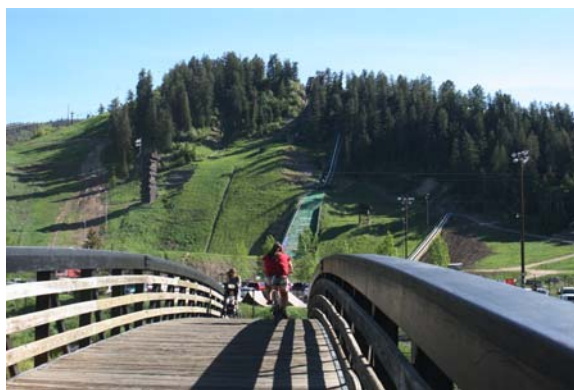
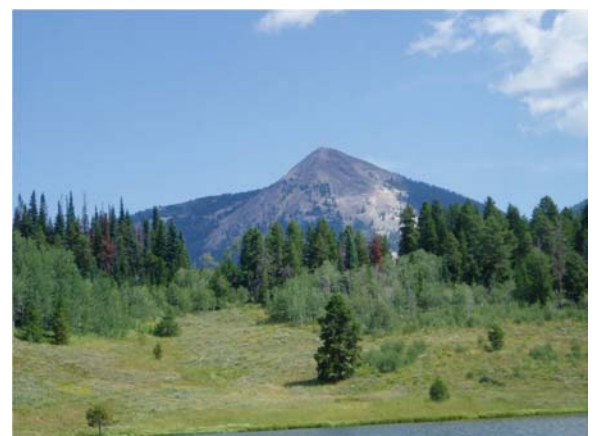


Our Valley ♦ Our Vision ♦ Our Future



Heart and Soul of Our Community



Interim Report ♦ Summer 2008

Vision 2030 is a collaborative citizens' effort to help define the future of the Yampa River Valley by gathering the wisdom of valley residents, updating the 1994 Vision 2020 Report, and creating collective stewardship of a community vision that retains and sustains our "Heart and Soul" assets for generations to come. Vision 2030 is gathering the values and important qualities of our communities to facilitate future decision making.

What is Vision 2030?

This citizen-led initiative is a collaborative effort to create a vision for the Yampa Valley by identifying the things we value most to help shape the future of Routt County for generations to come.

What defines our region's heart and soul? Since April 2007, Vision 2030 has been collecting the opinions of Routt County residents to define unique features, resources, special places and characteristics that, if lost, would fundamentally diminish the quality of community and sense of well-being that brought citizens here in the first place.

Why? This visioning process aims to generate proposals and recommendations for future community decision-making.

Who? A diverse group of Routt County residents has volunteered to participate on the Vision 2030 Citizens' Committee which is funded by Routt County and the City of Steamboat Springs.

Vision 2030 is an update of the 1992-94 Vision 2020 process that hosted community discussions about topics including education, transportation, economy, city planning and government. The discussions generated recommendations that, through seemingly intangible ideas, yielded very tangible results, the majority of which were citizen-led efforts including:

- **First Impressions of Routt County** supports early childhood education
- **Purchase of Development Rights** helps landowners use conservation easements to protect their land from future development
- **Routt County Open Lands Plan** furthers open space needs
- **Yampa Valley Recycles** a county-wide recycling effort

In addition, the **Community Agriculture Alliance, Yampa Valley Partners, Yampa Valley Land Trust** and **expanded medical services at Yampa Valley Medical Center** all were inspired partly because individuals championed causes of interest recognized by Vision 2020.

The report also helped several non-profit organizations and the City of Steamboat Springs **procure more than \$25 million in grants** for open space, trails, education, historic preservation and transportation.

