

## UW Cooperative Extension Service Survey Results-Park County

Extension educators conducted an electronic and written survey from June 1 to September 30, 2008 to determine what areas or issues were most important to our clientele. The survey was divided into six resource categories: natural, human, youth, infrastructure, social, and financial. Each category had issues listed within them, including "Other". One hundred twenty-four Park County residents responded.

Below is the final ranking in each resource category followed by additional comments in each section.

<b>Natural Resources</b>	
1. Sustainable Agriculture	164
2. Land use planning	155
3. Open spaces	105
4. Healthy ecosystems	81
5. Mineral development	47
6. Small Acreages	42
7. Horticultural practices	32

### **Comments:**

1. Equitable and fair use of public lands
2. Water
3. Recreation use/planning.
4. Water
5. Water Shed/Use
6. Making sure we have a balanced use of our natural resources, and manage them wisely.
7. lack of damage to native plants
8. Wind powered generators.
9. Organic and Natural farming and living
10. Water use and range management
11. water
12. conserving water and energy resources
13. Sustainable Agriculture, Small acreages
14. Cooperative planning between state, federal and private land users
15. The development of alternative energy so we can free ourselves from using so much imported oil.
16. Control of wolf populations at the lowest possible level.
17. Keeping the game herds up and the opportunity to hunt available.
18. Commercial use of natural resources.

19. WATER is always the issue in Wyoming and wasn't even on your list!
20. The source and the end use of energy.
21. Control/eradication of invasive plant and aquatic species.  
Understanding and managing the implication of climate change on all resources but particularly water.
22. Managing air quality  
Reducing wasteful water practices
23. Seed lab, seed certification and other ag programs are vital for a big industry in this country
24. Developing domestic natural resources
25. Finding a balance for multi use of our natural resources.... private, state and federal
26. Issues that involve balancing irrigation demands versus fishing resources.
27. renewable energy development (both small scale and commercial scale)
28. Wind and Solar power generation on my 80 acres
29. Preserving Open Spaces, Preserving Agriculture Land, Protecting Farmers and Ranchers
30. I believe our number one priority should be keeping existing family ranches and farms operating, and helping them to make money. If they can continue to operate as a family ranch/farm, and make money at what they are doing, they are taking care of the land and other natural resources, and keeping open spaces open. As family farms and ranches suffer from the economy, pressure from the government and environmental groups, they often have to subdivide or sell. That hurts all of our natural resources and diminishes our open spaces. Our number one priority has to be keeping these family ranches and farms operating and making money.
31. Water!
32. Wind, coal and natural gas
33. Recycling
34. I don't know if it's a natural resource topic by itself, but definitely linked in with land use planning is land owner rights. Land owner rights become a huge issue when dealing with sustainable ag, mineral development and land use planning.
35. Natural weed and pest controls without poisons and chemicals
36. Natural weed and pest control without poisons or chemicals
37. preservation and conservation areas
38. Organic farming
39. Clean water - groundwater
40. Whatever the natural resources, we must protect them for the future.
41. multi use of our government land
42. Wildlife/livestock & agricultural interactions
43. Water and keeping it clean
44. Making sure that the naturally occurring water sources remain free of contamination from chemical exposure and that riparian areas are in place to prevent rain run-off contamination.

<b>Human Resources</b>	
1. Healthy family dynamics	234
2. Healthy lifestyles	214
3. Lifelong learning opportunities	132

4. Workforce development	115
5. Information and media literacy	44

**Comments:**

1. healthy lifestyles
2. Second-language programs. Dealing with non-English families/residents/visitors.
3. Education
4. Kids protection
5. Encourage people to have continually learning to make the most of their future.
6. Constitutional adherence
7. Parenting classes for people with toddlers through teenagers.
8. Access to medical services  
Assisting Low Income families
9. Training people to be qualified for jobs offered in the area
10. dental care that is affordable to the low income elderly, access to mental health services, nutrition, fitness
11. future sustainable business development
12. encouraging volunteerism
13. Drug and alcohol use/abuse among high school and college students
14. Availability of affordable health insurance
15. Strong work ethic
16. Community dynamics and cultural understanding.
17. mental health
18. Community Leadership Development!!!
19. Protecting our children from the violence in the world
20. Wyoming is really suffering from a heavy drug culture, and its effects on families. The Wyoming Department of Family Services is inept and employs case workers who are lazy and only there for a paycheck. Liberal judges keep placing children back in very dysfunctional and dangerous homes instead of allowing them to be adopted into loving homes. This HAS to change. There is only a 6% chance of rehabilitation for people who use meth, and our prisons are full of people who are there because of meth, and drug-related crimes. 1) We need to educate people of all ages of the consequences of drug use to keep them from trying meth and other drugs (I think an ad campaign with Wyoming men and women who have used meth - and gone to prison - and lost their homes, jobs and families - would be a powerful message to other Wyoming residents). 2) We need to better protect children who have been removed from their homes - get them in safe and healthy foster care and get them adopted - not sent back to their abusive, drug using parents. I personally know of several instances where parents have used drugs and severely abused and neglected their children, and their children are taken away and then sent back to be abused and neglected again. This is unacceptable. Many good Wyoming families want to help children, but refuse to be yanked around by DFS and liberal judges. Also, many of these families would help, but can't afford to, because DFS doesn't adequately cover the expenses of taking in foster kids. One specific instance I know of personally is a little girl who was born to a meth-using mother. The child was neglected - specifically, she wasn't fed, but allowed to cry herself to sleep at night because her mother was high. The mother allowed a 60 yr old alcoholic neighbor to 'watch' the child, and he severely tortured and sexually abused the little girl. This all happened before the child turned 2 and was taken away from her mother when she was sent to prison. The child was placed with a loving foster family who wanted to adopt her, but DFS decided they

