LINCOLN COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

2019

ANNUAL REPORT

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & PLANNING

Environmental Health Technician

The Environmental Health Technician position was created in September to provide administrative and enforcement support for Environmental Health and Planning programs. Staffing this position allows for improved response times to public requests for land use information including septic permits and certificates of subdivision approval. The technician responds to complaints involving litter, community decay and junk vehicles, and works with property owners through the clean-up process. The technician also issues burn permits and inspects and licenses all kennels in the county.

Air Quality

The Environmental Health Program maintains a State of Montana funded air quality program to protect public health in an area with unique atmospheric conditions. We regulate outdoor burning and EPA compliant solid fuel burning devices. In addition to our permitting and enforcement duties we continually monitor particulate concentrations to keep the public informed of any health effects that could be caused by wood smoke from residential sources and wildfire events.

Air Quality	2019	2018	2017
Woodstove Permits	0	1	2
AQ Citations	1	4	2
Burn Permits	664	706	580
Management Burn Permits	9	9	6
Landfill Burns	2	2	3
AQ Alerts	1	1	1

Sanitation

Sanitation	2019	2018	2017
Septic Permits	172	143	164
Installer Licenses	19	25	16
DEQ Reviews	24	26	19

Protecting the environment protects public health, and one of the many ways we ensure that we maintain a healthy environment is to protect our most precious resource, water. We review proposed subsurface wastewater treatment systems and ground water sources for compliance with the Montana Department of Environmental Quality to lift the sanitary restrictions from parcels of land and subdivisions in the county. We contract with MT DEQ to conduct these state reviews and write Certificates of Subdivision Approval for the State of Montana to issue to developers. The Environmental Health Program also issues and maintains a database of permits for septic systems to ensure compliance with environmental regulations and to provide information to current and future homeowners.

LINCOLN COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Planning

Planning	2019	2018	2017
Subdivisions	20	51	25
Lakeshore Permits	3	2	1
Floodplain Permits	4	3	-

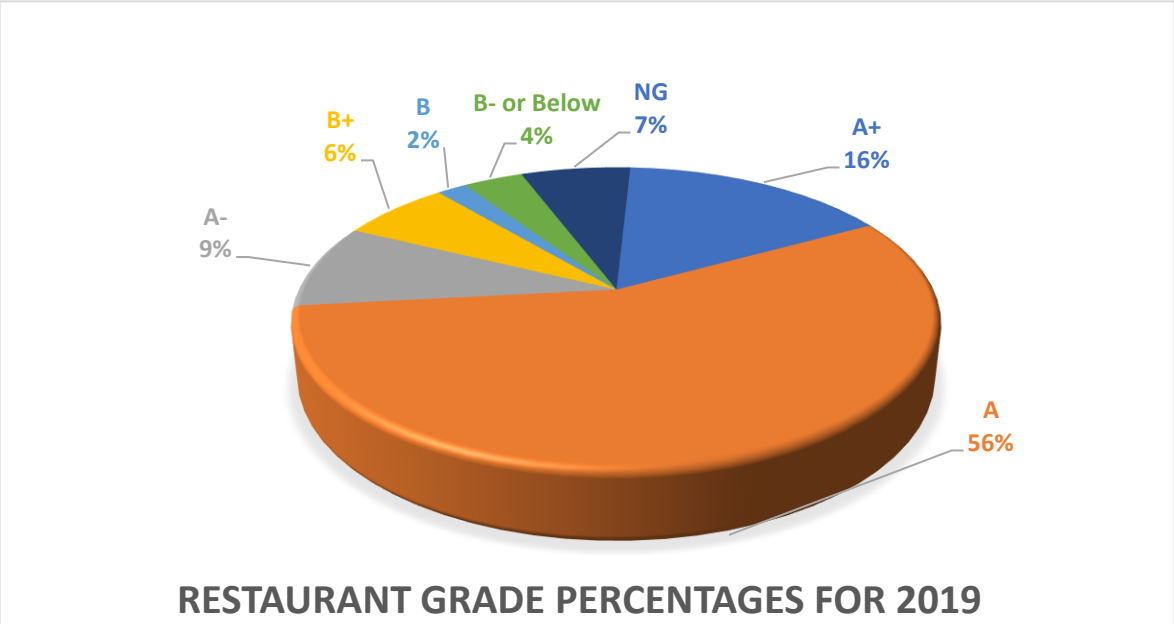
The Lincoln County Planning Department seeks to effectively improve the health, safety and welfare of all Lincoln County residents through active involvement in community and economic development, natural resources and land-use planning. We evaluate existing conditions and work to ensure the provision of adequate public services to meet future needs. The Planning Department administers all land use planning functions at a local government level and prepares recommendations for the Lincoln County Commissioners on all land development proposals. We work with the Lincoln County Planning Board and municipal planning boards to implement city and county growth policies, prepare land use policy recommendations, conduct project reviews, and administer local subdivision regulations, Floodplain Regulations, and Lakeshore Construction permits.

