

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:

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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 Pine Bluffs, Wyoming in evaluating the community's assets and liabilities and in developing suggestions for improving the environment, social and economic future of Pine Bluffs.

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

The Resource Team toured the town and interviewed approximately 75 people over a two-day period from January 7-9, 2003. 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 Pine Bluffs?
- ❑ What do you think are the major strengths and assets in Pine Bluffs?
- ❑ What projects would you like to see completed in two, five ten and twenty years in Pine Bluffs?

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

The oral report was presented to the people of Pine Bluffs on January 9, 2003 and many of the citizens of Pine Bluffs who participated in the interviews were in attendance.

Following the oral report, a formal written report was prepared and presented to the Town of Pine Bluffs.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This was a very exciting community for the Wyoming Rural Development Council to facilitate a Resource Team Assessment. I commend the leadership in Pine Bluffs for having the foresight to sponsor a community assessment. You have taken the first and most important step in planning the future of your community – finding out what the citizens like, do not like and what their vision is for your community. The elements are all here for Pine Bluffs to have a successful future. To become a growing, vibrant community takes only a few people willing to roll up their sleeves and go to work. Once this nucleus begins to exert effort, it will begin to show some successes. Then this nucleus needs to expand to include more and more of the community until the entire community is involved. But the work is not on big jobs; it is on small ones that can be achieved quickly. The big ones come later after Pine Bluffs has seen the results of the smaller and sees that it can accomplish things.

There is a number of short term, accomplishable recommendations that the review team has provided. The most important thing is to get the entire community involved in trying to find ways to accomplish its goals. A few celebrations at the successful conclusion of an activity which has involved a large number of citizens will lead to a feeling of accomplishment that will carry over into other activities. Look through the short-term suggestions, pick out one that you know what you can do, and get started!

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

On behalf of the Pine Bluffs Resource Team, I want to thank the community and our sponsors, the Pine Bluffs Chamber of Commerce and the town of Pine Bluffs for the warm hospitality shown to us during our stay. The meals and accommodations were outstanding. We heard over and over in the listening sessions that Pine Bluffs was filled with warm, caring individuals and we certainly can attest to that! Thank you very much.

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

Sincerely,

Treva Blumenshine, Team Leader

**Pine Bluffs, Wyoming Resource Team Members
January 7-9, 2003**

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Pine Bluffs, Wyoming Community Assessment Agenda January 7-9, 2003

Tuesday, January 7, 2003

4:30 p.m. Team Orientation and tour of community
6:30 p.m. Dinner – Community Leaders and Resource Team

Wednesday, January 8, 2003

6:30 a.m. – 7:30 a.m. Breakfast, Uncle Fred's Restaurant
Listening Sessions Begin:
8:00 a.m. – 8:45 a.m. Agriculture, ELCC-LCCC Campus
8:50 a.m. – 9:35 a.m. Business, ELCC-LCCC Campus
9:40 a.m. – 10:25 a.m. Retail, ELCC-LCCC Campus
10:30 a.m. – 10:40 a.m. Break
10:40 a.m. – 11:25 a.m. Economic Development, ELCC-LCCC Campus
11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Lunch with Senior Citizens, Senior Center
12:35 a.m. – 1:25 p.m. Law Enforcement, ELCC-LCCC Campus
1:30 p.m. – 2:15 p.m. Fire Rescue
2:20 p.m. – 3:05 p.m. Youth
3:10 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. Break
3:30 p.m. – 4:15 p.m. Industry, ELCC-LCCC Campus
4:20 p.m. – 5:05 p.m. Education, ELCC-LCCC Campus
6:00 p.m. – 6:50 p.m. Supper, Rock Ranch Grill

Thursday, January 9, 2003

6:30 a.m. – 7:30 a.m. Wild Horse Restaurant
Listening Sessions Begin:
8:00 a.m. – 8:45 a.m. Banking/Financial Services, ELCC-LCCC Campus
8:50 a.m. – 9:35 a.m. Health Care Provider, ELCC-LCCC Campus
9:40 a.m. – 10:25 a.m. Utilities, ELCC-LCCC Campus
10:25 a.m. – 10:40 a.m. Break
10:40 a.m. – 11:25 a.m. Parents, ELCC-LCCC Campus
11:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. Churches, ELCC-LCCC Campus
12:20 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. Lunch
1:30 p.m. Resource Team working time
5:00 p.m. Town Meeting, Community Center

WHAT WE HEARD FROM WHAT WAS SAID

After listening to the citizens of Pine Bluffs, the Resource Team reviewed what was said and condensed the comments down to a few basic statements that are defined as major themes.

Pine Bluffs Major Themes

1. Downtown
 - a. Relocate major retail businesses
 - b. Revitalization of businesses
 - c. Consolidation of services

2. Schools
 - a. Funding
 - b. Strong community strength
 - c. Advanced technology, student education, sports
 - d. School population
 - e. Pride

3. Support Services
 - a. Health
 - b. Social services
 - c. Pharmacy
 - d. Drug/alcohol education for adults and teens
 - e. Consolidation of medical services
 - f. Lack of volunteerism/certification for emergency workers
 - g. Lack of transportation for elderly/low-income to support services

4. Youth
 - a. Lack of job opportunities
 - b. Lack of recreational facilities
 - c. Out-migration
 - d. Outstanding
 - e. Vital resource
 - f. Beginning farmers program

5. Utilities
 - a. Lack of potential water sources
 - b. Infrastructure
 - c. Electrical
 - d. WMPA
 - e. Meters
 - f. Source of income
 - g. Good support from outside utility companies
 - h. Telephone

6. Housing
 - a. Cheyenne Housing Authority
 - b. Lack of affordable rentals
 - c. Lack of middle-high class housing
 - d. Lack of infrastructure for housing development

7. Small Town
 - a. Boundaries
 - b. Pride
 - c. Quality of life
 - d. Low crime
 - e. Close knit
 - f. Family focus
 - g. Communications
 - h. History
 - i. Support
 - j. Needs fulfilled
 - k. Acceptance

8. Economic Development
 - a. Lack of skilled labor pool
 - b. Lack of direction and vision
 - c. Lack of support from the county
 - d. Lack of adequate funding
 - e. Industrial park
 - f. Lack of professional job opportunities
 - g. The interest for it
 - h. Railroad resource
 - i. Natural resources
 - j. Diversification

9. Recreation
 - a. Multiple opportunities
 - b. Expansion possibilities
 - c. Source of income
 - d. Paintball, dirt bike, and motorcycle track, 4-wheeler paths
 - e. 9-hole natural golf course
 - f. Strong positive
 - g. Abundant natural resources
 - h. Entertainment needs
 - i. Lack of access

10. Transportation
 - a. I-80
 - b. Location
 - c. Bus
 - d. Airport
 - e. Gateway
 - f. Railroad
 - g. Beautification

RESOURCE TEAM MEMBER REPORTS

RECOMMENDATIONS SUBMITTED **BY RESOURCE TEAM MEMBERS**

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INTRODUCTION

Thank you, Pine Bluffs Chamber of Commerce and the Town of Pine Bluffs for a wonderful stay. I enjoyed my time in Pine Bluffs and look forward to helping out where I can.

DOWNTOWN

Challenge:

In every listening session, the downtown was mentioned. Comments ranged from revitalizing it to destroying it. In my opinion, I would be sad to see a downtown destroyed. It is full of history and town traditions. It was evident that many buildings were in disarray. I hope that some type of funding or revitalization effort can take place to save the area.

It was mentioned in a number of sessions that there is a need to consolidate support services. The downtown area may be a place to consider the relocation. It might even bring in more businesses if there are more people using the downtown.

Solution/Contacts:

The Wyoming Department of Transportation (WYDOT) offers two grant programs for enhancements. Transportation Enhancement Activities State (TEAS) are for those projects located on or adjacent to the State Highway System (SHS). Transportation Enhancement Activities Local (TEAL) are for those projects that are sponsored by local entities and generally located off or away from the SHS. These competitive grants can be used for projects ranging from the restoration of historic transportation facilities, to bike and pedestrian pathway facilities, to landscaping and scenic beautification for roadways and downtowns, and to the mitigation of water pollution from highway runoff.

For the TEAS and TEAL programs contact:

Dave Young
Local Government Coordinator
Wyoming Department of Transportation
5300 Bishop Blvd.
Cheyenne, WY 82009
307-777-4275
Dave.Young@dot.state.wy.us
Jay Gould, P.E.
WYDOT District Engineer
Wyoming Department of Transportation
Box 1005
Laramie, WY 82073
307-745-2100
Jay.Gould@dot.state.wy.us

For other information:

Kresge Foundation
www.kresge.org

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Herschler Building, 3W
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BMISKI@state.wy.us

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YOUTH

Challenge:

How great it was to hear the adults say that their youth are a positive in the community. It was neat to hear that Pine Bluffs wants and needs to use the youth in order for the community to prosper. After visiting with the senior class from Pine Bluffs High, I can see why the community thinks they are a vital resource. Several of the students were coming up with ideas for Pine Bluffs during their listening session. In my opinion, the Pine Bluffs youth are a valuable resource to be used in the community to help it prosper in the future.

The challenge is keeping the youth in Pine Bluffs or returning after college. Many of the youth stated that there was not much for them to come back to. Also, the youth had concern over the lack of high school-type jobs to build their resumes.

Solution/Contacts:

Sheila Knop or Diana Lauglin
Center for Rural Assistance
Colorado State University
138 Aylesworth NW
Ft. Collins, CO 80523
970-491-5579

The Learn and Serve America school-based programs offer grants to develop high quality, service-learning programs for K-12 students. These programs provide school-aged youth with classroom and community opportunities to develop their academic and civic skills by addressing real-life problems in their communities.

Contact:

Kathy Scheurman
Wyoming Department of Education
2300 Capitol Avenue
Hathaway Building, 2nd Floor
Cheyenne, WY 82001
307-777-7843
KSCHEU@educ.state.wy.us

SMALL TOWN

Challenge:

Many positives were stated in this category. Numerous individuals, including the youth were proud to be from Pine Bluffs. However, several issues arose concerning communications, local support and acceptance. It is important for a community to be together and support each other in order to survive. It was evident that some division may be taking place that could jeopardize years of history and tradition.

