

Welcome from the Wyoming Rural Development Council!

Wyoming Rural Development Council

The Wyoming Rural Development Council (WRDC) is a collaborative public/private partnership that brings together six partner groups: local/regional government, state government, federal government, tribal government, non-profit organizations and private sector individuals and organizations.

WRDC is governed by a Steering Committee representing the six partner groups. The Steering Committee as well as the Council membership has established the following goals for the WRDC:

- Assist rural communities in visioning and strategic planning.
- Serve as a resource for assisting communities in finding and obtaining grants for rural projects.
- Serve and be recognized as a neutral forum for identification and resolution of multi-jurisdictional issues.
- Promote, through education, the understanding of the needs, values, and contributions of rural communities.

The Council seeks to assist rural Wyoming communities with their needs and development efforts by matching the technical and financial resources of federal, state and local governments and the private sector with local development efforts.



Community Assessment Program

The Community Assessment Program in Wyoming began in the year 2000 and is designed to help communities develop locally conceived and driven development strategies.

The community assessment program helps communities and counties develop a “big picture” objective assessment of their challenges and opportunities, socially, economically and environmentally.

Today, the WRDC has facilitated community assessments in 85 Wyoming communities and several counties. In addition, the WRDC has created a network of over 350 trained team members that volunteer their time to Wyoming communities on these assessments.

Many Wyoming communities have used this report to begin a plan of action for their community, often with amazing success. To learn more about how communities have effectively used this process to create a plan and implement objectives and goals, take a look at the Seven Year Community Assessment Synopsis entitled, “Celebrating Seven Years of Community Assessments in Wyoming,” which is available on our website.

To learn more about the Wyoming Rural Development Council and our programs contact us!

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Riverton listening session



Any recommendations contained herein are not mandatory. The Wyoming Rural Development Council has not endorsed any recommendations and opinions contained herein. Neither the WRDC, nor any of its employees, contract labor, committee chairs, and/or members makes any warranty, express or implied, including warranties of merchantability and fitness for a particular purpose, or assumes any legal liability for the accuracy, completeness, or usefulness of this report or any information, recommendations, or opinions contained herein.

Process for the Development of the Riverton Community Assessment Report

Process

The Wyoming Rural Development Council (WRDC) has provided a Resource Team to assist Riverton, Wyoming in evaluating the community's assets and liabilities and in developing suggestions for improving the social and economic future of Riverton.

The City of Riverton requested a five year follow-up community assessment from the Wyoming Rural Development Council. The original community assessment was completed November 13-15, 2001. The WRDC offers to revisit communities five years after completing an assessment to examine what has been accomplished, learn what changes the community has experienced since the first assessment and give recommendations and resources to accomplish the identified projects and goals. Phil Christopherson served as the community contact and took the lead in agenda development, logistics and publicity in for the assessment. Resource team members were selected to visit, interview citizens, business and community leaders; and develop a plan of recommended action for the town. The team members were carefully selected based on their fields of expertise that Riverton officials indicated would be needed to respond to the problem areas identified.



Logistics

The Resource Team toured Riverton and interviewed approximately 500 people over a

four day period November 5-8, 2007. The team interviewed representatives from the following segments of Riverton: Service clubs, recreation, retail business, financial institutions, hospitality, economic development, high school students, educators, manufacturing, contractors, agriculture, transportation, tribal members, business, communication, college students, healthcare and disabilities, oil, minerals, extraction, religious organizations, non profits, senior citizens and the general public. Listening sessions were held at various locations in Riverton. Each participant was asked to respond to three questions designed to begin communication and discussion and to serve as a basis for developing the action plan. The three questions were:

- *What do you think are the major problems and challenges in Riverton?*
- *What do you think are the major strengths and assets in Riverton?*
- *What projects would you like to see completed in the next two, five ten and twenty years in the Riverton?*

Report Development

Upon completion of the interviews, the team met to compare notes and share comments following the three days of intense study. The team then agreed that each team member would carefully analyze what was said, synthesize what they heard with their knowledge of programs and resources, prepare their notes and suggestions, and forward these items to be combined into the Wyoming Rural Development Council's Report to Riverton.

Executive Summary

In conducting this Assessment, it was apparent to the Resource Team that there is a strong and committed core of Citizens in Riverton who want to keep Riverton healthy and make it a more vibrant community. A great deal of progress has been made since the last Assessment five years ago. Building on past successes is the key to community involvement and support. Taking each job one-step at a time and building on the small successes is a lesson that the community has already learned. Some of the challenges outlined in this document are large and perhaps daunting but they can be accomplished with the same persistence, patience and political will.

There are a number of short term, accomplishable recommendations that the resource team has provided. The most important thing is to get the entire community involved in trying to find ways to accomplish its goals. A few celebrations at the successful conclusion of an activity that has involved a large number of citizens will lead to a feeling of accomplishment that will carry over into other activities.

Each of you individually must decide what it is that you want to do, what type of project you want to tackle. There are enough tasks for everyone. Each small step, every accomplishment, no matter how limited, is movement in the right direction toward achieving goals for Riverton. It can be done! There is no problem facing Riverton that cannot be solved by the people living in the community. It is your choice, your decision, and you can do it.

On behalf of the Riverton Resource Team, I want to thank the community and our sponsors for the warm hospitality shown to us during our stay. The meals were incredible and accommodations were outstanding. We heard over and over in the listening sessions that Riverton has caring and concerned citizens, and we certainly can attest to that! Thank you very much.

We hope you will find great value in this report and remember any team member is available for you to call to clarify information or provide more information and assistance.

The Wyoming Rural Development Council is here to help you in any way that we can.

Sincerely,

Mary Randolph
Resource Team Leader



Main Street, Riverton, approx. 1920

Source: <http://www.wyomingtalesandtrails.com/riverton.html>

Riverton Community Profile

(Elevation: 4,956)

Riverton, Wyoming, the hub city of Wyoming's Wind River Country, has a long history as a crossroads and meeting place for Native Americans, explorers, cowboys, and travelers. The town was founded in 1906 on land purchased from the Shoshone and Arapaho Indians of the surrounding Wind River Reservation. Farm land was made available to homesteaders through a lottery and town lots were distributed through a system of squatter's rights - the first person to occupy and hold each lot became its owner. The result was a land rush that produced much excitement, arguments, and armed standoffs. Homesteaders on farming lands did not have to fight off claim jumpers, but their ability to develop their property was hampered by delays in the construction of canals that would bring the needed water for irrigation. Some early homesteaders gave up, but others found ways to survive.

In 1914 the Wyoming Tie and Timber Company began cutting railroad ties in the forests above Dubois and floating the ties down the Wind River to Riverton where they were delivered to the Chicago & Northwester Railroad. Gradually, the production of ties was mechanized and the days of hand hewn ties ended. The last timber drive down the river was in 1946 when timbers were transported by truck until production ceased in 1960 and the company converted to size lumber for construction.

At the end of World War II the beginning of the Atomic Age brought Riverton into a new economic era. In September 1953, uranium was discovered in the Gas Hills east of Riverton and within weeks the area was alive with prospectors. The uranium industry transformed Riverton

from a quiet farming community of 2,500 people into a bustling commercial center of more than 10,000. While market forces subsequently brought dramatic cutbacks in area mining during the 1980s, Riverton had become the largest community in west-central Wyoming. The discovery of oil, natural gas, and other mineral wealth has added to the area economy as well.

Long before the city was founded, the future site of Riverton was the spot where the Mountain Men, the earliest white pioneers of the West, held their annual Rendezvous in 1830 and again in 1838. These normally solitary frontiersmen traveled many hundreds of miles each year to the Rendezvous where they bartered beaver pelts for trade goods, swapped endless tall tales and argued heatedly about who had the best furry hat. The town played host to many legendary people such as, Jim Bridger, Kit Carson, and Lewis and Clark. Today, Riverton is home to the annual 1838 Mountain Man Rendezvous. Held each year during the first week of July, this event keeps old memories alive by hosting a living encampment, games of skill, food and entertainment.

During the second and third weeks of July, Riverton celebrates the region's only hot-air balloon rally, which features street dances, the Rocky Mountain Car and Bike Show, and a WRA rodeo. Riverton then hosts the Fremont County Fair during the first week in August.

While Riverton's route along the Yellowstone Highway has made it a favorite stop-over for visitors to Yellowstone and Grand Teton parks, it is emerging as a year-round outdoor recreation area and prime vacation spot in its own right. Hunting, fishing, and hiking attract summer and seasonal visitors to the area. Winter activities include snowboarding over local groomed trails and other established trails. Cross-country skiing and snowshoeing provide access to beautiful Wyoming scenery and wildlife during winter months. Culture and history sites and activities are abundant in the Riverton as well, ranging from prehistoric rock art to Indian missions to pow-wows and dance exhibitions.

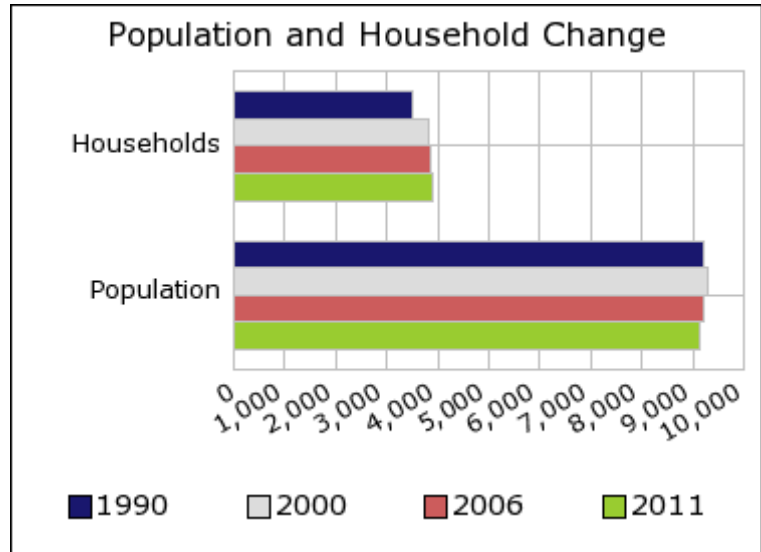
Sources: <http://www.rivertonchamber.org>
http://www.clusterballoon.org/wyoming/wyoming_1.html
<http://www.wyoming.com/~rivmus/rivhist.htm>

Riverton Executive Summary

Population Demographics:

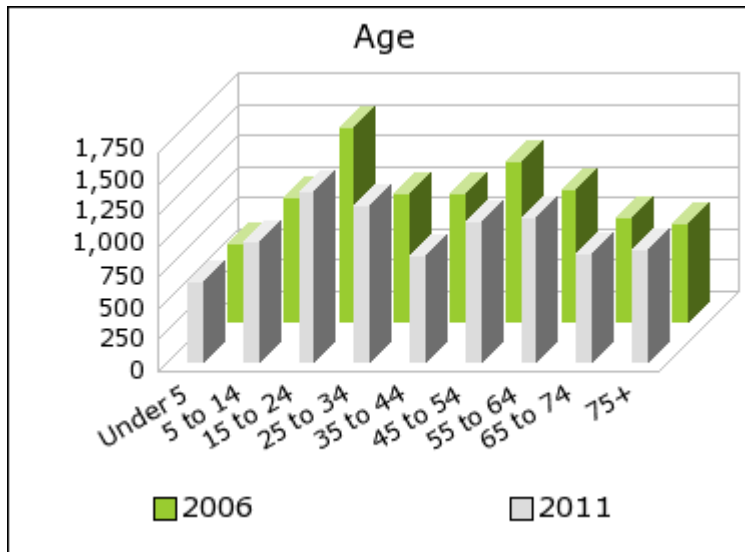
The number of households in Riverton in 1990 was **3,513** and changed to **3,816** in 2000, representing a change of **8.6%**. The household count in 2006 was **3,868** and the household projection for 2011 is **3,911**, a change of **1.1%**.

The population in Riverton in 1990 was **9,197** and in 2000 it was **9,310**, roughly a **1.2%** change. The population in 2006 was **9,198** and the projection for 2011 is **9,129** representing a change of **-0.8%**.



	1990 Census	2000 Census	2006 Estimate	2011 Projection	Percent Change	
					1990 to 2000	2006 to 2011
Total Population	9,197	9,310	9,198	9,129	1.2%	-0.8%
Total Households	3,513	3,816	3,868	3,911	8.6%	1.1%

Population by Age



In 1990, the median age of the total population in Riverton was **33.2**, and in 2000, it was **37.7**. The median age in 2006 was **39.1** and it is predicted to change in five years to **38.8** years. In 2006, females represented **52.2%** of the population with a median age of **40.5** and males represented **47.8%** of the population with a median age of **37.5** years. In 2006, the most prominent age group in Riverton was **Age 45 to 54** years. The age group least represented is **0 to 4** years.

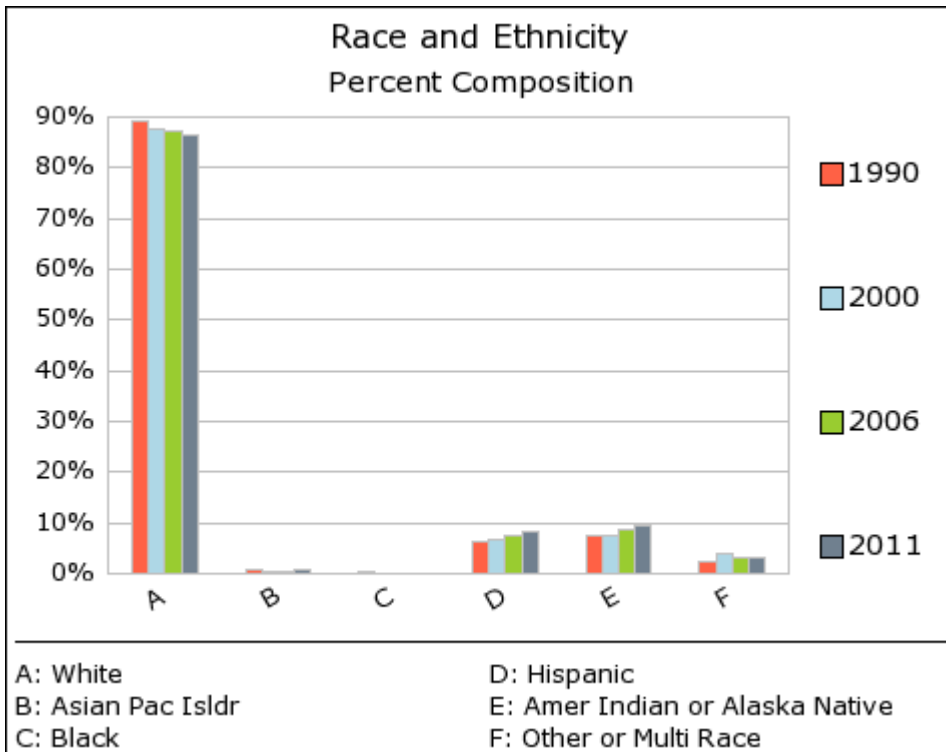
Age

Percent

Groups

	1990 Census		2000 Census		2006 Estimate		2011 Projection		Change	
		%		%		%		%	1990 to 2000	2006 to 2011
0 to 4	699	7.6%	636	6.8%	623	6.8%	638	7.0%	-9.0%	2.4%
5 to 14	1,674	18.2%	1,260	13.5%	999	10.9%	965	10.6%	24.8%	-3.4%
15 to 19	625	6.8%	775	8.3%	675	7.3%	559	6.1%	24.1%	-17.2%
20 to 24	485	5.3%	598	6.4%	875	9.5%	813	8.9%	23.2%	-7.0%
25 to 34	1,395	15.2%	1,033	11.1%	1,035	11.3%	1,250	13.7%	25.9%	20.8%
35 to 44	1,312	14.3%	1,346	14.5%	1,028	11.2%	859	9.4%	2.6%	-16.5%
45 to 54	916	10.0%	1,277	13.7%	1,284	14.0%	1,132	12.4%	39.4%	-11.9%
55 to 64	823	8.9%	889	9.6%	1,055	11.5%	1,153	12.6%	8.1%	9.3%
65 to 74	737	8.0%	794	8.5%	838	9.1%	869	9.5%	7.7%	3.7%
75 +	532	5.8%	702	7.5%	787	8.6%	891	9.8%	31.9%	13.3%

Population by Race/Ethnicity



In 2006, the predominant race/ethnicity category in Riverton was **White**. The race & ethnicity category least represented was **Black**.

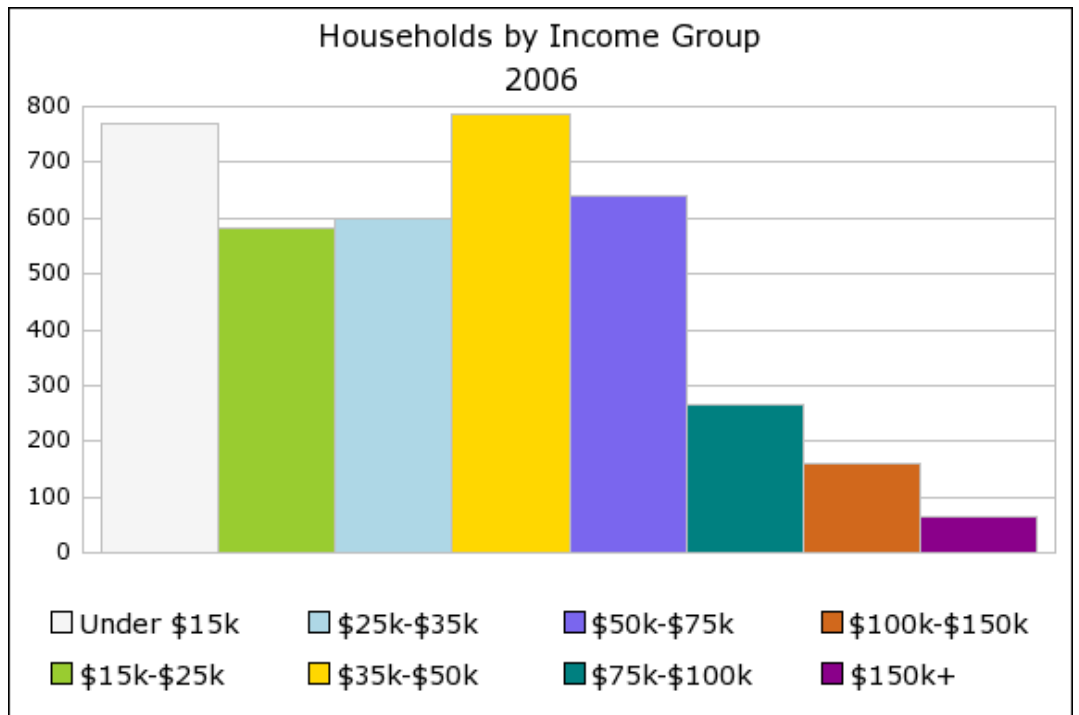
Race & Ethnicity

	1990 Census		2000 Census		2006 Estimate		2011 Projection		Percent Change	
		%		%		%		%	1990 to 2000	2006 to 2011
White	8,207	89.2%	8,165	87.7%	8,029	87.3%	7,892	86.5%	-0.5%	-1.7%
Black	21	0.2%	15	0.2%	15	0.2%	15	0.2%	-	0.0%

								29.2%	
American Indian or Alaska Native	685	7.5%	703	7.6%	804	8.8%	872	9.6%	2.6% 8.4%
Asian or Pacific Islander	55	0.6%	43	0.5%	47	0.5%	55	0.6%	- 21.0% 17.0%
Other Race	228	2.5%	157	1.7%	123	1.3%	143	1.6%	- 31.4% 16.1%
Two or More Races			227	2.4%	180	2.0%	152	1.7%	- 15.4%
Hispanic Ethnicity	566	6.2%	626	6.7%	700	7.6%	754	8.3%	10.7% 7.7%
Not Hispanic or Latino	8,631	93.9%	8,684	93.3%	8,497	92.4%	8,375	91.7%	0.6% -1.4%

Households by Income

In 2006 the predominant household income category in Riverton was **\$35K - \$50K**, and the income group that was least represented was **\$150K+**.



Riverton Five-Year Follow-up Assessment November 2007

HH Income									Percent Change	
Categories	1990 Census	%	2000 Census	%	2006 Estimate	%	2011 Projection	%	1990 to 2000	2006 to 2011
\$0 - \$15,000	1,151	32.8%	857	22.5%	770	19.9%	723	18.5%	-25.5%	-6.1%
\$15,000 - \$24,999	744	21.2%	644	16.9%	581	15.0%	558	14.3%	-13.5%	-4.1%
\$25,000 - \$34,999	629	17.9%	677	17.7%	600	15.5%	582	14.9%	7.6%	-3.0%
\$35,000 - \$49,999	504	14.4%	751	19.7%	787	20.4%	744	19.0%	48.9%	-5.5%
\$50,000 - \$74,999	361	10.3%	559	14.7%	639	16.5%	648	16.6%	55.1%	1.4%
\$75,000 - \$99,999	49	1.4%	188	4.9%	264	6.8%	367	9.4%	281.8%	39.1%
\$100,000 - \$149,999	55	1.6%	93	2.4%	161	4.2%	208	5.3%	68.4%	28.9%
\$150,000+	18	0.5%	47	1.2%	66	1.7%	83	2.1%	165.6%	25.4%
Average HH Income	\$27,634		\$37,877		\$43,814		\$46,845		37.1%	6.9%
Median HH Income	\$22,651		\$31,022		\$34,730		\$36,975		37.0%	6.5%
Per Capita Income	\$10,633		\$15,526		\$19,691		\$21,501		46.0%	9.2%

Employment and Business									Percent Change	
	1990 Census		2000 Census		2006 Estimate		2011 Projection		1990 to 2000	2006 to 2011
Age 16 + Population	6,690		7,267		7,453		7,402		8.6%	-0.7%
In Labor Force	4,350	65.0%	4,874	67.1%	4,996	67.0%	4,952	66.9%	12.1%	-0.9%
Employed	4,090	94.0%	4,427	90.8%	4,702	94.1%	4,661	94.1%	8.2%	-0.9%
Unemployed	243	5.6%	447	9.2%	293	5.9%	291	5.9%	84.0%	-0.9%
In Armed Forces	17	0.3%	0	0.0%	1	0.0%	0	0.0%	-99.7%	-91.3%
Not In Labor Force	2,339	35.0%	2,392	32.9%	2,457	33.0%	2,450	33.1%	2.3%	-0.3%
Employment in Blue Collar Occupations			1,982	44.8%						
Employment in White Collar Occupations			2,445	55.2%						

Housing Units									Percent Change	
	1990 Census		2000 Census		2006 Estimate		2011 Projection		1990 to 2000	2006 to 2011
Total Housing Units	3,912		4,231		4,297		4,359		8.1%	1.4%
Owner Occupied	2,291	58.6%	2,572	60.8%	2,600	60.5%	2,625	60.2%	12.2%	0.9%
Renter Occupied	1,222	31.2%	1,245	29.4%	1,268	29.5%	1,286	29.5%	1.9%	1.4%
Vacant	399	10.2%	415	9.8%	429	10.0%	448	10.3%	3.9%	4.3%

Vehicles Available									Percent Change	
	1990 Census		2000 Census		2006 Estimate		2011 Projection		1990 to 2000	2006 to 2011
Average Vehicles Per HH	1.90		1.60		1.90		2.10		-14.1%	6.3%

Riverton Five-Year Follow-up Assessment November 2007

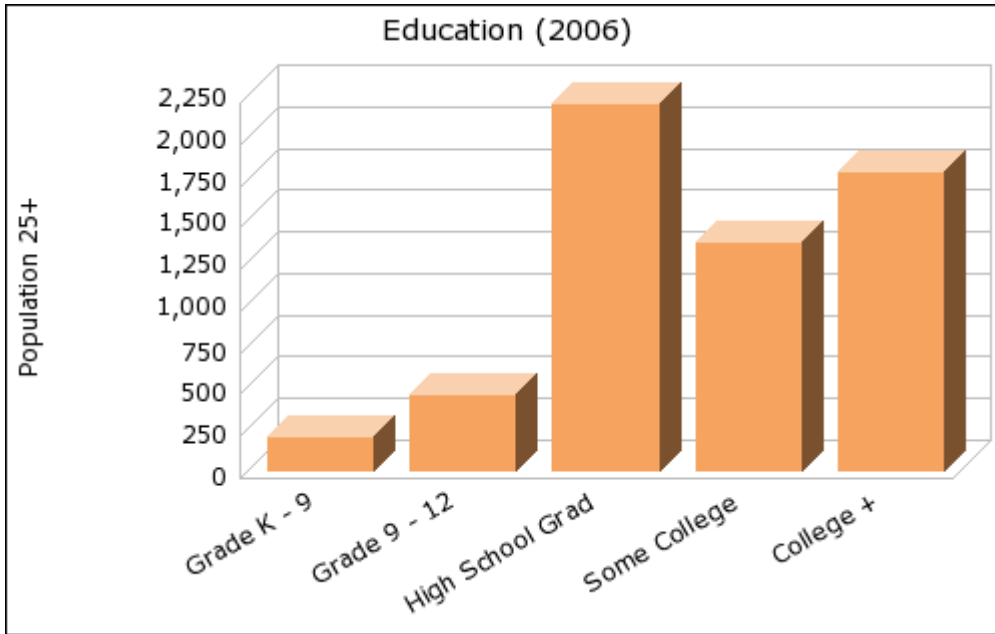
0 Vehicles	194	5.1%	235	6.2%	177	4.6%	147	3.8%	20.9%	-16.7%
1 Vehicle	1,138	29.6%	1,398	36.6%	1,326	34.3%	1,271	32.5%	22.8%	-4.2%
2+ Vehicles	2,517	65.4%	2,184	57.2%	2,365	61.1%	2,492	63.7%	-13.2%	5.4%

Marital Status

	1990 Census		2000 Census		2006 Estimate		2011 Projection		Percent Change	
									1990 to 2000	2006 to 2011
Age 15+ Population	6,824		7,414		7,576		7,525		8.7%	-0.7%
Married: Spouse Present	4,123	60.4%	3,815	51.5%	3,907	51.6%	3,880	51.6%	-7.5%	-0.7%
Married: Spouse Absent	117	1.7%	331	4.5%	340	4.5%	338	4.5%	182.9%	-0.4%
Divorced	736	10.8%	995	13.4%	1,011	13.4%	1,006	13.4%	35.1%	-0.6%
Widowed	554	8.1%	592	8.0%	598	7.9%	594	7.9%	6.9%	-0.6%
Never Married	1,293	19.0%	1,682	22.7%	1,717	22.7%	1,705	22.7%	30.0%	-0.7%

Educational Attainment

	1990 Census		2000 Census		2006 Estimate		2011 Projection		Percent Change	
									1990 to 2000	2006 to 2011
Age 25+ Population	5,713		6,041		6,026		6,153		5.7%	2.1%
Grade K - 8	383	6.7%	221	3.7%	207	3.4%	172	2.8%	-42.2%	-16.5%
Grade 9 - 12	779	13.6%	684	11.3%	452	7.5%	324	5.3%	-12.2%	-28.3%
High School Graduate	1,926	33.7%	2,121	35.1%	2,202	36.5%	2,282	37.1%	10.2%	3.6%
Some College, No Degree	1,314	23.0%	1,457	24.1%	1,376	22.8%	1,328	21.6%	10.9%	-3.5%
Associates Degree	346	6.1%	516	8.6%	593	9.9%	659	10.7%	49.1%	11.1%
Bachelor's Degree	706	12.4%	720	11.9%	884	14.7%	1,031	16.8%	2.0%	16.6%
Graduate Degree	263	4.6%	279	4.6%	313	5.2%	357	5.8%	6.1%	14.1%



Current year data is for the year 2006, 5 year projected data is for the year 2011.

