
BEARTOOTH

RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT AREA, INC.

November 5, 2025

RE: Beartooth RC&D MOU Proposed COLA increase

Dear Mayor Cole and the City of Billings:

Last year, we shared with you that the Beartooth RC&D Board of Directors recommended adjusting the per capita amount charged for Economic Development services. The proposed increase was from 19 cents to 29 cents per capita for the 2026 MOU. In recognition of Yellowstone County's larger population, we suggested a smaller adjustment of 7 cents per capita, bringing Yellowstone's rate to 26 cents.

This increase is necessary to help offset expenses that have grown since our last adjustment seven years ago. Expansions to our loan and grant portfolios have significantly raised annual audit costs, while insurance premiums and new software requirements for compliance have added further burdens.

At the same time, we are mindful of the budget challenges Yellowstone County and its entities have faced this year. As your partner, we have chosen to defer the increase for one more year. The Yellowstone County MOU—shared among the County, the Cities of Billings and Laurel, and Big Sky Economic Development—will remain at 19 cents per capita for 2026. We plan to implement the increase beginning with the 2027 MOU.

Beartooth RC&D continues to leverage funding opportunities that benefit our entire five-county region and meet the needs of our communities. We remain committed to operating as efficiently as possible, and we appreciate your consideration of this adjustment. Please feel free to contact us at 406-962-3914 with any questions.

Sincerely,



Marissa Hauge, Treasurer
Executive Board of Directors



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