# APPENDIX D

# Public Opinion Surveys

- 1.2010 Survey of owners of land in the unincorporated areas of Pondera County
- 2.2006 Dupuyer Survey

#### RESULTS OF THE PONDERA COUNTY PLANNING SURVEY

## **JANUARY, 2011**

#### INTRODUCTION

The Pondera County Growth Policy Survey is part of a larger effort to create a Growth Policy for Pondera County and its two incorporated municipalities, Conrad and Valier. The survey was conducted to understand opinions of county landowners about growth and development of Pondera County. A total of 243 landowners completed and returned a survey questionnaire. The results of the survey will be used in creating the Growth Policy.

#### **SURVEY METHODS**

The survey focused on people who own land in the unincorporated parts of Pondera County. This includes all of Pondera County, except areas within the City of Conrad and the Town of Valier. Thus, the population surveyed was all owners of land in the unincorporated county. Note that some owners of land in unincorporated areas of Pondera County do not live there. Landowners were included in the survey regardless of where they live. Consequently, the survey includes landowners who live outside Pondera County as well as some who live in Conrad and Valier.

The survey was a sample survey. A sample consisting of 568 landowners was randomly drawn from the Pondera County real property database. The sample constituted about 50% of the total number of landowners in the county. A sample survey is more cost-efficient and is often more accurate than sending a survey to everyone in the population.

The survey process began the second week of November, 2010. To start, the 568 landowners were each sent a postcard advising of their inclusion in the survey and requesting their participation. About one week later, the survey questionnaire was sent to the sample list. Along with the questionnaire, landowners were sent a cover letter explaining the survey. One month later, a reminder postcard was sent to every individual in the sample. The survey was closed on December 31, 2010 and responses received after this date were not included.

#### SURVEY ACCURACY

The purpose of a sample survey is to make generalizations about a population based on a subset of that population. A sample survey allows us to understand the views of the entire county by communicating with only a sample of the people in the county. If conducted properly, sample survey results can accurately represent the views of all people in the county.

This survey achieves an accuracy level of +/-6%. This means that the results from the sample of landowners have a 95% probability of being within 6% of the answers that all landowners (not just those in the sample) would give. For example, if 65% of the survey respondents said "yes" as the answer to a

question then it is highly probable (95% chance) that between 59% and 71% (+ or - 6%) of all landowners would have also answered "yes".

At the close of this survey, out of the total of 568 mailed surveys, 243 surveys were completed and returned. This equates to a response rate of 43%, indicating that the survey sample has a small risk of not representing the whole population. Self-selection bias is when the people who respond to a survey are quite different than the sample pool. When this happens, the survey results are not representative of the entire population. Self-selection bias is generally ruled out when the response rate reaches 50%.

#### **SURVEY QUESTIONS**

The questions asked in the survey were developed by the planning consultants with input from the Growth Policy Steering Committees. The questions were multiple choice with most having "other" as an open-ended answer choice. This allowed survey respondents to write-in their own answer.

#### **SURVEY RESULTS**

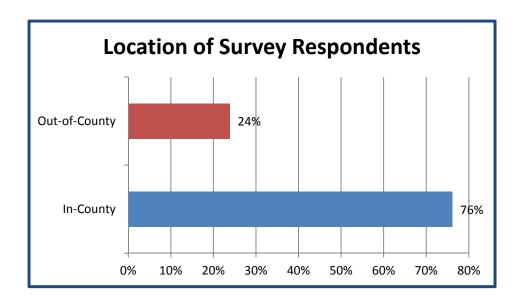
Survey results are presented in the subsequent sections of this report. The results are mostly reported as percentages. The percentages represent the percent of 243 surveys that were returned. For example, a result of 50% indicates that 122 respondents selected the corresponding answer.

#### **RESULTS -- LOCATION OF SURVEY RESPONDENTS**

The survey forms were color-coded--people with Pondera County addresses received blue surveys and those with out-of-county addresses received a yellow survey. This color-coding allows us to track the general location of survey respondents.

Of the 568 surveys that were mailed out, 403 (71%) went to Pondera County addresses while the remainder of 165 (29%) were sent to out-of-county addresses. Proportionally more of the in-county surveys (184 or 46%) were completed and returned. In contrast, 58 or 35% of the out-of-county surveys were completed and returned.

Overall, 184 or 76% of the returned and completed surveys came from within the county while 58 or 24% are from outside the county.



### REASONS FOR LIVING OR OWNING PROPERTY IN PONDERA COUNTY

This question asked survey respondents to rate the importance of factors with regard to reasons for living in or owning property in Pondera County. The results from all 243 survey responses are shown in the chart below. The results are sorted so that the factors most often rated "very important" are at the top (this is not the order the factors appeared on the survey form).

"Air and water quality" was the highest rated factor, with 61% of survey respondents indicating this factor is very important in their decision to live or own property in Pondera County. Other highly-rated factors including "rural Western lifestyle", "friendly communities", and "farm or ranch income from the property" were within the accuracy margin (+/- 6 %) of the top answer.

Several respondents wrote in their own answer. The most common write in response was "inherited the property". However, this only constituted 3 responses.

Why do you live or own property in Pondera County? Please rate each of the following items for its importance in your decision to live or own property in the county.					
	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Important	No Response	
Air and water quality	61%	26%	7%	6%	
Rural western lifestyle	59%	26%	11%	5%	
Friendly communities	57%	30%	7%	7%	
Farm or ranch income from the property	56%	14%	26%	4%	
Scenic beauty/mountain views	52%	35%	8%	5%	
For family reasons	52%	24%	19%	5%	
Low population	52%	29%	13%	6%	
Cost of living	45%	37%	12%	7%	
Business or job opportunity	41%	26%	25%	7%	
Personal health and safety	37%	34%	22%	7%	
Have always lived here	35%	20%	36%	9%	
Wildlife and wildlife habitat	33%	42%	18%	7%	
Recreation opportunities	26%	44%	23%	6%	
Other reason (write-in)	7%	1%	1%	91%	

#### WHAT DOES PONDERA COUNTY NEED?

This question provided a list of items and asked survey respondents to indicate in more of the item is needed in Pondera County. Answer choices included "needed", "not needed", or "no opinion". The results are sorted so that the items most often rated "needed" are at the top (this is not the order the items appeared on the survey form).

