

Social Issues in Boundary County, Idaho:

Results of a Community Survey

by

Aaron Harp*

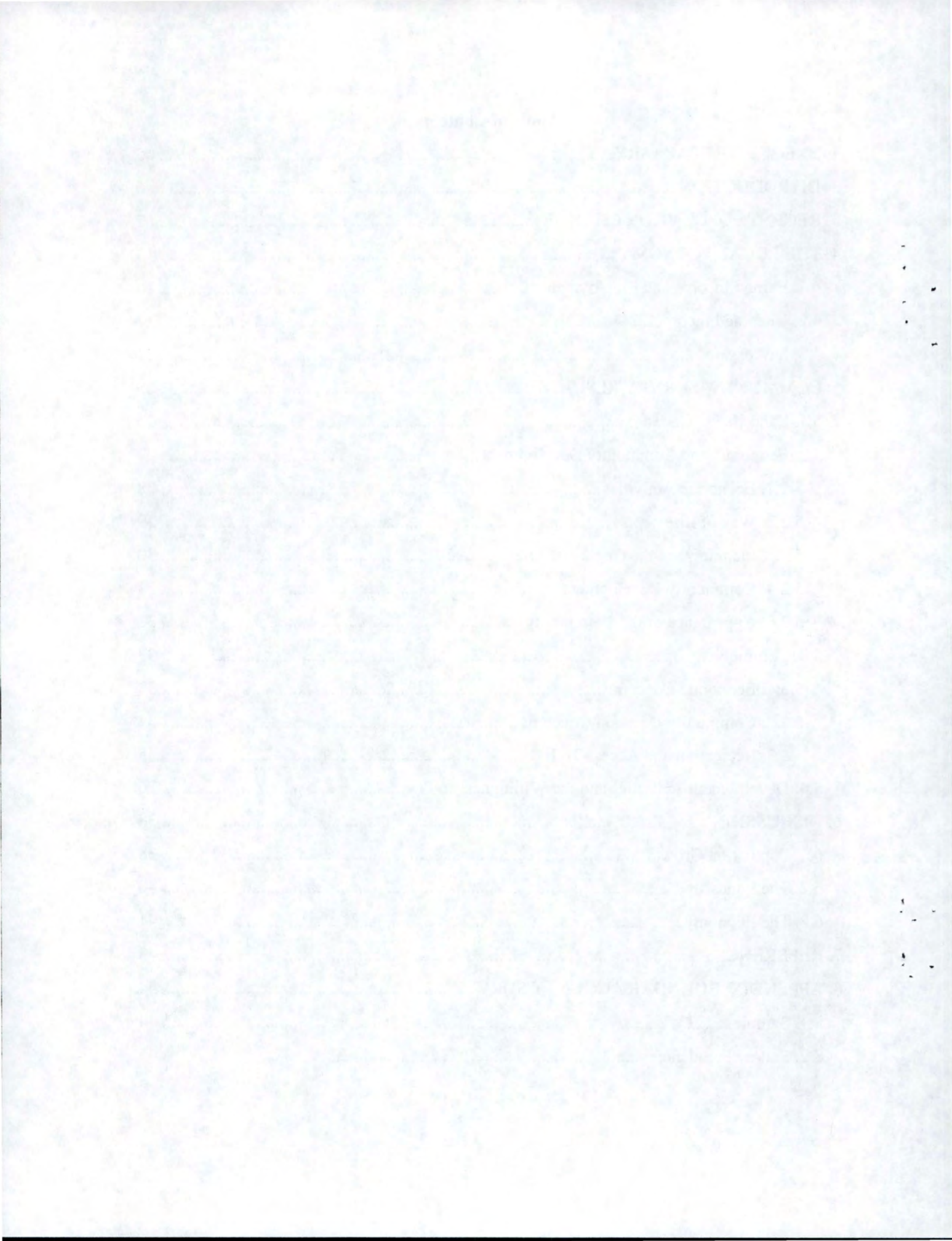
AEE 96-5

February, 1996

* Assistant Professor of Rural Sociology, Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology at the University of Idaho, Moscow, Idaho 83844-2334.

Table of Contents

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY.....	5
2. INTRODUCTION.....	6
3. RECENT POPULATION CHANGE	7
4. THE LOCAL ECONOMY	13
4.1. Earned Income and Employment	14
4.2. Unearned Income	17
4.3. Discussion	21
5. COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS	23
5.1. Land Use	25
5.2. Economic and Community Development	27
5.2.1. Economic Activities	28
5.2.2. Way of Life	29
5.2.3. Planning and the Quality of Life	30
5.2.4. Community Development Needs	31
5.2.5. Appearance of the Community	32
5.3. Community Concerns	33
5.3.1. Economic Concerns	33
5.3.2. Community Decision Concerns	34
5.3.3. Recreation and Access To It	35
5.4. Development Activities and the Willingness to Pay	36
6. DISCUSSION	38
6.1. Population Growth	38
6.2. The Landscape	40
6.3. The Economy	41
7. REFERENCES	43
8. APPENDIX: BOUNDARY COUNTY SURVEY.....	44
8.1. Sample.....	44
8.2. Survey Frequencies	45



List of Tables

Table 1: Boundary County Population, 1900 to 1994.....	7
Table 2: Population and % Change North Idaho and State, 1990-1994	8
Table 3: Distribution of Population by Census Places, 1990 to 1994.....	10
Table 4: Boundary County Net Migration, 1990 to 1994.	11
Table 5: Boundary County Age Distribution 1990 - 1994.....	12
Table 6: Boundary County Households With Transfer Income, 1980 and 1990	20
Table 7: How satisfied are you with the community you live in or nearest to?.....	23
Table 8: How do you feel about the economic situation in your community over the next 5 years?	24
Table 9: How do you feel about the economic situation in Idaho over the next 5 years?	24
Table 10: Land use and preservation attitudes.....	26
Table 11: How important do you feel economic development is to Boundary County?	28
Table 12: Economic Activities.....	28
Table 13: Preservation of Local Community	29
Table 14: Planning and Cooperation.....	30
Table 15: Community Needs	31
Table 16: Community Appearance	32
Table 17: Economic Issues of Concern.....	33
Table 18: Community Decisions.....	34
Table 19: Recreation and Access	35
Table 20: Favored Activities and Financial Support.....	37

List of Figures

Figure 1: Boundary County Historic Population, 1900 to 1990	9
Figure 2: Boundary County Population, 1990 to 1994	9
Figure 3: Population of Census Places, Boundary County 1990 to 1994.	10
Figure 4: Boundary County Net Domestic Migration, 1990 to 1994.....	11
Figure 5: Boundary County Population Above & Below Age 65, 1990 to 1994.....	12
Figure 6: Boundary County Extractive Earnings as % of Total Earnings, 1969 to 1993.....	14
Figure 7: Boundary County Extractive Industry Earnings per Job, 1969-1993.	15
Figure 8: Boundary County Amenity Adjusted Earnings per Job, 1969-1993.	16
Figure 9: Boundary County Transfer Payments & Dividends, Interest, & Rent % of Total Personal Income, 1969-1993.....	18
Figure 10: Boundary County Selected Adjusted Transfer Payments, 1969-1993.....	19

1. Executive Summary

This report presents the results of a survey of county residents in Boundary County, Idaho. This survey is discussed in the context of recent population changes and developments in the local economy. Population change was steady since the 1970's, and accelerated in the early 1990's. Growth occurred at a faster rate outside the incorporated areas of the county. The population change since 1990 has come in both older and younger age cohorts.

The wage and occupation structures of the county have changed over the last twenty years. Now, government and timber jobs provide the best pay in county, and most other sectors offer low security, lower paying jobs. Economic development efforts are supported by residents of the county, and need to focus on providing "good" jobs.

Survey results can be summarized as follows:

- people are generally satisfied with their community, but are pessimistic about the economic future of the area
- residents generally agree that enough land has been preserved for special uses in the area
- economic development through the attraction of new and diverse business, retention and expansion of existing businesses, and the use of natural resources are supported
- people place a high priority on protecting the open spaces, the rural way of life, and the existing economic base.
- encouraging community cooperation, land use planning, and protecting the environment from damage were high priorities
- providing adult education and training, better jobs for young people, access to decision makers, the quality of and access to recreation, and the making of decisions outside of the community were concerns
- of the activities residents favored, over 25% were willing to pay for better schools, and over 17% to provide adult education

2. Introduction

The history of the Western U.S. over the last two decades is characterized by periods of rapid growth and the shifting of populations from other regions into the West. Boundary County, Idaho is an excellent example of this trend. It is also a good example of how the social impacts of that growth occur, and affect how communities see their future. This report discusses recent social changes in Boundary County, some of the social impacts of growth, and reports on a community survey concerning the opinions, goals, and issues facing the county.

Land use dominates much of the public discourse in places like Bonners Ferry, Naples, and Moyie Springs. In a county whose landscape is overwhelmingly public lands, this is not surprising. Land, how it is used, what it means to the community, and who decides how it will be managed are necessary questions for social analysis of this area. This is not to say that only land use and management issues need to be explored. Instead, talking about land management brings out the complex set of interwoven issues, trends, and concerns that constitute the social fabric of a community at a point in time.

This report attempts to describe the important social issues facing Boundary County. What the impact of those trends might be are explored, using data from a social survey of the county and personal interviews with community members. At best, this report, coupled with an analysis of the economic base of the county, provide points for a community discussion of where Boundary County wants to go with respect to community economic development.

First, recent population changes are explored. The continued growth of Boundary County is a major engine of change for the social fabric of the community. Second, changes

in economic activity have profound impacts on social life, and are explored with reference to the economic base of the county. Finally, a social survey of Boundary County residents is presented. This survey focuses goals for maintaining the quality of life in the county, what issues they see as needing attention, and finally what actions they support and for which they are willing to pay.

