

## **THE WYOMING RURAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL**

The Wyoming Rural Development Council 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.

If you would like more information about the Wyoming Rural Development Council and how you may benefit as a member, contact:

Mary Randolph, Executive Director  
Wyoming Rural Development Council  
2219 Carey Ave.  
Cheyenne, WY 82002  
307-777-6430  
307-777-6593 (fax)  
[mrand@state.wy.us](mailto:mrand@state.wy.us)  
[www.wyomingrural.org](http://www.wyomingrural.org)

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## **PROCESS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THIS REPORT**

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

The Town of Fort Laramie requested a community assessment from the Wyoming Rural Development Council. The mayor served as the community contact and took the lead in agenda development, logistics, and publicity for the assessment. Resource Team members were selected to visit, interview citizens, business, and community leaders to develop a plan of recommended action for Fort Laramie. The team members were carefully selected based on their fields of expertise that the Town of Fort Laramie officials indicated would be needed to respond to the problem areas identified.

The Resource Team toured the town and interviewed approximately 61 people over a two day period from May 14-15, 2007. The team interviewed representatives from the following segments of the community: ag, local industry, city, county, law enforcement, state, federal, national park, recreation, youth, education, grandparents, parents, utilities, business, retail, civic groups, and the general public.

Many of these people had reviewed the questions with their respective businesses or organizations and were representing many people at the listening sessions. 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 Fort Laramie?*

*What do you think are the major strengths and assets in Fort Laramie?*

*What projects would you like to see implemented in 2, 5, 10, or 20 years in Fort Laramie?*

Upon completion of the interviews, the team met to compare notes and share comments following three days of intense study. The team then agreed that each team member would carefully analyze the things said, synthesize what they heard with their knowledge of programs and resources, prepare their notes and suggestions, and then forward these items to be combined into WRDC's final report to the Town of Fort Laramie.

The oral report was presented to the people of Fort Laramie on May 15, 2007 and the many citizens who participated were in attendance.

Following the oral report, a formal written report is presented to the Town of Fort Laramie.



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On behalf of the Fort Laramie Community Assessment Resource Team, I would like to thank the Town of Fort Laramie and the community members who worked so hard to coordinate the Fort Laramie Community Assessment. This report contains an abundance of information that will hopefully be used by the people of Fort Laramie to better the community and reach its goals.

While reading this report, you will find a wide variety of recommendations made by the team members on the issues that were identified during the listening sessions. We encourage the town to use these recommendations to build a plan for the future of Fort Laramie.

Anything is possible if everyone works together to achieve a common goal, as the community minded citizens of Fort Laramie already know. Every step, no matter how small is a movement in the right direction toward achieving Fort Laramie's goals. It can be done. What you do with the recommendations is your choice and will be accomplished by the dedicated citizens of Fort Laramie.

Members of our team will return to Fort Laramie to facilitate a follow-up meeting in the near future. The meeting will help determine the priorities and develop strategies for implementation in Fort Laramie. We encourage everyone from the town to attend this meeting, even if they were unable to attend the community assessment. This follow-up goal setting meeting will identify both short term and long term goals for Fort Laramie.

On behalf of the Town of Fort Laramie Resource Assessment Team, let me express our gratitude for the hospitality shown us during our time in your community. Good luck on your challenges and visions.

Sincerely,

*Ashley Bruner*

Ashley Bruner  
Team Leader

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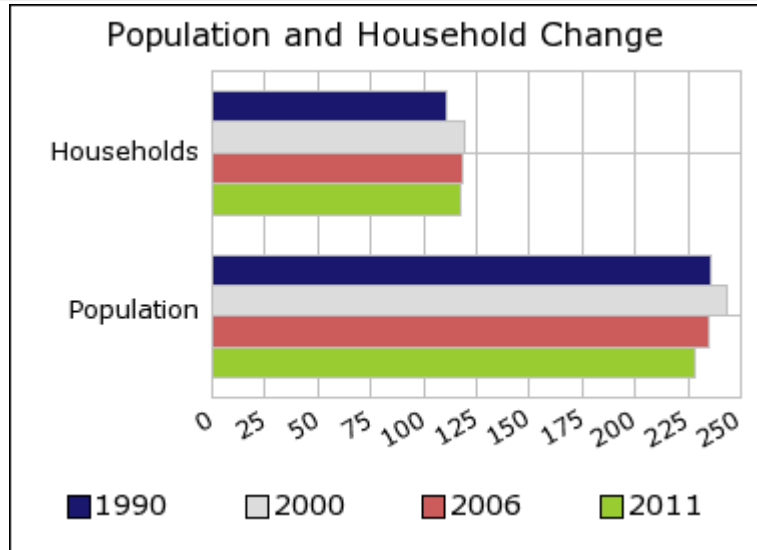


## Fort Laramie Executive Summary Report with Charts

### Population Demographics:

The number of households in Fort Laramie in 1990 was **111** and changed to **119** in 2000, representing a change of **7.2%**. The household count in 2006 was **119** and the household projection for 2011 is **118**, a change of **-0.8%**.

The population in Fort Laramie in 1990 was **236** and in 2000 it was **243**, roughly a **3.0%** change. The population in 2006 was **235** and the projection for 2011 is **228** representing a change of **-3.0%**.



	1990 Census	2000 Census	2006 Estimate	2011 Projection	Percent Change	
					1990 to 2006	2006 to 2011
Total Population	236	243	235	228	3.0%	-3.0%
Total Households	111	119	119	118	7.2%	-0.8%

### Population by Age

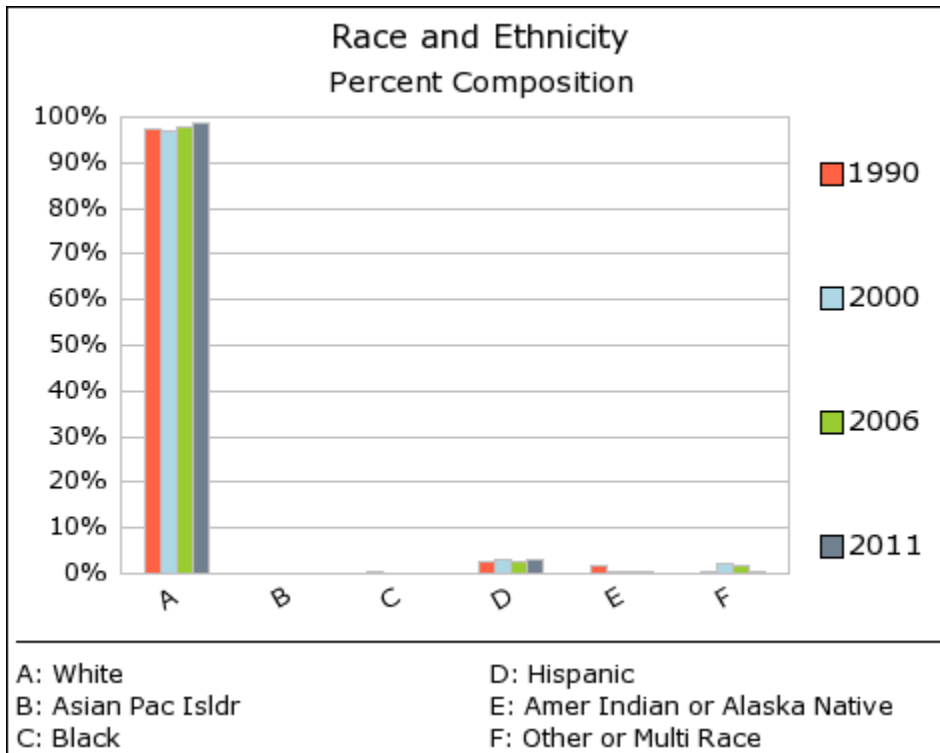


In 1990, the median age of the total population in Fort Laramie was **36.5**, and in 2000, it was **43.1**. The median age in 2006 was **46.5** and it is predicted to change in five years to **47.7** years. In 2006, females represented **48.6%** of the population with a median age of **47.4** and males represented **51.4%** of the population with a median age of **45.8** years. In 2006, the most prominent age group in Fort Laramie is **Age 45 to 54** years. The age group least represented is **0 to 4** years.

**Age Groups**

	1990		2000		2006		2011		Percent Change	
	Census	%	Census	%	Estimate	%	Projection	%	1990 to 2000	2006 to 2011
0 to 4	17	7.3%	12	4.8%	10	4.1%	10	4.5%	-32.2%	6.1%
5 to 14	39	16.5%	34	14.0%	27	11.6%	24	10.5%	-12.7%	-11.7%
15 to 19	14	5.8%	19	8.0%	17	7.0%	13	5.8%	42.6%	-19.3%
20 to 24	8	3.3%	10	3.9%	13	5.6%	12	5.3%	22.2%	-6.7%
25 to 34	34	14.5%	20	8.2%	19	8.1%	24	10.5%	-41.5%	25.8%
35 to 44	30	12.8%	35	14.3%	26	11.1%	22	9.7%	15.4%	-15.6%
45 to 54	23	9.9%	41	16.8%	44	18.5%	38	16.8%	76.3%	-12.0%
55 to 64	28	12.1%	31	12.9%	36	15.3%	39	17.0%	10.2%	8.1%
65 to 74	25	10.6%	26	10.6%	28	11.9%	30	13.2%	3.5%	8.3%
75 +	16	6.8%	15	6.3%	16	6.8%	15	6.6%	-3.6%	-5.5%

**Population by Race/Ethnicity**



In 2006, the predominant race/ethnicity category in Fort Laramie was **White**. The race & ethnicity category least represented in this geography is **Black**.

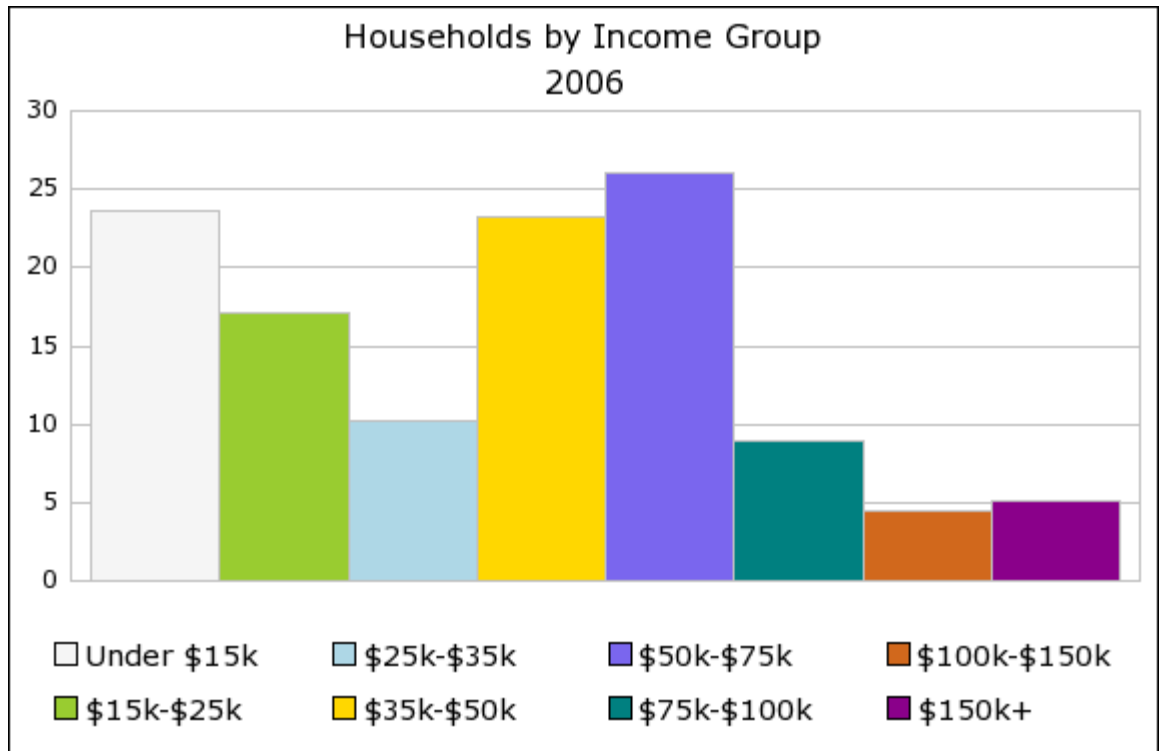
**Race & Ethnicity**

	1990		2000		2006		2011		Percent Change	
	Census	%	Census	%	Estimate	%	Projection	%	1990 to 2006 to 2000	2011
White	230	97.4%	236	97.1%	230	97.7%	225	98.5%	2.8%	-2.0%
Black	1	0.4%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.1%	-	N/A%

