

**Eastern
Lincoln
County,
Nevada**

**Community
Assessment**

September 2010

Final Report

Presented by
**Nevada Rural
Development
Council**



Pioche



Panaca



Caliente

“This project was funded in part by a grant from the Nevada Commission on Economic Development Community Development Block Grant Program.”

Collaborating Partners

**University of Nevada Cooperative
Extension**



University of Nevada
Cooperative Extension



**Western Nevada Development
District**

City of Wells, Nevada



Lincoln County, Nevada

City of Caliente, Nevada



**Nevada Commission on Economic
Development**

The People of Eastern Lincoln County



Eastern Lincoln County Community Assessment

September 2010

Table of Contents

Executive Summary.....	4
Introduction	5
Acknowledgements.....	6
Nevada Rural Development Council.....	7
Strategic Planning and Community Assessments.....	8
Process for the Development of this Report.....	9
Resource Team Members.....	10
Local Steering Committee.....	11
Schedule of Listening Sessions.....	12
Major Themes.....	13
Priority Setting Results.....	14
Team Member Recommendations and Resources.....	15
Comments.....	59
Additional Resources.....	105
20 Clues to Rural Community Survival.....	107
Traits of Good Governance.....	108

Any recommendations contained herein are not mandatory. The Nevada Rural Development Council has not endorsed any recommendations and opinions contained herein. Neither the Nevada Rural Development Council, nor any of its employees, contract labor, committee chairs, and/or members make 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.

Executive Summary

The Lincoln County Commission requested the Nevada Rural Development Council (NRDC) to complete a Community Assessment for the communities in Eastern Lincoln County, Pioche, Panaca and Caliente. Funding was secured through the Community Development Block Grant Program and local county resources. The NRDC assembled a trained and certified resource team to assist in evaluating community challenges, assets and hopes. The four-day assessment began Monday, September 20, 2010 and concluded with a Town Hall Meeting at the Lynx Lair in the Lincoln County High School in Panaca on Thursday, September 23, 2010.

Two comments heard by the resource team provided a great deal of insight into Eastern Lincoln County. The first was, “Lincoln County is boundless in opportunities for those who take the effort to go out and look for them.” Based on this comment the team came to understand the strong “can do” spirit of the people who live in Eastern Lincoln County. The second comment, “What happens in the surrounding communities does affect us here as well,” told the team that residents see a strong connectivity between the three communities. Commenters considered themselves part of a greater whole and saw the need to work for the good of all as the only way progress could be achieved.

Over the four days, the team toured the communities of Pioche, Panaca and Caliente. They participated in 14 listening sessions and received hundreds of citizen comments. Those comments led to the formulation of the seven major themes identified in this report. At the end of each day, the resource team met to review the comments collected and to assemble the major themes. After the last listening session the resource team compiled a Preliminary Report which included the identified themes and presented it to the community at the Town Hall Meeting. The seven themes identified by the team are in alphabetical order: Infrastructure, Jobs, Natural Resources, Quality of Life, Tourism & Recreation, Water Management and Youth

There is considerable information in this report ranging from citizen comments to write-ups from the resource team which include potential resources to help community members carry out suggested recommendations. It is through the efforts of those who participated in the process and their desire to build a better tomorrow for Lincoln County that this assessment has any validity. Please take the time to read this report. If nothing else it should stimulate action and hopefully engagement by community members.

The key to the success of this planning process will be its implementation. The assessment identifies the needs of the community as presented by its citizens. Only as citizens become engaged in the process of carrying out the actions identified through this process will this plan have a lasting impact on the community. Anyone reading this document is encouraged to become part of the solutions to the problems and challenges identified within it.

The Nevada Rural Development Council (NRDC) is a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization dedicated to the enhancement of rural communities in Nevada. The NRDC mission is to “raise the capacity of rural communities.”

Introduction

Two comments heard by the resource team provided a great deal of insight into Eastern Lincoln County. The first was, “Lincoln County is boundless in opportunities for those who take the effort to go out and look for them.” Based on this comment the team came to understand the strong “can do” spirit of the people who live in and around the communities of Pioche, Panaca and Caliente. The second comment, “What happens in the surrounding communities does affect us here as well,” told the team that Eastern Lincoln County residents see a strong connectivity between the three communities. Commenter’s considered themselves part of a greater whole than just members of one community or another and saw the need to work for the good of all as the only way progress could be achieved.

It was with this attitude that the Lincoln County Commission approached the Nevada Rural Development Council to arrange a Resource Team Visit. The team consisted of four individuals who live and/or work in Rural Nevada and who are certified to be team members. The resource team spent four days in Eastern Lincoln County. Team members learned a great deal of new information as they listened to county residents express their thoughts and feelings. The team felt a genuine sense of commitment to this grass roots process from those who participated. The team was pleased and honored to be invited into your community, your businesses, and your friendship.

Funding for this project came from two sources. One source is the Community Development Block Grant Program through the Nevada Commission on Economic Development. The other source is through the Lincoln County Commission.

There is considerable information in this report ranging from citizen comments to write-ups from the resource team which include potential resources to help community members carry out suggested recommendations. This assessment could not have been possible without the great turnout by residents of the communities of Pioche, Panaca and Caliente and their willingness to share their thoughts about their communities. It is through the efforts of those who participated in the process and their desire to build a better tomorrow for Lincoln County that this assessment has any validity. Please take the time to read this report. If nothing else it should stimulate action and hopefully engagement by each of you in your community.

Acknowledgements

Clearly this type of effort could not have taken place without the hard work and commitment of many different people from the local community. First is the willingness of the Lincoln County Commission to seek input from county residents as to their thoughts about the future of the county. Second is the work by the local steering committee in pre-planning efforts and logistical support for the resource team. Special acknowledgement goes to Phyllis Robistow and Holly Gatzke without whose help this assessment could not have taken place. Finally this process would have been possible without the participation of the citizens of Eastern Lincoln County. Not only did many of you participate, you also made the team feel warmly welcomed in your communities.

Members of the team spent four days listening to and evaluating the many comments they heard from those of you who participated in the 14 listening sessions held during their visit. Each member of the team volunteered his or her time to be in your community and additional time to write up what was heard, make recommendations to address the themes that arose from the listening sessions and identify potential resources that may be used to carry out those recommendations. Each member brought his or her unique expertise and background to the process which gives this report a broad perspective.

Another generous contribution to this process came from the Western Nevada Development District and the City of Wells, Nevada by providing staff to be team members. Additionally, support for the community assessment process came through the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension. Extension's role in the success of this process is a testimonial to their commitment to rural Nevada. Finally by providing funding for this assessment, the Nevada Commission on Economic Development's Community Development Block Grant Program showed their commitment to assisting rural Nevada communities to become better places to live, work and raise families.

The Nevada Rural Development Council

The Nevada Rural Development Council (NRDC) is a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization dedicated to the enhancement of rural communities in Nevada. It is a collaborative public/private partnership comprised of federal, state, local, tribal, university, non-profit organizations and private sector individuals dedicated to collaboration and partnership.

The NRDC mission is to “raise the capacity of rural communities.” The NRDC seeks to carry out its mission by:

- Providing rural communities with strategic planning assistance, including community assessments, asset mapping, and plan implementation.
- Providing leadership development as a foundation of every community.
- Providing access to resources.
- Serving as a networking link between resources and needs.
- Promoting the quality of life in the values, needs, and contributions of rural communities.

The NRDC is governed by a board of directors and supervised by its executive committee. Through their determination and tenacity, the NRDC has continued its presence in rural Nevada through growth and challenging times.

For more information on the Nevada Rural Development Council, please contact:

Carl Dahlen, Community Assessment Coordinator
Nevada Rural Development Council
P.O. Box 3926
Carson City, NV, 89702
(775) 230-0075
dahlenc@unce.unr.edu
www.nevadardc.org

Strategic Planning & Community Assessments

Strategic planning is essential for every community to reach its goals and objectives. Without a plan, there is no roadmap to success. Residents of a community will follow community and elected leaders down any path if they believe in the plan presented to them. Community master plans may be the basis for strategic planning in rural communities but often these plans are primarily land and water use plans. A “community plan” is an important compliment to a master plan; it does not replace it, rather it reinforces it.

Community assessments provide the first step, the visioning step, in the strategic planning process. It is a community based planning and assessment process consisting of interviewing a large number of people in the community, recording their suggestions, and having a team of experts write up implementation plans for community use. This is a very neutral, non-threatening process where citizens can give input without criticism or debate. Because it is citizen-based, it adds tremendous validation to master plans, strategic plans, community development plans, and the elected officials that use these plans for implementing strategies.

The benefits of a Community Assessment include providing an opportunity to hear from community members, offering an affordable process, opening of communication between citizens and government, bringing “outside ideas” into the community, identifying new resources for communities to use, and providing a source of in-kind contributions for grants. Additional results include leadership development, an increase in volunteerism, and also an increase in civic engagement.

The key to the success of this planning process will be its implementation. The assessment identifies the needs of the community as presented by its citizens. Only as those citizens become engaged in the process of carrying out the actions resulting from this process will this plan or any plan have a lasting impact on the community. Each of you reading this document is encouraged to become part of the solutions to the problems and challenges identified in this document.

The resource team and the Nevada Rural Development Council are honored to bring this great engagement process to your community. It is our hope that it will provide benefits short-term and long-term for the residents of Eastern Lincoln County.

Process for the Development of this Report

The Lincoln County Commission requested the Nevada Rural Development Council (NRDC) to complete a Community Assessment for the communities in Eastern Lincoln County, Pioche, Panaca and Caliente. Funding was secured through the Community Development Block Grant Program and local county resources. The NRDC assembled a trained and certified resource team to assist in evaluating community challenges, assets and hopes. The team then developed suggestions for improving the quality of life, social and economic future in Eastern Lincoln County. The four-day assessment began Monday, September 20, 2010 and concluded with a Town Hall Meeting at the Lynx Lair in the Lincoln County High School in Panaca on Thursday, September 23, 2010.

Before the resource team started the assessment they received an orientation to Lincoln County and given the listening session schedule. Over the four days, the team toured the communities of Pioche, Panaca and Caliente. They participated in 14 listening sessions and received hundreds of citizen comments. Those comments led to the formulation of the seven major themes identified in this report. Participants in the listening sessions were asked to respond to three questions. Their responses served as the basis for developing the final report and the ensuing action plan. The three questions were:

- **What are the major challenges or problems in your community?**
- **What are the greatest assets or strengths in your community?**
- **What projects or initiatives would you like to see completed in the short term (24 months) or in the long term (5, 10, or 50 years from now) in your community?**

At the end of each day, the resource team met to review the comments collected and to assemble the major themes. After the last listening session the resource team compiled a Preliminary Report which included the identified themes and presented it to the community at the Town Hall Meeting. The seven themes identified by the team are in alphabetical order: Infrastructure, Jobs, Natural Resources, Quality of Life, Tourism & Recreation, Water Management and Youth

During the weeks following the assessment, the resource team prepared a draft report for the community which includes discussion of the major themes, recommendations and resources. The draft report was presented at a Town Hall Meeting on Monday, November 29, 2010 from 5:30 to 7:30 PM in the Lynx Lair at the Lincoln County High School in Panaca. At that meeting, residents were asked to prioritize the themes and volunteer for work groups to carry out specific actions identified through the assessment process. Following that meeting, the report was finalized to include the community prioritization. NRDC will work with the community during a follow-through campaign to assist in the development of implementation strategies to address the identified priorities.

Resource Team Members

Carl Dahlen, Team Leader
Community Assessment Coordinator
Nevada Rural Development Council
State Leadership Specialist
University of Nevada Cooperative Extension
PO Box 3926
Carson City, Nevada 89702
775/230-0075
dahlenc@unce.unr.edu

Michael Guss, VISTA Volunteer
Western Nevada Development District
704 West Nye Lane, Suite 201
Carson City, Nevada 89703
775/883-7333
mguss@wndd.org

Dan Nelson, Extension Educator
White Pine County Office
University of Nevada Cooperative Extension
995 Campton
Ely, Nevada 89301
775/289-4459
nelsond@unce.unr.edu

Jolene Supp, City Manager
City of Wells
1279 Clover Avenue
PO Box 366
Wells, Nevada 89835
775/752-3120
wellscitymanager@wrecwireless.coop

Local Steering Committee

Glen Zelch, Pioche, 775/962-5630, gfromky@yahoo.com

Dawne Combs, Pioche, 775/962-5345, dcombs@lincolnnv.com

Marty Soderborg, Panaca, 775/728-4481 marty_sody@yahoo.com , school principle,

Gordon Wadsworth, Panaca, 775/728-4666, gordon_wadsworth@yahoo.com

Keith Larson, Caliente, 775-726/3527, keith89008@yahoo.com

Tommy Rowe, Caliente, 775/726-3390, brahamabull717@yahoo.com

Phyllis Robistow, Lincoln County, 775/962-5497, par@lcturbonet.com

Holly Gatzke, Cooperative Extension, 775/267-3109, gatzkeh@unce.unr.edu



Eastern Lincoln County Community Assessment – 2010

Schedule of Listening Sessions

Monday September 20 , 2010	Activity	Location
4:00 – 5:30	Team Orientation	Opera House
6:00 – 7:30	Pioche Faith Bases Pot Luck	Opera House

Tuesday September 21, 2010	Activity	Location
7:30 – 9:00	Caliente Business Breakfast	Rose Park
9:00 – 11:30	Community/Area Tour	Caliente
11:30 – 12:30	Lunch with Seniors	Caliente Senior Ctr
1:30 – 4:30	General Public	Depot
5:00 – 6:30	Caliente Faith Based Pot Luck	Rose Park
7:00 – 8:00	Veterans	VFW

Wednesday September 22, 2010	Activity	Location
7:30 – 9:00	Panaca Business Breakfast	Pine Tree Inn
9:00 – Noon	Community/Area Tour	Panaca
Noon – 1:00	Lunch with Seniors	Panaca Senior Ctr
1:30 – 3:00	Middle & High School Students	School Auditorium
4:00 – 5:00	Pioche General Public	Opera House
6:00 – 7:30	Panaca Faith Based Pot Luck	LDS Hall

Thursday September 23, 2010	Activity	Location
7:30 – 9:00	Pioche Business Breakfast	Opera House
9:00 – 12:30	Community/Area Tour	Pioche
12:30 – 1:30	Lunch with Seniors	Pioche Senior Ctr
5:30 – 7:30	Town Meeting	Lynx Lair Panaca

Monday, November 29, 2010	Activity	Location
5:30 – 7:30 PM	Priority Setting Meeting	Lynx Lair Panaca



Major Themes

Infrastructure:

- Roads need repairs
- Street Signage and Lighting
- Sidewalks, Curbs and Gutters
- Utility Brown Outs/Capacity
- Panaca Water System

Jobs:

- Job Opportunities are Lacking
- Small Industry is Needed
- Entrepreneurism is Lacking
- Small Business Development is Needed
- Local Access to Vocational Education
- Local Access to Higher Education
- Local Businesses Struggling
- Leakage out of the Area
- Mentoring Programs Are Needed
- Yucca Mountain Development

Natural Resources:

- Over Regulation
- Agricultural Concerns
- Mining Development Needed
- Open Space Accessibility
- Rangeland Management Issues
- Fire Control
- Alternative Energy Development

Quality of Life:

- Too Much Government Regulation
- Afraid of Change
- Need More Regional Thinking
- Need to Retain Community Standards when Attracting new Businesses
- Need Sustainable Volunteerism
- Need More Housing
- Need Health Care and Specialty Services
- Peace, Quiet and Clear Skies

- Caring People; Caring Community
- Strong Faith Based Community
- Safe Community
- Need Community Clean Up

Tourism & Recreation:

- Managed ATV Trails
- Control ATV's on Streets
- Five State Parks, Historical Site
- National Park
- Hunting and Fishing
- Close Proximity to Resources
- Heritage Tourism
- Events and Activity Development
- Tourism Related Services Lacking
- Close to Metropolitan Areas
- Additional Tourist Information Needed
- Multigenerational Recreation Centers

Water Management:

- Flood Plain Designation
- Develop Ditches, Creeks, Bridges, Culverts
- Water Grab
- Onerous FEMA Restrictions
- Panaca Water System

Youth:

- New Middle School
- Improve Track at the High School
- More Non-Sports Activities
- Diversify Sports Activities
- Recreation Centers
- Quality Skate Parks
- Indoor Swimming Pool
- More Sports Fields
- Job Opportunities for Youth
- More Wholesome Youth Activities
- After Activities Transportation



Priority Setting Results

A Town Hall Meeting was held Monday, November 29, 2010 from 5:30 to 7:30 PM in the Lynx Lair at the Lincoln County High School in Panaca. At that time, members of the Resource Team presented the Draft Report for the Eastern Lincoln County Community Assessment. Residents then prioritized the Themes identified through the listening sessions. The priorities set at that meeting were:

- Jobs
- Infrastructure including Water Management
- Natural Resources
- Tourism & Recreation
- Youth
- Quality of Life

NRDC and other partners will work with the community during a follow up campaign to assist in the development of strategies to address these priority actions.

Team Member Recommendations and Resources

Theme: Infrastructure: Jolene Supp

Issue:

Infrastructure improvements in today's market are becoming very costly. However, they are also functions that still have granting sources. All three communities voiced the need for curb, gutter and sidewalks along with street lighting. Installation of these features would provide cleaning living areas, safer travel routes and definition to private property. They help people walk and promote healthier communities.

Recommendations:

Lincoln County is eligible for Community Development Block Grant funding and likewise, these improvements are fundable projects—especially for public areas, senior citizens, handicapped and low to moderate income residents. I would recommend starting in fairly public areas with a project and let this area serve as an example for the rest of the community. Also, through ordinance, require all new construction to develop to this level. While there may be a patch work effect for a short time, it is an effective way to get the needed infrastructure. Other funding sources are also available and local assessments/bonding is an option. Ultimately, a combination on grants and loans could be utilized to install curb, gutter, sidewalks and street lights.

Issue:

The Panaca water system was described as inefficient. “Irrigators” or people with gardens experienced high water bills, the pumping/flows at the source didn't match the usage, and several people expressed the thought that there must be a better way to manage the system.

Recommendations:

An entity to study the system and give recommendations is needed or if the system has been previously studied in detail, this study should be referred to. Nevada Rural Water or USDA can also help with rate studies and may be able to address the high costs to gardeners. Now is also a good time to review interest rates on bonds and potentially refinance to save money. Once again, based on the recommendations from a study, CDBG and USDA would have grant and loan funds available. If Nevada Rural Water is not assessable, it may be necessary to request a CDBG funded study for the system.

Issue:

The Canyon Road was damaged and no short cut to Las Vegas as well as no access to the historic site. This affected the local economy as well because it decreased tourism.



Eastern Lincoln County Community Assessment – 2010

Recommendations:

This project sounds like it will take a lot of planning to get all entities involved to the table. I think it may be best to consult federal representation in the form of senators or congressman to get funding, approvals, environmental concerns, designs, etc.

Resources:

Nevada Commission on Economic Development:

Website: http://www.diversifynevada.com/divisions/rural_community_development_cdbg/

USDA Rural Development, Nevada State Office – www.rurdev.usda.gov/nv

Nevada Division of Water Resources – <http://water.nv.gov/>

US Senator John Ensign – <http://ensign.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?>

US Senator Harry Reid – <http://reid.senate.gov/contact/index.cfm>

US Congressman Dean Heller – <https://heller.house.gov/Contact/>



Eastern Lincoln County Community Assessment – 2010

Theme: Infrastructure: Michael Guss

Issues:

- Roads Need Repairs
- Street Signage and Lighting
- Sidewalks, Curbs, and Gutters
- Utility System Brownouts/Capacity
- Panaca Water System

The Rainbow Canyon Road was flooded out by the Meadow Valley wash in 2005. This is a state-designated highway, and the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) is currently working to repair the road. The lack of the road lengthens the trip to Las Vegas, and has closed a State Historic site that is located within Rainbow Canyon.

The bridge over the Meadow Valley Wash in Caliente does not have an outlet for water, and therefore acts as a dam. This could lead to catastrophic flooding in the future.

In Panaca there was concern over the lack of sidewalks and street lights on some streets. Many residents felt this created dangerous situations when people were walking at night.

There was a desire for more sidewalks, curbs, and gutters throughout all three communities.

There was concern that brownouts on the electric system made it difficult for businesses to operate.

In Panaca, there was concern about an aging water system that needed major repairs.

Recommendations:

The public should continue to voice their support for the Rainbow Canyon Road repairs to state officials. The repair of Rainbow Canyon Road will provide shorter access between Las Vegas and Caliente; if the State Historic Site reopens once the road is repaired, there will be a positive impact for Lincoln County's economy.

Lincoln County and the City of Caliente should take steps to reduce the likelihood of a future flood. The bridge over the Meadow Valley Wash is problematic because it does not have an outlet for water. Any reasonable flood planning would address this issue by reconstructing the bridge over the Meadow Valley Wash to allow for water to pass underneath it.

The City of Caliente could partner with the Nevada Department of Transportation to place the bridge replacement on the list of projects for the Highway Bridge Repair and Replacement



Eastern Lincoln County Community Assessment – 2010

Program. If the project was approved, up to 80 percent of the project cost would come from a federal grant.¹

If the City is not able to get on the Nevada Department of Transportation project list, it should consider constructing the bridge out of locally grown wood. This could reduce the project cost, create local jobs in the timber industry, and perhaps become an avenue for outside funding.²

Government is not always the solution. There are circumstances where government can be an integral part of the solution. The construction of sidewalks and curbs is one of them.

Government cannot build sidewalks on private property. But government can provide help to property owners who wish to construct or repair sidewalks. Many municipalities implement a “Shared Sidewalks” program to reduce the cost of sidewalk installation and repair.

The Village of South Elgin, Illinois has a shared sidewalk program where the cost of a sidewalk is shared between private landowners and the Village government,

“This voluntary program is designed as an opportunity for the Village and resident to share in the costs of sidewalk repairs that may generally take up to five years to complete if funded only by the Village.

The cost of a sidewalk square is determined through a bid process in which the lowest responsible bidder determines the cost to be split between the Village and the homeowner. The number of squares a resident may choose to replace is at the resident's discretion.”³

This program spreads the cost of expensive sidewalk repairs. It could easily be adapted into a sidewalk construction program with a municipal government and private landowners sharing the cost of sidewalk construction.

Unfortunately, this would require additional government expenditures; in economic times as tough as these, that may not be feasible.

If such a program were implemented, government procurement standards would have to be followed. This means that the *lowest responsible bidder* would have to be hired.

Brownouts are a serious problem for the business community in Lincoln County. We heard that businesses can frequently lose fifteen to thirty minutes of time to one brief power outage.

¹ Nevada Department of Transportation. *Program Development Chapter 8*. Pp. 23-24. Accessed October 19, 2010 at: http://www.nevadadot.com/reports_pubs/program_development/pdfs/pd_Chapter8.pdf

² Southern New Hampshire and North Country Resource Conservation & Development Area Councils. “Timber Bridges in New Hampshire.” 2001. Accessed October 19, 2010 at: <http://www.nhrca.net/TimberBridgeReport.htm>

³ Village of South Elgin, Illinois. “Shared Sidewalk Program.” Accessed October 18, 2010 at: http://www.southelgin.com/index.asp?Type=B_BASIC&SEC=%7B05054A2E-0530-4CB1-B692-58FC6720A0A5%7D



Eastern Lincoln County Community Assessment – 2010

Lincoln County's power system is owned and operated by the Lincoln County Power District Number 1, which is a General Improvement District under the Nevada Revised Statutes. The Power District purchases power from Hoover Dam and that power is used by end-users in Lincoln County.

Hoover Dam's generation is at thirty-nine percent of capacity due to a long-term drought:

The man-made lake formed by Hoover Dam now stands at 39 percent capacity, largely because of an 11-year drought on the Colorado River. It is only the third time Lake Mead has been this low since it was filled in the 1930s.

