

Extension Services

Department Overview

The Gallatin County Extension office consists of three full time Extension agents, two funded by County, state and federal funds and one fully funded by state and federal grants held at Montana State University (MSU). The part-time Youth Outreach Program Coordinator is funded by a federal grant held at MSU. The office also has one full time Administrative Assistant.

The 4-H Agent oversees the 4-H youth development program which reaches over 570 youth, has 150 volunteer leaders and offers more than 100 projects. Through projects and club activities, youth learn to make wise decisions, take responsibility for their choices, become respectable citizens, gain leadership skills and acquire a concern for their community locally and globally. The Youth Outreach Program Coordinator works in mentoring partnership programs (Big Brothers Big Sisters, After-school programs – United Way, Gallatin County Food Bank, and CAP/Thrive) to share the 4-H club and project experience with 714 Bozeman City youth.

The Agricultural Agent works with farmers, ranchers, and researchers utilizing field trials, workshops, and individual visits to help producers remain productive and profitable. The Agent provides program coordination for the Gallatin Master Gardener program and a Plant Clinic held in the Extension office. She also assists landowners with small acreage management issues. The Agriculture agent works with a variety of agencies and organizations to strengthen agricultural education and outreach efforts.

The Natural Resource Agent works with landowners in Gallatin, Park, and Meagher Counties on forest health and wildfire safety and provides program coordination and collaboration with the Big Sky Natural Resource Council, Gallatin/Big Sky Noxious Weed Council, and the Gallatin County Weed District.

Department Goals

- Increase productivity of pasture and rangeland through a variety of methods including assisting with noxious weed control and grazing management to increase the forage base.
- Improve crop and livestock production through individual consultation and educational workshops to farmers and ranchers to help productivity and profitability.
- Offer a yearly Level 1 & 2 Master Gardener Program.
- Provide assistance for small acreage and horticulture questions.
- Address natural resource issues including forest health, stream quality, noxious weeds, aquatic invasive species, forest insects, and wildlife conflict through public education, site visits, and community awareness.
- Assist landowners in the wildland urban interface with wildland fire preparedness and safety.
- Increase teen retention through the 4-H Teen Leadership Program, retreats, and camps.
- Promote Science, Engineering and Technology (SET) into 4-H project areas.

Recent Accomplishments

- Grants Received: \$10,000 for noxious weed control on 26,000 acres of private land (with Gallatin County Weed District); \$4,500 grant received for aquatic invasive species survey along portions of Gallatin, Madison, and Jefferson Rivers; \$5,000 renewed for increase funding for continuation of 4-H after school programming, Science development, Engineering & Technology (SET) programs, and leadership & life skills development; \$3,000 grant for private property insect mitigation in alpine forest surrounding Big Sky, MT; \$38,500 grant awarded (4th Year) from National 4-H and Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention for the Montana 4-H Mentoring Partnership Program.
- \$30,000 is available to Gallatin and Park County landowners to improve forest health and wildfire safety on their property to increase human safety and structure protection in the event of a wildfire.
- \$43,000 is available for forest health activities including forestry, noxious weed eradication, water quality improvements, and forest stewardship plans, in the Bozeman Watershed.

RECREATION AND OTHER

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Department Budget

Object of Expenditure	Actual FY 2013	Final FY 2014	Actual FY 2014	Request FY 2015	Preliminary FY 2015	Final FY 2015
Personnel	\$ 48,082	\$ 49,668	\$ 41,559	\$ 43,407	\$ 45,231	\$ 45,232
Operations	93,154	102,597	93,700	122,845	113,031	113,031
Debt Service	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Outlay	-	12,500	12,525	502,500	2,500	2,500
Transfers Out	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	\$ 141,236	\$ 164,765	\$ 147,784	\$ 668,752	\$ 160,762	\$ 160,763

Budget by Fund Group

General Fund	\$ 141,236	\$ 164,765	\$ 147,784	\$ 668,752	\$ 160,762	\$ 160,763
Special Revenue Funds	-	-	-	-	-	-
Debt Service Funds	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Project Funds	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enterprise Funds	-	-	-	-	-	-
Internal Service Funds	-	-	-	-	-	-
Trust & Agency Funds	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	\$ 141,236	\$ 164,765	\$ 147,784	\$ 668,752	\$ 160,762	\$ 160,763

Funding Sources

Tax Revenues	\$ 102,792	\$ 89,225	\$ 88,333	\$ 345,786	\$ 85,841	\$ 81,276
Non-Tax Revenues	44,626	49,462	46,989	184,430	46,110	49,990
Cash Reappropriated	(6,182)	26,078	12,462	138,536	28,811	29,497
Total	\$ 141,236	\$ 164,765	\$ 147,784	\$ 668,752	\$ 160,762	\$ 160,763

Department Personnel

No. of Positions	FT/PT	Title	FTE 2013	FTE 2014	FTE 2015
2	Full-Time	Extension Agents (contracted)	2.00	2.00	2.00
1	Full-Time	Natural Resource Agent –Grant funded	1.00	1.00	1.00
1	Full-Time	Administrative Assistant	1.00	1.00	1.00
1	Part-Time	4-H Youth Outreach Program Coordinator – Grant Funded	0.60	0.60	0.60
1	Part-Time	4H Program Assistant	0	0	0.40
6		Total Program	4.60	4.60	5.00

The 6 positions shown include a fully funded grant position paid through MSU plus a 0.60 position funded by MSU. The County is responsible for 2 Agents and 1 Administrative Assistant (the two agents included the 0.4 4H program assistant).

