



SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Beginning August 5, the 2002 Special Session is expected to last two weeks. Some legislative committees began hearing proposals July 24, ten days before the opening of the Special Session. The House and Senate Taxation Committees and the House Appropriation and Senate Finance Committees held individual and joint sessions to consider bills which had already been introduced.

Introduced bills which are of interest to county government include:

- HB 9 To reduce general fund shortfall through elimination of RIT weed transfer and RIT interest, sponsored by Stan Fisher, Bigfork
- HB 10 To revise allocations of coal severance tax, oil and gas tax, metal mines tax, sponsored by Joe Balyeat, Bozeman
- HB 11 To revise distribution of federal mineral leasing funds, sponsored by Dick Haines, Missoula
- HB 18 To revise and clarify state and local finance—HB 124 housekeeping and fixes, sponsored by Bob Story, Park City
- SB 6 To eliminate special TANF authority and appropriation from the 2001 session, sponsored by Senator John Cobb, Augusta
- SB 10 To suspend the inflation factor for local government reimbursements in HB 124, sponsored by Senator John Cobb, Augusta

Waiting in the wings are un-introduced bills which would affect counties:

- LC 0028 Assessment for TANF jobs and employment services
- LC 0039 To delay for two years the portion of federal mineral royalty payable to counties
- LC 0072 To revise the business equipment tax
- LC 0080 Severance tax on coal bed methane
- LC 0086 To authorize use of highway funds for motor vehicle division

HIGHLIGHTS—INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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Of special concern to local government is the protection of HB 124, the revisions of laws governing local government and state revenue collection and allocation passed in the 2001 Session.

In the call for the Special Session, Governor Judy Martz directed the Legislature to consider action limited to the following subjects:

1. Legislation approving fund balance transfers as submitted by Office of Budget and Program Planning
2. Legislation reducing general fund expenditures, including general fund expenditures exempted in 17-7-140 (MCA), HB2 or any other appropriation bill, statutory appropriation or language appropriation
3. Legislation reducing non-general fund appropriations and non-budgeted transfers, when the reduction will increase the general fund balance and any necessary statutory amendments to effectuate the legislative reductions
4. Legislation reducing the general fund shortfall in revenue
5. Legislation amending HB 41 and SB 495 to provide for a guarantee account in the state special revenue fund.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE AT BIG SKY SEPTEMBER 22-25

The 93rd Annual Conference begins on **Sunday, September 22**, with the traditional President's Reception and Banquet at 6:00 pm in the Gallatin/Madison Room at Huntley Lodge. The host for the Conference is Madison County; the co-host is Gallatin County. The Conference will continue through Wednesday, ending with the Officers' Installation Luncheon.

The Opening General Session on **Monday** will include annual reports, review of resolutions and the call for officer nominations. Presentations about NACo Internet University Program and District Court assumption will be included.

Meetings of special groups will conclude the day:

- JPA and JPIA Insurance Pools
- BOS Work Force Investment Consortium
- Urban Counties
- Hard Rock Mining Counties
- Oil, Gas and Coal Counties.

The **Tuesday** morning agenda features meetings of all ten MACo Committees, followed by their reports at a general session. "Grow Your Nest Egg" is to be the main presentation. The afternoon includes two tracks of workshops.

The first track presents a choice among:

- Rules for Lobbying
- Personnel Issues
- Intergovernmental Transfers.

The second group includes:

- Legislative Lobbying
- Contemporary Issues
- TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families).

A second selection of special groups will meet following the workshops:

- Reservation Counties
- Six-County Fort Peck Lake Group
- Coalition of Forest Counties.

On **Wednesday**, the General Session will focus on legislative resolutions and the election of officers. The Installation Luncheon concludes the conference.

Additional items during the conference include a Prayer Breakfast and an open session on health insurance issues with the Joint Powers Trustees on Monday. The MACo Board of Directors will meet on Sunday and Wednesday.

Some of the speakers invited to the Conference include:

- Karen Miller, NACo President-Elect
- Boone County, Missouri
- Judy Martz, Governor of Montana
- Karla Gray, Chief Justice
- Montana Supreme Court
- Don Hargrove, Montana State Senator
- Belgrade
- Mike Pichette, NorthWestern Energy.

