



BEAR PAW DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
ANNUAL REPORT 2022



Friends of Bear Paw Development,

Recovery was a prevalent theme in northern Montana in 2022, and the team at Bear Paw Development was here to move our communities along. As we watched the pandemic and all the economic uncertainties associated with it wind down, we were able to step up and serve our Economic Development District in unprecedented ways. All of Montana breathed a sigh of relief this year as we began to resume our normal lives, and we were pleased to assist our area to grow and thrive.

Perhaps the most notable work at Bear Paw Development in 2022 was assisting our local governments with the sizable American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds allocated to implement upgrades and replacements of aging infrastructure. Overall, Bear Paw's Community Development Department managed over \$17 million of ARPA funds for our District, with projects including water, wastewater and levee upgrades and replacements,

among others. These funds have been combined with leveraged dollars from other sources to significantly fund multiple projects that will have a lasting impact in our region for decades to come.

Collectively, our work resulted in managing over \$21 million in projects to help our communities recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. There were also 45 jobs created or retained through our economic development work as we help northern Montana return to its pre-pandemic state.

Bear Paw Development also embarked on a personal transition as well in 2022. After 25 years in the Ryan Building, our staff moved into a new office space in downtown Havre. These offices not only allow our staff more room to conduct our important work, but also allows space for growth as needed for our organization. Bear Paw takes great pride in the new location, and looks forward to years to come in this location.

We appreciate everyone's support in what was an enormously successful year for Bear Paw Development and our communities, and we are excited to carry it through to 2023!



Deborah Callahan
President



Paul Tuss
Executive Director

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“Working with Bear Paw was a huge benefit in helping us expand our business. The knowledge and assistance they brought made this process so much easier. We’re so excited to be able to expand and provide new services and products to our customers.”

Darrel and Natalie Hannum Owners,
406 Roasting Company





406 Roasting Company

HAVRE

Local business owners Darrel and Natalie Hannum have owned and operated the Coffee Hound in Havre since 2014. Recently they decided to expand and include another business location on First Street in Havre, 406 Roasting Company. This expansion has allowed them to process their coffee beans in a more centralized area, as well as expand new retail offerings. Darrel and Natalie have begun roasting cocoa beans as well. This has allowed them to produce their own custom chocolates and sell dehydrated candy. These new offerings have brought an exciting new experience to the Havre area and have nicely complemented the Hannum's other businesses; the Coffee Hound, and 406 Roasting Cafe.

406 Roasting Company is open and ready to serve all your coffee, treat, and confection needs at 530 First Street in Havre.



Prairie Paws Resort

CHINOOK

In 2022, Mischelle Fisher opened Prairie Paws Resort in Chinook. Prairie Paws Resort specializes in pet grooming and boarding as well as provides daycare and limited veterinary services. As the only business that would be providing these services for several miles, Mischelle knew that Prairie Paws Resort would fill a much-needed demand for pet owners in Chinook and the surrounding communities.

Eager to move forward, Mischelle contacted Joe LaPlante, Havre's Small Business Development Center Director, for assistance with her business plan and financial projections. Once completed, she secured funding from Bear Paw Development's Revolving Loan Fund for construction and equipment. Prairie Paws Resort opened its doors for business in September and currently has 14 large kennels and 13 small kennels as well as a washing and grooming area. It also employs two full-time individuals.



"Working with this office of professionals was seamless and enjoyable."

Mischelle Fisher - Owner Prairie Paws Resort



“We do have a need to have our antiquated water distribution system replaced. Also, the fire protection system is not up to code. So, for the health and safety of our residents we need all the financial help we can get.”

Kathy Bond, Mayor, Town of Geraldine





Geraldine Water Improvements Project

GERALDINE

Beginning in the summer of 2023, the Town of Geraldine will undertake Phase One of a much-needed upgrade to their springs water system. Geraldine's water system was originally constructed in 1935 of wood stave pipe, and was upgraded in the 1950s with the installation of several blocks of asphalt cement (AC) piping, ranging in size from three to eight inches in diameter. The 1950s pipe is well past its useful life and is also undersized for the community it serves.

Phase One of Geraldine's project will include the replacement of 6,800 ft of water main, upgrading water service connections and installing new fire hydrants. This upgrade is projected to cost about \$2.7 million. Chouteau County partnered with Geraldine to contribute a large sum of their American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to the town's project. Bear Paw Development assisted Geraldine and the county in leveraging all ARPA funds, which included successfully applying for a \$2 million ARPA Competitive grant. These funding sources allowed Geraldine to move forward with a 100% grant funded Phase 1 Water System Improvements Project, which is of special significance as water projects often require local governments to take out loans to complete these projects. The new water system is being designed by Great West Engineering and construction will begin in mid-2023.