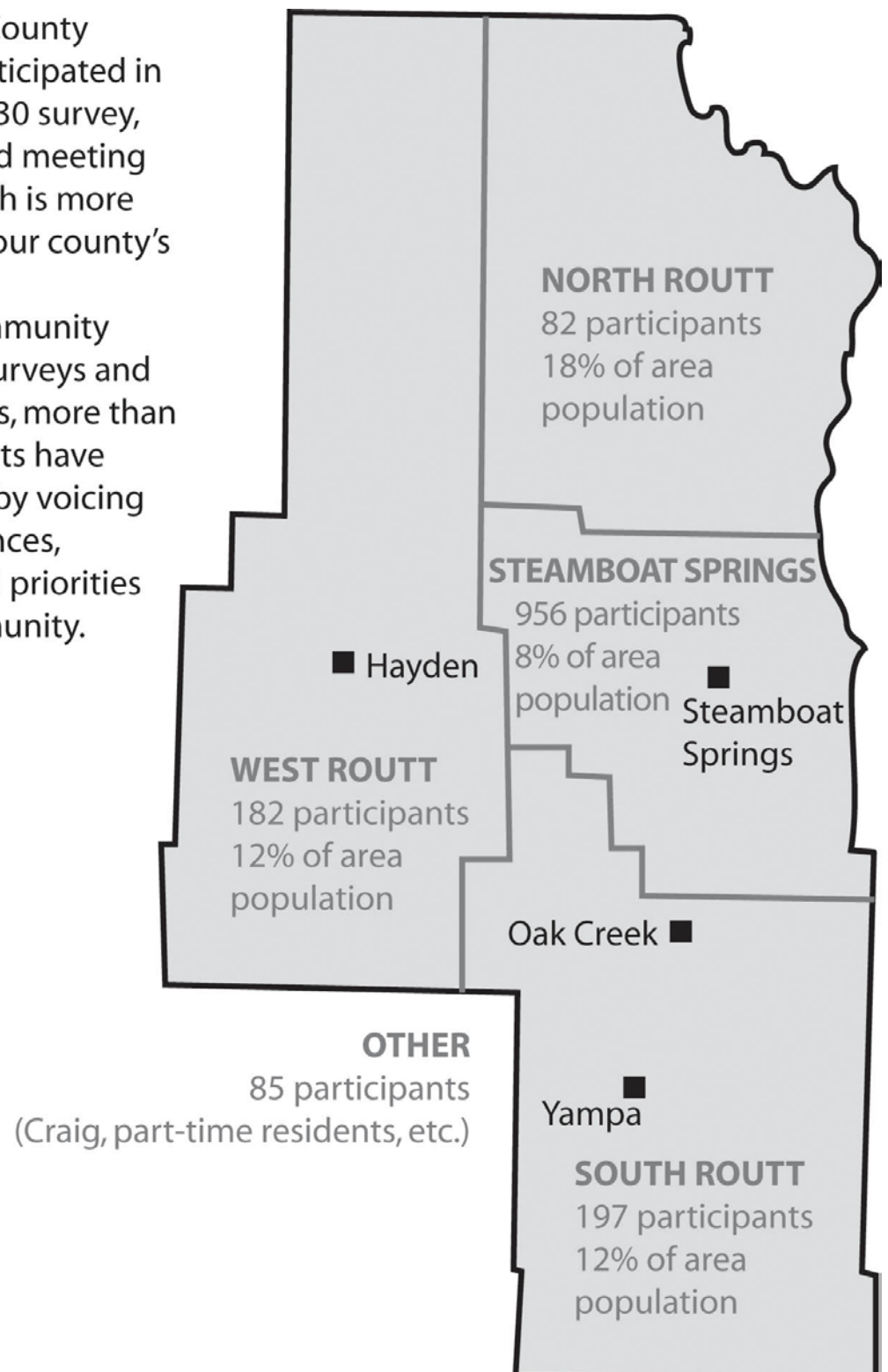
Value most...

There is a spirit to this town – one of community - volunteerism, willing to lend a helping hand to a friend/neighbor/community member. The ever difficult to define "sense of community." – Grant Fenton, Steamboat Springs

Friendliness – acceptance – how we get together. Volunteer efforts and working to join together. History of the town and understanding of it. – Pat Holderness, West Routt

The ranches and river and ski hills, wilderness and small circles of friends that somehow includes every local, locals willing to show tourists their secret stash and knowing the Yampa Valley curse will keep it secret. – John Faris, South Routt

1,502 Routt County residents participated in the Vision 2030 survey, gathering and meeting process, which is more than 10% of our county's population. Through community gatherings, surveys and special events, more than 1,500 residents have participated by voicing their preferences, concerns and priorities for the community.



Regional divisions based on Routt County Fire Protection Districts



Value most...