Licensed Establishments

Under a cooperative agreement with Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services, we are responsible for inspecting the 274 licensed establishments in Lincoln County. These establishments include retail food, food manufacturing, public accommodations, body art facilities, campgrounds and trailer courts.

Retail Food Establishments

Retail food establishments make up the majority of licensed establishments in Lincoln County. One-hundred and sixty-nine of the 174 retail food licenses were inspected at least once in 2019. Based on the restaurant grading scale, 81 percent of the retail food establishments were in the "A" range. That percentage is slightly down from 2018. Seven percent of restaurants were marked as "NG" or not graded because they were licensed but not in operation during the year or at the time of inspection.

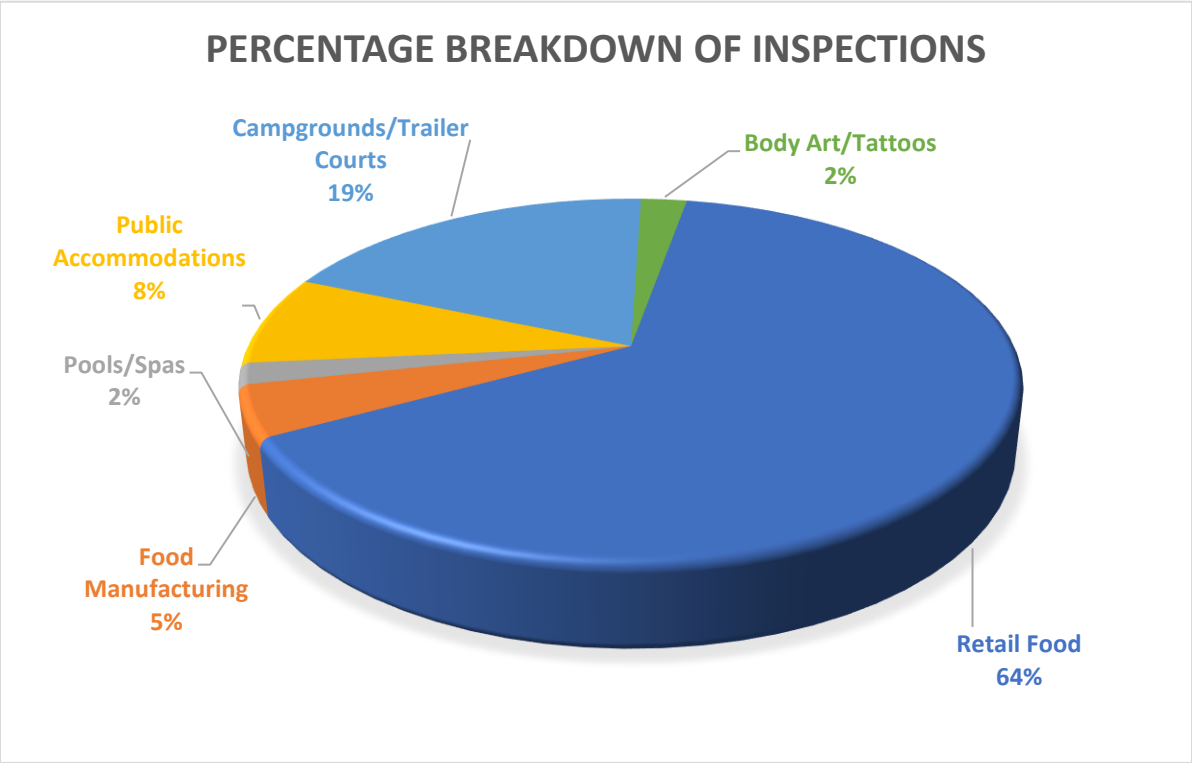


Trailer Court/Campgrounds

2019 was a successful year for trailer court and campground establishments. One hundred percent of licensed establishments were inspected. Of these, 13 were large (26 lots or more), 16 were medium (11-25 lots) and 21 were small (10 or fewer lots). Moving forward into 2020, the sanitarian will meet with all property owners and/or managers to do a walkthrough inspection rather than mailing out inspection reports. This will allow the sanitarian to address any issues and form corrective action plans face to face with the licensees. Please see the graph below for the numbers of trailer courts and campgrounds in 2019 based on lot size.