Hoover which straddles Arizona and Nevada, is one of the Southwest's cheapest and cleanest sources of power. Electricity production at the dam has dropped along with Mead's volume. Losing that supply wouldn't leave California in the dark, but it would send utilities searching for other, more expensive sources, the cost of which would be passed on to consumers.⁴

This is already a problem in Lincoln County. In an August 2010 press release, the Power district stated that it , does not receive enough power from Hoover Dam to meet the electric power needs of Lincoln County, it has to purchase supplemental power from other sources.”⁵

Lincoln County Power buys additional energy from the Colorado River Commission and NV Energy when they are short at Hoover Dam. This action does not present any voltage or outage problems in Lincoln County. Lincoln County Power District, Pioche Public Utilities, Caliente City and Alamo Power District work very hard to keep outages (planned and unplanned) at a minimum. However it is not always the case, sometimes outages are unavoidable.

Long-term, Lincoln County should continue to diversify its power supply. Lincoln County is blessed with wind, solar, and some geothermal power sources. Just as an economy that is over-dependant on one industry is not sustainable, a power system that relies on a single source of energy generation is unsustainable. Hoover Dam will always be a large portion—perhaps a majority of—Lincoln County's power supply; but if it can be augmented with locally-produced energy, citizens will receive more reliable service at a lower cost.

We heard that the Panaca Water system was inefficient. There was concern that the inefficiencies in the local water system were driving up the cost of water, and leading many to elect to not water their lawns.

Water in the desert is a finite resource. Constructive steps at water conservation—such as xeriscaping, which uses plants that do not need as much water to decorate a yard, should be taken. The use of low-flow shower-heads, faucets, and toilets should also be considered.

⁴ Zimmerman, Janet. “Colorado River Drought Threatens Production.” *Inland Press-Enterprise*. October 6, 2010. Accessed October 18, 2010 at: http://www.pe.com/localnews/stories/PE_News_Local_D_mead06.2b8c2c6.html

⁵ Lincoln County Power District Number 1. “Power Board Changes How Cost for Supplemental Power Recovered.” August 10, 2010. Accessed October 18, 2010 at: <http://lcpd1.com/pdf/press/PressReleasePPAC%20081110.pdf>



Eastern Lincoln County Community Assessment – 2010

But conservation alone is not going to solve Panaca’s water problems. The Panaca water system needs major improvements, and major improvements to a water system can be an expensive proposition.

Federal grants, federally backed loans, or a combination of federal grants and loans, can reduce the high up-front cost of a water system. The United States Department of Agriculture has Water and Waste Disposal Grants and Loans that are available for small communities.⁶

However, a grant would only pay for a portion of the cost to upgrade Panaca’s water system. Local entities would be responsible for the other portion of the cost. Leveraging a municipal bond or a loan taken by a local agency, with a federal grant would be good, conservative fiscal management.

Resources:

United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Utility Service. Kay Vernatter, Program Manager. (775)887-1222 extension: 110 kay.vernatter@nv.usda.gov

Nevada Department of Transportation. (775)-888-7000 <http://www.nevadadot.com>

United States Department of Transportation Highway Bridge Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Program: <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/safetealu/factsheets/bridge.htm>

United States Department of Energy, Renewable Energy Funding:
<http://www.energy.gov/recovery/renewablefunding.htm>

Bureau of Reclamation, Sustain and Manage America’s Resources for Tomorrow:
<http://www.usbr.gov/WaterSMART/>

⁶ United States Department of Agriculture. Rural Development. “Water and Waste Loan and Grant Programs.” Accessed October 18, 2010 at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/programs.htm#GRANTS>



Eastern Lincoln County Community Assessment – 2010

Theme: Jobs: Carl Dahlen

Issues:

- Job Opportunities are Lacking
- Small Business Development is Needed
- Local Businesses Struggling
- Leakage out of the Area
- Entrepreneurism is Lacking
- Small Industry is Needed
- Mentoring Programs Are Needed
- Local Access to Vocational Education
- Local Access to Higher Education
- Yucca Mountain Development

Even in the best of economic times, Lincoln County residents have struggled with a lack of economic opportunity. As conditions have changed over the years, what were once thriving communities based on mining, agriculture and the railroad have experienced a steady decline in their economic base. Now with the national recession not yet turning the corner in Nevada, Eastern Lincoln County is challenged to maintain minimum services. The Resource Team heard about local retail businesses closing their doors because of hard economic times.

The major concern was that young people who have been raised in Lincoln County are unable to stay in the area because there are no jobs available. Other families have had to move from the area to find employment opportunities elsewhere. Over and over the Resource Team heard calls for recruitment of some kind of industry. The one comment that summed up the situation was simply, “People just need a job.”

Another problem identified by residents is the lack of training opportunities for the local work force. There is no longer access to vocational training or higher education in the local communities. To obtain these services, people need to travel Las Vegas or Cedar City or completely out of the area to find it. Once gone, these people are less likely to return once they receive the training they are seeking.

Recommendations:

Too often a community looks to business recruitment as the only solution to the problem of lack of jobs. Rather the first response should be to look within the community at where and how jobs might be created locally. The first question to ask is, “Who is doing business today and how can we help them do business better?” Each community can conduct a survey of every business in town. The survey should seek to discover under what conditions these businesses might be strengthened. There may be a need for local regulatory changes to make doing business easier and less expensive. There may be a need for training for business owners to help them become more efficient and effective in their business operations. Such training may be obtained through the Nevada Small Business Development Center. There may be a need for financing. One suggestion was the creation of a local development company. Such a company could come



Eastern Lincoln County Community Assessment – 2010

through efforts to capture capital from within the community that could be used to help support local business financing. In addition, the Rural Nevada Development Corporation out of Ely can help find alternative funding that may be able to supplement more traditional funding. There may be a need for networking opportunities between businesses. This need could be supported by a local Chamber of Commerce or through the Lincoln County Action Team (LCAT). If one hundred businesses are identified and through local support of those businesses and other efforts 20% of these businesses are able to hire one new employee each, that is the same as recruiting one industry that brings 20 new jobs.

The Second question that needs to be asked is, “Who has a business idea and how can we help that idea become a reality?” Again this recommendation requires surveying people in the community who might be interested in starting a business. Then you want to put these people in touch with the Nevada Small Business Development Center so they can learn how to create a business plan that will increase the likelihood of business success over time. Another resource for new and or expanding small businesses is the Nevada Microenterprise Initiative (NIMI). Also, the US Small Business Administration may have help for business start ups. As someone said in one of the listening sessions, “We need to show businesses that we mean business.” Once a community shows significant support for the businesses it already has as well as for local start up ventures, recruiting new businesses becomes somewhat easier. Any business considering coming to an area wants to know that it can find support for its move because that support is already in place.

When it comes to business support and recruitment it is essential that communities speak with one voice. Any efforts along these lines need to be coordinated between collaborating partners. Entities working toward these common goals should be in constant contact with each other and have clearly defined roles in the coordinated efforts. The collaboration should involve everyone with an interest in bringing jobs to the community including public, private and non-profit partners.

Additional efforts need to include workforce preparedness. Businesses need a trained and willing workforce if jobs are to be available for local residents. Some vocational training and higher education opportunities can be accessed through distance learning either by compressed video or on-line course work. Contact should be made with the Community College of Southern Nevada to determine what courses may be available through distance learning or on-line. Other Nevada colleges and universities offer courses through these methods as well and those opportunities should also be explored. A third option would be private institutions like the University of Phoenix. In regard to helping local students prepare for the working world, a mentoring program through the high school could be developed where students have the opportunity to job shadow various career opportunities.

Resources:

Nevada Small Business Development Center – www.nsbdc.org

Nevada Microenterprise Initiative – www.4microbiz.org

Rural Nevada Development Corporation – <http://rndcnv.org>

US Small Business Administration – www.sba.gov/localresources/district/nv/index.html



Eastern Lincoln County Community Assessment – 2010

Nevada Commission on Economic Development – www.diversifynevada.com

Community College of Southern Nevada – www.csn.edu

Nevada System of Higher Education – <http://system.nevada.edu>

University of Phoenix – www.phoenix.edu



Eastern Lincoln County Community Assessment – 2010

Theme: Jobs: Jolene Supp

Issues:

In Lincoln County, jobs are obviously a critical issue. But there is also an issue of underemployment and seasonal employment. This was voiced by many of the segments and is key to changing the economic picture of the area. Ironically, while the government controls a lot of the county, they also likely offer stable, good paying positions. Private sector have only limited hours to offer an employee and very limited funding if any. It appeared like a lot of the businesses were sole proprietors out of necessity. Industry, which would traditionally offer various positions and good pay, is very limited. This whole issue then trickles down to household second incomes and teen-age, youth incomes. There also is a significant bulk of the population that is retired. Some of these folks may enjoy part-time, undemanding business type activities. This population enjoys part-time earnings, but doesn't like to be burdened like a full-time business activity would do.

The Lincoln County Economic Development group was not immediately visible and apparent. If there is not one, the Commission should appoint a group. If there is one, they need to define their mission and create some key inventory lists.

Recommendations:

There are several key business segments that the Lincoln County Economic Development group should target. This issue is such a major issue though, that the county commission and many others needs to buy into and dedicate a significant amount of resources to. Agriculture, Tourism and Recreation, and Entrepreneurialism are industries that could, with growth, yield immediate jobs. Unfortunately, industry may develop second as infrastructure for industry is lacking and this sector is heavily dependent on economic recovery. At the local level, identify what job skills are available and what needs are currently underserved. Do you have people that have knowledge or experience in agriculture, tourism, recreation or a small business that would help diversify or expand the economy of Lincoln County? Mail out a questionnaire to all the citizens on Lincoln County and ask them what they know how to do, what they have experience in, and what they would like have access to. Query your local population because they want to live in Lincoln County. It may not mean that they will perform the job, but they may be able to mentor someone who needs a job. Secondly, identify places available for emerging job opportunities, identify ways to accomplish business activities using no costs or low costs--partnership opportunities. Thirdly, get training for these new businesses to insure long term success. Lastly, use e-marketing and e-sales to bring the world to you! Eliminate the down side to remoteness and enjoy the upside.

Because government is such a large sector of Lincoln County, are there symposiums, training exercises, or other activities that could bring more governmental dollars into the area? Are there natural resource development activities that the governmental departments could bring to Lincoln County that would amplify the area? Query the Extension Director for opportunities. You are already targeting the Yucca Mountain transportation activity. Are there others? BLM air tanker activities, US Forest Service camp attendants, mineral exploration, non-evasive military training exercises.



Eastern Lincoln County Community Assessment – 2010

Resources:

1. Governmental Entities currently in Lincoln County. The BLM, US Forest Service and many others have discretionary funds for economic development—especially when it compliments their programs. This resource can be in the form of financial capital, but it also can be social capital which is desperately needed also.
2. Volunteerism and local efforts. Many times locals would help, but they haven't been asked. Community assessments energize local capital; now local community leaders need to channel these efforts and get the most out of them. Get creative with locals. Identify how they can assist with job creation.
3. The Nevada Small Business Development Center and University of Nevada Reno partner up to offer training activities such as the Next Level class, but they also have contacts to provide key business classes such as Quick books, e-marketing, EBay sales, Excel training and the like to insure long term successful entrepreneurship.
4. USDA Rural Development, with their Rural Business Enterprise Granting program, can grant a portion of funding for a revolving loan program. This could help the emerging person that needs a small loan and will not find it through private sources. Rural Nevada Development Corporation may also help with small funding opportunities.
5. SBA is close to you in that they have an office in Mesquite. Cultivate their knowledge and resources. They have great ideas that will help support new local jobs. They may also support a local workshop to bring interested folks together.
6. HUD and SBA have economic development special programs. Work with your congressman or senator and request funding for workforce initiatives—job creation, business development, business incentives, etc.



Eastern Lincoln County Community Assessment – 2010

Theme: Natural Resources: Carl Dahlen

Issues:

- Over Regulation
- Open Space Accessibility
- Rangeland Management Issues
- Fire Control
- Agricultural Concerns
- Mining Development Needed
- Alternative Energy Development

Residents of Eastern Lincoln County noted that this area has a tremendous natural resource base. There is a history of mining and agriculture in the county. At the same time there are great opportunities for outdoor recreational activities like hunting, fishing, camping, off-road vehicle travel, hiking, rock-climbing, etc. One commenter stated, “This is the most gorgeous place on Earth.”

The challenge is that 98% of Lincoln County is public land and current land management practices have limited historic uses of the land. “Ranchers and farmers are stewards of the land. They have to plow and plant every year. They don’t need somebody telling them how to do it.” This was one comment heard by the Resource Team. Another was, “We need diversified agriculture, not just growing alfalfa and grass. We need to do more than that.” Not only are land management practices limiting agricultural uses of the public lands, there is also a need for new crop alternatives to help create sustainable farms and ranches.

Another challenge has to do with mining activities on public lands. “If someone finds an ore deposit, it will take 5-7 years to get approval to mine it.” Small mining operations are kept out of the business because of upfront costs and time. One commenter put it this way, “We have a great mineral base available to us. However, regulation and restriction withholds the use of it. Pioche was founded on mining and it’s almost ludicrous that we have mineral assets available and zero mining activity.” As was stated at one listening session, “The essence of what people are saying is that BLM, the largest land-owner, needs a cooperative attitude rather than a confrontational attitude. BLM is not sensitive to the needs of the county.”

One other alternative suggested was for the county to develop its renewable energy potential. Opportunities for energy production from geothermal, wind, solar and biomass were noted, “Renewable sustainable power, we sit on top of geothermal, wind in abundance and sun in abundance. Why communities are not investing in that is anyone's guess.” Renewable energy can lead to additional economic opportunity as well not just in direct jobs, but also by providing less expensive energy alternatives for businesses locating in the county.

Recommendations:

Lincoln County is not the only county struggling with limitations on uses of public lands. Every county in Nevada has similar issues. In Mineral County one of the suggestions was to develop a



Eastern Lincoln County Community Assessment – 2010

strategy called a Holistic Collaborative Community where decisions are made based on local input as well as regulatory concerns. This concept requires that projects be developed by first focusing on goals, and then using a targeted process or path to achieve them. The path is accountable because it is developed using a holistic, collaborative, community directed and evidence-based approach. The process is then evaluated for its performance and developed accordingly. The concept would ask that regulators look beyond the regulations to final outcomes both positive and negative and determine the viability of a project based on those probable outcomes. Such a concept will require extensive discussions among federal land management agencies, mining interests, farmers, ranchers, elected officials and other interested parties to clearly spell out how the public interest can be best served. Lincoln County residents should begin conversations with residents of other rural counties to build a coalition that can that can address public land issues as a single voice.

In regard to agricultural sustainability, Holly Gatzke the Lincoln County Extension Educator is working with local producers to find new ways to do the business of farming and ranching that will improve profitability. She is helping find alternative crops that have a higher value than traditional crops. Also, she is helping farmers and ranchers find new markets for their products. She is working on these efforts in conjunction with her colleagues at the University of Nevada as well as other Land Grant Universities.

To fulfill the potential for renewable energy production in Lincoln County, residents should contact the Nevada Energy Office to find out about efforts that are currently underway. Also, the US Department of Energy has resource people who can help analyze the potential for renewable energy in Lincoln County and how it might best be put to use for public benefit. Some geothermal activity is currently being undertaken in Caliente to produce a source of heating for public buildings. Also in regard to the use of renewable energy, it is often most cost effective to use the energy where it is produced and not try to build the infrastructure needed to ship the energy somewhere else. When renewable energy is used locally, the payback costs can be measured against the retail price for energy and not the wholesale price. By putting up solar panels or erecting a small wind generator, energy costs for a home or business can be significantly reduced.

Resources:

Holistic Collaborative Communities – Tony Tipton, Mineral County – tiptons@wildblue.net

US Bureau of Land Management, Ely District Office –

www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/ely_field_office.html

Lincoln County Extension Educator – Holly Gatzke – gatzkeh@unce.unr.edu

University of Nevada Cooperative Extension – www.unce.unr.edu

Nevada Energy Office – <http://energy.state.nv.us/>

US Department of Energy – www.energy.gov



Eastern Lincoln County Community Assessment – 2010

Theme: Natural Resources: Dan R. Nelson

Driving into Lincoln County to begin the assessment process, it became obvious that natural resources are a tremendous asset in the area. Comments throughout the listening sessions and the tours provided to the assessment team strongly reinforced that understanding. However, along with the abundance of natural resources, several issues were identified. Participants expressed frustration over what they clearly perceive as over regulation of public land, stating that it limits their access to open spaces, inhibits mining development, reduces the efficiency of range management and increases the cost of fire control while reducing its effectiveness. Several comments were also made about alternative energy development in the area; participants generally wanted to see it developed but want it to be done within guidelines from local rather than outside priorities. Concern was also expressed over the future viability of agriculture in the area.

Issue:

Too much governmental regulation was seen as a major impediment to activities and especially to future growth.

Discussion:

I believe that it would be safe to say that, in the United States, landowners are allowed (and generally expected) to determine the priorities for using their land according to their personal preferences and objectives so long as their management does not interfere with, negatively influence conditions on, or decrease the value of land owned by their neighbors – within constraints of the law as determined ultimately by the majority of voters throughout the country. According to the Master Plan for Lincoln County (2007), less than 2.2 percent of the land in Lincoln County is privately owned; nearly 98 percent of Lincoln County is public land, most of which is managed by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Throughout the listening sessions, participants expressed frustration with what they perceived as over regulation and restriction of the uses of those public lands. It was apparent that many residents either do not understand the objectives and priorities of the respective public land management agencies or those residents simply disagree with those objectives and priorities.

It is probably not surprising that most Lincoln County residents perceive conditions on publicly-owned lands differently and have different priorities for them than the majority of U.S. citizens/voter. Most people live in areas of the country that receive two to five times Nevada's annual precipitation, have much higher population densities, and enjoy relatively very little opportunity to enjoy physical solitude and open spaces like those in Lincoln County. As much as residents of Lincoln County (and other rural counties in the intermountain west) would like to be able to dictate management priorities for federally managed public land, the employees of federal agencies are mandated to operate according to policies and guidelines that are developed primarily according to national, not local objectives.



Eastern Lincoln County Community Assessment – 2010

Recommendations:

First, if residents are going to significantly influence the decisions and policies of land management agencies over time, residents must gain an understanding of the objectives and priorities of the respective agencies. It is crucial that residents learn how each of the agencies operate and, most critically, how their guidelines, protocols and policies are developed. Lincoln County residents need to learn how they can provide input then become actively involved, individually and collectively, in the decision making processes locally, regionally and at the national level. It is important that residents express support for actions they like as well as speaking in opposition to proposals with which they disagree. The lack of comments from local residents is often at least some of the reason that agency actions may not reflect local priorities; if the agency employees make decisions contrary to the clear majority of the comments they receive, even when the comments come from individuals outside of the local area, they have to strongly justify their actions.

Finally, since the land is publicly owned by people throughout the country, residents should also strongly support efforts to educate people throughout the United States about conditions and concerns in Nevada. To the extent that people outside of this area gain an understanding of conditions and concerns here, they are more likely to be supportive of decisions and policies aligned with priorities in this area.

Issue:

Residents want to see alternative energy development in the area done within guidelines and priorities from local rather than just outside interests.

Recommendations:

As with the previous issue, if decisions made regarding alternative energy projects are to match the priorities of local residents, it is critical that local residents are proactively involved with planning processes. In addition to local citizen involvement in local, state and federal agency processes, local governments often take official positions supporting or opposing various decisions.

Local governments also have the opportunity to establish ordinances, fees, etc. that can substantially influence development. The establishment of impact fees based upon the projected expense of providing fire, police and other emergency services to various locations within the County is clearly allowed in Nevada. Ordinances providing the mitigation of visual, noise and other environmental impacts are commonly established by communities. Proactive development of support services and physical resources tends to substantially influence where development occurs as well as the overall feasibility of growth; building industrial parks would be an example of such an approach.

Of course, all of these should be used in connection with a coordinated, dynamic set of master plans developed by individual communities and the County in connection with a regional master plan. The Master Plan for Lincoln County (2007) is an example of the County's part of this



Eastern Lincoln County Community Assessment – 2010

effort but it needs to be regularly updated, augmented by and coordinated with master plans from each of the communities within the County. Ideally, plans developed by various land-management agencies will also be developed in conjunction with, reference in, and implemented in coordination with each of the other plans.

Issue:

Steps should be taken to ensure the future viability of the agricultural industry in the area.

Discussion:

Comments were made during several of the listening sessions that reflected a desire to maintain the rural lifestyle and agricultural environment of Lincoln County. A number of the participants recognized agriculture as a strong asset but voiced concern that production agriculture seems to be gradually diminishing throughout the area. That concern is not ill founded; according to the 2007 Census of Agriculture, total number of farms in Lincoln County decreased by more than 10 percent between 2002 and 2007.

Recommendations:

The continued pursuit of appropriate conservation easements, increasing agricultural diversification and value-added agriculture, strengthening agro-tourism and the pursuit of industrial development that compliments agriculture can all be helpful in protecting agriculture and encouraging a continuation of ranching and farming locally. It is also important, even in rural areas, that an effort be made to help residents better understand where their food comes from.

Conservation Easements have been used to help to protect agricultural land in Lincoln County from other development. One example is the discussion during the March 1 meeting of the Lincoln County Commissioners of a possible national conservation area in Garden Valley. If residents truly value this aspect of the community, it may be appropriate to consider increasing local funding channeled into conservation easements.

As I'm sure community leaders are probably aware, an intermediate approach would be a further differential between the taxation of classes of property. This approach has proven to be successful elsewhere. However, since such action is not allowed in Nevada, changes in state law would need to be made to use such an approach.

Value Added, Diversified Agriculture and Agrotourism: Adding value to agricultural products essentially involves more localized processing, packaging and/or more specific marketing of what is currently being produced. Diversification of production can also improve profitability. In both cases, however, nothing will be gained unless the added revenues more than cover the added expenses. Added profits generally result more from carefully targeted marketing and/or producing for specific markets than from changes in commodity-level production.



Eastern Lincoln County Community Assessment – 2010

Ongoing research by Lincoln County Cooperative Extension personnel have demonstrated ways to inexpensively extend the growing season and produce alternative crops in Lincoln County but much of the funding for that research came through grant funding from outside of the County. Further local support for research and expansion of that project could lead to substantially improved profitability for growers in Lincoln County.

Agrotourism refers to activities designed to capitalize on individual's interests in basic agricultural operations. Examples of agrotourism ventures range from simply selling through on-or-near farm markets to bed and breakfast ranch experiences. An example of such a venture would be the Pine Tree Inn and Bakery operated by Tom and Carol Mathews in Panaca. Encouraging the development of similar businesses throughout Lincoln County could substantially increase the economic base in the area without greatly competing with the current rural and agricultural environment.

Industrial development which compliments agriculture seems to be a natural pursuit for economic development in Lincoln County. With the diversity of natural resources, industrial infrastructure and a reasonably available workforce, the area seems perfect for such operations. Hopefully, with continued effort and support from County, regional and state economic development agencies, investors will see and capitalize on the opportunities in Lincoln County.

Helping urban residents better understand where their food comes from is one of the primary purposes of the national and Nevada Ag in the Classroom programs. If Lincoln County truly wishes to protect and expand agriculture, community leaders should strongly consider the level of support they give this program both financially and with human resources. While the Ag in the Classroom materials are obviously designed primarily for youth, many of them could also be adapted for use with adult audiences. Nevada Farm Bureau and Cooperative Extension could work with concerned citizens to develop resources and conduct such programs.

References:

2007 Census of Agriculture County Profile - Lincoln County, Nevada. Accessed online November 2010 at:

www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/2007/Online_Highlights/County_Profiles/Nevada/cp32017.pdf.

Master Plan for Lincoln County. 2007. Accessed online November 2010 at:

http://www.lincolncountynv.org/planning/Master_Plan_09-07.pdf.

Proceedings of the Board of County Commissioners In and For the County of Lincoln, State of Nevada – March 1, 2010. Accessed online November 2010 at:

http://www.lincolncountynv.org/meetings/countycommissioner/Minutes_030110.html.