A three-day spouse program will also be part of the conference.

This year the Montana Association of County Information Technology Administrators (MACITA) will not be meeting at the MACo Conference.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

August

- 1-2 House Appropriations Committee; Capitol
- 1 **MACo Districts 10 and 11; Quinn's Hot Springs**
- 2 **MACo Districts 8, 9, 12; Deer Lodge**
- 5-16 LEGISLATIVE SPECIAL SESSION
- 12 **MACo Districts 4 and 5; Dupuyer**
- 13 **MACo Executive Committee Conference Call; 10:00**
- 19 **JPIA Bond Working Group; MACo Conf. Room; 10:00**
- 21 **MACo All Committees; Colonial Hotel**
- 21 Growth Policy Forum; MACo Conf. Room; 9:30 am

- September 22-25** **MACo Annual Conference; Big Sky**
- November 5 Election Day
- November 19-21** **MACo Board Retreat; MACo Conf. Room**
- December 3-5** **Joint JPA/JPIA Trustees Retreat**
- December 9-11** **Elected Officials Conference; Colonial Hotel**
- January 6 58th LEGISLATIVE SESSION BEGINS
- January 14-16** **Loss Control Conference; Colonial Hotel**
- February 18-21** **Midwinter / DES Conference; Colonial Hotel**

Payment In Lieu of Taxes (P.I.L.T.)

Fiscal Year 2002-2003

<u>County</u>	<u>Payment</u>	<u>Total Acres</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Payment</u>	<u>Total Acres</u>
Anaconda-Deer Lodge	\$221,332	197,219	Madison	\$457,383	1,052,173
Beaverhead	\$502,724	2,047,829	McCone	\$154,437	273,745
Big Horn	\$48,148	41,434	Meagher	\$107,187	483,883
Blaine	\$358,310	453,106	Mineral	\$189,797	642,654
Broadwater	\$325,315	282,537	Missoula	\$740,216	711,563
Butte-Silver Bow	\$256,609	233,632	Musselshell	\$82,895	87,517
Carbon	\$541,960	572,524	Park	\$723,202	945,492
Carter	\$99,002	594,642	Petroleum	\$39,084	335,040
Cascade	\$236,641	215,467	Phillips	\$244,702	1,382,944
Chouteau	\$181,126	157,892	Pondera	\$116,819	107,919
Custer	\$389,742	334,095	Powder River	\$131,131	594,815
Daniels	\$233	200	Powell	\$427,143	720,108
Dawson	\$75,341	63,960	Prairie	\$69,150	411,364
Fallon	\$80,287	115,901	Ravalli	\$1,282,827	1,109,623
Fergus	\$557,567	486,084	Richland	\$62,076	54,194
Flathead	\$1,441,781	2,440,181	Roosevelt	\$4,820	4,284
Gallatin	\$815,683	703,199	Rosebud	\$384,326	329,949
Garfield	\$101,396	814,977	Sanders	\$147,452	914,740
Glacier	\$473,847	401,496	Sheridan	\$2,106	1,781
Golden Valley	\$34,930	31,537	Stillwater	\$220,596	191,880
Granite	\$125,143	703,947	Sweet Grass	\$275,850	303,397
Hill	\$56,430	47,790	Teton	\$312,686	284,568
Jefferson	\$501,736	555,697	Toole	\$53,313	45,579
Judith Basin	\$152,810	308,427	Treasure	\$877	748
Lake	\$175,103	155,444	Valley	\$480,083	1,122,308
Lewis and Clark	\$1,187,404	1,070,978	Wheatland	\$71,330	65,924
Liberty	\$39,490	33,656	Wibaux	\$30,973	26,995
Lincoln	\$281,797	1,748,177	Yellowstone	\$89,540	77,952

OIL AND GAS QUARTERLY LEASES

The quarterly oil and gas lease sale conducted by the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) is scheduled for September 4, 2002, in Helena. DNRC is preparing environmental assessments and the only action proposed at this time is issuing leases for possible future exploration and production. Before any activity occurs, DNRC will prepare a site-specific environmental review and the state Board of Oil and Gas will review and issue permits. The September sale includes tracts in the following 21 counties:

