



MADISON COUNTY

2024
Comprehensive Plan
ADOPTED
MAY 13, 2024

RESOLUTION NO. 508

A RESOLUTION REPEALING MADISON COUNTY RESOLUTION NO. 318 2020 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AND LAND USE MAP, AND ADOPTING A NEWLY DRAFTED COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AND LAND USE MAP FOR MADISON COUNTY.

WHEREAS, the Madison County Planning and Zoning Commission held a public hearing on or about Wednesday April 17, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. at the Commissioner's room in the Madison County Courthouse, Rexburg Idaho. This hearing was held to consider the adoption of a new Comprehensive Plan for Madison County. The proposed new Comprehensive Plan will repeal and replace Resolution No. 318 which documents the previously adopted comprehensive plan and land use map from 2008 as amended.

WHEREAS, on or about April 17 2024 the Madison County Planning and Zoning Commission voted to recommend to the Board of County Commissioners to approve the proposed drafted comprehensive plan.

WHEREAS, The Madison County Board of County Commissioners accepted and adopted the Madison County Planning and Zoning Commission's recommendations for the Comprehensive Plan Update on or about May 13, 2024, signing the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law thereon.

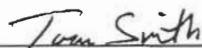
WHEREAS, the Madison County Board of County Commissioners now desires to adopt this resolution to reflect these changes.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT AND IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE MADISON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, AS FOLLOWS:

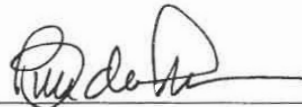
1. The Madison County Comprehensive Plan contained in the Madison County Code Book, Article 47, Resolution No.:318 is hereby repealed.
2. The newly drafted Madison County Comprehensive Plan and Land Use Map is hereby approved.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 13th DAY OF MAY 2024

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MADISON COUNTY, IDAHO



Todd Smith, *Chairman*

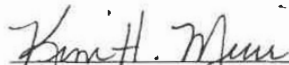


Brent Mendenhall, *Commissioner*



Dustin Parkinson, *Commissioner*

ATTEST:



Kim H. Muir, *Clerk*

SUMMARY

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Madison County Comprehensive Plan is to:

- Meet the statutory requirements of the Idaho Local Land Use Planning Act
- Provide a broad, forward looking foundation for Madison County's Land Development Code
- Identify goals, objectives, and implementation strategies for implementing the long range plans for Madison County
- Serve as a resource in making land use decisions for property owners and governing officials

DRIVING VALUES –

This plan is driven by core values and beliefs related to land use that are embraced by residents of Madison County. Centrally, these include:

- **Protect Private Property Rights:** Preserving private property rights is essential in guiding local land use planning policy as it fosters individual autonomy and incentivizes responsible stewardship of land. Without such protections, communities risk undermining economic prosperity, inhibiting innovation, and compromising the integrity of property ownership.
- **Protect Health, Safety and Welfare:** Protecting the health, safety, and welfare of residents is paramount in guiding local land use planning policy, ensuring that developments are conducive to healthy living environments and mitigate risks such as pollution or hazards. Prioritizing these concerns safeguards community well-being, fosters sustainable growth, and enhances overall quality of life for residents.
- **Minimize Government Overreach:** Balancing the need to minimize government overreach in land use planning policy with respecting private property rights is crucial for fostering a fair and efficient regulatory framework. By maintaining this equilibrium, policymakers can uphold the protection of health, safety, and welfare while preserving individual freedoms and encouraging responsible development practices within communities.

CONSTRAINTS

This plan considers the following constraints for development in the unincorporated County:

- Protect individual property rights that provide a landowner flexibility to allow use and enjoyment of property, while also protecting the same right to neighbors that may be impacted by such use.
- Promote land use policy and decisions that maintain property as a place for agriculture, residential use, commercial development, industrial, and other uses that may be accomplished with minimal impact to neighboring property owners.
- Municipal water and wastewater systems are not available in the unincorporated County.
- Promote land uses that can function within the constraints of private wells and septic systems in ways that do not diminish the health, safety, or welfare of property owners and their neighbors.

STRUCTURE

This plan is organized with the following structure:

① Five Key Elements

Economic Development, Land Use, Transportation, Housing, Community Design, and Community Design – are presented first. Each will have the overall goals, followed by implantation strategies for each goal.

② Future Land Use Map

The Future Land Use Map will present the desired future land uses in the County. Over time, this should be reflected as property owners seek to change the zoning on their properties.

③ Other Regulatory Elements

Included to meet the statutory requirements for Comprehensive Plan as dictated by the Idaho Local Land Use Planning Act.

④ Supporting Data

Reports with specific data for various elements will be included as Appendices.

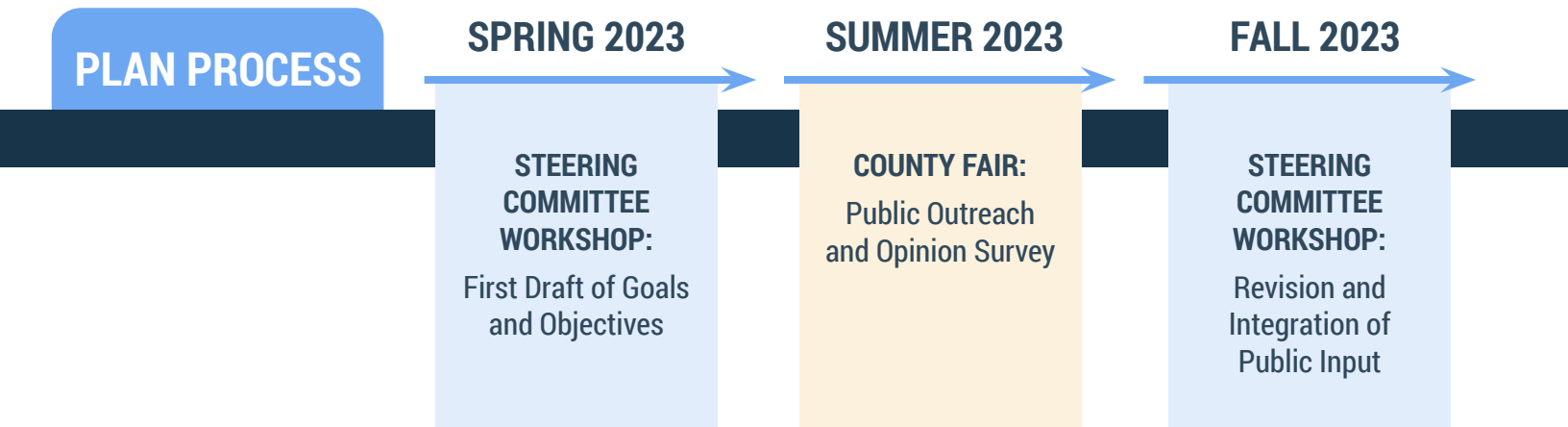
PROCESS

This plan was produced by residents of Madison County, under the direction of the Board of County Commissioners.

In Spring of 2023, a “Steering Committee” was formed to do the preliminary work on the Comprehensive Plan update. Appointed by the Board of County Commissioners, the Steering Committee worked with planning staff to draft initial goals and objectives primarily for the five key elements – Land Use, Transportation, Community Design, Housing, and Economic Development.

During the County Fair in August of 2023, the County hosted an information booth where County residents could provide review and opinion on these goals, as well as make additional suggestions for the Plan. Additionally, planning staff conducted a public opinion survey both at the County Fair, as well as on-line utilizing posted fliers around town with a scannable QR code that would take someone to the survey. The survey results were combined with input received at the Fair, and provided further direction to the Steering Committee to further refine the plan. Once the Steering Committee was done integrating this input, they passed the plan on to the Planning and Zoning Commission for review and improvement. The Planning and Zoning Commission held two work sessions to further refine the plan to make sure it represented a quality plan for the future of Madison County.

The Comprehensive Plan update was adopted by the Madison County Board of County Commissioners on May 13, 2024.





WINTER 2023

**PLANNING
AND ZONING
COMMISSION:**
Review and
Revision

MARCH 2024

**PUBLIC OPEN
HOUSE:**
Review of Draft
Plan and Policies

APRIL 2024

**PLANNING
AND ZONING
COMMISSION:**
Formal Public
Hearing

MAY 2024

**PLAN ADOPTED
BY THE MADISON
COUNTY BOARD
OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS**

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TO PLANNING AND ZONING CODE – THE NEXT STEPS

A Comprehensive Plan serves as a foundational document that outlines a community's long-term vision for development and growth over the next 10-20 years. It provides a general overview of various aspects such as land use, transportation, housing, economic development, and environmental conservation. By establishing goals and objectives, the Comprehensive Plan guides decision-making processes, informs policies, and shapes land use regulations to ensure sustainable and orderly development within the County.

Following the adoption of the Comprehensive Plan, the next crucial step involves updating the County's land use development code to align with the goals and objectives outlined in the plan. This involves reviewing existing zoning regulations, subdivision ordinances, and other development codes to ensure consistency with the Comprehensive Plan's vision. Through this process, adjustments are made to zoning districts, development standards, and permitting procedures to facilitate the realization of the plan's objectives while balancing the needs of the community.

It is anticipated that the 2024 Comprehensive Plan will guide Madison County Land Use Development for the next 10-20 years. It is important that the Plan be kept current. In 2028-29, the County should review the goals and objectives and amend the plan as necessary to represent the County at that time, and adjust the vision and goals as necessary. Additionally, if a significant economic shift or event occurs in the County, the Comprehensive Plan should be revisited to adjust any land use policy to reflect those kinds of significant changes.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We extend our sincere gratitude to the County Commissioners, Planning and Zoning Commission, Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee, planning staff, and the residents of Madison County for their invaluable contributions and dedication throughout the development of the Comprehensive Plan. Your collaborative efforts have been instrumental in shaping a vision for our community's future, ensuring a resilient and vibrant environment for generations to come.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Todd Smith, Chairman
Brent Mendenhall
Dustin Parkinson

COUNTY STAFF

Gary Armstrong
Melissa VanSlochteren
Troy Evans

LOGAN SIMPSON DESIGN (PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT CONTRACTORS)

Kelly Naumann
Claire McWilliams
Megan Moore

PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

Troy Thurgood, Chairman
Arlene Anderson, Vice-Chairman
Mark Hansen
Sharon Oakey
Clint Hansen
Eric Miller
Shane Ruebush
Kort Black
Paul Weeks

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE

Dustin Parkinson
Troy Thurgood
Mark Hansen
Brent "Husk" Crowther
Todd Marx
McKay Francis
Derik Taylor
Bron Leatham
Colton Helm
Alan Parkinson
Kurt Hibbert





Table of Contents

Summary	4
Structure	5
Process	6
Comprehensive Plan to Planning and Zoning Code – The Next Steps	8
Acknowledgments.....	9
Introduction	12
Comprehensive Plan Elements	16
Implementation Element	18
Property Rights Element.....	20
Economic Development Element.....	22
Land Use Element.....	28
Transportation Element	34
Housing Element	42
Community Design Element.....	48
Proposed Future Land Use Map	52
Population Element	54
School Facilities and Transportation Element	56
Natural Resources Element	60
Hazardous Areas Element	62
Hazardous Areas Map.....	64
Public Services, Facilities, and Utilities Element.....	66
Recreation Element	68
Special Areas or Sites Element.....	70
Agriculture Element.....	72
Public Airport Facilities Element	74
National Interest Electric Transmission Corridors Element	76

INTRODUCTION

The Madison County Comprehensive Plan serves as a critical guiding document that shapes the future development, land use, and overall well-being of Madison County, Idaho. Rooted in a deep commitment to sustainable growth, thoughtful land management, and the enhancement of the quality of life for its residents, this plan is a comprehensive framework designed to address the multifaceted challenges and opportunities that the County faces.

WHAT IS A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN?

A Comprehensive Plan, in accordance with Idaho State Statute 67-6508, is a comprehensive and systematic guide for future development, growth, and land use within a jurisdiction. It is a forward-looking document that seeks to strike a balance between promoting economic prosperity, preserving natural resources, enhancing community services, and ensuring a high quality of life for all residents. Comprehensive Plans are instrumental in providing a long-term vision that local governments, citizens, and stakeholders can collectively rally around.

PURPOSE OF THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

The Madison County Comprehensive Plan serves several essential purposes:

1. **Strategic Vision:** It sets the long-term vision for the County, outlining goals and objectives to be achieved over a defined planning horizon.
2. **Policy Framework:** It establishes a policy framework for decision-making, offering a basis for land-use regulations, zoning, and infrastructure development.
3. **Community Engagement:** It encourages active participation and collaboration among County officials, residents, and other stakeholders to ensure that the plan reflects the values and priorities of the community.
4. **Resource Management:** It outlines strategies for the responsible stewardship of Madison County's natural resources, such as water, land, and air quality.
5. **Economic Development:** It supports economic development by promoting a business-friendly environment while preserving the rural character of the County.
6. **Infrastructure and Services:** It addresses the provision of essential public services, such as transportation, education, healthcare, and public safety.

PLANNING HORIZON

The Comprehensive Plan typically spans a horizon of 10 to 20 years, depending on the specific needs and objectives of the community. This planning horizon provides a flexible yet forward-looking framework that accommodates both short-term priorities and long-term goals. It ensures that the County's vision adapts to evolving circumstances and changing demographics while maintaining a focus on sustainability and resilience.

EMERGING AND CHANGING ISSUES

The Madison County Comprehensive Plan is undergoing an update to address emerging and evolving issues since its last revision in 2011. The landscape of our community has seen significant shifts, particularly in the economy, influenced by factors such as changes in enrollment at BYU-Idaho. As more individuals embrace remote work opportunities, spurred by advancements in technology, the plan seeks to accommodate this trend while ensuring that our local economy remains robust and adaptable to these changes.

Moreover, the ongoing impact of the global pandemic has underscored the importance of flexibility in our approach to land use planning. With remote work becoming a viable professional option for many, there is a growing desire among residents to enjoy a more rural lifestyle while still having access to essential resources. This includes the need for convenient access to shopping, healthcare facilities, and advanced education, aligning with Madison County's commitment to providing a high quality of life for its residents.

Additionally, the update to the Comprehensive Plan recognizes the appeal of the eastern Idaho region's four-season outdoor resources and aims to preserve and enhance these assets. By incorporating strategies to promote sustainable development and preserve natural landscapes, the plan seeks to strike a balance of first protecting private property rights while protecting the health, safety and welfare of County residents. Additionally, the need to foster economic growth, support community well-being, and protecting the unique character of our region. Through a collaborative and forward-thinking approach, the updated Comprehensive Plan aims to position Madison County for continued success and resilience in the years to come.

KEY COMPONENTS

This Comprehensive Plan comprises several key components, each serving a unique role in shaping the future of Madison County:

- **Land Use Plan:** This element defines land use designations and zoning regulations to guide the development and conservation of land.
- **Transportation Plan:** It addresses the County's transportation network, outlining strategies to improve connectivity and accessibility.
- **Economic Development:** This component supports the growth and diversification of the local economy through targeted policies and initiatives.
- **Housing:** It focuses on housing affordability, quality, and availability for all residents.
- **Public Participation and Implementation:** This component describes how the plan will be monitored and adapted, ensuring it remains a dynamic and effective tool for the community.

As mandated by Idaho State Statute 67-6508, Madison County's Comprehensive Plan is a vital instrument that aims to fulfill the vision, needs, and aspirations of its residents while promoting sustainable growth and prosperity. It provides a clear roadmap for the future and a foundation for informed decision-making that ensures Madison County remains a vibrant and resilient community for generations to come.

Idaho Local Land Use Planning Act mandates the following elements be addressed in the Comprehensive Plan. Listed below are the descriptions of each of these as described in Idaho Statute 67-6508, (a-q).

67-6508. PLANNING DUTIES. It shall be the duty of the planning or planning and zoning commission to conduct a Comprehensive Planning process designed to prepare, implement, and review and update a Comprehensive Plan, hereafter referred to as the plan. The plan shall include all land within the jurisdiction of the governing board. The plan shall consider previous and existing conditions, trends, compatibility of land uses, desirable goals and objectives, or desirable future situations for each planning component. The plan with maps, charts, and reports shall be based on the following components as they may apply to land use regulations and actions unless the plan specifies reasons why a particular component is unneeded.

(a) Property Rights — An analysis of provisions which may be necessary to ensure that land use policies, restrictions, conditions and fees do not violate private property rights, adversely impact property values or create unnecessary technical limitations on the use of property and analysis as prescribed under the declarations of purpose in Chapter 80, Title 67, Idaho Code.

(b) Population — A population analysis of past, present, and future trends in population including such characteristics as total population, age, sex, and income.

(c) School Facilities and Transportation — An analysis of public school capacity and transportation considerations associated with future development.

(d) Economic Development — An analysis of the economic base of the area including employment, industries, economies, jobs, and income levels.

(e) Land Use — An analysis of natural land types, existing land covers and uses, and the intrinsic suitability of lands for uses such as agriculture, forestry, mineral exploration and extraction, preservation, recreation, housing, commerce, industry, and public facilities. A map shall be prepared indicating suitable projected land uses for the jurisdiction.

(f) Natural Resources — An analysis of the uses of rivers and other waters, forests, range, soils, harbors, fisheries, wildlife, minerals, thermal waters, beaches, watersheds, and shorelines.

(g) Hazardous Areas — An analysis of known hazards as may result from susceptibility to surface ruptures from faulting, ground shaking, ground failure, landslides or mudslides; avalanche hazards resulting from development in the known or probable path of snowslides and avalanches, and floodplain hazards.

(h) Public Services, Facilities, and Utilities — An analysis showing general plans for sewage, drainage, power plant sites, utility transmission corridors, water supply, fire stations and fire fighting equipment, health and welfare facilities, libraries, solid waste disposal sites, schools, public safety facilities and related services. The plan may also show locations of civic centers and public buildings.