Eastern Lincoln County Community Assessment – 2010

Resource:

Nevada Department of Agriculture
405 South 21st Street
Sparks, NV 89431
Phone: 775-353-3600
<http://agri.state.nv.us/>

Nevada Department of Conservation & Natural Resources
901 South Stewart St. Suite 2002
Carson City, NV 89701
Phone: 775-684-2800
<http://water.nv.gov/>

Nevada Agriculture in the Classroom
Dennis Hellwinkel, Coordinator, Nevada AITC
4 Hall Ln, Yerington NV 89447
Phone: 775.463.1604
Mobile: 775.303.2385
<http://www.agclassroom.org/NV/>

University of Nevada Cooperative Extension
Lincoln County
P.O. Box 728
360 Lincoln Street
Caliente, NV 89008-0728
Phone: 775-726-3109
<http://www.unce.unr.edu/counties/lincoln/>

U.S. Bureau of Land Management
Caliente Field Office
US Highway 93, Building #1 – P.O. Box 237
Caliente, NV 89008
Phone: 775-726-8100

USDA Farm Service Agency / Natural Resource Conservation Service / Soil & Water
Conservation District
Caliente Service Center
360 Lincoln Street - P.O. Box 8
Caliente, NV 89008-0008
Phone: 775-726-3101

Other Potentially Useful Organizations/Sites:

Nevada Agricultural Foundation
NV Dept. of Conservation & Natural Resources

<http://www.nvagfoundation.org/>
<http://www.dcnr.nv.gov/>



Eastern Lincoln County Community Assessment – 2010

NV Division of Environmental Protection	http://ndep.nv.gov/
Nevada Farm Bureau	http://nvfb.fb.org/index.html
Nevada Beef Council	http://www.nevadabeef.org/
Nevada Cattlemen’s Association	http://www.nevadacattlemen.org/
Nevada FFA Association	http://www.nvaged.org/
New Farm Network	http://www.new-ag.msu.edu/
University of Illinois Extension – Farm Gate	http://www.farmgate.illinois.edu/
USDA – Ag in the Classroom	http://www.agclassroom.org/
U.S. Fish & Wildlife	http://www.fws.gov/
Western Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education	http://www.sare.org/publications/simple/coordinator.htm



Eastern Lincoln County Community Assessment – 2010

Theme: Quality of Life: Dan R. Nelson

Throughout the assessment process, it became apparent that, to almost all of the participants, the outstanding quality of life is one of the reasons they live in Lincoln County.

BusinessDictionary.com (2010) defines “Quality of life” as

“Daily living enhanced by wholesome food and clean air and water, enjoyment of unfettered open spaces and bodies of water, conservation of wildlife and natural resources, security from crime, and protection from radiation and toxic substances. It may also be used as a measure of the energy and power a person is endowed with that enable him or her to enjoy life and prevail over life's challenges irrespective of the handicaps he or she may have.”

Listening session participants in Pioche, Caliente and Panaca identified specific assets that almost directly corresponded to that definition. Assets that were repeatedly mentioned include clean air and water, convenient access to open spaces, state and national parks, the abundance of wildlife and natural resources, relatively low levels of crime and a general sense of safety throughout the community. Regarding the faith-based community, a number of participants noted how well people of different churches generally work together. One person summed it up by quoting a visitor who said, “You might have Mormons and Baptists and Catholics but, if you piss them off, they'll all be pissed off.” Mention was also made repeatedly of how commonly residents help each other with whatever is needed when people face personal challenges.

Several quality of life related issues were identified, however. Limited availability of youth activities, an insufficient number of job/career opportunities, and access to affordable, quality housing were mentioned by a number of individuals; those issues are being specifically addressed elsewhere in this report. Participants also repeatedly expressed frustration over a perceived lack of shopping in the area as well as limited access to specialized and ongoing health care, especially for senior citizens. Too much governmental regulation was seen as a major impediment. And, while residents widely acknowledged the need for more jobs and expansion of the tax base, concern was expressed over how to achieve growth in the community without changing their current community values and thereby jeopardizing the quality of life they currently enjoy.

Issue:

Participants also repeatedly expressed frustration over a perceived lack of shopping in the area as well as limited access to specialized and ongoing health care, especially for senior citizens.

Recommendation:

It may be beneficial to conduct a formal study to determine sales leakage from the community. Leakage occurs when residents make purchases outside the area for any reason - including product availability. A 2007 study by University of Nevada, Reno (Borden & Gatzke) reported that, for every dollar spent by Lincoln County residents on retail purchases, only 38 cents worth of retail sales were made within Lincoln County. A current, more detailed study could be



Eastern Lincoln County Community Assessment – 2010

extremely helpful to identify more specifically what products and services may be in demand, where they are currently being purchased and why they are currently being purchased outside of Lincoln County. Similar studies can be conducted relative to health care and other services. This information could be extremely helpful in gauging the feasibility of future business expansion within the area.

Issue:

Too much governmental regulation was seen as a major impediment to activities and especially to future growth.

Discussion:

I believe that it would be safe to say that, in the United States, landowners are allowed (and generally expected) to determine the priorities for using their land according to their personal preferences and objectives so long as their management does not interfere with, negatively influence conditions on, or decrease the value of land owned by their neighbors – within constraints of the law as determined ultimately by the majority of voters throughout the country. According to the Master Plan for Lincoln County (2007), less than 2.2 percent of the land in Lincoln County is privately owned; nearly 98 percent of Lincoln County is public land, most of which is managed by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Throughout the listening sessions, participants expressed frustration with what they perceived as over regulation and restriction of the uses of those public lands. It was apparent that many residents either do not understand the objectives and priorities of the respective public land management agencies or those residents simply disagree with those objectives and priorities.

It is probably not surprising that most Lincoln County residents perceive conditions on publicly-owned lands differently and have different priorities for them than the majority of U.S. citizens/voter. Most people live in areas of the country that receive two to five times Nevada's annual precipitation, have much higher population densities, and enjoy relatively very little opportunity to enjoy physical solitude and open spaces like those in Lincoln County. As much as residents of Lincoln County (and other rural counties in the intermountain west) would like to be able to dictate management priorities for federally managed public land, the employees of federal agencies are mandated to operate according to policies and guidelines that are developed primarily according to national, not local objectives.

Recommendations:

First, if residents are going to significantly influence the decisions and policies of land management agencies over time, residents must gain an understanding of the objectives and priorities of the respective agencies. It is crucial that residents learn how each of the agencies operate and, most critically, how their guidelines, protocols and policies are developed. Lincoln County residents need to learn how they can provide input then become actively involved, individually and collectively, in the decision making processes locally, regionally and at the national level.



Eastern Lincoln County Community Assessment – 2010

Finally, since the land is publicly owned by people throughout the country, residents should also strongly support efforts to educate people throughout the United States about conditions and concerns in Nevada. To the extent that people outside of this area gain an understanding of conditions and concerns here, they will be more supportive of decisions and policies aligned with priorities in this area.

Issue:

While residents widely acknowledged the need for more jobs and expansion of the tax base, concern was expressed over how to achieve growth in the community without changing their current community values and thereby jeopardizing the quality of life they currently enjoy.

Recommendation:

Specific approaches and resources to help bring more jobs to the area are discussed elsewhere in this report. However, I would emphasize the value of local involvement in conducting, interpreting, prioritizing and utilizing findings of industry match and feasibility studies such the one described in an article referenced below by Tom Harris (2010).

In the process of seeking to stimulate business and industrial development or bring those to Lincoln County, it would seem prudent to look first to those individuals who are native to or have previously lived in the area. For example when considering the workforce available, perhaps it would be possible to identify a group of individuals with second-level availability. For example, how many people grew up and graduated from high school in the area, went away to post-secondary education and, while now employed elsewhere, would really like to return if living-wage jobs were available in Lincoln County? Those individuals would very likely have similar values and priorities to people who currently live in the area. Bringing them back could provide the growth desired without as much shift in community values and characteristics.

References:

BusinessDictionary.com. 2010. Accessed November 2010 online at:
<http://www.businessdictionary.com/definition/quality-of-life.html>.

Harris, T. 2010. *Community Matching and the Analytical Hierarchy Process*. The Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development, Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA. Accessed online November 2010 at: <http://nercrd.psu.edu/TRED/CBM.pdf>.

Master Plan for Lincoln County. 2007. Accessed November 2010 at:
http://www.lincolncountynv.org/planning/Master_Plan_09-07.pdf.



Eastern Lincoln County Community Assessment – 2010

Resources:

University of Nevada Cooperative Extension
Lincoln County
P.O. Box 728
360 Lincoln Street
Caliente, NV 89008-0728
Phone: 775-726-3109
<http://www.unce.unr.edu/counties/lincoln/>

U.S. Bureau of Land Management
Caliente Field Office
US Highway 93, Building #1 – P.O. Box 237
Caliente, NV 89008
Phone: 775-726-8100

USDA Farm Service Agency / Natural Resource Conservation Service / Soil & Water
Conservation District
Caliente Service Center
360 Lincoln Street - P.O. Box 8
Caliente, NV 89008-0008
Phone: 775-726-3101

Other Potentially Useful Organizations/Sites:

Natl. Training Center for Small Communities	http://www.nesc.wvu.edu:16080/netcsc/
NV Bureau of Mines & Geology	http://www.nbmgs.unr.edu/
NV Dept. of Conservation & Natural Resources	http://www.dcnr.nv.gov/
NV Division of Environmental Protection	http://ndep.nv.gov/
Rural Community Assistance Partnership	www.rcap.org
Rural Community Assistance Corporation	http://www.rcac.org/
U.S. Fish & Wildlife	http://www.fws.gov/



Eastern Lincoln County Community Assessment – 2010

Theme: Quality of Life: Michael Guss

Issues:

- Too Much Government Regulation
- Afraid of Change
- Need More Regional Thinking
- Need to Retain Community Standards when Attracting new Businesses
- Need Sustainable Volunteerism
- Need More Housing
- Need Health Care and Specialty Services
- Peace, Quiet and Clear Skies
- Caring People; Caring Community
- Strong Faith Based Community
- Safe Community
- Need Community Clean Up

Lincoln County is a special place. The residents of the County who attended the listening sessions liked their community as a whole, but felt that there were several challenges to their community retaining its culture in the future.

The community is proud of its strong faith-based character. The various churches in Lincoln County help establish a sense of community.

Residents of Lincoln County felt safe, and wanted to keep their community a low-crime community.

The peace, quiet, and clear desert sky was a favorite thing of many residents.

Several individuals who fell ill were taken care of by their neighbors, who brought meals, prescriptions, and other needed items to individuals recovering from major surgery.

Many individuals felt that there was the problem of a few community volunteers doing all of the work; there was concern that these volunteers would eventually burn out, and that things might not get done unless the volunteer network in Lincoln County was strengthened.

There is a lack of medical specialists in Lincoln County, and those who need more complex care are forced to travel to Las Vegas or St. George, Utah.

There is a lack of long-term care providers in Lincoln County, meaning that many seniors in need of long-term care are forced to relocate to Las Vegas or St. George, Utah.

There was a general feeling that government regulation was getting in the way of positive change in the community. Individuals were specifically frustrated with the regulations on public lands, which make up 98% of Lincoln County.



Eastern Lincoln County Community Assessment – 2010

Many people thought that the community was afraid of change. Some felt that this fear came from loving the community so much as it is; others felt that without change, the community as it is will disappear.

At the same time, there was widespread concern over the need to retain community standards while attracting new businesses.

There was a desire to think regionally among attendees at the listening sessions. This included, but was not limited to, attracting Clark County residents to Lincoln County's state parks, working with surrounding jurisdictions on items of mutual interest, etc.

Recommendations:

The Quality of Life in Lincoln County has three major components: the economy, access to health care, and Volunteerism. These themes will be addressed in separate subsections.

Economy:

The 2000s were a decade that defined Nevada's history: an unprecedented boom, followed by an equally abnormal bust. This cycle has been in Nevada since the gold was discovered here in the 19th Century.

Communities like Lincoln County should take advantage of the opportunity to evaluate community needs, define long-term goals and objectives, and reevaluate old plans during busts. This community assessment is a start to that process.

Many Lincoln County residents feel that they lack self-determination over what surrounds their community. With 98% of the lands in Lincoln County being owned by the federal or state government, decisions over land usage, zoning, hunting, etc.—all typically functions of local government—are frequently made in Carson City or Washington, D.C.

The Lincoln County Lands Act of 2000 partially addressed the issue of excess federal land ownership in Lincoln County.⁷ However, even with the sale of public lands to private owners, the community must answer the questions of what would fit on a piece of land, with the community's values, and be a positive contribution to the community?

In an era when far too many of our neighbors do not have full-time employment, and are struggling to get by it's hard to imagine that a company which may bring in 15 to 20 jobs might be a bad thing. But many businesses can bring values that conflict with the community with them; others may stay for a few years, only to leave for even greener pastures. And still others may use up limited natural resources—in Nevada, namely water—and negatively impact other industries, like farming and ranching.

A catalog of Lincoln County's assets should be assembled in any effort to attract new businesses. This catalog should not be limited to what is solely within the county at any given moment; many individuals told us of their very highly educated relatives who are scattered throughout the

⁷ Hon. Gibbons, Jim. "Lincoln County Lands Act of 2000." *United States House of Representatives 106th Congress HR 2752*. Retrieved October 13, 2010 online at: <http://www.govtrack.us/congress/billtext.xpd?bill=h106-2752>



Eastern Lincoln County Community Assessment – 2010

county, and who would come back to Lincoln County if there were good jobs available. These individuals should be considered part of Lincoln County’s workforce; citizens interested in economic development should help put together a list of former Lincoln County residents who would like to come back, and the specialized job skills that they possess. This data base can then be used every day as a tool to recruit businesses to Lincoln County.

Successful, long-term growth will take into account the pros and cons of Lincoln County—and the businesses seeking to locate within it. The community must decide what industry or industries fit with the community’s resources and values, and take steps to relentlessly pursue these industries. Successful, sustainable growth will enable the county to maintain its character and core values while enabling residents to afford to stay.

Health Care:

If the economy grows, and jobs are created, the County will also be faced with an elderly population which cannot get all of the services it needs in Lincoln County.

Many citizens said it was difficult, if not impossible, for seniors to find long-term and in-home care within Lincoln County. Many seniors have moved to the population centers of Las Vegas and St. George, Utah. Due to the lack of population base in Lincoln County, it may be extremely difficult for long-term care, and other specialty services for seniors, to break-even or make a profit.

Communities of faith within Lincoln County—which were continually cited as a major strength of the community—could work together to augment the medical services currently provided to Lincoln County residents. Parish Nursing can be an “opportunity for integrate faith with professional expertise.”⁸

According to the national, International Parish Nurse Resource Center,

“Parish nursing is a recognized specialty practice that combines professional nursing and health ministry. Parish nursing emphasizes health and healing within a faith community. The philosophy of parish nursing embraces four major concepts: spiritual formation; professionalism; shalom as health and wholeness; and community, incorporating culture and diversity.”⁹

The Parish Nurse Resource Center goes on to state that communities of faith interested in hosting a Parish Nurse should,

Determine how parish nursing connects with the faith’s understanding and practice of faith and health. Health ministry does not belong to one faith so the person or committee

⁸ Points of Light Foundation. *Volunteering in Under-Resourced Rural Communities*. 2009 P. 54 Available at: <http://www.pointsoflight.org/sites/default/files/RuralCommunities.pdf>

⁹ International Parish Nurse Resource Center. *Fundamentals of Parish Nursing*. Accessed October 13, 2010 at: <http://www.parishnurses.org/FundamentalsOfPN.aspx>



Eastern Lincoln County Community Assessment – 2010

investigating its potential must determine how the program can complement the faith's ideology.¹⁰

This type of model could help build upon Lincoln County's strengths while addressing the very real problems of a lack of health care access for some residents.

A Parish Nurse, or other health-care related volunteerism will not solve the health care access problem in Lincoln County. Addressing these problems will require the community to use a variety of resources. One of these resources could be government grants.

Many residents expressed a desire to reduce Lincoln County's dependence on federal grants. Residents, who attended the listening, felt that federal and state grants too often came with restrictions that hampered the community's efforts to change. That said, federal and state grants can be useful to rural communities when they help to address the problem of a lack of critical mass. The United States Department of Health and Human Services has a health network grant program which works with medical professionals in rural areas to create rural health networks aimed at improving health care in rural areas:

“The purpose of the Rural Health Network Development Grant Program is to expand access to, coordinate and improve the quality of essential health care services, and enhance the delivery of health care in rural areas. These grants support rural providers who work in formal networks, alliances, coalitions or partnerships to integrate administrative, clinical, technological, and financial functions. Funds provided through this program are not used for direct delivery of services. The ultimate goal is to strengthen the rural health care delivery system by 1) improving the viability of the individual providers in the network, and/or 2) improving the delivery of care to people served by the network.”¹¹

Grants like this, combined with the powerful community spirit that we witnessed during the assessment can go a long ways towards solving Lincoln County's lack of specialty health care providers.

Volunteerism:

Volunteerism should also be a part of Lincoln County's future. As state parks are threatened by budget cuts, the need for an active volunteer force is clear. Volunteers can clean up trash-strewn campgrounds and highways, and help to keep Lincoln County beautiful while getting to know their neighbors and strengthening the community.

Lincoln County is blessed to have many wonderful volunteers who help put on community events. Unfortunately, we heard that many volunteers were getting burned out, and that there was a need to identify and train new volunteers. Nevada Volunteers is an organization which is dedicated to helping communities increase volunteer opportunities, recruit new volunteers, and

¹⁰ International Parish Nurse Resource Center. *Information for Faith Communities*. Accessed October 13, 2010 at: http://www.parishnurses.org/InformationforFaithCommunities_13.aspx

¹¹ United States Department of Health and Human Services “Rural Health Network Development Program.” *Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance*: 93.912.



Eastern Lincoln County Community Assessment – 2010

sustain community volunteerism. Lincoln County volunteers should utilize this resource to help to sustain the community's volunteer efforts.

Resources:

Lincoln County Regional Development Authority. Phone: (775) 315-2544
Website: <http://lcrda.com/>

Nevada Commission on Economic Development:
Des Craig, Director Rural Community Development. (775) 687-9918.
Website: http://www.diversifynevada.com/divisions/rural_community_development_cdbg/

International Parish Nurse Resource Center. 475 East Lockwood Avenue Saint Louis, MO 63119 Phone: 314-918-2559 Website: <http://www.parishnurses.org>

Points of Light Foundation. 600 Means St, Suite 210 Atlanta, GA 30318 Phone: (404)-979-2900
Website: <http://www.pointsoflight.org/>

United States Health Resources and Services Administration. Phone: (877)-464-4772
Website: <http://www.hrsa.gov>

Nevada Volunteers. 639 Isbell Rd., Suite 220 Reno, NV 89509. Phone: (775)-825-1900
Website: <http://www.nevadavolunteers.org>.



Eastern Lincoln County Community Assessment – 2010

Theme: Tourism & Recreation: Jolene Supp

Issues:

The climate, state and federal parks, and BLM land were positive assets in the area. It seemed obvious to local folks that tourism had great potential in Lincoln County and yet not enough was being done to market this resource. Along with this, I believe many people are not aware of all the many things Lincoln County has to offer. I wasn't sure whether the locals were apprehensive towards letting others into such pristine areas or they felt it was the state and federal government's job to market the tourism opportunities. Furthermore, with the "Hiko Alternate" to US 93, there was much less travelers moving through Caliente, Pioche and Panaca. The area is faced with a great challenge of convincing travelers that the extra 30 plus miles of travel is worth the time and expense versus the cutoff. Lastly, due to very limited resources, many small communities are faced with making the tough decision whether to promote tourism over traditional economic development or even more essential functions. Lincoln County likely cannot depend on room tax to fund a lot. With the State of Nevada looking to cut granting programs, this compounds the issue even more.

Recommendations:

If possible, Lincoln County representatives should meet with the BLM and USFS managers and collaboratively create a plan for tourism in the parks. Some planning has likely been done and all parties should familiarize themselves with it. At this meeting, other public activities should also be discussed such as ATVing, trails, camping, hiking, wildlife watching, meet the camp host day, picnicking etc. These markets are growing because of the cost/ benefit ratios of recreation. They are much less expensive than traditional resorts. This is also an opportunity to determine what organized maps, trails, signs etc are available and if more work is needed to promote organized activities and self-generated functions. With this information and local representatives should create social media to get the word out. Keep in mind this message needs to incorporate local businesses to get the money into the county--where a person totally unfamiliar with the area can get groceries, motels, gas, parts, etc. It may be beneficial to create a "quick get-away" package to suggest that people leave early Friday and get to Caliente and Pioche before they purchase weekend goods. There may be a benefit to showing inner-city types that "roughing it" in Lincoln County is not that rough.

Lastly, it seems that the beauty and facilities from these state parks are underserved and that Lincoln County should advertize much more. Good photos in RV magazine, Audubon, Sunset Magazine, Nevada Business Journal and even the Las Vegas papers could be really valuable. More should also be put on the Lincoln County website. I think it could be a great return on the investment all year around!

Resources:

1. STIPLAMA Funding
2. The USDA has a website under



Eastern Lincoln County Community Assessment – 2010

http://ric.nal.usda.gov/nal_display/index.php?info_center-5&tax_level=2&tax_subject=211&topic_id=1169

Several different granting programs are referred to as well as other federal resources for funding.

3. Local Photography
4. Social Marketing, local websites



Eastern Lincoln County Community Assessment – 2010

Theme: Tourism & Recreation: Michael Guss

Issues:

- Managed ATV Trails
- Control ATV's on Streets
- Five State Parks, Historical Site
- National Park
- Hunting and Fishing
- Close Proximity to Resources
- Heritage Tourism
- Events and Activity Development
- Tourism Related Services Lacking
- Close to Metropolitan Areas
- Additional Tourist Information Needed
- Multigenerational Recreation Centers

Lincoln County residents enjoy the many outdoor recreation opportunities that their community provides. Attendees at the listening sessions loved the five state parks and one state historic site in the County; they loved the proximity to Great Basin National Park.

Some residents were concerned about the impact that state budget cuts may have on the public's access to State Parks.

Residents were proud of the history—dating back to the mining booms of the 19th Century.

Residents liked the maintained ATV trails. The recently opened Silver State ATV trail, which traverses the County, was praised by many attendees.

At the same time, many residents felt that ATV use on streets could be better controlled. There was a significant problem with some ATV riders speeding on the streets of Caliente.

Residents felt that Lincoln County's proximity to the Las Vegas and St. George, Utah metro areas provided a strong market for destinations within Lincoln County.

At the same time, many felt that tourist services needed to be expanded. Residents were particularly concerned that there were not restaurants open after 8 pm.

Residents would like tourist information to be compiled into a comprehensive guide that can be used to market Lincoln County to Las Vegas and St. George residents looking for a weekend get away.

Residents felt that there was a need for a multigenerational recreation center in all three towns.



Eastern Lincoln County Community Assessment – 2010

Recommendations:

All Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) are an important part of Lincoln County’s culture. Lincoln County should work to protect and expand ATV use in the County.

A portion of the ATV Guidelines governing ATV use on public lands in Nevada states,

“Develop communication and environmental education plan(s). Assess all situations where OHV use may require public information and education. Develop materials and programs appropriate to each situation.

Utilize high use areas and special events to maximize the dissemination of responsible use education materials and concepts to the public.”¹²

Lincoln County could work with the Bureau of Land Management to develop educational materials aimed at promoting responsible use of ATVs within populated areas. These materials could then be distributed in high-use ATV areas. If such a campaign fails, the City of Caliente could consider regulating ATV use within City limits.