Resource Team Members



Riverton, Wyoming Five-Year Follow Up Assessment November 5-November 9, 2007

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MAJOR THEMES – RIVERTON

EDUCATION

Childcare
Schools

PLANNING

Zoning
Master Plan
Sub standard housing

LEADERSHIP

Cheerleader for community
Volunteers

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Workforce
Housing
Infrastructure
Destination
Main Street
Diversify Business

WORKFORCE

Jobs/Wages
People
Training/Ethics

TRANSPORTATION

Airport
Extend and develop for public transportation

CAPITAL FACILITIES

Recreation/Multi Purpose Facility
Convention Center
Day Care

SOCIAL/SAFETY

Code enforcement
Streets/roads
Lights
Crime (drugs) – Related to Casino
Law Enforcement (demand)

HOUSING

Development
Affordable
Assisted Living/Nursing
Workforce
Rental

SOCIAL

Prejudice
Teen Pregnancy
Family Values

COMMUNITY BEAUTIFICATION/PRIDE

Riverwalk
Entrances

SAFETY

Code Enforcement
Vandalism
Street and sidewalks
Traffic lights
Demand on Law Enforcement
Crime

COMMUNICATION

City
County
Tribal

SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Treatment center

RECREATION

Future Impacts

Casino
Pipeline
Uranium
Growth
Job Corps

Community Assessment Draft Session Schedule

Monday, November 5th

Time	Event	Host / Who / How
10.30a . 11.30a	Orientation Meeting at Holiday Inn	All Team Captains
11.30a . 1.30p	Lunch with Session Captains at Holiday Inn	All Team Captains
1.30p . 4.30p	Tour of Riverton and Surroundings	WRTA Bus/Van
4:30p – 5:00p	Check into Hotels	
5.00p . 6.30p	Dinner at Sapores (Then to Riv. Rec. Dept)	Assessment Team, Hosts
6.30p . 7.20p	SESSION: Service Clubs / General Session	Jonathon Faubion
7.30p -- 8.20p	SESSION: Recreation / General Session	Laurie Shoopman Tina Saunders Craig Blumenshine
8:30pm	Return to Hotels	

Tuesday, November 6th

Time	Event	Host / Team Captain
6.30a . 7:30a	Breakfast at Hotel	
7.30a . 8.00a	Transport from Hotels Inn to Riverton Library	Personal Vehicles
8.00a . 8.50a	SESSION: Retail Businesses	Karla Krofts
9.00a . 9.50a	SESSION: Financial Institutions	Greg Anderson
10.00a . 10.50a	SESSION: Hospitality	Sara Kalbach
11.00a .11.50a	SESSION: Economic Development	Phil Christopherson
12.00p . 1.00p	Lunch at Rotary	Assessment Team / Hosts
1.00p . 1.50p	SESSION: Public Sector	Carter Napier
2.00p . 2.15p	Transport to Riverton High School	Personal Vehicles
2.15p . 3.10p	SESSION: Students (Youth)	Joanne Flannigan
3:10p – 4:00p	Break – school tour	
4.00p . 4.50p	SESSION: Educators (Schools)	Joanne Flannigan
5.00p . 5.15	Transport to Dinner	Personal Vehicles
5.15p . 6.30p	Dinner at The Bull	Assessment Team / Hosts
6.30p . 6.40p	Transport to Riverton Library	Personal Vehicles
6.40p . 7.30p	SESSION: Manufacturing	Kevin Kershnik
7.40p . 8.30p	SESSION: Contractors	Bonny Meadow / Monty Ellsion
8.30p	Return to Hotels	Personal Vehicles

Wednesday, November 7th

Time	Event	Host / Team Captain
6.30a . 7:30a	Breakfast at Comfort Inn	
7.30a . 8.00a	Transport from Breakfast to City Hall	Personal Vehicles
8.00a . 8.50a	SESSION: Agriculture	Rick Klein
9.00a . 9.50a	SESSION: Transportation / General Session	Linda Burt
10.00a . 10.45a	Transport to Reservation Meeting place	WRTA Bus / Van
11.00a . 11:50a	SESSION: Reservation / Tribal session	Lisa Wagner
12.00a . 1.00p	Lunch at Northern Arapaho Conf. Room	Wind River Development Fund
1.00p . 1.45p	Transport to CWC	WRTA Bus
2:00 . 2:50p	SESSION: Public	Phil Christopherson
3:00 . 3.50p	SESSION: Business/Communication	Keith Domke
4:00 . 4:50p	SESSION: College Students	Jo Anne McFarland
5.00p . 6.30p	Dinner at CWC	Assessment Team / Hosts
6.40p . 7.30p	SESSION: Higher Education	Jo Anne McFarland
7.40p . 8.30p	SESSION: Health Care/Disabilities	Rebecca Smith/Lindsey Anderson
8.35p	Return to Hotels	

Thursday, November 8th

Time	Event	Host / Team Captain
6.30a . 7:30a	Breakfast at Comfort Inn	
7.30a . 8.00a	Transport from Hotels to City Hall	Personal Vehicles
8.00a . 8.50a	SESSION: Oil Field / Minerals / Extraction	Ray Underwood
9.00a . 9.50a	SESSION: Real Estate	?
10.00a . 10.50a	SESSION: Religious organizations	Mike Johnson
11.00a . 11:50a	SESSION: Non Profits	?
12:00p – 12:15p	Transport to Senior Center	Personal Vehicles
12.00p . 1.00p	Lunch at Senior Center	Assessment Team / Hosts
1.00p . 1.50p	SESSION: Seniors	Linda Burt
2.00p . 2.15p	Transport to City Hall	Personal Vehicles
2.15p . 3.15p	Assessment Team Meeting in Council Work room	Assessment Team
4.00p . 5.00p	Event Summary meeting - Assessment Team and Team Captains	All Team Captains
5.30p . 7.30p	Dinner – The Depot	Assessment Team
7.30p	End of Day. Lodging at Hotels	

TEAM MEMBER RECOMMENDATIONS

Mary Randolph
Wyoming Rural Development Council
214 W. 15th Street
Cheyenne, WY 82002
307-777-6430
Mary.randolph@wybusiness.org

INTRODUCTION

I cannot tell you how much I enjoyed facilitating the Riverton 5-year follow up assessment. To begin with, your coordination efforts in assuring this was a successful assessment were outstanding--community assessments are as successful as the efforts put into organizing them. You set a goal for attendance at the listening sessions and did a very good job and trying to reach that goal. The thanks and kudos for these efforts go to the planning team – you all did a great job and should congratulate yourselves.

What was so exciting for me was that Riverton does have it all. I do many of these assessments and the facilities, activities and services you have are what so many other communities dream about. The housing efforts such as the Sertoma Housing, the new health clinic, transportation, Central Wyoming College, the beautiful new playground, to just name a few. Someone said it was the best little city in Wyoming, and I must agree with that!

You have shown that as a community you can come together and accomplish whatever your goals. It was sad that while we were there, the mill levy did not pass for the high school football field; but I have feeling you will figure out how to make it happen. You accomplished so much from the first assessment that I know when we come back in five years you will be on your way to accomplishing the next projects!

Please know that you have support and that we at the Wyoming Rural Development Council are here to support and assist you in any way we can.

Thank you for your hospitality – you made us feel so welcome and actually a part of the community for a few days. The food was incredible – I left there knowing that you do have some very good places to eat in Riverton! Many thanks to Phil Christopherson of IDEA, Inc, Anne Even of the Chamber, Carter Napier of the City and Roger Bower of the Wyoming Business Council for chauffeuring us, making sure we had plenty of diet coke and other beverages and just making us feel welcome. Many thanks too to the planning team – you were outstanding, and I wish I could take you to every community!

As we discussed in our closing with you, you have some major future impacts on your community including: the casino, pipeline, uranium, job corps and growth in general. It is imperative that you strategize how to move forward and prepare for these impacts.

And I know that through this follow up assessment that you are on the right track – you are doing things right and Riverton will continue to have bright future!

Theme: HOUSING

Challenge: Riverton is facing the same housing shortages and challenges as many energy impacted communities in Wyoming. You are headed on the right direction with a housing assessment and some of the projects that are on going in the community such as the Sertoma housing project.

Solution: I don't have any answers – I sometimes don't think anyone in Wyoming has the answer to this problem, but here is a resource that was created to assist communities that have identified through their community assessment housing as an issue.

Resources:

Forrest Neuerburg
Wyoming Housing Network
300 S. Wolcott, Suite 200
Casper, WY 82601
307-472-5843 phone
fneuerburg@wyominghousingnetwork.org

Theme: COMMUNITY BEAUTIFICATION/PRIDE

Challenge: At many of the listening sessions people brought up how nice the downtown looked with the new streetscape, but still had concerns that there were not many businesses located there to pull people to the downtown area.

Solution: People are right – the downtown streetscape project was well done, and it is a good start. However, it does take more than fancy cement, street lights and flower pots to revitalize a downtown. My recommendation is that Riverton would be an ideal candidate for the Wyoming Main Street Program. The Wyoming Main Street Program is part of the National Main Street program in which 43 states and 1800 communities utilize a 4 point approach to downtown revitalization. Main Street is a program of the National Trust for Historic Preservation and has been in existence for 27 years. It has a proven track record as being the most successful economic development program in the country.

Main Street is based on a 4 point approach – Design, Organization, Economic Restructuring, and Promotion. All four components must work together to have a healthy and vibrant downtown.

The Wyoming Main Street program administered by the Wyoming Rural Development Council, offers communities the opportunity to be a part of the state program. Funding is available to Main Street communities for training, attendance at the National Main Street

conference, membership to the National Main Street program (which provides you a wealth of information), technical assistance in design, organization, economic restructuring and promotion (i.e. we can hire an architect to give assistance to downtown business owners that wish to do façade renovations).

In addition, we have a \$300,000 revolving loan fund for building structure and façade that is available to any business owner in a downtown district. Terms of the loan are 4%, 15 year payback.

Wyoming Main Street will be offering scholarships this year to communities that would like to learn more about Main Street to attend the National Main Street conference in Pennsylvania. I would very much like to offer a scholarship to someone in Riverton to attend this conference. In addition, the Wyoming Main Street staff is available at any time to attend a meeting or make a presentation to the community on the Main Street program and how it could benefit Riverton.

Resources:

Evan Medley
Main Street Program Manager
214 W. 15th Street
Cheyenne, WY 82002
307-777-2934 phone
Evan.medley@wybusiness.org

National Main Street Center
1785 Massachusetts Avenue, NW.
Washington, DC 20036
tel: 202.588-6219 fax: 202.588.6050

Solution:

Another idea that many folks brought up at the listening sessions was the idea of finding a “theme” or an idea to create Riverton as more of a destination. Rock Springs, Wyoming recently hired “Destination Development Inc.” to develop a theme for Rock Springs, new logo and downtown streetscape plan.

Resources:

City of Rock Springs
Mayor Timothy Kaumo
212 D. Street
Rock Springs, WY
307-352-1510

Destination Development Inc.
Corporate Office
Riverview Plaza Suite 310 • 16000 Christensen Road • Seattle, WA 98188

(206) 241-4770 voice
(206) 241-4750 fax

Theme: SOCIAL

Challenge: We were very pleased to spend an afternoon on the Reservation and hold a listening session at the Northern Arapaho Tribal Housing Office. Thank you for arranging that session. It was most informative and important to do since the members of the Reservation are a huge income base for the City of Riverton and its businesses. I personally believe that through the efforts of your Mayor and others, there has been great strides in communication and partnership between the Reservation and the City of Riverton since the last assessment and the assessment we completed on the Reservation. However, there are still some issues of prejudice and communication that should be addressed.

Solution: I don't think there is truly a solution to this issue or concern, but people need to continually be educated in the cultural differences and continue to respect each other's needs and wants. It is very helpful if community leaders continue to educate themselves on cultural differences and exhibit respect for each other. I recommend that community leaders and business leaders attend a workshop that is held in Riverton (annually) entitled, "*Building Effective Government and Business Relations With American Indian Tribes*™". It might even be very good if Riverton should sponsor this workshop.

Resources:

LDK Associates, Inc.
36 Pine Lane, Suite One
Sheridan, WY 82801
307-751-2850
Larry.keown@ldkassociates.com
<http://www.ldkassociates.com/>

Theme: RECREATION

Challenge: In this theme there were many concerns and ideas brought up including some type of recreation center, more recreational activities for youth, and the concern for the City Park.

Solution: The City Park has a rich history in Riverton as we were told many stories of how people use to play and utilize the park in their youth. It is a shame that such a wonderful park is now a scary place to go and a place people are not comfortable to take their kids. Your Park has such an outstanding location and can also be used to truly enhance your downtown. I recommend as a priority to create a "People for Park" program similar to a program that was created in 1983 in Madison, WI. The program

encourages citizens to take an active role in the maintenance, safety and enhancement of city parks.

Resource:

Madison, Wisconsin Parks Community Relations Coordinator at 266-5949.

Solution: Riverton is probably one of the best communities in the State to build a convention/recreation center. You are the center of Wyoming and numerous conferences and workshops would come to Riverton if you had the right facility. A multi-purpose type facility would be good for your community to serve the needs of Riverton citizens and also organizations in Wyoming. An outstanding example of getting a facility built is in Saratoga. They used a combination of state and private funding to build an incredible facility that is attached to a school that was going to be torn down. It would be a good idea to visit the facility or talk to Joe Gode who is president of the Joint Powers Board.

Resource:

Stephanie Jeffers
PVCC Executive Director or
Joe Gode
President of the Joint Powers Board
307-326-7822

Theme: COMMUNITY BEAUTIFICATION/PRIDE

Challenge: The River walk was mentioned many times as an asset to the community and also as a project that they would like to see completed.

Solution: There are two other communities that come to mind that have a similar project for their community, and I know that one community is looking at the AML funds. I suggest you contact Evanston, Wyoming, regarding their project. It is very well done and I know that they can give you ideas on the funding aspect. The other community is Rock Springs who is currently working on their Bitter Creek reconstruction. They too are hoping to utilize AML funds for this project.

Resources:

Evanston – Jim Davis
City of Evanston
307-783-6300

Rock Springs – Mayor Timothy Kaumo
City of Rock Springs
307-352-1510

MISCELLANEOUS THOUGHTS AND IDEAS

1. Even though you have a great deal of resources in your community to write and obtain grants and funding, I would offer the services of the Wyoming Rural Development Council. Each year we pay for a person from a community to attend a 40 hour grant writing workshop, usually held in Jackson, Wyoming in November. We pay all expenses and expect in return for the individual to “pay back” Wyoming Rural Development Council with 40 hours of grant writing to another community or organization. So, if you would like to send an individual or need a grant writer, please contact my office at 307-777-6430.
2. What an incredible asset you have in the college, and they are more than willing to continue to be a vital contributor to the community. Support the tribal center – what an asset that will be to the community, Reservation and Wyoming!
3. Take advantage of us returning to Riverton for the priority setting meeting. I think it shows that the citizens were truly listened to and have another opportunity to set direction for Riverton. Publicize this as much as you can – the more people that participate the better!

Yvette Wilson
USDA - Rural Development
508 North Broadway
Riverton, WY 82501
307-856-7524 Ext. 124
307-856-2383 Fax
Yvette.wilson@wy.usda.gov

Thank you for the opportunity to be a part of the Riverton Community Assessment. Because Riverton is my hometown, I can confirm many of the issues, as well as assets and strengths that were communicated. I was comforted to know that my concerns as a citizen were not all that different from what I heard other people talk about all week. The best part of all was a confirmation that we are a progressive community and that Riverton has a lot of really fine people who work together for a common good. As Mary Randolph stated, Riverton has it all. Although Riverton faces a lot of the same issues as other communities, we also have a lot more that many other communities in Wyoming and we should be proud of that. Keep looking into the future with pride and try to view that glass as half full rather than half empty, but most of all keep up the great work; our community will be all that we want it to be with perseverance.

HOUSING

DEVELOPMENT, AFFORDABLE, ASSISTED LIVING/NURSING/WORKFORCE AND RENTALS

Challenge: One of the challenges that was mentioned numerous times was the lack housing. Affordable housing to purchase or rent is seriously lacking and because of this business industry is having difficulty recruiting and/or retaining employees because they have no place for these workers to live. Now you have a workforce housing shortage in addition to the rest. This has resulted in several hotel owners renting their rooms as temporary and sometimes long term housing. Other communities have faced a similar problem and have used a variety of methods to solve the problem. There are a few options available for the community to explore, as well as individuals who are in need of affordable housing.

The housing issues as a whole are very valid and very much evident in the town of Riverton. This was an issue that was mentioned in nearly every session, and being a citizen of Riverton, I do know that it is very real. The solutions at time are not as easy to implement and often take time. The following are some solutions to consider.

Solution: USDA-Rural Development has several programs for this area as follows:

USDA Rural Developments Self-Help Housing Program. The programs main purpose is to reduce the cost of construction so that affording housing can be provided. Individual

houses are built under supervision by a group of families who will live in the dwellings. In short, it is a group mutually helping each other with the guidance of a construction expert. The actual housing construction loan is made through Rural Developments 502 direct housing loan program. The applicants must be very low or low income to qualify and must repay a loan for the cash cost of the house. An estimated 60% of the labor is provided by the families to build the homes, which reduces the total cost of construction resulting in affordable housing.

It begins with a Technical Assistance Grant for Self-Help Housing. Public bodies or public or private nonprofit corporations are eligible for the grant to hire the personnel to carry out a program of technical assistance for self-help housing, pay necessary and reasonable office and administrative expenses, make essential equipment, such as power tools available to families participating in self-help housing construction and to pay fees for training self-help group members in construction techniques. The Technical Assistance Grantee recruits and screens the applicants utilizing Rural Development guidelines.

USDA Rural Developments Section 515 Direct and 538 Guaranteed Loan Program:

Loans for the construction of rental housing are available from USDA Rural Development under the Section 515 direct loan program and the 538 guaranteed loan program. The loan(s) are offered to for profit, and non-profit groups as well as individuals to construct low income rental housing. The loans provide living units for persons with very low, low and moderate incomes and can be designated as Family or Elderly. The loans are primarily made to build apartment style housing.

A needs survey would be necessary to outline what the need is, how many units are needed and whether there is a need for family versus elderly housing units. The funds are available through a NOFA (Notification of Funding Availability).

USDA Rural Developments 502 Direct Loan Program: USDA/Rural Development also offers 502 direct home loans to qualified applicants to either purchase an existing home, construct a new home or to purchase a new manufactured home on a permanent foundation. The maximum loan for this program in Fremont County is currently \$148,900. It sounds hopeful that Rural Development may be raising these loan limits in the near future. If perhaps there is a house within this price range, Rural Development could assist in the purchase of the home to a qualified applicant. The interest rate could be subsidized down to as low as 1% interest rate, which then make the payments more affordable. Maximum income limits apply as follows:

Fremont County, WY

	1 PERSON	2 PERSON	3 PERSON	4 PERSON	5 PERSON
VERY LOW INCOME	20500	23400	26350	29250	31600
33950	36250	38600			
LOW INCOME	32750	37450	42100	46800	50550
54300	58050	61800			

USDA Rural Developments Guaranteed Loan program: This program assists the low to moderate-income families in achieving their homeownership dream. The loans are originated and made by a bank and RD issues a 90% guarantee on the loan the bank makes. Unlike the typical conventional loans, this loan does not have Mortgage Insurance Premiums and there is no down payment requirement. The bank can loan 100% of the market value with this program and there is a one time 2% guarantee fee that can be rolled into the loan if the market value will support it. The best of all, there is no maximum loan limit; it is whatever the applicant qualifies for. Maximum Income limits apply depending on the size of the family, as follows:

Fremont County, WY

	1 PERSON	2 PERSON	3 PERSON	4 PERSON
MOD.INC-GUAR.LOAN	48000	54850	61700	68550
74050	79500	85000	90500	

USDA Rural Developments Home Repair Program: Rural Developments 504 loan and grant program can assist very low-income applicants with a 1% loan to make repairs to the home they already own. If the applicant is 62 years old or older and does not show repayment for a loan, they may qualify for a grant up to \$7,500 to make health and safety repairs to their homes such as a new heating system, windows, new roof, or accessibility features and much more.

Resource: Ann Stoeger - Area Director, USDA Rural Development at 508 N. Broadway, Riverton, WY, 82501, 307-856-7524 Ext. 4.

Resource: The Fannie Mae Foundation provides grants that revitalize neighborhoods and create affordable home ownership across America. www.fannienaefoundation.org

Solution: Wyoming Community Development Authority has a HOME program, which has funds available to finance single family homes for low-income purchasers. This program involves an interested builder who will construct homes using HOME funds then sell them to authorized buyers. Rural Development can participate with WCDA in financing these homes. WCDA also has low interest loans for first time home buyers to

purchase homes. In addition, WCDA has a program called The Wyoming Workforce Housing Infrastructure Program. They have recognized that there is a shortage of workforce housing because of the oil and gas industries, this program may help in that area

Resource: Cheryl Gillum, Housing Programs Director for the WCDA, 155 North Beech, and Casper, WY 82601. Her phone number is 307-265-0603.

Resource: The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development also has affordable housing programs available. Wyoming State Office, 100 East B Street, Room 4229 Casper, WY 82601-1918 - www.hud.gov

Solution: WCDA's Community Development Block Grant Housing Program provides grants for communities to expand housing opportunities for low and moderate income households (including developing new lots and improving exiting housing stock); to stabilize and upgrade housing in deteriorating neighborhoods (includes demolition of buildings not suitable for rehabilitation). The funds also provide for planning activities, but several stipulations apply.

Contact: Wyoming Community Development Association (WCDA), Gayle Brownlee, 155 N. Beech, P.O. Box 634 Casper, WY 8260 307-265-0603 Fax: 266-5414. <http://www.wyomingcda.com/> The application deadline is Mid-May and the NOFA has been issued.

ASSISTED LIVING FACILITY

Challenge: Many citizens expressed the need for an Assisted Living Facility in Riverton. Currently the choices for persons who are faced with this are to either move out of the area or live with children. That creates a problem for our aging population.

