

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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Wyoming Rural Development Council
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Cheyenne, WY 82002
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Any recommendations contained herein are not mandatory. The Wyoming Rural Development Council has not endorsed any recommendations and opinions contained herein. Neither the WRDC, nor any of its employees, contract labor, committee chairs, and/or members makes any warranty, express or implied, including warranties of merchantability and fitness for a particular purpose, or assumes any legal liability for the accuracy, completeness, or usefulness of this report or any information, recommendations, or opinions contained herein.

Process for the Development of this Report

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

The town of Wamsutter requested a community assessment from the Wyoming Rural Development Council. Susan Carnes of the town of Wamsutter served as the community contact and worked with Mayor William Hippe and Team Leader Mary Randolph in agenda development, logistics, and publicity in town for the assessment. Resource team members were selected to visit Wamsutter; interview citizens, business and community leaders; and, develop a plan of recommended actions for the town.

The Resource Team visited Wamsutter over a two-day period from July 26-27, 2005. Our visit began with a tour of the town and surrounding area. During 8 listening sessions, the resource team talked to approximately 60 people. In addition, several citizens submitted written comments that were added to the database. Participants were 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 Wamsutter?
- What do you think are the major strengths and assets in Wamsutter?
- What projects would you like to see completed in two, five, ten, and twenty years in Wamsutter?

Upon completion of the interviews, the team met to compare notes and share comments following the two days of study. The team made a preliminary determination of the major themes. 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 Wamsutter.

The preliminary findings were presented to the people of Wamsutter on July 27, 2005.

Following the preliminary findings meeting, this formal written report was prepared and presented to the town of Wamsutter.

Executive Summary

There are many strengths that Wamsutter has to build upon to have a successful future. To become and maintain a vibrant, sustainable 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. The work is not on just the big jobs; it is also on the small ones that can be achieved quickly.

There are a number of short term, accomplishable recommendations that the assessment 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, especially in a small community. Each small step, every accomplishment, no matter how limited, is movement in the right direction toward achieving Wamsutter's goals. It can be done! It is your choice, your decision; you can do it.

On behalf of the Wamsutter Resource Team, I want to thank the people and businesses of the community, and our sponsor and host, the town of Wamsutter. Thank you!

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

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

Sincerely,



Mary E. Randolph, Executive Director
Wyoming Rural Development Council

WAMSUTTER COMMUNITY PROFILE

The 840-acre town of Wamsutter (pronounced WOM-sutter) was settled in 1868 when Union Pacific built its track through the town. The railroad founded the settlement as a station to service its steam locomotives. Water tanks, coal chutes, and a depot were built along with houses for workers and their families. The settlers opened a post office in 1892, organized a school district in 1903, and incorporated in 1914.

Wamsutter has promoted itself mostly on the natural gas pools beneath the desert. Fields surrounding Wamsutter are sprinkled with thousands of natural gas wells. The oil and gas industry started up in the 1950s and boomed in the 1970s and early '80s. The current gas and coal-bed methane boom began in the mid-1990s. With additional pipelines, a new type of well technology, and soaring prices, Wamsutter is now a center for oil and gas development.

Wamsutter Statistics	
County	Sweetwater
Zip Code	82336
Elevation	6,740 feet above sea level
Latitude	41.40° north of the equator
Longitude	107.58° west of the prime meridian
Area	1.3 square miles
	Land Area: 1.3 square miles
City Distances:	
Rawlins, WY	40 miles
Rock Springs, WY	68 miles
Cheyenne, WY	189 miles

Population by Age (2004 Estimate)	
Population Estimate	258
Median Age	35.8
0 to 4 years	5.5%
5 to 14 years	16.6%
15 to 19 years	6.7%
20 to 24 years	7.1%
25 to 34 years	12.9%
35 to 44 years	14.0%
45 to 54 years	17.0%
55 to 64 years	16.6%
65 to 74 years	3.2%
75 to 84 years	0.2%

85+ years	0.2%
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Marital Status (2004 Estimate)	
Age 15+ Population	201
Married, Spouse Present	58.0%
Married, Spouse Absent	4.5%
Divorced	5.5%
Widowed	10.2%
Never Married	21.8%

Household Status (2004 Estimate)	
Total Households:	102
1 Person	23.3%
2 Person	34.7%
3 Person	14.6%
4 Person	14.2%
5 Person	11.4 %
6 Person	1.8%
7+ Person	0.0%

Housing Units (2004 Estimate)	
Total Housing Units:	157
Owner Occupied	40.8%
Renter Occupied	24.4%
Vacant	34.8%

Households by Income (2004 Estimate)	
\$0 - \$14,999	9.6%
\$15,000 - \$24,999	10.0%
\$25,000 - \$34,999	10.5%
\$35,000 - \$49,999	18.3%
\$50,000 - \$74,999	19.6%
\$75,000 - \$99,999	19.6%
\$100,000 - \$149,999	6.4%

\$150,000+	5.9%
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Income (2004 Estimate)	
Median Household Income	\$52,283
Per Capita Income	\$30,855

Vehicles Available (2004 Estimate)	
Average Vehicles Per Household:	2.1
0 Vehicles Available	2.3%
1 Vehicle Available	20.1%
2+ Vehicles Available	77.6 %

Educational Attainment (2004 Estimate)	
Age 25+ Population	165
Grade KG - 08	1.7%
Grade 09 - 12	13.5%
High School Graduate	47.5%
Some College, No Degree	13.5%
Associates Degree	5.8%
Bachelor's Degree	9.9%
Graduate Degree	8.0%

Employment and Business (2004 Estimate)	
Age 16+ Population	196
In Labor Force	83.9%
Employed	94.4%
Unemployed	5.6%
In Armed Forces	0.0%
Not in Labor Force	16.1%

Population

The estimated population for Wamsutter in 2004 was 258. The population in 1990 was 308 representing a -16.56% change. It is estimated that the population in Wamsutter will be 254 in 2009, representing a change of -1.55% from 2004. The 2004 population was 52.39% male and 47.61% female. The median age of the population was 35.8, compared to the U.S. median age which was 36.2. The population density was 196.2 people per square mile.

Households

In 2004, there were 102 households in Wamsutter. The Census revealed household counts of 104 in 1990, representing a decrease of 1.92%. It is estimated that the number of households in Wamsutter will be 105 in 2009, representing a change of 2.94% from 2004.

The median number of years in residence was 2.38. The average household size was 2.49 people and the average family size was 2.94 people. The average number of vehicles per household was 2.1.

Income

In 2004, the median household income for Wamsutter was \$52,283, compared to the U.S. median which was \$45,660. The Census revealed a median household income of \$33,148 in 1990 representing a change of 57.73%. It is estimated that the median household income will be \$56,256 in 2009, which would represent an increase of 7.60% from 2004.

The per capita income in 2004 was \$30,855, compared to the U.S. per capita, which was \$24,583. The 2004 average household income was \$79,603, compared to the U.S. average which was \$63,396.

Race & Ethnicity

The racial makeup of Wamsutter in 2004 was as follows: 92.74% White; 0.00% Black; 0.53% Native American; 0.89% Asian/Pacific Islander; and 1.95% Other. Compare these to the U.S. racial makeup which was: 75.05% White, 12.29% Black, 0.89% Native American, 3.66% Asian/Pacific Islander and 5.53% Other.

People of Hispanic ethnicity are counted independently of race. People of Hispanic origin made up 9.03% of the 2004 population, compared to the U.S. makeup of 14.27%.

Housing

The median housing value for Wamsutter was \$112,500 in 1990, compared to the U.S. median of \$78,382 for the same year. The 2000 Census median housing value was \$74,504, which is a -33.77% change from 1990. In 1990, there were 47 owner occupied housing units in Wamsutter versus 100 in 2000. Also in 1990, there were 57 renter occupied housing units versus 40 in 2000. The average rent in 1990 was \$92 versus \$307 in 2000.

Employment

In 2004, there were 196 people over the age of 16 in the labor force in Wamsutter. Of these 94.44% were employed, 5.56% were unemployed, 16.08% were not in the labor force and 0.00% were in the armed forces. In 1990, unemployment in this area was 2.55% and in 2000 it was 4.56%. There were 21 employees (daytime population) and there was 1 establishment.

In 1990, 37.38% of employees were employed in white-collar occupations and 62.62% were employed in blue-collar occupations. In 2000, white collar workers made up 39.76% of the population, and those employed in blue collar occupations made up 60.24%. In 1990, the average time traveled to work was 11 minutes and in 2000 it was 15 minutes.

Sweetwater County Profile

PERSONAL INCOME	2000	2001
Total Personal Income (000s \$)	\$1,117,420	\$1,135,666
Per Capita Income	\$29,811	\$30,880
Per Capita Transfer Payment	\$2,764	\$2,970
Per Capita Dividend, Interest, and Rent	\$6,363	\$6,587

RACE AND HISPANIC ORIGIN	2002 Estimate	% of Total
TOTAL	37,194	100.0%
White alone	35,738	96.1%
Black or African American alone	320	0.9%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	414	1.1%
Asian alone	275	0.7%
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander alone	12	0.0%
Two or More Races	435	1.2%
Race alone or in combination with one or more races:		
White	36,173	97.3%
Black or African American	386	1.0%
American Indian and Alaska Native	685	1.8%
Asian	368	1.0%
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	17	0.0%
Ethnic Origin:		
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	3,643	9.8%
Non-Hispanic or Latino	33,551	90.2%
White alone	32,271	86.8%

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census

LANDOWNERS	Acres	Square Miles
United States Government		
National Park Service	0	0.0
Forest Service	93,276	145.7
Fish and Wildlife	25,291	39.5
Bureau of Land Mgt.	4,304,983	6,726.5
Bureau of Reclamation	200,250	312.9
Wyoming		
State Lands Comm.	212,095	280.2
Recreation Comm.	25	0.0
Game and Fish	35,395	55.3
Local Govt.		
County	1,483	2.3
City	4,110	6.4
School Dist. & Colleges	910	1.4
Other Lands	7,782	12.2
Total Public	4,852,849	7,582.6
Total Private	1,860,085	2,906.4
Surface Water	43,546	68.0
TOTAL LAND	6,705,792	10,477.8

Source: University of Wyoming, Department of Geography & Recreation

SALES TAX COLLECTIONS	FISCAL 02	FISCAL 03
Agriculture Sector	\$44,140	\$200,157
Mining Sector	\$7,485,170	\$6,992,707
Construction Sector	\$994,680	\$1,077,937
Manufacturing Sector	\$2,843,594	\$2,721,500
Transportation (TCPU) Sector	\$3,781,735	\$4,034,353
Wholesale Trade Sector	\$7,337,188	\$7,102,863
Retail Trade Sector	\$16,373,747	\$17,543,954
Finance (FIRE) Sector	\$67,003	\$50,670
Service Sector	\$8,558,501	\$8,481,943
Government Sector	\$3,594,683	\$3,935,668
TOTAL	\$51,080,441	\$52,141,752

Source: State of Wyoming, Department of Revenue

POPULATION BY AGE: 2002	
Population under 5 years	2,538
Population 5 to 17 years	7,429
Population 18 to 24 years	4,202
Population 25 to 34 years	4,143
Population 35 to 44 years	5,718
Population 45 to 64 years	10,041
Population 65 years and over	3,123
TOTAL	37,194

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census

COUNTY EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS	
Labor Force (Feb 2005)p	22,056
Employed (Feb 2005)p	21,344
Unemployed (Feb 2005)p	712
Unemployment Rate (Feb 2005)p	3.2%
Ave Weekly Wage - Covered Emp (Q4_03)	\$762

Source: State of Wyoming, Department of Employment

p = preliminary

CRIME INDEX OFFENSES BY CONTRIBUTOR: 2003	
Murder	2
Rape	10
Robbery	13
Assault	155
Burglary	235
Larceny	1,024
Motor Vehicle Theft	67
Personal Crime	180
Property Crime	1,326
Crime Index Total	1,506

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

SELECTED STATISTICS SCHOOL YEAR 2001 - 2002	
Number of School Districts	2
Number of Schools	31
Fall Enrollment, 2001	7,175
High School Graduates, 2002	482
Average Daily Membership (ADM)	7,098
Average Daily Attendance (ADA)	6,627
Certified Teachers	531
Certified Staff	113
Classified Staff	454
Administration	41
Students Transported Daily	2,494
Bonded Indebtedness, 6/30/2002	\$24,015,000
Total General Fund Revenues	\$61,040,992
Total General Fund Expenditures	\$61,087,077
Operating Cost Per ADM	\$9,917

Source: State of Wyoming, Department of Education

COUNTY FINANCE	
Assessed Valuation (FY2002)	\$1,404,271,421
Total Taxes Levied (FY2002)	\$93,192,391
Sales and Use Tax Distribution (FY2002)	\$26,021,006
Bank Deposits (12/31/2002)	\$343,012,000
FY2002 Ave. County Levy (mills)	66.364