The greatest need was identified as "employment opportunities" with 87% saying more are needed. "Agricultural production" and "retail businesses" were second, with 77% saying more of these are needed.

"New or improved housing" had the fewest people (36%) saying it is needed while nearly as many (34%) said they had no opinion about housing need. This may indicate that many people do not have enough information to form an opinion. The items, "improved water and sewer systems" and "recreational opportunities" were the only other items fewer than half of the respondents thought were needed.

In your opinion, does Pondera County need or not need more of the following items?					
	Needed	Not Needed	No Opinion	No Response	
<b>Employment opportunities</b>	87%	3%	7%	2%	
Agricultural production	77%	11%	9%	3%	
Retail businesses	77%	10%	10%	3%	
Industrial development	70%	15%	12%	3%	
Services for senior citizens	65%	12%	20%	2%	
Improved county roads and bridges	58%	22%	16%	3%	
Clean up of junk motor vehicles	58%	18%	20%	4%	
Better telecommunications services	55%	21%	21%	3%	
Population Growth	53%	33%	11%	4%	
Promotion of tourism	51%	25%	21%	3%	
Improved water and sewer systems	42%	28%	26%	4%	
Recreational opportunities	42%	31%	23%	3%	
New or improved housing	36%	25%	34%	5%	
Other reasons (write-ine)	6%	0%	0%	93%	

#### WHERE SHOULD NEW RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT OCCUR?

This question asked survey respondents to indicate their opinions on potential locations for new residential development.

Most survey respondents agreed that new residential development should be located "in the existing communities" and "near existing development".

For all the other location choices, the most common response was neutral--neither agreeing or disagreeing.

For the choice, "spread out on large lots", the responses of "neutral" and "disagree" were a statistical tied, with the results being separated by less than 6%.

These results obviously indicate that people agree with locating development in the communities or near existing development. However, while few people agreed with locating development in the contrasting alternative locations (outside communities, spread out on large lots, and away from existing development), most indicated they were neutral about these locations rather than disagreeing with them. This may indicate a degree of ambivalence about limiting development in these locations.

Where would you like to see new residential development occur? Do you agree or disagree with the following locations?					
	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	No Response	
In the existing communities	74%	20%	2%	3%	
Near existing development	61%	29%	5%	4%	
Outside of communities	17%	44%	33%	5%	
Spread out on large lots	14%	42%	39%	5%	
Away from existing development	9%	49%	35%	7%	

#### **CONSERVATION OF DIFFERENT TYPES OF LAND**

This question provided a list of different types of land and asked survey respondents to indicate how important it is to conserve each kind of land. Answer choices included "important", "somewhat important", or "not important". The results are sorted so that the items most often rated "very important" are at the top (this is not the order the items appeared on the survey form).

Agricultural lands were the most important for conservation. The land types, "dry farm land", "range and grazing lands", and "irrigated crop lands" were the most important with between 72% and 76% of survey respondents saying conservation of these lands is very important.

The other types of land--wildlife habitats, forested lands, undeveloped open space, and scenic vistas--were less often rated as "very important". However, every one of the types of land was rated "very important" by a majority of the survey respondents. Furthermore, disagreement with conserving each of the land types was expressed by no more than 10% of respondents. This indicates there is general support for conserving all of the land types.

A few people (7 total) wrote in other land types that are important to conserve. Most of these referred to waterways or wetlands. Overall, there was not a significant number of write-in responses (only 3% total).

How important to you is conservation of the following kinds of rural lands in Pondera County?					
	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Important	No Response	
Dry farm land	76%	18%	2%	4%	
Range and grazing lands	<b>7</b> 5%	19%	2%	4%	
Irrigated crop lands	72%	21%	2%	5%	
Wildlife habitats	61%	30%	5%	3%	
Forested lands	53%	33%	9%	5%	
Undeveloped rural open space	51%	34%	10%	4%	
Scenic vistas	50%	36%	9%	5%	
Other reasons (write-in)	3%	0%	1%	96%	

#### LAND USE GOALS

This question presented 12 possible goals for land use planning in Pondera County. Survey respondents were asked to indicate whether they agree, disagree or are neutral with regard to each of the goals.

The results are displayed in the graphic on the next page. The goal that the most people agreed with was "Promote continuation of ranching and agriculture in Pondera County" with 92% indicating they agreed with this goal.

The goal that the fewest people agreed with was "Encourage new commercial development to locate in communities and not in linear strips along major roads" with 61% agreeing. 29% were neutral and only 5% actually disagreed with this goal.

It is particularly noteworthy that a majority of survey respondents agreed with all 12 of the goals. No more than 9% of the respondents disagreed with any of the 12 goals, while agreement ranging from 61% to 91%. Although some of the land use planning goals were more favored than others, the results indicate solid support for all of the land use planning goals.

See the next page for the results graphic.

# This question concerns possible goals for land use planning in Pondera County. Do you agree, disagree, or are neutral concerning the following planning goals?

	Agree	Neutral	Dicagroo	No Response
	Agree	Neutrai	Disagree	No Response
Promote continuation of ranching and agriculture in Pondera County.	92%	5%	0%	2%
► Ensure that new development does not impair water supplies for established users.	91%	5%	1%	4%
► Ensure that new development pays for the public services and infrastructure needed to support it.	85%	10%	0%	4%
► Ensure that new development is served by adequate infrastructure such as roads, water, and sewer.	81%	13%	1%	5%
<ul> <li>Support economic development by encouraging new businesses and industries.</li> </ul>	81%	13%	1%	5%
► Improve the quality of new development and minimize its impact to agriculture and the natural environment.	77%	14%	3%	5%
Maintain the scenic areas, open spaces, and rural character of Pondera County.	76%	19%	2%	4%
► Encourage new residential development to occur in and around existing towns rather than in rural areas.	70%	21%	5%	5%
Maintain wildlife habitats throughout the county.	69%	23%	3%	5%
► Develop local standards for wind energy so it can occur with limited impacts on traditional land uses and public facilities.	68%	17%	9%	6%
Respect private property rights by strictly limiting county land use regulations.	62%	23%	9%	7%
► Encourage new commercial development to locate in communities and not in linear strips along major roads.	61%	29%	5%	5%

#### WRITTEN COMMENTS

The survey questionnaire included space where people could write in their response to the question, "Please use the space below to write any comments about land use planning in Pondera County or the any other topics in this survey." A total of 59 survey respondents (or 24% of all 243 respondents) provided written comments.

