

THE WYOMING RURAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

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

WRDC is governed by a Steering Committee representing the six partner groups. The Steering Committee as well as the Council membership have 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:

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

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Many of the elements are here for Lusk 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 Lusk 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 Lusk's goals. It can be done! There is no problem facing Lusk 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 Lusk Resource Team, I want to thank the community and our sponsors for the warm hospitality shown to us during our stay. The meals and accommodations were outstanding. We heard over and over in the listening sessions that Lusk 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,

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

The town of Lusk requested a community assessment from the Wyoming Rural Development Council. Peter Pier, Donna Ruffing, Jackie Bredthauer, and Shauna Matthews served as the community contacts 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 Lusk officials indicated would be needed to respond to the problem areas identified.

The Resource Team toured the town and interviewed approximately two hundred and fifty people over a three-day period from January 22-24, 2002. The team interviewed representatives from the following segments of the Lusk community: banking and financial, city/county law enforcement, churches, senior citizens, agriculture, education, civic groups, retail, business, utilities, healthcare, emergency services, and high school students. 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 Lusk?
- ❑ What do you think are the major strengths and assets in Lusk?
- ❑ What projects would you like to see completed in two, five ten and twenty years in Lusk?

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 Lusk.

The oral report was presented to the people of Lusk on January 24, 2002 and many of the citizens of Lusk who participated in the interviews were in attendance.

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

RESOURCE TEAM MEMBERS

Lusk, Wyoming Resource Team January 22-24, 2002

Steve Achter (Team Leader)

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Cheyenne, WY 82002
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Ann Stoeger

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208 Shiloh Road
Worland, WY 82401
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Linda Fabian

Wheatland Area Development Corp.
PO Box 988
Wheatland, WY 82201
307-322-4232
E-mail:
lfabian@communicomm.com

Sharla Allen

Wyoming Health Resources Wyoming
Network, Inc.
11920 Evans Avenue
Cheyenne, WY 82001
307-635-2930
E-mail: sallen@whrn.org

Bill Hill

RC&D
208 Shiloh Road
Worland, WY 82401
307-347-2456 ext. 194
E-mail: bill.hill@wy.usda.gov

LOCAL CONTACTS/COORDINATORS

Lusk Community Assessment, January 22-24, 2002

Peter Pier

Council Member

Town of Lusk

101 West 4th

Lusk, WY 82225

307-334-2306

E-mail: barnes@wyoming.com

Donna Ruffing

Chairman of the County Board

Niobrara County

424 South Elm

Lusk, WY 82225

307-334-3239

FAX: 307-334-3239

E-mail: druffing1@juno.com

Jackie Bredthauer

Director

Chamber of Commerce

Caboose on north end of town

Lusk, WY 82225

307-334-2950

Shauna Matthews

Commissioners Secretary

Niobrara County

424 South Elm

Lusk, WY 82225

307-334-2211

FAX: 307-334-3013

E-mail: shanauz@hotmail.com

Lusk Community Assessment
January 22-24, 2002
Resource Team Agenda

Tuesday, January
22nd

	Activity	Location
10:00 to 11:30 a.m.	Team reviews agenda	Fairgrounds
11:30 to 1:30 p.m.	Lunch at 3 Sisters with community team leaders	Manville
1:30 to 6:00 p.m.	Team tour	
6:00	Team working dinner	

Wednesday, January
23rd

	Activity	Location
6:30 to 7:30 a.m.	Breakfast	
8:00 to 9:55 a.m.	Banking and financial	Fairgrounds
9:10 to 10:15 a.m.	City, city law enforcement	Fairgrounds
10:20 to 11:25 a.m.	Churches	Fairgrounds
11:30 to 2:50 p.m.	Lunch with seniors	Senior Center
1:00 to 2:05 p.m.	Review of previous sessions	Fairgrounds
2:10 to 3:15 p.m.	Agriculture	Fairgrounds
3:20 to 4:25 p.m.	Education	Fairgrounds
4:30 to 4:55 p.m.	Break	Fairgrounds
5:00 to 6:05 p.m.	Civic clubs	Fairgrounds
6:10 to 7:15 p.m.	Retail, business, utilities	Fairgrounds
7:20	Dinner	

Thursday, January
24th

	Activity	Location
6:30 to 7:30 a.m.	Breakfast	
8:00 to 9:05 a.m.	Healthcare, emergency services	Fairgrounds
9:10 to 10:15 a.m.	County, county law enforcement	Fairgrounds
10:20 to 11:25 a.m.	Youth	High school
11:30 to 1:00 p.m.	Lunch	
1:00 to 4:30 p.m.	Team prepares for town meeting	Fairgrounds
5:00 to 6:30 p.m.	Team working dinner	Fairgrounds
7:00 to 8:00 p.m.	Town meeting	Fairgrounds

RECOMMENDATIONS SUBMITTED BY RESOURCE TEAM MEMBERS

The Resource Team would like to thank the town of Lusk 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.

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

Steve Achter

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Cheyenne, WY 82002
307-777-2811
FAX 307-777-2838
sachte@state.wy.us

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

HOUSING

Challenge: The assessment team heard numerous times about the shortage of affordable housing for families and senior citizens. Also, expressed was the need for assisted living for the elderly, need for group homes for the developmentally disabled and the need to make improvements to existing housing.

Solution/Contacts: Other communities have faced similar situations and have used a variety of methods to solve the problem. The Wyoming Community Development Authority (WCDA), which is the housing finance agency for the state, manages the HOME Investment Partnership Program, or HOME for short, which helps pay for development costs if the subsidy is past on to the renter or the homebuyer. The city of Powell prepared a housing demand study and in turn used it to persuade homebuilders that there was a market for affordable housing as well as other types of housing such as assisted living. This resulted in new housing construction. For additional information contact:

Cheryl Gillum
Housing Programs Director
WCDA
155 North Beech Street
Casper, WY 82602
307-265-0603

Dave Reetz
President of the Powell Valley Economic Development Alliance
PO Box 907
Powell, WY 82435
307-754-2201
Fax: 307-754-5217

Within USDA Rural Development there is 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 in Riverton applied for a Self-Help Grant for technical assistance in the development of a Self-Help Project. Four homes are being built and almost ready for occupancy, which were funded by Rural Development. For information contact:

Sue Hoesel
307-857-1988

Group homes for the developmentally disabled and improvements to homes occupied by low and moderate-income persons could be eligible for funding through the Community Development Block Grant Program. For information concerning the program go to the Wyoming Business Council web-site at www.wyomingbusiness.org and click on the word “Communities” at the top of the page, then go to the left column and review the CDBG information or contact:

Steve Achter
Wyoming Business Council
214 W. 15th Street
Cheyenne, WY 82002
307-777-2811
FAX 307-777-2838
E-mail: sachte@state.wy.us

CAPITAL FACILITIES

Challenge: The need for improved public facilities was mentioned numerous times during the sessions, in particular street paving.

Solution/Contact: There are a variety of state and federal grant programs that can assist the community pay for improvements. Most programs have limitations on the types of project they are able to fund. However, these limitations should be discussed with the program managers of the particular program.

For general public improvements contact:

Steve Achter
Community Development Block Grant Program
Wyoming Business Council
214 West 15th Street
Cheyenne, WY 82002
307 777 2811

Brad Miskimins
Grant and Loan Program Manager
State Loan and Investment Board
Herschler Building, 3W
122 W. 25th Street
Cheyenne, WY 82002
307 777 7309

RECREATION

Challenge: The need for outdoor recreation facilities such as a hackey sack area and a skate park as well as improvements to playground equipment was mentioned many times at the listening sessions.

Solution/Contact: Grant funds for outdoor recreation projects are available from the Land and Water Conservation Program. These funds are available annually and require a local match, therefore, the town must plan now to insure funds are available. For more information contact:

Todd Thibodeau
 State Parks and Cultural Resources
 Herschler Building, 1st Floor East
 122 West 25th Street
 Cheyenne, WY 82002
 307-777-6478

Program guidelines and application information can be viewed by going to <http://commerce.state.wy.us/sphs/index1.htm> click on Land and Water Conservation Fund.

The one-percent special purpose tax typically funds facilities such as a recreation center or an addition to the fair complex. Procedures for passage of the tax are outlined in State Statute 39-15-203 (iii). In short, two thirds of the towns in the county must agree to place the tax on the ballot and in turn the county commissioners must also agree to place the tax on the ballot.

As part of the approval of the tax, one idea to consider is the creation of a sinking fund, with the income from the fund used to cover the operations and maintenance cost of a facility.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Challenge: A number of issues concerning the lack of services and the need for new businesses that would lead to job creation surfaced during the listening sessions.

Solution/Contact: Start a Business Challenge program for the Lusk area. This is a business competition program that can be tailored to existing business and/or start-up businesses. The program utilizes in-kind donations to assist businesses. The donations can range from in-kind advertising to in-kind accounting services. The following chart demonstrates just how far these in-kind contributions can go. Lusk may not have some of the service sectors listed, therefore, substitutions would have to be made.

Business Challenge

Business X Winner			
Local Accountant \$1,000 In-Kind Services	Local Attorney \$1,000 In-Kind Services	Local Newspaper \$1,000 In-Kind Advertising	Local Radio Station \$1,000 In-Kind Advertising
WBC \$1,000 Cash	Chamber/EDC \$1,000 Cash	Local Printer \$1,000 In-Kind Copying	Community College \$1,000 In-Kind Software Training
Local Bank \$1,000 In-Kind Services	SBDC Counseling Services	City/County \$1,000 Cash	DDA \$1,000 In-Kind Rent

This program is in the process of being established by the WBC regional managers in a number of communities throughout the state. For more information on starting a business challenge program in Lusk contact:

Steve Elledge
East Central Regional Director
Wyoming Business Council
300 South Wolcott, #300
Casper , WY 82601
307-577-6012
E-mail: selleg@state.wy.us

Solution/Contact: The Wyoming Business Council engaged a consulting firm with a national reputation to prepared a targeted industry study which identifies, given the attributes of Wyoming communities, the most appropriate industries to recruit to the state. The analysis is from an objective, external corporate site selector's perspective of Wyoming. Even though the study focuses on business attraction, it is useful for business expansion and retention because it identifies the current business climate under which excising businesses operate. With a better understanding of the existing business climate local economic development professionals will be in a position to implement strategies that will assist existing businesses. The report also contains a guide for communities to follow to prepare themselves to attract the identified industries, as well as understand the critical location factors for each targeted industry. It is recommended that Lusk use the report as a starting point to develop and refine a recruitment or existing business and retention effort.

A formal business expansion and retention program is an important component of any local economic development strategy. The city of Powell has successfully conducted such a program. It is unlikely that the community will attract a company that will create jobs in excess of one-hundred. It is likley however, that ten existing companies will create ten new jobs each. An existing business expansion and retention program will help make this happen. The person to talk to in Powell is Dave Reetz.

The National Main Street Program is a highly successful program that has proven useful to communities want to improve the viability of the downtown area. The Wyoming Association of Municipalities (WAM) is currently exploring ways to bring this program to Wyoming cities and towns.

A copy of the targeted industry report is attached. Additional information about the targeted industry report may be obtained by contacting Den Costantino at 307-777-2800. Dave Reetz may be reached at 307-754-2011. The National Main Street Program has a web site that describes the basics of that program. The National Main Street Program Internet address is www.mainst.org

TRAINING/EDUCATION

Challenge: Entrepreneurial training for existing business owners as well as owners of start-up businesses is essential and can go a long ways toward strengthening the viability of new or expanding businesses. The need for such training was mentioned often during the sessions.

Solution/Contact: The Wyoming Small Business Development Center (SBDC) provides a wealth of assistance to business owners. The assistance includes business plan assistance, accounting, marketing, government procurement, and grant and loan application preparation to name a few. The SBDC office is located in Casper, however, the director will travel to Lusk to meet with clients.

The NxLevel entrepreneurial training is also offered through the SBDC's and will be taught on-site in Lusk if there are enough students that sign-up for the class. It generally takes about 12 students to make a complete class. However, if there are fewer than 12 students the class will be taught if a sponsor can be found to help financially support the class. Often times this is a bank or the local government, either city or county.

For additional information regarding the Small Business Development Center's contact:

Leonard Holler
Region III SBDC
300 South Wolcott, #300
Casper, WY 82061
307-234-6683
Toll free 800-348-5207
Fax: 307-577-7014
E-mail: sbdc@trib.com

LEADERSHIP

Challenge: There were a number of comments regarding the need for aggressive forward thinking leadership. There are concerns about communication, or the lack thereof, between local officials as well as communication by those officials back to the citizens. There was also concern that local officials were not taking advantage of grant opportunities.

Solution/Contacts: Useful web sites for grant information

State grant information through the State Library:

www-wsl.state.wy.us/sis/grants/index.html

Federal Catalog of Domestic Assistance:

www.cfda.gov

Information about private foundation assistance:

www.fdncenter.org

There are publications that provide information on public as well as private grant opportunities. One of the better publications is the Federal Assistance Monitor. Subscriptions may be obtained by contacting:

CD Publications
8204 Fenton Street
Silver Springs, MD 20910
301-588-6380
Web-site address: www.cdpublications.com

Leadership Wyoming is leadership training provided by the Wyoming Business Alliance in partnership with the University of Wyoming. The program selects a diverse group of up to forty leaders, ages thirty to fifty-five, to participate in a challenging, interactive and thought provoking nine month educational experience. The training is designed to provided leaders with the skills and knowledge to better understand the challenges facing the state and the participants' community. For more information contact:

Leadership Wyoming
Wyoming Business Alliance
145 South Durbin, Suite 101
Casper, WY 82601
307-577-8000
E-mail: wylw@qwest.net

Linda G. Fabian, Executive Director
Wheatland Area Development Corporation
P.O. Box 988
Wheatland, WY 82201
307-322-4232
lfabian@wyoming.com

While other towns are holding dollar dinners, wouldn't it be a good idea for Wheatland businessmen to chew ham sandwiches together in an effort to do something for themselves. There is a painful lack of unity in this town, and that this condition injures all is an unpleasant, but truthful fact. There is too much of an inclination to "do up" the other fellow, and too little disposition to act together for the common good. It requires a public, unselfish spirit to build good towns, and Wheatland folks have much progress to make in these things if the best of our opportunities are to be utilized. The "doing up" of the other fellow finally ends in all being "done up together," and in poor looking packages at that.

The above article first appeared in the Wheatland World on March 29, 1901 as an editorial by I.O. Middaugh. It was researched by Patsy Parkin, President of the Platte County Historical Society and reprinted in The Platte County Record Times on March 29, 2001, 100 years later! I believe it could have been printed in any hometown newspaper, and serves to remind us that we MUST work together toward change and progress. Change is inevitable anyway, so we might as well take a proactive role in helping it happen to our liking!

Introduction

First let me say how disappointed I am that illness kept me from participating in your Community Assessment. Sounds like you had not only a great Resource Team, but also good attendance at most of your sessions where people were willing to talk! Please accept the following recommendations based on my experience with Wheatland's own Community Assessment and my participation as a Resource Team member in other communities. Thank you.

