

AGRICULTURE AND OPEN SPACE

Vision 2020 recommended and the work of Vision 2030 confirms that comprehensive Agriculture and Open Space strategies are necessary to preserve the “Heart and Soul” of Yampa Valley. Open Space and Agriculture are two general characteristics that the community uniquely identifies, values, and desires to preserve for future generations in Routt County.

AGRICULTURE HERITAGE - Preserve, maintain and enhance our working agricultural landscapes; multi-generational ranching families; western values; and cultural authenticity of our rural communities.

A/OS 1. Continue to emphasize and advocate the importance of western heritage through planning, zoning and public policy

A/OS 2. Continue to support entities that promote our western heritage

A/OS 3. Maintain and develop strategic partnerships to promote and support the western traditions such as the Routt County Fair; community Rodeos, Winter Carnival, etc.

A/OS 4. Maintain and provide incentives for future historic easements and facades through public education and incentives

AGRICULTURE VIABILITY AND SUSTAINABILITY - Preserve, maintain and enhance working ranches and promote agriculture as an economic base; support a sustainable and diverse economy that includes ranching, farming, agri-tourism and the harvesting of natural resource products.

A/OS 1. Promote local products and diverse markets for local agriculture and natural resource products.

A/OS 2. Implement transfer of development rights program and continue support and renewal of the Purchase of Development Rights program

A/OS 3. Enforce and foster education about fencing laws and rights with mediation options (believe this needs to be further clarified).

A/OS 4. Enable local students to attend agricultural colleges by providing scholarships to agricultural schools and developing agricultural internships and mentoring programs within the county.

A/OS 5. Develop an agriculture advocacy program for land stewardship

A/OS 6. Research and promote water pooling and carbon sequestration programs;

A/OS 7. Continue to develop Agriculture, Recreation and Environmental partnerships

WATER - Preserve, maintain and enhance the water resources of the Yampa Valley; place importance on water conservation, as well as water quantity and quality.

A/OS 1. Require that all new developments prove they can meet and or provide sufficient water quantity needs and maintain quality standards

A/OS 2. Form a Northwest Colorado water group that is pro-active on protecting water resources for the Yampa Valley in order to ensure continued agriculture, wildlife, forestry, municipal, and recreational usage

A/OS 3. Be pro-active on local water rights and water conservation projects to ensure adequate water quantity and quality

A/OS 4. Be proactive in state and regional water Discussions

A/OS 5. Encourage open communication with existing state-appointed groups

ACCESS TO OPEN SPACE - Preserve, maintain and enhance recreational access on, and connecting to, public open space.

A/OS 1. Encourage decision-makers to develop and adhere to existing and future land use and recreation management plans

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- A/OS 2. Develop approval process for continued public access corridors in the development approval process
- A/OS 3. Encourage linkage of urban areas to public open space and public transit in land use planning
- A/OS 4. Provide public Road and Trail easements
- A/OS 5. Develop usage criteria for trails and access
- A/OS 6. Identify and prioritize high-usage roads for bicycle pathways
- A/OS 7. Support, develop and expand segregated recreation areas when usages are not compatible (e.g. snowmachine, cross-country skiing, horses, bikes, etc.).
- A/OS 8. Develop linkage to parks and trails in and around our communities.

OPEN SPACE and VIEW CORRIDORS - Protect, maintain and enhance open space and view corridors to maintain our sense of place for current and future generations.

- A/OS 1. Adhere to existing and develop land use plans that establish a high priority for the protection of open space and view corridors
- A/OS 2. Continue to promote higher Density in urban areas
- A/OS 3. Continue Routt County's Purchase of Development Rights Program and Implement Transfer of Development Rights Program
- A/OS 4. Encourage voluntary conservation easements and continue to support entities that facilitate them
- A/OS 5. Encourage light pollution ordinances, ridgeline standards, increase skyline ordinance areas and underground utility line placements
- A/OS 6. Encourage native landscaping
- A/OS 7. Encourage and lobby for state legislation that minimizes fragmentation of open land resources

HABITAT, WILDLIFE, WATERS - Protect, conserve and enhance the wildlife habitat, riparian areas and wetlands. Prevent fragmentation of wildlife habitat, protect wildlife migration corridors and provide important transition zones from different habitat types

- A/OS 1. Adhere to existing and develop future land use and wildlife habitat plans that promote the protection of these natural resources
- A/OS 2. Develop a Comprehensive wildlife plan: a. Identify and honor habitat corridors; b. Identify and honor key areas that should be denied development; c. Develop and honor Wildlife mitigation plans; d. Develop and Honor a Holistic, eco-system perspective for wildlife habitat and corridor planning: require planning first for habitat then for development
- A/OS 3. Strengthen the weed and invasive species control program
- A/OS 4. Encourage water and soil conservation projects
- A/OS 5. Incentivize wildlife habitat maintenance and stewardship
- A/OS 6. Preserve the river corridor by providing agriculture tax credits
- A/OS 7. Designate river corridors for values and provide further protection of rivers

EDUCATION AND AWARENESS: Support, encourage, and foster educational efforts to provide greater awareness of the values of open space and agriculture as it relates to the sustainability and the preservation of the character of our valley.

