

BROADWATER COUNTY, MONTANA

CODE TO ENHANCE THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN THE NEW WEST

March 22, 2010

The famous western writer, Zane Grey, first chronicled the Code of the West. Whether a life-long Montanan or a new to Montana landowner, a common bond is shared- a true love of Montana! Who isn't awestruck by the magnificent mountains, beautiful wildlife, and rolling plains that seem to go on forever? However, Montana is much more than that – it is a wonderful place full of close knit communities and a neighboring network that has been relied upon for generations. As a new landowner, you are embarking on an incredible journey to a very special place.



CODE TO ENHANCE THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN THE NEW WEST

As it applies to Broadwater County, MONTANA

Introduction: It is important to become aware of the realities of living in rural Montana. There are opportunities, responsibilities, and challenges to owning property in rural Montana. Life in the country is rich and rewarding, treasured by both Broadwater County residents who have been here for generations, and those who have recently moved here. It's important that new property owners and homeowners know that life in "non-urban" parts of the County is different from life in town or the city. The County government cannot provide the same level of service that municipal governments provide. The information included in this Broadwater County version of "The Code of the West" is designed to help you make an educated and informed decision as you consider purchasing or developing land in the unincorporated areas of Broadwater County.

As you look for a place to make your home, look at the community and its people. We value integrity, self-reliance and accountability to guide decisions, actions and interactions. We would like to assist landowners in transitioning into Montana's rural way of life. We are offering a glimpse of what lies ahead of you on your new adventure, so you will be better able to make informed decisions bearing in mind the needs of Montana's communities, wildlife, natural resources and ranching heritage. If we all work together, we can maintain the Quality of Life that is Montana for generations to come.

We hope this reference guide will assist with your understanding of the Code of the West as you embark on construction and development in a thoughtful and sensitive manner, to protect our unique community, our natural resources and our historic way of life.

Enclosed you will find this resource guide is divided into Roads & Access, Utilities, Property Rights, Water Rights, Weather, Agriculture & Livestock for easy reference in the future and as you begin your adventure.

ROADS AND ACCESS

The fact that you can drive to your property does not necessarily guarantee that you, your guests and emergency service vehicles can achieve that same level of access at all times. Consider the following:



1.1 DISPLAY YOUR ADDRESS

It is important to display your address at your driveway entrance for use by emergency services and delivery vehicles.

1.2 EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Emergency response times (sheriff, fire, ambulance, etc.) cannot be guaranteed, due to some conditions, like weather or limited resources, emergency response time can be slow or not at all due to circumstances beyond the control of emergency service providers.

1.3 LEGAL ACCESS

Legal access is not the same as physical access. The existence of an unobstructed road to your property does not guarantee the road will remain open in the future or that you will have unlimited access. The road may cross another property and require a legal easement. You may want to get legal advice if you have questions regarding your own access to a County road or state highway.

1.4 ROAD MAINTENANCE

Broadwater County maintains approximately 10 miles of paved roads, and 749 miles of dirt and gravel roads; but there are public roads that are not maintained (meaning no grading or snow removal). All Broadwater County roads are public roads, but not all public roads are county roads. Check with the County Road Department to determine the status of a specific road.

1.5 PRIVATE ROAD STANDARDS

Emergency service and large construction vehicles may encounter problems navigating small narrow roads and bridges. Check with Broadwater County Road Department for specifications. Rural residences can be more expensive to build due to delivery fees and the costs required getting materials to rural sites.

1.6 PRIVATE ROAD MAINTENANCE

Even with proper construction, annual road maintenance will be needed, which can require renting or owning special equipment.

1.7 PAVING

Unpaved roads generate dust and often lots of it. In dry years dust is a pervasive problem. At the least, dust is an unpleasant and on going fact of life for most rural residents. It's also important to note that excessive speeds on dirt roads can cause more dust and rougher roads.

If an existing road is unpaved; it is highly unlikely that Broadwater County will pave it in the foreseeable future. If the seller of any property indicates that the road will be paved-be careful! Get the facts. Call the Broadwater County Road Department.

If a road within a subdivision is unpaved, contact the Broadwater Planning Department as they will know if a subdivision developer is required to, or plans on their own, to pave the road.

EXTREME WEATHER DRIVING

You may need a four-wheel drive vehicle, snow tires and/or chains, and perhaps even another mode of transportation to travel during extreme weather.



