

Montana Cooperative Development Coalition History

- ✓ Created as result of the Vision 2005 strategic plan for agriculture in 1999 as a vehicle for accomplishing the goal of doubling the value of agricultural output in Montana
- ✓ Statewide resource for community-based cooperative development and assistance in Montana
- ✓ Primary mission is to promote and develop cooperatives to meet the economic and community needs of rural Montana.

Montana Cooperative Development Coalition Funding

- ✓ \$65,000 annually from State Appropriations through Dept of Agriculture. Extended to June 30, 2010 in the 2003 legislature
- ✓ State appropriation funds help leverage \$300,000 of USDA Rural Cooperative Development Funds annually.
- ✓ Department of Commerce \$40,000 (Reservation Focus)
- ✓ Board In-Kind Match
- ✓ Technical Assistance Network Match

Montana Cooperative Development Coalition What We Do

- ✓ Help groups understand the cooperative model
- ✓ Facilitate discussions and project planning
- ✓ Member surveys
- ✓ Feasibility studies, marketing and business plans
- ✓ Grant identification, writing and administration
- ✓ Legal document assistance
- ✓ Consultant guidance
- ✓ Board training
- ✓ Customer Service Training

*Montana Cooperative
Development Coalition
How we provide this service statewide*

- ✓ MCDC Center; staff of three
- ✓ 8 Technical Assistants throughout the State housed within Economic Dev. Agencies & RC&D's; Servicing 49 Counties & Six Indian Reservations
- ✓ Mission Mountain Cooperative Development Center; Seven counties & One Indian Reservation

*Montana Cooperative
Development Coalition
Projects*

- ✓ Value Added Ag
 - ✓ Wind, bio diesel, crop diversification
- ✓ Housing, Worker Cooperatives
- ✓ Artisans
- ✓ Retail

*Montana Cooperative
Development Coalition
Native American Focus*

- ✓ Cooperative Education
 - ✓ American Indian Business Leaders
 - ✓ Technical Assistance
 - ✓ Experience with Reservations

**Montana Cooperative
Development Coalition
Native American Focus**

- ✓ Advantages
 - ✓ Locally controlled
 - ✓ Community Minded
 - ✓ Employment opportunities
 - ✓ Re-circulate local funds
 - ✓ Regulate prices
- ✓ Challenges
 - ✓ Governmental
 - ✓ Tribal Bureaucracies
 - ✓ Lack of Capital
 - ✓ Racial issues from within

**Montana Cooperative
Development Coalition
Regional Poverty Reduction Project**

- ✓ Northwest Area Foundation
 - ✓ Based on Poverty Rates in Northcentral Montana
 - ✓ 11 Counties and 3 Indian Reservations & Little Shell Tribe
- ✓ 18 Month Application Process \$600,000
 - ✓ Compete w/ three other communities in the Unites States
 - ✓ Pocatello/Idaho Falls, Idaho
 - ✓ Waterloo/Cedar Falls, Iowa
 - ✓ Minot, North Dakota

**Montana Cooperative
Development Coalition
Regional Poverty Reduction Project**

- ✓ Awarded \$12 million – Two Communities
 - ✓ Great Falls, Montana and Pocatello/Idaho Falls, Idaho
- ✓ Seven Strategic Directions
 - ✓ Community
 - ✓ Health
 - ✓ Children, Youth and Families
 - ✓ Economy
 - ✓ Education
 - ✓ Housing
 - ✓ Transportation
