

OTO Funding Impact

Data Preservation Program, Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology, \$600K

1) How many years do you anticipate it will take to complete the Data Preservation project?

We really don't see an end to the project. As we complete inventory, index, stabilize, digitize, and store maps and reports that we receive, word gets out and we get more donations from retired geologists or their survivors. Our contributors routinely suggest contacts for others with similar collections. The second life of the program is the increasing demand for the information in our files. We receive inquiries from citizens, exploration geologists, state and Federal agencies for historic data related to mines and geologic data not available anywhere else. Our approach with the OTO each biennium has been to prioritize efforts to preserve the material we receive that is unique, unpublished, in the greatest danger of loss, or in the greatest demand.

New collections in FY 2019 and 2020 include:

- Drill-core samples collected from the Belt Formation throughout western Montana. A mining company donated and moved them to the Montana Tech campus and spent the summer of 2019 logging and performing various analyses. A second mining company has requested access to the core in 2021 for its economic assessment work.
- Northwest Geologic Society of America, logs from more than 2,500 oil and gas exploration wells.
- Thomas Weitz, mining exploration and project files and map.
- Russell Scruggs, reports and photos Madison County Coronado Gold property.
- Bart Cannon, maps and reports about geology, exploration, and mining related to lead, gold, and rare earth elements.
- John F. Childs, mining related maps, some with geochemical data related to industrial minerals.
- Lafayette Poole, unpublished oil and gas reports/data.
- Mary Garland, reports and notes related to Dry Cottonwood and Rock Creek sapphires.
- John Guilbert, unpublished reports, notes, and slides from a noted author of economic mineralogy.
- Lloyd C Furer, interpretation of oil&gas well logs to construct 46 cross-sections throughout Montana.

Federal Grant awards (and proposals) that related to the Data Preservation Program total about \$400,000 that includes funds from US Geological Survey (\$145,000 awarded), US Forest Service (\$125,000 awarded), and US Dept of Energy (\$138,000 proposed).

Attached is a factsheet that highlights some of our recent activities.

2) What is the projected annual cost per year?

The present annual cost is \$300,000; this would sustain our current level of effort.

3) Impact of the loss of funding?

We would, of course, continue to accept material related to minerals and oil&gas in Montana. Our ability to digitize and make the data available to the public and exploration interests would be greatly curtailed. As noted, we currently match 50 to 66% of the state appropriation for Data Preservation, our ability to continue or increase Federal funding would be very limited.

SEED LAB, \$200K

OTO funding for the Montana Seed Lab will enable it to maintain a 1.0 FTE position (Seed Lab Manager) and temporary lab support that help meet industry demand for analysis. Total FTE of the lab is 3.75, so the loss of the OTO funding would have a significant impact on lab's ability to meet industry demand. The lab is necessary for production and marketing of certified crop and forage seed and the marketing of grain of pulses and other grains.

WOOL LAB, \$110K

OTO funding for the Wool Lab enables it to cover 50 percent of wages and benefits for a full-time lab manager/research associate. Without the OTO, it is unlikely the lab could retain a part-time manager/research associate of the caliber needed. Additionally, the lab manager/research associate adds to the lab's testing and research capacity for industry.