



Shaping the Future of the West

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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La Plata County Community Vision Draft Available for Public Review

Durango, CO –

A vision statement articulates a picture of what the future should look like. Throughout July, August and September, La Plata County conducted a community visioning process as part of its Comprehensive Plan update to determine what residents wanted the County to be like in 2030. The resulting Community Vision Statement and a Community Feedback Form are currently available for public review and comment.

The draft vision statement is broken into three parts. First, it identified Community Treasures, or what residents love and want to protect in the future, such access to public lands, local agriculture and great communities. Next, it outlines how the community should approach planning for the future, such as learning from the past. Finally, the vision statements set forth a bold statement. This includes “a community that is a model of collaboration, partnerships and innovation, achieves a balance between economic and social development and environmental stewardship, has real neighborhoods that are connected physically and socially to each other, a strong sense of community, celebrated diversity and heritage, a caring community, all of which will make La Plata one of the best places in the nation to live and raise a family.”

The challenge, of course, is for the County and residents to agree upon and articulate strategies in the Comprehensive Plan to achieve these desired results. During the visioning, residents expressed concerns over how and where the county is growing, the future of agriculture as part of the economy, and how the county will maintain its identity.

To help residents better understand opportunities and challenges, monthly Education Forums are being hosted by La Plata County and the Sonoran Institute as part of the Comprehensive Plan Update. This month’s forum, ***Planning For Sustainable Development: What Does It Really Mean?***, will be held Monday, October 26 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the Durango Recreation Center Sunlight Room. The forum will include a presentation by Marjo Curgus, Director of Training and Community Leadership for the Sonoran Institute, who is also a member of the La Plata County Comprehensive Plan consulting team.

The presentation will cover the basics of agriculture viability and land preservation, planning for climate adaptation and mitigation, integrating green design into community policy, and growth management. Marjo will present an overview of where La Plata County stands today, what other communities around the West have done,

and then lead a discussion with participants about what La Plata County should consider as it drafts a comprehensive plan. This session is open to the public.

Residents may pick up a Community Feedback Form at any of the three libraries, fill out a form online, or call to have a form mailed to them.

For information and background materials on the La Plata County Comprehensive Plan update go to the County's website: <http://co.laplatacountyplan.com>

For additional information about the comprehensive plan update, please contact Jason Meininger at La Plata County at (970) 382-6267.

For more information on the education forums, please contact Marjo Curgus at the Sonoran Institute at (719) 207-4563.
