



**Grant Details**

**68892 - FY19 Region/CVB Marketing Plan**

72778 - FY19 Red Lodge CVB Marketing Plan

DOC Office of Tourism

**Grant Title:** FY19 Red Lodge CVB Marketing Plan  
**Grant Number:** 19-51-025  
**Grant Status:** Underway  
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**Grantee Contact:** Sherry Weamer  
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**Comments**  
**Amendment Comments**

**Community & Brand Support**

*Describe your destination (who you are, who you wish to attract and why would they come) addressing your strengths, opportunities, and potential challenges. How does your destination align with Montana's brand pillars?*

Nestled in Montana's magnificent Beartooth Mountains and surrounded by CusterGallatinNational Forest, Red Lodge delivers world-class outdoor recreation and access to YellowstoneNational Park via the world-renowned Beartooth Highway. In our historic downtown, you'll enjoy locally owned shops, quality restaurants and plenty of first class accommodations and entertainment. No matter what the season, Red Lodge is your Base Camp to the Beartooths.

The Red Lodge visitor arrives here looking forward to its natural beauty and quaint charm. What they discover is its magic. And for that, they return again and again, over a lifetime. Like so much of Montana, Red Lodge is surrounded by natural splendor -- Montana's highest peaks frame our back yards, its crystal-clear waterways tumble down our valleys, and that unique combination of pine and aspen scents invigorate our air. But as the Red Lodge visitor knows, we have something special going on here; we're just far enough off the beaten path that locals truly appreciate visitors, we want to say Hello when we see someone new in town, and we do not just throw out the welcome mat for you, we show you why we love living here.

Today's travelers are looking for that kind of experience, and it's one Red Lodge excels at delivering.

A year-round population of just over 2,000 and an historic Main Street business district with great restaurants, shopping, entertainment, and accommodations means a stay in Red Lodge is an opportunity to make friends with locals.

Red Lodge, Montana 2016 Gateway Community of the Year, anchors the most scenic route into Yellowstone National Park: the 68-mile alpine and structural wonder of the Beartooth Highway, an "All-American Road". Open late May-October, visitors come from around the world to experience its summer snowfields, high-mountain vistas, and legendary curves.

Sitting on the edge of a National Forest, Red Lodge lays claim to more than 3.6 million acres of uninterrupted and unspoiled wild country as our "back yard." Much of that is easily accessible with well-marked trails for hikers, horseback riders, and many near town are even open to bicyclists. Whatever the day's adventures entail, Red Lodge is the perfect Base Camp to the Beartooths.

Red Lodge is easily accessed from Interstate I-90 via State Hwy 212 from Laurel and Hwy 78 from Columbus. It is a one hour drive from Logan International Airport in Billings which is served by four major Airlines, United, Delta, Alaska and now American Airlines direct from Dallas, and Cody's airport which is served by United and Delta.

## **OUR STRENGTHS:**

### **Gateway to Yellowstone National Park**

*The Most Scenic Route to Yellowstone Park, over the Beartooth Highway*

### **The Beartooth Highway**

Dubbed "the most beautiful roadway in America" by On the Road correspondent Charles Kuralt, the Beartooth Highway climbs to an astounding 10,947 feet above sea level. As it winds its way from Red Lodge to Yellowstone National Park, the Highway traverses an impressive range of ecosystems and geological wonders. At the highway's summit, travelers find themselves in a sky-high world of glacial cirques, clear alpine lakes, and snow that lingers through the summer months.

### **Gateway to the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness**

Our back yard consists of millions of acres of high country wilderness. As early as 1897, trails began snaking their way up the West Fork canyon, cleared by hand with saws and pickaxes. Today those same trails can take you to pristine country where visitors can enjoy a variety of outdoor activities.

### **Great Shops, Restaurants and Music Entertainment**

Charming historic downtown with locally owned stores run by helpful, knowledgeable staff. Pop into one of the many restaurants for a quick burger and a locally brewed beer, or experience fine dining featuring wild game and more. Relax and listen to some great music from our many local musicians or attend a first run movie at the historic Roman Theater.

### **Year-round Skiing**

#### *Red Lodge Mountain*

During the winter months enjoy bountiful snow, shimmering blue skies and terrain for all abilities that make for great fun on the slopes. Open from mid-November through mid-April.

*Beartooth Pass* - During the summer months, the Beartooth Highway is your chair lift to acres of open terrain for skiing and snowboarding. For those that are not much interested in hiking there is Beartooth Basin with two permanent poma lifts for skier access to the Twin Lakes headwall.

### **Arts and Culture**

Catch the spirit of today at one of the many art and photographic galleries in town or experience various styles of art at the Carbon County Arts Guild & Depot Gallery and the Red Lodge Clay Center. For history enthusiasts, Red Lodge is home to the Carbon County Historical Society and Museum where visitors can learn about the colorful history of Red Lodge and surrounding areas.

### **Events and Attractions**

Red Lodge is home to many events and year-round attractions. Yellowstone Wildlife Sanctuary - Home of Champions Rodeo - Beartooth Rally - Winter Fest - National Finals Ski-Joring - Christmas Stroll - Fun Run - Iron Horse Motorcycle Rodeo - Red Lodge Songwriter Festival - Bearcreek Downs Pig Races - Beartooth Run - Shredfest, Cruisen' Red Lodge and many more.

### **Proximity to Billings**

Billings is the largest city in Montana with a population of over 110,000 and a major transportation hub for South Central Montana. Travelers can reach Billings by air, bus or car on two east and west and north and south Interstates highways. Billings Logan International Airport is served by four major airlines United, Delta, Alaska, and American.

### **Amenities**

Red Lodge may seem like a remote destination to some visitors, but they will be pleased to find much of the technologies, amenities and comforts as they have at home, more than adequate cell phone coverage and broadband internet in most areas.

## **OPPORTUNITIES:**

### **Motorcycle/Auto Groups**

The Beartooth Highway was recently voted the *Number 1 Motorcycling Road in America* by the American Motorcyclist Association.

### **Small Groups**

Red Lodge is the perfect destination for small groups. RV clubs, executive retreats, conventions of 100 people or less, craft clubs, all find the comfortable meeting spaces and hospitality of Red Lodge a great place to spur creativity, make new friendships and renew old relationships.

### **Weddings/Reunions**

Beautiful venues, quality lodging options and recreational possibilities of the surrounding area make Red Lodge the perfect setting to gather family and friends for your wedding or family reunion.

### **Tournaments/Community Events**

The modern high school auditorium, as well as several other venues, provides the opportunity to house tournaments and larger community events.

### **Outdoor Competitions**

Challenging and yet stunningly beautiful terrain attracts competitors from around the country to a multitude of outdoor events. Included among these events are the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary Beartooth Run, Nitty Gritty Bike Race, Collegiate Ski Races, Peaks to Prairie Adventure Race, National Ski Joring Championships and the Mountain Rider Alliance Summer Shredfest which is the only summer qualifier in North America for the Freeride World Tour.

### **Media Partnership Opportunities**

Billings has a wide reach with television, radio and print media that we can better utilize with positive and timely press releases and promotional partnering. Quarterly, the Billings Gazette features what is going on in Red Lodge in its Explore editorial section. More can be done with KTVQ, KULR, YPR, and the print media options in Billings, Yellowstone Valley Women, and Magic Magazine, among others.

### **Annual Events**

Red Lodge has a growing number of events, competitive, recreational and cultural. The majority of these events take place during the summer months but winter events such as the Alpine Ski Races, National Ski Joring Championships, and Winter Fest also attract visitors from in state and out of state locations. In the Summertime we have Red Lodge Music Festival, Red Lodge Songwriter Festival, Fourth of July Rodeos and Parades, Beartooth Basin Summer Ski Area, Beartooth Bike Rally, Cruisen' Red Lodge Vintage Car Show, and Labor Day Fun Run just to name a few.

