# DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION



STEVE BULLOCK, GOVERNOR

1625 ELEVENTH AVENUE

STATE OF MONTANA

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE: (406) 444-2074 FAX: (406) 444-2684 PO BOX 201601 HELENA, MONTANA 59620-1601

# **Memorandum**

To:

Leo Berry

Browning, Kaleczyc, Berry & Hoven P.C.

From:

Anna M. Miller

Department of Natural Resources and Conservation

Date:

March 9, 2016

Re:

Coal Tax Fund Uses

The Conservation and Resource Development Division (CARDD) at the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) uses Coal Tax Funds directly and indirectly. These funds are used by several programs. The use of these funds has proved to be a tremendous benefit to the state.

# 1) Regional Water Program

Coal Tax Funds are put in the regional Water Trust. The interest earnings are used to provide funding for Regional Water projects. See the list of projects. Note the \$37,000,000 of funds have been used for facility project work. See Exhibit A.

# 2) Conservation District Program

Conservation Districts (CDs) use funds for the 223 grant program. They are for CD projects. These are projects for everything from a stream bank stabilization, monitoring a stream to study problems, and many other projects. Some Coal Tax funds are used to provide administrative funds for a district to try to complete other activities. Note of the last 10 years, more than \$3 million has gone to help CDs do work as directed by state law.

A list of sample projects is attached. See Exhibit B.

## 3) Coal Tax Loans

Coal Tax Bonds are issued. These bond proceeds provide funding for irrigation projects to support the state agriculture industry. It also allows cities and towns to fund other Natural resource projects such as rehabilitation of Water and Sewer systems. Note over the years, more than \$115 million in loans have been made to benefit communities in the state. See Exhibit C.

# 4) Coal Tax Funds Plan

I have also attached a copy of the flow of funds for the Coal Tax money. See Exhibit D.

Please let me know if you need something else or have questions.

Cc: Ray Beck, DNRC Dep Dir w/

# Regional Water Projects

Fiscal Year	Project	Dollar Amou
2004	Dry Prairie Rural Water	\$826,386
2004	McCone County CD	\$30,00
2005	Dry Prairie Rural Water	\$668,60
2006	Central MT Regional Water	\$210,000
2006	Dry Prairie Rural Water	\$276,00
2006	Dry Red Water Regional Water	\$78,00
2006	Dry Prairie Rural Water	\$1,173,10
2008	Dry Prairie Rural Water	\$284,00
2008	Dry Red Water Regional Water	\$128,00
2008	Central MT Regional Water	\$298,00
2008	North Central Regional Water Authority	\$376,00
2009	North Central Regional Water Authority	\$1,000,00
2010	Dry Red Water Regional Water	\$168,00
2010	North Central Regional Water Authority	\$1,000,00
2010	Dry Prairie Rural Water	\$372,00
2010	Dry Prairie Rural Water	\$1,892,00
2010	Central MT Regional Water	\$298,00
2010	North Central Regional Water Authority	\$376,00
2010	North Central Regional Water Authority	\$3,100,00
2011	Dry Prairie Rural Water	\$3,975,23
2011	North Central Regional Water Authority	\$2,491,37
2011	Dry Prairie Rural Water	\$2,491,38
2012	Central MT Regional Water	\$286,00
2012	North Central Regional Water Authority	\$980,00
2012	Dry Red Water Regional Water	\$167,00
2012	Dry Prairie Rural Water	\$356,00
2012	North Central Regional Water Authority	\$360,00
2012	Dry Prairie Rural Water	\$722,21
2012	Dry Prairie Rural Water	\$257,78
2013	Dry Prairie Rural Water	\$880,00
2013	North Central Regional Water Authority	\$980,00
2014	Central MT Regional Water	\$300,00
2014	Dry Red Water Regional Water	\$200,00
2014	Dry Prairie Rural Water	\$372,00
2014	North Central Regional Water Authority	\$376,00
2014	Dry Prairie Rural Water	\$4,320,00
2014	North Central Regional Water Authority	\$645,00
2015	North Central Regional Water Authority	\$801,30
2015	North Central Regional Water Authority	\$580,00
2016	Central MT Regional Water	\$300,00
2016	Dry Prairie Rural Water	\$372,00
2016	Dry Red Water Regional Water	\$360,00
2016	North Central Regional Water Authority	\$400,00
2016	Central MT Regional Water	\$441,84
2016	Dry Prairie Rural Water	\$600,00
2016	Dry Red Water Regional Water	\$400,00