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- A/OS 1. Communicate the efforts, successes and mechanisms of existing programs:
 - A/OS a. Federal ; b. State; c. Local; d. Non-profits and organizations
- A/OS 2. Utilize existing public properties: (Emerald Mountain, Legacy Ranch) as tools in order to educate about the detrimental impacts to open space and agriculture and develop public signage and awareness for public open space and conservation properties
- A/OS 3. Inform, educate and explore requirements for all realtors to attend local land stewardship courses to encourage cooperative efforts
- A/OS 4. Strengthen the invasive species control program
- A/OS 5. Support and further develop youth organizations that focus on agriculture and the environment
- A/OS 6. Engender and foster a culture of community that nurtures partnerships and inclusion of all community.
- A/OS 7. Continue to address estate planning and national issues that negatively impact agriculture. Develop actions to legislate or change the inheritance tax impacts

FUNDING - Support, encourage, and foster funding efforts that will sustain the values of public open space and agriculture as it relates to the preservation of the character of our valley.

- A/OS 1. Create an endowment fund for administration of local non-profit agencies and programs (such as Community Agriculture Alliance, Yampatika, Yampa Valley Land Trust, and other agricultural entities) [ex: Funding for the Arts model from Strings]
- A/OS 2. Develop collaborative partnerships from agricultural/public open space groups to better utilize available funds
- A/OS 3. Develop and implement collaborative partnerships that recognize and market the 'Value of the View' and sustain agriculture by creating a regional agriculture, working landscapes and public open space fund.
 - A/OS a. Pursue methods of utilizing a usage tax, voluntary 'check-off' donations, grant funding and other mechanisms to be utilized for public open space and agricultural sustainability
 - A/OS b. Brand the 'Going Green' appeal for agriculture and western heritage (Ag-tourism, working landscapes, value of the view)
 - A/OS c. Adoption programs for agriculture and public open space.
 - A/OS d. Implement Consumption tax for excessive home sizes and part-time residency
- A/OS 4. Expanded funding for federal, state and local agencies

ARTS & CULTURE

In order to enhance our quality of life and sense of community, Vision 2030 participants mandate that we must maintain and create accessible, affordable and quality arts and cultural opportunities for audiences, performers, and artists while growing the creative arts industry as a significant contributor to the local economy.

PROGRAMS

- A&C 1. Continue and expand the types and quality of programming
- A&C 2. Develop new programs to adapt to changing community demographics
- A&C 3. Develop programs to attract arts events as destination motivators
- A&C 4. Continue to have education and community outreach for people of all ages, both traditional and non-traditional audiences.
- A&C 5. Expand arts education as core curriculum in public schools from K-12.
- A&C 6. Present cultural heritage programming
- A&C 7. Expand outreach efforts in Yampa Valley for all the arts.
- A&C 8. More opportunities for professional development
 - A&C a. Workshops; b. Seminars; c. Master Classes

PEOPLE

- A&C 1. Expand audiences through programming, outreach, marketing, education, and venues.
- A&C 2. Recognize opportunities for free performances in unusual venues
- A&C 3. Develop a community where performers and artists are valued and able to attain a viable standard of living and are supported through professional development and compensated for the work they do.
- A&C 4. Reach diverse audiences (ethnic, socio-economic, multi-generational)
- A&C 5. Unifying arts organization that ties together amateurs, professionals
- A&C 6. Develop a strong, collaborative organizational entity including for-profits and non-profits for advocacy, support, resources & education

RESOURCES

- A&C 1. Public funding
- A&C 2. Private funding
- A&C 3. Increase opportunities for grants (awareness, applications,) and private contributions (foundations, business sponsorships & individual contributions).
- A&C 4. Funding and support by local government.
- A&C 5. Private sponsorships, foundation grants, membership & individual contributions
- A&C 6. Tap local resources people with expertise
- A&C 7. Engage community in the arts through volunteer opportunities
- A&C 8. Develop a business plan to grow the creative arts industry
- A&C 9. Build collaborations and partnerships to accomplish goals

INFRASTRUCTURE

- A&C 1. Create an arts center with classroom, exhibition, and performance space

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- A&C 2. Develop a theater with additional space for rehearsals, sets, etc.
- A&C 3. Winterize Strings as a facility for year-round performances
- A&C 4. Explore creative use of existing venues
- A&C 5. Develop committee to research venue options

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

LAND USE and SUPPLY - Public land use policy and processes need to increase the supply of available and suitable land, increase the density of living spaces and decrease housing costs in order to preserve and promote affordable housing (both ownership and rental) in Routt County.

