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**Montana Department of Revenue Releases Its 2010-2012 Biennial Report**

Helena – The Montana Department of Revenue announces the release of its Biennial Report. The 322-page document provides an overview of the taxes the department has collected and distributed between July 1, 2010, and June 30, 2012. The Montana Constitution requires that the Department of Revenue publish the report every two years and submit it to the governor and legislature.

The report helps further one component of the department’s mission—to improve public understanding of Montana’s tax system.

“The report serves as an excellent tool for Montanans to understand not just how Montana’s tax system works, but also how the Department of Revenue operates,” said Director of Revenue Dan Bucks. “The 2010-2012 report also serves as a great source for reviewing Montana’s economy and seeing how well that economy has done over the past two years.”

Some highlights in the report that show how well the economy is doing include:

- An increase in wage withholding taxes of more than six percent, indicating that incomes are on the rise in Montana
- An increase in property taxes showing that statewide housing prices have returned to nearly 100 percent of 2008, pre-recession reappraisal levels

The Biennial Reports covers all of the taxes that Department of Revenue collects and distributes, including individual and corporate income taxes, natural resources taxes, property taxes and various other taxes, such as those on cigarettes, alcohol, estates and inheritance.

New to this edition of the Biennial Report are flow charts, including one that illustrates Montana’s oil and gas severance tax rates and another illustrating how revenue generated from oil and gas taxes is distributed to the state and counties. The charts help citizens and lawmakers understand Montana’s complex tax structure.

As the report shows, the taxes that the Department of Revenue collects and distributes across the state contributes to an overall improvement of Montana’s quality of life, with

- 32.6% of all revenue allocated to education

- 29.5% to public safety, welfare and health
- 20.7% to natural resources and infrastructure
- 14.3% to administrative, legislative and judicial costs
- 2.8% to interest on debt

“The Department of Revenue is committed to ensuring fairness and compliance and to ensuring that Montanans benefit from the work our department does,” Bucks said. “I think this report makes clear that we have held to those commitments.”

To see an online copy of the 2010-2012 Biennial Report and previous reports, please go to [revenue.mt.gov](http://revenue.mt.gov).

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