Economic and Community Development

Challenge:

- Maintaining and working to expand the Women's Center
- Developing the downtown area

Women's Center

Fortunately I don't have much experience with minimum to maximum-security detention centers! However, Melinda Brazzale at the Wyoming Department of Corrections could be a tremendous resource to you. She not only has her pulse on the institution aspect, but also knows and understands issues facing the legislature when it comes to prisons. Melinda could keep you

abreast of these issues as you work toward expanding the Women's Center, if that turns out to be a priority at your Town Meeting following the distribution of this report. She can be reached at:

Wyoming Department of Corrections
Melinda Brazzale, Chief Public Information Officer
307-777-7405
mbrazz@state.wy.us

Developing the Downtown

Lusk, in fact all of Niobrara County, has an incredible historical legacy. I think this should be built upon to revitalize downtown and increase tourism. There are several ways to accomplish this goal. One would be to see if the State Historic Preservation Office has resources that could get Lusk on the National Register of Historic Places. Not only would this be of interest to tourists, but there may also be funds available. I suggest you contact Sheila Bricher-Wade at the State Historic Preservation Office (a division of the Wyoming Department of Parks & Cultural Resources). Sheila has a twenty-plus year career in the State Historic Preservation Office and is well versed on nominations to the National Register. She can be contacted at:

SHPO
Barrett State Office Building
Cheyenne, We 82002
307-777-7697
sbrich@state.wy.us

You might also contact the Main Street Program in Washington, D.C. Their address is:

Main Street Program
1785 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036
202-588-6219
www.nationaltrust.org or www.mainst.org

The community of Powell, Wyoming has had quite a bit of success with this program. Contact **Dave Reetz at 307-754-2201** to find out how they went about it.

Dr. Jim Thompson was on the Wheatland Resource Team and has become a tremendous asset. His is a professor of Community & Economic Development at the University of Wyoming's Department of Agriculture and Applied Economics. He and his students have been most helpful to us and I know he would enjoy working with Lusk. While there are no funds available through his program, his students are ready, willing and able to help with PowerPoint presentations, research and in developing surveys to build consensus. Contact him at:

Dr. Jim Thompson
Room C-220, Ag Building
University of Wyoming
Laramie, WY 82071
307-766-4204/2386
jtgoss@uwyo.edu

Challenge:

There appears to be a lack of cohesiveness among the merchants.

Solution:

I recommend that the downtown merchants form an association dedicated to the promotion and well being of Main Street. This would be relatively easy to do and wouldn't cost any money at this point, just a commitment of time. The newly formed *Lusk Downtown Merchants Association (LDMA)* could hold monthly meetings at various places of businesses (prior to opening hours) and discuss such things as the timing of sales, downtown activities and simply the general state of affairs. In addition, the LDMA could sponsor events that would not only draw the attention of the locals, but would detain the tourist. For a wide variety of information about what other towns are doing, go to the popular Internet search engine, **Altavista.com** and type in "**Downtown Merchants Association.**" There are three that you could draw (steal) ideas from – one from Placerville, California; the other was from Whitney, Texas, a little town about the size of Lusk, and the other was the Bound Brook Downtown Merchants Association in Bound Brook, New Jersey. Remember, you can borrow and personalize every good idea you run across! In Wheatland the merchants went from being a general committee of the Chamber to their own association, consistently maintaining contact with the Chamber, but not under its umbrella. This appears to have been a good move.

Your website is very well done, I really liked the music! It does need to be updated consistently and you might consider adding a link to local government entities. Perhaps you could find a volunteer who would be willing to help keep the website up to date.

Challenge:

Lack of one entity responsible for responding to Economic Development opportunities such as the expansion and retention of existing businesses or to attract new businesses.

Solution:

This task could fall to the Town Administrator, or could be a separate operating agency under the Town Administrator's supervision. Another possibility would be to establish a non-profit corporation such as Wheatland did about ten years ago. Our major funding source comes through the Town and the County. Other funds come from major employers and memberships. I would be happy to provide WADCO's bylaws or any other information I can about how we operate. You have my name and number! We have strong partnerships with the Wyoming

Business Council, the Wyoming Economic Development Association, the Wyoming Small Business Development Center, the Wyoming Rural Development Council and many others. Each of these partnerships plays a fundamental role in our success.

Membership in the Wyoming Economic Development Administration is vital. WEDA is responsible for providing local economic development agencies with leads that come to the state via the Wyoming Business Council. The WBC reviews and verifies each lead before it is submitted to WEDA, who in turn submit it to communities. Of course they are screened somewhat and if there is no way a community meets the criteria developed by the site selection consultant then it isn't provided. Yet, there are many leads that Lusk could respond too. Site selection consultants are hired by corporations to search potential new business locations. When a lead comes to a community it is always identity protected; we only know the criteria and if we can meet the criteria then we respond. The purpose of operating this way is so one community doesn't have an unfair advantage over another. It works very well statewide and puts all of us on a level playing field.

Membership also entitles you to first-hand information about valuable seminars, scholarship opportunities for economic development professionals and much more. Your contact for membership would be:

Paula McCormick
WEDA
307-332-5546
weda@rmisp.com

A couple of years ago the Wyoming Business Council contracted with the firm of Deloitte Touche to conduct a statewide study of what kind of businesses would best suit what Wyoming has to offer. You can get a copy (free of charge) from:

Linda Norman
Wyoming Business Council
214 W. 15th
Cheyenne, WY 82002
307-777-2800
lnorma@state.wy.us

Challenge:

I perceived a lack of communication between local government entities and the citizens.

Solution:

This is so easy! Look around you and see what you are doing that is newsworthy. You'd be surprised. Then, start sending well-written press releases to the *Lusk Herald*. You might also work with the editor to have a regular column. I don't prefer this solution because people get used to seeing the same old headline and end up not reading the column, but it is a suggestion.

Don't just put the minutes of the Town Council meeting in the paper – make a story out of it. Who are some of the movers and shakers in your town and why? You can make a newsworthy story out of almost anything – it just takes a little practice and I would be happy to help. Plus, in a town the size of yours there aren't enough reporters to go around and I'm sure the editor would not mind a stringer or two!!

In the meantime, develop a press release letterhead that might look something like this:

PRESS RELEASE
Town of Lusk
(street address)
Lusk, Wyoming 82225

Date

Contact: (Name of person submitting the story, phone number)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

-30-

Newspapers like to receive press releases via e-mail, fax or hard copy. E-mail is obviously the easiest because they have less editing to do that way.

Challenge:

Many citizens were interested in recreational activities for Lusk's young people to enjoy.

Solution:

GET THE KIDS INVOLVED! There is nothing more successful to holding people accountable than making them help themselves. Two years ago in Wheatland a group of students took it upon themselves to make a presentation to the Town Council for support in constructing a skate park in our town park. They began the concept by going through a teacher (Katie Carmen) and asking her to be their adult sponsor. She worked with them in developing a budget, marketing the idea to the community, drawing up the plans and fundraising. From start to finish the project took approximately a year. They placed donation jars all over town, they got donations from local businesses, they held dances and skate-a-thons, and I think even got a grant (Katie could answer that question). They negotiated with the Town Council for insurance and maintenance, and got the Department of Parks & Recreation to turn the old tennis courts over for the base. From there they worked with American Ramp in designing and constructing the skate

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park. All in all they were able to come up with approximately \$25,000 and, to this day they maintain an enormous sense of pride in their accomplishments.

The skate park is utilized not only by locals, but the traveling public as well, and they also host competitions. If you don't think it has become an important gateway to other things, then you must have missed the Olympics! Snowboarding has become an enormous sport, one where participants have often been looked upon as "trouble makers." Nothing is farther from the truth. And, those Olympic athletes had to start somewhere! For more details contact:

**Katie Carmen, School to Career Counselor
Wheatland High School
307-322-2075**

**American Ramp Company
214 E. 4th Warehouse #1C
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(877-726-7778)
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Challenge:

In reading the strengths and weaknesses, I sensed that service providers, i.e. government employees, waiters and waitresses, anyone whose business provides a service could use some motivation.

Solution:

How about hosting a "customer service" workshop and entice people to attend by presenting certificates to hang in their place of employment, or at the completion of the workshop give them an inexpensive pin to wear on their clothing that says something clever like "Knock 'Um Alive," or "I'm A Graduate: Ask Me." Something like either one of these would entice customers to strike up a conversation, giving the employee a chance to tell them what they learned!! Such a workshop is designed to help service providers know what's going in town, to know the hours at the museum, to know where something fun is happening, and to know what's going on in surrounding areas, or to know what makes Lusk famous!! You would be shocked (well, maybe not) at how many employees say, "I don't know." Not a welcome phrase to a weary traveler! We held a very successful workshop like this in Wheatland. Employers were more than happy to pay for their staff to attend, and it wasn't that expensive. Our Wyoming Small Business Development Center representative, Leonard Holler, helped us set up the program through Don Jackson of Casper. Don is experienced in the field of economic development, financing and small business management. He developed the "Knock 'Um Alive" workshops to specifically help employees who meet the public learn how to be more effective.

You could partner with the Wyoming Small Business Development Center to host this workshop, and many others for that matter. Contact:

Leonard Holler, SBDC Regional Representative
1-800-348-5207
or
Don Jackson
DLJ Consulting & Market Research
Casper, WY 82601
307-577-0000

Challenge:
Health Care

Solution:
Wheatland recently formed a Senior Citizens Service District to address issues of concern regarding financing senior centers, health care issues and a variety of other matters significant to citizens.

Contact:
Hazel Chaffin, Services for Seniors
307-322-3424

Challenge:
Lack of a major medical facility.

Solution:
To generate ideas you might consider visiting about this with the CEO of Platte County Memorial Hospital.

Contact:
Mike Matthews
307-322-3636

Challenge:
Drug and Alcohol Abuse

Solution:
The State of Wyoming has an active anti-drug program underway as we speak. For more details contact:

Substance Abuse Division
307-777-6494

Challenge
To continue the momentum gained through the Community Assessment process.

Solution:

We did this in Wheatland after our Community Assessment. The core committee is now called the Wheatland Area Steering Committee and we serve as the impetus to continue the momentum created by the Community Assessment. It is so easy to fall back into old patterns, but people have to take the bull by the horns and keep things moving! Ever since our Community Assessment we've held monthly meetings to address the priorities identified at the final Town Meeting. This has led us to work toward a 1% sales tax campaign this November, has spurred WADCO to create two subcommittees to address the development of a business/industrial park and the concept of a new hospital, and many, many more "quick wins." I urge you to develop some kind of a tool to keep moving forward.

In closing let me reiterate my thanks for letting me share resources even though I couldn't be there. I would be pleased to help in any way possible and look forward to seeing the community use these resources and others offered by the team in such a way that you'll quickly see results. One last bit of advice – remember that someone has to take responsibility for maintaining the momentum – why not YOU!

Ann Stoeger and Heidi Stonehocker
USDA Rural Development

208 Shiloh Road
Worland, WY 82401
307-347-2456, Ext. 4
Fax: 307-347-2802

ann.stoeger@wy.usda.gov
heidi.stonehocker@wy.usda.gov

First of all, we would like to thank the community of Lusk and our sponsors; especially those who provided our lodgings and meals, and to the Mayor, City Council members, Jackie Bredthauer (Niobrara County Chamber of Commerce), Shauna Matthews (County Commissioners Secretary) and all the citizens of Lusk for the time and energy expended in making this Resource Team visit such a pleasure. We found it a great opportunity to learn about the town, its citizens and the challenges you face in making your community a better place to live, work and play. We wish you success in achieving your goals. We have addressed some of the major themes in which we feel competent to comment.

HEALTHCARE

Challenge: The assessment team heard numerous times about the lack of 24/7 medical care in the County. Also expressed was the need to reopen the hospital/nursing home and the need for other health care professionals (eye doctor, dentist).

Solution/Contacts: The availability of health care is a major concern for people/businesses wishing to relocate to a community and the retention of businesses/families within a community. A plus for the community of Lusk is the fact that the hospital just received new equipment for a telemedicine link with the hospital in Torrington. With just one Physicians Assistant in Lusk, a health care committee might consider contacting doctors/specialists in surrounding counties and inquire into having them hold clinics at the hospital 1-2 days a week. Another way to utilize the hospital building would be to have a central physical location for health and social services. A good start would be to develop a Community Health Council along the lines recommended by the Wyoming Health Resources Network, Inc. Contact Sharla Allen at 1920 Evans Avenue, Cheyenne, WY 82001; Phone: 307-635-2930, Toll Free: 1-800-456-9386, Fax: 307-635-2599; info@whrn.org.

There are many different ways entities can be formed which may benefit the ability to obtain funding and operate these community-type facilities. The community needs to consider the following entities:

1. Forming a joint-powers board between the city of Lusk, The County of Niobrara, the Women's Penitentiary, the school district or other communities within the county.
2. Form a non-profit organization.

3. Form a hospital district.
4. One entity could own the hospital/nursing home and lease it to another for operation.

Funding sources might include:

1. Rural Development-Community Facility Loan-this would be for a direct loan or grant. Contact point is USDA Rural Development, ATTN: Karlene Sjoden, Rural Development Manager, 1441 East "M" Street, Suite A, Torrington, WY 82240-3521. Her telephone number is 307-532-4880, Ext. 4. Her email address is karlene.sjoden@wy.usda.gov.
2. Local banks have funds available for projects and these loans can be guaranteed by Rural Development. Contact a local bank or contact Rural Development at the address listed above.
3. Private foundations can be found through the Internet at the Foundation Center. Their web site is www.fdncenter.org.
4. For the hospital other contacts are Doug Thiede at the Wyoming Department of Health Office of Rural Health Manage, 2020 Cary Avenue, 8th Floor, Cheyenne, WY 82002. His email address is dthied@state.wy.us Also the Kresge Foundation has information at www.kresge.org.

HOUSING

Challenge: The need for an assisted living facility/group home, affordable family housing and improvements of existing housing.

Solution/Contacts: Before a community can address many of its perceived challenges, a survey/assessment should be done to determine the need demonstrated in the community (senior housing, starter homes, rental units, multi-family units, apartments, etc.) and the affordability of it. Two good resources for this would be :

1. Erin Alspach, NEWEDC, PO Box 3948, Gillette, WY 82717; Phone number 307-686-2603. Erin's email address is ena@vcn.com.
2. The University of Wyoming (UW) Cooperative Extension. Their address is PO Box 3354, Laramie, WY 82071. Phone 307-766-5246; Funding sources might include:
 1. USDA Rural Development's Multi-Family Section 515 loan program. This program is administered by the use of a Notification of Fund Availability (NOFA) which is published in the Federal Register. Generally these funds are made available around the first of the year. Rural Development also has a guaranteed loan program under Section 538. This program is also handled under the NOFA system. These loans are designed for low and very low-income tenants. Specific details as well as developers who have worked in this program can be obtained from USDA Rural Development, ATTN: Karlene Sjoden, Rural Development Manager, 1441 East "M" Street, Suite A, Torrington, WY 82240-3251. Her phone number is 307-532-4880, Ext. 4. Her email address is karlene.sjoden@wy.usda.gov.