3. Recent Population Change

A major issue facing Boundary County over the last twenty years has been population growth. Table 1 displays the population of Boundary County from 1900 until 1990 for Census years. Figure 1 displays these numbers graphically. The decade of 1930 to 1940 represented a more rapid population growth rate (31.4%) than the County experienced in either the 1970's (14.4%) or 1980's (14.3%). Discussions with many respondents in the

Table 1: Boundary County Population, 1900 to 1994

Year	Pop.	% Change	
1920	4474		
1930	4555	'20-'30	1.8%
1940	5987	'30-'40	31.4%
1950	5908	'40-'50	-1.3%
1960	5809	'50-'60	-1.7%
1970	6371	'60-'70	9.7%
1980	7289	'70-'80	14.4%
1990	8332	'80-'90	14.3%

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

community, and references to many family histories indicate that the Depression decade brought many immigrants into the area. The Dust Bowl in the Midwest, along with the general economic hardships of the era, caused many families to seek economic fortune elsewhere in the country. Boundary

County has many families that can trace their residency in the county to this time period.

The population estimates for Boundary County, North Idaho counties, and the State of Idaho for the years 1990 to 1994 are displayed in Table 2. The state, as a whole, displayed

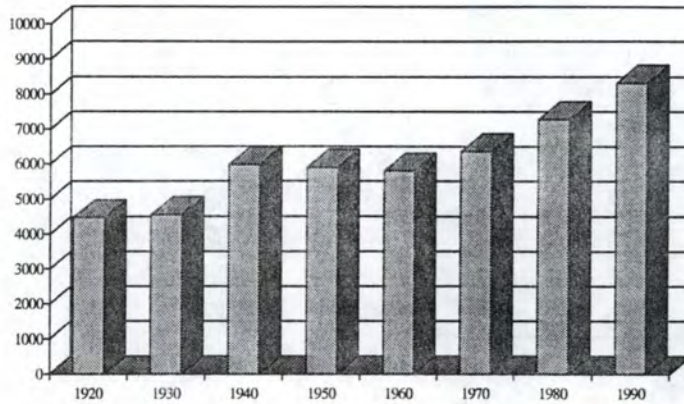
growth rates slower than those occurring in North Idaho. Population growth in Boundary County progressed at a slower rate than all but Benewah County among counties in North Idaho, but grew at rates similar to those of the state. Some local residents portrayed the population growth of Boundary County in the last five years as spill over from greater growth in the counties to the south, Bonner and Kootenai. The figures in Table 2 indicate that this is the case. The incredible growth of Kootenai and Bonner Counties was far greater over the time period than either Boundary or Benewah Counties, the two less accessible adjacent counties. Using these estimates, the Boundary County population grew about 10.3% from 1990 to 1994, while Kootenai County grew 25%, and Bonner County, almost 20%. This distribution of growth supports the claim that Boundary County's growth qualifies as spill over from much faster growth to the south.

Table 2: Population and % Change North Idaho and State, 1990-1994

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
State	1006734	1038819	1066203	1100358	1133034
Benewah County	7937	8015	8086	8285	8539
Bonner County	26622	27939	28935	30287	31890
Boundary County	8332	8380	8628	8958	9189
Kootenai County	69795	73831	77348	82292	87277
Shoshone County	13931	14069	13614	13829	13871

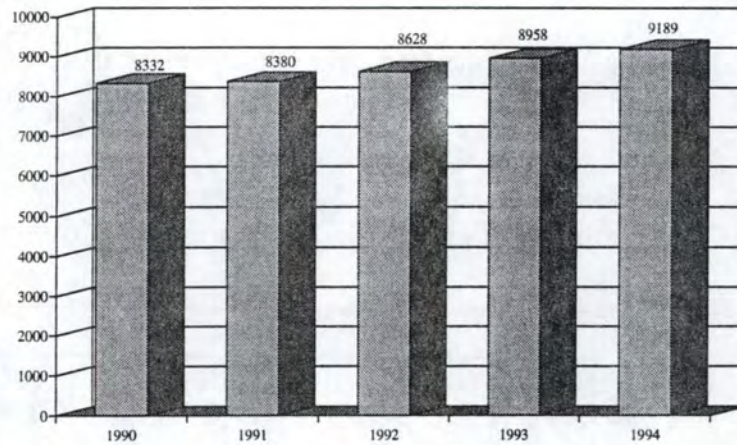
	% Change 90-91	% Change 91-92	% Change 92-93	% Change 93-94	% Change 90-94
State	3.09%	2.57%	3.10%	2.88%	12.6%
Benewah County	0.98%	0.89%	2.46%	3.07%	7.6%
Bonner County	4.95%	3.56%	4.67%	5.29%	19.8%
Boundary County	0.58%	2.96%	3.82%	2.58%	10.3%
Kootenai County	5.78%	4.76%	6.39%	6.06%	25.0%
Shoshone County	0.99%	-3.23%	1.58%	0.30%	-0.4%

Figure 1: Boundary County Historic Population, 1900 to



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

Figure 2: Boundary County Population, 1990 to 1994



Source: Population Distribution Branch, U.S. Bureau of the Census, Release CB94-204.

The distribution of growth across Census places in Boundary County is presented in Table 3. While growth occurred everywhere in the county, the areas outside Bonners Ferry and Moyie Springs proper grew at a fast rate than either place (11.4% versus 7.6% and 9.2%, respectively.) This is consistent with the growth and building patterns observed in the

Table 3: Distribution of Population by Census Places, 1990 to 1994.

	Bonnors Ferry city	Moyie Springs city	Rest of Boundary County	Totals
1990	2193	415	5724	8332
1991	2188	416	5776	8380
1992	2249	435	5944	8628
1993	2314	438	6207	8959
1994	2360	453	6377	9190
% Change 1990-1994	7.6%	9.2%	11.4%	10.3%

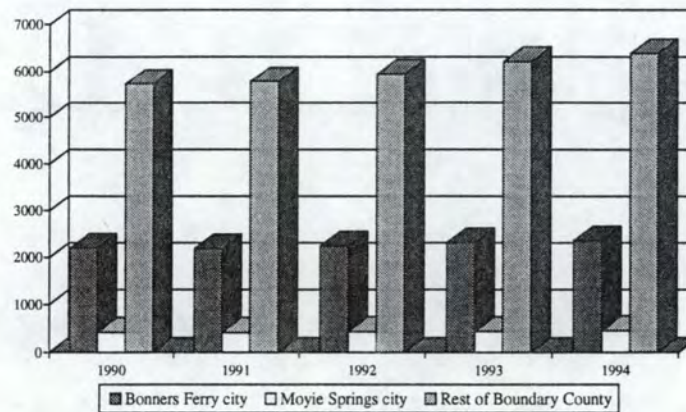
Source: Population Distribution Branch, U.S. Bureau of the Census, Release CB94-204.

county. Nonetheless, these growth rates are quite high, and are consistent with growth patterns in North Idaho as a region.

This distribution has implications for local

government. Rural planning becomes an issue as housing densities, road building and maintenance, and emergency services become issues of greater concern. Increasingly, calls for better zoning and planning on the part of the county reflect this growth in rural populations since 1990.

Figure 3: Population of Census Places, Boundary County 1990 to 1994.



Source: Population Distribution Branch, U.S. Bureau of the Census, Release CB94-204.

Net migration is the primary engine of growth for populations in the West, and for North Idaho in particular. People move to this area seeking a “rural lifestyle” with fewer

Table 4: Boundary County Net Migration, 1990 to 1994.

Year	Population Change	Net Migration	Net Migration as % of Population Change
'90-'91	48	-18	--
'91-'92	248	179	72.2%
'92-'93	330	279	84.5%
'93-'94	231	171	74.0%
'90-'94	857	622	72.6%

Source: Population Distribution Branch, U.S. Bureau of the Census, Release CB94-204.

people and social ills, and

more amenity and

recreation opportunities

than urban areas. Net

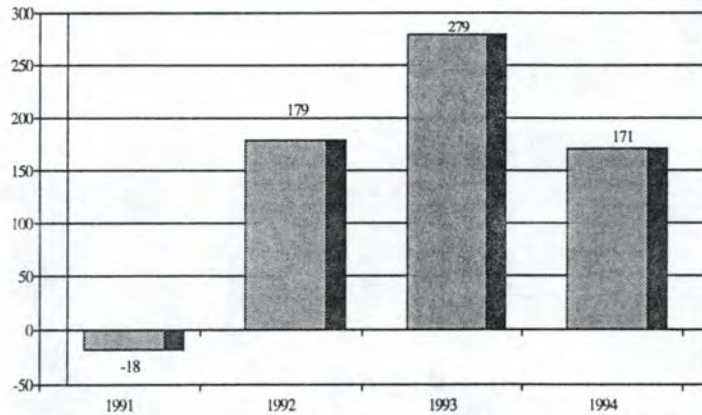
domestic migration into

Boundary County since

1991 is presented in Figure

3. Obviously, migration peaked during 1993. To understand the degree to which this migration is responsible for overall population growth, the percentage of total population change from 1991 to 1994 from net migration is presented in Table 3. The majority of population growth after 1991 was a result of net migration. When growth was the highest, in 1992-93, net migration was the most intense, accounting for almost 85% of the population change. The remainder of population change comes from natural increase, as measured by the excess of births over deaths in the county.

Figure 4: Boundary County Net Domestic Migration, 1990 to 1994



Source: Population Distribution Branch, U.S. Bureau of the Census, Release CB94-204.

Counties with high levels of net in-migration such as Boundary County frequently feel the impact in the mix of services demanded of the local government. In most cases, younger populations can bring increases in school enrollment, while the in-migration of an elderly population often places higher demand on services such as health care. A general age distribution for Boundary County for 1990 to 1994 is presented in Figure 3. Changes in the

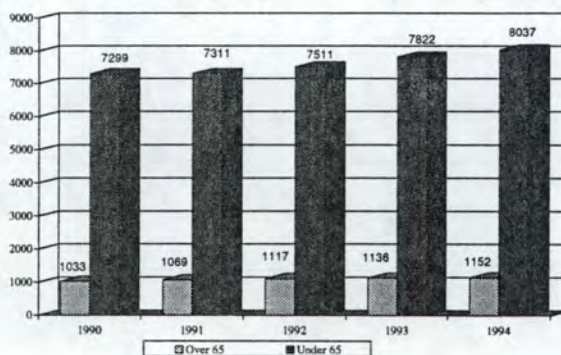
Table 5: Boundary County Age Distribution 1990 to 1994

Year	Population <65		Population >65	
	Years Old	% Change	Years Old	% Change
1990	7299		1033	
1991	7311	0.2%	1069	3.5%
1992	7511	2.7%	1117	4.5%
1993	7822	4.1%	1136	1.7%
1994	8037	2.8%	1152	1.4%
'90-'94		10.1%		11.5%

Source: Population Distribution Branch, U.S. Bureau of the Census, Release CB94-204.

populations of these two cohorts were mixed during these years. The percentage population change in these two age cohorts is presented in Table 5. Initially, the population over the age of 65 grew at a much faster rate than the younger cohort. After 1992, however, greater growth occurred in the younger cohort. Overall, the older cohort grew at a greater rate (11.5%) than did the younger cohort (10.1%). Their general growth is presented in Figure 5.