Other Licensed Establishments

Trailer courts and retail food establishments make up the majority of licenses in Lincoln County, but there are a variety of other licenses including public accommodations, food manufacturing, body art/tattoos, and pools/spas. While the numbers are significantly less, these establishments are just as important for the safety of the public. 95 percent completion of public accommodations and 100 percent of the remaining categories was achieved for 2019. Pool and spa inspections were completed by MT DPHHS.



Temporary & Cottage food permits

Under the retail establishment program for Lincoln County, individuals can also apply for a temporary food permit. These are obtained in lieu of a retail food license for short term events such as fundraisers by nonprofit groups or community events. Temporary permits may also be issued to out of state food vendors who attend county events.

Cottage food registration, a relatively new program to Montana, allows individuals to provide baked goods, preserves, and other non-potentially hazardous foods to the public. It allows operators to assemble these products in the privacy of their own home, with the stipulation that recipes and processes are submitted to their local health department. There is a one-time fee and a review process involved and products must be sold face-to-face, but this is an ultimately rewarding opportunity for those attempting to move past Farmer's Markets and Bazaars.

Temporary & Cottage food permits Issued in 2019:

- **33** nonprofit permits
- **21** temporary permits
- **4** cottage food registration (double 2018)

Litter Complaints & Junk Vehicles

Lincoln County ordinances prohibit the scattering of litter on public property and the accumulation of litter or conditions of community decay on private property. Community decay may include wrecked, ruined or dismantled vehicles, or vehicle components, that are in public view. Complaints are investigated and the department proceeds with education and enforcement in order to correct violations. In 2019, a total of 24 complaints were received and 18 notices of violation were issued. The junk vehicle recycling program took in a total of 31 vehicles.

Before and after junk vehicle removal

Kennel Licensing

Lincoln County animal control policies and regulations require licensing of all kennels. A kennel is any household or establishment that keeps five or more dogs, breeds and/or sells dogs, or operates as an animal rescue organizations or shelter. Kennel inspections and licensing ensures that dogs are provided with proper care, food, water, shelter and humane treatment. It also ensures that dogs are up to date on their rabies vaccinations. Seventeen kennels were licensed in 2019.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Immunization

The Public Health Nurse, Trista Gilmore, provides all required and recommended adult and childhood immunizations for insured and un-insured individuals and families at our offices in Eureka and Libby. We also offer seasonal vaccines like the influenza shot and pneumonia series. Public Health continues to offer select travel vaccinations and education for people traveling internationally.

	2016*	2017	2018	2019
Influenza	260	509	534	508
Other	54	452	622	485
Client Total	279	638	766	-
Total Immunizations	314	961	1165	993

**Not an accurate total count. Started tracking differently in July 2016*

	2019	2018	2017	2016
Mobile flu clinics	50	41	37	20
Other clinics	6	6	3	2

Other Nursing Services

- Monitored blood pressures and connected participants to resources at the Elk's Soup Kitchen for veteran and homeless populations.
- Completed 70 lead tests for kids ages 3-5 in the Head Start system.
- Offered mobile influenzas clinics at different places of business in Trego, Fortine, Bull Lake and Happys Inn areas.
- Provided school nursing services in Troy Public Schools. Conducted extensive planning in anaphylactic allergy and epilepsy training and management in the schools along with general care plans for asthma, diabetes and immunizations. Also, presented to one health class a month on differing topics and at least once a quarter training for teachers.
- Became a CPR instructor and completed classes for Lincoln County Sheriff's Office, Libby Clinic and Troy schools.
- Became an instructor in the Naloxone Master Training program to ensure anyone who takes the course was able to get a free Narcan.

PUBLIC HEALTH
Lincoln County

Communicable Disease

Communicable diseases, also known as infectious diseases, are illnesses that result from the infections, presence and growth of pathogenic (capable of causing disease) biologic agents in an individual human or other animal hosts. Public health is responsible for investigating communicable diseases to stop them from spreading and affecting more people.