2. Wyoming Community Development Authority (WCDA) is the state housing authority. They have control over Low Income Tax Credits and the HOME Investment Partnership Program; HOME for short. These funds can be used for development costs if a subsidy is passed onto the tenants. This can be used for group homes. WCDA also has a Multi-Family bond authority but this generally only works with projects of 150 or more units. The HOME program has been used by Washakie County to build duplexes. The contact person at WCDA is Chad Curry. His address is 155 North Beech, Casper, WY 82601. His phone number is 307-265-0603.
3. Funding sources for an Assisted Living Facility and Nursing Home might be obtained through USDA, Rural Development's Community Facility program. This program has funds for direct loans, guaranteed loans and grants. The contact for these programs would be Karlene Sjoden, whose address is listed above in number 1.
4. A local developer generally initiates single family housing projects. If no developer is available the community could initiate a development by purchasing and installing the needed infrastructure. Funding is available on a non-profit basis from Rural Development under its Section 523 program. This program is designed for the development of building lots at a very low interest rate. These lots are then sold to prospective low-income homeowners in conjunction with the building of a home. Rural Development can finance these homes with money from the Section 502 program. The contact for this program would be Karlene Sjoden whose address is listed in number 1.
5. WCDA's HOME program is another source of funding. This program has funds available to finance single family homes for low-income purchasers. This program involves an interested builder who will construct homes using HOME funds then sell them to authorized buyers. Rural Development can participate with WCDA in financing these homes. The contact person is Chad Curry, whose address is listed above, in number 2.
6. "Self Help Housing" is a Rural Development program, which helps to reduce the cost of construction. This program is designed to allow several applicants to work together to construct several homes under the supervision of a construction supervisor sponsored by a Housing authority or other non-profit organizations. Recently, four homes were built in Riverton under this program. To learn more about their experiences, you may contact Keith Campbell, Rural Development Manger, PO Box 1607, Riverton, WY 82501. His phone number is 307-856-5383. The fax number is 307-856-4426. His email address is keith.campbell@wy.usda.gov.

ECOMONIC DEVELOPMENT

Challenge: Economic development concerns focused on the inability for business retention and/or expansion of the downtown area.

Solution/Contacts: A survey is needed on retail decline and the reasons for it. What types of businesses are needed in Lusk and are the residents willing to support them and help them expand? I would suggest a development group, the Chamber of Commerce, City Government or individual citizens contact Roger Coupal at the University of Wyoming Cooperative Extension as a resource for assistance and information. His address is PO Box 3354, Laramie, WY 82071. His phone number is 307-766-5246. His email address is coupal@uwyo.edu.

Rural Development's Rural Business Enterprise Grant (RBEG) finances and facilitates development of small and emerging private business enterprises. Eligibility is limited to public bodies and private non-profit corporations. Costs that may be paid from grant funds include the acquisition and development of land, and the construction of buildings, plants, equipment, access streets and roads, parking areas, utility and service extensions, refinancing, fees, technical assistance, startup operating costs and working capital. Grants may also be made to establish or fund revolving loan programs. For additional information on this program, the contact person for your area would be Karlene Sjoden, Rural Development Manager, 1441 East "M" Street, Suite A, Torrington, WY 82240-3521. Her telephone number is 307-532-4880, Ext. 4; fax number is 307-532-5783; her email address is karlene.sjoden@wy.usda.gov.

RECREATION

Challenge: The need for a recreation center; adding onto the fair complex; improvements on the current facilities and parks, movie theatre, drag racing, hacking sack, skateboard park.

Solution/Contacts: The subject of the above came up at several of the listening sessions. With the help of volunteers from the community, paint and elbow grease, the current facilities and parks can be improved. In reference to a recreation center, the citizens must first decide on location. Can an existing building be used? Do you have a recreation director? If not, one could be hired, someone could volunteer or a committee could be appointed to head up the project. Do you have a Boys and Girls Club? Funding in the form of grants or those sources utilizing matching funds may be available for this purpose, along with fund raising efforts. In addition to the above, the community might consider:

1. Form a Joint Powers Board between the town of Lusk and the County of Niobrara.
2. Form a Non-profit Organization.
3. The town of Lusk could apply for loans and grants.
4. Establish a recreation district.

Funding sources could include:

1. Rural Development's Community Facility Direct Loan or Grant. The contact person for your area is Karlene Sjoden, Rural Development Manager, 1441 East "M", Suite A, Torrington, WY 82240-3521. Her telephone number is 307-532-4880, Ext. 4; fax number is 307-532-5783; her email address is karlene.sjoden@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 listed 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:
 - Borthwick Law Firm, 1312 Capitol Ave., Suite 506, PO Box 1124, Cheyenne, WY 82001; Phone number 307-635-2443
 - Herschler, Freudenthal, Salzburg & Bonds, 314 E. 21st Street, PO Box 387, Cheyenne, WY 82003-0387; Phone number 307-634-2240
 - Wiederspahn, Lummis & Liepas, PC, 2020 Carey Avenue, Suite 700, Cheyenne, WY 82001; Phone number 307-638-6417.
4. State Loan and Investment Board, Brad Miskimins. Phone number 307-777-6646.
5. Private foundations can be found through the Internet at the Foundation Center. Their website is www.fdncenter.org.

We were impressed with Lusk and the many assets therein. The citizens of Lusk are its biggest wealth and if they all pull together there is no limit to what they can achieve. We want to thank everyone for their hospitality during the short time we were there. If we can be of any help in the future, please call on us.

Bill Hill, Project Coordinator

Big Horn Basin Resource Conservation and Development Council
208 Shiloh Road
Worland, Wyoming
(307) 347-2456 extension 194
Fax (307) 347-8806
bill.hill@wy.usda.gov

Thank you for the invitation to be a part of the Lusk, VanTassell, Manville, and Niobrara County assessment team. You are a resilient people; your volunteer efforts abound; and you have the nicest high school students that I have ever met.

WOMEN'S CENTER

The Women's Center is a real asset to the community providing 52 jobs, and serving the clients and the state in a professional manner.

Challenge:

The future of the facility is unknown. It could be removed from the community, maintained, or expanded.

Solution:

Maintain constant dialogue with the warden and administration to understand the situations that exist. The community must act as an advocate for this business. Politics will shape many of the decisions that relate to this prison issue. The community needs to exert a steady and effective lobby to retain this business in Lusk, WY. The re-instatement of your hospital as a well-run business will go a long way in retaining and maybe expanding the Women's Center. Work toward mutually advantageous solutions where you provide what the state mandates and benefit by providing it in quality health care for your citizens.

HEALTH CARE

Health care is the issue of your community. Your isolation makes this service a very important aspect of living in Niobrara County.

Challenge:

Dealing with EMT turn over, burn out, certification, and re-certification efforts. All of the above will continue to happen because of the mobility of our society and the push to specialized healthcare. Transport is a part of life, as we know it.

Solution:

Try to work out ways to train the volunteers at home reducing the travel wear and tear on the

volunteer workforce. Involve a broad spectrum of the community to vary the time restraints we have depending on our stage in life. Have a good combination of the retired and working for example.

Certification and re-certification of the volunteer staff is always a problem in small communities. The time requirements to serve and recertify takes a toll on humanity.

Solution:

Perhaps Wyoming Workforce Development funds can be used to import outside trainers into your community to keep the competency level high. This also reduces the travel requirement of volunteers that desire or need the training to recertify.

Contact Erin Alspach of the North East Wyoming Economic and Development Coalition, 222 South Gillette, Avenue, Suite 402, P.O. Box 3948, Gillette, WY 82717.

Phone (307) 686-2603 Toll free 1-800-376-0848 Fax (307) 686-7268 Cell (307) 660-6603 e-mail is ena@vcn.com web site is <http://www.newedc.net>

Erin can assist you filling out the grant application.

Solution:

Work in conjunction with the Women's Center to find opportunities to help each other provide the health care needs of the Lusk, Manville, Van Tassel communities, and those that are a part of State Corrections community. Your mutual cooperation could well be your success. Be proactive. Ask what you can do, and get an early start on it. Big opportunities take a longer time to work themselves out.

Solution:

I recall no mention of the telemedicine capabilities of your community. Publicize this wonderful service to your community.

Your volunteer fire department is well thought of.

Solution:

Continue your training efforts with the Cody Fire School and The Wyoming Fire Academy at Riverton. Work with the Wyoming Emergency Management Agency (WEMA) to see what opportunities your community might have as this nation increases it's homeland security.

Wyoming Emergency Management Agency (WEMA)

5500 Bishop Blvd.

Cheyenne, Wyoming 82009-3320

<http://wema.state.wy.us>

Solution:

BLM has just publicized their fire department grant program to rural communities, For 2002. \$400,000 is available. Contact Cheyenne office of BLM, PO Box 1828, Cheyenne, WY 82003 (307) 775-6001

The fire department may wish to look into The Federal Emergency Management Agency grants programs to obtain fire fighting apparatus, safety equipment, or training funds. Training funds were the emphasis in the 2001 funding cycle. Several Wyoming fire departments participated in this process and won. I would expect more grant funds will be available as America prepares to fight the war against terrorism.

The grant web site is <http://www.fema.gov>

Solution:

Since the nation is increasing it's homeland security, this may be an opportunity for Lusk, the town on the crossroads. Be alert to federally funded police positions to assist communities protect themselves and the nation. Since you do have a large amount of truck traffic and rail travel, this may be a future avenue in which you could receive federal funding to get 24-hour law enforcement coverage in Lusk.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The communities and county desires various forms of economic development.

According to the Population Division Paper listing #47,(US Census) Wyoming is expected to increase by 214 thousand people in the next thirty years. The population change will be the 11th largest gain. We are going to get people, but it looks like for the near future, it will still be the 50th, least populated state

Challenge:

Few jobs and low paying jobs. There is little opportunity for the youth to develop a career in the community.

Solution:

I really like the idea of having the community buy a business and operate and maintain that business in Lusk or Niobrara County. This puts the ownership for survival right at home. This is healthy. Stay in contact with Steve Elledge of the Wyoming Business Council to develop this idea. Steve is at 300 South Wolcott, Suite 3000, Casper, Wyoming 82601 Phone (307)577-6012 selled@state.wy.us

Challenge:

The youth of the community do not have career opportunities in Niobrara County.

Solution:

That is true, but maybe not as true as we think. A small percentage of professional young Wyoming people are going to move back to their hometown to pursue business that they created.

An example of that is Barnett Sprorkin-Morrison of Meetettse, WY who developed an international retail tea leaves business. He is a sophomore at UW and has a dual major in International Studies and International Agricultural Economics.

Perhaps you can contact the Wyoming Community Network and arrange a visit between Barnett and some of those energetic young faces you have at the high school to instill the dream. Contact can be made at (307) 766-2107. WY Community Network, PO Box 3354, Laramie, WY 82701.

Solution:

The Wyoming Small Business Development Center's (SBDC) process called NxLevel Business Planning needs to come to your community to create new jobs in the community. You will need 15 tenacious students to get the class into your county. This may be a mix of existing and future business owners. This three month highly intensive business planning course will tell you if you have the resources to start a new business in Niobrara County, WY. It is a wonderful tool for existing business too. I have known several business people that streamlined their business operation to increase the bottom line.

Contact Leonard Holler, Regional Director of the Wyoming Small Business Development Center. 1-800-348-5207. Leonard is at 300 South Wolcott Street Suite 3000, Casper, Wyoming 82601. e-mail is leonarh@trib.com.

RECREATION

Challenge:

There is nothing to do in this town. You always hear that from the students if they are in a town of 50 or 50,000, but there is very little recreational opportunity other than what you create yourself.

Solution:

I have the inclination that the communities wants a tax supported recreation center. With the right structure and fee schedule, it would probably be a "can do" sort of project.

My idea is to privatize recreation. Create business that you need in your community with a health club, a bowling alley, a movie theater, and a roping arena.

Challenge:

Some of these facilities already exist but are now unused.

Solution:

New or old recreation based business opportunities can be investigated by taking a NxLevel Business Planning Course. Contact Leonard Hollar, Small Business Development Center. (307) 234-6683 Casper, Wyoming

Solution:

If a tax supported recreation complex is constructed in conjunction with the Fairgrounds, then the fee structure should accurately reflect the expenses of running it. The physical size of any recreation center should be commensurate to your tax base and population and not what the neighbors (Casper, Torrington, and Gillette) have. Figure the total plan based on a business planning for your locale and your business plan to use it before you commit.

AGRICULTURE

From your demographics, I suspect you have a thousand people out in the county away from the small communities of Lusk, Manville, and VanTassel.

Challenge:

No FFA program in the school.

Solution:

Bring a well-prepared plan to the school administration to get the curriculum back in the school. FFA and VO-AG are great for the town kids too. It's a good way to make that "agriculture educational link" that you want to make between the urban and rural environment of Niobrara County. But make your request in writing and defend your idea with the benefits that will be present because the class is there.

Perhaps you can contact the Niobrara County Conservation District for support of your proposal to administration. They may be contacted at 905 South Main, PO Box 659 Lusk, **Wyoming (307) 334-2953**

Solution:

Continue your valuable participation in the Wyoming Agriculture in the Classroom curriculum. This bit of information is free. You have some valuable ranch lands here. You may not have a dollar in your pocket, but you have a million dollar ranch. Take care of your estate planning today so that the family can afford what you leave. Fifty million paid to Wyoming for estate taxes last year.

LEADERSHIP

Challenge:

Going after the grants.

Solutions:

Some people want to go after grants and others do not. It's appropriate to prepare grant proposals to fund the projects in your community. In order to partake of the wealth of the grant world, you have to know what the funder wants to do, and you have to gain their confidence through skillful presentation and salesmanship.

Contact Ted Buchanan, Project Coordinator for the NE Wyoming RC&D Council, Suite 101, 300 South Kendrick Avenue, Gillette, WY 82718. (307) 686-8609 He can teach you the basics of proposal writing. He can help you develop the project if it's in alignment with the Northeast Wyoming RC&D Council goals.

Solution:

Get a copy of the Grants of Wyoming Guidebook from the Department of Administration and Information, State Library Division, Supreme Court and State Library Building, 2301 Capitol Avenue, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002 or pick up the document online. <http://www-wsl.state.wy.us/sis/grants/index.htm>. This document makes reference to at least fifty Wyoming fund sources.

Solution:

Read and understand the programs of Wyoming. Invite their executive director or staff members to the community to review the project idea that you have. Sell on site. Sell with good data that you gather. Arrange for good public participation. Ask the state staff how to make the project happen within their guidelines. When they have personal confidence and knowledge in the proposal and you have answered those nagging questions, you have a better chance of completing your project. All funding is based on good human relations.

But be careful what you create. Often times it is easier to get something in Wyoming than to deal with the operation of maintenance of what you created. Cash flow every project. It's a business, and if it isn't don't get tied to it.

Solution:

Take advantage of Philanthropy Days 2002 to be held in Cheyenne at the Hitching Post on June 13 and 14, 2002. This is your chance to be exposed to the world of philanthropy.

Simply stated that is the world where organizations with funding dollars are looking for a way to do what they want to do with their money. This is a good thing, but a complex process. This two-day seminar will allow you to meet the people that have funding and introduce you to the ways that they would like to spend it. You cannot solicit a project idea at this gathering. The Wyoming Community Foundation will send information concerning this event to the towns and counties.

TRAINING/EDUCATION

Challenge:

Adult continuing education

Solution:

One way to get some good formal grant writing training is to participate in a Community Systems “Get that Grant” class offered every November in Jackson Hole, WY by the Western Wyoming Resource Conservation and Development Council. (307) 775-6001
Contact Kirk Heaton, Project Coordinator, 1471 Dewar Drive, Suite 106, Rock Springs, Wyoming, Phone (307) 382-3982.

Solution:

Grant administration is another area of continuing education that you may wish to participate in. Your world will become more complicated with the introduction of money. Taking the Community Systems Class “Grant Administration” will be a good follow-up course to getting the grant. Contact Bader and Carr, PO Box 516, Bozeman, MT 59771-0516 Phone (406) 587-0516. They can tell you where the next class will take place.