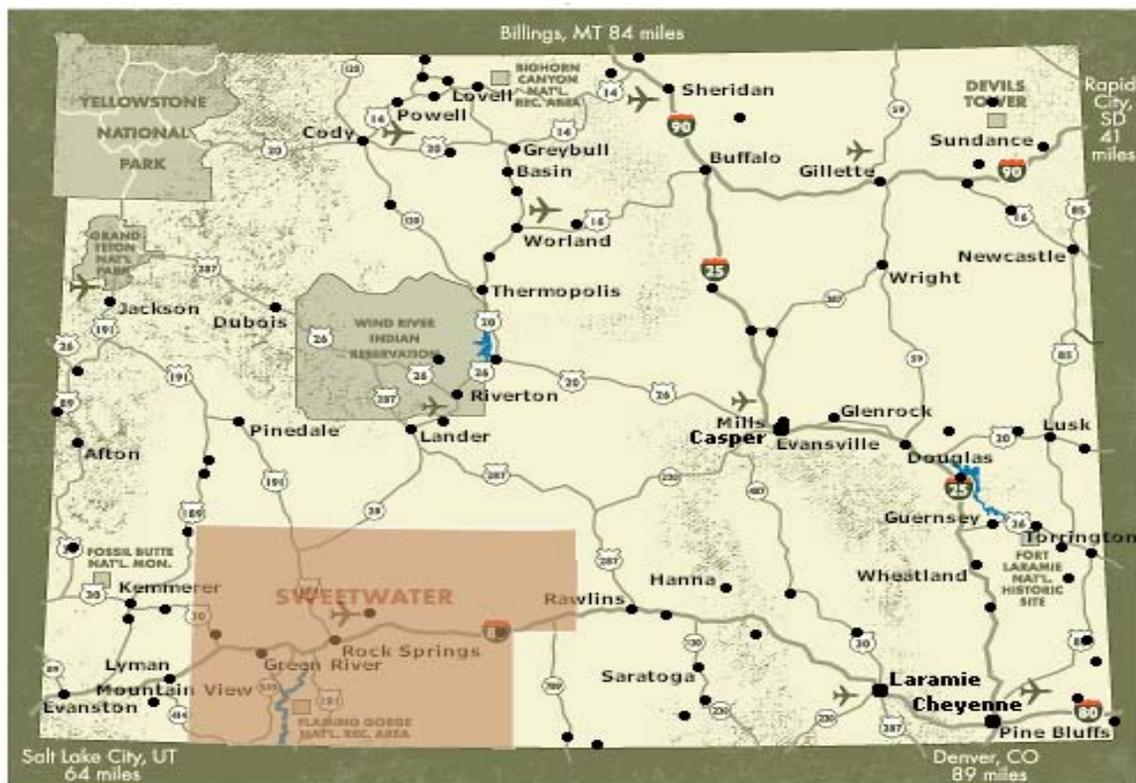
Source: State of Wyoming, Department of Revenue, Audit Department/Banking Division

FULL AND PART TIME EMPLOYMENT	2001
Wage and Salary	21,065
Proprietors	3,739
Farm	202
Forestry, fishing, related activities	(D)
Mining	(D)
Utilities	(D)
Construction	1,831
Manufacturing	1,394
Wholesale trade	(D)
Retail Trade	3,032
Transportation and warehousing	1,070
Information	263
Finance and insurance	603
Real estate and rental and leasing	729
Professional and technical services	665
Management of companies and enterprises	83
Administrative and waste services	811
Educational services	87
Health care and social assistance	1,143
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	309
Accommodation and food services	2,169
Other services, except public administration	1,050
Government and government enterprises	4,268
TOTAL	24,804

EARNINGS (000s of \$):	2001
Wage and salary	\$750,902
Proprietors	\$68,715
Other Labor Income	\$82,037
Farm	\$837
Forestry, fishing, related activities	(D)
Mining	(D)
Utilities	(D)
Construction	\$73,664
Manufacturing	\$102,106
Wholesale trade	(D)
Retail Trade	\$50,587
Transportation and warehousing	\$49,070
Information	\$6,628
Finance and insurance	\$14,215
Real estate and rental and leasing	\$11,383
Professional and technical services	\$18,633
Management of companies and enterprises	\$4,410
Administrative and waste services	\$18,318
Educational services	\$573
Health care and social assistance	\$27,738
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	\$3,026
Accommodation and food services	\$30,337
Other services, except public administration	\$19,169
Government and government enterprises	\$137,549
TOTAL	\$901,654

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

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



Workforce Training

1. Wyoming Department of Workforce Services offers employers up to \$2,000 per employee for training. (<http://www.wyomingworkforce.org/programs/wdts/index.asp>).
2. Quick Start

Wyoming is the first state approved to license the State of Georgia's Quick Start program. The Wyoming Business Council and the Wyoming Community Colleges are partnering to provide training in:

- Customer Service
 - Manufacturing
 - Warehousing and Distribution
- (http://www.wyomingbusiness.org/workforce/Quick_Start_Programs/index.cfm).

State incentives

1. No corporate state income tax.
2. No personal state income tax.
3. Community Development Block Grants administered by Wyoming Business Council. (<http://www.wyomingbusiness.org/communities/programs/cdbg.cfm>).
 - Provides grants to local governments for community and economic development projects.
 - Provides convertible loans to grants based on job creation.
4. Partnership Challenge Loan Program administered by Wyoming Business Council.
 - Provides low interest loans to community development organizations.
 - Provides gap financing for projects with the Wyoming Business Council participating with a commercial lender.
5. Industrial Development Revenue Bonds. Cities and counties may issue tax-exempt bonds to provide financing for manufacturing.

Taxes

1. No corporate state income tax.
2. No personal state income tax.
3. No inventory tax.
4. Sweetwater County has a 5% sales and use tax (statewide base of 4% plus 1% optional county tax). *Source: Wyoming Department of Revenue, Excise division (January 2005)*
5. Unemployment Insurance - taxable base rate of \$16,400. Tax rates by industry grouping - WY Dept. of Employment. (<http://wydoe.state.wy.us/doe.asp?ID=617>).
6. Workers' Compensation - rates vary by occupation and can be found at: (<http://wydoe.state.wy.us/doe.asp?ID=480>).

7. Property taxes. Average tax rate in Sweetwater County is 7.0765%.

Source: Wyoming Department of Revenue, Ad Valorem Division (September 2004)

Tax computation:

Fair Market Value of Property * Level of Assessment (9.5% for Residential and Commercial Property) * Tax Rate

Example: Tax on a commercial facility valued at \$1,000,000 is as follows:

$$\$1,000,000 \times 0.095 = \$95,000 \times 0.070765 = \$6,723.$$

State assesses agricultural lands at 9.5% of agricultural value, residential and commercial at 9.5% and Industrial at 11.5% of fair market value.

Telecommunications

Available Services:

All West Communications

P.O. Box 588
Kamas, UT 84036

Phone: (435) 783-4361
Fax: (435) 783-4928
Website: www.allwest.net

Services offered (Bairoil, Granger, Green River, Rock Springs, Superior, Wamsutter): Web Hosting

Contact Communications

937 West Main Street
Riverton, WY 82501

Phone: (307) 856-0980
Fax: (307) 856-1499
Website: www.contactcom.net

Services offered (Bairoil, Eden, Farson, Granger, Green River, Little America, Point of Rocks, Reliance, Rock Springs, Superior, Wamsutter): Frame Relay, ISP, 56 & 64 Data Connections, Network Security, PBX, T-1, Web Hosting, Wireless Data, DSL

Net Wright LLC

P.O. Box 1747
Riverton, WY 82501

Phone: (307) 857-5800
Fax: (307) 857-1053
Website: www.netwright.net

Services offered (Bairoil, Granger, Green River, Superior, Wamsutter): 56 & 64 Data Connections, Frame Relay, T-1, Web Hosting

Qwest Communications

103 North Durbin, Room #1
Casper, WY 82601

Phone: (307) 234-1107
Fax: (307) 235-2618
Website: www.qwest.com

Services offered (Bairoil, Granger, Green River, Rock Springs, Superior, Wamsutter): 56 & 64 Data Connections, ATM, Centrex, Frame Relay, Digital Switched Services, ISDN-BRI, PBX, T-1, Private Line, Web Hosting

Sweetwater Cable TV

602 Broadway
Rock Springs, WY 82901

Phone: (307) 362-3773
Fax: (307) 382-2781
Website: www.sweetwaterhsa.com

Services offered (Green River, Rock Springs): Cable TV, Coaxial Broadband

Visionary

P.O. Box 2799
Gillette, WY 82717

Phone: (888) 682-1884
Fax: (307) 682-2519
Website: www.vcn.com

Services offered (Green River & Rock Springs only): Dial Up, T-1 & Frame, Web Design, Web Hosting.
 (All other incorporated communities): Web Hosting
 Source: Wyoming Interactive Business Center, Wyoming Business Council

Power Cost

Weighted Average Cost per kWh of Power	2001		
	Industrial	Commercial	Residential
Cents per kWh of industrial power	3.24		
Cents per kWh of commercial power		5.14	
Cents per kWh of residential power			6.44
Bridger Valley Electric Association, Inc. (2000)			
40014 Business Loop 80 Lyman, WY 82937 (307) 786-2800	4.80	7.34	7.92

	Industrial	Commercial	Residential
PacifiCorp (2001) 825 NE Multnomah Portland, OR 97232 (888) 221-7070	3.24	5.14	6.44

Source: ACN (U.S. Department of Energy, Energy Information Administration)

Cost of Living Index (Prices as of July 7, 8, and 9, 2004, Statewide Average = 100)

Food	Housing	Apparel	Transportation	Medical	Recreation & Personal Care
96	98	92	100	105	96

Source: State of Wyoming, Economic Analysis Division (<http://eadiv.state.wy.us/wcli/NewsRelease-2004.pdf>).

Average Price of Single-Family Home (2003)
\$121,652

Source: A Profile of Wyoming (http://www.wyomingcda.com/PDFfiles/Profile04a_Vol_1_Fnl.pdf).

Higher Education

Western Wyoming Community College: Campuses in Rock Springs and Green River
 University of Wyoming Outreach Program

Transportation

1. Airports:

Rock Springs-Sweetwater County (RKS)
 7 miles east of Rock Springs
 Commercial Service: Great Lakes (United Express)
 Daily flights to: Denver
 Fixed Base Operators: Franklin Aviation
 Runways: 10,000 x 150 ft., asphalt
 5,223 x 75 ft., asphalt

2. Highways:

Interstate 80
 U.S. 30
 U.S. 191

3. Railroad:

Union Pacific

Sweetwater County Business Report (Estimate)

Daytime Population: Total Employees 17,862
 Business Counts: Total Establishments 1,926

Employees By Occupation	2004 Estimate	% of Total
<i>"White Collar" Employees</i>	10,083	56.45%
Administrative Support Workers	2,895	16.21%
Executive Managers & Administrators	1,908	10.68%
Professional Specialty Occupations	2,795	15.65%
Sales Professionals	346	1.94%
Sales Workers & Clerks	1,567	8.77%
Technical Sales & Administrative	50	0.28%
Technologies & Technicians	522	2.92%
<i>"Blue Collar" Employees</i>	7,747	43.37%

Construction, Repair & Mining	852	4.77%
Farming, Forestry & Fishing	480	2.69%
Handlers, Helpers & Laborers	508	2.84%
Machine Operators, Assemblers & Inspectors	343	1.92%
Other Services Field Based	134	0.75%
Other Services Site Based	2,726	15.26%
Precision Craft & Repair	1,827	10.23%
Private Household Service	1	0.01%
Protective Services	261	1.46%
Transportation & Materials Moving Workers	615	3.44%

Establishments: Size	2004 Estimate	% of Total
1 - 4 Employees	1,190	61.79%
5 - 9 Employees	372	19.31%
10 - 19 Employees	178	9.24%
20 - 49 Employees	122	6.33%
50 - 99 Employees	39	2.02%
100 - 249 Employees	18	0.93%
250 - 499 Employees	7	0.36%
500 - 999 Employees	0	0.00%
1,000+ Employees	0	0.00%

Major Industry: Employees	2004 Estimate	% of Total
Agricultural, Forestry, Fishing	77	0.43%
Construction	986	5.52%
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	740	4.14%
Manufacturing	939	5.26%
Mining	1,369	7.66%
Public Administration	2,238	12.53%
Retail Trade	3,524	19.73%
Services	6,429	35.99%
Transportation & Communications	925	5.18%
Unclassified	32	0.18%
Wholesale Trade	603	3.38%

Major Industry: Establishments	2004 Estimate	% of Total
Agricultural, Forestry, Fishing	21	1.09%
Construction	128	6.65%
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	172	8.93%
Manufacturing	37	1.92%
Mining	68	3.53%
Public Administration	164	8.52%
Retail Trade	373	19.37%
Services	722	37.49%
Transportation & Communications	99	5.14%
Unclassified	30	1.56%

Wholesale Trade 111 5.76%

Retail Trade: Employees	2004 Estimate	% of Total
Auto Dealers & Gas Stations	542	15.38%
Bars	151	4.28%
Building Materials Hardware & Garden	213	6.04%
Catalog and Direct Sales	56	1.59%
Clothing Stores	129	3.66%
Convenience Stores	126	3.58%
Drug Stores	172	4.88%
Electronics & Computer Stores	20	0.57%
Food Markets	284	8.06%
Furniture Stores	35	0.99%
General Merchandise Stores	211	5.99%
Home Furnishings	36	1.02%
Liquor Stores	33	0.94%
Music Stores	5	0.14%
Other Food Service	50	1.42%
Other Food Stores	56	1.59%
Restaurants	1,141	32.38%
Specialty Stores	264	7.49%
Total Retail Trade	3,524	100.00%

Retail Trade: Establishments	2004 Estimate	% of Total
Auto Dealers & Gas Stations	55	14.75%
Bars	25	6.70%
Building Materials Hardware & Garden	35	9.38%
Catalog & Direct Sales	3	0.80%
Clothing Stores	20	5.36%
Convenience Stores	18	4.83%
Drug Stores	7	1.88%
Electronics & Computer Stores	7	1.88%
Food Markets	4	1.07%
Furniture Stores	6	1.61%
General Merchandise Stores	9	2.41%
Home Furnishings	9	2.41%
Liquor Stores	7	1.88%
Music Stores	2	0.54%
Other Food Service	4	1.07%
Other Food Stores	16	4.29%
Restaurants	61	16.35%
Specialty Stores	85	22.79%
Total Retail Trade	373	100.00%