Big Horn	Custer	Fergus	Powder River	Sweet Grass	
Blaine	Daniels	Golden Valley	Richland	Toole	Yellowstone
Carbon	Dawson	Hill	Rosebud	Valley	
Chouteau	Fallon	Lewis and Clark	Sheridan	Wheatland	

A map and a detailed list of tracts being considered may be obtained (406) 444-2074 or
<http://www.dnrc.tate.mt.us/trust/mmb.htm>

MONTANA ENHANCED 9-1-1 PROJECT: STATUS REPORT

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Fifth Report and Order 01-351 states that **9-1-1 must be accessible to all people by September 11, 2002**. In most areas, citizens have either basic or enhanced 9-1-1 service from phones in their homes or workplaces. With **Basic 9-1-1**, a call-taker/dispatcher in the local public safety answering point (PSAP), or 9-1-1 center, answers the call. The emergency and its location are communicated by voice. With **Enhanced 9-1-1 (E9-1-1)**, the local 9-1-1 center has equipment and database information that allows the call-taker to see the caller's phone number and address on a display. This allows faster emergency dispatch, even if the callers are unable to communicate where they are or what the emergency is.

However, when 9-1-1 calls are made from wireless phones, the calls may not be routed to the closest 9-1-1 center, and the call-taker doesn't receive the callback phone numbers or the location of the callers.

Current E9-1-1 Services

Butte-Silver Bow County
Carter/Fallon/Prairie/Wibaux Cos.
Cascade County
Daniels County
Gallatin County
Lewis & Clark County
Meagher County
Roosevelt County
Sheridan County
Valley County
Yellowstone County

Approved E9-1-1 Plans

Beaverhead County: Nothing has been done since the plan was approved; new sheriff is not sure of addressing project status; no implementation date is set.

Carbon County: Project underway—has addressing contract; put up new repeater site to improve radio communications; implementation is two years out.

Chouteau County: Trunks in; Triangle & 3 Rivers are testing trunks.

Flathead County: Equipment RFP has been issued; in process of selecting equipment; MSAG is complete, using Intrados™ database; addressing is complete, estimated date of implementation is mid to late summer.

Glacier County: Has addressing contract with Terra Incognito and project is near completion; no contract for database; no E9-1-1 equipment purchased, estimates implementation to be at least 18 months.

Granite County: Hired MaPS™, Inc. to do mapping; sheriff says they will be ready to procure equipment in about a year and estimated at least 2 years until implementation.

Jefferson County: Addressing complete; issued equipment RFP.

Lake County: In early stages of developing on-premise database; want to hire a project manager; need to do equipment RFP; no implementation date set.

Madison County: Choosing vendor to complete addressing; E9-1-1 equipment purchased from 3 Rivers in place; estimated 18 months to implementation.

Mineral County: Addressing almost complete; funds are growing.

Missoula County: MSAG with Qwest; equipment RFP estimated implementation in summer.

Musselshell County: Rejected

three equipment proposals due to unsuitability, reissued RFP; mapping and addressing complete; investigating whether off-site or on-site database would best suit their needs; estimated implementation in September.

Pondera County: Working with postal service to convert existing addressing to new 9-1-1 addressing; MSAG is built and in process of establishing emergency service zones and refining MSAG accordingly; hired 9-1-1 consultant for equipment/PSAP needs; implementation projected for December.

Ravalli County: Working on maps and addressing.

Sanders County: Addressing will be completed in summer; equipment RFP was issued; estimated implementation 06/03.

Stillwater County: Working on MSAG; hired Baseline Technologies to assist in procuring equipment; having difficulty with one of the independent telephone companies; implementation is projected for year end 2002.

Teton County: Addressing complete; has E9-1-1 equipment; need telephone lines; estimated summer 2002 implementation.

Toole County: Contracted with MAPS to complete addressing; has Motorola E9-1-1 equipment in place; estimated implementation date 12/03.

Tri-County 911 (Fergus, Judith Basin and Petroleum): Completing addressing and setting plans to purchase equipment, including signs for rural roads.