Figure 5: Boundary County Population Above & Below Age 65, 1990 to 1994.



Source: Population Distribution Branch, U.S. Bureau of the Census, Release CB94-204.

Growth in Boundary County follows patterns seen in all parts of North Idaho except Shoshone County. The explosive growth of Kootenai and Bonner Counties spilled over into Boundary County. Consistent with this pattern, well over three quarters of population change in the area came from net in-migration. In addition, growth occurred in the retirement age population as well as the younger population. Hence, the change is an influx of families and one of retirees.

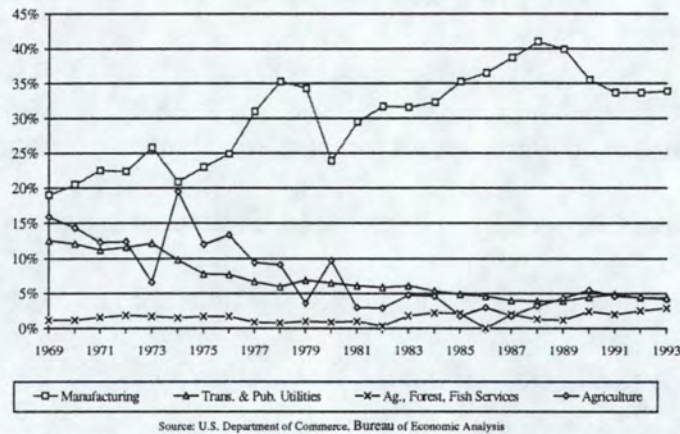
4. The Local Economy

Any description of a local community cannot occur independent of its local economy. Economic activity, contrary to what economists say, is embedded in existing social networks, systems and relationships. Going to work every day, shopping in local stores, using the local lands for subsistence activities are all forms of social interaction and take place in networks that tie people together socially. For example, a reliance on a certain industry can result in what are known as occupational communities. Timber reliance is an important example (see Carroll, 1995; Brown, 1995). Similarly, frequent use of a resource often results in the social construction of property rights by community members to a particular use of the land or access to it (Harp, 1995; Salamon and Tornatore, 1994; Fortmann, 1990). Hence, when significant developments occur in a local economy, they have social impacts. In addition, many local people have a particular understanding about the workings of their local economy. Recent developments in the Boundary County economy, their potential social impacts, and ideas offered by local interviewees concerning recent social changes are examined.

4.1. Earned Income and Employment

The description of Boundary County's economic base notes that timber harvesting, wood products and processing, and related industries dominate the local economy. Of the gross regional income, 38.8% is related directly or indirectly to timber, along with 26% of the jobs. Timber and other extractive industries have always been important to the Boundary County economy. This becomes apparent when the percentage of total county earnings represented by extractive activities is examined over time [see Figure 6].

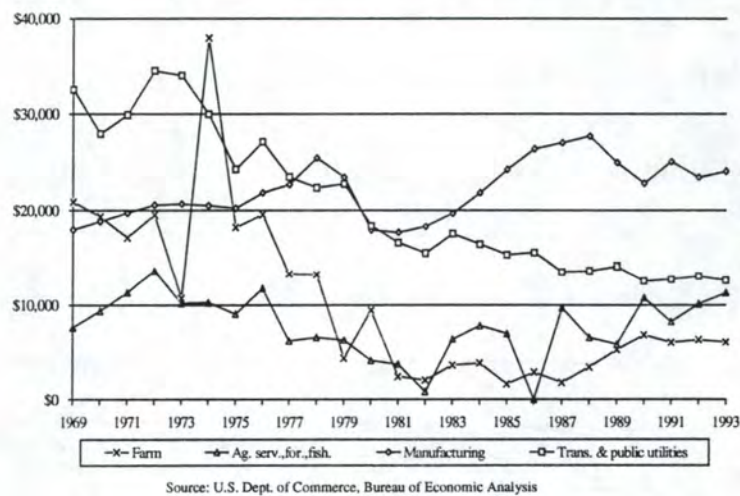
Figure 6: Boundary County Extractive Earnings as % of Total Earnings, 1969 to 1993.



Except for manufacturing, which is dominated by timber and wood products, the other sectors have been static or declining since 1969. The percentage of total earnings accounted for by timber and wood products has ranged from over 40% in mid-1980's to about 34% of all earnings in 1993. Earnings from transportation and utilities, agricultural services, and agriculture have declined as a percentage of total earnings to less than 5% each by 1993.

A major concern voiced by many respondents is the availability of jobs for young people that pay well enough to enable young families to live reasonably. In Figure 7, the earnings per job in extractive industries in Boundary County are plotted. A common result of dependency on extractive industries is an unstable local labor market that is often characterized by fluctuations in employment and earnings over time. For example, the timber markets have fluctuated over the last twenty years with price and market structure changes leading to employment fluctuations. Boundary County is no exception to this general trend. Examining Figure 7, note that the industries display unstable levels of earnings over time. Timber manufacturing, though it fluctuated, produced the highest paying jobs among these sectors after 1980. The transportation and public utilities sectors had declined by then.

Figure 7: Boundary County Extractive Industry Earnings per Job, 1969-1993.

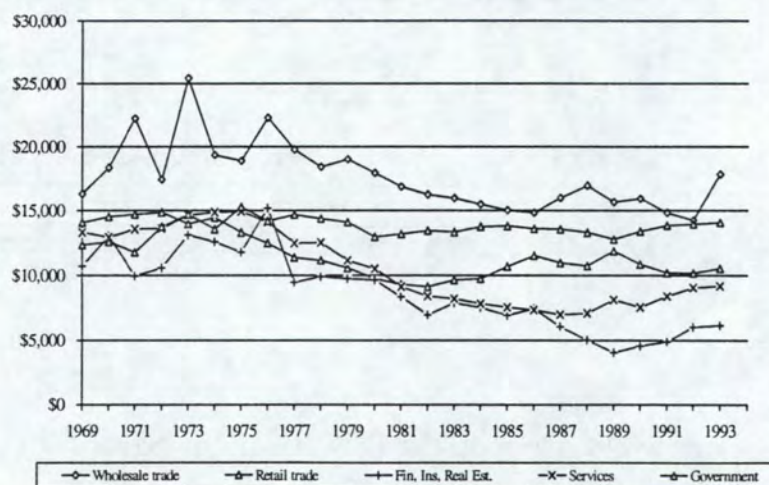


In the extractive sectors, note that only manufacturing jobs retained average earnings above \$20,000 per year over most of the time period. Farm, agricultural and forest services,

and transportation and utilities experienced declining real earnings. In real terms, only the timber-dominated sector, manufacturing, has maintained average earnings greater than \$20,000 per year.

That timber and related sectors pay a better wage than many other jobs is not a secret to people in Boundary County. What are the alternatives? Some of those interviewed argued that dependence on timber must be reduced for many reasons, and that the amenity related industries will [and should] become the backbone of the local economy. They argued that the instability of timber economies makes them unsustainable as an economic base, and that logging degrades the very environmental qualities that draw newcomers to areas like Boundary County. The amenity-related industries, it was argued, are the growth engines of employment in places like North Idaho, and Boundary County. Figure 8 shows the average earnings per job in the amenity sectors of Boundary County from 1969 to 1993. Earnings per job were static or decrease for most of the sectors. Except for the wholesale trade sector, these sectors are not as volatile as timber dependent sectors.

Figure 8: Boundary County Amenity Adjusted Earnings per Job, 1969-1993.



Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis

Jobs in the amenity sector averaged less than \$15,000 [in real terms] annually. With the exception of timber related jobs, employment in the amenity sectors averages about the same annual earnings as the extractive sectors. In the end, amenity industries supply the same lower wage levels as the non-timber extractive industries. At this time, amenity and non-timber extractive industry jobs do not provide the same level of earnings as the timber sector.

4.2. *Unearned Income*

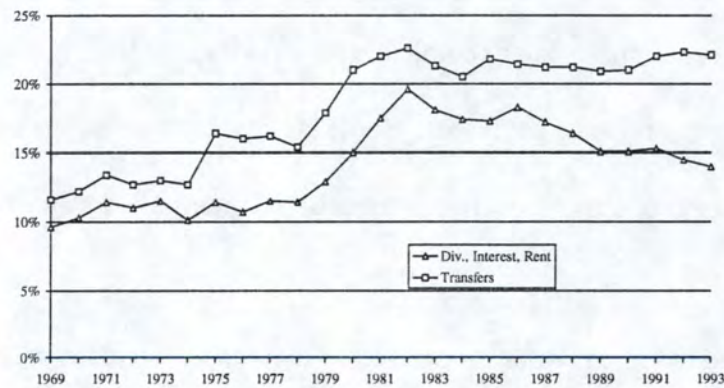
Total income is comprised of earnings as well as transfer payments and unearned income. Transfer payments include income sources not related to ongoing employment. Examples include Social Security, pension payments, income maintenance [AFDC, WIC, etc.], disability, and medical payments. These forms of income are often overlooked in analyzing local economies. For example, a common issue in high growth areas concerns the level of income maintenance payments. Some argue that “welfare” is a growing part of the Boundary County economy. Looking at transfer payments allows an examination of this question.

Unearned income is often comprised of dividends, interests, and rent payments. One assumption often made is that the impact of retirees on a local economy comes by way of their flow of transfer payments and unearned income into the economy. By examining patterns in these income sources over time, we can examine some questions about how population change has affected Boundary County.