Sharla Allen

Wyoming Health Resources Network, Inc.
1920 Evans Avenue
Cheyenne WY 82001
307-635-2930
307-635-2599 fax
sallen@whrn.org

INTRODUCTION

I am thankful to be part of the assessment team in Niobrara County. It was thrilling to see so many concerned citizens show at the discussion groups and attend the town meeting. It was noted several times that the turnout in Niobrara County exceeded that of many Wyoming communities with much larger populations. Thank you to all that participated!

HEALTH CARE

Challenge: Lusk, the site for medical facilities in the county, has lost its hospital, nursing home, providers, and health care market. The services provided by 2 physician assistants are appreciated and used, but both patients and providers would like to see a physician in town and 24 hour, 7 day per week services available. Many would like to see EMS (emergency medical services) expanded.

Recommendation: Niobrara County is already making progress in assessing and improving the local health care system. The Niobrara County Health Coalition has surveyed community members, obtained grant funds, and is currently soliciting applications to provide feasibility studies on resurrecting 24 hour medical services in the county. The NCHC is taking huge steps in response for the need and desire in the community for expanded medical services.

I suggest that the coalition keep in contact with Dave Shavel, Substance Abuse Division, Wyoming Department of Health (WDH). He has been named to take on healthier communities technical assistance, formerly provided under contract with WDH by Wyoming Health Resources Network.

Contact:

Dave Shavel
Prevention Coordinator
Division of Substance Abuse
Wyoming Department of Health
2424 Pioneer Ave.
Suite 306
Cheyenne WY 82002

307-777-3357
dshave@state.wy.us

Challenge: Both youth and adults recognized substance abuse as an issue in Niobrara County. The Wyoming Department of Health, Substance Abuse Division received a \$9 million *State Incentive Grant (SIG)* from the national Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) - Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP) to battle the growing substance abuse problem among Wyoming youth. At the local level, up to 19 community initiatives will be funded to help community members work together to provide substance abuse prevention services in their community. A series of three “Prevention Planning Workshops” are being offered to community members. The workshops will assist participants in creating comprehensive prevention plans for their community. Attending the workshops will enable community members to develop community prevention plans that may be used to apply for numerous state, federal and private funding applications. NOTE: Attendance at the workshops is recommended but NOT REQUIRED for the State Incentive Grant or any other grant applications.

Contact:
Christine Ricketts
SIG Community Program Specialist
Wyoming Department of Health
Division of Substance Abuse
2424 Pioneer Ave.
Suite 306
Cheyenne WY 82001
(307) 777-3744
cricke@state.wy.us

HOUSING

Challenge: Niobrara County has neither a nursing home or assisted living facility for seniors.

Recommendation: Federal funding through the USDA Community Programs may be available for assisted living. Community Programs provides grants to assist in the development of essential community facilities in rural areas and towns of up to 20,000 in population. Applicants located in small communities with low populations and low incomes will receive a higher percentage of grants. Grants are available to public entities such as municipalities, counties, and special-purpose districts, as well as non-profit corporations and tribal governments. In addition, applicants must have the legal authority necessary for construction, operation, and maintenance of the proposed facility and also be unable to obtain needed funds from commercial sources at reasonable rates and terms. Grant funds may be used to assist in the development of essential

community facilities. Grant funds can be used to construct, enlarge, or improve community facilities for health care, public safety, and community and public services. This can include the purchase of equipment required for a facility's operation. A grant may be made in combination with other CF financial assistance such as a direct or guaranteed loan, applicant contributions, or loans and grants from other sources.

Contact:

Karlene Sjoden
1441 East M. Street Suite A.
Torrington, WY 82240
(307) 532-4880 ext. 4
(307) 532-5783 – Fax
E-mail to: karlene.sjoden@wy.usda.gov

See the USDA web site for more information:

http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rhs/ProgramBriefs/brief_cp_grant.htm

LEADERSHIP

Challenge: Leadership development, grant writing, continued improvement between governing bodies and communication were brought up in the town meetings as leadership issues. I commend the county commissioners and city council in working together on the community assessment.

Recommendation: There is more to grant writing than submitting applications – you must also know what money is available and where to find it. Two excellent sources of information on grants available are:

Grantseeker Tips is a free, bi-weekly electronic newsletter that helps you inspire, sustain, and trouble-shoot your grantseeking activities. To subscribe, send a blank message to <Lynn.Miner@Marquette.edu> with JOIN GRANTSEEKERTIPS in the subject line. To unsubscribe, hit reply with REMOVE GRANTSEEKERTIPS only in the subject line. To change your e-mail address, first unsubscribe, then subscribe.

The **RFP Bulletin** is a free on-line publication of the Foundation Center. To search or browse the Bulletin on the Web, visit: <http://fdncenter.org/pnd/rfp/>

Wyoming Health Resources Network is conducting a grant writing workshop May 7th in Lusk. For information or to register, contact:

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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?

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

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

- Lack of medical facilities
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- “
- “
- Lack of entertainment
- “
- “
- Declining population
- “
- Shrinking of the mills (tax)
- Low population base
- Lack of emergency medical care
- People are moving away
- Maintaining the workforce
- Getting the community to work together (city and county)
- Lack of information sharing
- Apathetic / lack of involvement
- Not enough shopping (have to leave town to get supplies)
- Not enough jobs and businesses
- Do we have assistance from the State of Wyoming in drug enforcement?
- Moved here and found that we have drugs here and I didn't think we did.
- Overdoses and under the influence reports in the paper
- Biggest problem is the medical – emergency room.
- We need medical for people to move here.
- Lusk – 24/7 health care.

- Lusk – health care.
- Lusk – town is dying and there doesn't seem to be an effort to bring in business or stabilize.
- No new businesses coming in – health care. – Lusk
- VT – health care
- VT – need for industry
- Lusk – health care and need for economic development
- Need for development of recreational facilities.
- Need for health care.
- Need a doctor in the community.
- Public not willing to become knowledgeable about problems – but quick to criticize.
- Ditto.
- Ditto to need for medical – something to keep people here – need for industry.
- Need our hospital back – just disappeared and don't know why.
- County – health care, need for doctor.
- County – health care is biggest concern.
- Law Enforcement has a full plate.
- Lusk – diversifying the economy and keep young people here
- Work on growing the community to the size required to support the public institutions
- Create jobs to stabilize the health care system.
- Lusk – 24/7 health care.
- Lusk – something to keep the youth occupied.
- Lusk – economic development.
- Lusk – economic development, new well paying jobs to keep people here
- Street improvements in residential areas.
- Lusk – need to restructure the medical facilities.
- Medical is huge issue.
- Developing new leadership in the community – bringing in new ideas
- Developing leadership skills in the younger generation.
- Need more volunteer
- Activities for the kids during the summer are needed
- Ball season only lasts one month.
- Kids are bored.
- Health care.
- Like to see more businesses coming in to town.
- Like to see the hospital up and running again.
- Need the hospital running
- EMT has to travel 50 miles to the closest facility
- Need to be able to stabilize trauma victims before transporting to Douglas or Torrington.
- Medical
- Need to work on what we already have instead of adding to

- Need to work on those aspects that are already going downhill.
- Agree with health care
- Being new in town – makes it hard as far as providing jobs for new people.
- Job opportunities – lack of.
- Need to see a lumber yard, a clothing store and a bowling alley.
- Lack of a nursing home.
- A plan in place for continuing the capital facilities tax for recreational facilities.
- Nursing home needed.
- Like to see the city and county work closer together.
- Challenge is the lack of a hospital – probably heard that 900 times in these meetings.
- Decline in enrollment in school
- Decline in population in county – not a good situation – lots of homes for sale, etc.
- Welfare community – with a welfare mentality – compared to other communities
- Look at statistics about assistance for school lunch – higher than other communities
- Lack of things for youth to do other than get in trouble.
- Lots of churches in the community – 13
- No ecumenical work – working together
- Ministerial association did not see their role in social activism.
- For a small community – high number of empty pulpits – difficulty in recruiting pastors.
- Lack of an active ministerial association.
- Lots of people in the community that receive welfare.
- Lack of good paying jobs in the community has forced people to seek assistance.
- Even people with jobs qualify for assistance
- Lack of decent jobs forces people to seek assistance.
- As far as church/community relationship – only one pastor is in attendance at the meeting.
Difficulty in filling pulpits.
- Community wide – combined vacation bible school for the past ten years.
- Not sure if there are any active Sunday schools other than one church.
- People want their families well taken care of in spiritual matters – that may influence whether people will locate here.
- Difficulty in recruiting minister
- Website - town of Lusk - doesn't have anything positive to promote.
- Difficult to recruit pastors – lack of jobs for their spouses.
- Need stimulation in the community for jobs.
- Moved here to get away from congestion
- Interested in church aspect of what is going on in the community.
- When it comes down to the basis of the church – there is no children's organizations in the community such as AWANA mid-week church activity for children. Church is starting middle-school youth night – one or two times per month.
- Church also has high school youth. – difficult to get volunteers to support.

- There is a lack of collaboration on youth programs between the churches. Need to work together.
- Need to clean up town – town is dirty and looks junky
- No one wants to go next door and ask someone to clean up – or enforce
- Town shows signs of dying community
- Weeds around homes for sale grow tall. Need to show more community pride and clean up.
- Needs a gallon of paint and a broom to clean up.
- Needs to have job opportunities for people who come into the community.
- Suggestion from other community – tax abatement for cleaner properties – could help clean up the town.
- Community is a microcosm of what happens in larger communities – such as Denver neighborhoods. Community reflects national trends.
- Lots of people live in rental properties and are not concerned about upkeep.
- Deserted buildings are not torn down.
- Older folks cannot get out and tear down old fences and so it doesn't happen.
- Volunteers could offer to help clean up. City could participate by hauling stuff to the landfill.

- Problem – don't want others to critique how we keep our own property.
- Are there local nuisance ordinances? Yes – so problem is lack of enforcement.
- Town could volunteer to haul stuff to the landfill. Town used to take a truck around neighborhoods and pick-up stuff. Difficult to borrow a truck to take junk to the landfill.
- Has the City worked with High School to do beautification or clean up? Some has been done through fund raising or community service.
- Attitude of “give me help because I deserve it.” Seems like the welfare mentality leads to higher alcohol abuse and drug use.
- Is there a history associated with log cabin? It has been here for 100 years. Museum board is working to help preserve the cabin. City's watering has rotted the logs. Piece of history – original homestead. Needs money to repair. Should have been addressed ten years ago.
- Hospital –no 24/7 service
- No nursing home or assisted living
- Young people are leaving and not returning
- No jobs or salaries to draw youth back
- No funds available for youth to get into agriculture
- Agriculture – keeping young people in agriculture
- Conflicts in school between teachers-principal/superintendent – problems are not worked out but people are fired
- More concerned about political correctness v. education, i.e., teaching in kindergarten
- Keep present business alive
- Bring people to the community
- No jobs to bring people to the community

- Health care
- Challenges – education of youth in agriculture – no FFA program; try to instill agriculture in all aspects of school curriculum
- Challenge – great ag in the classroom program, but need to expand the program to give all people education in agriculture that will allow informed decisions in the future
- Need to educate so people understand agriculture is important
- Challenge – in ranching, resource that is used in agriculture business, i.e., the landscape/land
- Californiaization of the the west – concerns about the landscape/wide open healthy spaces and rangelands
- Educate for best practices of land use for agriculture for rangeland use
- Zoning – not sure where county is
- Question: Why can't buy any lamb?
- Need for vo-tech for ag/FFA but does not want to see it conflict with 4-H – put agriculture (environment, soils, history of ag, etc.) in the entire educational program
- Agriculture least understood and needs to be
- Subdivisions coming in – taking land out of agriculture
- Federal government regulation i.e., endangered species
- Population density – finding it difficult to establish markets
- Need to diversify and establish fresher markets
- Small communities have problem with transportation/overhead – high cost of bringing one article in v. many. Same with transporting out—i.e., ag goods being transported in and out
- Commodity prices are low
- Federal government subsidies make it appear that producers are not taking care of their places – gives bad image of ag
- Supplement people who are producing food
- Environment – people from outside the community saying what needs to be fixed with no knowledge of issues within the community
- Keeping youth in community and allowing people to retain land – particularly issue of farm loan interest needs to be lowered
- Exporting and importing in relationship to high gas and fuel taxes – i.e., farm equipment uses a lot of fuel
- Road taxes benefit city – detriment to rural
- Protect rural environment/open land
- Health care issue – lack of hospital, emergency room, etc.
- Financially the school is looking at a huge financial crisis if they are cut by \$500,000
- Student enrollment has dropped
- Dwindling population and shrinking enrollment
- Need for employment opportunities, economic development
- Need for 24 hour health care
- Need for emergency care

- Rumors that Wyoming Women's Center may move if Lusk doesn't have health care.
- Concerns about school with anticipated loss of funds
- Ditto earlier comments
- Older community – older senior citizens – want to sell their homes but they don't have an alternative place to live.
- Question about how to lure younger people to the community to help town grow
- Need younger people to help town flourish
- Need doctor and get health care
- Need jobs in the community that support a family – especially single income
- Need good jobs with benefits
- Need things for kids to do.
- Need a recreational center to keep kids out of trouble
- Ditto earlier comments small schools, health care, and rec center
- In terms of education, challenge in meeting the needs of the students that don't fit into the traditional environment. Need help for GED applicants – how to help people who want the college education but can't travel to another community.
- How we are going to adapt ourselves to the rulings about education and how that affects local school boards – maintain local control.
- Child with learning disability – concern about getting additional help for students that have difficulties.
- Challenges are health care, business opportunities, one business is more successful than another – how to co-exist in the communities.
- Look at architectural structures that will support more than one program – concurrent use of facilities for multiple programs.
- Ditto on comment about supreme court rulings and local control of schools.
- Ditto earlier comments –
- Concur with alternative educational opportunities lacking.
- Ditto on need for recreational facility – need for constructive entertainment opportunities on the weekends.
- Some priority on stabilizing the health care situation – number one.
- Number two – diversify in the small business realm. Stabilize and grow the small business segment. Keep some youth in the community to balance with older population.
- Wyoming Women's Prison will be up in the air for a few years
- Need for voc-ag education in the community.
- Out of room in the schools – need accommodate programs within the current buildings.
- Sports has become an almost over-powering force within the school – competes with ability to run good 4-H program.
- Kids go to ball camps, can't go to state fair because of sports practice.
- Non-athletes are left out – become second class citizen – balance between academics and sports.

- Ditto to imbalance between academics and sports with sports being more important than academics.
- Appear to be no opportunities for non-sports students.
- Voc-ag -- a few years ago School Board told someone they don't have money for voc-ag but have money for new gymnasium. Gymnasium idea fell through.
- Not enough parent involvement in schools – 2 parents at last meeting
- Town and county do not work well together – challenges everything in the community
- Health care
- Ditto to everything
- Re health care issue -- updating facilities, equipment, EMT barn, need new ambulances and two of them, need things for babies – building will need improvement if get new ambulances
- Need to give people a reason to stop in Lusk
- Store fronts and parking – need to make the town visually inviting.
- So few people to draw from membership in civic organizations.
- As population ages, no one new to assume responsibilities.
- Civic mindedness needs to be rejuvenated to improve membership.
- City needs to enforce rules about keeping lots clean, removing junk cars. People need to take pride in property – keep it clean, neat and tidy.
- Housing for developmentally challenged adults and children – very difficult to find housing to use as group homes.
- Not much housing in the mid-range of affordability, nor newer homes that would be approved by the state.
- Lot of shopping takes place elsewhere – can't get things here. Taking money elsewhere with shopping, grocery shopping, movies, etc.
- Doctor's visits out of town – will do shopping when out of town.
- Recreation for youth. No bowling, no roller rink, no skating pond, no movie house, no skateboard park, etc. Helps keep them out of trouble.
- No educational field trips, though have places close by.
- Small towns – can't afford full time economic developer, county planners, city planners, grant writers, etc. Many things picked up by volunteers. Hard to compete with counties that have these positions.
- Fear to do economic development – most development has happened from people moving into Lusk.
- Issues of acceptance with businesses developed by new community members.
- Health care number one issue.
- Co-op of electrical and utility that is made up of six men to handle the entire county every day. The county is larger than the state of Delaware. One small industry would improve things tremendously.
- No garage/service available.
- Need to have best cooperation between towns and counties because of size. Perhaps duplicate services, etc., in order to use resources more efficiently and effectively.

