



# ONE MONTANA

## **2018 IMPACT STATEMENT**

*ADVOCATING FOR A MONTANA THAT IS INCLUSIVE,  
CONNECTED, AND PROSPEROUS*



# IMPACT



**80,000 ACRES OF  
ACCESS OPENED**



**200+ AGRICULTURE AND  
RANCHING PRODUCERS ENGAGED**



**25 MASTER HUNTERS  
CERTIFIED**



**102 UNIQUE  
DONORS**



**157 PARTICIPATING  
PARTNERS**



**30 YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS  
CHALLENGED**

# REVENUE AND EXPENSES

## REVENUE

SOURCE	2018	% OF TOTAL
INDIVIDUALS	\$102,415	29%
CORPORATIONS	\$61,299	17%
FOUNDATIONS	\$95,105	26%
CONTRACTS	\$93,476	26%
OTHER	\$5,880	2%
TOTAL	\$358,175	100%

## EXPENSES



## A LETTER FROM CHERYL CURRY

What an exciting year!

We are pleased to share our first ever 2018 Impact Statement and an update on the great work One Montana is engaged in.

2018 has been a year of positive growth for One Montana, and celebrated our very successful first eight years building a highly respected brand throughout Montana. Our mission of creating a vibrant and sustainable Montana by connecting rural and urban communities has evolved to where we are being viewed today as a trusted catalyst with stakeholders across the state, and beyond. Our programs are diverse, but they are each driven by the single vision of sustaining and improving Montana's way of life. We are nonpartisan and results oriented.

In 2018 One Montana transitioned to new leadership to build capacity so that we can operate at a new level of effectiveness. Sarah Davies Tilt joined us as our new

Executive Director in July bringing capacity building, leadership and development skills along, with almost 20 years living and working in Montana.

This report highlights three successful on-going projects that highlight One Montana's distinctive approach and how we are building infrastructure and creating resiliency by working across a range of complex rural-urban issues.

We would not be where we are today without your support. Thank you for continuing to invest in One Montana and helping us to unify our communities in a way that resolves issues and fosters the connection of people. We cannot do it without you!

*Cheryl Curry*

Cheryl Curry, Chair, Board of Directors



# OUR APPROACH

## A STATEWIDE RESILIENCE INITIATIVE

One Montana nurtures and connects communities and diverse stakeholder groups and helps them to address challenging local and statewide issues. Our areas of interest include rural-urban connections, rural economic development, agriculture and local food systems, climate change, education, healthcare, natural resources and working lands. We have become the trusted catalyst for many to help resolve critical issues facing our state.

### OUR MODEL IS SIMPLE:

#### WE BRING THE PEOPLE TO THE TABLE

We assemble people with different backgrounds and perspectives—farmers and ranchers, landowner associations, climate scientists, sportsmen's groups, universities, agencies, nonprofits, businesses, and others—who have a shared interest in solving a particular challenge.

#### WE INVEST IN THE "TABLE"

By bringing diverse perspectives together in a safe place we build trust and shared understanding of the problem, and create a foundation for potential solutions.

#### WE HELP TO IMPLEMENT EFFECTIVE SOLUTIONS

Working with the community or stakeholders we help implement a strategy or specific solution to increase resiliency, sustainability and a connected way of thinking and acting.

All of One Montana's programs are grounded in this model and driven by the vision of sustaining and bettering Montana's way of life. We listen, we learn, and in an equitable manner we facilitate solutions. The model is replicable and proven. In some cases, One Montana will lead and manage the project and in others, we will identify leaders and help the project to flourish and stand on its own. And in many cases, these conversations cannot happen without One Montana.

One Montana's success leading dialogues and bringing stakeholders together to build resilience and help communities adapt to changing times has helped us to build trust across a wide range of issues.

# ETHICS, ACCESS, EDUCATION:

## MONTANA HUNTER ADVANCEMENT PROGRAM

Common Ground, a partnership of Montana landowners, outfitters and sportsmen, is our initiative to build trust and better working relationships between landowners and sportsmen in our state. Montana uses hunting as the primary management tool for elk and other wildlife. As more land is closed to hunting, the state's ability to effectively manage wildlife populations is significantly decreased. Declining access is a multi-faceted issue. Sadly, at least part of the

negative trend can be attributed to a handful of less competent and unethical hunters. Bad hunter behavior makes it easier for landowners to close their gates to the public for hunting, and it is commonly cited as a primary reason for landowners who are pulling their property out of block management or allowing hunting altogether.

