

September 20-21, 2023

ITEM 208-2012-R0923

Request for Authorization to Design and Construct a Safe Storage Structure for Vertebrate Specimens Managed by the Department of Ecology; Montana State University

THAT

Consistent with MCA 18-2-102 and BOR Policy 1003.7, the Board of Regents authorizes Montana State University to expend up to \$750,000 of General Spending Authority to construct a safe storage structure for ecology vertebrate specimens.

EXPLANATION

1. The Department of Ecology manages an extensive collection of vertebrate specimens with a robust collection of fish samples from across Montana.
 2. The age of the samples makes the collection particularly valuable in studying environmental and evolutionary changes in native species. The samples are irreplaceable.
 3. The collection is used in teaching, supports ongoing research at MSU, and supports research at other institutions, thanks to extensive cataloging and databasing of the collection.
 4. The collection is currently stored in alcohol solutions required to ensure the preservation of the samples and is housed on the upper floors of Lewis Hall.
 5. The alcohol solutions necessitate relocating the collection to a purpose-built storage container safe for the volume of solution in order to best manage risks to Lewis Hall and adjoining facilities.
 6. The University has worked with a design team under authority granted by the Commissioner under BOR Policy 940.9.2 to design an appropriate, safe storage structure to be constructed near similar chemical storage structures adjacent to the Chemistry & Biochemistry Building.
 7. This work will be paid for using physical plant funds collected from College of Letters and Science accounts, research accounts, safety and risk management accounts, facility maintenance account and F&A.
-

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment #1: Project Details (BOR Policy 1003.7)