wanted to give her back to her mother when she got out of prison. The family couldn't stand it, and asked that the child be placed with another family. The new foster family doesn't understand that the child has reactive attachment disorder and can't stand being alone, so they punish her when she cries when one of the foster parents leaves the room. This is happening RIGHT NOW in WYOMING, and it's a huge problem we need to address. Wyoming has so much money now, and we need to be using some of it to help these kids - not to pad the pockets of DFS - but to actually help the kids and families. 3) We need to get back into the school system with Home Ec classes and education to teach young people the basics: how to plan and prepare a healthy meal, how to sew on a button and put in a hem, consumer education, wise decision making, parenting, healthy relationships, etc. This needs to be taught at all levels: grade school, middle school, high school, college, adult education in communities, and in our prisons. Our education system has become so focused on testing and levels that we forget to teach people how to do basic things they need to know to be functional individuals. Many people aren't learning these basics at home, and several don't go to college, so they need to learn these basic skills in grade school, junior high, and high school.

21. Lifelong learning
22. Good Nutrition
23. Mental health, and outreach to non-English speaking people.
24. We can only be resourceful if we have knowledge -- that is the key to developing human resources.
25. lack of basic core values - honesty - integrity - all seems pretty watered down -for lack of a better word - there seems to be a lack of conscience

<b>Youth</b>	
1. Character development	237
2. Youth development programs	126
3. Rigorous academic curriculums	115
4. Substance abuse	100
5. Community/civic involvement	99
6. Global awareness	53

**Comments:**

1. none
2. Jobs in Wyoming
3. Global awareness is also important on how we react to our global neighbors. Our youth need to be strong and always learning in preparation for not only now but the future.
4. Volunteer to help the elderly, as Wyoming's population is aging. Most of these kids are growing up without a Grandparent close by, and need to know the elderly is a great source of information about our past history. They teenagers need to understand the elderly process of aging so they will be more understanding. Maybe go into geriatrics.
5. There needs to be a focus on young children and their families. Children ages birth to 5 years are so important. Studies show that serving the children and their families needs at this age reduces the costs needed when kids are of school age. I think we really need to focus on preventative measures at an early age and give these children more support and give their family more support. It will set them up for a positive family life and reduce the risk of adolescent troubles.
6. Substance Abuse prevention  
Global Awareness  
Work Ethics
7. development and civic involvement
8. etiquette and physical, emotional, social and intellectual satisfaction

9. Substance abuse
10. Drug and alcohol awareness
11. Youth training and employment options
12. I think youth need to be involved with their families and communities to develop into a well rounded and healthy individual
13. education
14. Spiritual Development
15. Responsibility is all facets.
16. Cultural awareness, both of their own cultural dynamics and biases, and empathy/awareness of others.
17. Moral Standards!
18. We have a great 4-H program in Park County. I would like to see continued support of that program
19. See human resources
20. Alternative schools/education, especially high school, for those individuals who don't fit the mold. More emphasis on trade schools in addition to academics
21. I think we need to focus more on the basics: educating kids about the dangers of drugs and learning to make wise decisions. If we don't do that, what good is rigorous academic curriculums? Many kids are growing up in unhealthy and dangerous environments: abusive homes with parents who do drugs and engage in other unsafe behaviors. We need to teach kids to make wise decisions. One good program is Love and Logic. Wise decision making is the basis for everything, and if kids don't learn to make wise decisions, what good is the rest of their education?
22. Global Awareness
23. Academic programs
24. Canning and Freezing of Food and Sewing
25. Teaching youth that it doesn't have to be about "attitude" or "the world revolves around me"
26. Recycling, internet use and safety.
27. If we lose our kids to substance abuse nothing else matters. Not all are strong academically. We need to look at continual improvement of students from year to year, not some arbitrary number. Teaching flexible, fluid problem solvers, technology and life skills.
28. Anger and sex education, stress awareness, biological/neurological development and respect for self, peers and adults or, manners.
29. Our youth have many issues to contend with. Civic involvement is important. Youth must take part in shaping our community on the local and global level.

