

University of Idaho

Fact Sheet: Bonner County Extension

www.uidaho.edu/extension/bonner/about

Overview: Federal and State Mandate for Extension

University of Idaho Extension is a vital part of the University's core mission as a land-grant institution – a “people's university” – to extend discovery, new knowledge and service to Idaho's citizens.

Extension provides education and opportunities for people, ranging from forest management education, to financial management, health, and nutrition education to community development. Extension programs educate people and communities – like those in Bonner County – to make changes for the better.

The Smith-Lever Act (1914) established the national Extension system, and in the early 1900s, Bonner County and the University of Idaho entered into a partnership to provide cooperative Extension programming to local county citizens. Extension services to local constituents come from this **partnership that utilizes federal, state and county funding.**

- **For every dollar Bonner County invests in Extension, there is a return of \$2.05.**
- When the **value of volunteer hours** for Extension is factored in, **the return in Bonner County is \$3.42** for every dollar invested.

In brief: federal Smith-Lever funds and state-appropriated funds are routed through each state's land-grant university to support Extension; this covers salaries for Extension educators in 42 Idaho counties. Counties provide funds for support staff, local office operations and travel.

- A vibrant higher education system is essential for the state's economic health and for our citizens' quality of life. As part of the University of Idaho's statewide system, Extension programs benefit and touch many lives in positive ways.

Highlighted Extension Impact in Bonner County:

4-H and Youth Development Programs

- Over 500 youth annually gain vital life skills including leadership, citizenship, communications and community outreach with support by over 160 adult volunteers.
- 4-H volunteer leaders give more than 8,000 hours of service annually worth \$125,000.
- A study shows 4-H Youth participants are 50 percent less likely to engage in high-risk behaviors – including drinking, shoplifting, illegal drug use, and property damage – than non-4-H youth, saving substantial juvenile justice related costs.

Extension Nutrition Program

- In 2010, 3,600 **Bonner County residents participated in food stamp programs**, a 72% increase from 2007.
- In 2011, the **county's Extension Nutrition Program** used \$136,000 in grant funds to **educate 3,100 members of low-income, food stamp-eligible families** to eat healthier and reduce disease risks.

Logger Education

- Over the last two decades, Bonner County forest owners have been an essential source of supply to local forest products companies. These **forest owners harvest an average of 58 million board feet of timber annually worth over \$23 million, supporting living wage jobs here from wood products harvest and manufacturing.** According to Dr. Jay O’Laughlin with the UI Policy Analysis group, each job in the forest products sector is supported by two additional indirect jobs.
- Last year, 131 people attended 7 Extension workshops and field days held in Bonner County for forest owners. Many Bonner County forest owners attended workshops in other counties. In general, more than 80 percent of the participants indicate they will improve specific forest management practices to more sustainably grow wood and biomass to support Bonner County’s economy, reduce fire risk in wildland urban interface areas, and reduce forest insect and disease issues.
- Over the last five years, the funding Bonner County provides for extension programming for forestry has leveraged over \$209,000 in additional program support (in addition to UI funding) for panhandle forestry programs, from other panhandle counties, the Idaho Department of Lands, and the U.S. Forest Service.

Master Gardeners

- Certified Master Gardener volunteers provide more than 4,100 hours annually, including responding to nearly 325 in-office assistance requests by local homeowners. They **trained residents to minimize environmental and water quality impacts thru appropriate use of lawn/garden products.**

By the Numbers

The most recent fiscal year data show the contributions that each partner – County and University – makes and, in addition, the value that Extension-generated grants brought to the community:

Bonner County	\$91,775
<i>[Does not include utilities and office space contributions]</i>	
University of Idaho	\$126,014
<i>[Includes state appropriations and federal Smith-Lever funds – \$266,253 – and University-based Extension grants– \$170,656]</i>	
Volunteer Hours Value	\$188,397
<i>[More than 12,000 hours in community gardening, forestry, master gardeners, 4-H, and youth development; dollar values based upon Corporation for National & Community Service methodology]</i>	