(i) Transportation – An analysis, prepared in coordination with the local jurisdiction(s) having authority over the public highways and streets, showing the general locations and widths of a system of major traffic thoroughfares and other traffic ways, and of streets and the recommended treatment thereof. This component may also make recommendations on building line setbacks, control of access, street naming and numbering, and a proposed system of public or other transit lines and related facilities including rights-of-way, terminals, future corridors, viaducts and grade separations. The component may also include port, harbor and other related transportation facilities.

(j) Recreation – An analysis showing a system of recreation areas, including parks, parkways, trail ways, river bank greenbelts, beaches, playgrounds, and other recreation areas and programs.

(k) Special Areas or Sites – An analysis of areas, sites, or structures of historical, archeological, architectural, ecological, wildlife, or scenic significance.

(l) Housing – An analysis of housing conditions and needs; plans for improvement of housing standards; and plans for the provision of safe, sanitary, and adequate housing, including the provision for low-cost conventional housing, the siting of manufactured housing and mobile homes in subdivisions and parks and on individual lots which are sufficient to maintain a competitive market for each of those housing types and to address the needs of the community.

(m) Community Design – An analysis of needs for governing landscaping, building design, tree planting, signs, and suggested patterns and standards for community design, development, and beautification.

(n) Agriculture – An analysis of the agricultural base of the area including agricultural lands, farming activities, farming-related businesses and the role of agriculture and agricultural uses in the community.

(o) Implementation – An analysis to determine actions, programs, budgets, ordinances, or other methods including scheduling of public expenditures to provide for the timely execution of the various components of the plan.

(p) National Interest Electric Transmission Corridors – After notification by the public utilities commission concerning the likelihood of a federally designated national interest electric transmission corridor, prepare an analysis showing the existing location and possible routing of high voltage transmission lines, including national interest electric transmission corridors based upon the United States department of energy's most recent national electric transmission congestion study pursuant to sections 368 and 1221 of the energy policy act of 2005. "High-voltage transmission lines" means lines with a capacity of one hundred fifteen thousand (115,000) volts or more supported by structures of forty (40) feet or more in height.

(q) Public Airport Facilities – An analysis prepared with assistance from the Idaho transportation department division of aeronautics, if requested by the planning and zoning commission, and the manager or person in charge of the local public airport identifying, but not limited to, facility locations, the scope and type of airport operations, existing and future planned airport development and infrastructure needs, and the economic impact to the community.



COMPREHENSIVE PLAN ELEMENTS

Implementation

This element outlines the strategies for determining actions, programs, budgets, ordinances, and scheduling public expenditures to facilitate the timely execution of the various components of the plan.

Property Rights

This element promotes a shared commitment to respectful land use, preserves individual freedoms, maintains the integrity of neighborhoods, and fosters a harmonious environment where property rights coexist with the rights of all Madison County residents.

Economic Development

This element outlines the economic base of the area including employment, industries, economies, jobs, and income levels.

Land Use

This element outlines an analysis of natural land types, existing land covers and uses, and the intrinsic suitability of lands for uses such as agriculture, forestry, mineral exploration and extraction, preservation, recreation, housing, commerce, industry, and public facilities

Transportation

This element provides an general locations and widths of a system of major traffic thoroughfares and other traffic ways, and of streets and the recommended treatment thereof through recommendations.

Housing

This element provides an analysis of housing conditions and needs; plans for improvement of housing standards; and plans for the provision of safe, sanitary, and adequate housing.

Community Design

This element provides an analysis of needs for governing landscaping, building design, tree planting, signs, and suggested patterns and standards for community design, development, and beautification.

Future Land Use

This section provides a Future Land Use Map for the County.

Population

This element captures the essence of our County's growth, demographic diversity, and changing dynamics over the past four decades.



School Facilities

This element provides an overview of school facilities and transportation explaining their importance in providing quality education for its residents.

Natural Resources

This element explores some of the notable natural landmarks, including mountain ranges, rivers, and the general land characteristics, encompassing the topography that define the County's rich and diverse natural heritage.

Hazardous Areas

This element identifies and assesses specific hazardous areas that pose potential risks to the community, including those susceptible to natural disasters such as earthquakes, faulting, landslides, mudslides, avalanches, snow slides, and floodplain hazards.

Public Services Facilities and Utilities

This element outlines the status of key public services, essential facilities, and utility providers within the county.

Recreation

This element recognize and support these the recreational assets in the County while promoting the responsible stewardship of these resources.

Special Areas

This element acknowledges the presence of several special areas and sites of historical, archaeological, architectural, ecological, wildlife, and scenic significance.

Agriculture

This element recognizes the vital role of agriculture in the county, outlining the primary crops grown, the nature of agricultural lands, and the significant contributions of agriculture to the community.

Public Airport Facilities

This element acknowledges the significance of the Rexburg Airport and the Idaho Falls Regional Airport, providing essential descriptions and outlining their roles in the county's transportation network.



IMPLEMENTATION ELEMENT

The Madison County Comprehensive Plan represents a visionary framework that articulates the County's goals and aspirations. However, a Comprehensive Plan is most effective when it is accompanied by a robust implementation strategy that ensures that the goals and policies are transformed into actionable initiatives. This Implementation Element of the Madison County Comprehensive Plan outlines the strategies for determining actions, programs, budgets, ordinances, and scheduling public expenditures to facilitate the timely execution of the various components of the plan.

DETERMINING ACTIONS

The five core elements of this plan each articulate a number of specific implementation strategies designed to accomplish each of the goals outlined.

- **Data-Driven Decision Making:** Implementation efforts will be informed by data analysis and research, ensuring that actions are based on a thorough understanding of the County's current needs and future trends.
- **Community Engagement:** Public participation is vital in determining actions. Madison County will conduct public forums, surveys, and outreach efforts to gather input from residents, fostering a sense of ownership and collaboration.

PROGRAMS AND BUDGETS

- **Priority Setting:** The plan will identify key priorities and align them with available resources. This will guide the allocation of budgets and resources to initiatives that have the most significant impact on the community.
- **Phased Approach:** Implementation will follow a phased approach, with an emphasis on addressing immediate needs while planning for long-term initiatives. Budgets will reflect this phased strategy.
- **Grant Opportunities:** Madison County will actively seek and leverage state, federal, and private grants to supplement budgetary allocations for specific projects, especially those that have the potential for regional or state-level significance.

ORDINANCES AND REGULATIONS

- **Alignment with Legal Frameworks:** As required, Madison County will develop, amend, or strengthen ordinances and regulations to align with the goals and policies of the Comprehensive Plan. These ordinances will guide land use, zoning, and development in a manner consistent with the plan.
- **Regular Review:** The County will institute periodic reviews of existing ordinances and regulations to ensure they remain in sync with evolving community needs and policy objectives.

SCHEDULING PUBLIC EXPENDITURES

- **Multi-Year Budgeting:** Madison County will employ multi-year budgeting to ensure that long-term initiatives are adequately funded, allowing for more significant and sustained investments.
- **Timelines and Milestones:** The plan will include timelines and milestones to track progress, enabling accountability and transparent reporting to the public.
- **Flexibility:** The implementation process will remain flexible to adapt to unforeseen challenges, shifts in community priorities, or changes in resource availability.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- **Resource Allocation:** Madison County recognizes the importance of prudent resource allocation to fund essential programs and projects. The budgeting process will prioritize these initiatives.
- **Public Awareness:** Clear communication with the public is paramount to foster understanding and support for the implementation efforts. Regular updates and reporting will be shared with residents.
- **Partnerships:** Collaboration with neighboring counties, state agencies, and federal entities will be pursued to maximize resources and expertise.
- **Adaptability:** The implementation strategy will be adaptable to ensure that the Comprehensive Plan remains relevant over time, accommodating the changing needs and aspirations of Madison County.

The Implementation Element of the Madison County Comprehensive Plan demonstrates the County's commitment to transforming the plan's vision into concrete actions and results. By employing a methodical approach to determine actions, establish programs and budgets, amend regulations, and schedule public expenditures, Madison County aims to ensure the timely execution of the plan's various components and, ultimately, the enhancement of the community's well-being and prosperity.



PROPERTY RIGHTS ELEMENT

THE IMPORTANCE OF PROPERTY RIGHTS IN THE MADISON COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Property rights are the bedrock of our democratic society, guaranteeing individuals the liberty to use and enjoy their land as they see fit. In the context of the Madison County Comprehensive Plan, these rights take on a paramount significance as they define the very essence of responsible and balanced land use planning. The Plan recognizes that protecting individual property rights is not only a legal obligation but also a moral imperative that lies at the heart of preserving the County's character, promoting harmonious coexistence, and ensuring the well-being of all its residents.

PROTECTING INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS WITH CARE AND RESPONSIBILITY

The Madison County Comprehensive Plan upholds the principle of protecting individual property rights with an unwavering commitment to balance. It is a delicate equilibrium where landowners' flexibility to use and enjoy their property is preserved while simultaneously safeguarding the same rights of their neighbors, who may be affected by these uses. This equilibrium extends beyond mere legality and enters the realm of ethics, respecting the fundamental notion that one person's enjoyment of their property should not compromise the rights of others.

PROMOTING RESPONSIBLE LAND USE POLICIES

Within this context, the Madison County Comprehensive Plan sets forth clear and indispensable goals to guide land use planning:

- **Protect Private Property Rights:** Preserving private property rights is essential in guiding local land use planning policy as it fosters individual autonomy and incentivizes responsible stewardship of land. Without such protections, communities risk undermining economic prosperity, inhibiting innovation, and compromising the integrity of property ownership.
- **Protect Health, Safety, and Welfare:** Protecting the health, safety, and welfare of residents is paramount in guiding local land use planning policy to ensure that developments are conducive to healthy living environments and mitigate risks such as pollution or hazards. Prioritizing these concerns safeguards community well-being, fosters sustainable growth, and enhances overall quality of life for residents.
- **Minimize Government Overreach:** Balancing the need to minimize government overreach in land use planning policy with respecting private property rights is crucial for fostering a fair and efficient regulatory framework. By maintaining this equilibrium, policymakers can uphold the protection of health, safety, and welfare while preserving individual freedoms and encouraging responsible development practices within communities.

- **Preserving Residential Use:** The Plan seeks to maintain properties primarily for residential use, fostering communities where homeowners can enjoy the tranquility and security they deserve. This objective safeguards the quiet enjoyment of one's property and ensures that residential neighborhoods remain true to their purpose.
- **Minimizing Impact on Neighbors:** A central goal is to promote land use policies and decisions that minimize disruption and inconvenience to neighboring property owners. This is a fundamental aspect of responsible land management, ensuring that one's property rights do not come at the cost of their neighbors' rights.
- **Private Agreements:** Private agreements such as homeowner associations offer a valuable means of further protecting community values without requiring direct government oversight. By voluntarily adhering to established rules and regulations within these associations, residents can maintain and enhance the aesthetics, safety, and overall quality of their neighborhoods. This decentralized approach allows for tailored solutions that better reflect the specific needs and preferences of the community, fostering a sense of ownership and responsibility among residents.
- **Private Wells and Septic Systems:** Recognizing the significance of private wells and septic systems in rural settings, the Plan advocates for land uses that respect these constraints while maintaining the health, safety, and welfare of property owners and their neighbors. This approach ensures that the use of such systems does not jeopardize the well-being of the community.

The Madison County Comprehensive Plan thus underscores the essential role that property rights play in the fabric of local land use planning. It balances the rights of property owners with a broader responsibility to protect the character and well-being of the community. By promoting a shared commitment to respectful land use, the Plan preserves individual freedoms, maintains the integrity of neighborhoods, and fosters a harmonious environment where property rights coexist with the rights of all Madison County residents.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ELEMENT

An analysis of the economic base of the area including employment, industries, economies, jobs, and income levels.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – GOALS SUMMARY

1. **Support for Small Businesses and Entrepreneurship:** Create an environment that fosters entrepreneurship and supports small businesses. Foster home-based business development by established tiered impact-directed thresholds that adapt as businesses outgrow residential areas.
2. **Diversifying the Economy:** Encourage the development of diverse economic sectors to reduce dependency on a single industry and mitigate the impacts of economic fluctuations. This could involve supporting and promoting industries such as agriculture, tourism, forestry, renewable energy, small-scale manufacturing, or tech-based businesses.
3. **Infrastructure Improvement:** Invest in essential infrastructure, such as roads, bridges, water and wastewater systems, broadband internet, and utility services. Improved infrastructure will attract businesses, support existing industries, and enhance the overall quality of life for residents.
4. **Workforce Development:** Establish programs and partnerships with educational institutions to provide training and skill development opportunities for the local workforce. By enhancing the skillset of residents, the County can attract new businesses and retain existing ones, leading to better job opportunities and income growth.
5. **Sustainable Resource Management:** Promote sustainable practices in the agricultural, forestry, and tourism sectors. Encourage responsible land-use planning, conservation efforts, and environmentally friendly practices that protect natural resources, preserve scenic beauty, and sustain rural livelihoods for future generations

01 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GOAL

Support for Small Businesses and Entrepreneurship: Create an environment that fosters entrepreneurship and supports small businesses. Foster home-based business development by established tiered impact-directed thresholds that adapt as businesses outgrow residential areas.

Objective: To promote small business growth and entrepreneurship in Madison County by creating a supportive environment that encourages the development of home-based businesses while ensuring a balanced approach that respects the residential character and community needs.

KEY STRATEGIES:

- **Zoning and Regulations:** Develop zoning regulations that accommodate home-based businesses while preserving the integrity of residential areas. Establish tiered impact-directed thresholds that consider factors like the scale of business activities, traffic, noise, and environmental impact. These thresholds will adapt as businesses grow to ensure that they transition to appropriate commercial zones when they reach certain thresholds.
- **Multiple Use Zone:** Establish a highway corridor commercial overlay zone along major transportation corridors to allow for commercial in addition to existing residential development. Include corridors along Highway 33, Highway 191 (Old Yellowstone Highway, and 2000 W (Archer-Lyman Highway).
- **Infrastructure and Services:** Improve infrastructure and services that are essential for supporting home-based businesses, such as reliable internet connectivity, transportation access, wastewater treatment and utility provisions. Enhancing these services will create a conducive environment for home based businesses to operate.
- **Business Incubators and Support Programs:** Create business incubators and support programs tailored to the needs of small businesses and entrepreneurs in the rural County. These programs can offer mentorship, training, access to capital, and networking opportunities to help startups and home-based businesses thrive.
- **Collaboration with Local Institutions:** Collaborate with local educational institutions, chambers of commerce, and industry associations to foster a culture of entrepreneurship and small business development. Engage these stakeholders in providing training, mentorship, and networking opportunities to aspiring entrepreneurs.
- **Access to Information:** Provide clear and accessible information to entrepreneurs about the requirements, processes, and resources available for establishing and operating home-based businesses. This includes guidance on permits, licensing, taxation, and compliance with zoning regulations.
- **Marketing and Promotion:** Develop marketing and promotional campaigns to raise awareness about the benefits of home-based businesses and entrepreneurship in the County. Highlight success stories and showcase the positive impact of these businesses on the local economy.

By implementing these strategies, Madison County can create an economy that encourages entrepreneurship, promotes the growth of small businesses, and fosters economic resilience, while maintaining the charm and character of its rural communities.

02 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GOAL

Diversifying the Economy: Encourage the development of diverse economic sectors to reduce dependency on a single industry and mitigate the impacts of economic fluctuations. This could involve supporting and promoting industries such as agriculture, tourism, forestry, renewable energy, small-scale manufacturing, or tech-based businesses.

Objective: To promote economic diversification in Madison County by encouraging the development of multiple industries, thereby reducing reliance on a single sector and increasing resilience to economic fluctuations.

Rationale: Many rural counties often depend heavily on a single industry for economic sustenance, which can make them vulnerable to economic downturns and market fluctuations. By diversifying the economy and supporting a range of industries, the Comprehensive Plan seeks to create a more stable and sustainable economic foundation for the County. Emphasizing sectors like agriculture, tourism, forestry, renewable energy, small-scale manufacturing, and tech-based businesses can capitalize on the County's unique assets and potential for growth.

KEY STRATEGIES:

- **Sector Analysis and Opportunities Assessment:** Conduct a comprehensive analysis of the County's current economic landscape and potential opportunities in different sectors. Identify strengths, weaknesses, and growth potential for industries like agriculture, tourism, forestry, renewable energy, small-scale manufacturing, and tech-based businesses.
- **Market Diversification:** Promote and facilitate market diversification for local businesses by encouraging them to explore regional, national, and international markets. Facilitate participation in trade shows, export promotion programs, and market research to expand market reach.
- **Infrastructure Enhancement:** Invest in infrastructure development that supports the growth of various industries. Improve transportation, utilities, water, wastewater treatment facilities, and digital connectivity to facilitate business operations across different sectors.
- **Entrepreneurship Support:** Foster an entrepreneurial culture by providing support to aspiring entrepreneurs and startups. This includes business incubators, mentorship programs, access to funding, and assistance in navigating the initial stages of business development.
- **Collaboration and Partnership:** Foster collaboration between public and private sectors, local government, educational institutions, industry associations, and community organizations. Engage stakeholders to align their efforts and resources towards economic diversification.
- **Promotion of Local Assets:** Highlight and promote the County's unique assets and resources, such as natural beauty, cultural heritage, and recreational opportunities to attract investment in tourism and related industries.
- **Adaptive Planning:** Implement a flexible and adaptive planning approach that allows the Comprehensive Plan to evolve with changing economic conditions and emerging opportunities. Regularly review and update the Plan to reflect the dynamic nature of economic diversification.

03 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GOAL

Infrastructure Improvement: Invest in essential infrastructure, such as roads, bridges, water and wastewater systems, broadband internet, and utility services. Improved infrastructure will attract businesses, support existing industries, and enhance the overall quality of life for residents.

Objective: To enhance economic development, attract businesses, and improve the quality of life for residents in Madison County by investing in and upgrading critical infrastructure, including roads, bridges, water and wastewater systems, broadband internet, and utility services.

