



## **1st Quarter 2023 Index**

Number of company and partner presenters at Great Falls Ignite 2023: 18

Montana Specialty Mills oil seed plant expansion announced at Ignite: capacity increase from 50 tons/day to 150 tons/day

Pasta Montana plant expansion announced at Ignite: \$7 million

Number of 2023 Fire Within female entrepreneur award winners: 26

New developments in West Bank Landing planned for 2023: \$26 million

Funds raised by C.M. Russell Museum's Art and Soul of the West campaign: \$40 million

Number of apartments planned in Discovery Meadows development approved by Great Falls City Commission during quarter: 264 units

Soon to be America's largest producer of Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF): Calumet Montana Renewables

Brownfield cleanup grant GFDA approved to support Baatz Permanent Supportive Housing development in downtown Great Falls: \$583,925

Number of manufacturers in Cascade County: 233

Number of manufacturers in surrounding rural Golden Triangle counties: 211

Total new companies added to our CRM during quarter: 194

Companies we actively engaged with during quarter: 517

Target activity this quarter (companies and developers we have targeted to try to attract into Great Falls trade area): 87

New targets we identified during quarter: 18

New project leads generated this quarter (companies and developers with planned investments that are considering Great Falls trade area): 77

Existing project leads we worked on during quarter: 24

New projects generated this quarter (investments in Great Falls trade area planned by companies and developers): 25

Existing projects we worked on during quarter: 48

Food, ag, and bio processing companies we worked with during quarter: 66

Business Pitch events we hosted across region during quarter: 2

Entrepreneurs, future entrepreneurs, and businesses in Great Falls trade area advised by GFDA during quarter: 125

Of these, number of new advising clients: 72

New capital secured by small business advising clients during quarter: \$3,076,175

Entrepreneur and business training sessions offered during quarter: 10

Number of training participants: 116

Businesses active with our Procurement Technical Assistance Center during quarter: 171  
Amount of government contracts won by clients during quarter: \$43,200,807  
GFDA gap and bridge loans approved during quarter: \$7,200,000  
Additional private investment to be leveraged by GFDA loans: \$16,520,000  
GFDA gap and bridge loans closed during quarter: \$1,788,997  
Additional private investment leveraged by GFDA loans: \$1,016,263  
SBA 504 loans approved by High Plains Financial: \$142,000  
Additional private investment to be leveraged: \$327,870  
New loan capital secured by GFDA during quarter: \$2,802,275  
Current SBA 504 fixed 25-year effective loan interest rate with 10% down: 6.329%  
Current 10-year equipment effective fixed rate: 6.768%  
Free Brownfield assessments completed during quarter: 2  
Free Brownfield assessments in progress: 2  
Nonresident tourist spending in Montana in 2021: \$4.48 billion  
Nonresident tourist spending in Cascade County in 2021: \$256 million  
Number of Montana businesses that will no longer have to pay equipment tax after legislature raised exemption from \$300,000 to \$1 million: 5,000  
Montana top income tax rate change approved by legislature: lowered from 6.75% to 5.9%  
Montana ranking for Overall State Tax Burden before this change: 8<sup>th</sup> lowest  
Number of Montana economic development organizations and CDFI's that have earned GuideStar Candid's Platinum Seal of Transparency: 1 - GFDA!  
Economic development organizations that have earned international accreditation: 73  
Number in Montana: 2 – GFDA and Big Sky Economic Development  
Percentage of cyberattacks aimed at small businesses: 43%  
Corporate executives ranking availability of skilled labor as important or very important as a site selection factor: 86%  
Ranking availability of energy as important or very important: 82%  
Quality of life: 87%  
Available land: 78%  
Raw materials availability: 61%  
Shovel ready sites: 56%  
Number of Russians arrested for protesting against the Ukraine invasion: 20,000+  
Russians who have fled their country since start of war: 500,000+  
Increase in number of people globally suffering an acute shortage of food in 2022: 62 million  
New world record for farthest flight by a paper airplane: 88.318 meters  
First recorded sighting of Loch Ness monster: 565 AD



For info contact Jolene Schalper at [JSchalper@GrowGreatFalls.org](mailto:JSchalper@GrowGreatFalls.org) or 1-406-750-4481