In Figure 9, the percentage of total personal income in Boundary County that is accounted for by transfers and dividends, interests, and rent [DIRT] over time is graphed. In the early 1970's, this percentage began to grow. By 1982, transfer payments had become

about 23% of the total income of Boundary County. In addition, DIRT's percentage had risen to almost 20% of county income. What is more important is the trend that follows these peaks. Transfer payments have continued to represent over 20% of total income for Boundary County, while DIRT has declined to less than 10% of total income. Dividends, interest, and rent are usually associated with either retirees, or non-retired individuals with significant independent incomes. Yet, the importance of income from these activities has declined since 1982.

Figure 9: Boundary County Transfer Payments & Dividends, Interest, & Rent % of Total Personal Income, 1969-1993.

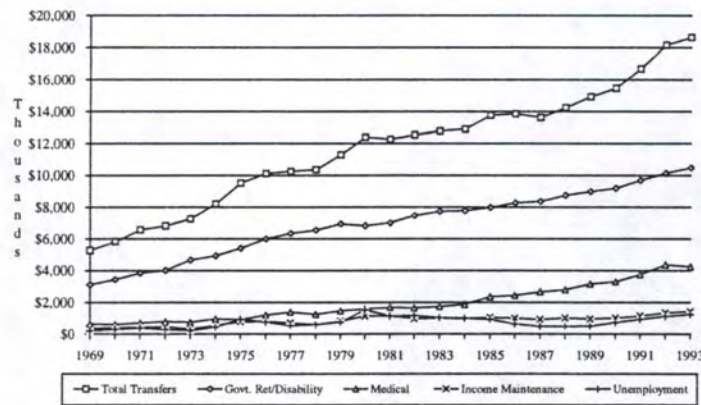


Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis

So what has caused transfer payments to retain their importance with respect to the overall income of the area? Some people interviewed in the county argued that a significant number of families have moved to Boundary County over the last decade and are currently collecting various income maintenance payments. Others indicated that retirees were bringing significant transfer income into the county.

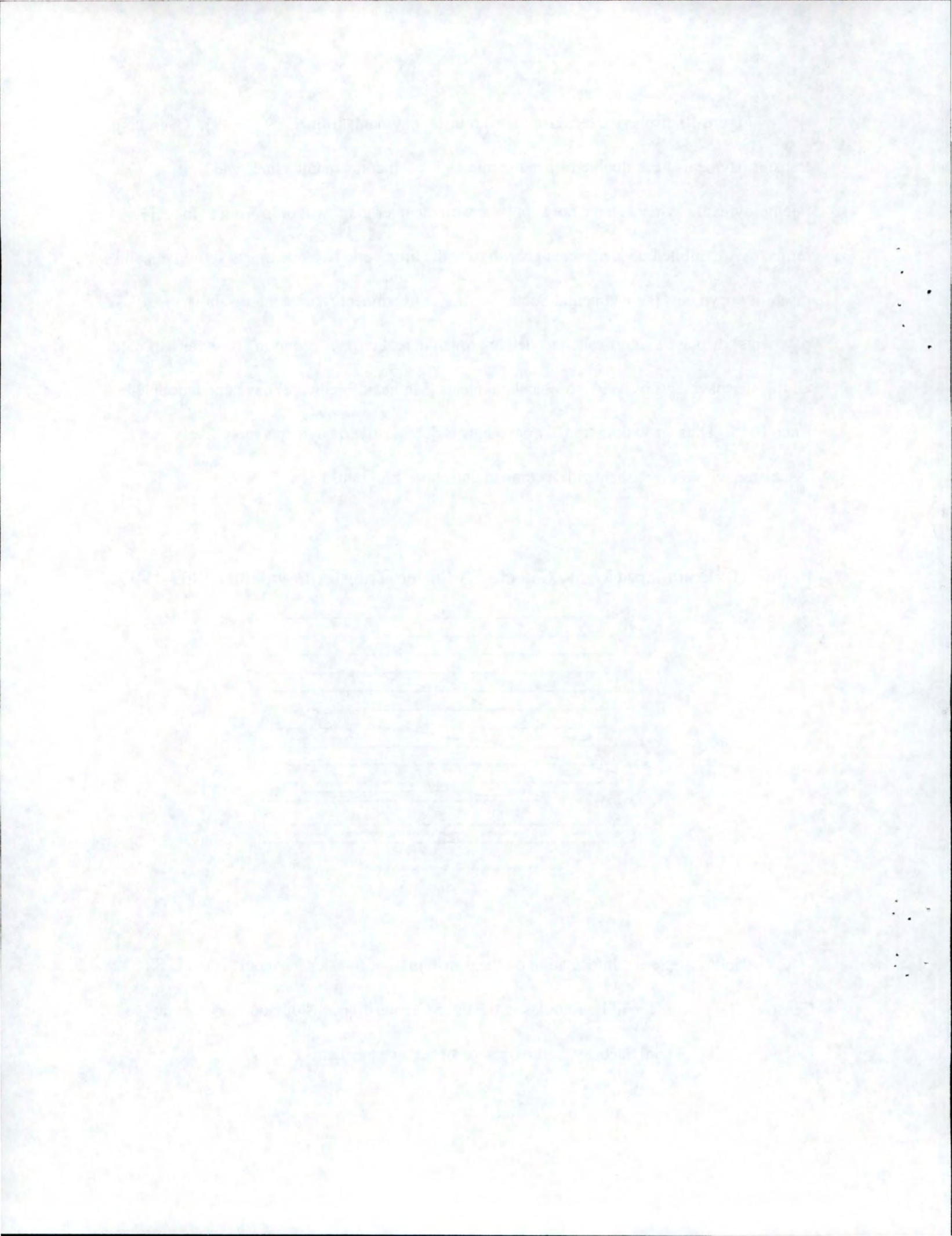
Figure 10 displays selected adjusted transfer payments from 1969 to 1993. Overall, transfer payments have doubled since the mid 1970's. Income maintenance and unemployment payments have not kept pace with the overall growth of transfers. In real terms, they exhibited no significant growth over the time period. Government retirement and disability payments [supplemental Social Security, government retirement, disability payments] displayed significant and steady growth in real terms, accounting for over half of all transfer payments by 1993. Medical payments [Medicaid/Medicare] have about doubled since 1985. Thus, growth in transfer payments is due mostly to payments more likely associated with retirees than with income maintenance programs.

Figure 10: Boundary County Selected Adjusted Transfer Payments, 1969-1993.



Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis

Another source of information on the distribution of transfer payments is the U.S. Census. The percentage of households in the three Census divisions of Boundary County receiving DIRT, Social Security, and income maintenance payments in 1980 and 1990 are



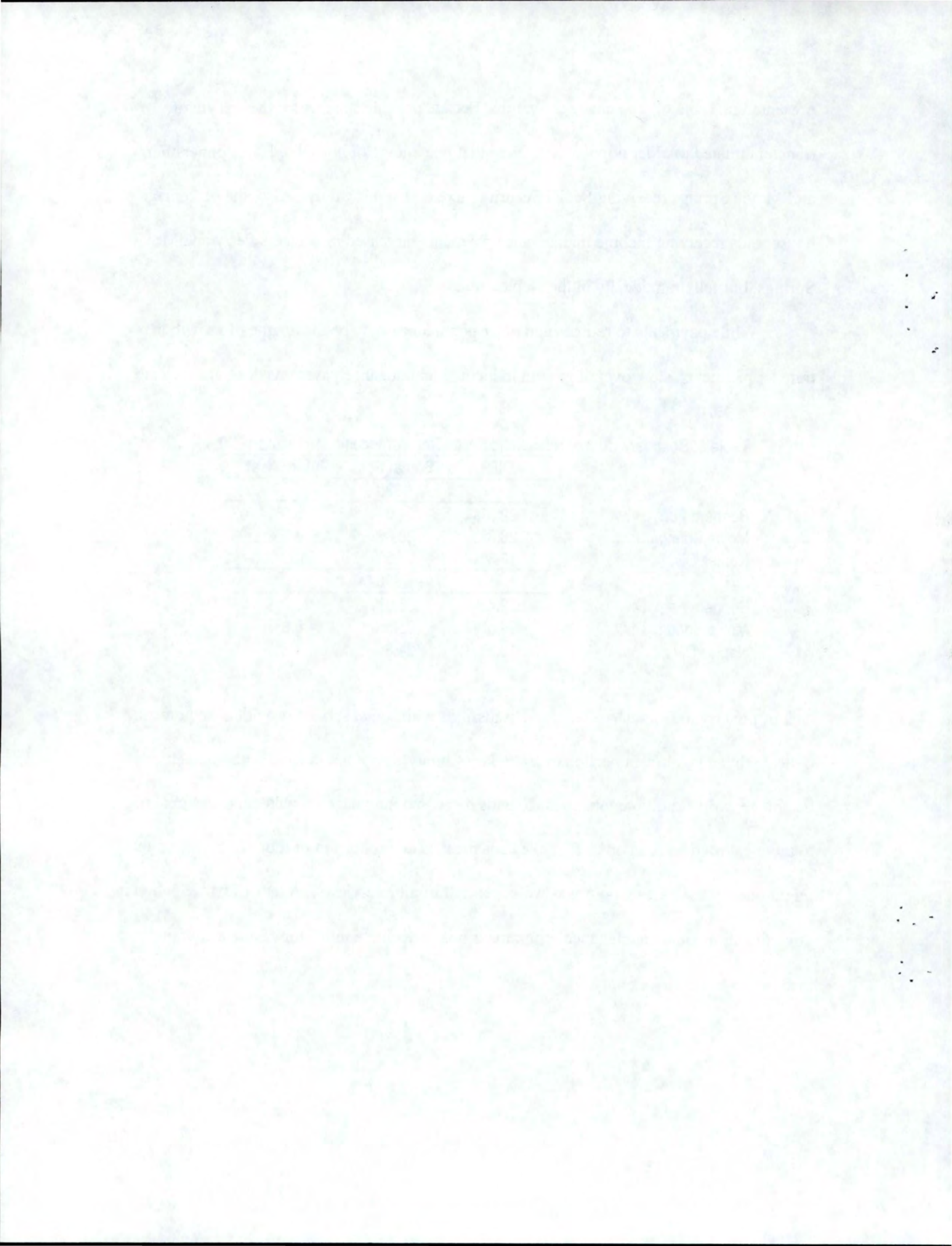
presented in Table 6. The changes over that decade provide support for the growth of transfers related to older populations. Note that percentage of households in Bonners Ferry and Moyie Springs receiving Social Security increased significantly. Also, the percentage of households receiving income maintenance payments increased in Bonners Ferry and Moyie Springs, but fell dramatically in the Naples area.

