

DIVISION OF CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
STATE OF MONTANA

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To: Interim Budget Committee Section D
From: Steve Crawford, Narcotics Bureau Chief
Date: December 6, 2021
Ref: Drug Task Force Funding Streams and Interagency Cooperation Overview

During the Interim Budget Committee Section D meeting held on September 15, 2021, the members were briefed on current drug trends and criminal issues occurring in Montana. As a follow up for the next meeting, the committee asked for an overview of drug task force funding sources for the state. Specifically, the following information was requested from the Division of Criminal Investigation.

- *How much funding does the national High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area program contribute to Montana?*
- *How much funding is provided to Montana drug task forces through the Montana Board of Crime Control?*
- *How does the Montana Division of Criminal Investigation interact with all local drug task forces?*

Summary

In Montana, there are six multi-jurisdictional drug task forces (DTF's) that currently receive grant monies through the Montana Board of Crime Control (MBCC) which originate from the federal Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (Byrne-JAG) program. In 2020, MBCC awarded just over \$809,000 total to these drug task forces* through this program.

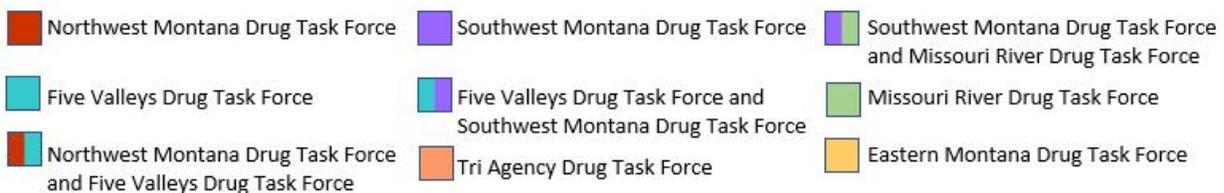
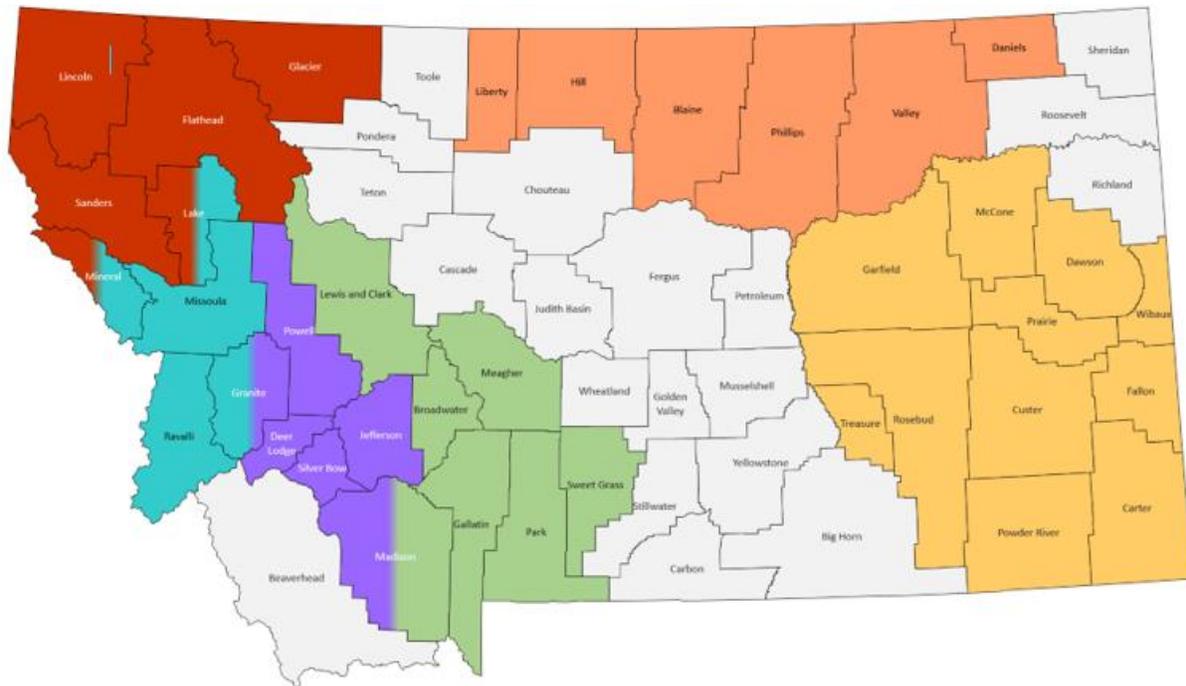
There are six High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) initiatives that receive funds from Rocky Mountain HIDTA (RMHIDTA). Five of these initiatives are HIDTA Task Forces and one is the criminal interdiction program with the Montana Highway Patrol (MHP). Three of the multi-jurisdictional drug task forces that receive MBCC Byrne-JAG funds are also part of the HIDTA program. RMHIDTA is based in Denver, Colorado and serves a four-state region consisting of Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, and Utah. RMHIDTA awards approximately \$1.1 million annually^ to the initiatives in Montana; source funding is obtained through the Office of National Drug Policy (ONDCP).