Service: Employees	2004 Estimate	% of Total
Advertising	27	0.42%
Auto Repair/Services	436	6.78%

Beauty and Barber Shops	124	1.93%
Child Care Services	86	1.34%
Colleges & Universities	7	0.11%
Computer Services	30	0.47%
Dry Cleaning & Laundry	43	0.67%
Entertainment & Recreation Services	334	5.20%
Health & Medical Services	596	9.27%
Hospitals	906	14.09%
Hotels & Lodging	493	7.67%
Legal Services	106	1.65%
Membership Organizations	201	3.13%
Miscellaneous Repair Services	184	2.86%
Motion Pictures	95	1.48%
Museums & Zoos	0	0.00%
Other Business Services	192	2.99%
Other Education & Library Services	56	0.87%
Other Personal Service	100	1.56%
Primary & Secondary Education	1,367	21.26%
Professional Services	242	3.76%
Social Services	804	12.51%
Total Services	6,429	100.00%

Service: Establishments	2004 Estimate	% of Total
Advertising	5	0.69%
Auto Repair/Services	71	9.83%
Beauty and Barber Shops	38	5.26%
Child Care Services	12	1.66%
Colleges & Universities	3	0.42%
Computer Services	6	0.83%
Dry Cleaning & Laundry	12	1.66%
Entertainment & Recreation Services	33	4.57%
Health & Medical Services	126	17.45%
Hospitals	12	1.66%
Hotels & Lodging	33	4.57%
Legal Services	38	5.26%
Membership Organizations	77	10.66%
Miscellaneous Repair Services	38	5.26%
Motion Pictures	14	1.94%
Museums & Zoos	0	0.00%
Other Business Services	48	6.65%
Other Education & Library Services	4	0.55%
Other Personal Service	24	3.32%
Primary & Secondary Education	30	4.16%
Professional Services	42	5.82%
Social Services	56	7.76%
Total Services	722	100.00%

Sweetwater County Consumer Expenditure Report (Estimate)

	2004 Estimate	2009 Projection	% Change 2004 - 2009
Total Households	14,268	14,460	1.3%
Total Average Household Expenditure	\$46,110	\$50,111	8.7%
Total Average Retail Expenditure	\$19,386	\$21,053	8.6%

Consumer Expenditure Detail (Average Household Annual Expenditures)

	2004 Estimate	2009 Projection	% Change 2004 - 2009
Airline Fares	\$316.67	\$344.66	8.8%
Alcoholic Beverages	\$437.19	\$475.09	8.7%
Alimony & Child Support	\$139.58	\$151.31	8.4%
Apparel	\$2,488.71	\$2,705.27	8.7%
Apparel Services & Accessories	\$321.03	\$349.53	8.9%
Audio Equipment	\$71.08	\$77.43	8.9%
Babysitting & Elderly Care	\$248.83	\$270.37	8.7%
Books	\$84.77	\$92.20	8.8%
Books & Supplies	\$125.07	\$135.67	8.5%
Boys Apparel	\$133.50	\$144.82	8.5%
Cellular Phone Service	\$75.26	\$81.66	8.5%
Cigarettes	\$383.15	\$416.01	8.6%
Computer Hardware	\$365.46	\$397.16	8.7%
Computer Information Services	\$37.19	\$40.66	9.3%
Computer Software	\$46.92	\$50.98	8.7%
Contributions	\$1,367.31	\$1,489.70	9.0%
Coolant & Other Fluids	\$10.74	\$11.67	8.7%
Cosmetics & Perfume	\$101.27	\$110.34	9.0%
Deodorants & Other Personal Care	\$34.03	\$36.92	8.5%
Education	\$792.73	\$859.59	8.4%
Electricity	\$1,379.79	\$1,497.04	8.5%
Entertainment	\$2,368.55	\$2,576.25	8.8%
Fees & Admissions	\$595.81	\$648.85	8.9%
Finance Chgs Exc Mort & Veh	\$204.46	\$222.06	8.6%
Floor Coverings	\$75.64	\$82.55	9.1%
Food & Beverages	\$7,558.96	\$8,211.45	8.6%
Food At Home	\$4,489.02	\$4,872.10	8.5%
Food Away From Home	\$2,632.75	\$2,864.26	8.8%
Footwear	\$456.60	\$496.27	8.7%
Fuel Oil & Other Fuels	\$89.41	\$96.99	8.5%
Funeral & Cemetery	\$112.16	\$121.30	8.1%
Furniture	\$452.10	\$493.44	9.1%
Gasoline & Oil	\$1,651.95	\$1,798.68	8.9%
Gifts	\$1,382.30	\$1,501.95	8.7%
Girls Apparel	\$162.15	\$176.04	8.6%
Hair Care	\$64.51	\$70.00	8.5%

Hard Surface Flooring	\$12.43	\$13.47	8.4%
Health Care	\$2,975.59	\$3,228.41	8.5%
Health Care Insurance	\$1,415.92	\$1,535.23	8.4%
Health Care Services	\$907.72	\$983.94	8.4%
Health Care Supplies & Equip	\$651.95	\$709.24	8.8%
Household Services	\$371.50	\$403.99	8.7%
Household Supplies	\$731.51	\$799.77	9.3%
Household Textiles	\$110.83	\$120.66	8.9%
Housewares & Small App	\$972.29	\$1,057.77	8.8%
Indoor Plants & Fresh Flowers	\$75.70	\$82.15	8.5%
Infants Apparel	\$115.27	\$125.12	8.5%
Jewelry	\$115.08	\$125.59	9.1%
Legal & Accounting	\$100.76	\$109.62	8.8%
Magazines	\$51.83	\$56.30	8.6%
Major Appliances	\$208.61	\$227.18	8.9%
Mass Transit	\$95.84	\$104.29	8.8%
Men's Apparel	\$466.17	\$506.62	8.7%
Mortgage Interest	\$2,752.81	\$2,997.95	8.9%
Natural Gas	\$428.59	\$465.03	8.5%
New Car Purchased	\$1,160.32	\$1,258.88	8.5%
New Truck Purchased	\$880.59	\$955.93	8.6%
New Vehicle Purchase	\$2,040.91	\$2,214.81	8.5%
Newspapers	\$107.50	\$116.70	8.6%
Oral Hygiene Products	\$30.52	\$33.12	8.5%
Other Lodging	\$810.11	\$870.79	7.5%
Other Miscellaneous Expenses	\$103.89	\$112.87	8.6%
Other Repairs & Maintenance	\$94.61	\$102.69	8.5%
Other Tobacco Products	\$40.98	\$44.54	8.7%
Other Transportation Costs	\$772.80	\$839.10	8.6%
Other Utilities	\$376.08	\$409.09	8.8%
Paint & Wallpaper	\$46.11	\$50.20	8.9%
Personal Care Products	\$179.52	\$195.27	8.8%
Personal Care Services	\$496.67	\$540.42	8.8%
Personal Insurance	\$534.26	\$581.36	8.8%
Pet Supplies & Services	\$255.25	\$277.44	8.7%
Photographic Equip & Supplies	\$115.45	\$125.58	8.8%
Plumbing & Heating	\$58.60	\$63.78	8.8%
Property Taxes	\$461.95	\$501.95	8.7%
Public Transportation	\$496.73	\$540.50	8.8%
Records/Tapes/CD Purchases	\$120.83	\$131.26	8.6%
Recreational Equip & Supplies	\$891.55	\$970.17	8.8%
Rental Costs	\$3,432.60	\$3,724.76	8.5%
Roofing & Siding	\$75.33	\$81.75	8.5%
Satellite Dishes	\$7.48	\$8.17	9.2%
Shaving Needs	\$13.70	\$14.89	8.7%
Shelter	\$8,224.38	\$8,929.39	8.6%
Telephone Svc Excl Cell	\$1,175.65	\$1,277.28	8.6%
Televisions	\$103.88	\$113.00	8.8%

Transportation	\$9,636.58	\$10,480.15	8.8%
Tuition	\$667.66	\$723.92	8.4%
Used Car Purchase	\$1,366.66	\$1,490.61	9.1%
Used Truck Purchase	\$788.00	\$857.75	8.9%
Used Vehicle Purchase	\$2,154.66	\$2,348.36	9.0%
VCRs & Related Equipment	\$46.43	\$50.46	8.7%
Vehicle Insurance	\$1,076.14	\$1,171.04	8.8%
Vehicle Repair	\$1,051.04	\$1,141.06	8.6%
Vehicle Repair & Maintenance	\$1,061.78	\$1,152.73	8.6%
Video & Audio Equipment	\$881.19	\$957.23	8.6%
Video Game Hardware & Software	\$29.81	\$32.33	8.5%
Watches	\$22.82	\$24.89	9.1%
Women's Apparel	\$833.99	\$906.87	8.7%

Resource Team Members
Wamsutter, Wyoming
July 26-27, 2005



Mary Randolph, Team Leader

Wyoming Rural Development Council
2219 Carey Avenue
Cheyenne, WY 82002
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mrando@state.wy.us

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Associate State Director
Dept. 3922
Laramie, WY 82071
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debk@uwyo.edu

Community Contact

Susan Carnes

Town of Wamsutter Clerk/Treasurer
P.O. Box 6
Wamsutter, WY 82336
Phone: 307-328-0468
scarnes@trib.com

**Town of Wamsutter Community Assessment, July 2005
RESOURCE TEAM AGENDA**

<u>Tuesday, July 26, 2005</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Location</u>
11:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.	Orientation & Organization Meeting (Team Members only)	Town Hall
12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.	Lunch	
1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.	Area Tour	
4:00 p.m. to 4:50 p.m.	School Employees Listening session	School
5:15 p.m. to 5:50 p.m.	Church Listening Session	Town Hall
6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.	Dinner	
7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.	General Public & “Out-of Towners” Listening session**	Town Hall
<u>Wednesday, July 27, 2005</u>	<u>Activity(Listening Sessions)</u>	<u>Location</u>
6:30 a.m. to 7:30 a.m.	Breakfast	
8:00 a.m. to 8:50 a.m.	Retail Listening session	Town Hall
9:00 a.m. to 9:50 a.m.	EMTs, Fire \$City, County Government Listening session	Town Hall
10:00 a.m. to 10:50 a.m.	Industry listening session	Town Hall
11:00 a.m. to 11:50 a.m.	Youth listening session	Town Hall
12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.	Lunch	
1:00 p.m. to 1:50 p.m.	General Public & “Out-of Towners” listening session**	Town Hall
2:00 p.m. to 4:45 p.m.	Team Prepares Town Meeting	Town Hall
5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.	Dinner	
7:00 p.m.	Town Meeting	Town Hall

*** We are interested in hearing from individuals that work in Wamsutter, but don't live in our town.
Your comments are important to us!*

WAMSUTTER MAJOR THEMES:

Infrastructure

- Water
- Sewer
- Roads (paved and interchange)
- Well/lagoons
- Truck parking/switching area
- Internet access
- Land-locked

Housing

- Affordable
- Permanent housing
- Lack of Land

Work Force

- Lack of workforce
- Training

Planning

- Master Plan
- Zoning/ordinances

Community Pride/Beautification

- Trash
- Trees
- Green
- Buildings
- Celebrations (100 years)

Services/Needs

- Bank
- Grocery
- Law Enforcement
- Library
- Distance learning
- Medical
- Retail
- Hotel/motel
- Day Care
- Rec Center and activities

Ideas

- Volunteerism
- Community Capacity
- Community Allocations
- Community Image

TEAM MEMBER RECOMMENDATIONS

Mary Randolph, Team Leader

Wyoming Rural Development Council

2219 Carey Avenue

Cheyenne, WY 82002

Phone: 307-777-6430

Fax: 307-777-6593

mrando@state.wy.us

INTRODUCTION

I would like to thank the Town of Wamsutter and the citizens of Wamsutter for the incredible hospitality shown to the team during the Community Assessment. I truly enjoyed my time in your town. The citizens shared with us what makes the community unique and why they feel so strongly about living there and making it a sustainable community. Wamsutter has unique challenges and opportunities – it may seem like a long road but I know you have the drive and determination to get there! Right now you have the attention of numerous individuals, organizations, businesses and state agencies – capitalize on that attention and assistance!

Thank you for the best snacks yet (especially providing Diet Coke – my personal favorite!) and GREAT meals. I have been telling everyone to stop and eat in Wamsutter!

The next step after Wamsutter has received the Assessment is for the team to facilitate a priority setting session with community members. It is VERY important for the community to advertise this session and encourage community members to attend. We look forward to returning and facilitating you through this process.

ISSUE: INFRASTRUCTURE (SEWER AND WATER)

CHALLENGE: Water, sewer, roads, well and logons were common themes of problems/challenges and projects at your community assessment. We clearly heard from you that you have issues with water and wells and if the community intends to grow, infrastructure must be in place to handle that growth.

SOLUTION: I suggest you contact Midwest Assistance Program. For 25 years Midwest Assistance Program has been providing technical assistance and training to small, rural communities in nine states. MAP focuses on improving, constructing and managing water and wastewater facilities and enhancing solid waste management. MAP staff tailors technical assistance and training to each community by agreeing on goals and objectives with community leaders. MAP helps these local leaders build their capacity to maintain basic services for their residents, thereby improving the quality of.

In addition, the Midwest Assistance Program administers a Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) superficially for small communities. This RLF can provide low-cost, short and intermediate term financing for pre-development, construction and capital financing of community water and waste programs.