Solution: A needs assessment should be done to determine the size of facility needed. This type of facility would be considered through a USDA Rural Development Community Facility loan/grant program to assist in construction. Direct loans/grants are available as well as guaranteed loans. Through the USDA Rural Developments Community Facility Program, essential community facilities must provide an essential service to the local community – the service should be a service that is typically provided by a local unit of government; be needed for the orderly development of the rural community, considered a public improvement; and may not include private, commercial, or business undertakings. The interest rates are reasonable and will depend on the adjusted median income for the area. Significant community support is a critical factor in determining applicant eligibility since the type of project (financed through a nonprofit organization) has to emulate the same level of need and support that a public body would rely on. The following are eligible to apply for community facility loans: governmental entities such as towns, cities, counties, or special-purpose districts; nonprofit organizations (including associations, private corporations, or cooperatives) if they can demonstrate significant ties with the local rural communities.

Resource: Ann Stoeger, USDA Rural Development, 508 N. Broadway, Riverton, WY 82501, 307-856-7524 Ext. 4.

Solution: Another possible program is the Congregate Housing and Group Home programs funded also by USDA/Rural Development. Congregate housing is residential housing consisting of private apartments and central dining facilities in which services are provided to tenants to enable them to remain independent. Congregate housing is however not to be mistaken for an assisted living facility.

A group home is housing that is occupied by elderly, handicapped or disabled tenants sharing living space within a rental unit in which a resident assistant may be required.

All congregate housing and group homes finance by Rural Development must provide at least 1 nutritious meal a day, 7 days a week; transportation to shopping, services and medical facilities; routine housekeeping; non-medical personal services, such as assistance with shampooing hair, dressing, bathing, etc.; recreation and social activities.

There are two successful congregate housing projects financed by Rural Development, one in Riverton and one in Green River, built by Don Walgrave at 505 Northwood Dr., Redwood Falls, MN 56283, 508-637-2145. The name of the congregate housing in Riverton is **Owl Creek Apartments located at 2220 Rose Lane (307) 856-6068. They continuously take applications for occupancy.**

Resource: Ann Stoeger, Area Director, USDA Rural Development, 508 N. Broadway, Riverton, WY, 307- 856-7524 Ext. 4

SUBSTANCE ABUSE

SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT CENTER

Challenge: It is no secret that Riverton has a very big Methamphetamine problem, as well as other drugs and alcohol. Again, Riverton is not isolated in this regard, but is lacking the facilities to treat drug and alcohol abuse. Perhaps more addicts would be willing to seek treatment if they have an option of not leaving the area so they can be close to family for the very much needed support they will need.

Solution: USDA Rural Development can assist in the development of this type of essential public community facilities through the Community Facilities program. A market study would be essential in the planning process and can be funded with a grant from the USDA Rural Developments Rural Business Enterprise Grant program. Rural Development can partner with other funding organizations to achieve the project desired.

To minimize the amount borrowed, the applicant/community can look at the 1% capital facility tax, as well as fundraising.

In addition to fund raising efforts the community might consider the following:

1. Form a Joint Powers Board between the city of Riverton and the county of Fremont.
2. Form a Non Profit Organization.
3. The Town of Riverton could apply for the loans and grants.

Resource: Ann Stoeger – Area Director, USDA Rural Development, 508 N. Broadway, Riverton, WY 82501, 307-856-7524 Ext. 4.

Resource: Local banks have funds available for projects and the loan can be guaranteed by Rural Development. Contact a local bank or contact Rural Development at 307-856-7524 Ext. 4.

Resource: Any of the Bond Councils in the state can help set up bond elections and give advice as to the best bonding route to pursue. Three bonding companies are:

- a. Borthwick and Associates, 1312 Capitol Ave., Suite 506, P.O. Box 1124, Cheyenne, WY 82001, phone 307-635-2433.
- b. The office of Freudenthal and Bonds, 314 E. 21st Street, P.O. Box 387, Cheyenne, WY 82003-0387, Phone 307-634-2240.
- c. Wiederspahn Law Office, 2020 Carey Ave., Suite 700, Cheyenne, WY 82001, phone 307-638-6417.

Resource: Loans and Grants may be available through the State Loan and Investment Board for these types of projects, contact Brad Miskimins. Phone 307-777-6646.

Resource: Additional funding may be available through Private foundations which can be found on the Internet at the Foundation Center. Their web site is www.fdncenter.org

TRANSPORTATION

EXTENDED AND DEVELOP FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

Challenge: Riverton currently has two different means of public transportation, the WRTA – Wind River Transportation Authority and the Riverton Senior Citizens. These are no doubt two great assets in Riverton. The challenges that were presented were the fact that Riverton’s streets are not designed to accommodate bus stops. This presents a unique challenge and safety issues for the bus drivers and the passengers.

Solution: For the short term, perhaps the City could designate specific areas around town and on the major streets and roads for a designated stop for the WRTA that would be safe for the drivers and passengers. This could be accomplished by placing bus stop markings in designated areas of town so the buses can pull directly up to the curb allowing passengers to board safely. The exact locations would need to be well thought out so it does not interfere with local business and their parking.

A longer term plan could be to extend streets/sidewalks in specific areas and construct shelters for those waiting for the buses to arrive.

USDA Rural Development can assist in the development of this type of essential public community facilities through the Community Facilities program direct or guaranteed loan program.

Resource: Ann Stoeger – Area Director, USDA Rural Development, 508 N. Broadway, Riverton, WY 82501, 307-856-7524 Ext. 4.

Solution: The state of Wyoming has a grant program available that could assist in the construction of bus stop shelters. The applicant must be a public agency or private-non-profit agencies. The purpose is to provide assist to transit providers serving the elderly, disabled and general public. The grant is on a reimbursement basis and is typically between \$10,000 and \$50,000. Some financial and matching requirements apply. Application deadlines are Mid-May.

Resource: Contact John Black, P.O. Box 1708, Cheyenne, WY 82003-1708, 307-777-4181. jblack@state.wy.us

CAPITAL FACILITIES

RECREATION/MULTI-PURPOSE FACILITY, CONVENTION CENTER AND DAY CARE

Challenge: Throughout the entire assessment, the need for a recreation center or multi purpose convention center, as well as a day care were mentioned repeatedly. The community needs to evaluate the planned uses of a recreation center or Multi-purpose center and decide on a facility that will be big enough to serve the purpose but not so big that full utilization would be difficult. It was suggested by one citizen to closely examine the needs differing age and ability groups and to consider educational component and make the facility more than just a place for kids to kill time. Perhaps key leaders and even the young adults could be included in the planning process of this.

Solution: The community must be willing to tax themselves before they can see many of these projects come to fruition. The tax should be pursued so that adequate funding can be available to partner with other state and/or federal agencies to complete the project. Additional funding sources in conjunction with the capital facilities tax would minimize the amount of time the tax would be in affect. The passage of a one-percent sales tax could fund any of these types of project. However, the community may want to look at the following in order to pursue funding opportunities.

1. Form a Joint Powers Board between the city of Riverton and the county of Fremont.
2. Form a Non Profit Organization. The town of Riverton may want to spearhead the development of a non-profit or a for-profit organization to manage the needed programs and facilities.

3. The city of Riverton could apply for loans and grants.

Resources: Rural Development Community Facility direct or guaranteed loan program could be utilized to construct a Daycare Center, Recreation Center or Multi-purpose center. Contact Ann Stoeger - Area Director, Rural Development, 508 N. Broadway, Riverton, WY 82501, 307-856-7524 Ext. 4.

PLANNING

MASTER PLAN/ZONING

Challenge: The fact that Riverton has a lack of housing, affordable housing and workforce housing was very well communicated during the assessment. It was also communicated that there is a fear of purchasing property around town because of the unknown of what might end up being built next to you. One gentleman referred to it as having “no method to the madness.” As Riverton changes, it is important that the community be proactive rather than reactive in addressing what Riverton will become and what we want to look like.

Solution: Develop a Comprehensive Master Plan for the community and surrounding area. This plan could and should address the following issues:

- ✓ Infrastructure (water, sewer, roads, etc.) and future demand for services.
- ✓ Types of development (commercial, residential, industrial, agricultural) and future locations of these developments in and around Riverton
- ✓ Open space preservation
- ✓ Future annexation of county land

The cost of developing such a plan for a community the size of Riverton would likely cost approximately \$50,000, give or take, but would go a long way in addressing economic development and community development.

Resource: USDA/Rural Development has a Rural Business Opportunity Grant (RBOG) program that might be an option to assist with developing a Comprehensive Master Plan. This grant program can be used for technical assistance and planning. Eligible applicants are public body, non profit corporation, Indian tribe, or cooperative with members that are primarily rural residents.

Contact: Ann Stoeger, Area Director, USDA Rural Development, 508 N. Broadway, Riverton, WY 82501, 307-856-7524 Ext. 4.

SUBSTANDARD HOUSING

Challenge: There was mention of numerous houses around town that are very old, dilapidated and in need of serious repairs. It was referred to as sub-standard housing.

The houses are so run down and people are still living in them because there is a lack of adequate, decent, safe and sanitary housing in the area.

Solution: USDA – Rural Development has a grant program called the Housing Preservation Grant. The purpose is to repair and rehabilitate housing owned or occupied by very-low and low-income rural families. The eligible applicants would be public bodies and non-profit organizations who would in turn allocate money for the rehabilitation. Funds can be used for operation of a program which finances repair and rehabilitation activities for single family and small rental properties. The grants are competitive within Wyoming.

Resource: Ann Stoeger – Area Director, USDA Rural Development, 508 N. Broadway, Riverton, WY 82501, 307-856-7524 Ext. 4.

Solution: WCDA's Community Development Block Grant Housing Program provides grants for communities to: 1) expand housing opportunities for low and moderate income households (includes developing new lots and improving exiting housing stock), 2) stabilize and upgrade housing in deteriorating neighborhoods (includes demolition of buildings not suitable for rehabilitation). The funds also provide for planning activities, but several stipulations apply.

Contact: Wyoming Community Development Association (WCDA), Gayle Brownlee, 155 N. Beech, P.O. Box 634 Casper, WY 8260 307-265-0603 Fax: 266-5414.

<http://www.wyomingcda.com/> The application deadline is Mid-May and the NOFA has been issued.

Solution: Organize a community based day of action, such as Christmas in April. Sheridan County has had this type of program for years and has proved to be very successful. The community, acting through a non-profit cleans up neighborhoods and aids in the repair of homes. The non-profit can contribute funds and act as a packager for other funds, such as USDA Rural Development programs. Furthermore, this non-profit can be a recipient of the USDA Rural Developments Housing Preservation Grant and other grants as well.

Resource: Jim Schillinger, KROE Radio, Chairperson – Christmas in April, (307)-672-2510. He may be able to provide assistance in starting up a program similar to this in the Riverton Community.

WORKFORCE

Challenge: It was mentioned during the sessions that many of the fast food restaurants have to close their doors and only serve drive through customers because of a lack of workforce for this type of employment. It's difficult for the smaller businesses and restaurants to compete with the oil and gas industry and the wages that they are offering.

Solution: I would recommend that you contact the Department of Workforce Services office in Riverton for assistance and guidance on recruiting employees. Department of

Workforce Services is committed on delivering comprehensive and effective services that build a workforce to meet the changing demands of Wyoming's diverse workforce and economy.

Contact: Department of Workforce Services, Burl Geis, 422 E. Fremont Ave. Riverton, WY 82501, 856-9231.

LEADERSHIP/YOUTH

Challenge: Our migration of youth is problem every small community has to face. Although we will never be able to keep all our young adults from leaving their hometowns, it is our obligation to do all that we can to make our community one they would like to return to and raise a family. With the continuous complaint from the youth that there is "nothing to do," integrating them into community activities could be a win/win situation. The assessment team heard many times that there is a lack of community involvement. There are many volunteers and civic groups in Riverton, but each tend to stick to themselves and are not open to letting new people in. A desire was expressed to get more people involved in projects and activities.

Solution: Consider selecting (or allowing the students to select) a junior representative to be an active participant in City Council meetings, County Commissioner meetings, and other public civic organizations. This representative should have a teacher sponsor who can support them and assist them in reporting their board activities back to the students through a school newsletter or through school civic clubs. This youth representative could also speak on behalf of the students and should work to link school/community activities and goals together. There would be many advantages to doing this: 1. This would provide a fresh perspective to many issues facing the community. 2. It empowers the youth of Riverton to become more active in their community. 3. It trains the future leaders of Riverton and provides additional incentive for youth to return home after college or other training and 4. It is an inexpensive way to build a broader spirit of cooperation in the community. Sheridan currently has a successful program of this type.

Resource: Dirlene Wheeler, Principal, Sheridan High School, 1056 Long Drive, Sheridan, WY 82801, (307)-672-2495.

Challenge: We also heard repeatedly from the students, there is nothing to do in Riverton and that substance abuse is a problem among many young adults. Keeping our children involved in after school activities will minimize there opportunity to get involved in illegal activities. Not every student wants to participate in sports.

Solution: There is a program that is a well respected program that serves as a mechanism for occupying student's time after school and also providing educational opportunities to combat drug and substance abuse. The 21st Century Community Learning Centers (CLC) program enables schools to stay open longer, providing a safe place for homework

centers, intensive mentoring in basic skills, drug and violence prevention counseling, helping middle school students to prepare to take college prep courses in high school, enrichment in the core academic subjects as well as opportunities in participation in recreational activities, chorus, band and the arts, technology education programs and services for children and youth with disabilities.

Resource: 21st Century Community Learning Center Program
Email: 21st CCLC@ed.gov Website: www.ed.gov/21stccls/

Donna Kinskey
Wyoming Business Council
Board of Directors
614 Mountain Shadows Blvd.
Sheridan, WY 82801
307-751-1694
donnerkin@yahoo.com

Introduction

I would like to thank to the people and City of Riverton for allowing me to participate in your second Community Assessment held November 5th through 9th. I'd also like to thank you all for your kind hospitality during our stay in Riverton. We saw some wonderful places, had lots of wonderful meals, but most of all met some truly wonderful people who make Riverton their home.

I want to give special thanks to all who worked to put this program together for us and acted as our guides and hosts. I'd also like to thank those people who took time from their busy lives to come out to participate in the sessions. It was all of you who educated us about Riverton.

Thank you. It was a fun, exciting and exhausting five days.

This process is one to help the people of Riverton to decide what they want to do, what they want their community to look like in the future. Hopefully, it will be a living document to help in this mission, and that the people of the community will embrace this report and direct their energies in some planned direction. I hope it will give the volunteers in the community ideas and will help to support your elected and appointed officials. Without your help, there is only so much these officials can achieve. With all your energies and resources working together, there are undoubtedly great things yet to come in Riverton.

Theme: Planning & Development

Issue: Throughout all the listening sessions, and even in your prior Assessment report completed in 2001, we heard concerns about workforce, housing, infrastructure, diversified businesses, some sort of convention or events center, and being a destination, and revitalizing your Main Street. The number one thing that came across to me is a development of a plan; or "What do you want Riverton to be? What will it look like? What do you want it to become?" We heard a great deal about a meeting place for large groups, convention center, or multi-purpose events center. This was also mentioned in your 2001 report. Now is the time to decide what exactly it is the community would like, if this is a project the community can realistically get behind, and determine if this is something the community can afford to undertake. Again, refer to the 2001 report to review other resources.

Solution: Define a clear vision for the future of Riverton. This should include economic targeted industries, workforce development, growth and development locations, housing, recreation, leadership development, etc.

Other communities have put together plans such as this. In Casper it's called Vision 2000; for Sheridan it is Vision 2020. Without such a plan do you know where you want to put single, low income, or multi-family housing? Do you know where the next industrial complex will be placed, or even what type of industry it would be? What industrial complex do the people of the community want? Where would you put a convention or events center? What zoning or lack of zoning will permit within Riverton? Who will regulate the processes?

Resource: First of all, there are a lot of resources and recommendations in your original assessment from 2001. I am not going to repeat them here, but would encourage you to re-acquaint yourself with that document and those recommendations.

To get this process started, I would suggest bringing in an outside facilitator to help with some of these and additional questions:

What do you, as a city, need or want?

What do you, as a City, need from the County/State/other governmental agencies to realize your goals? (Make sure these are realistic and achievable.)

What can IDEA Inc or the Chamber of Commerce do for you?

What does IDEA Inc or the Chamber need from you?

What do you need from any of the other entities to do your job?

What is the relationship between Riverton, the Reservation and the surrounding communities within Fremont County?

One of the best facilitators in Wyoming or who can recommend other qualified facilitators for this process is Mary Randolph.

Resource:

Mary Randolph

Executive Director

Wyoming Rural Development Council

214 W. 5th Street

Cheyenne, WY 82002

307-777-6430

mary.randolph@wybusiness.org.

Resources to help facilitate or fund strategic planning or feasibility studies for specific endeavors can be sought through the Wyoming Business Council. Within this program there are Community Development Block Grants, as well as other funding sources.

Resource:

Roger Bower
West Central Regional Director
Wyoming Business Council
Serving Fremont, Teton
213 W. Main, Suite B
Riverton, WY 82501
307-857-1155

Another overlooked resource for funds is a non-profit organization, the Wyoming Community Foundation. Based on circumstances, this group has funded feasibility studies or planning grants to assist communities move themselves forward.

Resource:

Samin Dedelahi
Wyoming Community Foundation
313 S. 2nd St.
Laramie, WY 82070
866-70-T-R-U-S-T
307-721-8300

Solution: The State of Wyoming funded studies of the entire state in 2005, conducted by The Wadley-Donovan, to determine industries to target for specific areas and communities. Fremont County was lucky enough to have a study on their County alone. You can access this report at: www.taimerica.com/wyoming/reports.html You are on you way with one of these selected industries with the location of Brunton in Riverton. You may be able to have Wadley Donovan further break down this study by your specific city. The City of Buffalo did this, in order to determine targeted industries that would best fit their community.

Resource:

The Wadley-Donovan Group
505 Morris Ave., Suite 102
Springfield, NJ 07081
732-790-1304
www.wadley-donovan.com

Theme: Revitalize Main Street

Issue: We heard repeatedly about the lack of shopping, especially in your Main Street area, and lack of diversity in restaurants. Again, and I can't say it enough, this was covered in your 2001 report; refer back to it for specific types of retail operations and restaurants that may be sought to be established in Riverton. We saw a beautiful Main Street that has had some major work completed in conjunction with Wyoming Department of Transportation. Now would be a good time to decide what could go into

the downtown area. Some concern was expressed about the amount of businesses downtown occupying otherwise usable retail space for non-retail operations. I have to express that these are not a detriment, but a draw to this downtown area. Without them, there would not be enough of the day-to-day foot traffic to keep an area of this size alive. Find a way to help them co-exist in the same area. We also heard the comment which is expressed in every small community in America, regarding the “Big Box Stores” ruining the Main Street businesses. Also, rather than try to attract outside businesses to set up franchises, seek members in the community that may be able to set these up themselves, and nurture them through your Chamber of Commerce and Wyoming Business Council resources.

Solution: You might consider developing a Downtown Association. This does not need to be just retail businesses, but any business in that area. This type of group helps pull together the economic vitality and appearance of your Main Street. Sheridan has a model program that seems to be working, and you can take a look at what has been accomplished at www.downtownsheridan.org Additionally, the National Main Street Center web site has a wealth of information. www.mainstreet.org

Resource:
Roger Bent
Executive Director
Downtown Sheridan Association
PO Box 13
Sheridan, WY 82801
307-672-8881

Solution: Loan programs are available to property owners on Main Street to help with the appearance of their storefronts and facades. These people should be encouraged to look into this program, and assistance should be given to them to undertake this project. I am sure you will hear this from another team member, but you should also consider applying for assistance and planning through the Wyoming Main Street Program.

Resource:
Evan Medley
Wyoming Main Street
214 West 5th St.
Cheyenne, WY 82002
307-777-2934
evan.medley@wybusiness.org

Solution: It was mentioned that the community members would like Riverton to become more of a “destination” for travelers, rather than a community that many pass through on their way to Grand Teton or Yellowstone Parks. You seem to be moving along that way with the 1838 Mountain Man Rendezvous, Hot-Air Balloon Rally, the Rocky Mountain Car and Bike Show, all in July; and your WRA Rodeo and County Fair in August. The Governor’s Workforce Summit held June 2007 in Jackson featured a unique workshop

with Jon Schallert pertaining to destination creation. In addition working on Riverton community as a destination, some home-grown businesses may be able to be built as a destination in themselves. Mr. Schallert even goes so far as to address the concern of competing with the Big Box retailers stores. This program has been utilized by a number of Wyoming businesses, and the many that I have met who have attended had great reviews of this program.

Resource:

**Jon Schallert's
Destination Business Bootcamp
The Schallert Group, Inc.
2117 Emerald Drive, Suite 100
Longmont, CO 80504
303-774-6522
www.destinationbootcamp.com**

Theme: Housing

Issue: This is an issue being faced throughout the entire State of Wyoming. There is small comfort in knowing this. I recently heard a Wyoming developer say this is a time where the developer must have a propensity for risk and anxiety at the same time! There is a great deal of work to be done here and this is where communities like yours will really need to roll up their sleeves and get to work, together. Consequently, you can find plenty of resources just by asking questions around the state. In our listening sessions, community members expressed needs specifically for housing to serve the developing workforce, rental units, affordable owner-occupied single family homes, and assisted living for seniors and special needs. What you undertake is really a function of what the communities are able to fund – through private investment as well as public funding, and any combination of these two.

Solution: If a complete housing needs assessment has not been done for the County, this should be undertaken to determine what is needed in each sector. Wyoming Community Development Authority (WCDA) can help with this.

Resource:

**Wyoming Community Development Authority
155 N. Beech
Casper, WY 82601
307-265-0603
gillum@wyomingcda.com**

The entire state is seeing a surge in the need for workforce housing. WCDA has put together programs that address Workforce Housing Infrastructure.

Resource:

Gayle Brownlee
Director of Multi-family Housing
WCDA
155 N. Beech
Casper, WY 82601
307-265-0603
brownlee@wyomingcda.com

Solution: Another concept pertaining to assisted living facilities is called the “Green House Project”. This project is a new way of looking at long-term care with residents’ and aids living together in a home-like setting. These complexes may house up to 10 people, each having their own room and bath facilities. These rooms all cluster around the common living and kitchen area. These can be located in neighborhoods which enable the interaction of elders with children in the neighborhood and vice versa. Additionally, it could be used for both elder care and special needs homes. This project claims to be less expensive than the traditional institutional-style assisted living centers. This can be researched on the internet at www.thegreenhouseproject.com. Additionally, the Sheridan Senior Center and Board of Directors has moved beyond the process of doing a feasibility study on this concept and is moving toward fundraising to build their first units.

Resource:

Carmen Rideout
Executive Director
Sheridan Senior Citizen Services
211 Smith Street
Sheridan, WY 82801
307-672-2240

Solution: What is “affordable housing”? What does it mean? It varies by person, by community. Sheridan determined during their Community Assessment in 2004 that affordable housing was a major issue. From that assessment, an organization made up of numerous individuals in the community started the process to determine “what is affordable housing?” “What does it mean in Sheridan County?” This volunteer group made their own organization, Sheridan Housing Action Committee (SHAC). This is NOT low-income housing, but a program where community builders and developers, volunteers, and city and county agencies working together to build homes that can be acquired by residents’ living and earning their way to ownership. Marie Lowe heads this program and can help with working through this process as well as giving a full education on “affordable housing.”

Resource:

Marie Lowe, SHAC
PO Box 7235
Sheridan, WY 82801, 307-675-1155, shac@actaccess.net

Clint Koble, Executive Director
Nevada Rural Development Council
P.O. Box 3926, Carson City, NV, 89702
(775) 829-1048
nrdc@gbis.com

I want to thank all the residents of Riverton for their genuine hospitality during our stay for the Community Assessment in November 2007. Riverton, Fremont County and the State of Wyoming need to be congratulated for their vision, optimism, sense of responsibility along with the dedication and desire to enhance your community. There are places that are communities by definition, but few have the ‘sense of community’ that Riverton and its residents possess. It is easy to see why so many of you consider Riverton as your home. Like any community, Riverton has its challenges. These are not easy to overcome, but with the commitment, dedication, elbow grease, support and contributions the community has continually offered, it is a matter of time before the challenges become solutions.

Theme: Capital Facilities: Recreation/Multi Purpose Facility, Convention Center and Day Care Facility.

Challenges: Overcome the recent vote not to approve the new Community Center and develop new facilities for Riverton.

Issues: There appears to be support for the Community Center concept, yet there is no consensus on how to build or fund it along with a Convention Center.

Solutions: First of all, I want to point out how important this issue is to the community. Of the 24 Listening Sessions we attended, the Rec Center was mentioned in every single Session, and quite often more than once. Citizen after citizen pointed out the need for a Rec Center. Almost equally mentioned was an Events Center, and mentioned throughout the Listening Sessions was also a Day Care facility that could easily be incorporated in a Rec Center/Community Center. Secondly, citizens that voted against the bond proposal for the Rec Center weren’t necessarily against the concept of a Rec Center, they were perhaps in opposition to the bond measure or the way the Rec Center was to be funded. It is important that the community keeps this in perspective because it says that there is broad support in the concept; it just has to be financed in a way that appeals to a majority of voters. Your community leaders will need to look at changes or alternatives for financing in order to respond to the needs and wants of the community. There were many reasons cited for the need for a Rec Center, i.e. keep our youth engaged in safe activities, give our Seniors more to do etc. The fact that many citizens wanted Riverton to have a Rec Center like other communities exemplifies the pride citizens have in their community and the fact that they want Riverton to be a great place to live and raise a family. Many also expressed the desire for a central place for citizens of all ages to congregate that underlies a strong ‘sense of community’. Recreation appeared to dominate comments made by a large majority of citizens of all ages and backgrounds.