									100.0%	
American Indian or Alaska Native	4	1.7%	1	0.6%	1	0.6%	1	0.6%	-64.3%	0.0%
Asian or Pacific Islander	0	0.1%	0	0.1%	0	0.1%	0	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%
Other Race	1	0.4%	2	0.7%	1	0.5%	1	0.3%	100.0%	-50.0%
Two or More Races			3	1.4%	3	1.1%	1	0.4%		-66.7%
Hispanic Ethnicity	6	2.6%	7	3.0%	7	2.8%	7	2.9%	19.0%	0.0%
Not Hispanic or Latino	230	97.4%	236	97.0%	228	97.2%	222	97.1%	2.7%	-2.9%

**Households by Income**

In 2006 the predominant household income category in Fort Laramie was **\$50K - \$75K**, and the income group that is least represented was **\$100K - \$150K**.



**HH Income Categories**

HH Income Categories	1990 Census		2000 Census		2006 Estimate		2011 Projection		Percent Change	
		%		%		%		%	1990 to 2006 to	2006 to 2011
\$0 - \$15,000	36	32.6%	27	22.7%	24	19.9%	21	18.0%	-25.5%	-10.1%
\$15,000 - \$24,999	33	29.8%	17	14.7%	17	14.4%	17	14.2%	-47.4%	-2.0%
\$25,000 - \$34,999	11	9.8%	13	10.9%	10	8.6%	10	8.4%	18.8%	-3.3%
\$35,000 - \$49,999	15	13.5%	21	17.2%	23	19.6%	19	16.3%	36.4%	-17.6%

*Fort Laramie Community Assessment, May 2007*

\$50,000 - \$74,999	12 11.1%	27 22.7%	26 21.9%	29 25.0%	119.4%	13.2%
\$75,000 - \$99,999	0 0.0%	9 7.2%	9 7.5%	9 7.9%	N/A%	3.8%
\$100,000 - \$149,999	1 0.6%	1 0.6%	4 3.7%	7 5.8%	0.0%	53.8%
\$150,000 +	1 0.6%	5 4.0%	5 4.3%	5 4.4%	600.0%	0.0%
Average Hhld Income	\$26,343	\$44,830	\$65,581	\$68,690	70.2%	4.7%
Median Hhld Income	\$20,675	\$36,451	\$40,368	\$44,210	76.3%	9.5%
Per Capita Income	\$10,544	\$21,953	\$28,094	\$30,025	108.2%	6.9%

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

## Goshen County Profile



<b>POPULATION BY AGE: 2004</b>		<b>% of Total</b>
Under 5 years	643	5.2%
5 to 14 years	1,465	11.9%
15 to 19 years	948	7.7%
20 to 24 years	948	7.7%
25 to 34 years	1,080	8.8%
35 to 44 years	1,495	12.2%
45 to 54 years	1,896	15.4%
55 to 64 years	1,535	12.5%
65 to 74 years	1,122	9.1%
75 years and over	1,154	9.4%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12,286</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

<b>RACE AND HISPANIC ORIGIN</b>	<b>2004 Estimate</b>	<b>% of Total</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12,286</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
White alone	12,052	98.1%
Black or African American alone	26	0.2%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	138	1.1%
Asian alone	21	0.2%
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander alone	11	0.1%
Two or More Races	38	0.3%

Race alone or in combination with one or more races:

White	12,090	98.4%
Black or African American	27	0.2%
American Indian and Alaska Native	174	1.4%
Asian	21	0.2%
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	12	0.1%

Hispanic Origin:

Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	1,098	8.9%
Non-Hispanic or Latino	11,188	91.1%
White alone	10,977	89.3%

Note: Hispanic is an ethnic origin not a race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

<b>LANDOWNERS</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Sq. Miles</b>
<b>United States Government</b>		
National Park Service	843	1.3
Forest Service	0	0.0
Fish and Wildlife	0	0.0
Bureau of Land Management	25,583	40.0
Bureau of Reclamation	879	1.4
<b>Wyoming</b>		
State Lands Commission	84,442	131.9
Recreation Commission	2,000	3.1
Game and Fish	2,525	3.9
<b>Local Government</b>		
County	61	0.1
City	1,310	2.0
School District and Colleges	340	0.5
Other Lands	5,288	8.3
Surface Water	4,378	6.8
<b>Total Public</b>	<b>123,271</b>	<b>192.6</b>
<b>Total Private</b>	<b>1,307,129</b>	<b>2,042.4</b>
<b>TOTAL LAND</b>	<b>1,430,400</b>	<b>2,235.0</b>

Source: University of Wyoming, Department of Geography & Recreation

<b>CRIME OFFENSES BY CONTRIBUTOR: 2006</b>	
Violent Crimes	62
Murder	0
Forcible Rape	4
Robbery	0
Aggravated Assault	58
Property Crimes	269
Burglary	45
Larceny-Theft	211
Motor Vehicle Theft	13
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>331</b>

Source: State of Wyoming, Attorney General's Office, DCI

<b>COUNTY EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS</b>	
Labor Force (Oct 2006) <i>p</i>	5,940
Employed (Oct 2006) <i>p</i>	5,758
Unemployed (Oct 2006) <i>p</i>	182
Unemployment Rate (Oct 2006) <i>p</i>	3.1%
Ave Weekly Wage - Covered Emp (Q2_06)	\$491

Source: State of Wyoming, Department of Employment and U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics  
*p* = preliminary

<b>COUNTY FINANCE</b>	
Assessed Valuation (For 2005)	\$95,503,749
Total Property Taxes Levied (2005)	\$6,668,555
Sales and Use Tax Distribution (FY2005)	\$2,609,471
Bank Deposits (6/30/2005)	\$281,500,000
2005 Average County Levy (mills)	69.825

Source: State of Wyoming, Department of Revenue and Department of Audit

<b>SELECTED STATISTICS: SCHOOL YEAR 2003-2004</b>	
Number of School Districts	1
Number of Schools	11
Fall Enrollment	1,858
High School Graduates	129
Average Daily Membership (ADM)	1,882
Average Daily Attendance (ADA)	1,790
Certified Teachers	164
Certified Staff	24
Administration	12
Classified Staff	137
Students Transported Daily	853
Bonded Indebtedness, 6/30/2004	\$0
Total General Fund Revenues	\$16,713,543
Total General Fund Expenditures	\$16,539,414
Operating Cost Per ADM	\$11,316

Source: State of Wyoming, Department of Education, Statistical Report Series No. 3, annual

<b>FULL AND PART TIME EMPLOYMENT</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>EARNINGS (Thousands of Dollars)</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>
Wage and Salary	4,724	4,580	Wage and Salary	\$101,058	\$101,729
Proprietors	2,254	2,304	Proprietors	\$50,876	\$59,574
			Supplements to Wages and Salaries*	\$21,663	\$22,576
Farm	859	831	Farm	\$24,853	\$32,113
Forestry, Fishing, Related Activities	(D)	(D)	Forestry, Fishing, Related Activities	(D)	(D)
Mining	(D)	(D)	Mining	(D)	(D)
Utilities	33	30	Utilities	\$1,595	\$1,847
Construction	416	418	Construction	\$8,925	\$8,747
Manufacturing	267	255	Manufacturing	\$8,978	\$8,785
Wholesale Trade	235	227	Wholesale Trade	\$7,658	\$7,510
Retail Trade	744	698	Retail Trade	\$23,843	\$23,021
Transportation and Warehousing	185	188	Transportation and Warehou	\$6,946	\$7,106
Information	71	71	Information	\$1,601	\$1,500
Finance and Insurance	234	237	Finance and Insurance	\$5,745	\$6,053
Real Estate, Rental and Leasing	285	292	Real Estate, Rental and Leasing	\$3,621	\$3,893
Professional and Technical Services	217	222	Professional and Technical Services	\$4,720	\$5,026
Management of Companies and Enterprises	0	0	Management of Companies and Enterprises	\$0	\$0
Administrative and Waste Services	146	148	Administrative and Waste Services	\$1,583	\$1,633
Educational Services	(D)	(D)	Educational Services	(D)	(D)
Health Care and Social Assistance	(D)	(D)	Health Care and Social Assistance	(D)	(D)
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	(D)	100	Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	(D)	\$486
Accommodation and Food Services	(D)	378	Accommodation and Food Services	(D)	\$3,309
Other Services, except Public Administration	405	406	Other Services, except Public Administration	\$4,515	\$4,510
Government and Government Enterprises	1,287	1,272	Government and Government Enterprises	\$39,120	\$41,709
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6,978</b>	<b>6,884</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$173,597</b>	<b>\$183,879</b>

\*Supplements to Wages and Salaries include employer contributions for employee pension and insurance funds, and for government social insurance.

(D) - not shown to avoid disclosure of confidential information.

Source: U.S. Dept. of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Information System

<b>PERSONAL INCOME</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>
Total Personal Income (000)	\$260,593	\$275,534	\$283,255	\$303,470	\$300,528	\$315,100
Per Capita Personal Income	\$20,634	\$22,039	\$22,561	\$24,371	\$24,447	\$25,786
Per Capita Current Transfer Receipts*	\$3,752	\$3,890	\$4,185	\$4,549	\$4,874	\$5,210
Per Capita Dividend, Interest, and Rent	\$4,826	\$5,143	\$5,225	\$5,627	\$4,979	\$4,912

\*Current Transfer Receipts mainly include social security, disability, Medicare and medicaid, and other income maintenance payments.

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Information System

<b>SALES TAX COLLECTIONS</b>	<b>FY 2004</b>	<b>FY 2004</b>	<b>FY 2005</b>	<b>FY 2005</b>
<b>INDUSTRY (NAICS)</b>	Total Taxes	4% Taxes	Total Taxes	4% Taxes
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, & Hunting	\$20,509	\$16,407	\$25,874	\$20,781
Mining	\$22,052	\$17,642	\$77,313	\$69,981
Utilities	\$465,377	\$372,228	\$485,526	\$417,977
Construction	\$147,169	\$117,893	\$155,790	\$130,450
Manufacturing	\$148,342	\$118,676	\$215,439	\$176,357
Wholesale Trade	\$306,247	\$244,380	\$278,984	\$233,506
Retail Trade	\$2,547,951	\$2,037,587	\$2,433,729	\$2,037,802
Transportation & Warehousing	\$5,396	\$4,316	\$6,344	\$5,417
Information	\$221,824	\$177,452	\$189,093	\$159,828
Financial Activities	\$94,636	\$75,620	\$90,080	\$74,971
Professional & Business Services	\$69,232	\$55,207	\$69,601	\$58,759
Educational & Health Services	\$21,232	\$16,985	\$22,967	\$19,857
Leisure & Hospitality	\$521,607	\$417,286	\$519,928	\$435,296
Other Services	\$317,149	\$253,289	\$295,387	\$248,388
Public Administration	\$605,108	\$484,086	\$622,214	\$527,955
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$5,513,830</b>	<b>\$4,409,055</b>	<b>\$5,488,268</b>	<b>\$4,617,325</b>

Note: Total sales tax collections may include both 4% state imposed taxes and local optional (up to 2%) taxes.