“When industries change and communities develop, Montana’s towns and cities are often left to foot the bill on cleanup efforts. My bipartisan infrastructure law will help to change that by reinvesting in the communities that have been most affected by leftover contamination and pollution. By working across the aisle with five Republicans and four other Democrats, we were able to secure critical funding to repurpose old or abandoned properties in the Treasure State and create good paying Montana jobs in the process.”

Senator Jon Tester

Brownfields RLF Award

Bear Paw Development was awarded \$2.15 million in supplemental funding for their Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) in 2022. Bear Paw has had a Brownfields RLF since 2011 with \$1.5 million secured over those 11 years to assist cleanup efforts with petroleum contamination and hazardous building material abatement in its five-county region. This significant award will allow Bear Paw to continue providing subgrants and loans to more communities and properties, converting under and unused contaminated sites into businesses and attractions.

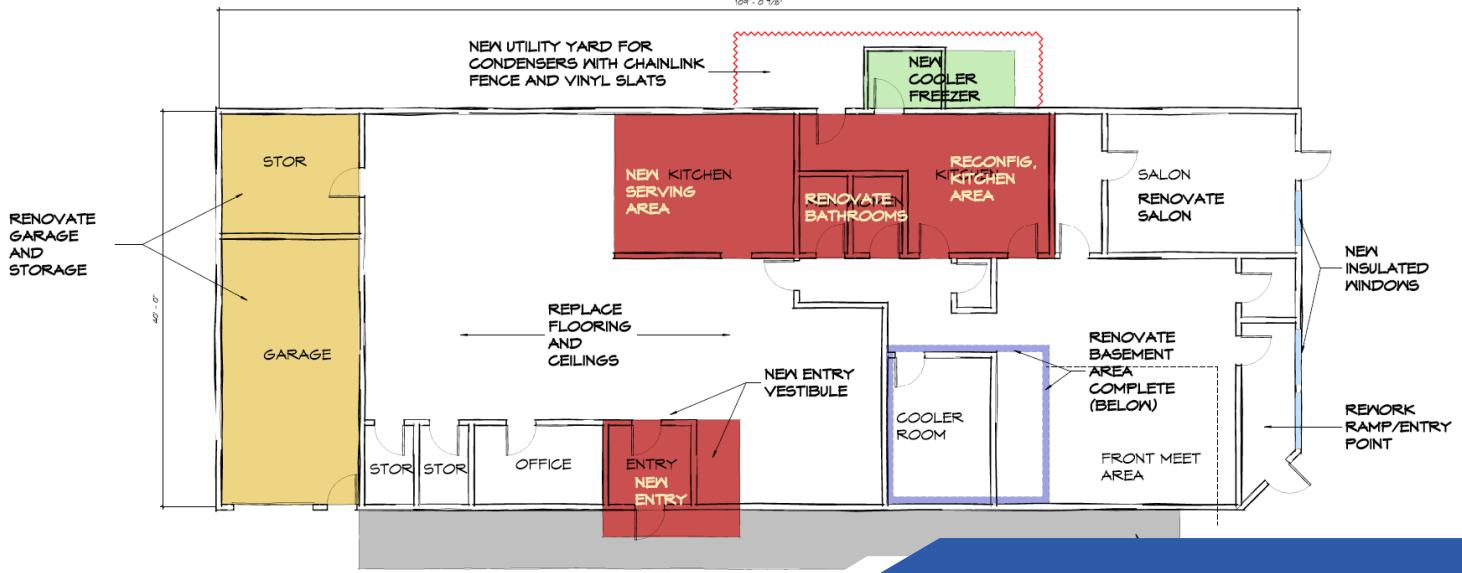
Over the years, Bear Paw’s RLF program has completed four loans and eight subgrants for projects including the Boys and Girls Club of the Hi-Line in Havre, Malta Opportunities in Malta, Kaste’s Building in Big Sandy, and the Chester Vets Club in Chester.



"I am very excited to see this project get going for it is a vital resource in our community that serves not only the residents of Rudyard, but the surrounding communities in western Hill County as well. I am thankful for the hard work that both Bear Paw Development and the Rudyard Community Commercial Club has done to get us to this point."

Jake Strissel, Commissioner





Rudyard Senior Center

RUDYARD

Bear Paw Development secured a \$30,000 Community Development Block Grant for the completion of a preliminary Architecture Report on the Rudyard Senior Center, with a \$10,000 match contribution from the Rudyard Community Commercial Club. The senior center provides services and meals to the growing aging population of western Hill and Blaine counties, and the facility has begun to fall into disrepair. The building is used not only to provide services to seniors, but also for numerous community events. Given its importance to Rudyard and the surrounding communities, there is significant interest in finding a way to repair the building and avoid blight on the main street.

Nelson Architects was selected for the project and has provided a PAR which can now be used to leverage the significant funding raised by the communities along with grants to bring new life into the facility.



