



July 31, 2023

Steve McConnell  
City of Billings  
210 N. 27<sup>th</sup> St.  
Billings, MT 59101

Dear Steve,

Thank you for the time and effort put into submitting your application for the HB821 Invasive Woody Tree Management grant program. The Noxious Weed Management Advisory Council reviewed four project applications with a total request of \$534,016. Funding requests exceeded the amount that could be supported by the Trust Fund, which required the Advisory Council to make some very tough decisions. As a result, some proposals were not funded, and other proposals were funded at less than the requested amount. Director Clark has approved funding three of the proposals for a total of \$250,000.

The Director has reviewed the Council's funding recommendations and is pleased to inform you that your proposal for **"A comprehensive plan for eradicating buckthorn from Billings' residences, business establishments, parks and public lands" will be funded at \$25,000.** The Council appreciated the City of Billings being proactive in controlling common buckthorn and providing contractor support to landowners. They believe this funding will be used to jump start a larger program and encourage the grantee to seek additional funds if necessary after this grant has been exhausted.

Appropriate components of your application will be unlocked and negotiated to you, using the WebGrants system. Revise and resubmit the component(s) to the department by the date specified in the WebGrants negotiation message. Contracts will be sent to you for review and signatures following approval of the revised application. Please note the date and signature section of the contract to determine when the funding can be utilized.

We look forward to working with you in the future. If you have any questions, please contact me at 444-3140 or [jchaffee@mt.gov](mailto:jchaffee@mt.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jasmine Chaffee". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jasmine Chaffee  
Program Manager/SWC