

WYOMING RURAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL



RURAL RESOURCE TEAM REPORT FOR BYRON COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT BIGHORN COUNTY, WYOMING SEPTEMBER 22-23, 2004

WRDC MISSION

*“TO CREATE PARTNERSHIPS THAT RESULT IN EFFECTIVE,
EFFICIENT AND TIMELY EFFORTS TO ENHANCE THE
VIABILITY OF RURAL WYOMING.”*

THE WYOMING RURAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

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

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

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

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

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

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September 22-23, 2004

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PROCESS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THIS REPORT

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

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

The Resource Team toured the town and interviewed people over a two day period from September 22-23, 2004. The team interviewed representatives from the following segments of Byron and surrounding community: city services, industry, emergency services, health, law enforcement, families, special needs individuals, senior citizens, high school students, business, finance, economic development and town, local and state government. 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 Byron?

What do you think are the major strengths and assets in Byron?

What projects would you like to see completed in two, five ten and twenty years in Byron?

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 Wyoming Rural Development's final report to Byron.

An oral report was presented to the people of Byron on September 23, 2004, and many of the citizens of Byron who participated in the interviews were in attendance. Following the oral report, a formal written report is prepared and presented to the town of Byron.

Executive Summary

The opportunity to participate in the Byron Community Needs Assessment on September 22 and 23rd gave our team a chance to meet a wonderful group of people. There are many strengths that Byron has to build upon to have a successful future. To become and maintain a vibrant, sustainable community takes only a few people willing to roll up their sleeves and go to work. Once this nucleus begins to exert effort; it will begin to show some successes. Then this nucleus needs to expand to include more and more of the community until the entire community is involved. The work is not on just the big jobs; it is also on the small ones than can be achieved quickly.

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

Each of you individually must decide what it is that you want to do – what kind of project you want to tackle. There are enough tasks for everyone, especially in a small community. Each small step, every accomplishment, no matter how limited, is movement in the right direction toward achieving Byron's goals. It can be done! It is your choice, your decision; you can do it! Good Luck on meeting the challenges and visions you have for your community.

On behalf of the Byron Resource Team I want to thank the people of this community for the hospitality shown to us during our visit. Thank you!

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

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

Sincerely

Linda Harp
Team Leader



BYRON COMMUNITY PROFILE

Byron is located along Highway 14A between Lovell and Powell in Northern Wyoming's Bighorn Basin and approximately 15 miles from the Montana border. The town received its name from Byron Sessions, a prominent leader of the Mormon expedition to the Big Horn Basin in 1900. Positioned on a bench north of the Shoshone River, which is a level table land, the town is bordered on the north by sand hills. In the distance the Prior and Big Horn Mountains can be seen. On the west side of town there are dairy farms and oil wells.

A sign along U.S. Highway 14A highlights the Sidon Canal, which has played a major role in the development of the community. The 37-mile-long canal, built in 1900 by Mormon settlers, was entirely self-financed with land donated by the government. The canal transports water from the Shoshone River and serves 20,000 acres of farmland with irrigation water.

Byron, being located off the railroad, grew more slowly than some of the neighboring towns. By 1917, the population had grown to 600 and continued to increase in subsequent years as the oil industry brought in more families.

With the building of the large irrigation canal, Byron has grown from a desert land, to a beautiful prosperous oil and farming district. Many pioneers sacrificed to make the country inviting for others which has led to the present dynamic community.

History of Development

In 1900, a colony of Mormon pioneers came to the Big Horn Basin under the leadership of Owen Woodruff. The leaders secured the right to organize the Big Horn Colonization Company with Owen Woodruff as President and Byron Sessions, Jessie W. Crosby, Charles A. Welch as his chosen lieutenants.

Upon reaching the Shoshone River the colony went into camp near the mouth of Sage Creek where the people were put to work on an irrigation canal. They were paid \$4.00 a day for man and team; single hands were paid \$2.25. These laborers were paid in ditch stock by the company.

Living supplies were purchased by the colonists from the company, but since they had no money to pay for them, the company soon found itself with a debt of \$4,000 dollars. This could not continue and the new colony found themselves in great financial straits. A saving grace came from the Burlington Railroad which was contemplating an extension of their line to Cody. The

Mormons grasped the opportunity and secured a contract with the railroad for the line's grade work. The \$90,000 paid for the work carried the colony over their financial difficulty.

With fall approaching, the colony was faced with additional problems: 1) Finish the canal if the Byron Bench was to be irrigated the following spring; 2) complete the railroad grading; 3) and build the houses necessary for the coming winter. It seemed a stupendous amount of work but the leaders of the colony had the ability to inspire their followers with courage and ambition to complete the tasks. The colony separated into three communities with townsites laid out at Byron, Cowley, and Lovell. Log houses were built in all three communities before winter. In the spring the colony planted gardens, flowers, and shrubs to beautify their homes and help with the food supply. By the next fall, the projects had all been satisfactorily completed and the canal put 20,000 acres of land under irrigation.

The colonist's movement has left a deep imprint upon the Big Horn Basin. The Mormons have been connected with many irrigation projects since, including the growing of sugar beets and bringing sugar factories into the Basin. Many of the original log homes have been improved and are still in use.

Oil and Gas Development

A few years after the Mormons established their community at Byron, Mr. S.M. Smith was fencing his farm along the river southwest of town and observed gas escaping from a post hole. The gas was ignited and burned for several years as a curiosity. After a time, the Montana-Wyoming Oil Company was organized to test the field for oil. A lease on the land was secured and oil drilling began during the early summer of 1906.

The first oil sands were reached at a depth of 700 feet, and high grade petroleum came to the top of the casing without the aid of pumps. In mid November the well was brought for approximately \$25,000 and leases of Byron lands were sought by several firms.

In the next six years, wells were drilled in various parts of the Basin. Gas was found almost everywhere, and in large quantities. The Utah-Wyoming Consolidated Oil Company struck the first large gas well in the Byron Field in 1911. Two years later the same company brought in an even larger well. In 1915, the Ohio Oil Company tapped a gas formation at Byron that was reported to have been the largest in the country.

In 1912-13 Byron organized the Byron Gas Company and piped the natural gas into town. This was the first time that natural gas was used as a fuel in the region.

Now known for its oil and gas industry, Byron has several oil companies on location. The dry badlands are punctuated by oil pumpjacks in the large, still producing Byron Oil Field. In addition, numerous gas wellheads exist throughout the badland region.

Administrative Contact

Town Clerk
P.O. Box 5
Byron, WY 82412
(307) 548-7490

Byron Statistics	
County	Big Horn
Zip Code	82412
Elevation	4,030 feet above sea level
Latitude	44.79° north of the equator
Longitude	108.50° west of the prime meridian
Area	0.89 Square Miles
	Land Area: 0.84 Square Miles
	Water Area: 0.05 Square Miles
Nearest Cities:	
Lovell, WY	7.5 miles
Cowley, WY	8.3 miles
Powell, WY	15.6 miles
Frannie, WY	20.4 miles
Ralston, WY	21.5 miles
Burlington, WY	30.4 miles
Greybull, WY	40.0 miles
Belfry, MT	56.7 miles
Nearest city with pop. 50,000+	Billings, MT, 94.1 miles
Nearest city with pop. 200,000+	Denver, CO, 533.4 miles
Nearest city with pop. 1,000,000+	Phoenix, AZ, 1,199.7 miles

Population by Age (2003)	
Population Estimate	539
Median Age	35.3
0 – 13 years	21.8%
14 – 24 years	18.2%
25 – 34 years	9.6%
35 – 44 years	10.4%
45 – 54 years	13.9%
55 – 64 years	12.9%
65 – 74 years	7.4%
75+ years	5.7%

Marital Status (2003)	
Age 15+ Population	433
Married, Spouse Present	58.6%

Married, Spouse Absent	3.3%
Divorced	6.0%
Widowed	13.0%
Never Married	19.1%

Household Status (2003)	
Total Households:	190
1 Person	19.3%
2 Person	32.4%
3 Person	16.9%
4 Person	13.7%
5 Person	8.3%
6 Person	4.6%
7+ Person	2.9%

Housing Units (2003)	
Total Housing Units:	215
Owner Occupied	65.9%
Renter Occupied	22.5%
Vacant	11.6%

Vehicles Available (2003)	
Average Vehicles Per Household:	2.3
0 Vehicles Available	4.4%
1 Vehicle Available	25.4%
2+ Vehicles Available	70.2%

Income (2003)	
Average Household Income	\$38,963
Median Household Income	\$36,191
Per Capita Income	\$13,440

Households by Income (2003)	
Total Households:	190
\$0 - \$15,000	19.4%
\$15,000 - \$24,999	14.2%
\$25,000 - \$34,999	14.2%

\$35,000 - \$49,000	24.9%
\$50,000 - \$74,999	19.4%
\$75,000 - \$99,999	5.5%
\$100,000 - \$149,999	2.5%
\$150,000+	0.0%

Educational Attainment (2003)	
Age 25+ Population	323
Grade KG - 08	3.9%
Grade 09 - 12	11.8%
High School Graduate	38.8%
Some College, No Degree	26.7%
Associates Degree	5.7%
Bachelor's Degree	10.2%
Graduate Degree	2.8%

Employment and Business (2003)	
Age 16+ Population	401
Employed	55.8%
Unemployed	3.3%
In Armed Forces	0.0%
Not in Labor Force	40.9%

Climate (2003)	
Annual Average Temperature:	44.5°
Monthly Average Temperature:	16.9° in January, 70.5° in July
Average Precipitation:	6.74 inches
Average Snowfall:	9.6 inches

Medical (Hospitals/Medical Centers Near Byron) (2003)	
North Big Horn Hospital District	8.2 miles; Lovell, WY
Powell Hospital	16.7 miles; Powell, WY
South Big Horn County Hospital	37.7 miles, Greybull, WY

Education (2003)	
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Byron Elementary	Students: 64; Grades: KG – 05 Student/Teacher Ratio: 8 Full Time Staff: 7
Public High School:	
Rocky Mountain High School	Students: 168; Grades: 09-12 Student/Teacher Ratio: 10 Full Time Staff: 16

Byron Demographic Report

Population

The estimated population for Byron in 2003 was 539. The population in 1990 was 498 representing an 8.23% change. It is estimated that the population in Byron will be 513 in 2008, representing a change of -4.82% from 2003. The 2003 population was 50.99% male and 49.01% female. The median age of the population was 35.3, compared to the U.S. median age which was 36.1. The population density was 603.4 people per square mile.

Households

In 2003, there were 190 households in Byron. The Census revealed household counts of 166 in 1990, representing an increase of 14.46%. It is estimated that the number of households in Byron will be 183 in 2008, representing a change of -3.68% from 2003. The average household size was 2.84 persons.

The median number of years in residence was 2.32. The average household size was 2.90 people and the average family size was 3.33 people. The average number of vehicles per household was 2.3.

Income

In 2003, the median household income for Byron was \$36,191, compared to the U.S. median which was \$45,128. The Census revealed a median household income of \$20,298 in 1990 representing a change of 78.30%. It is estimated that the median household income will be \$39,831 in 2008, which would represent an increase of 10.06% from 2003.

The per capita income in 2003 was \$13,440, compared to the U.S. per capita, which was \$23,201. The 2003 average household income was \$38,963, compared to the U.S. average which was \$60,600.

Race & Ethnicity

The racial makeup of Byron in 2003 was as follows: 92.74% White; 0.00% Black; 0.85% Native American; 0.00% Asian/Pacific Islander; and 5.37% Other. Compare these to the U.S. racial makeup which was: 75.06% White, 12.30% Black, 0.88% Native American, 3.66% Asian/Pacific Islander and 5.52% Other.

People of Hispanic ethnicity are counted independently of race. People of Hispanic origin make up 10.46% of the current year population, compared to the U.S. makeup of 13.79%.

Housing

The median housing value for Byron was \$46,322 in 1990, compared to the U.S. median of \$78,382 for the same year. The 2000 Census median housing value was \$63,538, which is a 37.2% change from 1990. In 1990, there were 133 owner occupied housing units in Byron versus 195 in 2000. Also in 1990, there were 33 renter occupied housing units versus 47 in 2000. The average rent in 1990 was

\$218 versus \$259 in 2000.

Employment

In 2003, there were 401 people over the age of 16 in the labor force in Byron. Of these 55.8% were employed, 3.3% were unemployed, 40.9% were not in the labor force and 0.00% were in the armed forces. In 1990, unemployment in this area was 7.03% and in 2000 it was 0.84%. There were 24 employees (daytime population) and there were 6 establishments.

In 1990, 30.90% of employees were employed in white-collar occupations and 69.10% were employed in blue-collar occupations. In 2000, white collar workers made up 44.06% of the population, and those employed in blue collar occupations made up 55.94%. In 1990, the average time traveled to work was 7 minutes and in 2000 it was 15 minutes.

