

## **CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION**

The Lincoln area, like much of the state of Montana, continues to change. There are increasing demands on roads, utilities, schools, emergency services, water and wastewater treatment, and these changes often occur faster than the community can react to them. In order to be prepared for these changes and demands, a community must plan.

In Lewis and Clark County there was a population increase of almost 15 percent between 1990 and 2000, and an estimated 3.9 percent population increase between 2000 and 2004. In 2004, the County adopted a Growth Policy to help address these growth pressures. The Lincoln Growth Policy is a part of the overall Lewis and Clark County Growth Policy.

Montana's population is predicted by the U.S. Census Bureau to increase by approximately 18 percent by the year 2015. The population of Lewis and Clark County is projected to increase steadily over the next decade at approximately one and a half percent (1.5%) per year. If the pattern of population growth continues along the recent trends, the largest percent of growth will occur due to in-migration.

How to plan for these changes is inherently controversial, but, if done correctly, it can be the expression of the community's common desires regarding land use and development within the community. Land use planning should inform and provide a process of anticipating the community's future needs. Future needs for public facilities and services, such as educational facilities, recreational facilities, law enforcement and fire protection, health and human services, transportation, and waste management can be anticipated and planned for. A land use plan can also conserve both economic and environmental resources.

The orderly development of an area to accommodate residential, commercial, and industrial growth can minimize the cost of extending public facilities and services, and thereby minimize the cost to the County government and the taxpayers. Minimizing costs to the government reduces the need for additional taxes to fund those improvements needed to support development. Orderly development also conserves the area's important economic resources, such as productive agricultural, forest, and mineral lands. It protects environmental resources, such as air and water quality, wildlife habitat, wetlands, and floodplains, and the visual and aesthetic qualities that are important to the residents of the Upper Blackfoot River Valley.

The Lincoln Growth Policy was created as a partnership between the Lincoln Community Council, the citizens of the Lincoln Planning Area, the U.S. Forest Service, the Lewis and Clark County Board of Commissioners, the Lewis and

Clark County Planning Department, and the Lewis and Clark County Consolidated Planning Board. The Lincoln Growth Policy serves as an addendum to the Lewis and Clark County Growth Policy specific to the Lincoln Planning Area.

The Lincoln Planning Area is defined as follows (See Figures 1 and 2):

From Rogers Pass on the east side of the Planning Area, south and west along the Continental Divide across Flesher Pass and Stemple Pass to the Township line between T. 12 and 13 N.; then west to the Range line between R. 9 and 10 W. (Powell County line), and north to the Township line between T. 15 and 16 N; then east to the Continental Divide and south to Rogers Pass.

Figure 3 shows the Lincoln Townsite.

The preparation of the Lincoln Growth Policy with its goals and policies does not end the land-use planning process. Policies must be implemented in order to achieve the goals of the plan. Implementation of the plan can be done utilizing regulatory tools, such as zoning, building codes, or development performance standards. Non-regulatory tools can be educational programs and brochures, as well as the development of community guidelines.

#### Planning Area Survey (2004)

In January of 2004, a survey was mailed out to residents of the Lincoln Planning Area. The survey conducted by the Montana Economic Development Association (MEDA) Resource Team as part of the team's assessment of the Lincoln Planning Area.

The survey included the following questions:

1. What do you think are the major problems and challenges in Lincoln?
2. What do you think are the major strengths and assets in Lincoln?
3. What projects would you like to see completed in two, five, and twenty years?

The results/responses to each question follow:

1. What do you think are the major problems and challenges in Lincoln?

#### Economic

- |                        |    |
|------------------------|----|
| 1. Jobs                | 56 |
| 2. Lack of Industry    | 23 |
| 3. Economy             | 19 |
| 4. Lack of Competition | 6  |

Streets and roads	39
Lack of Teen Activities	23
Law Enforcement	20
Land closures	14
Family Lifestyles	13
Apathy	11
Medical Services	8
Need for a Pharmacy	8
Taxes are too High	8
Leadership (council - chamber)	7
Cell Phone Service	6
Lack of Cooperation	6
Appearance	6
Lincoln is not a Destination	4
School Budget	4
Sewer	4
No Street Lights	3
Too Many Bars	3
Anti-business (environmentalists)	2
Dogs	2
School Curriculum	2
Transient Population	2

The responses also mentioned:

Aging volunteers, anti-snowmobile plowing, county services, cutting trees in town, dump closed too much, early business closures, elderly housing, electrical power, fire department, growth, isolation, lack of high school classes, lack of middle-aged working class, mag chloride, no bus service to Helena, no river access, no snowmobile route around town, no zoning, outsider land purchases, outsiders wanting change, parking on Hwy 200, public water system, school curriculum, shooting animals in town, snowmobiles on streets, too few fire hydrants, too much development, and trespass.