MaPS™ has submitted Enhanced 9-1-1 plans for:

Wheatland / Golden Valley Counties and Powell County.

COUNTY NEWS

ELECTION AFTERMATH

NOVEMBER BALLOT ISSUES

CARBON COUNTY is considering a dust abatement levy for county roads. The special levy would be on the November ballot.

GLACIER COUNTY voters are faced with two levies. One is for a bond issue to construct a new nursing home; the other is for a bond issue for a jail.

ANACONDA-DEER LODGE COUNTY is proposing a vote on a six-year tax for a new elevator system in the public library.

FWP WEED CONTROL FUNDS

MADISON, GALLATIN, BUTTE-SILVER BOW and BEAVERHEAD COUNTIES have had significant decreases in the Fish, Wildlife and Parks budgets for weed control on fishing access sites. Madison County's budget decreased from \$2,400 to \$800; Beaverhead County decreased from \$1,100 to \$800; Gallatin and Butte-Silver Bow both decreased from \$600 to \$400.

ROAD AGREEMENT

TOOLE COUNTY, after a 20-year dispute, agreed to a contract with Montana Department of Transportation for repair and maintenance of Potter Road. The four-mile stretch will be leveled and filled with county equipment: chip-coat, sealing, painting and signing will be done by the State.

AIRPORT INFLUENCE ZONE

RAVALLI COUNTY has proposed the maximum area (10,000 feet from the runway) as an Airport Influence Area (AIA) around the county airport to control development for safety. Surrounding land owners are concerned with a possible decrease in property values.

INMATE MEDICAL CARE

YELLOWSTONE COUNTY must pay for medical care for jail inmates, even those with pre-existing medical conditions, according to a U.S. Constitution due process clause interpreted by Montana Assistant Attorney General Chris Tweeten. Inmates with medical bills include temporary Federal prisoners and inmates from other counties.

FLOOD PLAIN MAPS

LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY adopted flood plain regulations based on maps it believes are incorrect. County officials had failed to comment on FEMA maps by the deadline. The oversight left a situation of adopting the inaccurate maps and potentially forcing some people to buy flood insurance who may not need it, or don't adopt the maps and have at least 88 families deprived of the flood insurance they have already bought. Residents are working to develop more detailed and accurate maps to present to the Denver FEMA office.

MUSEUM DISPLAY ITEMS

RAVALLI COUNTY is being sued to seek damages for items loaned to the County Museum that have not been returned after requested by the family. The display room was dismantled and the items were stored. The family charges the museum with breach of contract and failure to properly care for the items loaned.

JAILS

Both TETON COUNTY and LINCOLN COUNTY have recently approved budgets for planning new jails.

MOSQUITOES

FLATHEAD COUNTY's plans for aerial spraying of unusual hordes of mosquitoes caused controversy. Potential harm to humans, honeybees and organic farms countered the desire for outdoor recreation and concerns for spread of disease. Petitions for a county mosquito district are circulating.

IMPACT FEES

MISSOULA COUNTY, in coordination with Missoula, is looking for a way to generate funds from construction of new buildings to cover added costs for police, parks and public services. Concerns center around double taxation, longtime vs new residents, affects on low-income housing, and possible dampening of growth.

GALLATIN COUNTY is in litigation over its impact fees because of improper government qualifications.

Lake County: Incumbent Commissioner Mike Hutchin won a three-way race for the Republican nomination for his County Commission seat. The Democrat candidate did not live in the Commission district and withdrew. After the primary, the County Democrat Central Committee nominated the second-place Republican candidate for the General Election.

Blaine County: Following Federal Court opinions that the current at-large elections dilute the Indian vote, county commissioner districts were re-aligned. Election will be by district, not at-large. Plans for a special primary election for Commissioner Victor Miller's seat were set. Miller does not live in the new district and cannot be a candidate.

On July 8, the County Commission agreed to appeal the decision, because "voters, who have chosen not to vote in Blaine County, made informed decisions not to involve themselves in county government because it is largely irrelevant to them."

Blaine County's legal counsel is Mountain States Legal Foundation. Native Americans are represented by American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU).

