

THE WYOMING RURAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

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

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

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

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

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

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Many of the elements are here for Basin to have a successful future. To become a growing, vibrant community takes only a few people willing to roll up their sleeves and go to work. Once this nucleus begins to exert effort, it will begin to show some successes. Then this nucleus needs to expand to include more and more of the community until the entire community is involved. But the work is not on big jobs; it is on small ones that can be achieved quickly. The big ones come later after Basin has seen the results of the smaller and sees that it can accomplish things.

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Greg Wyndham, Resource Team Leader

PROCESS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THIS REPORT

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

The town of Basin requested a community assessment from the Wyoming Rural Development Council through the City Council and Mayor Phil Julliard. Jerry Pyle, Council member served as the community contact and took the lead in agenda development, logistics and publicity in town for the assessment. Resource team members were selected to visit, interview citizens, business and community leaders; and develop a plan of recommended action for the town. The team members were carefully selected based on their fields of expertise that Basin officials indicated would be needed to respond to the problem areas identified.

The Resource Team toured the town and approximately 200 community members, over a three-day period from March 4-6, 2003, participated in the assessment. The team interviewed representatives from the following segments of the Basin community: student council, professionals, churches, agriculture, education, families (local and rural), health and social services, chamber of commerce, economic development, business and retail, industrial and utilities, EMT, EMS, Law Enforcement, Fire Department, town and County. Each participant was asked to respond to three questions designed to begin communication and discussion and to serve as a basis for developing the action plan. The three questions were:

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

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

The oral report was presented to the people of Basin on March 6, 2003 and many of the citizens of Basin who participated in the interviews were in attendance.

Following the oral report, a formal written report is prepared and presented to the town of Basin.

RESOURCE TEAM MEMBERS

Basin, Wyoming Resource Team March 4-6, 2003

Greg Wyndham, Team Leader

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Sheridan, WY 82801-5749
(307) 672-5820
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Wyoming Department of Health
Box 4113
Cheyenne, WY 82003
(307) 635-1671
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Basin, WY 82410
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Resource Team Agenda

WRDC Basin Assessment March 4-6, 2003

Tuesday, March 4th

<i>Time</i>	<i>Group Name</i>	<i>Location</i>
8:00am	Breakfast with Organizers and Press	Assembly Room
9:00am	Tour of Basin	
10:00am	Student Council	High School
11:55am	Lunch	School Cafeteria
1:00pm	Professionals	Assembly Room
2:00pm	Churches	Assembly Room
3:00pm	Agriculture	Assembly Room
4:00pm	Education	Assembly Room
6:00pm	Dinner Break	
7:00pm	Families - Local and Rural	Assembly Room

Wednesday, March 5th

8:00am	Breakfast	
9:00am	Health/Social Services	Assembly Room
10:30am	Senior Citizens	Assembly Room
12:00pm	Lunch	Assembly Room
1:00pm	Chamber of Commerce	Assembly Room
2:00pm	Economic Development	Assembly Room
4:00pm	Business/Retail	Assembly Room
5:00pm	Industrial/Utilities	Assembly Room
6:00pm	Dinner Break	

Thursday, March 6th

8:00am	Breakfast	
9:00am	EMT, EMS, Law Enforcement, Fire Department	Assembly Room
10:30am	Town and County	Assembly Room
12:00pm	Lunch Break and Preparation time for Public Meeting	Assembly Room
5:30pm	Dinner	
7:00pm	Public Forum – Presentation	Assembly Room

WHAT WE HEARD FROM WHAT WAS SAID

After listening to the citizens of Basin, the Resource Team reviewed what was said and condensed the comments down to a few basic statements titled, Major Themes. These are in no particular order.

MAJOR THEMES IN BASIN

DRUGS/ALCOHOL

- Drug Court
- High Use Rate
- 24-hour Police Coverage

HOUSING

- Lack of Affordable and Ready Housing
- Lack of Rental Properties
- Need for Assisted Living Facility

PEOPLE

- People are Caring, Supportive, and Friendly
- Apathetic
- Need for Communication and Goal-Setting
- Need to Provide Information of Activities
- Link Greybull, Basin, and Burlington
- Transportation
- EMS Volunteers
- CARES Program
- Non-Representation

BEAUTIFICATION

- Remove Run-Down Houses
- Clean up Main Street
- ADA Access

AGRICULTURE

- Water Supply
- Support of Agriculture

NOTHING FOR PEOPLE TO DO

- Movies
- Shopping
- Restaurants
- Community Center
- Tennis Court
- Bowling Alley

SCHOOLS

- Consolidation
- Trade School
- Arts School
- Good Schools
- FFA and Excellent Ag Teacher

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Employment
- Spousal Employment
- Tourism
- Recreational Opportunities
- Motel/Hotel
- Fairgrounds
- Restaurant
- TCT West/Communications
- Use Existing Resources
- Good Infrastructure
- Stores

RECOMMENDATIONS SUBMITTED BY RESOURCE TEAM MEMBERS

The Resource Team would like to thank the town of Basin for the immeasurable amounts of honesty, hospitality, and friendliness that you gave during the Resource Team effort. We have every confidence that the kind of effort and enthusiasm you produced for the Resource Team will be responsible for your future successes.

The Resource Team has given many suggestions, some which have been repeated by more than one of the team members. We have listed the individual recommendations, along with contact information for the respective team members. You are encouraged to communicate directly with any team member.

After the community has an opportunity to review the report, the community leader will be contacted by the team leader, to set a date for a follow-up town hall meeting. This will give members of the community an opportunity to set priorities based on the recommendations from the following reports. I would encourage EVERYONE in the community to be a part of the priority setting session.

Greg Wyndham

Southeastern Wyoming Resource
Conservation and Development Area Council
304A 16th Street
Wheatland, Wyoming 82201
Phone 307-322-2187
FAX 307-322-4109
greg.wyndham@wy.nrcs.usda.gov

INTRODUCTION

One of the greatest challenges in any community is keeping people informed. So often we assume that people are aware of the things happening in the community when in reality a large percentage of the community has no idea what is being accomplished. Basin has some unique opportunities, and has in place many things people said were needed. We heard from people that lots of things are being accomplished, but there is no plan in place to make sure the right things are being done to insure a successful community. In Business it is Location, Location, Location, for community development it is Planning, Planning, and then doing.

Developing a Plan

Challenge:

There are a number of people willing to work with communities in developing an individual plan for a project or a community plan that addresses future growth. Any successful business must develop a plan of action; they need both short and long term goals. Units of Government (the town of Basin) are just like businesses, if you do not plan for change, it will happen without you.

Your community can grow or disappear, everyone needs to be involved. You as a community will determine what your future is.

Solution/contact:

Mary Randolph, Executive Director
Wyoming Rural Development Council
2219 Carey Avenue,
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002
(307) 777-6430

Bill Hill, Area Coordinator
Big Horn Basin, RC&D
208 Shiloh Road
Worland, Wyoming 82401
Phone (307) 347-2456 ext.119

Roger Coupal
P.O. Box 3354
Dept. of Agriculture and Applied Economics
University of Wyoming
Laramie, Wyoming 82071-3354
(307) 766-5246

Youth

Challenge: Every community is faced with this challenge. Since the beginning of time parents have worried about what their children are doing. There are no easy solutions and the problem cannot be addressed without involving the youth. You can build the greatest community center in the state, a pool, or a roll-a-blade park but if no one uses it you have not accomplished much. There needs to be a consensus on what is wanted. Then a plan can be developed to accomplish the objective. Several Towns have designated locations where kids can hang out. You have different groups with different interest so you may need more than one area.

Solution/contact: There are a number of facilitators through out Wyoming willing to help, in addition you may want to contact communities/organizations that are trying to address some of the same problems (things to do, drugs, jobs) for assistance contact:

Bill Hill, Area Coordinator
Big Horn Basin RC&D
208 Shiloh Road
Worland, Wyoming 82401
Phone 307-347-2456 Ext 194

Mike Pence, City Administrator
220 Wyoming Highway 233
Kemmerer, Wyoming
(307) 828-2350
(designated areas for kids to hang out)
(Riverton is also doing this)

Governors Youth Initiative
Wyoming Community Foundation
221 Iverson Avenue, Suite 202
Laramie, Wyoming 82070-3038
(307) 772-8300

Wyoming Health Department
(307) 777-6494
(Drug abuse prevention)
**Said to contact and they would
designate the person to work in the
Basin area.

Joe Coyne, CANDO (307) 358-6530
Linda S. Wolfe (307) 358-2000
Converse Area Dev. Organization
Job training youth/adults (tech. Center)

Infrastructure, Housing, Facilities Etc.

Challenge: There were a number of comments on this issue. The concerns can be addressed based on which item is given the highest priority. When the assessment report is presented a number of the team members will return and have indicated their willingness to provide assistance in setting the priorities.

Solution/contact: There are a number of agencies and organizations that can address affordable housing, crosswalks, recreational opportunities, and waste-management or downtown beautification.

1. The Wyoming Business Council has responsibility for Rural Development's Community Development Block Grants Program. Grants are available for: Planning, Technical assistance, Job Training, infrastructure, Downtown Development, Community Development and Housing. For more information on this program contact:

Steve Achter, Director Investment Ready Com.
Wyoming Business Council
214 West 15th Street
Cheyenne, Wy. 82002
(307) 777-2811

Terri Koerwitz
Wyoming Business Council
214 W 15th Street
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002
Phone 307-777-2812

Local representative of WBC.
Leah Bruscano, North West Region Director
143 S. Bent, Suite B.
Powell, Wyoming 82435
Phone (307) 754-0368

2. The USDA Rural Development Agency. This agency can provide a variety of services dealing with community development or improvements. Many of their services are in the form of low interest loans, however, with the rates offered, they are comparable to grants. Affordable housing, waste management, and water systems are just a few of the areas they deal with. For more information concerning their program contact:

USDA Rural Development
(307) 261-6300
100 East B Street
Federal Building, Room 1005
Casper, Wyoming 82601

3. There were a number of comments concerning affordable housing for single mother's etc., in addition to the USDA Rural Development, below are a number of people or agencies that can provide assistance in this area.

Cheryl Dillum, 307-265-0603 (loans/grants)
Wyoming Community Development Authority
Casper, Wyoming.

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Dev.
www.hud.gov, 307-261-6254 (they can provide additional
direction or information on who might be able to
help with affordable housing.)

If you want to work on housing, a good web-site
Is <http://www.ruralhome.org/>, this is the Housing
Assistance Council.

Capacity Building

Challenge: Part of being a successful community is having the ability to help yourself. There are agencies and people out there that can do the work for you, however, nothing is a true success if you do not have personal ownership. There is an old saying "teach a person to fish and you can teach that person to feed himself for a life time". If you develop your own leadership and you have the ability to write your own grants, it is your project and will be your success. Training is important, and maintaining the capacity to help yourself is critical to success.

Solution: The Southwestern Wyoming Resource Conservation and Development Council offers a very good Grant Writing and Grants Management workshop in Jackson Wyoming, usually in May and November of each year. Bader and Carr direct the workshop. It is very intense but when you leave, you have a very good understanding of the grant writing process and how to look for resources to fund the work you want to do. You will also realize that managing the grant is just as important or

more important than getting the grant.

Contact: Kirk Heaton, Area Coordinator
1471 Dewar Dr.
Rock Springs, Wyoming 82901
Phone (307) 382-3982

Agriculture

Challenge: Agriculture is an important part of the community. The rural feeling and connection with agriculture is one of the good feel things about this community. Agriculture is struggling to survive and it needs young people involved to insure its place in the future.

Solution: Change is hard, very few people enjoy change but it is inevitable. We have to plan for change and not wait for it to happen. A program that is developing a lot of interest deals with land-use diversification. Looking for new markets and new opportunities in the agriculture area may be the only way to insure the survival of the family farm. The Wyoming Small Business Development Centers can help with developing business plans for various farm operations, which are very important when taking on new endeavors.

Contact: Boyd Byelich, Land-use Diversification
USDA Natural Resources Cons. Service
Cheyenne, Wyoming
(307) 772-2016 (ext 119)

Dwane Heintz, Regional Director, Business Plans
143 South Bent Street, Suite A
Powell, Wyoming 82435
307) 754-2139, (800) 383-0371
e-mail: nwwsbdc@wavecome.net

Emily Quarterman, Community Health Planner
State Office of Rural Health
117 Hathaway Building
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002
(307) 777-8938
equart@state.wy.us

I found Basin to be an interesting place with passionate people who, if they choose to pitch in to support what is already happening in the community, can have nearly every want and need addressed. I was particularly impressed by the following:

- all 22 high school students who spoke with us indicated they plan to go to college, and more than half said they plan to return to Wyoming after graduation;
- the fairgrounds and theater are increasingly utilized as showplaces in the community and there is significant interest among townspeople in seeing more done with those facilities;
- there were few complaints about health care services available in Big Horn County, and health issues have been identified as primarily cardiovascular health, alcohol and substance abuse, and access to specialty care;
- a solid infrastructure is in place to support community longevity and slow growth;
- a significant percentage of the people working and living in Basin submitted comments for inclusion in the report and consideration in planning for the community's future;
- people in the community value what they have, want to preserve and enhance it, and are filled with ideas for what could happen given enough interest, energy, and resources.

When I returned to my office following by Basin and Greybull visits, I downloaded the Greybull assessment from the Community Network web site (<http://www.wyomingcommunitynetwork.com>), and discovered there were numerous wonderful recommendations made by that community's Resource Team that fit Basin's stated challenges and concerns, as well. I urge Basin residents to take the time to analyze Greybull's assessment report, in addition to their own, and begin mulling over some of the ideas presented to that community that are not found in this report. I understand the need for autonomy, and that the two towns differ in important ways as much as they are similar in others. Nonetheless, it is my hope that partnerships will be expanded to allow for a creative solution to the shortage of assisted living units for seniors, and to stretch out available substance abuse prevention treatment dollars.

Challenge: Youth and adults report there is not much for them to do in Basin, in the form of recreation or vocation. Youth say they want after-school and summer jobs, community service work to help them qualify for competitive college scholarships, and school-based clubs that offer meaningful activity. Adults say they want more entertainment for themselves and their families. None of the teenagers we spoke with said drugs and alcohol are a problem for them, their school or their peers. Meanwhile, adults reported students are using and abusing drugs and alcohol,

smoking cigarettes and risking their potential because too few opportunities exist in the community for them to exercise their bodies, minds and spirits.