RESOURCE:

Dan Coughlin

P.O. Box 1350

Casper, WY 82601

307-265-0855

Mike Sposit

P.O. Box 698

Green River, WY 82935

307-875-4200

SOLUTION: Another source of assistance for infrastructure needs is USDA Rural Development. USDA Rural Development provides grants and loans to assist with water and waste disposal. Grants and loans available consist of:

WATER AND WASTE DISPOSAL DIRECT AND GUARANTEED LOANS

The purpose of the loan program is to develop water and waste disposal (includes solid waste disposal and storm drainage) systems in rural areas and towns with a population not in excess of 10,000. The funds are available to public entities such as municipalities, counties, special-purpose districts, Indian tribes, and Corporations not operated for profit. Rural Utilities Programs (RUP) also guarantees water and waste disposal loans made by banks and other eligible lenders.

WATER AND WASTE DISPOSAL GRANTS

The purpose of the grant program is to reduce water and waste disposal costs to a reasonable level for rural users. Grants may be made up to 75% of eligible project costs in some cases. The same types of applicants are eligible for a grant as for a loan.

RESOURCE:

Southwest Area Office - Jack Hyde

Acting Rural Development Manager

625 Washington St., Room B

P.O. Box 190

Afton, WY 83110-0190

Phone: 307-886-9001

FAX: 307-886-3744; or email: jack.hyde@wy.usda.gov

SOLUTION: One more office that operates two revolving loan funds specific to water and waste issues is the Wyoming Office of State Lands and Investment. The Clean Water Revolving Loan Fund provides low interest loans to government entities for wastewater, storm water, and nonpoint source pollution control projects. The Drinking

Water Revolving Loan Fund provides low interest loans for drinking water projects. Finally, the Wyoming Water Development Commission has funding available for water and waste programs

RESOURCE:

Wyoming Water Development Commission

Mike Besson
6920 Yellowtail Road
Cheyenne, WY 82002
307-777-7626

Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund

Marijean Stephen
Office of State Lands and Investments
122 West 25th Street
Cheyenne, WY 82002
307-777-7453

Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund

Rebecca Webb
Office of State Lands and Investments
122 West 25th Street
Cheyenne, WY 82002
307-777-6046

ISSUE: HOUSING

CHALLENGE: Your housing issues are probably the most challenging of a community I have seen through this assessment process. Issues are from lack of affordable housing, lack of land to build houses, and unsightly housing that creates a definite image of your community to outsiders.

SOLUTIONS: I once again offer the assistance of USDA Rural Development. Rural Development's housing programs are to assist eligible rural residents obtain decent, safe and sanitary housing. Each program area has specific eligibility requirements. The household income is an eligibility requirement in all the programs. Some other eligibility requirements may be a limit on assets, credit requirements, inability to obtain other credit, repayment ability, etc. Income levels are based on the household size and a percentage of the county median income. Rural Development regulations limit the purchase price and loan amounts depending on the county where the home is located. "Rural areas" include open area places with a population less than 20,000 and not located in Metropolitan Statistical Areas.

502 DIRECT LOANS

Rural Development may loan up to 100% of the appraised value to assist eligible very low and low-income households purchase, build or rehabilitate a dwelling. Payment

assistance is available, if eligible, to reduce the monthly payment. Payment assistance is subject to recapture when the home is sold or the loan is paid in full. Funding for this program is very limited. To assist more applicants, the agency does allow direct loans be made in conjunction with loans made by other lenders.

502 GUARANTEED LOANS

The Guaranteed Rural Housing program is designed to provide individuals that do not exceed the moderate-income level and have sufficient cash flow, but lack a down payment, an opportunity to obtain financing for homes in rural communities. Rural Development is not the lender. Approved Lenders throughout the State of Wyoming make the loans and Rural Development will issue guarantees on eligible loans approved by these lenders.

504 REPAIR LOANS AND GRANTS

Loans are available for very low-income rural homeowners for repairs to remove health and safety hazards, and to make the home safe and sanitary. Loans are at 1 percent interest with up to 20 years to repay. Grants are only available for repairs that remove health or safety hazards and are made only to very low-income elderly homeowners, 62 years of age or older.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS

Grants are for self-help housing for public or private nonprofit groups. Applicants must show a need for self-help housing, the professional expertise to supervise a project and a lack of funding to be eligible for this assistance.

SECTION 515 RURAL RENTAL HOUSING LOANS

Loans are made in rural areas to provide living units for persons with low and moderate incomes and for that age 62 and older, disabled or handicapped. This program is directed toward rural communities with a population of up to 20,000 people. Eligible applicants include individuals, trusts, associations, general partnerships, limited partnerships, State or local public agencies, profit, and nonprofit corporations. Nonprofit corporations may be organized on a regional or multi-county basis. Loans to nonprofits may be up to 100 percent of the appraised value or development cost, whichever is less.

Financing is limited to 95 percent to applicants utilizing the Low Income Housing Tax Credit program, or is 97 percent if these credits are not sought. Loans are primarily used to build, purchase or repair apartment style housing. The housing must be modest in size, design, and cost, but adequate to meet the tenant's needs. Rent charges must be within limits that eligible occupants can afford to pay.

RESOURCE:

Southwest Area Office - Jack Hyde

Acting Rural Development Manager

625 Washington St., Room B

P.O. Box 190

Afton, WY 83110-0190

Phone: 307-886-9001

FAX: 307-886-3744; or email: jack.hyde@wy.usda.gov

ISSUE: PLANNING (MASTER PLAN)

CHALLENGE: Wamsutter has taken the first step in comprehensive planning by facilitating this community assessment. You are definitely on the right tract when you understand you must PLAN for your future and whatever direction you choose to go you will do it under a master plan.

SOLUTION: Numerous consultants are available for to complete a community master plan. The communities of Alpine and Burlington have recently hired consultants to complete a plan for their community. Alpine was successful in obtaining a grant to complete the plan. I suggest you contact both of these communities for suggestions of consultants.

RESOURCE:

Town of Alpine

Contact: Tracy Matthews
307-654-7754

Town of Burlington

307-762-3502

ISSUE: COMMUNITY PRIDE/BEAUTIFICATION

CHALLENGE: This might be the most challenging obstacle Wamsutter has to overcome. Not only are many areas of your community unsightly, but also the media seems to constantly pick up and report on these areas rather than the wonderful park and landscapes Wamsutter has to offer.

SOLUTION: I suggest you continue tree planting, community clean up days, and removal of trailers/buildings that are not useable. This will take a VERY concentrated effort by community members and a strong, engaged group of volunteers should be designated as a beautification committee. Your park is also a wonderful asset and you should continue to enhance resources in that park.

RESOURCES: Continue to work with State Forestry and take advantage of their grant opportunities. The town park is also a likely candidate for money from State Parks and Cultural Resources Department. You might also consider pursuing a walking path as many people indicated as “projects” they would like to see in Wamsutter.

Recreational Trail Fund Grant Program

Chelsey McManus
Trails Planner

Division of State Parks and Historic Sites

307-777-8681

Mark Hughes, State Forestry

307-777-7586

Transportation Enhancement Activities Local (TEAL)

Wyoming Department of Transportation

5300 Bishop Blvd.

Cheyenne, WY 82009

307-777-4384

ISSUE: SERVICES AND NEEDS (DISTANCE LEARNING)

CHALLENGE: The resource team determined through the listening sessions that the Town of Wamsutter and its citizens have several “service needs”, including a bank, grocery, library, and distance learning, retail, hotel/motel, day care and recreation center. The majority of these needs is essential to a healthy community and provides a quality of life conducive to living in a small rural town.

SOLUTIONS: For distance learning, I once again refer you to USDA Rural Development. You will find that USDA can provide you a wealth of information and resources. Their loan and grant program for distance learning and telemedicine include:

DISTANCE LEARNING AND TELEMEDICINE LOAN AND GRANT PROGRAM

The purpose of these loans and grants is to encourage and improve telemedicine services and distance learning services in rural areas through the use of telecommunications, computer networks, and related advanced technologies by students, teachers, medical professionals, and rural residents

RESOURCE:

Southwest Area Office - Jack Hyde

Acting Rural Development Manager

625 Washington St., Room B

P.O. Box 190

Afton, WY 83110-0190

Phone: 307-886-9001

FAX: 307-886-3744; or email: jack.hyde@wy.usda.gov

ISSUE: SERVICES AND NEEDS (LAW ENFORCEMENT)

CHALLENGE: We heard lack of law enforcement very clearly from the majority of people who attended listening sessions. Currently, you have no officer and rely on the Sheriff Department.

SOLUTION: An option until an officer can be hired would be to implement a neighborhood watch program. Creating a police reserve unit utilizing volunteers may be another option.

RESOURCES:

<http://www.usaonwatch.org/> (for the neighborhood watch program)

ISSUE: SERVICES AND NEEDS (GROCERY STORE)

CHALLENGE: Another need recognized by the community was a grocery store. This need tops the list in almost every small town community assessment that we have completed.

SOLUTION: Many towns that identified a grocery store as a priority need for the community have looked at options such as a cooperative. The community of Encampment has recently worked on this project and could be a very good source of information for you. In addition, the Wyoming Business Council can also be helpful in moving this forward.

RESOURCES:

Town of Encampment

307-327-5501

Wyoming Business Council

Ray Sarcletti

307-382-3163

SOLUTION: Many of the “service needs” identified in the listening sessions require buildings or space. There seem to be several empty buildings such as churches that might be ideal locations for temporary day cares or expansion of the library. We heard that the churches don’t want to give up their building because they will be re-opening, but I would continue to pursue the idea with them. It could be a win-win for both parties.

MISCELLANEOUS

SOLUTION: All of the ideas and suggestions made by the citizens of Wamsutter and the resource team take funding. Funding is usually obtained by loans or grants. Grant writing expertise and assistance is available by numerous organizations including Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) and the Wyoming Rural Development Council (WRDC). The WRDC offers scholarships for grant writing school and if you have any member of the community that would be willing to attend and use their expertise to write grants for your community, they can apply for this scholarship.

In addition both the Wyoming Rural Development Council and the Wyoming Business Council subscribe to GRANTSTATION – a grant search engine for rural communities. If you are looking for a grant for a specific project, you can contact either organization and they will do a search for you.

RESOURCE:

Wyoming Rural Development Council

(Team leader, Mary Randolph)

Wyoming Business Council

Steve Achter

307-777-2811

RC&D

(Team member Maureen Meagher)

SOLUTION: Another good resource is (LISC) Local Initiatives Support Corporation, a national nonprofit community development organization that provides grants, loans and equity investments to Community Development Corporations in rural areas for creating affordable housing and commercial space to job training programs and day care centers.

RESOURCE:

Local Initiatives Support Corporation

501 7th Avenue

New York, NY 10018

212-455-9800

webmaster@lisc.org

<http://www.lisc.org/>

SOLUTION: I have to add one more recommendation based on a community assessment I did years ago in Jasper, Texas. A lady in Jasper made the most incredible apple pies and we encouraged her (after tasking them!) to sell them on line. She now has a very profitable business. The pies from the Broadway Café and right up there with the apple pies and I recommend the baker pursue expanding her business!

RESOURCE:

Heritage Pie Company

Sweet Pie Parkway

1616 Fm 776 Jasper, Texas 75951

Tel: 409 489-9400 -- Fax 409-489-0846

<http://TexasPie.com/> |

As a final recommendation, I want to leave you with a list of web resources that I think are extremely valuable for smaller communities.

RESOURCES:

1. www.grants.gov provides a comprehensive listing of all federal government grants, searchable by agency, eligible recipients, type of funding, keyword, etc. Also, you can sign up to receive free notifications of grant opportunities in your specific areas of interest as they become available.
2. The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistances lists all federal government technical and financial assistance programs (including grants, loans, insurance, direct payments, advisory services, consulting, etc). Programs are searchable by agency, funding area, type of funding, eligible recipients, etc. www.cfda.gov
3. The Rural Information Center provides a comprehensive list of web sites dealing with rural development by topic. www.nal.usda.gov/ric
4. The Rural Assistance Center helps rural communities and other rural stakeholders access a full range of programs, funding and research in the area of rural health services. www.raconline.org
5. The Community “Health” Toolbox provides information and support for community health and development. The Tool Box provides over 6,000 pages of practical skill-building information on over 250 different topics. Topic sections include step-by-step instructions, examples, checklists, and related resources in areas such as grant writing, policy development, social marketing, leadership, strategic planning, and much, much more. <http://ctb.ku.edu>
6. The University of Illinois Community Development Toolbox has excellent online interactive tools for assessing such things as: Community Development Capacity Index, Telecommunications Readiness Inventory, eGovernment Readiness Inventory, Strategic Planning, Tourism Capacity Index, and more. <http://communitydevelopment.uiuc.edu>
www.afterschool.gov provides a comprehensive list of grant funding opportunities for youth after-school activities.

Gary M. Michaud

WYDOT

Planner

5300 Bishop Boulevard

Cheyenne, WY 82009

Phone: 307-777-4941

gary.michaud@dot.state.wy.us

Theme-Planning

Challenge- While there are a few businesses in Wamsutter that provide basic goods and services, the town is lacking basic infrastructure businesses such as a grocery store, bank, motel, day care, medical clinic, and community center. The community also needs improved roads, upgraded water and sewer systems, better Internet access, and improved parking for Interstate 80 travelers. The addition of these components will lead to improved quality of life for Wamsutter residents and a more attractive community for visitors.

Solution – I was planning to recommend that Wamsutter perform a Comprehensive Plan until I discovered the community performed a similar study in 2002. These studies are very important to communities that expect significant changes in the near future.