<b>Infrastructure Resource</b>	
1. Affordable housing	233
2. Healthcare facilities	121
3. Alternate energy development	196
4. Improved basic utilities	80
5. Outdoor recreation	44
6. Improved technology infrastructure	42
7. Ultra high-speed internet services	26

## Comments:

1. communication and mentoring
2. Water
3. States and cities need to learn how to make it possible for private sector to help build the infrastructure without making it so difficult they are not willing to go out on a limb to build for the future.
4. Outdoor recreation areas would be my next pick.
5. Outdoor rec is important also
6. affordable alternate energy development and how to achieve this, and easy access to recycling, such as pickup for paper, plastic, aluminum, etc.
7. schools, parks
8. broadband to homes
9. public transportation
10. Healthcare facilities
11. Streets, sewers, sanitation as basic utilities. I am also concerned with alt energy resources.
12. All of these are very important and none more so than the rest.
13. I believe that we are at a critical moment for energy infrastructure awareness. It is time that we rethink and restructure our energy system (at the source and at the end user).
14. wind farms, domestic oil
15. Mass Transit
16. We as Americans need to focus on alternate energy development, so we are not dependent on the Arabs. There is no reason we should not develop our own supply of oil and gas to support this country. The environmentalists have stood in the way of this development long enough, and it's time we put a stop to that. Regarding affordable housing, my sister lives in Lusk, and there is NO available family housing. My cousin lives in Rock Springs, and there is No available housing for a family there either. AVAILABLE affordable housing is important areas of Wyoming. Regarding healthcare, I live near Cody, and we have great healthcare available to us, but it's so expensive, even though we have insurance, we don't seek treatment unless we have to.
17. Creating community lifestyles and decreasing sprawl.
18. Technology infrastructure and alternate energy
19. LIBRARIES!
20. Healthcare funding
21. We must find clean, affordable ways to keep the lights on and warm our homes. At our current rate of consumption we will either seal the planet with greenhouse gases or run out of gas and oil.
22. The utilities should be based on usage rather than the bulk of the billing being the base cost - there is not much of a way to cut down on your bill as the bulk of the bill is in the base cost - restructure so that people on fixed incomes can cut their consumption and cut their bill.

<b>Social Resources</b>	
1. Work ethics	188
2. Leadership	162
3. Strong/business/community networks	125
4. Functional boards/organizations/councils	99
5. Volunteerism	85
6. Youth involvement in community/government	78

### **Comments:**

1. retention of youth in jobs
2. Ethics
3. Work ethic is also critical to make communities strong. We must be able to communicate and understand each generation. Also youth needs to become part of them mix.
4. Functional boards (which would be a part of the volunteerism piece). Training to better understand the populations they serve should be mandatory. Example, Boards that serve organizations dealing with Low Income families need a better understanding of that population. The Poverty Simulation is one such training I believe should be mandatory for Boards serving Low income Families.
5. Continually improving and advancing health care and making health care affordable.
6. accessibility to good mental health counselors
7. Work ethics would need to be a tie for third
8. links to others and nature
9. Functional boards etc.
10. Work ethics are always a priority for me, but I take this as a given. I also believe that we could do more with good volunteerism.
11. Volunteerism
12. Youth getting involved within rural communities is vital to the community's future.
13. It is time for our rural communities to be more inclusive at the leadership level. The "good ole boy" network style (which includes ladies) needs to be revamped to include the voice of all citizens, not just the few.
14. Lifelong learning opportunities and healthy lifestyles.
15. Volunteerism
16. Leadership training-looking at others than traditional pool of leadership business people
17. All of us must develop a work ethic. We all must work hard to make our hometowns and the world a better place.
18. Seems like a lack of good people to run for office - it's a shame that we have so few people run in the primaries - Also it's a shame the County Board of Commissioners don't treat the people of the City of Cody as a major part of the county. They are not supportive of Cody issues.

