



## District Manager of the Big Sky Resort Area District | Big Sky, Montana

*The Big Sky Resort Area District Board is looking for a capable executive with the ability to create a lasting vision for the future of the community and execute it.*

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**This is Big Sky Country |** Big Sky, Montana is one of the country's most sought-after places to live, work and play. It perfectly combines the best the West has to offer – adventure, outdoor recreation, community vitality and a vibrant, growing economy.

Located in the heart of Montana's Rocky Mountains, Big Sky is a gateway between Yellowstone National Park to the south, Bozeman (population 40,000) to the north, vast national forest to the east and west.

**The District |** The Big Sky Resort Area District is the largest entity describing Big Sky, and exists in two counties, Gallatin and Madison. In 1992, the general electorate of Big Sky voted in favor of creating the district and imposing a 3% sales tax levied on the retail value of all luxury goods and services sold within the boundaries of the district. The district is governed by a five-member Board of Directors elected to staggered four-year terms by registered voters who live in the district. The District Manager is appointed by and reports to the full Board of Directors. As of 2018, the resort tax has generated more than \$50,000,000 for the community of Big Sky.

Key to Big Sky's success since its founding in the early 1970s, has been an extraordinarily high degree of volunteerism. Citizen volunteers also staff four advisory boards, five special district boards, 17 in-district nonprofits and numerous workgroups. Big Sky is an unincorporated area governed by the two counties; however, it is managed largely through the work of these various districts with volunteer boards.

The community is growing quickly and the capacity of these districts to provide the over-arching vision the community needs is limited. The community, at its current level of roughly half built out, is approaching limits of key underlying infrastructure elements. Resort tax will be an integral funding source in these investments. In addition, several large ventures are coming on-line within the next year.

As a consequence of Big Sky's strong growth in recent years, the Big Sky Resort Area District has experienced increasing demands and new initiatives and solutions are needed and have the Board of Directors looking to the future:

- Align strategic visions of Big Sky's governmental and non-governmental entities. Currently, the district funds the individual strategic plans or activities of 26 community entities. As of November 2018, the district is funding and facilitating a community-wide strategic plan.
- Determine if we can commit future funds, implement and amend the appropriation process.
- Amend the ordinance governing the administration of the district.

- Research and propose a solution for online retailer taxation, short term rental taxation and a substantial nexus definition.
- Research and propose a business license or similar tool for the district.
- Be informed of the projects, goals and budgets of service organizations and stakeholders.
- Understand the financing tools available from government agency to private match funds.
- Research and work with legal to take ambiguity of the purpose of the tax – luxury or tourist.
- Identify and anticipate legislative issues that impact resort tax.
- Serve as a liaison with county and state governments and various towns and cities to promote intergovernmental relations.
- Manage the elected Board of Directors and a staff of 2.25 FTE.

**The Position** | This is a new position and the successful candidate will have an opportunity to define the role as he/she grows into it.

#### Leadership

The first District Manager will have a unique opportunity to define the role of the job and the district. This position will provide expertise and leadership ensuring the district achieves its governing purpose and appropriate authority to best serve the Big Sky community vision and to build the relationships necessary to define the vision and execute the steps necessary to make it a reality.

#### Management

The District Manager is responsible for to adopt best business practices, policies and procedures and operate the district at the highest level of proficiency possible.

#### Budgeting

Responsible for the financial health of the district, the District Manager prepares the district’s annual budget and monitors financial performance. The district’s budget is up to \$8.5 million with an eight-year history of 10-20% year-over-year growth.

#### Collaboration

Better Together, the District Manger uses the tools available and pursues gaining the tools needed to help the Board of Directors realize its greatest potential.

**The Ideal Candidate** | The ideal District Manager candidate is a leader and collaborator with strong communication skills.

- 5+ years of relevant management experience, with 5+ years of local government experience in Montana and/or a mountain ski resort community preferred.
- Familiarity with infrastructure planning and funding, economic development, tourism and sense of place preservation.
- Ability to actively engage public, private and not-for-profit community leaders.

- A strategic thinker.
- Ready and willing to embrace Big Sky's unique history and strategically ensure its future.
- A bachelor's degree in business, public administration, or similar is required. A Master's degree is preferred.
- A willingness to reside in Big Sky preferred.

## Compensation and Benefits

- Salary \$110,000 to \$135,000
- Retirement plan: Montana employees retirement fund (MPERA)
- Vacation time
- Medical, dental and vision
- Mileage
- Cell phone allowance

**The Big Sky Community** | If you ask us, Big Sky is the very best place to live. But maybe that's because we live here.

### Excellence in Education

The Big Sky School District K-12 student body is currently 360 students. From classrooms, to athletics, from theatre to community service, the school district challenges students to strive for personal excellence. Academics are a high priority with over 95% of graduates attending higher education. As an IB world school, Lone Peak High School is committed to developing young people ready to negotiate their futures successfully.

### The Arts and Special Events

A lively arts scene with innovative and creative programming, outdoor concerts, weekly farmers markets and a diverse array of live international and local shows provide for audiences of all ages. Several Big Sky organizations including the Arts Council and the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center work to bring enjoyment and education of the arts to Big Sky year-round.

### Sustainability

Mountain views, clean air and access to great terrain for outdoor pursuits are a few benefits of living here. The community works to preserve and enhance Big Sky's natural resources for future generations in many ways including protecting forested land, partnering with local watershed groups and contributing to conserving open lands in and around Big Sky.

### America's First National Park

Located less than one hour's drive from Yellowstone National Park, Big Sky is an ideal launching point to this renowned destination. The Park showcases wildlife, waterfalls, geysers and geologic wonders that do not exist anywhere else in the world.

### Endless Recreation

Big Sky offers unlimited access to outdoor recreation. In addition to the Biggest Skiing in America, you can escape into the solitude of the backcountry wilderness on horseback, by foot, mountain bike or on nordic skis, or

experience adventure in the canyon's blue-ribbon rivers. There are so many ways to spend your day in Big Sky in both summer and winter.

**Apply to be Part of Big Sky's Future** | Applicants will remain confidential from application submission through hire. All Board of Director discussion and action will take place in executive session. The position will remain open until filled. Please submit your resume to [whitney@resorttax.org](mailto:whitney@resorttax.org). For more information about this position, please contact Whitney Brunner | 406.995.3234.

District Website: [www.resorttax.org](http://www.resorttax.org)