

CHANGE IN ACCOUNTING PERIOD

Short Form

Form 990-EZ

Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax

OMB No 1545-0047

2020

Open to Public Inspection

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Do not enter social security numbers on this form, as it may be made public.

Go to www.irs.gov/Form990EZ for instructions and the latest information.

A For the 2020 calendar year, or tax year beginning JAN 1, 2020 and ending SEP 30, 2020

B Check if applicable
☐ Address change
☐ Name change
☐ Initial return
☐ Final return/terminated
☐ Amended return
☐ Application pending

C Name of organization

MONTANA PUBLIC LANDS COUNCIL, INC.

Number and street (or P.O. box if mail is not delivered to street address)

420 N. CALIFORNIA STREET

City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code

HELENA, MT 59601

Room/suite

D Employer identification number

81-0454376

E Telephone number

406-442-3420

F Group Exemption Number

G Accounting Method ☒ Cash ☐ Accrual Other (specify) _____

I Website: N/A

H Check ☒ if the organization is not required to attach Schedule B (Form 990, 990-EZ, or 990-PF).J Tax-exempt status (check only one) ☐ 501(c)(3) ☒ 501(c)(6) (insert no.) ☐ 4947(a)(1) or ☐ 527K Form of organization ☐ Corporation ☐ Trust ☐ Association ☒ Other NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

L Add lines 5b, 6c, and 7b to line 9 to determine gross receipts. If gross receipts are \$200,000 or more, or if total assets (Part II, column (B)) are \$500,000 or more, file Form 990 instead of Form 990-EZ

\$ 56,649.

Part I Revenue, Expenses, and Changes in Net Assets or Fund Balances (see the instructions for Part I)

Check if the organization used Schedule O to respond to any question in this Part I

☒

Revenue	1	Contributions, gifts, grants, and similar amounts received	1	
	2	Program service revenue including government fees and contracts	2	4,856.
	3	Membership dues and assessments	3	51,773.
	4	Investment income	4	20.
	5a	Gross amount from sale of assets other than inventory	5a	
	5b	Less: cost or other basis and sales expenses	5b	
	5c	Gain or (loss) from sale of assets other than inventory (subtract line 5b from line 5a)	5c	
	6	Gaming and fundraising events:	6a	
	6a	Gross income from gaming (attach Schedule G if greater than \$15,000)	6a	
6b	Gross income from fundraising events (not including \$ _____ of contributions from fundraising events reported on line 1) (attach Schedule G if the sum of such gross income and contributions exceeds \$15,000)	6b		
6c	Less: direct expenses from gaming and fundraising events	6c		
6d	Net income or (loss) from gaming and fundraising events (add lines 6a and 6b and subtract line 6c)	6d		
7a	Gross sales of inventory, less returns and allowances	7a		
7b	Less: cost of goods sold	7b		
7c	Gross profit or (loss) from sales of inventory (subtract line 7b from line 7a)	7c		
8	Other revenue (describe in Schedule O)	8		
9	Total revenue Add lines 1, 2, 3, 4, 5c, 6d, 7c, and 8	9	56,649.	
Expenses	10	Grants and similar amounts paid (list in Schedule O)	10	
	11	Benefits paid to or for members	11	
	12	Salaries, other compensation, and employee benefits	12	
	13	Professional fees and other payments to independent contractors	13	45,123.
	14	Occupancy, rent, utilities, and maintenance	14	
	15	Printing, publications, postage, and shipping	15	
	16	Other expenses (describe in Schedule O)	16	28,102.
	17	Total expenses Add lines 10 through 16	17	73,225.
Net Assets	18	Excess or (deficit) for the year (subtract line 17 from line 9)	18	-16,576.
	19	Net assets or fund balances at beginning of year (from line 27, column (A)) (must agree with end-of-year figure reported on prior year's return)	19	38,140.
	20	Other changes in net assets or fund balances (explain in Schedule O)	20	-12,333.
	21	Net assets or fund balances at end of year. Combine lines 18 through 20	21	9,231.