The major emphasis was on the Rec Center but included all aspects of recreation from the local hockey rink to a river walk that would connect to a bike path. Most proposals were for youth programs that indicate an investment in the town's future but there were also many suggestions for everyone in the community.

The response to the need for an Events Center or Convention Center was very strong and it says to me that "this community wants to grow" and that this community "has great potential." Citizen after citizen voiced the need for an events center that would be capable of holding conferences and handling large events while working closely with the Fairground Facility. Riverton residents want to bring people to their community because they are proud of their community, and it would provide jobs and more quality hotels that in turn might attract additional people. Riverton has a fairly central location and could be a logical location for new events and activities. And indeed Riverton does have the potential to be a great regional center that could attract people from inside and outside the state. Local businesses and agriculture could benefit from events and activities held in a Convention Center. Again, the challenge is how to finance this project. There are many ways to finance an Events Center or Convention Center, and several residents suggested that local officials look at various tax alternatives to make it happen. I would recommend that a task force and a feasibility study be commissioned to demonstrate the benefit to Riverton and its businesses and citizens. In addition, a Steering Committee should be designated after the feasibility study to sell the idea if it is deemed feasible. New capital facilities normally mean increased taxes to residents so it will be important to find ways to minimize this and to show how the increased taxes will provide an even greater return or benefit. One way to finance this would be to increase the room tax in Fremont County. Initially, many think this will drive tourists away but since most room taxes in Wyoming are very low, I don't think this will be a deterrent to tourists. Consider the fact that if two people take a trip for three days to Riverton with three hotel nights, spend an average of \$100 per day on meals, gas, entertainment etc. and spend a \$100 getting there and another \$100 getting back, they would spend a total of \$700 to \$800 for their trip. If their room tax was an additional 3% higher, it would only add approximately \$9.00 to their trip. Most people will not cancel plans for just \$9.00. Ask yourself, when you check into a motel what are you most concerned with besides the cleanliness: the price of the room or the room tax? It's the price. The beauty of this approach is that it is not a tax levied against local citizens; it is a user tax paid by someone usually not from the community. A Convention Center with multi-purpose events and activities also brings the city and rural communities together for events and entertainment as an added benefit.

While not mentioned much as much as a Rec Center or a Convention Center, a Day Care facility was mentioned frequently. This shows that there are young families with needs in your community but more importantly, it shows that there are 'young families in your community.' Many communities are struggling to get these people back into their community. One of the interesting stories we heard in the Listening Sessions was that Riverton is a good place for couples to pursue career jobs. That is a great statement about the community, but it brings with it the needs and options for young families. We also heard that Riverton is a great community for 'young entrepreneurs,' another prime demographic needed for future growth and sustainability. While the average age in

Riverton is getting older, just several years ago it had a very young average age due to many young children in the community. There is a strong multi-generational demographic in Riverton, and young families are important to school districts, funding, labor supply, and growth. Many residents supported ideas to “bring back our kids to our community someday” while some stated that they left previous places to return to Riverton and raise their families. Young families are a tremendous resource but like any demographic, they have needs in order to feel Riverton is a good fit for them. Riverton simply has to take care of their needs in order to keep it as an attractive place to live and work. With working couples and considerable field workers living in the area, there were requests for expanded or off-hour child care service. Day Care facilities could only make life easier for families attending the local college; in addition, they could attract more young families to the local college. Day Care facilities for children with disabilities could provide a tremendous benefit to the community. While there are current church-run and in-home day care facilities, there appears a need for additional public day care facilities, especially in light of the fact that Riverton has a considerable number of young families. I believe there are plans for a public day care facility as a ‘for-profit’ business. With the number of dual-career couples, young couples, and parents with field work, there appears not only to be a need for day care facilities but also the capability to pay for it. If the new facility does not handle the need, local officials should study the feasibility of additional day care facilities and advertise the need for it through the Wyoming Business Council or the Wyoming Rural Development Council. Riverton certainly appears to have the right demographics to attract more businesses in this field.

Most importantly to me, the desire expressed for a Rec Center, Convention Center, and Day Care facility demonstrate the need and desire of community development. Development is generally synonymous with improvement. These are the things that make a good community great because they improve the quality of life. In its Community Development Pyramid, the Heartland Institute shows the foundation of a community resting on its leadership. With that foundation, the leadership can build a strong, viable and attractive community that can build on its local assets to strengthen its image and its position in the marketplace in a competitive world. The result is generally broad economic development, jobs and futures for local residents. It will take risks, hard work, and plenty of discussions with citizen leaders throughout the community. Perhaps the most important clue to the survival of a community is the conviction and realization that in the end, one must do it yourself. It is up to the citizens of Riverton to realize and reach their own future. Utilizing available tax structures and possible grant sources may provide the right formula to bring these projects to fruition. Community Development Building Grants are also sources of funding. I would recommend advice from the Wyoming Business Council and the USDA regarding these projects.

Resources:

Heartland Center for Leadership Development
650 J Street, Suite 305 – C
Lincoln, NE, 68508
(800) 927-1115

heartlandcenter.info

USDA Rural Development/Community Development
320 E. Lincoln Avenue
Riverton, WY, 82501
(307) 856-7524

Wyoming Business Council
214 West 15th Street
Cheyenne, WY, 82002-0240
(800) 262-3425; info@wyomingbusiness.org

Theme: Leadership

Challenges: To develop a strong leadership citizenry within the community of Riverton

Issues: To develop the vision and roadmap of the future with broad community support.

Solutions: Before any community can have a sustainable future, it must ‘want to have a future.’ The fact that the community of Riverton asked for a Community Assessment shows Riverton wants to step into the future. It also shows that there are leaders within the community that feel the need to gather a consensus from its citizens for the future it wants. This is the first step in the process of moving a community forward.

Leadership is critical for the future of Riverton. Throughout its 24 Listening Sessions attended by approximately 500 engaged citizens, there were many citizen leaders that identified the challenges, assets and projects for the future. They were also asking for a master plan, better working relationships, increased communication and the pulling together of local and tribal leaders. Riverton has great potential and great opportunities within its grasp. It will require a citizenry that will invest in the long haul to make things happen; there will be lively agreement and disagreement on what roads to take. After reading and re-reading the 20 Clues to Rural Community Survival by the Heartland Center, I felt that Riverton exemplified each significant Clue. In times of disagreement, citizens and leaders should re-read these 20 Clues for inspiration to continue forward and to work together.

There are several leadership indicators needed for a community to succeed and move forward. One of these is Human Resources Development listed in the Six Building Blocks of Community Development. This involves programs and institutions responsible for workforce development and leadership development. Evidence of this in Riverton are efforts to build a Job Corp training facility, efforts to train the workforce by the Wyoming Business Council, Wyoming Rural Development Council, IDEA etc. Another indicator is Leadership Development. Your recent Community Assessment naturally allows for leaders to flow to the top, whether it is in newly appointed Steering Communities or Sub Committee etc. for Riverton’s vision of the future. I can’t help but remember the words

of your City Administrator when he said “We will use much of the Community Assessment for our Comprehensive Community Plan”. Responding to the desires of the community is leadership.

Perhaps one of the necessary components of leadership development is ‘capacity development.’ It is this capacity enhancement that helps us embrace and deal with change and prepare for our future. A great example of developing capacity within individuals is the old proverb about “giving a man a fish so he eats for a day or teaching a man to fish so he can eat for a lifetime.” That capacity has to be enhanced in Riverton’s human, organization, infrastructure and financial resources in order for Riverton to ‘embrace change and prepare for its future.’ All of these resources are critical in order to have the capacity for change and development. With these resources, community leaders can build community development projects that improve the quality of life and inevitably result in economic development. Communities also need to recognize both followers and leaders and to develop the capacity of both. Followers not only get a lot of work done as directed, they often become leaders.

It is important that leaders become the cheerleaders of your community. They are always looking at a ‘half-full glass’ and they provide the inspiration for people to follow and to toil at their tasks. Leaders are like lightning rods or spark plugs, they provide the ideas or fire, but the rest of the work needs to be done by the engine – the community. Leaders are usually volunteers and they usually encourage more to follow as volunteers. The Riverton Community Assessment last November brought out 500 residents that volunteered their time, thoughts and voices in hopes of building a better community. New committees needed to work on the next vision of Riverton will take many volunteers but with a base of 500, the community of Riverton has more than its share of leaders to get started.

There are many leadership development programs and resources for your community that develop capacity, encourage engagement and volunteerism. I took a great leadership engagement program that exposed me to community visioning and action planning, group facilitation and decision-making skills, working with the public and the government, time and meeting management, ethics laws, and managing conflict. A local example is the Wyoming L.E.A.D. - Leadership Education and Development sponsored by the Wyoming Business Council. Another leadership program in your community is Leadership Fremont County administered by the Leadership Fremont County Group. Municipalities often provide leadership training for their staff. These programs and more will develop your capacity as a leader or to become one.

Resources:

Linda Fettig, Executive Director of Nebraska and author of ‘The ABC’s of Development – It’s All About Building Capacity’.
402 E. State Farm Road
P.O. Box 310, North Platte, NE, 69101
linda.fettig@ded.ne.gov

Marlene Rebori, Community & Organization Development Specialist
University of Nevada Cooperative Extension
5303 Mill Street
Reno, NV, 89502
(775) 784-4848
mrebori@unr.edu

Wyoming Business Council
214 West 15th Street
Cheyenne, WY, 82002-0204
(800) 262-3425; info@wyomingbusiness.org
Wyoming Rural Development Council
214 West 15th Street
Cheyenne, WY, 82002
(307) 777-5812
www.wyomingrural.org

Theme: Communication

Challenges: To increase the communication between the City, County and Tribe to increase collaboration, cooperation, planning and efficiency in order to develop the infrastructure needed for future growth.

Solutions: This theme is related to leadership in that improved leadership normally results in improved communication. However, it surfaced enough times in the Listening Sessions that it deserved its own category. There were many comments relating to communication or the lack of it between the City, County and Tribe. Comments touched on “consolidating, cohesiveness, joint powers, coming together, improving relationships, unification, pulling together, team work etc.” If you analyze just the comments made by the Financial Sector you will hear calls for “community development that includes a Rec Center and Convention Center, increased zoning, property standardization, more infrastructure, additional public and air transportation, city beautification, upstream water storage and planning, a rail system and more diverse businesses. None of this is going to happen without increased communication and collaboration between the City, County and Tribe.

Evidently, residents feel there is a lack of communication, whether it is real or perceived. An example is the comment that questioned why recreation sites were ‘scattered’ throughout the community rather than be consolidated in a more centralized location. Whatever the reasoning for the placement of recreation facilities, residents expressed not knowing why, which is a lack of communication between citizens and the City.

While relations and communication between the city and the Tribe appear to have improved considerably recently, the lack of communication between these two is still ‘the

elephant in the room.” It is serious issue or challenge to the community. In several Listening Sessions the desire was voiced for increased communication and cooperation, breaking down barriers and learning about different cultures. This Theme was also voiced under the Social Theme of the Final Report.

There were other comments reflecting the communication needed between the City, County and Tribe including “joint powers between the City and County, unification of Fire/Rescue and Law Enforcement, working relationship between all government entities in the courts etc.” which again is going to require considerable communication.

So how is communication going to be improved between these three entities? First of all, citizens need to encourage your leaders to continue their current direction. As a non-resident of your community and state, I can tell you personally that many times I heard how much the Mayor has personally improved relations between the City and Tribe. While we were at the Reservation, we heard from Tribal members that wanted increased communication with the City. Kudos for the Mayor and Tribal Officials that are working toward this but other City Officials need to follow as well and Tribal Officials need to respond positively. There are cultural differences and misunderstandings between the community and the Tribe, and they won’t go away without increased communication. If there are cultural awareness classes or seminars at CWC, then City, County and Tribal officials and staff should be encouraged to take them. Offering these classes to the public if they are not already, would be a good idea also. Riverton churches through the religious alliance could help this communication also; many of them commented on cultural difference and cultural difficulties in their Listening Session. My feeling is that community and Tribal residents are all spiritual people and are capable of bridging differences and suspicions of one another. Your local media should continue to cover events, issues and long-range plans for all three entities in order to communicate what each other is doing or plans to do. Just as students voiced the desire for more of a local voice during their Listening Sessions by having a weekly column, a weekly column from the Tribe could be beneficial if it isn’t already established. Since most agencies publicize their meeting agendas, they could be posted in the media whether it is for the Chamber or a service organization to let people know what they are dealing with. There are leadership programs that cover communication problems between agencies that could be of benefit such as ‘L.E.A.D.’ sponsored by the Wyoming Business Council or UW’s Cooperative Extension leadership program ‘EVOLVE’. Rural policy forums could be used to gather and distribute opinions and ideas in order to improve communication between these entities.

Improving communication between these three entities and with the public is difficult. Public meetings are often lightly attended and often the same people attend. Lack of attendance doesn’t necessarily indicate a lack of controversial issues; it may demonstrate the lack of notice or the importance of attending and participating regardless of the importance of issues. Every community and individual has its own system of communication whether it be the paper, a radio or TV station, a service club, notices on community bulletin boards, notices in utility bills etc. It is important for these three entities to find out what the best medium is and to use it. I recall a Nevada organization

that sent newspaper notices to a small community on the opposite end of the state for a meeting. After several notices, a week before the meeting, very few people were aware of the meeting. Upon advice from a townspeople, one well-placed call to just one individual (the right individual) turned into a major effort to let residents know about the meeting. The result was the biggest meeting of its kind throughout the state despite the very small size of the town. The point is to find the best way to communicate with the public and other agencies.

While it is discomfoting to people my age (57), we have to face the fact that more and more communication is going to be electronic. And it's not just emails but also blogs, webinars, texting, YouTube etc. Businesses are now blogging instead of advertising and governmental entities may well do the same in the future. What better way to communicate and get feedback from constituents? Ask yourself, how often do your kids text someone these days? This is a mainstream communication between young people but it is crossing over to all demographics.

The point is that the City, County and Tribe have to find effective ways to communicate with each other and with their citizens if the community is to have a chance at developing the capacity and infrastructure to grow and improve the quality of life for its residents. If there are major issues presented by an entity, it should take communication with its constituents seriously if it is to gather a consensus. A failure to get a consensus is not only a failure in communication; it is a failure in community development. Perhaps community advisory boards could be utilized to communicate actions, ideas and issues of these agencies. They also provide a source of feedback. Another important consideration would be to schedule Quarterly Meetings between these three entities to increase communication and collaboration. It may result in more than increased communication; resources may be pooled, duplication may decrease and cooperative efforts to seek grants collectively etc. may come about. The more the communications the better the relations.

Leading Indicators:

1. Sophisticated use of information resources.
2. Participatory approach to community decision making.
3. Cooperative community spirit.

Resources:

L.E.A.D. program sponsored by the Wyoming Business Council
214 West 15th Street
Cheyenne, WY, 82002-0204
(800) 262-3425
info@wyomingbusiness.org

EVOLVE program sponsored by the University of Wyoming Cooperative Extension
Dept. 3354

1000 E. University Avenue
Laramie, WY, 82071
(307) 766-5124

Theme: Community Beautification/Pride

Issues: Riverwalk and Entrances to Riverton

Challenges: Expand opportunities along the Riverwalk and to make entrances into Riverton more appealing

Solutions: It was evident during the Listening Sessions just how much Riverton residents felt about the beauty and their pride in the community. Comments on the Riverwalk and Entrances to the City were mentioned almost 30 times during the 4 days we listened to different community sectors. The pride in the community was constant as we listened to residents on this theme and others. Residents wanted to showcase their community and demonstrate their capacity to have at least what residents of other communities had or even more.

The Riverwalk was mentioned in many of the Listening Sessions as an undeveloped opportunity for the community. Not only was it mentioned as a recreational opportunity but it was also mentioned as a tie to Riverton's historical past. I believe the Riverwalk was the original site where parties came together for trading during the Rendezvous. The combination and preservation of natural and historical sites is a key element in the pride of a community. There were comments that ranged from connecting current walking paths to the Riverwalk to building a structure that could house history of the Rendezvous. It is up to community to develop these and other opportunities as they lay just at the edge of your community.

The Riverwalk is a testimonial to the connection that Riverton residents have with their natural surroundings. People of all ages commented about the beauty of the surroundings and just how much they enjoyed the outdoors. In particular, residents wanted to expand walking opportunities and they also wanted to encourage more residents to take advantage of walking paths and the Riverwalk. I believe the Riverwalk needs to be incorporated in the long-range planning of the City. Not only is the Riverwalk development demanded by many residents, it is an opportunity to showcase the beauty and history of the area. I believe it has huge potential. One of the hottest tourism markets currently is Heritage Tourism. This is a tourist market with higher than average incomes and the desire to spend more time seeing and learning about history, heritage etc. A Rendezvous Center could be a great attraction for Riverton. Its development if done carefully and properly can attract tourists to Riverton as a great place to visit and perhaps relocate. Every community that has outstanding parks, community centers and other showcases of community development improves the quality of life for its residents while also improving the curb appeal to outsiders.

As for entrances into the community, this was a strong reminder of the pride that people have in their community. It shows that the residents want to put their best foot forward. This reflection was evident by many different sectors including Recreation, Retail, Financial, Hospitality, Economic Development, and the Public that voiced their desire for improved entrances in to the community. They viewed Entrances into the City as a gauge of community pride and spirit as well as indicator as to what the City offers.

It was interesting that while the demand for improved Entrances into the City was being voiced, the City was actually getting ready to unveil new monuments at Entrances to the City. This shows that the City is in tune with the desires of its residents. I believe there has been new roadwork to the airport that also is a reflection of the community as commuters enter the City.

As Riverton grows larger and as it offers more to residents and tourists, it will be important to keep those Entrances a ‘warm welcome’ to the community. Together, the Riverwalk and the City Entrances exemplify several Clues to Rural Community Survival and Success:

1. Evidence of Community Pride: Successful communities are often showplaces of care, attention, history and heritage.
2. Knowledge of the Physical Environment: Relative location and available natural resources underscore decision-making.
3. Emphasis on Quality in Business and Community Life: People believe that something worth doing is worth doing right.

Resources:

Wyoming State Parks & Historical Sites & Trails
2301 Central Avenue
Cheyenne, WY, 82002
(307) 777-6323
www.wyoparks.state.wy.us

Wyoming Department of Tourism
I-25 & College Drive
Cheyenne, WY, 82002
(800) 225-5996
www.wyomingtourism.org

Wyoming State Historical Preservation Office
2301 Central Avenue
Cheyenne, WY, 82002
(307) 777-7697
www.wyoshpo.state.wy.us

Rendezvous and Activities
www.rockymtnnatlrendz.com

Theme: Substance Abuse – Treatment Center

Challenge: To establish a program to address the need for local substance abuse.

Issues: To address the needs of student and adult victims of substance abuse with a local treatment center.

Solution: Unfortunately, substance abuse was mentioned at least 15 times in 8 different Listening Sessions during the November community assessment. High school students indicated that substance abuse was a big problem of students and parents. College students acknowledged the same along with the need for safe places to keep from getting into trouble. Educators stressed the need for a Safe House and the Tribe stressed the need for programs especially for the youth. Substance abuse was clearly identified in the Service Sector, Public Sector and Religious Organizations Sector as a chronic problem within the community. Like the issue of racism, it is the other elephant in the room for the community of Riverton. It is good however, that the issue was so clearly identified by people of all ages and backgrounds. It does show the compassion of the residents of Riverton. The Religious Organizations Sector not only identified substance abuse as a problem, it stepped up to the plate and offered assistance in the form of a Christian-based rehab center. Universally, it was agreed that such a rehab center be located within the community in order to provide family support rather than be located across the state. Despite the problem, it was good to see the need for the families and the religious organizations to be directly involved with local access.

The substance abuse was narrowed to mostly alcohol and meth, both common in rural areas. While adults often think that young people often don't fear these substances, it was clear from the high school students that they feared it. Statistically, Wyoming, and in particular south-central Wyoming is clearly an area racked by alcohol and meth addiction. In the August 18, 2006 issue of the Casper Star-Tribune, it cited a Washington report stating Wyoming has some of the highest rates of alcohol dependence abuse in the nation, with south-central Wyoming ranking first among all areas of the country according to a federal report on substance abuse reports from 2002 to 2004. The same edition listed Wyoming ranked first in the nation in binge drinking for youth.

There are many ways and resources available to approach the problem of substance abuse. The first is to recognize the problem, which the community and Tribe have done. Secondly, recognizing the need for family support is critical along with religious support. By establishing a local rehab center, families can get involved in the treatment process. Personally, I believe considerable resources should be given to the Religious Organizations Sector to assist in this devastating local problem. While it is difficult for many people to deal with substance abuse, the Religious Sector can provide the constant compassion that is required of any local rehab center. It is important that local officials address this challenge and not leave it to just one community sector to address these challenges if at all. Not only is it a reflection upon the community when it has a large

and devastating community problem, it will become a drain on local resources financially to address this problem. Local and Tribal enforcement officials have to work together on this problem, as it crosses community borders. Indeed, when I was there in November I heard about previous enforcement cooperation in this area. As a testimonial to this cooperation there was a joint Tribal, State and Federal Summit on the elimination of meth abuse in the Wind River Reservation on September 27, 2006.

The problems of alcohol and meth abuse not only touch families they affect the local workforce. It is clearly a problem that needs to be addressed in light of the severity of the problem in the area. It will be up to the community and the Tribe to face this challenge head on and make improvements if they are to improve the quality of life within their communities. As an outsider, I heard numerous 'safety issues' regarding the City Park when I first arrived. At first I thought it was perhaps a crime issue as to why many locals didn't feel safe in frequenting their own park. But it didn't take long to learn that most of the problem came from individuals and indigents in the City Park that were victims of alcohol and substance abuse. If the local population doesn't feel safe, neither will visitors to the community. Hopefully, a local treatment center will help alleviate this problem.

Leading Indicators:

1. Quality of life is one of the Six Building Blocks of Community Development: Housing, health care, child care social services support; the attractiveness and desirability of a community's overall living environment; Personal safety and security.
2. Problem-solving approach to providing health care is one of the 20 Clues to Rural Community Survival.
3. Strong presence of traditional institutions that are integral to community life is another Clue to Community Survival.

Resources:

1. Wyoming Department of Health: Mental Health & Substance Abuse Division, 6101 N. Yellowstone Road, Ste. 220, Cheyenne, WY, 82002; (307) 777-6693; www.wdh.state.wy.us
2. Free and True Wyoming: WY Dep't. of Health; (800) 535-4006; www.substanceabuse@state.wy.us
3. For Tribal information, call Lena Belcourt @ (307) 349-3198
4. USDA National Agriculture Library, Rural Information Center that lists Community Development Resources: www.ric.nal.usda.gov
5. The WIC Program (Women, Infants and Children): www.nal.usda.gov
6. University of Wyoming Cooperative Extension Service: www.ces.uwyo.edu
7. National Center on Addiction & Substance Abuse at Columbia University: www.casacolumbia.org

Theme: Education: Schools

Issues: To provide Riverton with adequate pre-schools, schools through K-12, and a four-year degree at CWC.

Solutions: It was easy to see the importance of schools in the community of Riverton. All one had to do was visit the local high school or middle school and see the quality of facilities present in the community. A new elementary school is being built as we speak. There were many requests for CWC to expand into a 4-year program. To me this represents the commitment to education by the community of Riverton. I believe this comes from the basic belief in the family and education throughout the community.

Education and schools were mentioned often in the Listening Sessions. Comments ranged from offering a 4-year degree at CWC, looking at ways to develop human capital, installing an Inter-Tribal Educational Center @ CWC, attract better teachers, including work ethic programs in schools, offer more continuing education @ CWC, increasing activities between CWC and the community, increase the stress of higher education to high school students, add more preschools and use the attraction of CWC and community schools to attract people and strengthen the local economy. Many of the high school and college students gave their teachers high marks as educators and a source of support. There were also many comments related to sports facilities at the high school and CWC. There is a major commitment to education and schools in the community with an appetite to improve them even more.

There were few negative comments on education and schools within the community but they did include the recommendation that the school district become more open-minded on letting the community use their facilities for events and programs. There is a financial divide between the school district and city recreational programs that involves funding. Not only do the school district and the City need to work out those differences, the public needs to be more aware of what the problems are if the public is to understand the nature of the problem. There have been some financial differences between the County and the School District that has also led to facility location controversy that perhaps should have been resolved. A particular strong issue was the failure of the bond issue that would have financed facilities around the new outdoor track. This has led to a division within the community as to the reasoning in building core school facilities without support facilities. I also detected considerable resentment from residents in that they feel their community needs to match or exceed school facilities in neighboring communities. I'm sure this issue is going to resurface until it is resolved.