- Tax base/money base restricted.
- Challenge in recruitment to jobs here because of lack of health care – 24 hour emergency care.
- Problems with drug and alcohol among children – experienced loss of children from it – marijuana, cocaine, meth.
- Ditto everything said.
- Not easy to live here – most people are doing several jobs, diversifying in order to survive.
- Very few stand-alone businesses that are not doing something else.
- Image of conflict between many different entities, but improving.
- Need to keep youth here – with jobs, opportunities
- New people coming into the community – can't get jobs.
- Economic viability – quality of life issues
- Lack of critical mass
- Communication problem in trying to identify Economic issues
- Health care – being able to keep people in the community
- “
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- Health care 24/7
- “
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- Advance training for ambulance service
- Health care
- “
- The community has done the health care process so many times that they don't think it can happen
- Health care
- “
- Community needs to support the health care that we do have and when we get more we need to support that too.
- Health care
- Communication to the public
- Challenge in recruiting and maintain professionals
- 24/7 health care
- ditto everything
- 24/7 health care

- more emergency services
- health care 24/7, and strengthen what we have
- ditto everything, 24/7 biggest issue
- Need shopping and services – we don't have what we use to
- Lack of leadership
- Lack of economically feasible jobs – which also hinders economic development
- Lack of support for businesses
- Lack of strong leadership
- Bust and boom cycle – need to stabilize the economy
- Lack of population – unable to recruit people to come
- Lack of understanding between what we want and what is needed and what is feasible
- “
- Lack of economic development
- Lack of services – hinder population and business growth
- Ambulance needs to be more than just volunteer – it is very time consuming
- Lack of elderly care – nursing home
- “
- Lack of funds
- Healthcare
- Economic development – lack of industry and jobs to keep that will keep our quality of life
- Ditto everything
- Lacking things to keep you here
- Funding
- Lack of new businesses
- Ditto
- Health care
- Funding
- Lack of a diversified economy
- Funding
- Ditto everything
- Lack of ability to recruit and maintain our law enforcement
- “
- Ditto everything
- We have the lowest paid employees – the county employees do not have benefits or retirement only county that doesn't
- Lack of EMD training in dispatch
- Lack of keeping businesses and employees
- Lack of corporation between county and city
- Lack of help from Qwest and others to improve and maintain our infrastructure
- Healthcare

- The employees get trained then the leave
- The state is talking about pulling funding from the small schools
- Ditto everything
- Lack of funding in every department
- Lack of employee benefits
- We have not tapped into all the resources that are available to us, state is an obstacle with all there regulations.
- The attitudes of the people – they don't not want to change.
- “
- The youth have the attitudes that no one cares if they leave or come back
- No one believes that this will change anything
- Nobody use the grant money is out there.
- People don't want to change
- Lack of city leadership
- Lack of health care and quality health care
- Ditto everything
- Ditto everything
- Lack of communication between and the county and the city
- “
- For some ranchers it is closer to go to other cities rather than have the Lusk ambulance come out
- The cost of the maintenance and utilities have increased more than what is budgeted for.
- It is becoming very expensive to maintain the building that we have
- There are many who will not move here because of the lack of the medical facilities. Lack of health care in the state
- Big tax problem – people are not paying their fair share of taxes
- Ditto everything
- Qwest does not have any technicians here.
- Youth do not have anything to do besides get in trouble (no place to hang out)
- “
- Money spent on investigation of the corrupt law enforcement
- Drug and alcohol
- Loss of the hospital – people had leave the county as the result
- “
- Very little economic growth – Lusk is drying up and blowing away
- There is nothing for the youth to come back to
- Loss of population – the student population has declined greatly
- The mind set of the community tends to point out all the wrong instead of the things that have been improved and fixed and are getting better
- The attitude tends to destroy the positive attitudes

- The school does not have and ag. program (i.e. FFA). The are the only school that doesn't
- “
- Economic development – there are not any professional jobs to come back to
- Lack of opportunities for the youth to come back to
- “
- The roads need to be improved
- The signage needs to be improved
- The community is so set size wise, if you are out of town you are out of town. There is not enough property for sell. It is very expensive to buy the property from the ranchers. It is too difficult and expensive to build in this town. This hinders growth.
- Lack of medical care facilities
- Lack of variety – clothes (underwear, etc.)
- Lack of entertainment (variety of ages)
- Lack of medical care – critical
- Lack of money in the community to support new businesses
- No small industry(ies) in community to create jobs and bring in additional families
- Too many empty buildings downtown
- Lack of 24/7 healthcare
- Lack of senior housing
- Lack of nursing home facilities
- Hospital/nursing home
- Funding being taken away from county for education
- 24 hour medical care
- Doctor – full-time
- Lack of employment
- Police staff only on duty less than 24 hours – need to have staff at night
- People are left at hospitals in other towns and no way to get back home. No nurse or family to take them home. No information about who could.
- No law enforcement in the evening hours
- Medical services lacking
- No hospital/nursing home
- Large number of houses for sale
- Decreased population
- No industry
- Poor ag economy
- Drought
- Need a hospital
- PAs doing a good job
- Major problems – need to go out of town – Scottsbluff, Casper, Torrington
- Hospital is main problem

- Need a nursing home again – frightening situation
- Need more people to support businesses – more tax revenue
- Need emergency room
- Need 24/7 coverage – by PAs
- Need more jobs – good job = manufacturing, service jobs, state jobs, any job
- Transportation – for seniors to out-of-town locations
- Ambulance cost not covered in non-emergencies
- Need to transport seniors from out of town hospitals back to communities
- Trend – ranches leaving productive ag use – change in ranch ownership to non-ranch use
- Lack of jobs
- Health care
- Telephone service – Qwest will sell
- Health care – lack of hospital
- 24 hour health care
- Businesses not supported
- No nursing home
- No industry
- Ranchers want to keep labor costs low
- Women’s prison overcrowded
- Health care out of town
- People shop out of town
- No 24 hour law enforcement
- Need to support doctors
- Lack of economic base to support the community
- Lack of businesses and industry
- Lack of medical services (ditto two times)
- Lack of nursing home
- High utility (gas) bills
- Lack of jobs
- School losing \$475,000 in funds next year – cutting programs
- Lack of shopping – variety of goods
- People (young people) leaving town – not moving in
- Lack of “young” community members
- Lack of a doctor
- There have been opportunities for new industry in town, and all of them have been forced out or told “not here.”
- New highway
- Casinos wanted to come here – look at Deadwood
- No hospital
- No doctor

- No jobs
- No civic pride because of total lack of money
- No industry to keep young people employed
- No recreation for younger generation
- School board and others seem to think it's more important to spend money on sports than good education.
- Young people are allowed to disobey the law with speeding and careless driving.
- Price of utilities is rising – elderly and low income cannot afford them
- Need more places to hang out
- Community is dying with no hospital and no businesses. Women's Center may close too.
- Kids have nothing to do
- We are a small town and don't meet a whole lot of different people.
- Too much exposure to alcohol.
- Nothing for the teens to do.
- Loss of hospital
- Finding something to do
- No jobs
- No bowling alley
- Nothing to do
- Roads
- No privacy – everyone knows everything
- Nothing to do but drag Main
- No jobs for younger kids
- No hospital
- No money
- No growth
- Don't let this town grow and get better
- Too small
- Bad roads
- No economic stimulants that are bringing in new businesses and families
- Recreational Center
- Nothing to do.
- Most people resort to drugs, alcohol, or speeding
- Hospital has taken a lot of the town away
- No hospital
- No extracurricular activities
- No jobs
- Nothing to do
- Nothing to do – so people look for something to do and get into trouble
- Teens get in trouble because they have nothing to do

- Not enough activities in town
- Too much drug and alcohol use in our community
- Not enough job opportunities
- Too much emphasis on sports
- 24 hour medical care facility/nursing home facility
- Recreational activities for younger people
- Water quality not consistent
- Medical
- Economic development
- Income level
- No hospital
- No nursing home
- Non-acceptance of people not born and raised here
- Inactive city government.
- High level of drug and alcohol abuse – not just teens but also adults
- Laws not enforced
- This is ag based community, but no FFA or ag program in school system – come on!
- Community/school employees are old and will retire all at once.
- Economic growth outside of service industries.
- Attract small businesses of the clean variety – 2-3 businesses that employ 25-30 people.
- Drinking and finding fun things to do – not a damn thing to do in this town
- Drinking
- Boredom
- Nothing to do
- Not enough people in this town
- Not enough jobs for kids
- A lot of drugs
- Too many alcoholics and town is going downhill pretty quick.
- Not much to do – not many activities
- Loss of hospital
- No hospital
- Drinking and driving
- Nothing for young people to do
- Crime – vandalism, drugs
- Not enough activities
- No movie theaters, arcades, or fun things to do
- Dependency on alcohol and drugs
- Nothing for youth to do, so everyone turns to the bad
- Not enough community service or ambition
- We need our hospital back.

- Law enforcement is corrupt and uses drugs. They don't arrest certain people because of their name. This town is run on last names – not on law and protecting.
- Nothing to do
- Loss of hospital
- Trying to keep a hospital
- Drugs
- Nothing to do
- Loss of hospital
- No hospital
- Drinking
- Isolated from large population
- No hospital/ER
- Lack of jobs so town cannot grow
- I don't live in this community.
- Nothing to do
- Road maintenance during winter
- Alcohol and drug use are major problems. There is a lot of death with alcohol lately.
- No activities
- No hospitals
- No convenience of daily stuffs
- No hospital/nursing home
- Nothing to do
- No hospital
- No places to have fun – dances, games, etc.
- No job opportunities – nothing to come back to
- Economy isn't very strong
- Hospital
- Major problems are not enough to do for young people.
- Not having a hospital hurts community. When someone has emergency, the closest hospital is 50 miles away.
- Need other things, besides school activities, to keep kids out of trouble.
- Economy doesn't bring in many people.
- Nothing for us to do
- Nothing to do here
- Nothing to do
- No hospital
- Not enough for kids/teenagers to do – no extracurricular activities for kids – just sports.
- Not enough jobs to keep our community growing.
- We are losing people.
- Lusk is no longer ag based, and that's what it needs to go back to.

- Niobrara needs to go back to agriculture and stay away from trying to become a city.
- Lusk is racist too.
- We need FFA.
- Too much vandalism and drugs.
- Nothing to do
- No hospital
- Nothing to do
- No 24 hour health care.
- We need hospital again.
- Not much to do, so people party a lot.
- Nothing to do – kids get bored and start doing bad things. We need hangout place to keep us out of trouble.
- Nothing to do
- No hospital
- Nothing to do
- No hospital
- Not many people
- Nothing to do
- No economic growth
- Nothing to do
- Low population
- No hospital
- A severely bad step was taken regarding the fiber optic cable that was laid in Lusk and then sold.
- Lusk’s confidence has been shaken.
- “Old Guard” leadership is hanging on, but fading. New leadership hasn’t quite emerged. There are fewer and fewer people under 60 to take on leadership roles. There is nostalgia for old days.
- Lack of knowledge in many quarters about community development and outside resources. We keep recycling ideas – some of them outdated. We have a highly literate, hardworking populace, but we need to recharge and reach out.
- Medical
- Hospital
- Nursing home
- Kids can’t come here after they get out of school
- Red tape to get loan and too long to get help from small business
- No labor – pool to pick from
- Hospital/24/7 or critical access hospital
- Nursing home and/or assisted living facility
- Full-time doctor – have two PAs. They need to work together and share one facility instead

of wasting two (i.e., waiting room, receptionist, utilities, and other fees that could be shared, and those dollars used better to serve patients).

- No hospital or 24 hour/7 day a week medical care
- No nursing home or assisted living facility for more than four people
- No full-time doctor – only PAs
- Young people moving out – after college no returning as no jobs for them.
- Hard to get started in agriculture without big \$
- I am concerned about agriculture and young people being able to stay in our area and be in the agriculture business.
- No 24/7 healthcare. We do need to have medical care available 24 hours per day.
- Small rural community with few amenities to offer residents.
- We have lost hospital – we need it back.
- No programs and facilities to attract new families to our community.
- No recreation center – whatever costs are involved would be offset by the rewards a facility would offer our community.
- Tax base is very low – perhaps taxes need to be increased.
- Need community manager to combine city and county. There are too many duplicate positions in county and city government.
- Too many adults that don't want to work.
- Big corporations buying up the land.
- No 24/7 healthcare.
- Nothing for kids to do
- Need movie theater.
- Need anything to keep kids off streets and drinking and doing drugs.
- Alcohol and drugs are major problem. Kids finish with sports at night, and since there isn't anything else to do, they want to have a little fun. Then they have too much fun, and someone ends up dead.
- Number of people, low census
- Alcohol
- Alcohol is major problem for all age groups. Drinking is acceptable form of entertainment and recreation. Youth learn by example, and when they see all the adults drinking, they think it's acceptable.
- "Us and them" attitude between mayor and chairman of County Commissioners. Need to start working together.
- Lack of quality health care and mentor facilities.
- No organized effort for recruitment efforts when people or organizations are looking for employees or attracting new business.
- Need good leadership.
- Medical facilities – 24/7 health care, nursing home, wellness activities, better access to family planning.

- Need to develop economic viability of town: encourage business, “grow your own” health care providers, business coalition.
- Schools are not thought of as great by all. Charter school has been proposed, with over 50 students interested in attending.
- Fear of change, speaking out, ridicule a big issue.
- Poor leadership – where’s the mayor and council?
- Big companies (Qwest and Communicom) won’t even keep a technician in town.
- Junk in yards – overgrown yards.
- Drug traffic and use in our community. Law enforcement doesn’t do anything. We are located on two major highways. We are probably on a major route between Denver, Rapid City, and Casper.
- No job opportunities
- No economic growth
- No hospital – we need one.
- More businesses
- Nothing to do
- Alcohol and boredom – we tend to turn to any other option that leads to trouble.
- Nothing to do
- Need a hospital
- No economic growth or stimulus. Community is slowly but surely dying away, and no new business is allowed to come in – nor do many wish to.
- Young people have no incentive to stay or return, and population is decreasing. Eventually Lusk will cease to exist.
- Major problem is closing of hospital. Our EMS team has to drive a long way to the closest hospital.
- Nothing to do to have fun
- No hospital open 7 days a week
- Too many kids are exposed to drugs and alcohol
- Not enough jobs for people with high quality education
- Nothing for teenagers to do on weekends
- Need a hospital
- Nothing to do – we need something to do!!!!
- Nothing offered for our youth. Bowling alley was recently shut down.
- Youth of community don’t have many options/extracurricular activities – places to hang out.
- Roads need to be fixed more often
- More activity for students
- No hospital
- Nothing for kids to do
- Besides school and school activities, nothing for kids to do – hard to have fun without getting into trouble.