LHA For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see the separate instructions

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Part II Balance Sheets (see the instructions for Part II)Check if the organization used Schedule O to respond to any question in this Part II ☐

	(A) Beginning of year		(B) End of year
22 Cash, savings, and investments	38,140.	22	9,231.
23 Land and buildings		23	
24 Other assets (describe in Schedule O)		24	
25 Total assets	38,140.	25	9,231.
26 Total liabilities (describe in Schedule O)	0.	26	0.
27 Net assets or fund balances (line 27 of column (B) must agree with line 21)	38,140.	27	9,231.

Part III Statement of Program Service Accomplishments (see the instructions for Part III)Check if the organization used Schedule O to respond to any question in this Part III ☒What is the organization's primary exempt purpose? **SEE SCHEDULE O**

Describe the organization's program service accomplishments for each of its three largest program services, as measured by expenses. In a clear and concise manner, describe the services provided, the number of persons benefited, and other relevant information for each program title

28 **SEE SCHEDULE O**(Grants \$) If this amount includes foreign grants, check here ☐

28a 73,225.

29

(Grants \$) If this amount includes foreign grants, check here ☐

29a

30

(Grants \$) If this amount includes foreign grants, check here ☐

30a

31 Other program services (describe in Schedule O)

(Grants \$) If this amount includes foreign grants, check here ☐

31a

32 Total program service expenses (add lines 28a through 31a)

32 73,225.

Part IV List of Officers, Directors, Trustees, and Key Employees (list each one even if not compensated - see the instructions for Part IV)Check if the organization used Schedule O to respond to any question in this Part IV ☐

(a) Name and title	(b) Average hours per week devoted to position	(c) Reportable compensation (Forms W-2/1099-MISC) (if not paid, enter -0-)	(d) Health benefits, contributions to employee benefit plans, and deferred compensation	(e) Estimated amount of other compensation
WARREN LYBECK				
BOARD MEMBER	1.00	0.	0.	0.
SKIP AHLGREN				
BOARD MEMBER	1.00	0.	0.	0.
JEFF WILLMORE				
BOARD MEMBER	1.00	0.	0.	0.
JACOB SMITH				
BOARD MEMBER	1.00	0.	0.	0.
TOM SPARKS				
BOARD MEMBER	1.00	0.	0.	0.
LLANE CARROLL				
BOARD MEMBER	1.00	0.	0.	0.
HEATH MARTINELL				
BOARD MEMBER	1.00	0.	0.	0.
JACK MCRAE				
BOARD MEMBER	1.00	0.	0.	0.
TRAVIS BROWN				
BOARD MEMBER	1.00	0.	0.	0.
VICKI OLSON				
CHAIRMAN	1.00	0.	0.	0.
CRAIG IVERSON				
VICE CHAIRMAN	1.00	0.	0.	0.
RAYLEE HONEYCUTT				
SECRETARY/TREASURER	1.00	0.	0.	0.

Part V Other Information (Note the Schedule A and personal benefit contract statement requirements in the instructions for Part V.) Check if the organization used Sch. O to respond to any question in this Part V ☒