Of these, 41 (69%) were "in-county" landowners and 18 (31%) were from "out-of-county". The "in-county" or resident landowners' comments appear first below, followed by the non-resident or "out-of-county" landowner comments.

Note: preceding each set of comments is a survey number. Not all survey respondents wrote comments, so the survey numbers are not consecutive. Each number represents a single survey response from one person, regardless of the length of the comment.

#### **Resident Landowner Comments**

- 45: We need a walk/run trail in Conrad (county seat). How do we tie communities together!
- 49: Better maintenance of county roads (stoning and grading of complete road).
- 52: I am pro growth and development for our region. While I support a balanced use approach for recreation, agriculture, and other business development, it can be easy to enact too many well intentioned rules or guidelines. They can be a significant impediment to business development and the jobs we need for our children now and in the future.
- 57: Two items: Why should we pay higher prices for the vegetables and fruit that are picked green and trucked when we could raise many items with high wind tunnel technology? With most of our tax dollars going to education, are we neglecting to teach out youth how to grow our own food. Also, many students would do better by using their hands in this area. The Univ. of Minnesota has done extensive research, Bruce Smith with Glendive Co. Ext. and Mt. F. Union is getting behind the idea of raising local vegetables, etc., (??) sponsorships to the Ennis, G. Falls, and Big Timber school systems. Contact Chris Christaens. The second item sis poultry production. The bottle neck is slaughter. With a facility, anyone could raise birds with the local grains and sell to Montana markets or elsewhere. FFA, HH free range or organic growers or student with interest could develop business skills in this area. At the present, there is no way to compete with the colony in birds or eggs. No one can raise eggs if we have no ability to slaughter old hens. Thanks.
- 61: Quit letting the big companies, such as MATL, come in and bully landowners. It is disgraceful what they were allowed to get away with.
- 69: We need to nurture and promote a more positive attitude toward development and change.
- 70: The MATL line is a very example of that the Canadians aren't bad neighbors but we (U.S.) are stupid neighbors. The line was going to be built but nobody wanted to have it built right or help the

landowners in their property rights. I understand it was political suicide to oppose it if you were in politics or elected whether it was state, county or city. Why should a out-of-county for-profit corp. be able to relax wetland DEQ regulations or use eminent domain. If this project is example of progress than we don't need progress in this community any more. How about our powers to be helping the local citizens instead of sucking up to outsiders. Keep them out--we don't need it when they use bully tactics to get right away and won't pay damages.

77: Kids need a park for their skate boards to be safe.

82: I think the county needs to look very hard at regulating land use for uses that impair the quality of life that we have (clear air, clean water, quiet, etc.) Some of the projects that have been promoted in the past would have destroyed our quality of life. Meat packing plant--this idea was bad from the start. Odors are nearly impossible to regulate but bad odors will make everyone move away. And there is no local work force to work in one. Our neighbor threatened to put a hog confinement building one-quarter mile or less from our house so he could sell hogs to that plan. How do you regulate that? There should be some protection for homeowners to keep their quality of life. And some way to regulate odors. The prison--as divisive as that was to Conrad, it hasn't been controversial since. However, I can't imagine living near it as the "light pollution" is terrible. They could probably do something about that if they had to. Do you remember the day last summer when the town smelled awful? That was the wind blowing from the south bringing the odor from a hog confinement facility. If we had that constantly, Conrad wouldn't be a very pleasant place to live. I worked in the Iowa Beef plat at Dakota City, Nebraska in the 70s. The entire town smelled terrible. Let's encourage development that doesn't destroy what we have. Thank you. If you would like to discuss these concerns, please call me. (Signed)

83: A property owner should be able to negotiate a contract for a wind farm and not be burdened with so many restrictions that it becomes infeasible just because some don't want to look at them.

94: A great county to live in.

97: As one who has purchased and improved low grade properties in Pondera County (Conrad) (properties in need of serious attention) only to be confronted by the county assessor for the sole purpose to extract tax dollars from me, penalizing me for all the hard work and improvements I made in the betterment of the community. There should be a temporary tax incentive for growth!! Not a tax increase!! P.S. My personal opinion. (Signed)

106: Balance. The most important word in your attempt to grow our county. Please remember that many families, especially the rural folks, have chosen to live here because of the absence of heavy handed government. We cherish our freedom from "government micro-management". Good luck in your quest. We appreciate the volunteers who have chosen to make a difference in our future.

108: Percentage of welfare people. Pondera County seems to be very attractive to welfare people! This needs to be addressed! The crime rate in this county is unacceptable!

- 110: While many small towns are struggling because their school enrollment is low and therefore their kids have to be bussed long distances, we are giving the colony children a private education in their own "town". These kids should have to attend school at the local communities where they receive all the benefits such as food stamps, selling produce to the local stores or peddling it on the streets. They also should be paying the bill for the air quality from the colony and the road damage that their "cities" do to our county roads. This would improve the life quality for all.
- 111: Some questions require different answers based on proposes/planned growth. Housing needs are currently adequate but may need more if commercial development increases. That's what you want-more jobs means more people, more for schools, etc. Wind development is fine but not at the expense of landowner rights. MATL wants landowners to give up land rights for little \$\$ and compensation is tied to actions of the government of another country. This is not the "cherry" we thought it might be.
- 112: 1) Take what growth you can get. Don't try to control, regulate, and over-government it. 2) If you want control, figure out how to contain the potential explosion of Hutterite colonies and the accompanying smell in the air from feedlots, pigs. 3) It appears the socio-economic structure I see in Conrad is dramatically shifting. The older, wealthier people of Conrad are dying off and being replaced by a less desirable class of people that lack the values of the people passing on.
- 114: Keep in mind that nay regulations will be restricting the freedom of our children and grandchildren.
- 115: Locals must support new businesses for it to succeed. Business needs three things to survive: market (we have small), raw materials (mostly ag products) and trained labor (our kids all leave town for college and few return). That severely limits growth potential. Focusing on ag related business would show the most growth in the short run. Where people build homes should be left up to them. Landowners near town stand the best chance of selling for development. Rural locations require larger investments for power, etc. and water hauling. City could possibly encourage development in some areas with limited results.
- 119: Make sure all engaged in CRP programs control their weeds from spreading--some neighbors haven't done anything for years--how come?
- 123: I think that more should be done in out county (especially Valier) for our elderly. Thinking like maybe a Horizon Lodge built for them so they do not have to leave the area.
- 125: Would like to see agriculture and dealers helped in every way possible--came to this area in 1998--Conrad has lost a few good ag dealers and if you want to farm and ranch we need repairs for the equipment we use. It is very costly to have to go to Canada for parts.
- 128: Don't be afraid to enforce fine and/or confiscate junk vehicles. Brady needs it badly.
- 129: Private property rights are very important. However, a balance need to be obtained to preserve the nature of our rural areas and communities while encouraging some jobs/industries and residential growth.

