

La Plata County Comprehensive Plan

Ignacio, CO Visioning Open House Meeting Summary

August 6, 2009

The La Plata County Comprehensive Plan visioning outreach included 1 full day vision summit, 6 open houses in locations throughout the county, a youth survey, and a community survey. All participants in the vision process answered the same four questions.

- *What do you treasure about La Plata County that you do not want to see change?*
- *What concerns do you have about La Plata County for the future?*
- *What would you like to see different or change in La Plata County in the future?*
- *What do you want La Plata County to be like in 20 years?*

Vision open house participants responded to an additional four questions that survey and vision workshop participants were not asked. Those questions were:

- *What would be the worst possible scenario for La Plata County in the future?*
- *What are the internal factors (possibly in our control) that are going to be affecting La Plata County's future that we need to consider in our vision?*
- *What are the external factors (outside our control) that are going to be affecting La Plata County's future that we need to consider in our vision?*

The comments here are from the Ignacio open house held on August 6, 2009.

1. What do you TREASURE about La Plata County that you do not want to see change?

Open space/public lands

- Large per cent of the county is public land of some sort
- Preserving open spaces (scenic)

Rural/agricultural

- Rural/pastoral areas of the SE county
- Support and feature our ranching and farming element

Small town

- Keep us quaint – high rises out
- Small, quaint, beautiful, say hello to neighbors
- Unique features of Ignacio
- Develop the historical aspects of the town

Diversity

- Tri ethnic community

Collaborative

- Growing effort to work as a region
- Keep good partnerships with governments and tribes

Constitution

- Constitutional rights

Climate

- Weather

2. What CONCERNS do you have about La Plata County for the future?

Affects to property rights

- Affects to property rights
 - Through growth
 - Through regulations (specific to scenic byway)
- That county planners will designate this part of the county as a “view area” without purchasing it – thereby limiting property owners rights

Growth

- Growing too fast with not much control!
- Get too big (population)
- Don’t have the population in central areas (Ignacio). Keep population up where population centers are. (in moderation)
- Population ruining reason to be here
- Like area between Farmington and Aztec
- Public pushing away planning
- Rules need to be specific – what is in place/supported elsewhere will be imposed on this area

Not listening to people

- Ignoring peoples wants/values

Repetition of efforts

- Repetitive non-profit efforts
- Repeating efforts

Cost of living

- Property prices seem to be out of control with the present recession equalize the process, come to a reasonable solution.
- People migrating to this area and continually driving up the cost of living. (e.g. prices of homes)
- Property costs way to high. No opportunity for low/mid income people

Oil and gas impacts to tax base

- What happens when the natural gas business goes away?
- Depending too heavily on oil and gas for our tax base

Unclassified

- From the spark of differing opinions you find the truth – mel

3. What would you like to see DIFFERENT/CHANGE in La Plata County?

Transportation Choices

- Reduce traffic noise in downtown Ignacio
- Transit – regional/transportation/rural transportation (followed by 4 checkmarks)
- Easier to walk/bike in Ignacio and our tribal business campus.
- Foot/bike paths in Ignacio

Single comments

- More recreation for youth in Ignacio
- La Plata County tends to mean Durango. There is more to our County. What happens when we rely on gaming casino, oil, tourism? What happens when there is a downturn?
- Pharmacy in Ignacio – other parts/areas of the county
- Moderation of all things
- Balance of schools, population, business
- Progression without being too hectic
- Out migration
- Establish a scenic corridor
- Provide funding for agricultural easements
- Establish centralized emergency dispatch between all agencies

4. What do you want La Plata County to be like in 20 years?

- Ignacio has more housing and employers and support businesses. Affordable housing for teachers, police and others housing (upscale) too. Obtainable. It equals balanced growth.
- More housing neighborhoods in Ignacio similar to the new developments in Bayfield.
- Establishing a scenic corridor on HWY 172.
- Satellite offices and more
- Better collaboration and consistency between school districts
- Quality educational system for our children
- Very much like it is now with the addition of a regional public transportation and alternative energy employment opportunities
- End of tax dollar waste on things like the bridge to nowhere

5. What would be the worst possible scenario for La Plata County in the future?

- Has it already happened?
- Problems are here now.
- Development such as between Aztec and Farmington
- Or more chain businesses
- Structures with no attention to neighborhood design, landscaping, child safety

6. What are the internal factors (possibly in our control) that are going to be affecting La Plata County's future that we need to consider in our vision?

- It seems, I feel, we presently have a conscientious team working for the benefit of our citizens!
- Possible formation of a rural water district
- Development relationship with tribe
- Using tribe as partner not resource
- Haphazard growth being allowed in the county because of lack of regulation
- Individual development directed to different purposes re profit
- Employment opportunities
- Housing availability
- Educational quality
- Transportation

7. What are the external factors (outside our control) that are going to be affecting La Plata County's future that we need to consider in our vision?

- Economies in other parts of our country and the world
- The economy
- Population growth
- Environmental changes
- Gas and oil development