Rationale: Infrastructure is the backbone of a thriving economy and a high quality of life. In a rural area like Madison County, where economic growth may be constrained by limited access to essential services and modern communication, investing in infrastructure is paramount. Improved infrastructure not only attracts businesses and supports existing industries but also enhances residents' access to essential services, education, healthcare, and employment opportunities.

KEY STRATEGIES:

- **Broadband Expansion:** Invest in broadband infrastructure to provide reliable and high-speed internet access to underserved areas of the County. This will facilitate business growth, remote work opportunities, and access to online education and healthcare services.
- **Transportation Upgrades:** Improve the County's road and bridge infrastructure to enhance connectivity and transportation efficiency. Prioritize projects that link industrial areas, agricultural centers, and residential communities to support economic development.
- **Water and Wastewater Systems:** Upgrade and expand water supply and wastewater treatment systems to accommodate population growth and business expansion. Ensure compliance with environmental regulations and sustainability principles.
- **Grant and Funding Applications:** Actively seek federal and state grants, as well as private sector investments, to fund infrastructure projects. Develop grant writing and fundraising capacities to secure external funding sources.
- **Assessment and Prioritization:** Conduct a comprehensive assessment of the County's infrastructure needs. Prioritize projects based on their potential economic impact, safety considerations, and the degree to which they improve the overall quality of life.
- **Public-Private Partnerships:** Explore opportunities for public-private partnerships to fund and execute infrastructure projects. Collaborate with private entities to leverage resources, expertise, and innovation in infrastructure development.
- **Maintenance and Rehabilitation:** Allocate resources for the maintenance and rehabilitation of existing infrastructure to extend its lifespan and reduce long-term costs. Implement regular inspection and maintenance schedules to ensure safety and functionality.
- **Environmental Considerations:** Implement infrastructure projects with a focus on environmental sustainability. Incorporate green infrastructure practices, renewable energy sources, and ecological preservation in project planning and execution.

By implementing these strategies, Madison County can improve its infrastructure, attract new businesses, and provide a higher quality of life for its residents, setting the stage for sustainable economic growth and community well-being.

04 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GOAL

Workforce Development: Encourage organizations to establish programs and partnerships with educational institutions to provide training and skill development opportunities for the local workforce. By enhancing the skillset of residents, the County can attract new businesses and retain existing ones, leading to better job opportunities and income growth.

Objective: To strengthen the local workforce and stimulate economic growth in Madison County by establishing programs and partnerships with educational institutions to provide training and skill development opportunities tailored to the needs of businesses and industries in the region.

Rationale: A skilled and adaptable workforce is a vital asset for attracting and retaining businesses, fostering innovation, and ensuring long-term economic vitality in rural counties. By investing in workforce development, the County can align the skills of its residents with the demands of existing and prospective employers. This alignment will lead to increased job opportunities, income growth, and overall economic prosperity.

KEY STRATEGIES:

- **Education-Industry Partnerships:** Forge partnerships with local educational institutions, including community colleges, vocational schools, and universities. Collaborate to develop programs and courses that align with the specific skill requirements of local businesses.
- **Entrepreneurial Training:** Provide training and resources for aspiring entrepreneurs to start and grow their businesses. This can include courses on business planning, financial management, and marketing.
- **Technology and Digital Literacy:** Offer training programs focused on technology and digital literacy to prepare individuals for jobs that require proficiency in digital tools and platforms.
- **Data-Driven Decision-Making:** Utilize data and feedback from local businesses and industries to continuously refine and adapt workforce development programs to meet evolving needs.
- **Financial Support:** Seek grants, partnerships, and funding opportunities to support the implementation and sustainability of workforce development initiatives.

By pursuing these strategies, Madison County can cultivate a highly skilled workforce that meets the demands of local businesses, fosters economic growth, and improves the overall quality of life for its residents. This, in turn, will enhance the County's economic competitiveness and resilience.

05 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GOAL

Sustainable Resource Management: Promote sustainable practices in the agricultural, forestry, and tourism sectors. Encourage responsible land-use planning, conservation efforts, and environmentally friendly practices that protect natural resources, preserve scenic beauty, and sustain rural livelihoods for future generations

Objective: To foster sustainable resource management practices in Madison County, particularly in the agricultural, commercial and residential development, with the aim of protecting natural resources, preserving scenic beauty, and ensuring the long-term viability of rural livelihoods for future generations.

Rationale: Sustainable resource management is essential for the economic, environmental, and social well-being of rural communities in Idaho. Agriculture, commercial and residential development are cornerstones of the local economy, and their long-term success relies on responsible land-use planning, conservation, and eco-friendly practices. By promoting sustainability, the County can safeguard its natural assets, maintain its rural character, and support the livelihoods of residents for generations to come.

KEY STRATEGIES:

- **Water Management:** Develop water management strategies that prioritize conservation and responsible use of water resources in agriculture, commercial and residential development.
- **Resource Assessment:** Conduct comprehensive assessments of natural resources in the County, including water, soil, forests, wildlife, and scenic landscapes.
- **Education and Outreach:** Develop educational programs and outreach initiatives to raise awareness among stakeholders, including farmers, homeowners, and developers about the importance of sustainable practices and their benefits.
- **Regulatory Frameworks:** Establish and enforce regulatory frameworks that promote sustainable resource management, including zoning ordinances, land-use regulations, and environmental protection measures.
- **Conservation Easements:** Encourage the use of conservation easements and other land preservation mechanisms to protect critical natural areas and open spaces.
- **Waste Reduction and Recycling:** Implement waste reduction and recycling programs to minimize the environmental impact agriculture, commercial and residential development.
- **Monitoring and Reporting:** Establish monitoring and reporting mechanisms to assess the effectiveness of sustainability initiatives and track progress toward conservation and preservation goals.
- **Research and Innovation:** Invest in research and innovation that advances sustainable practices in agriculture, commercial, and residential development.

By implementing these strategies, Madison County can promote sustainable resource management practices that protect its natural assets, maintain its rural charm, and ensure that future generations can enjoy the benefits of a thriving and environmentally responsible economy.



LAND USE ELEMENT

An analysis of natural land types, existing land covers and uses, and the intrinsic suitability of lands for uses such as agriculture, forestry, mineral exploration and extraction, preservation, recreation, housing, commerce, industry, and public facilities. A map shall be prepared indicating suitable projected land uses for the jurisdiction.

LAND USE – GOALS SUMMARY

1. **Minimize Regulatory Burden:** Strive to minimize unnecessary bureaucratic processes and regulations that could inhibit property owners' ability to use and develop their land. Streamlining permitting procedures can expedite development plans and reduce the cost and time burden on landowners.
2. **Zoning for Flexibility:** Establish zoning regulations that provide property owners with flexibility in land use and development options while still ensuring compatibility with the overall community vision. This approach allows property owners to make decisions that suit their needs and preferences, within reasonable limits that protect the community's interests.
3. **Provide Information for Property Owners:** Provide educational resources and workshops to help property owners understand their rights, options, and responsibilities regarding land use and development. Empowering landowners with knowledge can lead to more informed decisions that align with the community's interests and preserve private property rights.
4. **Require Neighborhood Collaboration:** Require developers to demonstrate communication with neighboring land owners. Communication should include how neighbor feedback has been incorporated into development plans. This approach will encourage proactive engagement and collaboration among all stakeholders.
5. **Voluntary Conservation/Preservation Measures:** Encourage voluntary conservation/preservation measures, such as conservation easements or other incentive-based programs, that allow property owners to protect their land from development while maintaining ownership. These measures can safeguard natural resources and scenic landscapes while respecting the rights of landowners.

01 LAND USE GOAL

Minimize Regulatory Burden: Strive to minimize unnecessary bureaucratic processes and regulations that could inhibit property owners' ability to use and develop their land. Streamlining permitting procedures can expedite development plans and reduce the cost and time burden on landowners.

Objective: Facilitate more efficient and cost-effective land use and development while maintaining essential health, welfare, safety, and environmental standards.

Rationale: Minimizing regulatory burdens is essential for fostering economic growth and development in a rural County. Cumbersome and complex regulations can deter investment, stifle entrepreneurship, and hinder the productive use of land. By streamlining permitting procedures and reducing unnecessary red tape, the County can encourage responsible development, reduce administrative costs for landowners, and promote economic vitality.

KEY STRATEGIES:

- **Regulatory Assessment:** Conduct a comprehensive review of existing regulations, permits, and zoning ordinances to identify areas where redundancies and inefficiencies exist.
- **Stakeholder Engagement:** Engage with property owners, developers, local businesses, and community members to gather input on regulatory processes and areas where improvements are needed.
- **Clear and Accessible Information:** Provide clear, easily accessible information to property owners regarding land use regulations, permitting requirements, and processes. Create user-friendly guides and resources.
- **Standardized Procedures:** Standardize permitting procedures to ensure consistency, transparency, and predictability in the approval process.
- **Time Limits for Review:** Establish reasonable time limits for the review and approval of permits to prevent unnecessary delays.
- **Risk-Based Assessments:** Adopt risk-based assessments that differentiate between low-risk and high-risk development projects. Apply lighter regulatory requirements to projects with lower potential impacts.
- **Exemptions and Streamlining:** Identify specific types of development that may qualify for exemptions or expedited review processes, such as minor repairs or improvements to existing structures.
- **Performance-Based Regulations:** Shift toward performance-based regulations that focus on desired outcomes (e.g., environmental protection, safety) rather than prescribing specific design elements or materials.

By pursuing these strategies, Madison County can achieve the goal of minimizing regulatory burden while maintaining essential standards, thus promoting economic development, reducing costs for property owners, and fostering a business-friendly environment that encourages responsible land use and development.

02 LAND USE GOAL

Zoning for Flexibility: Establish zoning regulations that provide property owners with flexibility in land use and development options while still ensuring compatibility with the overall community vision. This approach allows property owners to make decisions that suit their needs and preferences, within reasonable limits that protect the community's interests.

Objective: To develop zoning regulations in Madison County that balance flexibility for property owners with the preservation of the community's vision and interests, allowing for adaptive land use and development that reflects the diverse needs of residents.

Rationale: Zoning regulations play a pivotal role in shaping the physical and economic landscape of a community. Striking a balance between flexibility and community interests is crucial for promoting responsible and sustainable land use. Allowing property owners some flexibility within defined limits enables them to meet their unique needs while ensuring that development aligns with the County's overall vision, protects community interests, and preserves the rural character.

KEY STRATEGIES:

- **Comprehensive Zoning Review:** Conduct a comprehensive review of existing zoning regulations to identify areas where flexibility can be introduced without compromising community values. Create zoning that reflects rural development specific for Madison County, simplifying as much as possible.
- **Simplify Zoning Districts:** Reduce the number of zoning districts, adapting to development constraints of the rural County. Zoning districts could include: Single industrial zone, commercial zone that also includes light manufacturing, agriculture zone that favors continued large scale agricultural use and development, and County residential that reflects development constraints for County subdivisions.
- **Community Vision Alignment:** Ensure that zoning regulations align with the County's overall community vision and long-term development goals. This alignment provides a framework for balancing flexibility with community interests.
- **Flexible Zoning Districts:** Create zoning districts that allow for various land use options within the infrastructure constraints of development in the unincorporated County. Create
- **Character Zones:** Areas that protect private property rights for use and enjoyment of property, while respecting the same needs of all property owners.
- **Performance-Based Zoning:** Shift towards performance-based zoning standards that emphasize outcomes (e.g., environmental protection, infrastructure compatibility) rather than prescriptive design elements.
- **Historic Townsites:** Madison County has a number of historic townsites. Areas such as Salem, Plano, Burton, Thornton, Lyman, Archer, and Dalby were all platted decades ago with a plan of eventually becoming their own towns. Over time, land development practices have changed and many roads and lots that were platted were never developed, or developed in ways that didn't follow the initial plats. Now, there are townsite plats that don't match the ways land is currently developed. While it is important to recognize the cultural connection and "sense of place" of the townsite areas, there is a need to update the land development code to recognize the townsites, but provide clear direction for land development in adjacent lands that is consistent with the unincorporated county. This should be done by applying consistent zoning for rural residential development throughout the unincorporated County, including historic unincorporated townsites.
- **Conditional Use Permits:** Introduce conditional use permits that allow for flexibility in land use within certain

parameters, permitting property owners to propose unique projects subject to approval based on specific conditions.

- **Overlay Districts:** Utilize overlay districts that provide additional flexibility in specific areas, considering factors like commercial/mixed use development in highway corridors, protection of natural resources near rivers and streams, or economic development priorities.

By implementing these strategies, the Madison County can achieve the goal of zoning for flexibility, allowing property owners to adapt their land use and development plans to their needs while safeguarding the community's interests and preserving its unique character.

03 LAND USE GOAL

Provide Information for Property Owners: Provide educational resources and workshops to help property owners understand their rights, options, and responsibilities regarding land use and development. Empowering landowners with knowledge can lead to more informed decisions that align with the community's interests and preserve private property rights.

Objective: To empower property owners in Madison County with the knowledge and information they need to make informed decisions about land use and development, thereby ensuring that their actions align with the community's interests and preserve private property rights.

Rationale: Educating property owners about their rights, responsibilities, and options regarding land use and development is essential for promoting responsible and sustainable land management. Informed property owners are more likely to make decisions that benefit both themselves and the broader community, ultimately contributing to the preservation of private property rights and the overall well-being of the Madison County.

KEY STRATEGIES:

- **Property Rights Advocacy:** Advocate for property rights and provide information about property owners' legal rights and responsibilities to ensure they are protected.
- **Resource Development:** Create educational materials, including guides, brochures, and online resources, that explain zoning regulations, permitting processes, property rights, and land use options in a clear and accessible manner.
- **Online Platforms:** Establish an online platform or website where property owners can access educational resources, participate in webinars, and seek answers to frequently asked questions.
- **Transparency:** Ensure transparency in the educational process, including clear explanations of government processes, fees, and requirements related to land use and development.

By implementing these strategies, Madison County can achieve the goal of educating property owners, empowering them with knowledge, and promoting responsible land use practices that protect private property rights while benefiting the broader community and the environment.

04 LAND USE GOAL

Require Neighborhood Collaboration: Require developers to demonstrate communication with neighboring land owners. Communication should include how neighbor feedback has been incorporated into development plans. This approach will encourage proactive engagement and collaboration among all stakeholders.

Objective: To promote proactive engagement, collaboration, and transparency among developers and neighboring landowners in Madison County by requiring developers to demonstrate meaningful communication with neighboring landowners and to incorporate neighbor feedback into development plans.

Rationale: Encouraging communication and collaboration between developers and neighboring landowners is essential for responsible land use and development. Such interactions can help address concerns, align development projects with community values, and create a more harmonious relationship between developers and residents. Requiring developers to demonstrate that they have actively engaged with neighbors and incorporated feedback can lead to more informed, considerate, and community-oriented development.

KEY STRATEGIES:

- **Policy Development:** Develop clear policies and regulations that require developers to engage with neighboring landowners throughout the planning and development process.
- **Early Neighbor Notification:** Mandate that developers provide early notification to neighboring landowners about proposed development projects, including details of the project's scope, potential impacts, and opportunities for feedback.
- **Community Meetings:** Encourage developers to organize community meetings or workshops to discuss their plans with neighboring landowners and gather feedback. These meetings should be held at key stages of the development process.
- **Feedback Incorporation:** Ensure that developers document the feedback received from neighboring landowners and outline how this feedback has been considered and incorporated into development plans. Transparency in this process is crucial.
- **Mediation and Conflict Resolution:** Establish mechanisms for mediating conflicts or disputes between developers and neighboring landowners, with the goal of finding mutually agreeable solutions.
- **Water and Roads:** Promote discussions between developers and neighbors, including irrigation organizations, regarding irrigation systems/practices and connecting roads that may have impact on neighboring landowners and subdivisions.
- **Design Flexibility:** Encourage developers to adopt design flexibility to address neighbor concerns and incorporate neighborhood character into their projects where possible.

By implementing these strategies, Madison County can achieve the goal of requiring neighborhood collaboration, fostering a culture of proactive engagement, and ensuring that development projects are informed by the input and concerns of neighboring landowners, ultimately leading to more responsible and community-oriented land use and development.

05

LAND USE GOAL

Voluntary Conservation/Preservation Measures: Encourage voluntary conservation/preservation measures, such as conservation easements or other incentive-based programs, that allow property owners to protect their land from development while maintaining ownership. These measures can safeguard natural resources and scenic landscapes while respecting the rights of landowners.

Objective: To promote the voluntary adoption of conservation and preservation measures among property owners in Madison County, allowing them to protect their land from development while maintaining ownership. These measures aim to safeguard natural resources, scenic landscapes, and the rural character of the community while respecting the property rights of landowners.

Rationale: Voluntary conservation and preservation measures provide property owners with the opportunity to contribute to the protection of critical natural resources, scenic beauty, and the rural character of the County. These measures, such as conservation easements and incentive-based programs, allow landowners to make a positive impact on the environment and community while maintaining control over their property. Encouraging voluntary participation in such programs aligns with the County's goals of protection of private property rights as well as responsible land use and sustainable development.

KEY STRATEGIES:

- **Public Awareness Campaigns:** Launch public awareness campaigns to educate property owners about the benefits of conservation easements and preservation programs. Highlight the environmental, financial, and community advantages of participation.
- **Collaboration with Conservation Organizations:** Partner with local and regional conservation organizations to provide expertise, resources, and support for landowners interested in voluntary preservation measures.
- **Regular Outreach and Engagement:** Maintain ongoing communication with participating landowners to address their concerns, answer questions, and provide updates on conservation and preservation efforts.
- **Communicate with Land Trusts:** Communicate with land trusts and conservation organizations to facilitate and administer conservation easements and preservation programs efficiently.
- **Adaptive Management:** Continuously assess and adapt conservation and preservation strategies based on the changing needs and priorities of property owners and the community.