Byron Business Report

Daytime Population: Total Employees	24
Business Counts: Total Establishments	6

Employees By Occupation	2003 Estimate	% of Total
Administrative Support Workers	5	22.53%
Construction Repair and Mining	0	1.65%
Executive Managers and Administrators	2	6.59%
Farming Forestry and Fishing	1	4.95%
Handlers Helpers and Laborers	1	2.20%
Machine Operators Assemblers and Inspectors	0	1.10%
Other Services Field Based	1	2.75%
Other Services Site Based	1	6.04%
Precision Craft and Repair	2	6.59%
Private Household Service	0	0.00%
Professional Specialty Occupations	2	8.79%
Protective Services	0	0.55%
Sales Professionals	1	3.85%
Sales Workers and Clerks	5	19.78%
Technical Sales and Administrative	0	0.00%
Technologies and Technicians	0	1.65%
Transportation and Materials Moving Workers	1	2.20%
Establishments: Size	2003 Estimate	% of Total
1-4 Employees	5	78.26%
5-9 Employees	1	13.04%

10-19 Employees	0	6.52%
20-49 Employees	0	2.17%
50-99 Employees	0	0.00%
100-249 Employees	0	0.00%
250-499 Employees	0	0.00%
500-999 Employees	0	0.00%
1,000+ Employees	0	0.00%

Major Industry: Employees	2003 Estimate	% of Total
Agricultural, Forestry, Fishing	3	11.54%
Construction	0	0.55%
Finance, Insurance And Real Estate	2	8.24%
Manufacturing	2	8.24%
Mining	0	0.00%
Public Administration	1	4.95%
Retail Trade	7	28.02%
Services	4	17.58%
Transportation and Communications	1	3.85%
Unclassified	2	8.79%
Wholesale Trade	2	8.24%

Major Industry: Establishments	2003 Estimate	% of Total
Agricultural, Forestry, Fishing	1	10.87%
Construction	0	2.17%
Finance, Insurance And Real Estate	1	13.04%
Manufacturing	0	6.52%
Mining	0	0.00%
Public Administration	0	2.17%
Retail Trade	1	19.57%
Services	2	30.43%
Transportation and Communications	0	6.52%
Unclassified	0	4.35%
Wholesale Trade	0	4.35%

Retail: Employees	2003 Estimate	% of Total
Auto Dealers and Gas Stations	1	2.20%
Bars	0	0.00%
Building Materials Hardware and Garden	1	2.75%
Catalog and Direct Sales	0	0.00%
Clothing Stores	0	0.00%
Convenience Stores	0	0.00%
Drug Stores	1	2.75%
Electronics and Computer Stores	0	0.00%

Food Markets	4	16.48%
Furniture Stores	0	0.00%
General Merchandise Stores	0	0.00%
Home Furnishings	0	0.00%
Liquor Stores	0	0.00%
Music Stores	0	0.00%
Other Food Service	0	0.00%
Other Food Stores	0	1.10%
Restaurants	0	0.00%
Specialty Stores	1	2.75%

Retail: Establishments	2003 Estimate	% of Total
Auto Dealers and Gas Stations	0	2.17%
Bars	0	0.00%
Building Materials Hardware and Garden	0	4.35%
Catalog and Direct Sales	0	0.00%
Clothing Stores	0	0.00%
Convenience Stores	0	0.00%
Drug Stores	0	2.17%
Electronics and Computer Stores	0	0.00%
Food Markets	0	2.17%
Furniture Stores	0	0.00%
General Merchandise Stores	0	0.00%
Home Furnishings	0	0.00%
Liquor Stores	0	0.00%
Music Stores	0	0.00%
Other Food Service	0	0.00%
Other Food Stores	0	2.17%
Restaurants	0	0.90%
Specialty Stores	0	6.52%

Service: Employees	2003 Estimate	% of Total
Advertising	0	0.00%
Auto Repair/Services	1	2.20%
Beauty and Barber Shops	0	0.00%
Child Care Services	0	0.00%
Colleges and Universities	0	6.73%
Computer Services	0	0.00%
Dry Cleaning and Laundry	0	0.00%
Entertainment and Recreation Services	0	1.65%
Health and Medical Services	0	1.65%
Hospitals	0	0.00%
Hotels and Lodging	0	0.00%

Legal Services	1	2.20%
Membership Organizations	0	0.55%
Miscellaneous Repair Services	0	0.00%
Motion Pictures	1	2.75%
Museums and Zoos	0	0.00%
Other Business Services	1	3.85%
Other Personal Service	0	1.10%
Primary and Secondary Education	0	0.00%
Professional Services	0	1.65%
Social Services	0	0.00%
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Service: Establishments	2003 Estimate	% of Total
Advertising	0	0.00%
Auto Repair/Services	0	4.35%
Beauty and Barber Shops	0	0.00%
Child Care Services	0	0.00%
Colleges and Universities	0	0.00%
Computer Services	0	0.00%
Dry Cleaning and Laundry	0	0.00%
Entertainment and Recreation Services	0	2.17%
Health and Medical Services	0	2.17%
Hospitals	0	0.00%
Hotels and Lodging	1	0.00%
Legal Services	0	4.35%
Membership Organizations	0	2.17%
Miscellaneous Repair Services	0	0.00%
Motion Pictures	0	2.17%
Museums and Zoos	0	0.00%
Other Business Services	0	6.52%
Other Personal Service	0	4.35%
Primary and Secondary Education	0	0.00%
Professional Services	0	2.17%
Social Services	0	0.00%

Byron Consumer Expenditure Report

	2003 Estimate	2008 Projection	% Change 2003 - 2008
Total Households	190	183	-3.8%
Total Avg Household Expenditure	\$36,641	\$38,979	6.4%
Total Avg Retail Expenditure	\$15,427	\$16,394	6.3%

Consumer Expenditure Detail (Average Household Annual Expenditures)

	2003 Estimate	2008 Projection	% Change 2003 - 2008
Airline Fares	\$251.34	\$267.59	6.5%
Alcoholic Beverages	\$346.33	\$368.54	6.4%
Alimony & Child Support	\$112.95	\$119.95	6.2%
Apparel	\$1,977.88	\$2,106.27	6.5%
Apparel Services & Accessories	\$253.84	\$270.99	6.8%
Audio Equipment	\$56.08	\$59.95	6.9%
Babysitting & Elderly Care	\$197.98	\$211.23	6.7%
Books	66.98	\$71.35	6.5%
Books & Supplies	\$99.81	\$106.09	6.3%
Boys Apparel	\$107.88	\$114.70	6.3%
Cellular Phone Service	\$59.74	\$63.60	6.5%
Cigarettes	\$304.09	\$323.37	6.3%
Computer Hardware	\$291.48	\$310.25	6.4%
Computer Information Services	\$29.50	\$31.56	7.0%
Computer Software	\$37.32	\$39.73	6.5%
Contributions	\$1,077.09	\$1,147.13	6.5%
Coolant & Other Fluids	\$8.52	\$9.07	6.5%
Cosmetics & Perfume	\$79.65	\$84.92	6.6%
Deodorants & Other Personal Care	\$27.24	\$28.96	6.3%
Education	\$632.18	\$672.46	6.4%
Electricity	\$1,096.62	\$1,166.39	6.4%
Entertainment	\$1,874.83	\$1,996.04	6.5%
Fees & Admissions	\$471.52	\$502.22	6.5%
Finance Chgs Exc Mort & Veh	\$162.30	\$172.86	6.5%
Floor Coverings	\$59.43	\$63.29	6.5%
Food & Beverages	\$6,020.78	\$6,406.80	6.4%
Food At Home	\$3,584.43	\$3,812.14	6.4%
Food Away From Home	\$2,090.02	\$2,226.12	6.5%
Footwear	\$363.75	\$387.27	6.5%
Fuel Oil & Other Fuels	\$71.34	\$75.70	6.1%
Funeral & Cemetery	\$90.84	\$95.90	5.6%
Furniture	\$355.39	\$378.96	6.6%
Gasoline & Oil	\$1,306.84	\$1,392.66	6.6%
Gifts	\$1,098.07	\$1,168.89	6.4%
Girls Apparel	\$129.82	\$138.02	6.3%
Hair Care	\$51.38	\$54.66	6.4%
Hard Surface Flooring	\$9.88	\$10.47	6.0%

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Health Care	\$2,375.11	\$2,523.57	6.3%
Health Care Insurance	\$1,127.72	\$1,198.44	6.3%
Health Care Services	\$726.83	\$772.31	6.3%
Health Care Supplies & Equip	\$520.56	\$552.82	6.2%
Household Services	\$294.45	\$313.07	6.3%
Household Supplies	\$570.02	\$608.94	6.8%
Household Textiles	\$87.53	\$93.20	6.5%
Housewares & Small App	\$770.13	\$820.36	6.5%
Indoor Plants & Fresh Flowers	\$59.36	\$63.29	6.6%
Infants Apparel	\$92.47	\$98.35	6.4%
Jewelry	\$90.16	\$96.37	6.9%
Legal & Accounting	\$80.77	\$85.90	6.4%
Magazines	\$41.18	\$43.82	6.4%
Major Appliances	\$165.74	\$176.24	6.3%
Mass Transit	\$76.00	\$80.88	6.4%
Men's Apparel	\$369.66	\$393.65	6.5%
Mortgage Interest	\$2,176.07	\$2,319.87	6.6%
Natural Gas	\$340.85	\$362.00	6.2%
New Car Purchased	\$931.80	\$990.60	6.3%
New Truck Purchased	\$701.87	\$745.99	6.3%
New Vehicle Purchase	\$1,633.67	\$1,736.59	6.3%
Newspapers	\$85.62	\$91.06	6.4%
Oral Hygiene Products	\$24.31	\$25.85	6.3%
Other Lodging	\$642.64	\$676.64	5.3%
Other Miscellaneous Expenses	\$82.48	\$87.84	6.5%
Other Repairs & Maintenance	\$75.15	\$79.82	6.2%
Other Tobacco Products	\$32.29	\$34.38	6.5%
Other Transportation Costs	\$617.96	\$657.24	6.4%
Other Utilities	\$296.08	\$314.78	6.3%
Paint & Wallpaper	\$36.39	\$38.75	6.5%
Personal Care Products	\$142.11	\$151.35	6.5%
Personal Care Services	\$392.57	\$418.26	6.5%
Personal Insurance	\$424.87	\$452.20	6.4%
Pet Supplies & Services	\$202.07	\$215.13	6.5%
Photographic Equip & Supplies	\$91.38	\$97.35	6.5%
Plumbing & Heating	\$46.18	\$49.21	6.6%
Property Taxes	\$358.42	\$385.00	7.4%
Public Transportation	\$394.33	\$419.68	6.4%
Records/Tapes/CD Purchases	\$95.99	\$102.15	0.0%

Rural Resource Report for Byron September 22-23, 2004

Recreational Equip & Supplies	\$703.14	\$748.39	6.4%
Rental Costs	\$2,763.54	\$2,920.54	5.7%
Roofing & Siding	\$60.58	\$64.40	6.3%
Satellite Dishes	\$5.88	\$6.27	6.6%
Shaving Needs	\$10.91	\$11.62	6.5%
Shelter	\$6,549.58	\$6,950.21	6.1%
Telephone Svc Excl Cell	\$934.15	\$994.94	6.5%
Televisions	\$82.07	\$87.53	6.7%
Transportation	\$7,654.21	\$8,149.93	6.5%
Tuition	\$532.37	\$566.37	6.4%
Used Car Purchase	\$1,077.02	\$1,148.95	6.7%
Used Truck Purchase	\$623.47	\$663.91	6.5%
Used Vehicle Purchase	\$1,700.49	\$1,812.86	6.6%
VCRs & Related Equipment	\$36.92	\$39.33	6.5%
Vehicle Insurance	\$852.93	\$908.53	6.5%
Vehicle Repair	\$837.61	\$890.93	6.4%
Vehicle Repair & Maintenance	\$846.13	\$900.00	6.4%
Video & Audio Equipment	\$700.17	\$745.43	6.5%
Video Game Hardware & Software	\$23.89	\$25.42	6.4%
Watches	\$18.08	\$19.29	6.7%
Women's Apparel	\$660.46	\$703.29	6.5%

Big Horn County Profile

Rural Resource Report for Byron September 22-23, 2004

PERSONAL INCOME	2000	2001
Total Personal Income (000s \$)	\$227,520	\$241,406
Per Capita Income	\$19,914	\$21,344
Per Capita Transfer Payment	\$3,520	\$3,819
Per Capita Dividend, Interest, and Rent	\$4,873	\$5,030

RACE AND HISPANIC ORIGIN	2002 Estimate	% of Total
TOTAL	11,212	100.0%
White alone	11,013	98.2%
Black or African American alone	15	0.1%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	94	0.8%
Asian alone	30	0.3%
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander alone	5	0.0%
Two or More Races	55	0.5%
Race alone or in combination with one or more races:		
White	11,068	98.7%
Black or African American	15	0.1%
American Indian and Alaska Native	147	1.3%
Asian	32	0.3%
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	5	0.0%
Ethnic Origin:		
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	716	6.4%
Non-Hispanic or Latino	10,496	93.6%
White alone	10,327	92.1%

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

LANDOWNERS	Acres	Square Miles
United States Government		
National Park Service	17,322	27.1
Forest Service	351,153	548.7
Fish and Wildlife	0	0.0
Bureau of Land Mgt.	1,096,000	1,712.5
Bureau of Reclamation	69,614	108.8
Wyoming		
State Lands Comm.	212,095	112.3
Recreation Comm.	200	0.3
Game and Fish	7,746	12.1
Local Govt.		
County	1866	2.9
City	56	0.1
School Dist. & Colleges	224	0.4
Other Lands	1,267	2.0
Total Public	1,617,291	2,527.0
Total Private	405,621	633.8
Surface Water	14,970	23.4
TOTAL LAND	2,022,912	3,160.8

Source: University of Wyoming, Department of Geography & Recreation

SALES TAX COLLECTIONS	FISCAL 02	FISCAL 03
Agriculture Sector	\$10,261	\$10,990
Mining Sector	\$207,470	\$165,571
Construction Sector	\$131,510	\$43,153
Manufacturing Sector	\$232,851	\$324,201
Transportation (TCPU) Sector	\$846,921	\$879,338
Wholesale Trade Sector	\$689,958	\$592,126
Retail Trade Sector	\$2,042,268	\$2,042,843
Finance (FIRE) Sector	\$2,345	\$3,545
Service Sector	\$587,417	\$599,834
Government Sector	\$668,996	\$573,283
TOTAL	\$5,419,997	\$5,234,884

Source: State of Wyoming, Department of Revenue

POPULATION BY AGE: 2002	
Population under 5 years	704
Population 5 to 17 years	2,280
Population 18 to 24 years	1,003
Population 25 to 34 years	973
Population 35 to 44 years	1,399
Population 45 to 64 years	2,955
Population 65 years and over	1,898
TOTAL	11,212

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

COUNTY EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS	
Labor Force (June 2004)p	5,993
Employed (June 2004)p	5,769
Unemployed (June 2004)p	224
Unemployment Rate (June 2004)p	3.7%
Ave Weekly Wage - Covered Emp (Q2 03)	\$548

Source: State of Wyoming, Department of Employment

p = preliminary

CRIME INDEX REPORT: 2003	
Murder	0
Rape	6
Robbery	0
Assault	17
Burglary	18
Larceny	84
Motor Vehicle Theft	3
Personal Crime	23
Property Crime	105
Crime Index Total	108

Note: All values are displayed as indexed numbers -indexed against the U.S. index base. (U.S. Average = 100)

