

Community Indicators Project

YAMPA VALLEY PARTNERS
2002 / 2003 REPORT

THE CIP PROCESS

The process of producing and updating community indicators is designed to promote regional cooperation and encourage public, non-profit and private sector action through an understanding of local trends and outcomes. The effectiveness of the Community Indicators Project 2002/2003 Report (CIP) depends on our use of a continuous collaborative process to revise and refine the CIP project design.

In spring 2002, Yampa Valley Partners (YVP) launched a series of workshops that brought together local government, voluntary civic, business, and philanthropic organizations. Discussion at these work sessions focused on the key issues facing regional organizations and on ways these organizations and agencies currently use the CIP. The critical input provided in these workshops produced a more complete, user-friendly CIP report, revealing trends and linkages in indicators that should support community decision-making as we grow and change in our valley.

NEW FEATURES

Unique to this year's CIP is the addition of gender-factored indicators designed to provide an overview of the economic and social health of women in Moffat and Routt Counties. These new data measures are part of a collaborative initiative between YVP and the Women's Foundation of Colorado. Together, our organizations hosted forums on topics relating to women and girls, eliciting vital input for the gender analysis of social and economic indicators in CIP 2002/2003.

A second exciting addition to CIP 2002/2003 is the inclusion of data on our region's "civic health." The civic indicators in this report, developed in collaboration with the National Civic League, are designed to measure the tools and processes by which a community addresses social,

environmental, and economic issues. Yampa Valley Partners intends that the new civic indicators will help identify strengths and weaknesses in our community's ability to address challenges in other indicator areas.

FROM INDICATORS TO ACTION

CIP belongs to the Yampa Valley community, and must be well used to serve its purpose. We aim for this report to become worn and dog-eared on the desks of nonprofits, school and education administrators, business owners, local officials, and other concerned citizens across the Valley. The interconnections among the social, economic, and environmental indicators presented here are substance for a wealth of community discussions on our changing valley. YVP will host public forums to further the conversation about the changes and challenges raised in this report. We encourage agencies and local government to utilize the CIP as they develop strategic and community plans. YVP envisions a variety of entities using the community indicators to help assess community issues, measure progress, learn from results, and develop or modify action plans.

To remind CIP readers of the interdependency of all community data -- social, economic and environmental -- each section of this report includes a list of linkages, which identify possible relationships between indicators. These lists are by no means comprehensive, and readers are encouraged to discover additional ways that indicators inter-relate.

The interdependency of the community data reported in CIP 2002/2003 demonstrates that cross-sector and cross-regional collaboration are necessary if we are to keep pace with growth and change in the Yampa Valley. YVP intends for this report to help businesses, governments and non profit agencies initiate cooperative efforts to effect positive change in our community.

INTRODUCTION

Mission: *Yampa Valley Partners will support the development of healthy communities in Routt and Moffat Counties by fostering communication, cooperation and collaboration.*

Yampa Valley Partners (YVP) is a northwest Colorado not-for-profit organization serving Routt and Moffat Counties. Our primary focus is developing resources to promote informed community decision-making.

Our projects include:

- *Community Indicators Project*, a regional data report
- Community forums
- *Community Resource Directory*, an online health and human services directory
- *Technology Resource Directory*, an online technology services directory.

Since 1996, Yampa Valley Partners (YVP) has taken the lead in tracking regional quality of life indicators through the Community Indicators Project (CIP). This initiative provides information and tools designed to foster concrete actions to improve the health and well-being of our community.

If your organization would like a presentation on the Community Indicators Project, please contact:

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 email: info@yampavalleypartners.com
 Visit our web site at www.yampavalleypartners.com to download copies of our CIP reports in .pdf format.

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YAMPA VALLEY PARTNERS



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Yampa Valley Partners appreciates the assistance of the community in developing indicators, collecting data, and reviewing text. We also appreciate the time and efforts of those who participated in the workshops and focus groups relating to specific indicator topics of interest. Without your dedication and expertise, the indicators would not be 'community' indicators.

