

March 14-15, 2024

ITEM 211-2301-R0324

Request for Authorization to Design Infrastructure Improvements, Safety Improvements, and Research Facilities; Montana Agricultural Experiment Station

THAT

Consistent with MCA 18-2-102, and BOR Policy 1003.7, the Board of Regents authorizes Montana State University to spend up to \$1,500,000 for the planning and design of the Red Bluff Research Ranch and Bozeman Agricultural Research and Teaching (BART) Farm.

EXPLANATION

1. MSU received \$10,000,000 of Long-Range Building Program (LRBP) funding for improvements to the BART Farm including a new seed, plant, and soil processing facility in House Bill 5 of the 68th Legislative Session.
 2. MSU received \$200,000 of LRBP funding for lambing barn renovations and safety improvements at Red Bluff Ranch in House Bill 5 of the 68th Legislative Session as previously approved in BOR Item 206-106-R0523.
 3. MSU received \$400,000 of LRBP funding for demolition of outdated facilities at BART Farm in House Bill 5 of the 68th Legislative Session as previously approved in BOR Item 206-106-R0523.
 4. MSU requests to spend up to \$1,500,000 for planning and design.
 5. BART farm is dedicated to the service and support of research, teaching, and extension activities with approximately 80% of MAES scientists located in Bozeman and benefiting from collaborative opportunities afforded between the BART Farm and MSU Bozeman campus.
 6. The project will create seed, plant, and soil processing facilities at BART Farm to provide the technical capabilities and safe space for researchers to produce quality, streamlined research that is currently constrained by space limitations and distributed equipment.
 7. The project will strategically improve safety of existing BART Farm operations by evaluating improvements to the safety of facilities such as hay sheds at the end of their useable life.
 8. The project will target improvements to infrastructure at the BART Farm including water and sewer systems and associated restroom facilities.
 9. The project will make safety improvements and renovations to the Red Bluff lambing facilities in Norris to support continued research.
 10. MSU will request construction authority at a later date.
 11. Funding for the planning and design will come from LRBP funds allocated by the Legislature.
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ATTACHMENTS

Attachment #1: Project Details (BOR Policy 1003.7)