SELECTED STATISTICS SCHOOL YEAR 2001 - 2002	
Number of School Districts	4
Number of Schools	19
Fall Enrollment, 2001	2,220
High School Graduates, 2002	168
Average Daily Membership (ADM)	2,287
Average Daily Attendance (ADA)	2,173
Certified Teachers	208
Certified Staff	35
Classified Staff	154
Administration	24
Students Transported Daily	830
Bonded Indebtedness, 6/30/2002	\$3,545,000
Total General Fund Revenues	\$22,575,278
Total General Fund Expenditures	\$23,427,381
Operating Cost Per ADM	\$11,848

Source: State of Wyoming, Department of Education

COUNTY FINANCE	
Assessed Valuation (FY2002)	\$137,541,192
Total Taxes Levied (FY2002)	\$10,433,606
Sales and Use Tax Distribution (FY2002)	\$2,822,062
Bank Deposits (12/31/2002)	\$159,849,000
FY2002 Ave. County Levy (mills)	75.858

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

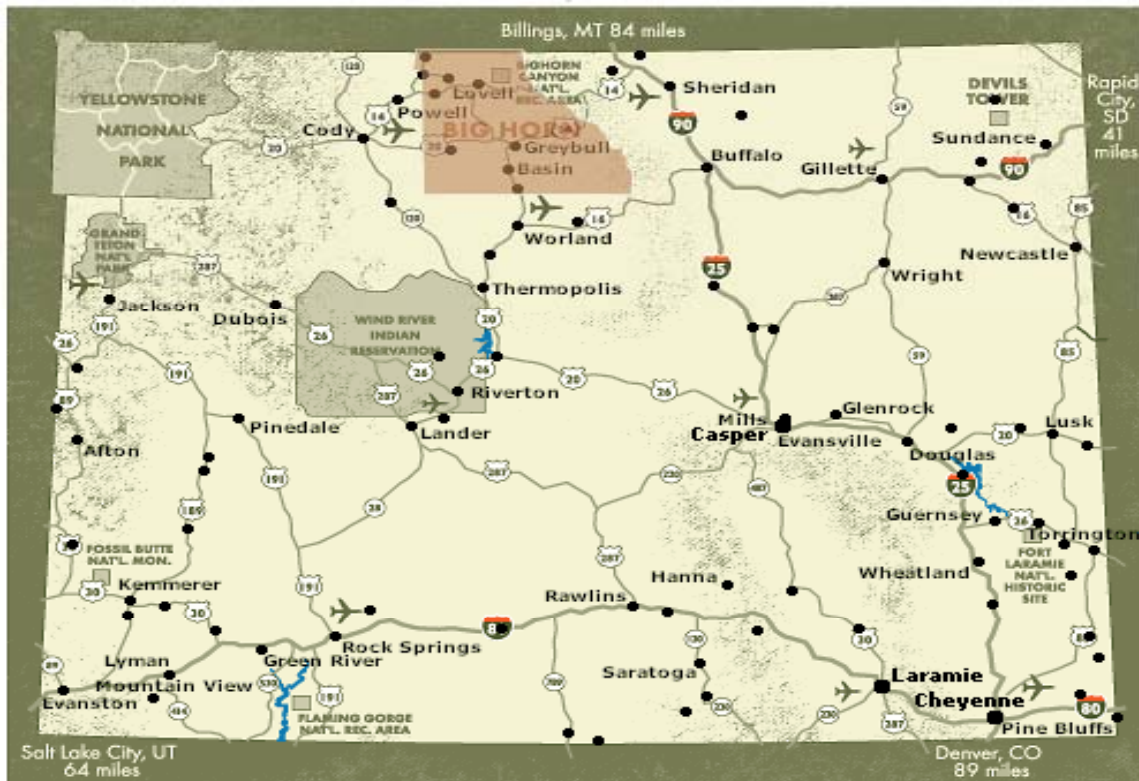
Rural Resource Report for Byron September 22-23, 2004

FULL AND PART TIME EMPLOYMENT	2001
Wage and salary	4,808
Proprietors	1,741
Farm	617
Forestry, fishing, related activities	(D)
Mining	999
Utilities	31
Construction	435
Manufacturing	235
Wholesale trade	118
Retail Trade	528
Transportation and warehousing	178
Information	75
Finance and insurance	234
Real estate and rental and leasing	34
Professional and technical services	200
Management of companies and enterprises	(D)
Administrative and waste services	(D)
Educational services	29
Health care and social assistance	188
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	(D)
Accommodation and food services	(D)
Other services, except public administration	268
Government and government enterprises	1,486
TOTAL	6,549

EARNINGS (000s of \$):	2001
Wage and salary	\$132,421
Proprietors	\$20,580
Other Labor Income	\$15,481
Farm	\$4,685
Forestry, fishing, related activities	(D)
Mining	\$46,774
Utilities	\$1,918
Construction	\$10,241
Manufacturing	\$7,820
Wholesale trade	\$2,309
Retail Trade	\$9,141
Transportation and warehousing	\$7,523
Information	\$1,654
Finance and insurance	\$4,316
Real estate and rental and leasing	\$185
Professional and technical services	\$5,564
Management of companies and enterprises	(D)
Administrative and waste services	(D)
Educational services	\$124
Health care and social assistance	\$2,917
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	(D)
Accommodation and food services	(D)
Other services, except public administration	\$3,184
Government and government enterprises	\$41,990
TOTAL	\$168,482

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

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



Workforce Training

1. Wyoming Department of Employment offers employers up to \$2,000 per employee for training. (<http://wydoe.state.wy.us/does.asp?ID=34>)

2. Quick Start

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

- Customer Service
 - Manufacturing
 - Warehousing and Distribution
- (<http://www.wyomingbusiness.org>)

State incentives

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

Taxes

1. No corporate state income tax.
2. No personal state income tax.
3. No inventory tax.
4. Big Horn County has a 5% sales and use tax (statewide base of 4% plus 1% optional county tax).
Source: Wyoming Department of Revenue, Excise Division (January 2002)
5. Unemployment Insurance – taxable base rate of \$14,700. Tax rates by industry grouping – WY Dept. of Employment. (<http://wydoe.state.wy.us/does.asp?ID=575>)
6. Workers' Compensation – rates vary by occupation and can be found at <http://wydoe.state.wy.us>.

7. Property taxes. Average tax rate in Big Horn County is 7.6090%.

Source: Wyoming Department of Revenue, Ad Valorem Division (September 2001)

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

Example: Tax on a commercial facility valued at \$1,000,000 is as follows: \$1,000,000 x 0.095 = \$95,000 x 0.076090 = \$7,229.

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

Telecommunications

Available Services:

All West Communications Phone: (435) 783-4361
 P.O. Box 588 Fax: (435) 783-4928
 Kamas, UT 84036 Website: www.allwest.net
Services offered: (Basin, Burlington, Byron, Cowley, Deaver, Greybull, Lovell, Manderson) Web Hosting

TRI Country Telephone Phone: (307) 568-2427
 P.O. Box 310 Fax: (307) 568-2506
 Basin, WY 82410 Website: www.tctwest.net
Services offered: (Basin, Burlington, Byron, Cowley, Deaver, Greybull, Lovell, Manderson) DSL, ISDN-BRI, T-1, Web Hosting

Visionary Phone: (888) 682-1884
 P.O. Box 2799 Fax: (307) 682-2519
 Gillette, WY 82717 Website: www.vcn.com
Services offered: Web Hosting

Source: Wyoming Interactive Business Center, Wyoming Business Council

Power Cost

Weighted Average Cost per kWh of Power	2001		
	Industrial	Commercial	Residential
Cents per kWh of industrial power		3.24	
Cents per kWh of commercial power		5.19	
Cents per kWh of residential power			6.51
Basin Town of (2000)	15.26	5.92	5.37
Big Horn Rural Electric Company (2000) 208 South 5 th Street Basin, WY 82410 (800) 564-2419	4.08	6.06	7.78
Deaver City of (2000)	N/A	N/A	6.85

Garland Light & Power Company (2000) 755 U.S. Highway 14 Alternate Powell, WY 82435 (307) 754-2881	N/A	9.44	7.25
High Plains Power, Inc. (2001) 504 Fremont Thermopolis, WY 82443 (307) 864-3157	3.54	6.19	7.21
PacifiCorp (2001) 825 NE Multnomah Portland, OR 97232 (888) 221-7070	3.24	5.14	6.44

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

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

Food	Housing	Apparel	Transportation	Medical	Recreation & Personal Care
94	76	120	100	100	101

Source: State of Wyoming, Economic Analysis Division < <http://eadiv.state.wy.us/wcli/NewsRelease-4Q03.pdf>>

Average Price of Single-Family Home (2002)

\$72,670

Source: A Profile of Wyoming <www.wyomingcda.com>

Higher Education

Northwest College: Campuses in Powell and Cody
University of Wyoming Outreach Program

Transportation

1. **Airports:**

Worland Municipal (WRL)

3 miles south of Worland.

Commercial Service: Great Lakes (United Express)

Daily flights to: Denver, Riverton

Runway: 7,004 x 100 ft., asphalt

Fixed Base Operators: Sky Aviation

Yellowstone Regional (COD)

East edge of Cody

Commercial Service: Sky West, Great Lakes (United Express)

Daily flights to: Salt Lake City, Denver

Runway: 8,276 x 100 ft., asphalt
Fixed Base Operators: Spirit Mountain Aviation

North Big Horn County (U68)

2 miles north of Cowley
Runway: 5,199 x 60 ft., asphalt
Fixed Base Operators: yes

South Big Horn County (GEY)

2 miles northwest of Greybull
Runways: 6,300 x 100 ft., asphalt
Fixed Base Operators: Hawkins and Powers

2. **Highways:**

Distance from county center to nearest Interstate highway = 46.59 miles (I-90)

U.S. 14

U.S. 16

U.S. 20

U.S. 310

3. **Railroad:**

Burlington Northern Santa Fe

Resource Team Members

Byron, Wyoming
September 22-23, 2004

Linda Harp, Team Leader

LPH Consulting
Box 891
Basin, WY 82401
(307) 272-0998
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Margi Brayton Gray

USDA Forest Service
Big Horn National Forest
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Sheridan, WY 82801
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mbrayton@fs.fed.us

Jacalyn Neely

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214 W. 15th Street
Cheyenne, WY 82002
(307) 777-2806
jneely1@state.wy.us

Kelly Jones

USDA Rural Development
208 Shiloh Rd
Worland, WY 82401
(307) 347-2456 ext. 4
kelly.jones@wy.usda.gov

Community Contact

Hollie Jones

(307) 548-7495 -

office

(307) 548-7559 - home

BYRON COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT

SEPTEMBER 22&23, 2004

TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
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SEPT. 22ND	BREAKFAST AT YOUR LEASURE	INGENITO'S
11:30A.M.	TRAVEL TO BYRON	
12:00 - 1:00	RESOURCE TEAM ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING & LUNCH	BYRON TOWN HALL
1:00 - 3:00	TOUR OF BYRON AND SURROUNDING AREA	
3:00 - 3:30	BREAK	
3:30 - 4:20	CITY SERVICES AND INDUSTRY	BYRON TOWN HALL
4:20 - 4:30	BREAK	
4:30 - 5:20	EMERGENCY, HEALTH & LAW ENFORCMENT	BYRON TOWN HALL
5:20 - 5:30	BREAK	
5:30 - 6:30	WORKING DINNER	BYRON TOWN HALL
6:30 - 8:00	GENERAL PUBLIC SESSION	BYRON TOWN HALL
SEPT. 23RD		
7:30 A.M.	BREAKFAST	INGENITO'S
8:30 - 8:50	TRAVEL TO BYRON	
9:00 - 9:50	FAMILIES AND SPECIAL NEEDS	BYRON TOWN HALL
9:50 - 10:00	BREAK	
10:00 - 10:50	SENIOR CITIZENS	BYRON TOWN HALL
10:50 - 11:30	BREAK	
11:30 - 11:45	WALK TO RMHS CAFETERIA	
11:45 - 12:45	LUNCH WITH BYRON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS	RMHS
12:45 - 1:00	BREAK & RETURN TO TOWN HALL	
1:00 - 1:50	BUSINESS, FINANCE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	BYRON TOWN HALL
1:50 - 2:00	BREAK	
2:00 - 2:50	GENERAL PUBLIC SESSION	BYRON TOWN HALL
2:50 - 3:00	BREAK	
3:00 - 3:50	TOWN, LOCAL AND STATE GOVERNMENT	BYRON TOWN HALL
3:50 - 4:00	BREAK	
4:00 - 6:00	PREP. FOR TOWN MEETING	BYRON TOWN HALL
6:00 - 8:00	TOWN MEETING AND DINNER	RMHS CAFETERIA

Byron Major Themes

After listening to the citizens of Byron, the Resource Team reviewed what was said and compiled a list of the major themes. The Byron community listening sessions produced five major themes.

- **Economic Development**
- **Communication**
- **Building Usage**
- **Beautification**
- **Planning/Zoning**

Team Member Recommendations

Linda Harp, Team Leader

LPH Consulting
Box 891
Basin, WY 82401

(307) 272-0998
lph00@tctwest.net

Introduction

The opportunity to participate in the Byron Community Needs Assessment on Sept. 22 and 23rd, 2004 gave our team a chance to see the historical past, present and future challenges of this quaint community.

The community efforts in planning and organization by Town Clerk Holly Jones and Mayor Gonzales gave our team an excellent opportunity to tour and appreciate this community. We received a warm and generous welcome and we thank you. We heard and recorded problems and challenges, strengths, and assets and important community concerns about the loss of the school. Our team met and came to a general consensus on the Major Themes that we heard discussed over the two-day period. This report will pull together that information along with some very feasible resources and contacts to help your community move forward.

Each community member has a responsibility to help Byron continue to be “A Great Place to Live” Byron has possibilities to grow the economy while still maintaining the quality of life that the community and the area have to offer. I hope that the assessment and the recommendations there in will serve as a valuable tool that you can use to accomplish your goals.

On behalf of the resource team I would like to thank the Town of Byron for the warm enthusiastic hospitality in hosting the Community Assessment. The listening sessions and town meeting were well attended by local leaders and citizens of the town. The traditional family atmosphere and the close-knit nature of the community especially impressed me. This report comments on several of the major themes and issues identified by the resource team.

Theme: Building Usage

Challenge: The issue that was uppermost in the listening sessions was the impending closure of the Byron school. Unfortunately this issue is one that many small schools across the state are facing. Overwhelmingly, the community voiced its distress of this situation. It is clear that much of the social and family life of the community revolves around the school.