Challenge: Youth want a fitness center; adults want an indoor walking track that is accessible to those with limited mobility. The lighted walking path is treacherous and the outdoor swimming pool is closed in the winter, and summer is short. There is only one restaurant and no movie theater, bowling alley, tennis court, senior center, in-town park, or public transportation system. Meanwhile, teenagers, their parents, and seniors are crisscrossing the Big Horn Basin in their cars to work, shop and recreate in Greybull, Worland, and Cody.

Solution: If the community of Basin decides that it wants to mobilize around combating and preventing substance abuse, the Wyoming Department of Health Substance Abuse Division may be able to help. The Division's mission is to assist communities in Wyoming to change attitudes and behaviors about the use and abuse of both legal and illegal substance (drugs, alcohol and tobacco) by helping communities to develop and implement programs to prevent use of all substances by minors, prevent use of illegal substances by adults and treat substance misuse, abuse and addiction. Its mission is based on these beliefs:

- Substance use by minors is not only illegal but is the gateway to health problems, delinquency, poor academic achievement, and a limited future;
- Change is accomplished best by impacting the norms, attitudes and mind-set of entire communities about the use of substances;
- Substance use and abuse bring high costs not only for individuals but also for communities.

The Substance Abuse Prevention Division also operates the Drug Court program in the state, which is in place in Basin. Local treatment options, prevention "best practices" (see a description of what "best practices" are later in this report), and integration of schools and the community mental health center are among the Substance Abuse Prevention Division's goals for Big Horn County. For more information about work that is being done with prevention monies allocated to Big Horn County programs and organizations, contact Dave Shavel, (307) 777-3357, dshave@state.wy.us. I met with the Substance Abuse Prevention Division's Administrator, Dr. Diane Galloway, about Basin's concerns and she reported that a Comprehensive Substance Abuse Center Four Center Collaborative involving Big Horn, Hot Springs, Washakie and Park counties has been created to meet the Big Horn Basin's treatment needs. For more information about the collaborative, funds being spent in Big Horn County on substance abuse treatment and the Division's plans for the future, call Dr. Galloway, (307) 777-6494, or email her at dgallo@state.wy.us.

The Division's primary initial assault on Substance Abuse Prevention began last year and is known as the 21st Century State Incentive Grant. Funds were awarded competitively. Greybull submitted an application and its "Yes I Can" initiative was funded. The contact for that program is Karen Sylvester, (307) 765-2517. No new communities will be added to the SIG

program, but communities and activities can be added to existing grants. In other words, if Greybull could be persuaded to extend “Yes I Can” to Basin, or to set aside money for Basin within its allotment for some other “best practice” youth-focused activity allowed by the SIG program, it is possible Basin can still be included in the SIG program.

21st Century State Incentive Grant funds are being used to assist communities with the reduction of alcohol, tobacco, and other drug abuse and to promote academic success among young people. A total of \$13.5 million has been awarded to communities over three years (\$4.5 million per year). The grant was awarded to 26 Wyoming communities. In order to participate, communities must ensure community-wide collaboration in planning and implementation efforts; implement and evaluate effective, research-based programs and strategies; provide a range of services across a broad continuum of care; and enhance sustainability in community efforts beyond the three-year funding cycle. For more information about the 21st Century State Incentive Grant please contact Christine Ricketts, 21st Century SIG Community Program Specialist, (307) 777-3744, cricke@state.wy.us.

Solution: Safe Drug-Free Schools and Communities money may be available from the Wyoming Department of Education, Health and Safety Unit for Drug/alcohol abuse prevention. Only school districts may apply. The funding’s purpose is to prevent drug use and abuse by Wyoming children and youth. Some of the money is distributed by formula and some is discretionary. There are no matching requirements. For more information, contact Dr. Paul O. Soumokil, 307/777-7168, psoumo@educ.state.wy.us. This information came from the state Library’s online grants catalog, which lists numerous other possible grants offered by Wyoming state government agencies and can be found at: <http://cowgirl.state.wy.us/grantscat/>.

Solution: The fairgrounds were cited by many adults as a facility that has improved in appearance and utilization in recent months, but needs more work. Consultants have evaluated the fairgrounds’ many potential uses and have made recommendations for drawing greater numbers of visitors. If the community voiced its wants and needs to the Fair Board, it is possible the plans for the fairgrounds’ future could include an indoor walking track, fitness facility, after-school program for youth, senior card and dance room, or any number of other possible recreational activities. However, the community must commit to using what is requested. A walking track with no one walking on it takes up space that cannot be used for go-carts or bowling or some other activity that might have been more popular. Careful planning and recognition of the need to honor, value and utilize what exists are the keys to success.

For information about cardiovascular health, contact the Wyoming Department of Health Cardiovascular Disease (CVD) Program. The CVD Program works to prevent, detect, and monitor cardiovascular disease within Wyoming and provides cardiovascular health promotion and disease prevention programs to communities well as health care providers. The CVD program focuses on primary prevention where related risk factors are addressed including physical activity, nutrition (5 A Day), elevated blood pressure, and elevated blood cholesterol.

The CVD Program provides funding to assist communities in developing and implementing cardiovascular health promotion and disease prevention programs. For more information, contact Star Heintz @ (307) 777-3732. Videos, books, brochures, and other materials relating to CVD can be checked out for health fairs, community heart health programs, or seminars. The CVD Program also assembles heart-healthy educational kits throughout the year. To place your name on the mailing list, please email sheint@state.wy.us.

If Big Horn County, the towns of Greybull and Basin together, or Basin alone want to form a community health planning coalition and develop an action plan to address identified concerns (such as alcohol and substance abuse, cardiovascular health, youth risk behaviors, access to specialty care), the Wyoming Department of Health's State Office of Rural Health has available community health planning assistance. For more information, contact me: Emily Quarterman, Community Health Planner, Wyoming Department of Health, (307) 777-8938, equart@state.wy.us. Worland's community health planning coalition got that community's Boys and Girls Club off the ground (for more information, call Lori Schaal, public health nursing manager, (307) 347-3278). Other communities' health coalitions have developed health facilities (including Lusk's hospital), health promotion and wellness programs, Healthy Communities-Healthy Youth initiatives and alcohol, tobacco and substance abuse prevention and intervention programs. There are a number of community health planning coalitions in place across the state in various stages of development in towns of all sizes. Their purpose is to gather the people who professionally and personally have an interest in improving community health, develop action plans that facilitate and measure change, and ensure that ideas become reality.

Solution: There *are* clubs and sports Basin teenagers can participate in, and local churches make sure kids have a chance to do community service work. There is one restaurant – if the menu is dissatisfactory, perhaps the proprietor could be persuaded to modify his menu, particularly if he were assured his business would pick up as a result. We as a culture suffer from wanting to have a full spectrum of choices, regardless of where we live, but are willing to do little on our own initiative to change the status quo. A teenager can start a community service program, rally his or her peers to stage a coup and change the way the drama or forensics club is operating, or start a new club. What about a cinema club, showing movies once a week at the Community Theater – perhaps a children's movie one week, an arts film another week, an action film, and a documentary? Check with the Wyoming Arts Council to see if there is help to be found with bringing movies to town: (307) 777-7742, jcoe@state.wy.us, or the Wyoming Humanities Council, (307) 721-9342, <http://www.uwyo.edu/wch/>.

A business could be donated to the school for the teenagers to run as a part of a business course, learning to buy inventory, market and sell, keep books and plow the profits back in, or students could form an investment club and learn about investing in the stock market. The complaint that “there's nothing to do” is really “there's nothing to do that I want to do.” Borrowing from the 2001 Greybull assessment: A community Youth Empowerment Council might prove a strong asset to the community, or a Youth Entrepreneurship Program that teaches youth the components

of a Business Plan and the issues involved in business operation. For more information, contact Leah Brusino, Wyoming Business Council, Powell, (307) 754-5784, lbrusc@state.wy.us.

Solution: In Sweetwater County, an initiative's been launched successfully for consecutive years called "Honey Do Week," which this year will be May 7-10. An email was sent across the county in March by the Young At Heart Senior Center in Rock Springs inviting families, church groups, and civic clubs to help senior citizens with chores. Jobs that will be done during the week include window washing, yard work, oven and refrigerator cleaning, vacuuming, mattress turning, and light bulb changing. The Rock Springs and Green River fire departments will install new smoke detectors. Volunteers are asked to commit about two hours apiece. For more information about "Honey Do Week," call Jeanine Cox at the Young At Heart Senior Center, (307) 352-6737. In 2002, more than 100 volunteers turned out to help 50 senior citizens.

Solution: A few years ago, an organization called the Wyoming Community Coalition for Health Education (WCCHE) launched a Healthy Communities-Healthy Youth initiative in the state. Chances are good some Basin residents have attended the annual Healthy Communities-Healthy Youth gatherings in the fall at the Casper Events Center in Casper. There are still groups working on asset building in youth in the state that can help a community look at ways to change without spending a lot of money. I suggest first going to this web site: <http://www.trib.com/WCCHE/asset.html> or calling Bronwen Anderson, WCCHE Executive Director, in Gillette, (307) 687-0647. Healthy Communities-Healthy Youth is a national initiative of Search Institute (www.search-institute.org) that seeks to motivate and equip individuals, organizations, and their leaders to join together in nurturing competent, caring and responsible children and adolescents. Healthy Communities-Healthy Youth grows out of Search Institute's research on 260,000 sixth to 12th grade youth in more than 500 communities across the United States, the largest developmental study of youth ever done. This research shows that far too few youth have the developmental assets they need to grow up healthy. The average youth can identify only 18 out of 40 assets in their lives. Developmental assets are internal and external factors -- support, boundaries, structured time use, commitments, positive values, and social competencies -- that provide a foundation for young people's healthy development. The more assets young people experience, the more they engage in positive behaviors, such as volunteering and succeeding in school; the fewer assets young people have, the more likely they are to engage in risk-taking behaviors, such as alcohol and other drug use, antisocial behavior, violence, and premature sexual behavior. In short, there is a direct inverse relationship between the number of assets young people report and their risk-taking behavior. The more assets they have, the better decisions they tend to make. Young people who experience more of these assets are more likely to grow up caring, competent, and responsible. This important relationship between developmental assets and choices made has been documented for all types of youth, regardless of age, gender, geographical region, town size, or race/ethnicity.

Solution: Wyoming Helpline, Inc., a nonprofit organization recently formed in Garland, is creating a 211 line in the Big Horn Basin that will connect anyone who dials 211 from a cell

phone or telephone with available health and social service providers and gives out information about what communities have to offer in other areas. The Helpline is just getting started and needs the support of those who will benefit from it. For more information, call Joseph and Debbie Jeffcoat at (307) 754-5688 or email whl@tritnet. The Helpline will be internet-based (web site: wyohelp.org), with information about health and social service providers online, as well. The Helpline is partnering with area telephone service providers, Connect Wyoming/Pathways Plus (a statewide health and social service information database available on CD-Rom or found online at <http://wind.uwyo.edu/connect.htm>). The benefit information and referral lines provide to rural areas is that they connect people with programs and policies that already exist. Sometimes changes have been made to increase the services offered or modify them to benefit a greater proportion of the population and people are unaware they are eligible for assistance (for example, Kid Care, the state's children's health insurance program, was recently expanded to cover a larger proportion of the population). The Helpline will also have information about recreation and youth programs, if all goes as planned. The goal is to link a greater number of people with what is available in the Big Horn Basin, once the 211 line is in operation and information is requested by people who want to know where to go for assistance.

Solution: Boys and Girls Clubs have been successful in many Wyoming communities, including Worland. For more information about what it would take to get a Boys and Girls Club started in Basin, call John Oliphant, (972) 690-1393. For information about how Boys and Girls Clubs are working in Wyoming towns of various sizes, call Ashley Bright in Casper, (307) 234-2456. Bright directs the Boys and Girls Club of Central Wyoming, and offers the following to youth in seven communities:

- Personal and Educational Development - Career Opportunities Opened for a Lifetime, tutoring quiz programs, Smart Moves, essay contests;
- Citizenship and Leadership Development - Youth of the Month, Youth of the Year, Torch Club, Keystone Club;
- Cultural Enrichment - guitar lessons, painting, arts & crafts, sign language, dance;
- Health and Physical Education - Indoor soccer, fencing, basketball, Karate, volleyball, weight training, low organized gym games;
- Social Recreation - game-room activities, field trips, chess club, sports card club, special events;
- Outdoor and Environmental Education - Green Thumb Club, Adopt a Highway, summer camping trips.

Solution: The Wyoming Commission for National and Community Service's mission and purpose is the enhancement of community and empowerment of citizens through the development and promotion of service opportunities and volunteerism to help solve problems and address unmet needs. To find out whether the Commission can provide ideas for getting a volunteerism or community service program started, contact Cathy Lyman, Executive Director, (307) 777-5396, clyman@state.wy.us

Solution: Implementation of a “best practice” intended to counter youth behavior may be easier than inventing a program or trying something that has not been proven to work, because there sometimes are consultants available to help with best practices programs. Information about Best Practices in Youth Programs is available from the UW Cooperative Extension Service (<http://www.uwyo.edu/ces/FAMILY/Dream/ChildYouthDev/BPfacts.htm>), or the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices (http://www.nga.org/center/topics/1,1188,D_407,00.html), or Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment web site, <http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/ps/bestpractices/bestpracticeshom.asp>.

“Best Practice” describes a prevention strategy or activity shown to be effective in reducing risk or promoting positive behavior via program evaluation research. On the level of program design, principles such as "community owned" or "prevention-oriented" apply to effective programming in a variety of settings. On the level of program implementation, best practices are often specific to target behaviors (e.g., alcohol abuse, bullying, vandalism) or audiences (e.g., gender, culture, age, or risk level). Careful conformity to program guidelines or thoughtful adaptation of methods to a new setting is essential for effective programming. Many years of research and program development produced "packaged" programs in which one or more of the strategies described above significantly reduced one or more risks (e.g., availability of drugs, peer pressure, individual experimentation) and/or increased one or more protective factors (e.g., improved school climate, resistance to pressure, positive alternatives). Many programs have been extensively tested yet none is effective with all groups, in all settings, for all types of behavior.