For their policy guidance and funding support, we thank the **Yampa Valley Partners Board of Directors**.

Thank you to the **Town of Hayden, Hayden State Park Headquarters, Moffat County School District, Moffat County** and **City of Steamboat Springs** for use of their meeting space for our regional meetings.

Many thanks to the **Colorado Women's Foundation** for funding our analysis of social and economic indicators by gender. We appreciate the work of **Catherine Hatfield, Marianella Aliago**, and regional board members **Susan Larson** and **Linda J. Hamlet** in helping us develop county level gender-factored indicators.

Our gratitude goes to **Drew O'Connor, Amy Swiatek** and **Melissa Nord** of the **National Civic League** for their assistance in the development of our new civic indicators. And, finally, thank you to our advertisers for purchasing space in this report.

This report is made possible with the financial support of our contributors:

Routt County
Moffat County
City of Craig
City of Steamboat Springs
Yampa Valley Community Foundation
The Memorial Hospital, Craig
and **Northwest Colorado Visiting Nurse Association**
The Women's Foundation of Colorado
Regional Affordable Living Foundation

Production Team

CIP 2002/2003 would not have been possible without the persistence, knowledge, and generosity of numerous individuals committed to developing a report that is worthwhile and effective.

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Samantha Johnston - Publisher, *Craig Daily Press*

Please Note: Yampa Valley Partners is solely responsible for any errors or omissions in this report. Every effort has been made to ensure that the information and data included in this report are accurate. We ask that you contact us if you know of necessary changes.

“Many groups of concerned Yampa Valley citizens, be they lawmakers, nonprofits, business leaders, or other community groups, strive to make decisions that are in the best interest of the community.

However, rarely do we step back and evaluate how these

decisions and actions

are moving us toward community goals or how individual decisions affect other sectors of the community.

In my opinion, the Community Indicators Project is a wonderful tool to help us make such assessments. It is my hope that the indicators will become woven into the daily decision making framework for the Yampa Valley.”

— **Mike Tetreault**

Western Colorado Director - The Nature Conservancy

INFORMATION | DATA SOURCES

www.yampavalleypartners.com
www.co.routt.co.us
www.co.moffat.co.us
www.steamboat-springs.net
www.yampavalley.info
www.steamboatcdc.biz
www.yampavalleyrecycles.org

Yampa Valley Partners
Routt County
Moffat County
City of Steamboat Springs
Community Information Center – WZ Access
Steamboat Springs Economic Development Council
Yampa Valley Recycles

www.ncl.org
www.sustainablemeasures.com
www.tnc.org
www.sonoran.org
www.communityinitiatives.com
www.national.unitedway.org

National Civic League
Sustainable Measures
The Nature Conservancy – Compatible Ventures
Sonoran Institute
Community Initiatives
United Way of America

www.state.co.us
www.dola.state.co.us
www.cdph.state.co.us/cohid
www.cdph.state.co.us
www.ag.state.co.us
www.coloradokids.org
www.cdpsweb.state.co.us/
www.wfco.org
www.cofiscalspolicyinst.org
www.cde.state.co.us/index_stats.htm
www.coloradohistory-oahp.org
www.coloradoski.com
www.nsaa.org

State of Colorado
Department of Local Affairs, State of Colorado
Colorado Dept. of Public Health & Environment /COHID
Colorado Dept. of Public Health & Environment
Colorado Dept. of Agriculture
Colorado Children's Campaign
Colorado Bureau of Investigation
Women's Foundation of Colorado
Colorado Fiscal Policy Institute
Colorado Department of Education
Colorado Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation
Colorado Ski Country
National Ski Areas Association

www.census.gov
www.bea.doc.gov
www.stats.bls.gov
www.nass.usda.gov
www.epa.gov
www.nea.org
www.cdc.gov
www.health.gov/healthypeople
www.os.dhhs.gov
www.ed.gov
www.fws.gov
www.bls.gov
www.iwpr.org
www.ama-anns.org
www.aarp.org