Reported Communicable Diseases in Lincoln County					
Disease	**2019**	**2018**	**2017**	**2016**	**2015**
Campylobacteriosis	7	5	3	8	6
Chlamydia	41	51	53	60	38
Coccidioidomycosis	1	0	0	1	0
Cryptosporidiosis	0	1	1	1	0
Giardiasis	3	4	1	2	0
Gonorrhea	2	6	2	3	4
Haemophilus influenzae	0	0	0	0	1
Hepatitis A, acute	0	0	1	1	0
Hepatitis B, chronic	1	0	2	1	0
Hepatitis C, acute	0	1	0	0	0
Hepatitis C, chronic	24	40	25	20	19
Influenza	273	154	106	65	191
Influenza hospitalization	2	10	9	1	4
Lead poisoning	0	2	1	3	0
Lyme Disease	0	0	0	3	0
Mumps	0	0	1	0	0
Pertussis	0	10	13	0	4
Q Fever	0	0	0	0	1
Salmonellosis	3	2	3	1	1
Shiga toxin-producing e. Coli (STEC)	3	4	0	1	0
Shigellosis	0	0	0	0	1
Spotted Fever Rickettsiosis	0	1	1	0	0
Streptococcus pneumoniae	2	0	1	0	1
Varicella	0	1	4	0	4
Vibriosis	1	0	0	0	0
Total:	369	292	227	171	275

Detention Center Health

In 2019, the Lincoln County Detention Center partnered with the Public Health Nurse to offer 10 hours per week of health services in the jail. Services include:

- Communicable disease counseling
- Medication management
- Treating minor traumas
- Arranging psychiatric evaluation and mental health treatment
- Connecting to services outside of the court system such as the Ryan White Foundation and addiction therapy
- Worked closely with providers in local clinics and specialty offices
- Provided health counseling
- Coordinated care from the US to Canada
- Conducted Naloxone and CPR/First Aid training for employees
- Went to doctor visits multiple times to ensure that inmates and providers were communicating properly
- Conducted STD testing and treatment in the jail
- Helped align dentistry services
- Other health services
- Urinalysis for new hires and random testing for the sheriff's office employees

Tobacco Prevention

The Lincoln County Tobacco Prevention Specialist (TPS), through affiliation with the Montana Tobacco Use Prevention Program (MTUPP), leads and coordinates programs designed to promote and reinforce behavior conducive to tobacco-free lifestyles in individuals, groups, and communities. The TPS promotes public awareness and education of tobacco prevention through a variety of methods, including presentations, news releases, letters to the editor, newsletters, media, etc. In the past year, Toya Laveway, TPS, has offered

15 presentations to classes of 4th, 5th, 6th, and 8th grade students in the Libby and Troy communities.

As part of an ongoing project, students of the Libby Middle School's 8th grade media classes create and submit prevention PSA's that get chosen by Health Department staff and played on our local radio station each quarter.

In the last year, over **550 students** participated in the interactive tobacco prevention presentations in their classrooms.

Fall has been especially busy for the TPS with the two simultaneous epidemics that swept across the nation: EVALI and youth vaping. EVALI is the name given by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to the dangerous, newly identified lung disease linked to vaping. The name EVALI is an acronym that stands for e-cigarette or vaping product use associated lung injury. It has been the role of the TPS, with Health Department Sanitarian, Dustin Webb to monitor and enforce Gov. Steve Bullock's emergency ban on the sale of flavored vaping products in our county, as well as spread the word to each tobacco and vaping retailer about the new Tobacco 21 law. TPS and Sanitarian visited approximately 40

tobacco and vape retailers across the county to monitor sales and offer available resources including Montana Clean Indoor Act (CIAA) signage.

Providing public education on second-hand smoke, processes available to report a violation, smoke-free housing and tobacco-free recreation opportunities are also roles of the County TPS. She monitors CIAA compliance and the Clean Air Reporting System (CARS) complaints and follow-up. Outreach also includes contacting and educating private and public multi-unit housing facilities to provide resources to implement smoke-free policies or help strengthen policies already in place. Tobacco-Free Event information and resources are also available for anyone planning community events.