	Yes	No
33 Did the organization engage in any significant activity not previously reported to the IRS? If "Yes," provide a detailed description of each activity in Schedule O		X
34 Were any significant changes made to the organizing or governing documents? If "Yes," attach a conformed copy of the amended documents if they reflect a change to the organization's name. Otherwise, explain the change on Schedule O. See instructions		X
35a Did the organization have unrelated business gross income of \$1,000 or more during the year from business activities (such as those reported on lines 2, 6a, and 7a, among others)?		X
b If "Yes" to line 35a, has the organization filed a Form 990-T for the year? If "No," provide an explanation in Schedule O	N/A	
c Was the organization a section 501(c)(4), 501(c)(5), or 501(c)(6) organization subject to section 6033(e) notice, reporting, and proxy tax requirements during the year? If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part III	X	
36 Did the organization undergo a liquidation, dissolution, termination, or significant disposition of net assets during the year? If "Yes," complete applicable parts of Schedule N		X
37a Enter amount of political expenditures, direct or indirect, as described in the instructions	37a	0.
b Did the organization file Form 1120-POL for this year?		X
38a Did the organization borrow from, or make any loans to, any officer, director, trustee, or key employee; or were any such loans made in a prior year and still outstanding at the end of the tax year covered by this return?		X
b If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part II, and enter the total amount involved	38b	N/A
39 Section 501(c)(7) organizations. Enter.		
a Initiation fees and capital contributions included on line 9	39a	N/A
b Gross receipts, included on line 9, for public use of club facilities	39b	N/A
40a Section 501(c)(3) organizations. Enter amount of tax imposed on the organization during the year under: section 4911 <u>N/A</u> ; section 4912 <u>N/A</u> ; section 4955 <u>N/A</u>		
b Section 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4), and 501(c)(29) organizations. Did the organization engage in any section 4958 excess benefit transaction during the year, or did it engage in an excess benefit transaction in a prior year that has not been reported on any of its prior Forms 990 or 990-EZ? If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part I	40b	N/A
c Section 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4), and 501(c)(29) organizations. Enter amount of tax imposed on organization managers or disqualified persons during the year under sections 4912, 4955, and 4958		N/A
d Section 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4), and 501(c)(29) organizations. Enter amount of tax on line 40c reimbursed by the organization		N/A
e All organizations. At any time during the tax year, was the organization a party to a prohibited tax shelter transaction? If "Yes," complete Form 8886-T	40e	X
41 List the states with which a copy of this return is filed	NONE	
42a The organization's books are in care of <u>JAY BODNER</u> Telephone no. <u>406-442-3420</u>		
Located at <u>420 N. CALIFORNIA STREET, HELENA, MT</u> ZIP + 4 <u>59601</u>		
b At any time during the calendar year, did the organization have an interest in or a signature or other authority over a financial account in a foreign country (such as a bank account, securities account, or other financial account)?	42b	X
If "Yes," enter the name of the foreign country		
See the instructions for exceptions and filing requirements for FinCEN Form 114, Report of Foreign Bank and Financial Accounts (FBAR).		
c At any time during the calendar year, did the organization maintain an office outside the United States?	42c	X
If "Yes," enter the name of the foreign country		
43 Section 4947(a)(1) nonexempt charitable trusts filing Form 990-EZ in lieu of Form 1041 - Check here <input type="checkbox"/> and enter the amount of tax exempt interest received or accrued during the tax year	43	N/A
44a Did the organization maintain any donor advised funds during the year? If "Yes," Form 990 must be completed instead of Form 990-EZ	44a	X
b Did the organization operate one or more hospital facilities during the year? If "Yes," Form 990 must be completed instead of Form 990-EZ	44b	X
c Did the organization receive any payments for indoor tanning services during the year?	44c	X
d If "Yes" to line 44c, has the organization filed a Form 720 to report these payments? If "No," provide an explanation in Schedule O	44d	
45a Did the organization have a controlled entity within the meaning of section 512(b)(13)?	45a	X
b Did the organization receive any payment from or engage in any transaction with a controlled entity within the meaning of section 512(b)(13)? If "Yes," Form 990 and Schedule R may need to be completed instead of Form 990-EZ. See instructions	45b	

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46 Did the organization engage, directly or indirectly, in political campaign activities on behalf of or in opposition to candidates for public office?

If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part I

	Yes	No
46		X

Part VI Section 501(c)(3) Organizations Only

All section 501(c)(3) organizations must answer questions 47-49b and 52, and complete the tables for lines 50 and 51

Check if the organization used Schedule O to respond to any question in this Part VI ☐

47 Did the organization engage in lobbying activities or have a section 501(h) election in effect during the tax year? If "Yes," complete Sch. C, Part II

	Yes	No
47		
48		
49a		
49b		

48 Is the organization a school as described in section 170(b)(1)(A)(ii)? If "Yes," complete Schedule E

49a Did the organization make any transfers to an exempt non charitable related organization?

b If "Yes," was the related organization a section 527 organization?

50 Complete this table for the organization's five highest compensated employees (other than officers, directors, trustees, and key employees) who each received more than \$100,000 of compensation from the organization. If there is none, enter "None."