While payments to retirees and older populations may be the engine of growth in transfer payments, slow overall growth in income maintenance payments does not indicate a

Table 6: Boundary County Households With Transfer Income, 1980 and 1990

	DIRT	Social Sec.	Public Asst.
	1980		
Bonners Ferry Div.	22.3%	24.0%	3.9%
Moyie Springs Div.	28.3%	20.9%	4.3%
Naples Div.	18.3%	24.5%	13.1%
	1990		
Bonners Ferry Div.	29.4%	33.0%	6.2%
Moyie Springs Div.	24.6%	25.5%	8.6%
Naples Div.	19.3%	24.3%	3.5%

lack of poverty in Boundary County. Discussions with social service providers and others, indicate that a significant portion of Boundary County's population lives without health insurance, works multiple jobs to make ends meet, and may have to make an occasional trip to the local food bank in order to make ends meet. The proportion of those interviewed that might qualify as working poor was well over half of all interviews. A lack of participation in government income maintenance programs is not an accurate indicator of adequate family incomes in Boundary County.



4.3. Discussion

Overall, the social implications to Boundary County of the local economy are stark. An historic reliance on timber has produced a social attachment to the industry and its various occupations. Many local people identified strongly with the timber industry, though many had never worked in timber, wood products, or related sectors. People often expressed a sentiment of ownership about timber resources and public lands in general that drew on this identification. In one sense, the data indicate that communities such as Bonners Ferry, Naples, and Moyie Springs can ill afford to lose timber related jobs. What the data do not support is the contention that the service and amenity sectors pay poorly compared to non-timber extractive sectors. Earnings per job in all sectors except timber are declining in Boundary County. Population change over the last twenty years has been accompanied by a decline in real earnings across most sectors of the local economy. As transfer payments to retirees and the elderly have increased, the decline in the economic value of local jobs has continued unabated.

Traditionally, subsistence activities on public lands often made up for fluctuating employment or incomes, according to many interviewees. Access to public lands is changing, and some activities can be in conflict with changing land management needs. Subsistence activities such as trapping, gathering firewood, taking game and other foods are often viewed not as luxury rights or recreation, but rather as local, communal rights. When the local economy does not provide sufficient income or employment, these activities take on increased importance.

The lack of health insurance, the dominance of wages that do not allow a single earner with just one job to support a family, and the seasonality of many jobs indicate that Boundary County's economy is stratifying communities. Under current conditions, stark economic realities combine with the influx of new comers who are dominated by the relatively well off to produce social and economic polarization. Young people and their families are facing difficult choices. Jobs that allow families to "make it" in Boundary County are disappearing, while jobs that do not allow a family to "make it" remain. Land and housing prices are higher due to population pressures, and with this pressure comes increasing taxes. These issues directly reduce the quality of life for this portion of the population.

If individuals have sufficient monetary resources, business experience, or an existing business they can conduct from Boundary County, they do not face these issues. They can afford to buy housing, their income need not be tied solely to the county, and they represent an effective demand for local goods and services. In addition, they may not have to work an additional job in order to survive, nor will they have to go without health care. The quality of life for this portion of the community is potentially unaffected by the local economy.

The people of Boundary County have opinions about these and other developments. In the following section, the results of a community survey are presented. The survey of the county asked residents for their opinions about many of the issues presented by the local economic situation and what they wanted to do about it.

5. Community Survey Results

The survey of Boundary County residents focused on the opinions and attitudes of county residents concerning land use, economic and community development goals, concerns about community issues, and which goals they favor and are willing to support financially.¹ In addition, over 100 informal and semi-structured personal interviews were conducted in the county.

The survey results are classified into four general areas. First, concerns and issue about land use in Boundary County are discussed. Many questions used in the survey addressed these concerns. Second, economic development is a primary concern in the county. Within this overall area of concern, many particular issues emerged from the survey.

Table 7: How satisfied are you with the community you live in or nearest to?

	Frequency	Percentage
Very satisfied	140	43.5%
Somewhat satisfied	156	48.4%
Slightly satisfied	17	5.3%
Not satisfied	9	2.8%

These are discussed under the general heading of economic development. Third, community issues address the concerns of the county. Finally, a set of

community activities and the willingness of the respondents to financially support them are addressed.

Over 40% of the respondents felt very satisfied with their community, while just over 48% said they were somewhat satisfied (see Table 7). This level of community satisfaction

¹ The survey methodology is discussed in the appendix, and complete frequencies are provided for all survey items. Some survey questions are not discussed directly in this report.

reflects a general finding that people in Boundary County valued the quality of life in the area, and were willing to do whatever was required to stay in the area.

Table 8: How do you feel about the economic situation **in your community** over the next 5 years?

	Frequency	Percentage
Get worse	168	51.9%
Stay the same	84	25.9%
Get better	41	12.7%
Don't know	31	9.3%

Table 9: How do you feel about the economic situation **in Idaho** over the next 5 years?

	Frequency	Percentage
Get worse	110	34.5%
Stay the same	79	24.8%
Get better	79	24.8%
Don't know	51	16.0%

Many of those interviewed have remained even though the local economy had left them unemployed a least a couple of times. Respondents were asked in the survey how they felt about the economic situation in their community, and in Idaho in general.

Tables 8 and 9 display their answers.

Interestingly, respondents were substantially more pessimistic about the Boundary County economy than about

the Idaho economy as a whole. Almost 52% of the respondents thought the local economy will get worse, while only just over 34% thought the state economy would get worse. On the other side, almost 13% thought the local economy would get better, and about 25% thought the state economy would improve.

The linkage between economic activity on public lands and the local economic base is an important issue for the people of Boundary County. Some of the pessimism displayed about the future of the local economy can be associated with pessimism about the continued importance of public lands. To examine how people feel about the role these lands in their

communities, a series of questions were asked concerning respondent attitudes toward land use in general.

5.1. *Land Use*

One important component in the quality of life is the local landscape and its uses. A complex set of social issues are tangled into the conflict over public and private lands in Boundary County. An acute conflict arises around the relationship between public lands and the local economy. Frequently, this conflict is an argument about what ought to be done with the land, rather than one concerning what can be done with the land.

The management of public and private land in Boundary County is one such contentious issue. Timber harvests, endangered species issues, wilderness proposals, planning and zoning, and land use controls are just a few highly charged issues being discussed during this study. To examine land management issues, respondents were asked whether they strongly agreed, agreed, were neutral, disagreed, or strongly disagreed with a set of statements concerning land use, forests, and agriculture.

A statistical technique was used to determine which sets of questions were answered with a similar response pattern in the sample. One set of survey items belong together. These are displayed in Table 10. This set of questions reflects respondents' attitudes about preserving land for particular uses in Idaho.²

In Boundary County, over 50% of respondents strongly agreed that sufficient land is set aside for wilderness, roadless areas, and wildlife protection. A lower percentage felt strongly about wild and scenic rivers, state parks, and recreation lands. Finally, just over

² See Carlson, 1992 for a discussion of how these attitudes have changed in Idaho over the last twenty years.

40% of the respondents felt that the best use of forested land in Idaho is for timber. If the strongly agree and agree categories are combined, over 77% of the respondents at least agree that there was enough legally designated wilderness in Idaho. Similarly, 75% agreed there were sufficient roadless areas, and almost 74% indicated that enough land was set aside for wildlife protection.

The numbers present a variety of issues for analysis. Interviews provided an indication that many of these attitudes are based on more generic issues. A primary concern

Table 10: Land use and preservation attitudes.

	Strongly Agree (%)
	%
We have enough legally designated wilderness in Idaho	56.8%
We have enough roadless areas in Idaho	55.5%
Enough land has been set aside for wildlife protection	50.3%
We have enough legally designated wild and scenic rivers in Idaho	46.4%
The best use of forested land in Idaho is to provide timber products and jobs for Idahoans	40.1%
We have enough state parks in Idaho	35.2%
Enough land has been set aside for recreation	33.9%

correlated with the negative attitudes toward the preservation of lands is one of access to public lands. Many people in the county see wilderness and other designations as reducing their access to lands for a variety of uses. Some may assume this concern reflects an interest in timber. Interviews showed that the concern is much broader, extending to traditional family activities like berry gathering, hunting, fishing, camping, snowmobiling, skiing, or simply driving. The general ideas of wilderness, roadless areas, or wildlife protection are not the issue. Such concepts are not the issue presented in these survey questions. Instead, the larger public policy of setting some percentage of the land aside for these specific goals is the

issue. Setting land aside is viewed as restricting access to it, even if the general idea behind the policy is supported. A similar logic applies to the land use issues that garnered less strongly held opinions.

The community response to the statement regarding the best use of forested lands being for timber also touches on the issue of access, but in a slightly different fashion. It is not unusual for local people to construct a belief that local public lands are subject to communal decision making about resource use (see Harp, 1995 and Fortmann, 1990). The issue of access comes from the attitude that the current economic base is built on timber, and should remain that way. The access in this situation is one of access to tangible resources for local jobs. Thus, access is tied directly into the issue of economic development for many respondents. In the next section, the survey turns to economic development, and the relationship between jobs and the use of the land is again apparent.

5.2. Economic and Community Development

The general area of economic and community development is always an important goal for communities. Boundary County is no exception. The importance of economic development to survey respondents in Boundary County is displayed in Table 11. Almost 63% of the respondents felt that general economic development is very important to Boundary County. Combining the top two categories, over 85% of the respondents believe it is important to the county.

The quality of life is tied to economic and community development. The survey

Table 11: How important do you feel economic development is to Boundary County?

	Frequency	Percentage
Very important	198	62.9%
Somewhat important	71	22.5%
Slightly important	34	10.8%
Not at all important	12	3.8%

respondents assigned a priority to a list of possible goals suggested to improve the quality of life in Boundary County. To examine specific groups of these

goals, they were categorized using the statistical method mentioned above. These are discussed below.