2.1 WINTER DRIVING

Snow removal on some County roads can take up to 72 hours or more. Due to wind, some snow plowed roads will drift in immediately after being plowed and made impassable. Under certain conditions, roads become narrower. Yielding the right of way is a critical safety issue as is good judgment. For example, don't drive off of the road to avoid bad road sections, which can make a situation worse and/or tear up road banks and accelerate erosion.

It is not unusual for a County snowplow to block your driveway with snow during plowing, this is not intentional, but can be unavoidable. It is illegal to move snow from your driveway into a County right-of-way.



2.2 NATURAL DISASTERS

Natural disasters, especially floods, can destroy roads. Although Broadwater County will repair and maintain County roads; subdivision and private roads are the landowners' responsibility. Rain and runoff can turn a dry creek bed into a raging torrent, washing out roads, bridges and culverts. Property owners served by private roads and subdivision roads are responsible for the repair and reconstruction of damaged roads and structures, which can be very expensive.

RURAL LIVING

3.1 VEHICLE "WEAR & TEAR"

Unpaved roads often "washboard" when dry and dusty, and become muddy and slippery when wet. Vehicle maintenance costs can go up with regular travel on rural County roads.

3.2 CONSTRUCTION COSTS/DELAYS

It may be more expensive and time consuming to build a rural residence due to delivery fees, construction access and the time required for inspectors to reach your site.

3.3 MAIL, NEWSPAPER & PARCEL DELIVERY

Regular mail, newspaper and/or parcel delivery may not be available in all areas of the County. Check with the postmaster, local newspaper office and parcel delivery services in your area. Delivery fees may also be higher than within a city.

3.4 SCHOOL BUSES

School buses travel only on maintained County roads previously designated as school bus routes by the school district. Children may need to be driven to a designated school bus pickup location.

UTILITIES

How About Sewer, Water, Electricity, Telephone, and Garbage Removal?

4.1 SEWER & SEPTIC SERVICE

Municipal sewer service is only available within the Townsend city limits. Individual subsurface wastewater treatment (septic) systems are required in most rural areas. If a public or community wastewater treatment system is not available within a subdivision, you will need an approved subsurface wastewater treatment (septic) system or advanced treatment system. Information concerning soil and site conditions are very important in determining the cost and design of a new septic system. Soil type, depth to ground water or bedrock, stream and river setbacks, flood hazards, available suitable area, topography and land slope are important elements in determining the cost and design of your system. In some cases, a standard gravity-fed septic system will not work (based on soil conditions) and a pumped or pressure-dosed septic system is required. Under specific conditions, advanced (Level II) or experimental systems may be required and can be very expensive (exceeding \$20,000). If there is an existing septic system on the property, the septic tank may need to be pumped by a licensed septic pumper and the drain field evaluated to see if it is functioning properly. Some existing septic systems may have been installed without the required County permits and, therefore, could be inadequate and/or illegal. Contact the Broadwater County Sanitarian in the Environmental Health Office for requirements regarding connecting to or altering an existing septic system or constructing a new system. It is unlawful for any person to begin construction of any building, which requires connection to a sewage system for which a valid septic permit has not been issued.



4.2 WATER

Municipal water service is only available within the Townsend city limits. However, if a public water supply is available within a subdivision, the monthly water fees may be more expensive than those for municipal water systems. If a public water supply is not available, you will need to find an alternative water source. Most rural residents rely on individual or shared wells for their water supply.

4.3 WELLS

Drilling individual wells and pumping costs can be considerable and, in some cases, cost prohibitive. The quality and quantity of well water may vary considerably from location to location, and from season to season. The approved well location and other information may be obtained from the sanitarian at the Broadwater County Environmental Health Office.

4.4 ELECTRIC SERVICE

Electric service is not available to all areas of the County. Because costs to extend power lines can be prohibitive in certain areas, some property owners use a generator or alternative power sources such as solar or wind-powered systems. The cost of electric service includes a fee to tie in to the existing utility system and a monthly usage charge from the local utility company. There may also be underground trenching costs, material costs and electrician fees.



In some cases, it is necessary to cross your neighbor's property to bring power to your property. It is important to verify the existence of existing easements, or to obtain the proper easements prior to construction of the power lines. It is important to determine your power needs and level of service availability. Also, due to ongoing development and limited utility line capacity, electric power that is available today may not be available when you decide to build. If you are purchasing land with the plan to build at a future date, there is a possibility that electric lines (and other utilities) may not be large enough to accommodate you, if others connect during the time you wait to build.