Source: State of Wyoming, Department of Revenue

# Resource Team Members

**Fort Laramie, Wyoming**  
**May 14-15, 2007**

**Team Leader**

**Ashley Bruner**  
2219 Carey Avenue  
Cheyenne, WY 82002  
307-777-5812  
307-777-6593 fax  
[abrune@state.wy.us](mailto:abrune@state.wy.us)

**Karen P. Fate**

Grant & Loan Senior Specialist  
Wyoming Business Council  
214 West 15th Street  
Cheyenne, WY 82002  
307-777-2827  
[kfate@state.wy.us](mailto:kfate@state.wy.us)

**Suzette Agans**

USDA-Rural Development  
Stop 3254  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20250-3254  
**Toll Free:** 800-645-4712  
**Faxes:** 202-260-6225, 202-401-7311  
[Suzette.Agans@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:Suzette.Agans@wdc.usda.gov)

**Linda Wahl**

Acting Rural Development Manager  
1441 East "M" Suite A  
Torrington, WY 82240  
Phone (307) 532-4880 ext. 4.  
Fax (307) 532-5043  
[linda.wahl@wy.usda.gov](mailto:linda.wahl@wy.usda.gov)

**Fort Laramie Contact:**

Mayor  
100 East Bliss Street  
Fort Laramie, WY 82212  
307-837-2711



## **Fort Laramie Resource Team Agenda** **May 14-15, 2007**

<b>Monday May 14, 2007</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Location</b>
8:30-9:30	Orientation/Organization Meeting	Town Hall
9:30-11:30	Area Tour/Meeting with Community Team	
11:30-1:00	Lunch & Listening Session with Seniors	Senior Center
1:00-2:00	Ag & Industry	Senior Center
2:00-3:00	City, County, Law Enforcement	Senior Center
3:00-3:30	Break	
3:30-4:30	State, Federal, National Park, Recreation	Senior Center
4:30-5:30	Youth, Education	Senior Center
5:30-6:30	Parents, Grandparents	Senior Center
6:30-??	Supper	Country Cottage
<b>Tuesday May 15, 2007</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Location</b>
6:30-7:30	Breakfast	Hotel
8:00-9:00	Utilities	Fire Hall
9:00-10:00	Business/Retail	Fire Hall
10:00-10:30	Break	
10:30-11:30	Civic Groups	Fire Hall
11:30-1:00	Lunch	Saloon
1:00-2:00	General Public	Senior Center
2:00-5:00	Resource Team Prepare for Town Meeting	Senior Center
5:00-6:30	Supper	Flag
7:00-8:00	Town Meeting	Fire Hall

## MAJOR THEMES

### Safety

- Highway 26 truck traffic
- Trains (Noise, increased traffic impacts)
- Drugs/alcohol
- Law enforcement presence
- Youth recreation areas

### Town Image

- Clean up junk
- Utilize vacant buildings
- Enforce ordinances
- Western theme store fronts
- Spruce up main street and personal property
- Signage

### Communications

- Work together
- Fear of change
- Newsletter
- Work more closely with the Fort
- Advocate Ft Laramie projects with county officials
- Senior/youth programs

### Tourism

- Utilize the historical aspects of town and Fort
- Promote Ft Laramie as the first Wyoming settlement
- Visitors center
- Signage
- Small inviting shops

### Infrastructure

- Paved Streets
- Sidewalks/boardwalks
- Water and sewer upgrades
- Telephone/cell phone/internet service accessibility and affordability
- Community center project
- Masterplan

## **Team Member Recommendations**

### **Linda Wahl**

Rural Development Specialist  
1441 East "M" Suite A  
Torrington, WY 82240  
Phone (307) 532-4880 ext. 4.  
Fax (307) 532-5043  
Email: linda.wahl@wy.usda.gov  
Committed to the Future of Rural Communities

**Introduction:** I would like to thank the Town of Fort Laramie for their kind hospitality during our stay for the Community Assessment. I was very impressed with the honesty and openness of the community during the listening sessions. I hope the community assessment and report will be helpful as you work to better you community.

### **Issue: Safety**

**Challenge:** Highway 26 traffic, trains, Law enforcement presence

### **Solution:**

The resource team heard in nearly every listening session the concerns about the speed of highway 26 traffic through town. And the lack of Law enforcement presence.

The town could look at the possibility of placing designated crossing walks at the main intersections of town.

The Local Law Enforcement Block Grant Program could be an excellent source of possible funding for a full time police department. This Grant may be used for Law enforcement support for hiring, training, and employing on a continuing basis new, additional law enforcement officers and necessary support personnel; paying overtime to presently employed law enforcement officers and necessary support personnel; and procuring equipment, technology, and other material directly related to basic law enforcement functions.

**Resources:** The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance

Web: [12.46.245.173/cfda/cfda.html](http://12.46.245.173/cfda/cfda.html)

**16.592 Local Law Enforcement Block Grant Program**

### **Issue: Tourism**

**Challenge:** Marketing, attractions

### **Solution:**

I believe the assessment team heard some very good ideas concerning this issue. The town of Fort Laramie should utilize and build on the historical aspects of the town and the old fort. Working closely with the old fort to promote events could greatly enhance the economy of both. Posting events on the Wyoming Tourism web site would be an excellent way to “get the word out”. Sprucing up the main roads through town with small inviting shops to resemble an old western town is a wonderful idea. Opening up the visitor center on a regular basis will invite passersby to stop and “check the town out”.

**Resources: National Park Service**  
**U.S. Department of the Interior**  
Mitz Frank/Superintendent  
Fort Laramie  
National Historic Site  
965 Gray Rocks Road  
Fort Laramie, WY 82212  
TEL: 307-837-2221  
FAX: 307-837-2120

**Wyoming Travel & Tourism**  
I-25 at College Drive  
Cheyenne, WY 82002  
TEL: 307-777-7777  
FAX: 307-777-2877  
**TOLL FREE: 800-225-5996**

### **Issue: Infrastructure**

**Challenge:** Paved Streets, Sidewalks, Water and Sewer upgrades, Community Center Project

**Solution:** Paving streets, installing sidewalks and continuing the water and sewer upgrades already underway can be very expensive and daunting. There are several programs available to communities the size of Fort Laramie to assist them in upgrading the town’s infrastructure.

## **USEFUL WEB SITES AND GRANT INFORMATION**

State grant information through the State Library:  
[www-wsl.state.wy.us/sis/grants/index.html](http://www-wsl.state.wy.us/sis/grants/index.html)

Federal Catalog of Domestic Assistance:  
[www.cfda.gov](http://www.cfda.gov)

Information about private foundation assistance:  
[www.fdncenter.org](http://www.fdncenter.org)

USDA/Rural Development  
[www.rurdev.usda.gov/](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/)

## Federal Funding Sources for Rural Areas

[www.nal.usda.gov/ric/ricpubs/funding/federalfund/fed03.htm](http://www.nal.usda.gov/ric/ricpubs/funding/federalfund/fed03.htm)

### **Team Member**

Karen Fate, Senior Grant & Loan Specialist

Wyoming Business Council

214 West 15<sup>th</sup> Street

Cheyenne, WY 82002

307-777-2827

[karen.fate@wybusiness.org](mailto:karen.fate@wybusiness.org)

**Introduction:** I would like to thank to thank the Town of Fort Laramie for their kind hospitality during our stay for the Community Assessment. Your town needs to be commended for the amazing senior citizens and youth! Your dedication and desire you have for your community is a quality that is tough to beat. Your community sits in the center of so many historical treasures, Fort Laramie Historical site just a stone's throw away, The Oregon Trail, and the knowledge and of many of your senior residents. What a gem to have available for your use!



It will not be an easy road ahead of you to bring the Town of Fort Laramie to its glory but with commitment, dedication, elbow grease and working together, it will happen. Remember, you are all stakeholders in your town so everyone needs to play an active role.

### **Issue: Safety, Highway Truck Traffic, Train Traffic, Lack of Law Enforcement**

There are several sub-titles under this problem so I will begin with the first and most voiced issue- **Highway Truck Traffic**.

Like many small communities in Wyoming, "Main Street" running through town is actually a highway. Hwy 26 begins at the Wyoming/Nebraska border and ties into Interstate 25 west of Guernsey, covering approximately 50 miles. On its route, Hwy 26 passes through a town every 10-15 miles, including Fort Laramie. According to the Wyoming Department of Transportation Traffic Recorder Data for 2005, daily traffic averaged about 1,700 with almost 10% of that number being semi truck traffic. This poses a big safety issue for many towns, especially Fort Laramie, with speeding problems, pedestrian crossing, children at play, etc.

**Solution:** The Town Council & Town Government need to approach this problem at the state transportation level. A liaison with WYDOT would be beneficial. This will open the door to potential funding, research and educational programs provided through the Wyoming Department of Transportation,

### **Train Traffic & Noise Problems**



Burlington Northern Santa Fe Rail Road owns approximately 966 miles of track in Wyoming (51.5% of State Total) with a part of those miles of track running through the center of Fort Laramie. Most of the trains passing through carry coal from the Powder River Basin and this type of traffic is expected to increase dramatically.

**Solution:** Again, a liaison with WYDOT would be beneficial for the town. There are many programs available for a number of local needs, including Rail Crossing agreements.

**Resources:** The Local Government Coordination section acts as WYDOT liaison for Wyoming cities, towns, counties, and other State and Federal agencies. This liaison role includes administration of a variety of WYDOT programs and functions benefiting Wyoming municipalities and counties.

**Contact:** Wyoming Department of Transportation  
Local Government Coordination (LGC)  
Richard (Rich) Douglass, Section Manager  
5300 Bishop Blvd.  
Cheyenne, WY 82002  
307-777-4384

### **Lack of law enforcement**

Fort Laramie has a police force that is staffed by only one officer who is part-time so it is hard to keep up on every day issues. Much of their time is taken by other problems in the area.

**Solution:** As mentioned in “Town Image”, the creation of a community volunteer coalition, there can be a task force within that can provide “policing” support by issuing and monitoring ordinance violations, set up neighborhood watch groups, and other services to help the police department. There are programs provided through The Corporation for National and Community Service that train community groups in these types of services. Grants and loans are available through the Wyoming Homeland Security Office to provide funds for hiring new officers. There are programs at the federal level as well that provide funds for the hiring of new officers as well.

**Resources:** Local Law Enforcement Block Grant & Section 108 Loans provided through the Dept. of Homeland Security.

**Contact:** Wyoming Department of Homeland Security  
Robin Knepp, Senior Grants Management Officer  
122 W. 25<sup>th</sup> Street/ Herschler Bldg 1<sup>st</sup> Floor East  
Cheyenne, WY 82002  
307-777-4916  
[rknepp@state.wy.us](mailto:rknepp@state.wy.us)

US Department of Justice offers funds for the hiring of new law enforcement officers through the COPS Universal Hiring Program (UHP)

**Contact:**       **US Department of Justice**  
**Office of Community Oriented Policing Services**  
Mike Dame, Grant Program Specialist (Wyoming Contact)  
202-305-7541  
[ask.Cops@usdoj.gov](mailto:ask.Cops@usdoj.gov)  
[www.cops.usdoj.gov](http://www.cops.usdoj.gov)

**Issue: Town Image**



Like so many communities across Wyoming, Fort Laramie fights with the issue of town clean up and image. There is complaint that ordinances are not being enforced, and an overall feeling that the community as a whole is lacking pride of property and community.