Solution/Contacts:

Wyoming Community Network
University of Wyoming
Cooperative Extension Service
PO Box 3354
Laramie, WY 82071
307-766-2386

Mickey Beaver
Navigating Change
1020 Bristol
Casper, WY 82609
307-235-5572

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Challenge:

During the listening sessions, concerns arose about lack of jobs, businesses, skilled workforce and low income. The participating public is very aware of a problem and have expressed concerns for the future of Pine Bluffs. Also, a number of participants addressed the need for an economic development position within the town of Pine Bluffs. This position would help the community grow and prosper.

Solution/Contacts:

A strong economic force needs to be developed. Businesses and individuals need to be attracted to Pine Bluffs, so it can prosper again. Workforce Development Training Fund grants are available for skill training and workforce development.

For economic development ideas:
Tom Johnson, Director
South East Regional Office in Cheyenne
Wyoming Business Council
1400 College Drive, Room 203
Cheyenne, WY 82007
307-635-7735
tjohns@state.wy.us

Drs. Roger Coupal and Tex Taylor
University of Wyoming
PO Box 3354
Laramie, WY 82070
307-766-2386

Laramie County Community College
1400 E. College Dr.
Cheyenne, WY 82001
307-778-1237

Communities with separate entities for economic development:
Joe Coyne
Converse Area New Development Organization
307-358-6520

Susan Bigelow
Campbell County Economic Development Corporation
307-686-2603

Linda Fabian
Wheatland Area Development Corporation
307-322-4232

Contact for Workforce Development Training Program:
Jan Wilson
Wyoming Employment Resources
100 W. Midwest Ave.
Casper, WY 82601
307-235-3200

RECREATION

Challenge:

So many positive comments were received concerning recreational opportunities in Pine Bluffs. Comments from the youths involved a need for a “place to hang out.” Ideas were offered ranging from using a building downtown or bringing back the movie theater.

Solution/Contacts:

Funding ideas for recreational-type facilities:
Kresge Foundation
www.kresge.org

Brad Miskimins
Grant and Loan Program Manager
Herschler Building, 3W
122 West 25th Street
Cheyenne, WY 82001
307-777-7309
BMISKI@state.wy.us

TRANSPORTATION

Challenge:

In a majority of the sessions, I-80 was mentioned as both a strength and weakness to the community of Pine Bluffs. Since the interstate is not going to leave, the positive aspects of it should be considered. The rest stop offers a way to advertise the recreational and business opportunities in the town. It was mentioned in a listening session that local business coupons were tried at the rest stop, but to no avail. The rest stop also offers a nature trail and right above it, a golf course. I did not see any mention of either of these on any signs coming or leaving Pine Bluffs.

A catchy slogan and marketing campaign could be started in regard to being the last and/or first town in Wyoming. Pine Bluffs offers cheaper gas than neighboring Nebraska towns and even cheaper than some of the filling stations between Pine Bluffs and Cheyenne. Businesses along the interstate and in Pine Bluffs should consider working on an advertising campaign to get the traveler to stop and spend more time in Pine Bluffs.

Solution/Contacts:

In regards to adding information for the golf course and nature trail on the Tourist-oriented Directional Signs (TODS):

Mike Gostovich
State Traffic Engineer
Wyoming Department of Transportation
5300 Bishop Blvd.
Cheyenne, WY 82009
307-777-4492
Mike.Gostovich@dot.state.wy.us

For development of advertising or marketing ideas:

Tom Johnson, Director
South East Regional Office in Cheyenne
Wyoming Business Council
1400 College Drive, Room 203
Cheyenne, WY 82007
307-635-7735
tjohns@state.wy.us

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Introductory Comments:

Pine Bluffs is a community that possesses a great many assets and strengths. For example, it is both fortunate and unusual (given its size) to have the medical services it supports. In addition, the town has the tremendous economic asset of WMPA, along with a good infrastructure that includes RT Communications, a cutting edge telephone company that provides many services unique to small rural areas that are unique to this community. The location of the town is also an advantage which allows it to serve as somewhat of a hub not only for some of the smaller surrounding Wyoming towns, but for some Nebraska towns as well.

The school and what it represents to the community was a great source of pride and focus, and that was apparent at every listening session. Focus on the school may be due in part to the recognition that schools do sometimes have to close and consolidate in smaller rural areas, a subject on everyone's mind because of the Albin school issue. In this area there are also some tremendous natural resources that can be used and further developed as assets and economic opportunity to Pine Bluffs.

In addition to the physical assets, there is an energy and an attitude within the community that points to future opportunities, possibilities and success. The community support seems to be strong and Pine Bluffs seems to be a small town where people care for each other - a tremendous strength that can serve as a foundation as you move forward.

On perhaps a more critical note, lack of community involvement in the listening sessions was apparent and needs to be addressed. Discussion with some people in the community made it apparent that the entire community was not aware of the assessment, nor did they realize that they were an important and valuable piece of the success of the assessment. One public notice was printed in the newspaper, and that had appeared approximately three weeks prior to the assessment team's arrival. Representation, therefore, of the community as a whole was not optimum and is crucial to the success of this venture. It will be addressed separately later in this report and included under the section titled "Small Town."

The team summarized the concerns at the Town Hall meeting into ten categories that have been referenced in this report. My report and recommendations will address the subjects in my area of expertise and about which I have some knowledge. Many of the subject areas and recommendations are interconnected, and that will be addressed as well.

(A) Downtown

Much discussion was held on the issue of downtown -- its appearance, closing of businesses, viability, space, etc. In fact, this subject, along with schools, came up at every listening session - most likely in part because of the imminent closing of two businesses - Jabon's Crafts and Variety and Spring Creek Western Fashions.

In light of that, a suggestion was laid out to perhaps relocate major retail businesses and change the look of the downtown area to possibly address some of the concerns over affordable housing. Discussion also included the possibility of consolidating medical services and revitalization of businesses. Under one proposal, the major retail businesses would be moved closer to the interstate in order to capture that market, which I believe, in part is a good idea, inclusive of the recommendations noted below. In sociological theory this idea is referred to as "friction of space." This friction of space basically refers to a physical reason to cause people to slow down and stop in Pine Bluffs. Opening up some of the businesses in this regard to that opportunity may create that friction of space, which may then enhance economic opportunities in the community. However, in connection with this and before final decisions are made, I would strongly recommend the following:

- 1) Market analysis. It is important when making decisions of this economic magnitude that the research supports the potential for success and an idea isn't simply adopted because it *sounds* like the right answer. In addition, all options should be explored to determine the *best* solution. This is where a good, comprehensive market analysis is important along with a social impact analysis. In order to make the best decision for the community and economic development, outside input and evaluation are necessary.

The medical community represented at the sessions seemed to like the idea of consolidating services citing reasons like lowering overhead costs, and allowing for additional services to be brought into the community. Consolidation of medical services would most likely be well accepted by the community as well since it may open up the possibility of additional services. Again, if this is the decision reached, the discussion needs to be community-inclusive to determine where this location would best serve the entire community, based on the market analysis. Medical services are different in scope than business in that people are not very likely to impulsively "drop in" to see a dentist or physical therapist as they might "drop in" for groceries. What might be optimal, however, and increase patient numbers, is that if the decision is made where to co-locate these services, marketing and advertisement of the location and services should be done.

Contacts:

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214 W. 15th Street
Cheyenne, WY 82002
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gstock@state.wy.us

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Wyoming Small Business Development Center
University of Wyoming
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Laramie, WY 82071-3922
(307) 766-3505
ddw@uwyo.edu or lharison@uwyo.edu

(3) Community Development Block Grant program (CDBG)
Steve Achter
Wyoming Business Council
(307) 777-2811
www.wyomingbusiness.org

(4) USDA-Rural Development
Bill Garrett
1441 East "M" Street
Suite A
Torrington, WY 82240
307-532-2125

(5) Roger Coupal or Tex Taylor
Cooperative Extension Service
(307) 766-5124

(5) Greg Wyndham
Area Coordinator, Southeastern RC&D
302A 16th Street
Wheatland, WY 82201
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2) Community-wide involvement in the decision. There is much to be said for attachment to place that enhances quality of life, but attachment to place is also part of the reason people chose to live in or to remain in a particular location. Part of attachment to place can be connected to community landmarks such as some of those presently found downtown. Some of the discussion in the sessions centered on the acceptability of major change and conversion of the present business district into affordable housing. However, it should not be assumed that this view is held by everyone in the community, and in fact given the comments about revitalizing the business district, it is a good assumption that at the very least there needs to be community-inclusive discussion connected with the results of a market analysis. This would allow Pine Bluffs to come up with an acceptable plan that works for all community members and would allow for community buy-in and support. In order to minimize any potential conflict associated with this discussion, it is strongly recommended that a qualified and experienced facilitator be brought in at the

very beginning. The Wyoming Rural Development Council maintains a list of facilitators that communities can utilize at little or no cost.

Contact:

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(B) Schools

An emphasis was placed on and mentioned in every listening session about the need to keep the school system in place. In conjunction with that there is a need to attract young families into the community. This need to attract is also directly related to job opportunities and affordable housing, as well as medical services, water issues being addressed, etc. Dealing with some of these issues should also address attracting new young families into Pine Bluffs, and a holistic approach needs to be taken in which no single issue is addressed in a vacuum void of the other interconnected issues. Some discussion also surrounded the challenges educators are facing as the population has changed.

Development of a comprehensive and/or strategic plan for the community's future is important. The plan needs to be created with addressing some of the issues brought out surrounding the school, such as attracting young families, addressing new and challenging student and family issues, etc., as well as other top issues facing Pine Bluffs. It is suggested that the state department of education be contacted in order to see how these issues (particularly the one involving challenging student and family issues) are being addressed statewide. There may be resources at that level that would be helpful as the plan is crafted. The Wyoming Community Network is also good resource. It has a database of resources and will help connect these resources to Pine Bluffs in order to reach your community development goals.

Contact:

Mary Randolph
Wyoming Community Network Director
(307) 777-6430
website: www.wyomingcommunitynetwork.com

Contact (research based school programs):

Paul Soumokil
Wyoming Department of Education
2300 Capitol Avenue
Hathaway Building
Cheyenne, WY 82002
(307) 777-7168, Website: www.k12wy.us

It is also recommended in light of the discussion surrounding schools, that it might be helpful to the community to look into a one-day program called Challenge Days. This program has shown to be successful in discussion of and creation of building blocks to improve relations among a diverse community. Pine Bluffs has changed over the last few years as new families move into the area which has had an impact on the school as well as the community. The program was developed with youth as the target audience; however, it is recommended that it be modified and adopted for an adult audience as well.