Jennifer Bailey

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

INTRODUCTION

I would like to thank the Town of Basin for inviting and hosting this assessment team. I was impressed by the number of participants in the listening sessions, as well as the constructive and honest comments we received. I was also impressed with the progress the town has recently made, and the attributes you possess that would attract tourists and new community members to Basin, including the walking path, the plans for the fairgrounds, street paving, and the remodeling efforts in the theater building. It is a great indicator of Basin's future that the town is taking a proactive stance on its future and improving the quality of life for its current residents. During our stay in Basin, I drove many of the area streets and highways; the scenic area and exceptionally friendly residents are a wonderful draw for tourists. I appreciate everyone's hospitality!

DRUGS/ALCOHOL

Challenge: The use of drugs and alcohol was repeatedly mentioned in almost every listening session. It is unfortunate that Basin is experiencing this problem, both in its youth and in adults. Assistance for those already involved in drugs and prevention for at-risk youth before they ever experiment with drugs are solutions Basin is currently using. The juvenile Drug Court is a great step forward to addressing the existing drug problems in Basin's youth. It was strongly expressed by community members that the people who produce and sell the drugs are known in the community, and the community members want them to leave Basin.

According to the DCI report, "Data compiled by the Wyoming Department of Health, Division of Behavioral Health, states that drug arrests have increased 85 percent over the past decade in Wyoming, while, nationally drug-related arrests are up only 8 percent. Over the same time period, assault arrests have increased almost 150 percent in Wyoming. Methamphetamine use is often associated with violent behavior. Methamphetamine now accounts for over half of all drug-related arrests in the state, up 280 percent just since 1993." Obviously, as the drug problem continues to grow, Basin needs to find a comprehensive means of addressing and preventing the drug industry and the associated problems in the community.

Solution/Contact: A contact group for ideas in forming a Basin organization to support the

youth and prevent drug use would be the Boys And Girls Club Of Central Wyoming, Inc. AmeriCorps*VISTA Members recruit and train volunteer mentors to provide program and guidance for youth and expand the targeted outreach program to recruit and serve additional low-income youth at-risk. The members also develop a drug, alcohol, and sexual involvement prevention program, which will involve at-risk youths.

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

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

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

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

In 2000, a Drug-Free Communities Support Program grant in the amount of \$100,000 was awarded to the Abate Substance Abuse Project (ASAP). ASAP is a 3-year-old community-based coalition devoted to reducing substance abuse among all populations in Fremont County, home of the Wind River Indian Reservation. The coalition goals are to 1) build the capacity of the coalition effort in Fremont County and on the Wind River Indian Reservation; 2) expand the adolescent response to substance abuse through primary prevention education, early intervention,

and intensive treatment programs for adolescents that are in schools or detention; 3) expand the adult response to substance abuse through primary prevention education, early intervention, and intensive treatment programs; 4) pursue environment policy that assists in the prohibition of underage drinking; and 5) pursue policies that create unfavorable community norms toward alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use and abuse. Projects to support this effort include Kick It, an intensive adolescent outpatient program; alcohol server training; public education campaigns; resource enhancement; and substance abuse prevention fairs.

Abate Substance Abuse Project

Bill Runner

307-856-9596

Riverton, WY

Solution/Contact: With regards to prosecuting the persons creating and distributing drugs in Basin, the Wyoming Division of Criminal Investigation is implementing the following grants:

The Edward Byrne Memorial Formula Grant Program (BYRNE): The Edward Byrne Formula Grant Program was created in 1988. This program provides federal funds for anti-drug efforts in the State of Wyoming. The Edward Byrne Program is administered on the federal level by the United States Department of Justice-Bureau of Justice Assistance. This program is administered on the state level by the Office of the Wyoming Attorney General-Division of Criminal Investigation. This grant is awarded on an annual basis and requires a twenty-five percent (25%) match from state and local governments. This grant is used for the following:

- **Investigation:** Funding for six (6) Regional Drug Enforcement Teams composed of local and state officers that provide statewide coverage to investigate illegal drugs and violent crime. Partial funding for the Major Investigation Team that supports local law enforcement and the Regional Enforcement Teams in the investigation of illegal drugs and violent crime.
- **Identification-Records Systems:** Funding for criminal history records and improvements of the State of Wyoming criminal history records system.
- **Forensics:** Funding for the State Crime Laboratory to provide forensic services to the criminal justice system involving illegal drugs and violent crime.
- **Training:** Funding for the State Crime Laboratory to provide forensic services to the criminal justice system involving illegal drugs and violent crime.

Rocky Mountain High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA): The Rocky Mountain HIDTA was created in 1997. It is composed of the States of Colorado, Utah and Wyoming. This program is administered on the federal level by the Office of the President-Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP). The program is administered on a regional level through the Rocky Mountain HIDTA Board, which has representatives from local, state and federal law

enforcement and prosecutors from Colorado, Utah and Wyoming. This grant is awarded on an annual basis and provides funding to local, state and federal law enforcement agencies in the Rocky Mountain HIDTA. In Wyoming, both local and state agencies that have received HIDTA funding. Funds received from HIDTA in 1997 for state agencies is being used for the following:

- **Investigation:** Funding to upgrade and improve existing criminal intelligence indices and investigation case management systems at the Wyoming Division of Criminal Investigation including links to similar systems on the state level with the Colorado Bureau of Investigation and the Utah Division of Investigation.
- **Training:** Funding to the Wyoming Division of Criminal Investigation for training of local and state officers in the investigation of Clandestine Laboratories, Spanish Language Training, Spanish Translation Services and Street Gang Enforcement.
- **Investigation:** Funding to the Wyoming Highway Patrol for additional Highway Patrol officers and related equipment for the inception of illegal drugs on the Interstate highway system.

The Governor's Substance Abuse and Violent Crime Advisory Board were established as a requirement for the Edward Byrne Grant. This multi disciplinary group (including legislators) provides broad perspectives to drug abuse and violent crime problems and solutions. The Board has public meetings every two months and varies the location of the towns that host them.

Billie Miller, Grants and Programs
Wyoming Division of Criminal Investigation
316 West 22nd Street
Cheyenne 82002
(307) 777-7805

Solution/Contact: The U.S. Department of Justice Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) awarded \$11.7 million in funding to combat met amphetamine in November of 2002. This funding supports a variety of enforcement, training, child endangerment, and met amphetamine laboratory clean up activities. Grants were awarded to 57 law enforcement agencies nationwide. The COPS program has grant opportunities currently available, and might be something for Basin's law enforcement to look into. Their website also offers the Problem-Oriented Guides for Police, or POP Guides, which address a number of prevalent problems and situations.

U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS)

1100 Vermont Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530
(800) 421-6770 or (202) 307-1480
<http://www.cops.usdoj.gov/>

POLICE COVERAGE

Challenge: The lack of 24-hour police coverage was a major concern in the listening sessions, both among the citizens and the law enforcement officers. Citizens noted when law enforcement ceases at two o'clock in the morning, people choose that time to engage in illegal activities such as drug dealing and usage, and drinking and driving. Another problem was the small number of sheriff's deputies and city police officers on duty at any one time.

Solution/Contact: Creating a Neighborhood Watch or a TIPS program would give the citizens a feeling of empowerment and control in the drug and alcohol problem in their community. The Neighborhood Watch Program is administered by the National Crime Prevention Council. Their website includes information about starting a neighborhood watch program.

The National Crime Prevention Council
1000 Connecticut Avenue, NW
13th Floor
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 466-6272
<http://www.ncpc.org/>

Solution/Contact: For the law enforcement coverage issue, there are multiple grants available through the COPS program mentioned above. The Universal Hiring Program (UHP) through the COPS program provides funding directly to local, state, and tribal jurisdictions for the salaries and benefits of newly hired officers engaged in community policing. UHP provides funding to all eligible communities, regardless of size, for the direct hire of police officers and sheriffs' deputies. These newly hired officers are then deployed into community policing, or a comparable number of veteran officers may be redeployed into community policing activities in their place.

U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS)
1100 Vermont Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530
(800) 421-6770 or (202) 307-1480

<http://www.cops.usdoj.gov/Default.asp?Item=53>

The National Center for Rural Law Enforcement (NCRLE), a division of the Criminal Justice Institute, University of Arkansas System, is a university-based organization committed to serving the needs of rural law enforcement.

A great contact resource through the NCRLE for Basin Law Enforcement is the CopShare Listserv. "This Listserv has been developed as a result of the BJA Internet Project, which is funded by a grant from the Bureau of Justice Assistance, United States Department of Justice. It is administered by the Criminal Justice Institute (CJI), a division of the University of Arkansas system. The purpose of CopShare is to provide the law enforcement community an opportunity to share information with each other in order to improve everyday operations . . . Membership to CopShare is limited to law enforcement or similar type agencies, individual law enforcement officers, and other criminal justice professionals." Funding ideas for more staffing and drug trade prevention is available through the NCRLE.

The National Center for Rural Law Enforcement
Criminal Justice Institute
7723 Asher Avenue
Little Rock, Arkansas 72204
(501) 570-8000
<http://www.ncrle.net/>

HOUSING

Challenge: Lack of rental properties. It was expressed frequently in the listening sessions that lack of rental properties, both for low income and for middle and higher income, was a problem. It was difficult to bring professionals into Basin, particularly for the telecommunications business, when there was a definite lack of desirable housing in the area.

Solution/Contact: The Wyoming Community Development Authority and USDA Rural Development have great programs available for all varieties of housing needed in Basin. A housing demand study would be a great asset to Basin to determine the number and types of housing needed. The Small Business Administration helps builders finance the construction of new homes.

Cheryl Gillum, Housing Program Director
WCDA
155 North Beech Street
Casper, WY 82602

(307) 265-0063

Heidi Stonehocker, Rural Development Manager
USDA Rural Development
781 Lane 9
Powell, WY 82435
(307) 754-9411
heidi.stonehocker@wy.usda.gov

Dave Denke
SBA
100 East "B" Street
Casper, WY 82601
(307) 261-6507

AGRICULTURE

The Town of Basin is fortunate to have an apparently adequate supply of water during the drought, though a continued drought is of concern to area farmers and ranchers. Basin is largely an agricultural-based town, like many in Wyoming, and its economy partially relies on the farms and ranches, and the services they purchase in Basin, including business at the feed store, the irrigation business, the area COOP, and the mechanics shops.

Solution/Contact: Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) is one avenue being used nationally to continue the tradition of agriculture and support small town America.

In basic terms, CSA consists of a community of individuals who pledge support to a farm operation so that the farmland becomes, either legally or spiritually, the community's farm, with the growers and consumers providing mutual support and sharing the risks and benefits of food production. Members or shareholders of the farm or garden pledge in advance to cover the anticipated costs of the farm operation and farmer's salary. In return, they receive shares in the farm's bounty throughout the growing season, as well as satisfaction gained from reconnecting to the land. Members also share in risks, including poor harvest due to unfavorable weather or pests. — USDA definition

Appropriate Technology Transfer for Rural Areas (ATTRA)
PO Box 3657
Fayetteville, AR 72702
(800) 346-9140
<http://attra.ncat.org/attra-pub/csa.html>

Mary Randolph, Executive Director

Basin Resource Team Report, April, 2002

Wyoming Rural Development Council
2219 Carey Avenue
Cheyenne, WY 82002
(307) 777-6430

ROGER F. REINKE
USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT
1949 SUGARLAND DR. SUITE 118
SHERIDAN WY 82801
(307) 672-5820 Ext. 4
(307) 672-0052 FAX
roger.reinke@wy.usda.gov

INTRODUCTION

On behalf of the resource team I would like to thank the Town of Basin for the warm hospitality that was expressed during our stay. I personally enjoyed the tour provided by the Mayor. The logistics were excellent and it was evident the Town of Basin took extra steps to make the assessment a success prior to our arrival. The food that was brought in was good and thanks to all of the citizens, churches, businesses, and students who had a part in making our stay memorable and enjoyable. The Town of Basin can be proud of the citizens' commitment to the steady growth of their community and especially the concern for the youth of community. This commitment is very evident by the community support.

Basin's downtown area could be more attractive with the colored brick and planters. I was impressed with the accomplishments of the town since I lived there 11 years ago. It is amazing the number of employers in the Town of Basin, District Office WyDOT, Big Horn Rural Electric Co-op, Big Horn Co-op Marketing Association, the school system, service stations, accountants, golf course, banks, hospital, clinic, home businesses based on farming, farms and ranches, and retirement centers. The proximity to the mountains with hunting, fishing, lakes, reservoirs and ponds are all positive features for the Town of Basin. Basin is one of the routes to Yellowstone Park. A new Motel might help to slow traffic. The County Fair Grounds could be developed, as there is ample room for expansion in this area. Perhaps this could be expanded for an area where town residents could use recreation and physical walking area. The town has a nice grocery store, newspaper, library and a Community Recreation Center in the Historical Downtown Theater.

The Town of Basin should be complimented on their foresightedness as they have planned and developed water treatment and storage facilities, electrical generation, and medical facilities. Interestingly though, there were many comments heard at the listening sessions that indicated further expansion of the facilities is needed. Piped ditch water serving the home sites is a plus.

This report is organized around the major themes identified by the resource team.

RECREATION CENTER

The interest seemed to be in a facility that would provide activities for the youth in the age bracket of 13 - 19. The community needs to evaluate the use and programs that will be offered. The existing center should be big enough to serve the intended purpose. If the center is too large, the operation and maintenance costs could be more than the community is willing to pay. I remember our YMCA in Sheridan being located in a small older building next to the Eagles Club when I was in the 6th and 7th grade.

Jay McGinnis, Sheridan County YMCA Director, would be an excellent contact for building costs as the YMCA recently completed a \$3 Million addition/remodel. Mr. McGinnis would also be an excellent resource for discussion of O&M costs. Mr. McGinnis can be contacted at:

Jay McGinnis, Executive Director
Sheridan County YMCA
417 North Jefferson
Sheridan WY 82801
(307) 674-7488
scymca@fiberpipe.net

There are several ways to fund this type of project, including the fairgrounds. In addition to fund raising efforts the community might consider the following:

1. Form a Joint Powers Board between the Town of Basin and Big Horn County.
2. Form a Non Profit Organization.
3. The Town of Basin could apply for loans and grants.

