

How hobbling the Environmental Protection Agency would threaten Montana’s health, families, jobs and economy

Support from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is essential to protecting Montana’s air, water and land. From cleaning up toxic sites to preventing pollution from leaking underground tanks, EPA grants provided the state with more than \$194 million in funding from 2012 to 2016. Unfortunately, the Trump Administration and many members of Congress are working to hollow out the EPA and cut its budget to its lowest level since the 1970s, posing threats to millions of Montanans who depend on the agency to protect their health and the state’s tourism and business climate.

Summary

The Trump Administration’s road map: Eliminating and slashing EPA programs that protect Montana’s environment

Programs, Grants, and Initiatives	Purpose	Trump Budget	2012-2016 Grants
Nonpoint Source Pollution Management Program (Section 319 grants)	Fights runoff pollution from roads, parking lots and excessive fertilizer	Eliminate	\$10.6 million
Leaking Underground Storage Tanks grants	Protects water and soil from tanks leaking chemicals	Eliminate	\$6.1 million
Performance Partnership Grants	Helps states with their priority environmental health issues	Cut 45%	\$50.7 million
Superfund	Supports toxic and radioactive waste cleanup of most polluted sites	Cut 30%	\$18.3 million
Brownfield	Supports cleanup and redevelopment of polluted sites	Cut 30%	\$11.5 million

More than a million Montanans depend on a safe and healthy environment to live a good life. Its world-class outdoor attractions generate \$1.5 billion in wages and salaries, \$5.8 billion in consumer spending, \$403 million in state and local tax revenue, and support 64,000 jobs, according to surveys conducted by the Outdoor Industry Association.¹ Over the last five years, Montana has received more than \$194 million in grants from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to protect the state’s environment and economy. Millions more have gone to support state and local environmental and public health efforts, including assistance in the form of science and technology, legal expertise and enforcement.

But the Trump Administration and many Members of Congress are working to cut the EPA’s budget by 30 percent. These historic cuts would reverse decades of progress in cleaning up the toxic substances that foul drinking water, air and soil, posing grave threats to health and safety. They would strip the EPA of decades of scientific and technical

expertise that Montana has turned to time and again to support state and local cleanups of dangerous pollution, as well as the legal support to go after polluters. The states, its communities and its tribes would have a harder time cleaning up hazardous waste sites without such help.

Deep budget cuts could threaten the state’s public health and attractiveness to tourists. For every family, especially their vulnerable children and seniors, these cuts will move Montana’s environment backward to a dirtier and more dangerous era: More poisons in the soil and toxic substances in the water, and more of the cancers that follow. More mercury, arsenic, lead and other toxic substances that have no place in anyone’s lungs or drinking water. More corroding underground storage tanks and more mine waste and hazardous Superfund sites awaiting cleanup. More pesticides in food, water, and the environment. More unaddressed waste sites that threaten community health and sap economic development. And fewer investigations to make polluters pay for the costs of cleaning up their waste.

As the Congress moves towards adopting a new budget this fall, cuts have already been proposed by both the Administration and by Appropriations Committee members in Congress. Many vital spending decisions will be made behind closed doors as members horse-trade and make deals with an administration that is eager to jettison pollution prevention and cleanup programs. Why is it so important to understand which anti-pollution programs are being targeted for deep cuts or outright elimination? So that Montanans can weigh in with their Members of Congress to ensure that EPA funding is fully preserved.

The Threat to Montana’s Land

The Trump Administration would drastically reduce EPA funding for programs that protect Montanans from the health and safety risks of contaminated soil and that help clean up pollution so that properties can be returned to productive economic use. The positive effects of clean soil multiply through the environment, since contaminated soil can also pollute groundwater.