By implementing these strategies, Madison County can encourage property owners to voluntarily embrace conservation and preservation measures, contributing to the protection of natural resources and scenic landscapes while respecting property rights and fostering a sense of environmental stewardship within the community.



TRANSPORTATION ELEMENT

An analysis, prepared in coordination with the local jurisdiction(s) having authority over the public highways and streets, showing the general locations and widths of a system of major traffic thoroughfares and other traffic ways, and of streets and the recommended treatment thereof. This component may also make recommendations on building line setbacks, control of access, street naming and numbering, and a proposed system of public or other transit lines and related facilities including rights-of-way, terminals, future corridors, viaducts and grade separations. The component may also include port, harbor and other related transportation facilities.

TRANSPORTATION – GOALS SUMMARY

1. **Improved Connectivity:** Enhance the transportation network to improve connectivity between rural communities and Cities. This may involve upgrading existing roads and bridges, creating new transportation routes, and ensuring reliable transportation links to key destinations like schools, healthcare facilities, and commercial areas.
2. **Safe and Efficient Roads:** Prioritize road safety improvements, such as widening narrow roads, adding shoulders, installing adequate signage, and implementing traffic calming measures. Focus on maintaining road surfaces to ensure they are in good condition and well-maintained. Maintain County grid system and connectivity as land is developed.
3. **Freight and Economic Corridors:** Strengthen transportation corridors to facilitate the movement of goods and services, especially for industries such as agriculture, manufacturing, and resource-based businesses. This can boost the local economy by enhancing trade and supply chain efficiency.
4. **Coordination Efficiency:** Facilitate effective communication and information sharing between the County Road and Bridge Department and the County Planning Department, enabling a comprehensive understanding of existing and future transportation needs, priorities, and constraints.
5. **Multi-Modal Transportation:** Encourage multi-modal transportation options to cater to diverse needs, including walking and cycling. Developing bike lanes, pedestrian pathways, and improving sidewalk infrastructure can promote active transportation and enhance safety for non-motorized road users.

01 **TRANSPORTATION GOAL**

Improved Connectivity: Enhance the transportation network to improve connectivity between rural communities and Cities. This may involve upgrading existing roads and bridges, creating new transportation routes, and ensuring reliable transportation links to key destinations like schools, healthcare facilities, and commercial areas.

Objective: To enhance the transportation network in Madison County, improving connectivity between neighborhoods and rural communities out in the County, as well as connection to city road networks. This objective aims to facilitate better access to essential services, education, healthcare facilities, and commercial areas while fostering economic growth and community development.

Rationale: Improved connectivity is vital for rural communities to thrive and remain economically competitive. It ensures that residents have efficient access to essential services, educational institutions, healthcare facilities, and job opportunities town. Additionally, a well-connected transportation network can stimulate economic growth by facilitating the movement of goods and people, attracting businesses, and supporting community development.

KEY STRATEGIES:

- **Transportation Plan:** Conduct a comprehensive assessment of existing transportation infrastructure, including roads, bridges, and transportation routes, to identify areas in need of improvement or expansion.
- **Prioritization of Critical Routes:** Prioritize the enhancement of transportation routes that connect rural communities with essential services, such as schools, healthcare facilities, and commercial areas.
- **Maintenance and Repair:** Allocate resources for regular maintenance and repair of existing roads and bridges to ensure safe and reliable transportation options.
- **Road and Bridge Upgrades:** Invest in upgrading existing roads and bridges to modern standards, especially those that serve as key connectors between rural areas and cities.
- **New Transportation Routes:** Evaluate the need for creating new transportation routes, such as roads or bypasses, to improve connectivity and ease traffic congestion in critical areas.
- **Transportation Safety:** Implement safety measures, such as road signage, speed limits, and traffic control devices, to enhance road safety for residents and commuters.
- **Community Engagement:** Involve community members and local stakeholders in transportation planning to ensure that projects align with their needs and preferences.
- **Environmental Considerations:** Evaluate the environmental impact of transportation projects and prioritize eco-friendly design and construction methods where possible.
- **Grant Funding and Partnerships:** Seek grant funding opportunities and partnerships with state and federal agencies to secure additional resources for transportation infrastructure improvements.
- **Traffic Management:** Implement traffic management strategies, such as smart traffic lights and congestion pricing, to optimize traffic flow and reduce congestion on critical routes.
- **Economic Development Corridors:** Identify and designate certain transportation routes, including Highway 33, Highway 20, Highway 191 (Yellowstone Highway), and 2000 W (Archer-Lyman Highway) as economic development.

- **Infrastructure Resilience:** Design and construct transportation infrastructure with resilience in mind, considering the potential impact of extreme weather events and natural disasters.

By pursuing these key strategies, Madison County can achieve the goal of improved connectivity, enhancing the transportation network to better serve rural communities and cities. This will lead to increased access to essential services, improved economic prospects, and a higher quality of life for residents.

02 TRANSPORTATION GOAL

Safe and Efficient Roads: Prioritize road safety improvements, such as widening narrow roads, adding shoulders, installing adequate signage, and implementing traffic calming measures. Focus on maintaining road surfaces to ensure they are in good condition and well-maintained. Maintain County grid system and connectivity as land is developed.

Objective: To enhance road safety and efficiency in the County by prioritizing improvements such as widening narrow roads, adding shoulders, installing adequate signage, and implementing traffic calming measures. This objective also aims to maintain the County's grid system and connectivity as land is developed.

Rationale: Safe and efficient road infrastructure is crucial for the well-being of the County. Improved road safety reduces accidents and saves lives, while enhanced road efficiency ensures smoother traffic flow, reduces commute times, and supports economic development. Maintaining the County's grid system and connectivity is essential to prevent fragmentation and facilitate accessibility as new developments emerge.

KEY STRATEGIES:

- **Safety Audits:** Conduct regular safety audits of roadways to identify hazardous locations and prioritize safety improvements.
- **Road Widening/Shoulder Addition:** Identify narrow roads and prioritize widening projects to improve safety and accommodate increased traffic volumes. Add shoulders to roads where feasible to enhance safety for pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists.
- **Adequate Signage:** Ensure that roads are well-marked with appropriate signage, including warning signs, speed limits, and directional signs.
- **Traffic Calming Measures:** Implement traffic calming measures in residential areas and near schools, including speed humps, roundabouts, and pedestrian crossings.
- **Intersection Improvements:** Enhance intersections with better visibility, dedicated turn lanes, and traffic signals where needed to reduce the risk of accidents.
- **Regular Maintenance:** Allocate resources for the regular maintenance of road surfaces, including resurfacing, pothole repair, and crack sealing.
- **Grid System Preservation:** Develop strategies to preserve the County's grid system and connectivity, especially as new land developments emerge.
- **Speed Management:** Implement speed management strategies, including setting appropriate speed limits and enforcing them through law enforcement.
- **Community Education:** Educate residents about road safety, responsible driving behavior, and the importance of adhering to traffic laws.
- **Emergency Access:** Ensure that road improvements consider emergency access needs, allowing first responders to reach all areas efficiently.
- **Multi-Modal Considerations:** Promote multi-modal transportation options, such as pedestrian pathways and

bike lanes, to reduce reliance on motor vehicles.

- **Public Input:** Seek input from the community on road safety concerns and improvement priorities to align projects with local needs.
- **Partnerships:** Collaborate with state and federal agencies, neighboring counties, and municipalities to secure funding and resources for road safety projects.

By implementing these key strategies, Madison County can achieve the goal of safe and efficient roads, ensuring that its road infrastructure is well-maintained, meets safety standards, and supports the connectivity needed for both existing and future land developments. This will contribute to a safer, more efficient, and economically vibrant community.

03 TRANSPORTATION GOAL

Freight and Economic Corridors: Strengthen transportation corridors to facilitate the movement of goods and services, especially for industries such as agriculture, manufacturing, and resource-based businesses. This can boost the local economy by enhancing trade and supply chain efficiency.

Objective: To strengthen transportation corridors in Madison County, facilitating the efficient movement of goods and services, particularly for industries like agriculture, manufacturing, and resource-based businesses. This objective aims to boost the local economy by enhancing trade, supply chain efficiency, and economic opportunities.

Rationale: Efficient transportation corridors are critical for the economic vitality of the County. Strengthening these corridors not only supports local industries such as agriculture, manufacturing, and resource-based businesses but also promotes economic growth by attracting new businesses and facilitating trade. An improved transportation network can lead to cost savings, increased competitiveness, and job creation within the community.

KEY STRATEGIES:

- **Transportation Plan:** Conduct a comprehensive assessment of existing transportation corridors to identify bottlenecks, congestion points, and areas in need of improvement.
- **Infrastructure Investment:** Allocate resources to upgrade and maintain key transportation infrastructure, including roads, bridges, and rail connections along economic corridors.
- **Freight Mobility Planning:** Develop a freight mobility plan that outlines strategies to improve the movement of goods, reduce transportation costs, and enhance supply chain efficiency.
- **Public-Private Partnerships:** Collaborate with private-sector stakeholders to invest in and develop transportation infrastructure that supports the needs of local businesses and industries.
- **Safety Improvements:** Enhance safety measures along transportation corridors to reduce accidents and disruptions to freight movement.
- **Capacity Expansion:** Expand the capacity of transportation corridors to accommodate growing freight volumes and emerging industries.
- **Community Engagement:** Engage with local businesses and industries to understand their specific transportation needs and priorities.
- **Emergency Response Planning:** Develop emergency response plans to address potential disruptions to freight movement, such as natural disasters or accidents.
- **Monitoring and Evaluation:** Establish a system to monitor the performance of transportation corridors and evaluate the impact of improvement initiatives on the local economy.
- **Multi-Agency Coordination:** Collaborate with state and federal agencies, neighboring counties, and municipalities to secure funding and coordinate efforts to strengthen economic corridors.

By implementing these key strategies, Madison County can strengthen freight and economic corridors, promote economic growth, and enhance the competitiveness of local industries while ensuring the efficient movement of goods and services within and beyond the County.

04 TRANSPORTATION GOAL

Coordination Efficiency: Facilitate effective communication and information sharing between the County Public Works/Road and Bridge Department and the County Planning Department, enabling a comprehensive understanding of existing and future transportation needs, priorities, and constraints.

Objective: To improve coordination efficiency between the Road and Bridge Department and Planning Department. The objective is to facilitate effective communication and information sharing between these departments to achieve a comprehensive understanding of existing and future transportation needs, priorities, and constraints.

Rationale: Coordination between the County Road and Bridge Department and the County Planning Department is essential for effective transportation planning and development. A lack of communication and information sharing can result in inefficiencies, conflicting priorities, and suboptimal transportation solutions. By improving coordination efficiency, the County can make more informed decisions, optimize resource allocation, and better address transportation challenges.

KEY STRATEGIES:

- **Regular Meetings:** Schedule regular meetings between the County Road and Bridge Department and the County Planning Department to discuss ongoing projects, priorities, and potential issues.
- **Joint Planning Efforts:** Encourage joint planning efforts on projects that involve both transportation infrastructure and land development, ensuring that infrastructure supports community needs and growth.
- **Integrated Master Plans:** Develop integrated master plans that consider both transportation and land use needs, aligning long-term strategies for the benefit of the County.
- **Public Engagement:** Involve the community in the coordination process by seeking input and feedback on transportation and land use initiatives.
- **Policy Alignment:** Ensure that transportation and land use policies are aligned to promote sustainable and coordinated development.
- **Shared Database:** Create a shared database or repository for documents, reports, and project plans to facilitate easy access and reference for both departments.
- **Technology Integration:** Invest in technology solutions that facilitate real-time collaboration, document sharing, and project tracking between departments.
- **Public Information:** Maintain transparent communication with the public about coordinated efforts, project updates, and the benefits of improved transportation planning and land use integration.

By implementing these key strategies, Madison County can achieve the goal of coordination efficiency between the Road and Bridge Department and Planning Department. This will result in more effective transportation planning, improved infrastructure development, and a better quality of life for residents and businesses within the County.

05

TRANSPORTATION GOAL

Multi-Modal Transportation: Encourage multi-modal transportation options to cater to diverse needs, including walking and cycling. Developing bike lanes, pedestrian pathways, and improving sidewalk infrastructure can promote active transportation and enhance safety for non-motorized road users.

Objective: To promote multi-modal transportation options in the County, catering to diverse transportation needs, including walking and cycling. The objective is to develop bike lanes, pedestrian pathways, and improve infrastructure to encourage active transportation and enhance safety for non-motorized road users.

Rationale: Encouraging multi-modal transportation aligns with modern sustainability and health goals. Providing safe and convenient options for walking and cycling not only reduces dependence on motor vehicles but also promotes physical activity, reduces traffic congestion, and enhances the overall livability of communities. It also contributes to environmental preservation and improved public health.

KEY STRATEGIES:

- **Infrastructure Development:** Develop dedicated bike lanes, pedestrian pathways, and sidewalks in key areas, such as residential neighborhoods, business districts, and near schools and parks.
- **Traffic Calming:** Implement traffic calming measures, such as speed humps and raised crosswalks, to reduce vehicle speeds in areas with high pedestrian and cyclist activity.
- **Shared-Use Paths:** Create shared-use paths that accommodate both pedestrians and cyclists, providing a safe and efficient route for both modes of transportation.
- **Connectivity Planning:** Plan and develop multi-modal transportation networks that connect residential areas with commercial centers, schools, healthcare facilities, and public transit hubs.
- **Education and Awareness:** Launch educational campaigns to raise awareness about the benefits of active transportation and to promote safe practices for pedestrians and cyclists.
- **Maintenance and Snow Removal:** Ensure regular maintenance of sidewalks, bike lanes, and shared-use paths, including snow removal in winter months.
- **Land Use Planning:** Coordinate transportation planning with land use planning to encourage mixed-use development and reduce the need for long commutes.
- **Community Engagement:** Involve the community in the planning process, gathering input from residents, businesses, and organizations to ensure that multi-modal transportation meets local needs.
- **Data Collection:** Collect data on pedestrian and cyclist usage and safety to inform future infrastructure investments and improvements.
- **Safety Education:** Offer safety education programs for pedestrians and cyclists, teaching proper road use and safety precautions.

By implementing these key strategies, Madison County can achieve the goal of promoting multi-modal transportation. This will result in safer, healthier, and more accessible transportation options for residents while contributing to reduced traffic congestion and environmental sustainability.



HOUSING ELEMENT

An analysis of housing conditions and needs; plans for improvement of housing standards; and plans for the provision of safe, sanitary, and adequate housing, including the provision for low-cost conventional housing, the siting of manufactured housing and mobile homes in subdivisions and parks and on individual lots which are sufficient to maintain a competitive market for each of those housing types and to address the needs of the community.

HOUSING GOALS SUMMARY

1. **Preservation of Rural Character:** Preserve the rural charm and character of the County by encouraging development that complements the existing landscape and constraints of private water and wastewater treatment systems.
2. **Diverse Housing Types:** Encourage a variety of housing types to accommodate the needs of different demographics, including young families, seniors, and individuals with varying household sizes, within the constraints of development with private water and wastewater treatment resources.
3. **Affordable Housing:** Increase the availability of affordable housing options for residents of various income levels, within the constraints of development with private water and wastewater treatment resources.
4. **Infrastructure and Services:** Ensure that housing developments are supported by adequate infrastructure. Where possible in subdivision development, encourage community water systems and irrigation management.

01 HOUSING GOAL

Preservation of Rural Character: Preserve the rural charm and character of the County by encouraging development that complements the existing landscape and constraints of private water and wastewater treatment systems.

Objective: To preserve the rural charm and character of Madison County by promoting and guiding development that harmonizes with the existing landscape and considers the limitations of private water and wastewater treatment systems.

Rationale: Preserving Madison County's rural character is essential to maintaining its unique identity, quality of life, and environmental sustainability. Encouraging development that respects the County's natural features and the constraints of private water and wastewater systems helps prevent urban sprawl, conserve open spaces, and protect the environment. It also ensures that new development aligns with the community's values and heritage.

KEY STRATEGIES:

- **Zoning and Land Use Regulations:** Enact zoning and land use regulations that reflect the County's rural character, including provisions for minimum lot sizes, setbacks, and building styles that blend with the landscape. Zoning classifications should be changed, with Trans-Agriculture becoming "County Rural Residential."
- **Resource Protection:** Identify and protect critical natural resources, such as wetlands, forests, and scenic vistas, through land use regulations and conservation easements.
- **Infrastructure Planning:** Consider the capacity and limitations of private water and wastewater treatment systems when planning new developments. Encourage subdivisions to create community water systems for both culinary and irrigation where ever possible.
- **Density Management:** Implement strategies to control and manage population density in rural areas, including cluster development and conservation subdivisions.
- **Community Education:** Raise awareness and provide educational resources to property owners, developers, and the community about the importance of preserving the rural character and the benefits it brings.
- **Rural Economic Development:** Support rural economic development initiatives that are compatible with the County's character, such as cottage industries, home based business development, and sustainable agriculture.
- **Heritage and Cultural Preservation:** Recognize and protect historic sites, landmarks, and cultural resources that contribute to the County's rural heritage.
- **Community Engagement:** Involve community members, stakeholders, and local organizations in the planning and decision-making processes related to rural character preservation.
- **Transportation Planning:** Coordinate transportation planning to ensure that road and infrastructure improvements align with the County's rural character goals.

By implementing these key strategies, Madison County can achieve the goal of preserving its rural character, ensuring that future development aligns with the County's unique landscape, heritage, and values while responsibly managing growth and protecting natural resources.

02 HOUSING GOAL

Diverse Housing Types: Encourage a variety of housing types to accommodate the needs of different demographics, including young families, seniors, and individuals with varying household sizes, within the constraints of development with private water and wastewater treatment resources.

Objective: To promote a diverse range of housing types in Madison County that cater to the needs of various demographics, including young families, seniors, and individuals with different household sizes, all while considering the constraints of private water and wastewater treatment resources.