The way people are treated is very important. It's small enough to where everyone knows who you are and you get kind greetings wherever you go. Also, the chance to just enjoy life and not have to worry about hustle and bustle is nice. The crime isn't that bad either because it can be monitored, we just need a boost in this. – Amanda Wilson, South Routt

Family feel, a common pursuit of many people leads to a feeling of community, small enough town/county where you can make a difference in how it grows, not "just another roadside resort." A place where you can feel your job has an impact on your community, not just a place to play. – Scott Blair, Steamboat Springs

So far we still have our 'neighbor helping neighbor' attitude here. I can charge a loaf of bread at my local grocery store. The post master knows my name! – Jeanie Peterson, South Routt

The sense of community is derived from the small town atmosphere and the rural, natural beauty. The ranching community is extremely important in maintaining a cohesive and social community. – Matthew Miller, Steamboat Springs

Process and Timeline...

This Interim Report is a preview of what the Vision 2030 Citizens' Committee has been hearing for the past year. More than 1,500 people have participated so far.

- **Five community gatherings** were held throughout Routt County in November 2007 to identify issues and areas of concern.
- **Surveys**, both online and hard copies, generated additional information about what residents hope to see, feel or experience in our future.
- **Vision 2020 review** sub-committee identified successes, challenges and opportunities in each of the categories

originally identified in the Vision 2020 report.

The Vision 2030 Citizens' Committee collected, sorted and analyzed the extensive data. The survey alone generated more than 7,600 unique responses to the open-ended questions.

This two-year citizen-led visioning process aims to define what we want as a community for the coming 20 years. These early results have produced some surprises that the community needs to confirm or refute. **The results in this report are preliminary** and we will validate the information during the November 2008 gatherings.

*10% of the county has responded...
Has your voice been heard?*



THE FUTURE...

The groundwork laid through the Vision 2030 process and recommendations becomes a basis for ensuring the community's core values are retained as we adapt to changes within our valley. Citizens pledge ongoing efforts to ensure that the strength of interconnected values and visions withstand and support the evolving nature of a dynamic community.

What we heard at the gatherings...

Community gatherings were held at five locations in November 2007.

- North Routt – North Routt Fire Station
- Steamboat Springs town – Olympian Hall at Howelsen Hill
- Steamboat Springs west – Christian Heritage Center
- West Routt – Routt County Fair Grounds in Hayden
- South Routt – Soroco High School in Oak Creek

After bowls of chili and cookies, local residents gathered in small facilitated groups to talk about...

- What you value most about living here
- What is important and what is threatened
- What you hope to see, feel or experience here 20 years from now

As participants offered their ideas and perceptions, volunteers recorded their comments on flip charts and in a computer database.

After working through the group discussions, each participant anonymously voted for his or her priority items using electronic keypad polling. Below are samples of how different sectors of the county voted on most important community value. Full results are available at www.Vision2030Routt.org.

Value most...

Community support (small town caring). Positive energy. – Dina Murray, South Routt

The small cowboy town 'feel' where everyone knows everyone. The feeling that open space and town co-exist and won't change. The ability to drive to my job without waiting at the 129 light for 20 min each a.m. – Trenia Sanford, North Routt

