

Big Sky Resort Area District

2011: A Year in Review

February 16, 2012

As we approach two decades of service, the Big Sky Resort Area District Board would like to thank the local businesses and lodging establishments collecting the 3% tax. Their efforts provide the funding that is directly invested back into the community.

We are proud to report the following facts and figures from the District's fiscal year:

- 2011 gross taxable sales were up 17.5% over 2010.
- 2011 tax collections were only \$6,200 less than 2008 tax collections, the highest in the history of the Resort Tax.
- 2012 tax collections lag 2011 collections by \$10,000 as of December 2011.
- 2011 success indicates an encouraging climb out of the recession dip of 2009 and 2010.

The Big Sky Resort Area District's fiscal year begins July 1 and concludes June 30. For complete information, visit www.bigskyresorttax.com and click on *BSRAD Tax Collections by Fiscal Year*.

This year, the District resumed auditing tax collectors. Ten audits were performed. The results were favorable: a few small underpayments and few overpayments. The overpayments were refunded. The audits were helpful and educational for the District and the collectors. We extend community appreciation to those collectors for your time, effort and goodwill.

In June 2011, the Big Sky Resort Area District appropriated over 2.4 million dollars. These Resort Tax funds are essential to the following community benefits:

- Blue Water Task Force: community water quality monitoring, watershed resource assessment, community education and watershed restoration.
- The Gallatin County Sheriff's Office: an additional deputy dedicated to the Big Sky area.
- Big Sky Community Library: serves 4,000+ individuals.
- Noxious Weed Committee: education, outreach, landowner assistance and weed mapping.
- Forest Health and Wildfire Protection programs.
- The Arts Council of Big Sky: brings quality national entertainment to Big Sky and the *Music in the Mountains* free summer concert series.
- Big Sky Post Office.
- The Big Sky Community Corporation: trail construction and major community park improvements.
- The Big Sky Transportation District Skyline: public transportation within Big Sky and links to Bozeman.
- The Big Sky Fire Department: emergency medical service, ambulance transport, structure and wildland fire protection.
- Big Sky Search and Rescue: search and rescue for backcountry emergencies.
- Women in Action: community and school counseling, summer and winter camp.
- The Chamber of Commerce: the Biggest Skiing in America, plus many community promotional efforts.
- Gallatin Valley Snowmobile Association: maintenance and grooming of the Buck Ridge Trail System.
- The Water and Sewer District: debt for the bonds which allowed expansion of the water and sewer system, ending the building moratorium, as well as reduction in current water and sewer rates through funding of various projects.

In November 2011, the Big Sky community elected four Resort Area District Board Directors. We welcome Jamey Kabisch, Mike Scholz and Jeff Strickler now serving their first terms. Ginna Hermann is completing her first term. Jamey, formerly the Manager of First Security Bank in Big Sky, is now the Business Manager of Lone Peak Physical Therapy. Mike is one of the Owners of Buck's T-4. Jeff is a retired pediatrician and has written two books about Big Sky: [A Skier's Guide to the Biggest Skiing in America](#) and [Big Sky Names](#). Ginna is a professional fundraiser as well as an active member of the Gallatin Canyon Women's Club and the Immediate Past President of the Arts Council of Big Sky.

At the November 2011 Board meeting, Les Loble was elected by the Board as Chairperson. Les has served on the Resort Area District Board since 2009. In addition, Les is on the Board of Directors for the Big Sky Water and Sewer District and the Big Sky Chapel.

In December 2011, Whitney Brunner was hired as Administrative Officer. Whitney and her husband, Will, have lived in Big Sky for seven years. Under the direction of the Board, Whitney manages the operations of the District.

Meet the Board of Directors and Administrative Officer; attend a Board Meeting. Meetings are open to the public and held the second Wednesday of every month at 11:00 a.m. in Suite 204, 11 Lone Peak Drive, in the Town Center.

The annual 2012-2013 Appropriations Process is now underway. If your organization or its programming is located within the boundaries of the Resort Area District and provides a service or project for the Big Sky community, you may apply for Appropriation of tax funds. For complete details see our website at www.bigskyresorttax.com.

As we plan for 2012, we again extend our appreciation to the tax collectors, the Big Sky businesses and lodging establishments. We are encouraged by your 2011 success and look forward to 2012.