Rationale: Encouraging diverse housing options is vital for fostering a vibrant, inclusive, and sustainable community in Madison County. Providing housing types that meet the needs of a broad demographic spectrum enhances social and economic diversity, supports aging in place, and accommodates different family structures. Simultaneously, it's essential to consider the limitations of private water and wastewater systems to ensure responsible development.

KEY STRATEGIES:

- **Zoning and Land Use Policies:** Update zoning and land use policies to permit a variety of housing types, including single-family homes, duplexes, townhouses, and accessory dwelling units (ADUs), while respecting the capacity of water and wastewater systems.
- **Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs):** Encourage the creation of ADUs on existing residential properties, allowing homeowners to generate additional rental income or accommodate family members.
- **Cluster Development:** Promote cluster development that preserves open spaces while allowing for higher housing density in specific areas.
- **Mixed-Use Zoning:** Consider mixed-use zoning, especially along highway corridors, that combines residential and commercial spaces, facilitating the development of live-work environments and reducing reliance on automobiles.
- **Housing Needs Assessment:** Conduct regular housing needs assessments to understand evolving demographic trends and housing demands.
- **Community Engagement:** Involve the community in the planning and decision-making process to ensure that housing options reflect the desires and needs of residents.

By implementing these key strategies, Madison County can achieve the goal of promoting diverse housing types that accommodate the needs of a wide range of residents while responsibly managing water and wastewater resources. This will contribute to a more inclusive and resilient community for all.

03 HOUSING GOAL

Affordable Housing: Increase the availability of affordable housing options for residents of various income levels, within the constraints of development with private water and wastewater treatment resources.

Objective: To expand the availability of affordable housing options for residents of varying income levels in Madison County while considering the limitations of development with private water and wastewater treatment resources.

Rationale: Affordable housing is fundamental to the well-being of a community. It ensures that residents, regardless of their income, can access safe, stable, and suitable housing. In Madison County, where private water and wastewater systems may pose constraints, addressing the affordability challenge becomes even more crucial. Increasing affordable housing options promotes economic diversity, supports local workforce retention, and enhances the overall quality of life.

KEY STRATEGIES:

- **Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs):** Promote the creation of ADUs on existing residential properties to increase housing supply while adhering to water and wastewater constraints.
- **Housing Rehabilitation Programs:** Develop programs that provide financial assistance and grants for the rehabilitation and improvement of existing affordable housing units.
- **Community Engagement:** Engage the community in discussions about affordable housing, gathering input and support for initiatives.
- **Housing Needs Assessment:** Regularly assess the housing needs of the community to inform policy and investment decisions.
- **Legal and Regulatory Review:** Review and update local ordinances, zoning codes, and regulations to remove barriers to affordable housing development.

By implementing these key strategies, Madison County can work toward the goal of increasing affordable housing options. This will help ensure that residents with varying income levels have access to safe, stable, and reasonably priced housing while responsibly managing water and wastewater resources.

04 HOUSING GOAL

Infrastructure and Services: Ensure that housing developments are supported by adequate infrastructure. Where possible in subdivision development, encourage community water systems and irrigation management.

Objective: To ensure that housing developments in Madison County are well-supported by adequate infrastructure, with a particular emphasis on encouraging the use of community water systems and effective irrigation management where feasible in subdivision development.

Rationale: Adequate infrastructure is fundamental for the functionality and sustainability of housing developments. In a rural County like Madison County, where water resources are often limited, responsible infrastructure planning is crucial. Promoting community water systems and effective irrigation management can help ensure the availability of safe drinking water and the responsible use of this valuable resource.

KEY STRATEGIES:

- **Infrastructure Assessment:** Conduct a thorough assessment of existing infrastructure and identify areas where upgrades or expansion may be needed to support housing developments.
- **Community Water Systems:** Encourage the establishment of community water systems in housing developments, where appropriate, to ensure a reliable and sustainable water supply.
- **Irrigation Management:** Promote responsible irrigation practices and the use of efficient irrigation technologies to conserve water resources.
- **Water Resource Planning:** Develop water resource management plans that consider the needs of both residential and agricultural water users.
- **Land Use Planning:** Coordinate land use planning with infrastructure planning to ensure that new developments align with available infrastructure capacity.
- **Incentive Programs:** Create incentives or requirements for developers to incorporate community water systems and efficient irrigation methods into their projects.
- **Water Quality Management:** Implement measures to protect water quality in housing developments, such as erosion control and stormwater management.
- **Zoning and Subdivision Regulations:** Review and update zoning and subdivision regulations to require infrastructure assessments and adherence to responsible water management practices, including community water systems for both household and irrigation water.
- **Public Education:** Educate residents and developers about the importance of responsible water usage and infrastructure maintenance.
- **Local Partnerships:** Collaborate with local water districts, irrigation companies, and governmental agencies to coordinate water resource management efforts.
- **Monitoring and Compliance:** Establish mechanisms to monitor compliance with infrastructure and water management requirements over time.
- **Surface Water/Irrigation Water:** Work with canal companies as land is converted from agricultural use to residential use, to utilize surface irrigation water to the greatest extent possible to reduce impacts to ground water,

while leveraging surface water for landscaping and recharge purposes.

By implementing these key strategies, Madison County can achieve the goal of ensuring that housing developments are well-supported by adequate infrastructure, including the responsible use of water resources through community water systems and effective irrigation management where feasible. This will contribute to the sustainability and resilience of the County's housing and infrastructure.



COMMUNITY DESIGN ELEMENT

An analysis of needs for governing landscaping, building design, tree planting, signs, and suggested patterns and standards for community design, development, and beautification.

COMMUNITY DESIGN GOALS SUMMARY

1. **Preserving Rural Character:** Develop a community design that preserves and enhances the rural character and identity of the County. This may involve promoting traditional architecture, maintaining open spaces, and preserving historical landmarks and cultural heritage.
2. **Mixed-Use Development:** Encourage mixed-use development in transportation corridors and commercial areas. Foster home-based business development by established tiered impact-directed thresholds that adapt as businesses outgrow residential areas.
3. **Coordination Efficiency:** Facilitate effective communication and information sharing between the County Road and Bridge Department and the County Planning Department, enabling a comprehensive understanding of existing and future transportation needs, priorities, and constraints.

01 COMMUNITY DESIGN GOAL

Preserving Rural Character: Develop a community design that preserves and enhances the rural character and identity of the County. This may involve promoting traditional architecture, maintaining open spaces, and preserving historical landmarks and cultural heritage.

Objective: To develop a community design in Madison County that preserves and enhances its rural character and identity. The objective is to promote traditional architecture, maintain open spaces, and preserve historical landmarks and cultural heritage.

Rationale: Preserving the rural character and identity of Madison County is essential for maintaining its unique sense of place, quality of life, and cultural heritage. Rural character encompasses traditional architectural styles, open spaces, and historical landmarks that contribute to the County's charm and sense of belonging. It also supports the continually evolving the local economy.

KEY STRATEGIES:

- **Historic Preservation:** Identify and protect historical landmarks, structures, and cultural heritage sites through zoning regulations and conservation programs.
- **Greenbelts and Buffer Zones:** Create greenbelts and buffer zones to separate developed areas from natural landscapes, preserving rural aesthetics.
- **Conservation Easements:** Encourage landowners to consider conservation easements as a voluntary means of preserving open spaces and natural landscapes.
- **Agricultural Support:** Implement policies and programs that support local agriculture, including initiatives to protect farmland from development pressures.
- **Historical Signage:** Install historical signage and markers at significant sites to educate residents and visitors about the County's history.
- **Rural Infrastructure:** Design infrastructure projects, such as roads and utilities, to blend seamlessly with the rural landscape.

By implementing these key strategies, Madison County can achieve the goal of preserving and enhancing its rural character and identity. This will help maintain its unique sense of place, promote sustainable tourism, and support the well-being of its residents while celebrating its cultural heritage.

02 COMMUNITY DESIGN GOAL

Mixed-Use Development: Encourage mixed-use development in transportation corridors and commercial areas. Foster home-based business development by established tiered impact-directed thresholds that adapt as businesses outgrow residential areas.

Objective: To encourage mixed-use development in transportation corridors and commercial areas within Madison County. The objective is to foster home-based business development by establishing tiered impact-directed thresholds that adapt as businesses outgrow residential areas.

Rationale: Promoting mixed-use development enhances the functionality and vibrancy of transportation corridors and commercial districts while providing opportunities for residents to operate home-based businesses. This approach supports economic diversity, reduces traffic congestion in residential areas, and contributes to a more sustainable and resilient community.

KEY STRATEGIES:

- **Zoning and Land Use Regulations:** Update zoning and land use regulations to permit mixed-use development in designated areas along transportation corridors, allowing for a combination of residential and commercial uses. These corridors include Highway 20, Highway 33, Highway 191 (Old Yellowstone Highway), and 2000 W (Archer-Lyman Highway).
- **Transportation Corridor Planning:** Focus mixed-use development efforts along noted transportation corridors, including roads, highways, and public transit routes.
- **Home-Based Business Regulations:** Establish clear regulations and permit processes for home-based businesses to ensure compatibility with residential areas.
- **Impact-Directed Thresholds:** Develop tiered impact-directed thresholds that categorize home-based businesses based on their size, impact on the neighborhood, and compatibility with residential areas.
- **Infrastructure Planning:** Coordinate infrastructure planning with mixed-use development to ensure that roads, utilities, and services can support the increased density.
- **Parking Solutions:** Mandate that the property owner is responsible for any parking necessary for their mixed use.
- **Sustainability Considerations:** Promote sustainable building practices and energy-efficient designs in mixed-use developments.
- **Performance/Impact Monitoring:** Establish mechanisms for monitoring the impact of mixed-use development on the community and make adjustments as needed.

By implementing these key strategies, Madison County can achieve the goal of encouraging mixed-use development. This approach will create more dynamic and economically diverse communities while providing opportunities for residents to operate successful home-based businesses.

03 COMMUNITY DESIGN GOAL

Coordination Efficiency: Facilitate effective communication and information sharing between the County Road and Bridge Department and the County Planning Department, enabling a comprehensive understanding of existing and future transportation needs, priorities, and constraints.

Objective: To enhance coordination efficiency between the County Road and Bridge Department and the County Planning Department in Madison County, Idaho. The objective is to facilitate effective communication and information sharing, leading to a comprehensive understanding of existing and future transportation needs, priorities, and constraints.

Rationale: Efficient coordination between departments is essential for effective community design and infrastructure planning. In a rural County like Madison, where transportation needs are critical, seamless communication and information sharing between departments ensure that transportation projects align with broader planning goals, promote safety, and efficiently utilize resources.

KEY STRATEGIES:

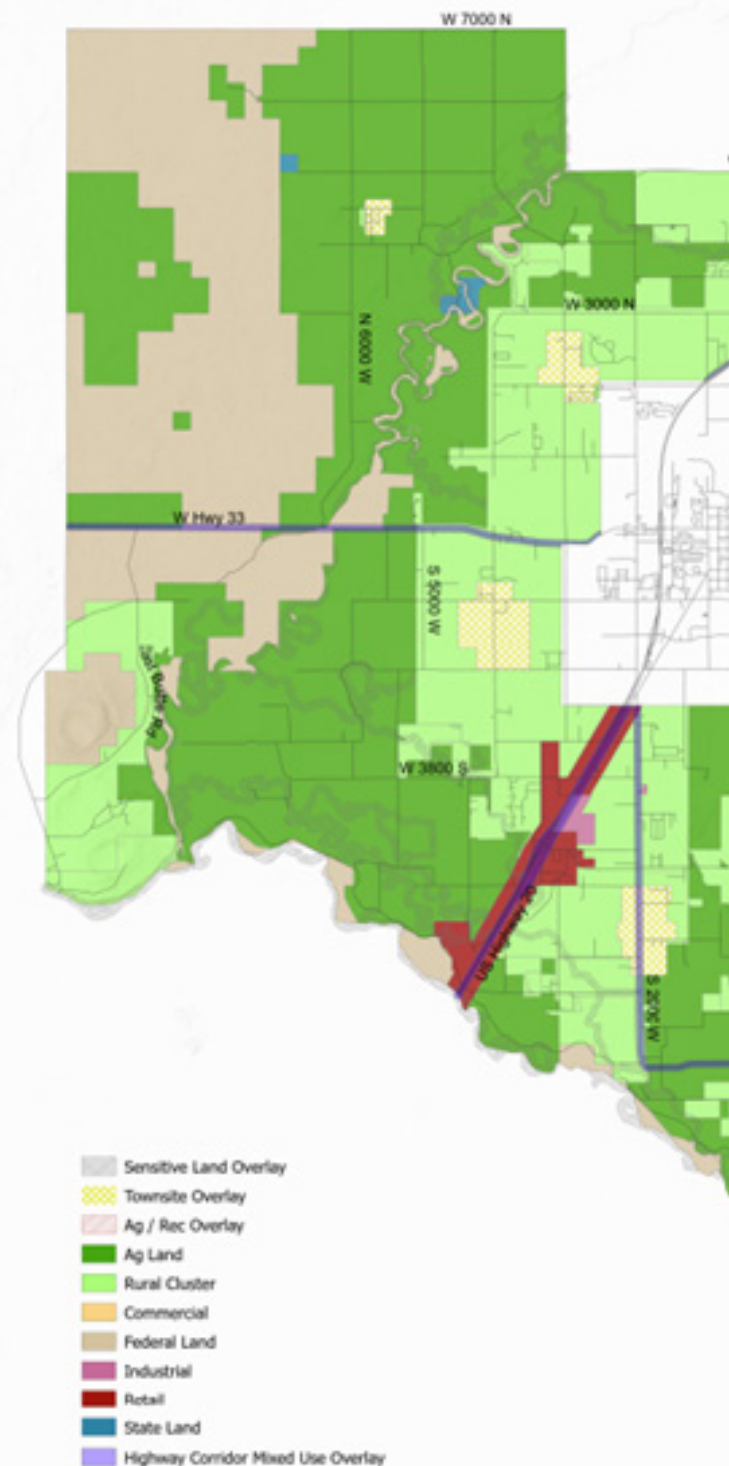
- **Interdepartmental Communication:** Establish regular communication between County Road and Bridge Department and County Planning Department in review of ongoing and upcoming projects, challenges, and priorities.
- **Collaborative Planning:** Encourage collaborative planning efforts that consider transportation needs within broader land-use and community design strategies.
- **Transportation Impact Studies:** Require transportation impact assessments as part of the development approval process to evaluate the potential impact of new projects on local roads and infrastructure.
- **Integrated GIS Systems:** Implement integrated Geographic Information Systems (GIS) that allow for the visualization and analysis of transportation and land-use data in a unified platform.
- **Multi-Year Planning:** Develop multi-year transportation plans that align with the County's Comprehensive Plan and provide a framework for coordinated action.
- **Clear Communication Protocols:** Develop clear communication protocols and workflows to ensure that information is shared in a timely and organized manner.
- **Training and Capacity Building:** Invest in training and capacity building for staff members to enhance their skills and knowledge in areas related to transportation and community design.

By implementing these key strategies, Madison County can achieve the goal of coordination efficiency between the County Road and Bridge Department and the County Planning Department. This will result in better-informed decision-making, improved transportation planning, and a more integrated approach to community design and infrastructure development.

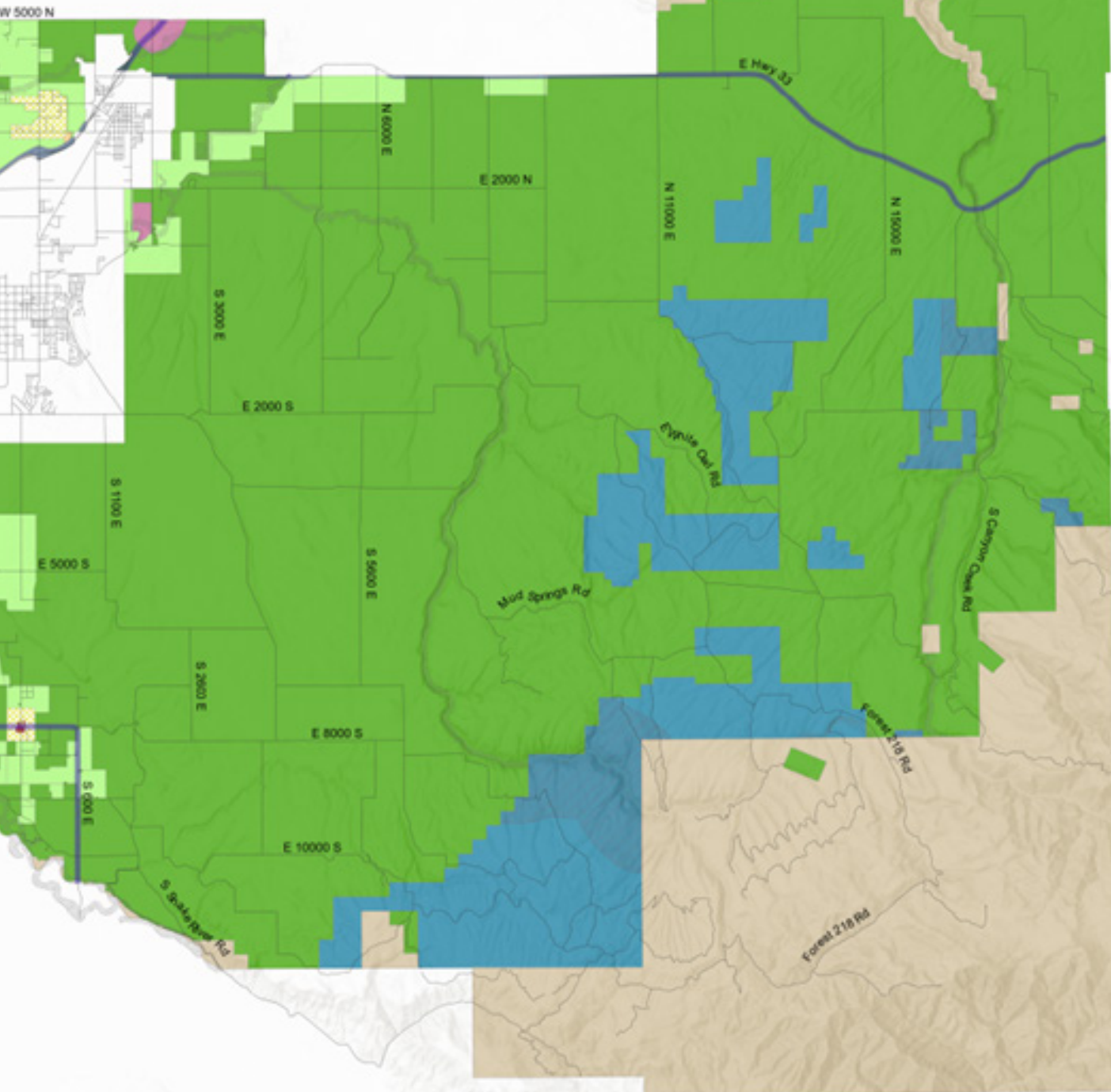
PROPOSED FUTURE LAND USE MAP

The Proposed Future Land Use Map is similar to that in the previous Comprehensive Plan, with the following differences:

- **Townsites:** Townsites are treated as an overlay. Recognition of platted townships is essential. It is anticipated they will retain the underlying zoning, which is mostly County Rural Residential. However, there will be relief from setbacks for lots platted in the Townsites that would not be developable with strict adherence to modern setbacks.
- **Industrial Zones:** The previous Comprehensive Plan considered both heavy and light industrial zones. However, commercial zoning has been changed to better reflect light industrial uses. In an effort to simply the zoning code, the light and heavy industrial zones will be combined into a single, County Industrial Zone.
- **Highway Commercial Mixed-Use Overlay:** In an effort to locate growing County Commercial activities, this plan creates a Highway Commercial Mixed Use Overlay. The underlying zoning, mostly County Rural Residential, will remain. But within the highway corridors of Highways 33, 20, 191 (Old Yellowstone Highway), and 2000 West (Archer-Lyman Highway), commercial uses may be allowed according to the same criteria for development used in commercial zones. This is intended to keep commercial traffic out of residential areas, and centered on and near the main roads.