The Montana Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI) Narcotics Bureau is actively engaged with most of the multi-jurisdictional drug task forces in the state, administering two of the DTF's and embedded with three others. DCI is also embedded with, or formally a member of, the majority of the HIDTA Task Forces around the state as well as the MHP Criminal Interdiction Program.

*Source Montana Board of Crime Control

^ Source RMHIDTA

Montana Byrne-JAG Funded Multi-Jurisdictional Drug Task Forces



There are currently six multi-jurisdictional drug task forces that receive Byrne-JAG grant funding through the Montana Board of Crime Control (MBCC). These drug task forces are comprised of city, county, and state agents, National Guard Counterdrug analysts, and agency civilian support staff.

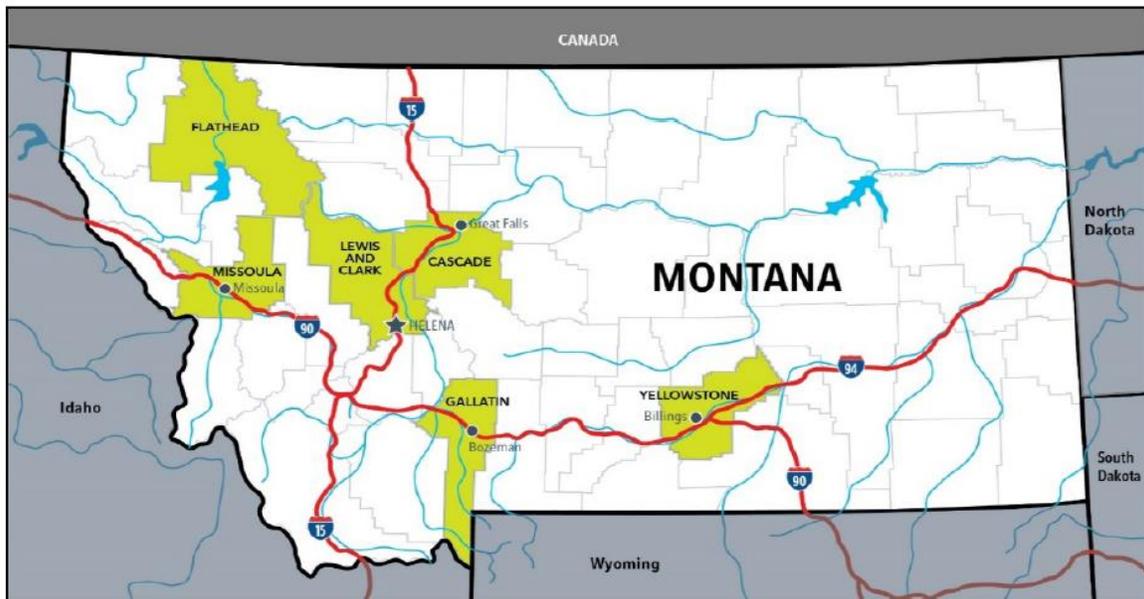
Three of these drug task forces are also a part of the RMHIDTA program covered in the next section of this overview, (Northwest, Missoula, and Missouri River).

DTF Name	Administering Agency
• Northwest Drug Task Force	Flathead County Sheriff's Office
• Missouri River Drug Task Force	Gallatin County Sheriff's Office
• Five Valleys Drug Task Force	Missoula County Sheriff's Office
• Tri-Agency Drug Task Force	Havre Police Department
• Southwest Drug Task Force	Montana Division of Criminal Investigation
• Eastern Montana Drug Task Force	Montana Division of Criminal Investigation

In 2020, MBCC awarded approximately \$809,401 total to these drug task forces through this program. The awards require a match from the participating agencies. The awards ranged from approximately \$61,628 up to \$223,962*.

*Source Montana Board of Crime Control

Montana High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Task Forces



Montana HIDTA Task Forces

The Rocky Mountain HIDTA (RMHIDTA) awards funding to five HIDTA drug task forces as well as the Montana Highway Patrol Interdiction program. They bring together federal, state, and local law enforcement personnel to disrupt and dismantle drug trafficking organizations (DTOs) and money laundering organizations (MLOs) engaged in drug trafficking to, through, and from Montana.

Current RMHIDTA initiatives in Montana:

- Eastern Montana Drug Task Force HIDTA – Billings / Yellowstone County
- Missoula County Drug Task Force HIDTA – Missoula / Missoula County
- Missouri River Drug Task Force HIDTA – Gallatin / Lewis and Clark Counties
- Northwest Drug Task Force HIDTA – Flathead County
- Russell Country Drug Task Force HIDTA – Great Falls / Cascade County
- Criminal Interdiction Program – Montana Highway Patrol (MHP)

The annual award for each HIDTA Task Force varies based on their size and award application. The average annual awards range from approximately \$54,000 for the interdiction program to approximately \$245,000 for one of the larger HIDTA's.