- AH 1. Change community development policies and decision-making processes to allow greater density and more developable land in and adjacent to our existing communities and policies that adapt to changing market demand.
- AH 2. Foster focused and effective political leadership that engages the community in dialogue and decision-making processes and which enables inclusive, affordable neighborhoods.
- AH 3. Participation from the four municipalities of Steamboat Springs, Yampa, Hayden and Oak Creek on a regional organization or entity for affordable housing that fosters collaboration and cooperation.
- AH 4. Develop a regional/County wide plan for affordable housing and coordinate affordable housing programs and activities with collaboration and cooperation on a regional level.
- AH 5. Continual update of housing market (both ownership and rentals) that accommodates and continually reviews demand and availability for what is available and what is needed. (In particular for deed-restricted 2-3 bedroom homes for purchase for those with 80-150%AMI

AWARENESS AND EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINING DIVERSE COMMUNITY - Seek a balanced economy that provides services, meets needs and attracts and retains residents for a diverse community, and that simultaneously values open space and a sense of place while addressing the need for affordable housing and inclusive community.

- AH 1. Develop and implement methods that enable collaborative decision making (with developers, employers, governmental entities, workforce and community organizations) for solutions to affordable housing.
- AH 2. Create or assign a lead organization to collaborate with workforce employers and develop and implement an educational program that presents options to employers and helps to supply workforce housing for employees
- AH 3. Develop and implement outreach education for community as a whole.
- AH 4. Define and identify housing product preferences of various age groups in order to attract and retain residents who will evolve as committed members to the community.
- AH 5. Research and implement public policy mechanisms that mitigate the economic distortion of an amenity-based region and enable a diverse socio-economic base. (transfer fee assessments, consumption fees, housing land trusts, land cap restrictions)

FUNDING - Create and implement mechanism(s) that fund affordable housing in Routt County

- AH 1. As a citizens group, demand the coordination of regional housing collaboration with Yampa Valley Housing Authority as the lead agency reflecting regional needs and participation from Hayden, Oak Creek, Steamboat Springs and Yampa.
- AH 2. Develop and implement a County-wide educational component for affordable housing and seek combined effort and support from the four municipalities
- AH 3. Create a Ballot issue for a property tax or sales tax to implement affordable housing initiatives (land and projects) as a dedicated, ongoing funding source
- AH 4. Create a private donation fund that can act as a secondary source of funds for affordable housing

ECONOMY

We will nurture a diverse, sustainable economy while enhancing the character of our community.

We will nurture and promote a regional, diverse, and sustainable economy, fostering a range of industries, employment, and resources and resulting in a variety of products and services. This will be provided by resources, initiatives for businesses, land use options, and transportation.

Resources

EC Broad-band capacity [public private partnerships]

EC Cell-phone coverage

Pursue new technology, new industry sectors (e.g. location neutral businesses (software programming, financial services, bio-tech industries etc.), new energy economy (bio-fuels, waste to energy, etc.) in order to develop a diverse economy

EC Economic Education Commitment to include economic trending, research and bringing new information from macro-economics to the region's micro-economics (workshops, speakers, etc.)

EC Continue to provide vocational training on a regional basis.

EC Advocate for workforce attraction and retention including workforce housing, international workers, and more.

Initiatives for Businesses

EC Fund Small Business Resource Center long-term

EC Create local incubator program

EC Create a micro-loan fund and access to capital. (NWCOG, etc.)

Land Use Options

EC Adaptive zoning to enable entrepreneurial activities

EC Entrepreneurial advocacy within the planning and zoning

EC Peripheral enterprise zones and industrial parks to encourage economic development and office space availability

Transportation

EC Develop railhead access for large-scale transport

EC Form regional transportation authority to provide transportation infrastructure

EC Enhance all-season, all-weather air access to ensure commuting, tourism and business activities

EC High speed rail for regional and state-wide transit and movement of workforce within the region

EC Emphasize ease of access for urban areas

EDUCATION

The educational systems in the Yampa Valley will offer an exemplary and exceptional level of community-supported 21st century innovated education which is sufficiently funded, serves a spectrum of learners and makes collaborative use of all available educational resources.

Education Climate - Foster an education climate that creates access to a variety of 21st century educational opportunities from early childhood education through lifelong learning.

Resources

- ED 1. Maintain and enhance high quality, accessible facilities, fitting the community character, with current and innovative technology for all types of learners.
- ED 2. Increase a regional funding base that is fair and equitable to all educational entities in Routt County to provide services to all student populations.
- ED 3. Enhance collaboration on a county-wide level to provide educational services, work-force development, and comprehensive resources.

Quality Education - Promote quality education through maintaining small, personable, community-based learning environments that emphasize high-achievement and foster innovative, creative problem-solving.

- ED 1. Maintain a caring and welcoming, safe and secure school environment with small class sizes through appropriate student to teacher ratios.
- ED 2. Promote outreach and volunteer programs that integrate the learning environment with our communities.
- ED 3. Adapt our educational resources to meet the needs of our changing learner demographics in order to attain high achievement.

21st Century Learning - In order to create 21st century learners we will emphasize an educational environment that fosters innovative and creative problem solving skills.