Madison Comp. Plan Proposed





POPULATION ELEMENT

The Madison County Comprehensive Plan is committed to providing a forward-looking and holistic approach to address the complex and evolving needs of our community. At the heart of this plan lies the Population Element, a critical component that captures the essence of our County's growth, demographic diversity, and changing dynamics over the past four decades. This element not only serves as a historical reflection but also offers a lens through which we can envision the future of Madison County.

GENERAL POPULATION DESCRIPTION

Madison County, nestled in the scenic landscapes of Idaho, is a unique blend of natural beauty and a close-knit, vibrant community. As of the most recent census data in 2020, Madison County was home to 54,976, representing a significant increase from the 1980 census count of 19,480. This growth is a testament to the County's appeal, driven by its picturesque surroundings, strong sense of community, and opportunities for residents to enjoy a high quality of life.

The demographics of Madison County are marked by a diverse and dynamic population. Residents here represent a wide range of ages, ethnicities, and backgrounds, reflecting the County's welcoming atmosphere and its capacity to embrace a rich tapestry of experiences.

KEY CHANGES IN POPULATION: 1980-2020

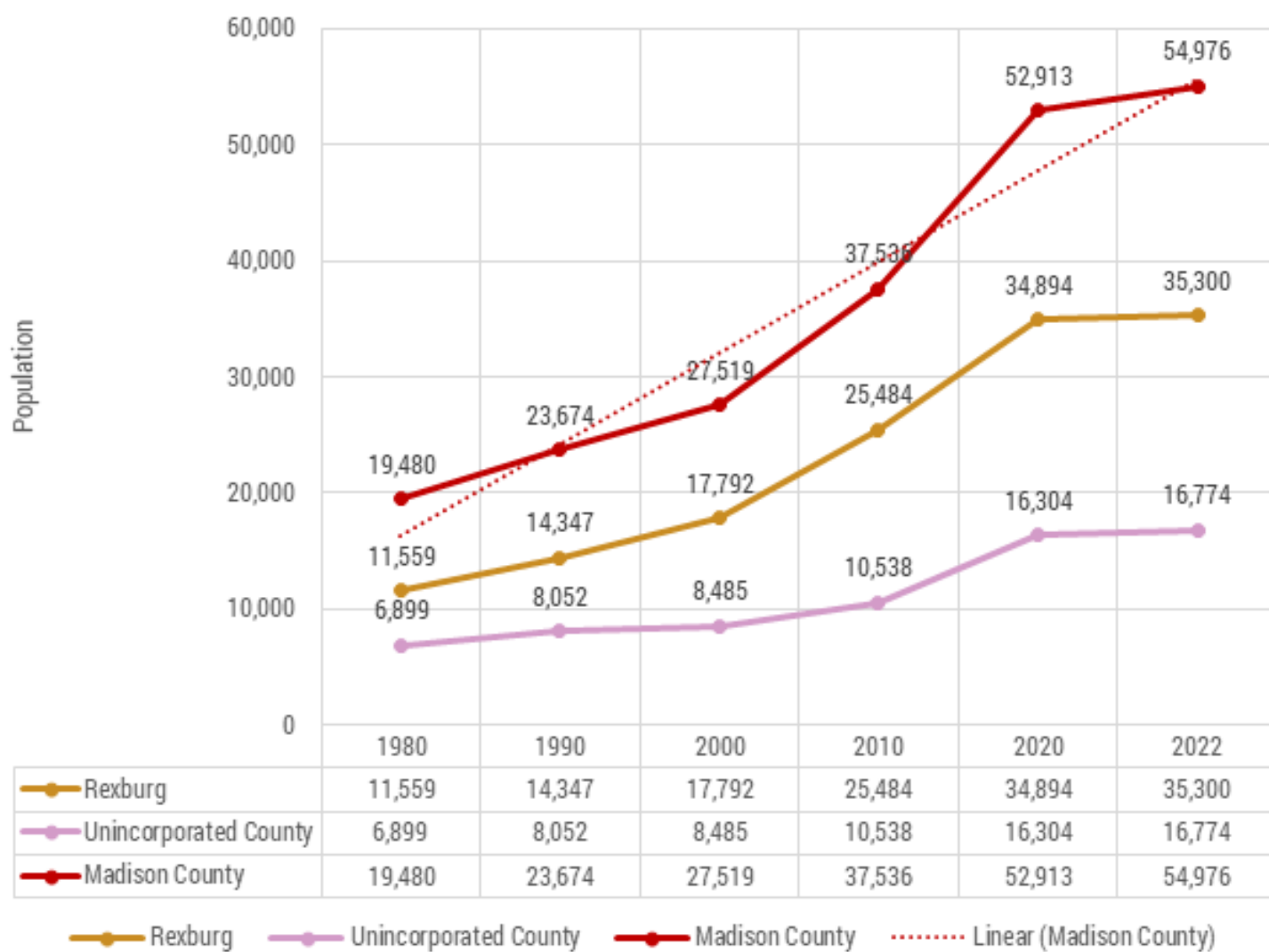
Madison County Population has steadily grown for the past 40 years. Population growth jumped starting in about 2000, when Ricks College expanded from a two-year junior college, to become Brigham Young University-Idaho as a four-year university. Student enrollment grew from approximately 7,500 as a junior college in 1988, to peaking around 24,000 campus-based students in Fall 2022. On-campus enrollment appears to be stabilizing a bit, or even decreasing, as enrollment in 2023 dropped to under 23,000, with approximately 19,000 living in Rexburg. Ricks College/BYUI has been and continues to be the primary base economic driver in Rexburg and Madison County.

POPULATION PROJECTIONS

Projecting future population growth is a difficult task. As of 2023, recent COVID-Era growth in the County appears to be leveling off. Growth associated with the transformation of Ricks College into BYU appears to have leveled off as well. Barring introduction of significant economic development driver, population growth projections should be conservative. The following chart shows three growth scenarios of annual growth rates of 2%, 2.5%, and 3%. Based on these growth rates, County population numbers through 2050 are estimated.

GROWTH RATE	2022 (Census Population Estimate)	2030 (Estimate)	2040 (Estimate)	2050 (Estimate)
2%	54,976	64,413	78,519	95,715
2.5%	54,976	66,983	85,744	109,759
3	54,976	69,613	93,554	125,728

Population - Madison County 1980-2022



POPULATION AND DEMOGRAPHIC REPORT

A full population and demographic report for Madison County is included in Appendix A.



SCHOOL FACILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION ELEMENT

Education is a cornerstone of any thriving community, and Madison County recognizes the paramount role of school facilities and transportation in providing quality education for its residents. This School Facilities and Transportation Element of the Madison County Comprehensive Plan outlines the current status of the two primary school districts within the County, the Madison School District 321 and the Sugar-Salem School District 322. A small portion of the County near Menan Butte is served by the Jefferson School District. Additionally, a small portion of the County around the City of Teton is served by the Fremont School District. The map on the following page indicates the school district boundaries.

MADISON SCHOOL DISTRICT 321

The Madison School District 321 is a vital educational entity within Madison County, serving a substantial portion of the County's residents. As of the latest available data, the district approximately 5,800 students through ten schools, each contributing to the education and development of the community's youth. The enrollment in the Madison School District 321 has seen a steady increase in recent years, with the latest estimate indicating an enrollment of approximately 5,800 students. The district's commitment to academic excellence and the well-being of its students is reflected in the quality of its educational facilities and the dedication of its teaching staff.

Madison School District 321 maintains a Strategic Plan as well as a Continuous Improvement Plan. This plan was updated in September 2022. Key components of the plan include the following:

Madison Continuous Improvement Plan

District Motto:

Caring Community Schools

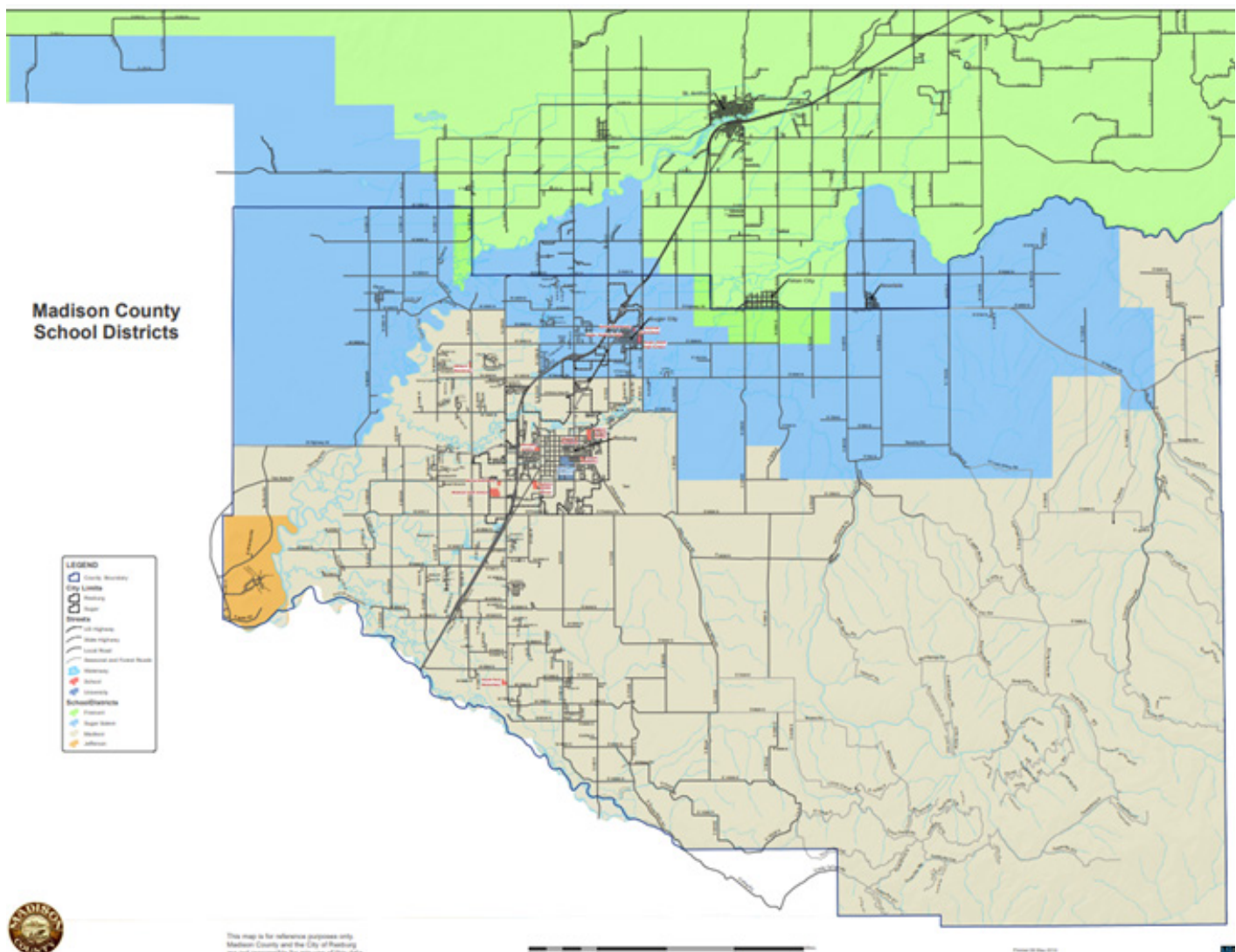
Mission:

Madison School District 321 will ensure a quality education by focusing on academic success, instilling a love for learning, and preparing all students as productive citizens.

Guiding Principles:

- Education is the foundation for success.
- Effective teaching is essential.
- All students are valued and deserve opportunities to learn.
- All students have a unique capacity to learn.
- We will instill personal responsibility in the students as a primary factor in academic success.
- We will provide a safe, respectful, and caring learning environment.
- We believe education is a collaborative effort involving the school, home and community.
- We believe in nurturing the whole child.

Madison School District maintains six elementary schools (K-4), one middle school (5-6), one junior high (7-9), and two high schools, Madison High School and Central High School. Madison School District also has an on-line school program. The district serves approximately 5,800 students as of the 2023-24 school year.



SUGAR-SALEM SCHOOL DISTRICT 322

The Sugar-Salem School District 322 is another essential educational institution within Madison County, providing educational services to a significant portion of the County's residents. Currently, the district consists of five schools, each playing a vital role in the educational landscape of the County. Over the years, the Sugar-Salem School District 322 has also experienced growth, with the most recent enrollment estimate standing at approximately 1,975 students. This district is known for its commitment to fostering a supportive and challenging academic environment, emphasizing community involvement and student success.



Sugar-Salem School District maintains a strategic and continuous improvement plan with the following articulated purpose, Vision, Mission and Values:

Purpose Statement (Why we are here)

Learn, Achieve, Succeed

Vision Statement (What we will become)

The Sugar Salem School District staff will maximize the student potential of becoming life-long learners and promote excellence through the collaborative support of family, school, and community partnerships.

Mission Statement (How will we attain our vision)

All staff members of the Sugar-Salem School District, in partnership with the community, are committed to provide an educational environment where teaching and learning can adapt constructively in a changing society. Sugar-Salem School District emphasizes demonstrable lifelong skills along with knowledge and values which develop responsible, contributing members of society.

Values (What we believe about education)

- Positive attitude is essential to learning.
- Safe and secure surroundings are essential to learning.
- Civic responsibility is essential to the success of our community, state, and nation.
- Each person should have an opportunity to reach his or her potential. Developing a student's full potential is a shared responsibility of the student, family, school and community, each actively participating.
- The recognition of success promotes the desire for future success.
- Each individual can and does learn in his or her unique way through varying learning styles.
- There is an inescapable relationship between our example of integrity, honesty, and love of learning and its influence on others.

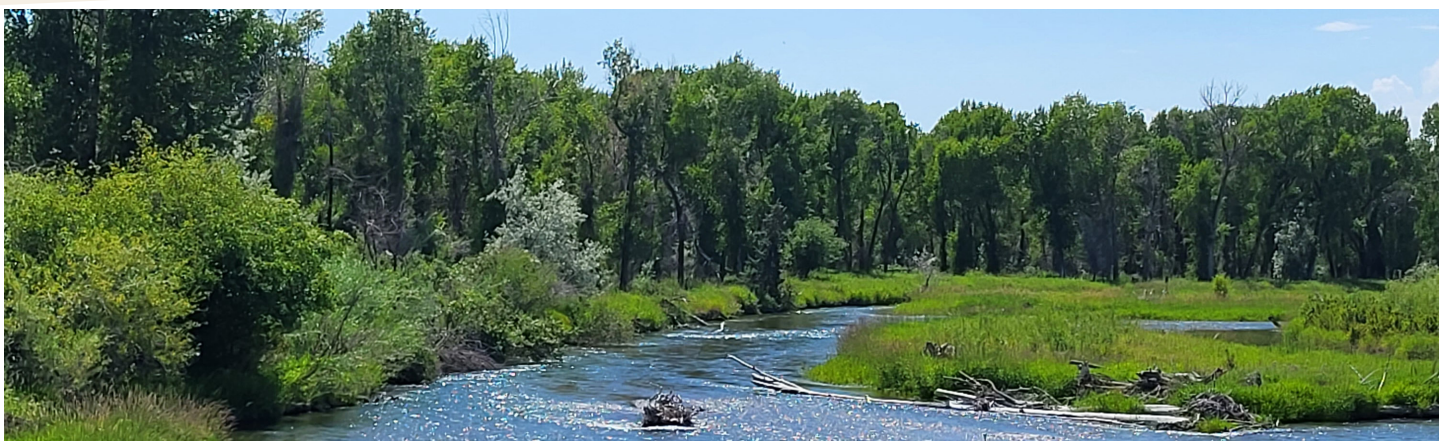
- Extra-curricular and co-curricular activities are important aspects of learning.
- Positive self-image is fostered by a focus on the individual.