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2015 Budget Highlights

Personnel

- The 4-H Agent position has been vacant for the last half of the 2014 fiscal year and it is hoped to have the position filled in July 2014 (Duties currently filled by the Ag Agent and Admin Assistant)

Operations

- Purchased a truck in FY2014 resulting in increases in operations for maintenance

Capital

- \$2,500 for Vehicle Reserve

County Commission Goals/Department Response

The County Commission established a set of overarching goals for the County government. Listed below are the goals, followed by the methods by which the Extension office is striving to fulfill those goals.

Align community need with budgetary decisions

- Leveraging grant funding and private funding to expand all Extension programming.

Demonstrate Exceptional Customer Service

- Conduct field trials, workshops and consultations for productivity and profitability of Ag. producers.
- Provide resources for small acreage and horticulture questions.
- Promote wildland fire safety, educate about natural resource issues, disseminate material, and hold workshops for public education.
- Available for field visits, meetings, and answering requests during non-traditional business hours.
- Provide volunteer training and teen leadership training to retain older 4-H'ers.
- Reach at-risk youth and their families through the 4-H Mentoring Partnership Program.
- Demonstrate strong support for 4-H committees to improve & solidify structure of 4-H program.
- Design and implement new 4-H Programs to attract traditional and non-traditional audiences.

Serve as a Model for Excellence in Government

- Be fiscally accountable.
- Help agriculture producers by expanding outreach and information programs.
- Protect Gallatin County's natural resources.
- Teach and develop life skills through the 4-H program.
- Encourage community service projects and opportunities that support strong values for service.

Improve Communications

- Increase public knowledge about available programs and update brochures & guides available.
- Provide a current source of information and events via the Gallatin Extension website.
- Electronic newsletters and news updates for 4-H families and write articles for local media.

Adhere to Long-Term Plans

- Improve residents' quality of life by providing research based knowledge to strengthen the social, economic and environmental well-being of families, communities, and agriculture enterprises.

To be the Employer of Choice

- Complete performance based evaluations and provide training opportunities for staff.

RECREATION AND OTHER

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Workload Indicators / Performance Measures

Workload Indicators				
Indicator	Actual FY 2012	Actual FY 2013	Actual FY 2014	Projected FY 2015
1. Attendance for agriculture programs	100	100	235	250
2. Level 1 and 2 Master Gardeners enrolled in classes	116	134	107	115
3. Attendance for natural resource programs	263	265	250	150
4. Forested acres treated to increase wildfire protection	348	360	350	120
5. Grant dollars provided to landowners for forestry work	\$132,000	\$80,845	\$100,000	\$120,000
6. Youth enrollment in traditional 4-H programs	509	507	537	575
7. 4-H volunteers enrolled / mentoring program volunteers	117 / NA	128 / 158	154 / 143	150/150
8. Youth enrollment in 4-H mentoring partnership program	Data Not Available	714	740	750

Performance Measures				
Measure	Actual FY 2012	Actual FY 2013	Actual FY 2014	Projected FY 2015
1. Survey to participants receiving Hazardous Fuels Reduction grant funds: Would you recommend the program to others?	Yes, 100%	Yes, 100%	Yes, 100%	Yes, 100%
2. Natural Resources Grants & Project managed by Extension	\$750,000	\$718,200	\$937,500	\$160,000
3. Leveraging tax dollar funding to grant funding	1:6	1:6	1:7	1:4
4. 4-H grants and funds managed by Extension	\$255,529	\$268,457	\$220,000	\$240,000
5. New 4-H clubs and project groups formed in Gallatin County	Data Not Available	6	1	1

Comments

The Agriculture program continues to help landowners implement management strategies for their land. New workshops are continually being offered and new research projects are being implemented. Cooperation with multiple agencies and organizations has increased the reach of agricultural Extension efforts.

The Hazardous Fuels and Forest Stewardship Programs continue to grow. The Natural Resource Agent works with a variety of organizations and agencies on watershed protection, forest health, fire safety and wildlife protection.

While traditional 4-H programs remain the mainstay of Gallatin County 4-H, capitalizing on the opportunity to meet growing needs has led to the development and growth of non-traditional projects. Non-traditional projects allow urban and suburban youth to increase life skills, and gain the leadership abilities 4-H is proud to provide. When hired, the new 4-H Agent will work to strengthen and expand the 4-H program.