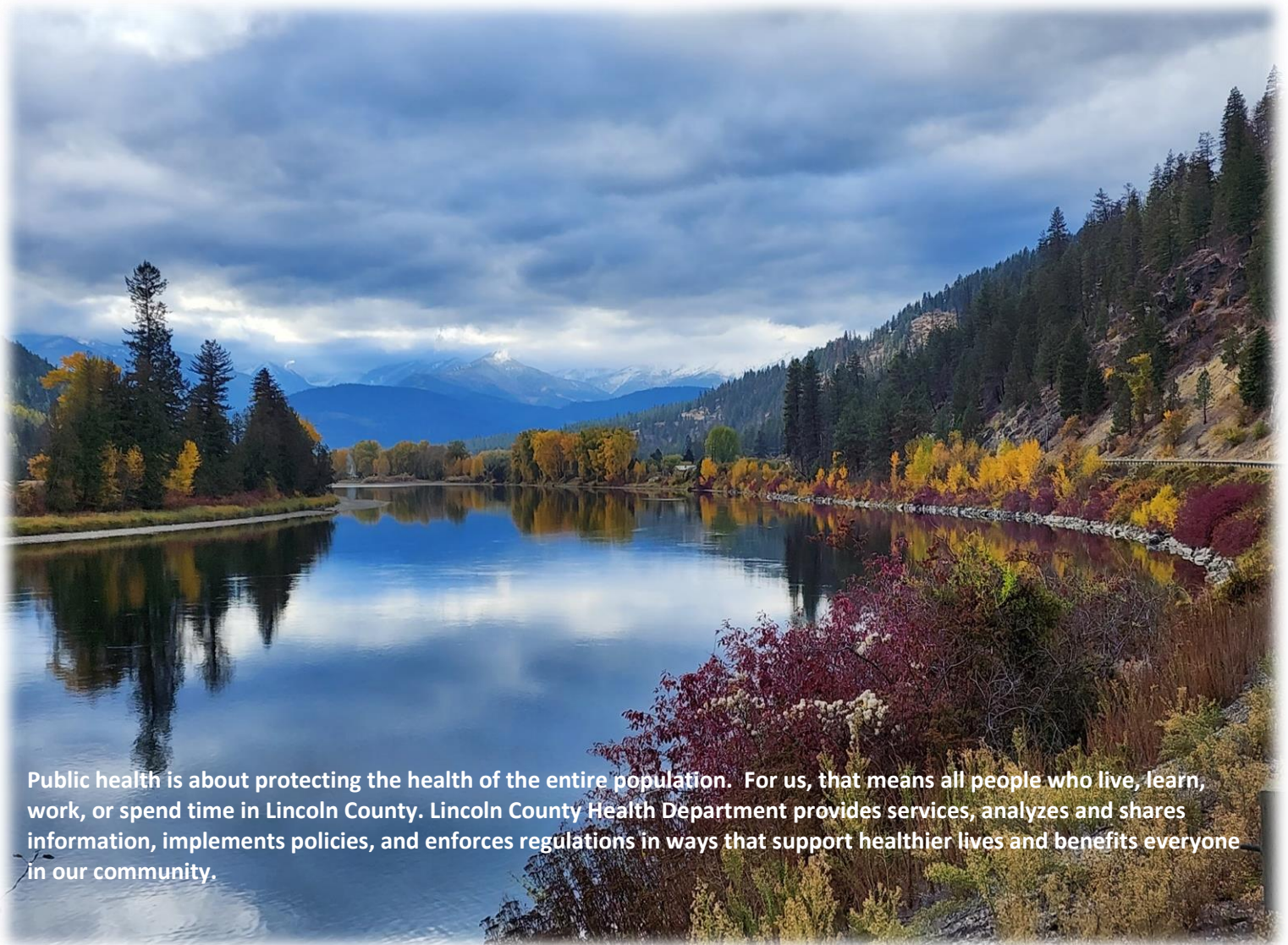




Lincoln County Health Department

Annual Report 2022



Public health is about protecting the health of the entire population. For us, that means all people who live, learn, work, or spend time in Lincoln County. Lincoln County Health Department provides services, analyzes and shares information, implements policies, and enforces regulations in ways that support healthier lives and benefits everyone in our community.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & PLANNING

Air Quality

As a preventative measure and as part of State funded program, Lincoln County Environmental Health routinely monitors air quality for PM_{2.5} levels, regulates

outdoor burning, responds to air quality complaints, and produces guidance and messaging for the general public. For compliance issues and violations related to air quality, environmental health staff utilize educational opportunities before issuing citations. With this in mind, 14 notices of violations and no citations were issued in 2022.