- ED 1. Enhance school collaboration with community agencies and resources to promote family health and well-being to enable learning.

Exceptional Staff - Provide collaborative opportunities to attract and retain exceptional educators and staff to facilitate educational success.

- ED 1. Attract and retain experienced, educated and adaptable educators capable of meeting a variety of educational needs.
- ED 2. Develop and enhance efforts that demonstrate the value and respect for educators by providing adequate compensation, training, development and resources.
- ED 3. Collaborate with community efforts to provide affordable living alternatives within each community.
- ED 4. Enhance educational opportunities by collaborating with community entities in the arts, humanities, recreation, agriculture and heritage.

GOVERNMENT

Routt County currently enjoys a wide variety of governmental and semi-governmental services that are provided by water and sanitation districts, fire districts, school districts, library districts, municipalities and County administration.

Fiscal Responsibility - Governmental entities within Routt County will be fiscally responsible by: 1. Planning ahead (at least one to five years) for providing desired services and facilities at the highest level that is commensurate with the resources that they expect to have; 2. Proposing a system of taxation that is, at any given time, understandable, productive, fair and progressive. 3. Supplementing tax revenues with appropriate charges for services, grants and increases in productivity; 4. Adopting annual budgets that are reflective of their citizens' needs and desires while taking into consideration existing economic conditions.

- GO 1. Governmental agencies should consider adopting Five Year Capital Improvement Plans and reviewing and updating them on a regular basis.
- GO 2. Explore options for regular review of changing financial demographics as they relate to tax structure.
- GO 3. Periodically review fee structures to ensure appropriate charges for services. Continuously review productivity to ensure efficiency, seeking new methodology and techniques
- GO 4. Without sacrificing services, allow flexibility during budgeting periods to adapt to changing conditions

Public Health, Safety, Welfare - Law enforcement, emergency services, public health and welfare agencies, all of whom exist to protect and serve, will be community- and service-oriented to help ensure the desired community character.

- GO 1. Continue to uphold the highest standards in recruiting and retaining public service professionals.
- GO 2. Programs such as Neighborhood Watch, Community Policing and Elder Watch should be encouraged.
- GO 3. Continue citizen education programs such as TIPS, CPR, Emergency Preparedness, Firewise and others to build safer and healthier communities.
- GO 4. Support efforts to maintain or improve air and water quality.

Infrastructure - Government entities will continue to provide adequate water and sewer capacity, roads and bridges, public facilities and parks, and communication and transportation networks.

- GO 1. Determine the water and sewer capacities needed to meet the needs of projected growth within Routt County. Work with development interests to provide those capacities.
- GO 2. Seek supplemental revenues and collaborative partnerships to provide for ongoing maintenance and improvement of roads and bridges, public facilities and parks, and communication and transportation networks.
- GO 3. Work to maintain and update the technological standards of the communication infrastructure to meet the needs of our citizens.
- GO 4. Explore Regional Transportation Authority or other regional methodology to provide a collaborative, coordinated approach to addressing transportation needs.

Citizen Involvement - In an era of increasing 'distance citizenship', governments must constantly seek ways of bringing citizens into the legislative and administrative processes that affect their lives, and giving them opportunities to make their needs and opinions known. Local governments have long received high marks for accessibility, responsiveness and accountability, but continuous citizen involvement is essential if Routt County governments are to maintain openness and transparency in their dealings.

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- GO 1. Maintain and enhance collaborative decision making that is based upon seeking 'common interests' rather than 'positions'.
- GO 2. Citizens are encouraged to provide feedback to elected officials and government agencies in all steps of the governmental process, including planning, budgeting, and other aspects.
- GO 3. Local governmental entities will ensure the accessibility of government through effective and efficient communications using advanced technology while keeping a feel of personalized service.
- GO 4. Variable and personalized service delivery methods will be maintained and enhanced to maintain a 'small-town feel' and meet the needs of all citizens (e.g. water bills paid in-person, online, or at supermarkets)
- GO 5. Continue to ensure the accessibility to public elected officials, boards and commissions through active participation in community life.

Implementation of Community Vision - The Vision 2030 Report will serve Routt County decision-makers with clear statements of citizens' wishes, recommendations for fulfilling those wishes, and encouragement in that mission. A Community Vision without a plan to achieve it is a goal never reached. Governmental decision-making will direct resources and efforts toward making that Vision real.

- GO 1. Governmental agencies are highly encouraged to regularly review, update, integrate and implement Master Plans after seeking citizen input and direction. Continue to manage public expectations for decision-making through education and communication efforts.
- GO 2. Include in Community Master Plans a "community character" standard that will encourage developers to show how well their proposal supports the important aspects of community character that Vision 2030 has identified.
- GO 3. County and local planning departments should prepare an annual "report card" which measures the implementation status of the variety of master plans and community visions. Report card results will be published and reviewed at a public meeting where public comment can be taken.
- GO 4. Continue to seek public input through regular community surveys, both formal and informal, and set measurable public service standards.