A large part of the TPS position is collaboration with other community agencies and organizations to partner in health education programs and services. TPS has partnered with and participated in several community events providing resources on the dangers of vaping, tobacco, and smokeless tobacco, offering all Quitline resources including pregnant women, veterans, and the new My Life My Quit cessation program created specifically for youth ages 12-18. Participating in the CARD Rally, Cabinet Peaks Medical Center Annual Health Fair, Kootenai Kiwanis and Unite for Youth events, and Libby Chamber of Commerce Farmer's Market, along with various community events are all examples of collaboration within the County. TPS also provided binders to medical, dental and social service providers with up-to-date information and brochures on all Montana Tobacco Quit Line programs. Together we can be healthy and smoke-free.

MONTANA TOBACCO QUIT LINE

1-800-QUIT-NOW

1-800-784-8669

Best Beginnings

We hosted a summer reading program at the libraries in Libby, Troy, and Eureka. It was a huge success with free books going home with a lot of kids and families.

We supported several mothers throughout the year with lactation services and education at Cabinet Peaks Medical Center and at our office. These women and families received free books, breastfeeding support materials, Best Beginnings onesies, and the Pregnancy Resource Guide. Several referrals were made to outside organizations for additional support for the families.

- We were able to distribute 5 safe sleep kits throughout the year. These kits are distributed to families needing a safe place for baby to sleep. They include a pack-n-play, infant sleep sack, and informational material.
- In partnership with the CARD clinic and Zero to Five, we participated in the Student Stand Down and provided school supplies for preschool-aged kids. We also provided supplies to preschool and kindergarten classrooms across the county.

BEST BEGINNINGS COALITION

LINCOLN COUNTY

Mental Health First Aid

We continue to provide Adult and Youth Mental Health First Aid classes. This year we trained 62 individuals in our community.

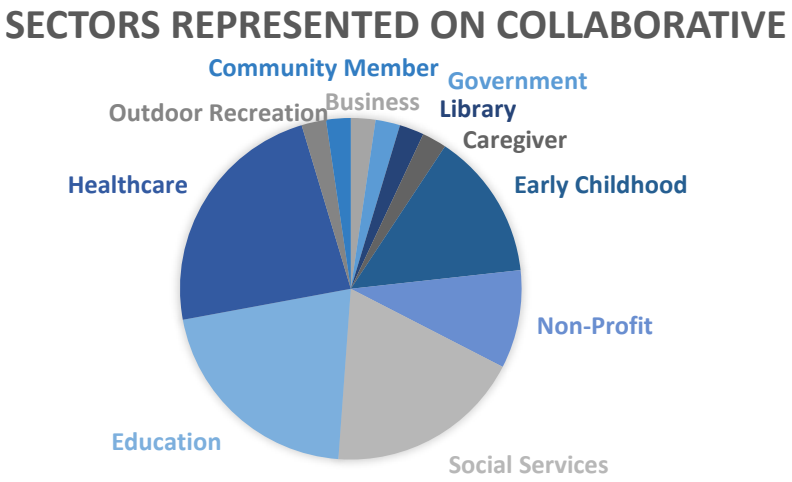
Zero to Five Collaborative

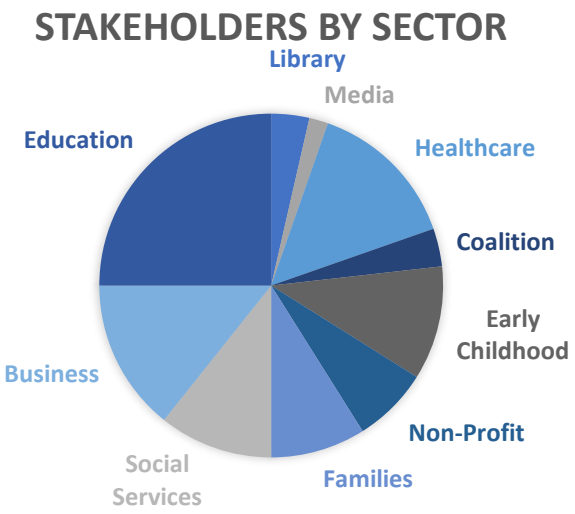
We envision a Lincoln County where all families with children ages 0-5 are valued, connected and empowered through community supported parenting (supported families.)

Zero to Five Lincoln County partners with a diverse group of agencies, organizations and community members to create a multi sector, county wide collaborative that is dedicated to promoting health and resiliency in families with young children. We are committed to a Lincoln County where all families and individuals with children ages 0-5 are valued, connected and empowered through community supported parenting. Together, we work to improve a child's first five years of life and to advocate for our county's youngest community members.