Sugar-Salem School District has five schools, as well as an on-line option. Schools include Central Elementary, Valley View Alternative, Kershaw Intermediate, Sugar-Salem Junior High, and Sugar-Salem High School. The district serves approximately 1,975 students as of the 2023-24 school year.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CONSIDERATION

This School Facilities and Transportation Element of the Madison County Comprehensive Plan underscores the significance of educational institutions in shaping the County's future. By addressing the needs of the Madison School District 321 and the Sugar-Salem School District 322 and integrating these considerations into the broader planning framework, Madison County is committed to providing a conducive environment for learning, fostering the growth and development of its residents, and ensuring the success of future generations.

Both school districts maintain their own population projections and facilities plans under the direction of their individual school boards. Therefore, it is not necessary to duplicate those efforts. Plans prepared by the school districts should be consulted by the Cities and County as the overall Madison County community works together to meet the education needs for residents throughout the County.



NATURAL RESOURCES ELEMENT

Madison County is blessed with an abundance of natural resources that contribute to the County's unique beauty, economic opportunities, and overall quality of life. This Natural Resources Element of the Madison County Comprehensive Plan acknowledges the significance of preserving and managing these resources wisely for the benefit of current and future generations. In this section, we explore some of the notable natural landmarks, including mountain ranges, rivers, and the general land characteristics, encompassing the topography that define the County's rich and diverse natural heritage.

NOTABLE NATURAL LANDMARKS

Mountain Ranges:

- **Teton Range:** While not in Madison County, or even in Idaho, the Teton Mountains to the East are integrally connected to Madison County. The west side of the Tetons drain into the Teton River, which provides needed water resources to communities and agricultural operations in the northern half of Madison County. Additionally, the Tetons are a great source for recreation for Madison County residents, including a destination for hiking, camping, skiing, and more.
- **Big Hole Mountains:** These mountains in the eastern and southeastern part of the County provide a variety of outdoor recreation resources for Madison County. The area is especially popular for motorbiking in the summer, snowmobiling in the winter, is home to everyone's secret spot for picking huckleberries. Additionally, Kelly Canyon Ski areas provides both winter and summer outdoor recreation opportunities.

Rivers and Waterways:

- **Henry's Fork of the Snake River:** This iconic river, renowned for its world-class fly fishing, meanders through Madison County, offering not only recreational opportunities but also vital irrigation for local agriculture.
- **South Fork of the Snake River:** Forming the southern County boundary with Jefferson County, water from the South Fork provides valuable irrigation water for the southern half of the County. Additionally, the South Fork is world renowned for quality fishing, where drift boats are common throughout the year.
- **Teton River:** The Teton River, flowing through the valley, sustains the region's rich agricultural traditions and supports diverse wildlife habitats.

- **Warm River:** Known for its natural springs and scenic beauty, the Warm River is a local gem that enhances the quality of life for Madison County residents.

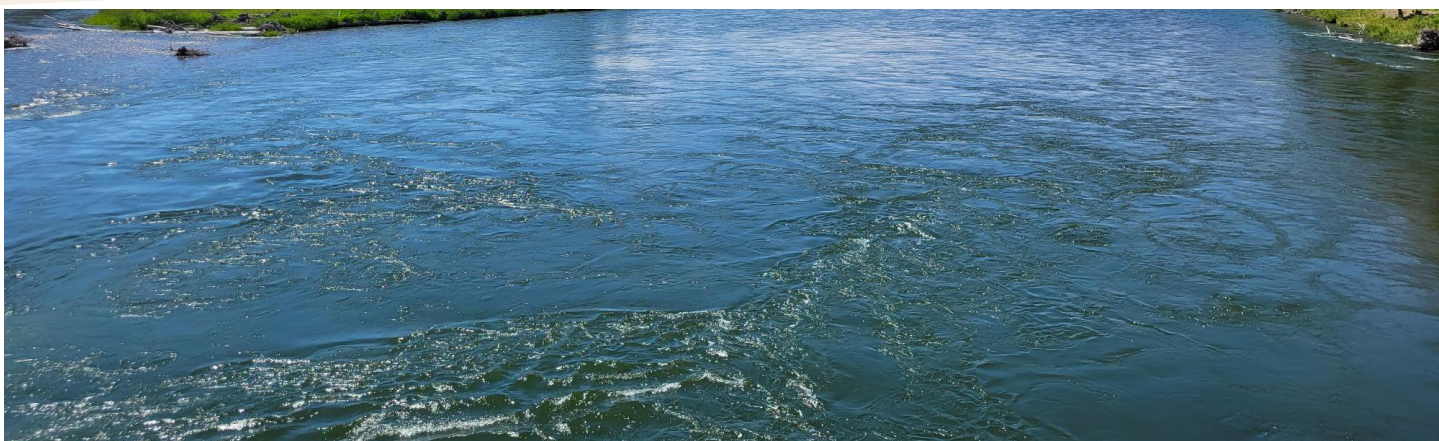
GENERAL LAND CHARACTERISTICS

- **Topography:** Madison County's topography is characterized by a diverse blend of rolling hills, verdant valleys, and mountain terrain. The transition from the volcanic plains in the west to the rolling Big Hole Mountains on the east, the topography serves a great blend of topographic location for farming, communities and outdoor recreation and enjoyment.
- **Agricultural Lands:** The County boasts fertile farmlands, cultivated for generations, producing a variety of crops, including potatoes, barley, and wheat. The agricultural heritage is integral to Madison County's identity and economy.
- **Forests and Wildlife:** Forest, particularly within the Big Hole Mountains, are home to a diverse array of wildlife, including elk, deer, moose, and various bird species, making the County a destination for nature enthusiasts.
- **Conservation Areas:** Madison County has designated conservation areas to preserve its natural beauty, enhance outdoor recreation, and safeguard the habitat for a variety of species.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

1. **Resource Stewardship:** It is essential to maintain a delicate balance between resource utilization and conservation. Responsible management of natural resources is crucial for the well-being of both the environment and the community.
2. **Recreational Opportunities:** The natural landmarks, rivers, and diverse landscapes provide opportunities for outdoor recreation, including hiking, fishing, hunting, and wildlife observation. The Plan promotes responsible use and access to these areas.
3. **Economic Benefits:** The natural resources in Madison County contribute significantly to the local economy, providing employment and income opportunities for residents. Sustainable resource management is essential to continue reaping these benefits.
4. **Natural Hazard Mitigation:** Recognizing the potential for natural hazards in the region, the plan aims to address risk reduction and resilience strategies to protect both residents and the environment.

The Natural Resources Element of the Madison County Comprehensive Plan reflects the County's commitment to the responsible stewardship of its abundant natural resources. By striking a balance between conservation and utilization, the plan seeks to ensure the preservation of Madison County's unique landscapes and the well-being of its residents. It is a testament to the community's dedication to safeguarding its natural heritage while fostering sustainable economic growth and enhancing the overall quality of life.



HAZARDOUS AREAS ELEMENT

The safety and well-being of Madison County's residents are of paramount importance, and understanding and addressing hazardous areas within the County is a vital component of the Madison County Comprehensive Plan. This Hazardous Areas Element aims to identify and assess specific hazardous areas that pose potential risks to the community, including those susceptible to natural disasters such as earthquakes, faulting, landslides, mudslides, avalanches, snow slides, and floodplain hazards. By recognizing and mitigating these risks, Madison County is committed to protecting its residents and promoting resilience in the face of potential hazards. Madison County maintains an All Hazard Mitigation Plan that addresses specific areas of concern, including appropriate mitigation strategies.

IDENTIFIED HAZARDOUS AREAS

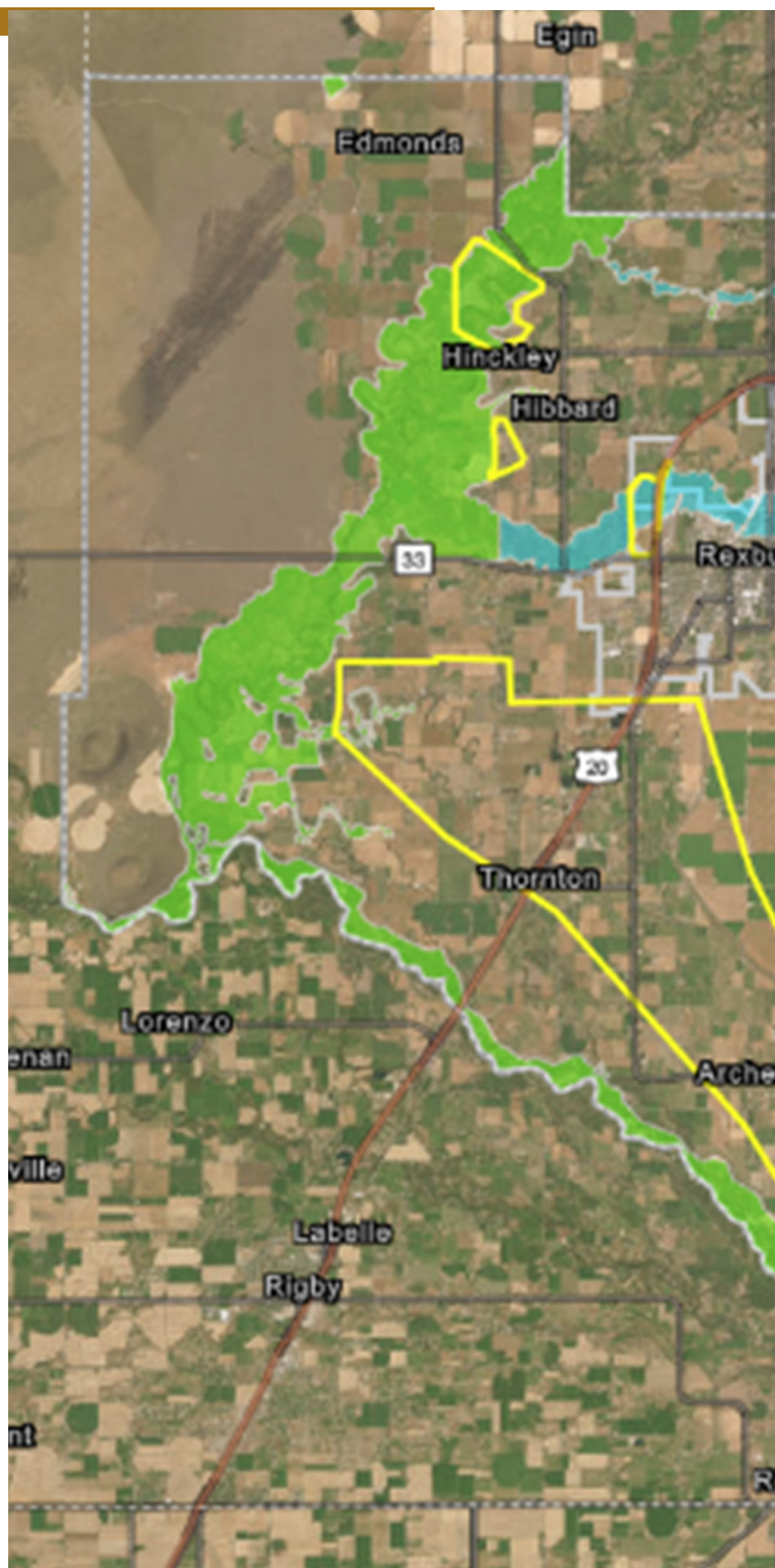
- **Earthquake and Faulting:** Madison County, although not situated near major tectonic plate boundaries, is not exempt from seismic activity. The County may experience earthquakes due to its proximity to the Yellowstone Caldera. While significant earthquakes are infrequent, it is important to have preparedness measures in place.
- **Landslides and Mudslides:** The County's diverse topography, characterized by hilly and mountainous terrain, can make certain areas susceptible to landslides and mudslides, especially during periods of heavy rainfall or snowmelt. Such areas may include steep slopes and drainage basins.
- **Avalanches and Snow Slides:** Madison County contains very few mountains that are susceptible to snow slides or avalanche.
- **Floodplain Hazards:** Madison County is crisscrossed by several rivers and streams, including the Henry's Fork of the Snake River and the Teton River. Floodplain hazards are a concern in low-lying areas near these waterways, especially during spring snowmelt and heavy rainfall events. The current 100-year flood plain is indicated on the following map. Primary areas within the 100-Year Flood Plain are areas along both North and South Forks of the Teton River, extending from the split, to the confluence of each fork with the Henry's Fork of the Snake River.
- **River Corridors:** Maintain the established natural resource overlay along the river corridors throughout the County.

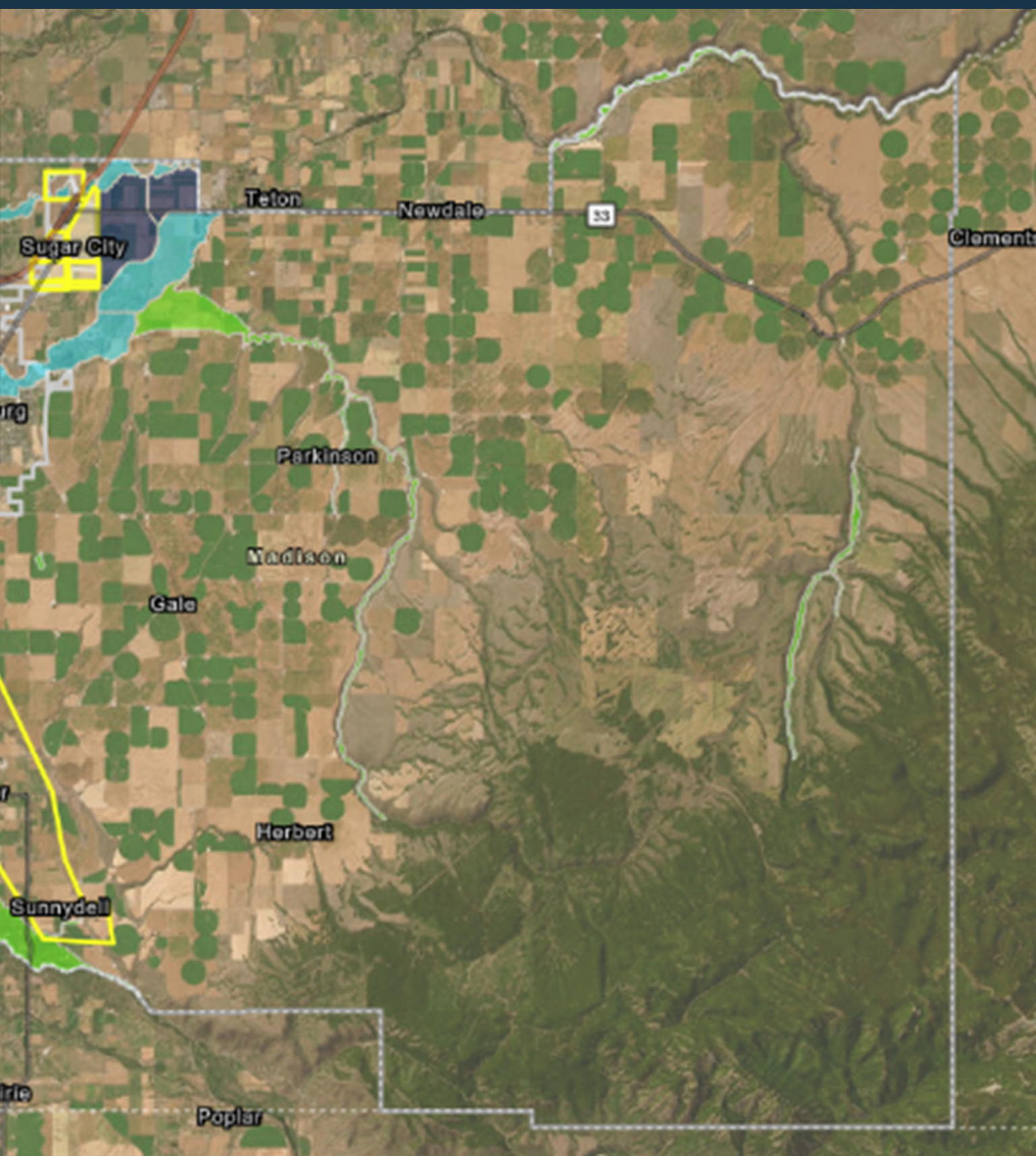
KEY CONSIDERATIONS

1. **Hazard Mitigation and Preparedness:** Madison County is dedicated to implementing hazard mitigation strategies and disaster preparedness measures to safeguard residents, properties, and infrastructure. This includes public education, emergency response planning, and the adoption of building codes to ensure structures are designed to withstand potential hazards.
2. **Land Use and Development:** It is essential to regulate land use and development in hazardous areas, particularly those prone to landslides, avalanches, and flooding. The plan encourages responsible development practices and zoning regulations to minimize risks.
3. **Infrastructure Resilience:** Critical infrastructure such as roads, bridges, and utilities should be designed and maintained to withstand potential hazards. The plan emphasizes the importance of infrastructure resilience to ensure access and safety during and after disasters.
4. **Environmental Conservation:** Conservation efforts in sensitive natural areas should be promoted to reduce the potential for landslides, flooding, and other environmental hazards. Preserving these areas can enhance the County's overall environmental health and safety.

The Hazardous Areas Element of the Madison County Comprehensive Plan underlines the County's dedication to safeguarding its residents and assets in the face of potential hazards. By identifying, understanding, and addressing these risks, Madison County strives to promote resilience, protect its unique natural landscape, and ensure the continued safety and well-being of its community members.

HAZARDOUS AREAS MAP







PUBLIC SERVICES, FACILITIES, AND UTILITIES ELEMENT

Access to essential public services, facilities, and utilities is a cornerstone of any thriving community. The Madison County Comprehensive Plan recognizes the significance of reliable and accessible services in enhancing the quality of life for its residents. This Public Services, Facilities, and Utilities Element outlines the status of key public services, essential facilities, and utility providers within the County.

