

Montana FSA Reorganization Plan

Park County Profile

1) Proposed Consolidation

It is proposed that the Park County Office at Livingston, Montana be closed and the workload and staff consolidated into the Gallatin County Office in Bozeman, Montana.

2) General Description of County

Park is a small one-person shared management office in Livingston with approximately 140 active FSA clients. Park is a medium sized county in south central Montana with 80% of its land in pasture and woodlands and slightly over 18% in cropland. Park ranks 38th in livestock production and 39 in small grains production. Park had 119 DCP and 48 CRP contracts in 2005.

2) County Statistics

- Number of producers 151 Percent of State .3%
- Producer Payments \$919,282 Percent of State .26%
- Number of employees 1

(Note: Number of Producers and payments derived from 2005 CCC-1099 data)

- Cost to benefits ratio .141

(Note: This represents the administrative cost in dollars to deliver one dollars worth of benefits in the county office)

3) Destination County: Gallatin County (Bozeman)

- Bozeman is 27 miles from the Park County (Livingston) FSA office
- Workload - Due to the distances from other FSA county offices it is anticipated the majority of the producers will travel to the Gallatin Office for FSA programs
- Employees – there is one employee assigned to the Livingston office. That employee will be reassigned to the Gallatin County office.

4) Makeup of Receiving County

The receiving office (Bozeman, Gallatin County), upon implementation of the plan will be composed of one 3-5 member Area Committee, one County Executive Director and 3 Program Technicians.

5) Travel impact on producers

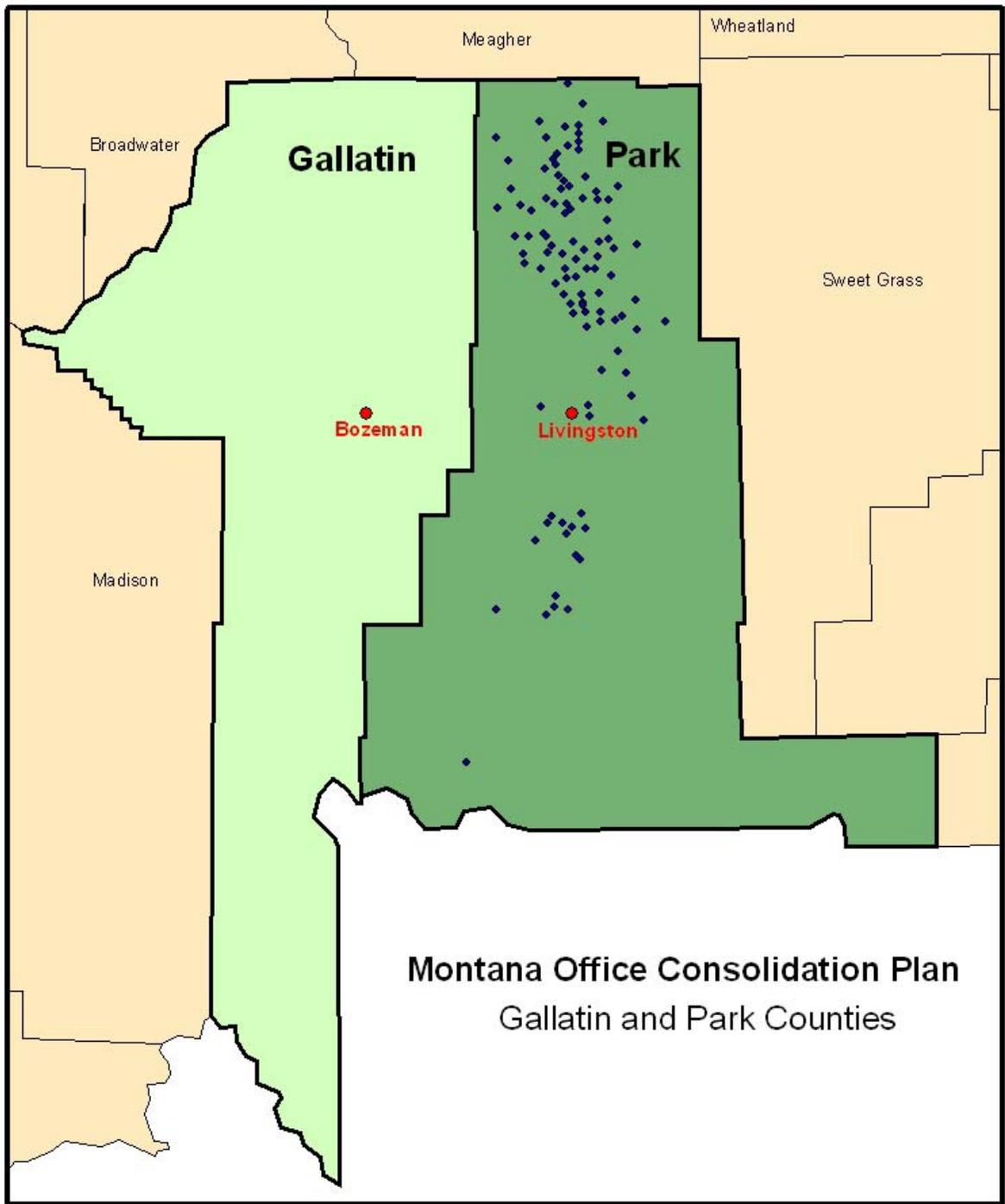
- Included is a map of the proposed combination to include Park and Gallatin Counties. The map shows the approximate number and locations of producers in Park County. . Producer numbers on this map may be different than the producer numbers above, due to using 2001-2006 as the base years for this figure. This will include all producers visiting the office, and would also include EQIP and disaster applications. FSA no longer has responsibility for EQIP.
- The Gallatin office is 27 miles from the Park office. Most of these producers would travel an additional 27 miles on an interstate highway to the Gallatin office. Some

in the Northern end of the county may chose to use secondary roads into the Gallatin office that would cut the additional miles down significantly.

6) Specialized Service Needs/Outreach

An integral part of the Montana FSA Reorganization Plan is to streamline or change business practices focused at requiring less visits, on the part of the producer, to the county office to do business with FSA. These changes will be implemented in all counties within the state with the intent to make participation for all producers easier and more efficient. In addition to those initiatives, FSA will reach out to communities where the closure of an office burdens producers with excessive distances to travel to the nearest FSA office. This outreach effort may include, sign-up meetings where the producer will be able to signup with an FSA official in the producer's own community, informational meeting in the outlying communities, office days in the outlying communities during implementation of the plan, or 1-800 numbers installed in the FSA office.

One of the focuses of the public meetings to be held will be to solicit ideas from producers how FSA can best meet their needs on an ongoing basis.



Map Created on February 21, 2007.