July 10 Journal News-Opinion, Chinook

Fallon County: Incumbent Clerk and Recorder Mary Lee Deitz and Coroner Jon Stevenson are not candidates for re-election to their positions. MACo News did not list them in "Current County Officials not Running for Re-election."

Beaverhead County Sheriff candidate, Rick Later, withdrew as an Independent candidate, because he had also been listed on the Primary ballot for a Republican Precinct Committee seat. By Montana law, Independent candidates may not be associated with a political party for one year prior to election.

Does our county need help with Information Technology?

Submitted by Mary Sexton, Teton County, MACo IT Committee Chair

We're bidding a new software program for accounting. The vendors should give us all the answers, shouldn't they?

Our computers are five years old. Do we need new ones?

A customer wants to pay his fees on-line with a credit card. How can we receive payment on-line ?

Now that we all use the Internet, how do we supervise employee use of e-mail and the Internet?

These are just a few general questions commissioners and county officials might have regarding IT. (And, no, the answers aren't at the bottom of the page upside down!) But an IT Coordinator at MACo will be able to supply responses.

At the MACo annual conference in September, counties will be considering a resolution which will increase county dues to help fund an **Information Technology (IT) Coordinator** for MACo members. Half of the position will be funded by the State, the other half by MACo with the hope that the MACo part of the position will be self-funded within two years. A description of the position was handed out at the spring District meetings and will be available at the meetings in July and August. After reviewing concerns of counties, small and large, as well as input from MACITA, the IT Committee developed the proposal. Since a dues increase must be voted on by the membership, the funding of the IT position will be on the agenda at the Big Sky convention.

Here are more questions that an IT Coordinator might help answer!

- **How do we know that a software contract is beneficial for the county?** An IT Coordinator can establish contracts, review contracts, and save money for counties. The Coordinator can also act as a liaison to make State contracts available to counties.
- **Do we need extra policies for use of information technology?** An IT Coordinator can develop model policies tailored to county needs, saving time and liability exposure for counties.
- **How do I know which software and desktop packages best suit our needs?** An IT Coordinator can advise counties on standards, reliability, and cost. The Coordinator can also assist in pooled purchasing of hardware and software with the State.
- **What are other counties doing for GASB 34 software?** An IT Coordinator will be knowledgeable about local and State government software vendors and specific requirements. A Coordinator can work with counties and vendors in product development for certain needs.
- **We have a county website; how can we improve it?** An IT Coordinator can review the website, develop model designs, or supply lists of website developers. An IT Coordinator can assist counties with development of e-government processes.
- **Can an IT Coordinator save counties money?** You bet!

INSURANCE INSIGHTS
by Greg Jackson
Insurance Marketing



SUCCESSFUL RENEWALS

The JPIA property and liability pool renewed all Counties and Special Districts for the 2002-2003 policy year.

In the midst of this hard market, the JPIA program proved to be a stable, consistent program that all participants and members can rely on for comprehensive insurance coverage. The goal of the JPIA Trustees, this year and in the future, will continue to offer the pool members affordable and reliable coverage.

NEW JPIA MEMBERS:

The JPIA program is pleased to announce that **Flathead County** and **Ravalli County** have joined the JPIA pool effective July 1, 2002.

In addition, 37 Conservation Districts joined the pool as a result of the Montana Association of Conservation Districts program transferring coverage to the JPIA program. Other new additions include: **Bitterroot Irrigation District** and **The Upper/ Lower Road Water Sewer District** in Cascade County.

NRIS

"An Introduction to Montana Soils Information"

Friday, August 23 3:00 pm
Montana State Library
Conference Room
(no charge)
Questions? 444-5356

MACo DIRECTORY CHANGES / ADDITIONS

LATEST CHANGES ARE IN BOLD.