Funding sources might include:

1. Rural Development Community Facility Loan, this would be for a direct loan or grant. Contact point is: Heidi Stonehocker, Rural Development Manager, 208 Shiloh Rd., Worland WY 82401-8729749. Her phone number is 307-347-2456, Ext. 4. Her email address is heidi.stonehocker@wy.usda.gov
2. Local banks have funds available for projects and the loan can be guaranteed by Rural Development. Contact a local bank or contact Rural Development at the address above.
3. Any of the Bond Councils in the state can help set up bond elections and give advice as to the best bonding route to pursue. Three bonding companies are:
 - a. Borthwick Law Firm, 1312 Capitol Ave., Suite 506, P.O. Box 1124, Cheyenne, WY 82001, phone 307-635-2433.
 - b. Herschler, Freudenthal, Salzburg & Bonds, 314 E. 21st Street, P.O. Box 387, Cheyenne, WY 82003-0387, phone 307-634-2240.

- c. Wiederspahn, Lummis & Liepas, PC, 2020 Carey Ave., Suite 700, Cheyenne, WY 82001, phone 307-638-6417.
4. State Loan and Investment Board, Brad Miskimins. Phone 307-777-6646.
5. A 1% Capital Facilities tax designated for the construction of the fair grounds recreation center with dual purposes would be a possible funding source. The tax would expire upon completion of the project.
6. The Kresge Foundation provides challenge grants for the construction of community facilities. A community match is required prior to release of grant dollars. A city must pledge and deliver at least a third and as much as half of the projects total costs before Kresge will make a grant. For more information, contact The Kresge Foundation, P.O. Box 3151, Troy, MI 48007-3151, call (248) 643-9630 or visit the Foundation's website: <http://www.kresge.org/>
7. Private foundations can be found through the Internet at the Foundation Center. Their web site is www.fdncenter.org.

Other Resource Contacts:

Wyoming Community Network, Inc.
GrantStation Insider
WyomingCommunityNetwork/GSInsider@emailfactory.net

Wyoming Foundation Directory
Laramie Co. Community College Library
1400 East College Drive
Cheyenne, WY 82007
307 778-1215

SUBSTANCE ABUSE

The issue of substance abuse, especially with the youth, was mentioned as a problem. It is evident that additional education of both the youth and the parents is necessary. The education can be conducted similar to the DARE program only at a higher adult level. The tough part will be convincing the parents to attend the classes. The students are a "captive" audience at the high school. There may be a need for an incentive campaign to have parental participation in these classes. The safety of the youth of Basin should be sufficient incentive. It also appeared the judicial system is "lenient" on the fines for underage drinking. It may be appropriate to include the judges in the educational process also. Resources to contact for funding or educational material regarding "at risk" youth and substance abuse are:

Michelle M. Sullivan
Director, Wyoming Programs
Daniels Fund

201 East 5th Street
Sheridan WY 82801
(307) 673-1987
1-866-673-1987
msullivan@danielsfund.org
www.danielsfund.org

Higher Education Center for Alcohol and
Other Drug Prevention
A Center for US Department of Education
www.edc.org/hec

HIGH SCHOOL

The subject of high schools within eight miles of each other was referred to numerous times at the listening sessions. The citizens of Basin and Greybull need to resolve this issue as State Mandates are placed before them.

HOUSING-Affordable housing for low and middle-income families.

Establish Curb Appeal with the town residential area Basin for the development of affordable housing. The town has come a long way by paving their streets. Quite an improvement since I lived here 11 years ago. Curb and gutters would improve residential lots.

The State of Wyoming has grant funds that can be used for planning, construction of street and road projects. The board meets regularly on the third Thursday of each January and June to review grant applications. Matching funds may be required depending on the program used.

Key Contact Info:

BRAD MISKIMINS, Office of State Lands and Investments
Herschler Building, 3rd Floor West
122 West 25th
Cheyenne, WY 82002
307-777-7331

USDA, Rural Development, Rural Housing Service (RHS) has loans and grants available for essential community facilities in rural areas. Funds may be used to construct, enlarge, or improve community facilities for health, public safety of public services-which include streets and roads. The maximum term on all loans is 30 years (due to Statutory limitations) and the interest rates are set quarterly. The current interest rates are between 4.5% and 4.875%. Eligibility for grant funds is based on the

income of the town in comparison to the States Median Household Income.

RHS Section 524 loan funds may be available through an applicant, that must be a private or public nonprofit organization (1) is owned and controlled by private persons, (2) is organized and operated for purposes other than making gains or profits for corporation or members, (3) is legally precluded from distributing to its members any gains or profits. OR, "A" public nonprofit organization" is a nonprofit corporation other than a private non-profit corporation, including a municipal corporation or other corporate agency of a state or local government. See FmHA Instruction 444.8 paragraph 111 and 1V. Site development funding may be available under the RHS Section 524 Loan Program.

Key Contact Info:

HEIDI STONEHOCKER
Rural Development Manager
Rural Development
Northwest Area Office
208 Shiloh Road
Worland, WY 82401-9729
(307) 347-2456 Ext. 4
heidi.stonehocker@wy.usda.gov

JOHN JOHNSON
Rural Development Specialist
Rural Development
State Office
P.O. Box 820
Casper, WY 82602-0820
(307) 261-6315
john.johnson@wy.usda.gov

Other possible contacts: The US Economic Development Administration (EDA) has grant funds available for infrastructure as streets and roads. There does need to be some industrial development located in the area when EDA funds are involved.

Key contact Info:

JOHN ROGERS
EDA
P.O. Box 10075
Federal Building, Room 196
Helena, MT 59626
(406) 441-1175

The Town of Basin should develop a comprehensive plan to address housing. This plan would help in submitting General Information regarding a public/private partnership to address Town of Basin Site and affordable housing issues. Similar public/private partnerships have been used before in small rural communities and have used a variety of methods to solve their problems.

The Wyoming Community Development Authority (WCDA), which is the home

finance agency for the states, manages the HOME Investment Partnership Program, which helps pay for development costs if the subsidy is posted on the homeowner. In the past rural communities have prepared a housing demand study and in turn used it to persuade the homebuilder there is a market for affordable housing. This may result in new housing construction using local material and employees. The Town of Basin has very reasonable lots with reasonable water and sewer rates.

KEY CONTACT Info:

CHERYL GILLUM
Housing Program Director, WCDA
155 North Beech Street
Casper, WY 82602
(307) 265-0603
gillum@wyomingcda.com
www.wyomingcda.com

There is direct, leveraged, and guarantee funding available through USDA, Rural Development, as well as a program called "Self Help Housing." This program allows homeowners to provide sweat equity for construction of homes under supervision by a construction supervisor sponsored by a housing authority or other non-profit organization.

Recently, Housing Partners of Riverton and NEWEDC of Gillete for the Town of Wright applied for and received a Self Help Grant for technical Assistance in the development of a Self-Help Project.

Key Contact Info:

HEIDI STONEHOCKER
Rural Development Manager
208 Shiloh Road
Worland, WY 82401-8729
(307) 347-2456 Ext 4
Her email address is:
Heidi.stonehocker@wy.usda.gov

In closing, it was a pleasure to be part of the Basin Community Assessment team. The pride and strong community spirit will allow your community to grow and continue to be an example for other communities to follow. It is evident that you care about the people of your community, and with the support of the citizens, you will continue to steer the Town of Basin in the future.

Ronald E. Siekert

5099 Hwy. 216

Albin WY 82050

resiekert@Earthlink.net

I would like to thank the people of Basin and the surrounding area for their hospitality and openness. I saw and heard many things about the community and the area that are very positive. Like all communities everywhere, there are problems in Basin but you also have opportunities and resources that can be mobilized to address those issues. I have tried to address some of the most pressing issues of concern as identified by the Basin community. Again, thank you and I wish your community well. The following are listed in no particular order or priority.

- I. **RECREATION CENTER/RECREATION PROGRAMS** – The town of Basin has a good framework already established regarding recreation. There is a golf course that is apparently well used and well regarded. The walking path out along the road to Otto appears to be well lit and scenic. The area at the top of the hill with its space for tennis courts and playing fields has great potential and re-establishing the tennis courts would be a welcome and relatively quick and easy step in upgrading the recreational facilities in the town. In a much longer term, expanding the current golf course or building a second quality golf course could be a major asset, both locally and as a draw for the tourist trade. One of the major themes identified was the need for a recreation/activities center. It was generally recognized that there is need for a facility where youth could go to spend their spare time in a safe environment and where Seniors could go for exercise in inclement weather. One possibility, which might combine resources to great advantage, would be to incorporate at least some recreation amenities in the facility planning for renovating the fairgrounds. At the very least, a walking track could be incorporated in an indoor arena type facility. Conceivably, a complete recreation facility could be co-located with the fairgrounds with possible savings in maintenance cost, structure costs and insurance and it is certainly possible that co-locating facilities might expand funding opportunities. Along these lines, concern was expressed in having programs/activities for the youth.

- II. **SCHOOL** – Although the education system was identified as a strength, there were recurring concerns regarding the education system and training the youth for jobs. Many identified a need for preparing youth not going to college to participate in the job market. There is a program in Cheyenne School District #1 called the C.B.O.E

(Community Based Occupational Education). The CBOE program provides academic credit with a focus on the skills needed for the world of work – emphasizing accountability. Students must apply for admission and sign a contract specifying their agreement to minimum performance standards that they will be responsible for. The program appears to be very effective with at-risk students and goes a long way in instructing students in the basic skills needed to find and hold employment. Contacts: On-Site Director – Iretha Bliss (307) 771-2435, Principal – Gary Datus. Laramie County School District # 1, 2710 House Avenue, Cheyenne, WY 82001 (307) 771-2430.

An additional tool might be the certification program in various disciplines such as computer programming, culinary certification, etc. I have provided reference to a few but there are many others.

Microsoft certification: www.Microsoft.com/traincert/mcp

ACCESS – High School Culinary Program of the American Culinary Federation: www.cteresource.org/ppg/certifications,

American Welding Society Certified Welding program: www.aws.org/certification

These certification programs essentially involve a teacher in an instructional area structuring their lessons in such a manner that, in passing a course, they also fulfill the requirements of a certifying entity. These certificates give a “leg-up” to students entering the work force directly out of high school.

- III. TOWN APPEARANCE/BEAUTIFICATION – The issue of the appearance and beautification of the town was another recurring theme. Main Street (Highway 16) is undoubtedly very efficient but not aesthetically pleasing. It is my understanding there are WYDOT funding sources for beautification programs. With the district office in Basin, these resources could probably be identified (and hopefully mobilized) relatively easily. Tree plantings, flower boxes/beds would improve the attractiveness greatly. Some sort of island or refuge in the middle of the street would also aid pedestrians trying to trek safely across the great expanse of street. In this area, there is an opportunity to involve the youth groups (school clubs, FFA, 4-H, etc.) as the session with the students identified the lack of opportunities for projects involving community service to fulfill scholarship requirements and a general lack of projects for the school clubs. There might even be youth employment opportunities. The approaches to Basin on state highways can be “adopted” for the purposes of right-of-way cleanup in a WYDOT program and I would urge that all of them be covered. Contact: Joe Holloway Joe.Holloway@dot.state.wy.us P.O. Box 461, Basin, WY 82410 (307) 568-3446.

Another issue was the dilapidated buildings/houses in the town. This issue could be addressable with city ordinances regarding derelict buildings, attractive nuisances and

the like. These would, of course, require enforcement and the political and public support. A comprehensive plan and zoning would serve the town well in solving current problems and in avoiding future ones. A couple of sites with good information on planning are www.lwvmi.org/landusef from the League of Women Voters in Michigan and www.sustainable.doe.gov/landuse/uintro from the Department of Energy SmartCommunities network. Another useful site is from the American Planning Association at www.planning.org. In the “knowledge” section you can gain access to model documents regarding planning and zoning.

Another approach would again explore the potential of the youth and or the fraternal and service organizations. Dedicated clean-up days are very common and could be turned into a city celebration of a sort (carnival, prizes, community dinner, etc.). Financial support for at least some aspects of these might be obtainable from businesses (local and regional) For those houses that are neglected due to financial distress, programs like Habitat for Humanity (Mountain Spirit HFH, PO Box 324, Powell, WY 82435-0324, **Fax:** (307) 587-2551) have an established track record in building and rehabilitating housing for the disadvantaged and might provide a framework for addressing some of these problems.

IV. POLICE PROTECTION – an issue commonly brought up was a desire for expanded police protection. In the absence of more funding for another police officer, a citizen’s auxiliary might provide more police presence. The President has established a Citizen Corps and a major component is the Volunteers In Police Service (VIPS): www.policevolunteers.org. There is currently not an active registered program in Wyoming but this web site addresses many of the issues tied to such a program. Perhaps this could be a resource for the Sheriff’s department also. In light of the concern regarding drug abuse, the community, in cooperation with the school district and law enforcement entities might consider implementation a community anti-drug program. There is a federal program; the Drug Free Community Support program (DFCS) that can provide grants <http://ojjdp.ncjrs.org/dfcs> to develop and fund such programs.

V. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – this was a strong and recurring theme in the sessions. The need for a motel, other restaurants, and additional retail businesses was noted regularly. I would also suggest that there needs to be an effort made to support the existing businesses. The establishment of cooperative retail sign – a sort of one-stop summary of what is available in town might be worth trying. As far as developing new businesses, an entrepreneur-training program that would teach potential and existing businesses about such things as writing business plans; obtaining funding etc. could serve to promote new business growth. Wyoming has a Small Business Development Commission that provides access to a program call

NxLevel that provides such training. The area contact is: Dwane Heintz, 143 South Bent Street, Suite A, Powell WY 82435 (307) 754-3149, (800) 383-0371, Fax (307) 754-0368, e-mail director@wir.net. Some of the greatest assets in the area are the recreational and scenic opportunities. Promotion of these by such events as town celebrations; acting as hosts to events like the “Tour De Wyoming” bike race in the summer; and other ideas that promote the undeniable assets of the area could be very fruitful.

Town of Basin Listening Session Comments **March 5, 2003 – March 7, 2003**

WHAT WAS SAID AT THE INTERVIEWS

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

- ✓ What are the major problems/challenges in the community?
- ✓ What are the major strengths/assets of the community?
- ✓ What projects would you like to see implemented in your community in the next two, five, ten, or twenty years?

Listed below, without comment, is what was heard from those who volunteered to be interviewed.

Question #1: What are the major problems and challenges in your community?