State Parks, and Great Basin National Park, are a large component of Lincoln County’s tourism economy. Nevada is facing a \$1.5 billion to \$3 billion budget shortfall.¹³ Budget cuts will certainly be part of the next Nevada Legislative Session, and State Parks could be affected. Cuts to State Parks could harm rural economies. According to *Las Vegas Sun*,

“ In Nevada, such closures would particularly hurt rural towns near state parks and slow Las Vegas’ budding eco-tourism efforts, parks experts warn. States that have closed state or national parks in the past say it had huge economic consequences for rural communities. Closures also leave cultural and historical sites and artifacts vulnerable to theft and vandalism and strain law enforcement agencies.”¹⁴

Lincoln County residents should work to protect their parks. This includes voicing the community’s opinion to the legislature, but it must include actions to protect Lincoln County’s State Parks in case of budget cuts. Volunteer crews could help keep parks clean; volunteers could also help monitor parks and can contribute to rescue operations.

Tourists from areas outside of Lincoln County will use essential services if they are available on the tourists’ schedule. Many community members thought that restaurants in the communities needed to be open later; there was concern over a lack of a full-time restaurant in Panaca. And while the hotel space is more than adequate (and was very nice for the assessment team) for typical usage, it is not large enough for some special events (a combined baseball and softball tournament) which some in the County would like to host.

¹² Bureau of Land Management. *OHV Administration Guidelines for Nevada Public Lands*. Accessed October 14, 2010 at: http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/res/resource_advisory/sierra_front-northwestern/standards_and_guidelines.html

¹³ Vogel, Ed. “Think Tank Sees Inflated Budget Shortfall.” *Las Vegas Review Journal*. September 16, 2010.

¹⁴ Tavares, Stephaine. “Would Closing State Parks to Save Money Do More Harm Than Good.” *Las Vegas Sun*. February 17, 2010.



Eastern Lincoln County Community Assessment – 2010

Lincoln County has a small population base. Small businesses—like a new restaurant or another hotel—may not be able to turn a profit on a few special events per year. Lincoln County should also be careful to protect existing businesses when considering additional restaurants or hotels. The charm of a small hotel, or bed and breakfast, is a major attraction for tourists from larger cities.

Lincoln County’s heritage is a large part of its charm. Many urban residents are fascinated by simpler times. Seeing a place and imagining how people lived in that same spot generations ago is enjoyable for many tourists. Tourists trying to take a picture of the past tend to stay longer and spend more than your average tourist.¹⁵ Heritage tourism also improves the community’s quality of life by adding educational resources.

Lincoln County could create a heritage tourism program surrounding the mining, railroad, and agricultural histories of Pioche, Panaca, and Caliente.

Historical Farms (like the Wheeler Farm in Utah) and Living History Farms (like a series of five farms near Urbandale, Iowa) provide visitors with a look into the history of agriculture and the hard work that built this country; for urban residents—who may never have been on a farm in their life—these farms can be fascinating.

Railroad history is something that interests many Americans. Some attendees at the listening session urged Lincoln County to look into the feasibility of an excursion train from Las Vegas. Historical railroads can be a successful economic strategy; both Carson City and Virginia City have benefited tremendously from the reopening of the V&T Railway.¹⁶

A historical excursion train between Las Vegas and Caliente could benefit *both* Clark County and Lincoln County. By giving tourists another thing to do, the train could keep visitors in Las Vegas hotels for another night. By bringing hundreds of tourists who would never otherwise venture beyond Las Vegas to Lincoln County, local Lincoln County businesses would benefit.

On the down side, railroads are expensive and carry many legal restrictions with them. The right of way between Las Vegas and Caliente is owned by the Union Pacific (UP) railroad corporation. UP’s first priority is (rightly) freight traffic, and it could be difficult for a passenger train to maintain its schedule. While the creation of an excursion train from Las Vegas to Caliente would not approach the \$40 million it took to reopen the V&T Railway, the costs would not be insignificant.

Ultimately, it is for the community to decide as to whether an excursion train from Las Vegas to Caliente is practical. However, there is no question that such a train would add to the diverse heritage tourism base in Lincoln County.

Lincoln County can also use its mining history as a way of attracting tourists. Virginia City has successfully incorporated their town’s history and become a destination for tourists. Civil War

¹⁵ National Trust for Historic Preservation. “Heritage Tourism.” Accessed October 14, 2010 at: <http://www.preservationnation.org/issues/heritage-tourism/>

¹⁶ Vogel, Ed. “Virginia & Truckee Railway Rolling Again.” *Las Vegas Review Journal*. September 25, 2010.



Eastern Lincoln County Community Assessment – 2010

re-enactors remind visitors that Nevada’s “Battle Born” slogan came from this state’s Civil War birth. People in period dress help create a picture of the booming mining town that was the place where Mark Twain, one of America’s finest writers, began his career.

Lincoln County could be a window into a different time for residents of Southern Nevada. The rich mining history of Pioche; the difficulty of daily life in the 19th century; and the crazier stories of the Pioche’s past can draw tourists into the community.

Resources:

All Terrain Vehicle Association. 13515 Yarmouth Drive Pickerington, OH 43147

Website: <http://www.atvaonline.com/>

Bureau of Land Management 1400 Front St # 1 Caliente, NV 89008 (775) 726-8100

National Trust for Historic Preservation. (800)-315-6847.

Website: <http://www.preservationnation.org>

Wheeler Farm. Phone: 801-264-2241 Website: <http://www.wheelerfarm.com/>

Living History Farms. 11121 Hickman Road, Urbandale, Iowa. Phone: 515.278.5286

Website: <http://www.lhf.org/>

Nevada Commission to Restore the V&T Railway. Website: <http://www.vtrailway.com/>

Nevada State Historic Preservation Office. 100 N. Stewart Street Carson City, Nevada 89701

(775) 684-3448 Website: <http://nvshpo.org/>



Eastern Lincoln County Community Assessment – 2010

Theme: Water Management: Dan R. Nelson

We commend and thank those who attended the listening sessions and provided valuable input regarding issues and opportunities for Lincoln County. Throughout the listening sessions, one of the commonly recognized assets was water. Two water-related challenges were also identified, the protection of water rights and managing watersheds to reduce the risk of flood control. However, there was little mention of specific community-wide planning or action to guide the use of water resources over the long term.

Issue:

Protecting water rights is an issue of concern throughout the state. As one of the most arid parts of the United States, Nevada requires that almost all water users must be able to provide evidence of beneficial use in order to maintain their water rights. If water users cannot do so, their rights to unused water may be withdrawn and reallocated for use by other applicants (Nevada Water Resources, 2008).

With the substantial population and industrial growth in Las Vegas and surrounding areas, there has been a corresponding increase in demand for water. Through a series of actions, Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA) has obtained water rights in Lincoln and neighboring counties and has filed claims with the State Engineer's Office for additional water rights. Based upon comments throughout listening sessions, these actions by SNWA have widely been perceived as a threat to the availability of water for future use within Lincoln County.

Recommendations:

If water rights are to be protected and the use of water managed over time according to priorities within Lincoln County, it seems logical that there should be a locally maintained inventory of those water rights currently and historically granted - together with identification of their current status. If such an inventory currently exists, it was not mentioned during the listening sessions; neither was it referenced on the website for the Lincoln County Water District (2010). However, since permitted water rights are listed by the Nevada Division of Water Resources (NDWR) by hydrologic basin rather than county. Accordingly, whoever works to develop and maintain a County-specific inventory would need to identify each of the hydrologic basins within the County then work from NDWR records.

One of the concerns identified, particularly in the Panaca area, was the number of lots and yards that were not landscaped, irrigated or otherwise maintained in a manner complimentary to community beautification. It was reported that the reliance on the current culinary water system has resulted in substantially increased expenses for irrigation water. It was also observed that significant increases in the efficiency of water usage throughout the community may be possible if an irrigation water system were available in addition to the current culinary water system. It is also likely that there would be environmental advantages to using such a system since irrigation water typically requires much different treatment than water for culinary use. While the economics of constructing and operating a secondary system would obviously need to be



Eastern Lincoln County Community Assessment – 2010

considered, the long-term feasibility of such a system should be considered – not just in Panaca but in other area communities as well.

Regardless of other factors, efficient designs can substantially reduce the usage of water in landscapes. Water-efficient landscaping, often referred to as xeriscaping, utilizes a carefully designed placement of selected plants and other landscape materials to maximize water-efficiency while still achieving the objectives of landowners. When combined with appropriately designed irrigation systems, xeriscaped yards often improve the beauty and usefulness of property yet require less effort and water to maintain historically traditional landscapes. Information regarding xeriscape resources can be obtained through local offices of University of Nevada Cooperative Extension or accessed through references listed below.

Issue:

Flood-related concerns were also identified by a number of individuals, particularly in Caliente. Those concerns were most strongly voiced in connection to damage from a flood in January of 2005 and resulting changes by the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) in the designation of flood plains throughout the area.

Recommendations:

According to a study funded by the United States Bureau of Land Management (BLM) (BIO-WEST, 2005), the Meadow Valley Wash drainage (and its Clover Creek tributary) cuts through land that is more than 98% public land, mostly managed by the BLM. Accordingly, while residents in the Caliente area may wish to see vegetation and/or actual landform modifications implemented to substantially reduce the risk of future flooding, proposed changes would likely be considered only within the management directives from administrators within the BLM. While frustration with the BLM and other land-management agencies was voiced widely throughout the listening sessions by residents of Lincoln County, practicality likely dictates that changes will require that community leaders and residents seek to work cooperatively WITH agency personnel – both locally and at regional and national levels.

Based upon comments from area residents, it appears that the bridge at the edge of town over the Meadow Valley Wash is an ongoing point of concern to both residents and concerned agencies. If replacement of that structure is of sufficient importance, it is possible that funding may be available through Nevada Department of Transportation sources such as their federal Transportation Enhancement Funds.

References:

BIO-WEST, Inc. 2005. *Meadow Valley Wash Post-flood Vegetation Assessment*. Accessed online November 2010 at:

<ftp://ftpfc.sc.egov.usda.gov/NV/web/partnerships/meadowValleyReviewTeam/MVWPostFloodReport.pdf>

Lincoln County Water District. 2010. Website accessed online November 2010 at:

<http://www.lincolncountynv.org/water.htm>



Eastern Lincoln County Community Assessment – 2010

Nevada Department of Transportation - Program Development Fund information accessed online November 2010 at:

http://www.nevadadot.com/reports_pubs/program_development/pdfs/pd_Chapter8.pdf.

Nevada Water Resources Association (2008). *Water Rights in Nevada – Course # CE 2171000-RE*. Nevada Water Resources Association, Reno, Nevada.

US Bureau of Land Management. Western States Water Law – Nevada. Available at:

<http://www.blm.gov/nstc/WaterLaws/nevada.html>

Other information:

If you go to the USGS site <http://nevada.usgs.gov/water/publications/index.htm> and search with “Lincoln County” in the title, you will find a number of papers that could be useful.

Xeriscape Links:

Colorado Water Wise

http://www.xeriscape.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=122&Itemid=219

Xeriscape (Colorado State Cooperative Extension)

<http://www.colostate.edu/Depts/CoopExt/4DMG/Xeris/xeris1.htm>

Xeriscape Conversion Study (SNWA)

http://www.snwa.com/html/cons_wsl_xeriscape.html

pictures: Water Wise Plants for Utah

<http://www.waterwiseplants.utah.gov/default.asp?p=Landscapes>

Resources:

Nevada Department of Conservation & Natural Resources Division of Water Resources

901 South Stewart St. Suite 2002

Carson City, NV 89701

Phone: 775-684-2800

<http://water.nv.gov/>

Nevada Water Resources Association

POB 8064

Reno, NV 89507

Phone: 775-473-5473

www.nvwra.org



Eastern Lincoln County Community Assessment – 2010

University of Nevada Cooperative Extension
Lincoln County
P.O. Box 728
360 Lincoln Street
Caliente, NV 89008-0728
Phone: 775-726-3109
<http://www.unce.unr.edu/counties/lincoln/>

USDA Farm Service Agency / Natural Resource Conservation Service / Soil & Water
Conservation District
Caliente Service Center
360 Lincoln Street - P.O. Box 8
Caliente, NV 89008-0008
Phone: 775-726-3101

Other Potentially Useful Water-Related Organizations/Sites:

American Water Resources Association	http://www.awra.org/
American Water Works Association	www.awwa.org
Bureau of Reclamation	http://www.usbr.gov/uc/feature/drought.html
Center for Environmental Quality	http://www.water-research.net/
Desert Research Institute	http://www.dri.edu/
Great Basin Water	http://www.greatbasinwater.net/
International Water Law Project	http://www.internationalwaterlaw.org/
Natl. Training Center for Small Communities	http://www.nesc.wvu.edu:16080/netcsc/
NV Bureau of Mines & Geology	http://www.nbmgs.unr.edu/
NV Dept. of Conservation & Natural Resources	http://www.dcnr.nv.gov/
NV Division of Environmental Protection	http://ndep.nv.gov/
NV Nonpoint Education for Municipal Officials (NEMO)	www.unce.unr.edu/nemo
NV Water Resources Association	http://www.nvwra.org/
NV - Water Word Dictionary	http://water.nv.gov/WaterPlanning/dict-1/ww-index.cfm
Project Wet	http://store.projectwet.org/index.php/
Rural Community Assistance Partnership	www.rcap.org
Rural Community Assistance Corporation	http://www.rcac.org/
US Army Corp of Engineers	http://www.usace.army.mil/Pages/default.aspx
US Geological Survey - Water Data	http://waterdata.usgs.gov/nv/nwis/rt
US Fish & Wildlife	http://www.fws.gov/
Water Info. Coordination Program	http://acwi.gov/swrr/
Water Pollution Guide	http://www.water-pollution.org.uk/
Water Quality	http://www.effexlab.com/EFFEXhome.html
Water Systems Council	http://watersystemscouncil.org/
Western Water Policy	http://nimss.umd.edu/homepages/home.cfm?trackID=11237
World Water Forum	http://www.worldwaterforum.org/



Eastern Lincoln County Community Assessment – 2010

Theme: Water Management: Michael Guss

Issues:

- Flood Plain Designation
- Develop Ditches, Creeks, Bridges, Culverts
- Water Grab
- Onerous FEMA Restrictions
- Panaca Water System

After the 2005 flood of the Meadow Valley Wash, most of Caliente (including areas that were not threatened by the flood) were designated as in a flood plain by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). This has forced homeowners who are not in danger of being flooded to purchase flood insurance, increased the cost of living in Caliente, and perhaps decreased property values in Caliente.

Minimizing the impact of future floods will require developing ditches to hold water, making sure that the flow of creeks is unimpeded by man-made objects, and addressing the problem with the bridge over the Meadow Valley Wash.

While floods are possible in Lincoln County, Lincoln County is a desert environment and has limited water resources. As the water level of Lake Meade declines, Las Vegas will be forced to look elsewhere for water. The Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA) has purchased some water rights in Lincoln County, and is considering the construction of a pipeline which will transport Lincoln County water to Las Vegas.

In Panaca, there was concern about an aging water system that needed major repairs.

Recommendations:

We heard that the Panaca Water system was inefficient. There was concern that the inefficiencies in the local water system were driving up the cost of water, and leading many to elect to not water their lawns. (See Infrastructure Theme for more detailed recommendations on how to improve the water system).

Water in the desert is a finite resource. Constructive steps at water conservation—such as xeriscaping, which uses plants that do not need as much water to decorate a yard should be taken. Other steps at water conservation should also be considered.

Lincoln County residents feel that their water use is threatened by the activities of the Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA). SNWA has bought water rights in Lincoln and White Pine Counties; SNWA is currently going through a permitting process with the Bureau of Land



Eastern Lincoln County Community Assessment – 2010

Management, if the permits are approved a pipeline that would transport water from White Pine and Lincoln Counties would be constructed.¹⁷

SNWA says that the pipeline will reduce Nevada's dependence on the Colorado River for drinking water:

The project is being developed to reduce Southern Nevada's reliance on Colorado River water resources and buffer the impacts of long-term droughts on the Colorado River system. It is currently anticipated that the project would not begin construction before 2011, and would not be completed until approximately 2050.¹⁸

With the water level in Lake Meade falling and a 6 percent reduction¹⁹ of Nevada's water share a fair possibility, there may be more motivation for those who support this project to push for its adoption.

It is important to note that the completion of the pipeline is 40 years away. This gives Lincoln and White Pine Counties time to think and evaluate how to best put the water located within their communities to *beneficial uses*. The Bureau of Reclamation's Water Conservation Field Services Program could be used to help Lincoln County adopt new technologies that save water and produce higher crop yields.²⁰

If all the water in Lincoln and White Pine Counties is being put to a beneficial use when the pipeline is completed, it will be nothing more than a hollow pipe.

While water is scarce in the desert, occasionally a rain or snow storm can bring too much water into the Meadow Valley Wash. This can lead to significant flooding. In 2005, Caliente suffered from a major flood. This resulted in the changing of much of Caliente to an AE flood plain designation by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Homeowners within the AE flood plain designation were forced to purchase flood insurance. This is a significant burden to a community with a struggling economy.

A house in an AE Flood Plain has a 1% annual chance of flooding and a 26% chance that the house will flood within a 30 year mortgage.²¹ The AE designation allows for base flood elevations to be provided. In theory, this should allow homes at an elevation that is higher than the flood plain to escape flood insurance, as it is unlikely that houses on a hill would be flooded.

¹⁷ Southern Nevada Water Authority. "Clark, Lincoln and White Pine Counties Ground Water Development Project." Accessed October 26, 2010 at: http://www.snwa.com/html/system_gdp.html

¹⁸ Id.

¹⁹ Brean, Henry. "Drought-Stricken Lake Meade Falls to a Level Not Seen Since 1937." *Las Vegas Review Journal*. October 18, 2010. Accessed October 26, 2010 at:

²⁰ Bureau of Reclamation. Water Conservation Field Services Program. Accessed October 26, 2010 at: <http://www.usbr.gov/waterconservation/>

²¹ FEMA Map Service Center. "Flood Plain Designations." Accessed October 26, 2010 at: The base floodplain where base flood elevations are provided. AE Zones are now used on new format FIRMs instead of A1-A30 Zones.



Eastern Lincoln County Community Assessment – 2010

However, this does not solve the problem for homes that are a great distance from the water, but are still within the flood plain. It may be equally unlikely that these homes would be flooded, but because their elevation and location is within the flood plain, homeowners are required to purchase flood insurance.

Further, some residents of Caliente felt that the AE designation overstated the flooding threat to the City. Some residents felt that the 2005 event was a 1 in 500 year flood, while FEMA felt it was a 1 in 100 year flood. A Zone B, C or X designation may be more appropriate for the City of Caliente. A Zone B, C, or X designation focuses on reducing flood risk by improving drainage systems:

“Areas identified in the community FIS (Flood Insurance Study) as areas of moderate or minimal hazard from the principal source of flood in the area. However, buildings in these zones could be flooded by severe, concentrated rainfall coupled with inadequate local drainage systems. Local storm water drainage systems are not normally considered in the community's FIS. The failure of a local drainage system creates areas of high flood risk within these rate zones. Flood insurance is available in participating communities but is not required by regulation in these zones”²².

Most people who spoke to this issue agreed that there was a problem with the design of a bridge over the Meadow Valley Wash. The problems with the bridge over the Meadow Valley Wash could be addressed by a timber bridge (see Infrastructure Theme).

Even if the bridge is repaired, the flood plain designation will not change without substantial cooperation between local government, local residents, and FEMA. Any change in flood plain designation would require an intensive study of the City. And because studies like this tend to take a substantial amount of time to complete, immediate relief for those forced to pay flood insurance premiums is unlikely. Further, while grants for flood studies may be available, local government should be prepared to absorb the full cost of a study.

Resources:

Nevada Division of Water Resources: <http://water.nv.gov/>

Federal Emergency Management Agency National Flood Insurance Program:
<http://www.fema.gov/business/nfip/>

Southern Nevada Water Authority “Clark, Lincoln and White Pine Counties Ground Water Development Project.” http://www.snwa.com/html/system_gdp.html

²² FEMA: Answers to Questions About NFIP. Accessed October 26, 2010 at:
<http://www.fema.gov/business/nfip/fhamr.shtm>



Eastern Lincoln County Community Assessment – 2010

United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Utility Service. Kay Vernatter, Program Manager. (775)887-1222 extension: 110 kay.vernatter@nv.usda.gov

Nevada Department of Transportation. (775)-888-7000 <http://www.nevadadot.com>

United States Department of Transportation Highway Bridge Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Program. <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/safetealu/factsheets/bridge.htm>

Bureau of Reclamation Water Conservation Field Services Program.
<http://www.usbr.gov/waterconservation/>



Eastern Lincoln County Community Assessment – 2010

Theme: Youth: Carl Dahlen

Issues:

- School Related
 - New Middle School
 - Improve Track at the High School
 - Diversify Sports Activities
 - More Non-Sports Activities
 - After Activities Transportation
- More Wholesome Youth Activities
 - Recreation Centers
 - Quality Skate Parks
 - Indoor Swimming Pool
 - More Sports Fields
- Job Opportunities for Youth

In virtually every listening session the team heard people talk about youth and youth concerns. The overall consensus is that Lincoln County is a great place to raise kids. One commenter talked about the good people here and the fact that they don't have to worry about something happening to kids. As with many smaller communities, people watch out for other people's kids. They are not just left to their own devices. Another positive comment dealt with local schools, "We have a good strong school system and a lot of really good teachers who are good role models for the upcoming people who are going to be our future."

However, there was general agreement from the youth themselves to senior citizens that there are limited activities for young people throughout the county. One person summed it up this way, "There are not enough things for young kids or young adults to do. No activities, and if kids aren't in sports there is nothing for them to do. And not every kid plays a sport." Another concern dealt with the lack of jobs for young people. One student stated it this way, "We need more jobs because high school students are about to go to college and we have no way to pay for college." In addition the lack of jobs leads to a loss of youth upon graduation. "Kids grew up here, love it here, but can't come back because there are no jobs, good sustainable long-term jobs." Additionally there were concerns raised about the four day school schedule placing young people in more unsupervised situations during the work week. Other issues included the need for a new Middle School, new track facilities at the High School, more diversified sports and non-sports activities through and the lack of adequate after-school activities transportation.

Recommendations:

Suggestions for increasing youth oriented activities included the development of recreation centers, quality skate parks, more sports fields and an indoor swimming pool. Ideally each community would have its own set of recreational facilities since limited transportation options make it difficult for young people to travel between the towns. By improving transportation options, each community could specialize in specific activity centers. The Nevada Department of Transportation has grants for the purchase of buses that might be made available for young



Eastern Lincoln County Community Assessment – 2010

people to move between communities. Another possibility would be to make use of the current school bus system to provide for alternative transportation needs. Or there might be a combination of a public transportation system and the school bus system to improve transportation opportunities for all citizens.

Another suggestion would be for the communities to create a youth task force to concentrate on how to meet the various issues youth face. This task force would include members from the school district, youth, the faith-based communities, local law enforcement personnel, and the general public. The task force could explore successful youth programs such as Boys and Girls Clubs to determine the best ways to improve productive activities for youth. It could also explore what other communities are doing to assist with youth needs. Some larger communities have a number of youth oriented activities that might be adapted to meet the needs of Lincoln County young people. Also, the 4-H program through Cooperative Extension could be expanded with additional adult leadership.

Jobs are a challenge throughout the county even among adults. Because of the current economic climate, too often adults are taking jobs that normally go to youth. One possibility to improve jobs for young people would be to inventory all businesses in Eastern Lincoln County to determine if they could provide part time employment even if it only amounts to a few hours per week. By pooling business needs, employee sharing opportunities may be found. Also, there may be funds available through the Nevada Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation to fund part time or seasonal employment for youth workers. Even if paid employment may not be available, there may be volunteer opportunities for young people to at least gain work experience. Another possibility would be to create a job shadowing program where youth learn about career options by watching people in various work situations. These experiences will help prepare young people for their working future.

