the public. Reduce total application processing time.
	Evaluate the coordination of water development, use, and protection to meet new demands in Montana.	Program 24 Water Resources Division	Create and support policies around mitigation of new uses, permit exception, and the water right permit and change processes to create regulatory certainty.
	Update the Water Right Query System (WRQS) to be a user-friendly tool that easily provides access to full, accurate, detailed information about Montana water rights.	Program 24 Water Resources Division	Develop and replace the WRQS based on stakeholder input: -Integrating Water Court Case files into the scanned documents -Integrating water right application materials into the scanned documents at the time of public notice -Integrating enhanced GIS/mapping capabilities into the system -Making scanned materials easier to understand and act upon.

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Strategy	Initiative	Who?	Measure
Fund conservation and development	Maintain positive credit/debit balance in the Sage Grouse Habitat Conservation Registry.	Program 23 Conservation and Resource Development Division	Annual registry status review shows positive balance.
	Maximize use of DNRC's appropriation from the Natural Resource Projects State Special Revenue Account through the RRG and RDG programs	Program 23 Conservation and Resource Development Division	90% of appropriated funds obligated by the end of the biennium.
	Maximize use of federal grants awarded for conservation projects.	Program 23 Conservation and Resource and Development Division	% of awarded federal funds used. The top end % will have to account for 12.57% federal indirect rate and negotiated administrative fees.
Plug orphaned wells in accordance with Federal BIL grant funding while maintaining all other BOGC regulatory responsibilities	Plug orphaned wells with funding from Federal BIL initial grant.	Program 22 Board of Oil and Gas	Have over 50% of initial grant contracted orphaned wells plugged by end of biennium.
	Maintain compliance with DOI reporting requirements for BIL initial grant.	Program 22 Board of Oil and Gas	Meet all DOI reporting deadlines and requirements.
	Continue to issue drilling permits, conduct hearings, and operate field inspection program.	Program 22 Board of Oil and Gas	Issue 100 drilling permits and conduct 10,000 field inspections.

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Enhance central service operational support to department divisions through applied technology	Develop and deploy a modern financial management system	Program 21 Director's Office	Secure funding, award RFP, develop and deploy 100% of the system by September 2024.
	Develop and deploy a standardized digital document repository for the department.	Program 21 Director's Office	Complete document type assessment, establish governance, retention guidance, and deploy an automated file management system with at least 60% of agency documents converted by August 2024.
	Develop and deploy a department-wide digital signature solution for internal routing and signatures.	Program 21 Director's Office	Complete a signature-required document assessment, write a procedure, and adopt standardized agency workflows addressing at least 90% of signature-required documents for the agency by October 2024.