BEAVERHEAD County mailing address	2 S. Pacific CL4
Commission phone	683-3750
Attorney phone	683-3730
Clerk and Recorder phone	683-3720
Clerk of District Court phone	683-3725
Justice of Peace Hoerning	683-3755
Superintendent of Schools phone	683-3737
Sheriff phone	683-3700
FAX--Clerk/District Court	683-3728
FAX--Commissioners	683-3769
FAX--Sheriff	683-3705
Treasurer's Address	102 N. Washington
Sheriff (temporary)	Jay Hansen
CUSTER	
Clerk/Recorder (temporary)	Kathy Pawlowski
FLATHEAD	
Administrative Officer	Donald Avery
HILL	
Doug Kaercher	716 Summit Avenue
LIBERTY	
E-mail	com@co.liberty.mt.us
MINERAL	
Clerk of District Court	PO Box 129
MISSOULA	
Sheriff	Mike McMeekin
PHILLIPS	
School Sup't. (temporary)	Terry Carlson
POWDER RIVER COUNTY	
E-mail	kamende@co.powder-river.mt.us
RAVALLI	
Commission Office	215 South Fourth
Clerk and Recorder	215 South Fourth
Treasurer	215 South Fourth
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Dorsey & Whitney	Billings Office closed
TETON COUNTY	
Clerk/Recorder (temporary)	Diane Ameline
VALLEY COUNTY	
Commission phone	228-6219
Attorney phone	228-6288
Clerk and Recorder phone	228-6226
Clerk of District Court phone	228-6268
Coroner	228-6277
Justice of Peace phone	228-6271
School Superintendent phone	228-6213
Sheriff phone	228-6277
Treasurer phone	228-6230
WHEATLAND COUNTY	
E-mail	wccr@mtintouch.net
E-MAIL page 82+	
Carter County John Kerr	mjkerr@sdplains.com
Liberty County	com@co.liberty.mt.us
Clerk and Recorder	clerk@co.liberty.mt.us
School Superintendent	supt@co.liberty.mt.us
Sheriff	sheriff@co.liberty.mt.us
Powder River County	kamende@co.powder-river.mt.us
Wheatland County	wccr@mtintouch.net

SPECIALTY LICENSE PLATES



An "Open Land" plate joins three specialty license plates offered throughout Montana. The cost of the plate is \$35 for the first year, and \$25 to renew thereafter. Plates are available by ordering through the county motor vehicle licensing office. Most of the cost of specialty plates is used to benefit the sponsoring organizations.

The Gallatin County Open Lands Board conducted an art contest for a design of the plate, which would reflect Montana's open lands and scenic beauty. Mark Miller, a freelance artist from Bozeman, won the contest. The voting public was given the opportunity to vote on the entries, while renewing their plates at the county motor vehicle licensing department. Most of those designs, however, could not be used due to constraints by the Montana Highway Patrol, the organization that ultimately approves each plate design. Miller received \$1,000 for his design, which reflects mountains, a stream and rolling hills, all with beautiful colors.

For more information, please contact Dawn Chretien, 406-582-3130 or DChretien@co.gallatin.mt.us



LEWIS and CLARK
BICENTENNIAL

GLACIER NATIONAL
PARK



Montana Lions Club
SIGHT and HEARING
FOUNDATION

Montana
FUTURE FARMERS
OF AMERICA (FFA)
FOUNDATION



**INITIATIVES / REFERENDA
2002 BALLOT MEASURES**

- C-36** **Title:** Provide for the investment of assets from local government group self-insurance programs (SB190)
Author: Referred by Legislature
- C-37** **Title:** Amend signature-gathering requirements for constitutional initiatives (SB 396)
Author: Referred by Legislature
- C-38** **Title:** Amend signature-gathering requirements for initiatives (SB 397)
Author: Referred by Legislature
- C-39** **Title:** Remove restriction on investment of public funds in private corporate capital stock (SB 493)
Author: Referred by Legislature
- IR-117** **Title:** Repeal HB 474 relating to electrical energy
Author: Rep. Michelle Lee, Livingston
- I-145** **Title:** Acquire hydroelectric dams that are in the public interest, to acquire and operate them for the benefit of Montanans
Author: Sen. Ken Toole, Helena
- I-146** **Title:** Establish a statewide tobacco-use prevention program using tobacco settlement funds
Author: Alliance for a Healthy Montana, c/o Jonathan Motl, Helena

Smart Growth:

Heading off Hysteria...