Many towns, cities, universities, and colleges perform comprehensive studies to create a vision by stating a purpose, goals, and strategic plan. The vision includes evaluating areas such as housing, land use, transportation, community facilities, economic development, parks, and utilities. The plan can identify, classify, and organize community needs, while managing and guiding growth and development in an orderly fashion. The community assessment already updated a main component of a comprehensive plan by surveying the community for consensus of opinions on preservation, changes, and progress that are needed in the community.

I would like to suggest the community perform a Master Plan that includes separate drawings of utilities and streets, land use, land ownership, zoning and business district, existing conditions, and future conditions to accommodate the implementation of the Town of Wamsutter Economic and Community Development Study (2002). I hope the community uses this study as a major reference document for community improvements unless the document is considered outdated.

I am a supporter of community planning. In my short tenure as a planner, I have witnessed instances where just a little planning and thought could have prevented some very costly mistakes. Effective planning can also lead to a much more attractive community.

The Wyoming Business Council currently offers three programs that may assist Wamsutter with planning and development:

Business Ready Community Grant and Loan Program
Community Development Block Grants
Community Facilities Grant and Loan Program

Resources for Planning and Development –

Rural Resource Guide – Go to <http://www.wyomingcommunitynetwork.com/>

-Click on “Connect”

-Click on “Rural Resource Guide”

-Go to page 22, “Resource Development, Sustainability,
and Economic Development

Mary Randolph, Executive Director
Wyoming Rural Development Council
2219 Carey Avenue
Cheyenne, WY 82002

Steve Achter, Director
Investment Ready Communities Division
Wyoming Business Council
(307) 777-2811

Theme - Infrastructure

Challenge - The Town currently has water and sewer systems and some paved streets. However, according to town representatives, the water well north of the Interstate needs to be completed, the sewer system needs improvements, and the paved streets are falling apart. Internet access for school and training is also a major issue for town residents. More streets and roads need paved, especially county roads 23N and 23S, which are very dusty and dangerous according to many field workers. Residents would like to see the I-80 interchange improved to accommodate increasing truck traffic, and also believe there is a need for a large truck parking/switching area. Perhaps the most importantly, many residents in the town would like to see land around Wamsutter opened up to provide room for the community to grow.

Solution – My understanding is the community is aware of the needed improvements for the local water, sewer, and streets services. The community just needs some funding solutions. Investigating into the numerous grants and loans provided by the State of Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality or Office of State Lands and Investments would be the best place.

The road and street issues must be separated by the entities that own and maintain them. For example, the Interstate interchange is under the control of the Wyoming Department of Transportation (WYDOT). The department evaluates the interchanges periodically for any problems that may need attention. John Eddins,

WYDOT District 3 Engineer, is the best contact for the interchange and any WYDOT related dilemmas.

Any improvements to county roads 23N and 23S should be directed primarily to the county. However, there are also a couple programs through WYDOT that may be possibilities. First, since much of the land in the area is federal, the Public Lands Highway Funds Program should be considered. The program could provide up to \$5 million for a road improvement. If the community is interested in these funds, the mayor should send a letter of interest to Robert Milburn, State Planning Engineer.

The WYDOT Office of Local Government Coordination also administers some programs that may be useful for county road improvements and should be contacted. The LGC Office provides an informational book on a variety of local funding programs that WYDOT recently sent to Wamsutter. Some of the programs that might be helpful are the Commission Road Improvement Program, Road Construction Fund and Industrial Road Program.

The significant volumes of trucks parked in Wamsutter indicate that truck drivers prefer stopping at that specific location. In addition, Wamsutter is a logical location for trucks from Cheyenne and Salt Lake to meet and switch trailers, and therefore many use it as such. However, the demand for truck parking is much greater than the supply. The community could really use a specifically designed location for these activities. A large paved truck parking/switching area may be needed as a solution, but may also require some creative funding ideas. Convincing WYDOT to fund a significant portion of this project may be difficult given that most of the activity is business related (truck stops). Since this challenge is business related, maybe Wamsutter or one of the gas stations could apply for grants from the Wyoming Business Council or coordinate the funding between a number of entities.

Wamsutter citizenry were very concerned about the lack of development of permanent resident housing. Numerous persons stated the community was land-locked and therefore lacked space to grow. I have not reviewed a land ownership map to validate this information. However, if this is the case and the community is experiencing difficulty acquiring land for development, then perhaps the town should obtain the services of a professional developer. The developer could also plan and develop a permanent housing site that fits the needs and wants of potential Wamsutter residents.

Lastly, many citizens of Wamsutter expressed interest in public access to a contemporary Internet system for training and schooling. Most of the industry specialists believe the community should use a satellite system for Internet access because of Wamsutter's remoteness. One recommended using the company Ground Control found at < <http://www.groundcontrol.com/>> to buy a Direct Way system. It seems a library would be the logical location for this Internet system, unless an entrepreneur wanted to open an Internet Café designed for residents and I-80 users.

Contacts: **Kevin Frank**
WDEQ
Casper Field Office
152 North Durbin Street
Suite 100
Casper, WY 82601

Office of State Lands and Investments
Grants and Loans Section
(307) 777-7309

John Nelson, Engineer
Sweetwater County
80 West Flaming Gorge Way
Green River, WY 82935

John Eddins, WYDOT
District Engineer
P.O. Box 1260
Rock Springs, WY 82902

Robert Milburn, State Planning Engineer
5300 Bishop Boulevard
Cheyenne, WY 82009

Rich Douglass, WYDOT
Local Government Coordinator
5300 Bishop Boulevard
Cheyenne, WY 82009

Steve Achter, Director
Investment Ready Communities Division
Wyoming Business Council
(307) 777-2811

Brett Vizina
Rimrock West, LLC (has developed numerous sites in Rock Springs)
1124 Dunn Avenue
Cheyenne, WY 82001
(307) 632-0414

The Wamsutter Assessment was an enjoyable and wonderful learning experience for me. The best part was experiencing a brief glimpse of the life, challenges, and amenities of living in a small town in Wyoming.

Interstate 80 is a considerable source of potential revenue for Wamsutter. In 2004, the daily traffic on I-80 near Wamsutter was estimated at over 12,000 vehicles a day. Also in 2004, 4,000 vehicles daily used the interchange exit ramps; almost double the number in 2002. Traffic increases on I-80, especially truck traffic increases, are predicted to continue into the future barring any unforeseen events. Economically, the Interstate is a great revenue opportunity for Wamsutter as the community can attract many different types of customers into the community from a very large and broad market. I remember several residents bragging about the success of the Love's Truck Stop, which is a great example of a business tapping into a market sector from I-80. Many communities in Wyoming are not as fortunate.

The progress in transportation in the last century significantly transformed the national transportation system. Unfortunately for Wamsutter, living over 60 miles away from the job site in rural Wyoming is a feasible alternative in the modern world. I just hope Wamsutter's vision can lead to a situation where people believe the benefits of living in Wamsutter are greater than those in larger communities in the area.

There are only nine years left until the 100th anniversary of Wamsutter. I envision celebrating this great milestone with your community in the presence of a bank, grocery store, medical clinic, RV park, and motel. At this time, I would also like to see appealing entrances from the Interstate, a new housing development with many permanent homes and permanent residents, and a thriving and attractive business district.

I was very impressed with the significant amount of support Wamsutter receives from local industry, and I hope these partnerships continue for a long time to come. Many of the pieces are in place for the Town of Wamsutter to grow. It is just a matter of putting those pieces together.

Thank you for your warm hospitality during the assessment. It will be my pleasure to stop in Wamsutter and visit with the community when I am traveling along Interstate 80.

Debbie Popp

Wyoming Small Business Development Center
Associate State Director
Dept. 3922
Laramie, WY 82071
Phone: 307-766-3505
debk@uwyo.edu

Introduction: I enjoyed spending time in your community: friendly people, wonderful food and a good turnout for the listening sessions! As I looked over my notes and the responses to the listening session, I think what really stands out for me is one particular comment “We have the people, we have the equipment and we have the talent to do what needs to be done, we need one person to pull it all together and coordinate the activities.” This comment is true for most communities and demonstrates a community that is empowered and ready to roll up the sleeves and get to work. You are really looking for a champion, not necessarily one person, it could be several. This will be a group of people who are willing to give time, expertise and the responsibility to take action. The community’s job is to identify the resources of the community first and find those champions. It was recognized over and over again that the mayor, town council and a core group of volunteers are a wonderful asset for the community.

Theme: Housing

Challenge: Within the theme of housing three issues were identified: Affordable and permanent housing and lack of land for growth of the community.

Solution: We received some demographic information for Wamsutter (2004 estimate). It was interesting to see that of the 157 housing units, approximately 41% are owner occupied, 24% are rented and 35% are vacant. I don’t know how accurate that information is today, but I found it surprising that 35% of the housing units were estimated to be vacant in 2004. I don’t know if that still rings true today. During our tour the mayor showed us BLM land the city is acquiring for a housing development. So I think progress is being made. I have added some potential resources to continue investigating affordable housing. Refer to Steve Achter's comments about housing resources in the Rock Springs Community Assessment.

Resources:

WCDA

Cheryl Gillum, Housing Programs Director
155 N. Beech Street
Casper, WY 82601
Phone: 307-265-0603
www.wyomingwcda.com

Theme: Community Pride/Beautification

Challenge: “Property and business owners need to clean up their mess.” Comments centered on trash around the highways, Love’s, and people throwing garbage out of their vehicles onto roads and in the community. Also, buildings and property which have not been maintained, junk cars, etc.

Solution: Community Pride and Beautification is a common area of concern for many Wyoming communities. While we were in Wamsutter, the community was in the process of planting several trees obtained through a grant. I see that your community leaders and volunteers are proactive and working towards a better Wamsutter image. It takes more than just a core group of volunteers, however! And it was expressed that there are many people who live in Wamsutter who don’t share in community pride, and “here only for the big bucks.” It was mentioned that there is a community clean-up day once a year and very few people participate. A community clean-up day once a year is great. How can you expand that to occur more often? Who is involved in the clean-up and who isn’t? By that I mean, is the school involved? The church (es)? Businesses? Large employers/companies? 4-H group (s)? What are some creative incentives you can use to get people involved? Schools can organize clean-up or beautification days and involve parents. Employers can organize a clean-up day and clean-up a specific area for a couple hours each year. In the resource section I have listed a couple of Wyoming communities who are working on community beautification projects.

Resources:

Powell Valley Chamber of Commerce

Powell, WY 82435
307-754-3494 / 800-325-4278

Sheridan Chamber of Commerce

307-758-1311

Theme: Services/Needs

Challenge: Wamsutter lacks many of the basic services that citizens feel are needed. With Rawlins 40 miles in one direction and Rock Springs about 70 miles in the other direction banking, emergency grocery errands, basic health care, etc are inconvenient. Participants strongly suggested services such as a satellite bank, a grocery store, medical services, more retail businesses, hotel/motel, rec center, distance learning capabilities, law enforcement, expanding the library and mentioned in every session was a daycare. I believe that progress is being made with a hotel/motel and a daycare. Listening session participants would like to see more diversity and number of retail businesses.

Solution: I see some entrepreneurial opportunities! I recall a comment was made during one of the listening sessions; one spouse has a job, but there are limited job opportunities for the other spouse. These don’t have to be full-blown businesses, but

possibly a service provided a few hours a week. Potential entrepreneurial start-ups/services for Wamsutter that come to mind include: Laundromat, payday check cashing, licensed child-care provider, specialty classes/instructor (i.e. dance or martial arts instructor, aerobic/exercise classes, etc. Before you invest in a business idea, I would recommend meeting with Bill Ellis, SBDC Region 1 director or Ray Sarcletti, Wyoming Business Council regional director or Pat Robbins with SWEDA. A market research study can be requested through either Bill or Ray to look at potential market for your product or service, competition, event/activity trends as examples for requests. For micro-loan assistance, the Women's Business Center provides loans for up to \$10,000.

Resources:

Bill Ellis

Small Business Development Center
1400 Dewar Dr., Suite 205B
Rock Springs, WY 82901
Phone: 352-6894 Toll Free: 800-348-5205

Ray Sarcletti Wyoming Business Council

1400 Dewar Dr.,
Rock Springs, WY 82901
Phone: 382-3163

Pat Robbins SWEDA

1400 Dewar Drive, Ste 205A
Rock Springs, WY 82901
307-352-6874

Wyoming Women's Business Center

PO Box 764
Laramie, WY 82073
Phone: 307-766-3083

Theme: Services/Needs

Challenge: Banking Services needed. Currently there is a payroll check cashing service at a local bar and ATMs in a couple of the business establishments.

Solution: There may not be an immediate solution to this particular service. The banking industry is heavily regulated. I talked with Richard Chenowith, President of the Rawlins National Bank, and they are aware of the increasing need for banking services in Wamsutter. Several of their board members visited Wamsutter approximately two months ago to assess the feasibility of opening a branch. They are investigating the possibility of a mobile banking unit. To move forward with this issue is to fully understand what banking services the Wamsutter community will use (i.e. check cashing, safe deposit boxes, car loans/home loans, etc). Gathering this

information will be a challenge, but could be obtained through questionnaires at local businesses, place of employment, house-to-house, etc. I would recommend that the mayor and town council continue conversations with the Rawlins National Bank.