Solution: The decision to consolidate the school in Cowley rests with the local school board and the Wyoming School Facilities Commission. Many communities across the state are faced with this distressing situation and must find a way to survive the loss of schools in their communities. The decision on location of schools appears to have been made and now the question is "what happens to the building"? The community will need to make an appointment with the facilities commission and request interventions on their behalf. One possible scenario would be to request a 3 to 5 year hold on the destruction of

the school to give the community and opportunity to explore optional usage of the building.

Resources:

Dr. Trent Blankenship

School Facilities Commission
WDE 2300 Capitol Av
2nd FL Hathaway Building
Cheyenne, WY. 82002

Theme: Building Usage

Challenge: The community would very much like to have a fire hall to protect citizens and help lower insurance cost for homeowners.

Solution: The town will need to pursue grant opportunities to fund a firehall for the town of Byron. There are many programs designed to help and support communities in meeting the health and safety of residents.

Resources:

State Lands and Investments Grant Program

Brad Misskimmons
Hershler Building, 3rd Fl
Cheyenne, WY. 82002
307-777-7309

Wyoming Business Council

Northwest Regional Director Leah Bruscano
143 Bent St.
Powell, WY
307-754-5785

Jerry Tamlin

USDA Rural Development
100 East "B" St.
Casper, WY
307-261-6319

Heidi Stonehocker

USDA Rural Development
Worland, WY
307-347-2456

Wyoming Association of Municipalities

George Parks, EX. Dir. 307-632-0398

Theme: Beautification

Challenge: Many Residents noted the appearance of the community was a problem for locals and for visitors to the community.

Solution: The Wyoming Department of Transportation(WYDOT) has an adopt the highway program for right of way cleanup on highways approaching towns. The town has an opportunity to support community pride by having designated clean-up events that promote community pride.

Resources:

WYDOT

Joe Holloway
Basin, WY. 82410
307-568-3400

Catalog of Wyoming State Grant Programs

2301 Capitol Av
Cheyenne, WY 82002
307-777-6338

Kelly Jones
USDA Rural Development
208 Shiloh Rd

Worland, WY 82401
(307) 347-2456 ext. 4
kelly.jones@wy.usda.gov

Introduction: I would like to thank the Town of Byron for their hospitality shown to each member of the team, and to those who took time out of their schedules to show us around the area.

Theme: Economic Development

Challenge: Economic Development was a topic often discussed and various perspectives were given as far as what the towns people would like to see. Some said maintain the town without a lot of growth, others felt that without growth, the town would not survive. One issue is there are no businesses that can bring revenue from the surrounding areas or that offer jobs for kids or adults. The appearance of the main street was felt to be a hindrance, and the improvement of this may be a draw for a business. Another concern was that young folks are not coming back because there are no employment opportunities.

Solution: In order to have job creation, you must have business creation. The Wyoming Small Business Development Center offers help to those wanting to start a business. Personalized consulting services to help develop business plans, weed out problems and find capital are just a few of the ways they can help and these services are offered free of charge. The Wyoming Business Council Regional offices are designed to be "First Stop Shops" to help clients seek the type of assistance they need. These are two excellent resources that can be tapped into. There are also Economic Development Groups that may be able to assist the.

Resources:

Leah Brusino North West Regional Director
Wyoming Business Council
143 S. Bent, Suite B
Powell, WY 82435
(307) 754-5785
Email: lbrusc@state.wy.us

Small Business Development Center Region II
Director Dwane Heintz
143 S. Bent, Suite A
Powell, WY 82435
(307) 754-2139
Email: director@wir.net

Theme: Planning and Zoning

Challenge: Planning and Zoning was a topic of conversation in every listening session. Several concerns were discussed. The need for zoning is apparent in the fact that the town can not grow without it. Business development, housing development, fire district services, housing market values, economic stimulation are all directly related to zoning. Absentee land owners who are not taking care of their local property also ties into this issue.

Solution: I feel that the first step would be to gather a committee to study the problems that exist when there is a lack of planning and zoning in the town. The committee can then make recommendations for ordinances to be adopted. Ordinances must be in a very clear and comprehensive form if they are to be fully effective. The town will need to decide how the lots should be platted for public and commercial use, as well as what is wanted for the infrastructure. Issues such as traffic patterns, water and sewer lines, fire protection, walking paths in rights of way for safe access of the school children as well as parks and recreation. The town can obtain generic zoning codes on line, and should also obtain planning and zoning statutes for Wyoming.

Resources:

Sterling Codifiers, Inc.,

www.sterlingcodifiers.com (Generic Zoning Codes can be found here)

Jacalyn Neely
Wyoming Business Council
214 W. 15th Street

Cheyenne, WY 82002
(307) 777-2806
jneely1@state.wy.us

Introduction: This was my first community assessment and my first visit to Byron. It has been a rewarding experience. The community is surrounded by beautiful scenery and is a great Wyoming destination. As I understand the process, having an assessment is the first big step in getting the community to come together to improve its social and economic situation without jeopardizing any of the benefits offered by a small town atmosphere. In initiating this process, Byron gave a warm welcome to the Wyoming Rural Development Council Community Assessment Team and affected us in a positive way. The assessment gave me an opportunity to view present and future desires of the Byron community. I learned that the community strength comes from its people and their values in making their community the best it can be. Townspeople demonstrated community pride, a willingness to seek help from the outside, and a conviction that they need to improve citizen participation to accomplish their goals. I was particularly impressed with the attitude and interest of the youth in the community as indicated from the listening sessions. In Wyoming we are faced with the difficult task of providing opportunities for our youth so we can keep them here in the state. The opportunities we create within our rural communities will determine how successful we are in accomplishing this goal. I thank the people of Byron for their hospitality and their participation during my recent visit. I appreciate everyone's honesty. The community has shown it is interested in doing something to stimulate growth and resolve conflicts. Byron is to be commended for participating in this first step toward finding a proactive solution for the future. Again, thank you and I hope these reports will be of assistance.

Theme: Communication

Challenge: Lack of Community Involvement Problems consistently identified by community members during the listening sessions had a common thread of general lack of communication having an adverse affect on community involvement. There is a need to get more citizens involved and improved communication is a crucial means of accomplishing that.

Solution: It is recommended that another town meeting be held after you receive this report and it has been distributed and read by Byron citizens. This would be the appropriate forum for the town as a whole to decide which projects to pursue and to prioritize those projects. A trained facilitator should chair this meeting to enhance communication. Do whatever it takes to start building bridges among participants. As a regular follow-up, community members could agree to hold a monthly potluck for one year. The potluck would be followed by an informal public meeting. Meetings could begin with an update on projects that are underway or that have been completed. Each meeting would have a special topic to be addressed. Speakers could be brought in to provide information or technical assistance, followed by a facilitated discussion. An action committee could be established if necessary. The leadership of any community is driven by the demands of its citizens. Byron is small enough that a group of citizens who

belong to the church or other organization can establish a concerned citizens group. This group can be a very valuable tool to increase participation in town hall meetings. Successful community results are a process of working together. Opening channels of communication can be difficult, especially if the groups do not have a clear understanding of each others challenges and needs. It is recommended that the town form a "committee" comprised of town leaders (mayor, town council, representatives) from appropriate sectors of the community to clearly define the issues and needs of the community. The next step is scheduling subsequent meetings between involved parties. This is a situation that may take some time for planning and resolution. Contacting someone who is talented in mediation or facilitation between these groups may be beneficial. Extend personal invitations for town governance participation, including those in adjacent rural areas who have a stake in the future of the town. Broad involvement tends to help people understand the importance of and need for their participation. If someone presents a problem or a criticism, enlist their help in determining how improvements can be made. Determining solutions gives people a different perspective and appreciation for what a community can accomplish. People will be more inclined to participate if they are personally invited; it helps them realize they are a vital part of the community and that their involvement is essential for success. Let everyone in the community know that good communication is a concern and priority, that it is being addressed, and that everyone must be committed to it. The Mayor's town council schedule of meetings and proceedings and a mayor's monthly newsletter (which is strictly focused on meeting results and upcoming events) should be mailed to every home. Also, place a bulletin board in a location that is frequented by citizens, posting the newsletter and other important notices. Encourage volunteers and involve as many people as possible. Do not rely only on the mayor to publish and communicate the newsletter. Enlist the help of others in the community. This distributes the workload and it also helps to avoid the notion that the community is only hearing what the town council or others want it to hear. Broad community involvement provides more credibility and cohesiveness. Enlist the participation of high school students whose ideas can help make Byron a better place and provide them a chance to serve. Form a youth council who can help you make plans for youth facilities and activities especially for the 12-20 age groups. They are a good resource for painting projects, lawn care and other yard work, which they can advertise with flyers issuing a personal invitation to participate. A youth council can also be a means of understanding what kids are asking for.

Resources:

A possible solution to develop a newsletter is to get a foundation grant to help finance this endeavor. This could be supported through a Wyoming Community Foundation grant:

Wyoming Community Foundation

221 Iverson Avenue

Laramie, WY 82070-3038

Phone: (307) 721-8300 Fax: (307) 721-8333

E-mail: wcf@wycf.org

Web Site: www.wycf.org

Mary Randolph can be contacted at the Wyoming Rural Development Council to assist in making arrangements for a facilitator:

Mary Randolph Executive Director
Wyoming Rural Development Council
2219 Carey Avenue Cheyenne, WY 82002
Phone: (307) 777-6430
E-mail: mrando@state.wy.us

The Wyoming Association of Municipalities will either help directly or provide expert referrals:

Ginger Newman Communications and Training Director
Wyoming Association of Municipalities
P.O. Box 3110 Cheyenne, WY 82003
Phone: (307) 632-0398
E-mail: gnewman@wyomuni.org
Web Site: www.wyomuni.org

Theme: Communication

Challenge: Division within the Community Difficulty in internal town relationships was a concern of many citizens and local leaders during the listening sessions. Some of the internal issues mentioned were that the community is divided and there is a need to find ways to unite citizens. Conflict that revolves in part around possible school district consolidation was discerned from comments made at the listening sessions.

Solution: The community needs to come together and resolve its differences. Many communities have found that a goal setting process is one of the best ways to build a sense of community, overcome conflicts and move forward without endless bickering. Everyone is given an opportunity to participate and those who do not have little basis to complain in the future. Reaching consensus on joint issues and courses of action also produces more community support and buy-in for decisions of local officials even when some choose to disagree. Support for the recent community assessment proves that Byron has the capacity to carry off such a process. If agreement on such a process is established at a community meeting soon after the assessment report is received, meeting results determine the framework for a community visioning and goal setting process. Hold community events: potluck suppers or community cleanup day followed by potluck supper, fund raisers, etc., to help build cohesiveness. Enlist the help of people from different areas or subdivisions to plan, arrange and advertise events. There are always people who enjoy this and are good at it. Form an activity committee to plan and promote activities. Your community has many talented people. Help them to share their talents with others and build a sense of community. Avoid rumors and the rumormill. Do not allow rumors to start and do not pass rumors on. If you hear something that does not sound quite right, use the phone and call whoever is involved to get the straight scoop. Then share it with people you talk to. Avoid the “them vs. us” syndrome (i.e., the town

council “them” does not care about “us”). This is divisive. Help the town council understand your concerns and help develop solutions. Remember that everyone can not have his or her way on every action or decision. Life is compromise and working together is crucial. Byron is small enough that several times during the year (winter, spring, summer, and fall) the community could plan citizen events. For instance, at Christmas a town program and dinner; in the spring a town cleanup and picnic; in the summer the fireworks display gathering; and in the fall a town pioneer pageant. This allows everyone to get together, get to know one another and allow them to discuss issues impacting the local community. Additionally, the town council could host a town round table once a month – e.g., coffee and cookies at a town center facility on a Saturday allowing citizens (elected or otherwise) to discuss current issues. Every citizen should be invited. Community involvement needs to become a habit in the development of the community. The benefits from community membership directly reflect the level of involvement by the residents. Byron leaders might want to consider developing a community-learning center in one of the vacant buildings (old school - if closed, or other building). The purpose of the community-learning center would be to provide a place where youth, adult, continuing and community education could take place. This is a facility that could serve the community as a place for public meetings as well as for work force preparation and general education opportunities for the public. Develop a process that encourages positive change. Look for positive attitudes. Support community leaders as they address new and long-standing issues. Follow through on community decisions and plans. There are several excellent meeting facilitators in Wyoming to aid in accomplishing these aims. Included in the resource list below are several that may be available to assist Byron and adjoining areas.

Resources:

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

Mary Randolph Executive Director
Wyoming Rural Development Council
2219 Carey Avenue Cheyenne, WY 82002
Phone: (307) 777-6430
E-mail: mrando@state.wy.us

Andrea Malmberg Consultant Homelander
768 Twin Creek Road
Lander, WY 82520
Phone: 307) 335-7485
E-mail: andrea@homelander.org

Leah Bruscino Northwest Regional Director
Wyoming Business Council
143 South Bent, Suite B
Powell, WY 82435
Phone: (307) 754-5785

E-mail: lbrusc@state.wy.us

Web Site: www.wyomingbusiness.org

Theme: Building Usage

Challenge: Historical Buildings Byron has several old vacant log cabins distributed throughout the town that were pioneer homes. These are in a state of disrepair and will require some expense to preserve. It is important to note that when historical buildings are lost, the community forever loses contact with their past. An example for historical consideration is the work done at Encampment, Wyoming where plaques have been placed on historical buildings.

Solution: By identifying the buildings with potential for historical registry, the town can determine which buildings are eligible for restoration funds. The community could form a historical committee to identify any building eligible for the historical register. Once the identification is complete, the committee could pursue restoration by making recommendations to the mayor/city council that would decide on actions to be taken. The Wyoming State Historic Preservation office would be a local contact for projects selected. This agency provides grants to support historical preservation projects from education to rehabilitation. They provide a reimbursable cash grant in amounts ranging from \$1,000 to \$25,000. It appears they will require a forty percent cash or in-kind match. The projects must meet federal standards for historic preservation. A funding commitment is necessary to repair and preserve selected log cabins and placement of appropriate historical plaques informing visitors of Byron's pioneer contributions. The town has a Mormon heritage that is important to share with the visiting public. Some historic buildings may be restored and renovated to become useful to the community. As a suggestion, the best of these be used as a visitor center, coffee shop, apothecary candy store or old fashioned ice cream parlor.