Fewer cleanups of toxic chemicals, less accountability for polluters

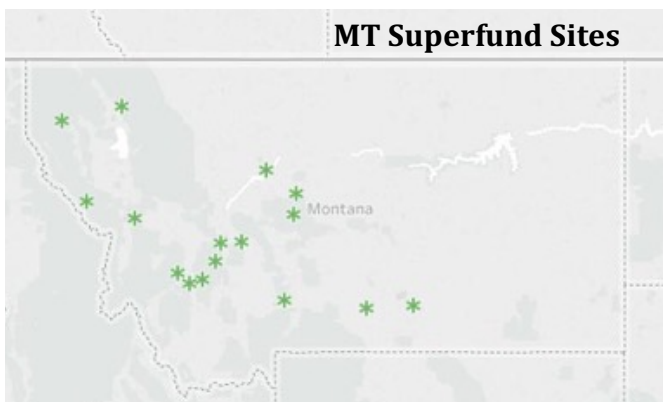
Program at Risk: Superfund program, including emergency response and enforcement funds

EPA provides grants to states, tribes and local communities to deal with Superfund sites. Montana had 17 hazardous waste sites on the EPA Superfund National Priorities List in mid-2017, and the state received \$18.3 million in Superfund grants from 2012 to 2016. These grants helped pay for cleanup efforts at the Upper Ten Mile Superfund site southwest of Helena and at the Flat Creek Iron Mountain Mine and Mill site in the Lolo National Forest, among other Superfund sites in the state. EPA’s expertise is vital in assessing the chemical contents of waste sites and the risks they present, designing and putting measures in place to protect health and safety, and holding polluters accountable.

EPA Funding to Montana FY12-FY16	
Superfund Grants	\$18.3 Million

The Trump Administration’s budget would slash funding designed to deal with these hazardous sites. Hazardous substance cleanup spending through Superfund would be cut by 30 percent, include an 18 percent cut to emergency response funds, which help clean up the most urgent threats. And the Administration’s cuts would shift more cleanup

costs from polluters to taxpayers, by instituting 37 percent cuts in enforcement funds that help efforts to track down polluters and make them pay to clean up sites for which they are responsible.



By cleaning up vast amounts of toxic waste, the EPA’s Superfund program has reduced severe threats to Montanans’ health and returned contaminated properties to job-creating productivity (or restored them as vital natural habitats). Without Superfund cleanups, toxic chemicals like lead, mercury, arsenic, and dioxin are left to render entire locations dangerous or uninhabitable, and to leak into water and soil.

The Enemy Underground: leaking underground storage tank grants

Program at Risk: Leaking underground storage tank grants and trust fund

Across the country, thousands of underground storage tanks and accompanying pipes—many of them made from older corroded steel—hold and carry a variety of fuels and chemicals.²

When tanks are at risk of leaking harmful chemicals such as oil, gas, benzene and toluene into soil and ground water, drinking water is fouled, backyards and businesses become dangerous, community health is jeopardized, and economic development is crippled.

EPA Funding to Montana FY12-FY16	
Leaking Underground Storage Tanks	\$6.1 Million

Montana has a backlog of more than 790 leaking underground storage tanks (or LUSTs).³ EPA has supported essential programs in Montana to monitor these tanks, detect leaks of petroleum products, address the causes of leaks, repair damage to soil or groundwater, hold polluters responsible for cleanup costs, and contribute funds for cleanup if the responsible party can't be found or is no longer in business. Leaking underground storage tanks cleanups received \$6.1 million in EPA grant funding in Montana from 2012 to 2016.

The Trump Administration's proposed budget would curtail leaking tank assistance to states. Montana's receives federal LUST grants from two sources. The first—prevention and detection grants, would be eliminated entirely. The second—a trust fund paid for by a one-cent federal fuel tax, would be cut in half.