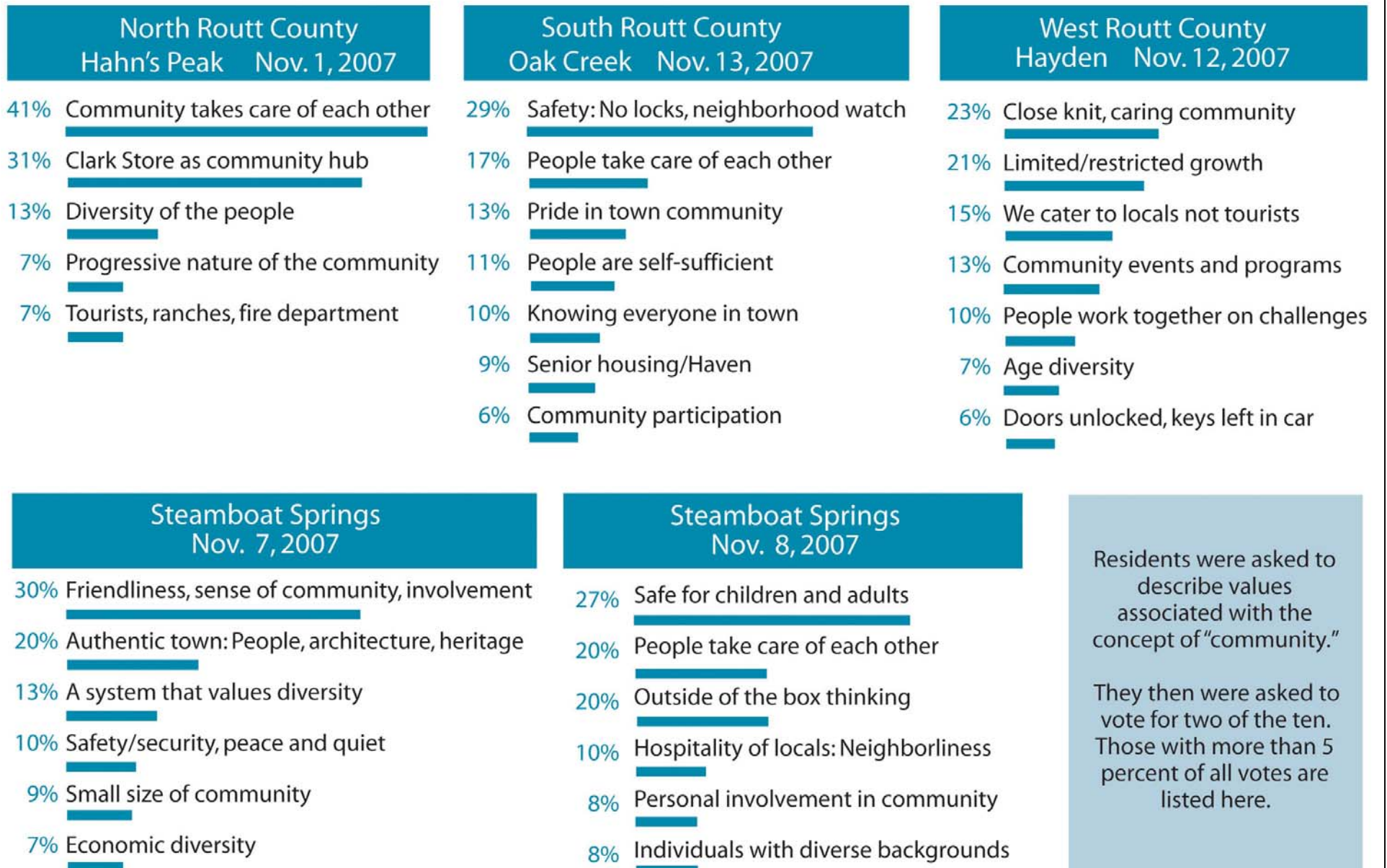
The open vistas over mountain and ranch land. It's just the four-season, sheer beauty of the place. – John M. Merrill, West Routt

Population groups small enough so that you feel like you know the community, not just your neighbors. – Dick Palmer, South Routt

Home owned businesses (local); small town character; trees, lawns, etc. – Donna Hellyer, West Routt

The open space that provides important wildlife habitat. – James Haskins, West Routt

Which values are shared in your community?



Residents were asked to describe values associated with the concept of "community."

They then were asked to vote for two of the ten. Those with more than 5 percent of all votes are listed here.

In 20 years...

A vigorous, more broad based economy. Being solely based upon constructing second homes and mansions for the super wealthy, and catering to the whims of finicky tourists is a recipe for economic disaster. – Scott Schreiber, West Routt

I would hope to see the open lush green valley floor as I drove over Rabbit Ears pass. I would hope to feel a warm diverse community that was open to all comers – a place where people know each other and take care of each other. A community where the richness lies, or is defined by, being a part of something versus what one has in their pockets. – Millie Flanigan, Steamboat Springs

Focus on child- and family-friendly community that's safer than a big city with collaboration of human service agencies. – Kevin Haynes, North Routt