We all know the saying, “One man’s junk is another man’s treasure” but there needs to be control over what is visible to the public eye, especially if you want to attract tourists to your community. Vacated buildings need to be utilized, sprucing up Main Street with western store fronts, signage, etc. Make the town inviting for tourists to stop and stay a “spell”.

**Solution:** There have been many towns that have benefited from their Community Assessment and have actively held “Town Clean Up” events. Maybe Fort Laramie should look into a community wide picnic & clean up event. Make it fun for everyone to participate. Many communities have done just that with their annual town picnics.

It was voiced that the lack of enforcing town ordinances pertaining especially to personal & commercial properties are a big problem. Unfortunately Fort Laramie does not have the availability of a full time police officer to monitor ordinance violations, let alone daily law enforcement needs. (Resources were provided in the “Safety” section)

I will pass along the solution I gave to another community who suffered with the same issue at hand:

The Town of Fort Laramie needs to put together a coalition of volunteers from around the community with a goal to “Spruce-Up Our Community”. This volunteer effort should be comprised of local residents, business owners, youth, senior citizens, church and social groups,



town officials and possible county sources to set in place a plan and/or vision for the future of Fort Laramie. Task forces should cover an ordinance enforcement team, beautification team, neighborhood watch/ public safety team, economic and community development planning team, youth and senior activities/services team, and more teams as needed for projects. With a volunteer core for implementing the town's plan for revival, you are creating stakeholders who will invest for now and in the future. The key element is to work together. This will be discussed more in depth under "Communications".

Spruce up Main Street/ Hwy 26 and Laramie Street through street improvements, sidewalks, landscaping. Small towns seem to be left by the wayside when it comes to the availability of funds for streets, landscaping, and other improvements. These costs can be huge, especially when the town's size and operating budget limiting access to local and county money.

There are funding sources for these projects it is just a matter of locating the right contacts to help, and commitment to the project from start to finish. Fort Laramie has already proven its ability to get grant funding from the recent Community Facilities Grant & Loan Program award for the Community Center. This grant can be used as a possible qualifying asset when applying for future grant funding sources.



Creating a Western Theme with store fronts along Hwy 26 and Laramie Street was mentioned many times during the listening sessions. Give travelers something to make them want to stop and visit. Signage was also a strong concern with most, especially with Fort Laramie Historical site being so close and not much in the way of information for visitors to know about it.



The entire region sits in one of America's best and most well preserved piece of history with the Oregon Trail, Register Cliff, Fort Laramie Historic Site, etc. I do realize that some of these historic areas are located in Guernsey (Platte County) but it is still part of the draw that brings visitors along this route.

**Resource:** The Wyoming Department of Transportation has a program that funds community beautification, historic preservation and transportation related projects (non-highway so it would benefit Laramie Street more so than Hwy 26) through the Transportation Enhancement Activities Local (TEAL) Program. Types of projects funded include non-motorized transportation (walking/bike paths), scenic beautification (roadside landscaping), and transportation related historic preservation.

**Contact:** Wyoming Department of Transportation  
Office of Local Government Coordinator  
C.J. Brown

5300 Bishop Blvd.  
Cheyenne, WY 82002  
307-777-4179  
[cj.brown@dot.state.wy.us](mailto:cj.brown@dot.state.wy.us)

There is a grant program offered by the Office of State Lands and Investment Forestry Division for community tree planting on public property and community forestry education. A requirement for this program is the project is managed and operated by volunteers from the community.

**Contact:**      **Wyoming Office of State Lands and Investments**  
**State Forestry Division**  
Mark Hughes  
1100 West 22<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Cheyenne, WY 82002  
307-777-7586  
[mhughes@state.wy.us](mailto:mhughes@state.wy.us)

(Mark can provide information on the Tree City USA Program as well)

The Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office offers a variety of programs that provides grant funds and assistance to communities in Historic Preservation, National Historic Registration, and Historic Site Preservation & Recreation. Through these programs, assistance & funding for projects that preserve historic buildings, signage, local government certification, and projects related to historic interest are available. Through these programs the community can get funding for building restoration, ADA compliant public restrooms, operations of the visitor center, informational signage, and recreation projects including bike paths, playground equipment and more.

**Contact:**      **Wyoming State Parks and Cultural Resources**  
**Office of State Parks & Historic Sites**  
**Land & Water Conservation Fund**  
Mary Moore, Grants Specialist  
2301 Central Avenue, Barrett Bldg  
Cheyenne, WY 82002  
307-777-5598  
[mmoore@state.wy.us](mailto:mmoore@state.wy.us)

**Contact:**      **Wyoming State Parks and Cultural Resources**  
**Historic Preservation Office**  
**Historic Preservation & Cultural Act**  
Renee Bovee, Administrator  
2301 Central Avenue, Barrett Bldg  
Cheyenne, WY 82002  
307-777-6312  
[rbovee@state.wy.us](mailto:rbovee@state.wy.us)

**Contact:**     **Wyoming State Parks and Cultural Resources**  
**Historic Preservation Office**  
**Certified Local Government Program**  
Audrey York, Historian, Certified Local Government Coordinator  
2301 Central Avenue, Barrett Bldg  
Cheyenne, WY 82002  
307-777-6357  
[ayork@state.wy.us](mailto:ayork@state.wy.us)

**Contact:**     **Wyoming State Parks and Cultural Resources**  
**Historic Preservation Office**  
**National Register Program**  
Jeff Pappas, PhD, National Register Program Coordinator  
2301 Central Avenue, Barrett Bldg  
Cheyenne, WY 82002  
307-777-7828  
[jpappas@state.wy.us](mailto:jpappas@state.wy.us)

The Wyoming Business Council Investment Ready Communities Program offers the Community Development Block Grant Program to assist communities with a variety of community, housing, and economic development needs.

**Contact:**     **Wyoming Business Council**  
**CDBG Economic Development Program**  
Susan Flobeck, CDBG Economic Dev. Program Manager  
214 West 15<sup>th</sup> Street  
Cheyenne, WY 82002  
307-777-2821  
[susan.flobeck@wybusiness.org](mailto:susan.flobeck@wybusiness.org)

**Issue: Communications**



Communication problems were voiced again and again at the listening sessions. Lack of and virtuously no cell phone service, internet service, and local phone service were the primary concerns expressed but the most important communication issue was the lack of communication in the community, fear of change, and working together. Without this type of communication, why waste time with the tangible tools of cell, internet and land-line phone communications?

**Solution:** Working as an outsider in these assessments gives me a view to communication issues between groups and/or residents. In one assessment, the town mayor and one half of the council members never participated in any of the listening sessions, town meeting, and follow up meeting. There will always be some who don't see eye to eye on projects but personal issues need to be put aside. Everyone has an idea and talent to offer. Everyone needs to be involved and informed and have a say and know that they have provided a tool or service in the community that mattered. Once people feel that they have a vested interest in a community project, more will become involved, fear of change will become an interest in change. The line of communication must be open and everyone needs to work together.

Becoming involved with county officials and Fort Laramie Historic Site projects will be another line of communication that will open up opportunities. Stay abreast to meetings involving the county and historic site, make a presence and show your interest. To often communities feel that they are left behind on many things so why bother. Becoming more involved and participating will show community support and make aware that the community is concerned on issues affecting them.

Gather volunteers to act as liaisons for different issues. Find those with strengths in the topics at hand to represent Fort Laramie in the county and with Fort Laramie Historic Site.

**Resources:** I am including a publication produced by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, "The Collective Leadership Frame Work". I have used this publication in the past for projects involving collective group participation. This will help in setting some of the foundations needed for organizing groups in different projects. It also provides tools in conflict resolution, creating stakeholders, and actively involving everyone.

Another source would be other communities who have successfully organized volunteer groups for community projects and who continue to have success. Find out what lessons were learned, projects that were successful, unsuccessful, tips, etc.

**Resources:** Saratoga formed several committees on issues of quality of life, communication, telecommunications, business/economic development, housing, youth, etc., after their assessment. With that, they have accomplished many of the priorities that were set by the assessment.

**Contact:** Town of Saratoga  
Mayor John Zeiger  
PO Box 486  
Saratoga, WY 82331  
307-326-8335

The Town of Frannie set up a Beautification Committee that has developed a town clean up plan. They now have a fully staffed Economic Development Committee and hired an economic developer. A Telephone Committee is in the start-up phase. Younger residents are coming forward and volunteering on various committees.

**Contact:** Town of Frannie  
Mayor Gerald Dart  
PO Box 72  
Frannie, WY 82423  
307-664-2323

**Issue: Tourism**

I see this issue being combined with “Town Image” because they do go hand-in-hand in many ways.

Fort Laramie has so many historical aspects that are not being utilized to their benefit. A nice visitor’s center sits unattended, there is a severe lack of signage directing visitors to different sites and historical information, and there are no “shops” or lodging facilities available to invite visitors to stay for a while.



**Ft Laramie Visitor’s Center**

**Solution:** Fort Laramie sits on what I perceive as a “gold mine” in tourist attractions. As I mentioned before, Fort Laramie Historical Site, Oregon Trail, Register Cliff, etc. I had last seen the Fort Laramie Site in 1976, when my family went on a “Historical Sites of Wyoming” vacation.



**Ft Laramie Historic Site**

We began our trip following the Oregon Trail from Scottsbluff, NE and followed every historic landmark to the Hwy 26/I-25 junction. I remember the Fort Laramie site very distinctly. I was excited to hear that we were to visit the site on Monday morning of the assessment. The buildings stood just as they did when I first saw them in 1976. The care and preservation put into the site is so impressive and so rare to find anymore.

Again I bring up the Oregon Trail. The portion of the trail that passes from Scottsbluff to Guernsey is one of the little remaining and best preserved visual artifact of this piece of American history. Register Cliff is another piece to add.

I can see the communities of Torrington, Lingle, Fort Laramie and Guernsey working together to create a “historic trail” through each part of the trail and the other historic aspects along the way. I heard some wonderful ideas on creating niche’ shops that interact with a piece of history. There are so many possibilities out there.



## Ft Laramie Mormon Pioneer Marker

**Resources:** The resources I listed under “Town Image” would be applicable as well here because the needs are very much the same.

I would suggest the future creation of partnership between Torrington, Lingle, Fort Laramie and Guernsey. First of all this will build a strong tie to the region and open up new potential funding opportunities through county, state, and even federal sources.



**My Limo has arrived!**

### Issue: Infrastructure



Fort Laramie has only two streets that are paved, Hwy 26 and Laramie Street. There are relatively no sidewalks and with the higher numbers of senior population, this can be a serious health issue. The children have no “solid” surfaces to ride their bikes, only dirt roads, this also can pose problems with injuries and other related issues.

As mentioned earlier in my report, little or lack of cell, internet and phone service available to the community. This problem has been alleviated though with the announcement of Union Wireless Service installing communication towers in Torrington, Lingle and Fort Laramie. Now cell service, internet and other services will be available soon.

The Community Center Project was mentioned as a possible issue if proper planning was not put in place. This is a good point. If steps are not taken to plan properly for the use of the facility, the potential for failure is there.

Master Planning is another issue facing the community. Growth for Fort Laramie is inevitable. With so much going on in the region, the Torrington Prison facility and Fort Guernsey expansion and youth training program, growth will happen.





There are concerns of current infrastructure capacity with water and sewer as well as future housing projects that would strain the system in place. There is no “Master Plan” in place for future development.

**Solution:** First and foremost, Fort Laramie needs to devise a Master Plan for future growth. This plan needs to incorporate current water and sewer capacities, what will be needed for future development, what potential land annexation may take place and what town services will be needed.



