

# Montana and Movies: A Cooperative Effort

## Why Production Companies Contact the Montana Film Office

When a production company first contacts the Montana Film Office they often are unaware of Montana specifically. They are calling because they know Montana has mountains or prairies or western towns, but they are not sure of the specifics. The state film office can provide information regarding all areas in Montana that will fit their needs. From then on, the production company narrows down its choices. Usually, they will want to scout several of the areas personally.

## Responsibility of the Montana Film Office

As part of our mission to promote Montana as a film location, it is the Montana Film Office's responsibility to act as a clearinghouse to inquiring production companies by providing any information with a minimum of effort and time spent on the part of the production company, as well as at no cost to them. By acting as the interface with each of the state's city/regional film liaison offices or their chamber of commerce/CVB, the Montana Film Office will be able to provide the best and most complete information in the shortest amount of time to producers, as well as helping to present each community in the best possible light.

## Opportunities for Communities, CVBs, Chambers, and Local Film Liaison Offices

Listed below are some suggestions for ways in which communities, CVBs, and local film liaison offices can promote their individual areas:

- Provide a pictorial essay/brochure of the area that can be used in promotional efforts. This brochure could be distributed by the Montana Film Office as an addition to the Montana Production Guide, as well as at trade shows. The only way to get a production to a community is to show the producers what the area looks like. This is your community/area's chance to shine.
- Provide information that a production company will need when it comes to the area.
- During a past film production, Billings developed a guide for inclusion in a welcome packet for crew members. The guide listed restaurants that are open late, laundry services and hours, what to do for recreation in the area, etc. Crew members loved it. Another idea is to create a coupon book or discount card offering discounts to crew members from participating local merchants.
- A listing in the *Montana Production Guide* is available to Montana businesses that provide production support services. Lists of auxiliary support services are kept on file in the Montana Film Office. If you know of businesses that do not appear on our lists, please notify us—it is to the benefit of everyone that the lists be as accurate and complete as possible.

- Provide information to the community regarding what to expect when a production comes to town. The Montana Film Office can assist you with presentations, or make available articles and brochures regarding location filming.

### **Request by Production Company/Informational Phase**

- Provide photos fitting specific location needs to the Montana Film Office or, if necessary, to the production company within 24 hours. Production companies expect to receive photos that were shot following general industry format. For example, they expect photos taken as panoramas with a 35mm camera, as well as being mounted in legal size file folders and labeled with accurate compass headings. The Montana Film Office can provide an information packet with specific details on how to shoot location photos.
- Provide logistical information regarding any locations or events that may impact a production in your area during a certain time period.

### **Scouting Phase**

- Help make accommodation/surface transportation arrangements for the incoming scouting group as requested by the Montana Film Office.
- Accompany group on scout when requested by the production company and the Montana Film Office. During the preliminary scouting phase, this is not usually required. However, as the project develops, further assistance may be requested.

### **Production Phase**

- Provide a knowledgeable community liaison to the production company. It is essential that this person know the community, its citizens, the local businesses, and the city and county government. Basically, who to call when. Often a chamber of commerce staff person fulfills this role. Production companies expect and need to be able to reach the contact person 24 hours per day.

### **How to contact us**

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