- Not much to do
- Ditto
- Students have to follow community standards, but community is retirement based, dress code reflects, etc
- Ditto
- Ditto
- Nothing to do
- Ditto
- Town is rundown looking in areas
- Community doesn't offer very many youth opportunities
- High school students, hard to find a job, no part time work
- From a ministerial point of voice, getting cooperation from the clergy, everyone has their own agenda
- Busy people, how do we accomplish our goals when we're too busy to help out
- Escalating drug and alcohol problem
- Not much to do
- Get more involved with students in High School
- Nothing to do
- Community Standards for Basin Schools
- Nothing to do
- No opportunities for activities, work, influenced by older community residents
- Nothing here for us as teens

- Cops don't always follow street signs themselves, but picky towards others
- No jobs for teens
- No place in Basin to purchase household items, travel to shop
- Community service requirements for scholarships, no opportunity except FFA
- Lack support to the school in community involvement
- Built the jail right in the middle of the town, unattractive, poor planning, took away from the park, tore out trees, too close to the apartments and families
- Our school clubs do nothing. Enrolled in most of the clubs, dues are paid, but it is worthless as the clubs do nothing.
- Too much gossip Employment and housing
- Adequate, affordable housing
- Contracting industry to increase jobs, increase retail market
- Lack of businesses, too easy to go to another town
- Ditto
- Lack of economic growth
- Jobs to keep youth
- Stimulate local economic development, job growth
- Ditto, keep people in Basin economically
- Job growth, jobs people can live with, in other counties they seem to have more disposable incomes, people in Basin are struggling financially
- Very diverse income range, wealthy professionals versus minimum-wage low income
- Ditto, not enough businesses, new residents cannot find appropriate houses
- Low education for job pool, not enough qualified applicants
- Need quality health care, too many people want to live closer to doctors
- Need transportation, airport
- Quality extended education to draw companies on a family basis
- If you can bring in industry, you don't have the labor force
- Maintain local education, concerns regarding consolidation of schools
- Political situation in the State of Wyoming, legislature reformatted districts with legislature, no representation in legislature for Basin
- The downtown is diminished in businesses, economically depressed, need decent paying jobs
- Loss of retail businesses due to big business like WalMart
- Decline in agriculture, both for producers and the retailers focused on agriculture
- Ditto, the water situation in other areas affects the retailers
- Cattle and sheep prices are low, farming is not a get-rich scheme right now, you can't even plant crops due to water shortage
- When the water does come back, we need to have places to add value to products, meat processing, wool processing plant, etc.
- Land being purchased by absentee owners from rich states, only use land during hunting

season, the land here is much cheaper

- We cannot compete with other towns who have hotels when we do not
- Early initiation of risk-taking behavior, smoking, alcohol, drugs
- Kids lack proper examples for behavior
- Degradation of community, the community is break down due to drug and alcohol abuse in kids and adults
- Inability to get the community involved and focused on issues
- State department rules and regs, you cannot take a teacher out of the classroom to required meetings and expect the substitute to cover adequately. Teachers are required to leave the classroom to attend too many meetings.
- Kids are overexposed to television and games, lack of parenting/guidance
- Impact of the mind-numbing poverty on the kids as seen by DFS workers; parents don't have the resources to properly educate and care for their kids, need to bring outlying families into what is going on
- A lot of Hispanic people, not speaking English, hard to communicate with labor force
- Educate parents to show that their kids, in order to survive in US, need to be in class rather than traveling town to Mexico to see their families December 10-February 10, first two weeks after Christmas vacation, only 10 students on the bus, most of the Hispanics are not back from vacation
- Disagree, misrepresented the Hispanic community
- Schools are geared towards sending kids to college, however most don't go and fewer don't graduate. Need to gear more kids towards practical courses in FFA, etc, technical training they can use after high school, need life skills for area jobs, vocational courses
- Need to create jobs to bring them back to Basin to work
- Apathetic educational environment, administration is not looking beyond the walls of the school, not seeing school as part of the community, missing a lot of what is available through the state and county
- Lack of responsible parenting, family life and values affecting the kids in school, this determines success in life
- Change in the values in our society
- Retention of kids, keeping them back in schools, parents refuse to allow kids to be held back, track and document reasons why kids should be kept back and make the decision by the education team
- Alcohol and drugs are too easy to access
- Over-emphasis on athletics performance, but education should be the primary focus
- Missing kids who are not addressed by the after school activities, need programs in place for those kids
- This school district is not represented in the State Youth Council
- The schools are expected to raise the kids, parents don't want the responsibility
- Community needs to stand united behind their program needs
- Drug problems, not enough activities to take up free time

- Ditto, distinct lack of activities, there are groups of kids and adults left out of activities
- Day care and working is very difficult to combine
- Activities for kids
- Drug problem
- Ditto on all above
- Need a theater, get a project for the existing drama theater to better use the facility
- Nothing for adults to do as a single adult, a dance club
- Distance to get to shopping opportunities, lack of retail
- Youth activities/adult activities
- Ditto
- Ditto on shopping, no dime stores, one clothing store is closing
- Balancing kids and careers, child care is a major problem, DFS policy changes have caused problems for providers in provider to child ratio
- The quality day care programs are full to capacity
- Infrastructure problems – complete paving, but private owned versus city property
- Lack of affordable housing, no rentals available, those that are available for rent are very expensive
- No central theme for the town, town looks empty and dead, clean up area
- Visitors note the town looks rundown in the winter
- Town leadership maintains well, but not proactive in making things happen
- New residents must paint fence and house, that increases the taxes, but the taxes go back to the community
- Town is trying to codify the ordinances, however the ordinances are not being enforced
- Selective enforcement of ordinances – there is a new county planning office
- Drug dealer lives next door, but nothing is done about it
- Kids know in advance when the drug dog is coming to town
- Run down buildings in town, need to tear down as they are not worth renovating
- Lack of money
- Lack of volunteerism in town
- Big Horn Counseling is totally full, there are waiting lists for people for child and family counseling
- Large economic depression, children's needs are being met, elderly needs are being met, however there is a health coverage gap for adults between 19 and 65, including getting adults through drug treatment
- Kids have nothing to do, no organized activities
- Ditto
- Recruit professional medical staff and non-skilled employees, hard to find workforce to train
- Increased number of children in Big Brothers and Big Sisters program, decreased funds and volunteers

- Lack of stores, shopping, large number of elderly increasing decrepit, hard to travel to go shopping
- Need transportation for elderly
- Safe place of elderly to walk for exercise, particularly during the winter months, need indoor facility
- Communicate services available through public health
- Distinct lack of activities for youth in the community, deal with families who have troubled delinquents, not all kids want to participate in sports, applaud the after school programs but they need funding, putting together Tae-Kwon-Do program, DFS is trying to start advocacy mentoring program
- Distinct lack of volunteers for programs
- Economic depression
- Lack of things to do
- No retail
- Lack of services
- Intermittent services, scattered in towns
- No mail delivery
- Need transportation
- Need ADA access with sidewalks and gutters
- Health insurance issues
- Shopping problems
- Need assisted living facility
- Large gap in service area for health care
- Young adults need activities rather than going to the bar
- Don't have 24 hour police coverage
- Assisted living facility
- Crime
- Drug and alcohol abuse
- Ditto, need drug and alcohol education
- Need more community volunteers
- Need more activities to keep kids away from drugs and alcohol
- Difficult to recruit health professionals, vacant positions in clinics
- Limited access to specialties, professionals are spread very thin
- Need housing/rental property for medical professionals to live in
- Medical transportation with ambulance/EMT service
- Obscenity in the sidewalk outside the courthouse
- Legislature representatives are not from the Basin area
- Lack of communication
- Downtown is dirty, store fronts are not well kept up, too many empty buildings
- Kids have nothing to do, no teen center, no after school activities other than sports

- Business owners are at retirement age, lose businesses when they close
- No stated local and county goals, lack of direction
- Entertainment for all ages to prevent crime
- Need to clean up buildings
- No senior citizens facilities
- Need better housing
- Employment is down
- Need to make goals
- Business leans towards recreational items, poor national economy – the farmers need help, keep water projects ongoing
- Very little participation in the Chamber of Commerce, extended period of apathy in the community, need more teamwork
- What minerals are in the area, how can we draw companies into the area? Similar to Gillette
- Crime/tire slashing from the kids, the entire community needs more entertainment/activities
- Economic depression
- The fair grounds are not being used to their potential
- There was a forecast boom years ago, however the boom never happened
- We have to start in a small area and grow, rather than take on everything at once
- Residents tend to be afraid of change in Basin, dislike change and growth
- Openness to new business
- Lack of housing
- Lack of investment capitol
- Lack of water in Otto, affects the farms directly
- Lack of marketing
- Not utilizing resources
- Lack of goals
- No strong central information source
- Indifference on the part of the Town Council
- The University of Wyoming doesn't care about anything happening in the state farther north than Casper
- Fear to confront the problems in the area, not addressing problems, don't want to change
- Ditto
- Farms in the area, people don't want to face losing their farms and ranches, no more energy and resources to do so
- Organizations are very territorial
- Sewer pond, septic tanks are dumped into the sewer pond, it is 70-80% full as of one year ago, need a place to dump
- Ditto

- Lack of updated housing, lots of beat up houses, need to be refurbished
- Drugs and alcohol, we bury our heads in the sand and say it isn't a problem
- We no longer have farm implement dealerships in Basin, we used to have two
- School funding decreases, threat of consolidation
- Need to bring in new businesses to fill up Main Street
- We need to advertise what Basin has to offer to draw people in
- Find new approaches to spraying for mosquitoes from an environmental point of view
- "Need some life around here"
- Ditto, people are lethargic, accept the way things are
- We say we need more businesses, but we need to be more specific as to exactly what kinds of businesses we are in need of
- A hint of apathy
- Content to sit back, not rock the boat, perhaps some resignation
- Need senior assisted living facility and services to help seniors stay in their homes, perhaps share program between Basin and Greybull
- Division of the town by the four lane road, people tend to speed going down this road, big trucks rolling through
- Lack of communication between government entities
- Lack of economic development attitude
- Need more businesses that it would be more economic for us to stay home
- Need more businesses to bring financial assistance from outside the community
- Ditto
- We have to get professionals to come to Basin to work out of the WyDOT shop, the employees' spouses don't want to move up, need professional jobs for them
- Need diversity of businesses
- To bring employees in for businesses, they demand more youth activities and jobs for spouses, shopping
- Housing needs
- Ditto
- Ditto
- Ditto
- Lack of ethnic diversification
- Housing
- Lack a plan for the big picture, including inventories of what is here
- In transition of living arrangements for seniors, we do not have the facilities to do that, the seniors may have to go to Cody for these services
- Lack of medical facilities here, limited medical attention for serious problems
- Nothing for the youth do to
- Lack of tax base to fund what we need
- Ditto

- Significant drug problem, particularly with you
- Drugs and alcohol
- Unseen witnesses in this communication who doesn't get the information they need, lack of communication, make sure this report gets out
- Lack of youth activities
- Ditto
- Issue with housing, lack of adequate housing for new residents employed at the jail
- Need for 24 hour police coverage, affects health of existing officers on call 24 hours
- Need to encourage growth in Basin
- Fire Department - how do we respond in a way that we can get to everything in the area, response time
- We are at a crossroads of staying small or experiencing growth, people are afraid of the change
- Lack of integrated EMS system, 4 different EMS systems in the area, Greybull will not respond to Basin emergencies
- Low pay rate of law enforcement staff
- It would be nice to have more people involved
- Lack of availability of lower income housing
- Need implementation of viable planning and zoning commission, current one is ineffective
- Not enough industry/manufacturing, jobs for youth
- Employment
- Health issues, Basin is basically a retirement, and they have to travel far to reach specialty services, need more knowledgeable services
- Ditto
- Council and Commissioners vote themselves are raise, raise taxes to fund it
- WalMart and big businesses take away from the community, small businesses can't complete, they can't buy in large volume
- Price of gas to get to shopping
- More training in the Big Horn Basin, everything is in Casper and Cheyenne, we need more training workshops in the area
- Ditto, more commitment towards elected officials for training in their services
- Pumping raw water up to raw water treatment, it will result in a raise of taxes, retired persons on Social Security cannot afford the tax hikes
- Not as much town leadership as there should be, most politicians in the area don't behave as leaders
- Activities for the kids are decreasing
- Apathetic educational environment, school administration seems to not look "beyond" the walls of the schools as a defining boundary of education
- Drugs and/or alcohol with our youth is getting out of hand. Our school is no longer drug /

alcohol free. School administration and law enforcement need to be consistent and work together.

- Permissive attitude of adults toward both adult and youth alcohol use / some drug use
- Law enforcement is too lenient
- High number of low income families who place little value on education
- Lack of adequate job skill training opportunities
- We need more sponsored youth activities
- Some streets need repairs
- Alley-ways need grated and graveled
- We seem to only attract welfare recipients. The new students who enroll in our schools seldom have a working parent. This creates added burden to the schools, because these are generally the students who require extra services, time, and discipline.
- A few vacant and rundown buildings/houses that will probably never be used again
- Old vehicles that need to be disposed of
- Declining businesses, more vacant downtown buildings
- Declining populations, more vacant houses
- Group homes and the problems they create depending on the type of students they put in our school
- The new jail and its release of any inmates in our community, and/or the families of inmates coming to our community.
- Crows in the area, they are very dirty and can carry diseases such as West Nile virus
- Unwanted cats running loose, maybe cats should be licensed like dogs, and picked up if they are not licensed
- Unlicensed vehicles on city streets
- Some private properties look like junk yards
- Goat head (puncture plant) is a problem
- Barking dogs
- Cemetery
- Alleys
- Poor crack sealing results
- Unlicensed vehicles on streets
- Need general clean up of properties – free dumping?
- Need to quit building a monument and legacy to a mayor and start investing in the town employees.
- The council needs to get a spine and quit being a flock of “yes” men
- Funding needed to put in skateboard, roller blade, and BMX Park in Basin. Cement for pad will be donated by LaMax; forms and manpower donated by Pyramid Construction
- School children and senior citizens need a crosswalk with flashing yellow lights across 4th Street
- Need places for the kids to play, Skateboard Park, basketball, etc.