- 131: You need to have business, that would supply parts (other than John Deere). Calving supplies, plumbing, etc. Farmer supply that sells something other than pizza and buckshot. Pondera County had the choice of the prison and Pamida but turned them down. Why do you care now?
- 136: Rehab downtown before allowing business development on open land.
- 138: Protect what we have but don't over restrict other uses so nothing could happen.
- 141: This (wind power question) is a hard thing to answer because you want to strict standards so they will not come but not so lenient so they run over the good of impacts of the land.
- 149: We need to be open and friendly to new development/investment in the county.
- 157: Re: #6 under question #5 (property rights question): Not clear the meaning of the question. Private property rights should always be respected by citizens and government. Unclear what "strictly limiting land use regulations" would entail.
- 167: We love our little community--that is why we chose to live here and not in a large city like Great Falls or Missoula.
- 173: Some roads in town are not maintained very well. For instance, the road by Olson Drug and the railroad crossing are vehicle destroyers. There should be something to get the railroad to upgrade the crossing. Front Street is disgraceful as well by the paper office. Businesses pay taxes too.
- 188: I see no need for a "Pondera County Growth Policy" at this time. The population will continue to decline as is the business community. Short of some miracle Conrad will eventually become another Pendroy, Agawam, or Bynum.
- 194: I like Pondera County and the people. It would be nice to see some kind of commercial growth. People could use jobs.
- 200: Use Brady school building to educate locals and more alternative energy sources and development.
- 201: Use rural common sense!
- 203: Your questionnaire is rather self serving like the previous one that said your town would double in size. A number of years ago you did the same thing. You (we) paid a Helena concern to tell use that Conrad was to double in size--falsehood! The (??) was 25,000 dollars. (??) Gustafson was the head of the board. They took a compass at the point of the telephone office and transcribed a circle six miles in radius. Now that cut through part of my house and much of my land. This board was going to have a say about what I did with this property. So you had my attention. (??) didn't like the smell of the pig farm was of Conrad. So she moved west of that. Now you have the colony south of Conrad spreading the effluent from their 1,000 hog operation openly on the land. Smells like money dear people. You survey ignores several large problems. 1. The colonies presently own 37% of ag land in Pondera County. Their poor people pay no income taxes and recently went on Medicaid. They are eliminating most of

their insurance needs and the other taxpayers are paying that bill. In Glacier County they own 51% of the ag land. The county would collapse if it weren't for oil, fed government, and Indian reservation. You have very little of the above. Because of the recent water rights judgment of the courts there is the possibility of losing irrigation water in the future. This would reduce cropland considerably. Your school system is also shrinking which should tell you the farms are getting larger less population. The farmers are getting older and not having kids. All these things should be considered. Brady died because of similar happenings. When I came here in 1948, you had seven implement dealers. Now you have two. We need to have five elevators--you now have one and a half. Farmers are the tail of the economy animal if they don't show a profit--can't spend. I noticed John Deere had 19 rental return combines on their lot because new costs half a million. Your dollars are now worth less than a quarter. The colonies recently paid \$937/acre for poor land. I'm 80 and still doing it. Are any of you going to buy my hideout? (Signed)

- 210: The United Nation wants us to shut the gate as we leave. They want the state for a world park because they rest of the world is messed up.
- 221: Have the airport leases been paid? What is being done to utilize the Brady school building?
- 223: I can't answer questions regarding county land use if I don't know what the land use regulations are. By conservation I take it to mean the continued us of land by landowners who's intent is to avoid excessive degradation, reckless exploitation and impoverishment of the environment. Farming and ranching practices should not be forcibly altered if current methods are not damaging. Conservation means that we cannot keep things as they are but manage change to preserve what is valuable. In my mind, conservation does not mean a protection or preservation plan that involves the setting aside existing land with the intent of restoring the area to pre-human activity. Conservation does not mean the stoppage or control of urban and rural advancement. There should be a positive, facilitative relationship between change and conservation. I believe conservationalism and especially preservation should be lesser priorities when there is growth of population, industrial development, improvements to infrastructure.
- 226: Make sure that the land use planning is for ALL Pondera County--not just Conrad.

#### **Non-resident Landowner Comments**

- 2: You show me a lot of people and I'll show you a lot of pollution. Why grow? I like it as it is today.
- 15: Please encourage town of Dupuyer to form a water district, build city water and sewer system.
- 18: Improving water quality and its services in rural towns outside of Conrad is of utmost importance for future development.
- 22: My family homesteaded in Pondera County in 1909. I own half of a section. Most of my relatives are buried in Conrad. I would like to see less political arguing and more working together to make Pondera County better for the future. (Signed)