Montana Greenhouse Project 365

MALTA

In the fall of 2022, Christian Simpson, Owner of Montana Greenhouse Project 365 received \$49,999 in USDA Value Added Producer Grant funding to expand his greenhouse hoping to be able to offer more locally grown produce to Malta and the surrounding area. Originally Christian had not considered running a full-scale greenhouse business, but after being contacted by several local schools interested in purchasing locally raised products for their school lunch programs, he decided that he would expand his operation to assist with meeting this demand.

With the USDA grant funding and assistance from Bear Paw Development's Food and Agriculture Development Center, the Montana Greenhouse Project 365 will be able to provide packaging for its produce, expand into other school districts, and offer health and nutrition classes to participating schools each month that further promote consumption of locally grown products. These classes will teach the community how to grow their own vegetables, how to make a meal plan, vegetable canning, and even foraging for wild food.

Montana Greenhouse Project 365 is located at the Sleeping Buffalo Resort 20 miles east of Malta.



BEAR PAW BY THE NUMBERS

\$21,125,693



Funding coordinated in 2022 through grant writing, revolving loan fund investments, bank financing and other sources for business start-ups and expansions and community enhancements, including local government infrastructure.

Leveraged funds from outside sources in 2022 for every \$1 of local government investment in Bear Paw Development.

\$197.44



45



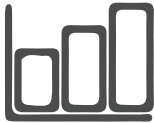
Jobs created or retained by private industry and others in 2022 through business advising, technical assistance, business lending and project management by our Small Business Development Center, Loan Department, Food and Agriculture Development Center and Community Development Center.

Number of business owners or aspiring entrepreneurs counseled by our Small Business Development Center in 2022.

97



434



Number of loans to entrepreneurs since inception of Bear Paw's Loan Department to finance business start-ups and expansions.

Estimated number of jobs created or retained due to business lending activity over the past 35 years.

1,840



\$202,593,920



Funding coordinated by Bear Paw Development since 2006 for projects in Bear Paw's Economic Development District through state, federal and local government sources, as well as through banks, revolving loan funds, owner equity and other investments.

Business lending by Bear Paw Development, plus leveraged funds coordinated by our organization, for more than 365 private sector start-ups and expansions over 39 years.

\$70 Million



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Debbie Callahan <i>President</i>	Member At-Large
Jim Ghekiere <i>Vice President</i>	Liberty County
Doug Kaercher <i>Secretary</i>	City of Havre
Ron Young <i>Treasurer</i>	Member At-Large
Scott Ross	Town of Chester
Richard Sangrey	Rocky Boy's Indian Reservation
Loretta Bell	Fort Belknap Indian Reservation
Emily Harshman	City of Chinook
Frank DePreist	Blaine County
Bruce Christofferson	Phillips County
Diane McLean	Hill County
Rick Darlington	Chouteau County
Leona Kienenberger	Little Shell Tribe
John Demarais	City of Malta
Joe Patrick Wertz	City of Harlem
Lanny Walker	City of Fort Benton
Wendy Kleinsasser	Town of Big Sandy
Rhonda Brewer	Member At-Large
Tim Solomon	Member At-Large
Dave Skiff	Member At-Large
Kirsten Kammerzall	Member At-Large
Terry Brockie	Member At-Large
Karey Bishop	Member At-Large
Greg Kegel	Member At-Large

BEAR PAW STAFF

Paul Tuss	Executive Director
Stefnie Redding	Director of Operations
Sara Strissel	Director of Community Planning and Brownfields
Joe LaPlante	Director of Small Business Development Center
Wyatt Anderson	Director of Food and Agriculture Development Center
Tiffany Melby	Director of Loan Services
Trish Cichosz	Loan Officer
Nanette Gabriel	Assistant Director of Loan Services
Julea Robbins	Director of Community Development
Josh Gomez	Community Development Specialist

SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER INVESTORS

Independence Bank	Bank of Malta
US Bank	Bank of Harlem
First Bank of Montana	

BUSINESS INVESTMENT PROGRAM PARTNERS

Great West Engineering	NorthWestern Energy
Morrison-Maierle, Inc	BNSG Railway

PHOTOGRAPHY

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Report design by Metcalfe Media

Bear Paw Development Corporation's Mission

Be the most responsive and relevant nonprofit economic and community development organization in Montana, focusing on our five-county, two-reservation region of northern Montana. Timely, courteous and knowledgeable assistance to our customers with their project development needs - every time - will be the hallmark of our commitment. Our services will be delivered with honesty and integrity and will always be client-focused.



BEAR PAW STAFF

Paul Tuss, Wyatt Anderson, Julea Robbins, Trish Cichosz, Josh Gomez, Sara Strissel, Joe LaPlante, Nan Gabriel, Stefnie Redding (sitting front left), Tiffany Melby (sitting front right)



BEAR PAW DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

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Building Partnerships For Community & Economic Development