PUBLIC SERVICES AND FACILITIES

Madison County is dedicated to providing a range of vital public services to its residents, including:

- **Public Safety:** The Madison County Sheriff's Office and Rexburg Police Department provide law enforcement services in Madison County.
- **Fire Services:** Madison County is served by the Madison Fire District, ensuring prompt response to fires and emergencies in both rural and urban areas. The main fire station is in downtown Rexburg, with satellite stations in Sugar City and Archer.
- **Healthcare Facilities:** Residents have access to healthcare services through Madison Memorial Hospital and various clinics and medical providers throughout the County.

UTILITY PROVIDERS

Madison County is served by several utility providers, ensuring that residents have access to essential services:

- **Electricity:** Rocky Mountain Power and Fall River Electric are the primary electricity providers, offering reliable service to homes and businesses in Madison County.
- **Natural Gas and Propane:** Intermountain Gas Company provides natural gas services to residential and commercial customers within the County. In areas not served by natural gas, a number of providers deliver propane to residents throughout the County.
- **Internet:** Several internet service providers (ISPs) offer broadband services in Madison County, providing residents with options for high-speed internet access.
- **Phone:** Multiple telecommunications companies, including CenturyLink, offer landline phone services to the County's residents.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

1. **Infrastructure Maintenance and Improvement:** Madison County is committed to the continued maintenance and improvement of public services, facilities, and utilities. Investments in infrastructure are essential to meet the growing demands of the community.
2. **Emergency Services Coordination:** Collaboration between law enforcement, fire services, and EMS providers is vital to ensure a coordinated response to emergencies and public safety concerns.
3. **Broadband Access:** Expanding and enhancing broadband access is a priority to support economic development, education, and access to healthcare services, particularly in rural areas.
4. **Sustainability and Resilience:** Efforts are made to ensure the sustainability and resilience of public services, facilities, and utilities in the face of natural disasters or other emergencies.
5. **Wastewater Treatment – Future Demands:** Identify long range wastewater treatment needs, and develop a long-range (20-50) year plan that explores various options for increased capacity of municipal wastewater treatment systems, including but not limited to creation of a County-wide wastewater treatment district, expansion of existing treatment facilities, or construction of additional treatment facilities strategically located for maximum effectiveness and efficiency.

The Public Services, Facilities, and Utilities Element of the Madison County Comprehensive Plan underscores the County's commitment to providing residents with essential services and facilities while ensuring access to reliable utilities. By fostering a proactive approach to infrastructure development, maintenance, and improvement, Madison County aims to enhance the overall quality of life for its residents and support economic growth and community well-being.



RECREATION ELEMENT

Recreation is a fundamental aspect of community life that enriches the well-being of residents and contributes to the overall quality of life. Madison County is blessed with an array of recreational opportunities, from parks to campgrounds, where residents and visitors can enjoy the natural beauty and engage in outdoor activities. This Recreation Element of the Madison County Comprehensive Plan aims to recognize and support these vital recreational assets while promoting the responsible stewardship of these resources.

PARKS IN REXBURG

Rexburg offers several parks and recreational areas for its residents:

- Smith Park is a popular destination featuring a playground, ball fields, tennis court, a walking path, an historic steam tractor, and Veterans' Monument.
- Porter Park is known for its scenic pond, and offers opportunities for fishing and picnicking.
- Nature Park provides a tranquil environment for nature enthusiasts and features walking paths, ponds, frisbee golf course, skateboard park, dog park, pickle ball courts, playgrounds, and picnic areas.
- Eagle Park: Featuring the Teton River flowing through the length of the park, Eagle Park offers 24 camping sites and one shelter.
- Evergreen Park has a large grass area with 2 soccer fields, kids playground and 1 shelter.
- Park Street Park is a fun but small park. It has swings, a slide, and a merry-go-round.
- Riverside Park includes playgrounds and sports fields.
- Hidden Valley Park has inviting open area and playground in the Hidden Valley neighborhood
- Rexburg Spray Park at Porter Park is a splash pad that is operated in the summer months
- Rexburg Dog Park is a place where people can take dogs to play and train in an open and inviting setting.
- Madison County/Rexburg maintain two golf courses, Teton Lakes and Rexburg Municipal Course, which are used not only for golf, but year-round with winter activities such as skating, cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing.

- Madison County Fairgrounds is located in Rexburg and includes an outdoor rodeo arena, indoor display buildings, an indoor riding/show pavilion, in addition to open park areas, an outdoor amphitheater, and event spaces.

PARKS IN SUGAR CITY

Sugar City, another community within Madison County, features its own array of recreational facilities:

- Heritage Park
- Smith Park
- Veteran's Park

COUNTY-OPERATED CAMPGROUNDS

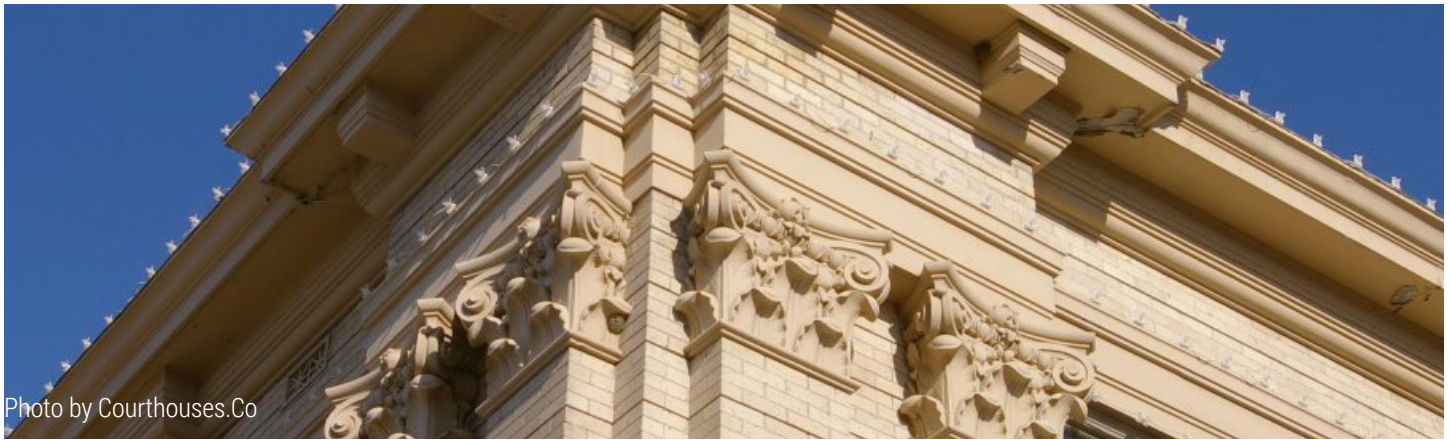
Madison County operates two campgrounds, offering residents and visitors opportunities to enjoy the great outdoors:

- Beaver Dick Campground is located west of Rexburg, on the bank of the Henry's Fork. Named after famed local mountain man Beaver Dick, the campground has campsites for tents and RV. Additionally, there are several playgrounds, restrooms facilities, a hiking trail, and group pavilions. There is also a boat ramp and parking area providing boating access to the Henry's Fork of the Snake River.
- Twin Bridges Campground is located on the South Fork of the Snake River in the southern extent of the County. The campground has numerous camp sites for tents and RVs, as well as several playgrounds and group pavilions. There are several restrooms throughout the campground.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

1. **Recreational Opportunities:** The Madison County Comprehensive Plan supports efforts to maintain and expand recreational opportunities for residents, focusing on diverse interests and age groups.
2. **Natural Resource Stewardship:** Responsible stewardship of natural resources is essential to ensure that parks and campgrounds remain pristine and environmentally sustainable.
3. **Community Engagement:** Involving community members in the planning and maintenance of recreational facilities promotes a sense of ownership and community pride.
4. **Accessibility and Inclusivity:** Efforts are made to ensure that recreational facilities are accessible to all residents, including those with disabilities, to promote inclusivity.

The Recreation Element of the Madison County Comprehensive Plan underscores the County's dedication to providing diverse and accessible recreational opportunities while preserving the natural beauty of the area. Through ongoing engagement and responsible stewardship, Madison County aims to enhance the overall quality of life for its residents and support a thriving community.



SPECIAL AREAS OR SITES ELEMENT

INTRODUCTION

Madison County is not only celebrated for its natural beauty but also for the presence of several special areas and sites of historical, archaeological, architectural, ecological, wildlife, and scenic significance. These special areas and sites contribute to the County's unique character, cultural heritage, and ecological diversity. The Special Areas or Sites Element of the Madison County Comprehensive Plan aims to acknowledge and preserve these noteworthy places, fostering their protection, appreciation, and sustainable management.

SPECIAL AREAS AND SITES

- **Historical Significance:** Madison County boasts a rich historical heritage, with notable sites such as the Teton Dam Site, which serves as a poignant reminder of the catastrophic 1976 Teton Dam failure. Preservation and interpretation of historical structures and events are integral to understanding the County's past. The Teton Dam Flood Museum is located in the basement of the Rexburg Tabernacle. The museum recognizes the flood event, as well as the long-term impacts the flood had on the area.
- **Archaeological Significance:** Madison County has four places on the National Register of Historic Places, including 2 of statewide significance. Significant places include the Madison County Courthouse and the Rexburg Stake Tabernacle.
- **Architectural Significance:** The architecture of the area reflects the County's history, with structures like the Rexburg Tabernacle and the Madison County Courthouse being notable examples of architectural significance.
- **Ecological and Wildlife Significance:** Madison County encompasses a diverse range of ecosystems, including wetlands, forests, and river systems that support diverse wildlife. Notable ecological sites include the river corridors along the Henry's Fork, South Fork, and Teton River.
- **Scenic Significance:** The County's dramatic topography, with the Teton Range and the Big Hole Mountains, offers a stunning backdrop for scenic drives, outdoor recreation, and photography. Iconic scenic routes like the Teton Scenic Byway enhance the County's visual appeal.



Photo by Courthouses.Co

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

1. **Preservation and Conservation:** Madison County is dedicated to preserving and conserving special areas and sites to ensure their continued cultural, historical, ecological, and scenic significance.
2. **Education and Interpretation:** The plan encourages educational and interpretive programs to enhance public understanding and appreciation of these special areas and sites.
3. **Sustainable Management:** Special areas and sites are managed with sustainability in mind, ensuring that they remain accessible for future generations while preserving their natural and cultural value.
4. **Community Engagement:** Involvement of the community in the protection and management of these areas fosters a sense of pride and responsibility among residents.

The Special Areas or Sites Element of the Madison County Comprehensive Plan underscores the County's commitment to preserving and celebrating its unique natural, cultural, and historical assets. By recognizing and safeguarding these special areas and sites, Madison County seeks to promote community pride, support education, and ensure the well-being and appreciation of residents and visitors alike.



AGRICULTURE ELEMENT

INTRODUCTION

Agriculture is the lifeblood of Madison County, providing sustenance, economic opportunities, and a strong sense of community. The Agriculture Element of the Madison County Comprehensive Plan aims to recognize the vital role of agriculture in the County, outlining the primary crops grown, the nature of agricultural lands, and the significant contributions of agriculture to the community.

AGRICULTURAL LANDS

Madison County is graced with fertile lands that support diverse agricultural activities. The County’s agricultural lands include vast plains, rolling hills, and valleys that are highly conducive to farming. These lands encompass a total of approximately 303,000 acres, making agriculture a central part of the County’s landscape. Agriculture accounts for approximately 3% of total employment in Madison County. Of the approximately 303,000 acres of land in Madison County, about 170,000 (about 56%) are under cultivation.

PRIMARY CROPS

The primary crops grown in Madison County reflect the region’s agricultural diversity and resilience:

- **Potatoes:** Madison County is renowned for its high-quality potato production, contributing significantly to the state’s potato industry.
- **Barley:** Barley is another staple crop that finds its place in the County’s agricultural portfolio, used for both food and animal feed.
- **Wheat:** Wheat is grown in various varieties, further adding to the County’s grain production.
- **Sugar Beets:** Sugar beets are cultivated for the sugar industry, playing a pivotal role in the region’s agricultural economy.
- **Alfalfa:** Alfalfa is a key forage crop, supporting the livestock industry in Madison County and beyond.

FARMING ACTIVITIES

Farming activities in Madison County are characterized by modern, efficient practices, emphasizing sustainability and productivity. Crop rotations, precision agriculture, and responsible use of resources are common practices that contribute to the success of the County’s agriculture sector.

FARMING-RELATED BUSINESSES

The County hosts a variety of farming-related businesses that provide essential services to the agricultural community, including farm supply stores, equipment dealerships, and processing facilities. These businesses enhance the County's agricultural infrastructure and support the needs of local farmers.

ROLE OF AGRICULTURE IN THE COMMUNITY

Agriculture is deeply woven into the fabric of Madison County's community, contributing in numerous ways:

- **Economic Growth:** Agriculture serves as a significant driver of the County's economy, generating income, employment, and economic stability for residents.
- **Cultural Heritage:** Farming traditions are an integral part of Madison County's cultural identity, fostering a strong sense of community and pride among residents.
- **Food Production:** Local agriculture ensures a steady supply of fresh, nutritious produce, strengthening food security in the County.
- **Environmental Stewardship:** Agriculture practices aim to protect and conserve the natural environment, promoting responsible land management.
- **Educational Opportunities:** Agriculture provides educational opportunities for youth and adults, fostering a deeper understanding of farming, food production, and sustainability.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

1. **Sustainability:** The County emphasizes sustainable farming practices to ensure the long-term viability of agriculture and environmental conservation.
2. **Community Support:** Support for local agriculture is promoted through community engagement, farmers' markets, and educational initiatives.
3. **Infrastructure:** Investment in agricultural infrastructure, such as irrigation systems and transportation networks, is essential to support the sector's growth.

The Agriculture Element of the Madison County Comprehensive Plan highlights the indispensable role of agriculture in the community. By recognizing the significance of primary crops, the nature of agricultural lands, and the economic, cultural, and environmental contributions of agriculture, Madison County seeks to foster a thriving, resilient, and sustainable agricultural sector that benefits the entire community.



Photo by RexburgMadisonAirport.com

PUBLIC AIRPORT FACILITIES ELEMENT

INTRODUCTION

Public airport facilities are critical components of the transportation infrastructure that enhance connectivity and economic development in Madison County, Idaho. This Public Airport Facilities Element of the Madison County Comprehensive Plan acknowledges the significance of the Rexburg Airport and the Idaho Falls Regional Airport, providing essential descriptions and outlining their roles in the County's transportation network.

REXBURG-MADISON COUNTY AIRPORT

The Rexburg-Madison County Airport (RXE) serves as an essential aviation hub for Madison County. It is located approximately two miles northwest of the city of Rexburg. The airport encompasses:

- **Runway:** The airport features a single asphalt runway, approximately 4,200 feet long, capable of accommodating various aircraft.
- **Facilities:** RXE includes essential facilities for general aviation, such as hangars, aircraft maintenance services, and a terminal building.
- **Role:** The Rexburg Airport primarily serves general aviation, offering facilities for private and recreational flying. It contributes to the local economy, facilitates medical evacuations, and supports aerial firefighting efforts during wildfire seasons.
- **Attractions:** The Rexburg-Madison Airport is also home to the Legacy Flight Museum.
- **Growth:** Future growth and expansion of the Rexburg-Madison Airport is greatly restricted due to the location within the City of Rexburg. Due to adjacent residential neighborhoods, the Teton River, and major roads (Highway 33/Main Street), the airport is hemmed in for any future growth. The City of Rexburg and Madison County may choose to pursue to relocate the airport to a more suitable location that will have less potential land use conflicts, and more opportunity for growth and expansion for the future.

IDAHO FALLS REGIONAL AIRPORT

The Idaho Falls Regional Airport (IDA) is a major transportation hub in eastern Idaho, serving Madison County and the broader region. It features:

- **Runways:** IDA has two runways, the longest of which is approximately 9,000 feet, capable of accommodating a wide range of commercial and private aircraft.

- **Facilities:** The airport provides a full range of passenger services, including rental car facilities, dining options, and aircraft maintenance services.
- **Common Carriers:** Idaho Falls Regional Airport is serviced by several common carriers, including major airlines like Allegiant Air and Delta Air Lines. These carriers provide commercial flights to various destinations, enhancing regional and national connectivity.
- **Economic Impact:** The airport plays a significant role in the regional economy by attracting commercial businesses, tourists, and supporting industries like healthcare and education.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

1. **Economic Development:** Madison County recognizes the role of both the Rexburg Airport and Idaho Falls Regional Airport in driving economic development, job creation, and tourism.
2. **Transportation Accessibility:** Public airports ensure that residents have access to a broad range of destinations, improving the County's connectivity and accessibility.
3. **Emergency Services:** These airports are essential for medical evacuations and supporting firefighting efforts during wildfire seasons.
4. **Infrastructure Investment:** Madison County commits to investing in airport infrastructure to support the region's growth and ensure the continued safety and efficiency of aviation operations.

The Public Airport Facilities Element of the Madison County Comprehensive Plan underscores the significance of public airports in enhancing transportation, economic development, and emergency services in the County. By recognizing the roles and contributions of the Rexburg Airport and Idaho Falls Regional Airport, Madison County seeks to promote responsible growth and improved connectivity while ensuring the safety and well-being of its residents.



NATIONAL INTEREST ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION CORRIDORS ELEMENT

The map on the following page shows major electric transmission corridors in Idaho. As noted on the map, none of the national interest electric transmission corridors are within Madison County. If in the future, it is necessary to locate a national interest electric transmission corridor in Madison County, local government will work with industry, state, and federal regulatory agencies at that time, to analyze, evaluate, and determine the best locations and installation of such infrastructure. Generally speaking, it would be best practice to co-locate such infrastructure in established transportation and utility corridors, and protect private property whenever possible.