- 23: After seeing who is on this committee? How about have a committee with a broad variety of residents. Get out of the friends realm and ask everyone. Not sure who developed this questionnaire but question #5 is rather silly?
- 24: I value the existing rural character of Pondera County!
- 27: I live in Flathead. Do not encourage growth. Enjoy what you have now.
- 29: Look at agriculture co-ops, perhaps a dude ranch, natural wildlife viewing area.
- 30: Great uncle homesteaded farms in 1913-14. Despite that being almost 100 years ago he would still recognize the county. Many places in the West can't say that still, which is a shame. I visit every two or three years to the farm and wish I could spend more time there.
- 31: Having lived in New Jersey most of my life and witnessed the "Garden State" being swamped by an influx of people moving into "mega" developments. I would advise no great drive in Montana to copy this scenario. My in-laws had a dairy farm here (which is long gone) in New Jersey. Montana should be encouraged to save and preserve its rural environment.
- 33: Thank you for allowing me to participate in this survey. I live in Virginia and haven't been to Montana in 24 years and actually have never seen the land I own in Pondera County. I inherited the land. I am somewhat familiar with Conrad and surrounding area. As I went through the survey I allowed ideas, impression and experiences gained while working with the National Park Service as a Park Ranger (Visitor Protection and Resource Management) to guide my selections. I hope your efforts prove fruitful to the County and the people who reside therein. (Signed)
- 34: Thanks for the opportunity. Let's not lose the scenic, rural character of Pondera County. Growth needs to be in our towns--Valier and Dupuyer--to maintain vitality but not on the rural landscape. Wind development must be well planned.
- 36: Since I don't reside in Pondera County, I'm probably not the best judge on these questions--but I did live in Valier for 5 years before coming to Cut Bank.
- 229: Develop wind energy definitely. But don't hurt the birds. School buildings, hospitals, and courthouses should have wind energy, solar panels, and better roofs. Encourage technology, educational, and medical businesses. Made in Montana, farm and ranch supplies and equipment made here. Buffalo jerky? Organic foods. Alternative energy. Pondera County farmers feed the world so they take care of their land--it isn't wasted space, but very productive. But local development in communities is needed.
- 230: Good website. I'm in favor of tax incentives to attract businesses.
- 234: The local landowners should have the say if they want a wind farm or other development on the property they own.

236: Don't adversely impact current private property rights. I especially appreciate requiring adequate infrastructure on the development.

242: I believe that the landowners of Pondera County must develop a plan to create opportunities for young people. The county is "old", that is, the kids living here are waiting to go to college and then leave the county and maybe Montana, for greener pastures and those that remain area waiting for God to take them home. We need good careers (not just jobs) and affordable housing for young families. Good luck to you.

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# **Dupuyer Community Survey Results:** December 1, 2006

The Dupuyer Community Survey was created by the Commerce
Development Committee of the Dupuyer Community Club. The survey was
distributed and compiled by the Sonoran Institute, a non-profit organization.
The Sonoran Institute was asked to assist in this project by the Commerce
Development Committee.

The following results were compiled following the receipt of the community surveys from residents in Dupuyer and the surrounding area. Due to the nature of any survey, not all respondents chose to answer all the questions, therefore, although 60 surveys were returned, there will be questions to which fewer than 60 responded.

In general, the results from the survey are represented here in graph or chart format, with all the values (or number of respondents) displayed. Some of the questions in the survey allowed you to choose as many answers as you would like, or were open-ended and you had to respond on your own. These questions will be reported in text format, where necessary, rather than in graph or chart form. Since this is the case, you will see many answers where respondents chose more than one answer. All the raw data for the survey is available through the Community Club's Commerce Development Committee.

# Question 1: What five things do you feel are Dupuyer's greatest assets?

The most frequently listed choices were: the rural area, the proximity of the Rocky Mountain Front, the small town atmosphere, the views and scenery, the local school, the friendly and independent people and the location. Each of these answers had 13 or more respondents that believed these were among Dupuyer's greatest assets.

Wildlife, water, hunting and fishing, proximity to Highway 89, the community, the seasons, the natural resources, the proximity to Glacier National Park, the open space the Community Hall, the safety and security of the town (low crime and no drugs), the low cost of living and the quiet atmosphere were also all listed. These answers had between 4 and 13 respondents.

Finally, the answers that had 3 or fewer respondents were: clean air, unspoiled place, family, new families moving in, farming, ranching, Wm Jones Memorial Park, stable populations, soil, roads, irrigation, history, few outsiders, community spirit, no transients, wilderness, no big development, independence, local control, the way of life and few regulations/zoning.

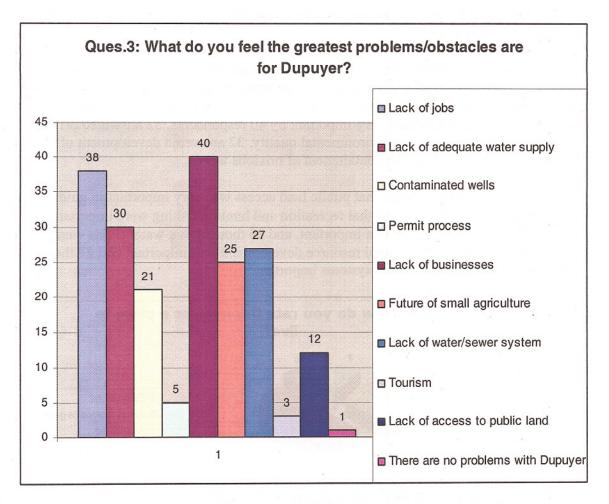
# Question 2: What three things do you feel would enhance the quality of life in Dupuyer?

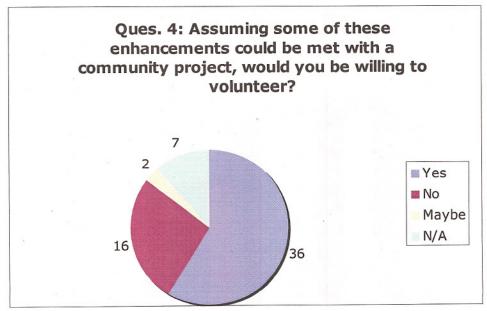
21 respondents replied that water and sewer development would enhance the quality of life. 11 respondents replied that more small business or business opportunities would do this. Nine respondents answered a gas station, and 8 answered more housing options.

Road improvement, a restaurant, more job opportunities, more service within and respect within the community all had 4 to 6 respondents. Four people also replied that no improvements were necessary and that Dupuyer was perfect the way it was without outside influence.

Bus service, increasing local services, keeping out outsiders, protecting views and lands, having a shared community vision, a grocery store, a cleaned-up town, more planning, no changes to water and sewer systems, and no commercial development all had 3 or fewer respondents.

Development of light industry and of natural resources both had 2 respondents. Three people replied that the quality of life would be enhanced by helping ranches and farms stay viable and three also replied that more families should be encouraged to move to Dupuyer to sustain the school and the tax base.