Table 3		
FY 2010 Conservation	Education	Mini-Grants Awarded

Conservation District	Project	Am	ount
Carbon CD	Carbon Conservation Days	\$	316
Cascade County CD	Alternative Energy Project		500
Cascade County CD	Forestry		500
Cascade County CD	Central Catholic Meditation Garden		498
Deer Lodge Valley CD	Farm to School Connections		95
Judith Basin CD	Natural Resource Day Project		500
Judith Basin CD	Range School/On the Cutting Edge		500
Lewis and Clark CD	Montana Youth Restoration		500
Liberty County CD	Sage Creek Watershed Alliance		313
Petroleum CD	Sportsmen's Education		295
Petroleum CD	Winnett School Ag/Conservation		339
Petroleum CD	Montana Agriculture and Wind Energy Book		500
Pondera County CD	4th-Grade Classroom		500
Stillwater CD	Conservation Day		189
Teton County CD	Biodiesel/Environment Research		500
Valley County CD	5th-Grade Classroom		417
Yellowstone CD	Annual Weed Pull		314
	To	tal \$ 6	,776

control, new conservation technology demonstrations, soil and water conservation projects, youth and adult educational activities, and conservation equipment rental programs. In FY 2010, \$434,439 was contracted to CDs for various projects. All projects in FY 2010 are listed in Table 4. The amount shown is the amount approved, not

necessarily the amount spent. The allocation of funds is shown in Figure 4.

## Administrative Grants

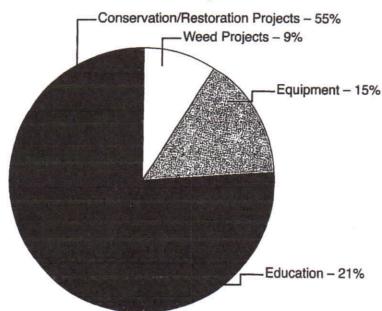
In FY 2010, the CDB distributed \$320,000 from the General Fund and the Coal Tax Fund as grants to 37 CDs

where county mill levies were inadequate to support district operations. These funds are for administrative purposes only and cover mostly salaries for CD employees in some of the smallest communities in Montana. Funding can also be used for other general operating expenses. Information on the Coal Severance Tax and Resource Indemnity Tax (RIT) is presented in Appendix A.

# Resource Conservation and Development Areas (RC&D)

In a cooperative effort with U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the bureau has taken a lead role in assisting activities of the NRCS partnership coordinator and the Central Montana RC&D area. The partnership coordinator is helping to develop key issues and providing assistance to RC&Ds in Montana.

Figure 4
FY 2010 Allocation of Grant Funds for Conservation District Projects



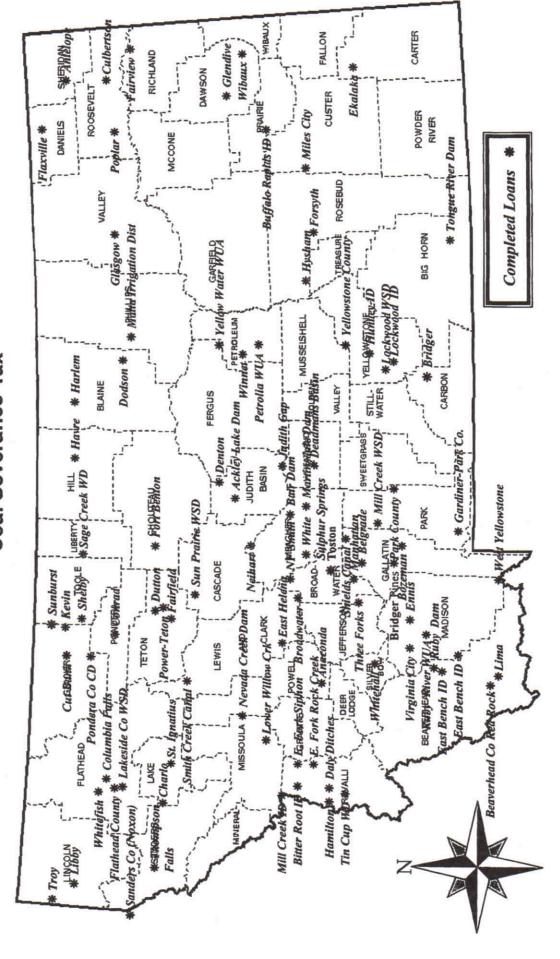
	ole 4					
FY	2010	Conservation	District	Project	Grants	Awarded