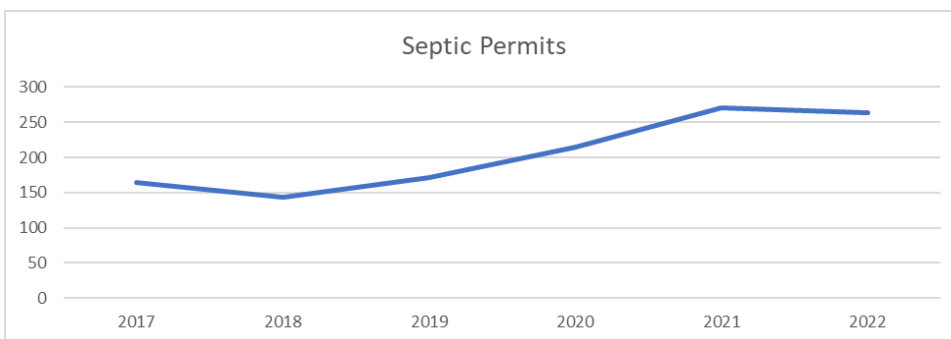
In 2022, Lincoln County adopted a new platform for administering burn permits and while hectic at first, the overall turnout was a great success. Various Lincoln County stakeholders including those involved in fire management and air quality control worked with NIC Montana to roll out an online burn permitting system that has greatly increased accessibility to the general public and will likely reduce logistical complications for health department staff moving forward. Customers can obtain a burn permit from the comfort of their own homes and with the addition of an activation step and a GIS component within the online portal, regulators can identify active burns in real-time. The table above displays the work that has been done in 2022 for the air quality program in Lincoln County.

Air Quality	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
Woodstove Permits	0	0	0	0	1	2
AQ Citations	0	0	2	1	4	2
Burn Permits	852	~800	838	664	706	580
Management Burn Permits	29	32	22	9	9	6
Landfill Burns	2	2	2	2	2	3
AQ Alerts	1	0	0	1	1	1

Sanitation



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 (septic) systems and ground water sources for compliance with state and local regulations. We contract with Montana Department of Environmental Quality (MT DEQ) to conduct state reviews and review Certificates of Subdivision Approval for MT DEQ to issue to developers and property owners. 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. 257 septic permits were issued in 2022.



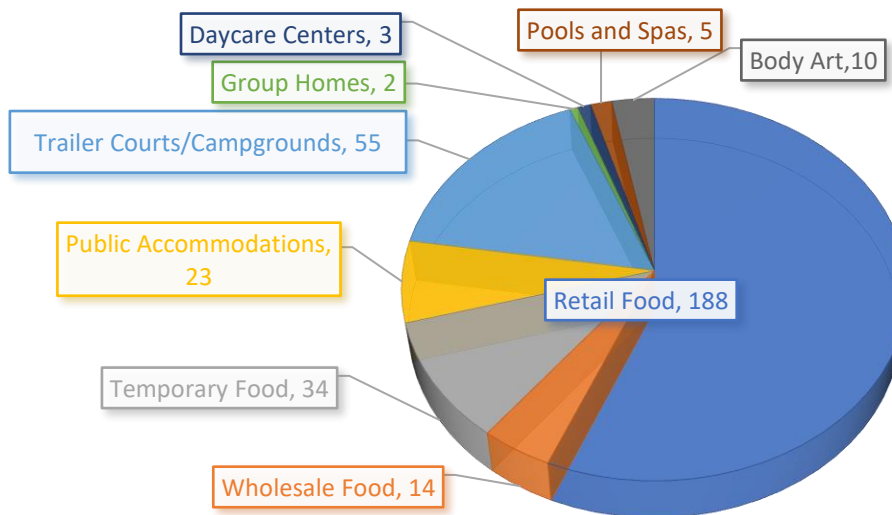
Planning

Lincoln County Planning seeks to effectively improve the health, safety, and quality of life for all Lincoln County residents through active involvement in community and economic development, natural resource use, and land-use planning. The primary responsibilities of Lincoln County Planning include assisting in all facets of long-range community planning and subdivision review, in promotion of sustainable future land development and use. We administer all land-use planning functions at a local government level and prepare 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 protection regulations.



