

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Retired Government Workers Spend Locally

Helena -- Businesses in cities and towns across Montana are boosted substantially by the \$250 million in benefits received every year by state, county and local government pensioners from retirement plans administered by the Montana Public Employee Retirement Administration (MPERA).

Before retiring, these public servants showed up for work every day as snowplow drivers, policemen, child protection workers, license plate issuers, garbage collectors, game wardens and many other public service jobs that help Montana's government run.

"These retired workers from county courthouses, city halls and assorted state agencies aren't typically seen as an economic engine, but they spend a lot of money in stores and professional offices every day," said Roxanne Minnehan, MPERA executive director in Helena.

In one year, MPERA Defined Benefit retirees receive over \$250 million dollars in pension benefits. These benefits have a direct economic impact on goods and services provided by Montana businesses. Retirees use their pension benefits to make purchases at Montana businesses and to pay Montana taxes. In a study conducted by the National Institute on Retirement Security, retiree spending produces a "multiplier effect" which means that for every \$1.00 of pension benefits paid, \$1.27 of economic activity is created in the state. As an extra benefit, retirees using their pensions help to create over 3,600 Montana jobs.

Another, not so obvious advantage is that retirees with steady incomes are much less likely to be on welfare or require other types of public assistance. Retirees who have a stable monthly benefit, such as a pension from a defined benefit retirement plan, are able to remain secure and independent throughout their lifetime. This means they will be less likely to require public assistance for food, shelter, and health care.

The award-winning MPERA staff of 35-plus employees assures a smooth flow of benefits to the retirees out of the interest generated by the \$4 billion investment fund that keeps the system financially sound.

This table shows the amounts paid annually to retirees by county for the month ending November 30:

Beaverhead	\$2,214,290
Big Horn	1,091,793
Blaine	966,091
Broadwater	1,373,955
Carbon	2,098,016
Carter	273,198
Cascade	19,790,790
Chouteau	925,897
Custer	4,939,946
Daniels	470,506
Dawson	3,275,838
Deer Lodge	6,918,713
Fallon	716,851
Fergus	3,903,596
Flathead	13,761,677
Gallatin	14,920,032
Garfield	241,384
Glacier	1,592,925
Golden Valley	280,250
Granite	888,862
Hill	3,785,728
Jefferson	7,146,055
Judith Basin	393,826
Lake	5,012,525
Lewis & Clark	52,647,931
Liberty	381,308
Lincoln	2,635,247
Madison	1,771,885
McCone	393,431
Meagher	576,043
Mineral	1,092,635
Missoula	21,938,526
Musselshell	798,881
Park	2,604,610
Petroleum	154,347
Phillips	995,904
Pondera	1,374,497
Powder River	485,803
Powell	3,823,165
Prairie	579,301
Ravalli	5,339,253
Richland	1,594,396
Roosevelt	1,695,045
Rosebud	1,440,879
Sanders	1,577,603
Sheridan	923,635

Silver Bow	11,981,348
Stillwater	1,443,507
Sweet Grass	768,715
Teton	1,626,249
Toole	1,183,098
Treasure	192,242
Valley	2,350,800
Wheatland	487,188
Wibaux	454,593
Yellowstone	28,113,882

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