It was interesting to note how many people throughout the community regarded CWC as a community asset. Comments to improve the school ranged from installing a 4-year program, to increasing student housing, adding an Inter-Tribal Education Center, adding an Equine Center and bringing in a wrestling program and also expanding other sports.

While we did not visit any of the local private schools, I assume they have strong local support. Riverton seems to have a complete triangle of family, religion and education.

Hopefully, all the public and private schools in Riverton and in the Tribe communicate together with the City and County on a regular basis, perhaps at quarterly meetings.

Leading Indicators:

1. Evidence of community pride.
2. Emphasis on quality in business and community life.
3. Willingness to invest in the future.
4. Participatory approach to community decision making.
5. Cooperative community spirit.
6. Strong belief in and support for education.
7. Strong presence of traditional institutions that is integral to community life.

Resources:

1. Wyoming Department of Education - Riverton Office, 320 West Main Street, Riverton, WY, 82501; (307) 777-2553; www.k12.wy.us
2. Central Wyoming College – Main Campus: 2660 Peck Avenue, Riverton, WY, 82501, (307) 855-2000; www.cwc.edu
3. No Child Left Behind Act: www.ed.gov/nclb
4. Trinity Lutheran School, 419 East Park Avenue, Riverton, WY, 82501, (307) 857-5710; www.privateschoolreview.com
5. St. Margaret’s Catholic School, 220 N. 7th Street East, Riverton, WY, 82501, (307) 856-5922, www.stmargaretswy.com
6. Smart Start Academy, 1014 N. 8th Street West, Riverton, WY, 82501, (307) 856-7633

Karen P. Fate
Grant & Loan Senior Specialist
Investment Ready Communities
Wyoming Business Council
214 West 15th Street
Cheyenne, WY 82002
307-777-2827
karen.fate@wybusiness.org

Introduction: I would like to thank to thank the City of Riverton & IDEA, Inc. for their kind hospitality during our stay for the Community Assessment. Your city needs to be commended for the people and their commitment and strength they have for the future of the city of Riverton.

It is never an easy road that lies ahead of you but with commitment, dedication, elbow grease and support that the residents already have, it is going to happen.

Issue: Capital Facilities

It was heard in every one of our listening sessions the need for a Recreation Center, and/or a Multi-Purpose/Convention/Events Center for Riverton. I was a bit surprised to see that that type of facility did not exist in the community or region. Community members expressed the desire of being able to bring in different events such as, business meetings, recreational venues and other related activities, but the community and area lacked the capacity to host the likes due to inadequate space for a large population, and lack of hotel space.

Solution: (Recreation Center/Multi-Purpose Center)

Even though I used Capital Facilities as the issue in this section, my solution encompasses other issues such as Substance Abuse Programs, Daycare, Youth Activities, etc.

1. Riverton needs to first take an inventory of all recreational programs that are currently available to the community and do an assessment to see where the “holes” are at. What does the community want, and what do they need.
2. There are some very good solutions for this need without having to build a new facility. The community first needs to inventory of what is available in vacant properties that could potentially be used as a recreation facility, for example, the soon to be vacant old Lincoln Elementary School.

Resources:

The Community Facility Grant & Loan Program through the Wyoming Business Council was created for communities that have existing surplus schools or other government owned property to apply and receive grant and/or loan funding for the purchase and renovation of these types of building for community use, such as a recreational facility and/or community facility.

Contact:
Shannon Stanfill, Program Manager
Community Facilities Grant & Loan Program
214 West 15th Street
Cheyenne, WY 82002
307-777-2841
shannon.stanfill@wybusiness.org

A good resource on how this program has worked for their project's success is the City of Evanston and the Evanston YOU! Center. In January 2006, the City of Evanston received \$1,492,000 in Community Facilities grant funds for the purchase, renovation and expansion of the vacant East Elementary School for the Evanston Youth Opportunities Unlimited Center (YOU!). In partnership with Uinta County School District #1 and Uinta County, this facility now provides the youth of Uinta County after school programs, homework help, tutoring, parent education/support groups, and youth drug and alcohol programs to name a few. The YOU! Center also has a Youth Café that provides the youth training in food service skills.

Contact:
Grace Zolnosky, Youth Services Coordinator
Evanston YOU!
307-783-6328
zolnosky@evanstonwy.org

Solution: (Convention/Events Center)

As mentioned above, the need for an Events and/or Convention Center was brought up at almost every session, as well as the lack of adequate lodging space and trained workforce for the hotel and service related industry. One possible solution may be some type of partnership between the High School, Central Wyoming College and other private/public involvement in a combined Convention Center/Hotel and on the job and classroom training/certification. This would provide the region with a Center for attracting outside meetings and events, along with lodging and provide a skilled workforce that would not only benefit the facility, but the other local related businesses in the community.

Provide degree programs that begin at the high school level and continue through the local community college in hotel management, marketing, events and conference

planning, culinary, etc. Partner with local service and lodging related businesses for on the job training credit for these students.

This solution of course will not happen overnight, and will need long term planning as well as funding from many different sources that may include support from private businesses.

Resources:

The University of Wyoming is in the final completion of a new Convention Center and hotel located adjacent to the University. I do not know if there are degree programs related to the new facility but just for information on the planning, funding, and construction would be a useful tool for the beginning stages in future possibilities.

Contact:

University of Wyoming Outreach School
Community Service Education Staff

[Sheila Atwood-Couture](#), Director
307- 766-5641
cse_dir@uwyo.edu

The Wyoming Lodging & Restaurant Association through their Education Foundation has a School to Career education program through business-education partnerships in the hospitality industry.

Contact:

David Hester, Executive Director
Wyoming Lodging and Restaurant Association Education Foundation
1825 Carey Avenue
PO Box 1003
Cheyenne, WY 82003
307-632-0249
david@wlra.org

Rocky Mountain Power offers many grants to communities in their region that help in education, civic, community, culture, arts, health, welfare and social services. These grants can be a start for a variety of issues brought up during the assessment.

Contact:

Rocky Mountain Power
Larry Elcock
1315 East Park
Riverton, WY 82501
307-857-5131
larry.elcock@pacificorp.com

Issue: Housing

Unfortunately Riverton isn't the only community in Wyoming that is facing the lack of affordable housing. The problem with a lack of affordable housing was brought up at every session, along with the problem in recruiting new employees to the area because of it.

Solution:

The City of Riverton first needs to devise a housing needs assessment for future development. Infrastructure needs as well as zoning needs to be addressed in this assessment.

After a goal is set in place, there are many housing programs that the Riverton can apply for through Wyoming Community Development, Fannie Mae and HUD.

Resources:

Community Day Program:

The Wyoming Community Development Authority has an outreach program available for communities to present information on WCDA programs, demographic, economic and housing data to community leaders, lenders, real estate agents, planning officials and other local representatives. At the request of the town, WCDA will travel to the community and give the presentation and provide a "snapshot" of the community's current housing status, the trends that will affect housing in the next decade and viable methods for the community to plan for and develop affordable housing.

Housing Trust Fund

The WCDA has established a Housing Trust Fund for the purpose of financing non-traditional affordable housing outside its tax-exempt bond program. Loans to projects from the Housing Trust Fund are often combined with other funding sources to accomplish housing goals. Applications may be obtained by contacting WCDA.

Contact:

Gayle Brownlee, Director of Multi-Family Housing
Wyoming Community Development Authority
155 North Beech/ PO Box 634
Casper, WY 82602
307-265-0603
brownlee@wyomingcda.com
www.wyomingcda.com

WCDA Community Assistance Community Based Home Ownership Programs

The Wyoming Community Development Authority (WCDA) will consider proposals for any housing-related financing need in partnership with local government, financial institutions, or federal or state agencies to further the objective of providing decent, safe, sanitary, and affordable housing.

From time to time, WCDA is able to provide small pools of low-interest financing for specific home ownership programs for targeted communities. These programs would be individualized to each community's need. Communities having a specific need should contact WCDA to determine if a special program could be put in place in that community.

Contact:

Wyoming Community Development Authority
P.O. Box 634
Casper, WY 82602
307-265-0603
Fax: 307-266-5414
www.wyomingcda.com

Cheryl Gillum, Director of Housing Programs
Wyoming Community Development Authority
155 North Beech/ PO Box 634
Casper, WY 82602
307-265-0603
gillum@wyomingcda.com
www.wyomingcda.com

Fannie Mae offers The Fannie Mae American Communities Fund (ACF) that invests debt or equity in housing developments that supports neighborhoods and community revitalization efforts. They also provide loans through the Community Land Trust Mortgage Loans program to communities who form non-profit corporations known as "community land trusts" to own and lease land at affordable prices. The community land trust sells the house and leases the land under a long term ground lease to low and moderate income households at affordable prices. Fannie Mae then purchases the loan for the secondary market.

Contact:

Fannie Mae Wyoming
www.fanniemae.com

HUD Programs:

The US Department of Housing & Urban Development provides grant and loan funding through the CDBG Revolving Loan Fund for Housing.

Contact:

US Dept. of Housing and Urban Development
150 East B Street, Ste 1010
Casper, WY 82601
307-261-6250

Issue: Economic Development

I've been truly impressed by the diverse manufacturing businesses in the Riverton area. These businesses are a big key to the community's economic base. There was the concern of a lack of niche' businesses in the community, especially the need for more of the "sit and visit" types of coffee shops, chain restaurants and hang-out places for the youth to go to. Also brought up at many of the sessions was the lack of lodging accommodations, especially that most of the available rooms are being used by new workers moving into town (This relates back to the lack of affordable housing).

Another issue brought up was that tourism, being such a huge resource for the area, was not being utilized to its fullest potential and that Riverton should be marketed and promoted as a Destination Community.

Solution:

First and foremost, you already have some very good tools at your fingertips when it comes to economic development through IDEA, Inc., the Wyoming Business Council Regional Office, Small Business Development Center, etc.

For entrepreneurship and new niche' businesses to the community, the local college (CWC) would be a good source to look into for potential programs that help with new business development.

Resources:

IDEA, Inc.
Phil Christopherson
213 West Main Street
Riverton, WY 82501
307-856-0952
philc@wyoming.com

Wyoming Business Council West Central Region
Roger Bower, Region Director
213 West Main Street, Ste C
Riverton, WY 82501
307-857-1155
roger.bower@wybusiness.org

Wyoming Small Business Development Center, Region 6
Margie Rowell
213 West Main Street
Riverton, WY 82501
307-851-1174
mrowell@uwyo.edu

Issues: Workforce-Training/Ethics

Bottom line is that finding trained skilled employees that have good work ethics is tough, especially when many are being snagged up by the recent boom in the mining, oil and gas industries.

Solution:

One resource that has been overlooked is the human one. Riverton and the surrounding area have a large pool of people to develop into a confident and talented workforce. It may be that workforce training needs to be started early at the secondary school level. Also there is the need for an investment of both public and private partnerships in developing programs for specialized training in local industry skills through apprenticeships, work-study programs, etc.

Resources:

The Department of Workforce Services would be the first stop in seeking services and programs that are offered for Workforce training.

Department of Workforce Services, Riverton/Lander Workforce Centers
Burl Gies, Supervisor
422 East Fremont
Riverton, WY 82501
307-856-3468
bgies@state.wy.us

Look into some of the biggest employers in the area about developing training programs through their businesses for future employees.

PROBLEMS & CHALLENGES – RIVERTON 2007

- Lack of incoming revenue to support town functions
- Lack of traffic control devices
- Lack of housing at every level
- Finding time to do what we want to do
- Improve fairgrounds, sad situation that needs attention
- What we have needs to be taken care of
- Community involvement
- Lack of community involvement- community to help community organization, lack of involvement, same faces you always see
- Lack of things to draw new people and young families to Riverton
- Vandalism is significant- lack of respect
- Traffic control on the west end of town, and community involvement- same people doing stuff
- Lack of civic pride and decaying buildings
- Tug of war between town and tribes- need more of our neighbors involved
- Meth & alcohol
- We do not have a short or long term master plan on how housing development will be coordinated
- No labor pool here
- Inability to tax ourselves...have to depend on the state
- Very poor education system.
- A lot of vacant buildings not being utilized
- Inability to recruit and retain as qualified workforce
- Substance abuse,
- Town lacks to educate youth and to bring them back to community
- Delinquency problem needs to be addressed
- Employee pool not dedicated and willing to work- lack of work ethic
- More activities for kids
- Graffiti
- More things for kids to do- some place to involve the youth of our community
- People need to take responsibility from within. Parents need to take responsibility
- Trying to find groups to do joint project and getting on same page
- Aging population
- Service organizations need to do more joint projects- work together
- Would be nice for all organizations to work together on one big major community project
- More combined effort through combined org. in recycling efforts- coordinated programs
- Transportation infrastructure- no major interstate highway access, plane service
- Affordable housing
- Lack of expectation & results in education both parents and students

- An abundance of run down motels- how can we attract more visitors to town with lack of adequate lodging facilities & restaurants
- Lack of housing on all levels
- Civic pride- clean up fix up
- Working together to advertise what civic groups are doing
- Vandalism
- News paper is one sided
- Lack of variety of businesses in town- find a way to attract different businesses
- Lack of service industry employees
- Need more of hotel motel facilities- can't house any large groups or activities
- Main street businesses aren't supported- more people go to the big box businesses
- Lack of support of local businesses
- Decaying buildings- lack of city council action in prevention
- All of the above
- Civic pride and community involvement- recycling
- County fairgrounds need major improvements- lack of community center to attract big groups to come to city
- We aren't ready for the Job Corp Center- real concerns that we will not have the infrastructure for it
- Lack of community pride
- Lack of volunteers
- Community tends to be a tough sell on the issues- wants to know "what's in it for me"
- How recreation is funded in community- work with legislature
- Full fledged recreation department
- Lack of quality programs for youth
- Lack of accessible places for activities- all are set up for scheduled activities- where kids can be kids
- Volunteers- ones that do criticize
- Funding for various programs
- Volunteers for programs, getting information out about programs available
- Community resistance to change & growth
- Lack of youth oriented – non sport programs, after school
- Reliable funding for programs
- Deteriorated bike and running paths
- Recreation programs are dwindling, some people have run them for years, need for new Beef up volunteers
- How to you get people involved
- Lack of unity of community & recreation coming together- get on same page
- Lack of funding
- Very cliquish- if you are not in, you're not in
- Lack of communication
- Lack of neighborhood parks, too much is competitive sports
- Need a vision of what recreation programs should be like

- Find ways to get people to use more what we have
- Maintenance of bike paths- no one is taking responsibility for main
- Increase minimum wage for volunteers
- Lack of a recreation department- too much individualism
- Not a large municipal recreational facility- activities need to be centralize
- Ability to work together- county, city school district work as a whole
- We need to come together as a community towards programs
- Very cliquish
- Lack of funding for recreation
- Utilization of existing facilities
- Management as athletic facilities
- Be more proactive
- Recreation needs to be looked as educational component for mental & physical- component of living
- Everyone needs to work together
- Make facilities more accessible- doors are locked
- Have facilities open- address juvenile delinquency problems that trash our facilities- real safety issues exist.
- Need more activities
- Pride in communities and how we run our program
- Very cliquish community- everybody is in it for their one individual thing- i.e. football, hockey- real political, need for unity
- Strategic planning and support
- Lack of communication, working together
- Open communication
- Up keep and maintenance
- Funding is crucial for all programs
- Kids are supposed to have fun, lost touch with this, too competitive and focus on winning
- Pride in what we have
- Poor job at pursuing grant funds available for recreation- we are loosing out
- So many different groups- need to build structure and group; volunteers are waiting to be asked instead of stepping up. Ask people to help
- Lack of unity, funding and adequate facilities can deter people to move here
- Lack of sharing resources and knowledge
- Need to expand idea of what recreation really is, i.e. boys & girls club, life skill related programs and facilities
- Lack of advertising and getting the word out about the programs that are available
- Lack of tourism, things to draw outside people through here, lodging etc
- Losing our young people- wages and jobs to keep them here
- Children- need for a rec center to keep them busy not enough for them to do
- Community Colleges need to be more responsible in workforce training
- Curriculum development in the college

- Problem with vacant buildings on Main Street- ones we have open are a bit run down- motivation needed to clean them up, need for entrepreneurs to open up shops- diversification of businesses.
- Bring local customers into the downtown to walk around and shop
- Lack of draw for tourists to walk up and down Main Street and shop
- Larger stores have affected businesses on Main Street
- Parking downtown is a problem- need for larger parking for community
- Downtown lacks an identity. i.e. Lander has a cultural identity
- Lack of amenities being within walking distance from one another- motel, restaurant, shops
- Low work ethics in younger generation
- Lack of career opportunities to keep the higher educated kids in community or to come back
- Lack of career opportunities to keep the higher educated kids in community or to come back
- Transient population and low income housing around City Park is scary and unsafe for kids
- No after school programs for kids- hard for parent who work to find adequate care for kids after school that don't include sports- some parents can't afford to have the kids in the sport programs
- Lack of diversification in economy
- We have two things that are going to change environment- casino, job corp facility- security issues that the city hasn't faced- and the development level hasn't...there is going to be a different mix
- The city is not very receptive to new businesses or they throw out road blocks that hamper new business development
- Housing is a big issue- lack of and affordable
- Ditto- there doesn't seem to be a real plan with housing development
- Percentage of people that have credit issues
- Affordable housing
- Challenge to find qualified workers
- Day care is an issue
- Health care issues that need to be addressed
- Lack of good quality employees
- Diversification of jobs- lack of service industry jobs
- Housing market- all aspects of housing need attention
- Lack of knowledge of how we market and who we market our community to
- Alcohol and gambling is having effect on community
- Ditto- on everything
- Shortage not only of skilled people but people in general
- Shortage of people- losing youth
- We need to look at other communities that had these problems and found solutions for them-

- Day care issues- shortage of daycare service available for people who live here and for new people in community
- How do we keep our youth here?
- Lack of zoning in county and city, lack of enforcement of current zoning, need for covenants in housing developments
- Lack of lodging facilities in community- local oil & gas workers have taken over many of the existing rooms available
- Lack of lodging facilities to attract events and tourists to community
- Lack of housing- we do not have enough to house the construction workers, new industry workers and others to the community
- There are no accommodations and housing available to handle new growth in the community
- There are no accommodations and housing available to handle new growth in the community
- No short term housing available for people in community i.e. motels, apartments, etc
- Lack of employment pool for hotel, restaurant and service industry
- Lack of employees available
- A lot of entry level jobs in Riverton- lack of medium level jobs
- Workforce development is a crisis locally and statewide- need for vocational programming in the colleges
- Lack of upper positions available to attract new employees
- Lack of single family housing in community
- We can't get visa guest worker's into Riverton because it is not considered a seasonal area
- We do not have the housing available for workers
- Lack of single family housing
- Labor force- we do not have enough available
- Lack of housing available for workers
- Current Infrastructure can't handle the growth
- County wide participation is lacking in community growth efforts- taxes have benefited counties and they have not been seen in cities and towns
- Impacts of the oil gas and mineral industries is a benefit but is a problem for communities
- Lack of affordable housing development sites available
- CWC Business Park- still has a lot of space available that needs to be marketed and utilized
- Shortage in housing
- No 1% Optional Sales Tax
- Lack of money available to fund infrastructure for housing
- Lack of trained workers and workforce training available
- Water issues- future use and current use- Tribal community obligations and ability to do things with water that city doesn't- upstream storage can be sold in the future that could affect community in the future.
- 5% preference fee from state that local contractors benefit from for local projects

- No 1% Optional Sales Tax
- Organizations do not work together- example: The 3 different baseball organizations do not work together. Waster of services
- School commission is artificially pumping the construction industry and creating a shortage of local competition for community development
- Lack of will from city government to work on housing issues, zoning & development guidelines and enforcement of ordinances
- State School system is contributing to shortage in construction, drives prices up on materials and land
- Young people are not getting involved in community efforts
- Revenue and the stream of revenue to continue ongoing projects and new projects for the community to grow
- Tremendous amount of opportunities in front of us but have not seen private sector responding to this- free market economy responding to workforce housing
- Property not being taken care of some and not by others- city needs to be responsible for enforcing ordinances towards property owners
- Keeping youth in community- jobs & housing
- Underage drinking & meth use
- Substance abuse
- Housing- Lack of affordable workforce housing
- Lack of Affordable housing
- Lack of child care
- Ditto- housing
- Ditto- substance abuse
- Zoning issues- need of overall plan for growth
- Ditto- substance abuse
- Lack of funding to address substance abuse issues
- Housing- lack of
- Concerns on ability to staff law enforcement with new casino and increase in the oil and gas industry growth- funding available for more staff is a major concern
- Demands for services are increasing but funds are not there to handle the increase through additional staff
- Substance abuse
- Housing- workforce and affordable
- Lack of workforce in area – shortage of qualified workers
- Ditto on substance abuse
- Too many government entities in county- county, tribal, etc- do not work together
- Lack of community to acknowledge tribal culture
- Lack of volunteerism for the fire and rescue dept- increased impact on services but not enough to handle the demand
- Supply and demand on public service personnel is being stretched thin- lack of funding for growth of depts.
- Mortality rate- steps need to be taken to decrease it
- Ditto on all

- Lack of qualified Workforce
- Lack of recreational activities in Riverton
- Hesitation at county level to allow 1% sales taxes for community projects
- Difficulty of keeping workforce we have in community
- Apathetic attitude developing in community
- Lack of a place to be for young people
- Lack of workforce for businesses in town
- Ditto- both
- Not a youth oriented town
- Nothing to do
- Ditto- nothing to do
- Not very youth oriented
- Nothing to do
- Nothing to do
- Nothing to do
- Nothing to do
- Get into trouble because of lack of activities
- High pregnancy rate because of lack of activities
- Drugs & alcohol
- Lack of workforce
- Ditto on all
- Ditto on all
- Bullying and fighting in community & school
- High drop out rate
- Hathaway scholarship standards are not promoting kids to take harder classes
- Lack of respect for each other
- Ditto all
- Boring
- Ditto
- Ditto on all
- Too much partying and drugs because of lack in youth programs
- Nothing for older kids and other ages not being motivated
- Ditto all
- Ditto all
- Kids not caring about their grades and community
- Not close together as community, no say in decisions for youth
- Lack of a voice in the community
- Lack of community support of youth activities
- Don't have a voice in community
- We don't have a lot of necessities for us- i.e. computers in library to use for home work, internet access, etc.
- (majority plan on going out of state for college) (1/4 say they will come back)
- Stores and other amenities for kids either are non-existent or do not stay
- Kids are pre-judged by many as bad, trouble makers, etc

- We have access to city council meetings but we don't feel that we are welcome or comfortable attending
- More youth need to care about their future
- Community needs to act like one!
- There is not enough things to do that leads to drugs, alcohol, etc
- Kids need more to do through more programs
- School is not supportive with teenage mothers and their issues
- Left turn arrow is needed at federal & 8th
- Streets
- We are ignoring streets that have been torn up- fixing up work
- Stop lights Major Avenue & Main Street and at Major& Sunset
- Better traffic control for safety
- Turning lanes by Wal-Mart need to be widened out for better usage
- Getting money for funding a Recreation Center- better management of funds for these types of projects
- City does a poor job at advertising funding opportunities for projects
- Riverton needs to get rid of all of the junk yards- especially at the airport
- Creating a community that draws young families to live here and raise their children
- We need more cooperation between city officials that we have a progressive community
- The lack of activities for youth
- We need to address the child care issue- provide adequate services to parents
- Ditto on child care
- Drugs and alcohol in community
- Need a more diversified economy to attract jobs and benefits to young families
- Getting young families to live here- things to foster that
- More activities for the youth- recreation program etc
- Ditto- things for the kids to do to keep them out of trouble
- Youth needs guidance from adults in programs that do exist in community
- Ditto- kids do need things like a bowling alley, arcade
- Affordable things that kids can do- some activities do cost too much for some families
- Projects that support and encourage activities that is affordable
- Ditto- adequate daycare
- Affordable programs and activities for all families
- Half-way house for students in crisis that is a nice safe environment for them
- Ditto- half way house
- Huge divide in poverty in the community
- No opportunity for middle-school students for job shadowing and career planning
- Provide Bring kids back to community
- Community recreation center
- Gambling is beginning to become a problem

- Special needs students need more things provided for them in after school programs and other community involved programs
- Ditto- half way house
- Center for parents for job training and adult GED/education programs
- Big chain stores making small stores obsolete- should provide some sort of incentive to keep small businesses in town
- Affordable family activities that incorporate all income levels
- Lack of cooperation between communities in Fremont County- share resources
- Lack of marketing current programs that are available in community
- Lack of family oriented recreational facilities
- Ditto to that
- Ditto
- Lack of cooperation in community need good central action plan
- Prejudice and bias in community- cultural & poverty
- Youth lack respect for adults
- We need a juvenile court system in the state
- Lack of retail opportunities- lost many small businesses
- Community tends to rely on schools to provide use for outside activities- almost expected all the time
- Ditto everything
- Current jobs don't create much time for family- shift work
- Ditto
- Bored out of mind
- Obesity
- Drug abuse
- Pregnancy
- Fear of change in our community (i.e. prison) – people are afraid of effects that some projects brought into the community might bring the wrong kind of people
- Employees supply base – recruiting and bringing them into the rural community
- Need of youth not addressed – we have done lots for seniors
- Lack of talented workforce
- Lack of talented workforce
- Dealing with illegal movement and workforce
- Protect business owners so they can hire workforce
- Drug problem and workers passing drug test
- The country is hurting because of drugs and workers not being able to pass drug test
- Housing availability – affordable housing
- Transportation affects the cost of business – important to keep air service
- Labor costs are competitive nationally so good transportation will help
- Hand full of people keeping community afloat
- 3 major community leaders passed away in the past year and it has had an impact on community

- County doesn't always work well with businesses; city has been good to work with
- County planning was good in the past, has become more difficult to work with
- Demand charge on electricity is very high for electricity we only use a short time- customers should only pay for electricity they use
- Health care – might be national issue for manufacturing sector
- Fuel surcharges – might be national issue for manufacturing sector
- CWC took truck training away from private sector – don't like that
- Hard to find a place around the Post Office
- Don't have things for our youth to do – we should have a recreation center for a town our size
- Need to keep our youth off the street
- Workforce – difficulty finding qualified workers
- Workforce is a problem
- Workforce is a problem – problem in all communities
- Use to be able to find young people that wanted to get into trade work, but doesn't seem to be like that anymore
- Workforce is a concern
- In this community we seem to say that a high school education is OK – no need to go further
- Substance abuse
- People can't drive trucks for businesses because of driving records, DWIs
- You can find men that want to come to work, but spouses don't want to come because we are lacking shopping and other services
- Lack of quality child care for 2 and under especially odd hours
- We lost an edge back in the 70s with the bust
- City and school district not working well on Lincoln School construction
- Low priorities that the Agriculture program has in the Riverton schools
- Land use issues that are challenging people in Ag
- We need a multi purpose facility for different kinds of things- stock, dog shows, etc
- Ag is an after thought because we are as physically in town, on the outskirts
- Ag community needs to be more involved in what is going on in communities
- Ditto on a new multi-purpose facility- big enough to host some horse show, other agriculture related activities as well as a variety of other community activities
- Riverton lacks good drug & substance treatment facilities- have to travel far to get intensive treatment- we need it in this area for the entire county
- Ditto on treatment facility- County has highest per capita of substance abuse- one of the biggest problems in the nation.
- Ditto on the treatment facilities needs
- Gaming in this county it can be good or bad. Part of the reason gaming is working is that many adults have nothing to do but go to a bar or go gamble. A multi purpose facility will give adults and youth more structured family activities to do.