- No hospital
- Nothing to do
- No agricultural program in school
- Loss of hospital
- Need new administrators
- Drugs and alcohol – kids drink and do drugs because there is nothing else to do. No place to go on weekends. Need recreational center or bowling alley – would help situation.
- Town is too small.
- We need more for kids and adults to do.
- Too much exposure to alcohol and drugs, and we need something to get the kids away from that.
- No agricultural program – too many people are leaving and not coming back because of lack of ag in the classroom.
- Nothing to do
- Schools need new administrators
- Job market is fairly limited – constantly fewer jobs
- No ag program in school or community – other than 4-H
- Getting time in the gym for practice
- Nothing to do
- Not enough activities for teenagers to do – not enough extracurricular activities
- Not enough job opportunities
- Teenagers that drink don't care if they get caught because law enforcement doesn't do anything about it.
- Law enforcement officers follow and threaten the teenagers that “cruise” Main.
- No hospital
- No activities, so many revert to drugs, alcohol, and gossip
- Economic growth
- Seclusion of our area
- Lack of growth
- Loss of hospital
- Loss of population and lack of growth are major problems
- Nothing to do
- No economical growth to allow anything new to come to town.
- Growth
- Not anything to do, which gets some people in trouble.
- Mindset of populace is such that any changes that are made will be criticized and dented to the point where all enthusiasm is gone.
- Nothing for youth to come back to. People entering the medical field – there is nothing here for them to come back to.
- We are a poor community!

- Building more jobs (higher paying jobs) would build our population.
- Nothing for young people to do.
- Nothing for teens to do to keep them out of trouble.
- Nothing for kids – we all get into trouble
- Nothing for teenagers and younger kids to do.
- Hard to get people to stay in the community because of no job employment. Nothing is offered that people want to come back to.
- No hospital
- No hospital
- Not enough businesses
- Nothing to do
- No hospital
- Nothing to do
- No ag program in school
- Roads
- Nothing to do (movie theater, pool, hang out)
- Nothing to do
- Roads
- No hospital
- No ag department
- No agriculture program in school. This county's main source of income is agriculture, and we aren't learning what this county does.
- Need gym for kids that live in the country.
- Bad roads
- No hospital
- Nothing to do
- More to do on weekends.
- Roads need to be re-done and made easier to travel
- No place to hang out
- No hospital
- Nothing for teens to do – so kids end up in trouble.
- Loss of hospital – people lost their jobs. It's affecting the prison, and we need that.
- No hospital
- No hospital
- Lack of 24 hour health care and hospital care keeps people from come and drives people out of town.
- Too many children are being allowed to graduate from high school without being able to read at 8th grade level.
- Too many natives to the area that are scared of change or just don't want it!
- Lack of confidence in the current and past hospital board members, as well as the current

clinic and hospital employees (excluding PA, Mike Ottersback).

- We allow children to reach middle school without ability to read anywhere near grade level – just put them in LD or Special Ed and push them through.
- Empty storefronts
- Eyesore sections of downtown
- No cohesive plan to fill storefronts
- No plans for attracting tourists after the Heartland Express is complete
- Businesses and churches in our community do not have doors for people who are handicapped
- Repair the streets, paint the buildings, leave our town the way it is. Don't cut down trees – only when absolutely necessary.

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

- Church holds mid-week program and Sunday school and adult bible study.
- Clean environment
- People
- School system
- “
- “
- “
- Low crime
- Small town atmosphere
- People work together
- Library
- Parks
- Highway (brings tourism)
- Location (the tourism season is good)
- Fire Dept.
- Low crime
- Safe place for kids
- Historical setting (trails and ruts, digs)
- “
- Wildlife (hunting)
- “
- Good community activities (committees and pageant)
- Women's prison
- Railroad
- The cost of living low
- “

- Not the big city
- Distance from the larger towns helps to keep people shopping here
- History and pride of the community
- Most of the people in town willing to work together even if they don't agree – i.e. walking path.
- People work together to accomplish goals, eg the crowd that showed up today
- Low crime rate – safe community.
- Safe community.
- Safe place to raise a family.
- Low crime rate.
- School system is the top thing – people come together to address a situation.
- Good school system
- Impressed with the school system.
- School system – academics and athletics.
- School district throughout the county
- Great school system.
- Schools
- School system
- Niobrara County Health Committee is working hard to solve that issue.
- Low utility rates – people are friendly and loyal to the community
- Cheap place to live
- Sporting activities for adults – eg hunting and camping.
- Lusk infrastructure has been carrying the economy – highway department, new water system, green belt, library improvements, railway project. Public money coming into the community has carried the economy.
- Pretty good place – people watch after the kids in town and take care of each other.
- People watching out for each other – reporting problems to the police department.
- Volunteers for EMS and fire department.
- Grants money coming into the community – but when it is over it will hurt.
- Ample building for advancement for other businesses – vacant space.
- Volunteerism available in the community – projects like library, health coalition.
- Collaboration of the residents between agencies. Closeknit county – don't really consider themselves three different communities.
- Railroad – that's why the town is here.
- Recreation for kids
- One of the newest assets is the new enhanced 911 system.
- Support for young people
- Community supports the senior citizens
- Wonderful senior center.
- Great people – friendly business people

- EMT and fire department.
- Low taxes
- Wyoming Women's Center – tremendous asset. Fighting to keep them here.
- Nice golf course – used a lot – (criticized a lot also)
- Women in town have accomplished a lot in the town – grant writing, library etc. They don't golf.
- Fairgrounds
- Some of the strengths of the churches are the abundance – meets the denominational needs. Most of the churches are in fairly good upkeep.
- Combined VBS for the community is an asset. Done with less volunteer staff.
- Community is open to community-wide activities.
- Strength – if you don't have a minister – people get more involved – lead the service, etc. When there is a pastor sometimes the congregation is passive – not involved.
- Vacation Bible School, as a community effort is very good.
- Lay leadership in most of the churches is a very good strength – good stick-to-it-ness even without an official minister. Community perseveres.
- Cooperation is a strong leadership. Catholic and Episcopal Churches hold combined CCD classes.
- People within their own church body are church-oriented as a rule.
- Ability to talk about Christian things in the paper. Pastors write articles. This is a taboo thing in most areas of the country. Notes thanking God is just not done in other places.
- Openness of people to open their arms and get to know their neighbor. Still a community here – this is a good thing.
- Biggest asset is the people in the community
- Newcomer feels welcome – some outsiders will never feel welcome – but most do.
- Amazed at the guys that run the ambulances.
- Good people
- People move into the community – existing people don't get to know them.
- People moving into the community because they like something here.
- Ditto – doing community project is important and can get done – eg. re-roofing a house.
- Chore to work around baseball, wrestling, basketball sports schedule.
- Good EMTs and firefighters.
- Good moral fiber
- People communicate well get along well
- Good people
- Good schools and teachers
- People work hard for children
- Size allows people to know each other depend and rely on each other
- Low crime rate
- Safe

- Problem – everybody knows everybody willing to help each other
- Clean air
- Wonderful community – good school
- Progressive community
- Strong community spirit
- Great quality of life here
- People come together without need for individual recognition – just work to get the job done
- Great place to raise a family
- High-tech communications – very important for small businesses and ranchers
- Productive county – species, rain fall, temperature, soils, etc.
- Good land/good cattle because of what’s in the county
- No natural disasters
- Good kids – good parenting
- Want to keep great things “secret” – don’t want a lot of people here
- Important to keep what we have – regulated land use important
- Major asset is the community’s resilience
- Can bond and unite talents when things come up.
- Rural community and town are realizing interconnected.
- School has started working with the Conservation District.
- Teachers and ranchers are working together to educate.
- Ditto earlier comments
- Ditto earlier comments
- Lusk is a really nice place to live.
- Small children are getting a very good education in school and out of school.
- A lot of activities that are geared to their age: wrestling, dance, piano.
- Ditto earlier comments
- Best school systems – compared to other school systems. People who were educated here are able to go on and have good careers: doctors, lawyers, engineers, etc.
- Ditto comment on excellent school system.
- Young people who left and came back because everything they want is here--are prime movers in the town.
- Ditto earlier comments.
- Interconnectedness of the community is a real strength. People share their abilities.
- Schoolteachers contribute to community education – and not for the pay.
- Kids have gotten a good education – especially Title One program for kids that need extra help – remediation in math and reading.
- Ditto excellent education. Kids finished college in three years.
- Wonderful 4-H program.
- Kids are well-rounded.
- Feel safe.

- Kids are safe and you can walk. If there are strange cars around town – the cops know about it.
- Strong public library - work very hard on fundraising efforts to become self-sufficient with an endowment.
- People are number one major strength.
- Ditto – One of the strongest assets is the agriculture community.
- School system has aging faculty and needs to look at new blood when the time comes.
- Great school system – especially compared with others. In community five years.
- Volunteers – Legend of Rawhide – put on production.
- Small school system is a strength.
- People are a strength.
- Kids may have a lack of recreation – but there is a lot: dance, Destination/Imagination
- Recycling effort is an asset – kids are learning about recycling.
- Excellent volunteer fire department – gets called out a lot in July and August.
- EMT department is very strapped but doing a very good job. Huge asset.
- People of the community. People are willing to pitch in.
- Special Ed program is an asset.
- Music is an asset – pool of people who are artistically talented.
- Community education is an asset: eg Yoga.
- Newspaper
- Museum
- When something happens – community comes together.
- Lots of assets – need to make them work: museum, dinosaur finds, etc. NRCS good about working with kids in this location.
- Highway that runs through Lusk is major strength. Brings a lot of traffic/people through town.
- People
- Ditto everything – lots of strengths
- Lot of people who will step forward – library, green belt (?) – good people here
- Image of conflict between many different entities, but improving
- Women’s center
- People buying out old ranches
- Getting great people coming from Colorado – lots of new ideas
- People who are coming here – those people have found Lusk we did not market Lusk to them – they are looking for the Lusk lifestyle – wonderful people.
- Hwy 85 keeps community alive – motels and restaurants alive.
- Community solid and together. If united on projects, it will get done. For example, community is united on health care – something will get done.
- People
- Great volunteer base.

- Educators doing a tremendous job – low high school drop out rate, great success in college. Sports strong and successful.
- Bringing in college classes.
- Youth and parents.
- Great educational system
- Way of life.
- Railroad
- Senior citizens – volunteer, involved.
- Ditto everything
- Anyone can call anybody for any reason and know they will be helped.
- New people coming in – can't find jobs but are pioneers, willing to start new businesses
- Cozy Corner Inn for assisted living – opened up after nursing home closed
- Wonderful EMTs
- Ditto everything
- Economic development for businesses – people bought shares and then the money was loaned back out to people who wanted to start businesses. Worked as revolving loan fund.
- Diversity in population
- Intelligent people
- Enthusiasm of the people
- Strength of the people
- “
- Law enforcement
- Excellent EMTs
- People in general
- School system
- “
- “
- “
- Location
- School
- Volunteers
- “
- “
- “
- Fire dept.
- EMTs
- Enhanced 911 system
- Ditto everything
- We need to give compliments to the hospital board and coalition
- “

- Small town - home feeling
- Ditto everything
- Blue sky and the sunshine and the breeze
- Setting of the town – it is welcoming
- People pull together
- Ditto everything
- Ditto everything
- Ditto everything
- Ditto everything
- Sports programs
- Active youth
- Location – cross roads
- “
- “
- Ditto everything
- Wonderful community to raise kids
- School system
- The community pulls together especially in times of needs
- “
- County commissioners
- Law enforcement
- We have the frontier spirit – we are realistic about what we can and can’t have
- Ditto everything
- It is a safe community and there is low crime
- Wealth of land
- Willingness of everyone to help
- Everyone knows your name
- You know everyone’s name if you can remember it
- Lowest crime rate
- People and volunteers are great – they keep this community running
- “
- “
- Education system is great – both youth and adult
- Ditto everything
- Law enforcement
- Ditto everything
- The law enforcement both city and county
- Women’s Center
- Great employees
- People give and give and give and then find some more to give

- The community is the whole county and they all pull together
- Ditto everything
- Ditto everything
- Community members that leave here still remember how great it is here
- We are small and safe
- Law enforcement can get to place fast
- Rawhide pageant, which is all volunteer
- Location with the highways
- Community spirit
- Fiscally sound city
- Some great businesses -Byan Systems, Cross A ranch etc.
- Community support – there is always someone there for you
- “
- Employers are very supportive of the youth especially with their activities (very supportive of the sports)
- School (there are a lot of opportunities in the school for the students)
- The school is very well maintained there are a lot of new additions
- “
- The academic achievement of the students (a lot of the students are on the honor roll)
- School system
- Involved library
- Community togetherness
- People willing to give of their time and money to support the community
- School system
- People in the community
- Senior Center
- Golf course
- Good PAs
- Clean town
- Senior transportation
- Good restaurants/motel
- Community pulls together/works together
- Ambulance – volunteers
- Strong volunteers – everybody tries to help
- Senior Center and staff do outstanding job for stepping in to cover lack of hospital – if emergency, people figure it out.
- The Range
- Volunteer firefighters
- Two good drug stores
- Senior Center helps and people know that – supplies/food/social services/transportation

- Public transportation that takes people to the doctor, etc., with handicap accessibility
- School system – rated very highly
- Sense of safety – everybody looks at for each other and neighbors
- Safe place – need to keep it that way with more police
- Friendly
- Streets are marked well
- Schools are good – above average
- Ranching
- Livestock – about only industry
- Women’s Center
- Senior Center
- Nice churches
- Like the people
- Christian area
- People pull together
- Schools and community support of schools
- Caring people
- Schools – kids to high places
- Women’s prison
- Railroad
- EMT – Fire Dept.
- Ranchers
- Byan Systems expanding
- Schools
- Best sports team
- Golf course
- Low crime rate
- Friendly town
- People work together to get things done
- People are concerned for one another
- Senior Center – best one from Phoenix to Douglas
- Good school system – computer lab
- Dedicated business people on Main Street – stay in community even though they could make more money elsewhere.
- Women’s Center
- Good 4-H organization
- Location, location, location – located at the junction of four big highways = tourist \$\$
- Everyone is concerned for the welfare and feelings of the rest of the community
- People look out for each other and their property
- Everyone you meet on the street will greet you.

- School has great technology available to the students.
- City and county are able to share some of their resources.
- Town-run utilities, which helps hold the costs.
- School needs more stuff.
- We can communicate with just about everyone.
- Good school
- School
- My family lives here.
- Academics, school
- Strong community support
- Small school allows more one-on-one
- People know people
- Employers are lenient for sports, etc.
- You can trust people.
- A lot of support in school projects.
- Education that kids receive
- People in the town
- School
- Employers
- Community
- School
- Community support
- Community support
- Sports
- Very young and very old are solid and sound in this town.
- No major trouble, but yet there is trouble.
- Pull together to help each other.
- Small and private – like one big family
- Educational systems are strong.
- Religious community is strong.
- 4-H program
- People – its citizens
- Values
- School system
- Youth (the kids)
- Good schools, with room to grow
- Community pride and support
- Strong sports following
- Strong sense of community
- Strong educational teachers – facilities

- Sense of community and belonging
- Safety
- Some county events
- Community events
- Everyone is nice.
- Good school
- Awesome athletic program – town is very involved in the sports.
- Town is good, but too many bad things here
- Schools
- Schools
- Everyone knows everyone
- Good schools
- Good agriculture
- Everyone knows everyone
- Good schools
- Good golf course
- Sports in high school
- Support with certain things is usually good, but the support is not always there.
- School
- Some food places
- Closeness of the community
- Sports
- School
- Everyone is there through good and bad times.
- Fast food places
- Nice school
- Schools
- Everyone knows everyone
- Small
- Everyone knows everyone
- Support
- Close bond between people because of the small community.
- I don't know – I just go to school here.
- Sports, because it gets the community together as one.
- Hospitality – it's a small town, so everyone knows each other. That's how I like it.
- Friendliness
- Women's prison – but with no hospital they can't build on to it.
- Community
- We are all one together.
- Small, and we know everyone or almost everyone.