Resources:

Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office

2301 Central Avenue Barrett Building, Third Floor

Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002

Phone: 307-777-7697

Fax: 307-777-6421

Web Site: <http://wyoshpo.state.wy.us/>

The Main Street Program is a special system developed by the National Trust for Historic Preservation to teach a community how to revitalize its commercial downtown areas. The program has been implemented in 24 states and has helped revitalize downtown areas in more than 170,000 communities by teaching community leaders how to organize, develop a vision, market a revitalization project, and generate private funding. For more information, contact:

Main Street Program

Mary Randolph, Executive Director
Wyoming Rural Development Council
2219 Carey Avenue
Cheyenne, WY 82002
Phone: (307) 777-6430
E-mail: mrando@state.wy.us

Byron could apply for grants through the Investment Ready Communities Division of
The Wyoming Business Council:

Steve Achter, Director Investment Ready Communities

Wyoming Business Council
214 West 15th Street
Cheyenne, WY 82002
Phone: (307) 777-2811
E-mail: sachte@state.wy.us
Web Site: www.wyomingbusiness.org

**Julie Kozlowski, Program Manager Investment Ready Communities Economic
Development Grants**

Wyoming Business Council
214 West 15th Street
Cheyenne, WY 82002
Phone: (307) 777-2821
E-mail: jkozol@state.wy.us
Web Site: www.wyomingbusiness.org

Leah Brusino Northwest Regional Director

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143 South Bent, Suite B
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Phone: (307) 754-5785
E-mail: lbrusc@state.wy.us
Web Site: www.wyomingbusiness.org

**Shawn Reese, Program Manager Economic Development Investment Ready
Communities**

Wyoming Business Council
214 West 15th Street
Cheyenne, WY 82002
Phone: (307) 777-2813
E-mail: sreese@state.wy.us
Web Site: www.wyomingbusiness.org

Theme: Building Usage

Challenge: Vacant Buildings Several vacant buildings, other than the old log cabins, exist that could be restored and used for business and social purposes: e.g., the “big box” concrete building that sits on Main Street and the original school “lunch room” building located beside the town Hall. There is a need to clean up these vacant and abandoned buildings. Empty downtown buildings give the undesirable impression of a dying town. Unfortunately, non-resident ownership of many of the occupied properties appears to contribute to the problem. Until a solution can be found to clean up or remove these structures, the town is at the mercy of the absentee landowner/homeowner.

Solution: Use an appropriate building as a teen center for Byron youth. There is little doubt the young people in Byron need to become involved in the community. By their own admission, they are bored and lack recreational facilities. The teens we met with expressed very strongly their frustration with not having a local facility in which to meet. This results in teens driving to other communities to find activities. Select a suitable building for a community center. Several people expressed the need for a community center to hold a variety of community events, classes, etc. The center could be used by both youth, seniors, and the general population for social gatherings. Byron leaders should consider developing a community-learning center in one of the vacant buildings, to provide a place where youth, adult, continuing and community education could take place. This is a facility serving the community for public meetings as well as work force preparation and general education opportunities for the public. The community may have a variety of talented people skilled in certain areas such as carpentry, plumbing, electrical work, etc. and others who are willing to work. Enlist volunteers to create a community center in a suitable building. Hold community fundraisers such as yard sales, craft sales, potluck dinners, etc. to raise funds. This will have the double advantage of building community spirit, cohesiveness and pride. Form a committee to plan and accomplish the community effort. Involve as many as possible. It is recommended that a representative body of youth and community leaders work together to come up with an acceptable answer for using an old building to be cleaned up and used for dances and general gatherings. It is recommended that an outside facilitator be brought in to help do this work. The Wyoming Rural Development Council has a listing of facilitators who do this kind of work at no cost. A roller skating rink may be another example for use of a vacant building. A flat, concrete-floor building is okay for this type of skating. Visual screening is an option for the immediate clean up of vacant buildings along Main Street. Windows could be painted with murals as an inexpensive way to spruce up abandoned buildings. High school and grade school students could be waiting to demonstrate their artistic abilities.

Resources:

<http://www.afterschool.gov/cgi-bin/home.pl>

This is a centralized site for federal resources for developing and funding after-school programs for children and youth. Look into the Main Street Program which helps begin a revitalization process. This national program offers a framework to help communities restore economic health and vitality to their downtowns. The State of Wyoming is hoping to start some pilot programs that will help a community increase economic activity while

preserving and building upon a location's historical significant character. The Main Street Program can be used for finding resources to help restore a downtown area. The community needs to determine the buildings it wants to focus on and then pursue funding. By thinking beyond the restoration, Byron can concentrate on the end use, "who will use these buildings?"

Main Street Program

Mary Randolph, Executive Director
Wyoming Rural Development Council
2219 Carey Avenue
Cheyenne, WY 82002
Phone: (307) 777-6430
E-mail: mrand@state.wy.us

Byron could apply for a planning grant through the Investment Ready Communities Division of The Wyoming Business Council:

Steve Achter, Director Investment Ready Communities

Wyoming Business Council
214 West 15th Street
Cheyenne, WY 82002
Phone: (307) 777-2811
E-mail: sachte@state.wy.us
Web Site: www.wyomingbusiness.org

Julie Kozlowski, Program Manager Investment Ready Communities Economic Development Grants

Wyoming Business Council
214 West 15th Street
Cheyenne, WY 82002
Phone: (307) 777-2821
E-mail: jkozol@state.wy.us
Web Site: www.wyomingbusiness.org

Leah Brusino Northwest Regional Director

Wyoming Business Council
143 South Bent, Suite B
Powell, WY 82435
Phone: (307) 754-5785
E-mail: lbrusc@state.wy.us
Web Site: www.wyomingbusiness.org

Shawn Reese, Program Manager Economic Development Investment Ready Communities

Wyoming Business Council
214 West 15th Street
Cheyenne, WY 82002
Phone: (307) 777-2813

E-mail: sreese@state.wy.us

Web Site: www.wyomingbusiness.org

Theme: Building Usage

Challenge: School Facility The issue that seemed to be uppermost in the listening sessions was the closure of the school. This issue is one that many small communities across the state are facing. Overwhelmingly, the community voiced its wish to keep the school in Byron. It is clear that much of the social and family life of the community revolves around the school. The decision to consolidate with the school system in Cowley apparently rests with the Wyoming School Facilities Commission and ultimately with the Wyoming Legislature. Many communities across the state have been impacted by how the State supports and manages its schools. Perhaps the pending loss of your school will offer opportunities regarding the use of the existing building. I strongly suggest a committee be formed to address usage issues with the School Board. They could identify entities which have an interest in relocating to the property, perhaps a senior center or a medical office.

Solution: The need for assisted living facilities for seniors and affordable housing was brought up at some of the listening sessions and the school facility could provide the space. Assisted living came up a number of times based on the desire that many of the older population would like to stay in Byron as long as they can. At this time there is no interim facility from home to nursing home. It is necessary to show that there is actually a demand sufficient enough to pay for such a development. It would be a good start to find out how many local folks would take advantage of such a facility and if there are folks in neighboring communities who would do the same. A possible plan for estimating building restoration could then be made. With concern over the lack of recreational activities in the community and the school building could be converted to a gym or similar facility. During several listening sessions numerous comments were made about reopening the swimming pool. Likewise, many members of the community actively mentioned the need for a “center” for recreation and community activities. The community could open the swimming pool, put in some exercise equipment and make an excellent recreation center. To help with this effort, look into the Wyoming Business Council’s Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG). If you can meet the state and national objectives of benefiting the low/moderate income families or elimination of slum and blight, there is a possibility for funding. The old school building could be a great asset to the community. The building offers so many opportunities ranging from community meeting to recreation. To do this however, the building will have to be examined and plans and estimates made for renovation. Estimates should include maintenance costs. Another issue that came up during the listening sessions was access to reliable health care services on a regular basis. Having a mobile doctor service in the community for one day a week could be extremely beneficial. The health care system of Lovell may be willing to provide a physician’s assistant or a doctor on a regular basis if the need is great enough. The school facility could offer several rooms for this service.

Resources:

AARP should have guidelines for an assisted living center.

E-mail: wy@aarp.org

Web site: <http://www.aarp.org/>

Main Street Program

Mary Randolph, Executive Director
Wyoming Rural Development Council
2219 Carey Avenue
Cheyenne, WY 82002
Phone: (307) 777-6430
E-mail: mrando@state.wy.us

Byron could apply for a planning grant through the Investment Ready Communities Division of The Wyoming Business Council:

Steve Achter, Director Investment Ready Communities

Wyoming Business Council
214 West 15th Street
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E-mail: sachte@state.wy.us
Web Site: www.wyomingbusiness.org

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214 West 15th Street
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Phone: (307) 754-5785
E-mail: lbrusc@state.wy.us

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214 West 15th Street
Cheyenne, WY 82002
Phone: (307) 777-2813

E-mail: sreese@state.wy.us

Web Site: www.wyomingbusiness.org

Paul Thares Economic Development Director Big Horn County

P.O. Box 7

Greybull, WY 82426

Cellular: (307) 272-5927

Margi Brayton Gray USDA Forest Service

Bighorn National Forest

2013 East Side 2nd Street

Sheridan, WY 82801

Phone: (307) 674-2675

E-mail: mbrayton@fs.fed.us

USDA Rural Development

Heidi Stonehocker Rural Development Manager Northwest Area Office Serving Big Horn, Park, and Washakie counties

208 Shiloh Road

Worland, WY 82401-2914

Phone: (307) 347-2456, ext. 4

E-Mail: heidi.stonhocker@uw.usda.gov

Web Site: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/wy/>

Introduction:

Theme: Building Usage

Challenge: Fire Station Many individuals mentioned the need for a local firehouse to protect the community and to help control local insurance rates. The need now is for a building to house a fire truck.

Solution: The town first needs to identify possible vacant buildings. A small committee could be formed to research and make recommendations to the Town Council. Construction of a firehouse is a project that might very well qualify for CDBG funding. Specific rules apply in order for a community to qualify for these types of grants. Contact the Wyoming CDBG office for more information. The town needs to identify the means/method for acquiring the required equipment to fight fires, provide snow removal, and maintain local roads. The first critical item is the fire truck. Other equipment may need to be accumulated over time. As with fire equipment, the older it gets the more maintenance it required. Leasing a new piece of equipment may be more cost effective than maintaining an old cheaper piece of equipment.

Resources:

Main Street Program

Mary Randolph, Executive Director
Wyoming Rural Development Council
2219 Carey Avenue
Cheyenne, WY 82002
Phone: (307) 777-6430
E-mail: mrando@state.wy.us

The Wyoming Business Council administers the Community Development Block Grant Program. This program funds eligible activities in economic development, community development and housing:

Leah Brusino Northwest Regional Director

Wyoming Business Council
143 South Bent, Suite B
Powell, WY 82435
Phone: (307) 754-5785
E-mail: lbrusc@state.wy.us

Byron could apply for a planning grant through the Investment Ready Communities Division of The Wyoming Business Council:

Steve Achter, Director Investment Ready Communities

Wyoming Business Council
214 West 15th Street
Cheyenne, WY 82002
Phone: (307) 777-2811
E-mail: sachte@state.wy.us
Web Site: www.wyomingbusiness.org

Julie Kozlowski, Program Manager Investment Ready Communities Economic Development Grants

Wyoming Business Council
214 West 15th Street
Cheyenne, WY 82002
Phone: (307) 777-2821
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Web Site: www.wyomingbusiness.org

Shawn Reese, Program Manager Economic Development Investment Ready Communities

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214 West 15th Street
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E-mail: sreese@state.wy.us
Web Site: www.wyomingbusiness.org

There are Federal Emergency Management Act grants available for fire station end equipment projects. Many of the larger communities in this state or others have used fire-fighting equipment that they are willing to donate to small communities that need it. The Town of Bear River, Wyoming purchased a used fire truck and constructed a building to house their emergency equipment with FEMA grants. Key Contact:

Robin Rhodes, Mayor Town of Bear River

81 Elk Drive

Bear River, WY 82930

Phone: (307) 789-2800

E-mail: mayorrhodes2003@yahoo.com

If you work things correctly, a shop could be Byron's fire hall. If the shop is the fire hall you may stand a better chance of receiving a grant to help build it. You can apply to the State Land and Investment Board for funding on a municipal shop and get it. Fire suppression seems to get preference. Place an ad in the Wyoming Association of Municipalities (WAM) news. Making communities aware of the fact that Byron is looking for specific equipment may generate calls from communities considering disposing of used equipment.

Wyoming Association of Municipalities

P.O. Box 3110 200 East 8th Avenue

Cheyenne, WY 83003

Phone: (307) 632-0398

Email: wam@wyomuni.org

Web Site: <http://www.wyomuni.org/>

USDA Rural Development

Heidi Stonehocker Rural Development Manager

Northwest Area Office Serving Big Horn, Park, and Washakie counties

208 Shiloh Road

Worland, WY 82401-2914

Phone: (307) 347-2456, ext. 4

Email: heidi.stonhocker@uw.usda.gov

Web Site: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/wy/>

Margi Brayton Gray

Bighorn National Forest

2013 Eastside 2nd Street

Sheridan, WY 82801

307.674.6047

mbrayton@fs.fed.us

Introduction: I want to thank the people of Byron, Wyoming for two very enjoyable days I spent as a team member with the community assessment in September. A special thanks to the people that set up the assessment. I'm the one who had my nose stuck in the computer typing comments most of the time, so I didn't get as much chance to interact. My background in community resources isn't as strong as I wish, but I paid careful attention to your comments and hope to offer at least a few observations and ideas that popped into my mind during my brief visit and hope that something here will be useful.

I viewed your community as having several strong foundational assets already in place that you can build upon in the future. These include a good transportation system moving visitors to and through Byron on their way to other destinations. I was delightfully struck by the natural beauty of your setting and the bounty of outdoor recreational opportunities. The communication technology tools offered by TCT West is also an obvious asset to your community. There is a cadre of ex-mayors in Byron providing a nucleus of seasoned leadership, and that combined with the leadership qualities in your current mayor should provide a super-hero force of community organizers. Each could bite off a small project to get things started. It's the strength and pride I saw among the residents of your town that will make it happen. I was also struck by the fact that you already have answers to many of your challenges—every group we spoke with had ideas that were workable solutions to a better community. All that's needed is some organization and focus and “champions” to push them along. The people who attended the listening sessions love their community and I saw plenty of motivation and energy to carry you forward toward a thriving, vital community—truly “a great place to live.” I'm excited about your potential to take hold of your unique assets and create positive outcomes.