U.S. Dept. of Commerce - Census Bureau
Bureau of Economic Analysis
Bureau of Labor Statistics
National Agricultural Statistics Section
Environmental Protection Agency
National Education Assn.
Center for Disease Control
Healthy People 2010
US Dept of Health / Human Services
US Dept of Education
US Fish and Wildlife Service
Bureau of Labor Statistics
Institute for Women's Policy Research
American Medical Association
American Association of Retired Persons

www.bococivicforum.org
www.hmccolorado.org
www.coloradocenter.org
www.communitysummit.org
www.civicforum.org
www.pphcp.org
www.montrose.org/region10
www.citizens4lakewood.com

Boulder County Civic Forum
Healthy Mountain Communities / Colorado Index
Colorado Center for Healthy Communities
Operation Healthy Communities – Southwest Colorado
Mesa County Civic Forum
Peak to Peak Healthy Community
Uncompaghre Healthy Community
Citizens 4 Lakewood

Civic Indicators

IN THE YAMPA VALLEY

The data and statistics gathered in this report should ideally help us understand our community's progress towards social, economic and environmental goals. In order to assess our ability to achieve goals in these areas, we can also measure another component of community strength – our civic health. “Civic indicators” measure the systems, networks, and common values we rely on to address issues in other indicator areas. The Yampa Valley community's vitality depends on our ability to come together to make decisions, solve problems, and share pride. Thus, civic data is an invaluable complement to the CIP report.

In Spring 2002, Yampa Valley Partners teamed up with the National Civic League to attempt to formulate an appropriate set of civic indicators. A Community Indicators Task Force, made up of thirty community members representing many sectors of our economy and the towns of Steamboat, Oak Creek, Hayden, Craig and Maybell, came together in May and June to brainstorm our goals for civic health. Over the course of several meetings, the Task Force came up with a list of indicators to help us determine where we stand in trying to reach those regional goals.

Civic health is a concept difficult to quantify, but its importance to our – and to every – community makes this groundbreaking endeavor worthwhile. This year, Yampa Valley Partners has identified a select number of civic

indicators to launch this new component of the Community Indicators Project. The Task Force prioritized these measures by their importance to civic health and by the availability of relevant data. Several ‘indicators under construction’ are also included to depict the prospective future of this project.

Yampa Valley Partners will seek dedicated resources to measure additional civic indicators and make this a permanent component of the Community Indicators Project.

Civic Indicators Under Construction

- Charitable Donations Made by Yampa Valley Citizens Versus Average Income
- Citizen Participation in Community Plan Formulation
- Implementation Status of Community Plans
- Frequency/Quantity of Government
- Communication with the Public
- Diversity of Voters
Public Participation in Government Meetings
- Strength of Community Leadership
Citizen Engagement in Community Leadership
- Community Connectedness
Attendance at Public ‘Pride’ Events
- Civic Role of Local Media
Media Coverage of Community/Civic Issues

“The process of developing indicators from community input is invaluable. This collaborative and representative process creates a better product and one that is more appealing to a broad array of people in the community. The process cannot be underestimated for its power to develop a well-informed outcome and other intangibles that come about when bringing together a broad based community group, including greater buy-in and use of the indicators. National Civic League has had the pleasure of working together with Yampa Valley Partners along with other indicator groups in Baltimore, Charleston, and Jacksonville to pioneer the development of

civic indicators.

These indicators will not only be valuable for the local communities, but around the country to move forward the development of civic indicators and the importance of civic health to communities.”

— Amy L. Swiatek
Community Services, National Civic League

“By studying the linkages between health data and other economic, environmental and social indicators (housing costs, percentage of children living in poverty, the cost of living index), the Northwest Colorado Visiting Nurse Association is better able to anticipate and plan for an increased demand for health care services.