An insightful and thought-provoking evening to discuss *urban sprawl, smart growth and transportation issues*

Monday —August 19 at 7 PM

Wingate Inn

2007 North Oakes (Cedar Street Exit)
Helena

There is no charge for this special presentation and a block of rooms has been reserved for out of town attendees.

Featured speaker is Wendell Cox, one of the country's most popular and often quoted experts on urban sprawl, "smart growth", and transportation issues. Mr. Cox is the author of scores of monographs and book chapters addressing urban growth, smart growth, transportation, mass transit, congestion, and demographic trends. His writings have appeared in many professional publications as well as the Wall Street Journal, Washington Times, Los Angeles Times, Dallas Morning News, Detroit News, and other popular publications.

**For more information please call
Helena Building Industry Association--449-3358**

RECYCLING

70% of the general public reports they are recycling, which makes it more popular than voting.

Recycling is moving away from garbage management and into creative uses of waste.

Building the average house creates one ton of waste.

The newest recycling effort is electronic scrap recovery.

Steel recycling rate for 2001 was 67.8% nationwide. 66 million tons of industrial and consumer scrap metal was recycled. Greatest recovery was from junk cars. Steel beams and plates recovered from construction and demolition sites represented 95% of new beam/plate production.

Prices at the end of July, 2002

	<u>National</u>	<u>Montana</u>
Newspaper	\$55 to \$85 for baled ton	\$44
Magazines	\$ 0 to \$40	\$15 to \$32
Corrugated cardboard	\$ 20 to \$90 ton	\$ 65
Steel cans	\$ 5 to \$38	\$10
Aluminum cans	\$ 500 to \$760 / ton	\$640
Office paper	\$10 to \$60	\$36 to \$52

"Headwaters Recycling" Vol. 6, Issue 1; July 2, 2002

Montana Association of Planners (MAP) 2002 Conference

The 2002 Montana Association of Planners Conference will be held at the Grouse Mountain Lodge in Whitefish, October 2-4, 2002. There are a limited number of "blocked" rooms available so call soon for a reservation at (877) 862-1505. Be sure to reference the rooms reserved for the Montana Association of Planners to get the best rate. The conference fee is \$100 for registrations received on or before September 6, and \$125 after September 6. The fee to attend the one-day "Planning 101" seminar only is \$50.

The conference will have a great mix of educational opportunities, ranging from fantastic field trips to exciting session topics. You'll discover Big Mountain, tour an exclusive subdivision, and have the opportunity for end-of-session activities. Conference topics will include extractive industries, water quality, office administration, community financing, development costs, city-county planning relationships, and much more.

For a registration packet, or for more information, please contact Janet Cornish at (406) 723-7993 or JanAllyce@aol.com.

ON TAXATION
Why does a slight tax increase cost you \$76 and a substantial tax cut save you 30¢?

W.I.R THANK-YOU

Thanks go to the businesses and nearly 400 county commissioners who attended the Western Interstate Region Conference hosted by Yellowstone County. County commissioners from 15 western states, along with National Association of Counties' board members from all over the United States, couldn't stop talking about Yellowstone County and Montana hospitality. Every commissioner I spoke with, whether from Oregon or Louisiana, said the same things, "You have a great state, friendly people and real warmth for a visitor. I'll come back!"

Montana weather is always unpredictable and, thanks to Luke Overstreet, we were able to move our Wednesday evening event from Pompeys Pillar to his Horse Palace (The commissioners were amazed at the turnaround!). The Billings Depot was a great location for our Thursday night event. EventTures made sure the arrangements and our guests were treated with the best western hospitality.

Entertainment was excellent at both functions and contributed to the successful events:

- The Montana Gunslingers
- Jim Southworth Band
- Crow Indian Dancers
- Patricia Ryan
- Calamity Jane Players
- A Touch of Class Catering
- the Marine Honor Guard
- Civil Air Patrol
- Kristie Ostlund
- the Rex
- Montana Avenue shops
- Pompeys Pillar Association
- Bureau of Land Management

I would also like to thank the many sponsors for their contributions to defray the costs of this conference. This boosted our economy with new dollars without any use of county funds.