## **CHALLENGES:**

### **Making Red Lodge a Destination**

Red Lodge is used as a 'Pass Thru' for the Beartooth Highway and Yellowstone Park in the Summer and the town that sits at the base of Red Lodge Mountain during winter months. If we can influence a small percentage of summer travelers to stay one additional night in Red Lodge and enjoy all the offerings of our town and surrounding area, it will make a significant impact on our local economy. In the winter months we need to reinforce Red Lodge as a winter destination to skiers and non-skiers alike. First class restaurants, comfortable accommodations, great shopping, restful relaxation, ice-skating, Nordic skiing, wildlife viewing and hiking are a few of the winter time activities available in Red Lodge. We have a fabulous family oriented alpine ski area, Red Lodge Mountain.

### **Location and Way Finding Signage**

Red Lodge is miles from a major highway. Montana Highway signs point Yellowstone Park travelers past Red Lodge exits or towards the Chief Joseph Highway in Wyoming.

**Montana is perceived as challenging to access.** In addition to the states' destination attribute weaknesses, the Montana/Red Lodge brand brings with it this perceived challenge.

### **Beartooth Highway is Seasonal**

Weather and snow plow funding often delay the opening of the Beartooth Highway in the spring. Snowstorms will temporarily close the road. Timely communication of the road status is challenging with reports of closures carrying a higher priority than reports of the Highway re-opening. The portion of the Highway located in Wyoming is a secondary priority for snowplows.

### **Make Winter Success Less Dependent on the Snow Conditions at Red Lodge Mountain**

Red Lodge Mountain is the major draw for Red Lodge in the winter season. The town's commerce follows the quality of the snow conditions on the mountain. We can reduce the dips when snow conditions are not at their best by promoting all of the other amenities, events and winter time activities going on in Red Lodge. Red Lodge is within easy reach of public access to BLM lands, Forest Service lands, and national parks. Hiking, cross country skiing, wildlife viewing, scenic drives, shopping, fine dining, and relaxing in one of our great accommodations to name a few.

### **Online Mapping Services**

Google Maps and others report inaccurate information for routes and business addresses.

### **Lack of City Marketing Support**

While the City of Red Lodge collects a Resort Tax, the governing body offers no marketing or promotional funds for Red Lodge.

### **Perceived lack of comforts/technologies**

Montana as a whole is perceived to be somewhat remote and lacking many of the amenities and technologies those travelers who may be less outdoor minded are looking for.

**Perceived costs and time requirements inhibit visitation to Montana.** Research shows focus group and in-depth participants expressed serious concerns about the cost of a trip to Montana. Beyond the cost of traveling to Montana, many generally felt that a trip to Montana would require a significant investment of time.

## **COMPETITOR ANALYSIS:**

### **Jackson Hole, WY**

Popular tourism destination because of its proximity to Yellowstone & Grand Teton National Parks. Website, mobile, social media, and internet advertising resources.

### **Livingston, MT/Gardiner, MT**

Way finding signage on I-90. Year-round entrance to Yellowstone Park.

### **Bozeman, MT / Big Sky, MT**

Greater variety in lodging, dining and shopping opportunities, including groups, conventions and conferences. Proximity to Yellowstone Park. Four-season activities. Popular ski area. Cultural, historic, and educational activities, events, and attractions. Significantly greater marketing dollars.

### **West Yellowstone, MT**

West entrance to Yellowstone Park. The name West Yellowstone. More lodging and dining options. Significantly greater marketing dollars.

### **Cody, WY**

Eastern gateway to Yellowstone Park, access to five scenic byways including Chief Joseph Highway is a second route to Beartooth Highway and Northeast entrance. Lodging options, Buffalo Bill Center of the West, regional airport. By partnering with Wyoming Tourism, has successfully marketed itself as "Yellowstone Country" and its airport "Yellowstone Airport." Significantly more funding for promotion is directed to Cody by local, county and state monies.

### **Colorado**

Travelers' perceptions make Colorado Montana's top competitor. In addition to awareness, demand, excitement for and visitation at significantly higher rates than Montana, research illuminated the directly competitive relationship Colorado represents. In discussing where to go in the West and Montana specifically, it was clear that most research participants viewed Colorado as the destination they would be heavily weighing Montana against, and a more persuasive one at that. These travelers felt Colorado had similar offerings on a basic level—spectacular natural beauty, abundance of outdoor recreation, outdoor culture, winter sports. Very importantly, Colorado's cities, infrastructure and mature tourism product were seen as providing more of a "safety net," something that was keenly on the minds of those who were less on the outdoor spectrum and/or less familiar with traveling in this region of the U.S.

## **MONTANA'S BRAND PILLARS:**

The Montana Brand Pillars were seemingly written for Red Lodge.

Nestled in the Beartooth Mountains, with Yellowstone Park just up the road, and the Beartooth All American Highway at our doorstep, we truly offer more spectacular unspoiled nature than anywhere else in the lower 48.

A little off the beaten path Red Lodge, a historic mining town, is a vibrant and charming community that serves as a gateway to many natural wonders.

From art walks to downhill mountain bike rides, from reading a good book by the fire to skiing fresh powder, Red Lodge is a friendly, welcoming town offering a wide range of activities in every season. Enjoy breathtaking experiences by day and relaxing hospitality by night. Regardless of your choice of activities, our people work hard to make your visit an experience to remember.

### **Describe your destination.**

The overall consumer-marketing goal is to expose our brand, "Base Camp to the Beartooths", to potential visitors and invite them to stay a night or longer in Red Lodge. A strong social-media presence, online and print marketing via cooperative efforts with Yellowstone Country Travel Region, and the Red Lodge TBID provide inspiration. Once inspired, potential guests will be oriented appropriately via the Destination Red Lodge Travel Planner, RedLodge.com and staff produce enews. The CVB follows through to facilitate their stays once they arrive via front line staff of tourism partners and stakeholders and the Red Lodge Visitor Information Center staff and volunteers.

Our content will focus on the three core elements travelers are looking for when deciding on an outdoor destination such as Red Lodge are:

1. unique natural encounters without giving up modern comforts
2. comfortable isolation that attracts free-spirited adventurers,
3. a place for entirely new experiences and a place for new ways of experiencing the familiar.

### **Optional: Include attachments here**

a. *Define your target markets (demographic, geographic and psychographic).*

### **The High Potential Visitor**

This group is clearly a high-value audience; it is different from other travelers in important ways. Behaviorally and demographically, the survey shows that high potential Montana visitors have a remarkable and distinctive profile. This group of heavy travelers is not only attracted to Montana, they see the destination as more attractive and competitive when compared to the regional competition. In brief, high potential Montana visitors are:

- City dwellers (i.e., not rural and not suburban)
- Married with children
- Well-educated, Affluent
- Younger
- Frequent travelers
- Male-oriented (54.3% male and 45.7% female)
- Strongly attracted to Montana's tourism offering
- Familiar with Montana's tourism offering
- Likely repeat visitors
- Outdoor-oriented travelers

High potential Montana visitors are also heavy consumers of recreational activities. This group is interested in a diverse array of Montana activities, centered around day hiking and visits to the National Parks.

**Family travelers** are a natural fit with Montana's travel product, including that available in the Eastern portion of the state. They are a large and lucrative segment. In the Montana Brand Exploration Survey, approximately one-third, 32.0 percent, of travelers reported having children under the age of 18 in their homes. Like high potential visitors, family travelers index high on outdoor psychographics, have high incomes and would expect to spend more and stay longer in the state than other travelers. Family travelers are interested in a variety of Red Lodge experiences, but their ideal trips would appear to center around the Yellowstone National Park, day hiking, horseback riding, and driving scenic byways. This niche market also expresses significant interest in child-friendly activities related to history, culture and geology.