- Timing of the lights on Sunset is not long enough. In front of the Safeway store the green light is not timed long enough, or goes on and off. There needs to be a better system and timing to keep the flow of traffic constant flow.
- Ditto- lighting is a problem
- Ditto on that
- Ditto- agree about the lights
- Clothing stores & shoe stores- can not find the items local- especially for elderly
- Lack of city and county support on transportation
- We are ageing as a community and state- cost of gas has gone up and need for public transportation as well
- Bus system is beneficial but would like to see expanded hours and weekends. Need services in Lander and limited on bus to get there
- More local support for transportation system
- Seniors need the bus-more funding is needed
- Streets and sidewalks in our city are in terrible condition- improvements are much needed
- Amount of traffic on Federal Blvd has greatly increased and the ability to make improvements is limited and it makes a big challenge for Riverton
- Bus service is having a huge problem finding qualified drivers- lack of workforce
- Ditto on lack of good drivers for buses
- Funds are tight for transportation services in Fremont County and demands are going up. With this, the citizens who use the facilities will be the one stuck paying more for services
- Ditto with charging more
- So many that ride the bus are low income and it is going to be a struggle to pay higher costs
- Ditto on that- if you raise the price you are going to loose riders and then eventually funding
- Ditto on that- it does become a challenge
- Need more local support from local government
- It is impossible to find jobs with limited transportation service hour
- Traffic concern with speed enforcement being a low priority
- The city was not designed for public transit system- big issue for putting in safe bus stops and safe pedestrian traffic, i.e. bike paths, walking ways
- Traffic does not obey pedestrian right-of-way- especially on Federal Blvd
- No one follows the speed limit
- (Senior bus pass is 65\$ a month)
- Traffic through town is not regulated and enforced and is becoming very dangerous
- Funding for improvements in transportation is a huge problem. With prices going up, funding is getting tight
- Traffic violations should be better enforced and should be a bigger priority
- Ditto on sidewalks being in bad condition
- Racist attitude

- Agree with racist attitude
- Housing- lack of affordable housing
- Rent is increasing dramatically
- Tenant laws not supportive
- Agree with housing issues
- Fair housing- there is not fair housing on reservation or Fremont Co. Federal programs slow or non existent on following up on tenant fair housing issues
- Tribal youth do not have representation or able to participate in the public schools- barriers
- Natives face issues of not feeling excepted in the community and public school system
- Lack of programs and activities for youth
- Jurisdictional issues
- Agree with the racist attitude in the public schools
- Lack of ways of interacting of both groups- need to come up with ways of bridging natives and citizens of community
- Agree- racist attitudes
- Race relations are very challenging between Native Americans and the citizens of Riverton. It exists on and off the reservation
- Agree- racism and prejudice issues.
- The tribal community has made its mark recently with the WRHC and Job Corp center- Tribal dollars are a big part of the economy and merchants need to recognize this. Conversations are being made and needs to be continued between the tribal gov and local community leaders
- Agree- racism and prejudice issues
- There are a lot of issues with utilities and construction in reservation- reservation ends up paying more and lack representation in decisions there has to be a better working relationship in future for projects and costs for utilities being reasonable. A working relationship needs to be fair across the board
- Race issue has improved in Riverton- But housing needs to be addressed. It is sub standard
- Representation is needed for the tribes in education system for Native American students.
- Quite often native Americans do not feel comfortable going into some of the businesses in Riverton
- Jurisdictional issues involving small business development for tribal members- entrepreneurs face same issues plus more than other small business development in Riverton
- Too many barriers and not enough communication between groups
- Stereotype that the federal government pays everything for the tribes-
- Racial barriers and stereotypes between tribes and local community. Education is needed to break these barriers
- Challenge that our students are not interested higher education because the degree isn't worth anything on the reservation- Higher education and vocational training for our own people that are more community specific, find out what they want,

what do they feel as community members would be beneficial education to be self sufficient

- Economics/racism- We need our tribal members to get more jobs in community, have the opportunity to be part of the workforce in Riverton & Lander. Educate employers about the benefits of hiring tribal workers
- Racism and disrespect of local shops portray to Native Americans. Better relationships are needed. They are getting better but still need to be improved.
- We have qualified people to work in a wide variety of industries, efforts need to be made to better relationships and hire more Native Americans into the workforce
- Racism, lack of knowledge of the Indian people, police stereotype the Indians and target them-assume the worse.
- Preconceived as trouble in stores, and school system, stereotyped as always on welfare system, especially the youth
- The Riverton police dept prejudging natives- especially youth. Need to be more open minded and not quick to judge
- County Commissioner's refusal to approve tax incentives for funding projects
- Concerns that there are no sponsors or representation of Native Americans on state economic development organizations
- Cultural differences in court system. Native Americans not receiving equal representative as their white counterparts that have committed same crime. Natives are receiving harsher or longer sentences
- Expanded public transportation to make it accessible and available
- Drug problem in school district (easy for kids to get drugs)
- Community has an Inability or unwillingness to think toward tomorrow and new ideas, as well as take the steps toward goal.
- Community does not seem willing to invest in infrastructure and quality of life. Many of the young talented are leaving community. Need to invest in basic infrastructure.
- Hard to identify Riverton as community when you live 10 – 35 miles out of town and in Agriculture.
- Bond issue was handled poorly, could have been improved.
- Bond issue not passing was disappointing.
- Media stated activities center was for a small group, not true, big events can be hosted here.
- Meth use is problem
- Vandalism huge issue
- Delinquent and vagrant adults and youth in ALL areas of town
- Drop out rate in high school and middle school is atrocious
- A lot of issues, but there'll never be absent – Eat away at elephant one by one.
- Vandalism of mural on main street and new football turf. How do you
- That we didn't start with the strengths and assets rather than problems and challenges.
- In Business highly skilled or even minimal skilled workforce is difficult
- Workforce. Only people not working are people that don't want to work

- Balance that fact education is important and some businesses don't value a 2 year degree.
- Safety issues - Going south to Riverview area that is developing, there is no walking path.
- At point where there is a transfer of leadership from older to younger. Not knowing who is in charge and hard to make things happen. Should emphasize leadership and "let go".
- Not enough for Youth to do.
- Empty unused facilities.
- Lack of Affordable Housing
- No people in this room
- Lack of recreation center for teens and young adults to play games and hang out
- Lack of Affordable Housing
- Lack of Hotel Space
- Retaining employees at restaurants
- Drug and Alcohol Problems
- Not enough involvement between city and college
- Lack of education & communication between tribe and city of Riverton
- Shortage of student housing
- Distance from specialized health
- Diversity on the campus- need for more ethnic people
- Places for college kids and older kids to hang out
- Not a lot of off campus stuff for students
- Lack of youth related activities
- Ditto- activities
- Ditto- need for a community center
- Ditto same
- Mosquitoes- need for more spraying efforts to eliminate
- Ditto need for student activities
- Students do not have jobs available to fit qualifications
- Activities for kids
- Ditto- place for kids to go
- Housing- affordable
- Lack of adequate daycare
- More quality jobs for students
- More involvement between citizens of city and college
- Lack of ethnic diversity on campus
- Riverton not a friendly town for students- college & high school & young people overall
- More cultural awareness is needed in the school- programs not offered as part of curriculum
- Ditto- College & community involvement lack of
- Ditto- housing- ability to recruit teachers for college
- Lack of maintaining of current facilities- recreation

- Lack of diverse restaurants and shopping
- Ditto- restaurants & shopping
- Ditto- restaurants
- Ditto- again
- Ditto- shopping
- Lack of restaurant that are open for different hours of the night to accommodate night owls- shift workers, etc
- Lack of job opportunities- good paying jobs for students, lack of career choices to come back to so we have to move out of the community for careers
- Ditto- late night restaurants
- Not enough unique businesses available
- Lack of choice for clothing stores
- Lack of events center for this area to attract more activities to area
- After college- people move away because there are no career choices in degrees received
- Lack of daycare center
- Not big manufacturing based industries to help create diversity
- Ditto- lack of unique shops
- Substance abuse problems
- Employers not willing to work with college students and their schedules
- Cost of advanced degrees
- Convincing youth for higher education and graduating
- Ditto- lack of understanding of positives of community college in community as a whole
- Reliable and stable funding for the community college is an issue
- Workforce development is a big issue
- Facilities county wide to handle growth in college education programs
- Ditto- maxed out on what we can do with new programs, housing of new students
- Funding and housing and adequate facilities to prove courses & programs
- Ditto housing- can not recruit workforce
- Keeping our young people interested in higher education
- Housing, workforce development
- Strengthening relations between community & tribes
- Cost and accessibility of advanced degrees locally
- Ditto- affordable housing
- Lack of higher education for the disability population
- Ditto on all
- Poverty and poverty mentally- not high emphasis on higher education or long term gains
- Adequate and reliable and fair funding for colleges
- More workforce development- encouragement of youth to go into higher education
- Student housing- lack of and nonexistent
- Ditto- workforce development

- Linkage between university and community college- courses transfer
- Ditto
- Local control for our higher education
- Lack of progressiveness for funding- bond issue failing
- Demographics- not a nice even distribution of age groups
- Air transportation- leakage of people going outside for air service. Expensive to fly locally
- Lack of places for youth to shop and gather
- Lack of good paying jobs or adequate hours for college students
- Programs are at capacity, need for funds to expand space
- Long term planning on water use- better planning needs to be in place

- Area has a 65% unemployment rate on reservation, aging population is over half of total, we have not been very inclusive including Native Americans in political and education opportunities. Bill for SLIB water & sewer system upgrades lost in legislature.
- Workplace injuries- compensation is inadequate for families. More people are ending up on welfare as a result of an injury. That affects whole families and community. Reform is needed.
- Costs of health insurance and lack of adequate health insurance on reservation- and community
- Health care costs
- Shame that people are leaving for higher degrees. Area is becoming more of a retirement aged community
- Aging community, lack of support for youth activities- not much of a progressive change being seen
- Ditto- having things for youth
- Ditto- quality jobs, affordable housing- bring youth back to community
- Limited number of bachelors and advanced degrees being offered locally
- Medical community has shrunk. Lack of specialists in the hospital. Most services having to be shipped out of area. No treatment type facilities
- Need better substance abuse services and treatment facilities
- Balancing the needs of youth and needs of seniors
- Ditto
- Facilities to take care of seniors
- Lack of Welcome signs coming into Riverton
- Not having enough providers for children with disabilities
- Not enough daycare for children Birth to middle school
- Not enough creative productive things for children to do
- Employment for seniors
- Increasing need for senior health care and long term care for seniors
- Concern about Health care for children
- Preschool for children with and without disabilities so they can interact
- Transportation for everyone and availability

- Transportation for persons with disabilities
- Work force By 2011 closed to ¾ million people short to serve in direct care –
- Enlarge offerings for kids in community
- Disappearance of the middle class – Do we still have one and what are we going to do
- West Nile – What are we doing to prevent, test and if you don't have insurance what avenues do we have for people to pay.
- Middle class does not have insurance
- Lack of Nice apartment complexes
- Contractors do not spec build
- Lack of Extensive training for CNA (there is a program for this)
- Providing descent place for people who need skilled nursing care
- Housing, and housing for seniors
- Lack of Subsidized Housing
- People with brain injuries are being sent to Casper for treatment, need facility here
- More accessible and expanded transportation
- More accessibility on main street
- Livable wages in our job market
- Lack of day care
- Lack of pre-school
- Early childhood endorsement not being finished
- Preventative Care not being taught - diabetes
- Preschool and Daycare issues
- No balance of cost of day care
- No rec. center for a community of this size
- Leakage of patience going out of town – personal choice, insurance reason, less expense. Some students fall in between the income guidelines to qualify for any benefits. People are being forced into poverty because system is such they cannot tap into the services.
- Lack of social justice.
- One day in Riverton hospital costs as much as spending 3 days in Casper Hospital.
- Having and keeping a viable workforce.
- Hugh lack of infant care.
- No conference or convention center
- Ditto – conference center
- Battle between youth and seniors on progressing on community projects for youth.
- Defeat of bond issue divided community
- Bond issue was put out way too fast, need more time.
- Man power- detriment but asset

- Good workforce base but lack mindset to go from one thing they've known all their life to new change and skills (fear of boom and bust in the minerals and oil/gas industry)
- Housing is an issue- lack of adequate housing
- Lack of professionally trained employees
- Ditto- lack of affordable housing
- Need to pursue training for workforce
- Ditto- lack of trained- skilled workforce
- Trying to get all of the oil/gas and minerals companies together and agree on what training is needed
- Finding ways to keep the youth here
- She said ditto
- We aren't doing much to keep our young people here.
- We don't do a lot with our main street- unique activities
- Politics of Riverton and area is very much with seniors instead of young people
- Ditto- really short on recreation for our young people
- Lack of shopping facilities in area
- Workforce housing- need for affordable housing to bring people back in. No growth in area
- Ditto- no recreation center
- Ditto- keeping our young people here
- No development for housing- not bringing developers in
- Rentals- there are none to be found. Most are in bad shape, not adequate
- Ditto- need recreational facility for youth
- Need a nice place to eat, music venue for families and people to gather
- Ditto everything- nothing for kids here
- Rentals- lack of adequate rental units and affordable housing for new employees
- Run into challenges with city on new construction of housing. They need to get behind new development. City should get more involved and find solutions and allocate funds for development
- Social, criminal and economic problems that are tied in with the new casinos
- Ditto- lack of recreational and community activities
- Ditto on everything said
- Ditto- everything said
- Find a way to house our young people
- Ditto- everything said
- Recreational activities for all of the people in community
- Ditto with emphasis on lack of affordable housing
- Location does make a challenge for businesses in commodities and an affordable market
- Workforce housing
- Air service needs to be expanded

- Infrastructure needs to be expanded in the county. Air service needs subsidies to expand. Highway infrastructure is needed. We need to prepare for our future. More state and county money needs to be spent locally
- Not much consistency in the city on development. Rules need to be fair and consistent. There needs to be better planning on how to move traffic.
- We have not seen the problems that may come in with the casinos
- Roads are big problem
- Developing public and private partnerships in developing needed projects in community
- No convention space available to bring in outside events. Need more motel accommodations
- Ditto to everything- especially recreation center
- Fair grounds need to be improved and expanded for events
- More economic growth that will generate income for community- events center, indoor arena
- Affordable housing- infrastructure and technique and how we go about it. We need to rethink our planning, and innovate new techniques in planning
- Need more apartment complexes
- Ditto- rentals and housing
- We are much like larger cities like Casper, city needs to think ahead and model from others
- City is resistant of buying smaller lots and changing things in housing project- funding fears
- Ditto- affordable housing
- Need more businesses for people to gather and visit at on main street
- Casino issue- we need to address issue that will come from it
- Roadblocks with cities on developing housing
- Jobs and employment for our youth to return to
- Drugs and substance abuse
- Youth are growing up without higher education
- Having the businesses and industries respecting tradition of Sundays and Weds as days for faith
- Taking Christ out of Christmas, removing of the ten commandments
- Agree
- Meth and drug situation with our children. We need an overall program to offer to kids as a solution for the problem. A treatment center. A solution to help with drug rehab here. Substance abuse is a large problem here
- Agree- need for a community center for religious, treatment, programs for kids
- Agree- drug problem is huge in community- would like to see a drug free community
- Ditto
- Ditto
- Ditto
- Racial prejudice towards the residents of the reservation needs to be addressed

- Agree- drug problem
- Need for unity of all the churches in community
- Teenage pregnancy problem and drug problem
- Fear- confronting people's fear is an issue
- Ditto things said
- Break down of traditional families is a problem. Ethics are being lost in our children
- Ability for minors to obtain alcohol is a real problem
- Community suffers from a lack of entry level housing
- Lack of willingness of our judicial system to enforce the laws and be a little harder on those who gain from the destruction of our young people
- We need to raise our youth in a Christian setting- losing that
- Agree with comments
- Gambling problems are going to come up
- Casino is going to bring future problems to the community and planning needs to be done to brace for it
- Support of the family group is marginal. So many issues that affect the family are being seen more often
- Lack of adequate substance abuse programs for youth and adults locally
- Focus on assisted living and nursing facilities is lacking in the community
- Focus on the Sunday and Weds faith days. Loss of the family infrastructure in community
- Various faiths need to come together on community gatherings and events
- School and community sport programs are competing with family time and religious time
- City is helpless by lack of funding in helping developers in extending the infrastructure for new housing developments – raising the costs
- Need for good Christian counselors
- Ditto
- Ditto
- Ditto x 10
- We live in the middle of the reservation and would like to see churches reach out to them and do something there
- The Ten Commandments removal from City Park- can't we have a voice on this?
- We need a voice for the religious sector on issues faced in the community
- Youth are growing up in a culture of decaying family values and morals
- Financing for non profits
- Problem of an even playing field for non profits, i.e. casinos are able to have machines to generate revenue but non profits can not take advantage of the same to generate funding.
- Financing is always a problem in any endeavor
- Ditto- it is always a challenge. Constant job to promote program and find funding
- Ditto
- Opportunities to find resources to get things done

- Continuity and perseverance and commitment in projects for the long haul.
- Challenge to bring lots of people together- advertisement efforts, etc
- Getting volunteers is a problem because everyone is stretched too thin
- Alcohol abuse is high- alcohol related crimes
- Community appearance- gateways need to be welcoming
- Grant writing skills- is an issue for most non profits in community
- Transportation
- Senior house
- Streets and alleys
- Ditto-all the above
- Ditto
- Property taxes- discount
- Discounts for seniors on utility bills
- Split in too many direction
- Lack of water and use- whole water issue
- Communication between seniors and non seniors and how we get the word out
- Growth creating higher property taxes
- Dittos
- Reasonable rental housing
- Ditto-transportation & housing
- Price of utilities
- Sidewalks and streets are hazardous for citizens- need fixing
- Water is an issue, high water bills
- Ditto transportation & housing
- Not enough diversity in health care choices...have to go outside to find services
- Ditto on that
- Provide extended public transportation
- Communication
- So many people do not vote especially on local issues
- Senior parking- lack of
- Communication in community
- Ditto- healthcare services and providers locally
- Ditto- healthcare
- Long range plan for transportation in city and county
- Ditto
- Need for assistance for seniors in small community for basic needs- handyman services, etc
- Housing
- Lack of nursing facility
- Transportation on weekends
- Cost of medicine, doctors, Medicare
- Increasing property taxes when your income doesn't
- City & county not receptive of seniors
- Too much politics interfering from city hall

- Seniors need door to door transportation
- Ditto water bills increasing
- Ditto- extended transportation
- Ditto- transportation needs
- Senior day care services
- Public safety and traffic control
- Vandalism
- Traffic lights are not safe for pedestrian crossing
- Lack of people voting
- Associated services required for increased aging population
- Increase in healthcare providers for aging population
- Unsafe intersections and cross walks not marked well
- Ditto- streets and sidewalks unsafe to walk- need of repair
- Need more traffic lights in heavy traffic areas

STRENGTHS & ASSETS – RIVERTON 2007

- Climate- beautiful
- People are the greatest asset. Willingness to help
- Small community living. Personable
- Location and amount of public lands for recreation
- Progressive community that hasn't lost the small town feel
- CWC
- Location
- People are as positive thing as a whole. Great people
- College and medical services are outstanding for size
- Location and people-
- Location, size of community, safe
- Location and openness
- Family and friends
- We want to stay here- a one family community
- Quality of life – more pleasant
- Small town, and college
- Location- isolation can be an asset
- College and willingness of community to help, and climate
- People in general
- Attitude is one of our greatest assets
- All that do so much for our youth- more clubs, teams, church groups, so much for our youth that there are very few who aren't involved
- Living in a small town everyone gets to participate directly in youth activities
- Great people- determination & tenacity of the people
- Willingness of people and businesses that give when ask
- Community has a great attitude
- Diverse businesses in city
- College, clubs
- Sports programs that have developed over the years and parents who are willing to help and support these programs
- Agree with everything
- Low crime rate
- Great location- Yellowstone Park, great location
- Wyoming Public Television located here is big advantage
- Natural resources available so close to city
- Aesthetic of Riverton. Natural beauty of area
- You can walk down the street and know people on the street
- Mineral industry is a tremendous asset
- Agree!
- Recreation cache available close by- hour away from most activities
- Center of recreational amenities, but lack of tourism

- Main Street- town did something
- Good central location, close to mountains
- Growing population, people want to help and are joining together
- College is a major strength
- Access to outdoor recreational activities in area
- Culture and diversity of community
- College
- School district open policy that facilities are open for groups to use them
- Different group of people starting to come in- can do people in community who are interested
- Fundamental shift to recreation
- Small town atmosphere-
- Both spouses can follow their careers.
- Schools are small enough for kids to do many different activities
- Small atmosphere and honesty of people
- Small atmosphere and ability to identify changes we need to make with out fear of change
- The people- friendly people who mean to be!
- Great size
- Size and willing to grow
- Providing our kids the opportunity to grow
- Feel comfortable to raise your kids here and that they are safe
- Everyone is friendly and your kids are safe to grow up here
- Everyone knows everyone atmosphere
- Kids are safe here
- Volunteer base we do have is wonderful- great people!
- New track is an asset to community
- Great place to raise kids
- Community pulls together
- Bike path- tree improvements & landscaping
- Main Street is very attractive
- New playground
- Our current recreation programs were started by volunteers
- People who I know
- I stayed here for 50 years because of the people. Great place to raise our kids
- Location, climate, small town atmosphere
- Main Street reconstruction- has a nice look to it- potential
- People in town that help one another, kindness
- Great community, access to all kinds of recreational opportunities
- Great place to raise a family
- Closeness within the community
- Can do attitude- willingness
- Always something going on in Riverton
- Improvements in the downtown area a plus, made the area much more attractive