Fewer clean-ups and economic development at polluted properties

Program at Risk: Brownfield grants

Brownfield sites are properties where contamination prevents economic development and threatens public health and safety. Research has shown that residential property values near restored brownfield sites increased between 5 and 15 percent and can increase property values in a 1.24-mile radius of that site. A study analyzing data near 48 brownfield sites shows an estimated \$29 million to \$97 million in additional tax revenue was generated for local governments in a single year after cleanup. This is two to seven times more than the \$12.4 million EPA contributed to those brownfields.⁴

Before cleanup and redevelopment can happen safely and be permitted to go forward, brownfield sites must be assessed and tested for soil contamination. The risk of hazardous substances, petroleum or asbestos being released when disturbing soil at the site or dismantling properties. To carry out this assessment work, EPA funds pay for expert tests of soil, ground water, sediment, surface water and vapors. EPA grants also help pay for the actual cleanup.

EPA Funding to Montana FY12-FY16	
Brownfield Grants	\$11.5 Million

The Trump Administration's proposed budget would cut brownfield restoration programs by 30 percent.

These cuts could hamper cleanups at more than 250 Brownfield sites in Montana.⁵ From 2012-16, Montana received \$11.5 million in EPA grants that have helped local counties and communities clean up polluted properties to protect people's lives and spark job-creating economic redevelopment.

The Threat to Montana's water

With almost 170,000 miles of rivers,⁶ water recreation and private and commercial fishing are critical to the state's economy. But proposed Trump Administration budgets cuts would decimate funding for programs that protect rivers, lakes, streams and groundwater across the state.

More dangerous runoff in the water

Program at Risk: Nonpoint source implementation grants

Polluted runoff, sometimes called “nonpoint source pollution,” is the number one source of water pollution in the United States today.⁷ In contrast to “point-source” pollution, which can be traced to a single location such as a factory waste pipe, “nonpoint source” pollution seeps off broad areas such as parking lots and roads, construction sites, agricultural lands, etc. Stormwater can threaten water supplies with animal waste laden with harmful pathogens, sewage, industrial waste, pesticides, mine waste, and oil and gas from roadways.

EPA Funding to Montana FY12-FY16	
Nonpoint Source Implementation Grants	\$10.6 Million

The Trump Administration's proposed budget would eliminate an EPA program that has provided \$10.6 million to Montana from 2012 to 2016 to control pollutants carried by rainfall runoff into its drinking water, rivers and lakes.

Other Challenges

Less flexibility to pursue emerging problems

Program at Risk: Performance partnership grants

The Trump Administration has proposed a massive 44 percent reduction in EPA Performance Partnership Grants, which allow Montana to apply EPA grant money toward its most pressing air, water and land issues.' These grants allow states to use EPA awards with greater flexibility for addressing priority environmental problems or program needs, streamline paperwork and accounting procedures to reduce administrative costs, and try cross-program initiatives and approaches that were difficult to fund under traditional category grants. Montana received \$50.7 million in Performance Partnership Grants from 2012 to 2016.

EPA Funding to Montana FY12-FY16	
Performance Partnership Grants	\$50.7 Million

Montana EPA Grants, FY2012-2016

(with information on the purpose of grants of \$500,000 or more)