Food and Consumer Safety

In collaboration with the Montana Department of Health and Human Services Food and Consumer Safety Section, Lincoln County Environmental Health licenses and inspects a variety of businesses including retail and wholesale food, public accommodations, trailer courts/campgrounds, and body art facilities. Additionally, Lincoln County Environmental Health works in partnership with other sections of the Montana Department of Health and Human Services to provide inspections of daycare facilities and group homes. These inspection services are often routine for preexisting businesses but can also include reopening, complaint response, illness investigation, and follow-ups to ensure compliance. The chart below provides a breakdown of the statistics surrounding the inspection program based on the business type, including pool and spa inspections which are performed by the Department of Health and Human Services.



Retail and Wholesale Food: These types of establishments make up the majority of inspections and licensing performed by Lincoln County Environmental Health. Establishments that fall into this category include food manufacturers, full-service restaurants, temporary food events, and other food purveyors operating in a retail setting. Lincoln County Environmental Health performs licensing/permitting and risk-based inspections for these establishments at least once annually and if necessary, by complaint and/or follow-up. By performing these activities and taking an educational approach, health staff aim to ensure a safe environment for restaurants and their patrons.

Community Food Safety Trainings: The educational component of this program extends past on-site visits as Lincoln County Environmental Health offers Certified Food Protection Manager training at least twice per year. This training provides our operators with the tools necessary to keep food safe and our community healthy. ServSafe is the company most widely recognized for this certification and is the company used by County Health to provide these classes to the public. In 2022, health staff administered 46 ServSafe tests across two classes and recertifications with 41 passing students. For those that did not pass, health staff utilized additional education to ensure that the students understood the material and so that certifications were received via additional testing.



FDA Grants and Voluntary Standards: Lincoln County Health Department is continuously looking for alternative routes of funding to help improve our programs. During the 2022 grant cycle for the Voluntary National Retail Food Regulatory Program Standards, Lincoln County Environmental Health applied and received approval for two grants geared toward the completion of an updated self-assessment and a Comprehensive Strategic Improvement Plan. Both tasks were completed ahead of schedule and grants were awarded in the amount of \$8,640.90. The 2023 grant cycle opened toward the end of 2022 and health staff applied for 2 additional grants for continued improvement and compliance with the Voluntary Standards and training opportunities for health staff including attendance of the 2023 AEC Conference. The total awarded amount upon project completion for the 2023 grant cycle equates to \$10,000.

Other Licensed Establishments: Other licensed and inspected establishments under the purview of Lincoln County Environmental Health include trailer courts/campgrounds, body art facilities, and public accommodations. The services surrounding these establishments follow a similar pattern as retail and wholesale food in that a risk-based approach is utilized during review and inspection processes.

Kennel Licensing

Thirteen dog kennels were licensed in Lincoln County during 2022. Through licensing, we inspect kennels to ensure that dogs are up-to-date on their rabies vaccinations and being raised in healthy and safe conditions. The definition of “kennel” is “Any household or establishment where five (5) or more dogs are kept and maintained exclusively in that kennel, two (2) or more unaltered dogs are kept for the purpose of breeding, or dogs are offered for sale, trade, profit, or barter. All animal rescue organizations, animal shelters and boarding facilities are also deemed to be kennels no matter the number of dogs onsite at any given time.”



Litter & Junk Vehicles



Lincoln County operates a Junk Vehicle Recycling Program that provides free hauling of junk vehicles through a grant from the Montana Department of Environmental Quality. In 2022, 69 junk vehicles were hauled to the county’s junk vehicle graveyard at the Libby Landfill for recycling. A portion of this grant was utilized for hauling and disposal of boats, campers, trailers and junk/unlivable mobile homes. Thirty-three junk mobile homes were disposed of in 2022!

Lincoln County Environmental Health received 24 complaints of litter, community decay, and/or junk vehicles in 2022. Five of the complaints were resolved and compliance plans were received for an additional three properties. At the end of 2022, the remaining complaints were still in process or referred to the County Attorney for court action.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Immunizations

The Public Health Nurse provides all required and recommended adult and childhood immunizations for both insured and uninsured individuals and families at our offices in Eureka and Libby, including seasonal vaccines such as influenza and the pneumonia series. Public Health continues to offer select travel vaccinations and education for people traveling internationally. The nurse travels all over the county to deliver vaccines to all residents that want them. This year, over 50 mobile influenza clinics were offered.

