

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Tax Revenue Helps Provide the Quality of Life Montanans Enjoy**

Helena – Tomorrow is the deadline for filing state income taxes. The Montana Department of Revenue thanks taxpayers for filing on time.

“We understand that filing tax returns can feel burdensome, and so we’re extremely appreciative of everyone who takes the time to do it,” says Mike Kadas, Director of Revenue.

State tax revenue helps fund a number of the services that Montanans enjoy and have come to rely upon. Public education, clean water and air, parks and recreation, public health and safety, road construction and maintenance, higher education, and protection of people and property through our correction and justice systems – these services exist thanks to state tax revenue.

“We simply wouldn’t have the high quality of life that we have in Montana if it weren’t for people sitting down at this time every year to fill out their returns,” Kadas says. “Everyone who pays taxes can feel a sense of pride that every child in this state can get an education, that we have clean water to drink, that we have safe roads to drive on, that we have all of the services the state provides.”

The Department of Revenue also encourages and appreciates public comments and suggestions regarding the department’s quality of service. “Please tell us how we’re doing,” Kadas says.

“We rely on public feedback to ensure that we’re offering Montanans the best service possible.”

So far, the department has processed more than 379,940 individual income tax returns for the 2013 tax year. This year, the department has issued nearly 294,000 refunds averaging \$420 for a total of more than \$123 million. Taxpayers can check the status of their refunds using a service on the department website called “Where’s My Refund.” This feature allows taxpayers to track their refunds and gauge when they might appear in their bank accounts or mailbox.

Taxpayers who need assistance filing can call the department’s call center toll free at (866) 859-2254, or in Helena at 444-6900. Staff will be available on April 14 and 15 from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m. This tax season the call center has answered about 47,000 calls.

Taxpayers can file electronically using the department's e-filing service, Taxpayer Access Point (TAP), or one of the many commercial e-filing products. For electronic filing options, visit [www.revenue.mt.gov](http://www.revenue.mt.gov). Taxpayers have until midnight April 15 to file electronically to meet the filing deadline. Paper returns need to be postmarked by April 15 or hand delivered to our office by 5 p.m.

Currently, taxpayers who file electronically are receiving their state refunds in about five to seven business days. Those who file by paper are receiving their refunds in about four to five weeks on average.

In addition to contacting the department's call center, taxpayers can also receive assistance by visiting the Mitchell Building in Helena, 126 North Sanders, until 4 p.m. Assistance is also available at the department's offices in Missoula at 2681 Palmer Street. There are also more than 100 volunteer tax preparation sites around the state through Volunteer Income Tax Assistance and AARP Tax-Aide Montana. To find out if you qualify and to see a comprehensive listing of locations, visit [www.montanafreefile.org](http://www.montanafreefile.org). For more information, visit [www.revenue.mt.gov](http://www.revenue.mt.gov).

April 15 is also the deadline for submitting an application for the Property Tax Assistance Program (PTAP), which gives property tax relief to qualified low-income homeowners. It's also the deadline to submit the 2EC, an income tax credit for elderly homeowners and renters. Go to [revenue.mt.gov/Portals/9/property/forms/PPB-8\\_2014.pdf](http://revenue.mt.gov/Portals/9/property/forms/PPB-8_2014.pdf) to download an application for PTAP and to [revenue.mt.gov/Portals/9/individuals/forms/Form\\_2EC\\_2013.pdf](http://revenue.mt.gov/Portals/9/individuals/forms/Form_2EC_2013.pdf) to download the 2EC form.

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