Recipient	Grants	Purpose
MT Department of Environmental Quality	\$143,122,450	Capitalization Grants for Clean Water State Revolving Funds Capitalization Grants for Drinking Water State Revolving Funds Capitalization Grants for State Revolving Fund Congressionally Mandated Projects Environmental Information Exchange Network Grant Program and Related Assistance Leaking Underground Storage Tank Trust Fund Corrective Action Program Leaking Underground Storage Tank Trust Fund Program Multi-Media Capacity Building Grants for States and Tribes Multipurpose Grants to States and Tribes National Clean Diesel Emissions Reduction Program Nonpoint Source Implementation Grants Performance Partnership Grants Regional Wetlands Program Development Grants Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Fund State and Tribal Response Program Grants State Clean Diesel Grant Program State Clean Diesel Grant Program (B) State Grants to Reimburse Operators of Small Water Systems for Training and Certification Costs State Underground Storage Tanks Program Superfund State and Indian Tribe Core Program Cooperative Agreements Superfund State, Political Subdivision, and Indian Tribe Site-Specific Cooperative Agreements Surveys, Studies, Investigations, Demonstrations, and Training Grants and Cooperative Agreements - Section 104(b)(3) of the Clean Water Act Surveys, Studies, Research, Investigations, Demonstrations, and Special Purpose Activities Relating to the Clean Air Act Underground Storage Tank Prevention, Detection and Compliance Program Water Pollution Control State, Interstate, and Tribal Program Support Water Quality Management Planning WPC State and Interstate Program Support
Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes	\$7,340,534	Brownfields Assessment and Cleanup Cooperative Agreements Capitalization Grants for Clean Water State Revolving Funds Capitalization Grants for Drinking Water State Revolving Funds Capitalization Grants for State Revolving Fund Consolidated Pesticide Compliance Monitoring Consolidated Pesticide Enforcement Cooperative Agreements Leaking Underground Storage Tank Trust Fund Corrective Action Program Nonpoint Source Implementation Grants Performance Partnership Grants State and Tribal Response Program Grants State Underground Storage Tanks Program

		Training, Investigations, and Special Purpose Activities of Federally-Recognized Indian Tribes Consistent With the Clean Air Act (CAA), Tribal Sovereignty and the Protection and Management of Air Quality Underground Storage Tank Prevention, Detection and Compliance Program
Fort Peck Assiniboine & Sioux Tribes Inc.	\$5,261,165	Brownfields Assessment and Cleanup Cooperative Agreements Environmental Information Exchange Network Grant Program and Related Assistance Leaking Underground Storage Tank Trust Fund Corrective Action Program Leaking Underground Storage Tank Trust Fund Program Performance Partnership Grants State Underground Storage Tanks Program Training, Investigations, and Special Purpose Activities of Federally-Recognized Indian Tribes Consistent With the Clean Air Act (CAA), Tribal Sovereignty and the Protection and Management of Air Quality Underground Storage Tank Prevention, Detection and Compliance Program Water Pollution Control State, Interstate, and Tribal Program Support
The Blackfeet Tribe (Inc.)	\$4,469,032	Leaking Underground Storage Tank Trust Fund Corrective Action Program Performance Partnership Grants Regional Wetlands Program Development Grants State Underground Storage Tanks Program Underground Storage Tank Prevention, Detection and Compliance Program Water Pollution Control State, Interstate, and Tribal Program Support WPC State and Interstate Program Support
Northern Cheyenne Tribe	\$3,996,479	Climate Showcase Communities Grant Program Nonpoint Source Implementation Grants Water Pollution Control State, Interstate, and Tribal Program Support WPC State and Interstate Program Support
The Chippewa Cree Tribe (Inc.)	\$3,505,017	Capitalization Grants for Drinking Water State Revolving Funds Performance Partnership Grants Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Fund
Fort Belknap Community Council	\$3,174,743	Nonpoint Source Implementation Grants Performance Partnership Grants State and Tribal Response Program Grants Training, Investigations, and Special Purpose Activities of Federally-Recognized Indian Tribes Consistent With the Clean Air Act (CAA), Tribal Sovereignty and the Protection and Management of Air Quality Water Pollution Control State, Interstate, and Tribal Program Support
Department of Agriculture Montana	\$2,527,516	Performance Partnership Grants
Anaconda-Deer Lodge County	\$2,414,313	Congressionally Mandated Projects Superfund State, Political Subdivision, and Indian Tribe Site-Specific Cooperative Agreements

