

Climate Pollution Reduction Implementation Grant
EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07



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FUNDING REQUESTED: \$49,769,891

MONTANA FOREST, COMMUNITY AND WORKING LANDSCAPES CLIMATE RESILIENCY PROJECT

The Montana Department of Natural Resources & Conservation (DNRC) aims to reverse the trend of forested and agricultural lands becoming net carbon emitters. DNRC is applying for measures that address two focus areas in the Montana Climate Pollution Reduction Priorities: Healthy, Resilient Forests and Innovative Agricultural Practices. Through implementation of seven measures, Montana will reduce green house gas (GHG) emissions, restore lands to sequester carbon, reduce air pollutants and provide direct benefit disadvantaged communities.

Measure 1: Forest Management & Wildfire Mitigation This measure aims to increase funding for activities such as fuel reduction, controlled burns, pest management, reforestation projects, and biomass utilization. The goal is to enhance forest resilience against wildfires, pests, and diseases, and promote carbon sequestration in forest ecosystems.

Measure 2: Expand Healthy Urban & Community Forests This measure seeks to encourage the growth of urban and community forests. It plans to maximize grant funding to support the development and maintenance of local urban forestry and green infrastructure programs, with a focus on underserved communities.

Measure 3: Mitigate and Extinguish Coal Seam Fires This measure aims to enhance local efforts to identify and map burning coal seams. It plans to increase funding to support the necessary equipment, techniques, and projects to mitigate and extinguish actively burning coal seams in eastern Montana.

Measure 4: Reduce Nonpoint Source Pollution This measure aims to support local initiatives to sustainably reduce algal blooms and their associated greenhouse gas emissions. It plans to increase funding for nutrient pollution reduction projects, which may include septic system improvement programs, floodplain, wetland, and riparian restoration, and grazing management planning.

Measure 5: Fertilizer Use Innovation for Improved Soil Health This measure aims to increase the efficiency of agricultural inputs, including nitrogen fertilizer, as a key step towards sustainable agriculture. It plans to use CPRG funds to increase the number of farms using on-field precision experiments to identify optimum cover-crop seeding rates.

Measure 6: Ranchland Stewardship Program This measure aims to expand and increase the use of technology to improve grazing management planning and adaptive strategies that enhance soil health.

The project plans to use data-driven adaptive management decision-making tools to increase carbon storage in the soil, thereby increasing soil carbon sequestration on Montana's expansive and diverse grasslands.

Measure 7: Incentivize Innovation in the Cattle and Beef Industry This measure aims to leverage private investment in pilot project upgrades in the beef industry to achieve higher industry standards in the supply chain. It serves as a model for locations across Montana and other states across the west.

TYPE OF APPLICANT: Individual Applicant

SECTORS: Agriculture/Natural and Working Lands

EXPECTED TOTAL CUMULATIVE GHG EMISSION REDUCTIONS

Estimated cumulative GHG reductions for 2025-2030 (in metric tons): 1.9 MMT CO₂e

Estimated cumulative GHG reductions from 2025-2050 (in metric tons): 14.6 MMT CO₂e

LOCATION: Montana, Statewide

APPLICABLE PRIORITY CLIMATE ACTION PLAN(S) (PCAP) REFERENCES

PCAP Lead Organization(s): Montana Department of Environmental Quality

PCAP Title: Montana Climate Pollution Reduction Priorities

PCAP Website link: <https://deq.mt.gov/about/climate-resilience>

List of GHG reduction measures and PCAP page reference for each measure:

Measure #	DNRC Measures	MT PCAP Page #
1	Forest Management & Wildfire Mitigation	9
2	Urban & Community Forests	12
3	Coal Seam Fire Mitigation	16
	MT DEQ Subaward:	
4	Nonpoint Source Pollution	30
	MT DOAg SubAward:	
5	Fertilizer Use Innovation for Improved Soil Health	22
6	Ranchland Stewardship Program	24
7	Incentivize Innovation in the Cattle and Beef Industry	27