5.2.1. Economic Activities

A set of goals presented in the survey concern what economic activities the respondents thought to be a priority for maintaining the quality of life. In general, seven

Table 12: Economic Activities

	High Priority (%)
Encourage diverse small businesses	65.5%
Attract new industries	49.8%
Natural resource manufacturing	48.0%
Expand existing businesses	43.5%
Encourage tourism	32.6%
Encourage industrial growth	31.4%
Private funding for new businesses	30.7%

survey items can be examined together. These are presented in Table 12. The respondents ranked the attraction of new businesses with diverse products and

services to Boundary County as the highest single priority for improving the quality of life in Boundary county. Almost half of the respondents place a high priority on the general attraction of new industries, and the encouragement of natural resource products manufacturing industries in particular. The expansion of existing local businesses through local assistance was a high priority for 43% of the respondents. Finally, encouraging tourism

and general industrial development, as well as increasing sources of private funding for new businesses were important to about one third of respondents.

Taken as a group, these responses indicate that respondents place a high priority on the diversification of the local economy, and the encouragement of both existing and potential businesses. This matches well with information from personal interviews. The degree to which Boundary County is dependent on wood products manufacturing worries many residents. Retaining these jobs is vital to the local economy, but diversifying the economic base is necessary for the longer term sustainability of the county's economy. The survey results indicate that the respondents want this diversification to be a priority for local development efforts.

5.2.2. Way of Life

Table 13 provides a list of goals for improving the overall quality of life in the county, and the priority respondents' attached to them. The general goals of protecting present way of life and maintaining the existing economic base were assigned a high priority by well over

60% of the respondents.

Table 13: Preservation of Local Community

	High Priority (%)
Protect present way of life	64.9%
Maintain existing economic base	62.5%
Protect crop and grazing land	37.2%
Develop existing rather than new business districts	33.7%

Protecting agricultural lands, and developing existing

business districts were given

high priority by about one third

of the respondents. Many residents stayed in or moved to Boundary County because of its rural lifestyle, access to open spaces, and relatively low development density. Much of the understanding many people have about those aspects of the landscape is captured in the first

two items in Table 13. The way of life is viewed as one of rural self-sufficiency. The local economic base is tied to the agricultural lands that provide much of the open space, and to the national forest lands that provide both timber, and amenities such as open space and wildlife. As mentioned above, the economic base cannot be separated from issues such as access to public lands and open space. This is apparent in the other two questions in Table 13. Threats to open space due to development were an important component in the disputes over new planning and zoning ordinances. The “way of life” includes a high value accorded open space, coupled with a strong belief in private property rights. Essentially, these two questions address making better use of existing areas where businesses already exist, and protecting agricultural land as open space and for agricultural production.

5.2.3. Planning and the Quality of Life

Closely related to the issue of preserving the rural way of life in Boundary County is the issue of using planning to achieve such a goal. Presented in Table 14 are three quality of life goals that respondents found to be related with respect to such a priority. Respondents

Table 14: Planning and Cooperation

	High Priority (%)
Encourage cooperation among communities in the county	52.5%
Protect the natural environment from damaging activities	46.7%
Plan use of land in towns/county	37.2%

placed a high priority on cooperation between communities in the county (52%). Almost half of the respondents ranked the goal of

protecting the environment as high. Finally, the general issue of planning land use in the county was a high priority for about one third (35%) of the respondents. For these respondents, maintaining the quality of their lives includes maintaining some control over

what happens with respect to the landscape. These goals are closely related to those discussed above. However, they are more specific in that coordination between communities is important, as is land use planning, and the use of these tools to maintain the current level of environmental quality in Boundary County.

5.2.4. Community Development Needs

In order to achieve many of the economic development goals discussed thus far, some of the minimum community needs must be met. Goals related to issues such as housing and

Table 15: Community Needs

	High Priority (%)
Provide adult education & training courses	48.9%
Seek govt. grants for improvements if local funds not available	44.4%
Low & moderate income housing	32.1%
Encourage new housing	23.1%

human capital development are presented in Table 15. The development of human capital through education and training is an

important component to rural economic development. Almost half (48.9%) of the respondents said that adult education and training is a high priority goal to maintain their quality of life. It is important to consider this goal in the context of the other economic development goals. Education and training can present a “chicken and egg” problem in rural development. Businesses often assert that a well-educated and adequately trained work force is attractive for a community that is recruiting new businesses. On the other hand, it is a difficult decision to spend scarce resources training people for jobs that do not currently exist. Government programs exist to help with this, and other development issues. About 45% of

the respondents indicated that acquiring grants when local money is not available is a high priority.

The last two questions in Table 15 reflect an interesting dilemma for Boundary County. Interviews with residents repeatedly generated discussion about the lack of affordable housing in the county. This is a common issue in counties with high growth rates. Real estate markets respond to the increased demand for housing, often driving the cost of housing out of reach for many working families in the area. This need is reflected in the fact that about one third of the respondents (32.1%) thought affordable housing ought to be a high priority if the quality of life in Boundary County is to be maintained. On the other hand, people were less willing to assign a high priority to new housing; only 23% of the respondent saying it was a high priority. Rather than just build housing, the respondents thought affordable housing was a more appropriate goal for the county.

5.2.5. Appearance of the Community

The final set of survey items from the list of prioritized goals for improving the quality of life in Boundary County concerns the appearance of the downtown and residential

areas. These items are presented in Table 16. While well over one third of the respondents thought the appearance of the downtown

Table 16: Community Appearance

	High Priority (%)
Improve the appearance of the downtown area	36.1%
Improve the appearance of the residential areas	22.2%

ought to be a high priority goal, only about 22% thought that the appearance of the residential areas needed work. The attractiveness of business areas is a goal for many rural

communities. Downtown revitalization efforts are a common tool for attracting customers, tourists, and new businesses.

5.3. Community Concerns

A general set of issues facing communities in Boundary County were presented, and they were asked if these were serious concerns, moderate concerns, slight concerns, or not a concern. These concerns were categorized statistically, and are discussed below.

5.3.1. Economic Concerns

Not surprisingly, economic issues figured prominently among issues of concern for respondents. Each of these issues is presented in Table 17, along with the percentage of respondents who indicated the issue to be a serious concern. The availability of good jobs for

Table 17: Economic Issues of Concern

	Serious Concern (%)
Availability of good jobs for young people	68.2%
Individual and family income levels	46.2%
Adequacy of infrastructure	43.3%
Educational opportunities for adults	33.5%
Availability of money to develop economically	39.0%
Distance from markets	14.1%

young people was ranked as the most serious concern among all of those chosen, with just over 68% of the respondents ranking it as such. Related to this was the issue of individual and

family incomes as a serious concern (46%), the adequacy of the infrastructure (43%), the availability of money for economic development (39%), and educational opportunities for adults (33.5%). About 14% of indicated that the distance of Boundary County to markets was a serious concern, while just over 32% of the respondents said that this particular issue

was not a concern.³ With respect to economic development, this depends heavily on products that are being produced. Information industries have virtually no interest in distance, but makers of such items as modular housing will.

Once again, survey respondents voiced a concern about the ability of young people to enjoy the quality of life in Boundary County. The availability of jobs that produce adequate income levels is a persistent issue for the respondents. Again, the economically important issues such as an adequate infrastructure and adult education and training were consistently identified as concerns by many respondents. These are central components of any rural development strategy, and important to Boundary County.

5.3.2. Community Decision Concerns

Two similar issues in the survey were community decisions being made outside of the community, and access to public decision makers. The responses to these two issues are presented in Table 18. Many people in Boundary County asserted that the real control over

Table 18: Community Decisions

	Serious Concern (%)
Important community decisions made outside the community	54.6%
Access to public decision makers	29.0%

their community resided not locally, but at the state and federal levels. The dominance of public lands in the county, and the economic and social ties to those

lands helped to create the belief that the fate of the community was out of the community's hands. The Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Idaho Department of Lands, and other agencies were often viewed as having more control over the economy of Boundary

³ See Table A8 in the Appendix.

County than do the residents. They are also accused of having no accountability to the people of the county. This set of extra-local decision makers, however, is not just federal land management agencies. The actions of economic actors in the larger world economy are important as well. Canadian lumber, grain, and cattle effect the livelihoods of many people in Boundary County. Trade policy can place local firms at an economic advantage or disadvantage just as readily, and in some case more readily, than the land management agencies.

Exactly 29% of the respondents indicated that access to public decision makers was a serious concern. To an extent, the first question may have spilled over into the second. In general, local decision makers are more accessible than non-locals. The response might be reflect a belief that decisions are made outside of Boundary County, and respondents feel that they cannot gain access to those making the decisions.

5.3.3. Recreation and Access To It

As noted previously, the landscape of Boundary County is contested terrain. Open space, wildlife, recreation, subsistence activities, amenity values, and general access are just some of the issues that form a very complex social issue that is difficult to untangle. In yet

Table 19: Recreation and Access

	Serious Concern (%)
Current land use guidelines and controls	30.4%
Accessibility of outdoor recreation	23.4%
Adequacy of local recreation facilities	15.2%

another indication that these issues are intertwined, three statistically related issues are presented in

Table 19. Current land use guidelines and controls are not just local planning or zoning only. Instead, this is a general

question about land use, both private and public. About one third of the respondents indicate that this is a serious concern, along with 23% for the accessibility of outdoor recreation. These two items are closely related. As mentioned previously, access to “the woods” is a very real issue for many people in Boundary County. Many people spoke with great disdain about the blossoming of gates preventing access to Forest Service areas they had frequented in the past.

This is an example of an issue of land use control that has a public policy behind that clashes with local understandings concerning access to lands and freedom to recreate on those lands. The low percentage of respondents questioning the adequacy of local recreation facilities is included because the response patterns of the sample indicated that it is closely related to the other two questions. Recreation facilities are not to be equated with outdoor recreation alone. This distinction is confirmed in that only about 15% of the respondents felt that these facilities were a serious concern. The issue is access and use, which is a more general concern than boat ramps and campgrounds.