HERITAGE

BUILT ENVIRONMENT - Preserve the elements and promote the protection and continued use of our built environments that reflect the heritage of Routt County.

- HE 1. Design and implement an evaluation process for the impacts of proposed actions (decision making or policies) on historic resources
- HE 2. Define and adopt a community preservation ethic from which decisions and development impacts are evaluated.
- HE 3. Instill a historic preservation education and ethic for K-12 and beyond
- HE 4. Use a community preservation ethic that encompasses our western heritage, small town feel and friendliness as the basis for policy-making. [This should probably be combined with #2]
- HE 5. Implement sustainable building practices that recognize historic preservation is green.
- HE 6. Create a Purchase of Development Rights Fund for historic buildings – build capacity to buy-down the difference between existing square footage and maximum allowable by zoning, purchase façade easements.
- HE 7. Develop and implement a property tax rebate program for historic property owners who agree to preserve their properties in coordination with #6 above.

Cultural Landscape - Preserve the elements and patterns of the rural cultural landscape, shaped by agriculture, mining, recreation, the arts, forestry, industry, transportation, water and commerce.

- HE 1. Encourage public policy and economic development that promotes and enhances the financial viability of local farming and ranching to maintain the cultural landscape. [sustainability and heritage]
- HE 2. Encourage preservation of the structures that define the cultural landscape
- HE 3. Foster the stewardship of our heritage through education and awareness in k-12 and life-long learning.
- HE 4. Identify the elements and patterns of the cultural landscape and utilize this as the framework to incorporate into future design and new construction.
- HE 5. Retain the integrity of conservation and access easements
- HE 6. Connect people to their food sources and teach them where their food comes from.
- HE 7. Invest in and implement cultural heritage tourism (def) programs that interpret and showcase local history.
- HE 8. Transform the Legacy Ranch into an interpretive center for agriculture and the working landscape.
- HE 9. Expand the County Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) Program to fund conservation/ preservation of cultural landscapes.
- HE 10. Develop and implement a property tax rebate program for property owners in coordination with #9 above.

Regional Identity - Western Heritage continues to define us. Outdoor Recreation, Agriculture and Arts and Culture events are the backbone and building blocks of our regional identity.

- HE 1. Encourage economic development that builds from our natural and historical resources and our western heritage.
- HE 2. Encourage and foster local gathering places

- HE 3. Continue to support traditional events and celebrations (Winter Carnival; Fair; Labor Day; Fourth of July; Colorado Days, Olympic Legacy, Rodeo; Homecomings, etc.) and encourage new traditions to evolve that reinforce our western heritage (Farmers Markets, South Meets West, Coureuer des Bois, SbS Marathon, etc.)

PLANNING

Paced Growth - Develop regulations and guidelines for paced growth that are incremental, where growth can be limited and absorbed in a way that retains or enhances the community character. (Ex. growth caps; square footage restrictions; limits on building permits)

Placed Growth - Support the maintenance of open space and preservation of rural ranching character while preventing sprawl. Encourage urban density tied to existing transportation corridors. Utilize existing tools, such as design standards, Urban Growth Boundary and Transfer of Development Rights to achieve these goals.

- PL 1. Identify and promote location and direction for growth by innovative zoning and urban growth boundaries throughout the county and four municipalities.
- PL 2. Research, design and implement growth management processes and tools that are deemed proven successes in similar communities and regions.
- PL 3. Demand City and County officials collaborate on growth control tools and implementation.
- PL 4. Cultivate better regional collaboration amongst municipalities regarding growth aspects.

COMMUNICATION AND PARTICIPATION DESIRED OUTCOME STATEMENT - Improve communication and pursue participation in the public process, encouraging citizens to become directly involved in the planning and decision-making process of growth-management with the intent to build mutual trust and respect between citizens and decision-makers.

- PL 1. Develop awareness of the existing participation tools (phone, radio, television and webcast usage).
- PL 2. Research and implement tools and technology to increase public awareness and participation in managing growth (community kiosks, websites, advertising and new, innovative techniques).
- PL 3. Establishment of a weekly newspaper insert (Development Activity This Week) that publishes weekly development applications, informing the public as to major planning decisions and encouraging involvement ahead of time. Create a funding line item in budget for cost of insert or negotiate with local newspaper for insert subsidized by ad sales. Cost could be offset by hybrid of both.

ENFORCEMENT AND STRINGENCY IN PLANNING DESIRED OUTCOME STATEMENT - Decision-makers must recognize that citizens expect Master Plans to be upheld and enforced and that Plans need to be regularly updated with specificity and clarity to minimize interpretation.

- PL 1. Require timing and scheduled updates of City, County and Area plans and identify responsible parties for updating plans. i. City and County review plans annually; ii. Plans are updated at least every five years.
- PL 2. Enforce existing municipal zoning and county policies to uphold community character.
- PL 3. Utilize annual 'State of the City' and 'State of the County' planning forums as tools for citizen input and measures of accountability.