Resources:

Nevada Department of Transportation – www.nevadadot.com

Boys and Girls Clubs – www.bgclv.org

University of Nevada Cooperative Extension – www.unce.unr.edu

Nevada Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation – www.nvdetr.org



Comments

Pioche Faith-Based Community Dinner

Challenges and Problems

- Major things we need in this community are really available to us.
- Gas prices and grocery prices.
- There is not enough independent money around the county, most is earned through government means, almost all jobs--including construction--is government grants. Government-funded.
- Keep the jobs that we have here--only a few jobs--to keep them here in the county.
- We lack services for those that have special needs or whatever--traveling to doctors, much of that has to go out of state. We would like to keep things local.
- Communities within the county--the four communities getting together--because the numbers would make sense if communities would work together.
- There are not enough things for young kids or young adults to do. No activities, and if kids aren't in sports there is nothing for them to do. And not every kid plays a sport.
- We need something, an industry to keep kids here after they graduate.
- Ditto Everything. Economy is a big deal here. Industry of some sort here. Some sort of manufacturing, be allowed to come in here. No other grocery store or gas station. More independent money to come in.
- Fear of change, which I understand. I have heard a wealth of lifetimes of thoughts on this. We like the small town because we do need something. 85% of kids leave.
- Central type of manual or guide of services that are available to the state or federal government to know. Very nice to have liaison with each of the counties for the area. Service directory.
- Better social services mostly for seniors. Because of the kids leaving, we have a greater population for seniors. Many live alone.
- Ditto Everything. Additional affordable housing for seniors and others.
- Ditto Everything. Not enough sports for kids to play, and if kids are not into sports, there is nothing to do.
- People just need a job.
- We need a sustainable activities program at which the 10-18 year olds in the community can get involved with. Develop an interest in the community. Too many young people leave Lincoln County.
- Pass.
- Too much government. Unfortunately, we are in a position where that is what employs everybody here. Government-management and control of all the land-base.
- One of the two lowest in the nation as far as private property, regulation, restriction, and a lack of opportunities for business, manufacturing and those kinds of things.
- Went to Farmer's Market, walked around, this is higher at our market in Overton--prices at Miner's Market are good, but not like Wal-Mart. Nice little market for this area.
- Key for what happens in Lincoln County is that there is communication and cooperation and not confrontation. Need to cooperate--what is good for Panaca is good for Pioche.
- If something were to come and people had to work at it, not going to get the people to do

Eastern Lincoln County Community Assessment – 2010

it--oh, they'll do it. It happens over and over and over. Somebody else will always do it.

Strengths and Assets

- Most gorgeous place on Earth. Lots of goats, cows, elk.
- Ditto.
- The greatest strength is the people. There is knowledge and expertise and energy, people that show up and people that don't, but for the most part, Pioche has a sense of community unlike any other on earth.
- Assets: We have tremendous resources--natural resources--fantastic phone system for a little old country in the back of no where. Best of modern amenities. Good work ethic in the people.
- I'll tell you why I live here, I live in that house up there, I can walk down Main Street, everybody will acknowledge me, know who belongs in town and doesn't belong in town, didn't lock the door.
- Spend 20 minutes in the bank just talking with my community. I don't know anywhere else--go to Vegas to Bank of America, and have to stand in line without a single smile.
- I don't want the community to grow. I am happy with the way things are.
- Ditto.
- Beautiful scenery, flowers, bushes, mountains, etc.
- I think being small is a strength, though it plays into the challenges. Can say hello to everyone.
- I agree--it's the people. If we experienced a catastrophe like they did in Wells, we could pull together and help each other.
- Ditto. Emergency services we have--three communities always pull together with the emergency services.
- I love the freedoms--lived for a time in Fort Worth, didn't like a lot of constraints there. Wanted to go somewhere, miles to go. Easy to get out and see the countryside and shoot your gun.
- Could be a little bigger small town.
- Sky is the most beautiful thing in Pioche you've ever seen.
- All the people in here.
- Strength is the people. Emergency, towns do pull together. We have people and firemen who donate their time to do that.
- We had a fire by where I lived, Panaca and Caliente both came, Caliente fire truck sprayed down my deck to keep it from burning.
- It would help to have more tax base.
- The people, the freedoms, and the freedom we have here because we are small. Grew in the right way, we would have the freedoms.
- Caring about one and other. Fire's, we just happened to be having a dinner at the Church. Dinner moved to the school house. Everybody came and ate. Gym school full of people, walked to Red Cross Guy
- Red Cross Guy, "No need for me here, you people are the most pulled together community I've ever seen."
- People are very strong, faith-based people; faith makes a lot of people strong here. Proactive things that are here. High speed data, internet, good quality service that way.
- Years ago group that came in, said you might have Mormons and Baptists and Catholics,



Eastern Lincoln County Community Assessment – 2010

and if you piss them off, they'll all be pissed off.

- People who work in the schools are trying to be good teachers.
- Park Rangers they've been to the Fair in Cedar City and back over here to promote the parks. We have great parks here.
- Ditto everything. We live quite a ways out--have a girl who had health problem. We'll do your farming for you so my husband could go visit the daughter in the hospital. Choose to help.
- Churches, all of them, are assets.
- We do enjoy coming to churches. We don't come in all week except just to come to church.
- Public Utilities are wonderful and have been very helpful. This phone company is more economical, cable is cheaper, power is cheaper, and water is cheaper.
- Community Elementary school for our youngest members--there is a school in each of the 4 communities.
- State Parks. Park employees take such pride in our parks.
- Old, old, old school county commissioner. If you stay in business in Lincoln County, your one heck of a business person. Businesses have to work at it to stay open.
- School still has a nativity scene in the Christmas program and nobody has ever said anything about it.
- We have natural resources here in Lincoln County.
- I am thankful for the Family Dollar in Caliente.
- Great drinking water. Great water.

Projects and Initiatives

- When I was a boy, we had an explorer program, in which the police department supported us, ride in patrol cars with them, great experience it was for me to see what people did.
- Job shadowing.
- See us pick up most of the trash that is around here. Maybe see a program to help kids and grown ups pick up trash around the community.
- Some type of project that goes along with the services for the seniors--better and more services for the seniors.
- Take advantage of all of the programs that are out there. Senior phones. Find program--end of the list rather than the top of the list--know the programs, take advantage of it.
- Frequent updates on what is changing and what is new.
- Seniors need some help, and don't know where to go. Got to hunt out someone in Ely for help. Difficulties with social services and others things like this. Sometimes people need assistance.
- Book in one of these three towns, all the paper work, everything they need, help them out if you need it.
- Something for our young people--and needs to be short-term.
- Actively pursue some businesses or something to bring something in for everybody.
- I have enough projects as it is.
- Valid point about the clean-up. We worked so hard just before Labor Day to clean up. Need to have 3 or 4 times a year to do a community clean-up.



Eastern Lincoln County Community Assessment – 2010

- With the resources we have, ranchers and the farmers are stewards of the land. They have to plow or crop it every year. Don't need somebody telling them how to do it. Find deposit of ore, 5-7 years.
- Growth is going to come from the little guy. Small bore operations that employ 10-15 people or whatever.
- Know there is gold and silver in this area, can't face the regulations.
- Hard to come up with something zippy, long-term some of the assets need to be freed up.
- Talk of biomass coming through--utilizing juniper forest for fuels. Looked at expeditiously.
- Anything. It's a menace, weed destruction, and find something to do with it.
- Regulations need to be freed up to allow that to happen.
- Ditto.
- Too much government restrictions. Little more free agency.
- Essence of what people are saying is--BLM largest land-owner, Need a cooperative attitude from them rather than a confrontational attitude to them. Not sensitive to the needs of the county.
- In a meeting here a few weeks ago, young lady commented that Lincoln County is a welfare county, rely principally on grants, city county relief tax and redistribution to maintain services.
- That is because of limited tax base and limited industry that we have. The solution has to be a very difficult turn from that standpoint from relying on others to self-reliance. But also a relaxing of the restrictions that are holding us here. Bully not going to let you up because you might be punching him if he lets you up.
- Our road is so rough--like to see the road cleaned up, shake the car to bits. Canyon Road.
- Signage on roads in our community. Stop sign is knocked down, it seems like it is down for life.
- Several months ago, town board meeting, talking about a power project. Expanding power and get rid of brownouts or outages.
- Signs--need new signs, first thing they will go do, look for the government grants to see if we can get somebody to pay for signs. We'll get government grant. Why don't we get local person to do it.
- Have to start thinking locally, with the people that we have here.
- More recycling, more green, more plants planted around here.

Questions and Answers

- Do you have a Master Plan?
- Lincoln County does, but not Pioche, City of Caliente does. Unincorporated areas--town boards did give input into the general county Master Plan.
- Q: I heard several people mention services for special needs and healthcare are they separate things or is it really health care?
- Mental health. Assistance just living every day. Not cross congregational help. Young folks moving out, seniors here, most homes hard to get in and out of. Impossible for some. Home care.
- When the social security check is gone, what do you do for the last week and half of the month for food. Community issue as far as churches. Burden falls on a few.
- In most cases, the services in the health care are interrelated.



Caliente Fireman's Breakfast

Challenges and Problems

- Employment. Need more opportunities for more jobs.
- Tourism--trying to get it to come through town instead of taking the bypass.
- Ditto all. I am wondering right now who is going to clean my grill. We do need more jobs and more tourism and more activity around here.
- Keep the kids home.
- Ditto.
- How to control growth in the next few years people are going to be moving here--like to have it planned, we need the growth but we want to maintain our own identity. New people want to change something 1st Day
- Need more arts. Arts could be a way to grow the economy with tourism and stuff. Zero arts here.
- Tax base which is an offshoot of employment via industry. Result in jobs.
- Jobs we looking for and that we need are something that is going to last. We don't want the boom and bust type that come and go with the heavy construction or mines that open up and close down.
- Need to keep our children and grandchildren here working.
- Ditto all. I would like to see some kind of balance between the idea you can't have clean coal technology. Don't want to see overwhelm ourselves with Green energy, too expensive, out of sync with employment
- Close down coal technology, in effect hurts all of us.
- What happens in the surrounding communities does affect us here as well.
- Employment factor can't get out there and get jobs. Solar panels, etc, anybody get motivated, good, however we got just a few jobs. Major jobs being shut down due to environmental concern.
- More industry--more warehouse work, something for people to earn money at.
- I agree with Ely, if you build a big computer factory, Silicone Valley type of operation, there are not many people here with those kind of degrees, won't benefit communities all that much. There is short time.
- I have been underemployed for two years--need a job with benefits, single Mom, we need jobs that are going to be able to benefit the area. Bring in big operation where you have to hire outside for, doesn't benefit us.
- Hear, read, and listen to commentators speaking about things. Mentality problem we are creating is through the progressive program that digging at us for over century. Concerned with teaching in history books.
- Small towns don't need to teach false history, what is going on in schools with children, what they are being taught.
- Progressiveness is a program that started off somewhere in the late 1800s, taking action to change country and a lot had to do with changing our history. So far what is in those history books, far-fetched, ideas to not offend anybody.
- We graduate 30-40 kids a year, they all leave. May get 5-6 of them, no jobs. We need good employment opportunities. Keep our youth here. Been here 20 years, we've tried; Joe was in Vegas for bunch of years.

Eastern Lincoln County Community Assessment – 2010

- Kids grew up here love it here who can't come back because there is no jobs. Good sustainable long-term jobs.

Strengths and Assets

- We have a beautiful place. Half of the allure for me, just a beautiful area. Mention tourism, places to take tourism, we also have 20-30 kids a year graduate who are good people.
- We have the potential for an amazing workforce if we could tap into that.
- We've got a small, close-knit community.
- Lots of natural resources here. Attractive to people from the big cities to bring them in here for the weekend.
- Only county that has 5 state parks in our little area.
- No organizations to set that up so that we can promote that.
- Good people here and everything, also having a small town, don't got to worry about something anything happen to your kids or anything like that.
- Growth, something like Boulder City where they only allow so many houses built per year.
- Railroad access. Main highway goes through the middle of town.
- Our weather. Not hot like it is in Vegas. Not near as cold as it is in Ely or Wells.
- Greatest untapped asset in terms of infrastructure is the railroad. Represents opportunity for industrial growth. Attract manufacturing, industry those types of things.
- Ditto. Great people here. Come out of Los Angeles and seen the other side of that. Somebody is hungry in this town; with out much word there will be a whole bunch of people who will help that person.
- Had heart surgery, stepped right up to the plate and were there for me. Need to be recognized a little more to keep that spirit away. Pretty good example. Didn't have a big turnout. Maybe something way put together didn't bring together. Do these kinds of things, more people come to these kinds of things. Feel more appreciated, feel more apart.

Projects and Initiatives

- I would like to see warehousing, something of this nature brought into town to provide jobs. Could produce more from the railroad if we work it right. More employment produced in this community.
- A subway sandwich shop.
- Geothermal energy development.
- Build a nuclear power plant on the creek.
- Movie Theater.
- Project hasn't popular in the state, semi-popular in Lincoln County was the continuation of Yucca Mountain and the railroad thereto. Yucca Mountain adjacent to the test site. Above ground test, contaminated.
- All restricted area, no public access, retrievable dump; people aren't blocked away from it.
- Double use thing, used it once, use it again for this.
- Like to see them get some grant money or something to hire a couple of people to promote some of these activities, our tourism, couple people work with the small communities to develop plans to bring people in.



Eastern Lincoln County Community Assessment – 2010

- Be able to work with all organizations, BLM everybody, promote activities as far as tourism.
- If you build it, they will come. Great big industrial park with nothing in it but a gun range. Somebody build a warehouse, somebody would come. All drive over to Cedar City once in a while.
- Used to be nothing in Cedar City, now lots, they make skis in Cedar City Utah.
- Got to start things. Expect company to put in all the infrastructure that is needed for that stuff, 50 million into just getting the ground ready before. So many places opportunities for businesses. Get some of it started.
- Show businesses that we mean business. Get company to come in here and hire 20-30 kids out of high school and grow and family and produce.
- Get a grant for infrastructure--little power lines, some streets have sidewalks, then stops, then back to sidewalk, grant with a stipulation that they have to hire people from town.
- Companies from out of town never hire anyone local; always hire people from out of town.
- Rates go through the roof to redo all the old power lines, put it underground, comes even higher power bill charges.
- If you are going to build something in Caliente, hire the locals to do it, we have great contractors and people who want to work. Out of town people only hire gophers to pick up stuff after they do the job.
- State highway redoing the road down there, contractors hired five or six people working for them. Countywide projects, just contractor who comes in and does the job.
- Veterinarian clinic. Small and large animal, though mostly small animal, lot of dogs and cats around here.
- Sen. Reid pushing to put in a solar farm out here in the Del Mar Valley, he's picked the wrong spot. Lot of Lincoln County, going to do some of these projects, windmills on Mt. Wilson. Wind blows everywhere.
- Huge chunks and made it Wilderness, need more local input and say so in where they want to put this stuff. Windmills are great--may hire one or two people here. So many places to do this stuff. Wouldn't impact.
- We need more local control to be able to say this is a dumb place to put this.

Questions and Answers

- Develop warehousing, particular niche that would fit in this area, some sort of special attributes that could be marketed.
- Natural hot water here.
- Even water not high enough for geothermal, advantageous for temperature control, more so than other places.
- Warm a warehouse with natural hot water that would be quite an attractive deal.
- Our major employer in the county is the Nevada Youth Center--staff, teachers, people supported there. Facility is always threatened by floods down the Clover. Get a clear span bridge over the creek so the threat goes away.
- Folks in the legislature who are not our friends and wish to shut the facility down for personal parochial reasons.



Caliente Senior Center

Challenges and Problems

- Distance.
- Ditto.
- I'm one of the original.
- No jobs.
- Prices--they tend to be higher here.
- Not enough businesses.
- Representation on the state level.
- I would like to see more people know about Caliente.
- Jobs.
- I wish there were more jobs because we have so many children leaving after they graduate from high school.
- We need more low-cost housing for seniors.
- Transportation, if we could have a train down to Vegas, we'd have some jobs available.
- Good utilities for development of industry.
- Lot of kids here, not much for them to do, need a bowling alley or something, people who own buildings want to fix them for.
- Our young people, other than the baseball field, and swimming pool, nothing for them to do.
- We have to look at what they've been doing for the last 10 years in this town, reevaluate and come back at it at a different.
- We are in need of more diverse medical care. Largest segment of the population is baby boomers, we all are broken, and we need more specialized medicine.
- Roads need to be improved.
- State is doing something right now that is rather strange, public health service is being made into a clinic, and everybody has to pay even if they don't have it. They're about to turn over to county to pay for it.

Strengths and Assets

- I love the people here.
- Parks and the beautiful area here.
- Clean air.
- Cooperation.
- The people.
- The recreation.
- More professional people and people with college experience than people with most communities.
- The people here want to work.
- I don't think we have any strengths because of the position we are in right now, people have been dealing with it for 15-20 years.
- And we're still here so the people are strong.
- Peacefulness and clean air.
- June Taylor and RSVP and the services they offer.
- I just read in the Lincoln County paper that the Caliente Elementary School has rated the



Eastern Lincoln County Community Assessment – 2010

highest in the state.

- They won a national award for their progress.
- We have elected officials who are creative. When you look at the town, it continues to grow and be strengthened, we have parks other communities don't have.
- We are going to get a new freezer; senior center is a real strength in the community.
- We are going to get a new food bank as part of the project of getting a new freezer.

Projects and Initiatives

- Wal-Mart. Or stores like that to keep people in this town to keep spending. Right now they go 86 miles to the closest place to shop.
- 1994--first time I came down off the hill, future site of Caliente Industrial Park, sign is still there and there is still nothing. Industrial Park or Business Park.
- Proper negotiations with companies that want to come in here.
- Renewable sustainable power, we sit on top of geothermal, wind in abundance and sun in abundance. Why communities are not investing in that is anyone's guess.
- I really look at Caliente and I'd like to see more effort for events and bring people in, if they ever see it, we are two hours away from Vegas, 2 million people down there, they need to see it.
- Would like to see a passenger train between here and Vegas.
- Ditto. An energy renewable train.
- Windmills.
- Make use of our geothermal resources.
- More diverse agriculture, not just growing alfalfa and grass. We need to do more than that.
- Renewable energy so that my grandkids won't have the bills that we do. Don't have to import that energy.
- Good look at the utilities, if anything is killing the elderly in this community it is the utilities, they never go down, they always go up and they go up for stupid reasons.
- People need to be more flexible in business because this is a depressed community.
- City of Caliente needs to act like a real municipal community. My house is off the grid--use winds, have to pay attention to things.
- Nobody in the City of Caliente--nobody is actually managing the power company, becomes a burden on their neighbors. Have to order more power, price goes up for the citizens.

Questions and Answers

- Q: What is RSVP program?
- Retired Senior Volunteer Program.

Caliente City Hall Community

Challenges and Problems

- This community desperately needs a job base of some kind. We have the girls' school and basically everything else is tourism. Ranching communities as far as the City of Caliente is concerned are not much of a draw.
- Local department store is going out of business--furniture store--because they have not been able to make it. Struggling the last three years trying to make ends meet. Railroad asset for Caliente.



Eastern Lincoln County Community Assessment – 2010

- Railroad asset for Caliente, but there is only 20 full-time jobs for the community associated.
- Is that down from what it was?
- No, it hasn't changed all that much. Winding up with fiber optics line. Still doing new rail work and it is all winding down.
- I pushed tourism because I am from Western Montana; we were the entrance to Yellowstone Park. Visitor Count at Yellowstone, 3 million a year. Have to go in to Bozeman and Marshal them out from there.
- Wow what tourism could do in Caliente because you have 2 million people living down the road. Two hours from two million people in the valley. Thinking they have nothing better to do. No idea that this back country is better.
- One thing I was real involved, travel agency and Tour Company back in the 70s. Thing people didn't realize is how many jobs tourism creates.
- Stumbling blocks is typically they are not high-paying jobs; they are service-related jobs. People who work restaurants, shops, and gas stations. Starts becoming pretty significant in terms of employment.
- Tourism isn't a very popular thing to promote in terms of an overall plan in that regard. Jackson Hole. Little towns making a killing on tourism.
- What kind of jobs do you think we can create here?
- Without some outside influence I don't see what we can create.

Strengths and Assets

- Our first biggest asset for any long-term project is the railroad. Railroad is here and is always going to be here. Transportation via the railroad has a significant impact on any kind of industry we can attract.
- Industrial Park could have a big spur.
- Manufacturers look at parcels strictly because of rail access.
- Transload facility is pretty simple. Look on Lincoln's County Website, plans done for that spur. Half mile minimum that DOE wanted.
- When I was in Elko, picked up Elko Daily Press, state of South Carolina is putting together a state coalition that is suing the federal government to follow through on their promises for the Yucca Mountain promise.
- Yucca Mountain is not a dead issue in my mind.
- Yucca Mountain is an asset.
- Transload on this Meadow Valley Industrial Park.
- Transload, come in with the cars, push them into the spur, stock them online. Takes it off the train, puts it on the truck. DOE bring heavy stuff in here, transload it on to truck and then haul to Yucca.
- Build spur, want it to make the things.
- Track itself, guy who builds track, four spurs. He is on the phone personally, sent all the stuff off the web. Rail part of it is \$270,000 for a half mile.
- Doable there, but you would have to have an end-user.
- How much capacity do they need to use that spur?
- Depends on what you are talking about--Yucca Mountain facility, spur or an offshoot or a rail line itself,
- Two spurs involved, one secure and one non-secure.



Eastern Lincoln County Community Assessment – 2010

- One project that may make it worth continuing to chase the spur idea is the biomass. The Chinese Company putting the assembly plant in Vegas, A-1 Power is working on a feasibility study on a biomass.
- Use trees to cut out of White Pine and Lincoln Counties. Then that spur might be useable for a biomass idea.
- Actually there is enough acreage out there. Total of 90 acres out there, plenty big for any kind of renewable energy.
- Can we find a company who needs a rail spur. Would have to bring in a rail spur first.
- We have Chinese manufacturers who need it for that purpose. 100,000 square foot plant, asking whether we could pull 150 workers out of Lincoln County to make it work.
- This is a fantastic piece of America.
- I am a part-time resident here. Compared to East Coast or anything else this is la la land.
- Everybody is so friendly here.
- Everybody treats me like they know me for a thousand years and accept me as who I am. 3 properties in Aruba for 13 years. People there are very friendly too. Native people are above and beyond this compares.
- Elsewhere things are businesslike, closed, etc.
- Crime is infinitesimal, family life, guidance, upbringing, beautiful town.
- Really spectacular scenery around Caliente. I moved up here to quote unquote retire. Moved up here with the idea I was going to get on the ATV and ride the country. So much opportunity for exploration of the country
- Q Are there maps of trails and manicured?
- There might be maps that exist. Silver State Trail--part of the 2004 Lincoln County Land act created the trail. Runs from here up into the Lincoln County Line in Cave Valley. 260 odd miles of trail.
- Drawback is if you want to go ride it all the time, there are no facilities there, two trailheads, not improved trailheads.
- Nevada Northern Railroad in Ely, volunteer in Connecticut, run a book concession at our landfill, books from one person to another. Getting involved in railroad up in Ely. Buses-- Lincoln County Transit is making run to Ely.
- Lincoln County Transportation is a bus that leaves the town and goes anywhere. Short-bus which runs to Las Vegas every Tuesday, Cedar or St. George once a month, Cedar on month, St. George next.
- Doctors' appointment and whatever up there. Going to go up to the railroad. Leave here half hour early in order to make connections. Big on trains anyways. Lot of time doing railroads.
- We could do more of that here--out of the three connecting town, Pioche was a mining town, Panaca was a Mormon farming community, Caliente was a railroad town.

Projects and Initiatives

- Railroad and heritage.
- I don't know how UP and Amtrak ever got away with taking passenger service off of this line. Amtrak was tasked with taking service to where service didn't exist in its charter.
- UP took passenger service off this route in 91.
- Q Is it feasible that you could create an initiative to create passenger service on the rail?
- This was the line from Salt Lake to Vegas to LA.