- Need employment for young people
- Limited activities for kids - no skate park (current trend)
- Underdeveloped city park
- Lack of small business support evidenced by the number of empty and dilapidated buildings
- No tennis courts
- Lack of good restaurants
- No exercise center
- Population mix has been gradually changing to predominantly middle-aged to elderly; result is declining school population, cutbacks in staff and facilities. The elderly have different needs, which are better being served as time goes on – there are two nursing facilities, an emergency care hospital, good ambulance and EMTs, local doctors and dentists in town.
- Local support of retail businesses other than the grocery store has declined. We haven't found out what types of stores would attract shoppers and remain viable in spite of WalMart, Kmart, Pamida, etc., nearby.
- Distance to shopping/entertainment
- Lack of local retail
- Lack of manufacturing
- Lack of activities for all age groups
- Lack of proactive leadership
- Too much reactive leadership
- Lack of investment money
- No town theme
- Ordinances enforced sporadically
- Lack of volunteers
- People are reluctant to ask for help
- Unused resources
- Poor attitude in the area
- The organizations are territorial
- Lots of dilapidated housing
- Large amount of greed
- Very few decent paying jobs
- Fear of competition and change
- No direction for growth or goals
- Fairgrounds are not up to full potential
- Town projects are half done
- Drugs and liquor are too accessible
- Lack of access to machinery parts, industrial type supplies are difficult to acquire
- Lack of city council representation in this assessment!

Question #2: What are the major strengths/assets of the community?

- Paintball course in Greybull
- People are involved in small community activities
- Job references, small community gives references
- Support for athletics
- Everyone knows everyone else, feel safe in Basin, ties with Greybull
- Feel safe in Basin, knows everyone
- Differences don't matter, diverse community
- Close knit small community, but in other ways, everyone knows what everyone else does
- Friendly community
- Small community – small school, better chance to excel
- Ditto
- Know everyone
- Ditto
- Support of community
- Better opportunities for jobs because owners know your values/behavior
- Paved streets as opposed to the gravel
- Got rid of the open water ditches
- Good education system
- Communities are very strong with volunteer enthusiasm, baseball fields, drama club
- Good quality of life
- Great variety of banking lenders for business or personal purposes
- Strong sense of community, volunteerism
- Safety for elderly population
- Strong work ethic, workforce is willing to work when they do get a job, loyal to employers, multi-generational ranches, will help their neighbors, team spirit
- Ditto
- Economic stability based on county and state government, good employment base
- Very strong free enterprise businesses in the area, very active and viable agricultural area
- Beautiful land
- Lots of outdoor recreation
- A Norman Rockwell dream in Basin, the children are safe, great way of life
- Very strong company with communications that we can build on
- Ditto
- Ditto
- The structures are in place for airport, train for transportation, available for transport for large businesses' stock

- Great golf course
- Great dentist, offers more specialties than others in the area
- Very strong infrastructure, great water supply and streets
- A group of people who once they are involved, they put forth a lot of effort
- Location, a lot of offer in the area, good businesses and good people to make things happen
- A lot of resources that aren't being tapped into – wood, silica
- The only town in this county that has a fertilizer plant, the only who has irrigation pipes, sale of sprinklers, the sales are all over the surrounding counties, the money is coming back into Basin, fertilizer company employs people, it is the major industry
- The Fair Board has done a great job in creating interest in agriculture with FFA and 4-H, the new school greenhouse, two of the biggest fertilizer plants in the area other than COOP
- Bean cleaning plant
- Produce alfalfa, a lot of hay is going out of this area, beets, contracts to Lovell
- Several cattle feedlots in the area
- Area producer with 2000 head of dairy cattle, national sales
- Manderson – Wind River Seed hires a lot of people, harvesting native seed and shipping out internationally
- Airline manufacturer is a major employer despite crash problem
- Internet access
- We've had some tremendous teachers in this area, we have a pretty well rounded school atmosphere
- Qualified teachers, years of experience, they know what they're doing and bring out the best in kids
- Introduction of foreign languages into elementary school kids
- Strong agriculture teacher here, good shop program, good Spanish teacher
- Good learning opportunities
- Wonderful students who have gone on to do great things
- The arts community needs to be celebrated more, build that into the education system, the kids are good at the arts
- The area school bands and choir are exceptional, we should exhibit them during fair and parades
- Great agriculture teacher, very successful man in business and farming and teaching, good example for kids
- School sports are the only forms of entertainment in the area, very important to kids
- Kids do excel in academic programs and competitions, the athletics students also excel in academics
- Schools offer a lot of sports and plenty of other programs
- Local schools

- People do come together to address school projects like music program, people donate their time and money, close knit community
- TCT West is #1 communication center within the state of Wyoming, all technology available, but we cannot supply the companies
- River runs along town
- Mountains within 20 minutes
- Devil's Kitchen
- PetroCliffs
- White buffalo in Greybull
- WyDOT
- County seat – need to use for leadership
- Low median income despite census, it is thrown off by a few people who are millionaires
- Excellent educational facilities, ample class room space, qualified teachers, small class sizes, excellent education infrastructure
- Pride in home ownership for those who are trying to take care of their property, attractive in the summer
- The drama theater is complete on the bottom, finishing the upstairs, a play goes on once a month
- Not far for Yellowstone
- Hospital and clinic
- Retirement
- Nursing home
- Strong agricultural community
- Work together well, help each other
- The people rely on each other, work well together when we are shorthanded
- Ditto
- Basin sticks together
- Ditto
- Attractive lifestyle
- People step forward to make a difference once they are aware of a need
- Basin is working to improve structures, new water and streets, street lights, looking forward with physical structures
- Strong foundation in health services, numerous facilities, ER, nursing homes, DFS and CARES, hospital
- Health and social services groups meet monthly to coordinate efforts
- Social Services, Legal Services available, law enforcement is outstanding, agencies available to rely on, schools are excellent in communicating when there are problems, high level of caring and response
- Infrastructure is great, water
- Well educated group of people, able to accomplish goals

- Volunteer groups for EMT/ambulance
- Phone company has improved access to information, including ball games and other activities, brings people to meetings and activities
- Nice community to live in, great retirement community
- The theater, use is more often
- Drug court program is great for juveniles who have gotten into trouble
- Linda Harp, our grant writer
- We are close to the mountains for hunting and fishing
- Golf course
- People here care for each other, people are willing to jump in and help in a crisis, even crossing church and property/city boundaries, people are willing to participate
- Raw water system has helped keep the area green
- Really good school district
- The hospital and the EMTs
- Good newspaper
- Close to two ski resorts, they would bring a lot to the area if we used them more
- We are close to the college in Powell, they are willing to bring classes to the area
- Communication system is the best for telephone, cable, high speed internet
- Ditto, mountains, skiing, golfing, beautiful parks
- Local and regional medical facilities are excellent
- Town is prepared for airports
- Education is one of the greatest assets, our youth
- Two wonderful retirement centers
- Hunting and fishing
- FFA program in schools
- Close to Yellowstone
- Emergency room
- REA businesses, help with utilities
- Farmers and ranchers
- WyDOT in Basin
- Potential workforce
- Internet and telephone communications
- Farms and ranches, products and byproducts
- Wyoming Business Council and Development Council in the area
- Ditto on technology, TCT West
- Natural plants/woods, we should find a way to use it as an asset
- Ditto TCT West
- TCT West provides an entire communication package
- Low population, not crowded, small community
- Ditto telephone company, DSL capabilities

- Fairgrounds in Basin, need to utilize and expand
- Ditto fairgrounds
- Resources in the area, unused, mud for bricks and ceramics, coal bed in the valley, methane, glass products, straw, sheep herds in the area
- Quality of life
- A lot of wide open space, recreational opportunities
- Ditto
- Ditto
- Ditto
- Town has room to grow
- Infrastructure
- Ditto
- Removed the water ditches
- Own electricity
- State jobs located here
- Low crime rate
- People are friendly
- Town has a lot to offer in safety, a sense of being removed from national safety problems
- Good infrastructure for businesses to move into Basin, space available, communications, etc.
- The local IGA store is an asset to the community, able to put up notification posters, employee-friendly establishment, good supply of items
- Ditto
- The coffee shop is very friendly, tremendous vitality in putting together a wildlife video tape, she may need some refinement and assistance as an entrepreneur, they are willing to take risks in their businesses
- Communications of internet and phone lines
- Longevity, people have been here for years, we're stable
- Being a small community is attractive, helps with finding funding for projects
- Lack of traffic jams compared to big cities
- Openness of the community, people go out of their way to greet people
- Supportive community, arts center and high school sports
- We're on the main highway
- We are the county seat
- We are fortunate to have the medical services we've got considering our size
- Ditto, close to major medical facilities
- Raw building materials for the highway department, gravel
- Infrastructure/water

- Our people make the community
- Ditto
- The people
- The small community size
- Caring for others
- Good EMS coverage
- Great Fire Department
- Good environment to raise a family
- People
- Good law enforcement
- Being the county seat
- A lot of emergency services here, good cooperation among each other
- Even the kids, including those in trouble, and a lot of people who don't know their neighbors, they still helped each other during the flood.
- Professional-quality Ambulance staff
- Ditto
- The people and their working relationship
- There is a group of people in this community who volunteer for many different things, we need more of these types of people
- Ditto
- Younger people are starting to come into the community, and in the future will step in as volunteers
- Our location
- Ditto
- Ditto
- CARES Program for sexual assault and abuse, they are of great assistance to law enforcement, they do a lot of in school education including family values
- Small area, low population
- The people
- People are very friendly
- High speed Internet
- Fishing and hunting
- Proximity to the mountains, use to bring more tourists to the area, join all Big Horn Basin communities to bring in tourism
- Ditto
- Lots of things here that people can do
- Tourists use Basin as a hub for their traveling
- The fairgrounds and their potential use
- The phone, fiber-optics capabilities can be used to draw businesses

- A lot of untapped labor
- A lot of history in the area, get that going in the arts center, with the schools
- Raw water system is helping Basin with regards to the drought
- Progressive town government, very active and creative
- We do have good council and county commissioners
- Pride in property
- Basin is the county seat
- Government jobs at state, county, and local government level
- Small classes – “It takes a whole community to raise a child”, need to reinforce that philosophy
- Caring Atmosphere – safety for kids
- Dedicated teachers
- Small class sizes at school
- Outdoor recreational opportunities
- Climate
- Clean and friendly, quiet
- The location for those who enjoy fishing, hunting, and golfing
- The Basin community theater
- The lighted walkway
- Library
- City Police Patrol
- Ambulance service
- Irrigation method for watering lawns
- A nice city park
- Close to the hospital
- Plenty of churches
- Community bulletin board near the post office
- The business district is plentiful
- The town shoots off fireworks after each home football game touchdown
- That the county and state governments have offices in Basin, offers job opportunities
- Being the county seat
- High speed Internet, state of the art communication, broadband, etc.
- Good agricultural businesses such as UAP and Big Horn COOP
- Raw water system
- Streets
- Police Department
- Walking and bike path
- City crew
- Raw water
- Streets

- Drinking water
- Low cost of living
- Churches
- Raw water conservation and city water conservation
- Lucky enough to have courthouse, new jail and farmers around it
- Cost of living reasonable compared to the rest of the country
- Technology (fiber-optic) internet service
- Values are still good in people here
- Low crime
- Low population
- Great access to hunting, fishing, snow sports
- Close knit community
- Great walking path – we need more of those
- Safe sidewalks, nice and wide
- Friendly community
- Citizens show a great deal of care for one another
- Churches, clubs, and neighbors assist the elderly, making it possible for them to remain in their own homes longer than they might otherwise
- Good local bank, grocery store, county courthouse and library, appliance and hardware store
- Raw water for keeping the town green and beautiful
- A lot of paved residential streets, not just the main streets
- River
- Proximity to the mountains
- Badlands
- Raw water in town
- Courthouse
- Fairgrounds
- Library
- WyDOT district office
- TCT Communications
- Farms and ranches
- Farm products and byproducts
- Golf course
- Businesses based on farming
- Hospital
- Clinic
- Home Businesses
- Two Retirement Centers
- Hunting and fishing

- Lakes, reservoirs, and ponds
- Close to Yellowstone/Cody
- Theater
- Silica deposits
- Mud type (brick, ceramic)
- Senior Citizens and their center
- FFA program
- Swimming pool
- Emergency help
- Good weather
- REA
- Sports complex by the school
- Coal/methane
- NWC – local classes
- Sheep/wool
- Straw
- Sagebrush
- Russian Olives
- Fossils/Tracks
- Basketball tournament
- Two ski resorts
- Boat dock
- Newspaper
- Community is very helpful and has been willing to do whatever is necessary to keep businesses in town

Question #3: What projects would you like to see implemented in your community in the next two, five, ten, or twenty years?