RECREATION

Recreation is one of the key components to the lifestyle, culture and character of Routt County and should ensure inclusivity for all populations, age, gender, abilities and socio-economic backgrounds.

Funding - Routt County will continue to enhance the recreational opportunities through sustainable funding utilizing a county-wide collaborative partnership.

- RE 1. Develop and Implement County wide recreation district to insure financial sustainability for recreation (Government: City, Towns, County); [long-term]
- RE a. Combine municipal efforts
- RE b. Implement regional programming
- RE 2. Develop and implement a County wide recreation organization or coalition that (YVCF; non-profit recreation organizations; municipalities) [short-term]
- RE a. develop and coordinate partnerships, both public and private
- RE b. leverages larger funds
- RE c. distribute funding through grants
- RE d. develop and support volunteer coalitions
- RE 3. Encourage County and municipal participation in open space, recreation and trails coordination for non-incorporated areas of the County. (municipalities; county); [mid-term]
- RE 4. Utilize pyramid methodology for cost analysis of operating and maintaining programs and facilities (municipal Parks and Recreation); [short-term]
- RE 5. Develop mechanisms that identify those activities that should be self-supporting and those that need subsidization. (municipal Parks and Recreation); [short-term]

Amenities - The County needs to ensure a variety of quality recreational amenities are available, both outdoor and indoor, organized and non-organized, that support diverse recreational activities and meet the needs of a changing and growing population

- RE 1. City and County decision-makers adhere to parks and recreation plans that are adopted (Government) [on-going]
- RE 2. Develop County wide recreation organization or coalition that ensures the coordination and linkage of parks and recreation master plans and ensures these reflect the greatest public interest and are not led by special interest groups (YVCF; non-profit recreation organizations; municipalities) [short-term]
- RE 3. Safe and affordable opportunities for youth including teen programs and after-school programs (YVCF; municipalities; non-profits) [short-term]
- RE 4. Develop a bike / pedestrian trail that connects all County municipalities (Government; non-profit organizations) [short to long-term]
- RE 5. Access to recreational amenities should be ensured in proximity to urban areas and neighborhoods in both City and County planning process and in planning new developments. (Government planning) [on-going]

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- RE 6. Coordinate and ensure a diversity of park options between natural open space and those with developed amenities. Amenities in parks have a variety of design applications that provides both natural environment and landscaped options. (Government) [on-going]
- RE 7. Collaborative efforts and written agreements between schools, government, businesses and non-profits (including arts and culture entities) to ensure access and opportunity for both organized (leagues, competitions, etc) and non-organized indoor and outdoor activities (e.g. pick-up games, dog parks, drop-in sports, etc.) (schools, government, businesses and non-profits)[on-going]
- RE 8. Encourage the inclusion of multi-use, multi-purpose recreational amenities in new public and private developments. (government; developers) [on-going]
- RE 9. A County-wide coalition for recreation on and access to the Yampa River should be formed to assist with coordination of activities and the health and sustainability of the River. (Friends of the Yampa) [on-going]

SENIORS

To develop adequate housing, facilities and transportation to insure that the seniors can reside in Routt County for as long as they desire, through all the phases of aging.

HOUSING and FACILITIES - Seniors are able to live in their existing homes as long as possible and stay in Routt County in the event they can no longer live at home. There is a well-planned, graduated tier of housing options as seniors move through different phases of aging.

- SE 1. Live at home independently as long as possible.
- SE 2. Live independently in affordable senior housing.
- SE 3. Live with support from family, but needs an additional level of care:
- SE 4. Live-in assisted care facilities.
- SE 5. Live in nursing facilities.
- SE 6. Live in respite and palliative care facilities.

TRANSPORTATION - Seniors have access to adequate transportation services where in a large, mountainous geographical area with severe weather, transportation becomes a critical lifeline for many rural seniors. Seniors have the ability to get out of their homes to do necessary chores or to make connections with their community, contributing to their quality of life.

- SE 1. Keep existing free bus service in Steamboat Springs.
- SE 2. Continue low-cost transportation from outlying areas such as Hayden and Craig.
- SE 3. Expand low-cost transportation from North and South Routt
- SE 4. Create sliding scale payment for seniors
- SE 5. Increase services for frail and disabled seniors.

PROGRAMS & SERVICES - Continue to enhance existing senior programs and services in Routt County while developing new programs and services to meet the demands of the future.

- SE 1. Continue and support existing programs
- SE 2. Create new program for volunteers, connecting businesses in need of help with seniors willing to give their time and expertise.
- SE 3. Create new programs that integrate seniors with younger generations as a way to share their incredible wealth of knowledge and wisdom.
- SE 4. Encourage private businesses, such as Ski Corp, the Old Town Hot Springs, Strings and retail stores, to provide discount days or other programs to help seniors participate in community amenities they may not be able to afford.

SUSTAINABILITY - Insure that future generations of seniors will have the same opportunity to retire and live in Routt County for as long as they desire.