To address these issues, in 2018 we launched and implemented the Montana Hunter Advancement Program (MHAP) to put more ethical, educated, and effective hunters in the field. MHAP provides advanced education that increases hunter competence, ethical behavior, knowledge of agriculture and stewardship, and access to private lands. The 2018 pilot program provided its 25 graduates with managed hunting opportunities on 13 ranches during the fall rifle season. This program is an innovative model for sportsmen-landowner relations for states that are challenged with private land access and hunter behavior issues. MHAP is an integrated program within One Montana.

## IMPACT

**CERTIFIED 25 MASTER  
HUNTERS, OPENED  
80,000 ACRES OF  
ACCESS TO PRIVATE  
LAND FOR HUNTING,  
38 PARTICIPATING  
PARTNERS**



# STEWARDING SUCCESS:

## GRAPPLING WITH ECONOMIC PROSPERITY VERSUS ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION

This is a community organizing resiliency project in the Smith River watershed of rural Meagher County where White Sulphur Springs is located. The Black Butte Copper Mine is in the final permitting stages and if/when the mine is in operation, it will have a significant impact on the county and watershed. One Montana has played

the lead role in developing and organizing the Meagher County Stewardship Council (MCSC) to "watchdog" the mine's operation to ensure a healthy and vibrant watershed and community both before and after the mine's operation. With One Montana acting as the major advisor to MCSC, its work, in part, entails the development and implementation of a Community Benefits Agreement much like the Good Neighbor Agreement put in place 18 years ago between the Stillwater River watershed communities and the Stillwater Mine in southcentral Montana. The committee will also explore a variety of ongoing concerns and solutions. Core rural values, a rural community and a pristine environment are at stake both during the mine's operation and when it is no longer operating. One idea currently being explored is the possibility of establishing a "community fund or endowment" to ensure infrastructure maintenance and fund other community programs.

## IMPACT

**CREATED A 12-MEMBER  
MEAGHER COUNTY  
STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL AND  
LED THE EFFORT FOR THE  
COUNCIL TO DEVELOP AN  
ENFORCEABLE AGREEMENT  
WITH THE MINING COMPANY  
BANNING OPEN PIT MINING  
IN SIX MEAGHER COUNTY  
TOWNSHIPS FOR AT LEAST  
25 YEARS.**



# MENTAL HEALTH:

## PROVIDING SUPPORT TO ADULTS AND ADOLESCENTS DEALING WITH SUICIDE, ANXIETY AND DEPRESSION

There is no question that Mental Health is one of the most important issues facing our state today. We have the worst suicide rate in the nation; and one in four adult Montanans and one in three of our adolescents experience depression. At the request of Montana State University's Center for Mental Health Research and Recovery, One Montana has been working to establish the Center

as a trusted resource for rural Montanans. Our first priority was to develop a formal partnership between the Center and MSU Extension. This has resulted in Extension leading the implementation of much of the Youth Aware of Mental Health (YAM)'s suicide prevention programs in over twenty rural high schools. Due to YAM's success, we hope it will be available to all of Montana's school systems within five years.

One Montana is also playing a leadership role in the development and implementation of Thrive for Montana – an online i-Therapy program for adults with anxiety and depression symptoms. We played a lead role in adapting the Thrive program to resonate with rural Montanans. After a very successful random control trial (RCT) for Thrive for Montana involving 343 Montanans in 2018, the state has provided monies for the Center and Extension to expand the RCT to involve 1000 more Montanans. One Montana is leading the effort with the Center and Extension to achieve the enrollment goal by July 1, 2019. One Montana is also helping the Center develop and test a "Thrive for Adolescents" program. All of this work has Montana at the forefront in the rural West regarding evidence-based programs for suicide prevention and depression.

## IMPACT

**OVER 20 HIGH SCHOOLS IN MONTANA HAVE INTEGRATED YAM INTO THEIR CURRICULUM. 343 MONTANANS PARTICIPATED IN THRIVE FOR MONTANA'S RANDOM CONTROL TRIAL. OUR WORK LED TO THE STATE FUNDING A THRIVE FOR MONTANA RCT FOR 1000 MONTANANS.**







# ONE MONTANA

280 W KAGY BLVD | SUITE D233 | BOZEMAN, MT 59715

[info@onemontana.org](mailto:info@onemontana.org)

[www.onemontana.org](http://www.onemontana.org)