

# MONTANA PORTS

## Port of Montana (Butte)

The Port of Montana cannot accept unit trains because it is not located on an intermodal transportation network operated by BNSF or Union Pacific. The Union Pacific rail line serving the Port of Montana ends at the port and service by trans-continental intermodal trains is not an option.

## Billings Intermodal Terminal (Billings)

A BNSF terminal is located in Billings, Montana but is not located on an international intermodal train corridor. This facility supports inbound intermodal shipments from the Midwest and provides no outbound scheduled service due to the fact it is located on one of the BNSF's primary coal routes. Empty coal trains and intermodal containers move westbound and loaded coal trains and empty intermodal trains move eastbound on this corridor. Since coal trains take eastbound priority, domestic intermodal service is not offered due to wide service fluctuations.

## Port of Northern Montana (Shelby)

The BNSF facility currently averages approximately 1,000 revenue lifts per year. The current track configuration cannot accommodate unit trains with a single placement move from the mainline. The facility at the existing location cannot be expanded without relocating neighboring homes and businesses. The current BNSF terminal in Shelby is becoming obsolete in the intermodal network as train sizes increase and the space required for large cargo types exceeds its current capacity.

The results of a 2008 Montana intermodal facility feasibility study prepared for the Montana Department of Transportation in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration indicates that Shelby is the most desirable location in Montana for intermodal terminal based on a quantitative assessment of intermodal terminal locations.

Table 24: Simple Quantitative Assessment of Potential Intermodal Terminal Locations.

Location	Region	Score (0 to 4, 4 highest)				Total Score (all columns)	Total Score (using ½ column 3 value)
		Container Volume	Rail Situation	Previous or Existing Facility	Highway Situation		
Whitefish-Kalispell	Northwest	3	4	0	1	6	6
Missoula	Northwest	3	2	0	3	8	8
Shelby	North Central	4	4	4	3	15	13
Glasgow	Northeast	4	4	0	1	9	9
Miles City	Southeast	0.5	2	0	2	4.5	4.5
Billings	South Central	1	3	4	4	12	10
Butte-Silver Bow	Southwest	0.5	2	4	4	10.5	8.5
Great Falls	Central and North Central	4	2	0	2	8	8
Helena	Central and Southwest	2.5	1	0	2.5	6	6
Bozeman	Southwest and South Central	2	1	0	3	6	6

A full copy of the report can be found at <http://www.pnmshelby.com>