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UM news

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SPECIAL FOR BUSINESS NEWS

lenihan/stc
8/15/79
Missoula Chamber
of Commerce

IMMEDIATELY

UM BUREAU SERVES MISSOULA AREA

The University of Montana's Bureau of Business and Economic Research continues to serve Montana and the Missoula area with a variety of functions. The research branch of the University's School of Business Administration, the bureau provides services which include economic research, data collection, and publication. The bureau is well known throughout the state for its annual "Montana's Economic Outlook" seminars, and for its regular publication, the "Montana Business Quarterly."

The bureau regularly undertakes research projects both for private industry and public agencies. During the past year, bureau personnel completed a number of studies, including a survey of attitudes of small business operators toward state and local business regulations, which was done under the direction of a state agency; a study of housing needs and preferences, based on a survey of Montana households funded by the Montana Board of Housing; and an analysis of Missoula area residents' attitudes toward the forest industries.

One of the major projects undertaken recently by the bureau is the development of a Forest Industries Data Collection System. Through this system bureau personnel have surveyed Montana's primary wood products manufacturers, and to date have issued a summary of timber harvesting and production and sales value for wood products produced in the state. Data for 1976 are available, and information concerning later years is being collected. The bureau developed a similar system for Wyoming. This work is being funded by the U.S. Forest Service.

(more)

In the field of wood products the bureau has also prepared a report for the Montana Office of Commerce and Small Business Development concerning forest and mill residue and the potential for major manufacturing plants in Montana. And currently the bureau is co-sponsoring with the U.S. Forest Service a symposium on the potential recovery and utilization of forest residues in the northern Rocky Mountains.

Another service provided by the bureau is the ongoing series of county population estimates. In cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Census and its Federal-State Cooperative Program for Local Population Estimates, the bureau provides population estimates for each of Montana's counties during the years between the decennial censuses. The bureau is Montana's designated participating agency for this program. Bureau personnel also respond during the year to numerous requests for other local, state, and national economic data.

The director of the Bureau of Business and Economic Research is Maxine C. Johnson. The bureau has a staff of seven, and is located in the Business Administration building on the University campus.

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