- Attitude is more progressive can do get it done on community issues- everyone is working together and getting involved
- Enjoy the people in Riverton
- People move here after visiting here- nice place to live
- Diversity going on in community, industry, casino, good assets
- College is a major strength for course work available, bring in cultural activities
- Always something going on in Riverton
- Having WBC, SBDC, IDEA Inc.- strong resources located locally to help businesses tremendous amount of knowledge and financial resources available
- Good businessmen- actively improving their businesses and active in the community
- People do want to change
- Location- centrally located
- Ditto- great infrastructure system with schools, college, healthcare
- Kindness of people in community
- You learn to make your own entertainment in a small community- people will try to go out and do things that they might not do in larger communities
- A beautiful place and beautiful areas all around and outdoor recreation close by
- Location and close too many outdoor recreational activities
- Great work ethic of local people who grew up here
- Hunting, fishing, outdoor recreation
- Children can play in yards and neighborhood safely
- Wonderful college in community
- People here are amazing- decent good, friendly, willingness to help out, pull together and participate in community
- Outdoor activities close by
- Strong family values in the community
- Well rounded balanced way of life here
- Element of people who come back and raise their families
- Water is a huge asset with the affordability and abundance of it in area
- Community college- beautiful facility
- Progressive community that is open to change, new people & businesses coming in
- Disc golf course is outstanding- provides an alternative sport to community
- Location and climate is a great asset
- Location to Yellowstone and other outdoor recreation is an asset to community
- Sit at the cross roads to outdoor recreational activities
- Beautiful pool connected to the high school that is used by community
- Centralized location is a benefit for hospitality businesses
- Location
- Summer activities in city are a benefit- promotes a sense of community to visitors
- Hunting and fishing activities that draw people into the community
- Great mix of different businesses in community that aren't found anywhere else in state

- Active Wind River Visitor's council that provides and promotes area information to visitors
- Summer parades are a huge benefit- brings in visitors, community involvement
- Culinary program at college- looking into expanding the program into a full blown hospitality degree program
- Progressive community that works towards ideas for future development- outstanding resources
- Overall sense of community is very evident
- Opportunities that are offered to children
- The human capital available for training and development
- Blessed in state with legislature that is forward looking in economic and community development
- Self supporting entity between WBC and IDEA, Inc through cooperation have developed many successful local economic projects in community
- People in community are willing to work together on projects
- Small town atmosphere
- Educational opportunities available through the college and local schools and programs for the youth
- Human capital
- Relationship building that is ongoing in the community- projects get done through community support
- Great city council- support on economic development efforts
- Diversity in community
- Human capital is unique in Riverton-Environment is diverse and willing to work for change
- People work for the good of the community
- Can-do spirit of the people in the community
- Great place to live and raise a family
- Climate is pleasant year round
- The people make the strength of the community
- Diverse economy in the community
- Reservation could be an asset if everyone works together
- Diverse group of people in community
- Proactive in developing housing and other infrastructure
- Public entities work together with utilities in projects
- People are open and willing to engage in projects
- College is dedicated in developing education programs within community
- Business community has a sense of appreciation in community
- People- open and willing to get involved
- No interstate within a hundred miles
- Progressive minded citizens- tremendous amount of volunteers in Riverton that help in the community
- No interstate highway in region
- People are open and trusting

- Tremendous outdoor recreation amenities in area- central location to many resources
- Ditto to location
- Great infrastructure
- Administration is forward looking
- Ditto outdoor resources
- The Mineral resources that drives the economy
- Ditto- outdoor recreational resources
- People- great foundation
- Youth
- Human capital is the biggest strength and asset to the community
- My neighbors and coworkers- they really help and really care
- Progressive attitude in planning- good water, utilities and elements are planned or in place for future growth
- This is where I wanted to live and make my life
- Community support in projects
- Small community and friendliness
- Community growth is steady, not out of control
- Open campus at school
- New football field
- Ditto- football field
- Support that schools give to their extra curricular programs
- Ditto
- Smallness of the community- you know everyone, can be a problem as well
- It takes a community to raise a child
- A lot of stuff for seniors
- Support for music & sport programs
- Like living in the country
- Ditto
- Different programs available in sports
- Small, but not too small
- Sport programs
- Ditto
- Support from library for teen programs
- Everyone hangs out at one place on the weekend
- School support of sports
- We have great local programs but there can more
- CWC has great arts and culture programs
- Ditto on everything
- Sports and open areas
- Close friends
- Community becoming more involved with youth, clubs and other organization
- Small town living
- Workout facilities in school

- Like that there isn't a lot of people- good size
- Having the college is very positive
- Attempt in community to do new things and trying to move in a new direction
- Swimming pool
- Outdoor swimming pool- has it open all day
- Walking trails are great asset- need improving
- Small town feel
- Very good school system and health care system
- Love it here- small town
- The youth (they need to be cared for though so they can stay here)
- Safe environment for kids, schools, people
- Right size
- Community college here, sports and other activities
- A great place to raise kids
- Family is here
- Safe environment for children. They can play in yards and neighborhoods without having to keep eye on them every second
- Things available for retirement citizens
- Availability of outdoor recreational activities in the area
- Tradition of area is an asset
- Rural setting- away from big things but close drive to them
- Community cares about what happens within it
- Ditto- small atmosphere, mountains
- County fair is a big plus for community
- Low tax base- can afford to live here
- CWC- cultural activities, programs offered, quality education for students
- Low taxes
- Good education for kids- incredible teachers and staff
- Ditto that- excellent education system
- Constant source of funding for education
- Good medical system
- The people right here in the room- a ton of people who really care
- Diverse group of people- nice little melting pot of people
- Community wants to add to the strength of community
- Wonderful sense of community in the people here
- Ditto- teachers
- Feel safe raising my kids here
- Amount of volunteerism in community, i.e fire dept, sports,
- Anybody who wants to work here can, there are jobs available
- Closeness of community
- Diversity
- Above average academically
- It is home
- Progressive town

- I thought we would be in trouble if we lost Bob Peck, but his spirit of progressiveness is still here
- Our children and grandchildren like working here
- Special place to live
- It gets in your blood and you can't away from it.
- Good place to raise a family and grow a business
- Of the people that are dedicated to working for the community are good and do more than their fare share
- Small community mentality
- Progressive community
- Local government in support of growth
- Business ready grant
- City works hard to help new businesses by putting in infrastructure
- Good police department
- City has done good things like brining in the job corp
- House overlooks Valley and it is beautiful
- CWC
- Shopping is fine – you don't need much choice after a while
- Everything we need as far as our church goes
- Progressive town in the heart of Wyoming
- CWC
- Strong manufacturing neighbors
- Enjoy living here
- Appreciate the town and how it has grown
- There has been a consistent push to improve the town
- Good city administration
- IDEA, Inc. has been a great asset
- Training grants from workforce services
- IDEA, Inc. keeps us well informed
- People – work with a lot of people that are family
- Hunting
- Fishing
- Surroundings
- Reservation and diversity – we are a lot of different people working together
- We receive good support from manufacturing works people and Wyoming Business Council; city – encouraged a lot to develop and grow
- Infrastructure is good – T1 lines; we can communicate like any other city
- Where we live
- Nicest weather in the state
- Best place in the state to live
- The Indians chose to live here because it was nice
- People are great
- So many positives, mountains and so much to do
- We are a well hidden secret

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 - CWC
 - School system
 - People are good
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 - Reservation – brings another culture to us – offers a unique look at life
 - Easy to do business here – a lot of support – SBDC, Chamber
 - Permitting process for contractors has gotten better over the years
-
- We have great organizations that really do want to see things grow in the community. Efforts are being made with the relationships between tribes and other communities to work together on economic development.
 - Education has taken progressive steps in programs for job training for its citizens
 - Would like to see a Chili's in Riverton
 - Lots of decent shopping in community
 - Good public school system
 - People come here because they can shop and get other things- have a lot to offer
 - Sale barn is an asset to the community and attract many people
 - BTI has been very accommodating to agriculture people with unloading feed that come in on rail- a service that has been a huge benefit for agriculture related industry at a reasonable fee
 - Just the people themselves in Fremont Co
 - The energy boom has helped Fremont County that has brought in revenue to the area
 - Love the small town life
 - Central location that allows us to be the hub is very beneficial to Riverton
 - Street lights are easier to see
 - Main Street designed for easier flow and wider turning lanes
 - Senior bus pass is 65\$ month for unlimited service M-F 8-4
 - Good fresh air
 - We don't have the huge population- small town

- I love our senior center
- This community is well supported with access to transportation- not isolated in the community- especially for seniors.
- Great coordination in the transportation system planning with businesses in the community
- The convenience of shopping in the area
- Ditto on shopping
- There are services for our all of our health, shopping, transportation, etc. needs in the community
- There is no other place in the world like Wyoming
- Ditto on the readily available transportation service- especially for the seniors
- Excellent natural health food store here- beneficial for those with food allergies- they have been able to provide more answers for us on major allergy problems and treatment relating to nutritional means.
- WRT is a strength, but it is a underutilized strength we need more people using the bus
- The city leaders in this town have been thoughtful on planning and beautification. Have been in-tune to public safety
- Ditto- beautification efforts with the entrances into town (new sign and sculpture)
- Funding for the independent living voucher program has been a big benefit- started this last winter
- More of the tribal youth are being employed in community
- We can see some of the tax dollars coming back to the reservation
- Construction efforts underway on highway
- Support in Job Corp for our youth
- Support in the casino
- We have a representation now in the House of Representatives to fight for us and advocate for the tribes
- Its is too good to be true here
- Employment opportunities are beginning to open up for natives
- Seeing more support from Riverton for tribes
- Major strength with Riverton is a regional center with shopping, medical, education
- Mayor Vincent and his staff have been a positive support in projects and relationships with the tribe- they have crossed that racial barrier and work together with the tribe
- College & mayor- strides are being made
- People are willing to get their hands dirty and work with the tribes on projects- continue to work and things are expanding with more variety. Dialog continues to improve between groups
- Community people in Riverton have worked to cross barrier line and continue to work together with tribe.
- Other groups are beginning to step up and work to help with tribes. More a becoming involved to learn about tribal community and business.
- Riverton does offer a variety of shopping needs for people

- Economic development opportunities are opening up for tribal projects. Partnerships on projects with local economic development are happening
- Working relationships are opening up and growing
- Wal-Mart is an asset- and casino is an asset
- Ditto- Wal-Mart
- Riverton hasn't changed much- good/and bad. Relationships still need to be better between Riverton and natives, services for our people, for our youth,
- We need to continue to be persistent in making a voice for the tribe- made big strides already
- Like the no sales tax on food! A little bit helps
- Civic pride in Riverton through the recent Main Street improvements.
- Airport is an asset- but could be improved. Transportation services.
- Mayor Vincent has a profound impact on Fremont County for what he has done for community.
- Establishments are beginning to understand and support tribal members by employment opportunities, support, services provided, becoming advocates for tribe
- Mayor Vincent and his leadership. Availability of private schools in Riverton for many choices in education.
- Multi use center
- More Motels and hotels
- See people realize that Fremont County is a great thing for all of us and continue to work together in projects for the future
- See more youth entrepreneur programs
- Housing
- River-walk development
- Celebrate Native American as a joint community event in Riverton
- Would like local newspaper be more open minded and report positive on tribal things
- Diverse community
- Resurgence of optimism.
- Can do attitude with Play ground project
- 5 P's to management - Prior planning prevents poor performance
- 5 points Management Functions - Planning organizing directing staffing controlling.
- Main Street
- School System
- CWC
- Hospital
- Strong service organizations
- Recreation paths throughout community
- New playground
- Attractive community
- Nice size

- Downtown
- Some growth
- Progressive city government
- Workforce development efforts by college
- Everything a person could ever want if they get up instead of waiting for it to come to you.
- Close community
- Nurturing people
- Friendly people
- When going to Wal-Mart everyone knows you and greets you
- Community we should be proud of
- Library
- Airport above average for our size community
- CWC
- Hospital
- Its home
- Nice to go down town and see somebody you know
- Warm and friendly community, but can be hard on yourselves
- A lot to offer a lot of other communities don't have.
- Progressive - Safeway used to be an Alfalfa field - Chopping used to be out of town.
- Hard to get started, but if you can get started you can make it.
- Fight for important elements of community
- Ditto everything
- Leadership Fremont County – Making good in roads on developing future leaders
- Riverton is very good about partnering with various organizations – We value and could use more.
- Community is very generous
- Ditto
- “It takes a village to raise a child” and Riverton is one of those villages – Support group
- Friendly environment can walk into any school and know at least one person or more.
- Seratoma group and work they are doing for Senior Citizens
- Good attitude towards people and ideas
- For most part community is receptive to new ideas
- Can do attitude
- People are willing to come here start a business, go away and then come back
- Small town – good place to raise kids
- People look out for one another
- Balloon Rally
- Great place to live
- Friendly place and caring place

- Self sustaining community – offers enough to keep people satisfied (could do more)
- Can do attitude
- People care
- Senior citizens and students are cared for
- For small town we have an array of service
- Hospital
- Active Senior Citizens center
- Modelers Park
- Aquatic Center
- Good parks system
- College huge asset
- Smaller town atmosphere
- Ditto- College
- Diversity with tribes
- Central location- outdoor activities
- Ditto- small town
- Support of college faculty support of students
- Ditto- College
- Feel safe here
- Ditto- Feel safe here
- Tight knit and very supportive community
- People of the community great help
- College- and other colleges in area Tribal, CWC &
- The start of recycling projects
- Beautiful area
- Leadership at the college is an asset
- Diversity in students
- Friendly place- always someone I know
- Small town feel
- Ditto- Feel safe and community involved
- Ditto beautiful & lots of outdoor activities
- Ditto- small town, feel safe
- Ditto- small town
- 24 hour Wal-Mart store
- Centrally located
- Ditto- location
- Ranching & agricultural industries- richness of and need to embrace and work with
- Outdoor activities
- College staff is an asset- makes college an asset
- Instructors and their willingness to teach one on one
- Sports programs- bringing sports back into the schools
- County fair

- Community working together
- Ditto- vast amount of recreational things to do around region
- Community activities- balloon rally
- Ability to build fine facilities for the community- college library
- Development of trade skill courses
- New community healthcare system
- CWC and Wyoming Public TV are an asset
- Addition of the dual credit program high school students have through the college
- Ditto- pleased with the public schools
- CWC- not many communities have the asset of a local college
- Education system in community
- Airport facility and air service
- Ditto- college, location close to outdoor amenities
- Ditto all of the above
- UW & community college do collaborate on degree programs
- Full of a lot of dedicated citizens
- Ditto college- great employer and place to work
- People have a Can-Do attitude
- Ditto- college- advance programs and commitment
- Public transportation services for the community
- The quality of individuals and mindset
- College- job training programs offered
- Oil and gas industry impact on the economy in the community. Provides good wages and skills for people who do not have an advanced degree.
- Diversity in new business development in community
- Rural population of the state
- Leadership and people are beginning to collaborate more with one another (between tribes & local communities)
- Service organizations in the community
- Ditto
- Ditto
- Sertoma Group- provided 2/3 of the housing for seniors in community
- Cultural activities and education opportunities
- Airport facility
- Recreational opportunities (outdoor) in area
- Internet (hi speed) service, airport service
- Location- outdoor amenities close, close to shopping
- Not too many places that have the outdoor opportunities and outdoor opportunities
- Early childhood community has good networking-share resources and meet regularly.
- Ditto
- Child Development Services
- Diverse

- People are great
- Great resources for persons with disabilities – from children to adult
- Small town and being able to network
- Vast choices of outdoor recreation
- Small town, you know everyone
- When something happens, everyone bands together.
- Wyoming Business Counsel
- A rather large little town (coming from town with population of 3000)
- Senior Center
- A lot available for seniors
- Wonderful co-workers at Senior Center
- CWC
- Hospital Facility
- Air port
- College
- Business friendly
- High school
- People
- Library
- Sense of community
- Could not go to any other community and receive the support of your community
- WPTV
- College – Helps community become a better community
- Musicals at College
- WPTV and radio station
- Access to the President on Down
- Dittos
- Dittos
- Wonderful place to live
- State funding for children and adults with disabilities
- Ditto
- No Wind
- Safe community
- Close access to politicians and public servants – all the way to the National Level
- Riverton and Fremont County is one of the few communities that are NOT medically underserved.
- You know everybody
- Don't have to wait in line at the DMV
- Riverton Recycling
- Riverton tearing down old buildings and building new one
- Young people in the community and the people in general
- Riverton makes it easy to do business here- good business climate. Ease to start up business, the city works to get things done-city process quick and easy
- Close community- people know where to go to get what they need

- Centralized location
- One industry helps the other in the community
- Youth is biggest asset to community
- City works with businesses and provides a quick service
- Business climate, centralized
- Climate- great weather. It is a great selling point for recruitment of employees
- Ditto- closeness of community
- Quality of life, it is a comfortable place to live
- Well kept secret
- Ditto- centralized
- Diversified economy and workforce. We are not going to see the bust that we had in the 80's
- Hunting, fishing and other outdoor amenities close
- Airport is a big asset to community
- Oil & Gas industry that is contributing to the local tax dollars
- Riverton has been very aggressive about progressing ahead of future needs of the community
- Centrally located
- Young people and people in general
- Energy industries creating a strong tax base
- CWC- educational opportunities
- Everything we need is here in Riverton- good balanced life
- People pull together on things
- Riverton doesn't give up
- Forward thinking in community
- Wildlife, open spaces
- Progressive community
- Strong core of business people & leaders who work together to make changes in community
- Great place to life- great outdoor lifestyles
- Retail hub for this portion of state
- Big playground out our back door
- Ditto- location
- Airport college businesses and people
- Ditto above
- Ditto- people
- Ditto- base camp for outdoor activities
- Ditto- and double ditto
- Clean air, clean town is a big plus. Good schools
- Level of volunteerism in community
- Outdoor activities and small town quality
- We can live here and have so much going on yet still be able to get away and be by ourselves in the outdoors
- Economy and town is always growing

- We take advantage of the opportunities that are offered
- Faith in the people of this community- can-do-attitude
- Many people volunteer their services in community
- Wonderful senior center-
- We've done a lot with recreation activities, parks, paths
- Agreed
- Unity between churches is happening but there is still a competitive spirit in the pastors of the community. It's hard to get them over their fear of losing their "flock"
- Wonderful community to raise your kids- a lot of support
- Deep traditions here is a real treasure
- Our youth.
- Good county and city governments
- Abboss house & homeless shelter
- Support from the police
- We still have small town values, people care about each other, so much available for our child in recreation for our size.
- Good core value in the community
- Personal courage of many in the community to make a difference and have realistic expectations
- Ministerial alliance in the community
- Sharing of cultures within the community
- Welcoming community for newcomers- embracing new people
- Support community shows towards non profits
- Volunteers that make it all work
- CWC is a big asset to the community
- The playground that the community raised money and constructed- all volunteers
- We are a full service community that has everything for our needs
- Optimistic and positive attitude of community
- Ditto-Youth good sound kids
- Ditto
- Ministerial group has put together a helping hands support group to meet people needs in community
- Fremont County Action committee has brought 200K to the county for local programs
- Progressiveness of our community in getting the Job Corp center
- The Hospice
- Leadership of Fremont Co has done a lot of good networking
- Chamber has been very supportive
- Community Service clubs in the community
- Together of the community in Riverton
- The people and their attitude
- The willingness of non profits to work with others
- Aggressive business in community who are active and successful

- Organized growth and planned growth
- Good generous people willing to work together- volunteers (same then people)
- Agree- it's the people
- Small town caring spirit
- Community support in projects and making sure they get done
- CWC- huge asset to community
- Small population
- Ditto
- Ditto
- Friendliness
- Mountains and scenery
- Senior center
- Wildlife
- Fishing
- Senior center
- Ditto
- Sertoma Housing
- Wind River Transportation
- Wide open spaces
- Ditto
- Ditto
- Ditto
- Ditto- friendliness
- Senior center
- Fight for life and bus that takes you to outside medical
- Hospice and dialysis center
- Senior housing and senior center
- Favorable cost of living, no income tax moderate sales tax
- Ditto
- People, senior center, helpful to seniors
- Helpful people with smiles on their faces
- We can get everything we need in this small town without having to go else where
- Biggest little city in Wyoming
- Ability to affect the quality of life by volunteering in community
- Long growing season- climate
- Good place to raise our kids and live through senior years
- Weather
- Can-do Community
- Reasonable and comfortable place to live
- All the services that are offered to our seniors
- Friendly people who volunteer their time and makes things happen
- Good weather and growing season
- No wind!!

- Library
- A wonderful and place to raise a family. Lack of worries like what is seen in the big city
- Best county fair in the state
- CWC
- Clean air
- Fremont County had the most 4-H participants in country
- Hospital and doctors here
- Ditto- fortunate to have a Large numbers of doctors in the area- good medical care
- PBS TV Station
- Wyoming dot com
- Brunton
- People in Riverton are greatest- Proud to live here
- We have a lot more than we have had ten years ago. Good schools, Wal-Mart, etc

PROJECT & GOALS – RIVERTON 2007

- Something done with transient drug & alcohol problems
- Non alcohol establishments- non-gambling for younger people to go to
- 5 yrs- a recreational facility with a pool
- 10 yrs event center capable of handling large events
- 20 yrs Community college offer bachelor. Programs
- Recreation center with a pool
- Hotel convention center
- Major recreational education conference type center for large events- 20 yrs or less
- Summer youth recreation programs offering backpacking programs
- Hotel convention center
- More restaurants
- Multi purpose community & event center to draw more people & activities here
- Recreational & multi purpose center for people of all ages, after school programs
- Recreation center with pool
- Signs at all of our entrances welcoming to Riverton & Fremont co
- Stop light at Main & Major Avenue
- Different concept in nursing facilities
- Federal Blvd widening from one end to the other
- A bowling alley
- Riverton complete a master plan to capitalize on what we have and forward looking planning- vision for the future, city exercise their ½ mile planning & zoning jurisdiction
- Government inability to coordinate on project- better focus on what is going on community
- Recreation & events center- optional sales tax
- Upstream water storing
- We will see service clubs continue to grow and expand, we will see gov a royal pain
- Economic development community and city officials work to develop a one stop shop for new business development
- Treatment center for detox & alcohol
- Detox center
- Community college- university theme
- Program to identify and preserve history of town- more small business lease space to bring in small business- lack of availability
- Recreation center community center
- Make City Park a welcoming place
- Downtown parking
- Know what project sales tax is going to
- Recycling programs and clean-up/beautification programs
- Joint Powers boards that support United Way, etc.