4.5 POWER OUTAGES

Power outages can occur in outlying areas with more frequency than in developed areas. Loss of electricity can turn off your well pump, your refrigerator, your heat source, and communication systems. Make sure you have provisions to survive without power for a week in severe cold.

4.6 TELEPHONE SERVICE

Rural telephone services can range from full telephone service-to cellular phone service only-to no service at all. It may also be difficult to obtain additional telephone lines for fax or computer modem use.

4.7 GARBAGE REMOVAL

Trash removal may be hauled to a solid waste transfer station. It is illegal to create your own trash dump, even on your own property. Check with the Solid Waste Department for transfer site locations and recycling options.

You may also choose to purchase a weekly Garbage Pick-Up Service at your home. Your taxes do not pay for this so you will need to purchase this service on your own.

PROPERTY RIGHTS

It's said good fences make good neighbors. Good manners make friends of those neighbors. Friends come in awful handy in rural areas.

So, what can I do on my property? Many issues can affect your property in addition to those concerning utilities and access. It's important to research them before purchasing land.

5.1 ENCROACHMENT PERMITS

Encroachment permits are required for access onto County maintained roads. A proposed driveway may conflict with safety and traffic flow. Check with the Road Department regarding such access prior to purchasing your property. Existing easements may require you to allow construction of roads, power lines, sewer lines, etc. across your land. Some easements may not be recorded. Check these issues carefully.

5.2 MINERAL RIGHTS

By federal law, owners of mineral rights have the right to extract the minerals, even if that activity changes "surface characteristics." Many property owners do not own the mineral rights below their property subsurface. It is very important to know the type of minerals under your land and who owns them. Be aware that adjacent mining uses can expand and cause negative impacts.

5.3 PROPERTY PLAT/ REGISTERED SURVEY

The only way to verify the location of property lines is by having a Registered Land Surveyor survey and mark the property corners. Before applying for a septic permit or beginning construction, it is a property owner's responsibility to accurately identify property lines. Even fences that separate properties are often not aligned accurately with the property lines and should not be relied on to identify property boundaries.

5.4 HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATIONS & COVENANTS

Many subdivisions and planned unit developments have covenants that limit use of the property. Obtain a copy of any covenants, conditions, and restrictions if you are purchasing subdivided land. Be sure you can live with them. You may be required to join the association, which often takes care of common elements such as road maintenance, snow removal, weeds, open space, etc. A poorly managed homeowner's association or poorly written covenants can result in problems for the property owner-check with neighbors who have belonged to the association for a long time to determine its effectiveness.

Covenants are the responsibility of a home owner's association. County government is not responsible for enforcing your covenants.

5.5 FUTURE OF YOUR PROPERTY

Open fields and pastureland may not remain so indefinitely. The Broadwater County Planning Department can help determine whether there are plans for future development.

5.6 ZONING

Broadwater County is not zoned outside of the city limits of Townsend. If a property has not been subdivided, you may be required to go through the subdivision process to have a land use change. Before you buy or build, check with the Broadwater County Planning Department.

If you have unzoned property and are pleased to know you are not restricted by zoning, remember your neighbor likely isn't either.

5.7 BUILDING LOCATION

Your new home site is a particularly important decision because it is so permanent. Recent arrivals often build their homes on the highest ridge or hilltop. There can be numerous disadvantages to such a site. Weather and exposure can wreak havoc with hilltop homes. Access and obtaining water can also present problems. Plus, that type of site can spoil everyone else's view.

5.8 SOIL TYPES

Understanding the soil and its limitations can be very useful. Soil properties affect a site's susceptibility to erosion and help identify areas classified as wetlands or floodplain. Soil types can help determine appropriate building and road locations, septic systems, crop or hay production and landscaping. The Conservation District, County Extension Agent or Broadwater County Sanitarian in the Environment Health Office can provide valuable information.

5.9 NOXIOUS WEEDS

Montana State Law **requires** property owners to control noxious weeds on their property. The Broadwater County Weed Department Coordinator or the Broadwater County Extension Agent can help you identify noxious weeds and devise the best plan of attack. Your neighbors will thank you, especially the farmer with the beautiful hay field you love to look at out your kitchen window.

WATER RIGHTS

Refer to www.dnrc.mt.gov for more information.