The indicators report has heightened community awareness of the challenges facing one of our most

precious resources
-- the people of the Yampa Valley.”

— Sue Birch

Executive Director, Northwest Colorado Visiting Nurse Association

Existence of Adopted Community Plans

| Yampa Valley Plans Currently adopted for use | YEAR ADOPTED | UPDATE SCHEDULED? |
|---|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| Routt County Master Plan | 1982; 2002 updates | No |
| Steamboat Springs Area Community Plan | 1995 | 2003 |
| South of Steamboat Area Plan #1 | 1990 | No |
| Oak Creek Town Plan | 1996 | No |
| Yampa Town Plan | 1997 | 2003 |
| Hayden Town Plan | 2000 | No |
| West of Steamboat Springs Area Plan | 1999 | No |
| Stagecoach Community Plan | 1999 | No |
| Upper Elk River Valley Community Plan | 1999 | No |
| Sarvis Creek Plan | 1996 | No |
| Emerald Mtn. Area Plan | Under review | No |
| Moffat County and Craig Master Plan | 1982 | 2002-2003 |
| Moffat County Sub Area Plans | Not available* | |

*List is being compiled as part of the master plan revision process.

Sources: Routt County Planning, Moffat County Planning, City of Steamboat Planning, Town of Hayden, Town of Yampa, Town of Oak Creek, and Stagecoach Property Owners Association/Morrison Creek Water District

The purpose of developing and utilizing a master plan is to provide direction to sectors, institutions, organizations, and individuals by setting common goals for the future. Routt County has an impressive number of community plans, although almost half of the plans are five or more years old. Moffat

County and the City of Craig recently began the revision process for their 1982 master plan, which will include taking stock of which sub-area plans are still in effect. Both counties have plans too numerous to mention covering specific areas of interest, such as transportation or parks and recreation.

“In a nutshell, the job of civic leaders is figuring out how to allocate scarce resources among competing needs. That can be an extremely difficult job.

These indicators give decision-makers the tools to make

better decisions.”

— Michael Larson

Mortgage Loan Officer, First National Bank of Rockies – Hayden

CIVIC PHILANTHROPY

The resources distributed by a region's major grantors and the areas where these resources are focused indicate the health of the community's nonprofits as well as the community's overall commitment to caring for its own. Charitable grants in the Yampa Valley are dedicated primarily to initiatives in the field of health and human services, followed by education.

Prior to formation of Moffat County HRC, Moffat County funded health and human services, recreation and other entities from county budget. Service clubs and other philanthropic organizations also raise dollars to distribute to organizations and individuals. These are important dollars, but are not included here with major philanthropic grants.

Major Philanthropic Grants Distributed by Service Category

In Dollars

| COMPILED ALLOCATION DATA 2001 | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| | Arts and Culture | Education (including scholarships) | Environment | Health & Human Services | Recreation | TOTAL |
| Yampa Valley Community Foundation | 13,885 | 171,119 | 80,294 | 65,850 | 25,610 | 356,758 |
| United Way | | | | | | |
| Routt County | - | 45,000 | - | 146,000 | 11,720 | 202,720 |
| Moffat County | - | 500 | - | 144,838 | 8,000 | 153,338 |
| Human Resource Council | | | | | | |
| Routt County | - | 68,500 | - | 201,500 | - | 270,000 |
| Moffat County* | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Community Foundation NW Colorado | 2,500 | - | - | - | - | 2,500 |
| TOTAL | \$16,385 | \$285,119 | \$80,294 | \$558,188 | \$45,330 | \$985,316 |
| COMPILED ALLOCATION DATA 2002 | | | | | | |
| | Arts and Culture | Education (including scholarships) | Environment | Health & Human Services | Recreation | TOTAL |
| Yampa Valley Community Foundation | 31,909 | 59,300 | 104,650 | 73,770 | 59,786 | 329,415 |
| United Way | | | | | | |
| Routt County | - | 36,500 | - | 138,350 | 9,100 | 183,950 |
| Moffat County | - | 500 | 0 | 176,175 | 9,000 | 185,675 |
| Human Resource Council | | | | | | |
| Routt County | - | 50,500 | - | 184,500 | - | 235,000 |
| Moffat County* | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Community Foundation NW Colorado | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| TOTAL | \$31,909 | \$146,800 | \$104,650 | \$572,795 | \$77,866 | \$934,040 |

