

Commissioner

From: Debbie <dapeters657@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, October 21, 2024 9:48 AM
To: Commissioner
Subject: Travelers Home Lane

Hello,

I writing to express my thanks for the repair on our road... smoothing it out, removing the potholes, and the use of magnesium -chloride? Our road is very smooth now and my husband and I really appreciate it.

Thank-you,

Debbie Peters



|||...||| 3816/4

Granite County of
PO Box 925
Philipsburg MT 59858-0925

RE: Capital Credit Allocation

Greetings Granite County of,

Member: 64540

We have completed our 2023 federal tax filings, and I am pleased to report that your Board of Trustees was able to allocate more than \$13 million to cooperative member accounts for calendar year 2023. The record allocation includes proceeds from the sale of our investment in Vision Net, Inc. as well as grant funds received for our ongoing fiber network expansion efforts. Every penny of the one-time proceeds we received from the Vision Net sale was used to invest in our fiber upgrade project in the cooperative. Due to recent changes in tax laws, although grant funds are allocated to members, the cooperative will not distribute those funds but rather, they will be offset by future depreciation expense. Blackfoot will continue to utilize available federal and state programs to aid in the investment in fiber networks, ensuring sustainable growth for your cooperative.

Your individual member allocation and account balance is shown below.

As Blackfoot celebrates 70-years of serving cooperative members, we want to express our gratitude for your continued patronage and trust. Your cooperative thrives because of members support, helping build the solid foundation upon which our success is built. We look forward to another 70 years of shared success.

As a cooperative customer, your Blackfoot member account balance grows as you continue to purchase our products and services. Your account balance represents your ownership interest in the cooperative. Your specific account allocation for 2023 is reflected below:

Your beginning Blackfoot Member Account balance	\$161,332.77
Plus the total net allocation you earned in 2023	<u>\$39,445.79</u>
Equals your ending Blackfoot Member Account Balance	\$200,778.56

As a reminder, this is your Blackfoot Member Account Summary. This is a statement of your account; it is not a cash distribution.

Lastly, it was fantastic to see so many of our members in person this year at our annual meeting. Please mark your calendar for next year's Annual Meeting scheduled for April 26, 2025. I hope to see you all there! Learn more here: GoBlackfoot.com/AnnualMeeting.

Tom Eggensperger, President, Board of Trustees

Stay connected year-round at Blackfoot.com/subscribe

Commissioner

From: Jones, Brittany E <bejones@blm.gov>
Sent: Thursday, October 17, 2024 10:52 AM
Subject: News Release//BLM seeks nominations for Public Lands Rule Advisory Committee



Organization: Bureau of Land Management
Media Contact: BLM Press - BLM_Press@blm.gov
Oct 17, 2024



The Basin and Range National Monument comprises 704,000 acres of public lands managed by the BLM in Lincoln and Nye counties in Nevada, about two hours north of Las Vegas. Photo by Bob Wick.

BLM seeks nominations for Public Lands Rule Advisory Committee
Advice and recommendations will support engagement, outreach, and partnership

WASHINGTON — The Bureau of Land Management is seeking nominations for a new Federal advisory committee that will help inform how the Bureau implements the [Public Lands Rule](#). The Committee will advise on outreach and engagement, best management practices, and the development and refinement of agency guidance to support implementation of the Rule across the country.

The Public Lands Rule provides the BLM with new tools and guidance to inform the balanced management of our natural resources. The Committee will allow the Bureau of Land Management to continue working with the public and a full range of experts to support successful implementation of the Rule, protecting our best and healthiest lands and waters, restoring those that need it, and making informed management and development decisions based on the best available science and data, including Indigenous Knowledge.

Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland recently signed the charter establishing the Committee and is seeking 15 members to serve two-year terms. The Committee will consist of:

- two representatives of Tribal governments;
- two representatives of State governments;
- one representative of local governments;
- two representatives of the public at large;
- at least one representative of the science community, including archaeological or historical interests;
- at least two representatives of non-governmental organizations specializing in environmental, conservation, or watershed interests; recreation interests; or hunting and fishing interests;
- at least one representative of energy or mineral development;
- at least one representative of Federal grazing permit holders or other permittees; and
- at least one representative of commercial recreation activities.