6.1 IRRIGATION CHANNELS & STREAMS

You may or may not own the water that runs through your property in a stream or irrigation ditch. Unless you have actually purchased water rights, the water can't be legally taken out of the stream or ditch. Check with your attorney to make sure you have adequate, legal water rights with your property. Ditch owners have the right to access your property to obtain water and maintain their waterway.



Water rights that are sold with the property may not give you the right to use the water from any ditches crossing your land without coordinating with a neighbor who also uses the water. Other users may have senior rights to the water that can limit your use or require you to pay for the over sizing or other ditch improvements.

It is important to make sure that any water rights you purchase with the land will provide enough water to maintain pastures, gardens or livestock you may anticipate having on your property.

6.2 PROTECTING WATERWAYS

The people of Montana own all natural water bodies, including streams and lakes. To protect our waterways, permits are typically required prior to any alterations. For instance, to install a culvert or a bridge, or to stabilize eroding stream banks, a "310" permit is required under the Natural Streambed and Land Preservation Act. Please contact the Broadwater County Conservation District for requirements.

6.3 PONDS

Broadwater County is blessed with great fishing opportunities, which provide an important component of our economy. Many new residents want to establish their own fishery in the form of a private pond. While private ponds provide recreational and aesthetic benefits, they can also be detrimental to our wild fisheries if they are not carefully built off stream. To be licensed for private stocking, ponds must be built off stream, be screened from wild fishes, have proper water rights and be designed to avoid impacting nearby waterways. Make sure to contact Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks for permitting requirements.

6.4 AGRICULTURAL OR LIVESTOCK BUSINESS

If you anticipate operating an agricultural or livestock business be sure to research water rights associated with your land. Obtain accurate information on the quantity of water needed for your desired use. Because the flow rates in an arid climate are unpredictable, there is no guarantee sufficient water will be available at any given time.

WEATHER

7.1 Don't Mess With Mother Nature (and expect to get off easily!)

Rural residents usually can expect to experience more challenges with the "elements" than residents who have access to municipal services.

The weather is one of the most talked about things in the Rocky Mountains. If you plan to make Broadwater County your permanent home, expect seasonal fluctuations (temperatures, snow, winds, rainfall). Although the weather can be unpredictable year-round, recorded averages can give you an idea of what to expect. By being aware you can be prepared.



Put studded snow tires on vehicles for the winter months to have better traction on ice and snow and reducing driving speed will help you to avoid accidents.

7.2 FORESTED PROPERTY

The physical characteristics of your property can be both positive and negative. Forested areas are a wonderful environmental amenity, but can endanger your home in a forest fire or high wind storm. Building in a forested area can be as dangerous as building in a flash flood area. If you start a forest fire, you are responsible for the cost incurred to fight and extinguish the fire.

Defensible perimeters are very helpful in protecting buildings from forest or grassland fires, and inversely, can protect the forest or grassland from igniting if your house catches on fire. More information is available from FireWise.com

7.3 TOPOGRAPHY

The topography of the land can tell you where water will drain during rain storms and snow melt conditions. When property owners fill in washes, the natural drainage may be rerouted toward your house or your neighbor's.

7.4 FLASH FLOODS

Flash floods can occur, especially during spring run-off or summer thunderstorms, and they can turn a dry wash into a river. It would be wise to obtain a floodplain map from Broadwater County Planning before deciding where to build your home. The County does not provide equipment or labor to protect private property from flooding.

7.5 STEEP SLOPES

Steep slopes can slide in unusually wet weather. Large rocks can also roll down steep slopes and present a great danger to people and property.

7.6 SNOW ACCUMULATION

North facing slopes and canyons rarely see direct sunlight in the winter. There is a possibility that large amounts of snow will accumulate and not melt throughout the winter, and due to wind direction, East-West roads are prone to snow drifting. In these conditions, keeping an access road open can be difficult and expensive.

7.7 EARTHQUAKES

Multiple active fault lines in Broadwater County will result in earthquakes; it's just a matter of time. Be mindful of this in construction and site planning.

7.8 FIRE PROTECTION

Refer to www.firewise.org for more information.

Rural dwellers are expected to show a measure of self-reliance in protecting their home from fire. Protecting your home from wildfire starts with YOU. Please look around your home and see which of these FIREWISE fundamentals apply to you.