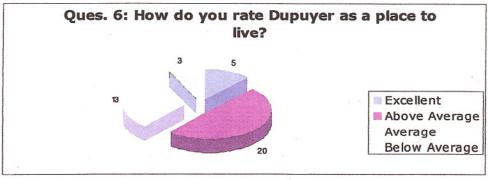


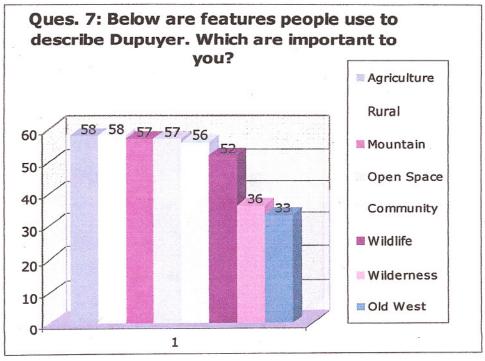


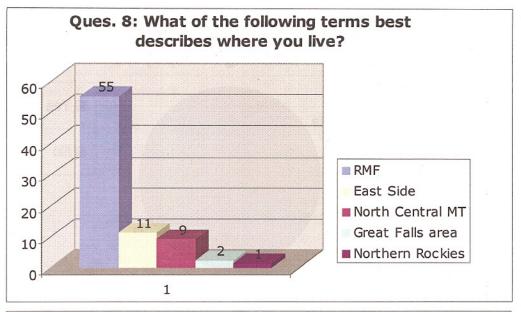
# Question 5: How important are the following items for guiding any plan for the future of Dupuyer?

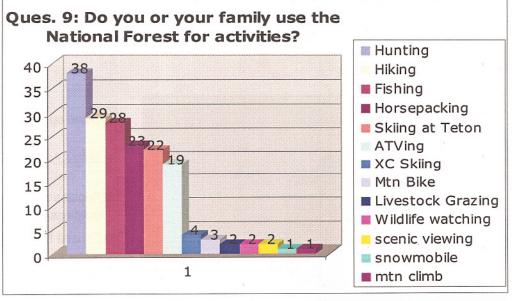
In general, respondents to this question thought that all of the answers were important. 14 respondents replied that all of the issues were important and are included in the numbers below. Ranch heritage was considered very important by 41 respondents. Farm heritage was considered very important by 40 respondents. 32 answered private property rights, 44 answered environmental quality, 37 answered development of business, and 31 answered the containment of noxious weeds.

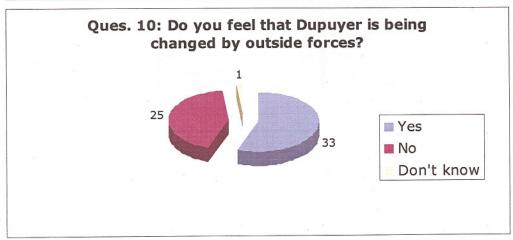
36 respondents thought that public land access was very important in guiding any future plans, while 27 answered that recreation and hunting/fishing were important as well. 29 thought that tourism was important, and 35 thought that water rights were important. 20 thought that natural resource development was important and 21 thought containment of water and sewer systems important.