Red Lodge offers affordable vacation opportunities to families visiting Montana for the first time or coming back on a repeat visit. 85% of visitors surveyed responded they will return to Montana within the next two years. These returning visitors are a significant target for our CVB.

**Geotourism** is defined as tourism that sustains or enhances the distinctive geographical character of a place—its environment, heritage, aesthetics, culture, and the well-being of its residents. **Geotourists** are high-value, low impact visitors who appreciate the unique characteristics, eccentricities and natural qualities of Red Lodge. They place high value on travel experiences that respect and support the local character of place, and are less likely to become discouraged in their travel experiences by travel distances/difficulties and vagaries of weather.

### History Buffs

History buffs score higher on the psychographic index, have proven to have higher incomes and would spend more and stay longer compared to non-history buffs.

### Our Traveler at a Glance

- Healthy, Active, Outdoor Enthusiasts
- Arts, Crafts, Entertainment Enthusiasts
- Motorcyclists and Auto Enthusiasts
- RV Enthusiasts
- Empty Nesters/Active Retirees
- Income: AHI of \$50,000+
- Education: Bachelor's Degree
- Age: 35-65

### Core Geographic Markets

Red Lodge is located in the South Central portion of Montana. We are the gateway to the Northeast Entrance to Yellowstone Park via the Beartooth Highway. Because of our geographic location, the majority of visitors come from east of us.

### Summer

Wyoming, Idaho, Colorado, Washington, and the Mid-Western States, particularly Minnesota and Wisconsin.

### Winter

Wyoming, North Dakota, Minnesota and SK/MB Canada are key winter markets.

## 3.B OUR EMERGING MARKETS

### Two Wheel travelers

Motorcyclists and bicyclists are attracted to the Beartooth Highway for its beauty and challenge. This segment of the tourism market is growing and important as they view the Highway as a destination and spend multiple nights in our area.

### Foodies

Red Lodge has an array of excellent restaurants, an award winning craft beer brewery, gourmet food and wine shops, for those travelers that seek unique dining experiences.

### Entertainment/Music Seekers

On any given night there are a number of bars and restaurants that feature live music, both local artists and touring bands. During the course of the year, events such as The Red Lodge Music Festival and the Red Lodge Songwriter Festival bring world class musicians to Red Lodge to share their art.

### Billings

Billings is 60 miles away and has a population base of approximately 150,000. The Billings Convention and Meeting market is growing and we will continue to develop our relationship with the Billings CVB, Visit Billings. The Billings market is the perfect target to strengthen our winter destination business, especially on non-holiday weekends.

## Corporate Retreats

Red Lodge is the perfect place for executive retreats and small group gatherings for associations, social clubs and private companies located in Billings and Bozeman.

## Areas to the East

Eastern Montana, North Dakota, and Minnesota continue to be strong markets and will be the focus for our Winter destination marketing.

## Colorado & other Mountain States

We have listed Colorado previously as a competitor for non-resident visitors. However, state tourism data and our own information indicate a rising interest in visiting Montana and specifically Red Lodge from Coloradans. As their own tourism industry continues to grow and their population continues its rapid growth, the competition for outdoor space grows in equal proportion. Many Colorado residents especially those from major metropolitan areas are looking for less crowded, less expensive, simpler destinations, much the way Colorado used to be. Red Lodge is the perfect fit, an 8-9 hour drive or a one hour direct flight from Denver, their largest metropolitan area.

## 3.C SUPPORTING RESEARCH

### Demographic Research

#### (ITRR 2017 Interactive Data Non-Resident Travel Survey Report) \*

- Average Age - 57
- Age Groups –47% 55-64, 43% 65-74, 21% 45-54, 23% 35-44, 21% 25-34
- Gender - 53% Male, 47% Female
- Group Size - 52% Couple, 5% Self, 31% Immediate Family
- Average Group Size - 2.43
- Household Income – 23% Less than \$50k, 7% \$75-\$100k, 13% \$50-\$75k, 29% \$100-\$150k

*\*All percentages taken from online ITRR reports with 72 respondents*

### Facebook Demographics – Top 4 Categories, 64%, are women

- 15% Women 35 to 44 Years
- 15% Women 45 to 54 Years
- 11% Women 25 to 34 Years
- 12% Women 55 to 64 Years
- 7% Women 65+ years

### Geographic Research – Non Resident

#### ITRR – Non Resident

- ITRR 2014 – Texas, Minnesota, Missouri, Kentucky, Arizona
- ITRR 2015 – Wyoming, Minnesota, California, Colorado
- ITRR 2016 – Wyoming, Minnesota, Washington, Colorado
- ITRR 2017 – California, Wyoming, North Dakota, Idaho, Wisconsin

### RedLodge.com Travel Planner Requests

For 2017, 1264 travel planner packets were requested. The Midwest accounted for 39% of all requests. Top states were Minnesota with 9% and Florida and California with 5%

### Facebook – Top 5 Cities (Outside Montana)

- Cody, WY
- Bismarck, ND
- Minneapolis, MN
- Powell, WY
- Denver, CO

### Facebook – Top 5 Cities (Within Montana)

- Billings
- Red Lodge
- Bozeman

- Laurel
- Missoula

b. *What are your emerging markets?*

### **Two Wheel travelers**

Motorcyclists and bicyclists are attracted to the Beartooth Highway for its beauty and challenge. This segment of the tourism market is growing and important as they view the Highway as a destination and spend multiple nights in our area.

### **Foodies**

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### **Corporate Retreats**

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### **Areas to the East**

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### **Colorado & other Mountain States**

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**Optional: Include attachments here.**

c. *What research supports your target marketing?*

ITTR 2017 non-resident study data showed the average length of stay for non-resident visitors to Montana was 7.31 nights with 78% of in Yellowstone Country. 57% of the Non-resident travelers stated their primary reason for coming is vacation/recreation/pleasure, which leads to the supposition that they want a broader experience than just visiting Yellowstone Park.

The following 2017 ITTR data outlines what visitors are doing while in our area.

- Scenic Driving - 70%
- Wildlife Watching - 60%
- Day Hiking - 57%
- Recreational Shopping - 33%
- Visit local brewery - 29%
- Nature Photography - 27%
- Visiting Museums - 22%
- Fly fishing - 20%
- Car/RV camping - 18%
- Visiting Historical Sites - 18%
- Attending Festivals and Events – 17%
- Followed by river rafting/floating, farmers markets, birding, skiing/snowboarding

### **Key Psychographic Markets for Red Lodge.**

- Social Class - middle to upper class (in terms of disposable income)
- Lifestyle - active, outdoor recreational oriented, frequent travelers
- Opinions - interested, but primarily influenced by desire to experience things for themselves
- Attitudes & Interests - outdoor activities, history & culture, foodies

- Attitudes & Beliefs - environmental conscious, has an adventurous spirit, likes nature
- Technology - savvy - using mobile devices in all stages of planning & travel

### **Beartooth Highway Economic Impact Research**

During the winter season, Red Lodge, MT is not considered a gateway community because of road closures limiting access only to Cooke City/Colter Pass/Silver Gate, MT and Cody, WY (via the Chief Joseph Scenic Byway).

Nonresident visitor expenditures contributed to over \$41.1 million in economic activity to Carbon County in 2016, the vast majority being spent in Red Lodge. The economic impact for this region from nonresident travelers is substantial to local communities. Furthermore, results identified that nonresidents perceive the Beartooth Highway as a destination in itself, not simply a highway.

2015 average spending in Carbon County by nonresident visitors to Montana totaled \$63.4 million. This \$63.4 million in local spending directly supports \$40.2 million of economic activity in the region, and supports an additional \$16.1 million of economic activity, indirectly.

Source: [http://scholarworks.umt.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1352&context=itrr\\_pubs](http://scholarworks.umt.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1352&context=itrr_pubs)

As we near our 4th year, we reflect on our previous success. In 2016 Red Lodge received the MTOTBD Gateway Community of the Year award for our Branding Efforts. We are above our 2016 goals for Lodging Tax Collections and have increased our influence on social media through increasing our facebook fan base.