5.4. Development Activities and the Willingness to Pay

The last portion of the Boundary County survey was intended to anticipate some of the goals, issues, and concerns of the county, and to assess which activities respondents would favor. More importantly, they were asked if they would be willing to support each activity financially. As might be expected, very few activities were supported financially. The entire list of activities is presented in Table 20.. Of the activities favored by over 50% of the respondents, only improving roads, improving public schools, and improving adult education had more than 10% offering to support them financially. Improving the

fairgrounds was favored by just less than 50% of the respondents, though over 10% of them were willing to support improvements financially. Though activities such as assisting local

Table 20: Favored Activities and Financial Support

	Favor (%)	Financially Support (%)
Improve roads in county	70.2%	12.9%
Assist local businesses to expand	58.0%	4.1%
Improve senior care facilities	57.7%	6.2%
Monitor air and water quality	52.7%	5.5%
Improve public school education	52.2%	28.8%
Improve adult education	51.3%	17.4%
Improve fair grounds	47.7%	10.7%
Improve/add to health care facilities	44.8%	8.8%
Improve day care facilities	44.0%	4.6%
Build local recreation parks/playgrounds	43.8%	8.4%
Develop recreation facilities/events that attract tourists	41.9%	5.1%
Develop industrial/business sites	40.3%	4.2%
Develop bike paths, hiking trails, campgrounds etc., for visitors	37.3%	9.3%

businesses to expand, improving senior care facilities, and monitoring air and water quality were favored by well over 50% of the respondents, very few were willing to support these activities financially. This result is common for many community economic development activities. Many of these activities are viewed as being generically good for Boundary County insofar as they occur without access to public money. Consistent with this, however, is the willingness of the respondents to advocate the acquisition of outside grants to accomplish local development when local money is not available.

6. Discussion

Social life in a community responds to many types of change. In Boundary County, this change comes as an ongoing transition from a timber dependent community to something else. A reduced timber supply, restructuring within the industry, and changes in the local economy conspire to dilute the economic importance of timber over time. This is not say that the industry is unimportant. Quite to the contrary, it remains the largest single portion of the local economy, and consistently provides the highest paying jobs in Boundary County.

Population growth, land management changes, and a need for good jobs are examples social change occurring in Boundary County. The data supplied in this report can be summarized in three general categories representing social impacts in Boundary County. These are discussed below.

6.1. *Population Growth*

Population growth has been a fact of life in North Idaho for almost thirty years. While it fluctuates, the rate of population growth has been high since the middle of the 1970's. This change stresses a variety local markets and institutions.

Real estate markets rise as new people increase the demand for land and housing, both existing and new. Prices rise for desirable parcels or houses, and property taxes follow. Real estate and construction businesses benefit as housing needs expand. However, the manner in which public services are priced as population rises ensures that current residence will subsidize newcomers. The structure of labor markets changes as more people look for work, or bring businesses with them that can change labor demand. Most businesses brought into rural areas such as Boundary County, however, are single proprietorships, and have a limited

impact on local employment. Boundary County traditionally relied on industrial employment in the timber sector as its economic mainstay. Much of the recent economic development is in sectors that are incapable of providing a wage structure equivalent to timber. Even though Boundary County workers do not expect health insurance, job security, or high pay, they are willing to work hard in order to remain in the area. This is reflected in their concerns about keeping the economic base intact, finding good jobs for young people, helping existing businesses survive and expand, and attracting new businesses with diverse products.

If the new population is older, it increases the demand for household goods, housing, and personal services. In addition, this population may increase the need for medical services or specialized services. On the other hand, if the newcomers are young people with families, they may increase demand for housing and household goods, but also increase the need for school capacity, recreation services, and retail goods. In the case of Boundary County, both of these scenarios are occurring simultaneously. Many people interviewed voiced a concern about the clash between older and younger populations over issues such as school finance. A few people worried that the older populations of newcomers had little or no connection to the economic life of the community. Lacking the personal experience of trying to make a living in the area was seen as a liability when the issue is economic development efforts. The community opinions supporting economic development indicate that these concerns are real to those who hold them. The development of economic and educational infrastructure is seen as vital to economic development, regardless of the age of the respondent.

Finally, population growth in Boundary County is happening faster in the unincorporated areas outside of Bonners Ferry and Moyie Springs. This raises land prices,

and the demand for things like emergency services and road maintenance. As more people move “out to the country,” zoning and housing density issues emerge. Moreover, development in rural areas changes the housing market, causing it to stratify. As Beverly Brown notes (1995), the gentrification of rural space forces people with low paying jobs out of what used to be the only affordable housing in the area. In the past, hard times were often mitigated by living in substandard housing away from community centers. Development in Boundary County has emerged in a way that might force that sector of the housing market out in favor of more lucrative housing for better-off newcomers. Providing affordable housing, planning the use of the land, and developing existing, rather than new, business districts were supported by the community and may ease such pressures.

6.2. *The Landscape*

A primary social impact of population growth and economic change is a changing view of the landscape and what it means to the local community. In this case, the land use policy preferences solicited in the survey might lead to the conclusion that the people of Boundary County do not want any restrictions to be placed on land. That is not entirely true. Public policies that reduce access to public land are less acceptable than policies to plan the potential use of private lands.

The people interviewed in this study all valued highly the open, rural landscape of Boundary County. They accept new housing, traffic, and other growth impacts in return for the privilege of living there. They also valued access to public lands as a related part of that landscape. Most people do not view public lands as a commodity, but rather as an important part of daily life, whether simply enjoying their appearance or actively using them for

recreation or personal enrichment. Recent public policy changes reduce the range of accessible experiences for local people. Activities such as hiking, photography, or bird watching are perceived as being given preference over activities such as hunting, snowmobiling, wood gathering, or berry picking. Unfortunately, to many people the Forest Service gate is the most potent symbol of this restriction.

Related to this qualitative change in what land can be used for is the inclusion of new voices into the discussions about land in the county. Some people in the community value different uses for public lands than others, and polarization easily develops. In Boundary County, this reached a head over the county land use plan, and resulted in a law suit. The idea that public lands are accessible only for a particular set of activities can be seen as privileging one portion of the community over others. Proliferating "private property" signs are often viewed that same way.

Yet, survey results indicate that people have a generic set of concerns that cross simple boundaries such as these. People want open space to be preserved, communities to work together, the preservation of environmental qualities, some planning of land use that is consistent with these issues, and they want this "way of life" protected. However, they also want decent jobs for their children, healthy businesses, and access to public lands. People in Boundary County do not see these wants as being mutually exclusive. This "way of life" constitutes the "quality of life" for many people in the county.

6.3. *The Economy*

There is a very real need for economic development in Boundary County. Survey results bear this out clearly. Educational needs for youths and adults were seen as serious

concerns. So was the attraction of new industries, and the retention and expansion of existing ones. People interviewed and survey respondents all voiced concern about the potential stratification that can result from the development of what is known as a dual economy. In dual labor markets, two types of jobs emerge over time. For one, wages are low, benefits are few and security is uncertain. Other jobs or business opportunities require either human capital or experience most people lack. In such situations, "good" jobs are held by a few, and the rest of the work force must suffer with lower quality employment. Eventually, the middle of the income distribution shrinks. Boundary County is ripe for such a development. A good example is the "resort syndrome" where workers cannot afford to live in the community in which they work. Driggs, Idaho houses the majority of the work force for Jackson Hole, Wyoming for this reason. Boundary County is not yet at this point, but unless economic development efforts yield better economic opportunities, the quality of life for one portion of the local population may decline. Overcoming this is a significant development challenge for Boundary County, but one the survey results indicate is supported by residents.

7. References

- Carlson, John C. 1992. *Idahoans' Changing Attitudes Toward Natural Resource Use, 1974 to 1989*. Agricultural Experiment Station, University of Idaho, Bulletin No. 736.
- Brown, Beverly. 1995. *In Timber Country: Working People's Stories of Environmental Conflict & Urban Flight*. Philadelphia, PA: Temple University Press.
- Carroll, Matthew S. 1995. *Community and the Northwestern Logger : Continuities and Changes in the Era of the Spotted Owl*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press.
- Fortmann, Louise. 1990. "Locality and Custom: Non-aboriginal Claims to Customary Usufructuary Rights as a Source of Rural Protest." *Journal of Rural Studies* 6(2):195-208.
- Harp, Aaron J. 1996. "Narrative Construction of Property Rights: The Case of Public Lands in Idaho." *Society and Natural Resources*, in review.
- Salamon, Sonya. and Jane B. Tornatore. 1994. "Territory Contested Through Property in a Midwestern Post-Agricultural Community." *Rural Sociology* 59(4):636-654.

8. Appendix: Boundary County Survey

8.1. Sample

A random sample of Boundary County households was drawn from telephone records. A total of 723 households were drawn, and a mail survey was sent to them. A reminder card was sent to households that had not responded after ten days. If surveys were not returned after three weeks, a reminder letter is sent to them. After six weeks, another reminder letter and a second copy of the survey was sent to households still failing to respond to the survey. At the end of eight weeks, surveys that were not returned are classified as non-responding.

Of the 723 initial households contacted, 260 surveys were returned as non-deliverable. Thus, these households are removed from the overall sample. The return rate for the surveys is then calculated as:

$$\begin{aligned} & [\text{COMPLETED SURVEYS}] / [\text{TOTAL INITIAL SAMPLE NON DELIVERABLE}] \\ & = \text{SURVEY RETURN RATE} \end{aligned}$$

For the Boundary County survey, the survey return rate is calculated as:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{COMPLETED SURVEYS} &= 323 \\ \text{TOTAL INITIAL SAMPLE} &= 723 \\ \text{NON-DELIVERABLE} &= 260 \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{Survey Return Rate} = 323 / [723-260] = 323/463 = 69.8\%$$

8.2. Survey Frequencies

Table A1: How satisfied are you with the community you live in or nearest to?

	Frequency	Percentage
Very satisfied	140	43.5%
Somewhat satisfied	156	48.4%
Slightly satisfied	17	5.3%
Not satisfied	9	2.8%

Table A2: How do you feel about the economic situation **in your community** over the next 5 years?

	Frequency	Percentage
Get worse	168	51.9%
Stay the same	84	25.9%
Get better	41	12.7%
Don't know	31	9.3%

Table A3: How do you feel about the economic situation **in Idaho** over the next 5 years?

	Frequency	Percentage
Get worse	110	34.5%
Stay the same	79	24.8%
Get better	79	24.8%
Don't know	51	16.0%

Table A7: How important do you feel economic development is to Boundary County?