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
COVID-19	-	-	-	-	9,801	1,357
Influenza	509	534	508	623	747	695
Other	452	622	485	191	156	343
Total Immunizations	961	1,165	993	814	10,704	2395

Other Nursing Services

- Lead tests at Troy, Eureka, and Libby Headstart
- CPR and First Aid by American Heart Association
 - 32 teens in Troy
 - 22 others
- Troy School Nurse
- Certified Lactation Consultant
- Health Fair
- CARD Rally
- Trained as Botvin instructor
- Implemented CureMD electronic health record
- Registration for school, offered vaccines for Troy, Libby, Eureka
- Participated in Health Advisory for FIP
- CPT/Foster Care Review



Communicable Disease

Lincoln County Health Department's public health team is responsible for monitoring communicable diseases and foodborne illnesses that are reportable to the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services.

Communicable diseases, also known as infectious diseases, are illnesses that result from the infection, presence, and growth of pathogenic (capable of causing disease) biological 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	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
2019 Novel Coronavirus	1886	2613	1176	-	-	-	-	-
Campylobacteriosis	16	3	0	7	5	3	8	6
Chlamydia	26	40	22	41	51	53	60	38
Cholera	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Coccidioidomycosis	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
Cryptosporidiosis	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0
Giardiasis	1	0	0	3	4	1	2	0
Gonorrhea	6	3	8	2	6	2	3	4
Haemophilus influenzae	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Hepatitis A, acute	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
Hepatitis B, acute	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Hepatitis B, chronic	0	0	0	1	0	2	1	0
Hepatitis C, acute	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
Hepatitis C, chronic	17	16	8	24	40	25	20	19
Influenza	351	1	332	273	154	106	65	191
Influenza hospitalization	8	0	8	2	10	9	1	4
Lead poisoning	7	1	0	0	2	1	3	0
Lyme Disease	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0
Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Mumps	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Pertussis	0	0	0	0	10	13	0	4
Q Fever	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Salmonellosis	5	2	2	3	2	3	1	1
Shiga toxin-producing e. Coli (STEC)	1	0	0	3	4	0	1	0
Shigellosis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Spotted Fever Rickettsiosis	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
Streptococcus pneumoniae	3	3	0	2	0	1	0	1
Syphilis	2	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tuberculosis	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Varicella	3	0	0	0	1	4	0	4
Vibriosis	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Total:	2336	2692	1559	369	292	227	171	275

Rabies post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP)

Lincoln County Health Department evaluates all animal bites for risk of exposure to rabies. After extensive risk exposure assessment and coordination with animal control to assess the availability of the animal, PEP may be recommended for the victim. The following chart is the number of times PEP was recommended, not how many times PEP was given.

	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
PEP Recommendations	7	6	12	6	6	1	4	0

Tobacco Prevention



Lincoln County's Tobacco Prevention Specialist (TPS), through affiliation with the Montana Tobacco Use Prevention Program (MTUPP), works collaboratively with diverse local organizations and community members to promote tobacco free lifestyles and policies to achieve the goals of decreasing tobacco use, nicotine addiction, and secondhand smoke exposure in Lincoln County.

To increase public awareness and support of tobacco use prevention and cessation, TPS shared information by submitting press releases and ads to local media outlets; conducted presentations to professional groups, decision makers, students, and the public, and participated in local events. TPS offered support, resources and signage to local businesses and organizations to educate about secondhand smoke and the Montana Clean Indoor Air Act.

TPS assisted local organizations, agencies, and businesses with the development and implementation of policies that support tobacco use prevention and continued to work with local schools and youth groups to engage students in youth advocacy activities in the schools and community. TPS worked to promote tobacco cessation and the many services of the Montana Tobacco Quit Lines; The Montana Quit Line Program, Pregnancy & Post-Partum Program, American Indian Commercial Tobacco Quit Line, and My Life My Quit Program for youths under the age of 18.



MONTANA TOBACCO



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 is a multi-sector, county-wide collaborative working together with a variety of partners, agencies, and community members to make a positive impact in the lives of families with young children. We strive for a county in which all families with young children are valued, connected, and empowered because we believe that “every kid in every corner of Lincoln County counts.”



We are:

Collaborators: We work together as a collaborative to improve outcomes for families with young children by sharing our ideas, our energy, and our resources. Together, we are better.

Conveners: We bring partners, community members, families, parents, and caregivers together to support families with young children. We facilitate monthly collaborative meetings, host a variety of events and gatherings, and offer a wide range of training opportunities.

Connectors: We connect partners and families to a variety of resources and supports. Whether we are connecting partners to each other, families to information, or caregivers to other caregivers, we strive to cultivate relationships that are welcoming, inclusive, and meaningful.