This is a large undertaking and help will be needed, but once completed the future of Fort Laramie will be in place. This process too can be used for the Community Center Plan. Again, if steps are not taken in the beginning to develop a future plan for the Community Center, it risks the possibility of snags and even failure.

**Resources:** Many municipalities are aware of programs offered through State Lands and Investment. Though they are hard to compete for, they are beneficial in providing funds for infrastructure projects including, water, sewer, streets, sidewalks, etc.

**Contact:** Wyoming Office of State Lands and Investment  
Federal Mineral Royalty Capital Construction Account  
Robert Tompkins, Grant and Loan Program Manager  
122 West 22<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Cheyenne, WY 82002  
307-777-6646  
[rtompk@state.wy.us](mailto:rtompk@state.wy.us)

I listed the Wyoming Business Council CDBG Program as a resource for community, housing & economic development needs, and another part of the CDBG Program provides Planning Grants to communities to put together a Master Plan. The contact would be the same for this program.

I recommend a professional planning consultant to help in the development of a master plan for the town. The company that I have used for past assessments as a resource is Pedersen Planning Consultants out of Encampment. They are a Wyoming based consulting firm who has experience with small community planning.

**Contact:** Pedersen Planning Consultants  
Jim Pedersen, Master Planner  
777 Baggott Road  
PO Box 66  
Encampment, WY 82325  
307-327-5434  
[ppc@carbonpower.net](mailto:ppc@carbonpower.net)

<http://www.pedersenplanning.com>

Working with the Community Development Association would be beneficial for Fort Laramie as well. Invite them to participate in community activities, events, planning, etc. This will open up doors to a good partnership and open lines of communication in county activities as well.

**Contact: Goshen County Economic Development**  
Brad Sutherland, Executive Director  
302 West 21<sup>st</sup> Street  
Torrington, WY 82240  
307-532-5162  
[bsutherland@communicomm.com](mailto:bsutherland@communicomm.com)  
<http://www.city-of-torrington.org>

Last but certainly not least, your Wyoming Business Council Region Director is a great resource who is available for your community to provide or direct you to services and information.

**Contact: Wyoming Business Council  
Southeast Region**  
Tom Johnson, Region Director  
1400 E College Dr, Ste 203  
Cheyenne, WY 82007  
307-635-7735  
307-631-9275 (cell)  
[tom.johnson@wybusiness.org](mailto:tom.johnson@wybusiness.org)

**See Appendix for Supplemental Information to Karen Fate's report**

**Team Leader**

**Ashley Bruner**

**Wyoming Rural Development Council**

2219 Carey Avenue

Cheyenne, WY 82002

307-777-5812

307-777-6593 fax

[abrune@state.wy.us](mailto:abrune@state.wy.us)

**Introduction**

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the people of Fort Laramie for the warm reception and open, honest discussions that were held during the assessment. What we heard while in Fort Laramie was that the residents already have a good quality of life, but that there are some projects that could enhance the positive things already in place. I look forward to seeing great successes in the future from Fort Laramie whose residents have great community spirit.

**Theme: Town Image**

**Challenges:** Clean up junk, utilize vacant buildings, enforce ordinances, western theme store fronts, spruce up Main Street, personal property and signage.

**Solution:**

In order to improve the town image, I believe that a great first step is beautification. In Fort Laramie, you already have a major asset, the surrounding geography and historical fort. It was brought up in the listening sessions that the residents would like the entire community cleaned up. One idea that may work is to have a community cleanup day, maybe quarterly or just once or twice a year. You could probably clean up the whole community in a couple of hours then have a picnic or ice cream social. It would be a great way to bring all of the residents together and could be fun for the community. At the picnic you could also give out awards for the best looking yard. This may become a way for the residents of the community to clean up their own property in order to win the award. The Town of Dayton, WY does this and it has been successful for their community. A good example of a community that is close to that has seen successful clean up efforts since their community assessment is Mills. They hired a person to be in charge of enforcing clean up rules and may have some good tips for Fort Laramie.

Another way to improve the town image is through improved/increased signage in Fort Laramie. Fort Laramie really has a very fascinating history that if it were marketed, I imagine many tourists would stop to learn more and spend time and money in the community. It was often stated that the signage into the community and to the fort was poor and that many people drove by without knowing what was really there. I suggest creating signs to display community and fort events in prominent locations in town and at the entrances to help draw in visitors.

I also recommend contacting the Wyoming Main Street program to learn what may be available to help Fort Laramie's Main Street. They have a revolving loan program that can assist with fixing or redoing building facades, and other building concerns.

**Wyoming Main Street**

Mary Randolph  
214 West 15<sup>th</sup> Street  
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002  
307-777-6430

*Beautification*

Fort Laramie already has a good tree population, but you can always do more. I suggest contacting Wyoming State Forestry to inquire about becoming a tree city usa. Another option to purchase trees cheaply is to join the National Arbor Day Foundation. It is only \$10 to join and with the membership you get 10 free trees and a book on how to care for them. As for the mowing of the park it may be possible to gather 4-5 volunteers to mow the grass and water the trees at the park on a rotating basis so that not one person is stuck doing it every week.

**Resources:**

**State 4-H Office**

Cooperative Extension Service  
University of Wyoming  
Dept. 3354  
1000 E. University Ave.  
Laramie, WY 82071  
1-307-766-5170

**North Platte Valley Conservation District  
South Goshen Conservation District  
Lingle-Fort Laramie Conservation District**

1441 East M Street, Suite B  
Torrington, Wyoming 82240-3521  
(307) 532-4880  
FAX (307) 532-5783

**Wyoming State Forestry Division**

1100 W. 22nd  
Cheyenne, WY 82002  
307-777-7586  
eMail: [forestry@state.wy.us](mailto:forestry@state.wy.us)

**Town Of Mills**

Mayor, Joe Dill  
P.O. Box 789  
Mills, WY 82644  
307-234-6679

**National Arbor Day Foundation**

100 Arbor Avenue

Nebraska City, NE  
68410  
Toll Free: 1-888-448-7337  
[www.arboday.org](http://www.arboday.org)

### *Miscellaneous*

We heard in the listening sessions that residents enjoyed walking around the quiet community but were concerned about the traffic. One solution to this issue is to build a walking path. The Wyoming Department of Transportation has grants available to create walking paths in communities that may be helpful to you. I have listed their contact information below.

Another program that may be helpful in expanding your walking path is the Foundation for Rural Education and Development Ethyl Grant Program. The Ethyl Grant program focuses on improving economic conditions and the quality of life in rural communities. The Foundation for Rural Education and Development (FRED) was established by the Organization for the Promotion and Advancement of Small Telecommunications Companies. The Ethyl Grant program provides matching grants to organizations that partner with OPASTCO member telephone companies for community projects. The grants, ranging from \$500 - \$2,500 are awarded bi-annually in October and May.

Another option for funding the expansion of a walking path may be through the Union Pacific Railroad's Community Based Grant Program. Information about this program is online at the address listed below, and the contact information for the foundation is also listed below.

Also brought up during the listening sessions was the need for community programs for kids, families and seniors.

There is a federally funded grant program that is administered by the Wyoming Department of Education called the Wyoming 21st Century Community Learning Center Program. Goals of the program include:

- Ensure community-wide collaboration in planning and implementation efforts
- Implement and evaluate effective, research-based programs and strategies
- Provide a range of services across a broad continuum of care
- Enhance sustainability in community efforts beyond the three-year funding cycle.

### **Resources:**

#### **David Young**

Wyoming Department of Transportation  
5300 Bishop Blvd  
Cheyenne, WY 82002  
307-777-4384  
[dyoung@state.wy.us](mailto:dyoung@state.wy.us)

#### **Foundation for Rural Education and Development Ethyl Grant Program**

FRED

21 Dupont Circle NW, Suite 700 ·

Washington, DC · 20036 ·

31

Phone: 202/659-5990 ·

Fax: 202/659-461

To download the application please visit:

<<http://www.fred.org/FREDbrEthylSide1218B.pdf>.>

**Union Pacific Foundation**

1400 Douglas St., Stop 1560

Omaha, NE 68179

(402) 544-5600

Union Pacific's website: <http://www.up.com/>

Union Pacific's grant information pages: <http://www.up.com/found/grants.shtml#how>

*Enforce ordinances*

**Solution to enforcing the cleanup ordinances:** The first question that I would ask the town is, "Do the people of Fort Laramie even know what the cleanup ordinances are?" I would suggest holding a town meeting to explain what the ordinances are and how the town plans to enforce them. I would make copies of the town ordinances available to anyone that wants them. Maybe even include them in the water bill so that you know everyone got a copy. Letting the community members of Fort Laramie know what the ordinances are and that the town plans on enforcing them is a vital step in cleaning up Fort Laramie. There are contacts listed below that can provide information about how to eradicate weeds and also what will grow in the area that can be both low maintenance and beautiful!

**Resources:**

**Goshen County Weed and Pest**

4522 US Hwy 26/85

PO Box 757

Torrington, WY 82240

(307) 532-3713

**Theme: Tourism**

**Challenge:** Utilize the historical aspects of town and the Fort, promote Fort Laramie as the first Wyoming settlement

**Solution to promote Fort Laramie:** It was mentioned often in the listening sessions that Fort Laramie needs to capitalize on its history to draw in visitors. Fort Laramie has so many interesting aspects to explore, you just need to get the word out! The people of Fort Laramie could work together to establish a theme or tag line that reflects the people and the history of Fort Laramie. I would recommend having town meeting to discuss slogans of tag lines for the Town of Fort Laramie. Another good idea would be to teach a segment of the history of Fort Laramie to the school children then maybe hold a contest for establishing a tag line with a poster.

It is amazing how creative school children can be and it would also establish community pride and ownership for the kids.

For example, the town of Douglas boasts itself as the, "Home of the Jackalope." Fort Laramie could easily capitalize on any aspect of its rich history. It would also be fun for the town to extend the contest to the adults to come up with a tag line for Fort Laramie. They could build on and improve some of the ideas that the school children came up with.

Once the town has a tag line or theme, maybe submit this to the papers, chamber of commerce and visitors bureau of Goshen County along with a short history about Fort Laramie. There are probably many people in the county that do not realize how diverse and interesting Fort Laramie's history really is and want to come and see Fort Laramie to learn more. Bringing visitors to Fort Laramie not only is a way to showcase the history of the town, but once people are there, will see what a nice quiet and safe rural community that Fort Laramie is in Wyoming. I would suggest contacting the Wyoming Travel and Tourism office to learn about some advertising opportunities for promoting Fort Laramie. Also, in the past there has been a program to bring in a consultant to do tourism audits of Wyoming communities, which may be an option for Fort Laramie as well.

We heard in some listening sessions that there is a fear that due to the aging community, a lot of the history is going to be lost. I recommend that you form a sort of neighborhood coalition to interview residents and record the history. This is also something that could be incorporated into the new community center. I recommend contacting the State Historic Preservation Office and State Archives to learn effective ways to collect, record and keep the important history of Fort Laramie.

Radio Advertising Co-op Tourism is offering an instate radio advertising co-op through Clear Channel of Wyoming in partnership with Don Day Weather. This is an option to promote community events and activities to visitors as they travel within Wyoming. Partners will be able to buy one week advertising spots on over 40 Wyoming stations. For more information contact Linda Finnerty at Clear Channel Wyoming at 888-709-0098.