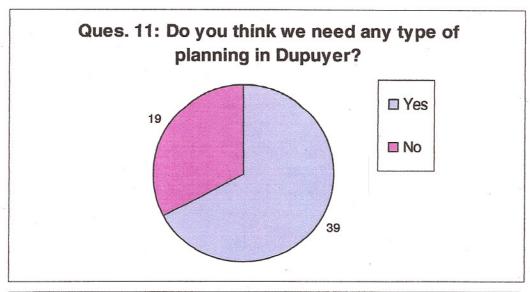


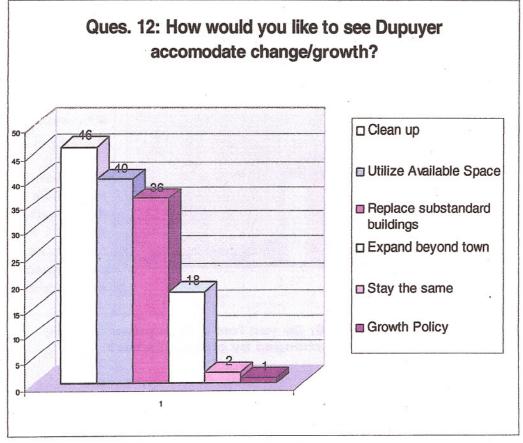


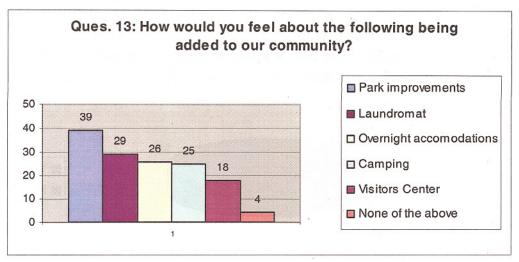


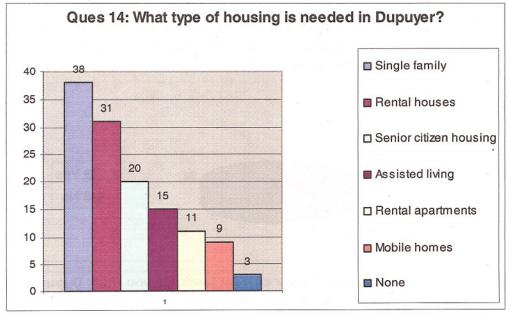


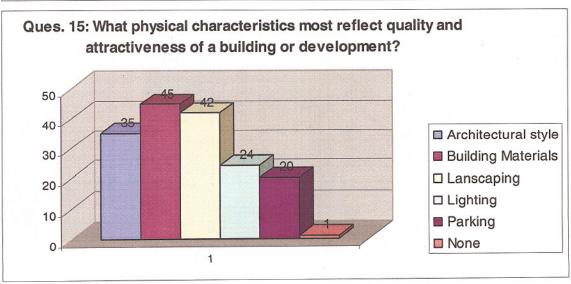


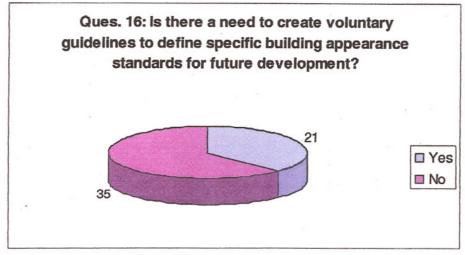


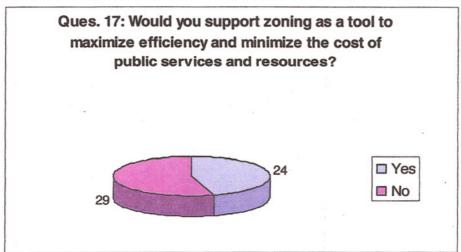


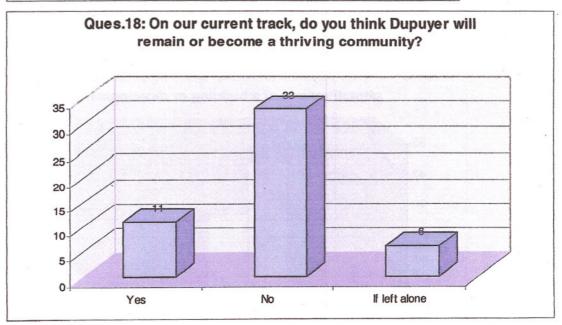


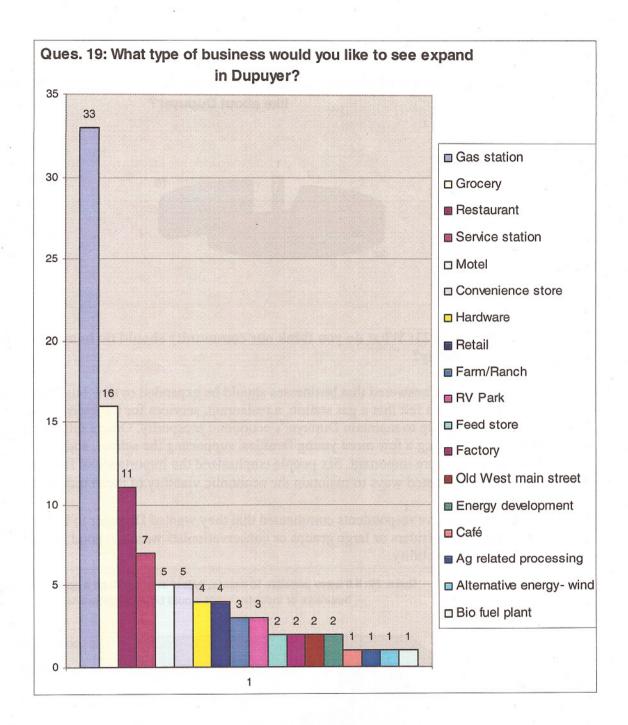


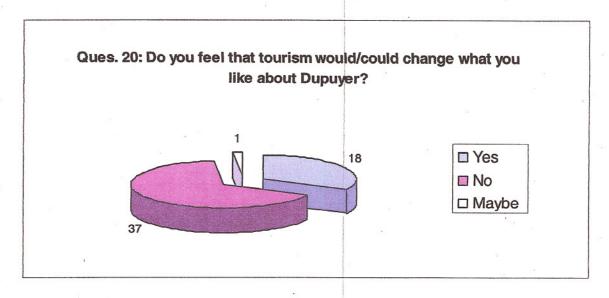








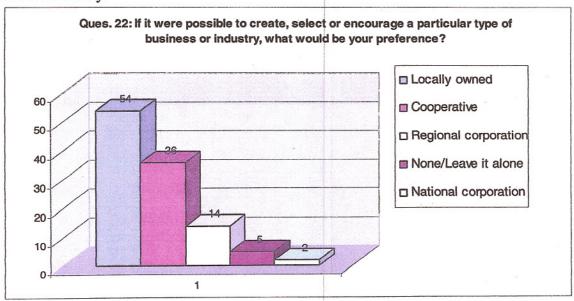


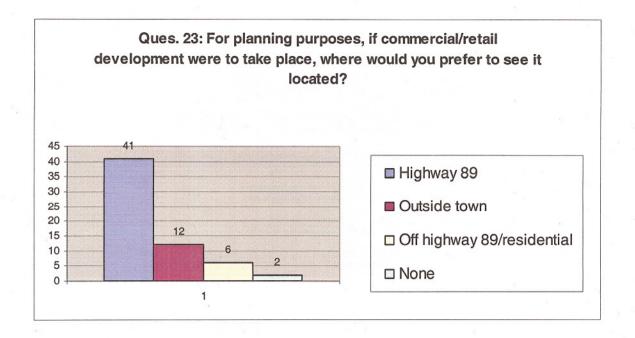


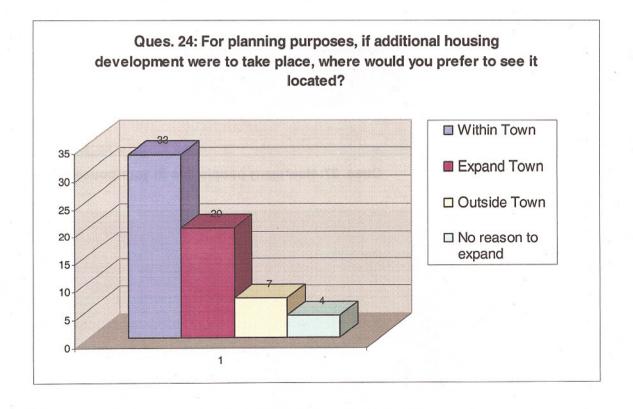
Question 21: What do you think our community should do to maintain its economic viability?

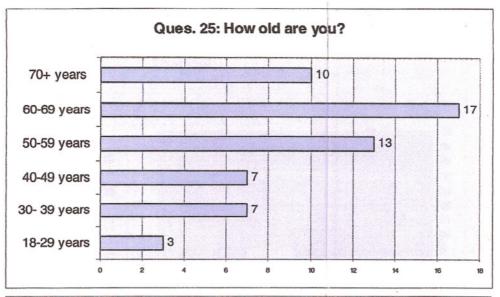
18 people answered that businesses should be expanded or new businesses built. These respondents felt that a gas station, a restaurant, services for travelers or more tourism would help to maintain Dupuyer's economic prosperity. Others felt that pursuing incomers, attracting a few more young families, supporting the school, addressing housing issues were important. Six people emphasized the importance of farming and ranching, and wanted ways to maintain the economic viability of those industries.

