

## ***RRGL Planning Grant Application Review and Ranking Guidelines***

July 1, 2023

### **Program Definitions**

**Conservation-** The efficient and sustainable use of a renewable resource

**Management-** The installation of new equipment or the implementation of technologies (i.e. “tools”) that enables improved efficiencies and the sustainable use of a renewable resource

**Development-** To take advantage of an existing renewable resource by putting it to a new beneficial and sustainable use

**Preservation-** To protect a renewable resource from degradation caused by pollution, destruction, or neglect

**Renewable Resource-** A natural resource that is sustainable for future use if efficiently managed and maintained. A renewable resource generally enhances or enables the continued existence or beneficial use of a public resource as defined below. Examples are water, soil, wetlands, habitat for fish and wildlife, grasslands, crop lands, and forest land.

**Public Resource-** A resource that benefits the citizens of Montana. Examples include land, air, fish, wildlife, timber, and recreation opportunities.

**Public Benefit-** Benefits to the citizens of Montana that are the direct result of an activity or project. Included are health, safety, and economic benefits.

## ***Application Evaluation***

**Applicant Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Application Title:** \_\_\_\_\_

### **Does the application provide a clear description of the problem to be solved?**

*If not, it is DNRC's option to reject the application or request clarification. A clear description of the problem is mandatory.*

### **Is the proposed project necessary for regulatory compliance?**

*The proposed project is to correct a regulatory issue that includes a compliance deadline within the next four years. If not corrected, the applicant will not be able to fully utilize the facility or will be subject to fines by the regulatory agency. Examples include DEQ AOCs and restrictions on high-hazard dams imposed by DNRC.*

Yes-5 Points

No-0 Points

Subtotal \_\_\_\_\_ Points

### **Are the benefits associated with the proposed project consistent with the Montana State Water Plan? Does the proposed project support water use efficiency and water conservation?**

*85-1-601 MCA and 85-1-602 MCA both state that the RRGL Program is key to the conservation, development, management, and protection of Montana's water resources. Generally, a project that meets these objectives is consistent with the state water plan, regardless of whether the benefits are for consumptive uses, agricultural uses including irrigation, or other uses that benefit the citizens of Montana.*

Yes-5 Points

No-0 Points

Subtotal \_\_\_\_\_ Points

### **Renewable Resource Benefits**

Significance Determination: Assign a value in increments of one point. A significance level of 1 indicates that the benefit is minor in all respects, including financial. In other words, installing new electrical components in a pumphouse to reduce operating costs by \$2,500 annually is minor; installing a hydroelectric generating plant on a drop structure, totally removing the system from "the grid" and providing a substantial contribution to O&M, may be major. As another example, reducing seepage and saline seep in a canal that develops ten acres of dryland crop land is probably minor; on the other hand, constructing a 500-acre-foot dam and reservoir to develop irrigation on a 1,000 acres of non-irrigated land may be major. This is a subjective determination on the part of the reviewer.

**Conservation:** Does the proposed project provide conservation benefits to one or more renewable resources? If so, define each resource and indicate, on a scale of 1 to 10, the significance of the conservation benefit associated with each affected renewable resource.

Affected Renewable Resource \_\_\_\_\_

Yes

1 Point \_\_\_\_\_ 10 Points

No-0 Points

Subtotal \_\_\_\_\_ Points

Affected Renewable Resource \_\_\_\_\_

Yes

1 Point \_\_\_\_\_ 10 Points

No-0 Points

Subtotal \_\_\_\_\_ Points

Affected Renewable Resource \_\_\_\_\_

Yes

1 Point \_\_\_\_\_ 10 Points

No-0 Points

Subtotal \_\_\_\_\_ Points

**Management:** Does the proposed project provide management benefits to one or more renewable resources? If so, define each resource and indicate, on a scale of 1 to 10, the significance of the management benefit associated with each affected renewable resource.

Affected Renewable Resource \_\_\_\_\_

Yes

1Point \_\_\_\_\_ 10 Points

No-0 Points

Subtotal \_\_\_\_\_ Points

Affected Renewable Resource \_\_\_\_\_

Yes

1 Point \_\_\_\_\_ 10 Points

No-0 Points

Subtotal \_\_\_\_\_ Points

Affected Renewable Resource \_\_\_\_\_

Yes

1 Point

10 Points

No-0 Points

Subtotal \_\_\_\_\_ Points

**Development:** Does the proposed project develop one or more renewable resources? If so, define each resource and indicate, on a scale of 1 to 10, the significance of the development associated with each affected renewable resource.

Affected Renewable Resource \_\_\_\_\_

Yes

1 Point

10 Points

No-0 Points

Subtotal \_\_\_\_\_ Points

Affected Renewable Resource \_\_\_\_\_

Yes

1 Point

10 Points

No-0 Points

Subtotal \_\_\_\_\_ Points

Affected Renewable Resource \_\_\_\_\_

Yes

1 Point

10 Points

No-0 Points

Subtotal \_\_\_\_\_ Points

**Preservation (aka "Protection"):** Does the proposed project preserve (or protect) one or more renewable resources? If so, define each resource and indicate, on a scale of 1 to 10, the significance of the preservation benefit associated with each affected renewable resource.

Affected Renewable Resource \_\_\_\_\_

Yes

1 Point

10 Points

No-0 Points

Subtotal \_\_\_\_\_ Points

Affected Renewable Resource \_\_\_\_\_

Yes

1 Point 10 Points

No-0 Points

Subtotal \_\_\_\_\_ Points

Affected Renewable Resource \_\_\_\_\_

Yes

1 Point 10 Points

No-0 Points

Subtotal \_\_\_\_\_ Points

**Public or Citizen Benefits**

**Public Health:** Does the proposed project provide health benefits to the citizens of Montana? If so, assign a level of significance on a scale of 1 to 5.

1 Point 5 Points

No-0 Points

Subtotal \_\_\_\_\_ Points

**Public Safety:** Does the proposed project provide public safety benefits to the citizens of Montana? If so, assign a level of significance on a scale of 1 to 5.

1 Point 5 Points

No-0 Points

Subtotal \_\_\_\_\_ Points

**Economy:** Does the proposed project provide an economic benefit to a community, county, or the state of Montana? If so, assign a level of significance on a scale of 1 to 5.

1 Point 5 Points

No-0 Points

Subtotal \_\_\_\_\_ Points

**Resource-based Recreation:** Does the proposed project provide for or enhance opportunities for resource-based recreation (e.g. public access; hunting and fishing; hiking; boating/floating)? If so, assign a level of significance on a scale of 1 to 5.

1 Point 5 Points

No-0 Points

Subtotal \_\_\_\_\_ Points

Total \_\_\_\_\_ Points

**Other:** Does the proposed project provide for or enhance any other citizen or public benefits as previously defined? If so, identify the benefit and assign a level of significance on a scale of 1 to 5.

Citizen or Public Benefit \_\_\_\_\_

1 Point

5 Points

Subtotal \_\_\_\_\_ Points

Total \_\_\_\_\_ Points