THEME: Beautification

Challenge: Many people expressed an interest in cleaning-up the town of Byron. There was particular interest in improving the appearance of Main Street because that's where visitors receive their first impression of your community.

Solution: It's true—Main Street most definitely creates “the first impression” for your community. It is usually the hub of activity in a small town and in some respects, determines the character of your community. So that's an excellent starting point for community improvement.

Solution #1: Byron could have a “Byron Day”. This would be an internal celebration to bring all the people together in a community clean-up effort. Hold it in late May or June. Make it FUN, FUN, FUN! and get Byron “spiffed-up” for the summer. Get the kids involved by doing a money-making slave auction to raise money for kid activities or some other worthy cause. Utilize one of your best community tools-- your first class trash service and give prizes to the most improved yard, the most interesting trash, the

most historic piece of trash, etc. Create a group of volunteers to assist the elderly people with clean-up projects that they can't handle on their own.

Solution #2: Become a pilot community for the new and improved "Main Street Program". The Wyoming legislature provided new funding for this program in 2004. Five communities will get funding for a 3 year pilot study. The pilot communities will be selected through an application process that will be published sometime in January 2005. Get in touch with the program coordinator listed below and get on the mailing list. Find out what will be on the application and start working on it now. This should be a great opportunity!

Resources:

Wyoming Main Street Program

Wyoming Rural Development Council
2219 Carey Avenue
Cheyenne, WY 82002
(307) 777-7622
mrand@state.wy.us

THEME: Community Planning

Challenge: There were mixed opinions on city planning and the concept of zoning. Some felt that the ability to have livestock within the town was one of the best things about the town, while others felt the lack of city planning and zoning was the biggest obstacle to town growth and survival.

Solution: Even though there is division over what is the best, a planning process will allow you to build consensus through a democratic process for the community as a whole. Community planning does not have to be handed down from above—it should come from within. Do some research to find communities that have been in similar situations and pick a successful process that will fit your needs. Get representation from the various components of your community. Find a way to include the absentee population in the process. Planning and zoning gives the community control over their destiny rather than being subjected to every individual's whim. Retain as much of the unique character of Byron as possible within the goals and objective that are set for future development of the community.

Resources:

USDA Rural Development

Northwest Area Office
Serving Big Horn, Park and Washakie Counties
208 Shiloh Rd.
Worland, WY 82401
Phone: (307) 347-2456, Ext. 4

Ann.stoeger@wy.usda.gov

Wyoming Business Council

Northwestern Region

Leah Bruscino

143 So. Bent, Suite B

Powell, WY 82435

Phone: (307) 754-5785

lbrusc@state.wy.us

THEME: Beautification

Challenge: Weeds detract from the appearance of the community.

Solution: A basic premise concerning weed control is that everyone needs to participate. Noxious weeds are very effective propagators and unless they are controlled throughout an area, they will continue to disperse seed to the whole neighborhood. So you will need a comprehensive, community-wide approach to the weed problem and get the absentee landowners involved somehow. I spoke with a weed expert in your area and his recommendations were three-fold: 1) Put a weed ordinance in place and enforce it, 2) educate property owners about effective methods for controlling existing weeds, and 3) prevent new weeds from coming into the community by assessing weed sources and educating the community about preventative measures. There are a couple different resources you can use in your area for help with weed education and the most effective methods for weed eradication:

Resources:

Big Horn County Weed and Pest Control District

PO Box 567

Greybull, Wyoming 82426

(307) 765-2855

Big Horn County Cooperative Extension Service

4782 Highway 310

Greybull, WY 82426

(307) 765-2868

THEME: Beautification

Challenge: Trees were listed as one of the ways Byron could improve the appearance of its Main Street. Certain trees are considered to be nuisance trees. Russian olive trees and Chinese elms were referred to as “trash trees” that tend to grow everywhere, while the cottonwoods are hazard trees that produce heavy cotton in the spring. Replacing those

with more desirable trees is one of the most effective ways to improve the appearance and quality of life in Byron.

Solution: Trees are always an important element in community development efforts. Trees provide shade that significantly cut energy costs for cooling in the summer. They increase property values and convert carbon dioxide into oxygen. They have the ability to attract visitors and businesses to your area. Trees provide an oasis in dry climates and serve as an indicator of human habitation for visitors approaching Byron from a distance. People are more likely to stop and spend some time in a community that is attractively landscaped. Again with a little vision and up-front planning, Byron can create a tree environment to serve your unique goals and objectives. One of the primary requirements—water—is readily available.

Resources:

Some communities start with a Community Forest Assessment, which is a process for developing a tree inventory, setting tree goals and putting together a management plan aimed at attaining the tree goals you identify for your community. Greybull recently completed an assessment and is already putting it into action with grant assistance. Sheridan also completed a community forest assessment in September 2004 and the town of Kaycee is currently doing an assessment. Contact for more information:

Chris Weydeveld

Technical Forestry Services
603 Greybull Avenue
Greybull, WY 82426
(307) 765-2635
cweydeveld@wytfs.com

Other communities become a Tree City USA and develop local Tree Boards to plan and care for community trees. There are currently 36 Tree Cities in Wyoming. Lovell and Greybull are both recent additions to the list and could provide information. The Wyoming State Forestry Division has been very active in promoting this program over the past several years because it provides great assistance in developing a community forestry program. Contact for more information:

Mark Hughes

Wyoming State Forestry Division
1100 W. 22nd Street
Cheyenne, WY 82001
(307) 777-7586
mhughe@state.wy.us

Wyoming State Forestry Division

District 3
305 S. Smith Road
Riverton, WY 82501
(307) 856-8655

Keep abreast of all that is happening with Wyoming State Forestry by getting on the mailing list for their quarterly newsletter—there's lots of good information about caring for trees and community forestry successes. It also gives you a heads-up about grant opportunities. Visit their website at:

<http://slf-web.state.wy.us/ami/forestry.htm>

Grant opportunities.

Cost Share Grant for Community Forestry Projects—urban tree planting and community forestry education activities

Agency: Wyoming State Forestry Division (Mark Hughes or local contact, see #’ above)

Amount: \$500-\$5,000

Requirements: Tree planting must be on public land and must involve volunteers.

Deadline for applications: February

Contact: Mark Hughes

Business Ready Communities Program—Community Enhancement section
Improve community aesthetic character or quality of life through tree planting, landscaping or recreational facilities.

Agency: Wyoming Business Council (Leah Bruscino, (307) 754-5785)

Amount: Up to \$500,000

Requirements: 50% cash or in-kind match

Deadline: October 15, 2004 (Check web-site for next year.)

You can also contact your nearest Forest Service office to inquire about possible funding and technical assistance to help with planning and implementing a community forestry program.

Dave Sisk, District Ranger

Medicine Wheel/Paintrock District

Bighorn National Forest

604 East Main

Lovell, WY 82431

(307) 548-6541

dsisk@fs.fed.us

Other Resources in your area:

Washakie County Conservation District has a new publication called “Tree and Shrub Guide for Washakie County”. Information should be applicable for Big Horn County. Call (307) 347-2456.

The Cheyenne Urban Forestry Division recently produced a color brochure called “Basic Tree Care for Wyoming”. Call (307) 637-6428.

THEME: Economic Development

Challenge: Several people felt there was a need for more business in Byron.

Solution: I imagine there is a steady flow of traffic through Byron in the summer and if you could capture more of that potential market in some way, it would surely benefit the

community business environment. I once drove 2 hours out of my way to go to Shoshoni for one of their famous malts. A restaurant in Cowley features oatmeal pie—something I'd never heard of or experienced. It made me want to visit Cowley. So I did. I liked your store on Main Street. It reminded me of the General Store where I grew up. There was a big, old-fashioned glass covered penny candy counter. I could visualize something like that in Cozzens (sp?). It has a nice ring to it—Cozzens Candy Counter. You could cater to the kind of candy “baby boomers” had when they were growing up. I've seen it in other places so I know it's available.

Of course food is always a draw, but another people magnet is history. Byron has an interesting heritage. You already have some signs to inform people about the founding of Byron and the Sidon Canal. Keep building on that interpretative theme. People want to know about your unique heritage. Studies show that history is one of the biggest items drawing visitors into an area. You already have the interesting stories, you just need to tell them in ways that others can enjoy them. Something that captured my attention right away was the historic log cabin on Main Street. Low and behold it's already on Main Street and doesn't have to be moved there. And it even has a couple old wooden wagons next to it. Add a few buckets of flowers and some attractive signing and people would stop to check it out—I'm sure of it. A combination museum and visitor center would be a great idea. Another idea would be an antique store which could also feature crafts created by local artists and crafters. I know I'm being simplistic and there would be lots of details to work through, but if you like the idea--start working on it.

Once you settle on something that will make people want to stop in Byron, you need to “crow” about it. Advertise it in the Wyoming Visitor magazine, put it on web sites, put up signs. Use the tools available, especially the people tools available to you in your local area for all your economic development ideas. Do a little brainstorming about the things you might do to bring a little business in to Byron and then pick your favorites and make them happen. Don't listen to the nay-sayers and don't be afraid of exploring the unusual.

Resources:

Leah Brusino

Northwestern Regional Director
Wyoming Business Council
143 South Bent, Suite B
Powell, WY 82435
Phone: (307) 754-5785
FAX: (307) 754-0368
lbrusc@state.wy.us

Paul Thares

Big Horn County Economic Development Inc.
PO Box 7
Greybull, WY 82426
Phone: (307) 765-2618
Fax: (307) 272-5972
develop@tctwest.net

Judy Johnson

Publications Director
Wyoming Travel and Tourism
(307) 777-2871

Small Business Administration

Wyoming District Office
100 East B Street
Federal Building
PO Box 2839
Casper, WY 82602
(307) 261-6500
www.sba.gov/wy/

Wyoming Small Business Development Center

Phone: (307) 766-3505
(800) 348-5194
E-mail: www.uwyo.edu/SBCD

THEME: Miscellaneous

Challenge: People commented about the need for better accessibility for the aging population in the community and people with disabilities. One of the project ideas was accessible playground equipment in the city park for children in wheelchairs.

Solution: There were several comments about the senior population in Byron and the need for more activities, transportation and better facilities. The population table for Byron indicates that 26% of people living in Byron are 55+ years of age. Disabilities among elderly people living in rural communities often go unrecognized and a sense of isolation and depression exists. The same is true for children with disabilities. Increasing “accessibility” in the community can have a widespread positive effect on the community as a whole. Accessible playground equipment is used more easily by everyone, including parents and grandparents. The term “visitability” means that a friend or family member with a physical disability can easily visit in your home or community building. Visitability buildings improve safety for seniors and children with disabilities and reduce the risk for falls and other injuries. Incorporate accessibility and visitability into new community projects from the beginning and make it part of your city planning effort. Find someone in your community that will champion this cause and become a demonstration city for rural Wyoming. If you seek grant funding for accessibility projects, group together with other communities in your area to make your project more cost effective.

Resources:

Wyoming Institute for Disabilities

University of Wyoming
Department of 4298
1000 E. University Ave.
Laramie, WY 82071-4298
(307) 766-2761
wind.uw@uwyo.edu

RTC: Rural

The University of Montana Rural Institute:
A Center for Excellence in Disability Education, Research and Services

52 Corbin Hall
Missoula, MT 59812-7056
(888) 268-2743 or (406) 243-2654
<http://rtc.ruralinstitute.umt.edu>

The web site listed above provides good information and recent research on disabilities in rural America. Under “Publications on Independent Living and Community Development, there is an article called Making Transportation work for People with Disabilities in Rural America, which is a handbook with specific details for setting this up in small communities. Again this is something that could be more effective and cost efficient if done as a group of communities in your area.

National Center on Accessibility

501 North Morton Street
Suite 109
Bloomington, IN 47404-3732
(812) 856-4422
www.ncaonline.org

There was a good resource section on PLAYGROUNDS and accessible playground equipment on this website under the “Technical Assistance” tab.

John Black, LGC

Transit Program Manager
Wyoming Department of Transportation
PO Box 1708
Cheyenne, WY 82003-1708
Phone: (307) 777-4384
Fax (307) 777-4759

This resource was listed in the Cowley assessment for a similar challenge and provides a potential source for transportation grant funding.

THEME: Community Development

Challenge: Byron needs a grant writer. So? Everybody needs a good grant writer. What makes Byron special in this regard? During the assessment, I was surprised by how many designs and plans the Mayor kept pulling out to show us. It’s enviable position to have projects sitting on the shelf ready to go and just needing a little funding.

Solution: The right person with a little grant writing training can be a most valuable asset to the community of Byron. It should be someone with extra time on their hands, the ability to organize people, thoughts and resources, good research abilities and adequate writing skills. If you’ve got such a person, I’ve got a deal for you. There is an excellent grant writing training delivered by Community Systems and sponsored by the Western Council of Resource Conservation and Development in Jackson, Wyoming every November. The Bighorn National Forest and Wyoming Rural

Development Council have partnered together to offer scholarships for tuition and per diem for successful applicants from communities that have completed a Community Assessment and identified priority projects. This year's scholarships have already been awarded. But additional scholarships will be offered again next year. It's for communities surrounding the Bighorn National Forest, so be sure you find someone that will work for Byron when application time rolls around (next summer). This is one of the easiest and most powerful steps you can take to get started on a strong community development effort.

Resources:

Mary Randolph

Wyoming Rural Development Council
2219 Carey Avenue
Cheyenne, WY 82002
Phone: (307) 777-6430
mrando@state.wy.us

Margi Brayton Gray

Bighorn National Forest
2013 Eastside 2nd Street
Sheridan, WY 82801
(307) 674-2675
mbrayton@fs.fed.us

THEME: Communication and Division in the Community

Challenge: There seems to be a lot of division in the community in several areas. I think this is rather common and not unique to Byron.

Solution: Creating ways to promote open communication based on factual information not rumors among town citizens, will assist the town in making decisions and moving forward. People may not always agree with decisions, but having a voice and understanding how decisions were arrived at helps make them easier to abide. A skilled facilitator who is not caught up in the emotions of difficult town decisions can be a valuable tool in keeping the community from getting stuck in indecision.

