



118 E. Seventh St.; Suite 2A * Anaconda, MT * 59711
 406.563.5259 info@medamembers.org
<http://www.medamembers.org>

It is MEDA's privilege to submit this report for the current contract to the Governor's Office of Economic Development, Montana Department of Commerce, Montana Department of Labor and Industry and Montana BEAR Team participants regarding Business Expansion and Retention (BEAR) Program activity in the state. The following is a summary of MEDA BEAR activities as provided for in the Scope of Work under Amended Contract MT-MEDA-ED-12-01 for the month of January 2015.

ACTIVITY REPORT FOR JANUARY 2015

2014 BEAR ANNUAL REPORT

The [Annual Report for Montana BEAR Team](#) activity is now available for 2014. Take a few moments and see what the 296 businesses visited by our BEAR Teams shared about doing business in Montana. Thanks to our amazing Montana BEAR Teams for over-the-top work!

IWT Reminder: Chris Wilhelm reported in December that the program has officially granted all available funding. Chris said applications can still be submitted but they will be placed in the queue and funding is not guaranteed. The queue process allows Chris to re-grant funding that is released from grantees when they do not use their entire allowable grant.

Great News: Those who have conducted IWT grants do *not* need to enter a follow-up survey into ExecutivePulse. MT Dept. of Labor is able to extract the data they need to learn if the grant impacted wages and/or resulted in business expansion. Hooray!

Data Highlights for January

- There were 10 BEAR Retention Visits held in January.
- Counties with retention visits: Flathead – 3, Gallatin – 6, Park – 1.
- Action Items: Gallatin County had 17 Action Items in January; Flathead County recorded 3. These numbers reflect Action Items that were conducted for businesses across Montana, meaning a Bear Team member made a referral or conducted an activity to assist a business.

January Outreach Specialist Visits and Business Updates

The following BEAR Team members completed Business Retention Surveys and/or update reports for the businesses they have contacted.

Mike Jackson – 3	Meagan Lannan - 1
Warren Vaughan - 6	Chris Parson - 2

In 2015

BEAR Teams can take advantage of the lull in IWT Grants by focusing on larger businesses in Montana and establishing relationships to determine any expansion or retention needs. Thank you for taking advantage of this opportunity!