Sources: Yampa Valley Community Foundation; Northwest Colorado Community Foundation; Routt County United Way; Moffat County United Way; Human Resource Councils of Routt and Moffat counties

*Moffat County HRC was formed in 2001 and will begin a grant cycle 2002.

“In order to determine the actions necessary to preserve our quality of life, we must understand the interconnectedness of the health of our people, environment, economy and civic participation. The Community Indicators, when watched over time, shed light on that interconnectedness, making them key to conscientious community decision-making.”

— Sandy Evans Hall

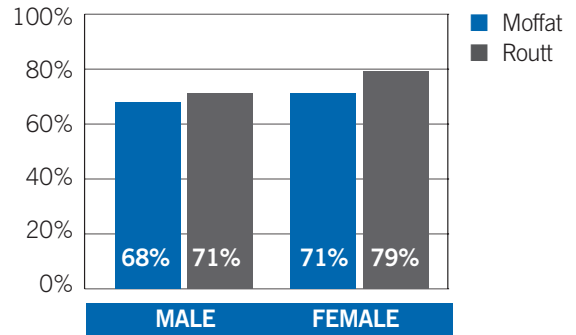
Executive Vice President, Steamboat Springs Chamber Resort Association, Inc

CIVIC CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

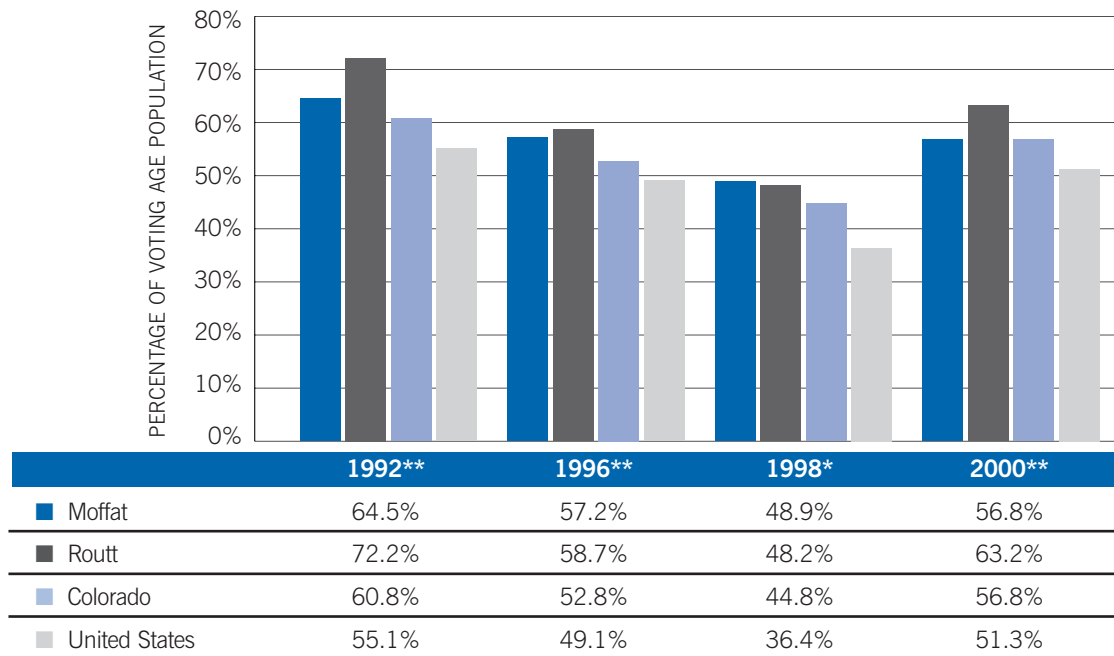
The percentage of the voting age population that votes is an indicator of participation in a democratic society. Voter participation in Moffat and Routt counties equaled or exceeded federal and state participation levels in 2000, but showed a significant drop since the presidential election in 1992.