- **Be easy to find**- have a readable and valid 911 address.
- **Be accessible**- Driveways and roads need to be able to accommodate emergency vehicles.
- **Create defensible space around your house.** Remove leaf and pine needle accumulation along with other flammables within at least 30 feet of the house.
- **Cut down trees to create open space around your house.** By ensuring that trees or clumps of trees are properly spaced (suggested 20 feet apart at the canopy); you can help prevent flames from traveling from tree to tree in a solid front-or crown fire. Properly thinning trees within 125 feet of your home and eliminating those branches that overhang the roof can improve the chances of protecting your home from an advancing wildfire.
- **Remove tall, dry grasses from the surrounding property.** Tall, dry grasses provide a path for fire that can lead directly to a house.
- **Remove leaves and pine needles from your roof and gutters.** During a fire, debris on the roof and/or in the gutters could be ignited by flying embers.
- **Remove "ladder fuels."** Prune tree limbs so the lowest is between 6'-10' from the ground. Fire burning through tall, dry grass could ignite these limbs and climb to the top of the tree with relative ease.
- **Check your gas-powered equipment and garden hoses to be sure they are in good repair.** Yard equipment needs proper fueling and annual maintenance. During wildland fire season, fuel your lawn mower properly—away from dry, flammable grasses. Hoses develop leaks and deteriorate with age and exposure.
- **Prune bushes and shrubs regularly.** Remove excess growth as well as dead leaves and branches to decrease their flammability and the threat they could pose during a wildland fire.



Broadwater County Fire District relies on volunteers, so consider joining yours!



7.9 WILDLIFE Nature can provide you with some wonderful neighbors. Most, such as deer and eagles, are positive additions to the environment. However, even "harmless" animals like deer can cause problems like crossing roads unexpectedly or eating gardens and trees. Rural development encroaches on the traditional habitat of coyotes, bobcat, mountain lions, rattlesnakes, ground squirrels, bears, mosquitoes and other possibly dangerous or nuisance creatures. It's best to know how to avoid them. In general, it is wise to enjoy wildlife from a distance and make appropriate accommodations for your trash and pets. The Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks and the Broadwater County Extension Office are two good resources for

information. They have many free publications to help educate you about living in the wild.

7.10 HUNTING

Hunting is a time-honored tradition in Montana. Be mindful that your newly purchased property might be part of an area historically used by hunters who may not be aware that ownership has changed.

If your property is adjacent to public lands, you will likely see an increase in traffic during hunting season. Contact Fish, Wildlife and Parks to learn about your rights and responsibilities.

AGRICULTURE & LIVESTOCK

Agriculture is our Heritage and the Key to our Future:

Agriculture is a major economic contributor to Broadwater County. If you choose to live among and next to ranching operations, you may be affected by them; **you have the opportunity to help keep the ranching operation viable by learning how you can be a good neighbor to this important part of our community.**



8.1 SUFFICIENT WATER FOR AGRICULTURAL OR LIVESTOCK BUSINESSES

If you anticipate operating an agricultural or livestock business be sure to research water rights associated with your land. Obtain accurate information on the quantity of water needed for your desired use. Because the flow rates in an arid climate are unpredictable, there is no guarantee sufficient water will be available at any given time.

Much of Broadwater County receives minimal precipitation. As already stated, we have a problem with dust. But, even with irrigation, grasslands have limited grazing. Your parcel of land can reasonably support only so many animals. Also, the year-round presence of animals can damage and destroy grasslands, leaving the land barren. The Broadwater County Extension Office can help you with these issues.



8.2 RIGHT TO FARM

Montana has "Right to Farm" legislation protecting farmers and ranchers and Broadwater County has signed a Right to Farm Resolution to further support our farming and ranching economy.

8.3 DRIVE SLOWLY ON DIRT ROADS

If you're traveling on dirt and graveled roads adjacent to ranch lands, drive slowly and with care:

Occasionally cattle may get out on the road; avoiding hitting an animal is healthy for you, your vehicle and the animal.

8.4 CATTLE DRIVES

Livestock are occasionally moved on public roads. When you encounter a livestock drive, please pull over to the side of the road and allow the drive to pass. Or, if a rider directs you to move forward, do so slowly. The delay will cost you only a few minutes. Enjoy the scene; this is the "real west," and is a critical part of your neighbors' ability to make a living. Work with the drovers to pass, they are happy to help.



8.5 OPEN RANGE

Montana has "open range" laws. This means if you do not want cattle, sheep or other livestock on your property you will need to fence them out. Research fencing responsibilities for your property.