Eastern Lincoln County Community Assessment – 2010

- If you really wanted to use some energy to get passenger service back on it, probably is a way to push the issue of the un-served public. It is a process and UP would fight you hard.
- Freight doesn't have to schedule when you take passenger off of it.
- Have thought about is charter rail cars, could charter cars out of here. Don't think there is enough people to ride it to pay for.
- Could work it out with UP as an excursion train, we'll run at this time. Can schedule it like a freight schedule. Passengers can sit if the freight comes ahead of passengers. Would be possible for excursion train.
- Orient Express comes through here every once and a while. Is considered a scenic route for the Orient Express.
- One person got in Limousine and they left.
- Did 12 Cars, largest set of match cars that exist. Largest set of Matched cars in the world.
- Just now completed old railroad station in McGill.
- Seen a lot of change since I've been here, new fencing out here, bushes planted, all dedicated to someone. Wife was a benefactor of the library over here, planted a bush outside of the library outside dedicated to here.
- Q is that an organized process?
- Beautification Committee.
- Street lights, seen improvement rather than the town going down hill. Lincoln County transportation is only way to airport. Need a backup driver, when driver can't work, you're stuck in Vegas.
- Is bus driver a paid position?
- Yes it is.
- Did anything come up about the bus in Pioche?
- Were running two days a week until fuel price spike.
- Could make a long-term goal to increase the retirement interest here. Every 5th person coming from Vegas wanted to retire here, but wanted to buy a house.
- Not about wanting to remodel a company row house--lots of dirt you could buy.
- Q Small town developer did onesies and twosies might have an opportunity here?
- Retirement interest here.
- Bus is not licensed to go into McCarran Airport. Only three stops in Las Vegas and you have to get to one of them. Closest one costs \$17 by taxi.
- Q Clearly expanding facilities for retirees, buses and all kinds of retirement activities.
- Makes sense for retirement is that you've got a hospital here. Deciding factor for retirees.
- Q: Don't have surgical care, if it's serious they medivac you out. Some go to Ely, St. George, Cedar, or Las Vegas.
- Ely on a personal doctor's visit. Never transport to Ely unless something is way up at the County line.
- Urgently life threatening gets basic care here and is shipped to a specialist.
- Las Vegas retirees will still continue to see their doctors in Vegas.
- Q Retirement village not for those who are in need in continual care?
- Yes, retirement homes. Although assisted living, the problem is the kids want to be where they can drop by and see the folks.



Eastern Lincoln County Community Assessment – 2010

- Put all that time and effort into your children and they must leave there are no jobs here.
- Backdrop of all recreation for them--kids can go ATV, go golfing, whatever.
- Access to training to care for people. Need to hire somebody that would indeed be licensed.
- Q: What you're looking about are the retirees?
- Good weather, good recreation, in two hours you can at Cesar's watching the show or whatever.
- Need more jobs for young people--all over the country, not just here, up social security for full retirement benefits, people need longer careers. 40-50 year careers, not going to get that in putting up bridge.
- Something we need day in and day out. All money is going offshore.
- Q: Interesting concept that you bring up, communities had primarily government jobs, off-shoot benefits of government jobs is that they retire in 30 years at full retirement.
- In America we're not competing with the price of labor around the world. We are isolated, bring down benefits and wages, everything would have to fall, cost of living would have to go down.
- Young people wouldn't work in a factory. Same thing day in and day out. True but it is secure. Worked in factory and it paid the bills.
- Almost lost our work ethic.
- Not almost, the younger generation doesn't have the work ethic.
- If I were 20 years younger, I would have a bowling alley here, some kind of indoor recreation for adults and teens, family oriented business. Any entertainment you want is a pool table at the bar.
- Some place where there is going to be entertainment, some place where it is going to be hands on. Life goes on as the sun goes down. The sidewalks roll up religiously at 6 o'clock.
- Many people go shopping just to get out of the house. No place to shop either, we don't need a super Wal-Mart, but we need retail with longer hours.
- Retirees can have a place in the tourism industry as just a person that walks and talks.
- Number one thing that tourists that say they look for is history and local color.
- Interest in history here in the Southwest is growing; we've been engaged and get more and more interested in their heritage.

Caliente Faith-Based Community Dinner

Challenges and Problems

- economy, rural locations
- getting services and supplies to the area at a reasonable cost
- keep young people here with something for them to do
- jobs for graduates
- youth don't have anything to do
- school system is 4 day work week with 3 days off for youth
- no movie house
- lack of business
- drug additions



Eastern Lincoln County Community Assessment – 2010

- distribution of basic services
- children and young adults need things to do
- no major golf course, skating center
- more activities for youth
- drug problem
- no affordable rehab center
- no renewable energy
- no work, have to move to Las Vegas to work
- Industrial park is not going because of cost of hook ups to utilities
- too many things come and go
- dreams are dashed when things don't get planned well enough
- remote and inaccessible
- takes too much time to get something done
- need a strip mall
- community is worn out
- biggest export is our youth
- no place to go that's safe and that has people that they can relate to no youth activity center
- no rec center
- work out center closed
- need more positive things and areas for people to do things--4H is in the house
- hard to find a place to teach for a profit; drill team teacher
- no place for the drill team to practice
- no indoor pool
- a lot of hurting a lot of mental health issues
- we have to leave for groceries with a family of 9
- groceries are too expensive\
- no Wal-Mart
- apathy is all over, can't get people involved
- same people do all the event and support the event
- economy, rural locations
- need sidewalks fixed, people fall, Branding iron sidewalk is bad
- Motor scooters can't travel into town
- geothermal is not used enough
- flood issue has not been addressed and is not affordable
- housing problem, quality housing
- how do we grow and still preserve our way of life
- not enough people for a company

Strengths and Assets

- hospitals
- theater with a stage, auditorium, town hall
- school system with great activities
- people can create their own visions



Eastern Lincoln County Community Assessment – 2010

- country is beautiful
- people work together and are unified
- mayor
- caring people
- wonderful community to raise children
- people have learned to deal with shortcomings
- outdoors are in my backyard
- fishing, hunting, outdoors, little city close
- weren't not in Vegas, children can walk freely
- when people fall ill, others care for them
- really connect inter faith wise
- people
- people will know you before you know them
- local support system
- everything, no crime
- no allergies
- very healthy environment
- small town, great place to live
- area rich in natural resources, great history
- can walk down the middle of the street and no one cares
- great soils and great for gardens
- moderate climate
- wildlife and scenery, hot springs
- no gang shootings,
- peace and quiet
- people watch out for other people's kids
- quiet and slow pace
- can see the stars at night
- so many outside activities--hiking camping, fishing, quiet
- have coffee each morning and watch the sun come up
- wonderful to raise kids
- people fall in love with the area
- children know that older parents are taken care of
- family dollar store

Projects and Initiatives

- curb, gutters and sidewalks
- community center with an indoor pool
- tourism
- let meadow valley wash do it's thing without washing into people's basement
- make flood control channels workable
- walking trails, biking trails along rainbow canyon
- program for community services--youth, elderly, senior citizen parties
- place for community activities especially in the winter time



Eastern Lincoln County Community Assessment – 2010

- hospice program for elderly
- home bound programs
- home health programs
- railroad park
- community center with an indoor pool
- water aerobics
- a place for the kids that's where they want to go and feel welcome
- arrangements for transportation for seniors
- expand on agricultural uses--produce, apples, cucumbers
- knowledge to meet USDA standards for produce
- combined shipping networks
- small manufacturing
- gaming opportunities for Nevada

Questions and Answers

- what is the teaching
- What industries do you think is the right match for the community?
- small company, not one big enough to ruin city
- something that would use geothermal resource or solar resource

Caliente VFW

Challenges and Problems

- Employment opportunities for our youth and summer employment and service.
- Service in our stores and some of our businesses. I just feel like sometimes our businesses only hire relatives. Some of our services and businesses have been really lacking.
- We need a few more businesses in the city. Nothing--don't have to be big, though big would certainly help--to help spur job growth in the community.
- Ought to be more for our teenage kids to do so that they aren't getting in trouble running the streets.
- We lack an educational kind of things for our clerical staffing--grocery store, city hall, wherever, training to engage people. We talk about wanting tourism, but in order to attract. Need engaging personality.
- Somebody pleasant in there and fire them because they make people feel comfortable.
- As small as community is, most people know who you are and that is really nice.
- I work all day, I go to the grocery store and it's like I have to go here because I need the groceries. Would like to feel welcomed and uplifted a little bit because I've been lifting all day.
- Gas station and it's like what are you doing here, and can't wash your windshields because water stinks so bad. If we have the chance, we won't buy gas here.

Strengths and Assets

- I like the fact that we are a small community and we are united. If somebody needs help, you get somebody to pitch in, like the smallness of our size. Don't like major cities. Grew up on farm.
- I am a movie buff and I like to go to a movie, have to drive 150 miles to go to a movie. Don't care for small town because of a lack of services. Too small.



Eastern Lincoln County Community Assessment – 2010

- I believe there is a lot more friendliness in the small town atmosphere. L
- Like the fact people know you.
- Really step up to the plate when a family is in need.

Projects and Initiatives

- Movie hall.
- Not a movie buff, but even having a red box in town would help say a lot of people.
- Can't get first run movies from little place in town.
- Not a lot of early movie releases at store. Can buy own DVD by the time they get the movie.
- I've seen a design—Jason has the most beautiful design for a movie house.
- I love the western front that we have for our stores, but if we really went and created a better back avenue. That could be, if you decorated, could be like New Orleans possibility. Grotto type shops in Back Alley.
- Create that kind of ambiance if you will, and clean that whole thing up, bury as many of electrical lines as we can because it is detracting things in the community.
- Road has to be at least level and graded so that you can get through it. Bank Street is the name of the street.
- Old Firehouse could be a movie theater.
- There was a movie theater and a barber shop and everything right there. Back in the 60s it was a movie hall. Firehouse has no function at the moment.
- We'd love to see a bowling alley.
- Q: Is there a barbershop in town?
- We did have a barber for year. All going to beauticians right now. Bud the Barber left town, went to test site, and men wondered where the heck you are going to get your hair cut. If you don't think that was a transition.
- Things we like about our area and change isn't going to be an easy thing.
- Change is hard.
- It was really hard to get the family dollar in here. They fought for a long time.
- Electrical infrastructure needs lots of work. Bolts sticking out seven years later.
- We are getting underground transformers for underground power?
- In some spots that is true, Bank Street.
- But it was bad before. And that is what the problem is, it's you never quite get the attention that you need.
- New wire that is in that we purchased, and new poles, need assistance and those sort of things.
- Spent \$45,000 on a study of our electrical system. Know where the worst spots are and trying to address those.
- Winds we had this summer have been extraordinary. It causes a problem, lots of trees in Caliente.
- Q: Can you get grant money to upgrade system within the system?
- Not a whole lot out there--REA, those kinds of grants are almost nonexistent.
- C: Definitely take local capital, something USDA would look at, not just all grant, grant loan type of thing.
- Stuff is possible, and the generation part of that is not cheap. Much more expensive than



Eastern Lincoln County Community Assessment – 2010

what we would be able to support. Geothermal technology isn't quite there yet.

- Tried to heat City pool with geothermal but chemicals are required turned it black.
- Didn't try a heat exchanger. Don't know how warm that water is anymore.
- 180 degrees at geothermal site at Antelope Canyon.
- I would like to see a little bit of growth. I would like to see maybe 2,500.
- I think that is about a beautiful size.
- At 1,000, 1,200 where we're out, how do you convince anybody to get anybody to get anything to come here.
- I would like to see it grow a little bit too.
- I think it is possible because they do it in Las Vegas, somehow we could ban Elm Trees in Las Vegas, Elm Trees are really a nuisance, and Elm Tree bugs get in house.
- Green ones?
- Just vacuuming them out. Neighborhood is infested with Elm trees and bugs.
- We have a 24,000 tree grant that is coming in Nevada, we are going to be putting more trees down where the linear park is, and extend it down to the bottom. None are elm.
- One issue--ATVs, I walked out of the store this afternoon, nearly got run over by the ATV, not licensed.
- Management plan for ATVs.
- We have Rhino but we try to avoid going down the streets and everything. They come whizzing down sometimes because of the speed some of them are going.
- They go down our alley 11 12 pm at night every night.
- Not licensed vehicles, Osborne and Dixon by the park are terrible. Racing around the park about 15 times, continual, three and four children on it without helmets. Out of hand, not licensed, kids behind a wheel.
- People's lives are endangered.

Questions and Answers

- Q: What brought you here and what keeps you here?
- Job brought me here, and family keeps me here.
- Moved back here to take care of my parents, and we lost our parents, stayed for my sister, lost her, keep thinking I want to sell my place and go.
- We have kids; all of kids have had to leave, love to come visit but can't find jobs here.
- Q: Need more jobs, career opportunities for youth, etc; what business/industry combination really fits here, what industry would fit in your community exceptionally well?
- Probably sporting goods as an overall type thing. Outdoor recreation type things.
- Bike races bring in a lot when they do come in.
- Automotive store, when they came in, I need a part, can I get it, hundred miles away because store closes Saturday at noon. When we have races like that there are not repair facilities.
- Nuclear train, I would love to see come in. It would've been business; getting railroad going would've created jobs for some people here.
- Training, teaching, regulations, should have helmets on, need to be taught safety before young kids ride these things.
- One time too, offload hay, enormous amount of hay shipped out. Distribution for



Eastern Lincoln County Community Assessment – 2010

different things that come through here. Lot of trucks that come through at night.

- 100 cars worth of hay.
- That is the challenge.
- One of things I've been looking at, think we need to explore, there is an opportunity, maybe with a trucking type of arrangement in those days. Don't want rail yard in middle of town.
- Can we do something that would make that not as visible but it would be there. Linear Park helps and that type of thing.

Panaca Business Breakfast

Challenges and Problems

- Biggest challenge is getting kids involved in something productive. Loitering where kids are defacing buildings, really been a problem in Panaca. Unsupervised time for kids.
- Mindset of some people that this is the way it's always been, and we don't want to see change.
- We see as a big challenge is job, lack thereof. Need more business and job opportunities.
- Ditto. More business opportunities. Not just for work, more purchasing opportunities in Lincoln County, more places to eat, more to do businesses with.
- Main things I see for our little museum, it needs a bathroom and water, we don't have water.
- Not in just Panaca, all three communities and Alamo too leaving Alamo out of this don't understand that totally, to get the four communities to work together. Small in number and just one will not make a change.
- Citizen's apathy here and overwhelming in that challenge.
- Mindset and not changing, finding a balance, don't want to change everything. Try to find a balance there where the good change can be separated from the bad change.
- I personally don't want to have a Mesquite type situation, community with what I consider solid values, need to increase commerce and business values, all the sudden all that changes.
- From what I've seen in Lincoln County, we worry about jobs and the things we talked about--thinking outside of the box, never going to have a Wal-Mart come to Lincoln County.
- Difficult to get big business to come to this area, there is not the people. What are we going to do to provide jobs that we can adjust to here? People don't have to live where they work.
- We're a picture of what is happening all over the US, public sector exploding and private sector is shrinking. Taxes gone up 30% and income gone down 40%.
- I agree with the assessments. But I think part of our challenge is to help ourselves. Don't want developments big enough to prostitute us and become lapdogs of industries so large we can't have input.
- Whole County is a historically underutilized area. Tax incentives which really cost nothing to have a business locate here. We have a major artery; market is Vegas, smaller industries with 20-30 employees.
- Goes along with apathy and with jobs, we need to think outside the box and help ourselves rather than relying on outside help.



Eastern Lincoln County Community Assessment – 2010

- Nuclear waste--ownership of nuclear waste, reprocess it, and sell power to the rest of the world. Manna from heaven. Outside the box thinking hits the wall sometimes.
- Drug and alcohol use at the youth level is scary.
- We've got kids who aren't afraid to bring alcohol to school and mix it. Has to come from somewhere. Think that doesn't happen here.
- Kids who want to quit and we don't have access to it.
- Son committed suicide, schizophrenic for 10 years, doctor, police couldn't help me when soon needed help now, and Mesquite said he would make an appointment in two weeks. Immediate service needed.
- Government regulations are set--this is how it is, doesn't matter if you have a small business, this is how it is, folks who started restaurant here in Panaca, and this is what they had to do.
- We don't have the problem that big communities do, government regulations are overbearing so people who do have a business or want to start a business have challenge.
- Unfunded mandates coming down from state government and even federal government. Services may be there, and the funding is not. So we can't have the service because we can't afford to pay for it.
- When you start feeding at the public trough, you prostitute yourself to the government because you are no longer in control of your own destiny. Government dictates to you how money should be spent.
- Cautioned people about government grants and loans, say your water rates are too low, going to have to raise water and sewer rates.
- Gee, why don't we put the USDA or any of these other entities on the board since they're making all these decisions?
- I spend probably 65-75% of my time dealing with government regulation.
- Get fines from MSHA stirring up same amount of dust as a farmer, I get fine, and farmer doesn't.
- Challenge is to teach all these people that we cannot depend on the government; we have to depend on ourselves.
- We have become a nation with our hand out, instead of saying let's do it ourselves. \$400,000 on a park over here instead of \$80,000 if we did it ourselves because of Davis Bacon and all that.
- Deals a little bit with attitude--couple of businesses close, talking about that, comment was made, it's too easy for people to go out of town and to shop. Problem people always gone out of town, would come back and say can you get this for me. We don't do that anymore no loyalty to our existing business base.
- Need something right away, have to go to Cedar and St. George and Vegas to go get it.
- Furniture and stuff like that used to be different.
- Part of the problem is the school district changed to a four day week, gives them a whole shopping day. Wintertime, love it when it snows a lot, forced people to stay and shop local.
- Good weather, mass exodus out of town.
- Geothermal, where they are cutting down the trees, fine and all great but the company is from China, how come the people aren't made aware of the owner of the one who wants to come down and do it.



Eastern Lincoln County Community Assessment – 2010

- Maybe we don't want to give China our Cedar Trees.
- Utilizing what we have here--a similar company could be formed with individuals here, but they could be a major player here. Some companies will come from outside, why not use what we have here to build.
- Problem we have in Panaca, everything is open range, tried to say we can't do this, that, this, open range governs, 60 sheep on lot next to his house can't do that, needs to be comprehensive city thing done.
- Community Master Plan, not been able to be done, been trying to do it for 10 years. Something needs to be done. Enforce things like 4 cars on a piece of property.

Strengths and Assets

- Been here all my life, always considered this not to be agriculture. Not viable, all kids went to college and get agricultural degrees because that is what they know. Change of attitude in ag base viable in county.
- Ag products only yield 10% profitability if anything is done just right.
- Good enough soil. By and large, enough water. Power rates are average or below average in the western United States. Coupling all the pieces of the puzzle up, it is viable; changing the attitude is a tough push.
- Some cattlemen actually, this is cattle country--better more stable multigenerational ag enterprises are centered around cattle. 400 miles from Visalia California. Close enough to put thousands of tons of hay into market.
- The people we have in the communities step up and get involved in a lot of things.
- Resources--we have a significant number of scenic resources, 6 state parks in this county, mining type resources.
- Parks definitely is a big draw here. We have opportunities to have more--off-highway vehicle trail that runs 250 miles through Lincoln County, and they spend their money when they're here.
- Location--close to Cedar City and St. George to draw people from that area.
- I think our county has good kids.
- The youth--if we could keep them here.
- The parks.
- The people--the diversity of the people, we have all of that here.
- Where we are located on the map--to Vegas, we have everything here if we just developed it. We are the last frontier that could be developed in a really well thought out way.
- Handful of children around the world, and they all want to live here. Come here even at a sacrifice just to have their children in our schools and have a quite clean, community.
- There are environments that are not like ours.
- Quality of life, I lived in Vegas, and our first child was born--left, can't wait to get out of here. I was raised here and I wanted to raise my family here.
- Most have been mentioned. People who make up the community make what it is. Went to Boise and moved back six weeks ago. People who make up community are a great asset.
- On the same token, challenge we've had deal with the people that live here and the mentality and the way they think.
- Strong sense of identity or belonging--some positive and some negative--doesn't get this in a grocery store. Name people by name.



Eastern Lincoln County Community Assessment – 2010

- My husband made a comment that this is one of the only towns in America where you can stop in the middle road in your vehicle and actually visit.
- That's why the streets are 90 feet.
- This time of year, you don't worry about fresh vegetables, lock your car when you go any place because if you leave it open, it'll be full of fresh vegetables.
- Educational level of those who come back is pretty high, but some of these people are willing to take jobs that are less than previous jobs because they love the way of life here.
- Geolocated mapping system underway--getting there.

Projects and Initiatives

- Pressurize spring water because it would help with lawns and keep water.
- 25 years from now, I could care less, but problem is you're talking about outside money. Develop own development company within our own people rather than sit around and wait for some grant to come in.
- Local area Development Company.
- I've always thought of schools, kids, need something to do, need activity; one thing always thought of is some sort of a rec center for kids to do things with. Operation costs and things like that.
- Another thing--I think I look at Panaca and each of these towns, resources we have as far as water yet how much is wasted because of lack of proper technology to handle water. Up to date water and sewer systems.
- Having been here all my life, seems like it's really a strange problem we dug ourselves into, not at all critical of boards or anything, place is highly watered but little widow downtown is letting lawn burn up.
- Government grants, increasing rates to accommodate them, to meet regulations, yet driving ourselves away from the natural resource. Can't get it from A to B without spending a million bucks.
- Ought to be a bright green place.
- One of the things we noticed when we moved here are all the old boarded up buildings in all three communities. Just sitting there rotting when they could probably be used for something.
- Some of small towns around here could definitely be tourist draws more so than they already are just be retooling what we have.
- Liken it to the Virginia City of the 1960s or something, where people could come-- especially Pioche. Not Virginia City of today that is very commercialized. Whole old west, Pioche was the wildest town in West.
- Big group that comes here, there is no place to eat, Silver is there, but only 20 people can fit in there. Motorcycle groups came through the other day. Place already full, nobody else could fit. No facilities.
- A lot of our income base here is tourism, with the parks, great things to see in the small towns, need to be able to accommodate that.
- If you had a development component, issue would be funding, those kind of things, bankers, government has everything choked down, they don't like us to say that, stupid to make a loan to somebody start-up business.
- Just not going to happen. Is a need for Development Company, problem would be finding funding mechanisms that are not tied to the government, so the government is not



Eastern Lincoln County Community Assessment – 2010

dictating to you.

- Water issue--Panaca is unique in the fact that we have the spring up there. Lost more water in the delivery system because it is antiquated. Get it fixed up, could have enough water to give it to widow.
- We have enough water to have a green thing on every lot in town.
- Other night at Pioche, remark was made about signs for our town--all need signs. County bought a sign machine and they probably don't know where it is at. Why not communication with Commission and leaders?
- Communication would say, "We have Boy Scout or Eagle Scout troop here that will make your signs for nothing."
- Comment: Might be a youth venture.
- I see signs knocked down in construction that were knocked down two or three years ago, the signs are still laying there. Can't see it any longer.
- Have resources, and for whatever reason there are not available to the community.
- A short-term project, evaluation and an assessment of what we really have--what do we really have to offer.
- Job training programs, we used to get funding for youth employment programs in the summertime, and the funding for that has dried up the last 8-10 years. Used to get 1-2 kids a year in summertime for 6-10 weeks.
- Learn what we did--job shadowing, got paid, not dependant on income level. Kids who would like to work, but there are no jobs to be had, when they graduate because they haven't worked, they have no experience.
- We need sidewalks, not on every street but we have the senior housing, people in electric wheel chairs either riding in the dirt or on the street. Would like to see several of streets in town.
- Anyway we could clean up some of these abandoned lots or houses--one house that has four dead cars in the front yard.
- Already had zoning laws, nobody wants to take initiative.
- County says can only be two unlicensed vehicles on a lot or whatever.
- Or double standard--some people get away with it, some can't.
- Comment: Education project, required by education project to respond to a complaint.
- More places for people to stay in Caliente, opened up opportunities for bringing in events for youth--bring other kids here for baseball and softball.
- Need more ball fields here in Panaca. 2 or 3 teams at each level, and we have one field. Two parks to practice on. Need more ball fields. Supposed to be revamping one, which still leads us with need for more parks.
- Indoor swimming pool/rec center, talked about for many, many years, managed by somebody, wonderful place for kids to go, be supervised and be active.
- Bothers me because I'm so keen on the clean community, as soon as nature of our community erodes away, tattoo shops, etc, should not be here.
- Sad that you have to worry about getting an ordinance to prevent this until you've already got a problem. City of Mesquite, trying to get adult bookstore routed out of there. Couldn't adopt it in Lincoln County.
- No one written, probability tat shop and adult bookstore could happen, and would be awful. Get the tat shop shut down and do preventative maintenance on that. Shift away



what we champion so much.