- Small community – everyone knows each other.
- People are there for you.
- Nice school
- Small community, and we are very close.
- Everyone knows everyone.
- People give you lots of attention when you need it. There is always help or someone to go to.
- Community friendship
- Excellent education
- Good school
- A lot of community support
- Good school
- Good school
- People working together
- Community is very supportive
- Golf course is major strength
- Lots of opportunities to get involved school-wise
- Small – family like
- Community support
- Good school
- Lots of community support
- Schools
- Community support
- Tight knit community that supports one another. People want others to succeed.
- Most everyone is friendly.
- No violence in schools
- Sports
- Good education
- Everyone knows everyone
- Everyone works well together
- Lots of support
- Many opportunities in school and community to try different things
- Community closeness
- School system
- Community support
- Community spirit
- Viable community institutions (library, senior citizen center, schools, museum, fairground complex)
- Living example of “it takes a village to raise a child” – adults everywhere knows the kids and their activities.
- Small town

- Look out for each other
- Major crossroad
- Business opportunities
- 60-100 miles to major store
- Quality of life and friendly neighbor to help
- Willingness of residents to work together for common good
- Everyone knows everyone
- Good moral fiber – good churches, good work ethic
- Willingness of community to work together for common goals
- Everyone knows everyone
- Big cattle industry
- People working together for good of our county
- People support each other
- Good school district
- Exceptional people – supportive, hard working
- Exceptional school system
- Education
- Volunteers
- Great citizens – much knowledge
- Women’s Center
- Union Pacific Railroad
- Niobrara Electric Assoc.
- Wyoming Women’s Center
- Major highway through town
- People and their strengths, talents, abilities, skills
- Wonderful school system
- Local newspaper very active in the community
- Positive, energetic Chamber of Commerce
- Everyone sticks together – willing to work to get things done.
- Location
- Weather
- People with good sense of humor
- People with good work ethic
- Community closeness
- Good high school
- Good community – lots of support
- No vandalism
- Close community
- Academic achievement
- High school students can’t vote

- Community closeness
- School
- Everyone gets along with everyone
- Community is very supportive
- Academic achievement is big thing
- Strong willed people who want to make community better
- Support fans give sports activities
- Sports
- Even though we are lacking activities or recreation, problems with alcohol or drugs aren't a major problem, but if we wait long enough, it can and will be.
- Community is big family – very supportive
- Opportunities in schools
- Farming – ranchers
- Community
- School
- Community is supportive – we pull together in times of need.
- Good school system
- Lots of community support
- School system
- People support school sports
- Community is involved – everyone does everything – great support
- School system
- Good community
- Close knit community
- Many opportunities in such a small place
- People are very supportive of all activities
- People
- Fairgrounds
- Conoco
- Everyone
- Community is very supportive
- Opportunities to get involved school-wise
- Community members are very supportive of high school activities
- Everyone does incredibly good job of communicating and working as a group.
- Everyone knows everyone
- Quality of the school
- Small – everyone mostly gets along
- School is one of the best
- Clubs
- School

- Sports
- Very closely knit
- People come together during hard times
- Supports our activities
- It's small
- Good school
- Follows and supports young students
- Close-knit community that supports one another
- Schools
- School
- Support of school
- 4-H
- School
- Safe community
- People come and support all athletics
- Everyone knows everyone, and we help each other out
- School
- Community projects, such as The Legend of Rawhide
- People supporting our sports programs
- Support
- School
- Town is extremely close
- School is great
- Neighbors look out for you
- Good school system
- Community support
- Good school system
- Everyone knows each other
- Support – we are all one together
- Everyone cares about everyone
- The two PAs are doing a good job
- Good teachers
- People are looking to move here
- Most people would like to be able to use the clinic and hospital
- Community support for school children
- Friendly, helpful people
- Excellent location
- Solid tourist and agricultural base
- Prison (employment)
- Port of Entry

- Good grocery and pharmacists
- Good library
- Good schools – active sports program
- Low crime
- Oldest newspaper in the state

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

- Work on River Walk and Park along river (unfinished projects)
- Make Alum weekend a bigger activity
- Bring back the Hospital and Nursing Home
- Build a YMCA or other physical activity
- “
- Bring in entertainment (movie theater, bowling alley, etc.)
- Increase the number of shopping places
- Bring in small manufacturing businesses
- “
- Adding a facility to the fair grounds building (swimming pool indoor)
- Develop some activity to connect the library, museum, and schools (work it into lesson plans)
- Build a total rec. center (for young and old)
- Bowling alley
- Swimming pool
- Movie theater
- Fix the stairs at museum
- Upgrade infrastructure (water, electricity, highway projects, digital cable, high speed internet)
(Some of these projects are starting up)
- “
- Cleaning up of the city in the bad areas
- Train kids in the high school so that they can be hired in Lusk businesses
- Increase home businesses
- Continue to develop tourism
- Get the community to work as a whole to sell themselves (like the Black Hills area)
- Advertise Lusk more than just the cowboy image
- Get more people interested in projects
- Improve the tennis courts and outdoor pool
- Increase the communication so that people hear about activities like the closing of the hospital.
- Thirty people in this session.
- Hospital long term – short term help the EMTs with a new ambulance.

- Bring industry to town – long term
- Short term – more drug interdiction for the high school.
- 24/7 health care
- Better paying jobs
- 24/7 health care
- New industry
- Help to open the industries that disappeared over the years
- Ditto
- Hospital re-opening, nursing home and better paying jobs.
- Ditto
- Hospital and nursing home.
- Community development – ability to open 24/7 health care with emergency room.
- Nursing home because we are an older community.
- Like to see community/county recreational facility developed and maintained so kids will have more to do
- Could do more in community education if a facility was available.
- Ditto to everything.
- Full blown out recreational center – movie theater, racquet ball, shuffle board, bowling alley, community subsidize recreational, basketball gymnasium – bring tournaments here – use it to create jobs.
- Recreational center with indoor track and weight room
- Big recreational center – town should be able to support theaters and stuff. Need the stuff for the kids.
- Recreational center
- Power and storage and transmission – ten years from now we should have a power plant here.
- Ditto.
- Ditto.
- Critical in the short term to support the expansion of the Women’s Center. Need to have front person to do lobbying for the expansion.
- Need to get AML funds to do street improvements. Lusk is impacted by energy development but have not gotten the job done to get the AML grants.
- Ditto.
- Improvement to the streets – Lusk.
- Generic training center for EMTs so the volunteers don’t have to travel to get training.
- Improvements to the airport – hangar is falling down.
- Hospital with nursing home, expanded living center, hospital, lab
- Indoor swimming pool in recreational center.
- Recreational center – with movie theater.
- Recreational center – to keep kids off the street.
- Street improvements

- Get people together to form committees to look for the grant money – stick with it.
- Re-open drive-in theater.
- Figure out what to do with the fiber optics hooked to the community
- Fund raise for new ambulance and new fire trucks so the volunteers don't get hurt.
- Use consulting engineering companies to do grant-writing for the communities.
- Utilize a motocross track – gun club – to bring money to the community.
- One project that will be happening is the renewal of the Main Street and other associated streets – the state's street and highway projects.
- Best place to have a picnic – Lady Bird Rest Area
- Community should be taking care of their own parks – not enough tables – need to improve bathrooms.
- Area where swimming pool is – no restrooms available if pool isn't open
- Need to improve the tennis courts.
- Better upkeep of the recreational areas and parks.
- Paved walkway is well-used but there needs to be more work done to keep up what there is and add to the projects.
- Churches could take on projects such as bicycle racks to help the community.
- Community could identify projects and churches could do the work on things like horseshoe pits. May just be a lack of leadership.
- Given the 13 churches needing maintenance, heat, etc. and buildings are empty most of the time.
- Church groups should work together to co-utilize facilities to save money through sharing facilities.
- Interesting if leaders got together and discussed the doctrinal differences – some could work together if their congregations have similar doctrines – pool resources.
- Lusk web-site should be easier to find. Have a comprehensive development of web-sites so when a search is done for “Lusk” the various local web-sites should come up.
- Need a place – like the Fairground building – that has grassy area, picnic tables, decent restrooms that can be reserved and not have conflicting activities, such as the alumni get-together.
- Not a project but – in two years – have a more aggressive town leadership that can form an opinion and stick with it.
- People who are willing to step up and provide leadership
- The Congregational Church is very nice. Entire community uses it for funerals and get-togethers.
- Would like to see the school/facility parks at least as good as rest areas.
- Possibly start a grade school youth program such as AWANA.
- Welcoming committee.
- Washington Park-- want the town to water at night and not during the day to make the park accessible to travelers.

- Concerted effort to save the log cabin in the park – historical preservation.
- Adult education program – par excellence
- Want to be known as progressive ranching community with best management practices
- Small manufacturing to retain some high-tech people – keep youth here/bring back the ones who have left
- Hospital – caused a lot of people to move away
- Care for elderly
- Voc-ag in schools
- Better use/involvement in 4-H and Extension
- Better development of tourism, people passing through i.e., fossils, Legend of Rawhide, museum etc. – people coming through can help improve economy
- Retirement home – nursing home/assisted living
- Somewhere for kids to do something – have 4-H, Boy Scouts – maybe recreation center to swim, basketball, racquetball, etc. for all ages.
- Increased numbers of small businesses
- New businesses developed
- Local stockgrowers organization
- Ag statistics reported differently, i.e., Niobrara county statistics is being reported differently than reality – sales tax usage is reporting base
- Young farmer program - low interest loans for those getting started in agriculture and help with small businesses ag-related
- Growth big enough to support businesses/services needed
- Understanding/appreciation of agriculture
- Remain a true community
- Lusk to be a welcoming place for new small businesses involved in telecommuting
- Retirement community
- Develop fossil resource
- Increase population
- Maintain quality of life
- Education in agriculture
- Water to be in the right place and right amount
- Allow benefit of coal bed methane to reap benefits without disruption
- Wind energy
- Farmers and ranchers involved in legislation
- Recreational center
- More assisted living places for older people
- Ditto on the rec. center
- Hospital and a real doctor
- Ditto on the rec. center and assisted living
- Truck route that bypasses Main Street

- 24 hour healthcare
- Ditto on healthcare
- Sustaining school system
- Keeping Women's Center
- Ditto on earlier comments
- New businesses
- Agree on earlier comments
- Hope that we keep forward thinking as far as what the school district has had
- Hope we are able to implement new programs as education changes.
- Need economic growth – not interested in big city – but new things that are coming down the pike are towns being computerized and wired – sees that as a big potential for people to come to Lusk – independent workers who brought their own jobs with them – working on-line – telecommuters.
- Sustained plan for economic development – promotion of community and county. Instead of depending on moment of fame – Microsoft – long term plan.
- Ditto earlier comments
- Initiative to encourage tourists to spend more money in the community.
- More planning
- Healthcare – need a local nursing home.
- Need new businesses – nice to have a store that with competitive prices to support ag community.
- Well rounded healthcare with visiting dentists and eye doctors
- More businesses
- Recreational center
- Fewer abandoned buildings
- Visually attractive entrances into town.
- Ditto earlier comment
- Need to have affordable housing for young people who have returned to the community with some education.
- Resolve something with the health care situation.
- Think outside the box for economic expansion.
- Economic development will be sidetracked until the healthcare situation is solved.
- Like to see the churches in the community instill a cooperative spirit to implement these ideas.
- Put voc-ag into the school system.
- Affordable living for kids who return to the community. Single parent needs to depend on parents to provide housing, utilities, etc.
- Recreational center needs sports for kids who are not good at team or contact sports.
- Like to support expansion of the Women's Center in Lusk – for construction and job creation.

- Rec. center for all ages
- Improvement of intersection downtown
- Fixing up main street – make it look inviting, i.e., wishing wells, antique lamp posts, somewhere to sit outside and eat
- Museum come out to the fairgrounds – complex with rec center, museum, swimming pool, shuffle board, exercise location, basketball gym – good way for city and county to come together.
- 24 hour medical care
- More cultural programs – arts complex, theater, dance. More inclusive variety of music.
- Assisted living
- Nursing home
- Movie theater
- Car wash
- Changes in the schools, i.e., need to work on getting good group of teachers as teacher age
- Expansion of prison
- Indoor arena to utilize facility all year round
- Rules on Main Street for business hours and appearance standards, i.e., ordinance
- Healthcare
- Improve infrastructure to allow for growth
- Use old school building at Manville for the community – i.e., dinosaur fossils, etc.
- Women’s Center utilize the hospital
- Get doctor in to deliver babies – improvement in economy
- Economic development – buy a business and move it here that will employ 80-100 people -- don’t wait – find it ourselves, perhaps ag related.
- Single mothers in this town – be able to make living wage
- Clean up main street to attract people
- See four districts formed as planning tool, continual problem – need to keep landfill, airport, cemetery, recreation – not only for ability to raise taxes, but from planning standpoint to move into the future.
- Rural communities create some form of reliable telecommunications, i.e., Motorola. Needs to be affordable – will help kids, families, businesses, ranchers, etc.
- Ability to get funding to make movement of electrons more reliable – now have old system – need larger infusion.
- Sub-stations, poles, etc., need to be replaced.
- Need reliable power system.
- Recreation center
- Indoor barn
- Highways through town will be getting redone next summer
- Clean up alleys, etc. to make accommodations through summer while streets torn up.
- Opportunities for children to come back to Lusk.