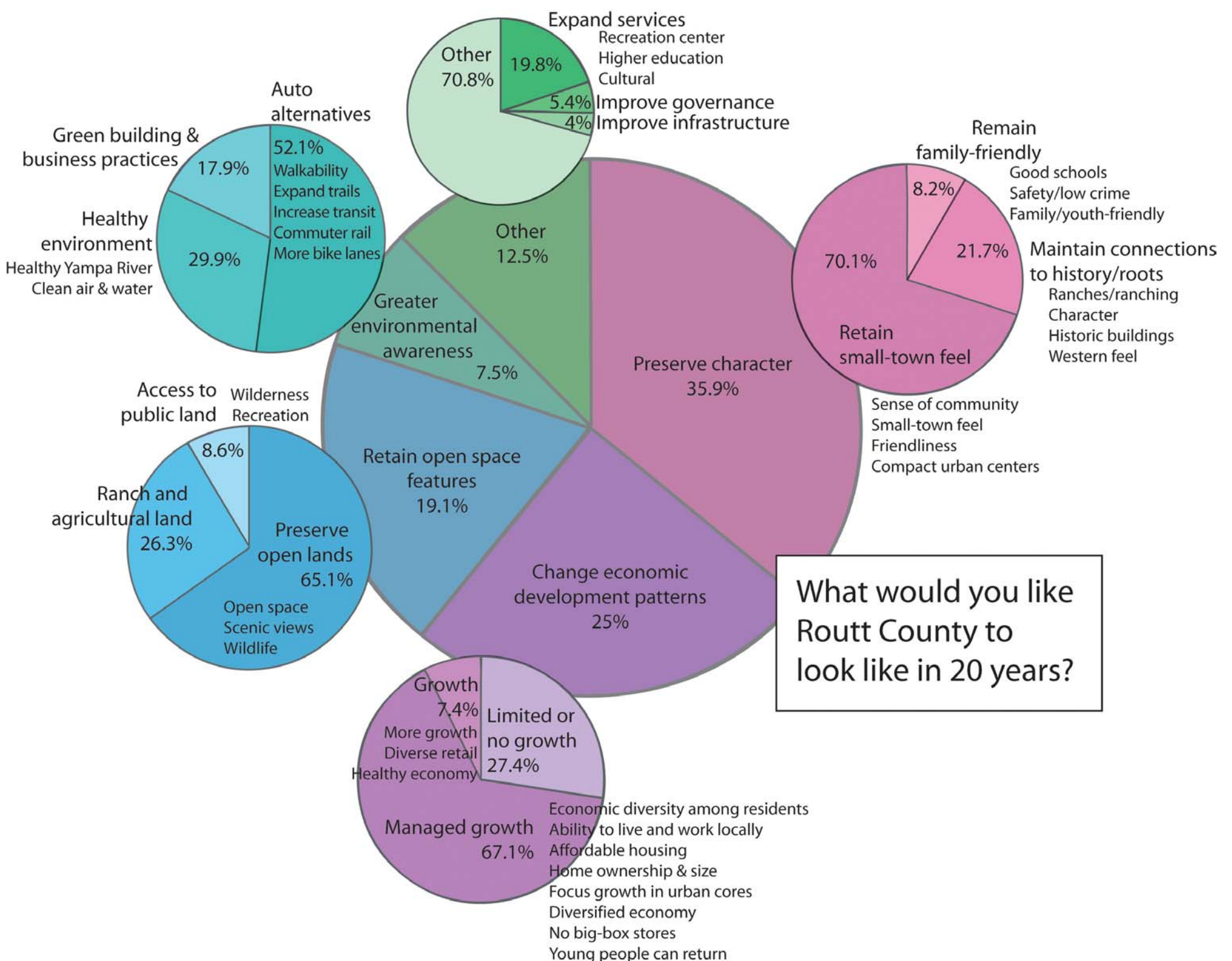
What we heard from the survey...

What do you want to experience, see, feel in 20 years?

The survey was distributed in hard copies and also available online. It asked respondents to rate the items that are important and at what level each item is perceived as threatened. It also asked open-ended questions to glean more insight into the subtleties of what people value about our community.

The Citizens' Committee has chosen to print a few comments in this Interim Report from those who agreed to share their views publicly. We have attempted to display differing viewpoints from across the county.

The results, shown in the diagram below, demonstrate that the largest percentage of respondents are concerned about retaining the community's character. This concept ranges from maintaining the small town feel to preserving the agricultural heritage and safe, family-oriented Western feel.