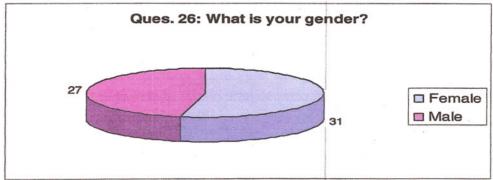
Finally, five respondents commented that they wanted Dupuyer to be left alone and that either outsiders or large groups or conservationists were not good for the economic sustainability.

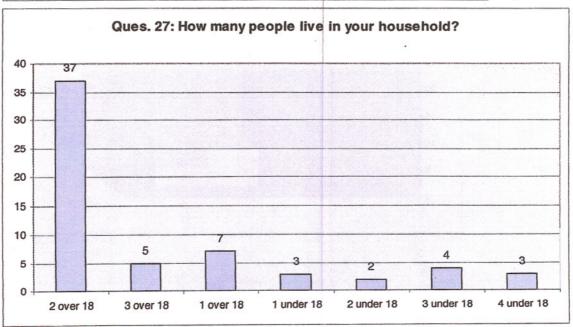


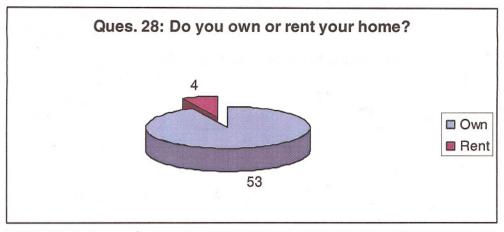


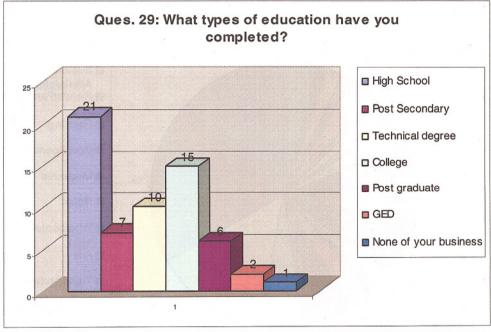


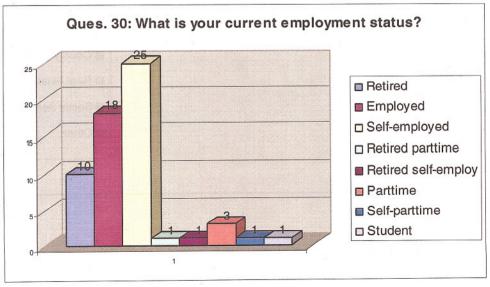


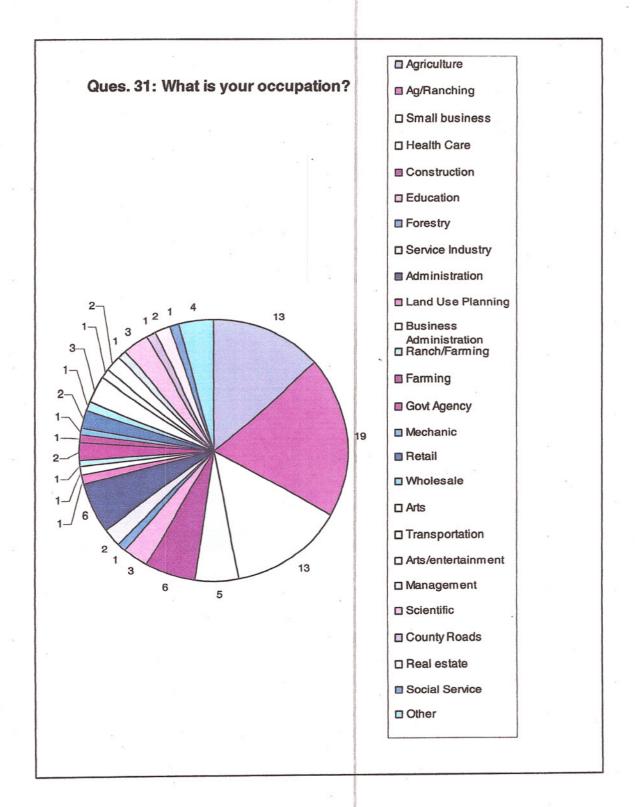








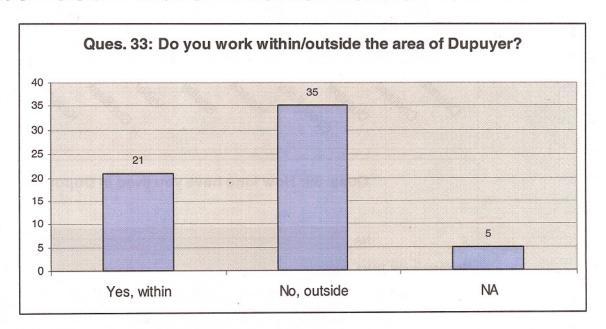




### Question 32: What activities do you like doing in your spare time?

The activities that rated most highly on the charts were hiking, fishing, hunting, gardening and reading. Each of these answers had more than 11 respondents who replied that they enjoyed these activities. The next most popular activities were campling, being outdoors in various ways (including walking, picknicking, watching wildlife or birds, packing in the mountains, etc), horseback riding, and volunteering. Each of these answers had 5 or more respondents who enjoyed the activities.

The following activities had fewer than 5 respondents who replied that they enjoyed doing the activity. in their spare time: traveling, biking, skiing, sewing, knitting, being with family, visiting friends, sight-seeing, trapping, playing cards, dancing, building and designing, fixing things up, swimming, church activities, cooking/baking, golfing, photography, snowmobiling, collecting stamps, and pursuing history activities.



Question 34: If you work outside of Dupuyer, how far do you commute to work?

24 respondents answered this question. Of these:

- 6 commuted fewer than 10 miles.
- 3 commuted 10 miles.
- 5 commuted between 15 and 30 miles.
- 6 commuted between 35 and 100 miles.
- 4 said their commute to work varied.