### **Improve Visitor Experience With Improved Signage and Infrastructure**

We will accomplish this with a new branded entrance welcome sign, way-finding signage, visitor off-street parking, placemaking and parklets

### **Continue to Build Marketing Infrastructure**

This will include, but not be limited to:

Consistent and informed Visitor Information Center staffing to enhance the guest experience and educate them to all the Red Lodge and the area has to offer.

- Increase Travel Planner Mailers
- Increase public awareness of what is happening in the Red Lodge area with targeted and regular press releases
- Increase social media reach through facebook, instagram and twitter

### **Develop Cooperative Relationships within our Market Area**

- Red Lodge Tourism Business Improvement District
- Yellowstone Country Travel Region
- City of Red Lodge

### **Increase Winter Season Visits**

The Red Lodge TBID and Red Lodge CVB have joined in efforts to increase non alpine skiing related travel to Red Lodge.

### **Attract Groups, Meetings and Sporting Events**

We will focus on smaller meetings (10-200 people) and social groups. We will also work to attract youth tournaments/events in the shoulder seasons.

### **Expand Alliances With Area Towns**

Red Lodge is fortunate to be located near Billings - Montana's largest city. With this alliance, we want to support their efforts in promoting the Beartooth Highway as "The most scenic route to Yellowstone Park." Billings is also a hub for groups, conventions and meetings. We will work to strengthen our relationship with the Billings CVB to attract these groups to our area.

Cooke City is the "other side" of the Beartooth Highway and the Northeast Entrance to Yellowstone Park. It is mutually beneficial to strengthen our relationship.

Cody, Wyoming has the potential to be a very strong ally. Although they are essentially after the same visitor, by working together, we will attract more visitors to our side of Yellowstone Park driving visitors to the East and Northeast Entrances.

We will work with area communities to strengthen our relationships and promote Red Lodge through their Chambers and CVBs. These communities include Columbus, Big Timber and Bozeman.

**Red Lodge Branding**

The Red Lodge brand, Base Camp to the Beartooths, is in place and is being used across all our marketing platforms and media placements.

**Measurable Objectives**

- Increase the MTOTBD Lodging Tax Collections
- Increase Travel Planner distribution by
- Increase Facebook Friends, Followers, and Likes by 1,000
- Host two Youth Sporting Tournaments
- Begin placement of Wayfinding infrastructure
- Create CVB host program to encourage visits from meeting planners

a. In what types of co-ops with MTOT would you like to participate?

**MTOTBD - RootsRated Media**

RootsRated Media was brought to our attention by the MTOTBD. Fresh, custom content is essential for keeping Red Lodge in front of potential target visitors. RootsRated Media creates specific, targeted content that will help us attract visitors to our area.

FY19 Red Lodge CVB Budget.pdf

Optional: Include attachment here.

b. In what other types of co-ops would you like to participate? (Regions/CVBs, etc.)

**Yellowstone Country - Opportunity Marketing**

Yellowstone Country has opportunity funds available for cooperative marketing of new events

**Billings CVB – Winter Marketing**

Work with Visit Billings to help attract visitors to Red Lodge via Billings

**Billings CVB – Meeting/Groups Marketing**

Work with Visit Billings as a 'day trip' possibility for Meeting and Group planners. Our goal would be extended stays and return visits.

**TBID and RLMLA**

Create co-op opportunities with the Red Lodge TBID and Red Lodge Merchants and Lodging Association to promote events.

c. What types of co-ops have you done in the past? Were they successful - why or why not?

The Red Lodge Branding Project, lead by the CVB Branding Leadership Team, was funded by the Red Lodge Tourism Business Improvement District TBID, Yellowstone Country Travel Region and the Red Lodge Merchants and Lodging Association. Because of their help, no CVB funds were required. Red Lodge won the 2016 Gateway Community of the Year Award for the branding effort.

We work closely with the TBID on all marketing efforts.

We recently joined forces with Yellowstone Country to host the Warren Miller Entertainment film crew in Red Lodge for a 12 day film shoot. The crew was very enthusiastic about their time in Red Lodge and on the Beartooth Pass. Extensive footage of our area is included in the movie.

Optional: Include attachments here.

Optional: Include attachments here.      FY19 Red Lodge Pie Chart.pdf

Optional: Include attachment here:

**Marketing Segment, Method & Budget**

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Marketing Segment	Marketing Method	Describe your method.	Provide supporting research/statistics.	How do you plan to measure success?	Provide a brief rationale for this method.	Estimated budget for method.	Marketing Method Evaluation	Add'l Attachmnt
Consumer	Online/Digital Advertising	<p>The objective for national digital placements is to inspire potential travelers, and orient those that are researching and booking.</p> <p>Red Lodge will support its sponsored DMO page as well as targeted digital display ads - 200,000 impressions.</p> <p>All TripAdvisor advertising is being done through a cooperative effort with Yellowstone Country.</p>	<p>TripAdvisor is the world's largest travel sit, enabling travelers to plan and experience the perfect trip. Complete with trusted advice from real travelers and a wide variety of choices, TripAdvisor is a trusted partner.</p>	<p>Success will be measured by impressions and click through rate. We would like to see a CTR above the industry standard of .08% and we would like to see our impressions above the estimated 100,000.</p>	<p>TripAdvisor is trusted and used by travelers around the world. By sponsoring our page we insure our advertising and message is viewed when the page is reached. By keeping our page current and full of information, we further solidify ourselves as a sought after destination in Montana.</p> <p>Our ad banners are designed to attract visitors to our DMO page as well as our websites.</p>	\$3,500.00	<p>Red Lodge is targeting dollars towards a DMO page on Trip Advisor to help capture and retain interest in our area. Estimates from Windfall show an estimated 800,000 impressions. Destination Analytics revealed specific area interested in our market. Our Geo Targets specifically included Denver, NYC, LA, San Diego, Boise, SLC, Cheyenne, Casper, Philadelphia, Pittsburg, Seattle, Portland, Alberta, Saskatchewan, British Columbia, Minneapolis, Madison, and Fargo. Yes, we feel this method is successful and we will be using it again.</p> <p>We exceeded our goals with a click thru rate of 0.14 and 250,000 impressions.</p>	TripAdvisorStats.pdf
Consumer	Printed Material	<p>Our strategy is to make our Travel Planner and Beartooth Highway brochure available to visitors at the Airports around Red Lodge. We have secured rack space at the Billings, Bozeman, and Cody Airports.</p> <p>The Bozeman, Mt and Cody, Wy Airports charge for this service. The Billings Airport does not charge.</p>	<p>Air travel to Montana continues to grow with Bozeman accounting for a large percentage of the growth. Both Billings and Bozeman have been working to promote new flights. Yellowstone Country along with Bozeman, Big Sky and others have worked together to subsidize the new flights.</p>	<p>We track the number of travel planners and brochures supplied to various outlets and have seen an increase in the number picked up. We also ask out of state visitors to our VIC how they got to Montana. We are seeing an increase of visitor's flying into Bozeman.</p>	<p>Air travel is important to our area. We sit within 2 hours of 3 airports. Visitor's traveling to Yellowstone Park have a choice of entrances and exits to the Park. We feel that by having a presence with a compelling message, we will inspire the traveler to visit Red Lodge.</p>	\$1,680.00	<p>Yes, we feel this method is successful and we will be using it again. Red Lodge Area Travel Planners were distributed to the Bozeman and Cody airports. Airport planners draw an audience that has already targeted Montana as their destination and are now narrowing down their choices of what to do once they are here. Estimates are that Cody airport distributed 400 planners and Bozeman airport distributed over 1,000 planners. We are hearing from more and more visitors that say they picked up our brochure in the Bozeman Airport.</p>	2018 Top10.pdf
							<p>We use Facebook as a platform for our social media outreach. Facebook is a good venue for increasing our</p>	