Resources:

Rawlins National Bank

220 Fifth Street

Rawlins, Wyoming 82301

Phone (307) 324-2203 or (800) 788-9479

Theme: Services/Needs

Challenge: Lack of medical care

Solution: I would suggest contacting Emily Quarterman-Genoff first with the Wyoming Department of Health. She is a community health planner and “resource specialist.” She has worked with many Wyoming counties on medical care delivery systems, health education, wellness and health promotion, strategic planning and community mobilization. She can share what other communities in Wyoming are doing. Also, you may want to contact the Sweetwater County health coalition and see what services are available. A potential resource for grants is with the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services Center for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives. This initiative creates an environment within the Department (HHS) that welcomes the participation of faith-based and community-based organizations as valued and essential partners assisting Americans in need. The web site (listed in resources) lists several health care program grants as well as community development grants.

Resources:

Emily Quarterman-Genoff

Wyoming Department of Health

Office of Rural Health

Hathaway Building, 4th Floor

Cheyenne, WY 82002

(307) 777-8938

egenof@state.wy.us

U.S. Department of Health & Human Services

Center for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives

www.hhs.gov/fbci/

Theme: Services/Needs

Challenge: Need for a small grocery store.

Solution: Currently, food items/non-food items can be purchased at two locations in Wamsutter, I believe. Selection is limited and food is primarily convenience/fast food items. One possible solution is a food coop. This is becoming a popular alternative for

small communities where the population base can not support a small grocery store. Ray Sarcletti is looking into a food cooperative for another community and would be one resource as well as Janice Stroud with USDA who works with cooperatives in Wyoming. Maureen Meagher, Wamsutter Community Assessment team member, would be the local USDA contact. The Cooperative Grocers' Information Network provides information on starting a food coop: http://www.cgin.coop/resource_4.html

Resources:

Janice Stroud

USDA
508 N. Broadway
Riverton, WY 82501
Telephone 307-856-7524

Theme: Services/Needs

Challenge: Many comments were made on the lack of recreational activities in Wamsutter for teens/youth as well as adults. Some ideas surrounded the need for a rec center, expanding the library, a walking/jogging path, etc.

Solution: First of all, Wamsutter has a wonderful city park that provides many areas for a variety of activities. For indoor or inclement weather, I believe I heard that the school is open to allow public activities to take place. This space would make sense to allow community members to engage in recreational activities: i.e. volleyball or basketball games, weight equipment, treadmills, etc. I realize space may be an issue, but I think it considers evaluating the space for possibilities. Balance Bars provides grants (very simple application process) for communities. Visit their website for more details: <http://www.balance.com/grants/default.aspx>. Organizations can apply for a grant amount ranging from a minimum of \$1,000 to a maximum of \$25,000. Applicants must provide a detailed budget for their anticipated costs. The grant is open for proposals once a year in late August. So, this would be something to consider for next year.

Resources:

The Wyoming Community Foundation provides small grants for youth-focused activities. **Resources:**

The Wyoming Community Foundation

www.wycf.org
Phone: 721-8300

Theme: Ideas--Community Capacity

Challenge: Comment from Wamsutter listening session: "We work 60-70 hours- doesn't leave much time for volunteering and community activities." "Need more of a feeling of community and sense of pride" listening session comment.

Solution: I have combined the themes Volunteerism and Community Capacity. They seem to go hand-in-hand in my response. Building Community Capacity may be a new term and the best explanation I found I borrowed from Helen Mitrofanova, a Nebraska Extension Educator, this piece appeared in the August 2004 Nebline Newsletter. “Capacity is simply the ways and means needed to do what should be done to improve the quality of life in a particular community or neighborhood. Most often, it includes the following components: • people who are willing to be involved /citizen participation • skills, knowledge and abilities • inclusiveness of the community diversity • understanding of community history/community values • ability to identify and access opportunities • motivation to carry out initiatives • infrastructure, supportive institutions and physical resources • economic and financial resources • community leadership • community organizing • inter-organizational collaboration/social networks • partnership among organizations, constituency, funders and “capacity builders” • flexibility and the use of a variety approaches • acknowledgment of contributions/celebration of successes • encouragement of new people and organizations to become involved/expanding of your energy pool • good communication through the process/exchanging, transferring and understanding of information” Building or regenerating community capacity, there are two categories to consider when talking about community capacity: the capacity and assets of individuals and of organizations or associations. What is important to realize is at the heart of building capacity is people! Wamsutter, although small in population, is rich in capacity. Our team heard several instances where large employers in the region have provided money, or equipment, and time to assist in projects. We also heard many instances of wonderful volunteer services in the community (i.e. volunteer fire department, EMT services, specific volunteer projects and activities, etc.). There are also many untapped individual and organizational capacities yet to be determined. Who lives in your community who may possess the skills to spear-head a special project, or to write a grant, or to provide valuable insight and knowledge to any number of issues. Many times we find out about the skills and talents of people by accident. A more proactive approach would be to build a database of community members (temporary residents too) and list their skills and talents and ask if they are willing to donate their time to projects and at what level of participation they will get involved. This is a very simple process. A simple form is all that is needed. The form can be distributed to parents via the school, through church gatherings, available at businesses, places of employment, etc. More importantly, don’t let this valuable list sit on a shelf or in a drawer, use the list and utilize these people. People like to feel they are valued and have something they can give back to others or to a community. There is an intrinsic reward to volunteer, but there is a real value attached to volunteerism as well. I met a woman last year in Sedan, Kansas who is the economic development “director.” She detailed what her 40 hours a week entailed; assisting small businesses, tourism activities, downtown development activities and many other projects. Then she told me she was a volunteer. It was important to her, that Sedan become a vibrant community and not become, literally, a dying community. I am not saying we should all quit our jobs and become volunteers for the good of our communities. But, what I am saying however is in our smaller communities, money is scarce to pay for all the services needed, this woman is retired and she enjoys giving her time and talents in this

manner. This is a win-win situation, the town receives a valuable service, but volunteer experience is as valuable as work experience on a resume. What a wonderful opportunity for someone in the community who needs experience in an area of interest to further their career interests or utilizing the talents of community members. Realizing that Wamsutter doesn't have a community paper, website or other means of consistent communication makes it difficult to keep community members informed other than through the "grapevine" or a telephone calling campaign. When I hear comments such as "people don't show up for clean-up day" or "only the same people volunteer," one of the reasons may be the lack of consistent communication. I have a couple of ideas on this issue. One is a community board either at the post office, library or the town hall. The community board could simply be a place where flyers are posted about upcoming community events (town picnic, or clean-up day), town council meetings, etc. A Wamsutter community website could be done very easily as well. This could be a school project for students in sixth through eighth grades or someone in the community with the skills and time to put this together.

Resources:

<http://lancaster.unl.edu/neblines/>

Theme: Ideas--Community Allocations

Challenge: Listening session comment: "We bash the county, but part of the blame lies with the town of Wamsutter."

Solution: I like the above comment. Many times it is easier to take the victim role—it is a natural response. This comment recognizes that the Wamsutter community has some control in its destiny and can now move on to be more proactive and work towards a vital community. I want to approach this issue in a broader perspective. The citizens of Wamsutter may feel they are on their own to find solutions. I want you to think about yourselves in a larger partnership context. There are many professionals both at the county and state level willing to assist Wamsutter. I am sure you are already working with many of these people. Utilizing as many people as possible leverages resources. This report is all about finding resources and to streamline the process. Use this report, don't shelve it! Look at other Wyoming community assessment reports. These can be viewed at: www.wyomingcommunitynetwork.com It appears Wamsutter is taking a proactive approach. Continue asking for help, invite county and state professionals to meetings, get them involved—keep the momentum going!

Resources:

www.wyomingcommunitynetwork.com

Maureen Meagher

USDA/NRCS

Western Wyoming RC&D Coordinator

79 Winston Drive, Suite 104

Rock Springs, WY 82901

Phone: 307-362-1451

FAX: 307-362-1459

maureen.meagher@wy.usda.gov

INTRODUCTION

It was a pleasure and great experience to be part of the Wamsutter Community Assessment. The tour, snacks, meals and hospitality were just out of this world. Thank you.

During the listening sessions the community highlighted numerous reasons why Wamsutter is a great place to live and raise a family. Some of the highlights were the great people, open-space, low crime, great EMS/fire volunteers and a school with small classroom numbers. The community of Wamsutter stated they were the ones who took strangers into their homes when I-80 closed leaving motorists stranded. I also heard if anyone needed assistance there was always someone willing to help out. How many other communities would do this?

Beatification

Challenge

Beautification of Wamsutter was voiced as a concern during all of the lessoning sessions, whether it was trash, old abandoned buildings or lack of green areas.

Recommendation

Trash is a problem in every city. Wamsutter is no different. The citizens and business owners need to take the initiative of cleaning up their property. All it takes is one person/business to start the process and the rest will follow.

Additional ideas to assist the Town of Wamsutter with clean up in public areas are listed below.

The town could contact Sweetwater Sheriff about utilizing low risk prisoners and people who are required by the courts to complete community service to work in the Wamsutter area on trash clean-up on the roadways. The sheriff may have additional project ideas they may be able to assist with.

Contact Person

Sheriff Dave Gray

307.352.6720

Furthermore the town could contact Wyoming Department of Transportation on their Adopt a Highway Program. The program could be utilized on the highway and the town could take this concept to the town level be used within the town limits.

Contact Agency

Wyoming Department of Transportation

The subject of old abandoned buildings could be addressed through developing and enforcing town ordinances and enforcing them. The town may need to make a trip to the county courthouse to find who some of the prop try owners are. I would suggest the town review what other communities of their size have done to address this issue. A contact for this would be the Wyoming Association of Municipalities.

Contact Organization

Wyoming Association of Municipalities
PO Box 3110 or 200 East 8th Avenue
Cheyenne, WY 82003
Phone: 307-632-0398
Fax: 307-632-1942
Email: wam@wyomuni.org

Challenge

The town is located in an area where there are numerous limited resources, climate, water, and people to name a few. Water, as everybody knows, in desert communities is a limiting factor to growth. When planning your green beautification this issue needs to be addressed. Additionally I heard Wamsutter citizens are working an average of 50 to 60 hours per week. Working these type of hours makes it difficult for citizens to volunteer for civic activities like maintaining green areas. Therefore, beautification of the city needs to keep these and other limiting factors in mind when planning green beautification.

Recommendations

Utilize water wise landscaping. Water wise landscaping is the use of water thrifty plants. These plants require little watering. Additional landscape design element should include the use of landscape plants requiring very little maintenance. Another idea is using a white, granular, water-absorbent polymer, designed to increase the water holding capacity of any soil or growing medium by acting as a reservoir for water used by growing and mature plants. The polymer can be used in planters, flowers beds and sod areas.

Contact Organization

Sweetwater Conservation District
79 Winston Drive #110
Rock Springs, WY 82901
307.362.3062 ext. 107

The town could use also use xeroscape landscape. This type of landscaping is utilizing plants requiring no irrigation after plant establishment. Wamsutter could use this in park areas by the interstate to educate travelers on the different types of plants found around Wamsutter. This area could be in the same park as the water wise/thrifty plants. Using these types of landscaping ideas in public areas could educate travelers as well as locals on what vegetation or plantings can be used in an environment where water is one of the limiting factors.

Contact Person

Maureen Meagher, Coordinator
Western Wyoming RC&D
79 Winston Drive #104
Rock Springs, WY 82901
307.362.1451

Living snow fences are another way to add to the beauty of the area. The snow fence will serve several purposes, adding green areas, assisting with reducing blowing snow areas and slowing down the wind during the year. Grants may be available to offset some of the costs.

Contact Organizations

Sweetwater Conservation District
Natural Resources Conservation Service
79 Winston Drive #110
Rock Springs, WY 82901
307.362.3062 ext. 107

The town has a wonderful park which is not being utilized by travelers. A flyer with information about the park, a map to the park and photo's could be placed in retail places around town so travelers and newcomers can use the park.

The town may think about applying for a grant to hire a college summer intern and local teenagers to assist with maintenance on public parks and green areas. The intern would be a team leader over several Wamsutter teenagers and report to town council. This would give a college intern the experience of being a leader in their field (Parks & Recreation degree ?) and teenagers job experience, something productive to do and some cash in their pockets.

Contact Person

Maureen Meagher
Western Wyoming RC&D Coordinator
79 Winston Drive #104
Rock Springs, WY 82901

Community Pride/Image

Challenge

The community needs to recognize community pride and positive community image comes from within.

Like many other communities, I believe your community like others needs to focus on what they have in common and then work on areas where you disagree. This type of process allows the community to work together on what they have in common instead of focusing on their differences. Once the community has worked on projects with common interest the community may be able to work on areas on which they disagree and move forward. A small reachable project could be developed first so the community can see something positive is happening in Wamsutter. This may produce more volunteers for future projects within the community and will assist in approving the image of Wamsutter.

Recommendation

To build community pride/image here are a few ideas the town may be able to utilize to build community pride/image.

Community Pride Day; Make a Difference Day, Arbor Day Celebration, and National Night Out are just a few programs

Community Pride Day

Community Pride Day is an idea where the community would complete community service of some type and then have a "Thank You" meal after the community service is completed sponsored by the town. This community service could be anything from trash pick-up, landscape maintenance/planting, or something else the town believes would build community pride. The sky is the limit as to what the town could achieve with the resources you have. The people of Wamsutter are your greatest resources!

Make a Difference Day

Make a Difference Day is a unique program that inspires and rewards volunteers. Created by USA WEEKEND Magazine, Make a Difference Day is an annual event that takes place on the fourth Saturday of every October. Make a Difference Day is the most encompassing national day of helping others -- a celebration of neighbors helping neighbors. Everyone can participate. The next event is Saturday, October 22, 2005. Citizens could clean up an elderly neighbor's house, or organize your block to replant and repair a local park. Outstanding Make a Difference Day projects are honored with charitable donations and accolades in USA WEEKEND Magazine during National Volunteer Week. Ten projects receive \$10,000. Information is available on their web-site.