Collaborative Growth Over Time

- YR1-Q3 (4/1/19 – 6/30/19): 17 collaborative members
- YR1-Q4 (7/1/19 – 9/30/19): 31 collaborative members
- YR2-Q1 (10/1/2019 – 12/30/2019): **43 collaborative members**





Stakeholder engagement includes meetings to introduce the initiative, share updates, gather feedback, build partnerships, etc.

Other Engagement:

Participated in 35 **Outreach Events and Activities**

- Including but not limited to Community Conversations, Casa Presentation, Trunk or Treat, Troy Story Time, Farm to Market Ladies Night, Troy Apple Festival, Kootenai Rotary, Kootenai Kiwanis, Farmers Market, Eureka Resource Day, FIP Playgroup, Holiday HOPA outreach, Gratitude Project-Unite for Youth, and CARD Rally.

ZERO TO FIVE

for our children, for our future

January 2019: Resilient parenting is chosen as Lincoln County's focus. We like this focus because supported families can also include healthy pregnancy and school readiness.

May 2019: Lincoln County's new collaboration coordinator is hired.

September 2019: Our scope of work is adopted for 2020.

May 2019: Hired Local Collaboration Coordinator – Dorey Rowland

From May 2019 -now

Zero to Five Lincoln County works to establish a collaborative structure, to onboard a variety of stakeholders, and to outreach to families. This is done through a variety of activities listed below.

- Distributed 186 Hopa Mountain books – Hopa Mountain's StoryMakers Program strives to "share key messages about the importance of providing a nurturing home environment and encouraging positive talk, play, and interaction with babies and children in their earliest months and years of life." As a Community Team member, Zero to Five Lincoln County has had the pleasure of helping to provide 186 beautiful Hopa Mountain books along with "parent friendly child development information and book sharing ideas." Additionally, through a mutual love of reading and learning, this partnership provides us with an opportunity to engage with caregivers with young children while providing encouragement and support. In rural communities, access to services and opportunities is often limited. Together, we are committed to assuring that this amazing program is shared with young children in every corner of Lincoln County.

- Supplemented school supplies for kids ages 0-5 throughout the county in collaboration with Best Beginnings, Kootenai Kiwanis, CARD Clinic

- Firewood Distribution – Zero to Five collaborated with partners to distribute 10 cords of donated firewood to Zero to Five families.

- Zero to Five hosted a Collective Impact Event with 42 attendees representing a wide range of sectors throughout the county and from neighboring counties. Collective Impact is a framework for understanding and practicing complex collaboration and is being used throughout the nation and the world as a way to develop the capacity of people and organizations to work together.

SOLID WASTE & RECYCLING

Lincoln County's solid waste district is county wide and includes the towns of Eureka, Libby, Trego, Fortine, Stryker, Rexford, and Troy. There are transfer stations located near Eureka, Happy's Inn, and Troy where bulky items such as brush, tires, and furniture may be disposed of in addition to household refuse. There are 18 residential use green box sites dispersed throughout the county to allow for the disposal of refuse without having to travel long distances.

In 2019, the Libby Landfill received 56,658 visits from private vehicles and the Troy Landfill received 8,355 visits from private vehicles. These totals represent a slight decrease in traffic as compared to 2018.

Recycling: 361,094.5 lbs. (188.55 Tons)*

*this total only includes paper, aluminum cans, cardboard, and steel cans

LINCOLN COUNTY SOLID WASTE & RECYCLING

Lincoln County started a recycling program in 2011 to reduce the amount of landfilled materials. The landfill space saved and the corresponding increase in the lifespan of the landfill is the driving factor that was taken into consideration for the adoption of this program. The proceeds from the sale of aluminum cans are donated to dog and cat spay/neuter programs in Libby and Eureka.

Recycled materials in pounds (lbs.)

Geographic Area	PAPER	ALUMIUM CANS	STEEL CANS	CARDBOARD
Eureka	18151	4154	0	95360
Libby	17439	2237	2069	175412.5
Troy	208	2351	2306.5	41406.5
Totals	35798	8742	4375.5	312179

In addition to the above-named materials, the Lincoln County Solid Waste and Recycling district was also able to divert the following materials from the waste stream for recycling or landfilling elsewhere.

Used Motor Oil: 2720 Gallons of used oil was sent to the Troy Road department shop to be utilized in their oil heating system in Libby and 93 gallons was utilized by Big Sky Tire in Eureka.