Consumer	Social Media	<p>Our Marketing and PR person utilizes Social Media to enhance engagement with Red Lodge. While we have a relatively large social media following, primarily on Facebook, we have built the followers organically. Our strategy is to 'boost' important posts to increase engagement and use promotional ads to increase followers. Social Media is an efficient and growing advertising medium. Our strategy is intended to increase our followers and their interaction.</p> <p>We will use the Hootsuite account provided by Yellowstone Country to track and respond to 'Mentions' to grow our Instagram and Twitter accounts.</p>	<p>We have a combined following on Facebook of over 33,000, built almost entirely organically. Our posting strategy is to not 'over post' but to provide pertinent and engaging information that creates likes, comments and shares. Our post engagement typically creates 200% (or more) engagement with views, likes, shares and comments.</p> <p>Current Facebook Statistics:          "Beartooth Highway" Facebook – 15,612 followers          "Red Lodge Montana" Facebook – 18,211 followers</p> <p>Sample Facebook Post Statistics          The "Beartooth Highway" Facebook content was viewed over 750,000 times annually and over 2,000 times per day          Recent "Red Lodge Montana" Facebook content was viewed over 2,000,000 times annually and over 5,000 times per day</p>	<p>Success will be measured using metrics provided by the social media platform, website metrics and Lodging Tax collections.</p> <p>Measurable objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase in social media followers over the prior year</li> <li>• Increase in Red Lodge Resort Tax Collections over the previous year</li> <li>• Increase in occupied room nights over the previous year as reported by Red Lodge TBID collections</li> </ul>	<p>There are many benefits to a strong Social Media presence. It drives traffic to your website, reaches potential visitors, encourages user created content, user created shares, builds visitor engagement for return visits, event promotion, brand awareness and as an instant and efficient information source. Research shows that 85% of non-resident visitors to Montana plan to return within 2 years. Engaging these visitors through social media keeps Red Lodge top of mind when choosing a return destination. Much of this can be done organically, but this information distribution can be increased for a relatively low cost through 'boosting' a post of Geo and Demo Targeted ads. By using these targeting methods we can better attract the visitor that is looking for what Red Lodge has to offer.</p>	\$1,200.00	<p>reach to potential visitors to our area. Yes, we think this method was successful and yes, we will use it again in the future.</p> <p>In February 2019 we ran campaigns for Winterfest. These two small campaigns reached over 8,000 people. These posts encourage motivated travelers to finalize their plans to visit Red Lodge. February's weather was colder than average with an extended period of below normal temperatures. In spite of this, our numbers were up for this quarter.</p> <p>Social media followers increased 19% over the prior year.</p> <p>Resort Tax Collections were down 2.75%, over the previous year, yet the numbers also show that lodging increased by 14% and restaurant sales decreased by 10%. We suspect this is due to a change in how people are choosing to vacation. They are choosing VRBOs over traditional lodging and choosing to dine in rather than out.</p> <p>Occupied room nights increased over the the previous year as reported by Red Lodge TBID collections 5%.</p>
Consumer	Joint Ventures	<p>In the coming year, Red Lodge has plans to partner with Yellowstone Country Travel Region on various opportunities including print media, digital media, and fam tours.</p> <p>We will also continue to build our relationship with Billings and Southeast Montana, look for co-operative</p>	<p>We recently joined forces with Yellowstone Country to host the Warren Miller Entertainment film crew in Red Lodge for a 12 day film shoot. The crew was very enthusiastic about their time in Red Lodge and on the BeartoothPass. Extensive footage of our area is included in the movie.</p> <p>We worked with Visit Billings and Southeast Montana to help bring the Goldwing Convention to Billings. Although we played a small part, Red Lodge</p>	<p>Success will not only be measured by increased awareness of and visitation to the Red Lodge area, but also by the opportunities presented to us by our marketing partners - Yellowstone Country, Visit Billings and Southeast Montana.</p>	<p>Red Lodge has one of the smallest budgets of any CVB in Montana. By working with the regions and cities in our area, we have been able to leverage our small budget with our large tourism appeal. The Beartooth Highway is a major Montana attraction and working with Yellowstone Country, Visit Billings and Southeast Montana,</p>	\$1,000.00	<p>Not Applicable - No joint venture money was spent this year.</p>

		marketing opportunities and continuing to work with them to attract large groups to Montana.	and the Beartooth Highway played an important role in bringing this large group to Montana.		we continue to grow the appeal of our area.			
Consumer	Travel Guide	Visitor's interested in visiting the Red Lodge area can request a travel planner and activities guide packet, either online or by phone, making it easy to obtain a quality piece full of information that will help the potential visitor make their destination decision as well as providing reasons to extend their stay.	<p>According to national travel statistics. 79% of requests are online or downloaded. Once the visitor's guide is in their hands, 70% actually travel to the destination. Once they are on the ground, 80% use it as a planning resource and 71% extend their stays as a result of the visitor's guide.</p> <p>In 2017, 1,264 Travel Planner Packets were requested online.</p>	Comparing year to date accommodations tax statistics, resort tax revenue, ITRR non-Resident Travel Data, Visitor Information Center top 10 visitor counts, and Destination Red Lodge Travel Planner Mailer statistics by origin of requests as well as by specific overall state number of requests will allow us to measure the success of our targeted increased Travel Planner distribution results.	Getting a travel planner into the potential visitors hands while they are still planning increases the awareness of Red Lodge as a destination and the most scenic route to Yellowstone Park. This is a catalyst for increased non-resident visits and extended stays in Red Lodge.	\$1,200.00	<p>We mailed over 1170 Travel Planners to people who specifically requested them from our website to assist in planning a visit the Red Lodge area. It is a vital tool that works best in the hands of the consumers so we will continue to utilize these.</p> <p>Resort Tax Collections were down 2.75%, over the previous year, yet the numbers also show that lodging increased by 14% and restaurant sales decreased by 10%. We suspect this is due to a change in how people are choosing to vacation. They are choosing VRBOs over traditional lodging and choosing to dine in rather than out.</p> <p>Occupied room nights increased over the the previous year as reported by Red Lodge TBID collections 5%.</p> <p>Yes, we find this method successful and we will continue to utilize it.</p>	TravelPlannerDemographics2018.pdf
		<p>We will be promoting Red Lodge as a destination through electronic newsletters minimum of once per month. Our email database includes 15,000 emails.</p> <p>Chamber staff will produce and circulate this newsletter to continually put Red Lodge at the forefront of</p>	Our statistics show that 40% of this interested market resides in the Midwest but also proves that requests arrive from a world-wide base.	Review of enews metrics with attention to OR and CTR. Reviewing the overall annual revenue provided	Targeting our captive audience, who have already expressed an interest in visiting Red Lodge, Montana via electronic marketing and		<p>Yes, we met our goals and will continue to use this strategy in the future. The Red Lodge Events enews subscriber list is now at 8,219, an increase in total subscribers of 39 over the last year. The enews goes out to print and digital media entities, as well as radio stations and other interested parties who have requested we provide information for upcoming activities in Red</p>	