Crow Tribe of Indians	\$2,185,916	Capitalization Grants for Drinking Water State Revolving Funds Environmental Justice Small Grant Program Indian Environmental General Assistance Program (GAP) Nonpoint Source Implementation Grants Performance Partnership Grants Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Water Pollution Control State, Interstate, and Tribal Program Support WPC State and Interstate Program Support
City-County Board of Health for Lincoln County	\$2,031,961	Superfund State, Political Subdivision, and Indian Tribe Site-Specific Cooperative Agreements
Montana State University	\$1,348,285	Environmental Education Grant Program Pollution Prevention Grants Program Regional Wetlands Program Development Grants Source Reduction Assistance
Multiple Recipients	\$1,256,872	
Lewis and Clark County	\$1,215,967	Brownfields Assessment and Cleanup Cooperative Agreements Climate Showcase Communities Grant Program Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training Cooperative Agreements Superfund State, Political Subdivision, and Indian Tribe Site-Specific Cooperative Agreements
Great Falls Development Authority Inc.	\$1,000,000	
City of Missoula	\$920,000	Brownfields Assessment and Cleanup Cooperative Agreements Brownfields Training, Research, and Technical Assistance Grants and Cooperative Agreements
Little Big Horn College	\$914,466	Science To Achieve Results (STAR) Research Program
University of Montana System	\$677,186	Environmental Education Grant Program Regional Wetlands Program Development Grants
Great Northern Development Corporation Inc.	\$600,000	
MT Department of Natural Resources & Conservation	\$578,000	Brownfields Assessment and Cleanup Cooperative Agreements State Underground Water Source Protection Surveys, Studies, Investigations, Demonstrations, and Training Grants and Cooperative Agreements - Section 104(b)(3) of the Clean Water Act WPC State and Interstate Program Support
Snowy Mountain Development Corporation	\$540,000	
The University of Montana	\$406,976	Brownfields Assessment and Cleanup Cooperative Agreements
Bear Paw Development Corporation	\$400,000	
Big Sky Economic Development Authority	\$400,000	
City of Kalispell	\$400,000	

Great Falls Development Authority	\$400,000
North Central Montana Development District	\$400,000
Missoula County	\$279,712
Arrowhead Foundation Incorporated	\$200,000
City of Shelby	\$200,000
Chippewa Cree Tribe / Rocky Boy Health Board	\$189,000
National Center for Appropriate Technology	\$185,994
Montana State University- Bozeman	\$182,000
EmKayan Village Water and Sewer District	\$161,957
Citizens' Technical Environmental Committee	\$160,000
Montana State University- Housing & Environmental Health	\$147,724
Cut Bank Chamber of Commerce	\$145,833
Montana State University- Bozeman-Taylor	\$108,000
Black Eagle Civic Club	\$100,000
Libby Area Technical Assistance Group	\$100,000
Cascade County	\$98,445
Watershed Education Network	\$91,000
Montana Department of Fish Wildlife and Parks	\$88,117
CFR Technical Assistance Committee	\$75,000

The University of Tulsa	\$67,600
Yellowstone Teton Clean Energy Coalition	\$62,472
Gallatin County	\$60,000
Mineral County	\$55,685
Superior Technical Assistance Committee	\$50,000
Missoula City- County Health Department	\$40,026
Lame Deer Public Schools	\$25,000
Rimini Community Incorporated	\$25,000
Fort Peck Tribal Executive Board	\$19,000
Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribal Council	\$17,000
Town of Superior	\$15,000

Notes

Unless otherwise indicated, all data in this report are current as of July 2017 and figures for government spending and grants are drawn from www.usaspending.gov, and from official federal government budget documents. Additional information is drawn from state budget sources.

¹ http://missoulian.com/news/local/fishing-guide-montana-s-outdoor-recreation-industry-threatened-by-climate/article_ed533152-df2a-5b06-89d3-400426d0063b.html

² <https://www.epa.gov/ust/learn-about-underground-storage-tanks-usts>

³ <https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2016-11/documents/ca-16-34.pdf>

⁴ <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-brownfield-funding-announced-roseville-newark-norwalk-painesville-piqua-port>

⁵ <https://www.epa.gov/cleanups/cleanups-my-community>

⁶ <https://www.rivers.gov/montana.php>

⁷ http://www.iisgcp.org/catalog/downloads_09/id_256.pdf