(a) Name and title of each employee	(b) Average hours per week devoted to position	(c) Reportable compensation (Forms W-2/1099-MISC)	(d) Health benefits, contributions to employee benefit plans, and deferred compensation	(e) Estimated amount of other compensation
N/A				

f Total number of other employees paid over \$100,000 ▶

51 Complete this table for the organization's five highest compensated independent contractors who each received more than \$100,000 of compensation from the organization. If there is none, enter "None" ▶

(a) Name and business address of each independent contractor	(b) Type of service	(c) Compensation

d Total number of other independent contractors each receiving over \$100,000 ▶

52 Did the organization complete Schedule A? **Note:** All section 501(c)(3) organizations must attach a completed Schedule A ▶ ☐ Yes ☐ No

Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have examined this return, including accompanying schedules and statements, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true, correct, and complete. Declaration of preparer (other than officer) is based on all information of which preparer has any knowledge

Sign Here

Signature of officer

Date

JAY BODNER, AUTHORIZED AGENT

Type or print name and title

Paid Preparer Use Only

Print/Type preparer's name	Preparer's signature	Date	Check <input type="checkbox"/> if self-employed	PTIN
TYLER M KAFTAN, CPA	TYLER M KAFTAN, CPA	05/05/21		P01523741
Firm's name ▶ WIPFLI LLP	Firm's EIN ▶ 39-0758449		Phone no 406.248.1681	
Firm's address ▶ 550 NORTH 31ST ST, SUITE 300 BILLINGS, MT 59101				

May the IRS discuss this return with the preparer shown above? See instructions ▶ ☒ Yes ☐ No

SCHEDULE C
(Form 990 or 990-EZ)

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Political Campaign and Lobbying Activities

For Organizations Exempt From Income Tax Under section 501(c) and section 527
▶ **Complete if the organization is described below. ▶ Attach to Form 990 or Form 990-EZ.**
▶ **Go to www.irs.gov/Form990 for instructions and the latest information.**

OMB No 1545-0047

2020

**Open to Public
Inspection**

If the organization answered "Yes," on Form 990, Part IV, line 3, or Form 990-EZ, Part V, line 46 (Political Campaign Activities), then

- Section 501(c)(3) organizations Complete Parts I-A and B Do not complete Part I-C
- Section 501(c) (other than section 501(c)(3)) organizations Complete Parts I-A and C below Do not complete Part I-B
- Section 527 organizations Complete Part I-A only

If the organization answered "Yes," on Form 990, Part IV, line 4, or Form 990-EZ, Part VI, line 47 (Lobbying Activities), then

- Section 501(c)(3) organizations that have filed Form 5768 (election under section 501(h)) Complete Part II-A Do not complete Part II-B
- Section 501(c)(3) organizations that have NOT filed Form 5768 (election under section 501(h)) Complete Part II-B Do not complete Part II-A

If the organization answered "Yes," on Form 990, Part IV, line 5 (Proxy Tax) (See separate instructions) or Form 990-EZ, Part V, line 35c (Proxy Tax) (See separate instructions), then

- Section 501(c)(4), (5), or (6) organizations Complete Part III

Name of organization MONTANA PUBLIC LANDS COUNCIL, INC.	Employer identification number 81-0454376
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Part I-A Complete if the organization is exempt under section 501(c) or is a section 527 organization.

- 1 Provide a description of the organization's direct and indirect political campaign activities in Part IV
- 2 Political campaign activity expenditures ▶ \$ _____
- 3 Volunteer hours for political campaign activities _____

Part I-B Complete if the organization is exempt under section 501(c)(3).

- 1 Enter the amount of any excise tax incurred by the organization under section 4955 ▶ \$ _____
- 2 Enter the amount of any excise tax incurred by organization managers under section 4955 ▶ \$ _____
- 3 If the organization incurred a section 4955 tax, did it file Form 4720 for this year? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- 4a Was a correction made? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- b If "Yes," describe in Part IV

Part I-C Complete if the organization is exempt under section 501(c), except section 501(c)(3).