Consumer	Electronic Adv - Newsletter, E-blast	<p>consumers' decision making process, providing them the facilitation and navigation of Red Lodge at their fingertips. The newsletters will cover the shoulder season targets but also strive to increase occupancy levels during the high traffic summer months when guests are more likely to travel to Red Lodge due to personal schedules, weather, accessibility to Red Lodge and the State of Montana.</p> <p>The requested money will be used to fund an online enews subscription service ONLY.</p>	<p>The Red Lodge E-newsletter performs. With an Open Rate (OR) of 30-40% we are well above the median average of 15% for the Travel &amp; Leisure Industry. Our Click Through Rate (CTR) of 4.3 also exceeds the median average of 1.5%.</p> <p>Promoting Red Lodge through digital and electronic media has proven to be an essential element in consumer demand and requirement in today's economy.</p>	<p>through State bed tax reporting will allow us to compare previous year's statistics. Utilizing the quarterly based resort tax reporting from the city of Red Lodge, itemized by category, will allow us to view traveler trends as well. We will be able to monitor and compare the enewsletter circulation with the rates of increased occupancy and spending.</p>	<p>newsletters, will position Red Lodge as a vacation destination. Using the newsletter links to drive the consumer to our websites provides a further opportunity to educate and entice. The newsletters will allow Red Lodge to showcase ease of accessibility, special events, and peak interest for the geotraveler in the culture, history and natural surroundings, wildlife viewing and adventure opportunities.</p>	\$1,300.00	<p>Lodge and the surrounding area to them.</p> <p>Over 122,000 eBlasts went out over the course of ten campaigns this year with an OR of 49%.</p> <p>Resort Tax Collections were down 2.75%, over the previous year, yet the numbers also show that lodging increased by 14% and restaurant sales decreased by 10%. We suspect this is due to a change in how people are choosing to vacation. They are choosing VRBOs over traditional lodging and choosing to dine in rather than out.</p> <p>Occupied room nights increased over the the previous year as reported by Red Lodge TBID collections 5%.</p>	
Consumer	Printed Material	<p>We will use this to promote our area in places such as the Visit Southeast Montana Travel Guide and the Cody Visitor Guide. We will also use this to promote weekend and mini-vacation travel. We will use collaborative efforts wherever possible to maximize our budget. We have found that printed materials are good for brand recognition and support for our other marketing campaigns, especially those surrounding events. This method includes ad production and placement for print advertising.</p>	<p>Print advertising remains relevant, especially for niche markets. Return on investment on print materials is difficult to track but is an essential part of a comprehensive marketing plan. We feel that it is important to have placement in our direct drive and flight markets to stay top of mind as a travel destination.</p>	<p>Return on investment on print materials is difficult to track but is an essential part of a comprehensive marketing plan. We feel that it is important to have placement in our direct drive and flight markets to stay top of mind as a travel destination.</p>	<p>Red Lodge is an incredible area and, once visited, not forgotten. Our only drawback has been a lack of awareness of our area compared to surrounding towns. By targeting visitors already traveling in nearby areas we can draw these visitors in with an expectation that some percentage of them will return as repeat visitors.</p>	\$800.00	<p>This was a half page print ad in Southeast Montana magazine. TBID contributed \$400 to this line item so we only spent \$400 of the \$800 designated for this advertising only. We did not pay for any ad production. Visit Southeast Montana Travel covers a corridor that leads directly to Red Lodge. Making Red Lodge known to a market already traveling in our area provides a great opportunity for us to capture the travelers attention and have Red Lodge become a part of their travel plan. Yes, we find this method successful and we will continue to use it in the future. Distribution of this magazine is 80,000 copies with an estimated readership of 230,000.</p>	Print Ad SE MT.pdf
		<p><b>MINT Film Festival</b></p> <p>In the coming year, Red Lodge has</p>						

Events	Multi-Media Marketing	<p>plans to partner with Montana International Film Festival (MINT) and Art House Cinema to bring a five-day film festival to Billings and Red Lodge. MINT is collaborating with industry professionals to bring new ideas and strategy to redefine what a world-class film festival could be. We are developing special screenings and events for the Red Lodge community that will be exclusive to Red Lodge. Festival patrons will have to travel to Red Lodge to participate in said events.</p> <p><b>Red Lodge Winter Fest</b></p> <p>Last year we created Winter Fest as an event to fill the gap between two bookend events - Red Lodge Mountain's Winter Carnival and the National Finals Ski-Joring race - to created an extended ten day event filled with live music, entertainment, and other family oriented activities to bring people to Red Lodge for an extended stay. This year we are excited to have a snow sculpor building an eight foot sculpture to match our parade theme. We hope to continue to expand this event as a major seasonal attraction.</p>	<p>Art House Cinema is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization in Billings, Montana. We first opened in 2015 and had been programming films, special events, special film screenings, and bringing in special guests since day one. We have conducted several community surveys in YellowstoneCounty to evaluate the demand for a film festival, and the support is overwhelming.</p> <p>Based on our ticket sale history at Art House, we are projecting between 8000-10000 ticket buyers during festival week. We have estimated that up to 2000 out of state visitors will travel to the MINT Film Festival.</p>	<p>Success will not only be measured by increased awareness of and visitation to the Red Lodge area, but also by tracking the capacity of scheduled festival screenings and reviewing direct feedback from festival patrons after each film. Monitoring the festival user experience top priority for ensuring festival guests, donors, sponsors, guests, and travelers are engaged and interacting with the community during festival week by number of participants.</p>	<p>Positioning the MINT Film Festival in Red Lodge will provide destination options for out-of-state visitors and travelers from surrounding communities. Festival guests can travel to Red Lodge and experience the mountains and not miss out on the MINT Film Festival. We believe a film festival in September will attract more tourism to Red Lodge and increase Montana's film and culture footprint.</p> <p>Winter Fest is gaining traction. It was designed to fill the gap between two bookend events - Red Lodge Mountain's Winter Carnival and the National Finals Ski-Joring race - to created an extended ten day event filled with live music, entertainment, and other family oriented activities to bring people to Red Lodge for an extended stay. This year we are excited to have a snow sculpor building an eight foot sculpture to match our parade theme. We hope to continue to expand this event as a major seasonal attraction.</p>	\$2,000.00	<p>Upon reevaluating the event we decided to go with a smaller scale event for our inaugural event and push it out towards our shoulder season. This event was held on Nov 9 &amp; 10<sup>th</sup>. The international film festival showed 13 films two of which were Montana premiers. We only used \$1,000 of the budgeted dollars for this event. In addition, TBID contributed \$1000 and the Red Lodge Business Alliance contributed an additional \$500. We received an enthusiastic response from the community with over 340 people in attendance and one visiting producer intent on making a film in Red Lodge. We look forward to the return of the film festival in 2019.</p> <p>Local support and enthusiasm for Winter Fest was easy to obtain. Funds were donated by the Red Lodge Business Alliance, and the TBID. As an event, Winter Fest is gaining traction. Lodging Tax Revenue shows an increase of 5% for the 3rd quarter in spite of an extended period of extremely frigid temperatures in February.</p> <p>Yes, we felt that both of these events were successful and we will continue to use them in the future.</p>	
		<p>Red Lodge is a popular destination for meetings, retreats, weddings and reunions. Our strategy is to specialize in the smaller gatherings and</p>	<p>Red Lodge is a sought after vacation destination. Because of our amenities, location</p>		<p>Red Lodge is a quickly becoming a destination vacation area. Because of this our summers and the months surrounding the</p>			