- Fairgrounds area – complex with museum, rec center, etc. – will bring counties together.
- Parking and traffic – during and after construction – need accommodations downtown for semis, i.e., parking.
- Lots of trucking that come through Lusk – make this a service point for trucks because it is a mid-way point.
- Dinosaur museum to bring in tourists
- Joint effort for high voltage upgrades to transfer electricity – statewide initiative/project with some of the bigger utility companies which might create maintenance facility in Lusk.
- Power plant potential to come here -- front range through Albuquerque – cheapest energy
- Lobbyists for Lusk, i.e., to get the power plant here. Energy capitol of the country, particularly Niobrara County.
- Gain tax base, keep clean air.
- Successful businesses – help/assistance in helping to create successful businesses.
- Something to address bankruptcies.
- Want better and open communication – i.e., hear about things before they happen – hospital closing, Women’s center situation, etc.
- Integration of the hospital system all around Wyoming
- Professional extension of the EMTs - training
- “
- “
- Nursing home
- Would like to see a factory brought in that would increase the number of jobs
- Would like to see the all the business down town open flourishing and new businesses open up
- Assisted living and health care
- “
- Would like to see a cross section of the community go through community development training
- There needs to be a revamping of the political climate in the city and the county
- More training for law enforcement communication people
- “
- 24/7 emergency care
- “
- Would like to see the people in the ambulance service further their training
- Would like to see the EMTs trained as full pledged paramedics
- Ditto everything
- Training is need so that more people can use the medical equipment that we do have
- Would like to have back the medical services that we did have (i.e. eye doctor, physicians, dentist, etc.)
- Would like the EMS system to evolve

- Would like more professional help at the hospital
- Diversify our economy
- Diversity, community and unity among the leaders
- Ditto everything
- Would like to see assisted living rather than a nursing home
- We need a project that will bring in more businesses and jobs
- Ditto everything
- Something brought in for the youth to keep them off of the streets (rec. center, pool hall etc)
- “
- Ditto everything
- Would like to see conflict resolution workshops held in Lusk
- Would like to see a wellness center in the community
- Would like churches to look into parish nursing
- Look at ways to improve recruitment and retention for jobs in the Women’s Center
- Find funding sources for projects – look at better ways to spend the tax payers money
- “
- Reasonable growth that will support the quality of life
- Hospital
- Rec. center
- Movie theaters
- Healthcare
- Nursing homes
- Healthcare and retirement benefits for county employees
- Increase and diversification in small businesses (clothing shops, lumber yard, shops that meet the basic needs, etc.)
- More cooperation between city and county officials
- Ditto everything
- Ditto everything
- Training for law enforcement
- Training for law enforcement – being able to keep the employees that we train from here
- We need more small businesses
- Up dating all of the roads
- “
- Have controlled growth and increase the jobs
- We need recreation for senior citizens, middle age individuals and youth
- Combine what services we can
- We need to find a way to reward the people that work hard and make this a better place
- We need to better the telecommunications without it being extremely high priced
- Expansion of the Women’s Center in Lusk
- Zoning to control growth

- Take the airport and make it into a drag race track or skate board place
- Need a place for the students to hang out.
- “
- Need a place to hang out where the cops won’t make you leave
- Lusk needs to continue to grow economically and in population
- Lusk needs the hospital back
- There needs to be professional opportunities
- Lusk needs a pool hall
- We need an indoor facility in the winter time to keep you busy (i.e. pool)
- Rec. center
- “
- “
- “
- “
- “
- Lusk needs to grow economically, especially agriculturally
- There needs to be more education based on agricultural
- Movie theater
- “
- Recruit businesses
- Movie theater
- There needs to be more job opportunities for everyone
- There needs to be something and/or some facility to keep kids out of trouble
- Lusk needs fast food (McDonald’s, Arbys,)
- “
- Big kid playground
- Indoor arena
- Road improvements – so that we can drive faster without hurting our shocks
- Clubs
- Dance hall
- We need an ag. support facility
- There needs to be more support for businesses
- 18 hole golf course
- Theme park
- Rec. center so that the kids in the country can come in and work out
- “
- Bowling alley
- Shopping mall
- More restaurants
- “Vocational Grow Your Own” program in the schools for the youth

- Learn how to tap into local funding opportunities
- Hospital
- Rec center for all ages
- Paid ambulance service
- More monitoring on people taking care of their homes
- Cooperation between all medical providers – board of hospital or county commissioners take the lead
- Need things for kids to do-- kids are idle -- demonstrated by vandalism
- Need home healthcare licensed
- Can't get nurses because of low pay
- Reopen hospital/nursing home
- Natural gas bills are high! KN is provider
- Recruit and train volunteers - paid per call
- Indoor pool for exercise sessions
- Place to walk indoors
- A hospital and doctor
- Nursing home
- Retirement center
- Industry to create new jobs
- Another grocery store, clothing store, five and dime store
- Need home businesses
- Need more chances for employment & opportunities
- Older people need more clinics to stay
- Retain Women's Center
- More service industry—electricians--plumbers
- Retain lifeline service
- Need more stable industry - keep what we have
- Expansion Women's Center
- Open nursing home
- Town to grow
- Eyecare, dentist, doctors, more healthcare
- Economic development - more jobs
- Medical services
- Recreation for young people
- Nursing home
- More business and industry to allow young people to stay
- Use of historical resources: dinosaur dig, etc.
- Hospital
- Card table
- Functioning senior center

- More tourist friendly activities
- See if the town can't bring in Burger King or McDonald's
- Accept new things Lusk
- Community recreational facility
- More industry to move to the area to increase the job opportunity in the area, whether it happens because of gambling or other means
- Need to find some way of attracting business to our town.
- "I would like to get a place to hang out and have fun"
- We need a hospital and to expand the Women's Center. Then a movie theater and rec center, then a McDonald's or Arby's
- We need an Auto Zone
- We need a drag strip
- Café west??
- A McDonald's and I want Lusk to grow
- I would just like to see it grow.
- More jobs
- YMCA
- More restaurants
- More jobs
- A rec center
- Movie theater
- More people
- More places just for kids
- A mall (that we can support)
- Something to do other than drive
- Hospital
- I would like to see some things for the kids in the community to do when they have free time
- 18 hole golf course
- Hospital
- YMCA
- Indoor pool
- Practice gym
- More fast food
- Another gym, hospital and more restaurants
- Rec center
- YMCA
- A recreational center
- We need a place to be able to hang out with friends. Something to keep us busy so we stay out of trouble

- As soon as possible we need something to do or a place to hang out. A rec center for the teenagers to have a place to and stay out of trouble.
- A place to hacky sack.
- More activities for the youth over the years.
- Get an agricultural program in our school
- Put in a movie theater
- Community recreational center
- 24 hour hospital for serious problems
- DOCTOR!! We need a real doctor
- Hospital services
- Economic influx: businesses; ventures; industry
- We need more business to survive even if it means new people moving in.
- Better acceptance of new people
- Beautification of downtown with “trees”
- A hospital or this town will die
- Movie theater
- Some place to hang out
- New hospital
- Better roads
- Ag program - besides 4-H
- More recreation opportunities for kids, i.e., bowling alley with theater, skate park or indoor swimming facility
- More young people!!
- Economic growth plan that includes update of roads and utility services
- Recreation facilities maintained at a quality level.
- Tennis courts receive no attention while the golf course receives an annual budget. Please service a more diverse realm of needs.
- An indoor arena.
- Chinese messages
- Indoor arena with heat
- Burger King
- Indoor arena
- I would like to see the town get cleaned up--houses and lawns are just messy.
- A place where we could just get away and have fun
- Some activities that everyone could do in their spare time.
- Get a racing track for go karts
- Get a big mall with arcades in it
- Get more things for young people to do around the community
- I want a rec center, indoor livestock and horse arena, get agriculture in school or FFA
- Paved county roads

- Some place for youth to hang out and do stuff
- Movie theater
- Hospital
- Dance hall
- Public entertainment
- Need a place to hang out
- Better education system
- Mutual law enforcement
- New roads
- Bigger and better hospital
- Need a place to hang out without parents and cops
- Movie theater
- Rec center with better doctors
- Hospital
- Fast food joints – Burger King
- Rec center
- Build a big mall or an arcade
- Bowling alley
- Movie theater
- Paintball arena
- Rec Center, indoor pool and such
- Skate park
- I don't plan to be here
- Dairy Queen, Arbey's, pool hall & arcade
- Something for teenagers to do, but only if there are no adults
- Rec center, movie theater, McDonald's
- New hospitals
- New stuff to do
- New movie theatre
- Reopen bowling alley
- Reopen hospital
- Burger King and other fast food
- More things to do
- Rec center
- Movie theater
- Rec center
- MALE STRIP CLUB!!
- More fast food places
- Rec center
- Movie theater

- Rec center
- More fast food places
- Stronger economy
- Dance and pool hall
- Theater
- Indoor arena
- Business support and more opportunities
- Streets fixed
- Rec center
- Movie theater
- More people--I would like to see more businesses open and Lusk grow as a town
- Make an area where we can hang out so we don't get into trouble
- Hospital
- Hospital
- Rec center with basketball court, tennis courts, swimming pools, etc.
- More businesses
- McDonald's and some kind of recreation place.
- Movie theater
- McDonald's
- Recreation place
- Burger King
- Off road association to buy Niobrara River so teens hot rod their trucks legally
- A hangout for all the teenagers
- More activities: dance, gymnastics, hockey
- Rec center
- Movie theater
- Get back AG!! It needs to go back to what it was fifty years ago.
- Get back the lumberyards, the stores, everything!
- Rec center, movie theater, fast food facilities and just something to keep us occupied
- Hospital
- Somewhere to hang out. Dance clubs would be awesome
- Build a rec center
- Hospital
- Things to do
- New hospital
- Rec center
- More career opportunities
- Roads re-done
- Movie theater
- Rec center, movie theater, more places to eat

- Rec center
- Rec center, something to do
- More people move here
- Something for kids to do
- Rec center for kids & adults
- Rec center; fast food
- Drag strip, fast food, movie theater
- Pride in our community in the business area and residential. We have something to value here
- More people move here.
- More promotion of Lusk.
- Hospital!!
- Need to keep prison.
- A severely bad step was taken in regards to the fiber optic cable that was laid in Lusk and then sold with nothing settled on having the residents of the city connected.
- The separation of county and city government definitely is a deterrent to the Niobrara community.
- Get the hospital up and running..
- Elect new leadership for the town of Lusk. It's time.
- Provide community/rural development training to a cross-section of Lusk citizens.
- Recruit some "new blood" – not necessarily folks new to town, but maybe some people who just have not gotten involved before.
- Recruit and retain personnel for the Wyoming Women's' Center
- Hospital, help the EMT's, new ambulance
- More jobs/factories
- Drug interdiction for our kids
- Assisted living facility & hospital
- Small business, i.e., clothing store, general store, less of the souvenir stuff
- Small manufacturing – something to keep our young people from leaving
- Community-based "free" child care – use church and the over 60 crowd for staff
- Alternate energy – wind, solar
- Need Co-op to sell value based beef
- Farm Loan Board to lower interest rates to help our industry get new starts and help young people
- Hospital and nursing home
- 24 hour healthcare
- Maintain funding for schools
- Keep the Women's' Center
- Think about progress
- Retain Women's' prison

- Develop 24/7 medical facility
- Community recreation center
- Use existing bowling alley
- Cultural programs to assist in opening up people's spirits to a larger world.
- Hospital & nursing home
- Rec center for kids who feel they aren't good enough for football, volleyball, basketball & wrestling.
- Movie theater to keep kids off the streets and from drinking & doing drugs
- Rec center
- Main Street project
- Balance of vocational education & college prep classes at the high school
- Hospital
- Get fiber optic cable hooked up at Qwest Building
- Expand Women's Center
- Union Pacific RR to have more of their fixed assets located in Wyoming and/or Niobrara County
- Hospital
- Assisted living
- Nursing Home
- Wellness center, community center
- Churches more active
- Streets in good condition
- Access to fiber optic cable
- Parks with more play equipment
- Expanded educational services
- Healthcare campus: 2 physician assistants under one roof with dentist, optometrist & chiropractor
- More business: clothing store, antique store
- Rec center
- Road repairs
- More businesses
- Some place where the kids can hang out: skate park or pool hall; a place where kids can stay out of trouble
- More places for youth to go and do things; stay open till 12:00 on weekends
- Rec center
- Fast food
- Restaurants
- Economic stimulus and growth.
- Incentives for students to return
- Professional opportunities and opportunities for long-term careers

- Hospital
- More job options
- Rec center
- Swimming pool
- Movie theater
- More activities to take up the time of the children – keep them away from drugs and alcohol
- Bowling alley or a café for the teenagers to hang out
- Hospital
- Rec center
- More little kids for baseball teams
- High school baseball
- Recreation center/reopen the bowling alley
- Place to hang out: dance club, bowling, hospital, pool hall, rec center, movie theater, fast food
- More eating places
- Theater
- Video store
- More things for kids to do
- More recreation facilities where people can go to kick back and have a good time
- Hospital
- New administrators
- More restaurants
- McDonald's
- Somewhere to hang out
- Movie theater
- Ag program in school
- More things built for teenage use. Some place where it is OK to be ourselves and live our lives. Some place to relax and hang out without parents
- WalMart
- Rec center
- Fast food
- Mainly for the town to grow
- An ag program at high school – FFA program
- Ag program/vocational agriculture program
- Better roads countywide not just in town
- Rec center/gym
- Movie theater
- Hospital
- Boxing ring, paintball place, skate park
- Hangout for all the teenagers: dance club, pool hall

- Rec center
- Movie theater
- Fast food
- More job opportunities
- Rec center/something to do
- Rec center
- More jobs for adults and teens
- Serious lack of hang outs and prospects
- Indoor arena or rec center
- Indoor arena
- Ag program in the school
- Movie theater
- Sports center
- Create jobs for kids
- Rec center
- Economic development
- Hospital
- More things for younger people to do
- More opportunities
- Rec center
- Rec center
- Skate park
- Hospital
- Restaurants
- Skate park
- Hospital
- Indoor arena
- Rec center
- Movie theater
- Road improvements
- Ag program in the school
- Rec center
- Rec center
- Jobs to bring people to Lusk to make the town grow
- Make the Old Trailside into a Taco Johns
- Fast food places
- Rec center
- Hospital
- Rec center
- Something for teens to do

- Movie theater
- Places to eat
- Bowling alley
- Another gym
- Rec center
- Skate park
- More jobs
- Hospital
- Movie theater
- New roads
- Rec center
- New hospital
- Open the emergency room and work on opening the hospital and finding a way to use the nursing home that will help support the hospital.
- The community needs to change its attitude re: business as well as clean up the community and encourage new business and manufacturing to come in.
- Reopening of emergency room with 24 hour care, followed by reopening of hospital followed by nursing home being used for assisted living, veterans home, learning center.
- A group of community members to tutor children who are behind in reading and math
- Attract small retail business: clothing store, movie theatre, lumber yard, barber shop, music store, furniture, floor coverings and/or appliance shop, small engine, small appliance and/or heating and cooling service and repair, car wash.
- Repair the streets, paint the buildings
- Repair the alleys and don't cut down any trees unless absolutely necessary.

Lusk Resource Team
January 22-24, 2002

WHAT WE HEARD FROM WHAT WAS SAID

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

MAJOR THEMES IN LUSK

WOMENS CENTER

- Maintain
- Work to get the expansion to occur in Lusk

HEALTH CARE

- EMS equipment and services
- 24/7 healthcare
- Physician in the community
- Nursing home
- Hospital re-opened
- Other health professionals (eye doctor, dentist)
- Drug and alcohol abuse

HOUSING

- Assisted living
- Affordable housing - family
- Senior housing/group home
- Improvements of existing housing

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Downtown development
- Small businesses
 - Clothing and shoe stores
 - Ag. related businesses
 - Movie theater
 - Lumber yard
- Community buys an existing business and then bring it to Lusk
- Industry
- Tourism
- Business retention
- Business expansion

- Professional jobs for the youth

RECREATION

- Adding on to the fair complex
- Recreation center
- Improvements on the current facilities and parks
- Movie theater
- Drag racing, hacking sac, or skate board park

AGRICULTURE

- FFA and voc-ag programs
- Ag. service support
- General ag. education

PLANNING

- Maintain and keep infrastructure up to date
- Managed/reasonable growth
- “Z” word – land use regulations

CAPITAL FICIALTIES

- Landfill
- Streets
- Downtown parking
- Fiber optic / telecommunications
- Museum
- Fair complex

LEADERSHIP

- Leadership development
- Go after grants
- Continued improvement between governing bodies
- Communication

TRAINING/EDUCATION

- EMT training
- Dispatch training
- Training for youth for local jobs
- Adult continuing education
- Business classes for small business (entp. workshops)
- Hospital training

- Loss of school funding

APPENDIX

Deloitte and Touche Targeted Industry Study
Leadership Wyoming