Additionally, the Secretary will appoint 15 alternates to deliberate and vote on Committee matters in the absence of the primary representative.

The 30-day nomination period is open until November 18, 2024. Nominations should include a resume providing an adequate description of the nominee's qualifications, including information that would enable the Department of the Interior to make informed decisions to meet the membership requirements of the Committee, as well as appropriate contact information.

Nominees are strongly encouraged to include supporting letters from employers, associations, professional organizations, or other organizations that indicate support by those interest groups or communities they are representing.

Completed nomination packages or questions about the Committee should be emailed to BLM_PLR_IAC@blm.gov.

For more information about the nomination process, please contact Carrie Richardson, National Advisory Committee Coordinator, Bureau of Land Management, 1849 C Street NW, Washington, DC 20240; phone: (202) 742-0625, email: crichardson@blm.gov.

-BLM-

The BLM manages more than 245 million acres of public land located primarily in 12 western states, including Alaska, on behalf of the American people. The BLM also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. Our mission is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of America's public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.

Brittany E. Jones
Chief of Communications
Montana/Dakotas Office
Bureau of Land Management

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5001 Southgate Drive, Billings, MT 59101



Billie Ann Kulaski

From: MACO <MACO@mtcounties.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 16, 2024 9:47 AM
To: MACO
Subject: HB 819 Info- Community Reinvestment Orgs

Members,

Questions regarding HB 819 from the 2023 Session have arisen related to county involvement. We would like to try and clarify a few things:

1. Counties are responsible for designating the Community Reinvestment Organization (CRO) that would be eligible to receive and manage the housing funding. There is no requirement that a county designate a CRO, but if you wish to have one to carry out HB 819 and receive funds, then you must do so by Resolution (affirmative decision). If you do not join/assign a CRO your county will be ineligible. You may only participate in one CRO.
2. An incorporated city, consolidated city-county, or county may contribute funds to its regional CRO revolving account as an optional local government investment. Please discuss whether your county is willing to participate financially, and we recommend it is spelled out in the designating resolution. The CRO's will require match from somewhere, so it is best to have this discussion up front.
3. If your county does not participate, the money is distributed proportionally to those who are.
4. A participating county is encouraged to enact local ordinances that provide for an expedited development and construction review process with priority for attainable workforce housing. This is not a requirement, but you should be aware of the language in the bill as well as the fact that there may be ramifications under the Subdivision and Platting Act. If a county decided to enact expedited development review processes, please work with your land use professional, and consult Karen Alley (kalley@mtcounties.org) as needed.
5. A community reinvestment organization must be established as a federally recognized charitable organization under 26 U.S.C. 501(c)(3), (c)(4), or (c)(6). It is not the county's responsibility to determine if the CRO is an eligible entity, but if they do not meet at least this requirement, you should be aware that they would not be eligible. "Community reinvestment organization" means the regional entity or entities established in [section 6] or a certified regional development corporation, a certified development corporation, a community housing development organization, an economic development association, or a community development financial institution.
6. "Attainable workforce housing" means housing of a cost that an eligible household would spend no more than 30% of gross monthly income for a mortgage payment, property taxes, and insurance.
7. The CRO's must have met certain provisions by December 31, 2024, so the timeline for designating one is closing quickly.
8. The decision to designate or not designate a CRO is a local one as is the responsibility to evaluate any requests by potential CRO's.

The full legislation for HB 819 can be found here: https://bills.legmt.gov/#/bill/20231/LC2443?open_tab=bill

Click the following link for additional information: <https://leg.mt.gov/content/Publications/fiscal/2025-Biennium/HB-5-Select-Committee/GOED-HB819-MT-Community-Reinvestment-Plan.pdf>

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