	Frequency	Percentage
Very important	198	62.9%
Somewhat important	71	22.5%
Slightly important	34	10.8%
Not at all important	12	3.8%

Table A4: Below are a number of statements related to land use, forestry and agriculture. Please indicate whether you strongly agree, agree, are neutral, disagree, or strongly disagree.

Land Use Opinion	Strongly Agree		Agree		Neutral		Disagree		Strongly Disagree	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
We have enough state parks in Idaho	114	35.2%	95	29.3%	58	17.9%	48	14.8%	9	2.8%
The use of rivers to provide electricity, irrigation, and water for domestic use should be given high priority in Idaho	110	34.0%	83	25.6%	62	19.1%	47	14.5%	22	6.8%
We have enough irrigated farm land in Idaho.	37	11.6%	76	23.8%	151	47.3%	43	13.5%	12	3.8%
We have enough legally designated wild and scenic rivers in Idaho	150	46.4%	80	24.8%	41	12.7%	31	9.6%	21	6.5%
We have enough legally designated wilderness in Idaho	184	56.8%	69	21.3%	23	7.1%	29	9.0%	19	5.9%
We have enough roadless areas in Idaho	177	55.5%	62	19.4%	32	10.0%	32	10.0%	16	5.0%
The best use of forested land in Idaho is to provide timber products and jobs for Idahoans	129	40.1%	105	32.6%	33	10.2%	35	10.9%	20	6.2%
Enough land has been set aside for recreation	109	33.9%	98	30.4%	55	17.1%	44	13.7%	16	5.0%
Enough land has been set aside for wildlife protection	163	50.3%	76	23.5%	31	9.3%	33	9.9%	21	6.3%

Table A5: Below is a list of some possible goals that have been suggested for improving the overall quality of life in Boundary County. Please indicate whether you feel that each goal should be given a high priority, medium priority, low priority, or should not be a priority.

Goal	High Priority		Medium Priority		Low Priority		Not a Priority	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Encourage small businesses with diverse products and services	215	65.5%	84	25.6%	20	6.1%	9	2.7%
Protect the present way of life in this area	213	64.9%	74	22.6%	32	9.8%	9	2.7%
Maintain the existing economic base	197	62.5%	86	27.3%	19	6.0%	13	4.1%
Encourage cooperation among communities in the county	171	52.5%	116	35.6%	26	8.0%	13	4.0%
Encourage cooperation among communities in the county	171	52.5%	116	35.6%	26	8.0%	13	4.0%
Attract new industries to the county	163	49.8%	91	27.8%	44	13.5%	29	8.9%
Provide adult education/training courses	160	48.9%	103	31.5%	51	15.6%	13	4.0%
Encourage natural resource products manufacturing industries	153	48.0%	113	35.4%	38	11.9%	15	4.7%
Protect the natural environment from damaging activities	154	46.7%	127	38.5%	37	11.2%	12	3.6%
Encourage existing local businesses	143	43.5%	111	33.7%	53	16.1%	22	6.7%
Encourage and assist local businesses to expand	143	43.5%	111	33.7%	53	16.1%	22	6.7%
Protect crop/grazing land from non-agricultural uses	121	37.2%	110	33.8%	62	19.1%	32	9.8%
Improve appearance of downtown area	119	36.1%	110	33.3%	68	20.6%	33	10.0%
Plan use of land in the towns and county	115	35.3%	133	39.8%	49	15.0%	29	8.7%
Encourage tourism	107	32.6%	114	34.8%	66	20.1%	41	12.5%
Low & moderate income housing	106	32.1%	119	36.1%	74	22.4%	31	9.4%
Encourage the development of new housing	76	23.1%	114	34.7%	97	29.5%	42	12.8%
Improve appearance of residential areas	73	22.2%	119	36.2%	94	28.6%	43	13.1%
Establish additional private funding sources for new enterprises	99	30.7%	113	35.0%	73	22.6%	38	11.8%
Encourage the development of existing rather than new business districts	109	33.7%	129	39.9%	60	18.6%	25	7.7%
Seek governmental grants for local improvement when local funds are not available	146	44.4%	87	26.4%	44	13.4%	52	15.8%

Table A8: Below is a number of issues facing communities in this area. Please indicate your level of concern about each area.

Issue	Serious Concern		Moderate Concern		Slight Concern		Not a Concern	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Availability of jobs for young people	225	68.2%	84	25.5%	13	3.9%	8	2.4%
Important community decisions made outside the community	179	54.6%	86	26.2%	45	13.7%	18	5.5%
Individual and family income levels	150	46.2%	123	37.8%	36	11.1%	16	4.9%
Adequacy of infrastructure (roads, bridges, streets, etc.)	141	43.3%	122	37.4%	43	13.2%	20	6.1%
Availability of money needed to develop economically	127	39.0%	115	35.3%	48	14.7%	36	11.0%
Educational opportunities for adults	109	33.5%	132	40.6%	57	17.5%	27	8.3%
Current land use guidelines and controls	98	30.4%	116	36.0%	76	23.6%	32	9.9%
Business/residential use water availability	95	29.1%	127	39.0%	57	17.5%	47	14.4%
Access to public decision makers	95	29.0%	123	37.5%	72	22.0%	38	11.6%
Accessibility of outdoor recreation	77	23.4%	98	29.8%	90	27.4%	64	19.5%
Public utility services (i.e. rural electricity)	62	19.0%	122	37.4%	86	26.4%	56	17.2%
Air pollution	54	16.7%	95	29.4%	104	32.2%	70	21.7%
Adequacy of local recreation facilities	50	15.2%	119	36.3%	98	29.9%	61	18.6%
Distance from markets	46	14.1%	95	29.1%	80	24.5%	105	32.2%
Community integration of newcomers	43	13.2%	99	30.5%	108	33.2%	75	23.1%

Table A9: Which of the following activities do you favor and which would you be willing to support financially?

Issue	Not Sure		Don't Favor		Favor		Financially Support	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Improve public school education	27	9.0%	30	10.0%	156	52.2%	86	28.8%
Improve adult education	48	15.8%	47	15.5%	156	51.3%	53	17.4%
Improve roads in county	21	6.8%	31	10.0%	217	70.2%	40	12.9%
Improve fair grounds	49	15.9%	79	25.6%	147	47.7%	33	10.7%
Develop bike paths, hiking trails, campgrounds etc., for visitors	47	15.1%	119	38.3%	116	37.3%	29	9.3%
Improve/add to health care facilities	45	14.6%	98	31.8%	138	44.8%	27	8.8%
Build local recreation parks/playgrounds	52	16.9%	95	30.8%	135	43.8%	26	8.4%
Improve senior care facilities	59	19.2%	52	16.9%	177	57.7%	19	6.2%
Monitor air and water quality	50	16.1%	80	25.7%	164	52.7%	17	5.5%
Develop recreation facilities/events that attract tourists	47	15.0%	119	38.0%	131	41.9%	16	5.1%
Improve day care facilities	71	23.1%	87	28.3%	135	44.0%	14	4.6%
Develop industrial/business sites	75	24.4%	96	31.2%	124	40.3%	13	4.2%
Assist local businesses to expand	54	17.2%	65	20.7%	182	58.0%	13	4.1%

Table A10/A11: Respondents' Residency in Idaho and Boundary County

Question	Average
How long have you lived in Idaho?	32.5 years
How long have you lived in Boundary County?	28.3 years

Table A13: Respondents' and spouse/partner employment status

Status	Respondent		Spouse/partner	
	Count	%	Count	%
Self-employed	67	22.0%	39	13.0%
Employed full-time	89	29.3%	68	22.7%
Employed part-time	29	9.5%	35	11.7%
Full-time homemaker	18	5.9%	41	13.7%
Retired	97	31.9%	62	20.7%
Unemployed	4	1.3%	4	1.3%

Table A15: In what size community did you spend most of your life up to age 18? In what size community do you currently live?

Community size	Up to Age 18		At Present	
	Count	%	Count	%
Rural farm	90	32.4%	59	21.9%
Rural non-farm	16	5.8%	45	16.7%
100 - 2,499	68	24.5%	91	33.8%
2,500 - 9,999	36	12.9%	68	25.3%
10,000 - 49,999	26	9.4%	5	1.9%
50,000 - 99,999	15	5.4%	-	-
100,000 or more	27	9.7%	1	0.4%

Table A16-A18: Demographics

Demographic				
Age	52.4 years			
Sex	Male		Female	
	59.9%		35.9%	
Education	Respondent		Spouse/Partner	
	Count	%	Count	%
Less than high school	43	13.6%	43	13.6%
High school graduate	94	29.7%	90	28.5%
Some college/vocational education	95	30.1%	82	25.9%
College graduate	64	20.3%	32	10.1%
Advanced degree	20	6.3%	16	5.1%

Table A20: Respondent's Household Income

Income Category		
	Count	%
Less than \$10,000	35	11.4%
\$10,000 to \$19,999	84	27.4%
\$20,000 to \$29,999	73	23.8%
\$30,000 to \$39,999	51	16.6%
\$40,000 to \$49,999	19	6.2%
\$50,000 to \$74,999	34	11.1%
\$75,000 or more	11	3.6%

Table A19/A20: Respondent and Spouse Occupation

Occupation	Respondent		Spouse/Partner	
	Count	%	Count	%
Education	33	12.3%	22	8.3%
Professional services (medical, legal, accounting, etc.)	27	10.1%	33	12.5%
Logging/log hauling	25	9.3%	12	4.5%
Farming/ranching	23	8.6%	20	7.6%
Business or repair services	22	8.2%	11	4.2%
Wholesale/retail trade	19	7.1%	17	6.4%
Wood products manufacturing	18	6.7%	10	3.8%
Transportation, communications, utilities	17	6.3%	4	1.5%
USDA agriculture/Forest Service	9	3.4%	6	2.3%
Construction	7	2.6%	14	5.3%
Nursery products	6	2.2%	4	1.5%
Real estate	4	1.5%	3	1.1%
Finance, banking	3	1.1%	6	2.3%
Agricultural supplies/equipment	2	0.7%	5	1.9%
Entertainment/recreation	2	0.7%	3	1.1%
Food products manufacturing	1	0.4%	2	0.8%
Manufacturing	1	0.4%	3	1.1%
Other	49	18.3%	37	14.0%