Contact:

**Ilene Morford-Raba or Bonnie Lane
307-358-2942 or 307-358-2940**

(C) Support Services

Consolidation of medical services was discussed and has been addressed under (A) above. Two topics that came up under this subject were the concern for a pharmacy and drug/alcohol education for both adults and teens. It is my understanding that there has been some discussion with the university in relationship to establishing a pharmacy, at least on an intermittent or part time basis. There is a large cost connected with starting such an operation, yet having a satellite location in Pine Bluffs may in fact meet the needs of the community. It is suggested that negotiations be opened up (perhaps in conjunction with the physicians on staff in the local medical office) with the university in this regard, where at least the most often prescribed prescriptions would be able to be filled locally. It may also be worthwhile in order to show there is need to a larger community, to include representatives or leaders of surrounding communities in both Wyoming and Nebraska to help in this effort.

There was discussion about re-introducing the DARE program in the schools. It should be noted here that recent research shows that while effective at the grade school level, DARE has been shown to lose its effectiveness with older students when peer pressure becomes even more intense. The issue moves over into the areas of learning how to deal with peer pressure and strengthening self-esteem. Wyoming Department of Health has been looking into this issue and are piloting a new, more inclusive program that goes beyond the grade school level. It is recommended that the community contact this agency.

In addition, one of the things that was very apparent when meeting with the high school students was a sense of a close-knit group of youngsters who tend to help one another and keep each other on track. Capitalize on this strength in regard to the issues of alcohol use, peer pressure, and strengthening self-esteem.

Contact (research based school programs):

**Paul Soumokil
Wyoming Department of Education
2300 Capitol Avenue
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(307) 777-7168, Website: www.k12wy.us

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(307) 777-7911
website: www.wyo.edu/chyfamprac

Dave Shavel
Wyoming Department of Health
2424 Pioneer Avenue, #306
Cheyenne, WY 82001
(307) 777-3357
dshave@state.wy.us

(D) Youth

The youth represented at the listening session devoted to the high school students were quite remarkable...very bright, goal oriented, energetic and ready to become involved in their community. One thing of particular note was the sense of connectedness they displayed not only with other members of their senior class but also with the other high school students. There seemed to be strong leadership within this group of teens.

Several issues came up that have direct impact on youth leaving Pine Bluffs. Lack of job opportunities to which they might return once completing their education (almost all indicated they were going on to pursue further education after high school graduation) was perhaps the biggest and most often cited reason for not intending to come back to the community. Looking toward some type of economic development that will entice highly skilled jobs into the area is a goal to consider when creating the strategic or comprehensive plan. It should be noted that with this type of economic opportunity comes the potential for a down side. Creation of opportunities for highly skilled labor to enter into Pine Bluffs can also have the impact of increased costs of living as more well paid people move into the community, i.e., increased housing costs. This is not to dissuade the community from seeking this as one of their goals; it's simply stated because when planning for the future it is imperative to look at both the potential positive and negative impacts that the community may experience. This will allow the community to mitigate some of the negatives before they happen. Perhaps working with students either UW or LCCC might present the opportunity of having an environmental impact analysis complete with a social impact analysis done for Pine Bluffs at no cost to the community. This possibility needs to be explored and will be referenced again in the general recommendations.

Lack of recreational facilities was also an issue that was brought up in the youth session. It is recommended that a representative body of youth and community leaders work together to come up with an acceptable answer. Ideas ran the gamut from cleaning up an old downtown building in order to create a place for dances and general gathering, to

supplying adult supervision of either the school's weight room, gym and/or community center. Getting the youth involved and dialoguing with them about what it is they want, what the community can readily accept and provide, and then working together to move forward to a solution is appropriate. It is strongly recommended that an outside facilitator be brought into help do this work. The Wyoming Rural Development Council has a listing of facilitators who do this kind of work at no cost. This resource was referenced as a contact in (A) above.

Discussion also centered on help for small and/or beginning farmers in relation to youth who wanted to start a farming operation and remain in Pine Bluffs. USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service has new farmer, beginning farmer, and limited resource farmer/producer programs under the new Farm Bill that might be helpful in this area.

Contact:

Steve Kadas, District Conservationist

11221 East Hwy 30

Cheyenne, WY 82009

(307) 772-2314

steve.kadas@wy.usda.gov

Finally, the issue of leadership needs to be addressed, although it was not directly discussed in the sessions. One way in which to retain youth is to get them involved in leadership roles and activities. This not only integrates them more fully into the community, but also makes them feel a vital part of the community and equally responsible for the success of Pine Bluffs. There is more likelihood of their return at some point if they feel this connection.

Consider having the students select a student to be part of the Chamber. Connect this to the school with a teacher sponsor who can support them and assist them in reporting their Chamber activities back to the students. This student would bring concerns/issues and ideas of the students, through dialogue with them, to the table and also offer suggestions, improvements, and ideas for the betterment and improvement of Pine Bluffs.

Consider establishment of a Youth Advisory Board as a way of establishing and grooming youth leaders. Cheyenne and Casper have both done this and been successful. Contacts: Pam Harrold, Cheyenne, (307) 778-1403; Nancy Pawlowski, Casper, (307) 234-5311.

The Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation (816) 932-1000; <http://www.emkf.org> – engages in operating programs and targets grant making in entrepreneurial leadership and youth development. It is suggested this be explored as an option. One way of addressing job opportunities may be in allowing the youth to find a niche and create opportunities for themselves. An example of this – a small town in Nebraska with a population much smaller than Pine Bluffs' lost their grocery store. There was a need for the store because the location of the town was very remote. High school students decided to take on the re-opening of the grocery store since some of them had been employed there and understood the operation. They were able to re-open the store as a youth-run and owned as a co-op. In addition, they saw an opportunity to expand their business by making and providing

sandwiches to the high school. Both ventures have proven successful in providing something of value to the community as well as creating job and entrepreneurial opportunities to youth. Success can happen if the right opportunities and resources are made available.

Contact:

(1) National Youth Employment Coalition (202) 659-1064, <http://www.nyec.org/> - is a network of 150 youth employment and development organizations dedicated to promoting policies and programs which help youth succeed in becoming lifelong learners, productive workers and self-sufficient citizens.

(2) Entrepreneur Program (geared to youth). Contact: Fred Schlutt, Director, 4-H Foundation; (307) 766-3430.

(E) Utilities/Water

There was much concern voiced over a sufficient water source for Pine Bluffs. Many, in fact almost all, of the concerns identified were directly connected to this critical issue. The Southeastern RC&D (Resource Conservation and Development) deals with both water and land management, and may be a good resource. The RC&D is referenced again under "General Recommendations" for further explanation.

In addition, an organization called the Rensselaerville Institute has done much work in this area, particularly in Texas. It is recommended that contact be made for further information.

Contacts:

Greg Wyndham
Area Coordinator, Southeastern RC&D
302A 16th Street
Wheatland, WY 82201
(307) 322-2187
greg.wyndham@wy.usda.gov

George Cleek
Assistant State Conservationist for Programs
USDA- Natural Resources Conservation Service
100 East B Street
Casper, WY 82601
(307) 261-6457
george.cleek@wy.usda.gov

Pam Wilson, Director
Rensselaerville Institute
206 New Bern Place
Raleigh, NC 27601
(919) 833-4097
pwilson@Rinstitute.org

Web site: www.Rinstitute.org

(F) Housing

The issue with the Cheyenne Housing Authority needs to be addressed. We heard in several listening sessions that CHA has been non-responsive to the individuals who live under their domain. The individuals who are impacted do not have the resource to make an impact or to be heard with this entity, and it is a detriment to the community at large when quality of life is not met.

Contact:
USDA-Rural Development
Bill Garrett
1441 East "M" Street
Suite A
Torrington, WY 82240
307-532-2125

(G) Small Town

Communications. *In order to ensure success of the assessment as the community moves forward, it is essential that the follow-up session be inclusive of the entire community.* The most successful way of getting people to get involved has been through personal invitation. This type of communication tends to help people understand the importance of and need for their participation. Ask for youth involvement with this issue. It is suggested that some of the leaders approach some of the younger members of the community, pose the problem/goal of community involvement, and get their input and help in making this happen. For example, they might design flyers, hand them out at church or go door-to-door and issue personal invitations to participate.

(H) Recreation

This subject was discussed under “Youth” above. It is recommended that the town’s leadership and youth work together to solve the problem and come to the best solution that the town can live with and that will serve youth as well. As stated above, it would be best to approach this issue with a trained facilitator and those resources have been cited in several places throughout this report.

General Recommendations.

1) The Southeastern RC&D (Resource Conservation and Development) will soon be creating their plan to address local priorities for the next five years; Pine Bluffs is served by this RC&D. The RC&D addresses such issues as land management, water management, economic development and community development. It is recommended that your community contacts the RC&D Coordinator in order to discuss which items from the assessment might be brought forward and be incorporated it into this plan.

Contact:
Greg Wyndham
Area Coordinator, Southeastern RC&D
302A 16th Street
Wheatland, WY 82201

(307) 322-2187
greg.wyndham@wy.usda.gov

2) As stated in Section D, Youth, above, it is recommended that during the creation phase of a strategic plan or comprehensive plan an environmental impact assessment *inclusive of a social impact analysis* be done. This will allow the community to look at their ideas with consideration to both positive and negative impacts to the community. The community will then be able to make an educated analysis and determination of where they want to go in the future. The recommendation is to check with a community planning division of an institution of higher learning. Students, particularly graduate students, should be able to take on this work in order to fulfill an educational requirement.

3) Finally, it is recommended that as you move forward the community should explore the possibility of using the Asset Based Community Development model for community/economic development. This model has successfully been used in Nebraska. It should be noted that much emphasis was placed throughout the sessions on economic development. Economic development is essential to growth and survival of a town; however research consistently shows that *economic development without community development does not succeed and is not sustained*. Therefore, a good tool to use is the Asset Based Community Development model. This allows for several things, some of which are interconnection of people within the community, youth involvement in community issues, and tapping into the resources and potential of all community members. This model is based on the premise of looking at, finding, and building upon what the community already has in assets and strengths.