Group Marketing	Printed Material	<p>make the meeting planners job easy. By providing invitation packets that include all pertinent information, both digitally and in print, we will make the planners decision easy. We will target the groups with the most potential, partnering with our local service organizations to bring in regional and national conventions. We will also target our regional businesses including the growing medical facilities in the region.</p>	<p>and access to outdoor recreation, we have become a popular wedding destination with most wedding venues booked a year in advance for the popular months.</p> <p>Meetings have a great potential for shoulder/off season and mid week visits. Most business meetings take place during the work week and have the potential to lead to the weekend with extended stays. Business meetings are typically scheduled away from the busy 'vacation' months.</p> <p>Group visitor's that have a good experience will return.</p>	<p>We will work closely with our local meeting and wedding venues to measure increases in bookings and overall stays with a focus on the shoulder seasons.</p>	<p>summer months are full on weekends. For our tourism economy to continue to grow, we need to better fill our weekdays and the shoulder season months. This is a challenge faced by every area with a tourism based economy. We are confident this strategy will increase our room nights and stimulate the towns economy in the slower periods.</p> <p>By sending the visitor home with quality take aways, we are increasing our opportunity for a return visit.</p>	\$1,300.00	Not applicable - No money was spent on this line item.	
Marketing Support	Administration	<p>Red Lodge's administrative efforts supports the Montana Brand. We communicate a consistent and effective marketing identity using the Montana Brand and the Red Lodge Brand to promote tourism from within the Red Lodge office.</p>	<p>Red Lodge will use the 20% budget allowed for administration and will follow the Regulations and Procedures when using Lodging Tax Revenue in order to maintain our status.</p>	<p>Red Lodge remains within the 20% budget allowed for administration and will follow the Regulations and Procedures when using Lodging Tax Revenue.</p>	<p>Red Lodge will remain within the 20% budget allowed for administration and will continue to follow Regulations and Procedures when using Lodging Tax Revenue.</p>	\$4,763.00	<p>Yes, it was successful and we will do it again. Red Lodge stayed within the 20% allowable budget and continues to follow Rules and Regulations when using Lodging Facility Use Tax Revenue. Required reports are always submitted on time. Red Lodge will continue to use admin funds to maintain our office</p>	
Marketing Support	Opportunity Marketing	<p>Having \$1000 reserved for Opportunity Marketing prepares us to take advantage of prospects that will protect and promote Red Lodge to that which we cannot foresee at the given time. These funds will also be available for co-operative marketing opportunities.</p> <p>Our strategy is to be prepared for these opportunities.</p>	<p>We have been working together with Yellowstone Country, the Red Lodge Tourism Business Improvement District and Red Lodge Merchants and Lodging Association to better place ourselves for continued collaborative opportunities.</p>	<p>Depending on the opportunity that arises, we will only be able to determine how to best measure that opportunity's immediate and long term results after the opportunity presents itself. However, we will be paying close attention to the travel trends after the opportunity marketing is released, try to incorporate a code specific fulfillment component, resort tax revenue itemized by category within the quarter of marketing release date, Facebook and website increases, place of origin, comments, etc.</p>	<p>Opportunities arise that we don't always foresee, such as an opportunity to showcase the community or to mitigate negative publicity from a natural disaster such as forest fire or other natural disaster. Opportunity Marketing allows us to position ourselves as premier vacation destinations no matter what the challenge. Staying in front of the news through all modes of communication will provide us the sustainability to maintain our revenue.</p>	\$1,000.00	<p>not applicable - No opportunity funds were used this year.</p>	

Marketing Support	TAC/Governor's Conference meetings	<p>In addition to being required attendance in order to meet the terms for participation, both the TAC meetings and Governor's Conference provide important information that keeps us informed on tourism trends, updates, rules and regulations, and provides useful marketing tools and information on opportunities we might otherwise miss.</p>	<p>These meetings are informative and necessary for us to perform to our best ability in presenting a strong organization and staying informed of the rules and regulations in tourism.</p>	<p>These meetings play an important role for accomplishing increased brand recognition within the tourism industry. Travel time and mileage is allowed for this budget due to distances to travel to meetings. With our small budget, this provides opportunities for Red Lodge to learn and grow that we likely would not otherwise be able to afford.</p>	<p>Success will be measured by the tracking of improved visitor experiences and by continuing to operate according to the Rules and Regulations set forth for Lodging Facility Tax use.</p>	\$2,250.00	<p>These dollars helped to offset the travel costs associated with the Governors Conference and four TAC meetings during this Fiscal Year.</p> <p>Red Lodge appreciates the opportunity to attend Tourism Advisory Council Meetings as well as the Governor's Conference. The Red Lodge Chamber sent Sherry Weamer to the Governor's Conference and Julie Karnos &amp; Sherry Weamer to the TAC meetings. This event brings industry professionals together and connects stakeholders and business owners. Sherry Weamer attended the TAC meetings. TAC meetings ensure all Regions, CVBs, MOTBD, and partners are on the same page. Relationships are a constant work in progress, these agendas can be very informative beneficial for all involved. Yes, this is successful and we will be doing it again.</p>	
Marketing	VIC	<p>5% of the CVB bed tax revenue will be used for VIC Staffing. Our strategy is to increase a paid Staff person's time professionally serving the public by</p>	<p>Every year over 8,000 travelers enter the Visitor's Information Center requesting information about the Area. In 2016, the overall RLA Chamber budget was \$133,000.00 with payroll and liabilities expenses approximately 50% of the budget. The revenue generated by the CVB positively impacts our scope of services. We receive an additional grant from Yellowstone Country to help staff our visitor center. We are open from 10-4 during the shoulder and winter</p>	<p>Listening to the voices of our Membership and other groups such as the TBID and Red Lodge Merchants and Lodging Association in Red Lodge will be our greatest public accolades. Being able to serve the community the</p>	<p>The funds will be applied to the fulfillment component of increasing awareness, group travel promotion and providing increased levels of quality service for Red Lodge. Increasing the staff time, the hours of operation, the efficiency and level of knowledge the Visitor Counselors provide</p>		<p>Yes, It was successful and we would be willing to do it again. This funding allowed us to extend our hours to better serve the needs of our customers. The CVB funds contributed a total of <b>132 staff hours</b> between three people at an average rate of \$11.37 per hour. The total number of hours the visitors center was open during this grant period was 1848 with a total of worked hours for the visitor staff of 1541 hours. We will continue to use this valuable resource to increase our capacity for serving visitors. We were</p>	

Support	Funding/Staffing/Signage	approximately 100 hours annually. This will have a significant impact on the service that we will be able to provide.	seasons. Beginning annually November through March with an average of 4.5 weeks per month multiplied by 30 hours per week hours of operation (M-F 10-4), there is a need for Staffing 675 hours during this specified time period. During peak periods Memorial Day through Labor Day, the center is staffed with visitor counselors from 9am - 5pm Monday thru Friday and 9am - 1pm Saturday and Sunday.	way that our Membership needs us to is very important to the Visitors Center Board. We meet the community needs by increasing hours of service and increasing number of visitors served.	will mitigate and dispel the challenges outlined. This centralized fulfillment component will be in place to assist group travel planners, families who visit in the winter and the secret season traveler who spends more time, money and resources.	\$1,500.00	able to extend our business hours from 9-5 (previously from 10-4) and add Saturday and Sunday hours which immediately enabled us to extend our ability to answer the phones decreasing the number of missed phone calls and allowed us more working time to respond to our email. We served 4958 at the Visitors Center. The top ten states were: MT, MN, TX, CO, CA, Canada, WI, FL, PA, and NY. Lodging tax collections increased 6 percent for the grant period.	
Marketing Support	Wayfinding	The Red Lodge Area Chamber of Commerce/CVB is moving forward with implementing a Wayfinding Navigation System and Welcome Signs. Successful wayfinding and signage guides the energy of travelers and tourists to create a sense of community that will provide regional benefits by assisting tourists and travelers in their local trips and treks.	YellowstoneNational Park is a sought after vacation destination. Red Lodge is often used as a pass through destination for travelers planning trips through YellowstonePark. Our goal is to capture and redirect this pass through audience and convince these travelers that Red Lodge is a destination in itself.  Montana Mainstreet Program awarded the City of Red Lodge \$18,000 to develop a community wayfinding system. A collaborative effort by the City of Red Lodge, the Red Lodge Merchants and Lodging Association, the Tourist Business Improvement District, the Beartooth Recreational Trails Association, and Red Lodge Area Chamber of Commerce/CVB resulted in a total \$24,000 being spend on this project.	Success will not only be measured by increased awareness of and visitation to the Red Lodge area, but by tracking resort tax revenues.	Red Lodge is a bustling historic town at the foot of The Beartooth Highway – a destination in itself - on the way to YellowstoneNational Park. The purpose of this project is to impact the area by assisting travelers and providing direction to visitors as they navigate to and through our area and town on their way to the park. Providing visual markers of area attractions, easily accessible parking and town amenities will allow for easier navigation and encourage those travelers to stop and take in what Red Lodge has to offer, in turn, spending time and money. This project will enhance the visitor experience and help create a positive experience for the traveler. Connecting individuals with their interests encourages a lengthier visit by pointing out the various opportunities of discovery and inspire return visits to a welcoming community.  Economic benefits of an effective tourism wayfinding and signage strategy include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>improved visibility of key locations</li><li>increase in</li></ul>	\$8,942.00	not applicable as no money has been spent yet	