Annually, RMHIDTA funds approximately \$1.1 million total for the six (6) RMHIDTA initiatives[^].

[^] Source RMHIDTA

Montana Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI) Narcotics Bureau

And the Multi-Jurisdictional Drug Task Forces

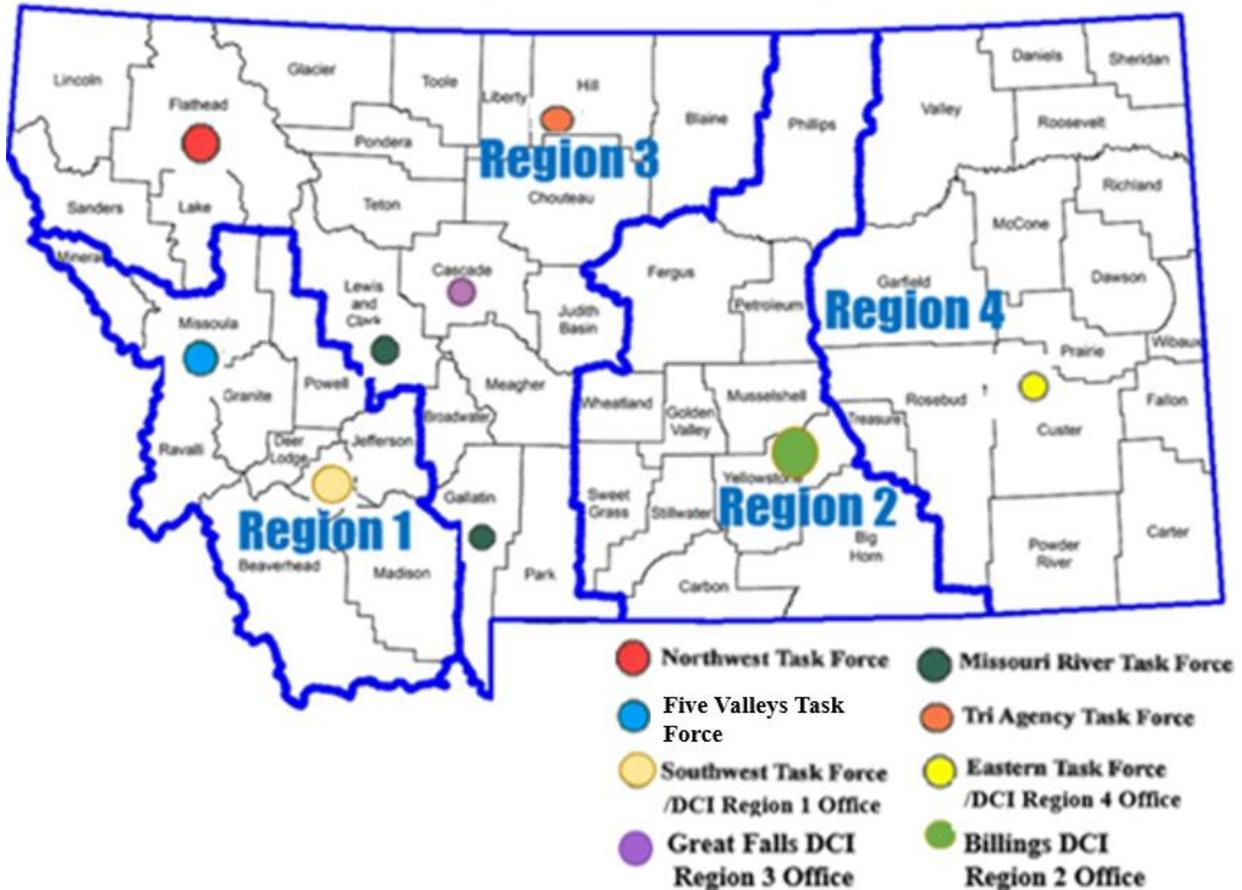
Montana DCI Narcotics Bureau administers two of the previously noted drug task forces: Southwest Drug Task Force in Butte and Eastern Montana Drug Task Force in Miles City.

In addition to overseeing two of the drug task forces, DCI Agents are embedded with Northwest Drug Task Force, Missouri River Drug Task Force, and Missoula.

Montana DCI also has regional offices in Great Falls and Billings that, in addition to working with partners in those cities, also serve the surrounding rural counties in the respective regions.

Montana DCI has agents assigned to work as a part of the MHP Criminal Interdiction Team, the Northwest Drug Task Force HIDTA, Missoula HIDTA, Missouri River HIDTA, and the Billings Eastern Montana HIDTA.

Montana DCI agents also assist local agencies regardless of whether they are members of a task force or HIDTA.



Montana DCI Narcotics Regions and Multi-Jurisdictional Drug Task Forces