In addition to election turnout, the percent of the voting age population that is registered and “active” can also help define democratic participation. An active registered voter is a person who has voted in the last general election and has not moved or made other changes, which resulted in mail being returned by the post office as undeliverable. This indicator, available broken out by gender, shows that a higher percentage of women of voting age are currently registered and classified as ‘active’ in both Moffat and Routt counties.

Percent of Voting Age Population Registered to Vote and Classified as “Active,” August 2002



Percentage of Voting Age Population Who Voted: 1992 through 2000 Election Years



Sources: Moffat County Clerk and Recorder; Routt County Clerk and Recorder; Federal Election Commission; Colorado Department of Local Affairs (population estimates)

“Yampa Valley Partners have produced community – based indicator reports for our valley which contain information and data on topics pertinent to our region. This information is crucial to review as the basis for a comprehensive approach to review an issue and set an action plan in place.”

— Marianna Raftopoulos
Moffat County Commissioner

CIVIC LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Communication by local government promotes an informed public, helping citizens understand current events, define issues, and measure progress. By sharing information, cities and counties encourage a more collaborative, inclusive approach to governance.

In the Yampa Valley, local government bodies use a variety of methods to reach citizens, with the newspaper and public meetings being the primary venues for

information sharing. Routt County, Moffat County, and Steamboat Springs are all taking advantage of the Internet to communicate with the public. Steamboat Springs is bringing new emphasis to communication through technology with the Community Information Center developed by the Orton Family Foundation, which now provides access to data about community planning activities and organizations.

Types of Communication Utilized by Government to Reach Citizens

| | Newspaper, radio, cable TV | Official Posting Place | Website | Scheduled Media Briefings | Public Meetings | Other |
|---------------------------|--|------------------------|--|---------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| City of Steamboat Springs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The City Page legal notices advertisements Cable TV notices | Yes | www.steamboat-springs.net www.yampavalley.info | Weekly | City Council, Planning Commission, special hearings, open houses | City Survey |
| Town of Hayden | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> legal notices PSA's meeting agendas | Yes | No | No | Board of Trustees, Planning Commission | Quarterly newsletter, Flyers |
| Routt County | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> meeting agendas advertisements | Yes | www.co.routt.co.us | Weekly | Commissioners, Planning Commission, special hearings | Posters, Survey |
| City of Craig | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> meeting notices legal notices agendas press releases | Yes | www.ci.craig.co.us Not being updated at this time | No | City Council and City Committees Planning Commission, special hearings | City Survey |
| Moffat County | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> legal notices meeting agendas advertisements | Yes | www.co.moffat.co.us | As needed | Commissioners, Planning Commission, Committees, special hearings | Annual Report 2002 (premier report) |

Sources: City of Steamboat, Routt County, City of Craig, Moffat County, Town of Hayden.

“We are pleased to join with Yampa Valley Partners in producing the 2002 CIP Project. This important information is only as good as the number of citizens who read it and act upon it. By distributing this year’s report to nearly every resident and second home owner in Routt and Moffat Counties, we hope our contribution helps the project have **greater impact** on improving lives of our citizens.”

— Suzanne Schlicht
 Publisher/Regional Manager
 Steamboat Pilot & Today, Craig Daily Press, Hayden Valley Press