<b>Conservation District</b>	Project	Amount
Beaverhead CD	Blacktail Meadows Tree Project	\$ 9,742
Broadwater CD	Solar Panel and Education Project	14,995
Broadwater CD	Cobban/Robertson Diversion	12,033
Carbon CD	Connection Education Program	15,000
Cascade County CD	High School Conservation Ecology Education	12,369
Cascade County CD	Whitmore Ravine Engineering	20,000
Chouteau County CD	Biomass Power Generation Project	15,000
Dawson County CD	Old West Regional Range Judging Contest	6,350
Deer Lodge Valley CD	Range Camp 2010	4,318
Eastern Sanders County CD	Sanders County Water Festival	3,326
Fergus CD	Cows Eating Weeds	4,524
Flathead CD	Haskill Creek Restoration	10,000
Gallatin CD	Eagle Mount Stormwater Reduction	15,000
Garfield County CD	Canada Thistle and Stem Mining Weevil	6,996
Green Mountain CD	Building Stabilization and Public Safety	14,552
Hill County CD	2010 Winter Grazing Seminar	7,560
Hill County CD	Car Body Removal	6,050
Lewis and Clark CD	Lake Helena Shoreline Erosion Control	6,500
Lewis and Clark CD	Lake Helena Watershed Riparian Planting	3,000
Lincoln CD	Grass Roots Recycling	10,300
Little Beaver CD	Soil Health through Cover Crops	15,000
Madison CD	Range Rider	14,500
McCone CD	Land Ownership Maps	5,200
Missoula CD	Weed Control around Water Tank/Revegetation	4,500
Petroleum County CD	Mosby/Musselshell Watershed Group	14,995
Petroleum County CD	Salinity Control and Agronomy Field Demo/Ed	5,742
Petroleum County CD	Travel for MRRIC	15,000
Pondera County CD	Soil Health-Cover Crop Cocktail Demo	5,500
Prairie County CD	Rangeland Monitoring	6,500
Richland County CD	Rolling Rivers Trailers Maintenance Funds	6,985
Rosebud CD	NACD Scholarship	3,000
Ruby Valley CD	North Trout Creek Solar Stock Well	10,100
Ruby Valley County CD	Watershed Symposium Coordinator	10,000
Sheridan County CD	Aquifer Monitoring Equipment	15,000
Sweet Grass CD	Big Timber Creek Canal Assessment	6,250
Sweet Grass CD	Big Timber Creek Hydrology/Geomorphology	15,000
Toole County CD	North Valley Hydrant	13,000
Toole County CD	Shelby Health and Nutrition Green House	14,500
Upper Musselshell CD	Governor's Range Tour	
Valley County CD	Noxious Weed Control/Mapping	6,638
Various CDs	Administrative Grants	6,000 383
Various CDs	Annual Meeting Expense	10,655
Various CDs	Computer Equipment Upgrades	7.0
Various CDs	Education Mini-Grants	5,000
Wibaux CD	Cattleman's Workshop	6776
Yellowstone CD	Salt Cedar Management 2010	5,600
TEHOWSTONE OD	Sait Gedai Management 2010	 15,000 \$ 434,439

CONSERVATION GRANTS FY 2016
February 2016

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# Water Development Loans Coal Severance Tax



Department of Natural Resources and Conservation Conservation and Resource Development Division