Arbor Day Celebration

The State of Wyoming celebrates Arbor Day the last Monday in April.

Arbor Day Celebration ideas found on the Arbor Day web-site are as follows.

1) Start a tree seed in a cup, or a seedling in a pot. This would be a great project for the students at the local school. The students would then plant the trees around the community when the seedlings are ready. A small bottle holding the planters' handwritten names could also be placed by the roots.

- 2) Ask a civic or service group to promote a paper drive to gather paper to be recycled and save a tree. Use the proceeds to buy a special tree to plant in a park or other special public.
- 3) A "Memorial Tree" planting ceremony in the community. Trees could be donated by citizens in memory of loved ones or plant a tree during the 100 year celebration.
- 4) As a community plant trees together. Children might add a handful of soil brought from home to cover the roots. A small bottle holding the planters' handwritten names could also be placed by the roots. This could be combined with the "Memorial Tree" planting.

During one of the lessening sessions someone mentioned Wamsutter is coming up to it's 100 years as an incorporated town. The town needs to plan a celebration. Here are two ideas to consider:

- 1) Up-date the paperback book on the history of Wamsutter.
- 2) The town can start planning and implementing projects in preparing for the 100 year Celebration. A majority of the items listed as areas the citizens would like to see completed could be used in this 100 year celebration plan. This would put a timeline on project to ensure completion.

Volunteerism

Challenge

I heard repeatability through all of the listening session about how a core group of volunteers are always the same ones to volunteer. A statement made several times was the town has the talent to improve the community; it just needs to tap into it.

Recommendations

A wonderful way of finding this talent is by talking to the citizens. Ideas on what the town may want to do to find these people could be:

- 1) It was mentioned wives have nothing to do. This is a valuable un-tapped resource in Wamsutter.
- 1) Put together a survey of talents needed to complete community projects outlined in a master plan. Asking residents what talents they have and would be willing to volunteer. Information gathered could be matched with community projects.
- 2) Start a Welcome Wagon program. Ask the newcomers "Tell me about yourself", what are your strengths and talents you would be willing to share with the community possible producing new volunteers. A welcome packet could also be put together with information about the county, and the area surrounding Wamsutter.

Contact Person

Maureen Meagher
Western Wyoming Resource Conservation & Development
79 Winston Drive #104
Rock Springs, WY 82901
307.362.1451

Community Capacity:

Challenge

During the listening sessions, I heard differences in ideas or an opinion is perceived to be holding back progress in Wamsutter. I gain, you lose – sum total of zero. I also heard of disagreements between the town and the county.

Recommendations

The Wamsutter community has two resources available to assist with differences. They are University of Wyoming Cooperative Extension Service (WCES) and Wyoming the Department of Agriculture (WDA). WCES has Enhancing Wyoming Communities & Households Program (EWCH) and WDA has Wyoming Agriculture & Natural Resource Mediation Program.

The EWCH program focuses on increasing the capacity of communities, enterprises, and families to create a sustainable future to live, learn, and work. This initiative assists with developing communities by increasing skills. One of skills they can assist with is problem solving-finding threads of agreement and weaving them together. This will be accomplished using the facilitation process. The facilitation process has a facilitator who will assist in a collaborative and cooperative process to build consensus and produce meaningful outcomes. The facilitator does not lead the group nor does it try to distract or entertain. WCES has a trained facilitator in Sweetwater County. I would suggest if the city utilizes this program to have a WCES employee from a different county as the facilitator/mediator.

Contact person

Mary M. Martin
Area Extension Educator
P.O. Box 1708
Jackson, Wyoming 83001
Phone: 307-733-3087
Fax: 307-739-0749

Wyoming Agriculture & Natural Resource Mediation Program offers a process to assist Wyoming citizens in resolving their disputes in a way that is voluntary, confidential, low-cost and time-saving. Mediation is a process that helps disputing parties to come together and have an open, honest and confidential discussion about the issues. A trained mediator helps the parties explore options that are available to them and find an end to the conflict through mutually agreed upon solutions. The mediator does not act as a judge, deciding who is right or wrong. The parties themselves control the result of the mediation and any agreement that is developed.

Contact person

Lucy Hansen
Mediation Coordinator
(307) 777-8788 or 1-888-996-9278

Banking

Challenge

Lack of a bank in Wamsutter was a concern expressed several times. Wamsutter is no different than other small towns in Wyoming and other states.

Recommendation

I called a major bank with automated teller machine (ATM) which can accept payroll deposits about the possibility of putting an ATM in Wamsutter. The bank stated they would look into it. However they stated the best possibility of getting an ATM or satellite bank location would be to talk to local banks in Rawlins or Rock Springs.

Contact Person

Maureen Meagher
Western Wyoming Resource Conservation & Development
79 Winston Drive #104
Rock Springs, WY 82901
307.362.1451

County Allocations/Interest

Challenge

I repeatedly heard about a lack of support from county government.

Recommendation

Communication is a two way street. Both parties need to be at the table when discussing the issues facing Wamsutter. The town needs to attend and take part in county commission meetings. In turn the county needs to support the town. If the county commissioners do not hear or see the citizens of Wamsutter how are they to know what the citizens of Wamsutter need and want. In return the county commission needs to work with Wamsutter on their concerns.

Law Enforcement

Challenge

This was another concern expressed numerous times. I talked with several people about this topic and how the town of Wamsutter could address this need. This is not a want but a need.

Recommendation

The town needs to find a long-term solution to this problem. To find a solution one idea is to find out what it would take to get full time law enforcement. This could be accomplished by working with the county sheriff and other law enforcement agencies on what it would take to get full time law enforcement.

Contact Person

Sheriff Dave Gray
307.352.6720

WHAT WAS SAID AT THE LISTENING SESSIONS

What are the major problems and challenges in Wamsutter?

- Affordable housing
- Lack of grocery stores and resources help families stay here
- Biggest problem is day care
- biggest challenges is housing and what to do with the youth
- daycare and room for the community to grow
- ditto, being able to have land to purchase
- lot of people who work here but don't live here, no housing
- working with the county and state all money tax base is here and money is going out and not seeing resources
- ditto, income is spent elsewhere
- lack of law enforcement
- ditto
- ditto law enforcement and lack of activities for youth
- ditto
- ditto
- people come here to make money but don't spend money here, live elsewhere
- lack of services
- lack of good water
- something for the wife to do
- pool of employees (lack of)
- image by people who haven't been here
- no place for people to stay when they stop
- a road that a lot of people use that needs to be paved (from the post office to Burns Road)
- sum total of zero – if you gain I lose attitude
- land planning
- things for youth to do
- lack of housing
- zoning and rezoning for people to make money
- lack of infrastructure for water and sewer
- taste and odor of water
- need to get and keep a police officer
- streets – concrete – are falling apart
- lack of school funding – ex: community raising money for playground equipment
- need some help – city manager/ planner
- no one considers it a community they want to retire in
- need someone who pulls people together, gets projects done, need a coordinator
- people who come to town don't have the same feeling of community
- money doesn't come back to community (sales tax)
- community access to Internet

- parking lot for all the trucks
- daycare
- beautification
- housing
- laundry mat
- police coverage
- housing police coverage
- police
- laundry mat
- free and open housing market
- medical-lack of
- stuff for kids and adults to do-recreation center
- kids to do
- community involvement-getting involvement
- car wash
- dirt roads
- laundry mat
- recreation opportunities
- state put more resources into the area infrastructure
- business and home owners clean-up
- business and home owners clean-up
- recreation
- Sweetwater county does not recognize
- community center
- recreation center
- few land owners willing to sell land
- bring more money
- lack of workforce
- lack of workforce
- golf course
- learning outreach – college
- per-capital tax base-money going out and not coming back
- more money for EMT
- better water system-taste, smell, quality
- better water many ditto's
- police
- dirt roads-town, business
- county commissioners
- motel
- dust is health issue
- ditto on county
- library small
- distant learning center-ditto, ditto-winter months
- no housing and no jobs for spouse

- health care
- rotate doctors like they do for vet doc's
- affordable housing
- price is too high for land
- no housing
- commissioners don't recognize the people who work in Wamsutter from Rock Springs
- don't sell community to others
- Lack of daycare
- Lack of meeting places
- Funding for projects
- Ugly trailer courts
- Lack of Sheriff/Police in town
- People – not enough
- Not enough people for retail business
- We work 60-70 hours – doesn't leave much time for volunteering and community activities
- Lack of workforce – there are jobs, just not enough people to fill them
- Wamsutter does not sell itself
- Town's have no control on how they can get money – need to have people to get \$\$
- No support from County for emergency services/\$
- Lack of support from County and State for emergency services
- Lack of available housing
- Not enforcing covenants or ordinances – either need to enforce or do away
- Lack of housing
- Housing
- Council meetings – public does not participate in meetings unless they have something they have on the agenda
- Housing
- Citizens that are disconnected from community - don't take ownership of the community – here only for the big bucks
- Ditto on housing or even trying to buy land – it is all tied up
- Ditto everything that has been brought up
- Lack of infrastructure – need to have that before we can have the housing
- Lack of paved private parking lots
- Water, well 8
- Concrete streets that are beginning to show their wear – need to be fixed
- Dirt streets – cars get beat to death
- Wrecks because of dust on roads outside of town – we have had some fatalities and there will be more
- Disconnected people – only here for the big bucks even if it is for a few years
- Lack of infrastructure to get people to stay here
- City needs to benefit from the impacts of industry

- Trash from Love's
- Lack of services – bank, grocery store, health center, etc.
- Lack of people participation as volunteers – same people in the community that do everything
- Ditto on Trash from Luvs, lack of services and participation of citizens as volunteers
- Water/streets are a big issue
- Distance from population centers – puts Wamsutter at a disadvantage to county services. Wamsutter feels it is forgotten by governing bodies
- Ditto
- Ditto
- No help from county – new ambulance, trucks, etc were purchased by city and company funds. We are usually first on fires and emergencies before county gets here
- Lack of law enforcement – if we had law enforcement we could enforce ordinances, but lack of services hinders us from getting a person to Wamsutter to serve
- Town Council re-zones and re-zones (doing what is best for community) however sometimes decisions are not beneficial to the town.
- Water
- Monies that is made in this community through oil fields goes to county, we don't see anything and it is not helping us
- People of Wamsutter need to help themselves – people need to get involved in town projects.
- “Core” people continue to do the community work and are the ones that take pride in the community. We are the ones that get offended at the newspaper articles, the others are not.
- Finding funding to do a community center
- Lack of daycare
- Ditto
- Nothing for kids to do so families will not come – you get the single employees
- Lack of administrative knowledge – we are sure there are programs out there but we don't have people that can devote time to research and find the assistance.
- Daycare center
- Too much work for everyone in city services
- Garbage service is hit and miss – sometimes will skip, won't go out of the way to pick up trash
- Lack of law enforcement, but not a lot of crime
- Not much money is coming into this community from taxes
- Hand full of people show up for clean up day
- Property owners that don't want to clean up their mess
- We bash the county, but part of the blame lies with the town of Wamsutter
- Infrastructure for Wamsutter as it grows (water, sewer)
- Infrastructure – including lack of law enforcement
- Increased traffic

- Lack of housing
- Landlords and they control the land – can't afford to buy the land
- Lack of recreational facilities
- Shortage of people to fill the jobs, but could have potential employees if we have day care
- No High School
- Lack of services, bank, groceries
- Lack of support from County in activities and maintenance
- Ditto
- Tax money is generated in Wamsutter, but there is an obvious lack of funding that comes back from the county
- Appearance – town needs to be cleaned up
- Medical support is lacking – struggling to keep ambulances running
- County personnel represent county, but they don't represent Wamsutter with the same passion as they do Rock Springs/Green River
- Community meetings (City Council i.e. governor meeting) not well advertised and industry felt that were discouraged from attending. Actually told the meeting would last 15 minutes and not worth our time.
- Lack of attention from Governmental agencies mainly in Sweetwater County
- Ditto
- Too big cities east and west of us with I-80 going past – people don't take time to get off the interstate and see what is in this town – they blow right past
- Ditto
- Nothing for rough necks to do except go into the bar – no recreation – nothing to do but drink and that is sad
- On and off ramps on interstate our dangerous
- Road not paved off interstate and cause real problems – dirt lots for truck stop – mud turns just like ice when wet
- Small group of people intimidate newcomers – group that has been here forever, own properties and own the resources. If anyone new comes to town they are intimidated – prices are too high. Those that have are going to keep it.
- Many times people are told they can't do something just to stop them from purchasing or developing
- People – people that resist change and many that have power, control greed that control the change.
- Trying to get people to come here and work and stay here (workforce)
- Lack of people that will stay,
- Lack of decent homes and no place to expand to build homes
- No room for businesses to expand – trapped and land locked
- Lack of high school
- Roads – county roads were never built to any standards and now we have trucks tearing them up – we don't have funds to do necessary upgrades.
- No cemetery in town – no one likes it enough to be buried here – you can't even die here. If you don't have a church and cemetery you don't have a town.
- No services – no grocery store or other services

- When we moved here, I mentioned to my wife we could live here, she said “you can”
- No amenities: dr., school, church, theatres
- I-80 Interchange – close calls and accidents – dangerous interchange
- Sweetwater County does not understand how much money flows here and people need to cash checks.
- IRS made bank put “bank cashes check” on the internet and it is not safe
- Lack of law enforcement
- Free and open housing market it not available here
- Family housing is lacking
- People are living in worse conditions than my dog is...”hooterville”
- We have residences here, but very few homes
- “We aren’t worthy of attention because we will be ghost town soon – quote by a state official and we take offense at that.
- Not enough people within city administration to get work done
- Stable workforce is lacking
- Money that goes out of this community to county is not coming back fairly
- Not visually appealing
- Ditto
- Dirty little town
- Not enough to do here
- When I moved to Wamsutter they told me you either drink, do drugs or get a divorce
- Road conditions not built to handle the traffic they are getting
- Ditto – need a planner that can prioritize and pull everything together
- Town has no money to accomplish what needs to be done
- Agree with everything that has been said
- Lack of information to plan for growth – realistic projections of how many people would live here is the infrastructure was in place.
- Major industrial players need to be partners with the town
- Infrastructure needs – water, sewer need to be expanded
- Business people are stubborn and not on board to develop and change
- Nothing for children to do and they are not well supervised
- No recreation – everyone works and for stress you are told to relax and recreate – no recreational opportunities
- Ditto

What are the major strengths and assets in Wamsutter?