- Movie theater
- Clean up town, movie theater
- More community service based projects
- Ditto
- See Basin become more business oriented, more opportunities for kids, clean up town, expand
- Fix the things we already have, pool and basketball courts
- Repair tennis court
- Recreational area, rec center
- Bowling alley
- More businesses, restaurants
- More jobs
- More jobs, recreation area
- More families move in, wider range of age groups, a lot of elderly right now, bring in more kids, population growth
- Recreation area, bowling alley
- More businesses, bring in more families with kids
- Movie theater rather than 1 hour drive to see movie
- Ditto
- More stores, clothing stores
- Fitness center
- Don't want to see Basin grow that much bigger, though stores are a problem
- More restaurants, like Greybull has
- Don't grow too much
- More growth, if we don't upgrade people are all going to move out, need to bring people in so community won't diminish, upgrade what we have
- More youth community activities, not just service, but time to hang out
- Ditto
- More activities for elderly, and for the little kids to stay out of trouble, sports for little kids
- Ditto
- More diverse age groups
- Ditto
- Don't grow too much, but increase population size, bigger school could offer more classes, sports teams (right now have to go to Greybull)

- See some growth
- Growth in population, some new people under 65.
- More people under age 40 living in the community
- More businesses, pharmacy brought back
- Capture more of the tourism industry, need a motel
- Professional services draw
- Some kind of senior assisted facility, less than a nursing home
- Rebuilt tennis court
- Utilize the transportation available
- Draw youth back into the community through use of Youth Town Council, create jobs for kids after college
- Aquatics center like the one in Cody
- More action from state and congress, help with additional manufacturing, see Business Council take a bigger interest in Basin
- Retirement centers are not full, bring in people from other parts of the state, result in trained work force, bring in medical professionals, help employment base
- Get with Game and Fish to keep water in our reservoir
- Assisted living facility as a step below the nursing home
- Medical facilities
- See communities of Greybull and Basin work together on projects, share facilities once project is complete
- Assisted living facility
- Fill the Main Street with businesses, bring in small businesses that can use the existing facilities
- K-12 school system
- The jail is less than full, the state is still sending people outside of Wyoming, fully utilize the jail, look at the logistics before we build new projects
- Investment of rental properties that are decent, new construction for low and medium income families that are livable
- Want to someday say the major employer is private industry, better pay and incentives than governmental entities
- Publicly take out the drug and alcohol problem and the people behind it
- More police officers
- Put up a gym for the church, affects the community
- Water stability, we are so dependent on irrigation in a farm-based community
- Have the best paid teachers in the state, have the best youth program
- Keep people here, give them activities, opportunities, and places to live – lands are transferring over from traditional farms/ranches to hobby farms. People are coming from California due to lack of taxes, add on small income tax as people are flooding the state
- The community needs a good motel, ideal spot across from the Fair Grounds

- Improvement of the Fair Grounds, however there is a lack of funds
- New motel, then you get new restaurants
- Ditto regarding a motel, but with land problems being overpriced, a motel cannot afford to come in and will locate elsewhere
- Expand the quality golf course we already have, the golf course is always very busy
- Need for a motel. There was a basketball tournament last December, four towns and their teams came in, but all monies were spend in Greybull at motel and restaurants
- Post farmers and ranchers wares on the internet
- Formation of coalition for goal setting and planning for community achievement, all portions of the community should have access to the planning
- Community Center
- Go back to the basics of education, the state has forced a lot of things on the teachers
- Performing arts and creative arts high school in the Big Horn County area, some kind of youth arts center
- Go back to the basics of education, if they can't read and write they cannot effectively complete a job application
- This year, there is a Pioneer Festival through the County Fair during school, draw schools in to tour the Festival
- Trade school in the area
- Job education classes to help complete job applications, get job skills, put together an Entrepreneur class at the school
- Create a program that extends the reach of our schools; if educators in the community had a place external outside of schools, it would be a positive place for kids to get extra assistance, a tutoring type program
- See a school put in place that provides for the exceptional ends of education
- School community and rest of community open up, the school facilities get used by the community as a whole
- "Bottomless pit of money" – funding problems; there are study halls for after school now. However, the parents must be involved to get the kids into the program
- Something to emphasize the arts portion of education, allow kids to be broadly and liberally educated in college
- Add to our great existing school system, like funding for all aspects of the school, the paperwork for school teachers is phenomenal, as well as the volume of meetings
- A place for school aged kids to go after school is out, a safe place to go that has educational aspects, give them a place to go and avoid dangerous activities (drugs, sex, etc.), maybe a sliding scale fee for the kids
- Clubs and activities for the adults, more sports teams like softball
- Rec Center
- Ditto
- Day care facilities, more certified providers
- Fix up fair grounds

- A drug store
- Movies at the theater
- Athletic club
- More single men
- A walkway between Basin and Greybull
- A wool-scouring plant
- Expand the golf course – advertise outside of the area
- Make Basin a destination through advertising
- A nice hotel and some restaurants
- Control the drug problem
- Old West Amusement park between Greybull and Basin, no motorized vehicles allowed in, access by horse and buggy, on foot
- The big greenhouse between Basin and Greybull, use of the greenhouse, we have the Forest Service and University Extension in the area; the only problem is so much money is owed on the greenhouse to the bank
- More use of the tourism trade, stop the tourists on their way through Basin
- Motels and restaurants to stop tourists
- Bowling alley
- Movie theater
- Skate park
- Housing
- Increased senior transportation
- Recreation building, pool
- Resources for Ag community for strengths and diversity
- Open an office and staff for Big Brothers/Big Sisters
- Remove junk between Worland and Basin, build fences to hide those, to attract more tourists
- Another free campground
- Park
- Movie theater
- Recreation center
- Nice restaurant
- Thriving downtown, buy locally
- Complex for families and youth, martial arts, dance, ballet, games, movies, roller skating rink, swimming pool
- Nice restaurant or two
- Retail businesses
- Artists colony situation, take advantage of setting
- Performing arts high school
- Restoration of public transportation

- A heli-pad at the hospital
- Industrial park planned in advance for big companies to come in
- Ditto, need industry
- More funds for historical buildings, make them a community center
- Ditto
- Boys and Girls Club for after school
- 24 hour law enforcement
- Assisted living complex
- Ditto
- Bring industry in
- Environmentally clean industry to maintain natural resources
- Recycling program
- Unite in projects with Greybull
- Make industries adapted to Agriculture
- Educate kids with practical job skills, early education
- Expand existing businesses, recruit new businesses
- Creative technology into the schools for Greybull and Basin schools, perhaps consolidate schools
- Have the two towns work together to accomplish more
- Get some of the tourism funds from within the county, Basin is lacking what funding Cody has gotten; more costly for Big Horn County residents to use Cody's facilities, they get taxed for their residence
- Pull two communities together, put recreational center right between Greybull and Basin
- County does not have a facility for pregnant women, all deliver outside our county, support system for pregnant women and women with young children
- Look at curb, gutter, and sidewalks to help clean up community
- Arts-based community project, arts high school, artist colony
- Youth center between Greybull and Basin
- Develop a vision of the future with natural resources
- Improve infrastructure
- Community Center
- Combine with Greybull Schools, improve school facilities and teachers
- Build up the businesses on Main Street, bring new businesses to town
- Funding mechanism to sustain all of the projects mentioned, perhaps by use of tourism tax dollars
- Major scale drawing or 3-D example of future planning for Basin, layout
- Community Center
- Boys and Girls Club
- A skate park for the kids
- Multiple small businesses rather than bringing in a few large businesses, make outside

organizations see what Basin has to offer

- A motel
- Independent living
- Bowling alley for the kids
- Beautification project for Basin
- Jobs to improve the economy, use the minerals to draw jobs, see what kinds of minerals we have here, maintain and increase population
- Change attitude and mentality of Basin residents being afraid of change, need teamwork and communication
- Develop wildlife habitat along the river, walkway along that river to view wildlife
- Section of the river handicap accessible, safe for children to go
- Indoor arena at the fairgrounds
- Indoor swimming pool for everyone
- Change the Basin attitude of resisting change, so we can save Basin
- Create jobs, bring in small businesses, increase money in the town
- Resources to find information, what are our options, what can we do and where do we go?
- Light manufacturing, high tech companies using TCT West
- Sports complex developed more
- Skate park/BMX track
- Volleyball court
- Revolving loan fund so we can do loans to start-up businesses
- Develop the fairgrounds, including a rest area in the parking lot to entice people to stop
- Indoor arena complex in the fairgrounds, including fine arts facilities in the building. Move extension service in the main hall. Bring in prospect shows for livestock, tennis court, skating rink
- Finish the theater, put in movies and a museum
- Expand or make another golf course
- Ditto on fairgrounds improvement
- Ditto on revolving loan for businesses
- Bull boat races on the river (made of buffalo hides) as tourist attractions
- Tours of the courthouse
- Cemetery tours
- Job creation and diversification
- More cooperation between the county, city, chamber of commerce
- At least one activity at the fairgrounds per month
- Affordable housing, secure \$1 million to purchase houses needing rehabilitation, don't require profit off the housing, just break even
- Entrepreneur class in the schools, in FFA
- Trade school in the area

- Ditto to all of the above
- Commitment from the community to proceed when we get the results of the assessment
- 24 hour police patrol for Basin
- Improve entrances to the town
- Recycling program
- Expansion of current businesses, like TCT West including a call center
- More appreciation for the businesses that are here
- Bike path between Greybull and Basin, spurs off down to the river
- Community Development Day; one day to fix up businesses, painting, beautification, help with business displays, remove junk, even build new houses
- Work on customer service skills in the businesses, make people visiting and living here feel more welcome
- People buy in Big Horn County, people in the county are great sponsors for the County Fair
- Another COOP in town, along the lines of a retail COOP, can succeed with community support
- Put back the median strip on Main Street, put in the trees on the strip
- Stop light put out on the Highway at the IGA intersection, stop the tourists and get them to look around
- Renaissance Fair every year at Fairgrounds
- Promotional bike or running race between Greybull/Burlington/Basin
- Handicap access to fairgrounds, community activities, students get extra credit at school for helping people get out into the community, go to the fairgrounds, as right now it seems the schools and the community don't work together
- More retail
- Beautification of Main Street, signage, trees
- Handicap slants on sidewalks
- A regular clothing store, a variety store providing items people use and need
- Remove and reconstruct the old houses
- Ditto, some businesses on Main Street need refurbishing, need bigger customer base for retail
- Professional jobs for kids to return to from college
- "Curb appeal" – make the town appealing to tourists, make the town more attractive
- Business with 100 high paying jobs, non polluting, stable, large families
- Facilitate and finance projects, accomplish projects
- Ditto, make sure everyone is online before we start a project
- Stick with projects to get them accomplished
- Housing projects, more homes in Basin for people to live and work here
- Better and increased housing
- Dispose of vacant housing

- Set up our building next door for law enforcement
- Additional businesses
- More employment opportunities
- More jobs available, get and keep higher paid jobs
- Ditto
- Make community more attractive to draw more people to live
- Ditto
- Ride along program with police offers for the kids, improve relationship with law enforcement and the high school kids, help at-risk youth
- Recreation center for people of all ages
- Ditto
- Walking path, finish the existing ½ mile path
- More help for the law enforcement, 24 hour coverage
- More for the youth
- A recreation center
- More small businesses
- Bring in small family businesses
- Ditto
- Ditto
- Clean up Main Street, make it more attractive
- Community-owned carnival, great for interested groups of tourists, or use during County Fair, great for the kids
- Improve appearance of the Fairgrounds, particularly as it is on Main Street
- More facilities for the younger kids
- Businesses that would attract more tourism, not enough population to support businesses, we need the tourists
- Beautification, clean things up, buildings particularly on Main Street, clean up the propane tanks
- Ditto
- Ditto, throughout the county not just the town
- Better housing
- Health care, especially for the elderly, to keep our elderly from leaving town due to the current lack
- More tourism, capitalize on the history
- Get a grant to finish the upstairs of the theater, it is hard to get a construction grants
- Consolidate school districts between Greybull, Burlington, and Basin
- Put in a trade school
- Access to extended education to promote positive and protective factors to reduce use / abuse of alcohol, drugs, and tobacco
- Coalition or formation of community involvement / goals / planning opportunity / youth

community center

- Improved job opportunities for skilled/educated persons
- Improved job skill training for non-college youth
- Revival of business community
- I'd like to see a nice eating restaurant
- More stores
- A movie theater (maybe a movie twice a week)
- A bowling alley
- New businesses to draw people into the community
- The school district needs to instruct our administrators and law enforcement to get tougher. Instead of slapping hands, we need a consistent "zero tolerance" policy for students (and parents) who consistently create problems in our schools.
- A community recycling program starting with cardboard with the businesses, then newspaper around the post office (lots of junk mail thrown in the trash), then aluminum and tin recycling.
- A welcoming packet with items or ads from each of the businesses, the library, and courthouse with a fruit basket for people new to the community.
- A recreation center or open gym at the high school for public use.
- Attract more businesses
- Increase population
- Keep agriculture thriving, for instance with fewer regulations such as burning restrictions of fields
- Tennis court
- Assisted living facility for our seniors
- Start taking care of the infrastructure that now exists. The more new streets that are paved, the higher the cost of maintenance is going to go until the local tax base implodes because people can't afford it. Grant money is not free money. Any money that any level of government has was once the people's (read that tax-payers) money.
- Skate board/roller blade/BMX recreation park
- Senior and child crossing area on 4th Street
- Curbs on corner of 4th Street need to be make handicap/wheelchair accessible.
- Post office needs to be handicap accessible
- More jobs and training programs for young people
- Basketball pads and hoops need to be up in different areas of town
- Clean up town
- Improve housing codes for cleaning up the town and housing
- Return of the tennis courts
- A place for the kids to play, skate, and feel safe
- Business and/or industry to stabilize our economy, provide jobs and make our kids want to return to the area

- Another apartment complex
- An assisted living facility
- Complete paving of the streets
- A good motel and restaurant
- Beautify the downtown area
- Get viable small independent retail establishments into the vacant storefronts
- Balance the population mix so there are more families with children
- Some way to notify all residents in the Big Horn Basin of telephone con-artists, financial scams or schemes to help protect the elderly “and us unusually dumb people” through some early alert technical service (E.A.T.S.)
- A place or facility to house a few thousand people for events like concerts and tournaments, much like the Casper Events Center, only better run and smaller for the Basin, including Worland or Cody and Powell. The town with the honors of hosting the facility would benefit greatly, and the town of Basin would fit the bill for the location – person submitting suggestion is willing to head up the project
- Tennis court to replace the one destroyed by the jail, as promised by the County
- Bike trail along the river from Basin to Greybull
- A significant employer in the area, 200-500 employees
- Use our current facilities at the school to create a virtual University of Wyoming
- We need businesses that generate income, not more welfare subsidies
- Revolving fund to help new and established businesses
- Fix up, clean fairgrounds and use at least twice a month
- Sidewalks and gutters in town
- Develop sports complex; ice skating, tennis, horseshoes, roller skating, skate park, volleyball pod, BMX track, badminton
- Develop and enclose the swimming pool
- Clean, paint, and make a theme on Main Street
- Put up benches and flower planters on main streets
- Stop light on Main
- Handicap access throughout the town
- Promote town to town
- Finish the theater
- Put museums in town
- Power Plant out east of town
- Expand on TCT; call centers, computer businesses
- Expand golf course and more tournaments
- Blooming Barn – reopen and expand
- Old West Amusement Park
- Walkway between Basin and Greybull
- Walkway to ballpark and through town to fairgrounds

- Industrial park of some kind
- Wool scouring plant
- Meat processing plant
- Tannery
- Develop use of mud, silica, wool, wood in the area
- Build some affordable housing
- Full time grant writer for town
- Make town goals
- Make a town vision-use art class to draw interpretation of goals and make a 3-D representation, get people excited
- Get a hotel in this town
- More restaurants
- Put in tourist stops
- Put in a convention center
- Put in a Japanese garden or meditation area in town
- Fix a wildlife habitat along the river for people to observe
- Indoor rodeo arena at the fairgrounds
- Put in a trade school
- Develop the tourist trade – we have a lot to offer
- Get a commitment from the community to go forward
- Start a compost hill at the landfill
- Start a local recycling program
- Start a waste-wood plant
- Start an assisted living complex
- Get 24-hour police protection
- Clean up the town entrances
- Take more of a leadership role in Ag-related businesses, and invest long term in the current long term crops

Questions by Team Members and Community Responses:

Following the listening sessions, team members were given the opportunity to ask further clarifying questions of the community. The following are the questions and community responses:

Is there any form of community recreation?