Contacts:
Greg Wyndham
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302A 16th Street
Wheatland, WY 82201
(307) 322-2187
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George Cleek
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USDA- Natural Resources Conservation Service
100 East B Street
Casper, WY 82601
(307) 261-6457
george.cleek@wy.usda.gov

Deb Sherman

Assistant State Conservationist – Field Operations
USDA – Natural Resources Conservation Service
8416 Hildreth Rd
Cheyenne, WY 82009
307-772-2015 (phone)
307-772-2017 (fax)
deb.sherman@wy.usda.gov

INTRODUCTION

I would like to thank the Pine Bluffs Chamber of Commerce and the Town of Pine Bluffs for inviting the assessment team to Pine Bluffs. I was glad to be a part of the team and to be able to visit your town. I found the visit and the listening sessions to be enlightening and enjoyable. You have a wonderful town with great potential.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Challenges

Approach: Many of the people attending the sessions expressed a strong hope for tomorrow and a positive attitude about what might be done to improve their town. This refreshing, and positive, attitude combined with a willingness to do what it takes to move the community forward open the door to make good things happen for Pine Bluffs. It is obvious that people care about their town and that their willingness to move forward is a resource that should be tapped.

Many residents, young and old, had progressive and feasible suggestions on how to improve their town. Bringing these people together in a community setting using a structured and facilitated approach to problem solving could produce very positive results. In that town hall setting new ideas could be generated, common goals identified, and community buy-in and support for future projects obtained.

Vision: It was apparent that a common vision of where the town should go next and how to get there was lacking. For example, differences of opinion over the future of the old downtown area varied widely. Some participants held the opinion that the downtown should be demolished and moved to the interstate exchange to provide economic expansion. Other participants expressed a strong desire to renovate the historic downtown and to revitalize it as the preferred alternative.

In our changing and very mobile society, a sense of identity, knowledge of place, the comfort of having roots in a hometown is easily lost. Several participants in the

sessions lamented this issue and expressed a strong desire to preserve their roots, their hometown.

I would hope that in the search for economic survival, the town of Pine Bluffs does not lose sight of what living in a small town means. I would hope that the old can survive side-by-side with the new and that the route to change does not lead to the loss of identity. Pine Bluffs is a great place to live and, hopefully, will continue to provide a sense of place to its residents - past, current and future.

Alternative Solutions: As the town ponders its route to the future, I would hope that every alternative is considered in order to find the most feasible alternatives. Again, many ideas were voiced in the sessions. Many more ideas could be gathered from those who were not present. Facilitated town hall sessions could lead to a more collaborative effort and avoid leaving out some segments of the community.

Solution/Contacts

Coping with change and plotting a new direction for a community requires input from all sectors of the community, gathering and accessing information on alternatives, and locating sources of outside assistance.

The NRCS, through its Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Program offers to communities the assistance needed to help the community identify common goals, establish a unified direction, obtain local buy-in, and locate sources of information and support needed to make things happen. Community development, natural resource conservation and economic development are the keystones of the program.

Under the RC&D Program, the Southeast Wyoming RC&D Area encompasses 5 counties in southeast Wyoming including Laramie County and the communities within it. The SE Wyoming RC&D Council directs the program within this area and Greg Wyndham, RC&D Coordinator for the Southeast Wyoming RC&D Council can be contacted at:

Greg Wyndham, Coordinator
Southeast Wyoming RC&D Area
302A 16th Street
Wheatland, WY 82201

Phone: 307-332-9060
Email: greg.wyndham@wy.usda.gov

INFRASTRUCTURE

Challenges

The Town of Pine Bluffs has been very progressive and responsible in terms of identifying and developing its natural resources and in building a solid infrastructure. The town has been responsive and effective in maintaining and upgrading its infrastructure and has had the foresight to work out partnerships with service providers to help maintain its infrastructure.

However, maintenance of its facilities is an ongoing process and with increasing costs the need for new approaches may soon occur. The need to address declining groundwater resources and find alternatives was one issue identified in several sessions. The need to develop outdoor recreational facilities such as golf courses, shooting ranges, and racetracks was also mentioned. These facilities will need to be developed with full awareness of potential environmental impacts and consideration of the constraints the local soil and water resources impose.

Solution/Contacts

The USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) provides technical assistance to individuals, groups, and local agencies on environmental issues. Agency programs may also be available to assist with natural resource development and treatment. Its partner, the Laramie County Conservation District also provides assistance to residents of the county and has several programs that might be of benefit. For more information, please contact –

Steve Kadas, District Conservationist
USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service
Cheyenne Field Office
11221 US Highway 30
Cheyenne, WY 82009
307-772-2314
steve.kadas@wy.usda.gov

Or

Jim Cochran, District Manager
Laramie County Conservation District
11221 US Highway 30
Cheyenne, WY 82009
307-772-2603

Bill Garrett

Rural Development Manager, Southeast Area
4140 East M Street
Torrington, WY 82240
(307) 532-4880
E-mail bill.garrett@wy.usda.gov

I would like to thank the town of Pine Bluffs for their exceptional hospitality during our visit. It is apparent that Pine Bluffs is struggling with many concerns that are all too common to many small rural communities through out the county. I applaud your community in undertaking these first steps through requesting and participating in this assessment. You must realize the challenges ahead will be at times difficult, but with dedication and commitment of the community Pine Bluffs can achieve their goals. I look forward to your success!

Pine Bluffs Themes, some times crossed over into a common type theme, such as Downtown, Utilities and Economic Development. I addressed the combined themes under the heading: Economic Development

HOUSING

Challenge: We heard the need for affordable rentals, middle-to-high end housing, and infrastructure for housing development.

Recommendations: Rural communities have and continue to face similar situations. One of the key elements needed in order to achieve success is preparation of a housing demand study. You need to know what type of housing, price range, ownership or rental, single family or multi-family, different resources may be available to specific type of housing needs. It is recommend that a housing needs assessment be done for Pine Bluffs. The city of Powell prepared a housing demand study and found it to be very useful. Once a study of the type is completed it would show a market in those areas. Funding for those specific types of housing development can be found in a number of places. WCDA has a number of programs including HOME, Community Development Block Grant Program and Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program also programs for subdivision development. Rural Development has programs for development and financing. SBA has a program for Builders to finance construction of homes. I have listed a number of sources where additional information can be obtained.

WCDA
Cheryl Gillum
Housing Program Director
155 North Beech St.
Casper, WY 82602
307 265-0063

USDA Rural Development
Bill Garrett
Rural Development Manager,
Southeaster Area
4140 East M, Street
Torrington, WY 82240
307 532-4880 ext. 4

SBA

Dave Denke
100 East B Street
Casper, WY 82601
307 261-6507

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Challenge: We heard, lack of retail business in the downtown area, decline of business, split businesses area, need creative areas, make them merge somehow, perhaps tear out existing buildings in between and put new businesses in their place is still a concern. A need for economic development committee or a trained staff person, need for leadership, make change a positive thing. Infrastructure and water needed to able to support development. Update electrical system, \$1million costs to upgrade. Need new Water Meter system. Need an organization or information of contacts to start up new businesses, need a full time staff person to help economic development.

Recommendations:

Community Development

- It appears the community realizes the need to diversify their economic development they just don't know what type of new business would be appropriate. It is recommended a steering committee be formed by the City Council to develop a formal business expansion and retention program strategy. The Association of Municipalities has distributed the "The Targeted Industry Report" to all cities and towns in the state. This report could be a very useful tool in developing a formal program strategy. USDA Rural Development has a grant program known as Rural Business Opportunity Grants, with the purpose to promote sustainable economic development in rural communities. The Grant (if awarded) could be used to pay cost for economic planning, technical assistance for rural businesses, or training for rural economic development officials. USDA also has grants and 0% loans that a RUS electric and telephone organization can apply for. These grant/loans can be used for community development assistance. A grant such as this combined with a CDBG through the WBC could help fund a community development office. The Wyoming Community Network has established a grant program for communities that have completed a Community Resource Assessment by the Wyoming Rural Development Council. The grant has awarded up to \$10,000 for a project identified by the community as a priority through the Assessment process. The U.S. Economic Development Administration, Department of Commerce has a number of grant programs for economic development.
- **Electrical System Update:** USDA Rural Utilities Service has grant/loan programs to help rural communities upgrade electrical systems, including updating meters.

- **Water System Upgrade: Contact** Leroy Graham of the Wyoming Association of Rural Water Systems @ (307) 436-8636. He can provide assistance with resources for your water systems.

RESOURCES:

Wyoming Women's Business Center
Department
P.O. Box 3661
Laramie, WY 82071
(307) 864-2203

Laramie County Planning

John Kluever
310 W. 19th
Cheyenne, WY 82001
(307) 633-4201

USDA Rural Development
Development Center
Bill Garrett, Rural Development Manager
1440 East M
Torrington, WY 82240
(307) 532-4880 ext. 4

Wyoming Small Business

Leonard Holler
300 S. Wolcott Suite 300
Casper, WY 82601
(307) 234-6683

UW
Roger Coupal
Community Development Specialist
P.O. Box 3354
Laramie, WY 82071
(307) 766-5246

SBA
Deb Farris
Economic Development Specialist
100 E "B" Street
Casper, WY 82602
(307) 261-6509

Wyoming Business Council
Tom Johnson
Investments
Southeast Regional Director
1400 East College Drive
Cheyenne, WY 82007
(307) 635-7735

Brad Miskimins
Office of State Lands and

Herschler Building, 3rd Floor West
122 West 25th Street
Cheyenne, WY 82002
(307) 777-7331

John Rogers
EDA
P.O. Box 10074
Federal Building, Room 196
Helena, MT 59626
(406) 441-11754

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Challenges: We heard not a lot of officer's available, 2 officers, often-just one. There are three total LCSD deputies on rotated shifts, Officers are on call 24 hours a day, 1000 hours a year of overtime, it is hard to get replacements or an extra officer to prevent officer burnout. Pine Bluffs is on the far east end, there are problems with coverage, getting backup is a problem, takes time to get assistance Water shortage, ran out of water last summer Burnout with not enough officers, but officers are very professional. Teenagers using alcohol and drugs, law enforcement, education and prevention of this problem, start with younger kids. Lacking drug education. Visibility of law enforcement, makes youth more familiar with the kids, need to be seen as part of the community.

Recommendations: There are grants to provide assistance to local law enforcement under the Local Law Enforcement Block Grants Program, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance, Department of Justice, and (202) 305-2088. Create a Neighborhood Watch program. Creating a police reserve unit unitizing volunteers may be beneficial.