Lincoln County Middle School

Challenges and Problems

- Not having the bus rides back from the football and basketball games.
- We need a skate park.
- Ballpark.
- Maybe the park could be better.
- My sister is mean to me.
- Nothing.
- No mall. Pioche. Caliente and Panaca.
- Don't know.
- We lack a soccer team.
- Bigger better skate park in Caliente.
- Caliente--Bigger skate park, better skate park.
- Skate park in Panaca.
- Basketball court in Caliente--or football field.
- They should let us dirt bike ride anywhere we can and want in Caliente.
- Go kart place.
- From Pioche, skate park.
- Better gun range--Panaca.
- Need nicer buses--buses are not nice. Lack AC.
- Need a bus for Pioche Middle school because Caliente has one.
- No sports, like volleyball.
- Movie Theater.
- Bowling Alley.
- Four wheeler tracks.
- Better gun range--Caliente.
- A Chili's.
- Soccer field.
- No soccer team.
- Dirt bike track in Pioche.
- Would be nice if we had a horse race track in Panaca.
- Better gun range in Caliente.
- Need more stores for people can get stuff that they need.
- Maybe a Wal-Mart.
- No clue.
- Movie Theater.
- Better Pioneer Park in Panaca.
- I'm from Panaca and I think the roads are too bumpy for scooters and skateboards.
- Feed store for animals.
- Better sidewalks.
- Costco.

- More sports.
- More restaurants.
- Starbucks.
- Stores, stuff like that.
- Taco Bell.
- Volleyball court.
- We need a skate park in Pioche.
- Better skate park in Caliente.
- Better skate park in Caliente.
- Roads in Caliente suck.
- Game stop and videogames.
- Sandwich place.
- Widespread Subway.
- We need an all-girl football team.
- More sports.
- We need more restaurants.
- We need a water park in Panaca.
- Caliente needs a McDonald's
- We need a bigger middle school.
- A new one.
- Tear this one down and make a new one.
- A smoothie place.
- A dog park in Caliente.
- We need more talent and better equipment for the roadwork.
- Panaca needs an amusement park.
- We need a better track in Pioche.
- Dairy Queen.
- Burger King.
- Café Rio.
- All girls football team.
- School later in the day.
- No school at all.

Strengths and Assets

- My grandfather's body shop. I like it because it is a body shop and I can fix and take apart things.
- Skate shop--Panaca skate shop.
- We need better four way tracks.
- Like my teacher.
- Money. Lots of money in area.
- Springs--the water springs swim in them.
- Like how it doesn't take long to walk to school because it is small.
- Small town, easy to get around.
- Pass.



Eastern Lincoln County Community Assessment – 2010

- I like that we have a small town and my house, good to know everybody, sometimes bad thing thought.
- Softball team.
- Like that we have a basketball team.
- Family Dollar in Caliente.
- Not that busy.
- Dirt bike trails.
- Family Dollar in Caliente.
- Close to creek, go fishing.
- All the people in Caliente will let you use their yards.
- How big our park is.
- Shooting ranges.
- How much land we have around.
- I have a job--I make money.
- We have a lot of freedom and we have a lot of things that you don't have in the city. Not strict curfew like the city.
- Like how there are so many farms and ranches around.
- Kershaw State Park.
- Like the Lakes.
- Wide open spaces.
- I like the mountains, and all of their scenery.
- Not too many people--small town.
- I like Pete's Track in Panaca.
- I like how nice the people are.
- Safer community.
- I like that we have a new auditorium.
- Football team.
- All the sports around here.
- I like the bank.
- Probably could use another bank.
- Rodeo.
- I love the Rodeo.
- Parks in Caliente.
- Football.
- Caliente pool.
- Hunting and four wheel riding.
- I like that it is just a small town and there is no gangs and it is real peaceful out here.
- Skate park.
- Football field.
- I like how you can just leave your house without worrying about it very much.
- Don't lock doors.
- J's fast food.
- Pass.



- I like the waterfall.
- Pool.
- Auditorium.
- Kershaw-Ryan.
- We don't have track.
- Don't know.
- Football team.
- Great views.
- Football team.
- My Dad's gas station and the new Pioche.
- Family around and the food.
- Three day weekends.
- Three day weekends.
- How people in the community watch out for each other.
- Like the parks.
- No traffic.

Projects and Initiatives

- Start to do stuff around the community--I would like to see the demolition derby back in town.
- Skate park--build a new skate park.
- Build a dirt bike track.
- Get a job. More jobs.
- Like to have a guitar store built.
- Laser tag place.
- A bookstore built.
- I think we should get the mall built because then we could have whatever we want.
- Maybe just add a roller skating rink or something.
- Ice creamery.
- All concrete skate park.
- Maybe a skateboarding club.
- More dirt bike races.
- I'd like to see a movie theater be opened--Movie Theater in Pioche fixed up.
- Drumming shop.
- A vet place to take our animals.
- College.
- Game stop.
- More things to do.
- Paintball place.
- Better fair rodeo.
- Q: What is better?
- More people, larger.
- Get a paintball team together.
- Sports store.



Eastern Lincoln County Community Assessment – 2010

- Football field in Pioche.
- Bigger fair and rodeo.
- New hospital in Pioche and Panaca.
- On the derby to let the teenagers who are 13 and up drive it.
- Better rodeo grounds and bumper cars.
- Music store.
- Starbucks.
- Q: Do you have a band here in school.
- New middle school.
- We should have a swim team.
- Finish up the creek park thing in Caliente.
- New football stadium.
- Better swimming pool.
- Start up a dairy.
- Raccoon chase.
- Rubber track around the football stadium.
- Improve the motocross track in Pioche by redoing all of it. Has potholes. No bleachers.
- I don't want to see them put the windmills on Mt. Wilson because it would just ruin all of our hunting territory and stuff.
- Better skate park in Caliente--bigger.
- Better skate park
- All the garbage, trash, at the skate park, maybe would be nice if we just picked up after ourselves.
- Improved schools.
- Air conditioner that works in the school.
- Mall and a Starbucks.
- Have more sport teams organized.
- Fiesta fun center.
- Motels in Panaca. No motels in Panaca--just bed and breakfast.
- Like in Caliente there is a lot of abandoned vehicles and stuff not condemned.
- Get the weeds down.
- I think we need sports stores and stuff around here.
- We should have better four wheel trails and the lights at football field should work.
- Keep community how it is and not anything else.
- Sports store.
- More space for kids to play.
- Redo the track trails.
- Girls wrestling team.
- Better baseball team.
- Turn the old school in Pioche into a paintball place.
- Recycle more.
- Improved hunting areas.
- Hunting for what?

Eastern Lincoln County Community Assessment – 2010

- Any kind of animal.
- More fishing areas. Large bass, trout, etc. There are in the mountains, lakes, etc.
- Plant more fish, or? More or less fix the lakes. Water management there.
- We need a beach.
- We have sand dunes, and we already have the sand.
- We need an indoor skate park for winter time.
- A donut shop.
- Indoor pool in Caliente.
- That water park or amusement park to be built.
- Two things--first one--build a tree in springs, awesome but now gone. Build a park around the railroad in Caliente, haven't finished the front part of park because nobody sees the back park.
- Would like to have a dairy set up in the next year.
- Plant more trees.
- We need a Big Five.
- Fun classes for schools.
- Better Pioneer Park and redo the fences and stuff like that.
- A Zoonie's.
- More classes.
- Turn pizza place in Pioche into a paint shop.
- Library.
- A Hot Topic--it's a clothing store.
- A snowboarding resort.
- Pioche has snow.
- A class period where you can just mess around.
- Later start on the school day.
- A volunteer program.
- Our library, better books in libraries, more popular books in the library.
- Cooler school.
- Home improvement programs to fix up houses in town.
- Building construction. Building a warehouse for construction supplies.
- A new middle school.
- NASCAR in the backyard.
- We need more shopping places and everybody should drive.

Lincoln County High School

Challenges and Problems

(Combined with Projects and Initiatives)

Strengths and Assets

- Nothing. \
- I like have a small community and know everybody. More personal and everything.
- I like that you can just walk down the street and not worry about anything.
- It's more private. You don't have to worry about getting hurt or anything--safe.
- I like how the school system provided the four day school week, mostly gone in sports,



Eastern Lincoln County Community Assessment – 2010

now have more family time and more hanging out with friends.

- Ditto.
- I like the ability to be able to walk outside and not worry about being poisoned by gas or something like that.
- I like everything about living here.
- I like how everybody has a voice heard in the small community.
- Ditto more personal and small town atmosphere I like.
- Small and everybody knows everybody so people help each other out.
- Don't like anything about being here.
- Small and everybody knows everybody.
- Ditto.
- Small town thing is really important to me, important to be able to know everybody.
- Certain opportunities are better here.
- Traffic isn't as bad.
- I like how it's quiet at night. Don't hear any honking or anything and I can sleep.
- Small.
- Not like a city.
- It's small.
- I agree with her.
- Think you get to get involved in every single thing you do--more sports instead of just one. Help out the community by doing service projects more than big cities.
- Law enforcement, everybody knows everybody, justice served quickly and efficiently.
- Be able to go out and ride dirt bikes on open lands. More freedom.
- Nice cause in bigger schools, have to try out for the sport, can get on any sport you want here.
- I like it because it's not divided--3 towns divided into one are combined into one town major group effort.
- Can hunt.
- Bigger towns, they don't know the people as closely, so they don't care about people personally, here people care about people personally.
- I like that in a small town whenever there is a disaster everybody comes together to help each other out.
- All a family here just like other places.
- Unlike in the cities you can actually see the stars here.
- Go shooting in back yard.
- Ditto. A lot of freedom. Don't have a lot of traffic.
- Get more involved and help people out.
- Small school like this, more ownership and something.
- Get individual help in something.
- Good at something, get more recognition than you would in a big town.
- I love how to be able to go out in backyard and be able to shoot and do what you want.
- So laid back, can go out in back yard and shoot.
- I can walk everywhere.



Eastern Lincoln County Community Assessment – 2010

- I like how you can be close to nature. People can go out in backyard and shoot a deer and go hiking on the weekends, city, have to wait for summer where you have enough time to do that.
- Do fireworks without getting in trouble for it.
- No crime.
- Greater trust here than big city.

Projects and Initiatives

- There was a movie theater in Pioche, I miss having that, want to see it rebuilt.
- Only one store in Panaca, so it is hard for us to get from the school to the store with the student limit in time to go back.
- The kids more things to do during the day, some of us are getting in trouble a lot. Need more things to do to not get in trouble.
- Because we're down here, they have to pay more for Diesel to get food down here. Food is too expensive.
- There is not a Wal-Mart or a Bowling Alley, Build One.
- I think we need a new basketball gym.
- A restaurant that actually stays in business. Current one closed.
- An indoor pool rec center.
- I think we need a better track, very hard to run on the track for people to run on.
- All the roads need to be repaved.
- I don't like to drive--hour away from here, would like shorter commute to school.
- Roads do need to be paved, need to be paved for a long time, sealed it, does nothing. Can't skateboard on it, can't long board on it, crash bike. Need sidewalks.
- More job opportunities for kids and even adults really. Only job opportunity for adults in Youth Centers.
- Combine the movie theater and make a Starbucks.
- Better little league fields too.
- Taco Bell.
- Help rebuild the movie theater.
- Golf course.
- A turf football field and a track.
- A rec center--with pool.
- Movie Theater.
- Rec center.
- One thing we have is a lot of vandals in our parks, lock parks at night to keep vandals out.
- Put a skate park in every town, and not every kids Mom is going to drive to Caliente every day from Pioche.
- We need a KFC.
- We need the movie theater.
- We need a restaurant with a drive thru.
- Bowling alley.
- I don't know.
- One thing a lot of teenagers have problems driving four hours to get the permit and



Eastern Lincoln County Community Assessment – 2010

sometimes they don't even pass.

- They all applaud, big problem for them.
- Better music program, better drama program.
- More sports--fields and equipment for baseball and softball.
- I think we need a new gym because our old one is not very good.
- Driver's Ed, because taking it online sucks. Pay to enroll and somewhere and fail.
- Three schools and a church, can't walk around, no loitering signs on every place here. Another store here, only one store here.
- Need more stuff in Panaca. New basketball gym sounds good too.
- Theater in Caliente where there is also some restaurants.
- New gym.
- More places to get jobs.
- Rec center or something because there are some things that can be really boring. Permit, driving thing is a good idea too because it sucks to go up there and fail.
- I think we should have a Wal-Mart so we don't have to go to Cedar City for whatever we need.
- I think we need more ATV trails to ride around in.
- Need a soccer field.
- Improve the bleachers at the football field, more community members might come out with better bleachers.
- Schools, everything we do, everyone should have a higher goal instead of just getting by, actually do the best we can.
- Need a skate park because every day I am kicked off everything, even just sidewalk. Can't go down to Caliente everyday.
- Bass Pro Shop.
- Baskin Robbins. And Giant Water Slide at the Springs.
- I think we need better track and field stuff. People train here and run on rubberized tracks instead of dirt it makes you slower.
- Our roads paved to go rollerblading and everything like that. Did new road to make it better to make it worse, still can't roller blade. Real pain to go all the way around tracks in Caliente people cut across them.
- New track for us because what we have now is a piece of junk and when we go out to competitions, we can't adjust to how the other tracks are.
- New band room and drama room, because it's a pain to walk to the old high school room.
- Better school lunches.
- Really need to expand our sport selection because not everybody likes football or baseball, soccer, etc.
- Volleyball, soccer, swim team, gymnastics team, something besides what we have.
- I'd like to see a lot more stores, St. George. Type thing.
- Red box so we can rent movies out here.
- School should be able to provide more advanced classes so not stuck with the same old same old.
- Chatter: Like art again, please.
- An extra period before or after things.



Eastern Lincoln County Community Assessment – 2010

- I agree with the track--need a new track and new high jump mats.
- Cutting classes last year, like art and FACS, important to have those because we need those.
- We had some really good art people.
- We need more jobs because all high school students are about to go to college and we have no way to pay for college.
- Golf course, also agree with her about the jobs, if they don't give you the chance to have the experience then how are you supposed to get the jobs, need to have apprenticeships, so you can do a little bit.
- Need tennis.
- We need less closed mindedness in the community, teacher make more recognition of what people are doing.
- Fast food places and rec centers in all the towns, and more job opportunities.
- Major problems in the county, not enough jobs that are open, open jobs don't choose local, they choose people from out of state. Fast food places could provide job opportunities for us.
- Need to stop chopping down the trees.
- More opportunities for entertainment, after school activities, including more sports.
- Need a pool table and fencing.
- More opportunities to keep kids and building a Starbucks.
- One town, three parts.
- Baseball field needs to be improved, no batting cages or lights.
- Agree we need a new track because it sucks that there is a new track. Pole Vaulting Pit, nothing to land on. Need uniforms for track also. Boxing.
- Everybody has anger here, so let's just get a boxing ring.
- I think we need is a gym that actually lets kids go into and work out.
- Football field needs new lights.
- We need more ATV trails and stuff.
- Basically what they've said today.
- Building a custard shop.
- School needs a wrestling room, no place to store our mats.
- We need a paintball arena.
- Jobs around here, auditorium just got built, bids should look for local construction businesses instead of going over everybody.
- Paintball tournament, hunt may not get a tag.
- Farm where you can go hunting on the farm.
- Half of kids would return if they had a job.

Pioche Afternoon Community

Challenges and Problems

- no tax base
- taxes that we do have go out of the area
- dependant on handouts until land gets moved to private ownership
- will have to be careful with land sale as sales too low will amount to less revenues than



PILT

- PILT funds are very limited
- remote in the middle of no where
- the middle of no where never looked so good
- medical is a challenge
- some new comers don't check medical needs out well enough
- No apartments, condos etc. Available

Strengths and Assets

- good basic infrastructure--water power,
- good standard of living
- lots of open space
- parks surround us
- country side is open,
- a lot of wildlife
- wonderful climate
- all the ingredients to be a great recreation place
- silver state trails
- can drive ATV's into town
- could duplicate what Moab is doing
- 4 season climate
- wonderful people because they grew up in small towns
- people learned to be self sufficient and take interest in things big city folks don't
- can feel safe
- worst crime is speeding and driving through drugs
- honor camp folks escape so they can get put back in and stay in the area
- petroglyphs, history of mining town, gun slingers
- no traffic lights
- people have to buy enough to last a month
- top internet service
- have 100 lots available if you want to build a house
- looking at upgrading areas of power--lighting strikes
- cheapest power around, but Lincoln County will have to go out on the open market for power

Projects and Initiatives

- LCAT needs to have public officials push regional development authority to buy into LCAT
- regional development needs to focus on small businesses and start backing small businesses
- regional development needs to start with one business
- finish industrial park
- get more realistic in what is possible
- find jobs are driven by internet and the employee doesn't have to live at their job
- clean energy projects, wind energy



Eastern Lincoln County Community Assessment – 2010

- resolve conflicts with development in areas that aren't hunting areas
- affording insurance for small business
- refurbish old businesses so that start up capital is less
- project to help businesses get started
- keep RNAC going
- silver state trails--get local guide services to have a day job, rent out atv's
- Free up buildings in town. Bought for speculation and are letting them rot.
- fire man move to Alamo from Las Vegas because they only work 4 days
- honor camp employs 30 jobs

Questions and Answers

- Have you looked at Alamo and how they are growing--fireman. Could use this territory as nursing, fireman, etc.
- What is housing availability--rental and purchasing? Have several nice homes available. Would have to purchase available, developed land.
- Do you have a master plan for tourism? Carol said booths
- Might need a theme

Panaca Faith-Based Community Dinner

Challenges and Problems

- I would say that the major challenges would be the lack of industrial economic support--what I mean by that is the opportunity for a major or good sized corporation to be able to establish a facility in the county.
- Other aspect would be land acquisition, much of county is owned by the government so you cannot buy it. Difficult for companies to become a presence.
- Not being raised in this community, lack of unity between the communities at times, misconceptions about each town, grown little stigmas. Everybody has a different projection of each town.
- Road systems because they're not all perfectly smoothed and paved.
- Challenges is maintaining our identity as a rural community yet still having to comply with a lot of federal mandates.
- I think that the public utilities, some of the things we lack, struggling to have good water, sewer systems.
- Deer situation--there running all around town, you have to have a seven foot fence if you want to have anything.
- Community issue that several of us have addressed with the state but they won't do anything about it. Can't have a garden in this town without building a seven foot fence around your garden.
- If a deer happens to die on your property, they won't come and take care of it.
- Greatest challenge is economic because everything I want to do illegal. Any business idea I have, there is this whole brick wall of regulation and it makes it very difficult to start from nothing to build.
- Challenges I see--President of Panaca farmstead, our bills are too high according to the way they make us structure their billing, charging so much we can't afford to water their lawns.
- Restrictions from the grants that determine what rate they have to charge.



Eastern Lincoln County Community Assessment – 2010

- There aren't any jobs here. Kids grow up and they have to leave to go find employment somewhere else.
- One of the biggest problems is Southern Nevada tried to steal our water, when farmers start pumping water, before start pumping nice pond that ducks really like. Southern Nevada pumps, we won't have any water.
- I would like to see a lot more lights on the streets here in Panaca, people cleaning up their properties, taking pride in where we live.
- Major problem is that for anything that you need, you have to travel and transportation is a major problem. Require major transportation.
- Railroad has a major sale, what could be done to help.
- I think the businesses, the local businesses as a community, we need to support those more but it is really hard because they have to bring their prices up because they are being taxed more.
- I recently moved back after being gone for a long time, surprised me how rundown the town looked, look at the properties run down, most absentee landowners.
- Higher education or trade school type education for some of our local youth.
- Lack of support for local businesses, watching one after another of old timers going out of business and it's tough.
- Everyone travels for shopping, but there is not a lot here, so it is hard for businesses.
- One thing that has been talked a little bit about is the underutilization of our water resources to solve some of our water irrigation resources here in town.
- Whatever we do, we want to maintain our quality of life that we have come to enjoy in the community.
- Lack of wholesome activities for the youth who are here--athletic programs are involving only a few of the youth that we have.
- No alcohol in Panaca ordinance when the high school was first built. Things like a tattoo parlor, influence young minds, influence them for a long-time, and it's right on Main Street, nothing to protect us.
- I am the little league president--we need more fields and activities for these youth year round. We need to have lots of activities to keep the youth out and doing what they are supposed to. Too many kids running streets not doing very good things.
- I think that we definitely need to address the issues that we see that are obvious about our town and our greater community that we know can contribute to the goodness of who we are.
- Needs to be a proactive place instead of a reactive place.
- With the community, these would resolve themselves with more value added product that created more net worth in the community.
- Lincoln County is losing its identity as a small rural county, gerrymandering of legislative districts, Elko, Nye, Mineral, and Eureka. Lincoln rapidly being depleted. Lack of state services, no driver's licenses.
- Have to go to Vegas to get certain things from the state government--licenses.
- Prevailing wages, it is ridiculous for us to have to pay Clark County prevailing wages in Clark County to build our own structures.
- Rural County is becoming a conglomerate of all counties.
- Ditto all.



Eastern Lincoln County Community Assessment – 2010

- We need to get together as a community and finish ordinances that would keep adult bookstores out, started it ahead of time but never finished it.
- Community planning ahead of time so we can get something that the community when these people move into town--tat shop is an example of getting caught flat footed.
- More job opportunities for our youth to keep them here.
- One issue that really bothers me is the oppression that we feel from federal agencies, such as the bureau of land management. Small percentage is privately owned. Activities relate to public lands. Level of our rights as participants on the public lands continually reduced.
- Ditto all.
- Our street it is extremely dark, not scary place, but don't see cars coming up and down the street. Sidewalks some place to walk besides the middle of the street when it gets muddy.
- Better lighting.
- Our kids don't have the same facilities and opportunities that other people do elsewhere. Our track at the high school is dirt. Can't have track meet there because it is dirt.
- More job opportunities, especially for teenagers.
- Watermelon is really good.
- Representation issues, certainly can't realign the legislature here, Senator was from Fallon, current Assembly from Tonopah. Should be like on federal level, two from each county.
- Ditto all. Would like to see a public library services in this town. Any library. There is no library in Panaca.
- Lack of representation is huge. Feeling less than in the state has been paramount on my mind. As we go and try and represent ourselves before the Assembly we are not listen to. Don't care about us.
- We are not known as rural, not considered rural.
- Community support--supporting community businesses, nice to have a nice park here or a swimming pool, library, things like that good as well.
- See the youth tending towards different things. Need more involvement in our youth's lives and getting away from video games and technology and getting back into active society.
- Our taxes are too high because too much of our county is controlled by the federal government instead of being privatized.
- Few citizens who are here have to support our government over a large county.
- Lack of parental guidance; up until 7 o'clock at night, kids are roaming, and there is nothing to do constructively. Communicate with those parents, inappropriate, lack of communication. How do to that as community.
- Skateboards, in Caliente they built the skateboard park, be it small, and might be an idea for other communities here.
- Great revenue source for the hospital.

Strengths and Assets

- We are mostly community minded and we look out for each other. Crisis or something people will always be there.
- Quality of life here, major asset.
- Safety that I feel here and the peace.