- alternative service concepts
- Blue Cross/Blue Shield
- Montana-Dakota Utilities
- Brentwood Services
- Montana Rail Link
- Browning-Ferris Industries
- Montana Weed Control Association
- Nemont Telephone
- Burlington Northern/Santa Fe
- NorthWestern Energy Solutions
- Cenex Harvest States Foundation
- PPL Montana
- Employee Benefit Mgmt. Services
- Project Telephone
- Entranco
- Stillwater Mine
- Intermountain Administrators
- US Forest Service
- Intermountain Equestrian Center
- Valley Telecommunications
- MACo Joint Powers Authority
- Joint Powers Insurance Authority
- Wells Fargo Banks

Finally, thanks Billings and Yellowstone County residents for helping keep our economy going and making this a successful conference!

Bill Kennedy
Yellowstone County Commissioner

ON HOMELAND SECURITY
"You read about all these terrorists—most of them came here legally, but they hung around on these expired visas, some for as long as ten or fifteen years. Now, compare that to renting a video. You are two days late with a video and those people are all over you. Let's put video rental businesses in charge of immigration."

NACo INFORMATION

“EXPLOSION IN SLOW MOTION”

NACo and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) are providing weed information kits entitled “Explosion in Slow Motion.” The information kit contains:

1. “Growing Pains: Facts About Weed Invasions in the Western United States”
2. “Noxious Weeds, a Growing Concern,” a poster on how people can help stop the spread of weeds
3. “What’s Wrong with This Picture,” a poster for middle schools which includes education activities
4. “Meet the Menace,” a short video about weed invasions for high school and adult audiences
5. “A Kid’s Journey to Understanding Weeds,” a video for elementary school level
6. “Killer Weeds,” an article from Audubon Magazine
7. “Invasive Plants: Changing the Landscape of America,” a fact book developed by the Federal Interagency Committee on Management of Noxious and Exotic Weeds
8. “A Biological Emergency,” a fact sheet for public meetings and gatherings.

Items are available from MACo or:

BLM: www.blm.gov/education or
PO Box 36800, Billings, 59107

BLM liaison to NACo:
Cynthia Moses-Nedd at 202-942-4257.

IN MONTANA

MSU Extension Service has publications available, such as:

1. “Montana’s Noxious Weeds”- photos and descriptions of 23 noxious weeds in Montana
2. Individual booklets on each noxious weed
3. “Riparian Weed Management”
4. “Montguide”- a series of 4-pages each on Montana’s noxious weeds
5. AUM Analyzer-a tool for evaluating weed management using forage production and stocking rates

MSU Extension Service: 994-5132 or
APBTK@Montana.edu

Montana Department of Agriculture also has:

1. “Invasive Plant Species”, Issue Paper #13
2. “Montana Noxious Weed Calendar”
3. “Montanans Value Montana, a vision for support of noxious weed efforts”
4. “Montana Weed Management Plan”
5. “Montana Noxious Weed Trust Fund Summary 1985-2000”

Montana Department of Agriculture:
Barbra Mullin at 444-5400 or
bmullin@state.mt.us

DID YOU KNOW?

Invasive weeds are defined as non-native plants introduced to North America beginning in the mid 1800s. These plants spread at an alarming rate because there are no native insects, fungi or diseases to control their growth. BLM estimates nearly 4,600 acres of Federal lands alone are lost each day to weed infestation. In Montana, 5 million acres are infested with knapweed.

Weeds out-compete native plants, replacing plant diversity with sometimes poisonous monocultures. Infested areas have higher water runoff, increasing soil erosion and decreasing water stored in the ground. Weed infested land values can decrease up to 90%.

Weeds are spread by wind, water, wildlife, livestock, people, equipment and motor vehicles.

Early detection and eradication of small infestations are the most effective ways to manage weeds.

Leafy spurge has a tap root that can reach 25+ feet underground. It causes severe eye irritation and possibly blindness in humans and it is poisonous to cattle.

One spotted knapweed plant can produce up to 1,000 seeds a year.

Some invasive weeds started spreading after being planted as ornamental plants in flower gardens.

Yellow star-thistle is poisonous to horses, causing a nervous disorder which can be fatal.

Fire can benefit some weed species, giving them the edge over more shallow-rooted native plants.

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