GENERAL RESOURCES:

Federal Funding Sources for Rural Areas;

www.nal.usda.gov/ric/ricpubs/funding/federalfund/fed03.htm

Rural Community Assistance Corporation: www.rcac.org

**Joint Center of Housing Studies
Harvard University**

www.jchs.harvard.edu/index.htm

Jennifer Bailey

Wyoming Department of Agriculture/
Wyoming Rural Development Council
2219 Carey Avenue
Cheyenne, WY 82002
(307) 777-7180
jbaile4@state.wy.us

SCHOOLS

Challenge: Many concerns were expressed regarding school funding and the decisions of the legislature with regards to small schools. It was stated by many people that the schools are one of Pine Bluffs’ greatest strengths and assets, including the schools’ advanced technology, high quality of education, and opportunities to play sports. The students display a great deal of school pride.

Solution/Contact: One excellent resource for small schools is the ERIC Clearinghouse on Rural Education and Small Schools. Included in this site is the ERIC/CRESS online guide of organizations, agencies, publishers, and funding sources involved with small schools, the online guide of rural education organizations, agencies, publishers, colleges, and universities related to rural education, Smaller Learning Communities Program grants, and articles such as “Charter Schools – An Approach to Rural Education?”, and “Rural Schools and the Workforce Investment Act”.

ERIC Clearinghouse on Rural Education and Small Schools
P.O. Box 1348
Charleston, WV 25325-1348
Phone: 304-347-0428
800-624-9120
Fax: 304-347-0467
Web: <http://www.ael.org/eric/>

SUPPORT SERVICES

Challenge: Difficulty in getting citizens to Department of Family Services in Cheyenne. Many citizens are not aware of or not able to reach services provided by the Department of Family Services, such as health care coverage for children and pregnant women, food stamps, day care assistance, juvenile probation options, investigation of possible abuse/neglect situations, etc. Residents did state that they received wonderful support from Safehouse and Head Start.

Solution/Contact: A part-time, perhaps even one evening a week, DFS field office with one or two benefits specialists and one social worker in Pine Bluffs would be an ideal solution. According to Andy Aldrich of DFS, it is anticipated that there will be agency structure changes under the new governor and the current legislative session. The legislature is currently looking at the new Workforce Services program, which may result

in improving services of economic assistance, employment training, as well as other programs, to the small towns of Wyoming.

Carolyn Yeaman, District Manager
Department of Family Services
Laramie County Field Office
1510 E. Pershing Blvd.
Cheyenne, WY 82002
(307) 777-6800
Email: cyeama@state.wy.us

Andy Aldrich
Department of Family Services
Field Operations Division
2300 Capitol Avenue, 3rd Floor
(307) 777-6031
Email: aaldri1@state.wy.us

Challenge: Lack of transportation for elderly/low-income residents to reach support services in Cheyenne.

Solution/Contact: A Pine Bluffs weekly bussing system into Cheyenne would also be of great benefit to the residents who are without means of transportation. Putting a bus on schedule to drive to Cheyenne and back would enable these residents to schedule appointments with physicians, the Department of Family Services, help through other social service agencies, and many other specialized professionals not available in Pine Bluffs.

The Wyoming Public Transit Association - WYTRANS - is a private, non-profit organization consisting of forty plus transit-only and social service agencies from every county in Wyoming that provide public transportation services for those who need transportation. The agencies are financed through local sources, State funds through the Wyoming Department of Transportation (WYDOT), and Federal Transit Administration funds, also through WYDOT. Some of the basic goals of WYTRANS are:

- Providing safe, cost effective rides to meet local transit needs.
- Training drivers and managers.
- Facilitating support and coordination between agencies.
- Seeking out more funding for transit.

WYTRANS
200 Pronghorn
Casper, WY 82601
Phone: (307) 266-2524
FAX: (307) 235-5604
Email: info@wytrans.org
Web: www.wytrans.org

Cheyenne Transit
Joe Dougherty
2022 Capitol Avenue
Cheyenne, WY 82201
307-637-6253
Joe_Dougherty@cheyennecity.org
Web: www.cheyennetwork.com/bus

Solution/Contact: State Lands and Investments administer a Transportation Enterprise Fund. The Town of Pine Bluffs or the Senior Citizens' center would be the likely applicants. The grant and loan program provides up to 90% of funds for a transit program.

Wyoming State Lands and Investments
Brad Miskimins
Herschler Building, 122 West 25th Street
Cheyenne, WY 82002
(307) 777-6646
Email: bmiski@state.wy.us
Web: <http://lands.state.wy.us/>

Challenge: The lack of a local pharmacy was expressed repeatedly during our listening sessions. In turn, residents find it is much more sensible to see a Cheyenne physician since they have to go to Cheyenne to pick up their prescription medications.

Solution/Contact: Wyoming State Lands and Investments offers a Grants and Loans Program. In funding a pharmacy building through this department, the Town of Pine Bluffs would own pharmacy building and lease the property to the operating pharmacy. The pharmacy would be a public/private partnership. The grant would fund either a new pharmacy or a medical professional complex as was discussed during the listening sessions, or to purchase and renovate an existing building. In applying for the grant, Pine Bluffs would have to prove that the pharmacy would provide an essential public service.

Wyoming State Lands and Investments
Brad Miskimins
Herschler Building, 122 West 25th Street
Cheyenne, WY 82002
(307) 777-6646
Email: bmiski@state.wy.us
Web: <http://lands.state.wy.us/>

Solution/Contact: For help in finding a pharmacy or pharmacist interested in opening a shop in Pine Bluffs, contact the Wyoming Board of Pharmacy.

Wyoming Board of Pharmacy
1720 South Poplar Street, Suite 4
Casper, WY 82601
Phone: (307) 234-0294
Email: wypharmbd@wercs.com
Web: <http://pharmacyboard.state.wy.us>

Solution/Contact: One option would be to partner with an existing pharmacy in a nearby town. Perhaps through this pharmacy, prescriptions could be called in by the physician; then the prescriptions could be delivered by the pharmacy to Pine Bluffs on a designated day or days of the week to a central pickup location in Pine Bluffs. I spoke with the Medicine Shoppe Pharmacy in Cheyenne about this option, and they are interested in discussing the feasibility with the Town of Pine Bluffs.

The Medicine Shoppe
Contact: Kristen
223 E. 19th Street
Cheyenne, WY 82001
(307) 634-8162

Challenge: A need for drug and alcohol abuse education for adults and youth was expressed by various sectors of the community.

Solution/Contact: A contact group for ideas in forming a Pine Bluffs organization would be the Boys And Girls Club Of Central Wyoming, Inc. AmeriCorps*VISTA Members recruit and train volunteer mentors to provide program and guidance for youth and expand the targeted outreach program to recruit and serve additional low-income youth at-risk. The members also develop a drug, alcohol, and sexual involvement prevention program, which will involve at-risk youths.

Boys & Girls Club of Central Wyoming
SMART Moves/Child Safety and Protection Program
353 West 'A' St.
Casper, Wyoming 82601
Contact: Ashley Bright
Phone: (307) 235-5694
Fax: (307) 235-5697

Solution/Contact: Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities - Under the Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act, the Department of Education distributes federal funds to all school districts based on student enrollment. The purpose of the program is to support local prevention activities in the area of tobacco, alcohol, and other drugs (TAOD), and violence. Additional funds are distributed to five districts through a competitive grant process, to be used for staff development and violence prevention.

Wyoming Department of Education
Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities
Hathaway Building
Cheyenne, WY 82002
Paul Soumokil, Consultant (307) 777-7168
Email: PSOUMO@educ.state.wy.us
Wendy Parsons, Secretary (307) 777-6391
Email: WPARSO@educ.state.wy.us

Solution/Contact: The Drug-Free Communities Support Program is a federal program, which awards community grants. The grants are awarded on an annual basis, and grant applications are due in March. For more information, go to:
<http://ojjdp.ncjrs.org/dfcs/index.html>

In 2000, a Drug-Free Communities Support Program grant in the amount of \$100,000 was awarded to the Abate Substance Abuse Project (ASAP). ASAP is a 3-year-old community-based coalition devoted to reducing substance abuse among all populations in Fremont County, home of the Wind River Indian Reservation. The coalition goals are to 1) build the capacity of the coalition effort in Fremont County and on the Wind River Indian Reservation; 2) expand the adolescent response to substance abuse through primary prevention education, early intervention, and intensive treatment programs for adolescents that are in schools or detention; 3) expand the adult response to substance abuse through primary prevention education, early intervention, and intensive treatment programs; 4) pursue environment policy that assists in the prohibition of underage drinking; and 5) pursue policies that create unfavorable community norms toward alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use and abuse. Projects to support this effort include Kick It, an intensive adolescent outpatient program; alcohol server training; public education campaigns; resource enhancement; and substance abuse prevention fairs.

Abate Substance Abuse Project
Bill Runner
307-856-9596
Riverton, WY

Challenge: A lack of volunteerism on the part of residents with regards to certification classes for emergency services workers.

Solution/Contact: For help with certification programs and volunteer resources, contact the Wyoming Office of Emergency Medical Services.

Wyoming Office of Emergency Medical Services
Hathaway Building 4th Floor
Cheyenne, WY 82002
Phone: (307) 777-7955
Fax: (307) 777-5639
Web: <http://wdhfs.state.wy.us/ems/training.htm>

YOUTH

Challenge: Lack of recreational facilities for the youth. The teens we met with expressed very strongly their frustration with not having a local facility in which to meet, whether this would be to play sports or have a community dance. This results in the teens driving to other communities to find activities, and taking with them revenue that should be spent in Pine Bluffs, as well as the undesirable situation of teenaged drivers on the busy interstate.

Solution/Contact: Pine Bluffs has a great Community Center, as well as the gym in the historic high school, and the facilities at the schools themselves. Parent chaperones would be a good means of supervising the kids, and if a select few teens have behavior problems while using the facilities, suspending individuals from use of the facilities for a period of time would be a much better option than shutting out all kids from the community buildings.

Challenge: Lack of job opportunities for youth experience. The teens expressed a need for after school and evening employment experience in Pine Bluffs.

Solution/Contact: A good option would be creating jobs related to youth facilities and youth-oriented businesses, such as a movie theater, the natural golf course, a paint ball business, an arcade, etc. This option also helps support the businesses providing activities for youth.