- SE 1. Create a belief system that values seniors
- SE 2. Secure funding and provide incentives for senior services

SUSTAINABILITY

Sustainable land stewardship maintains or enhances the current quality of life for future generations by setting goals and measuring progress toward attaining clean water, clean air, affordability, clean renewable energy sources, and a diversified sustainable economy.

WATER QUALITY AND QUANTITY - Ensure the integrity of our water supply, both in quantity and quality, for future generations.

- SS 1. Establish ongoing monitoring mechanisms for water quantity flow and quality measurements
- SS 2. Continue to monitor and expand gauging stations for appropriate historic, baseline flows and on-going comparisons
- SS 3. Establish critical species monitoring mechanisms
- SS 4. Update and address water quality and quantity issues through the water quality management plans and existing City and County regulations and procedures
 - SS a) Section 208 Clean Water Act
 - SS b) Colorado Point Discharge Elimination System Program MS4
 - SS c) County zoning and sub-division regulations
 - SS d) Routt County 1041 regulations—areas and activities of state interest
 - SS e) State, County and Local regulations for storm water management and erosion control techniques (e.g. City of Steamboat Springs Green Building Code and Watershed Protection Ordinance)
 - SS f) Mitigation of contaminated sites and pursue funding mechanisms in place
- SS 5. Continue to support and expand public education and awareness for water quality and water quantity including best management practices for non-point sources
- SS 6. Develop forestry practices to prevent erosion and address beetle-kill impacts on the watersheds

AIR QUALITY - Maintain or enhance existing air quality for future generations that includes both health based standards and visibility.

- SS 1. Ensure compliance with the National Ambient Air Quality Standards county-wide.
- SS 2. Education and awareness to encourage retrofit or replacement of solid fuel burning devices to cleaner technology.
- SS 3. Enforce emission standards for internal combustion engines.
- SS 4. Recognize and encourage continued support of municipal street sweeping.
- SS 5. Encourage dust suppression on County roads
- SS 6. Encourage government entities to develop uniform standards that reduce light pollution and enforce current policies.
- SS 7. Education and awareness to encourage retrofit of existing light fixtures to protect the dark sky.
- SS 8. Seek methods to reduce vehicle miles traveled.

LAND STEWARDSHIP - Growth management and land use planning should be compatible with sustainable land use practices including protection of bio-diversity and conservation of natural resources

ENERGY - Utilize clean, renewable energy, with conservation, diversification, and mitigation of fossil fuel impacts that focuses upon sustainable technologies and practices to meet the needs of future generations.

- SS 1. Support and encourage efforts of organizations in collaboration with governmental agencies to promote conservation, encourage renewable energy sources, and implement energy strategies.
- SS 2. Immediately implement County-wide energy conservation programs

- SS 3. Immediately implement a Renewal Energy Mitigation Program that funds and supports local renewable energy efforts
- SS 4. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions through Impact Fees, Mineral severance tax, carbon footprint tax, Renewal Energy Mitigation Programs and other mechanisms
- SS 5. Diversify, promote and incentivize grid energy sources including Solar, Wind, Geo-thermal, Bio-fuels (waste to energy, pellets), Efficient domestic fossil fuels and Additional alternatives

BUILT INFRASTRUCTURE - Build and locate it right the first time. Built infrastructure, both old and new, considers environmental, social and economic impacts to plan for future generations. Use existing infrastructure when possible, including renovation, preservation and use of historic assets to ensure community character and heritage.

- SS 1. Develop an inventory of existing infrastructure, including water, wastewater and energy transmission, for communities in Routt County to better determine how to accommodate future needs.
- SS 2. Research, develop and provide incentives for preservation of historic buildings to bring up to modern energy-efficient standards.
- SS 3. Develop and adopt a standard that encourages obtaining zero energy and waste buildings by 2030.
- SS 4. Encourage the development and implementation of water conservation standards.
- SS 5. Reduce the use of raw materials, re-use materials that can be utilized and recycle other materials which can be used to create new projects. Encourage source separation and recycling of waste materials on new and demolition projects.

GREEN LIVING - Create, educate and implement safe and convenient choices for self-sufficient living that reduces individual carbon footprints and enhances the greater public health, safety and security.

- SS 1. Maximize the options for transportation choices, including pedestrian, bike, car-sharing, transit and more.
- SS 2. Address the recycling barriers due to nature of an isolated community.
- SS 3. Continue to support efforts of Yampa Valley Recycles, Home ReSource and the Yampa Valley Sustainability Council
- SS 4. Pursue large funding sources through the Governor's Energy Office to enable rail transportation options and more.
- SS 5. Determine ways to reduce and re-use food, yard, beetle kill, manure and other compostable waste through Green Waste programs.
- SS 6. Create and incentivize programs that encourage and enable local food production, marketing, sales and consumption including community supported agriculture, greenhouses, co-ops and more.
- SS 7. Provide for appropriate local recycling and/or disposal of hazardous materials.
- SS 8. Continue to educate and support business efforts that ensure environmental, economic and social sustainability.

