

## Montana FSA Reorganization Plan

### Treasure County Profile

#### 1) Proposed Consolidation

It is proposed that the Treasure County Office at Hysham, Montana be closed and the workload and staff consolidated into the Rosebud County Office in Forsyth, Montana.

#### 2) General Description of County

Treasure is a small two-person shared management office in Hysham with approximately 83 active FSA clients. It is a small sized county in eastern Montana with 93% of its farmland in pasture and 6% devoted to cropland. Treasure ranks 33<sup>rd</sup> in livestock production and 35<sup>th</sup> in small grains production. Treasure had 120 DCP and 8 CRP contracts in 2005.

#### 2) County Statistics

- Number of producers 101                      Percent of State .4%
- Producer Payments \$1,369,892              Percent of State .39%
- Number of employees 2

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

- Cost to benefits ratio .130

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

#### 3) Destination County: Rosebud County (Forsyth)

- Forsyth is 29 miles from the Treasure County (Hysham) FSA office
- Workload - Due to the distances from other FSA county offices it is anticipated the majority of the producers will travel to the Forsyth Office for FSA programs
- Employees – there are two employees assigned to the Hysham office. Those employees will be reassigned to the Forsyth County office.

#### 4) Makeup of Receiving County

The receiving office (Forsyth, Rosebud County), upon implementation of the plan will be composed of one 3-5 member Area Committee, one County Executive Director and 4 Program Technicians.

#### 5) Travel impact on producers

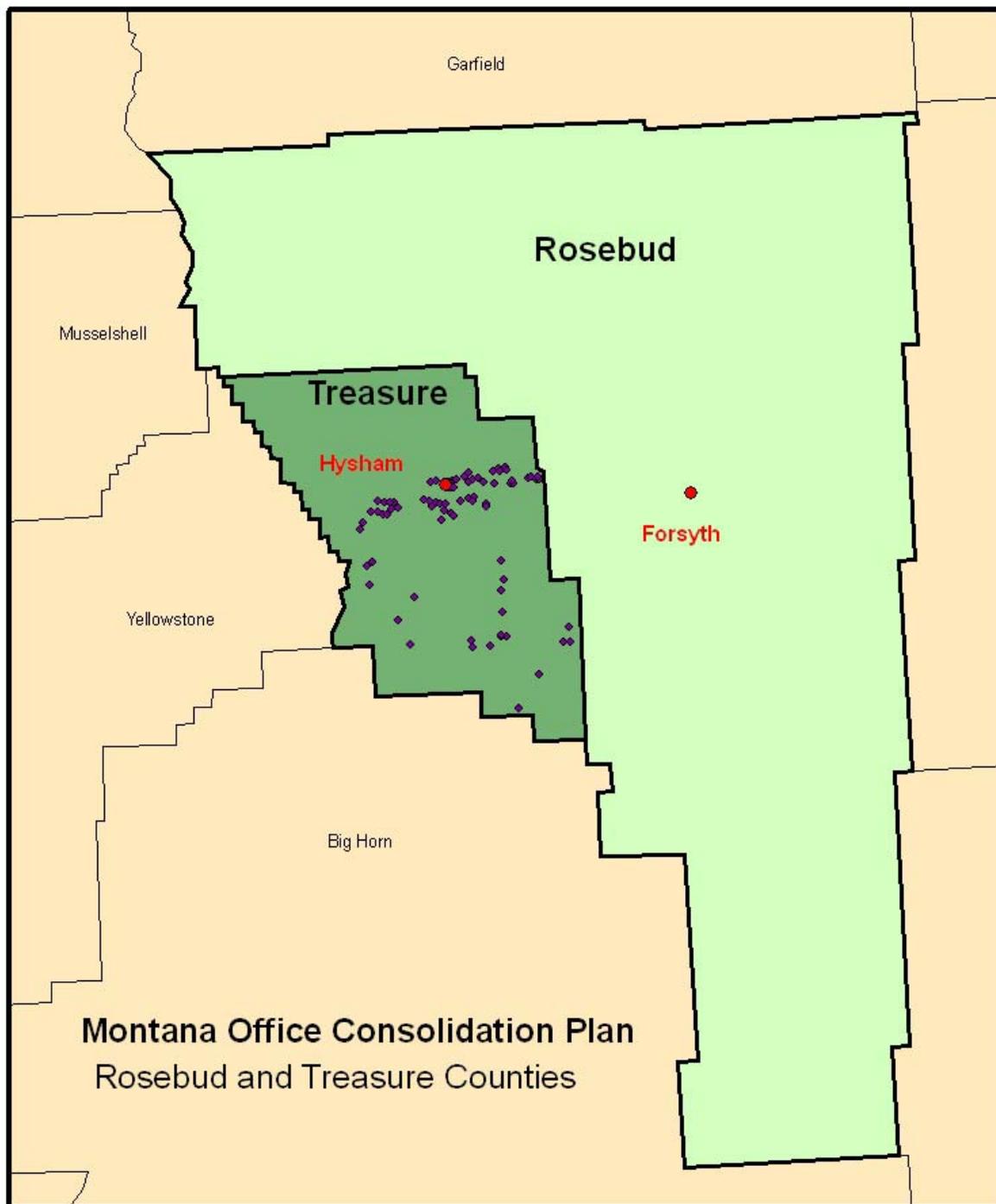
- Included is a map of the proposed combination to include Treasure and Rosebud Counties. The map shows the approximate number and locations of producers in Treasure County. Producer numbers on this map may be different than the producer numbers above, due to using 2001-2006 as the base years for this 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 Rosebud office is 29 miles from the Treasure office. A majority of the producers live between the two offices so their additional mileage to a consolidated

office will be less than an additional 29 miles on a good interstate highway. Less than 20% of the Treasure producers will have the full 29 additional miles to travel.

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 sign up 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.