Newspaper Co-op Travel and Tourism will again be offering a newspaper co-op opportunity for 2005. For more information contact Amy Hume at Barnhart at 303-626-7200

### **Resources:**

#### **Wyoming Division of State Parks & Historic Sites**

2301 Central Avenue

Cheyenne, WY 82002

307-777-6323

contact us at [spcr@state.wy.us](mailto:spcr@state.wy.us)

<http://wyoparks.state.wy.us/index.htm>

#### **UPRR Foundation Community-Based Grant Program**

online applications at [www.up.com/found/grants.shtml](http://www.up.com/found/grants.shtml)

307-777-6478

**Travel and Tourism Division**

contact Chuck Coon  
307-777-2831

**Lodging and Tax Board**

1-800-354-6743

**Goshen County Chamber of Commerce**

350 West 21st. Ave.  
Torrington, WY 82240  
(307) 532.3879

**National Historic Trails Interpretive Center**

[1501 North Poplar Street](#)

Casper, WY 82601

**Phone:** 307.261.7700

**Email:** [trailscenter\\_wy@blm.gov](mailto:trailscenter_wy@blm.gov)

**Theme: Communications**

**Challenge: Need to work together, fear of change, newsletter, work more closely with the Fort and advocate Fort Laramie projects with the county.**

**Solutions:**

I was stated often in the listening sessions that people need to work together much more in Fort Laramie. There seems to be a division in the community that is blocking progress to move forward. I recommend having the town council members find a project that they are interested in and then go out and recruit new community volunteers both young and old to assist in accomplishing the goals. This can not only bring people closer together, but also give residents more pride and ownership in the community. To work more closely with the Fort, I suggest creating a committee that consists of both town residents and employees or volunteers at the Fort. They could meet monthly or even just quarterly to discuss new ways to bring people out to the Fort from both Fort Laramie and the surrounding area. They could also brainstorm community events to coincide with Fort events to bring visitors and revenue in the area.

*Newsletter*

It was stated that there is interest in creating a community newsletter. This has been a very successful result of the Kaycee Community Assessment. They created the Kaycee Community Voice, a weekly publication that includes local events, history of the town, area and its residents, school happenings, senior/community center happenings and many other topics. It is created locally and very popular. I recommend contacting the Town of Kaycee for more information on how they created their newsletter.

Town of Kaycee



268 Nolan Avenue  
Kaycee, Wyoming 82639

### *Telecommunications*

The community stated that land phone service is very expensive. In addition, most places in the town do not have cell phone coverage. They need additional fiber optics as well. Obviously, there are two issues; one the lack of infrastructure, the other the low density of the population makes telecommunication very expensive. There are, however, loan and grant resources for both the town and for the companies that supply services to the town.

#### **1. 11.550 Public Telecommunications Facilities--Planning And Construction-Federal**

**Agency: National Telecommunications And Information Administration, Department Of Commerce.** Objectives: To assist in the planning, acquisition, installation and modernization of public telecommunications facilities, through planning grants and matching construction grants, in order to: a) extend delivery of public telecommunications services to as many citizens of the United States and territories as possible by the most efficient and economical means, including the use of broadcast and nonbroadcast technologies; b) increase public telecommunications services and facilities available to, operated by and owned by minorities and women; and c) strengthen the capability of existing public television and radio stations to provide public telecommunications service to the public. Applicant Eligibility: A public or noncommercial educational broadcast station; a noncommercial telecommunications entity; a system of public telecommunications entities; a nonprofit foundation, corporation, institution or association organized primarily for educational or cultural purposes; State, local, and Indian Tribal governments (or an agency thereof); or a political or special purpose subdivision of a state. Special consideration is given to applications which would increase minority and women's ownership of, operation of, and participation in public telecommunications entities. Headquarters Office: Director, Public Telecommunications Facilities Program, Office of Telecommunications and Information Applications/NTIA, Room 4625, Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230. Telephone: (202) 482- 5802.

**2. 10.851 Rural Telephone Loans And Loan Guarantees (RUS) Federal Agency: Rural Utilities Service, Department Of Agriculture.** Objectives: To assure that people in eligible rural areas have access to Telecommunications services comparable in reliability and quality to the rest of the Nation. Types Of Assistance: Direct Loans; Guaranteed/Insured Loans. Uses And Use Restrictions: Long-term direct and guaranteed loans to qualified organizations for the purpose of financing the improvement, expansion, construction, acquisition, and operation of telephone lines, facilities, or systems to furnish and improve Telecommunications service in rural areas. "Rural area" is defined as any area of the United States not included within the boundaries of any incorporated or unincorporated city, village, or borough having a population exceeding 5,000 inhabitants. Applicant Eligibility: Telephone companies or cooperatives, nonprofit associations, limited dividend associations, mutual associations or public bodies including those located in the U.S. Wyoming Representative: Denver L. Schlaeppli, General Field Representative; PO Box 20792; Billings, MT 59104; Tel. (406)-652-6108; e-mail: dschlaep@rdmail.rural.usda.gov

**3. 10.852 Rural Telephone Bank Loans (Rural Telephone Bank). Federal Agency: Rural Utilities Service, Department Of Agriculture.** Objectives: To provide supplemental financing to extend and improve telecommunications services in rural areas. Types Of Assistance: Direct

Loans. Uses And Use Restrictions: Long-term loans to qualified organizations for the purpose of supplying and improving telecommunications services in rural areas. Applicant Eligibility: Borrowers, including those located in the U.S. Territories. Information Contacts: Wyoming Representative: Denver L. Schlaeppli, General Field Representative; PO Box 20792; Billings, MT 59104; Tel. (406)-652-6108; e-mail: dschlaep@rdmail.rural.usda.gov

**Solution to Paving the Streets and Highway Safety- We repeatedly heard that there are many streets in town that either need to be paved OR that need repairs. The lack of infrastructure makes it more difficult to attract business, reduces property values and has a cumulative negative affect on the grey water that collects after a storm or during spring snowmelt.**

1. **10.665 Schools And Roads Grants To States (25 Percent Payments To States).**Federal Agency: Forest Service, Department Of Agriculture. Objectives: To share receipts from the National Forests with the States in which the National Forests are situated. Uses And Use Restrictions: To be used for the benefit of public schools and public roads of the county or counties in which the National Forest is situated. Information Contacts: Regional Office: USDA Forest Service- Rocky Mountain Region; 740 Simms St; Golden, CO 80401; Tel.: 303-275-5350.

2. **USDA Rural Development can provide funds through our Community Facilities Program for loans and grants for community facilities as street repair and maintenance.** The contact person is Lorraine Werner in the Torrington Area Office at 307-532-4880 Ext. 4; 1441 East M St. Suite A., Torrington, WY 82240-3521. La Grange is a grant eligible community for Rural Development's community facilities.

3. **Office of State Lands & Investments:** The objectives of this section are to work with grant and loan applicants to give them the greatest benefit for the funds available with the least amount of "red tape" and to provide for the health, safety, and welfare of Wyoming citizens by providing necessary public infrastructure throughout the state. The government grant and loan programs described below are used primarily for public water and sewer projects; streets, roads, and bridges; public health, safety, and medical facilities; jails and law enforcement facilities; and school districts. Contact: Office of State Lands & Investments; 122 W. 25th Street Herschler Bldg. 3W; Cheyenne, WY 82002; tel. 307-777-7331 Fax: 307-777-5400

4. **Wyoming Department of Transportation has a Highway Safety Program.** Grants are due 5/31 and the packet is on-line at: <http://www.dot.state.wy.us/generic/safety/index.html>.

*It's time for all us cheer for the doer, the achiever  
the one who recognizes the challenge and does something about it.*

*- Vince Lombardi*

**Suzette Agans**

USDA-Rural Development  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW Room 4214-S  
Washington, DC 20250-3254

**Theme: TOWN IMAGE**

**Issue:**

Lack of pride in yards and lawns in Wyoming.

The following recommended solutions can be done simultaneously or either one.

**Solution A:** Establish a demonstration of one to two yards that landscaped for xeroscape or native plants to that area of Wyoming.

**Resources:**

- a) Source of guidance and help: Wyoming Native Plant Society  
[http://uwadmnweb.uwyo.edu/WYNDD/wnps/wnps\\_home.htm](http://uwadmnweb.uwyo.edu/WYNDD/wnps/wnps_home.htm) or Bonnie Heidel at 307-766-3020
- b) Contact a Master Gardener to provide advice and hold several workshops on native gardening and yards and also xeroscaping. Contact the Cooperative Extension Service to find a master gardener:  
University of Wyoming  
Dept. 3354  
1000 E. University Ave.  
Laramie, WY 82071  
(307)766-5124  
e-mail: glen@uwyo.edu

**Solution B:**

Establish a community beautification award program, where annually general upkeep and care meets a certain criteria established by a committee of residents. Cost is very little – plaque or certificate – along with announcement in the paper and perhaps a ceremony.

- a. This can include awards by sector for example: business, home, rentals
- b. Establish an evaluation committee that would include residents and non-residents.

**TOWN IMAGE and/or Senior/Youth Programs**

**Issue:**

Senior and disabled residents unable to maintain homes and yards:

**Solution:**

- a) Establish something similar to GIVES (Greenbelt Intergenerational Volunteer Exchange Service) – in the case of Ft. Laramie, FLIVES, is a volunteer organization primarily composed of people living in and around town city who are willing to perform various tasks to help others continue living independently.

- b) Services can include: Transportation, Shopping and errands, Respite relief, Telephone reassurance, Friendly visiting, Reading and letter writing, Minor home repairs and many others.
- c) Essentially it is volunteer exchange, where a member signs up to help another and accumulates hours that be exchanged for when they need help. Or if you are in need of help for say transportation, you can sign-up to help another with reading or letter writing for someone who can no longer see as well.

**Resources:** Contact Information: 301-507-6580

- d) In Greenbelt, MD where it is run and has existed for 10 years, it is completely a volunteer organization; the city of Greenbelt itself provides small office space for the volunteers to man the phones during certain agreed upon hours.
- e) This can be established in various ways at the Senior Center in Ft. Laramie with a phone line and answering machine. A sign-up sheet on a bulletin board. All done very informally. Or can be more formalized with a board of directors, regular volunteers to man a phone such as they have in Greenbelt, MD.

## **I. Tourism**

- A. Utilize the historical aspects of Town and Fort
- B. Promote Ft Laramie as the first Wyoming settlement
- C. Visitors center
- D. Signage**
- E. Small inviting shops

## **II. Communications**

- A. Work together
- B. Fear of change
- C. Newsletter
- D. Work more closely with the Fort
- E. Advocate Ft Laramie projects with county officials
- F. Senior/youth programs

## **I. Tourism**

The resource team heard from most, if not all listening sessions that the Fort is a great asset with historical significance to the community that is under-utilized. Other comments heard where, that people have little reason to stop as they travel through Town, as there is very little to encourage people to stop and look around, and perhaps buy something.

### **A. Utilize the historical aspects of Town and Fort and Promote Ft Laramie as the first Wyoming settlement**

**Issue:** The need to better utilize the historical aspects of the Town and Fort, with promotion of Ft. Laramie as the first Wyoming settlement. According to the National Park Service, the economic benefit of having the Fort in that area of the state is significant, \$2.7 million. How much of that is spent in Town? Probably very little. This is a great opportunity to capture more

of those dollars that 48,418 people in 2005 were willing to spend (that equates to \$55 per person).

**Solution 1:** Conduct a marketing study. This is an intermediate step that will assist in designing more and better solutions. It would help determine where tourists and their money are going when they leave the Fort.

**Resources:**

- Mitzi Frank may already have this information
- Goshen County Chamber of Commerce
- Wyoming Business Council

**Solution 2:** The Town and Fort host a festival together. One Summer's Day on July 14 (?) is one opportunity to work together on this; other events held at the Fort could possibly include a Town element. Or create a brand new festival, such as Founder's Day - the day when Ft Laramie (or its predecessors) was first established. This day provides an excellent opportunity to celebrate the uniqueness of the Town/Fort's geographical location. The PLACE where all roads meet to head further west, the first settlement in Wyoming and other historical aspects of the area.