What would you like Routt County to look like in 20 years?

What we heard from the survey...

Survey responses to the open-ended question, "What should be done to ensure that what you hope to see, feel or experience is still here in 20 years," show that managing growth is the most important concern. How to resolve conflicting ideas and what should be done is an ongoing discussion and needs additional work to generate actionable items for the Vision 2030 Report of Recommendations scheduled for March 2009.

Focus groups will be working prior to the November 2008 community gatherings to summarize the survey and gatherings responses to generate statements for prioritization. More community input is needed to achieve this goal.

What to do...

Try not to get bogged down in fighting the future, rather focus on making sure it is one that resonates with our present and past. – Ben Strook, Steamboat Springs

Continually monitor random growth and development, encouraging educational, recreational and cultural growth as well as low to moderate cost housing and discouraging trophy homes. – Glen Poulter, Steamboat Springs

What should be done to ensure that what you hope to see, feel or experience is still here in twenty years?

GOAL	ACTION NEEDED TO ACCOMPLISH GOAL
Manage growth 28%	Promote density in city/town centers, encourage affordable housing, ban big boxes, encourage growth of tourism and businesses, encourage full-time residency through taxes, improve analysis of development impacts, limit home size, ban chains, restrict building height, encourage lower density, enforce zoning
Preserve open space 10%	Conservation easements, preserve Emerald Mountain, support land trusts, require open space deeded with development
Better governance 9%	Enforce master plans and zoning, less government, city/county cooperation, long-term planning, enforce conflict of interest rules
Affordable living 9%	Encourage affordable day care, require affordable housing, don't require affordable housing, encourage diverse retail
Preserve character 7%	Provide education programs about local history, encourage ability to live and work in the same location, preserve ranches/ranching, historic preservation ordinance, protect downtown
Limit growth 5%	Quotas on building construction, enforce zoning
Less traffic 5%	Highway 40 bypass, support bikes and pedestrians, improve regional transit system
Green living 4%	Require renewable energy, improve recycling program, buy local products, provide environmental education programs
Sense of community 4%	Focus policies on locals, individual participation, community events, be friendly, volunteer, provide education on heritage/traditions, welcome newcomers and tourists
Auto alternatives 3%	Expand regional transit, expand trails and trail infrastructure, provide more sidewalks
Participation 3%	Volunteer, become a committee member or community leader

Goals listed by less than 2.5% of respondents: Healthy environment, preserve ranches, historic preservation, friendliness, preserve local businesses, recreation access, better infrastructure, better schools, support the arts, support youth, support charities

What to do...

Continued land stewardship on behalf of the National Forest, a horse patrol program in the National Forest and wilderness area in summer to help monitor use. – Terry Nelson, North Routt

Help develop a community consensus which puts into words Steamboats "sense of place." Then promote the establishment of city and county planning processes and guidelines which assure that all of the above goals are attained. – Bill and Ruth Hindman, Steamboat Springs

Keep South Routt as a ranching community with the locals that are here staying here, or if others move in, they don't try to make it where they came from. – Sharon Cleaver, South Routt

What You Can Do for Vision 2030...

We need your help to define "Our Valley, Our Vision, Our Future." Here is how you can get involved with Vision 2030 and ensure your voice is part of our future.

- **Add your thoughts** to the Web site forums.
- **Attend and participate** in one of our November community gatherings.
- **Join a focus group** to review and refine what we've heard.
- **Join our Citizen's Committee** to help organize, convene and deliver the Vision 2030 Report of Recommendations. This involves monthly meetings, sub-committees and other projects.
- **Champion a cause or interest area** to ensure that visions become reality.

For information about how you can be a part of Vision 2030, contact Project Manager, Tammie Delaney, Tammie@Vision2030Routt.org or call 970-846-1404.

Documenting Our Vision ♦ Our Valley ♦ Our Future

Creating an audio-visual record of the Yampa Valley's special places has been an ongoing project of the Vision 2030 committee. During community gatherings in November 2007, participants shared and recorded stories about their favorite memories of the area.

Fifth generation Routt County native Gates Gooding produced a six-minute YouTube video documenting opinions of local residents about what they most

value about our community.