The school decision is a good example. When I was there as a community assessment team member, I heard a lot of diverse statements about the school. I left with a solid understanding that the whole issue was a painful one for Byron, but still very unclear about the real facts surrounding it. It seems there are two primary decision points or questions: 1) Is the school moving to another town? And 2) What will happen to the vacant school building if the school moves elsewhere? One of the project ideas that came up in every listening session was the need for a community center and the school

building would provide a perfect fit. If it has in fact already been decided to move the school elsewhere, make the best of that decision by putting your energies into turning the vacant building into a positive community element. A community “center” could provide an even stronger focal point for Byron than the school, because it would serve everyone. It doesn’t make sense to me that the building would be torn down when there is such a good use for it. So find a good facilitator, find out the facts and push hard for a positive outcome.

Solution: One way of keeping town citizens informed is through a local newspaper. It can be fun and informative at the same time. As result of their community assessment last January, Kaycee jumped on the community newspaper idea. They published their first newspaper in the spring and have been doing every two weeks since with great success. Charge a small fee for the newspaper and use classified adds to generate revenue to keep it going and growing. This would be a good way to keep the absentee population informed as well about the town happenings and issues. You can contact Ginger Curuchet in Kaycee at (307) 738-2577 to find out how they got started and just get some general ideas about their paper.

Another communication tool that was raised during the assessment was the notion of putting out a newsletter by the mayor called the “Mayor’s Ramblings” to keep community people informed about activities of the Mayor and City Council. Most people don’t get involved in city council meetings unless there is something very controversial happening, but they still want to stay informed. A short newsletter could create a communication link that will keep everyone informed about the high points of city government and not require a lot of time.

THEME: Community Development

Challenge: Finding grants for community development projects.

Solution: The Forest Service provides small grants for rural development projects in communities surrounding National Forests lands. Byron lies between two National Forests and would be eligible for funds from either Forest. The grants provide seed funding (generally \$1,000 to \$5,000) to support grassroots community efforts to strengthen community leadership, mobilize people and resources, and build sustainable economies. Projects should be tied to community actions plans that identify priorities to achieve short and long range community goals. Byron completed the first step when they did the community assessment in September. The next step is to set goals and objectives and establish a priority list of projects. The yearly program is dependent on funding from Congress. For the Bighorn, a request for project proposals usually comes out in early April. Project applications are due on or around June 1 and awards are completed by September 15. I put the town of Byron on my mailing list; you will need to contact Gordon Warren directly to inquire about the timing of his program.

Resources:

Margi Brayton Gray

Bighorn National Forest
2013 Eastside 2nd Street
Sheridan, WY 82801
(307) 674-2675
mbrayton@fs.fed.us

Gordon Warren

Shoshone National Forest
808 Meadow Lane
Cody, WY 82414
(307) 527-6241
gkwarren@fs.fed.us

Solution: The Forest Service and National Endowment for the Arts partner for another small grant (\$5,000 to \$10,000) which supports arts-based rural community development projects in the western states. Funding is available for projects that demonstrate:

- The arts as an economic development tool; e.g. tourism development, downtown revitalization, scenic byways, heritage areas, natural resource based cooperatives, and nonprofit enterprises.
- The arts as a community development tool; e.g. use of the arts to address issues such as adult and youth education, leadership development, and civic entrepreneurship.
- The arts as part of a community's heritage; e.g. community cultural planning, exhibitions, festivals, civic stewardship for natural resources.

The request for proposals will be released mid-January. Last year, projects applications were due March 1. The Western States Arts Federation and Forest Service review and award the grants at the regional level. But successful applicants actually work with the local Forest Service offices to complete the grant award. Both Kaycee and Greybull received funding for community projects last year.

Resources:

Shannon Daut

Director of Programs
Western States Arts Federation
1743 Wazee Street
Suite 300
Denver, CO
Phone: (303) 629-1166
Email: shannon.daut@westaf.org

Local contacts:

Margi Brayton Gray

Bighorn National Forest
2013 Eastside 2nd Street
Sheridan, WY 82801
(307) 674-2675
mbrayton@fs.fed.us

Dave Sisk

District Ranger
604 East Main
Lovell, WY 83431
(307) 548-6581
dsisk@fs.fed.us

Solution: Big companies often have a foundation branch that funds projects that the company supports. I recently went to a meeting where Governor Freudenthal spoke about rural communities. He said petroleum companies need to be more invested in Wyoming. We need to put more pressure on them to help build the local communities. Marathon Oil and NEPECO are two large companies operating in your area. Find out about their foundations and the things they generally like to support. Get to know the key contacts and build a relationship.

General Grant Resources:

Catalog of Wyoming State Grants

The *Catalog of Wyoming State Grant Programs* is a starting point for potential grant applicants and provides basic information on representative programs. It is compiled by the Wyoming State Library. To obtain a paper copy of the Catalog contact the State Library Publications office at (307) 777-6289. Visit the web site at <http://cowgirl.state.wy.us>.

Federal Grant Information Sources

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance contains a comprehensive summary of all federal assistance programs in the United States. Programs can be searched by type of funding, agency, funding area, etc. Visit the web site at: www.cfda.gov.

Federal Funding Sources for Rural Areas is both a free publication by the Rural Information Center and a database available on the web at ric@nal.usda.gov. Based on the Catalog for Federal Domestic Assistance, this publication identifies funders, types of assistance, grant purposes and priorities, uses and restrictions, eligibility, application procedures, deadlines, and examples of federal funding programs available to rural areas. They will also do funding searches for you.

A new website at www.grant.gov allows organizations to electronically find and apply for competitive grant opportunities from all Federal grant-making agencies. Grants.gov is THE single access point for over 900 grant programs offered by the 26 Federal grant-making agencies. Applications for federal grants can be obtained from this site. You can sign up for free notification when grant opportunities become available in your specific area of interest.

Foundations

The Foundation Center publishes a number of reference books to help grant seekers find funding. *The Foundation Directory* provides information on the giving interests of the top 10,000 foundations in the US by total giving. It includes fields of interest, types of support, financial data, application guidelines, and sample grants. The Foundation Center sponsors cooperating collections in libraries all over the country. These libraries provide access to all foundation materials published by the Center. They also have the financial reports filed with the IRS (990-PF) for foundations located in the state. There are four such libraries in Wyoming. The nearest to Byron is:

Sheridan County Fulmer Public Library

335 West Alger St.
Sheridan, WY 82801
(307) 674-8585.

Visit the Foundation Center at: <http://fdncenter.org>

Web Based Grant Searches

You can do fee-based grant searches on the internet that will match up your particular project with potential grant programs. The Wyoming Resource Conservation and Development Coordinators have access to one or more online grant databases and can do grant searches for you. Contact:

Eric Decker

Big Horn Basin RC&D Coordinator
208 Shiloh Road
Worland, WY 82401
Phone: (307) 347-3946
Fax: (307) 347-8806
eric.decker@wy.usda.gov

Other Community Assessments

Dozens of other communities in Wyoming have already completed a community assessment and each has its own assessment report. You can review other reports to gain suggestions and resources for challenges and opportunities that are similar to yours at www.wyomingcommunitynetwork.com. The web site also provides lists of resources in *The Rural Resource Guide* and the *Wyoming Community Network Resource Guide*.

BYRON CHALLENGES

What are the major problems and challenges in your community?

** indicates a person said ditto to a response, one * for each person who agreed*

- Large amount of rentals in community with high turnover.
- Difficult to get sense of community
- Need Economic development.
- Lots of retired people coming into community.
- Need way to bring people into town to help town exist.
- Need to grow.
- Empty park
- Town facilities are separated, difficult to manage.
- School district decision to demolish school and take that element out of community.
- Provides recreation and community meeting.
- No zoning, nothing to protect bank money—problem with getting bank loans.
- Open water ditches since town inception—what to do with those.
- Sense that town can't exist without them, safety hazard
- People live on fixed incomes.
- School issue has divided the town.
- May be need for medical presence in community. Small clinic for 2 years at one time.
- Need for more law enforcement as town grows because County response time is slow.
- Ordinance changes, zoning, lots of problems with livestock.
- Need for help and response from the County Sheriff.
- Potential for disease from livestock (poultry)?, West Nile
- Lots of senior citizens that don't drive.
- No secure filing cabinet for Law Enforcement records.
- Prisoners transported to Basin by LEO.
- Street repair is needed*
- Serious lack of good rental housing for new people in community. Also lack of building*
- Appearance of main street, lots of vacant buildings, need to improve appearance for visitor 1st look.
- Fire protection. Lovell has good response, but insurance is very high.
- Weeds growing in yards and city right-of-ways.
- People not maintaining property.
- Need something for kids to do.
- Property—no enforcement to clean-up personal property.
- Weed control and maintenance of town's appearance*
- Business owner doesn't run business in Byron because not friendly to business owners.
- Opportunities to get to know people in town are limited.
- School situation and impact on community.
- Not having a land use plan in place.

- Need to have a community gathering place. Hard to find a place for this assessment.
- Not enough people are here tonight. People don't care enough.
- People in community don't listen to community and needs.
- Activities –fireworks should be moved out of residential area.
- Memorial Park —worked for several years, lack of money, workers, lack of development no head way
- Older buildings don't meet code, trailer houses also don't meet code.
- City weeds – lots of spraying but property owners don't take care of their own
- City Park—her descendents have looked forward to seeing park, but not much happening
- Ditches are contributing to weeds—But don't cover them.
- Lots of absentee land owners don't worry about weeds and adds to weed problem.
- Fireworks—created a monster and we can't kill it.
- Renters live here until they can find somewhere else to live
- Dust on north side of town
- One of the major problems of concern is the way they are talking about bringing water into town. Cost to water with closed ditches in comparison to current cost. This is not being communicated.
- Lack of young families and children in the community and concern about that trend.
- Concern about future-10 years? Where will we be?
- Communication between the town and people—rumors rather than concrete information from town council.
- Government intervention in family life.
- Children with special needs—community accessibility and involvement in community activities.
- Concern over what is going to happen with school situation.
- Use school in some way since decision is already made.
- Need to unify as community.
- Things for teens to do, especially in summer. Plenty for younger to do but middle school and up need more activities.
- Losing local control over schools.
- Banks won't loan money in Byron because there is no zoning. Makes it a gamble to loan money for house building.
- Junk and livestock in town.
- Problems with being divided on school situation.
- Concern about tin-skin trailer moved in to main street—lack of ordinances especially zoning.
- Concern over the move to cover ditches—have a lot of land to water and can't irrigate with $\frac{3}{4}$ " pipe.
- Too much police protection. Appreciate slowing traffic, but too much especially with out-of-town visitors.
- Memorial—needs to be destroyed or worked on

- Town money—used to have big savings account. Don't know what's happening now.
- May lose store presence due to age of owner.
- Cows and horses in town, hay in streets, creates flies. If they want to have a farm move out of town.
- Big machinery parked in town—trash on one particular street.
- People move in with no concern about the town.
- No place to go for lunch hour.
- The curfew is a problem
- Law enforcement.
- Need more business
- We don't have a theme park
- There is nothing to do around here*
- Park needs improvement.
- Need more of something, don't know what.
- Need something to do*
- Take care of buildings not used.
- Need another store.
- Nothing to do.*
- Need a gas station.
- Need a gas station that doesn't require credit card and cheaper gas.
- Get rid of cop.
- Need a skate park.
- Spiders
- We need more “stuff” to attract people to come here.
- We need the town to quit spraying bugs.
- Old buildings that are not being used, they look bad
- Yards are full of crab grass, need actual grass, people need to put out effort in summer to take care of yards. Reflects on town when tourists come through.
- As a native to Byron, there aren't younger kids moving back here, due to jobs are scarce.
- Growth and good paying jobs.
- Loss of elementary school.
- Lack of growth and new business
- We don't have a planning zone
- Town has accumulated assets that should be in private hands. Need to put back on tax role. “We've got a plan for it.” But doesn't Eg town farm, Riverside Park—18 acres, Lunchroom—since 1968 only 1 business. Old museum property
- Utility costs are not spread on an equitable basis
- Mosquito service taps fee per month. Acres of pasture in town limits don't pay for spray
- Population decline, town cost increase = greater burden on town population.
- 282 individual taxed parcels—30% owned by absentee owners.
- Raw water ditches cost town to maintain.—not borne by property owners.

- Weed spray similar situation
- Don't regulate location of mobile homes. Disproportionate share of homes are mobile (34%) and many are late 60's, early 70's.*
- Money to carry out projects is not available. How do we generate extra money.
- Private investors don't have the resources either to help Main Street.
- Town is in a period of decay. Disproportionate share of rentals compared to home owner.
- We are lacking the intellectual capital for industry development. Don't have people with successful business experience.
- Not a lot of communications among people in community.
- Sad about community bickering and hard feelings over issues like the school.
- All the little communities consider themselves one community.—create continuity among them share equipment, share employees.
- Weeds are a problem, but need to put money into curb and gutters.
- Lack of communication is frustrating—don't participate in city council meetings and complain about not being informed.
- City survey done by individual volunteer effort—low return of comments.(40/200+)
- Lack of attendance to new business—community needs to support.
- Poor attendance at city meetings
- Concern that there won't be qualified people to step forward and serve in city government in the future.
- Qualified people, well educated and longevity in town, but don't want to serve in city government.
- People have problems that need to be solved but unwilling to participate. Won't come to city council meetings.
- Byron started having problems when cable TV came to town.
- Life is busy —elected officials should take care of issues.
- Same few people are the ones that do everything—community used to participate as a whole.

BYRON STRENGTHS

What are the major strengths and assets in your community?

- School has potential to be large asset.
- City Park
- Geographic location between Lovell and Powell—could be bedroom community for people working in other nearby communities.
- Operate cadillac of solid waste services. Oil fields pay majority of costs for services.
- Oil fields bring money into area.
- Shoshone River for recreational use.