# PUBLIC WATER DEVELOPMENT LOANS

Completed Loans		Loan	Completed Loans (cont'd)	Loan	Completed Loans (cont'd)	Loan	***
Annual Cooks Land Country	6	200000	A1 1/4 1/4 1/4 1/4 1/4 1/4 1/4 1/4 1/4 1/	00000	Manhatton Town of	4 245 000	000
Anaconda-Deel Lodge County	9 6	000,000	DINK-Opper Musseisneil WOA	00000	Mennatian, Town of	017'1	30
Antelope County WSD	59	84,000	Yellow Water WUA	\$ 32,000	Miles City, City of	35,032	016,256,
Beaverhead Co/Red Rock WSD	69	2,600,000	Dodson, Town of	\$ 35,000	Mill Creek Imigation District	\$	600,000
Belgrade, City of	69	825,000	Dutton, Town of	\$ 175,000	Mill Creek WSD	\$ 950	950,000
Bittemoot Imgation District	69	1,180,000	Dry Prairie Regional Water Auth	\$ 288,400	Neihart, Town of	\$ 150	150,000
Bitterroot Imgation District	69	508,000	East Bench Irrigation District	\$ 757,297	Park County	\$ 153	153,708
Bozeman, City of	69	726,079	East Helena, City of	\$ 434,434	Pondera County CD	\$ 556	555,000
Bozeman, City of	69	352,715	Ekalaka, Town of	\$ 195,000	Pondera County CD	\$ 341	341,413
Brady County WSD	69	130,550	Ennis, Town of	\$ 180,000	· Poplar, City of	\$ 477	477,260
Broadwater Hydropower Project	69	21.450,000	Ennis. Town of	\$ 750,000	Power-Teton County WSD	\$ 121	121,370
Broadwater Hydropower Project	69	3,800,000	Fairfield. Town of	\$ 141.000	Sage Creek County Water District	\$ 623	623,000
Bridger, Town of	69	91,198	Fairview, City of	\$ 250,502	Sanders County WD at Noxon	\$ 151	151,000
Bridger Pines WSD	69	1.310.000	Flathead County-Evergreen WSD	\$ 4,000,000	Shelby. City of	\$ 592	592,000
Buffalo Rapids Imigation District #1	69	855,000	Flaxville, Town of	\$ 44,000	St. Ignatius, Town of	\$ 226	226,500
Charlo Water District	69	34,500	Forsyth, City of	\$ 405,000	Sun Prairie Village County WSD	\$ 584	584,014
Columbia Falls, City of	69	1,163,720	Forsyth, City of	\$ 325,000	Sun Prairie Village County WSD	\$ 200	200,000
Conrad, City of	69	250,000	Fort Benton, City of	\$ 753,060	Sun Prairie Village County WSD	\$ 26	266,200
Culbertson, City of	69	704,000	Fort Benton. City of	\$ 520,480	Sunburst, Town of	\$ 230	230,000
Culbertson, City of	69	100,000	Four Comers County WSD	\$ 3.060,000	Sunburst. Town of	36	36,289
Cut Bank / N. Glacier County	69	85,000	Gardiner-Park Ctv Water District	\$ 360,500	Ten Mile Creek Estates	\$ 240	240,000
Daly Ditches Imgation District	69	364,000	Glasgow, City of	\$ 3,200,000	Three Forks, City of	\$ 16	163,000
Daly Ditches Imigation District	69	350,000	Glendive, City of	\$ 1,834,238	Three Forks, City of	\$ 200	206,155
Denton, Town of	69	185,000	Hamilton, City of	\$ 124,568	Thompson Falls, City of	\$ 30	304,204
DNRC-			Harlem, City of	\$ 403,125	Tin Cup Water District	\$ 11,300	1,300,000
Ackley Lake Rehab	69	200,000	Havre, City of	\$ 2,590,000	Tongue River Dam	\$ 1,94	1,945,481
Bair Dam	69	988,772	Huntley Imigation District	\$ 1,775,348	Troy, City of	36	30,000
Broadwater-Missouri Pipespan	69	410,000	Huntley Imgation District	\$ 300,000	Troy, City of -refinance	\$ 1,94	1,945,481
Cottonwood-Middle Ck WUA	69	800,000	Huntley Imigation District	\$ 100,348	Virginia City, Town of	\$ 51	515,000
Deadman's Basin	69	350,000	Huntley Imigation District	\$ 250,000	West Yellowstone, City of	\$ 650	650,000
Deadman's Basin	69	55,000	Hysham, Town of	\$ 200,000	West Yellowstone, City of	\$ 400	400,000
Deadman's Basin	69	400,000	Judith Gap, Town of	\$ 24,000	White Sulphur Springs, City of	\$ 50	200,000
Deadman's Basin WUA-2015	69	200,000	Judith Gap, Town of	\$ 100,000	Whitefish, City of	\$ 14	144,171
East Fork-Rock Creek	69	1,000,000	Kevin, Town of	\$ 175,000	Whitehall, Town of	\$ 25	258,300
East Fork-Siphon Replacement	69	400,000	Lakeside County Sewer District	\$ 431,838	Wibaux, Town of	\$ 10	100,000
Nevada Creek Dam	69	494,041	Lakeside County Sewer District	\$ 758,162	Winnet, Town of	\$ 48	482,500
North Fork of Smith River	69	425,000	Lakeside County Sewer District	\$ 100,000	Yellowstone County	\$ 75	758,000
Petrolia WUA	69	358,000	Lakeside County Sewer District	\$ 200,000			
Ruby Dam Repairs - 2013	69	2,000,000	Libby, City of	\$ 590,500			
Ruby River WUA	69	2,000,000	Libby, City of	\$ 253,177			
Ruby River Water Projects	69	4,000,000	Libby, City of	\$ 800,000			
Shields Canal WUA	69	30,000	Lima, Town of	\$ 250,000			
Smith Crk Canal Seepage Rehab	69	20,000	Lockwood Imigation District	\$ 247,000			
Toston Dam Bladders	69	3,000,000	Lockwood Water & Sewer District	\$ 1,078,526			
Upper Musselshell WUA	69	222,647	Lower Willow Creek Drainage Dist	\$ 107,000			
			Malta Impation District	\$ 2.274.950	TOTAL	£ 445 244 624	1624