Challenge: The youth are very interested in volunteering to accomplish projects for Pine Bluffs. These students seem very supportive of each other and their town, and very goal-oriented. The question is which projects would best be suited to their interests and abilities.

Solution/Contact: The youth would be a good resource for distributing flyers among businesses and residents, for painting projects, fundraising events such as car washes, lawn care and other yard work, particularly if these projects benefit a cause or plan they have great interest in. The youth expressed interest in helping to clean up their town's appearance. Also, working with the Head Start children, or mentoring the younger children and offering tutoring assistance, especially for those children who are having

trouble in school, is interesting volunteer work and very beneficial to their college applications and employment applications, as well as student morale.

Challenge: The need for a Beginning Farmers Program was expressed. As expressed in the listening sessions, it is difficult for younger residents to get started in their own farming/ranching operation.

Solution/Contact: The Center for Rural Affairs provides information for valuable programs to beginning ranchers and farmers, including Land Link, which matches retiring farmers with beginning farmers, and successful strategies for beginning farmers.

Center for Rural Affairs
101 S Tallman St - PO Box 406
Walthill, NE 68067
voice: (402) 846-5428 FAX (402) 846-5420
Email: info@cfra.org
Web: <http://www.cfra.org/issues/beginning.htm>

WHAT WAS SAID IN THE INTERVIEWS

The Resource Team spent 2 days interviewing local residents to hear what they had to say. Those being interviewed were directed to answer three questions:

What are the major problems and challenges in your community?

What are the major strengths and assets of your community?

What projects would you like to see implemented in your community in the next two, five, ten or twenty years?

We have listed below, without comment, what we heard from those who volunteered to be interviewed.

1. What are the major problems and challenges in your community?

- Lack of support, narrow-minded in terms of supporting local industry, lack of community involvement
- The Interstate allows people to go to Cheyenne for shopping instead of staying in Pine Bluffs, easier transportation to get to larger areas, losing retail sales
- The town has boundaries from the railroad and the interstate, limits growth
- Lower income families/welfare families are replacing retired ranchers
- Depleted the aquifer with irrigation and housing
- The mindset that the citizens accept that Pine Bluffs is drying up
- Lost two teachers last year, and two more this year due to small student to teacher ratio
- Broken home families, lack of education in adults
- Drug use element
- Increase in crime
- Lack of community pride
- The farmers will eventually all sell out as USDA policy changes, land and water sources are nearly used up
- Tunnel-vision, not looking towards the future
- Business situation, lack of retail business in the downtown area, decline of business
- Stagnant, in a vicious circle, less people coming in, less businesses, less kids
- Rental unit shortage
- High housing costs, no middle income area
- Pass
- Pass
- Pass

- Loss of jobs with the decline of businesses, citizens commute to Cheyenne
- Pass
- Pass
- Educate the youth to retain them in town, offer better goods to the kids, keep shopping local
- Close to a bigger city, citizens go to bigger community to shop
- An older community, the younger people tend to leave
- Crisis in the school system
- Community stuck in their thinking, to elsewhere to shop, need to revise their thinking to staying in the community
- Pass
- Pass
- Still a farm community
- Pass
- Growth is set, not providing for our youth, not picking up the gap in agriculture, population decline
- Two trade areas, two downtowns split the retailers, empty buildings in one area, not enough space in other area
- Pass
- Keeping retail businesses in town
- Ditto on youth leaving, no opportunities
- Closing of retail businesses
- Shopping out of town, working in Cheyenne or Kim ball before coming home, create more job opportunities
- Pass
- Newer business are all service business, very few retail businesses near the interstate
- Location, location, location
- Lack of pride, lack of community, need to jumpstart pride
- Pass
- Split businesses area, need creative areas, make them merge somehow, perhaps tear out existing buildings in between and put new businesses in their place
- Pride – view from the interstate/town entrances, need to improve the scenery, particularly Hwy 30.
- Not enough water
- Ditto
- Need a leash law and enforcement of it (animal defecation)
- Ditto

- Lack of downtown businesses
- Lack of pharmacy
- Water is needed to promote any further growth
- Illegal drug use/ drug abuse
- Shoppers drive to Cheyenne rather than staying in Pine Bluffs to spend local dollars
- Short on water
- No pharmacy
- No hospital
- Lack of transportation
- Businesses closing
- Cheyenne Housing Authority is nonresponsive, don't treat the people very well.
- Coverage of law enforcement, not a lot of officers available, 2 officers, often just one. There are three total LCSD deputies on rotated shifts
- Officers are on call 24 hours a day, 1000 hours a year of overtime, it is hard to get replacements or an extra officer to prevent officer burnout.
- Pine Bluffs is on the far east end, there are problems with coverage, getting backup is a problem, takes time to get assistance
- Water shortage, ran out of water last summer
- Burnout with not enough officers, but officers are very professional. Teenagers using alcohol and drugs, law enforcement, education and prevention of this problem, start with younger kids. Lacking drug education.
- Visibility of law enforcement, make youth more familiar with the kids, need to be seen as part of the community.
- Kind of boring on the weekends, have to go to Cheyenne or elsewhere
- Ditto
- Ditto, no place to go, get in a lot of trouble, particularly younger
- Ditto
- Lack of exposure to bigger environments, no prepared for larger cities, lack of reality
- No place to gather, no social gatherings, and you get in trouble with the police
- Ditto no where to go
- Police break up loitering, no place to go, police kicked out kids for playing basketball
- Police chase kids out of Conoco, basketball courts
- Ditto
- No sports except school, only sports are after school activities
- Ditto
- Nothing to do, everyone gets in trouble because there is nothing else to do
- Ditto
- Cannot get into the gym or community center for sports, gatherings

- Ditto, nothing to do so you get in trouble
- Nothing to do, drive around on weekends getting trouble
- Ditto
- Not enough job opportunities, age requirements on the jobs that are in town, no preparation for college or after high school
- Albin officer comes over to bother Pine Bluffs kids
- The kids just drive around the square for hours, nothing to do
- We don't have the ability to draw businesses. Metropolitan area to draw on, incentives needed to draw businesses.
- Lack of attractive housing, being a rural community it is harder to attract "yuppie professionals" without the attractions
- Housing, nothing available with existing utilities for further development of housing
- Problems finding suitable housing
- Ditto – lots with utilities on them
- Farm repair business is in a decline
- Drought affects farmers which affects the businesses, trying to keep finding a new market
- Without agriculture connections, you cannot find a job
- Limited activities for younger people
- Lack of jobs for young professionals, cannot utilize your college education
- Difficult to get employees, labor pool is not good because wages are low, small labor pool
- Poverty level in Pine Bluffs, low wages \$17,000-18,000 annual income average
- Where are the programs for helping first time farmer assistance? The paperwork is filled out and send in, however there is never a response from the organizations
- Ditto, even on a Laramie County Level Small Business Council don't recognize Pine Bluffs as part of the area, won't help
- Last year, new business tried to get help from the Wyoming Business Council, the business only got \$250.00 in assistance. This was a major business organization, fit the criteria, but got no real assistance from the WBC. Wyoming Business Council ignores Pine Bluffs and its industry!
- Communication throughout the community, the school district, being correct and effective information
- Advancements in technology are needed in the community as a whole
- Lack of funding for schools in the county by the legislature
- Need more people, more students
- Need growth, more available jobs
- Activities and places for the kids
- Need the type of things to grow with that attract quality citizens
- Ditto
- Ditto, more economic development, most jobs are agriculture based
- Ditto, more economic diversity, infrastructure, highway helps and hurts

- Need a better police force, fair and consistent enforcement of laws to make people come here feeling safe
- Need better water
- Water concerns, climate conditions, need water use restrictions
- Families are moving in whose families have many problems, kids have problems in school, not successful and that falls back on the families
- Finances, revenue and services, rec program and day care
- Need skilled job openings
- Revenue for infrastructure development
- Water concerns for the entire county, also water quality
- Ditto
- Pass
- Give the kids a chance to tell us what they want to do in this community, what kinds of jobs would they like to have. The kids need to develop ideas of what they want to do. There is a lack of opportunity. Change their way of thinking to keeping our youth in Pine Bluffs, as those kids are our future.
- Ditto, bringing in higher end paying jobs, more economic development which in turn helps the kids, brings in nicer families
- Pass
- Pass
- Pass
- The community is more fragmented in its population now, the citizens don't seem as close knit as they used to be, lost the unified sense of purpose
- Need to improve appearance of the community. Tax credits to people who improved and maintained their property. Need better housing availability, rental unit upkeep.
- Tough for people who cannot make ends meet to make those improvements, economically people are hurting
- Need to maintain the mechanics structure to the 6th penny tax, maintain the diplomatic ties to those in charge
- So close to Cheyenne, Denver, it is easy to go shopping in Pine Bluffs
- Bringing in services to get work done in Pine Bluffs is much more expensive, delivery problems from express delivery of packages
- Services, need larger businesses, manufacturing, retail
- Job market in this town is low wage
- Housing problems, existing housing is not affordable
- Not enough water to allow expansion
- People have to commute to better paying jobs
- Language disability within the minorities, they cannot get the services they need due to the language barrier
- Jobs and housing, encourage lower income people here to start businesses, ownership mans pride, and pride is lacking here, need low income homes,

state and federal assistance might encourage minorities to purchase a home here

- We are losing our young people after graduation, find better paying jobs after graduation
- Town doesn't have enough to offer families to stay here
- Housing situation – renting is almost impossible as the expense is extremely high, about \$500 a month for a one bedroom house
- With the opening of I-80, we have lost a lot of our businesses
- Head Start – Family services always have to go to Cheyenne, lack of general services
- Health, we are fortunate to have the clinic here
- The lack of direction for the youth and young adults, getting into bad situations
- Lack of services, the need for a little more availability of local counseling, there is a counselor one day a week at the school but we need more counseling for our kids
- Ditto, more activities
- Small town, took out Safe House office because no one wants to be seen going to the office
- Is Head Start meeting the needs of the community? Home based versus in-school.
- No DFS representation here, people needing FS cannot get to town to apply. Foster kids with daycare, it is hard to get to the office to get reapply for daycare. DFS is slow at sending out a caseworker to investigate, they need to come to Pine Bluffs.
- Scale of the economy here, Pine Bluffs is fairly stagnant and doesn't have as much to offer
- Ditto, because we are so ag-oriented and it is so depressed. Transportation makes it so easy for people to shop in larger communities, there is no retail. Grouping together the quality services in one area rather than having two separate business districts would be an improvement.
- The labor market is a little tight in certain areas, particularly in the banking sector, there is a very limited professional market. Skilled positions are harder to fill.
- Mindset of educating our kids and telling them to leave Pine Bluffs, we need to change that and provide the types of jobs they need after education.
- We have adequate funding with the banks that are here. Most loans are in agriculture. Banks here cannot compete against Farm Credit. They undercut our interest rates by 3%, we cannot compete against the government. There is not a level playing field. Most farmers have used up most of their equity, and the farms are now going under. We need a different kind of support from the government.
- Isolation of the rural area, the communication factor
- Lack of equipment