8.6 RESPECT LIVESTOCK

Animals are dangerous. Bulls, stallions, rams, boars, and buffalo can attack human beings. Children need to know that it is not safe to enter pens or pastures where animals are kept. Also, dangerous wildlife may also frequent rural and urban areas.

Beware even gentle, beloved family pets can become nuisances, predators, or prey. State law protects livestock from pets. Pets found attacking or harassing livestock can be shot.

8.7 9-5 – NOT

Ranchers often work around the clock, especially during calving season and when harvesting.

Occasionally, adjoining agricultural operations may disturb your otherwise quiet surroundings. Those times will pass so be a nice neighbor.

8.8 LAND PREPARATION

Land preparation and other operations can cause dust and farmers occasionally burn their ditches and fields to keep them clean of debris, weeds and other obstructions.

Chemicals (mainly fertilizers and herbicides) are often used in growing crops. These chemicals can be applied by crop duster airplanes early in the morning. Some people have allergies to these substances and animal manure can cause "objectionable" odors.

A FEW FINAL THOUGHTS

Though Broadwater County receives property taxes from its property owners, the amounts of taxes collected generally do not cover the costs of services provided to rural residents. In general, those living in urban areas subsidize the lifestyle of those who live in the country by making up the shortfall between the cost of services and the revenues received from rural dwellers.

Please take the time and effort to study the history of the Broadwater Country. This will give you an understanding and appreciation for the pioneers who tamed this land and first settled this region. The Broadwater Museum is a great place to start.

Our County elected officials; administration and staff pride themselves on their accessibility. A list of contacts is included to help answer questions or direct you to appropriate resources.

Broadwater County is a wonderful place to live, work and raise a family. We hope this information will help enhance the quality of your life here.



RESOURCES

Information for this guide has been culled from a number of sources, including the multitude of versions from other counties. Most jurisdictions mirror one another, but all deserve a mention here, providing additional resources for the interested reader.

The following documents were consulted in the creation of this guide:

- ***Code of the West***, Gallatin County, Montana
- ***Code of the West***, Apache County, Arizona
- ***Code of the New West***, Madison County, Montana
- ***The Code of the West***, Lincoln County, Wyoming
- ***The Code of the West or How to Avoid Surprises, and Be a Good Neighbor When you are Buying, Building, and Developing in Gunnison County, Colorado***, Gunnison County, Colorado
- ***Rural Living in Flathead County***, Flathead County, Montana

CODE OF THE NEW WEST

We promise to:

1. Appreciate the splendor of Montana's natural beauty, the opportunity to live here, and the quality of life we enjoy.
2. Be a good steward of the land; to take personal responsibility for keeping our land weed and trash free.
3. Show respect for state laws, for wildlife, for the land and for the people.
4. Be goodwill ambassadors, showing friendliness to visitors and neighbors alike.
5. Take pride in how we maintain our property, our businesses, our communities, and ourselves.
6. Take political action: read, become informed, vote; and participate to preserve and improve the good things we have.
7. Get involved with our communities, to give back some measure of what we receive from being a part of the larger family.
8. Work together for the good of the community, county, state, nation, and world.

Broadwater County Telephone Numbers

Appraiser	266-9207
Assessor	266-9206
City Office	266-3911
County Attorney	266-9225
Clerk & Recorder, Superintendent of Schools	266-3443
Clerk of District Court	266-9236
Community Service	266-9212
County Commissioners, Finance Office	266-9203
Disaster & Emergency Services	266-9250
Extension Services	266-9240
Fair Office	266-9251
Health Services	266-5209
Justice of the Peace	266-9230
Mosquito District	266-9240
Museum	266-5252
Planning Department	266-9211
Road & Bridge Department	266-3429
Sanitarian & Environmental Health Office	266-9209
Sheriff's Office, Law Enforcement	266-3441
Emergencies	911
Solid Waste	266-5877
Townsend School Superintendent	266-5512
Treasurer	266-3445
Victim/Witness Advocate	266-9237
Weed Department	266-9243

Important Websites

Community Newspaper	townsendstar.net
Townsend Schools	townsendps.schoolwires.com
Community Website	townsendmt.com

Department of Environmental Quality	deq.state.mt.us
Department of Natural Resources and Conservation	dnrc.mt.gov
Fish, Wildlife & Parks	fwp.mt.gov
FireWise	firewise.org