Initiators: We co-create with local and statewide partners to expand new opportunities for families. These opportunities include playgroups, special events, and engagement opportunities.

Builders: We invest in, build, and improve our local early childhood systems by providing technical support, by offering opportunities to build capacity, and by developing sustainable solutions.

Enhancers: We work together to enhance already existing opportunities by providing extra support and additional resources. Whether it is offering staff support at an event or providing supplies and equipment for a project, we add value.

Cheerleaders: We speak up for kids. We advocate for families with young children by placing them at the center of our work and by elevating family voice. We participate in a variety of community processes to assure that early childhood stakeholders are represented.



- **13 Kid's Corner at the Market** events throughout Lincoln County- **660** participations
- **26 Learn and Play** events in Trego- **57** unique kids served.
- **17 Family Strong** playgroup events in Eureka-**336** participations
- **390** kids enrolled (includes active and graduated) with more than **3300** books distributed via *Dolly Parton's Imagination Library* in collaboration with Lincoln County Libraries
- **107** subscribers (**153** children) enrolled in Bright by Text
- Holiday Helpers- supported several agencies with holiday giving programs including Our Kids, CHC Giving Tree, CASA, Families in Partnership, Big Hearts & Open Arms, Troy Giving Program, Tree Lighting, TFS Community Hall, Shop with a Cop
- Supported a variety of programs and events -- TLOC, Newborn Welcome Baskets (CPMC), 1000 Books Before Kindergarten, Child Find events, Student Stand Down, Trunk or Treat, Car Seats, Lactation Support
- **580** school packs distributed throughout Lincoln County (The Nurturing Center)



- Week of the Young Child
- Resource Provision-- SUD Grant, LIFTS Website, Ongoing Systems Coordination
- Trainings—Capacity and Sustainability, CPR, How to Run a Great Program (MNA)



SOLID WASTE & RECYCLING

Lincoln County Solid Waste (LCSW) serves the whole of Lincoln County and includes the towns of Eureka, Libby, Trego, Fortine, Stryker, Rexford, and Troy. In addition to the Class II landfill in Libby, there are Class III landfills in Eureka and Troy, and a transfer station located near Happy's Inn, where bulky items such as brush, tires, and furniture may be disposed of in addition to residential household refuse. There are 16 residential use and 23 specific use green box sites dispersed throughout the county to allow for the disposal of residential household refuse without having to travel long distances.



In 2022, the landfills in Lincoln County received a total of 87,573 user visits.

- The Libby Landfill received 58,645 visits from private vehicles (a 12% decrease from 2021)
- The Troy Landfill received 7,549 visits from private vehicles (a 2% decrease from 2021)
- The Eureka Landfill received 21,379 visits from private vehicles (a 7% increase from 2021)

The annual Libby Class II landfill survey indicated that we received 49,561 cubic yards. This is a 4% decrease compared to the 2021 total. The survey data indicates that there is approximately 231,612 cubic yards, or 4.9 years, of space remaining in the current landfill cell.

Recycling:

To reduce the volume of landfilled materials, Lincoln County encourages recycling. Recycling revenue does not translate into a direct profit, as costs often exceed the profits from the sale of materials, but recycling conserves landfill space and landfill space is valuable! 2022 recycling totals exceeded 1,200 TONS!

Paper	16,074.5 pounds
Aluminum Cans	10,052.5 pounds
Steel Cans	1,977 pounds
Cardboard	403,826 pounds
Used Motor Oil	2,390 gallons
Anti-Freeze	450 gallons
Scrap Metal	1,062.71 tons
Tires	20,400 tires
Rechargeable Batteries	657 pounds
Automotive Batteries	552 batteries
E-Waste	4,382 pounds

Landfill Improvements



Lincoln County Solid Waste purchased an air curtain burner to help process wood waste while protecting our air quality. Landfill staff were trained in the safe and efficient operation and maintenance of the burner by a representative of the manufacturer in a two-day hands-on session at the Libby Landfill. This burner was purchased with grant funds.

In 2022, the new Caterpillar 938M loader arrived at the Libby landfill to replace the aging Caterpillar 938H loader that was moved to Eureka along with the snowplow. The Eureka landfill staff had been plowing with the bucket on the old 938G loader that will be re-located to the Troy landfill after repairs to the transmission are completed. The 936F loader in Troy will be relocated to the Happy's Inn dumpster site so that landfill staff can push the wood pile and maintain the site. Currently we contract out those services as needed.