Festival elements need to capitalize on what the area or people or Wyoming is known for and could include:

- Demonstration of how settlers made things when they first arrived.
- Demonstrate or show how settlers had fun - youth oriented.
- Story telling contest of life in the past (have a multi-generation panel as judges).
- Re-enactment of a famous or semi-famous event that may have happened in Town and/or the Fort. If there is not one - a good opportunity to create one via a contest, and include some type of disclaimer in the title (all very tongue in cheek).
- Provide opportunities for different groups in the Town to show-off. Children's drawings on display (perhaps a contest), different crafter groups, but try to keep to the theme of Founder's day.
- Entertainment - singing, bands, or plays.
- The usual kind of festival elements of craft booths and availability of prepared food.
- Time events between the Town and Fort on this day (or days) so that festival goers have time to get from Point A to Point B (potentially later a bus could be provided as more people attend)

A festival could work very well with other efforts made by the Town to improve its image and infrastructure.

**Resource:**

USDA-RD Community Development Program Publication. As a strategy for economic development, tourism and festivals can be very useful, as envisioned above; this should allow the Town to maintain the positive aspects that everyone talked about during the listening session, size, neighborliness, and safety. <http://ocdweb.sc.egov.usda.gov/technotes/tn5.pdf>

Attached draft of *Festivals as a Community Development Technique*. It describes the benefits of holding a festival and the initial steps on planning for one.

**Solution 3:** Cultural heritage tourism is defined as traveling to experience the places, artifacts and activities that authentically represent the stories and people of the past and present. It includes cultural, historic and natural resources. This type of solution provides opportunities for people to experience the other (older) Fort Laramie - the festival in Solution A is one aspect. Other recommendation mentioned here and elsewhere in this report could feed into this effort.

**Resources:**

- National Historic Trust website has materials on Cultural Heritage Tourism which includes handout for why collaborate, making historic sites come alive, and others. <http://www.culturalheritagetourism.org/fiveprinciples.htm>. Also check out a toolkit and success stories at [http://www.nationaltrust.org/heritage\\_tourism/index.html](http://www.nationaltrust.org/heritage_tourism/index.html).
- [Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office \(SHPO\)](#)  
**Ms. Sara Needles, Interim SHPO**  
Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office  
2301 Central Avenue, 3rd Floor, Cheyenne, WY 82002  
Phone: 307-777-7697, Fax: 307-777-6421  
E-mail: [sneedl@state.wy.us](mailto:sneedl@state.wy.us), E-mail: [kgonzalez@prshpo.gobierno.pr](mailto:kgonzalez@prshpo.gobierno.pr)

**Solution 4:** Business group put together a brochure on facilities available in Town for tourists, distribute via Fort's Gift Shop, the Visitors Center, gas stations, and other places people visit when in Town and in nearby places.

**Solution 5:** The Goshen County Chamber of Commerce puts out a pamphlet called; Fort Laramie Territory, only 6 Ft. Laramie businesses had advertisement in it. It seems like this would be a good opportunity to advertise other businesses, including the visitor's center in Town.

**B. Signs:**

**Issue:** Signage at key intersections is missing on the way to the Town and Fort. Except for the 250 people and 6 soreheads sign and one small Fort sign, it is difficult for tourists and others to determine where they are at and what might cause them to stop and look around and use the restaurants, stores or B&B.

**Solution:** Work with county and highway officials to determine how to put up signs. Other places in Wyoming have signs; Ft. Laramie should be able to have some as well. A small committee may want to get together to determine which signs should be created and for what? Too many signs and it is aesthically displeasing, however something that looks pleasing and gets the point across quickly is important.

**C. Visitors Center:**

**Issue:** The visitors' center is not open at convenient times for visitors to use and this is having a negative impact on businesses and the Fort. This also leaves tourist feeling less than welcomed.

**Solution:** The visitor center should be open more frequently when most tourists are in Town or coming through Town.

- The Town and Fort should work together to determine the tourist season for the area and hours most tourist are coming to the area.
- Coverage of the visitor's center hours can be achieved through a number of means, none of them exclusive to the other. Finding multiple funding sources, and/or using volunteers and/or some type of door bell, that when it rings a nearby person could come over and provide assistance. Funding sources include: businesses (as they probably get a great deal of business from the center), grants and programs run by the state.

#### **D. Small Inviting Shops:**

**Issue:** Tourist and those going through Town have little reason to stop in the Town as there is little to attract them. Small inviting shops are one way and these also provide some employment opportunities for the young people in Town.

**Solution:** There seems to be a couple of vacant or under-utilized store fronts on the main street and rte 26. These can be turned into stores that serve the needs of residents and tourists. A marketing study is important for this activity. A marketing study would gather and evaluate data regarding consumers' preferences for products and services, and where they currently satisfy these wants and needs. It could also help to determine if residents would buy them locally.

Once the marketing study is complete, residents could then determine next steps. If residents decide to go ahead with several small shops - this would likely entail meeting with the owners of the storefronts to determine what their plans are and to include them in the planning process.

This should be coordinated with the infrastructure and Town image improvements, as well as safety improvement, if residents decide to tackle them.

#### **Resources:**

- WY: Goshen county or the county chamber of commerce may already have one, and the Town could request a copy of it. Goshen County Chamber of Commerce, Mindy Peterson, Executive Director, 307-532-3879
- University of Wyoming marketing degrees. Working with the University or advanced student(s), the Town could gain the marketing knowledge it needs and the students the experience they need - a good partnership opportunity.

John H. Jackson, Department Chairman, 228 Business Building, Phone: (307) 766-3124, FAX: (307) 766-3488, Website: <http://business.uwyo.edu/mgt&mkt/>

## II. COMMUNICATIONS:

The resource team heard many comments that fall into this category. Things we heard include, older folks are afraid of change, that some residents are reluctant to work with others, senior and youth do not interact much. But we also heard that people know each other, since the Town is small and that the Town has great community spirit. The challenge lies in bringing these opposing concepts together to increase communications and decrease some of the problems identified by residents.

### A. Working Together

**Solution A:** Find a common goal. For groups of people at odds with each other or not working together, find common ground, one area that maybe of common ground is the revitalization of the Town or just keeping the Town alive. Most of the projects identified by the team will likely help with this.

### B. Fear of Change and Newsletter

**Issue:** Fear of change was identified as a problem by the elders. Elders in the Town are a major constituency politically and are more likely to vote, according to studies on this topic. In another words they are a force that needs to be recognized and valued, for not only the numbers of them, but also for the knowledge and experiences they have gained over the years.

**Solutions:** As changes are contemplated in the Town, and most people recognized that the Town has issues that must be dealt with if the Town is to survive, that the best way to go about making them is not to use the rumor mill to help spread the word but to use formal means of communications so that residents, of whatever age, can understand what is being contemplated and what is being planned, also opportunities for meaningful input should be provided so that solutions that are implemented will have a better chance of success of meeting the goals intended by the residents.

- A local newsletter distributed once a week or monthly would help greatly with communications between residents and others. This can be done inexpensively with a some-what modern computer and a printer. For those with email - the newsletter can be emailed, saving on printer/paper costs. This is a good project too to get different groups involved. Having a kids section, produced by and for kids is a great learning opportunity. Another section produced by seniors and so on; or
- Minutes of Town council meeting published and shared (once approved) on a regular basis in the newsletter; or
- Talk with the local paper (Torrington Express?) and ask to have a regular page in the paper, and provide content, again either weekly or monthly.

### C. Increase communications between Fort and Town.

**Solutions:** Invite Fort representatives to periodic meetings that pertain to both. This can include council meetings or business group meetings. Ask the Fort to include Town representatives on



meetings they attend that pertain to the larger Ft. Laramie area, as this may provide opportunities for both Fort and Town to network and find opportunities to help both. If the town decides to publish some type of newsletter, ask the Fort to submit something as well.

**D. Advocate Ft Laramie projects with county officials**

**Issue:** The team heard from several people that Ft. Laramie has little voice in county efforts. The need for the Town to interface with county officials will be important for some of the recommendations contained in the report.

**Solution:** A town council person or town employee or resident should consider networking regularly with county officials. This provides opportunities for the Fort and Town to benefit, to learn how to get things done in the county.

# Fort Laramie Community Assessment

## Listening Session Responses

### What are the major problems and challenges in your community?

*\*indicates an agreement to a response, one \* for each person who agreed*

- Seniors Listening Session:
- The unavailability of grocery or convenience stores
- Lack of communication service- cell & phone
- Get people to clean up their yards
- Get rid of the train whistle!!!
- Ditto- whistle- quit laying on the horn
- Get more youth- Aging community
- Absentee owners- properties
- Amen to that!
- Community Pride- need jobs, bring young people to the community
- Ditto- Agree with everybody!
- So many little problems
- Animal control- pet control
- The whole state of Wyoming needs to clean up!
- Lack of anything for our youth- activities are all out of town
- The community needs to work together instead of pulling apart.
- Lack of trust among people who have been here and new comers
- Lack of interest to improve
- There aren't any young people
- More law enforcement- full time
- There isn't money enough to bring in a grocery store- not enough to keep it going
- There isn't enough business to sustain new business
- Loss of our school
- City, County, Law Enforcement Listening Session:
- Lack of pride in town. Properties are not kept up.
- Major problem is a lack of understanding how local government works and how it is set up.
- What controls do we have over feed lots within vicinity of our town?- One mile, can build a mile outside of town, could ruin the town- Planning needs to be put in place through the county.
- Concern of expansion of the railroad- expanding to 200 trains a day-what kind of congestion will that cause as well as noise problems.
- Issues with getting to the Fort (train) accident problems are a concern. Can we handle this congestion?
- Coal that the trains are hauling is not a renewable-sustainable resource. Seems like the train engineers blow train horns too much- problem facing us....double tracks coming in, increased train traffic.

- The lack of pulling together as a community- second guessing, taking opposite views.
- A challenge that will be facing the town as we get an influx of people is things being done in an orderly form and do it properly. (Master Planning)
- State, Federal Parks & Recreation Listening Session:
- Truck traffic too fast- need more enforcement on traffic control.
- Cell phone service- none to very little reception
- Public amenities- i.e. motels, etc. non existent
- Town -no signage for area attractions & facilities
- Town needs beautification- especially along highway 26
- Ditto-Lack of signage for attractions
- Ditto-Lack of modern services & accommodations
- Youth & Education Listening Session:
- \*Lack of Police Officers\*
- I wish the town was bigger
- Ditto- police
- No place to ride your bike
- Not enough play areas- bikes, ball parks
- I wish we could get rid of the skunks
- Old sewer system- needs replaced
- Need a place for kids to go- constructive entertainment- especially in the winter
- Everybody is really old- no one can help me with my homework
- Ditto- too many old people
- It's really small and I wish it was bigger
- Not enough grass, too much concrete
- Not many things at the park to play with
- Lack of activities for kids to do
- Drugs & alcohol
- Roads are annoying- dirt
- Too many rocks
- Can't ride you bike on the roads
- Ditto- lack of activities
- Crossing the highway- safety hazard for kids
- Needs bicycle safety training kids
- Train- makes too much noise, dangerous to cross
- Need more American Flags
- More streets
- The train horn blows all the time
- Parents & Grandparents Listening Session:
- Lack of appreciation for the land & natural resources
- A major problem & challenge is getting phone service- need better services
- Lack of activities & opportunities for the youth
- Lack of internet
- Utilities Listening Session:
- Train whistles- noise affects the quality of life

- Lack of pride in property
- Government- lack of enforcement of ordinances already in place
- Ditto- lack of enforcement & property
- Allow usage of water in summer- base price has gone up, money to pay (maintenance of yards) Old system in place
- Small municipality- not taking opportunities in grant monies and other ways to benefit the community
- Need more representation from county- Ft Laramie is seen sometimes as not being part of Goshen County
- Ditto- county line fails to notice Ft Laramie
- Community- old farmers & ranchers, don't ask for help (a lot of pride) very unfamiliar to them
- The loss of our school
- Business-Retail:
- Lack of pride in the community-no one seems to care; good people but overall there is a lack of community pride & togetherness to make the community look better.
- Ditto- a lot of apathy in town
- Ghost town aspects to tourists & visitors
- Not enough different businesses, and an over abundance of others
- Historic fort is under-utilized (town needs to build upon it)
- Community Pride- lack of it
- Lack of enforcement of ordinances
- Community is afraid of change- need to change people's attitude
- Ditto
- Elderly community, generation gap, we are a "dying" community
- Lack of trust between citizens who have been here long time and those who are new
- TRAIN WHISTLE!!!! NOISE POLLUTION
- Ordinances are in place to address clean up, not enforced
- A lot of absentee owners of properties in town- neglectful of property
- We are an elderly community, fixed incomes
- Ditto- advertise to elderly of service to help, no one responded
- The loss of the school- drop in younger families because we can not attract them without the school.
- A fear of increasing taxes with growth-elderly afraid of change
- There isn't a "draw" to the "small town main street- not enough stores to attract people, what is there is closed
- There is nothing for tourists to see- lack of "rustic charm" & businesses
- Community does not know what is going on at the Fort- Not aware of schedule of events that go on.
- Nobody wants to speak up on problems or issues in our town, i.e. telling our officer when someone does something wrong, etc.

