

Rural Community Assistance Corporation

Snowy Mountain Development Corporation, Lewistown, MT

Accomplishments (RCB FY 2015)

Capacity Building – Economic Revitalization

In 2015, RCAC's Building Rural Economies (BRE) program partnered with Snowy Mountain Development Corporation (SMDC) to conduct the Recharge Our Community's Economy (ROCE) Workshop Series in Lewistown, Montana. The training workshop series conducted over several months brought together 68 community leaders and residents to work together in collaboration and identify community economic development opportunities and build action plans to lead them through planning to implementation. Participants formed ad-hoc committees focused on raising funds and implementing the opportunities identified with ongoing technical assistance from SMDC and BRE staff. The ROCE committees worked on a variety of downtown revitalization projects, nature tourism projects, and workforce housing projects, as well as development of Creekside Marketplace & Pavilion, raising more than \$2.4 million in the process.

Direct outcomes of SMDC and BRE's work with the ROCE committees include the creation of 5 new local businesses and the expansion of 2 existing businesses that together created 70 new jobs. Businesses created include Central Feed Grilling & Big Sky Brewing Company (an upscale restaurant and brewery) as well as Town & Country (a worker-owned grocery store). After the BRE Team's working with SMDC ended, the renewed vibrancy and new businesses created in Lewistown helped spur additional investments; including development of the American Prairie Discovery Center (an internationally recognized interactive museum) and the roughly \$8.6 million renovation of a historic downtown building that will house "Our Health" a new community health center with affordable housing on the upper floors.

Video Link:

[BRE: Lewistown, Montana's transformation - RCAC](#)



Pictured Creekside Pavilion