- 1 Enter the amount directly expended by the filing organization for section 527 exempt function activities ▶ \$ _____
- 2 Enter the amount of the filing organization's funds contributed to other organizations for section 527 exempt function activities ▶ \$ _____
- 3 Total exempt function expenditures Add lines 1 and 2 Enter here and on Form 1120 POL, line 17b ▶ \$ _____
- 4 Did the filing organization file Form 1120-POL for this year? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- 5 Enter the names, addresses and employer identification number (EIN) of all section 527 political organizations to which the filing organization made payments For each organization listed, enter the amount paid from the filing organization's funds Also enter the amount of political contributions received that were promptly and directly delivered to a separate political organization, such as a separate segregated fund or a political action committee (PAC) If additional space is needed, provide information in Part IV

(a) Name	(b) Address	(c) EIN	(d) Amount paid from filing organization's funds If none, enter -0-	(e) Amount of political contributions received and promptly and directly delivered to a separate political organization If none, enter -0-

For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see the Instructions for Form 990 or 990-EZ.

Schedule C (Form 990 or 990-EZ) 2020

LHA

032041 12-02-20

Part II-A Complete if the organization is exempt under section 501(c)(3) and filed Form 5768 (election under section 501(h)).

- A** Check ☐ if the filing organization belongs to an affiliated group (and list in Part IV each affiliated group member's name, address, EIN, expenses, and share of excess lobbying expenditures)
- B** Check ☐ if the filing organization checked box A and "limited control" provisions apply

Limits on Lobbying Expenditures (The term "expenditures" means amounts paid or incurred.)		(a) Filing organization's totals	(b) Affiliated group totals
1a Total lobbying expenditures to influence public opinion (grassroots lobbying)			
b Total lobbying expenditures to influence a legislative body (direct lobbying)			
c Total lobbying expenditures (add lines 1a and 1b)			
d Other exempt purpose expenditures			
e Total exempt purpose expenditures (add lines 1c and 1d)			
f Lobbying nontaxable amount Enter the amount from the following table in both columns			
If the amount on line 1e, column (a) or (b) is	The lobbying nontaxable amount is:		
Not over \$500,000	20% of the amount on line 1e		
Over \$500,000 but not over \$1,000,000	\$100,000 plus 15% of the excess over \$500,000		
Over \$1,000,000 but not over \$1,500,000	\$175,000 plus 10% of the excess over \$1,000,000		
Over \$1,500,000 but not over \$17,000,000	\$225,000 plus 5% of the excess over \$1,500,000		
Over \$17,000,000	\$1,000,000		
g Grassroots nontaxable amount (enter 25% of line 1f)			
h Subtract line 1g from line 1a. If zero or less, enter -0-			
i Subtract line 1f from line 1c. If zero or less, enter -0-			
j If there is an amount other than zero on either line 1h or line 1i, did the organization file Form 4720 reporting section 4911 tax for this year?			

☐ Yes ☐ No
4-Year Averaging Period Under Section 501(h)

(Some organizations that made a section 501(h) election do not have to complete all of the five columns below.)

See the separate instructions for lines 2a through 2f.)

Lobbying Expenditures During 4-Year Averaging Period					
Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in)	(a) 2017	(b) 2018	(c) 2019	(d) 2020	(e) Total
2a Lobbying nontaxable amount					
b Lobbying ceiling amount (150% of line 2a, column (e))					
c Total lobbying expenditures					
d Grassroots nontaxable amount					
e Grassroots ceiling amount (150% of line 2d, column (e))					
f Grassroots lobbying expenditures					

Schedule C (Form 990 or 990-EZ) 2020

SCHEDULE O
(Form 990 or 990-EZ)

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Supplemental Information to Form 990 or 990-EZ

Complete to provide information for responses to specific questions on
Form 990 or 990-EZ or to provide any additional information.

▶ Attach to Form 990 or 990-EZ.

▶ Go to www.irs.gov/Form990 for the latest information.

OMB No 1545-0047

2020

Open to Public
Inspection

Name of the organization

MONTANA PUBLIC LANDS COUNCIL, INC.