WSD - Water & Sewer District WUA - Water User's Association

# MONTANA COAL SEVERANCE TAX





# MONTANA COAL SEVERANCE TAX





## **Coal Severance Tax**

Within 30 days of the end of each calendar quarter, coal severance taxes are paid to the state, and 50% of these are deposited into the Coal Severance Tax Trust Fund by the DOR. Six accounts are established within the Trust: (1) the Coal Severance Tax Bond Fund, (2) the Treasure State Endowment Regional Water System Fund, (3) the Big Sky Economic Development Fund, (4) the Treasure State Endowment Fund, (5) the Coal Severance Tax Permanent Fund, and (6) the Coal Severance Tax Income Fund (see Figure attached).

- 1. Coal tax revenues that flow into the trust are initially deposited into the Coal Severance Tax Bond Fund (Bond Fund) and made available for payment of debt service on Coal Severance Tax Bonds. The DNRC informs the DOR, during the state fiscal year, of the amount necessary to meet all principal and interest payments on bonds payable from the Bond Fund. The DOR retains that amount in the Bond Fund.
- 2. The Treasure State Endowment Regional Water System Fund was established to provide state funding for regional water systems. The Rocky Boy's North Central Regional Water Authority and the Fort Peck/Dry Prairie Regional Water System were federally authorized. Two additional regional systems, Dry Redwater and Central Montana have been formed. During the fiscal year, 25% of the amount in excess of what is retained in the Bond Fund is deposited into the Regional Water System Fund.
- 3. The 2005 legislature created the **Big Sky Economic Development Fund**. This fund provides interest earnings for grants and loans used for economic development projects working with local governments and certified regional development corporations. During the state fiscal year, 25% of the amount in excess of what is retained in the Bond Fund is deposited into the Big Sky Economic Development Fund. The program

- is administered by the Department of Commerce.
- 4. The Treasure State Endowment Fund (Endowment Fund) was established when voters approved the ballot measure on June 2, 1992. During the state fiscal year, 50% of the amount in excess of what is retained in the Bond Fund is deposited into the Endowment Fund. The Department of Commerce notifies the DOR when interest earnings are needed to fund local infrastructure projects. The DOR then transfers the interest earnings from the Endowment Fund into the Treasure State **Endowment Special Revenue Account** (Revenue Account). The Department of Commerce then approves disbursement of funds to authorized local governments. Interest earnings not transferred to the Revenue Account for projects are retained in the Endowment Fund
- 5. The Coal Severance Tax Permanent Fund (Permanent Fund) receives no new tax proceeds. The fund balance within the trust is invested by the Board of Investments. The earnings from the Permanent Fund are deposited into the General Fund. State law allows up to 25% of the Permanent Fund to be invested in the Montana economy.
- 6. Investment income on the deposits in the Bond Fund, and the Permanent Fund is periodically transferred into the Coal Severance Tax Income Fund. The entire balance in the Income Fund is transferred into the General Fund on a monthly basis.
- 7. Under the Coal Severance Tax Loan Program, the state sells coal severance tax bonds and loans the proceeds to local governments for various infrastructure projects. The borrowers make semiannual or annual loan payments, which upon receipt are credited to a **Debt Service Account**. The terms of the loans vary, but generally involve an interest rate subsidy. The loan

