



# MSU Extension Education & Research Improving the Quality of Life

## In Deer Lodge County

### **Anaconda - Deer Lodge County Street Tree Project:**

Extension Agent assisted in the development of the County Urban Forestry Plan in 1999-2001 which included training volunteers to identify and map out all current street trees in and around Anaconda. The plan identified many problems, including over mature cottonwood trees that were rotten and falling around town. A step-by-step plan began to remove the trees in 2001-2003. In 2003 the Anaconda Street Tree Committee was formed with the purpose to improve the urban environment for residents, tourists, as well as stimulate the local business prospects. The committee also wrote the initial grant for \$5000 from the Atlantic-Richfield Corp. offering the targeted east end entrance residents a 50/50 cost share for boulevard trees; 250 trees were planted the first year and each year the 50/50 cost share area is expanded to include the main streets and the tourist bus route. Over 250 trees were planted again this year. Trees arrive each May. The agent offers tree planting and care workshops, along with planting and care guidelines, sent to each person who orders trees. The State DNRC selected this project as Montana's winning Urban Tree Project for 2004, which sends a nomination on to the National level for possible selection as the National Award Winner. A volunteer committee, involving representatives from most of the organizations within Anaconda-Deer Lodge County, including 4-H, is committed to continuing this project for at least another 5 years.

### **Series of Grant Writing Workshops:**

Accessing outside funds can make projects possible for the County. To stimulate "fund seeking" activity, a series of grant writing workshops were held to assist many groups in attaining their goals. Three additional workshops were offered on Planning for Success, Where to Find Funders, and How to Write a Grant Using the Logic Model early in 2004. The efforts have exceeded expectations, with the first three grants funded from attendees. The biggest success was the founding of Anaconda's first Humane Society and Center, where their first spay and neuter two-day clinic had over 400 cats and dogs!

### **Regional Economic Development:**

Regional economies are stronger and more resilient than single county economies. The Deer Lodge County agent has been working on a number of projects in the region and with other Extension agents. Teams from 6 counties have been trained in how to lead Local Economic Renewal (LED) efforts, analyzing and implementing their top projects for success. Four counties have completed this project and either have or are implementing their LED projects. More networks are being built to include the four counties in the Targeted Industry/Community Business Matching Pilot program. Deer Lodge County is the pilot for the nation, along with Nevada, with assistance from the Western Rural Development Center. After the pilots are completed in about three years, the project will go national. The long term goal is to continue working with the region, building more and more networks and nurturing the formation of economic clusters in the region.

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Deer Lodge County Extension Office is located at the Courthouse in Anaconda Phone: 406-563-4035



An educational resource dedicated to improving the quality of people's lives by providing research-based knowledge to strengthen the social, economic and environmental well-being of families, communities and agricultural enterprises.

**Downtown Master Plan:**

The College of Architecture worked with the Agent and a planning group from last fall to this May, presenting a comprehensive look at what Anaconda's downtown could look like if guidelines were implemented for a Historic Theme to the area. The students interpreted what each building in the downtown would look like and presented the plans at a public Commission Meeting and to the Chamber and Community the following morning. The Planning Board and Commission adopted the ideas, along with the downtown businesses accepting their interpretation of what historic Anaconda could be. The Planning Department is now developing the guideline standards to be adopted later this year. The local newspaper called the project "More Inviting Downtown".

**ServSafe Establishments:** In coordination with the two Sanitarians, there is a very successful on-going program to gain certification of eating establishments, along with training for all their food service workers in the three county rural area of Deer Lodge, Powell and Granite counties. Extension holds the full day certification three times a year, the half day food servers training twice a year and offers one-on-one training to workers who can't make the dates set for our annual workshops. Reports of food poisoning in the three counties have dropped dramatically, with only two reports thus far for 2004, when the average before the workshops was 12-15 annually.

**Strategic Planning:** The agent continues to offer annual strategic planning to any organization in the county. Because Extension is so involved in the community, the agent knows the needs of various organizations and can offer tailored workshops or assistance to help turn their barriers into opportunities. An example from the annual Chamber planning session was the continued need for implementing the free workshops for retail businesses. Monthly 20 minute programs at their Downtown Promotions committee meetings are being held and invitations are extended to public workshops on Effective Communications, or Conflict Resolution. Monthly workshops, open to the entire community, are targeted for certain organizations or workplaces that have identified the skills the workshop offers as a need.