Jen Mapes, a doctoral candidate from the University of Southern California created a slide presentation for her research on the effects of change on small communities.

The Vision 2030 committee also gave Routt County school children disposable cameras to take a picture of places in the valley that are special to them and

hope to see in the year 2030. Students from the North Routt Charter School, Steamboat Springs Middle School and Hayden Valley Elementary shared their visions and a few are displayed below.

The full audio, YouTube video, and slide show presentations are available online in our media section of the Web site at www.Vision2030Routt.org.



Hayden is so special to me because I have lived here for most of my life. It needs to grow a little bit. – Kara Cozzens, student Hayden Valley Elementary



This is Mount Werner. I want this to stay the same because I ski here a lot and it holds many memories. – Eric Sobeck, student Steamboat Springs Middle School



This has been a school for my grandma, my grand uncle and now it is a school for me. I want it to be a school for kids in the future. – Will Anderson, student North Routt Community Charter School



This is a picture of the ranch where I ride my horse. I would hate to see it developed into a bunch of condos. I like the fact that there are still some old Colorado ranches. – Emily Cowan, student Steamboat Springs Middle School



My barn is special to me because it has been standing for a long, long time. – Millie Delaney, student Hayden Valley Elementary



Watching this herd of wild elk from my bedroom window makes my heart full of wonder for these wild animals. May they always be here. –Kameraia Hill, student North Routt Community Charter School

Upcoming Vision 2030 events in 2008...

AUGUST						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

SEPTEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

NOVEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

Mark your calendars!

Community Events--Vision 2030 Displays

Saturday, August 16—Routt County Fair (Hayden)
Monday, September 1—Labor Day Celebration (Oak Creek)
Saturday, September 13—'South Meets the West', Community Hoe Down & Festival of Americas (Steamboat Springs)

Focus Group Meetings

Thursday, September 11, 2008 4-6pm, Focus Group 'Kick-Off' Meeting
 September & October meetings scheduled by Focus Group Chairs

November Vision 2030 Community Gatherings

Thursday, November 6, 6-9pm—North Routt—Clark
Monday, November 10, 6-9pm—South Routt—Yampa
Tuesday, November 11, 6-9pm—Steamboat Springs
Monday, November 17, 6-9pm—West Routt—Hayden



"Rivers! I hope all rivers are still flowing, not dammed in 2030." – Luke Jankoski, student North Routt Community Charter School

Vision 2030 Citizens' Committee

Marsha Daughenbaugh (Co-Chair, Elk River Valley/Steamboat Springs)

Kathy Stokes (Co-Chair, Steamboat Springs)

Tammie Delaney (Project Manager, West Routt)

Lynn Abbott (Steamboat Springs)

Steve Aigner * (Steamboat Springs)

Towny Anderson (Steamboat Springs)

Tracy Barnett (Steamboat Springs)

Meg Bentley (Steamboat Springs)

Maggie Berglund (Steamboat Springs)

Diane Brower * (Steamboat Springs)

Diane Mitsch Bush (Steamboat Springs)

Gretchen Daley (South Valley)

Tim Frentress (West Routt)

Jeff Fry (West Routt)

Jim Fulks* (Steamboat Springs)

Sandy Evans-Hall (Steamboat Springs)

Nancy Graves (Steamboat Springs)

Judy Guerin (West Routt)

Todd Hagenbuch (South Routt)

Nancy Howell (Steamboat Springs)

George Hresko * (Steamboat Springs)

Paul Hughes (Steamboat Springs)

Marion Kahn (Steamboat Springs)

Karen Kosakowski (North Routt)

Stacey Kramer * (Steamboat Springs)

Holly Larson (Steamboat Springs)

Gavin Malia (Steamboat Springs)

CJ Mucklow (North Routt)

Lyman Orton (Steamboat Springs)

John Spezia (Steamboat Springs)

Karen Tussey * (South Routt)

Sarah Westendorf (Steamboat Springs)

Fred Wolf (North Routt)

* indicates committee chair

Thank you Jen Mapes, project angel

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970-846-1404

www.Vision2030Routt.org

The Vision 2030 Interim Report is Sponsored by
 Routt County
 City of Steamboat Springs
 Town of Hayden
 City of Oak Creek
 Town of Yampa
 Orton Family Foundation