Anti-Freeze: 300 Gallons were recycled through Tri-State recyclers.

CFC containing appliances: 815 refrigerators, freezers, and AC systems had the refrigerant removed by landfill staff for recycling by Johnstone Corporation in Missoula.

Batteries: 431 automotive and small equipment batteries for cores were bought for recycling by Interstate Battery Corporation of Spokane.

Scrap Metals: 815 tons of white goods were crushed and shipped for recycling by Pacific Steel and Recycling from the Libby and Eureka landfill sites.

Tires: 30 containers (approximately 12,750 tires) were diverted to the Greenwood Tire disposal facility in Flathead county.

Concrete: 883.75 Cubic Yards of concrete was deposited in the class IV cells in Libby, Troy, and Eureka.

Rechargeable Batteries: 207 lbs. of rechargeable batteries were sent to Call2Recycle.

E-Waste: 6,444 lbs. of e-waste was sent to Yellowstone Recycling Solutions.

Wood Waste

Green Wood Chips: approximately 21,200 Cubic Yards.

Demolition Wood: approximately 2,924 Cubic Yards.

We have contracted with the Lincoln County Port Authority to lease their tub-grinder and purchased a used excavator from Western States Caterpillar. The chips being produced are now being placed in five-foot lifts separated by a one-foot layer of soil in an unused portion of the Class IV landfill cell. We are layering them to promote decomposition so that we may be able to utilize them as cover later. We are still looking for alternate ways to utilize the chips produced from the operation. Some of the prior year's chips are stockpiled and mixed with incoming pressings from the wastewater treatment plant and yard waste for composting and future placement as a soil amendment for the final covering of the landfill cell.

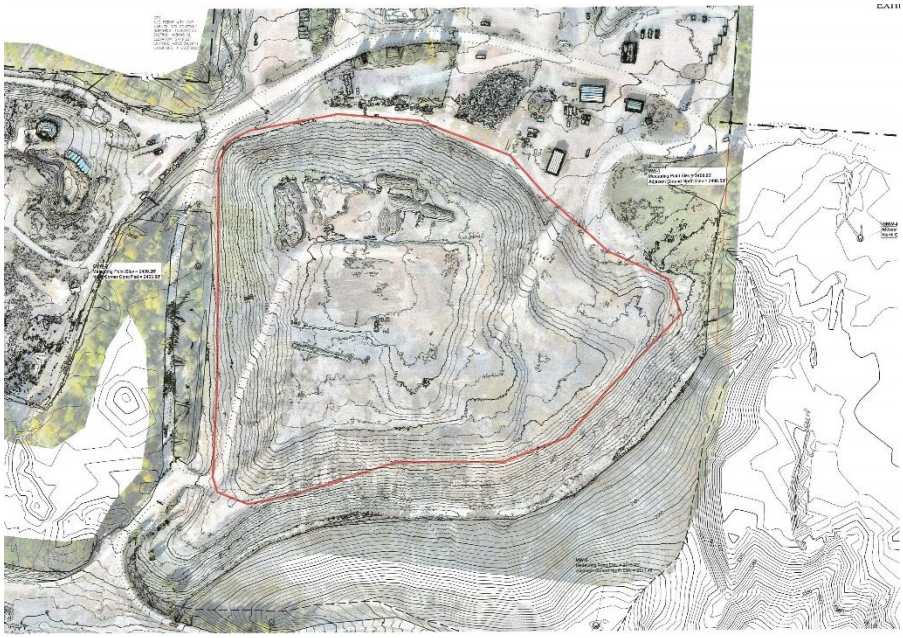
Wood chipping

Chronic Wasting Disease Disposal Operations

In 2019, CWD was detected in deer in the greater Libby area. The Solid Waste staff has been working with Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks to facilitate proper disposal of infected animal carcasses. We have been placing all deer, elk, and moose carcasses into a covered 4-yard bin to segregate them from other materials in the waste stream. We then place them into the garbage lift and cover them immediately.

Survey Data

The October 2019 survey data indicated that we had received approximately 32,000 cubic yards of compacted refuse and cover soil since October 2018. The survey also indicated that there is approximately 374,995 cubic yards of capacity remaining. We are currently working with Michael Fraser Consulting on the development of the landfill's expansion plan in conjunction with a long-term landfill operations plan.



Mobile Homes

The landfill accepted 10 mobile homes and travel trailers for demolition in 2019.