TRANSPORTATION [1994 Report]

Create a multi-modal transportation system of corridors, highways and pathways that will relieve congestion and move people throughout the Yampa Valley in an efficient, environmentally sound, affordable and appealing manner. This system will more effectively link local communities with each other and facilitate regional, national and international connections.

- TR Expand the existing mass transit transportation system in phases.
- TR Expand and Develop New Transit Centers throughout the valley. Transit Centers are hubs for our multi-modal transportation system comprised of commuter rail lines, walking paths, bike and equestrian trails, tramway, vans, buses and taxis.
- TR Research and plan construction of a low-profile tramway serving downtown Steamboat Springs and the Steamboat Ski Area.
- TR Construct a commuter rail system connecting all parts of the community, distant ski areas, and feeding into a statewide and national passenger train system.
- TR Establish a local funding source to share and initiate future transportation projects.
- TR
Expand our attractive system of paths, walkways and mountain routes in a way that encourages transit use and pedestrian orientation.
- TR Re-configure traffic generation centers (schools, post offices, etc.) to reduce congestion impacts.
- TR
 - Encourage construction of basic services—like grocery stores—in growth centers to reduce unnecessary trips and avoidable traffic congestion.
- TR
 - New commercial offices and retail establishments should be located as close as possible to sidewalks and transit stops to encourage transit use and to enable pedestrian access.
- TR Create a regional transportation review process to assess the transportation ramifications of all development petitions.
- TR Establish a Regional Transportation Authority to coordinate the planning, funding and implementation of the integrated transportation system.
- TR Consolidate the two airport authorities into one administrative body for efficient coordination of airports.
- TR Institute public bus service to both airports, as an interim step toward rail service.
- TR Reintroduction of long distance passenger trains to Northwest Colorado.
- TR Encourage telecommuting every way possible to help keep commuters off the roads and create more diverse, jobs.
- TR We recommend more sheriff and police department patrols on bikes and horseback to cover the trail system and foster close relations with the community.
- TR We recommend adding more bike racks to commercial buildings to encourage bicycling.

YOUTH

Activities, Programs, Jobs - Promote diverse activities, programs, transportation and facilities that include youth in a caring, supportive and healthy community.

- YO 1. Develop youth centers County-wide to provide youth with gathering places and programs.
- YO 2. Develop and build a centralized facility where youth serving organizations reside and where all volunteer efforts are coordinated for meaningful community service.
- YO 3. Expand and enhance a transportation network that connects the community to youth activities, programs and locations.
- YO 4. Encourage strong, accessible and affordable programs that collaborate with community and youth organizations to ensure broad interest areas are addressed, including artistic and cultural options.
- YO 5. Support and enhance programs to foster community mentoring, civic engagement and a volunteer ethic.
- YO 6. Develop and implement a career development program that mentors youth for work ethics, life skills and career choices.
- YO 7. Support county-wide collaboration to ensure youth needs are supported and met in the outlying rural areas
- YO 8. Education and awareness for sustainable practices for generations to come for earth stewardship, from consuming choices to recycling and more.

'P-12' / 18 and Under--Early Childhood; Elementary; Middle School; High School - Develop affordable and accessible early childhood care and educational options in our communities

- YO 1. Create and develop innovative partnerships and collaborative efforts to provide subsidized childcare options for low to moderate income families.
- YO 2. Recruit, retain and reward early childhood care providers to ensure availability of consistent, quality childhood options.

Family Oriented Community - Promote a multi-generational community that connects families of diverse socio-economic levels in order to maintain the Yampa Valley as a "great place to raise kids".

- YO 1. Promote community awareness and embrace the researched Developmental Assets that support and create a strong sense of caring for our youth.
- YO 2. Seek innovative partnerships to promote and develop community awareness for youth literacy and education.
- YO 3. Promote affordable housing initiatives to foster a family-oriented community.
- YO 4. Provide a wide variety of community programs and activities that focus on youth and their needs. (e.g. school and sports activities, recreation programs, theater, arts and more)

Health & Safety - Provide a community that is healthy and safe to raise kids.

- YO 1. Support and provide a healthy youth culture that is drug, tobacco and alcohol free (e.g. compliance checks, discourage alcohol consumption at family-oriented activities, places for youth to congregate)
- YO 2. Develop informal and formal local gathering places for youth that are drug and alcohol free (e.g. new library as an example).
- YO 3. Explore affordable health care plans for families to ensure access to health care options
- YO 4. Develop awareness for healthy eating, exercise and living
- YO 5. Continue to provide partnerships with law enforcement and youth to protect and serve/
- YO 6. Develop and implement strong mental health programs for youth (e.g. suicide, grief and counseling support systems)

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YO

7. Expand and enhance a transportation network that safely connects the community to youth activities, programs and locations.

YO

8. Promote safe, affordable and licensed early childhood care.