

# EASTERN PLAINS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

JULY 21, 2021 NEWSLETTER 49

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## *Upcoming Grant Opportunities*

**Big Sky Economic Development Trust Fund (BSTF)-**  
Quarterly deadline for job creation and/or planning. June 16, Sept. 15, Dec. 15, 2021 and March 16, 2022.  
<https://marketmt.com/BSTF>

**Incumbent Worker Training (IWT)**  
Applications accepted year round. Grant funding resource, used to help off-set a portion of skills-based training costs for existing workers employed by MT small businesses and nonprofits.  
<https://wsd.dli.mt.gov/employers/incumbent-worker-training-program/>

**Tourism Grant Program**  
**Deadline September 15, 2021-** The annual application cycle of the Tourism Grant Program will open Sunday, August 1, 2021 via Submittable. Eligible applicants include government entities, nonprofits, and

**Renewable Resource Grant and Loan - Planning**  
**Deadline August 20, 2021-** The purpose of the RRGL Planning Grant Program is to provide funding to governmental entities for professional and technical services necessary to produce a high-quality RRGL grant application leading to a project that conserves, manages, develops, or protects Montana's renewable resources.

**Renewable Resource Grant and Loan-Project**  
**Deadline- May 15, 2022-** Projects that conserve, manage, develop or protect Montana's renewable resources are eligible for funding. Public facility projects including drinking water, wastewater and solid waste development and improvement projects have received funding.  
<http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/cardd/resource-development/renewable-resource-grant-program>

**APRA Water and Wastewater Minimum Allocation- Applications are due July 15, 2021 - January 1, 2023, to DNRC**



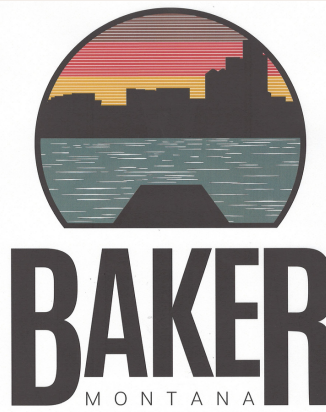
## *Interest in Hemp in Eastern MT*

Hemp is receiving some growing interest from entrepreneurs in the eastern region of Montana. We are currently assisting two different possible ventures in starting hemp businesses, both with a different area of focus. One interest is in the use of hemp hearts and hulls. The hemp hearts have immense nutritional value and from the hearts, there is the left over hull which may be used to create a low-grade oil and powder that can be used in animal feed. With the recent approval of hemp to be used in animal feed this is an excellent use of what is typically a residual product. The other interested party would like to see hemp more widely used in an industrial manner, looking at working with the fibrous part of the hemp plant. They are specifically interested in creating PPE construction material, and other uses. Hemp has been said to be a viable alternative for over 25,000 products. Beyond the manufacturing aspect of hemp both ventures will be looking to farmers in the region for growing needs.

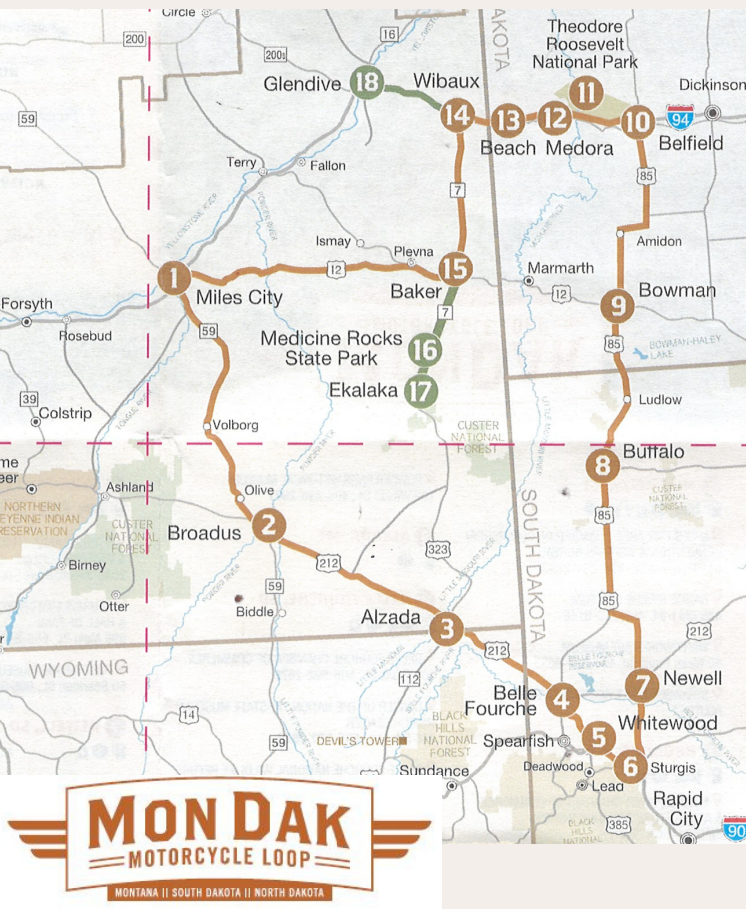
## *Park Grants for the Region*

In the past quarter, we've assisted with 11 applications for different parks, Veteran memorial and fairground needs. Carter County Community Foundation is working to raise funds for a Veteran Memorial, so far they have received grant funds from Oneok and TC Energy. Prairie County Fairgrounds has received funds from the Nibs and Edna Allen Foundation, as well as the AARP grant, to go towards a Pavilion. The Wibaux Garden Club has applied for several grants to improve the Swimming Pool Park, they've been awarded funds from the Caviar Grant so far. We are excited to see the different projects being taken on by the communities we serve!

“Worrying does not empty tomorrow of its troubles, it empties today of its strength.”  
— Corrie Ten Boom



Branding and logo created for Baker through grant funds from the 2020 Re-Imagine Rural Virtual Event and TC Energy.



## MonDak Motorcycle Loop

After all tourism promotion was halted for the summer of 2020, the MonDak Motorcycle Loop Project was placed on hold. This 3-state tourism project was initially funded by the Montana Department of Tourism and Business Development through their Eastern Montana Tourism Initiative. EPEDC has been working with Visit Southeast Montana and Windfall to create an ad campaign to market motorcycle tourism in eastern Montana. Our open roads, big skies and friendly towns make us perfect for riders seeking new routes. The primary focus of the ad campaign will be targeted to those attending the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally in Sturgis, SD. The final project will include digital ads, a website, printed maps and a physical sign located outside of Baker, MT.

Next Board Meeting  
October 20, 2021

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Visit [epedc.com](http://epedc.com) for more information

The EPEDC serves the following counties and municipalities: Carter County, Dawson County, Fallon County, Prairie County and Wibaux County, as well as the City of Baker, the City of Glendive, the Town of Plevna, the Town of Richey, the Town of Terry and the Town of Wibaux.