Lorene Hintz
Regional Director
Kevin Scharfe
Sr. Business Advisor
Kayla Vokral
Business Advisor

BIG SKY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Billings Regional SBDC

Stillwater Tire

Columbus, MT



"We were overwhelmed by the request of information needed to apply for an SBA loan. Your professionalism, prompt response to our request, and expertise are unsurpassed. Thank you for making what seemed to be a stressful process simple."
Pat Whitlock, *Owner*

Stillwater Tire is a family-run and community-driven staple in Columbus, Montana. They sell a wide variety of tires and provide automobile repair services, welding/ fabrication, diagnostic services, and over-the-road service calls. Stillwater Tire attracts and maintains a loyal customer base through their customer-oriented focus where all employees are trained and held responsible for providing superior service to develop trust in building long-lasting relationships. As the business continued to see increased demand, the Whitlock family saw an opportunity to expand their footprint.

To accommodate their growing business the company required additional financing. They needed assistance in building a solid business plan to secure financing to purchase a building. Pat and Craig, owners of Stillwater Tire, turned to the SBDC. Pat received one-on-one counseling and worked with the Billings SBDC team to develop financial projections and fine-tune her business plan.

The SBDC assistance allowed Pat to approach the lender with a completed loan package. She secured total funding from the SBA and her local bank of $250,000 for the purchase of the building to expand her business. Stillwater Tire now has a fully stocked parts department, an expanded service center, and has added two new employees to their payroll.