Eastern Lincoln County Community Assessment – 2010

- We have a little more control about what goes on in the community. Can go chew out the water board and some of them. Know who they are.
- Ditto with all.
- We have a good strong school system and a lot of really good teachers who are good role models for the upcoming people who are going to be our future.
- I really love Cathedral Gorge, the outdoors here, it is beautiful.
- Lack of congestion.
- People's willingness to get involved when there is a problem. Not as into it as Pioche, apathy sometimes, group needs to get together to get things done.
- Our quality of life. My kids can ride their bikes to school by themselves.
- Ditto all. In this county we have five state parks, not too far away from national parks. Challenge is selling it, we could be a tourist draw, don't market that, no facilities to bring them.
- We have more free range regulation here, in our quality of life, thing recognizing is county, CCRs and all that not a heavy burden that way as of yet. Take care of that proactively.
- Our children here.
- We don't have any here now because they all left. Our son wants to come back here but he just can't find a job.
- One thing they do when they evaluate coming here for a company, if the job was here there would be a lot more that would come back.
- People's ability to tolerate things that are difficult and things that are put upon us that we shouldn't really tolerate but we do. Works to our detriment most of the time but it is a wonderful quality.
- Our greatest asset is our location, closed to railroad, close to interstate, a lot of commerce going back and forth.
- Two tiny assets--being a hundred miles from a stop light.
- Panaca Spring, wonderful place, plus the asset of the water.
- Safety and I don't have statistics, but we do not have a lot of really serious types of crimes.
- Really great we have clear sky and that you can see the stars at night.
- The rural nature of our community, I'm a farmer but I live in town, but I still feel like I'm part of a rural community but an advantages of living in the community. Might not leave the keys in your car.
- I personally have been to St. George several times for doctor's visits, but still value the clinic and doctors and pharmacists that we do have. We've got great changes that have stepped up level of care already.
- I like the opportunity, going out on the interstate trail system. Half hour, 45 minutes travel.
- Feeling of security, community, and family. If they're doing something that is incorrect, going to let me know that my child is misbehaving. Like the small community.
- How do we fix those challenges and still keep it a small community.
- Close proximity to Las Vegas. People really have a desire to have the way of life they do. Developed better well marked trail for 4 wheelers and Jeeping, more tourism to our county which would help economy.



Eastern Lincoln County Community Assessment – 2010

- Ditto all. Safety and the outdoors.
- Panaca spring is an alternative water source--safe hot water well. Value in our history.
- Appreciate the federal grants we receive, a new elementary school, a new auditorium, new shop and automotive building, weight room. Still more to be done.
- Thinking two, one been brought up, yes we are a little ways away from things. But you can get here; we've got a good rail line, good roads. People who are here like being here.
- Amazing thing about this county is the pool of talent of people; generally find somebody who can do it.
- We've been up here from Vegas 10-15 years ago; I really enjoy the peace and quiet in the evenings, can sit out on my porch, feel the cool air and just enjoy it.
- Honorable people, they are interested, care, want to make improvements, could have three people who show up tonight, but look at all the people who show up because they care.
- Climate as an asset. Can get cold but really doesn't get that cold most of the time, really doesn't get that hot too much of the time in the summer time. Vegas and St. George harder.
- I like the idea that when our kids want to take out a four wheeler, you don't have to stop at every corner and pay a quarter.
- Railroad activity, agriculture, cattle industry. Frequent roads that would take us.
- One of the things is the beauty of the people who can take you in and watch over you kids. Always there and caring for each other.
- State entities that we do have here--honor camp, perception to the cities about us. Honor camp people coming to help us with our town projects. Youth centers service kids who wouldn't experience this way of life.
- Lincoln County is boundless in opportunities for those who take the effort to go out and look for them.
- Quiet.
- Born and raised in northern Vermont and felt like I came here.
- We have enough contractors in the area if we want to build something or do something, we can do it.
- Put out to bid, some other contractor from another area will come in.
- Contribution that the people of this community make in the world. We have founding encyclopedias. We are a great people just that no one knows it.
- History, like Pioche's history, mining boot hill, farming in Panaca.
- The arts, we have a theater, off Broadway, people very talented in singing and dancing. Plays that go on in the school and things like that.

Projects and Initiatives

- Recreation for our kids because in the school system, there is basketball and football and everything, not all kids actively involved in that. Something we can go to and spend time with and not be out on the streets.
- College access, somehow to restore it.
- I wish they would have an out of county deer tag because it costs so much for us to go hunt our own deer. Residents can't afford to go hunt our own deer.
- Short-term, and long-term, jobs, factory base, some type of industry here that will help us provide the rec centers, etc.



Eastern Lincoln County Community Assessment – 2010

- Two specific, like to see a track at this high school. Like to see a swimming pool. Even if you could put a bubble on it for the winter to use year round.
- Not only a community center for our youth, but it should be a community center for young and old together, that way younger and older people get to know each other.
- Like to see more lighted streets because it does get awfully dark on some of these streets.
- Paved track, movie theater, etc.
- Biomass powered power plant.
- Junipers are trying to take over the Earth, at least Panaca, marching down into Panaca. Wouldn't hurt a thing if we were energy independent. Hoover dam going to dry up, may very well be.
- Like to see our community get another ball field for the little league. Caliente got a bunch of fields; Pioche got a bunch of fields. We are sucking hind tit you know.
- Something simple, a bowling alley for the kids or the grown ups.
- For the younger kids anyway, a skateboard park would be marvelous for them for the recreation.
- A couple a lampposts on our street, we don't have a single lamppost on our street.
- Vacant lots and weeds cleaned up.
- We had a magnificent way to bring economics back to Lincoln County through nuclear waste storage; other areas dictated we can't have that. We suffered through the tests, why can't we capitalize on it.
- We could have everything if it was there. But we cater to the other areas right now. Yucca Mountain.
- Going to get windmills here, and not a cent of the money will stay in Lincoln County-- can't say a cent, maybe three dollars.
- We become a garbage center for everybody; somehow we got to change it. House them with no capital gain.
- How do you take advantage of that what we really have and control it ourselves.
- Sidewalks downtown, better street lighting. A little bit better drainage system going through town.
- Evaluate how much dollars pass through Lincoln County, is a lot of dollar that comes down through that doesn't stick.
- Pioche, 25% empty homes are Vegas people who are not living here, coming up on weekends and going back.
- Heard about possible indoor swimming pool, rec center kind of thing, like to see it move forward, expensive but can make it work.
- We should start process for proactive ordinances to protect your quality of life.
- Find ordinances that would help us protect our economy.
- I would like to have more energy to do more cleanup and do more things to help make it a better community, run out of energy and money and time, not sure how to do it.
- Health center, exercise equipment, spa.
- Would like to see more public lands privatized, 10 years ago big plan about how this was to occur, BLM was onboard, and parcels of land were identified, maps were made, that derailed, something like that beneficial for our community.
- We don't need any more politicians in Washington D.C. drawing lines on a map and



Eastern Lincoln County Community Assessment – 2010

saying this is now a wilderness area. Designating huge areas of our counties as wilderness area restricts our rights and abilities to use that land.

- I would like to see a real library, improve the library system we have and create one here. More funding for the library.
- Like to see some projects around town to beautify town, clean up Main Street.
- Economic stimulus and jobs and some type of industry coming in.
- I lived in a little town in Oklahoma, built a ceramic factory, somebody could did more of a market survey to see if there was something they could do that might help fund a company to put something like that here.
- To bring a college out here is pretty tough; we can do a lot for education and job preparation here with some sort of county mentoring program. Interested in nursing, come down and work along side with us.
- Mentioned all mine this morning and been mentioned tonight.
- 2007, Commission, School District, Parks got together and created a bike path between Panaca and Cathedral Gorge, funded, not been done. DOT should finish that.
- We the people, there was some controversy between, \$800,000 grant, SNPLMA money, people packed the county commission meeting, I don't think we sit before the county commission enough and ask for things.
- Panaca elementary school abandon building could be a rec center or something in just a few weeks. Rachel did it recently. We need to put ourselves on the agenda, pack the little TV chambers up there.
- Thing about that is, in spite of the attendance at this meeting, not a lack of willingness, but lack of leadership.
- Going to talk the talk, got to walk the walk.
- Dispersal of BLM lands, are set for dispersal, commission decides how and at what rate those parcels will be dispersed.
- Done that in some projects in Alamo and Rachel, borders around each community have land available, how far do we go before we destroy the property values in the community. Can be released any time plan or need.
- Solar power here and Mesquite and gas fired power plant, worked hard to get through federal loopholes to make that happen.
- Coyote Springs projects as it relates to solar development. How many jobs created, not enough, 2, 3, 5 maybe.

Pioche Business Breakfast

Challenges and Problems

- Getting locals to support businesses that are here.
- Ditto.
- There is nothing here for young people to stay, when they graduate, they have to leave because there is nothing here to stay.
- Distances that we have to cover.
- Tremendous amount of energy that is put into complying with all the regulations.
- Tremendous amount of competition in telecommunications area, towers that will carry all sorts of things they are actually government funded.
- Not afraid of competition, but they just have advantages.



Eastern Lincoln County Community Assessment – 2010

- Put on agriculture's hat for a minute, tremendous regulation that our federal land management agencies like to place upon us, the greatest challenge that we face is resource degradation.
- Long history of ranching in Lincoln County, tremendously successful business, been diminished by 90% over 70-80 years, part regulatory, part by demand because the forage is not available.
- Natural succession of plants, grass to brush, to trees. Unless something done to stop natural succession, it occurs everywhere. Land management agencies curtailed use, but not stopped succession.
- 80-90% of range lands are in a fairly degraded case. Substantial work and funds to bring them back to what they were 60 years ago.
- Regulatory agencies have become simply a restriction body rather than a management body, where they are actually doing something to manage the land. Also affects tourism industry, benefits from wildlife.
- Hunting seasons from August through January that brings a lot of people in here. As those resources decline, the opportunity for them declines as well.
- Ditto all. Like the tourism, this year I didn't see as much; tourists choose to help support the town. Economy is bad. Weren't that many people around this year to help support the town.
- Locals need to help support the businesses, people are going to drink and gamble. Hurts other businesses when they're not supporting restaurants and markets, nice to have something more enticing.
- Ditto all. I see lack of support of the local businesses from the local businesses. Just as guilty as going to Cedar City or Vegas to get bigger shopping items. Just must cheaper to fit budgets.
- Chamber, and I think some of the businesses around need to try to get some really good ideas about things growing, last meeting was to maybe possibly start doing sidewalk sales once a month up and down Main.
- Have problem advertising business activities.
- Going to Cedar, St. George, Ely, doctor, whatever, fliers put up on their kiosks, just for walk team--geocaching is huge up here. Husbands are ATV'ers and Jeepers. We won't see another soul all day long and love it.

Strengths and Assets

- Ask for the restaurants, community helping the community, we need to do more of that.
- Greatest assets that we have are the tremendous resource base that is available to us. Tremendous resources, power, good assets there. Large natural resource base managed poorly but has great potential.
- Great mineral base that is available to us, purely regulation and restriction that withholds the use of that. Founded on mining, almost ludicrous that we have mineral assets available and zero mining activity.
- Chamber, member of the chamber, we have a website that is set up so it could be a real strength as far as advertising because people could go onto the website and see what is going on in Pioche and Lincoln County.
- Might be some ways to do some advertising.
- Lincoln County website has the calendar of things that are going on.



Eastern Lincoln County Community Assessment – 2010

- I'm trying to get a little more involved, last year of my life has been crazy.
- We have the internet, communications, they are here. And those opportunities and assets are there.
- Very strong community found out how wonderful it is to live here when my husband passed away.
- I think we should promote Pioche as a great place to live not just for tourists but for people who move here.
- Our five state parks is an asset in our community, they are all right here, and that is one of the things that the tourists we get in love our community, and they say the people are great and say the people are really nice.
- My parents went to Glacier National Park; woman up there knew where Pioche was and had very nice things to say about Pioche.
- The people who live here coming together and they are great people--they are strong people.
- Get them together and involved.
- When we're in a state of crisis, this town pulls together--like the fire or whatever.

Projects and Initiatives

- Quite the large chamber list of your own members, but only a handful show up, and then they get burned out, so then those handfuls are taking on more and more.
- Community has a lot of people that says they don't like this or that, but they don't volunteer either. Get more volunteers for the community would be good.
- Ditto. But something I would like to see long-term is the mining was what founded us, people come into this town as tourists are just totally thrilled with seeing mining equipment, owners do small tour around outside.
- Ditto. All.
- One of my problems that I face is that I live in my own little nutshell and my own little box. Stretched to the borders in that little box. Takes effort to be involved community wise. More activities on a community basis.
- Alamo started co-ed softball league, many people who played that league and enjoyed each other's company. Youth soccer league in summer time. Bring more community strength by bringing people together.
- Faith-based potluck, everybody said wow this is really neat.
- I thought it was.
- More like they do the Christmas tree. We are also busy working to enjoy the actually holiday. Labor Day.
- I used to like Labor Day.
- Have a week after Labor Day potluck or something.
- Ditto all. We need to do some more community things, more volunteers for the projects that are going on in Pioche right now because it is the small people who are doing it all and we are getting burned out.
- When we get older, quit and die, don't see anybody else taking it over.
- Ditto all. One of the struggles with the waning population is burnout.
- Been working with the local working group at the NRCS and they are trying to address issues in the Meadow Valley Wash in the area. Need to find some way to gel all little pots of money.



Eastern Lincoln County Community Assessment – 2010

- One pot of money not enough, but puddle all pots together, could see something happen-- tree removal, vegetation enhancements, works that would accomplish restoration of the range land that once was.
- Get money together, got to deal with all of the regulations to get through it.
- Has to be a process that everybody can live with. Long-term type of project, something that accomplishes major change in how we do things. Got water running over the bridge, got to somehow change supply and keep water from running over the bridge.
- We did plays for the community, and we need to do things like that in Pioche. Maybe a sleigh ride in the winter time for the community. After everybody left, show appreciation.
- Karaoke on Saturday nights, maybe work it where the kids could come in as well.
- Industrial park, one person that is there able to service the debt. BLM job when they were established to dispose of the land, why it becomes horrendous process to gather up 10 acres out of 6.4 million is unfathomable.
- Simpler, easier way for communities, individuals to say look, piece of ground here I can do something with and not have to go through appraisals and red tape and years and years of mess and bid to buy it.
- Ridiculous process got to be a way to facilitate, why don't we get much coming to Lincoln County because they don't have a place to go.
- Jobs for young adults, struggling to find work, have to leave the community if they want work.
- Telephone Company is very proactive and forward thinking. Changed out equipment in central office, cool technological things going on. Two more cells up, one more in Alamo, working hard to get IPD.
- Long-term on fiber to home to get into Pioche. We have long-term goals that will help the communities and things that are going on there.
- Talking with Sherriff's Office for a couple years, e-911 system put it in, little bit of older technology when they put it in. We're going to be making some changes. Oh, no this is what we have. Week before we called them and said way 911 was working, it won't work.
- Never been without 911 services. Pieces of equipment they paid tens of thousands of dollars for didn't work.
- We have a home page, we put the internet in for everybody, bottom of the county asked the churches, businesses, put anything you want in there, and we finally canceled the site because nobody used it.
- We need to get the word out, also needs to be used so that the people who are paying for it say it is less productive.
- Our little local newspaper, people are trying really hard to make that a good viable business, and half the county doesn't read it. Get that type of thing out there, Local business that needs help.
- E911 system and what happened, three gentlemen who are running for county commissioner, I may shoot myself in the foot here, big problem in our communities and our boards and our departments no communication.
- Nobody knows what the other one is doing, a lot of citizens who are really, really guilty about complaining and moaning but you never see them sitting in our board of county commissioners meetings, being involved.



Eastern Lincoln County Community Assessment – 2010

- Eliminate our disconnect between our government officials and the private sector.
- We could put a camera in the Commissioners room and stream it to the internet, prepared to video stream local basketball games.
- Two parts to her issue, and the other one is the folks being interested enough to come and be involved, other side of it is to have the boards and elected officials open enough to listen to what is being said.
- People who have been to meetings repeatedly over long periods of time, and been ignored.
- Some of the ones on the Commission don't know what is being coming up in front of them, so they postpone it again, because nobody read whatever and is able to answer the question. Frustrating to us out here.
- Come back the next week after it has been tabled it, so they table it again, and it gets really frustrating.
- I would love to see the filming on the internet.

Pioche Senior Center

Challenges and Problems

- Jobs. Economics.
- Because most of the small communities are not financially affluent, you need grants for a lot of the upgrades and things that they need to have upgrades and things. Need grants for regular services.
- Coming out of the 18th Century, they haven't advanced since Boot Hill.
- Jobs or the lack there of.
- Lot more tourists--need more people.
- Ditto jobs.

Strengths and Assets

- Good cookie.
- Kicked back living--others are taking all the rights away from us all the time, the damn BLM, slow living and no pressure.
- Ditto.
- No traffic jams, being yourself as long as they let you.
- After living in Las Vegas, and having 500 and 600 dollar power bills, retirees on moderate income can live fairly well here. Power rates aren't too high.
- Slow place of living, lack of crime.
- Good people and they seem to pretty much stick together here too and that is what needs to be done.
- Like all these people right here.

Projects and Initiatives

- Raised in the city, folks always rural people, like it just the way it is, I'm in the fire department here, would like to see street signs in town.
- Half the streets do not have street signs.
- Such a quaint wonderful town with a lot of history, they are trying to preserve some of the buildings and things like that, Odd Fellows Hall falling apart, going to be demolished, big hole in middle of the town.
- If they tear everything down and don't show what this town was all about, not preserving



Eastern Lincoln County Community Assessment – 2010

the history, there should be some way to make them preserve things to be part of our history.

- Some kind of industry, some kind of employment foundation.
- A little bit of insight, or goal setting.
- Ditto on the preservation of history.
- Like to see them reign in the BLM because we're losing all of our ranges around here because of wilderness and all the other stuff they have going on.
- Could do just like Utah sued the BLM to get their land back. Big march on it.
- They forget who they work for, they think they own everything; we don't have any say in anything, who are they preserving it for, nobody can get in and use it?



Additional Resources

Heartland Center for Leadership Development
650 "J" Street, Suite 305-C
Lincoln, Nebraska 68508
402/474-7667
www.heartlandcenter.info

Nevada Association of Counties
201 S. Roop Street, Ste. 101
Carson City, NV 89701
(775) 883-7863
www.nvnaco.org

Nevada Department of Conservation and
Natural Resources
901 S. Stewart St., Ste. 5001
Carson City, NV 89701
775/684-2700
www.dcnr.nv.gov

Nevada Department of Public Safety
555 Wright Way
Carson City, NV 89711
(775) 684-4808
www.dps.nv.gov

Nevada Fire Safe Council
440 West Spear Street
P.O. Box 2724
Carson City, Nevada 89702
Phone: (775) 884-4455
www.nvfsc.org

Nevada Microenterprise Initiative
113 W. Plumb Lane
Reno, NV 89509
775/ 324-1812
www.4microbiz.org

Nevada Rural Housing Authority
3695 Desatoya Drive
Carson City, Nevada 89701
775/887-1795
www.nvrural.org

Nevada Arts Council
716 N. Carson Street, Suite A
Carson City, NV 89701
775/687-6680
www.nevadaculture.org/nac

Nevada Commission on Economic
Development
208 East Proctor Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701
775/687-4325
www.expand2nevada.com

Nevada Department of Health and Human
Service
4126 Technology Way, Suite 100
Carson City, Nevada 89706-2009
775/684-4000
www.dhhs.nv.gov

Nevada Department of Transportation
1263 South Stewart Street
Carson City, Nevada 89712
775/888-7000
www.nevadadot.com

Nevada League of Cities and Municipalities
310 S. Curry Street
Carson City, NV 89703
775/882-2121
www.nvleague.org

Nevada Rural Development Council
PO Box 3926
Carson City, NV 89702
775/230-0075
www.nevrdc.org

NV Small Business Development Center
University of Nevada, Reno
College of Business Administration
Ansari Business Building, Room 411
Reno, NV 89557-0100
775/784-1717
www.nsbdc.org



Eastern Lincoln County Community Assessment – 2010

Nevada State Development Corporation
6572 South McCarran Boulevard
Reno, Nevada 89509
775/770-1240
800/726-2494
www.nsdcl.com

Public Utilities Commission of Nevada
1150 E. William Street
Carson City, NV 89701-3109
(775) 684-6101
[http://pucweb1.state.nv.us/PUCN/\(X\(1\)S\(pxtqp155jbsqcp55h0ly4o23\)\)/PUCHome.aspx](http://pucweb1.state.nv.us/PUCN/(X(1)S(pxtqp155jbsqcp55h0ly4o23))/PUCHome.aspx)

Rural Nevada Development Corporation
1320 East Aultman Street
Ely, Nevada 89301
775/289-8519
www.rndcnv.org

USDA Rural Development
1390 South Curry Street
Carson City, Nevada 89703
775/887-1222
www.rurdev.usda.gov/nv

US Forest Service
Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest
1200 Franklin Way
Sparks, NV 89431
775/331-6444
www.fs.fed.us/r4/htnf/

Western States Arts Federation
1743 Wazee Street, Suite 300
Denver, CO 80202
888/562-7232
303/629-1166
www.westaf.org

Nevadaworks
6490 S McCarran BLVD
Building A, Suite 1
Reno, Nevada 89509
775/377-8600
www.Nevadaworks.com

Rural Community Assistance Corporation
3120 Freeboard Dr, # 201 - 2nd Floor
West Sacramento, CA 95691
916/447-2854 or
775/323-8882 – Reno
www.rcac.org

University of Nevada Cooperative Extension
University of Nevada, Reno
Mail Stop 404
Reno, NV 89557-0404
775/784-7070
www.unce.unr.edu

US Bureau of Land Management
Carson City District Office
5665 Morgan Mill Road
Carson City, NV, 89701
775/885-6000

US Small Business Administration
Nevada District Office
400 South 4th Street, Suite 250.
Las Vegas, NV 89101
702/388-6611
www.sba.gov



20 Clues to Rural Community Survival*

1. **Evidence of Community Pride:** Successful communities are often showplaces of care, attention, history and heritage.
2. **Emphasis on Quality in Business and Community Life:** People believe that something worth doing is worth doing right.
3. **Willingness to Invest in the Future:** In addition to the brick-and-mortar investments, all decisions are made with an outlook on the future.
4. **Participatory Approach to Community Decision Making:** Even the most powerful of opinion leaders seem to work toward building consensus.
5. **Cooperative Community Spirit:** The stress is on working together toward a common goal, and the focus is on positive results.
6. **Realistic Appraisal of Future Opportunities:** Successful communities have learned how to build on strengths and minimize weaknesses.
7. **Awareness of Competitive Positioning:** Local loyalty is emphasized, but thriving communities know who their competitors are and position themselves accordingly.
8. **Knowledge of the Physical Environment:** Relative location and available natural resources underscore decision making.
9. **Active Economic Development Program:** There is an organized, public/private approach to economic development.
10. **Deliberate Transition of Power to a Younger Generation of Leaders:** People under 40 regularly hold key positions in civic and business affairs.
11. **Acceptance of Women in Leadership Roles:** Women are elected officials, plant managers, and entrepreneurial developers.
12. **Strong belief in and Support for Education:** Good schools are the norm and centers of community activity.
13. **Problem-Solving Approach to Providing Health Care:** Health care is considered essential, and smart strategies are in place for diverse methods of delivery.
14. **Strong Multi-Generational Family Orientation:** The definition of family is broad, and activities include younger as well as older generations.
15. **Strong Presence of Traditional Institutions that are Integral to Community Life:** Churches, schools and service clubs are strong influences on community development and social activities.
16. **Sounds 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 the information that is beyond the knowledge base available in the community.
19. **Willingness to Seek Help from the Outside:** People seek outside help for community needs, and many compete for government grants and contracts for economic and social programs.
20. **Conviction that, in the Long Run, You Have to Do It Yourself:** Thriving rural communities believe their destiny is in their own hands. Making their communities good places is a pro-active assignment, and they willingly accept it.

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



Traits of Good Governance

Governance is the process of making and carrying out decisions.

Effective governance incorporates a variety of decision-making and implementation practices by a wide range of people, organizations, and institutions beyond government. These include non-profit groups, faith-based organizations, community foundations, citizen alliances, community colleges, business associations, and others.

Effective governance incorporates community building: processes that develop leadership, enhance social capital and personal networks, and strengthen a community's capacity for improvement.

It is the hope of the resource team that the community assessment process has provided encouragement and support for Eastern Lincoln County's pursuit of effective governance.

Nevada Rural Development Council