A new recycling container site for oil and anti-freeze was constructed by the Troy Road district personnel after the pouring of a concrete containment structure. The oil is taken to the Troy Road Department shop to supply their used oil burner and the Anti-freeze is recycled through Tri-State Recycling.

Expansion

With less than five years of space remaining in the current landfill cell, it is time to plan for expansion of the Class II landfill in Libby. Great West engineering was selected to provide engineering services for this project.

After getting preliminary approval from Montana DEQ for the proposed expansion area, LCSW contracted with Yellowjacket Drilling to drill two groundwater monitoring wells, two gas monitoring probes, three soil borings, and decommissioned an existing gas probe. At the same time, Great West's hydrologist and landfill staff excavated 14 soil test pits for soil characterization.

Construction of the new cell is scheduled to be completed in 2025.



In late spring of 2022, LCSW contracted for a timber sale at the Libby Landfill to clear the proposed expansion area. Landfill staff completed the clearing by removing the stumps and brush piles in preparation of characterization of the underlying soils of the proposed Class II expansion area.



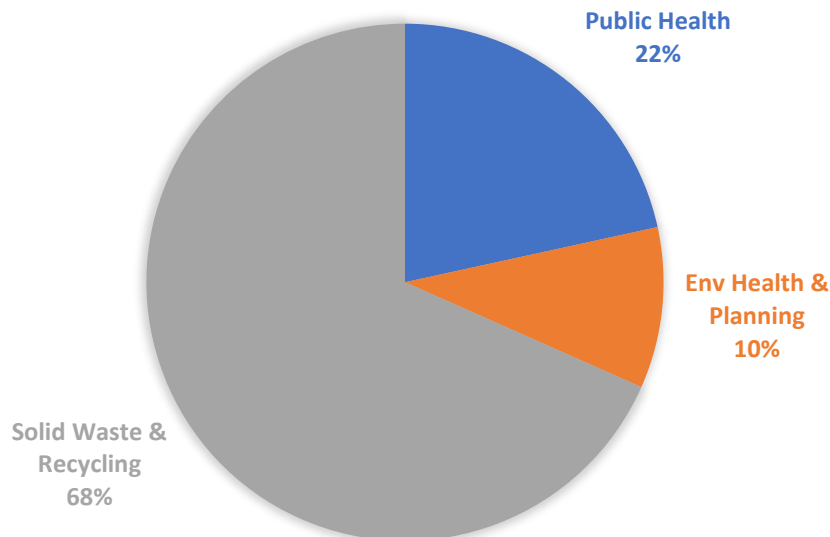
LINCOLN COUNTY
SOLID WASTE
& RECYCLING

BUDGET

From July 2021 to June 2022 (FY22), 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, four worked in Environmental Health and Planning, and six worked in 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 FY22, less than 9% of the Health Department's annual budget was supported by local taxes through the county's General Fund.

The Environmental and Public Health programs finished FY22 at 3% under budget, with actual expenditures of \$909,477.19. Due to high fuel costs, Solid Waste and Recycling revised its projected budget mid-year and finished FY22 with actual expenditures of \$1,964,405.86. The chart below shows the percentage of the Health Department budget allocated to each program:



American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

In 2022, the Health Department was awarded ARPA grant funds for various projects, including:

- Landfill Expansion:
 - \$2,000,000 ARPA Competitive Grant
 - \$1,000,000 ARPA Minimum Allocation Grant
 - \$900,000 ARPA Direct Allocation Grant
- Air Curtain Burner - \$185,000 ARPA Direct Allocation Grant
- Mobile Resource Van - \$95,000 ARPA Direct Allocation Grant
- Electronic Health Record System - \$20,000 ARPA Direct Allocation Grant
- Online Resource Guide - \$5,000 ARPA Direct Allocation Grant
- Online Inspection and Permitting System - \$50,000 ARPA Direct Allocation Grant
- Performance Management System - \$3,000 ARPA Direct Allocation Grant

ARPA funds are available to spend through 2024 and were not included in the FY22 budget.

Lincoln County Health Department

Mission: Our mission is to promote a healthy and resilient Lincoln County through collaborative leadership and community involvement.

Vision: A unified, thriving and vibrant Lincoln County

Values:

We believe in:

- Collaborating with community members and organizations to develop and promote a health culture.
- Advocating for a healthy and safe environment.
- Empowering our employees to pursue personal and professional growth.
- Providing fair, honest, and quality service