					<p>tourism related business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• increase in overnight stays</li> <li>• improved reputation as a tourist destination</li> <li>• increased awareness of tourism experiences and opportunities during peak and off peak times.</li> </ul>		
		<p>We will invite media, meeting planners, group organizers and social influencers to Red Lodge with the goal of extended visits and press.</p>			<p>Red Lodge is an incredible area and, once visited, not</p>	<p>The Military Reunion Convention Planners Network came to us through Visit Billings. They had fifteen planners spend some time in Red Lodge exploring our area and the Beartooth Pass. We hosted a dinner for them after their trip on the pass. These planners were here to explore the area in the hopes of bringing their reunion groups here in 2019 and 2020. As a result, 6 military reunions are booking in Billings as a result of the September Military FAM. While I do not have their set itineraries, I am confident that Red Lodge and the BTH will be an included part of their stay here when each reunion comes.</p> <p>Media Lodging for Shredfest - Shredfest is the only qualifier event for the Freeride World Tour in the United States. As such, it draws strong interest from athletes, enthusiast, and the media that covers extreme outdoor supports. We paid for media lodging during the event. 46 total athletes from across the on registered for IFSA JR Freeride event. These athletes stayed in the Red Lodge area approximately 3 days/3 nights and brought 2.0 friends or family members for a total of 92 people for the event over 3 days.</p>	

Publicity	Fam Trips	<p>Networking opportunities will be seized at every opportunity to build solid relationships with journalists and social media influencers – targeting those that offer insight or leads including adventure, history, culture, recreation and food and beverage publications.</p>	<p>Visitors attending meetings, weddings, conventions or other group activities, will return for an extended visit - if they have a good first experience.</p> <p>Most meetings are mid-week and off season.</p>	<p>We will track the number of influencers, groups and meetings as well as mentions in press and social media.</p>	<p>forgotten. Our only drawback has been a lack of awareness of our area compared to surrounding towns. We have found that the more influencers and group organizers we can get to Red Lodge to experience all we have to offer, the more good press we receive.</p>	<p>\$2,000.00</p>	<p>33 total athletes from across the Rocky Mountain region registered for the Freeride World Qualifying Event. These athletes stayed in the Red Lodge area approximately 3 days/3 nights and brought 1.3 friends or family members for a total of 42.9 people for the event over 3 days. The Shred-X talks attracted approximately 75 people and the inaugural B-Roll Film Festival attracted 45 people. Journalists attending Shredfest events included: Doug Schnitzspahn (Elevation Outdoors) Tracy Ross (Backpacker, OutsideOnline, Ski Magazine), Sam Taggart (Freeskier Magazine), Peter Kray (Mountain Gazette, The Gear Institute, Powder Magazine).</p> <p>Lodging for Jean Arthur who is writing an article for Vacations Publications magazine Where to Retire and for Alaska Air's magazine Alaska Beyond. Jean has already had one published article in which Red Lodge is mentioned (attached) and is expecting publication on another article about Red Lodge in the future.</p> <p>Horseback Riding and Lunch for Media writers Auke Anthony Hulst (writer) &amp; Stijn Hoekstra (photographer). They are working on producing a travel feature which focuses on off the beaten track travel experiences in the region for Columbus Travel Magazine. Please see attached PDF "Dutch" for the article on our area.</p>	<p>Jean Arthur.pdf</p>
						<p>\$34,435.00</p>		

**Marketing Method Evaluation Attachments**

<b>Attachment 1</b>	RedLodgeFY19BudVsActByYear.pdf
<b>Attachment 2</b>	FY19 Red Lodge Budget to Actual Pie Charts Update.pdf
<b>Attachment 3</b>	TripAdvisorResults.pdf
<b>Attachment 4</b>	MINT Ad enews.pdf.png
<b>Attachment 5</b>	Stroll Ad enews.png
<b>Attachment 6</b>	Ad Stats enews.docx
<b>Attachment 7</b>	Print Ad SE MT.pdf
<b>Attachment 8</b>	Dutch.pdf
<b>Attachment 9</b>	
<b>Attachment 10</b>	

### Marketing Method Budget

Marketing Segment	Marketing Method	Bed tax funded budget	Non bed tax funded budget (optional)
Consumer	Electronic Adv - Newsletter, E-blast	\$1,300.00	\$0.00
Consumer	Travel Guide	\$1,200.00	\$0.00
Consumer	Social Media	\$1,200.00	\$0.00
Consumer	Joint Ventures	\$1,000.00	\$0.00
Consumer	Printed Material	\$680.00	\$0.00
Consumer	Online/Digital Advertising	\$4,500.00	\$0.00
Consumer	Print Advertising	\$800.00	\$0.00
		\$10,680.00	\$0.00
Events		\$2,000.00	\$0.00
		\$2,000.00	\$0.00
Group Marketing	Printed Material	\$1,300.00	\$0.00
		\$1,300.00	\$0.00
Marketing Support	Administration	\$4,763.00	\$0.00
Marketing Support	Opportunity Marketing	\$1,000.00	\$0.00
Marketing Support	TAC/Governor's Conference meetings	\$2,250.00	\$0.00
Marketing Support	VIC Funding/Staffing/Signage	\$1,500.00	\$0.00
Marketing Support	Wayfinding	\$8,942.00	\$0.00
		\$18,455.00	\$0.00
Publicity	Fam Trips	\$2,000.00	\$0.00
		\$2,000.00	\$0.00
		\$34,435.00	\$0.00

### Miscellaneous Attachments

Description	File Name	File Size
Beartooth Highway Economic Impact Study	Beartooth Highway Economic Impact Study.pdf	4.4 MB
2015-2016 VIC State and Country Count	CVB 2015-16 VIC State Count.pdf	27 KB
RLAC CVB Marketing Plan FY19	CVB Marketing Plan FY19.pdf	929 KB
2017 Travel Planner Demographics	TravelPlannerDemographics2017.pdf	103 KB

### Reg/CVB Required Documents

Description	File Name	File Size
Red Lodge CVB Certificate of Compliance FY18	Applicants Certificate of Compliance FY18.pdf	42 KB

**Reg/CVB Required Documents**

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<b>Description</b>	<b>File Name</b>	<b>File Size</b>
Red Lodge CVB Certificate of Compliance FY18	Applicants Certificate of Compliance FY18.pdf	42 KB
Red Lodge CVB Application For Lodging Tax Revenue FY18	Application For Lodging Tax Revenue FY18.pdf	31 KB
Application for Lodging Tax Revenue FY19	AppLodgingTaxRevFY19.pdf	141 KB
Certificate of Compliance FY19	CertOfComplianceFY19.pdf	183 KB
Red Lodge CVB Pledge of Understanding and Compliance FY18	Pledge of Understanding FY18.pdf	32 KB
Pledge of Understanding FY19	PledgeFY19.pdf	138 KB
Application for Lodging Tax Revenue	RedLodgeAppforLodgingTaxRevFY19.pdf	429 KB
Certificate of Compliance	RedLodgeCertOfComplianceFY19.pdf	530 KB
Pledge of Understanding	RedLodgePledgeFY2019.pdf	415 KB