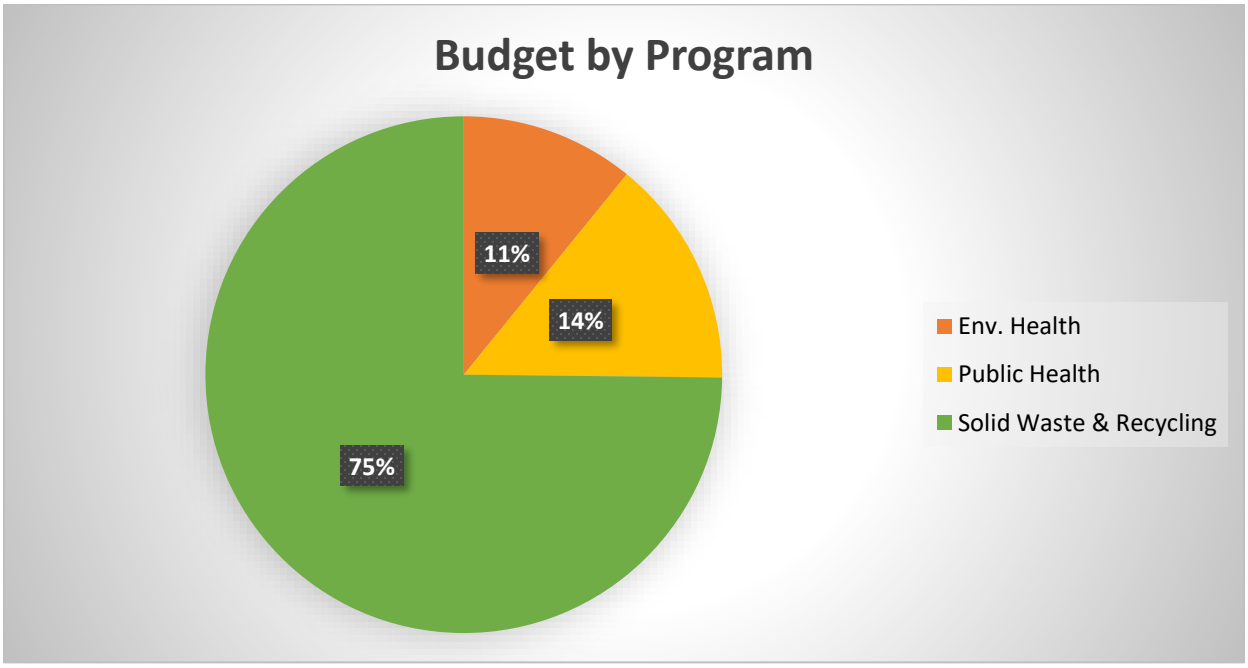
Class IV Asbestos Cell

The application to include the EPA class IV asbestos cell in the licensed Libby Landfill boundary was approved by Montana Department of Environmental Quality in December 2019. The Lincoln County Asbestos Resource Program will be charged with oversight of the cell while Solid Waste and Recycling personnel will be in control of day to day operations. An Operations and Maintenance plan is being drafted to detail procedures for disposal of asbestos containing materials in the cell.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

BUDGET

Fiscal Year 2018 – 2019



From July 2018 to June 2019 (FY19), the Lincoln County Health Department employed 23 people, including full time, part time and seasonal employees. Thirteen of these employees worked in Solid Waste and Recycling and the other 10 worked for Environmental Health and Public Health.

The Health Department works hard to utilize grants, contracts and other available funding sources to support our programs. The Solid Waste & Recycling budget is entirely supported through refuse assessment fees, landfill tipping fees and the sale of recyclable materials. All Environmental and Public Health programs are at least partially funded by grants, cooperative agreements, contracts and permit/license fees. In FY19, only 7% of the Health Department's annual budget was supported by local taxes through the county's General Fund.

The Health Department finished FY19 9% under budget, with an allocated budget of $2,229,724 and actual expenditures of $2,012,375.

Strategic Plan

In 2019, with funding support from Department of Public Health and Human Services, Office of System Improvement, Lincoln County Health Department completed its first ever strategic planning process. Our strategic plan resulted from a deliberate decision-making process and defined where our organization is going. The plan sets the direction for the Department and, through a common understanding of the mission, vision, goals and objectives, provides a template for all employees and stakeholders to make decisions that continue to move us forward.