- Sit between hills and river with lots of recreational opportunities in both directions.
- Low crime rate.
- Recreation in all directions.
- Oil revenue.
- It's a good place to raise children.
- Ranching community—teach hard work ethics to children.
- Kids learn how to work—vocations
- Catholic college—teach western way of life.
- Hunting is fantastic—best white tail deer and pheasant hunting around
- Low real estate values compared to most of US
- Big Horn Basin is one of the untapped resources in US
- Hidden histories in Pryor Mountains—ice caves, untouched natural resources, wild horses.
- Lots cost a third of what costs are in surrounding area.
- Large sized lots in town.
- TCT West high speed internet access. Cody and Powell don't have?
- Businesses that are here already.
- Law enforcement agreement with City of Lovell and good response.
- Byron appreciates law enforcement personnel. Not so in bigger towns.
- Police department in such a small community is big asset.
- Community unity, strong feelings for one another.
- Quick response time from Lovell city law enforcement through agreement—Lovell officers have been sworn-in here in Byron.
- Greatest strength is trash service—best service, congenial trash personnel!*
- We are a small community.
- Safe feeling here*
- Enforcement of laws is fair applies to everyone
- Small community, can still have farm animals.
- Close proximity to larger communities and river and hills for rec ops*
- A good place to raise children. Not in danger of being taken. Personal freedom that can't have in a larger place.
- Grow up as extended family with classmates, but not the same now.
- Affordable housing
- Quiet—14 year old daughter will be back, not afraid to let her go out.
- People want to come back after leaving—building homes.
- As a community could work together better to fix problems
- Housing is more affordable than most.
- City Park and baseball parks—bring a lot of people in from other areas.
- Community comes together twice a year—barbeque and fish fry, etc.
- Turkeys walk through town.
- Implementation of fire works display, brings people in from Billings, Denver, Salt Lake
- Ditches—like sound of water and ability to water garden

- As a community have potential to work together and come together for good of community
- Nice to have a friendly police officer in town, slow people down on main street
- We don't have a lot of big government telling us how to use our property.
- Police officer knows every kid by name
- Turkeys, ducks and chickens can walk around freely.
- Place of birth, lots of changes and need to strengthen
- Ordinances on property to clean up would strengthen community
- Community is quiet—no damn trains
- Supporters—Marathon and NEPECO
- Not a lot of drunks walking around.
- A lot of people and businesses that donate to the community—score board totally donated.
- Town donated the land for park, but funded by donations so that's why slow progress.
- Byron has no stop lights in town.
- Smallness room to breath.
- Large property and ability to do what you want with it
- Ability to build here, town support*
- Like small school system and small class size*
- Small town aura
- Likes the dog leash law, when people or children are out, dogs are not loose*
- Small schools, having own school board
- Small town, city doesn't interfere.
- Police officer—good presence in town
- When he is on duty you can count on him**
- Quiet, not bothered, relaxed place to live.
- Place of peace, good gardens, water is a blessing.
- Wonderful people.
- School is close, walk to work.
- Plenty of water
- Good schools
- Swimming pool.
- Close to river and things to do for everyone.
- Plum happy with the town as it is.
- It's peaceful.
- It's small.
- There's a lot of snakes.
- We have good law enforcement. He's just doing his job*
- Like the School.
- Like that you know everyone but don't like that they know what you do.
- Small and quiet.
- We have enough people that we are not just a small town.
- Lots of places to hunt in river bottom

- Not a lot of traffic.
- It's safe**
- It's not crowded.
- It's great how you can walk through town and know everyone.
- Like safety issue-cop does his job
- Fireworks—other communities come and admire them.
- Byron is remote but right in the middle of lots of things to do within 1 and ½ hour.
- Nice place to come back and retire. Growth is coming this way.
- This was a community that shined in 1960's.
- Good place to raise children. Lots to do for kids. Trust people that live here.
- Everybody know everybody.
- Don't have to lock door or cars.
- People check on each other to watch out for them.
- Little class distinction*
- Economic strength is location of highway. Have to go through Byron to get to Cody, Billings
- Local businesses --NEPECO, Trendsetters, Convenience store
- Church and School make town look good
- People are major strength.
- Cow, goats and chickens, fancy houses next to –people can live like they want.
- Garbage department is outstanding.
- Irrigation water—help yourself.
- Helpful neighbors.
- Ditto garbage service.
- Benefits of living in the country, farm noises with benefits of the city, high speed internet.
- People pull together in time of crises.
- Ditto on garbage service—best in the US \$13/year and will haul everything away.
- Town used to help with problems—but don't do that anymore.
- Neighbors just show up to help if you need it.
- Water is a blessing. Hate to see it in ditches. Kids and adults get caught—hazard.
- Ditto on help from town.
- Good place to be.
- Recent survey as a starting point to get people together and talking about issues.
- There is excellent law presence in town. You can't speed in Byron. Low crime. Fair treatment of everyone. Children respect and look-up to him.
- Demonstrated cooperation in the development of the Jones Subdivision
- No evidence of overt negative business attitudes.
- Require employees to live in Town (impacts housing industry)
-

BYRON PROJECTS

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

- New City Hall, police dept., recreation center and museum all in one place.
- Pressurized water system—open water is safety hazard, brings in mosquitoes
- Use school facility (swimming pool, gyms) as a recreation center.
- Utilize school for vo-tech school of some type.
- Nice recreation center.
- Cover the open ditches.
- Zone the town to entice more people to move here.
- Byron multi-purpose building and park. (Mayor brought out plans.)
- More residences and businesses in town.
- Lots of business you could do here with TCT West internet access.
- Senior citizen apartment complex with amenities.
- Local government currently in office.
- First Responders –more active for Byron
- Start a neighborhood watch program.
- Health Clinic
- First Responders.—very accomplishable, need facility?
- Health Clinic for a couple days a week.
- Office for LEO, secure filing cabinet. Sheriff in Lovell, Jail is in Basin. LEO works full time in Byron, part time in Lovell.
- Fireworks don't bring in any revenue—need to make it a money-maker.
- Improve Main Street, flowers, lawns, gutters, sidewalks
- Would like to see a school in community
- Would like a couple of small businesses
- Build up town and dress up Main Street, add houses
- Add to parks—things for kids in summer, eg water park
- Would like streets improved.
- More for kids to do—keep them out of trouble.
- Small businesses so town can maintain, not big growth
- Park wading pool for younger kids
- Sidewalks throughout town—lights, gutters, improved roads
- Would like to see a school in Byron
- Would like to see things to improve conditions for senior citizens and disabled.
- Fireworks—move them out of town for better parking
- Business in town would be nice but hard because no reason to put business here
- Eg. Diners, don't know why businesses don't survive
- Need community center large enough for kids to use year-round
- for large town gatherings
- Need Fire Department
- Ditto on the school, at least find use for facility if we can't keep

- Open swimming pool again
- Ditches need to be replaced in order for town to move forward—they bring in weeds and moss.
- Move Memorial Park forward.
- Would like to see Park finished—design is done but needs funds
- Chip and seal streets
- Wading pool.
- Senior citizens—need more activities for them.
- Fire Department—State is holding this back
- Would like to see school here.
- Need underground sprinkler system on baseball field
- Cover ditches because of trash and weed seed.
- Need more use of church and school facilities for community events.
- Would like to see community come together more often.
- Would like to see subdivision sell lots or some other kind of housing project.— need more families to live here
- Sidewalks on main streets and back streets.
- Handicapped curb and gutters on Main Street.
- Streets on north side of town need to be paved to keep dust down
- Sidewalks
- Subdivision owned by individuals—need grants to help private group finish project.
- Pave streets in subdivision.
- EMT team that is more accessible in Byron.
- Continue the Pioneer Day Pageant in Byron in auditorium—elected Pioneer Queen
- As fund raiser to provide scholarships for students.
- It would be nice to have some kind of company in community to give more opportunity for more local jobs*
- Curb and gutters.
- Walking or bike path.
- Need more business to keep people here, to improve transient nature of town.
- Bike path.
- City Park with handicapped accessible equipment in next 2 years.
- Special needs and accessibility needed area wide—integrated playground for children of all needs, but especially wheelchair accessible.
- Need to unite the community—it's divided now and need to do something together to unite it.
- Need community center for youth, supervised activities –maybe big brother big sister***
- Greater availability of housing and land for people to move in here. Not much property here for housing. People don't move here to live on a small lot.
- Byron needs to be cleaned up. Too much livestock and stockpiled junk. One house on Main Street.is particular problem. No community pride.

- Zone town to designate certain areas for certain things. Enforce cleanliness*
- Future development—lots of land within city limits with no infrastructure, no access , no utilities.
- Walking path, like Cowley
- Want to see wonderful homes built here.
- Every property owner do clean-up and beautify for “garden of eden”.
- Need community spirit of unity and one-ness
- Want to see high school remain here.
- Utilize land better
- Get rid of trash trees, grow everywhere—Chinese elms, Russian olives, cottonwoods are hazard and heavy cotton in spring
- Provide better trees in town.
- More for seniors to do, a community gathering place, activity center.
- Frannie has a community gathering for seniors twice a month around lunch to promote unity. This would be good here.
- Ditto of everything from Mayor.
- Community center or activity center for community activities. Town of 400 has no where to go where everyone can gather.
- Make better use of large empty buildings, large locked, concrete building.
- Man is looking at opening it again, needs help. Local owner.
- The school stay*
- Swimming pool open up*
- Skate Park
- Theme park and bowling alley.
- See another church besides Mormon church
- Clothing store.
- Open café and swimming pool.
- Movie theater.
- New business
- Sporting goods shop
- Fast food place for lunch*
- Candy store
- Community center where we could go for activities because the school is not always open.
- Swimming pool open.
- Museum
- Museum that’s open
- SW open
- Rec center that’s always open.
- Use the lunch room for mini center*
- Arcade
- Place where you can get fishing license
- Golf course
- Ditto on rec center idea.

- Places where students can be employed in Byron.
- Restock the river with actual fish.
- Need more trees.
- Put a Texaco where the old gas station is.
- Need a place to go 4-wheeling
- Paint ball field.
- Visitor information center.
- Want community to grow but not too big.
- Planning and zoning would allow control over growth.
- Byron needs to be cleaned-up, take care of abandoned buildings.
- Zoning would be good.
- 2 years—make main st more attractive—some recent progress in this.
- 5 year—bring in 2-3 new businesses
- Want a local school in community.
- Resurrect the 1977 master plan report
- Ditto on the planning and zoning
- Get rid of the farm animals in Byron. Not compatible with nice town environment.
- Address the dog problem—town is covered with barking dogs. Need to enforce dog control. Lots of people let dogs run at night.
- Short term town should take some money out of general funds and earmark for economic development to pay cost of sewer and water tap for new people building homes. This will foster new growth
- Build new Town Hall on Main Street—This would make the town look good to outsiders and would foster pride in town population to improve property.
- Eliminate the prohibition of using alleys as principal entry to homes.
- Historically blocks divided into 4 -2 ½ acre lots.Limits development
- Sell town assets to private industry to provide development money.
- Promote ongoing community fund raiser to raise money each year for community projects. Evanston raised \$50,000 in 2004.
- Set aside town money for community development projects , eg. Tree Board for beautification
- Allow town to use tax dollars to support economic development. Sale tax raises money from outsiders.
- Set up Habitat for Humanity in Byron.
- Need training in successful business operation among locals, especially with youth.
- Train youth in business—they become job creators when they come back to live here.
- All the little communities consider themselves one community.—create continuity among them share equipment, share employees
- Get community people to work together.
- Get rid of dangerous ditches.
- Irrigation ditches need to be covered.

- Concern that there be adequate water if they cover it up. Small pipe is concern.
- Need to put water underground—can't get a good sprinkler system until that happens.
- Need a community building for community events—weddings, etc.
- Cover ditches. State threatened to cut to what they are entitled to. Covering them would eliminate waste.
- New Town Hall and Shop. Too much pesticide being stored here. Malathion for bats.
- Community Center—Church and School have restrictions which don't meet needs.
- Curb, gutter and sidewalks
- 1977 Report listed 6 items and 5 have been completed.
- Reconstruct water distribution
- Utility Rates Schedule
- Clarify City Limits
- Investigate new water source
- Investigate sewage system expansion
- Not done--Investigate need for Fire Branch Station—suffer from insurance rates being high
- Cover ditches
- Historical buildings—need to do something with them. Interpret them.
- Need place where kids could go for recreation activities.
- Get more community people involved in city council.
- City Council put out results of meetings in written form for general distribution.
- Cease to use Town resources to compete with private business
- One hour backhoe service per year per citizen
- Supply gravel and gravel haul for private citizens
- Cease to use Town resources to fill void in missing private services
- Cleaning private sewer lines
- Mowing weeds on private property
- Dispose of Town Assets or leases not held for justifiable municipal purposes:
- Old water pump station
- Town farm
- Riverside park
- Lunch room building
- Old water tower property
- Half acre lot on East Riverview
- Old museum property
- Require all property in town to bear some of the burden of Town services on a defensible basis.
- Mosquito control
- Raw water ditch expenses
- Weed spraying
- Develop a land use plan (planning and zoning)

- Regulate placement of mobile homes
- Set aside money from general fund and earmark it for “economic Development”
- These funds should then be made available for water and sewer hookup for people who build in town
- Build new town hall and make available existing buildings for private business
- Eliminate the prohibition using alleys as principal access to residences. This will
- Be facilitated when the ditches are covered.

20 CLUES TO RURAL COMMUNITY SURVIVAL

1. Evidence of Community Pride:

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

2. Emphasis on Quality in Business and Community Life:

People believe that something worth doing is worth doing right.

3. Willingness to Invest in the Future:

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

4. Participatory Approach to Community Decision Making:

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

5. Cooperative Community Spirit:

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

6. Realistic Appraisal of Future Opportunities:

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

7. Awareness of Competitive Positioning:

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

8. Knowledge of the Physical Environment:

Relative location and available natural resources underscore decision-making.

9. Active Economic Development Program:

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

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

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

11. Acceptance of Women in Leadership Roles:

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

12. Strong Belief in and Support for Education:

Good schools are the norm and centers of community activity.

13. Problem-Solving Approach to Providing Health Care:

Health care is considered essential, and smart strategies are in place for diverse methods of delivery.

14. Strong Multi-Generational Family Orientation:

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

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

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

16. Sound and Well-Maintained Infrastructure:

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

17. Careful Use of Fiscal Resources:

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

18. Sophisticated Use of Information Resources:

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

19. Willingness to Seek Help from the Outside:

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

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

Thriving rural communities believe their destiny is in their own hands. Making their communities good places is a proactive assignment, and they willingly accept it.

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