- Lack of volunteers
- Isolation and size of the area, we are not able to provide as much cutting edge technology due to expenses
- Lack funding to help the medical community
- Need more volunteers
- Lack of resources in health care
- Need a pharmacy
- Lack of volunteers, need for trained personnel on EMT crews, need larger numbers to put on training classes
- Ditto
- Older population, larger number relying on Medicare, the reimbursement rate has gone down again this year
- The population is so spread out, it can be difficult to supply services
- Distance to Cheyenne, in relation to specialists and emergencies
- Update electrical system, \$800,000-1 million to do this, our system is worn out and not adequate for Pine Bluffs
- Upgrade electrical
- Lack of water
- Need businesses to support jobs, but do we have adequate water?
- Need to keep existing businesses, get a drug store
- Ditto, not enough loyalty to local businesses
- There is a segregation between all of the small area communities
- Main Street looks terrible, nothing that would attract someone to come shop there.
- There is no draw for bringing in business, no skilled workforce
- Water problems
- Retail weaknesses is a nationwide problem, cannot compete with the Internet and WalMart.
- Local shops may be more expensive than larger area stores, what reason would people look for their products here? Only gas and food are purchased here in Pine Bluffs
- We live too close to major cities to be competitive with major businesses. We are relegated to service-oriented or manufacturing businesses that are shipped out of the area. A lot of local shoppers are educated that they must continue to support the town to keep it from becoming a ghost town and lose all positive aspects of the town
- Ditto, electrical update, businesses are struggling as “the little man”, Main Street needs businesses but would could you bring in to support Main Street? We need more population and people to invest in Pine Bluffs, a way to attract people.
- You must have a specialized business, manufacturing. We cannot keep up with major businesses
- Water problems
- Need to update the electrical meters to be read on a laptop computer
- Limited housing due to the bluffs

- Water problem
- Ditto
- Some of the kids have more problems in the high school

2. What are the major strengths and assets in your community?

- The schools
- Former community pride and wealth
- A few citizens who are looking towards the future of the community
- Recreation
- Volunteer fire and rescue
- Banking
- Schools
- Scenery/location, proximity to I-80, attractive area
- Twice yearly all trash pickup to keep the town clean
- Small town living, safety, neighborhood feeling
- Proximity to interstate
- Recreation available, keep the youth busy with activities
- Volunteer fire and rescue
- Beautiful scenery
- City park
- Golf course
- Walking and biking tours
- Shooting range
- Archery range
- Nature area, walk-in area
- Parks
- Swimming pool
- WAMPA electrical system
- The good turnout of concerned citizens at this listening session
- Major highway and railroad location, small airport
- Town water system improvements, quality improved though amount is still a concern
- Pass
- Pass
- Pass
- School staff, brings income
- Rural Electric is a good employer
- Doctor
- Dentist

- Local grocery store
- Small community works together
- Pass
- Pass
- Everyone knows each other in the small community
- History in the main street, businesses can succeed with the right businesses
- Pass
- Strong families, tight knit
- Room to grow within the city, welcome new residents
- Schools
- Long-standing businesses
- Wide streets, good appearances, good property care and pride
- Pass
- Lifelong residents, really like Pine Bluffs community
- Good community spirit
- Community participation
- Clean, nice looking town
- Friendly and cooperative sports teams
- Residents think about their neighbors
- Pine Bluffs is away from crime, a safe place to live
- Great Senior Center
- People do all they can to keep the town and the retail businesses alive
- The town is doing a good job
- Small size
- The Senior Center and good services, food
- Farming and ranching
- A lot of co-ops that employed a lot of people
- Senior Citizens Center
- Cleanliness and town pride
- Our young people and system of living
- Type of officers in our community, they have been accepted by Pine Bluffs, the officers seem to be fair.
- Ditto on youth and system of living. Fun people to work with, they are fair people. Pine Bluffs is the biggest populated area in eastern Laramie County.
- Location with open spaces, usage of the land.

- Low turnover of officers, the same people stay in law enforcement.
- Responsiveness of law enforcement is an asset.
- Community pride in comparison to other area small towns, the annual celebration, the way people work together is outstanding, the community is responsive to one another.
- Tight community with rural feeling.
- Everyone knows everyone
- Ditto
- More opportunities for school activities
- Feeling of safety, less crime
- Everyone gets along well
- No gang problems, close knit community
- Small, not the problems of the big cities
- Better opportunities in school, neighbors are closer
- I really like the safety
- Not a whole lot of cops
- Everyone gets along
- Ditto
- Ditto
- The parents know all the other kids' parents
- Ditto
- Help and a listening ear are always available
- Ditto
- Everyone knows each other and want to hang out together, but they get in trouble for getting together
- Ditto
- A very good school with a good education
- The kids and the school motivate each other
- The businesses support the school and students very well
- Sometimes the closeness is the problem, everyone keeps an eye on everyone else, citizens call in to tattle on the kids
- Knowing everyone in the community. If you have a problem, lack of right equipment, someone else will help you out. Great community effort and support.
- A lot of people to turn to. Inexpensive to start business, the town is helpful with land, getting around red tape.
- The Interstate, easy access
- Pass
- Ditto on good access to Interstate, affordable business land, the town is helpful to set up businesses, community support is great for businesses including needed equipment. On a part time basis inexpensive help is available, but more skilled labor is needed
- Business Park. Infrastructure is still needed.

- Close enough to LCCC to get assistance from them, help train skilled labor.
- Schools
- Larger employers, dribble down effect
- Helping each other to get started in business
- Further development of the business park, roads and utilities, infrastructure
- More recreational opportunities, youth activities
- More commuting to work from Pine Bluffs, enjoy living in Pine Bluffs. Contingent on city perimeter, how much can city grows? More housing opportunities.
- Housing development not sandwiched between railroad tracks and interstate, as the noise is an issue for housing
- Enclose the swimming pool for year-round use? Cost-prohibitive?
- Growth, marketing the town based on location on the border
- Programs to help younger farmers started, promote a new generation, help make agriculture more profitable
- Well-paying jobs in Pine Bluffs
- Downtown disappear, all new houses being build, move downtown up near the interstate, assistance in relocating the businesses, retailers are interested
- Housing improvements
- Downtown areas are very decrepit, not worth renovating. Needs to grade down the old buildings.
- Community willing to try starting new projects and existing businesses
- Community is willing to make improvements
- Rodeo series
- Christmas at Home Celebration
- Parades
- Pride in town functions, tradition
- The people in town, a lot of human resources, life-long citizens solid base for growth
- The school system, technology capabilities, new schools, most advanced software and instruction
- Strong religious community, a variety of churches offering services to anyone who seeks them
- Friendships are easy to establish, there are places/opportunities to make friends
- Ties with surrounding areas and county commissioners
- Pool
- Rodeo grounds
- Daycare
- Support for schools, the staff does not commute, access to schools on weekends
- Recreation

- Generate revenue for town through WAMPA
- Pass
- Great school system, a nice town to live in
- Rec programs can improve, but great to have
- Technology in the schools
- Most kids are born and raised in Pine Bluffs attending our schools
- Adequate education given to succeed in college
- Pass
- Knowing your neighbors, friendly town
- Initiative to take on projects for the community and schools
- Communication among the townspeople, ability to commute and let the kids stay in a small school
- The people themselves are assets, town council looks for growth and appearance improvements, good city ordinances
- Good town appearance
- Schools are geared toward helping the student in school. They are trying to help the bilingual students as well
- The town is independent from other communities, we make our own decisions, determination of the town
- For a small town, we have great town services many other small communities don't have, good public services
- Everyone minds everyone else's business, neighbors watch out for each other
- If there is a tragedy, everyone in the community gives, or congratulates others on successes, support community
- The community Christmas Gifts Program for all the Head Star kids, volunteerism
- A lot of volunteers who are doing good things, people genuinely care about what is happening
- Lions Club and the Masonic Temple are great donors
- Recreation department and grocery store put on movie theater night and donated food and location
- Safehouse can rely on Pine Bluffs for assistance in getting bus tickets, etc.
- Care and Share program – donate car seats, food, furniture, help pay bills, rent, deposits
- Our children, we have really great kids in town, we need to encourage kids and give them reasons to come back to the community
- Quality of life
- School infrastructure
- Closer family units
- Ditto
- Quality of people, very neighborly community
- Pine Bluffs has more services than many other communities this size, better volunteer numbers than other towns, a good medical services supply

- Exceptionally good service since the early 1960's, a good system and relationship with the UW Family Practice from Cheyenne, an area hospital – we are in a target area for usage of the hospitals
- Inclusion from Cheyenne colleagues, don't feel isolated
- Pine Bluffs comes up with the money for things that need to be done
- Health care foundation and supporters
- Brining in doctors and ambulance
- We are a regional area, people from Colorado and Nebraska come over the border to use Pine Bluffs' services. Pine Bluffs seems to be a focal point for rural area residents. Patients get more personal care than they would from a larger clinic.
- Podiatrist comes in monthly from Kimball, even more doctors will come in the future
- Digital and fiber-optic equipment for telephone service, but are underutilized
- The great electrical crew, young, local, and capable with families raised here in Pine Bluffs
- We are on I-80, we need to build on this, need the cash flow to survive
- Great school system
- Good leadership, the mayor and council try to look forward and make good decisions, work with a small budget
- Town belongs to Wyoming Municipal Power Association, we sell our electricity to the Pine Bluffs residents
- Mayor and council appointed recreation director 9 years ago, and that recreation has really helped bring in money, helps restaurants and gas station
- Good school despite some problems, funding, but they provide a good education for successful kids
- Good place to raise children, nice family atmosphere, home town feeling, good place to retire because it is a quiet neighborhood, everyone cares about their neighbors
- Recreation is a plus, the joined efforts
- Quality of life
- We do need to protect that school system so it is stable
- Clean town, nice wide paved streets, the town has a lot going for it
- The golf course has great potential
- Close to Cheyenne, Denver, and the railways
- Ditto on quality of life, recreation
- Small town life, quality schools
- People, "Mayberry", if there is a problem they will help you, support
- Quiet, peaceful community
- Less crime, drugs and violence
- Ditto, recreation is a big asset, youth activities to keep them out of trouble
- Pride in community
- The town is clean, neat, everybody takes pride in the town