## **What are the major strengths and assets in your community?**

*\*indicates an agreement to a response, one \* for each person who agreed*

- Seniors Listening Session:
- Fort Laramie- a lot of history- use it!!
- I Agree!
- Small town living
- Agreed!
- Ditto
- We get along well with each other
- Close to Fort Laramie & a lot of history
- There is a lot of historical knowledge to gain from our residents, can not replace
- There is a lot of thing that are comfortable such as the Fire Dept and a Low tax base
- Agree- low keyed community, get kids out of big city environment
- We do have a lot going on with the town. We do need a grocery store though
- Agreed
- Lived here 74 years, remember Ft Laramie having 3 grocery stores, a drug store, and a school
- City, County, Law Enforcement Listening Session:
- One of the greatest assets to the community is the location. Guernsey to the west & Torrington to the east. The Military is increasing their facilities.
- Expansion to Guernsey, expanding personnel, BNSF switching station, new prison in Torrington, ethanol manufacturing- bringing in more people.
- We are next door to a national historic site- a jewel to the town.
- Ditto! Fortunate to have the fort, asset, one of the oldest settlements in Wyoming. A lot of history and a beautiful area.
- Always have liked this town- friendly community, even coming here as an outsider.
- We came back here because there is affordable housing available.
- The municipality and the quality of services it provides.
- Ditto! Very proud of the services we can provide as a small municipality
- Ditto- The utilities.
- The senior center- very active
- The ability of the town to respond to current issues- West Nile virus- town working on the issue & emergency issues.
- Homeland security in town- the capability to provide assistance.
- We have many nice parks in town and in the community!
- State, Federal Parks & Recreation Listening Session:
- RV Camping availability
- Quiet small community atmosphere
- Fort Laramie Historic site
- Soon to be Community Center- CFP grant funding
- Fort Laramie Volunteer Fire Department- excellent service provided to community
- Youth & Education Listening Session:
- Feel comfortable- kids all know each other

- Can go to everyone's houses
- You get to play- town is small
- You can play with your friends more often
- My yard
- You can walk everywhere
- A lot of jobs available
- Small Town atmosphere
- Dirt roads make everyone drive slower
- Socialization in small community
- Ditto- socialization, friendly people
- We can help each other
- The Swings in the park
- It's quiet
- It's not very big and there is less traffic- except the trains
- The parks are cool
- We have a big fence in the park to play volleyball, basketball & tennis
- It's fun!
- Parents & Grandparents Listening Session:
- The community is trying to get more activities & things going
- Small town atmosphere
- Everybody is warm & friendly
- It is a pretty clean town- seen worse
- Utilities Listening Sessions:
- Pride- (but can be a detriment)
- Nice place to live
- Kids are raised in a small town
- Good neighbors- watch out for each other, they come together in times of need
- Sub division has brought in young families
- The Community Center- will benefit the community
- Different groups- business & civic (there is interest in community)
- Nice environment- enjoys the community
- Business-Retail Listening Session:
- Excellent community support for one another- potential to do so much better
- Ditto- people are friendly & giving
- Community Center
- Senior Center
- Our Church
- Ditto- a lot of good people in town
- Ft Laramie Historic site is a great asset- but under utilized
- The actual history of our town is a strength- oldest community, first post office in state first woman postmaster
- We have a wonderful Information Center- but it is under utilized, we have many things in this town to provide a draw for tourism but we don't use it
- We have many opportunities already in place- just need to use it!

- Ditto- the Ft brings people through town
- Community Center-we need to prioritize the center for the kids first, then for rest
- Ditto- Fort is a huge asset for community
- Our Main Street is an asset- many old rustic buildings that can be used for new businesses
- We know each other-not many communities have that!
- The Fort- wonderful asset!!!
- Highway 26 goes through town- in process of becoming the Oregon Trail Historic By Way- huge opportunity for the town to tap into
- Even though our police officer half time, he is a great asset to our town.
- It is nice to have everyone looking out for one another
- People are willing to help people in our town

## **What projects would you like to see accomplished in your community in 2, 5, 10 and 20 years?**

*\*indicates an agreement to a response, one \* for each person who agreed*

- Seniors Listening Session:
- We have to get some youth in Ft Laramie to keep our community going- tomorrow's future.
- Get some new industry in here
- Costs money to get industry, you have to provide something in order to get them here- Need labor base to bring in bigger industries
- Community center is a start- need things for our youth
- Clean up community- immediate
- Paving streets- immediate
- Retirement community- we moved here, we need to live with it
- Paved streets
- Community Museum
- Would like to see grand children to stay here. Little shops, stores, build on location & history
- City, County, Law Enforcement Listening Session:
- Things that the town needs is to ensure controlled development & growth. It is a matter of time that Ft Laramie will blossom. (Master Planning)
- I would like to see paved streets- many residents in wheel chairs & seniors, difficult for them to get around. This will enhance properties.
- Ditto- paved streets.
- To have some input on the railroad on future expansions.
- Would like to see more economic development- bring in a grocery store and sustain it.
- Bring in little shops, related to fort & history.
- Seeing the Community Center be developed for the community.
- I would like to see something at the community center that will provide a sense of "place" for the youth- programs, etc. Hopefully the decisiveness in the town will be pulled together
- Create a newsletter so everyone will be able to see what the town is doing- what's going on.
- Activities that will pull the community together- everyone in the community is an asset- encourage everyone to participate!
- Bring in something that will allow tourists to stop in town- left turn on main highway.
- Bring in service providers in terms of high speed internet, cell service- this would be very beneficial with expansion of military, etc.
- I would like to see the highway & main street be beautified. Something attractive to bring people in- i.e. make the downtown section become an "old western town" boardwalks, themed to go with the old fort.
- Informational Signage to our park, fort- western type, old west.
- Would like to have the "grave" to be recreated.



- Would like to see Ft Laramie become a “Tree City USA”. Plant shade trees on Main Street.
- I would like to see major improvements in telephone & wireless capabilities.
- Make sure there is a voice in potential feed lots locating within proximity of town, water, contamination of underground aquifer, smell, etc.
- State, Federal Parks & Recreation Listening Session:
- Cheaper telephone service- bring in competition
- ADA compliant accessibility for public facilities, sidewalks, restrooms, etc.
- Visitor Center 24 restrooms for visitors- stop off
- Need modern services & accommodations
- Better signage for area attractions
- Tourism & promotion of the fort
- Beautification efforts- enforcing town ordinances
- Hospitality training for service providers
- Street paving, curbs & sidewalks
- Marketing & promotion of area attractions
- Affordable Housing-Kitchenettes/Apartments
- Youth & Education Listening Session:
- More activities- add more playground equipment to the parks
- A Boy’s & Girls Club
- New sewer system
- A Drive-In theater
- A swimming pool
- Somewhere to go if the power goes out
- Skateboard Park
- Ditto- skate board park
- Have a lot of computers at the community center for the kids to use
- Ditto-play ground equipment
- Demo unused buildings & fences- clean up
- Ditto- swimming pool, we need one really bad
- Ditto- A place for the kids to go during the summer- pool
- Do something with the old school
- Allow the kids to play pool (to grow bigger)!
- Ditto-Make more room in the town
- Baseball field
- Target practice area in park
- Ditto-Baseball, football, soccer field
- Track Field
- Ditto- baseball, football field
- Community football league
- Creating a “Civil Patrol”
- Need a sheriff
- Parents & Grandparents Listening Session:
- Activities for the kids- dances, card games, pool table, etc.

- Get a grocery store, movie rentals, and convenience store
- Ball field for the children for baseball, football, soccer
- Involve the older kids with activities with the younger children
- Utilities Listening Session:
- Get civic & business groups & community as a whole to come together & work towards a common goal for the community
- Improving the water system- in the works right now
- Improving infrastructure, i.e. sewer, for future growth
- Paved streets- dress up the community
- Structured planning- housing needs, services, etc.; need to be ready for growth (Master Planning for the future)
- Bring in business- relative to tourism, little shops, niche businesses
- Community Center development- something for the kids
- Make town attractive to bring in tourists, give them a reason to stop
- Look into Ft Laramie becoming a “Main Street” community
- Build upon our history- use it!
- Interview our older residents, document history. Find a resource to record this history
- Have great expectations for the future
- Business-Retail Listening Session:
- Find a way to help the elderly residents- provide free service to clean up property, etc.-
- Make our main street “rustic” for tourists- many old rustic buildings that can be used for new businesses
- The town needs to utilize the Fort- bring in tourists, build around it! Develop ways to attract people to community- market it!
- The town needs to work with the Historic Fort to coordinate with the different activities that go on- promote town events with fort, i.e. Visitor Center, businesses, volunteers, etc.
- Have the city look into grant funds that would help with staffing the Visitor Center
- Fort Laramie, Historic By Way, huge opportunities that the town needs to tap into!
- Beautification of Laramie Street & Highway 26
- Sidewalks, boardwalks, create an invitation to stop
- Ditto- sidewalks, nice lighting, flower beds
- Informational Signage of the Historic Fort & the Town of Fort Laramie is needed!
- Invite people into town! Advertisement
- Community Center- planning, providing service for kids & community
- Bring in a hotel & lodging for tourists to stay in town
- Beautify what tourists immediately see when they come into town- Hwy 26 & Laramie Street
- Need to put ordinances in place for new businesses- make Laramie Street & Hwy 26 look like a rustic town, keep the rustic charm
- Ditto- spruce up our town
- Open Visitor Center
- The town of Fort Laramie needs to look into grant money to help with projects-
- \*Have 2 individuals whether council member or other attend training on grant writing\*

- Look at other sources for phone service, internet providers, cell service- create competition for the local provider-Explore a competition base for services!
- Ditto!! 99.9% of what has been said!
- Remove the blight in town- enforce the ordinances that are in the books
- The town needs to work at ways to market- advertise our businesses & community through promotional material, signage, interactive living history, etc.
- Set up a weekly “Story Time” tell the kids what life was like from our elderly residents
- Increase the staffing of our police department
- Start a newspaper or newsletter in town- provide information of local issues, activities, events, etc. for our community- keep everyone informed
- Start up the town’s green house, grow plants for town beautification, community plant exchanges, etc.

## 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.

\*Reprinted from Heartland Center Leadership Development, Spring 2002 *Visions Newsletter*.

# **Appendix**