Only in the summer for ages 6-12, and the swimming pool

What kinds of after school activities are available?

Sports, drama, FFA

Is community service required in school?

Clubs do community services, clean the highway, but not much else.

Has the town ever looked at building a community center? Or one in Greybull?

There was a youth center in Basin, but the newness wore off; the center had a pool table and air hockey. People quit going, perhaps because of way it is managed.

Where do you go for entertainment?

Worland, Cody, or drive around Basin.

How many of you are going to college? All

How many of you are coming back to work in Basin? Only one; however they would like to return and raise their kids, they like their town.

Are Greybull and Manderson considered part of your community?

Kids from the other communities are accepted. Greybull would be part. However, the attitude is rivalry, community versus community.

Please tell me how you are ahead of the curve in communication.

Fiber-optic lines, four years ahead of the rest of the state catching up. All services are available. Good success with telecommuters, the draw is the quality of life, education, and lack of crime. Internet jobs area good draw.

It was mentioned that the airfield could handle a 747 landing there. Is the airstrip private or public owned?

County owned. There is no control tower. Space is available for a full airport complete with

hangar.

Where is the WalMart? Cody

How many here shop at WalMart?

All present raised hands

Is the drug and alcohol problem related to age group, high school kids or community members?

There is an increase in the severity and number of problems related to this. The problem is across the board; age does not seem to be a factor. The community is aware of the problem and their destructive tendencies, but you must follow certain procedures to eliminate the problem. The church sees it with the youth; it is far beyond just experimentation but is actually addiction. The county does a great job with counseling problems, however parents do not recognize and address this problem. Alcohol is the bigger problem with student use. The kids tend to drink and drive.

After school and weekend activities for the kids that are church related?

Kids want to be involved in activities they are about. The problem is everywhere. The church does have programs, however they are not well attended. The programs were attempted, but did not work out, perhaps because of leadership or because it was within a church, tutoring was available. However, the Baptist youth group has 30-40 kids. The high school does tutoring after school. There is no specific community plan.

With regards to school basketball, it started with good numbers but many dropped out. The kids complain they have nothing to do, but they will not participate in the activities that are ongoing. They don't want to participate because they have to follow rules when they participate. Activities cannot complete with their video games.

Church youth group is going to Washington, D.C. this summer. While there are activities, the kids will claim to be bored no matter what activities you set up. High school has less than 100 kids.

Community services through the Church?

Baptist kids do fundraisers through the church, rake leaves for elderly, mowing lawns, etc. There are different groups that clean up the highway. The LDS Church has a Boy Scout group there.

Is there a potential for the local schools closing?

There was recent consolidation with Manderson. Currently, the state superintendent says there is no plan to consolidate these schools. The parents are more traditionally rival than the actual kids are.

Greybull and Basin churches are linking?

The kids are more likely to just choose to go to the local church; it's not a church push type of thing. The activities at the churches are not always church related, rather are youth related.

Is the fact that the activities are in the Baptist church; is that a deterrent toward children attending?

Yes, it could be. There are churches in town that won't let their kids attend activities at another church, even though it is not religiously orientated.

Is there a counseling service offered through the County?

There is juvenile drug court, includes counseling. This is a county basis, county-funded. There are DFS people included from the local field office. It is a countywide service based in Basin.

How successful is the campground?

The free campground was used heavily, but the jail took that space up. The price of gas greatly affects the usage of the campground. During hunting season, most stay on the mountain, but some stay in these campgrounds. If we had a good motel, they would be full during hunting season, too. There are camping facilities on the Fair Grounds, but they are not advertised because it is not fair to compete against the campground businesses. The area gets very full during County Fair. There is an antique and buggy sale at the end of April who come in from around the nation, they camp in Basin. There would be more activities in Basin if there were places to stay. We are so close to Cody, it is easier for people to stay there, instead. People are going to Greybull because it is significantly cheaper than Cody, however close enough to be convenient, it was used in marketing. The quietness and solitude are a draw to retired persons traveling in RVs.

Petricliffs State Park, Bird Tracks on BLM land, those areas are very busy seasonally. The Cody Museum is a nationally known museum; people like to be close to what they come to see. The Lilac is the only motel they have ever had. A survey found a hotel would be very appropriate for Basin. There are two ideal places for the motel, however the landowners will not drop the price on their land to be feasible.

People in town to visit relatives in the nursing home must stay in Greybull. Anyone with business in Basin stays in Greybull.

What are the primary crops?

Corn, beer barley. We have a short growing season, not long enough to make a big profit off of corn. Hay is a good crop here. We do grow and separate beans here, but beans require water, they have fewer producers now. Alfalfa seed has hurt the bean industry. Trucking out crops is expensive. Greybull used to have crop sales ring years ago, but it is gone now.

Opportunities for online education?

Yes, and they are being used, but not strongly supported. We don't have the instructors or equipment, funds.

Is there a work opportunity program?

JTPA summer jobs available through the town and other organizations.

Use of school for communities is not allowed according to sheet?

That is not correct, the gym, night classes are used by the public; different organizations use the school facilities. An adult must fill out a usage form to be approved by the superintendent.

Is there an ESL program?

There is a SALSA program ongoing, as well as the Title Program. Greybull has ESL. Kids can flip-flop between schools and what programs they offer. Basin and Greybull are in separate school districts. There are scheduling problem from the guidance counselors with conflicts with special classes, cannot attend both at the same time.

On the drug problem, I am interested in knowing what sort of intervention efforts are in place for users, not the dealers.

After 2pm, you can see all of the drug trade in town after the police go off duty. The drug court started last year, 6 clients in drug court now, also using Big Horn Counseling. The group home in town for boys and girls, Big Horn/Basin LS programs, behavior modification, they underwent an administrative change that has caused problems. They are now building partnerships with the drug court but it is not coming along very effectively. The police know who the dealers are; they have records on them, but don't have the funds to prosecute a dealer. Outside of therapeutic programs, the school curriculum does not have the best program in place, they are not using anti-drug grant money, this money went to Greybull. Right now, there is a limited amount of preventative action in place.

Does Basin have a Meals on Wheels?

Yes, it is located in Greybull at the Senior Center. They will deliver food to people in Basin or transport people to Greybull to eat at the Senior Center.

Is there a county mentality, a tendency to group people together?

Basin and Greybull have a strong rivalry. "County 9" or "Niners" are considered different, it is a derogatory nickname. The impression of other counties is that people from Big Horn County is considered a drain on resources of other counties.

Substance abuse is a problem in Basin. Where do people go who are actively addicted to dry out, where do they go for psychiatry?

Intensive outpatient program in Lovell, Sheridan, and Cody, Riverton. They are getting treatment, those who are accepting of the idea of going to treatment; many come in for detox, but refuse treatment in quitting. There is a long waiting list for services in mental health services. We are still trying to incorporate Tele-health, just got a new grant. We are connecting with orthopedic surgeons in Cody. Tele-health is hard to get across state lines.

Define the adolescent program in Basin.

Adolescent program treats at risk youth with behavior modification programs.

There is a group home for males and females, with enough numbers can maintain separation, but there are funding problems.

Considering the close proximity to the Boys' and Girls' Schools, is there a tendency to place delinquent kids within these facilities, or do they remain in the community?

On a seldom basis, kids get in placement outside of the community, however they are returned to the community as soon as practically possible.

What after school programs are available?

The Greybull church has an after school program since the Basin church has closed their program.

Is uncompensated care a problem for providers, in accepting payment at Medicaid rates?

We are finding additional programs to help pay for care of these people.

Do you ever have to turn away Medicaid-covered people?

No, we don't turn anyone away, except some dental offices

The Senior Center is in Greybull, is there any sharing of resources with the Senior Center?

They serve Basin/Greybull, daily delivery of Meals on Wheels in both communities. There are monthly trips to Billings for specialty care clinic appointments. There are also shopping trips to Cody for WalMart.

What kind of pregnancy care is available?

Prenatal care is available in the area, but not childbirth services. County clinics come to Basin to offer services to migrant workers in seasonal times.

There is a pool in Greybull, open in the evening?

Yes, you use it for a fee, it is indoor.

Are the ski resorts for cross-country or downhill skiing?

Cross-country and downhill skiing, mostly cross-country.

How far out from hub does high-speed Internet service?

Six miles. We continue to expand out from there.

What is water source for the reservoir (Roach Gulch)?

Greybull River filled with excess water from winter runoff. It is a leveling device to keep the river more level. Gulch is owned by the farmers, the state helped with 75-80% with the idea that we leave enough water the fish can survive, it is on BLM land.

TCT provides phone, internet/DSL, cable tv. What else?

Photography in the process of being developed.

Currently, do you have a major cell phone provider?

Not any more, Verizon used to be here, but no longer. Currently no cell phone provider.

If you expand the golf course, is there enough water to irrigate?

Yes, we believe so, on the same water rights as the farms and the town of basin comes off the Big Horn River out of Boysen Dam.

Tell me what is in the theater, how it is used, what is there and what is lacking.

Inside, the entire lower floor is completed, able to do drama shows and put on movies, stage and curtain and seats. There are no concessions. Has water. Bottom is handicap accessible. There are background drops. They are in the process of completing the upstairs. Town is putting in new windows. Trying to find money to put in a museum. Perhaps use for meetings. There are two projects, but they are old, can't find parts. Schools use the laptop and PowerPoint projector type method. Lack of sound system. The ceiling was damaged and leaked. Have Christmas concerts. Is used once or twice a month. The school pays when they use it. There is a set fee schedule. There is a nonprofit board.

Is the investment pool in housing set up?

No, in the process of setting up this pool, about \$40,000. Currently, we are seeking grant monies.

How many storefronts are available, currently unoccupied?

At least two in fairly good shape

Do you get much traffic from people passing through town to go camping?

Not as much as Greybull, but yes, we do get quite a few tourists. When they built the jail, we lost a free campground.

Would they use the fairgrounds for camping if it opened up?

They might, but the other had trees and grass and the tennis courts.

Do you have signage outside of town for the IGA store?

Yes, on each end of town.

Are there combined signage agreements?

There are signs on the fairgrounds stadium. No one has approached retailers for joint signage.

Does Basin have a website?

No, not that we are aware of.

What housing range would people coming into Basin want?

Houses of up to \$140,000 would sell. Employment for both spouses influences what kind of house you get.

Would it make any difference if they had immediate rental property when they get into Basin?

Yes, that makes a big difference; there are not a lot of choices in houses for sales and rent. People are looking for places to move straight into, not places to fix up. It is hard to find contractors to do the work on new housing. There are plumbing services; electrical would come from Worland and Powell. There aren't many general contractors.

Do you feel there is an adequate trained workforce in this community?

We have decided that training is not an issue, if we can find an employee who comes to work sober with an attitude that they want to work. We have had very good luck training people ourselves. Find someone who wants to live here and train them. We've had poor luck at the high school and college interns; need people who are more mature.

How many do you employ in the WyDOT and TCT offices?

About 35 people each.

What is the holdup in move law enforcement office from the Town Hall over to the new building?

Funding for moving law enforcement over to their new building

We've heard that the kids seem to know in advance of the drug dog's arrival.

Drug check on the random basis, only 5 specified people know, done on a random basis. School admin has been great. Biggest problem is drug and alcohol, worse in the last 10 years. Need more parent supervision/involvement. Parents claim they cannot control their children.

What effect on employment numbers did the jail have?

Jail employment increased by 20 people, most hired locally, most are detention officers.

What is the solution to drug and alcohol problem, aside from the drug court?

We are working interagency to exchange information, it is starting to work. Parents are the biggest problem, turning the other way or even supply drugs and alcohol. We need to center efforts on the younger kids to prevent the use, get people involved with these young kids.

Is there a Silent Witness or TIPS program here?

No.

Do County/City participate in DARE?

No more funding, the data does not support continuing DARE.

How many officers are needed to staff 24 hours?

Minimum of 4, we currently have 3.

What outside entities use the jail?

Contract with the state for state inmates, and US Marshall for federal inmates, as well as municipal inmates.

What numbers are currently in the jail, and what is your capacity?

Average census is 45-50, we have 84 beds. Do you need extra people to fill? No, existing staff can handle up to 60.

What is the availability of the drug dogs?

Big Horn Basin area has training groups, two certified instructors.

Do you use the inmates for community labor?

We are looking at it, we have a new facility and are thinking of it a project. We did work at the Fairgrounds last summer.

With Medicare health coverage, do you get the needed health care?

Most of us go to the Midway Clinic. Any major surgery, you go to Cody or Billings. Here, you can't always see a doctor, but you can see a nurse practitioner.

Are there employment opportunities for seniors, allowed to work while on retirement?

Yes, some of us do have employment.

Do you have Green Thumb or RSVP work volunteer jobs?

We do, and for kids too, however the low-income requirements are too restrictive for most to get employment through these programs.

What usage plans are in place for the theater/community center?

Meeting facilities, classes, a kitchen, and moveable walls for art shows. Construction grants are just hard to get. Basin City Arts Center does have a nonprofit council for operation. The community cannot support just a theater. We are all volunteers.

Is there potential to become a movie theater?

Yes, and we were just given a sound system. Screen on the stage, but it is old and hard to re-position.

What is the seating capacity?

217 on the main floor, 7-8 seats on the balcony.

What is the upstairs access?

Elevator would need to be put in. We have tried to get grants so far, but nothing received yet. Estimates for the upstairs, including elevator, is \$300,000.

Have you had a market study for utilization of upstairs?

No

Christmas in April, Habitat for Humanity, volunteer projects; perhaps use these to clean up the area. Have you ever had groups like this?

No.

Is the Hospital/Health Clinic in Basin?

It is a nursing home and critical care unit, cannot keep a person there past a certain number of hours. Also have Big Horn Clinic, there is a doctor and PA there at all times.