- Small
- Ditto, small classes
- Great people
- Ditto on people, great place to raise family, kids are safe, low crime
- Open spaces, enjoy the outdoors
- Small communities people look after each other
- Main strength is we can count on each other, the whole world passes us by (interstate)
- Nice park
- School
- Ditto
- Ditto
- Ditto
- Ditto, school is the center of the community
- Volunteer fire, EMT's
- Library, lot of kids hang out there
- Good place to raise children
- Has the core of people they need to solve the problems they have
- Good teachers and principal
- Good people and community
- Good mayor
- Library
- People of the community
- Open homes to stranger
- Best school
- People
- People need something all you have to do is ask
- Its small, kids are safe
- People, helping each other
- Location, get off work and stay here
- Little crime
- People get along
- People open up their hearts
- Growth opportunities and don't have the people to take advantage of growth
- Volunteerism
- School
- Great place to raise kids
- Real opportunities
- Companies allow people to volunteerism
- Council and mayor are great. Work together
- Council and mayor are great.

- Real opportunities
- Ditto
- We live here because Santa Claus lives here, it's home
- Council and mayor are great
- Best interest of the town the council and mayor
- Ditto on employment
- 100 years old in 9 years. Have lasted through Boom or bust
- Great park
- Location, small-image of what Wyoming cities are seen to be
- Stable
- Big companies-tap into the companies for monies
- Ditto
- Potential housing for folks driving to other communities
- People-openness
- Attitude of bigger companies are changing to assist communities
- Good businesses to assist with needs of the communities
- Town offers winter shelter for travelers
- School
- Ambulance and Fire Department
- Library
- Everything!
- Core of the people that are here – can call anyone to help you
- Have resources to get things done it is just that no one has put the resources into making things happen
- Good wages
- Every kid has an opportunity to do everything – for example if there is a school play, every kid gets a part – the process prepares you for everything in life if you apply yourself
- People
- All transportation modes go through here
- Community has people, equipment and talents to do many things within the town, we don't have a person to pull it all together and coordinate the activity
- People are our greatest strength
- Work ethic of people in the community
- Great Mayor – he is getting things done – bending over backwards to get projects going – pray to the Lord it continues
- Core group of people that never quit – they are dedicated
- Industry that is here – they are willing to step up to the plate to help
- Industry WANTS to put money into the community
- I-80 and Railroad from an economic standpoint
- Small town and good place to raise your children
- Ditto
- Classes are small and children can participate in EVERYTHING
- “Core” (permanent people) will do anything for you

- Ditto
- School – it has so much potential – great facility for this size community
- Small community and core people stick together
- Not a lot of crime – leave doors unlocked, keys in our cars, etc.
- Fire department and ambulance crews – good support from city, industry and volunteers
- People are the main strength we are like a family
- Firemen and EMTs – they bend over backwards
- Rural lifestyle – kids can play outside, ride 4 wheelers, and be safe. Lots of open space to enjoy
- Businesses and companies allow employees to volunteer (fire and EMT)
- Tree planting looks very good
- Natural beauty
- Small population
- People that live here
- Natural resources, hunting fishing etc.
- Huge employment opportunity if captured and done right
- Land is here – if it was freed up there would be all kinds of opportunities
- Wamsutter has been here almost 100 years – it has survived
- School is a good asset – size of classes and teachers
- Surrounding economy with oil and gas and railroad
- City infrastructure is in place (city government)
- Great natural resources – need to be capitalized on
- Volunteers
- Business like to be here and would like to help
- Visibility of Wamsutter right now – should take advantage
- Park and ball fields
- People do love it here
- Wamsutter can offer more than just money to people and many don't understand that
- Natural gas and natural resources
- Down home good people that are trying to do things for the town
- Basis of infrastructure – some limited housing
- Great park
- Interstate is an asset
- Resilient people here – have a vision – know where they want to go
- There are assets and if used right there would be good potential for growth
- Good atmosphere – I don't think it is a dirty little town, there are a lot of people that care about it
- Volunteers – small group, but they drive everything and do everything
- Tremendous resource of people, but they are getting burned out
- People – volunteers: number per capita of volunteers is great (ambulance, fire, council, etc.)
- Ditto – small core that are dedicated to this town

- Color of money – lots of money flowing through this town
- I agree with everything
- Good volunteer fire dept
- WYDOT
- Oil and gas
- Desert itself – it is not flat and it abundant in wildlife. It is beautiful
- It is a great place to work
- Money is the big attractor here – I like working here.
- Corporations are willing to partner with the town
- Businesses that are centrally located to the core of the oil and gas industry – opportunity to live where you can work
- Wide open spaces
- WYDOT
- Natural environment
- Interstate
- Railroad
- Union Pacific railroad
- Lot of possibilities – needs to get out of rut and move forward
- Freeway – great possibility to make money off I-80 for Wamsutter (study completed)
- Traffic is 70% increase from 10 years ago on I-80
- Interstate
- BP backing in this community
- Ditto
- Love's Truck Stop - #1 truck stop in the country for selling food, shortly behind in fuel sales
- Peace and quiet of the community
- Desert provides some ideas and opportunities

What projects would you like to see accomplished in Wamsutter in the next 2, 5, 10 and 20 years?

- Services, bank, grocery store that type of thing
- Beautification, eye-catching, to show that we are not a little place in the desert
- Loan or grant program for businesses who have been struggling
- Housing development
- Ditto
- Ditto
- Ditto
- Daycare
- Youth center or recreation center
- Need high school
- Ditto
- Ditto
- Ditto
- Community center, something to do other than the bar
- Beautification
- Walking path, something for exercise
- New businesses, banks, grocery, improvements to what already is here
- RV park or something for people to stop and stay
- More housing
- More school support – from school district and county
- More single women over 60, rich and willing to share
- Projects to be coordinated
- Water and lagoon system improved
- Central business district
- Traffic – better design of movements
- Improved streets
- Planner- perhaps someone who is shared by many local small communities
- More of a feeling of community and sense of pride
- Would not like to see a high school
- More houses, not trailer houses; permanent houses
- Bigger, better library
- Master Plan
- Wind farm
- Water and sewer
- Steakhouse
- Useable airstrip
- City improvements-live trees
- Grow with permanent residents-make it stable

- Recreation center with pool
- Kids and grandkids have place to live and work
- Large mall type building with service type stores –like Wright, WY
- More paved streets
- Buildings
- Sewer
- Strip mall
- Motel
- Bank
- Grocery store
- Facilities
- Park closer to town
- Houses without wheel
- Retirement
- Health care
- Low income housing (500-600/month for bad housing)
- Health care
- Bigger trees
- Basic services
- Pool with roof
- True Value
- Radio Shack
- discount type store
- have people to work, no lack of employees
- free up BLM land
- walk wall over-pass
- pave road here to Jeffery City
- high school
- smoke free bar
- highway department hub here in Wamsutter
- north south road paved-dust is deadly
- Sign on the interstate saying “Wamsutter next three exits”
- Newspaper
- Prison
- Town Beautification project
- Housing for families
- Multi-functional building (daycare, library, recreation center)
- Water/Sewer for all of town limits
- Wyoming Education Network (WEN) needed for high school students (distance learning)
- More retail (motels, café etc.)
- Swimming pool with a roof
- Community Center
- More people

- Don't want to be a Rawlins or Rock Springs
- Need to sell Wamsutter to get people to stay here
- Land Use and Development Plan
- Like a family – let someone start throwing rocks and we band together!
(sometimes we get along, sometimes we fight)
- Park and summer recreation program
- Principal of the school – cares about the community
- Pre-School in the school is a huge asset
- Teachers are supportive of community
- Churches – would like to see churches and businesses
- Law enforcement (SOON)
- Community Center
- Abandoned buildings gone
- Water and sewer for the town
- Daycare
- Housing development
- Property that people can buy and develop
- Beautification
- Track to develop an industrial area
- Water and sewer – excess capacity so there is room for growth
- Complete the 1976 well drilling project – Well #8
- Ditto
- Motel/hotel
- Increase services such as a camper court – RV court
- More housing – multi family (apartments)
- We are going to be impacted for short times and apartments would be helpful
- Paved connector from here to Jeffrey City
- Library expansion
- New town hall and fire hall
- City recreation center
- See the town grow – it is a great place. When we pulled in 13 years ago I cringed, but now I wouldn't leave for anything. Grow with services and resources
- More activities for youth (little kids)
- Population grow with permanent residents
- Ditto on everything that has been mentioned
- More paved streets
- More permanent structures so tax base can go up
- 10 years see houses here
- Need a developer – can't depend on 1 person developing the community
- Greater number of houses
- See people of Wamsutter banding together to improve the community – if you had the time we could get a lot done even without funds. But because of work ethic, people work long hours and they aren't willing to be out working or volunteering for the community.

- Chamber of Commerce in Wamsutter
- Green community (need water!)
- Living snow fence
- Need recreational facilities
- Attract families – daycare
- Medical support
- Infrastructure in place
- Recreational facility
- Interstate – pretty and green
- Make Wamsutter attractive so folks want to pull off here
- Good infrastructure – 2 years
- Day Care – 2 years
- Law Enforcement – 2 years
- Long term – people are proud to live here and it is a city of consideration for people to move to
- City recreation center – a center adds to community pride
- High School
- Paved street, water and sewer
- Reward people for making thing nice
- Nice, wide paved streets
- Housing development project
- Town of Wamsutter cleaned up
- 5 year development plan
- Sporting clays
- Public relations effort going on – promote the city
- Annual event people come to Wamsutter for...
- BMX track and bike path for the kids
- Golf course
- More trees for the community
- Winter recreation activity spot or area
- Football field and track
- Resource the schools appropriately (computers)
- Distance learning through the school (summer school for high school kids)
- Internet coffee shop
- Some business that would make Wamsutter look like it has potential (Home Depot, Sportsman Warehouse)
- Need another interchange
- Need a bank “I’m tired of being the banker” – some small bank
- Some part time city administration help (2-3 years)
- Need new volunteers
- Business stay (oil and gas) – we’ve seen boom and bust before so why should this be different
- Motel
- Car wash

- Bank (small outlet)
- Road repair on county roads
- Bank
- Law Enforcement
- Land situation resolved – so we can build homes and businesses
- Tourist traps to suck people in from the interstate
- Casino – they could cash the checks
- Homes with some space – not postcard type housing
- 1 acre home for every house
- Hotel, fast food, steakhouse – something to capture traffic off the interstate
- Steakhouse
- Land for affordable housing development
- Interchanges on I-80
- Land opened
- Don't take no for an answer to get things done (takes time, but can get done)
- Need to get people at higher levels of government to get things done – need to be a squeaky wheel
- Water system in and complete on both sides of the tracks and expandable
- Health care delivered here for families – maybe a few days a week
- Day care/pre school facilities and services
- Same community spirit here that is here now
- Annex north of Wamsutter into community – would add tax base
- Ditto
- Create partnership between state, federal, county, businesses and industry to do an annexation and create housing and business development
- Small grocery store
- Mercantile
- Interchange on I-80
- Need another exit off interstate
- Infrastructure needs to be a first priority in order attract young families: water, sewer, housing, schools
- Sidewalks, sewers and gutters
- Law Enforcement
- Rest stop with area to run dogs – a rest stop would pull people off interstate
- Some space for truck parking especially parking for during storms
- Recreational center
- Churches
- Businesses
- High School
- Road improvements
- **Paid** EMTs and Fire
- Airstrip (paved or dirt)

20 CLUES TO RURAL COMMUNITY SURVIVAL

1. Evidence of Community Pride:

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

2. Emphasis on Quality in Business and Community Life:

People believe that something worth doing is worth doing right.

3. Willingness to Invest in the Future:

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

4. Participatory Approach to Community Decision Making:

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

5. Cooperative Community Spirit:

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

6. Realistic Appraisal of Future Opportunities:

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

7. Awareness of Competitive Positioning:

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

8. Knowledge of the Physical Environment:

Relative location and available natural resources underscore decision-making.

9. Active Economic

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

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

11. Acceptance of Women in Leadership Roles:

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

12. Strong Belief in and Support for Education: Good schools are the norm and centers of community activity.

13. Problem-Solving Approach to Providing Health Care: Health care is considered essential, and smart strategies are in place for diverse methods of delivery.

14. Strong Multi-Generational Family Orientation:

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

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

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

16. Sound and Well-Maintained Infrastructure:

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

17. Careful Use of Fiscal Resources:

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

18. Sophisticated Use of Information Resources:

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

19. Willingness to Seek Help from the Outside:

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

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

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

Development Program:

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

they willingly accept it.

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