## 2. What do you think are the major strengths and assets in Lincoln?

### Physical

1. Surroundings/location	87
2. Recreation	31
3. Tourist attractions	23
4. Natural resources	11
Great people	48
1. Cooperation	8
Low key community	23
Friendly businesses	18
EMT/Fire	7
Hooper Park	7

Community Council	7
Senior Center	6
Library	6
School	6
Chamber of Commerce	3
Churches	3
Sewer	3
Community Center	3
Clinic	2
Highway 200	2
Law Enforcement	2
None	2

The responses also mentioned:

Blackfoot Valley Dispatch, Commissioners, Culture/Arts, good services, good water, potential for growth, privacy, quiet, road crew, room to grow, rustic setting, small town, students, Taco Tuesday, and unique history

### 3. What projects would you like to see completed in two, five and twenty years?

#### Project totals

Streets/roads	50
Recreational activities	33
Business/industry	23
Cellular phone service	20
Clean/fix/fire hazards	20
Golf course	15
School	14
Pharmacy	13
Swimming Pool	13
Mine	10
Assisted Living	9
Incorporation	7
Do Nothing	6
Improved law enforcement	6
Walk/bike path	6
Lighting	5
Improved Medical Services	5
More access	5
Skate Park	5
Timber	5
Bowling Alley	4
Fewer bars	4
Improved housing	4
Promote Artists	4

Public Water System	4
Ski Resort	4
Amusement Park/Arcade	3
Improve Senior Center	3
Improved Hooper Park	3
Street Lights	3
Car Wash	2
More churches	2
Dental Clinic	2
Improve Stemple Pass Road	2
Theater	2

The responses also mentioned:

Book store, bus to Helena, Business retreat center, campground, improved community hall appearance, drive up bank (deposit/ATM, etc.), disc golf course, eliminate the Community Council, Fire/EMT center, more fire hydrants, first class sewer system, become part of Powell County, less growth, high speed internet, huckleberry processing plant, knowledgeable 911, less government, lighted football field, lower speed limit on Hwy 200, mobile home park (sell lots), museum, more stores/mall, natural gas, no mag chloride, no more restaurants, no recreation tax, pass mill levy, pay phones, public water system, set achievable goals, a 7-Up type lodge, shooting sports, snowmobiles off the streets, vacation condo community, walk-in medical clinic, winter camping, and zoning

In Two Years:

Streets and Roads	7
Pharmacy	4
Cellular Phone Service	3
Swimming Pool	2
More Businesses	2
Lighted Football Field	2

Also mentioned: Book store, campground, more fire hydrants, fewer bars, golf course, knowledgeable 911, improve Hooper Park, improve medical services, skating rink street lights, pave Stemple Pass Road, and walk/bike path

In Five Years:

School	3
More businesses	3
More housing	2
More medical services	2
Rec Center	2

Also mentioned: American Legion Post, assisted living center, fewer bars, bowling, alley, more churches, more cultural events, bus to Helena, dental clinic, fire/EMT building, first class sewer system, golf course, improved senior center

more law enforcement, museum, pharmacy, recreational development, a left turn onto Hwy 200, skate park, swimming pool and theater

In Ten Years:

Amusement park	2
Industry	2

Also mentioned: Assisted living center, cellular phone service, golf course, medical facility (hospital), mine, recreational development, more school, vacation condominiums.

In Twenty Years:

Amusement Park  
More businesses  
More housing  
Mobile home park  
More stores/mall  
Separate schools

Projects respondents would like to see happen:

Streets/ Roads	50
Recreational activities	33
Business/Industry	23
Cellular Phone Service	20
Fire Hazard Mitigation	20
Golf Course	15
School	14
Pharmacy	13
Swimming Pool	13
Mine	10
Assisted Living	9
Incorporation	7
Do Nothing	6
Improved law enforcement	6
Walk/bike path	6
Lighting	5
Improved Medical Services	5
More access	5
Skate Park	5
Timber	5
Bowling Alley	4
Fewer bars	4
Improved housing	4
Promote Artists	4
Public Water System	4
Ski Resort	4

Amusement Park/Arcade	3
Improve Senior Center	3
Improved Hooper Park	3
Street Lights	3
Car Wash	2
More churches	2
Dental Clinic	2
Improve Stemple Pass Road	2
Theater	2

Projects Identified by Respondents With No Specific Time Frame:

Street/Roads	44
Economy/Business	20
Recreational Activities	
1. Hooper Park	2
2. Events	16
Fire Mitigation	16
Golf Course	11
Cellular Phone Service	10
Mine	9
Swimming Pool	9
Incorporation	8
Do Nothing	7
Pharmacy	7
Assisted Living	6
More Access	6
Walk/Bike Path	6
More Timber Cutting	5
Bowling Alley	4
Public Water System	4
Ski Resort	4
Rec Center	3
Promote Artists	3
Skate Park	3
Street Lights	3
Theater	3
Car Wash	3
Doctor	2
Fewer Bars	2
Improved Law Enforcement	2
Local Sales Tax	2
Separate Schools	2