Employer identification number
81-0454376

FORM 990-EZ, PART I, LINE 4, OTHER INVESTMENT INCOME:

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY:

AMOUNT:

INTEREST INCOME

20.

FORM 990-EZ, PART I, LINE 16, OTHER EXPENSES:

DESCRIPTION OF OTHER EXPENSES:

AMOUNT:

NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS COUNCIL DUES

6,022.

OFFICE EXPENSE

739.

MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES

19,624.

STAFF TRAVEL

1,229.

POSTAGE

488.

TOTAL TO FORM 990-EZ, LINE 16

28,102.

FORM 990-EZ, PART I, LINE 20, CHANGES IN NET ASSETS:

CHANGES IN NET ASSETS OR FUND BALANCES:

AMOUNT:

PRIOR PERIOD ADJUSTMENT

-12,333.

990 EZ PAGE 1 LINE 20

PRIOR PERIOD ADJUSTMENT

IN PREPARATION OF THE 2020 COMPILATION REPORT, THE NET ASSET BEGINNING
BALANCE HAS BEEN ADJUSTED BY \$12,333 TO ACCOUNT FOR VARIOUS
MISSTATEMENTS IN PRIOR PERIODS, WHICH WERE IDENTIFIED DURING THE
ENTITY'S COMPILATION REPORT PROCEDURES.

FORM 990-EZ, PART III, PRIMARY EXEMPT PURPOSE - TO PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR

LHA For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see the Instructions for Form 990 or 990-EZ.

Schedule O (Form 990 or 990-EZ) 2020

Name of the organization

MONTANA PUBLIC LANDS COUNCIL, INC.

Employer identification number
81-0454376

PUBLIC LANDS AND LAND POLICIES.

FORM 990-EZ, PART III, LINE 28, PROGRAM SERVICE ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

SINCE THE EARLIEST SETTLEMENT OF THE WEST, AND

PARTICULARLY MONTANA, RANCHERS HAVE BEEN THE CARETAKERS

AND STEWARDS OF OPEN, FEDERAL RANGELAND. THIS ARRANGEMENT

HAS BEEN A MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL ONE-LESSEES OF FEDERAL LANDS ARE

RESPONSIBLE, ENVIRONMENTALLY-CONSCIOUS LAND MANAGERS IN PARTNERSHIP

WITH THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. IN TURN, THESE LANDS, IN COMBINATION WITH

PRIVATE LANDS, HELP TO CREATE MANY VIABLE RANCHING OPERATIONS FOR RURAL

FAMILIES, CONTRIBUTING TO LOCAL ECONOMIES AND THE WESTERN WAY OF LIFE.

THE MAIN RESPONSIBILITY OF THE MONTANA PUBLIC LANDS COUNCIL IS TO

DEVELOP AND COORDINATE UNIFIED POLICY POSITIONS AND PURSUE LEGISLATIVE

AND REGULATORY ACTIONS THAT MOST EFFECTIVELY REPRESENT MONTANA PUBLIC

LANDS GRAZING USERS. THE MONTANA PUBLIC LANDS COUNCIL IS A LEADING

STATE ORGANIZATION IN MONITORING, INITIATING AND COORDINATING ACTIONS

ON PRIORITY PUBLIC LANDS ISSUES IN THE STATE.

THE MONTANA PUBLIC LANDS COUNCIL ALSO WORKS CLOSELY WITH THE NATIONAL

PUBLIC LANDS COUNCIL IN WASHINGTON, D.C., ON A NUMBER OF NATIONAL

ISSUES AFFECTING FEDERAL LANDS GRAZING.

FORM 990-EZ, PART V, INFORMATION REGARDING PERSONAL BENEFIT CONTRACTS:

THE ORGANIZATION DID NOT, DURING THE YEAR, RECEIVE ANY FUNDS, DIRECTLY,

OR INDIRECTLY, TO PAY PREMIUMS ON A PERSONAL BENEFIT CONTRACT.

THE ORGANIZATION, DID NOT, DURING THE YEAR, PAY ANY PREMIUMS, DIRECTLY,

OR INDIRECTLY, ON A PERSONAL BENEFIT CONTRACT.