



FY 2023 Conservation Enhancement Grant

The Missoula Conservation District is accepting applications for a limited number of Fiscal Year 2023 Conservation Enhancement Grants (CEG). Please review all of the following information before downloading and filling out an application form from the District's website. Questions may be directed to Bryan Vogt, Conservation Program Specialist, at bryan.vogt@macdnet.org or 406-880-3526.

Program Overview:

- The proposed project must improve natural resources within Missoula County and must benefit a public resource. Projects determined to only provide a benefit to the landowner are ineligible.
- Only on-the-ground practices are eligible for grant funding (research does not qualify).
- All work and material purchases must occur following project approval and signing of the grant contract agreement. Applications for completed projects or those already started will not be considered for grant payments.
- All CEG payments are only for reimbursement of approved projects once they are completed.
- Landowner signature is required if the applicant is not the landowner.
- Applications that are insufficiently detailed or do not provide the required information will **not** be reviewed. A property map showing project components must be included. A project budget must also be included using the required budget spreadsheet.
- District staff will provide technical assistance and may conduct pre-project site visits to determine eligibility and make project recommendation. Staff may also conduct post-implementation site visits to assess project completion prior to making grant reimbursement payments.
- All applications will be reviewed and ranked per the Missoula CD's 2023 Ranking Criteria for the CEG – *see website to download ranking criteria*.
- Complete applications must be received by the published deadline.

Applicant Preferred Qualifications:

- Prior attendance at a conservation related training course.
- A written conservation or land management plan prepared by a natural resource management professional (e.g., CD staff, NRCS, Weed District, Extension, DNRC, consultant, etc.)
- Previously demonstrated conservation management success.

Grant Award Payments:

- Grant awards will reimburse 50%–75% of the total allowable costs of the project – *see below for additional information on reimbursement levels*. Grantees must cover all costs above the awarded grant reimbursement amount.
- Maximum awards are \$5,000 per landowner per grant program year.
- Depending on application ranking and available funds, some projects may be denied or approved for less than the requested amount.
- Grant payments are only issued as reimbursements of approved projects once they are completed. Grantees must complete the project as outlined in the signed grant contract. Project completeness will be verified by District staff before any reimbursement payments are issued.
- Grantee match portion (25%–50% of total project costs) can be in the form of cash, in-kind services (i.e., labor or equipment provided), or matching grant funds, specifically excluding other Missoula Conservation District grant programs (e.g., Riparian Planting Mini Grants). Total grant funds, however, cannot exceed the cost of the project.

**Limitations:**

- Only one (1) application is allowed per landowner or property per application cycle.
- All projects must be completed within one year of the executed grant award.
- Applicants who apply in consecutive years may be awarded a maximum of three (3) CEG funded projects over a five (5) year period.
- Only the highest ranked projects will receive the full \$5,000 CEG award amount.
- CEG awards are limited to a maximum of \$10,000 in funding per grantee over a five (5) year time period.
- Weed treatments and forest stand improvements are **not** currently eligible for CEG funding.
- Any individual with a 310 Violation within the past ten (10) years may not apply for CEG awards.

Eligible Practices:

Practices must benefit natural resources in Missoula County that also provide a public benefit. Practices determined to only provide a benefit to the landowner are ineligible. Incorporating multiple conservation practices or completing a practice that is part of a conservation or land management plan is highly encouraged. For planning assistance, please review the Technical Resource List located on the last page of the application.

Any practice marked in bold below is a priority practice. Many of the practices shown may improve multiple natural resources. Additional improvement practices not specifically listed below may also be considered.

Stream & Fisheries Improvements – Eligible for up to 75% reimbursement (cost-share)

- **Planting riparian vegetation**
- **Streambank or shoreline restoration**
- **Fish screen installation**
- Diversion replacement or upgrade (e.g., headgate and/or water measuring device)
- Fencing of riparian areas for livestock management
- Grade stabilization structures (to address erosion and head cutting)
- Irrigation delivery or ditch upgrade
- Stream channel stabilization
- Filter strips (vegetation planted to filter sediment, organic matter, or other pollutants from run-off or wastewater)

Grazing Management – Eligible for up to 50% reimbursement (cost-share)

- Spring development
- Stock water tank and pipeline
- Cross fencing
- Grass and forb seeding*

Wildlife Habitat Improvements – Eligible for up to 50% reimbursement (cost-share)

- **Restoring and promoting native plant communities**
- **Wetland restoration or improvement**
- Improving food, water, or cover for wildlife and/or pollinators
- Wildlife fencing for commercial operations



Uplands Improvements – *Eligible for up to 50% reimbursement (cost-share)*

- Grass and forb seeding*
- Tree and shrub planting

*The Missoula CD has a no-till drill available for rent. Visit the website for additional information.

To apply for the CEG, visit the Missoula CD's website: www.missoulacd.org

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