- A more unified recreation plan- groups getting together on what is going on in their group- discussion opening up
- Recreation facility
- 1838 Rend. Site improvements and maintenance of site, preservation of site
- Vote yes on the bond issue
- See more people on the bike path
- The Riverton Aquatic Center
- Other activities other than sports- community gardens, nature base programs
- Recreation Center that will bring together all sports- multi use field
- Convention Center & Recreation Center
- Recreation/Community center programs to enhance child ability to grow
- Solid funding to draw more people for some sort of coordinated facility
- Multi purpose center to fit the needs of community
- Soccer complex
- Recreation Center
- River walk connect to bike path (from Shoshoni to Lander)
- Get a cohesive group to pull everything together
- Funding in place to get more involved
- Bike path improvements
- Centralization of all city coaches for different sporting activities- all on same page
- City Park be a more inviting place for kids and families
- New Legion baseball fields
- Recreation Center to pull all sporting activities together
- Ditto
- Steady funding stream for activities
- Local government inventory and identify all of the recreational facilities currently have and plan for what is needed
- Community Events center
- Embrace recycling programs as a community
- Bring Riverton back to being the recreational hub that is was twenty years go
- Centralized sporting events
- Infrastructure to host sporting activities and events
- Graduating students leading programs for all ages in the community
- Utilize some of the old buildings in town for recreational programs
- Indoor track & field open to all who live here and who are visiting
- Ditto on indoor track
- River front property be developed into something attractive for the community
- Recreation Center is a must for the community
- Rec Center for the kids
- Bring in another airline service to the airport- create competition and lower airfares for region
- College expand programs and curriculum and space
- Air service that is dependable and more stops
- Create a destination in the downtown area

- Recreation Center-Convention center to bring people and events to community
- Get the community leaders and tribal leaders to work together
- Find ways to attract and retain young married people and single people to community
- More assistive living and other related facilities for seniors
- More unique restaurants in downtown area
- Would like to see some type of interactive fountain, etc. to draw people and tourist to the park- make it something to attract people to it- give people a reason to stop
- Clean area around the park to make it attractive
- Would like to see more retail businesses in the downtown area to bring in traffic, draw people down there to shop
- Chamber needs a better location- hard to find, not visible, hard to get in and out. Needs to be visible to people coming in to town
- Put the Chamber in the park, towards the back of it to make it more attractive
- We need to look towards better assisted living and health care facilities for aging population
- Recreation Center for community
- We could use more zoning in county
- Community daycare- more options for young families
- Standards of properties in community- enforcement of keeping properties clean
- Multi-use event center
- Develop addition motels, restaurants, etc to accommodate larger events in communities
- Community Center or conference enter for community to use for events
- Community Recreation Center
- More infrastructure, public transportation, motels, restaurants, etc
- Events Center
- School, district in community become more open minded on letting community use their facilities for events and programs
- Would like to see more long term care programs modeled after what Cody has put in place
- More curb appeal in the entries of Riverton and through city
- More of a variety of “sit-down” places for people
- Recreation Center
- We need a Cabellas Store
- Recreation/Community Center
- Need for a non-smoking place for people to go to have
- Infrastructure for new housing development, i.e. streets, water sewer
- Longer term upstream water storage
- Water development and planning for current and future
- Bring in more air service companies to the airport. More flights and options for travelers
- A rail system in community to benefit new business, transportation, etc

- Develop curb appeal coming into the community
- Bring in more new businesses to diversify the economy and employee pool in community
- Convention Center for the community- city, county college partnership possible
- Recreation Center for community- basketball courts, soccer fields, etc 5-10 yr
- Recreation/Convention Center- space for conferences, recreation and other events
- More uniformed look in the downtown Main Street. Buildings have more unified look, make downtown more inviting to visitors and local community
- Convention Center
- More facilities for our children- recreation, after school programs, other activities
- YMCA for kids to go to for activities
- Fully staffed visitor's center (7 days a week) in the city park to attract visitors to stop and get information about the community
- Recreation Center
- Make Fremont County (as a whole) a Destination Attraction for people to come to
- Ditto
- Intertribal Education Community Center at CWC – serve as an informational hub for visitors to the area
- Trolley or tram to provide hourly, daily stops in downtown area and other places in Riverton
- Local transportation system
- Local transportation system
- Fairgrounds- upgrading facility to attract visitors
- Trail system in tremendous need of improvements and maintenance- expansion
- Mix of downtown restaurants and coffee shops
- More restaurants to Riverton, bring in a variety of small/specialty and national chains to community
- River front on west side of town entry improvement, clean up, river-walk trail development and beautification
- Beautification of all entrances into the city
- Recreation/Convention Center- able to house multiple recreation/non recreation activities and events
- River-walk development and improvements
- Gateway beautifications into the city
- Multi Event Center for conferences and big events
- Recreation/Convention Center
- Inter Tribal Education Center
- Student Housing facility
- Healthcare center expansions
- Equine Center at college
- Beautification of city
- Multi Event Center
- Sign ordinance
- Landscaping and beautification of structures in town

- Transportation services within community:
- busing services, senior transportation services, all need to be coordinated county wide to make a more consistent
- Bring in more airline services offering more flights and destinations for travelers
- Develop organize way of developing human capital- look at way of beefing up current programs, working with high schools to develop programs
- River-walk system development and improvements
- Recruit more hotels to area
- Recreation Center
- Ditto- recreation center
- River-walk development completed
- Entrances cleaned up and beautified
- Neighborhood care group developed
- Zoning enforced
- Public entities come together and work for tax funds dedicated towards recreational facilities for communities in Fremont Co
- Ditto on above
- Soccer Complex
- Joint City County complex to include police, sheriff, judicial offices together-form partnership
- Ditto- Recreation Center
- Have adequate funding to meet demand
- Convention/Multi-Purpose Center
- Working relationship between all government entities in county
- Joint County-City complex
- Development of community programs that address substance abuse
- Recreation Complex
- Develop inter-connecting walk path throughout
- Recreation Center
- College expand law enforcement training courses
- Four lane highway from Riverton to Casper
- Rail Spur brought into the community
- Airport Services increased in flight selection
- Recreational Facility
- Improve transportation infrastructure
- Improve tribal relationships
- Ditto- Recreation Center
- College offer more 4 y degree courses
- Workforce issues addressed
- Housing developments
- Proper planning on growth in the community
- Appreciate and celebrate youth and elder population
- More substance abuse programs

- See more unification in Fire & Rescue & law enforcement services throughout the county
- Medical complex to attract a more diverse population
- Would like to see community be part of homecoming week- have it be a community wide event
- More things to do
- Shopping mall
- Recreation Center
- Ditto
- Theme Park- go cart miniature golf
- Roller rink
- Laser tag
- Mall
- Better places for sports
- Prayer group for school
- Less bars and more places for kids to go
- Recreation Center for area
- Ditto- major sports center
- Closed of motor-cross course
- Do more things as a community
- Ditto on all
- Recreation Center with a pool and multi-use sports
- Ditto- recreation center
- Ditto
- Higher end restaurants come to the communities
- Would like to see more music related business- bands
- A place for youth to go to that has a positive environment and inviting for kids to go to
- Roller rink
- Go cart parks
- Drive in Movie Theater
- Better community transportation service
- Pulling together as a community
- Large recreation center
- Chain restaurants
- Coffee shops with musicians and or bands
- Paint ball center
- Community event and recreation center that incorporates many different programs
- Attract better teachers with better salaries
- Incentives to bring back people to the community- salaries, jobs,
- Improved transportation system for community
- Diversity in jobs so we can come back and work in a career that we want to work in, not have to work in
- More career choices

- Improve motels and hotels
- Instead of looking for jobs in ad's- go and canvas businesses for position
- More police officers for city
- More people participate in current aquatics program
- Would like to see youth come together as a force in projects that they would like to see for the community
- (High response of kids who would like to participate on city council)
- Restore historic buildings in town and taken care of
- Community-Recreation Center
- A community center-recreation center
- Stoplight at Sunset & 8th Street
- Like to see pool open all day- extending their hours
- A better hockey rink
- Recreation Center & Convention Center
- Proper planning in Casino
- Rehab & treatment type facilities
- Safe House
- Ditto recreation center
- Good education opportunities for younger children- museum
- Recreation Center
- More flexible daycare facilities
- Ditto- re center
- Affordable flights provided at airport- and more flights
- A target store
- Expanded degree programs offered at the college
- Ditto- recreation center
- Vibrant shopping
- Tree planting projects- especially in gateways into community
- Preschools
- More extensive recycling programs
- Better skate park, paint ball, wall climbing, batting cages, basketball courts laser tag & shooting range
- Street repairs
- Micro brew pub
- Ditto community/recreation center- incorporate daycare in center
- Better utilize outdoor activities in community
- Business support in projects for youth
- A boys and girls club to keep kids involved
- Modernize senior center in 20 yrs
- (Strength- Reservation is great asset for community)
- Ditto
- Pretty good public transportation in area- a lot of people are not aware of it though needs to be better advertised
- Very giving- people will get the ball rolling to get things done in community

- Bowling alley
- Take old Alco and turn it into activities, reading area, and computers
- Auditorium for school events
- Less big business more small business entrepreneurship
- Utilize neighbors to the south if done legally for a workforce
- More education in schools regarding work ethic
- We are going to start a new business, so I hope there will not be many roadblocks
- Property tax on manufacturing equipment – county taxes us every year – like to see manufactures get a break on taxes on equipment and buildings
- Convention center – should be left to private businesses to develop
- Would like to see CWC be careful about training they are taking on and not taking away from private business
- Dept. of Transportation work with business better – their policy is a say no policy – trying to get entrances and exits into new business is a nightmare. See Wyoming change policies so business can build and succeed
- Main Street revitalized
- Quality of healthcare improved
- Viable air service – continue to grow and give some options
- Would like to be working out of 3 buildings because there are so many people to serve
- Better transportation – in and out so our products can get out better
- Hwy 30 past Farson needs to be improved to Little America
- Continuing education at CWC so people can advance their careers
- Continue to expand community and beautification projects such as up at the airport
- Extend Broadway to Country Acres
- Community Center, Recreation Center, Convention Center
- Something to keep our kids here and their kids
- We have jobs for people now, but have to look to the future for our kids and grandkids
- Improved roads – county roads and city roads
- Youth center similar to Cody
- Rifle range
- 1% sales tax – everyone pitch in and pay and help
- Recreation center
- Rail back into Riverton – it would make it more viable for a business community
- See community college expanded with 4 year programs
- Development of River Walk
- Curbside recycling
- 1% sales tax
- Go to legislature and be sure that towns are separated from county to build our own facilities – need to separate ourselves to be successful
- More shopping
- Raised expectation for education – at least a bachelors or associate degree

- A Multi-purpose facility and or a convention center so we can host a variety of events and program- agriculture related
- Replacement of the drainage system by the fairgrounds
- The irrigation district systems need improving and long term planning needs to be priority
- Water issues for the future need to be addressed
- 5-10 years would like to see another bond for improvements for the football field and other related improvements involved- the one purposed and voted on last night failed
- Entrances and Exits need to be improved in community
- Up Stream storage needs to be addressed for current and future use
- As we look at future development- we need to look at future irrigation systems
- We need to improve signage in town- make it attractive for visitors who come into town (downtown)
- Address water issues
- Would like to see a recreation facility for community- a bigger place for the children
- Ditto on a recreation center. Our youth is our strongest asset. We do need a facility that the kids could use because there are too many now that don't participate in current programs that leads to them getting into trouble- give them something to do
- Would like to see a better turn out of Ag people at these things in the future
- Community multi-purpose center coordinate with the fairgrounds- have the city/county work together on the project
- Would like to see the Ag community feel that they are a real part of the community. Would like to be involved and asked on their needs for the community and have more of a voice in community decisions and community planning for current and future needs
- Would like to see Riverton have the ability in the future to fund projects through 1% taxes or bond issues.
- I would like to see a truck route be put in to direct trucks around town instead of through the center of town
- Ditto on a truck route
- Would like to see continued and more support with funding the public bus service
- Streets improved and sidewalks improved
- Would like to see the bus service expand their hours and days.
- Would like to see more funding for bus service
- Ditto- especially on putting in a truck route
- We need more technology as in an electric bus or alternative fuel buses
- Ditto- use alternative fuel cell buses
- Improvements to the traffic lights and make them more efficient
- Enforcement of speeding and traffic violations
- Ditto on truck route
- Ditto on the bus service expanded
- We need a full service recreational facility for the community

- We need a change in attitude in the community towards providing things in the community to retain people and bring back our kids- need to be more “we” than “me” in needs
- A good snow removal plan is needed
- Would like to see proper bus stops with shelters
- Planning for future funding and development is important in transportation for the needs of the aging population and for youth in community
- Set up a car pool plan for alternative ways to transport kids to school, senior needs, etc.
- Multi-purpose convention center for entire community to use
- Treatment center- especially for youth
- Agree convention center
- Space to hold pow-wows and meetings
- Ditto
- Rec Center
- Updated air service- more competition, flights
- Job Corp center
- Ditto- on everything
- Ditto
- More child care facilities are needed- especially one that offer expanded or off hour service
- Larger shopping center
- Recruit chain restaurants
- Provide more safe and affordable housing for natives-little or no choices and most are substandard
- Fair housing issues need to be a priority and be addressed
- Multi purpose center Treatment Center
- 4 year college opportunities
- Expanded public transportation
- Expanded health services- more choices and expanded care in the region
- Rec center
- See more funding offered for projects on the reservation
- Ditto- funding for tribal projects
- Housing and health care
- Economic security for tribal members
- Would like to see more of our members receive education opportunities and job opportunities off of the reservation (in Riverton or area). We need to be recognized in the community that we have qualified and dedicated workers for the local employment pool.
- Sensitivity training is needed for educators and health care on native people and their culture.
- Utilize our tribal people as resource people
- Work on breaking down barriers. Learn from one another on different cultures.
- Hugh water park – Like Casper has.

- Ice Skating rink
- Intertribal Center
- Community recreation center
- Jet service
- Attract more business to keep our young people
- Transportation to Salt Lake
- Nursing Home
- Recreation Center/Multi Purpose Center
- Increased traffic control
- Planning for city growth and new business
- Hugh indoor arena for rodeos, team roping, calf roping etc.
- Recreation Center
- Utilize gymnasium
- Extension of walking paths – Specifically at the South end of N. 8th W. extending down hill onto Riverview Road.
- Crosswalk at Riverview
- Stop light at major Ave.
- Recreational walking paths need refurbished
- More Housing
- Express yourself and not be afraid of repercussions
- Good industries
- Surveillance cameras throughout community at playground, ice-rink
- Better Youth Facility
- Better Rec. Center where kids can hang out and not worry about anything but hanging out
- More places like the old Ledge, could hang out, watch TV, wireless internet, didn't have to spend money and often times would have a life band-Adults and children felt comfortable.
- Ditto
- Outdoor pool
- River walk
- Community/Convention Center
- Ditto
- Olive Garden
- More Hotels/Motels
- Middle of the road housing
- Hotel/Motels
- Recreation center for all ages in a good location
- E-bay complex
- Eating areas on the downtown
- Way to bring people back to the downtown – When Wal-Mart came people quit coming.
- Merchants to expand their marketing on products and their expertise.
- Raise tax on Beer to raise money for treatment center

- Recreation Center
- Ditto- recreation center
- Mall
- Tonkin Stadium being utilized
- Ditto- stadium
- Recreational activities center
- Ditto- recreation
- Improvements to softball fields and addition of competitive level for high school
- Equine center for the college
- Mini Mall with shops & gaming businesses
- A bowling alley
- Bring in a second bond issue to fix Tonkin
- A larger student body at the college
- College become a 4 year institution
- More combined activities between city & college
- Expand college
- Housing for city & college for families & students
- Ditto- expand college campus & programs
- Ditto- College expand
- College offer a broader range of courses
- Ditto- 4 yr degree programs at the college
- Bring in a wrestling program to college
- Riverview walking path
- Finding funding sources through educating voters and county
- Ditto- expand college & programs
- More job choices for after college
- See something done with the old Alco bldg
- Ditto- Alco Bldg
- More affordable housing
- Daycare facility at the college
- High School kids learn the importance of a high education
- Ditto
- Ditto
- Ditto
- Ditto
- Partner with the tribes on projects involving Riverton & the Tribes through education & economic/community development that will benefit everyone
- Substance abuse programs and treatment facility
- Safe places for kids and adults to keep them from getting into trouble
- Partner with local newspaper on column on college activities and information from students
- WPT turns 25 next year- would like to see continued support and growth for program
- Doubling in size of educational facilities

- Increase some of the technologies in area
- New building for allied health
- Rec Center
- Inter Tribal Educational Center
- Allied Health Center
- Equine Center
- Ditto- Rec Center
- Ditto- all
- Affordable housing
- Expanded air service- other providers offering reasonable fares and connections to Salt Lake
- Ditto- All of the above
- Entrances into community beautified and welcoming
- Learning Center addressing UW advance degrees
- Ditto rec center housing
- 4 lanes of traffic for highway
- Need to look at a strategic plan for marketing Riverton
- Ditto- housing, airport expansion and water planning
- Center for communications development at the college. Need to learn how to communicate with those who don't want to communicate with us on issues. Provide people a place where they can discuss issues (tribal and community)
- Would like to see stereotypes broken down between community and tribal members and see equal opportunities offered to native American students that are offered to community students
- Cultural Heritage needs to be proclaimed.
- Would like to see a multi purpose lodging and convention center to bring in outside events
- Completion of the football field
- Housing development
- Wrestling Team be added to CWC
- More recreational development to river walk
- Future Water storage needs to be addressed
- Town needs a center, a place to find it's "pulse"
- Rec Center- a vibrant parks and recreation programs
- Bigger planes
- Clean up of entrances into community
- Attract quality restaurants and shopping
- Ditto- upstream storage
- Transportation service hours of operation expanded
- Need for more open minded thinking to ethnic and economic barriers of community tribal members
- Nursing Home – Green House Project
- Rails to trails turned into a horse path
- Nursing Home

- Riverton to become non-smoking town
- More parking around the post office
- Ditto
- Nicer place for the kids
- YMCA for kids and Access for kids with disabilities
- Recreation center for all ages
- Employment opportunities for seniors
- Recreation center
- Large pre-school/day care with children with disabilities
- Ditto
- Subsidized infant day care
- Ditto
- Community/event center – 500 plus people
- Ditto
- Cohesion and teamwork and progression throughout community
- Thinner, full head of hair and watching a football game in the bleachers at the new football stadium.
- Daycare services for all children and children with disabilities
- The health care clinic that just opened up to succeed.
- More high school kids to work
- Program to get together and talk about needs of the community – Community Center
- Rec center with ice skating rink – all ages
- Complete school athletic complex
- 24/7 quality daycare for infants to 12 years old
- Public transportation – affordable and accessible. Expanded hours
- Conference center
- More frequent flights from Riverton and Less Expensive
- More Recycling
- More job opportunities at all scheduled times
- Being able to go to specialists and have insurance cover it
- Day care center
- Free public transportation
- Finish the activity center
- Flood Tonkin skating stadium and make it an ice skating rink
- After school program geared towards disabled children
- Summer program to give providers and parents of disabled children relieve and provide them opportunities.
- More unique shopping downtown
- Another bowling alley
- Same hours for downtown businesses
- Educate community even more about Benefits of finishing Activities Complex.
- Housing is needed
- Infrastructure is needed for the youth- recreational center

- Need to bring in more clothing stores. There is a lack of variety here. People have to go outside of area for clothing
- Ditto on more clothing stores
- Community recreation center
- Ditto- rec center
- Ditto- more variety and selection of retail stores is needed
- Providing more for our youth
- Ditto- rec center
- We need to change perceptions of people on taxes for future projects- bond for improvements, rec center, etc
- More aggressive in building the infrastructure in the city, water, sewer, housing, facilities
- Work on building a more aggressive type of recruitment and training of workforce. Marketing Wyoming to potential workers
- WBC has given a huge boost to community through funding projects in this community and statewide
- State coop with energy gas lines to recapture the taxes of the gas going outside to put back into infrastructure of the state. The state needs to invest in its communities with taxes that they will be receiving from pipelines
- Need to recapture benefits that are going to be realized within the next few years from the energy impact that is currently happening in the state
- Put the infrastructure in place for the expected growth that is going to happen in the community and state from the oil and gas industry impact
- A combined recreation, convention and events center
- We need a training center in Riverton to train skills to workers
- Ditto- a multi purpose facility for all activities
- Build infrastructure for future housing, water, sewer, streets, curb and gutter. The city needs to find ways to fund these projects and put it in with reasonable costs
- Ditto- a multi purpose center
- Ditto- improvements to streets and roads- especially the one to the sale barn
- Drainage needs to be improved on the fairgrounds
- Ditto- multi-purpose center
- Ditto
- Ditto
- Strong economy base on education, agriculture, oil & gas
- Ditto
- Ditto
- Better air service, YMCA, walking paths and recreation center
- Implementation of our master street plan
- Put in a bypass to take traffic away from town
- Ditto- multi-purpose center
- Ditto- infrastructure events center
- More restaurants- especially Chili's
- Workforce housing is needed in order to recruit new employees

- Ditto on everything
- More vibrant main street- places for people to meet
- Affordable and expanded air service
- Main Street needs to fill building with eating establishments and other businesses to create places for people to meet & visit
- Affordable housing
- Ditto everything- convention center
- More housing and businesses
- 4 lane highway between here and Casper
- State capital moved to Riverton
- 40 seat stadium for our division one school here in Riverton
- Ditto on last item
- Would like to have a business that we can go dancing at
- Agree on everything
- A more forward thinking government to carry through on these new things that the city needs
- Need better communication between the city and county on infrastructure needs
- Change the state law on the 1 cent sales tax that is not county wide. We are tied to every other community to pass a 1% tax
- Agree with moving the state capital here
- City council needs to buck up and get things done
- Parking on Main Street and issues with city makes it hard for restaurants to come to the community
- Support facilities for the track
- Open minded city government to listen and act on things that need to be done for the community
- Would like to see the churches in community work together – one big youth group
- Would like to see the community come behind the ministerial association and help with our children
- Ditto
- Ditto
- Would like to see us put more focus on our kids in providing services and activities for them
- Ecumenical Community Center
- Ditto
- Ecumenical Youth Group give service back to the community
- What we do have being used more
- Ditto-
- Would like to see use keep our small town values while we continue to growth
- Youth Service core be developed
- City find ways to extend infrastructure for affordable housing
- Ecumenical Youth Center
- Growth, but slow growth

- Community Center
- Full functioning recreational center for youth
- Considering my age, I would like to be able to see Riverton in 10 years....
- Larger attendance at the local churches in community
- Ditto
- Ditto- find a way to bring in more to churches
- Create youth groups to give back to community
- Need to learn from other faiths
- Christian based rehab center
- Ditto- convention center
- Youth and Family center
- Ditto- substance abuse center to address the issues for all in community
- Need to have a job base to bring in more young families
- Full service community by providing the necessary tools
- A complete recycling program in community
- More options in airfares
- Clean up the community
- Course on comparative religious offered at CWC and at high school as an alternative
- Would like to see more youth groups for our kids and become responsible leaders in exercising our faith
- Substance abuse center
- Looking at school vouchers in bringing in Christian schools
- Bring Christ back into the community
- Create a unified faith youth group
- Ditto
- Ditto
- Community/Recreation/Events type center
- Support for affordable housing- need for more funding from state for development
- Agree- affordable housing needed for community. Will have a major housing problem with Job Corp opening in 2011. Need help with infrastructure so we can move ahead for expected growth and people coming to community
- Consolidate the number of non profits- form some together with same goals
- Convention Center
- Finish the off road drivers track, put up pavilion, boat lake, and other finishing touches to the Modeler's Park.
- Figure out some way to finish athletic project at school with field and track. Find funds to complete bleachers, etc.
- Ditto Event's Center
- Ditto- Rec/Events Center
- Improve our street appearance- especially on Federal
- Ditto need to plan smartly for growth and develop workforce housing
- Complete the stadium project

- Riverview Road improvements, park improvements
- Non Profits pull resources together and work with other on common goal
- Would like to see Riverton work on ways to get funding for housing development, work with state and county to enable them to change the way taxes are delegated at the county level to obtain these funds for projects- change state law to enable city to get one percent sales tax option locally for projects
- Ditto- recreation center
- Ditto- one cent sales tax option- use towards new recreation center. People fail to recognize the benefit of the tax and how it can fund these projects for the community, and educated the community better with information on the benefits in building these projects and maintaining them for the future. We could do a lot with the money! Example- lack of knowledge in the recent bond issue that failed....community not informed, or lack of desire to change.
- Covered arena for the far grounds
- River walk
- Convention center
- Assisted living facility
- More senior – affordable
- Ditto-
- Transportation
- Strong active senior center- larger
- Ditto- extended transportation
- Ditto
- Ditto
- New and more workforce
- Improved housing
- Better restaurants with senior menus
- Ditto-
- Ditto
- Ditto
- Cut property taxes for seniors
- Good new nursing home
- Ditto
- Ditto- larger senior center with fitness room with showers
- Ban smoking in all restaurants
- Ditto-transportation extended
- Ditto- smoking ban
- Affordable senior housing
- New center with recreational facilities- walk-in swimming pool, dance floor
- Steady growth over the 2-20 years- good planning
- Adult activity center
- Ditto
- Ditto
- Ditto

- Dance Hall that isn't in a bar
- Diversity in shopping- more choices
- Mini mall
- Would like to get a bowling alley again
- Ditto
- Need to maintain facilities that we have, and maintain the new ones we build
- Clean up community eyesores
- Increase air services- flights to Salt Lake City
- Finish bleachers and sports facilities- and port-a-potties, and security system
- Ditto

20 CLUES TO RURAL COMMUNITY SURVIVAL

1. Evidence of Community Pride:

Successful communities are often showplaces of care, attention, history and heritage.

2. Emphasis on Quality in Business and Community Life:

People believe that something worth doing is worth doing right.

3. Willingness to Invest in the Future:

In addition to the brick-and-mortar investments, all decisions are made with an outlook on the future.

4. Participatory Approach to Community Decision Making:

Even the most powerful of opinion leaders seem to work toward building consensus.

5. Cooperative Community Spirit:

The stress is on working together toward a common goal, and the focus is on positive results.

6. Realistic Appraisal of Future Opportunities:

Successful communities have learned how to build on strengths and minimize weaknesses.

7. Awareness of Competitive Positioning:

Local loyalty is emphasized, but thriving communities know who their competitors are and position themselves accordingly.

8. Knowledge of the Physical Environment:

Relative location and available natural resources underscore decision-making.

9. Active Economic Development Program:

There is an organized, public/private approach to economic development.

10. Deliberate Transition of Power to a Younger Generation of Leaders:

People under 40 regularly hold key positions in civic and business affairs.

11. Acceptance of Women in Leadership Roles:

Women are elected officials, plant managers, and entrepreneurial developers.

12. Strong Belief in and Support for Education:

Good schools are the norm and centers of community activity.

13. Problem-Solving Approach to Providing Health Care:

Health care is considered essential, and smart strategies are in place for diverse methods of delivery.

14. Strong Multi-Generational Family Orientation:

The definition of family is broad, and activities include younger as well as older generations.

15. Strong Presence of Traditional Institutions that are Integral to Community Life:

Churches, schools and service clubs are strong influences on community development and social activities.

16. Sound and Well-Maintained Infrastructure:

Leaders work hard to maintain and improve streets, sidewalks, water systems, and sewage facilities.

17. Careful Use of Fiscal Resources:

Frugality is a way of life and expenditures are considered investments in the future.

18. Sophisticated Use of Information Resources:

Leaders access information that is beyond the knowledge base available in the community.

19. Willingness to Seek Help from the Outside:

People seek outside help for community needs, and many compete for government grants and contracts for economic and social programs.

20. Conviction that, in the Long Run, You Have to Do It Yourself:

Thriving rural communities believe their destiny is in their own hands. Making their communities good places is a pro-active assignment, and they willingly accept it.

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