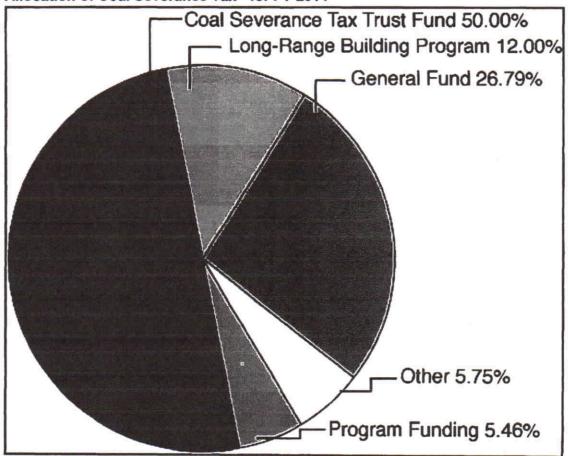
program and debt service accounts are administered by DNRC.

8. Debt service payments on the bonds are due each June 1 and December 1. To the extent that funds on hand in the Debt Service Account are insufficient to pay principal and interest on the bonds when due, funds are transferred into the Debt Service Account from the Bond Fund. On January 1 of each year, funds are transferred into the Debt Service Account from the Bond Fund to the extent necessary to cause the balance in the Debt Service Account to equal one-twelfth of the next two

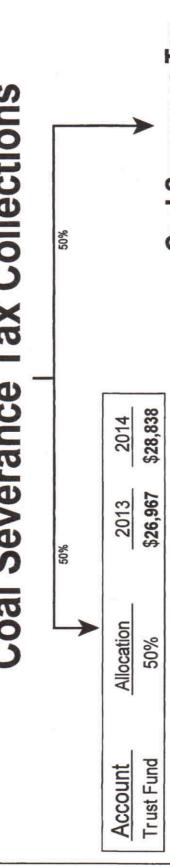
ensuing semiannual debt service payments. DNRC provides written notice to the DOR if funds are needed to pay debt service or to make the required transfer on January 1. On January 1 of each year, DNRC also sweeps the Debt Service Account of funds in excess of one-twelfth of the next two ensuing semiannual debt service payments. The excess is returned to the Bond Fund.

On each June 1 and December 1, the state pays debt service on the bonds from amounts on hand in the Debt Service Account. Payments are made by DNRC.

## Allocation of Coal Severance Tax - for FY 2014



# **Coal Severance Tax Collections**



# Spendable Allocation Coal Severance Tax

Coal Severance Tax Trust Fund

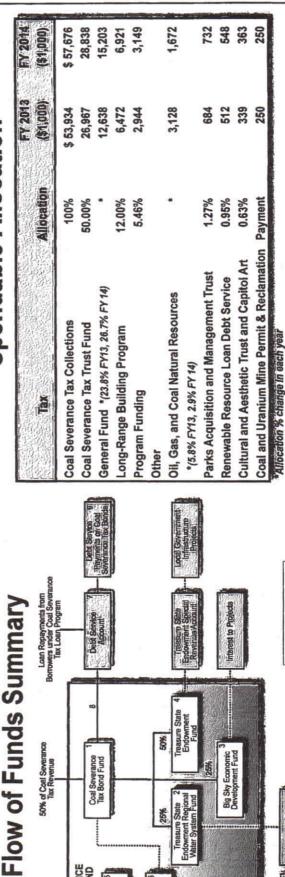
50% of Coal Severance Tax Revenue

Coal Severance Tax Bond Fund

COAL SEVERANCE TAX TRUST FUND

Coal Severance Tax Permanent Fund

Coal Severance Tax Income Fund





Coal Severance Tax Proceeds

General Fund

Big Sky Economic Development Fund

Trust Fund Boundary Interest Earnings