- The town pulls together in a crisis, gives of themselves, look out for each other.
- Benefits of small town school, room for all of the kids in sports
- The recreation program offered for kids
- Meetings involving Laramie County Commissioners and small towns in Eastern Laramie County and county employees have been very beneficial

3. What projects would you like to see implemented in your community in the next 2, 5, 10 or 20 years

- Growth of business district
- Regain pride, strength and backbone in the community and businesses
- Improvement of lands/prairie
- Industrial development
- Manufacturing
- Employment/new jobs
- Utilize the recreation a little better, expand on the golf course
- Develop a ball park, integrate ball field and golf course, draw on Cheyenne and other communities
- Rebuild Pine Bluffs
- State support of small communities, economic development, schools. Are we properly using the school funds? Get the opinions of the youth, incorporate the thoughts of the kids to help retain the kids. Do we educate the kids and send them away from Pine Bluffs?
- Downtown rejuvenation
- Pass
- Ditto rejuvenate
- Pass
- Pass
- Ditto rejuvenate
- Ditto
- Quality of life is what will draw citizens, the smell is bad, i.e, feedlot
- Redo electrical system, show industrial growth must have improvements for supply
- New home development
- Ditto on downtown rejuvenate
- Rejuvenate community as a whole, all areas
- Ditto on electrical system improvements
- Don't change Pine Bluffs
- Establish a bus schedule/route
- Bring in more businesses
- Bring in a dollar store

- Need a pharmacy
- “I like Pine Bluffs the way it is.”
- Keep the stores, don’t let them leave
- Increase the population, keep them here
- More local cultural support for arts, concerts, etc.
- Rekindle the Health Fair
- Hope to be alive in 5 years.
- Physicians
- New businesses
- Upgrade of equipment for communications, help make law enforcement’s jobs safer.
- Welcoming committee for the community.
- Town growth, fill main street with new businesses, bring business into community.
- Neighborhood Watch Program – start the program again
- Drug and alcohol prevention, undercover operations to detect offenders
- More businesses, a chiropractor and other services, small community providers give more personal attention.
- A Pine Bluffs deputy, would be four total deputies, but have one living in Pine Bluffs.
- Drug education for the adults. Drugs are extremely hard to detect with the kids. Alcohol is socially accepted. Adults are not very interested in prevention education with their kids.
- TIPS Hotline.
- A movie theater very soon!
- More places to go and things to do, job opportunities
- Movie theater
- Ditto
- Ditto, some gathering place
- A place to go
- Ditto
- Ditto, like Nebraska you can go into the bar and play pool, just not drink
- Dance club
- Ditto
- Ditto
- Open dance every couple of weeks
- Ditto
- Theater, dance club, recreation center
- Indoor pool, basketball court
- Ditto
- Arcade, pool tables
- Ditto, a rec area for exercise, bigger facilities
- Ditto, movie theater, job opportunities, arcade
- Ditto

- The kids should come together to work for the community, be more involved, do their own projects
- Town cleanup, old buildings are not being used, revitalize the area
- Paintball area
- A motorcycle course/racetrack
- A sprinkler system on the golf course
- A dollar store, Wal-Mart store
- On the follow-up, talk to some lower classman as they are graduating
- Projects for the youth, get programs the kids are interested in, will occupy time beyond what goes on in schools
- Need to get some water
- Community interaction beyond what we have, include the close Colorado neighbors
- The ability to educate the kids at the level that the educators would like, not at the funding level available
- Protect and maintain local control and infrastructure, keep services local
- Provide education at highest level possible, not level mandated by funding, keep up to date with equipment, athletic facilities
- Ditto, and more parental involvement, including those new to the communities, teachers go introduce themselves to new citizens in their homes
- A noise barrier on the north side of the interstate to improve property values
- Small developments of high tech industrial and services, farming will not support everyone, we need diversity of economy
- Maintain rural school structure, better jobs
- Keep the school local!
- Ditto- brining in businesses helps the schools prosper, funding for more gym facilities for the school sports
- More prosperous community, jobs for kids to come back home to, more community wealth
- A booming Main Street
- Town growth, more people move in, see Main Street grow back up, as we now have two business districts
- Creating of a Community Development Foundation, home ownership and businesses
- Regain businesses
- Ditto on Community Development Foundation, revitalize the downtown area, moving businesses to traffic areas is not necessarily the answer, why not work with what is already there?
- What are the avenues and programs for getting assistance?
- See growth, see the downtown become something we are proud of.
- We are fortunate to have the clinic, but they are not open every day. We need a pharmacy!
- Target the older kids for activities, recreation

- Ditto on activities
- DARE is great, but stops at 6th grade, we need continuing programs
- Economy diversify from ag more
- Support broader population base
- Support kids with jobs after college
- More prosperous community
- Replace old structures
- Develop something that makes Pine Bluffs more prosperous
- Exploit the railroad coming through, the off-loading site near Egbert
- Infrastructure projects for homes and businesses
- Consolidation into a better health facility, pharmacy and physicians and physical therapy and dentist, put everyone into a nice facility
- Ditto
- See Main Street flourish
- Consolidation would make things easier
- House ambulance in its own garage/shop
- Consolidation would be a great benefit in the future – draw new practitioners, more patients, good economically, increase population
- Pharmacy is an important issue, currently everyone goes to Cheyenne for prescriptions, so they see doctors there and do their shopping at the same time
- Transportation for the seniors and low income people, Head Start kids – to get to services like DFS, WIC. The Alpine bus does run to Cheyenne occasionally, but maybe a smaller van would be more cost effective
- Elder care for people who need a place to live – senior housing/care here in Pine Bluffs
- Ditto on health facility, attract visiting specialists
- Elder care assisted living settings to help them stay out of the nursing homes
- Optometrist would like office space – the old bank building is being renovated for office space, but may be used by attorneys from Nebraska, perhaps use office space from another medical provider
- Need more retired people, commuters, and telecommuters
- Provide more recreation areas to bring money into the area
- Expansion of business
- Expand recreation department, get some of the outside dollars in for recreation, stop tourists on their way through, lots of room for recreation
- Fill the empty buildings on Main Street
- More businesses on Main Street
- Use of the railroad areas, fill acreage past the railroad with businesses and housing
- Ditto
- Ditto, Main Street, break down the walls between the surrounding communities, public awareness to support each other and keep each other going

- Legislature support the small schools
- Generate more funds, housing areas
- See the town implement a full time position for someone to put these plans and projects into action, get grants, etc.
- Open attitude with the other communities
- More welcoming towards outsiders
- Town growth to the north
- Kids want a WalMart
- A new gym
- Cell phone towers (bad reception)
- Keep the businesses we have, and get a few more in addition, chain fast food restaurants on Parson Street

Written Comments Provided by Individuals

The Pine Bluffs Health Care Foundation is I think still in existence; however, who are the members, when do they meet, how much money do they still have, what are their plans? Can/do they seek grants? Could they operate a transportation service for medical needs? Assuming they're nonprofit and could get some grants as well as bequests, it looks like a lot more could be achieved through them in addition to acquiring doctors, dentists, etc.

The reasons I moved my family to Pine Bluffs area centered on the desire for rural living. Growing up Cheyenne and spending all of my childhood summers on the family farm near Chugwater gave me sense of both the urban and rural world. Rural lifestyle was something we pursued after our children were born. For us, it was about the ability to participate more deeply in a community and in our children's education and growth. We also found Pine Bluffs to be a good place to have a relationship with the Lord. We found an active, friendly, bible believing church to attend and become a part of.

Specifically, we chose Pine Bluffs over other communities more because of my job than anything else. When Leonard Thompson, a friend of mine, was considering retirement from the Pine Bluffs phone company, Colleen and I began to look for homes in the area. We were able to find one and transfer here with Mountain Bell in 1987. Since that time my observation would be that more of what initially drew us here are still the major strengths in the area. I consider those to be rural living, old fashioned community, faith, friendships and family.

The unique bluff formations and the beauty of the area are also a plus is the history of the region. I feel the close proximity to Cheyenne and Denver along with excellent roads and railway is a plus on balance. The availability of modern communications services in the area is a strength.

The one is tougher to put a finger on and feels more subjective as I think about it but I would have to say that I believe Pine Bluffs' greatest weakness may be the dependence on agricultural and outside support. It is difficult to see some changes as good or as possibly necessary. I think there may be a general lack in a desire for the region to work together on solutions. This comes at a time when limited resources may make the only long-term solutions to our larger problems, more regional than community types of concerns.

Specifically, I feel water resources will become the major issue over the new few years. A countywide solution may prove to be the only solution. Our school district may currently be in jeopardy as well due to limited resources and the lack of a more regional than local view for a long term solution to budget shortfalls.

Our area's weakness is retail is not just a local problem. The information age and large purchasers like WalMart have given us what we have asked for: lots of choice at a low price. Anyone in business knows that consumers are better educated on product costs that

makes them smarter shoppers. The increased competition has driven margins downward, easily demonstrated by the lack of inflation over the past several years. The only ways to survive lower margins are to lower expenses, generally fixed at higher rates for small businesses or to increase volume of sales, very difficult in a small market. We are then left with service-oriented business over time such as food and fuel that also compete for a limited dollar at a small margin.

My wish list:

That we would all seek His “Wish List”, not just ours

Promote the quality of life in the region. Develop a more upscale residential area on larger lots somewhere in the bluff and tree formations. This would attract commuters or retirees with more disposable income.

Turn our golf course into a top-notch course to attract day trip traffic from the region. If we spend our retail dollars there, lets get their recreation dollars here.

That we would reach a sustainable school situation to regain the reputation of excellence for the entire district, even if that looks like K-8 in each community and 9-12 centralized or whatever it takes within a real budget.

Encourage and support one another through the current drought.