<b>Financial Resources</b>	
1. Affordable healthcare	222
2. Viable small business	138
3. Youth in WY/living wage jobs	120
4. Family financial management	120
5. Property tax restructuring	91
6. Risk management/estate planning	23
7. Understanding global economics	22

### **Comments:**

1. living on a fixed income that does not grow at a rate as the cost of living does
2. Affordable fuels
3. citizens should also be aware of global economics and how it impacts our everyday lives
4. tax shelters
5. We need to come up with a better campaign to understand and implement programs for spending money locally. As citizens we need to realize the importance of creating businesses and carrying products that our neighbors need, and of purchasing locally.
6. Opportunities for Micro-Lending
7. Minimum wage rise as cost of living
8. Viable small businesses are the most important thing, and that includes family farms and ranches. People - even in Wyoming - tend to forget how much family operated farms and ranches contribute to local, state and national economies, to caring for our natural resources, and to keeping our open spaces open. Without agriculture - primarily our small family ranches and farms - all of our small and large towns in Wyoming will suffer. We need to keep family farms and ranches in Wyoming operating and making money. Part of that means risk management and estate planning to help these families plan and prepare for risks, so they aren't wiped out with a death, accident, etc. Wages in Wyoming - outside the gas and oil industry - are low. We need better wages in all other industries in Wyoming.
9. Risk management
10. Philanthropy - learning how to donate money effectively.
11. Equal pay for women!!! Equal job and educational opportunities for women and minorities.
12. The real estate market, investors and banks are in a financial fix. We must strive to look ahead, not search for short term profits.
13. I think all of these financial issues are important. Also retirement planning and long-term care planning.

### **Additional ideas, issues or comments not already mentioned:**

1. There is a large hole in this area about lower-functioning youth and adults--no jobs they can do successfully; no bosses willing to work with slower youth or adults; and if they're on SSDI or SSI, they are discouraged from working at all, which leaves them as couch potatoes--and easy prey for drugs and alcohol. Another smaller hole is for middle aged women who need to return to the workplace after raising families. They have no opportunities. NO one will hire them.
2. It is a real problem that housing developments are being built on irrigated farm ground. Something needs to be done to keep this ground in farming for future generations. Focus needs to be put on a plan to preserve the farm ground. It will be difficult to achieve this because of private ownership. A organization to purchase and lease this land to farmers is in order.

3. addressing the need to utilize as much as possible the foods grown locally
4. The most common traits I see lacking from teen thru 40 yr olds is work ethics, and accountability. It seems that parents no longer teach honesty or the value of work. A large percentage of our population is non-productive with a sense of entitlement. The word "government" should be replaced with "taxpayers", especially when referring to funding sources of programs designed to give a TEMPORARY helping hand-up (not a hand-out).
5. Communities must learn to work together. We have to many finger pointers and not enough doers. We also have to many people that like new business or other things but don't put it in my neighborhood.
6. Workforce Training is already being provided by the Community Colleges and UW Outreach.
7. Additional dollars to assist persons with mental illness
8. Thanks for asking! :)
9. PCLI is a great experience; we need to continue the training.

Forward Cody's momentum should be maintained. It is a sad show of local government that this had to come from the 'private' sector'.

We maybe should have a local job 'clearing house' where all local, local State and local Federal jobs could be found and the young folks can have QUICK, easy and direct access to the positions and tools they need.

10. Public involvement in crime/drug problems to reduce these issues as growth and improvement in other areas occur. i.e. community watch, etc.
11. I BELIEVE THE COMMUNITY NEEDS TO FIND A WAY TO EDUCATE OUR HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH ABOUT FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY - I.E. CHECKING ACCOUNTS, ON LINE BANKING, INTEREST RATES, LOANS, ETC. THE SCHOOLS DO NOT HAVE TIME IN THE REQUIRED CURRICULUM TO COVER ALL OF THIS FOR ALL STUDENTS.
12. We seem to do a good job of educating the youth here in Wyoming, but do very little to prepare the youth for accepting responsibilities and dealing with the "real world" situations. Education to adults is equally as important is so many aspects, that's why your classes offer benefits to ALL.
13. I do not follow the logic (recent) that if we have high speed internet, swimming pools and fancy libraries, walking paths, quant downtown environments etc-young upscale workers (and business) will come. They will come if we have clean air/water, open spaces, low crime, clean towns, low taxes, low energy costs, and friendly people. Quality of life must be sustained.
14. Help us preserve the quality of living in Wyoming while affording the people who live here and those who want to return an opportunity to foster good work ethic, workforce development and a good solid living for those who will make a difference in the future.
15. None
16. Good childcare is a huge issue in Wyoming. There are not enough good, licensed day care providers in the State. There are some good ones, but they often don't have a back up person/people, so when they have a death in the family or other emergency, or simply have to be gone for a family event, the parents of the children who go there often have no option but to miss work, as there is no other child care available. There are some providers practicing who are not licensed, and who do not properly care for or feed the children they care for. This is unacceptable. We need to make it easier for businesses to have excellent day care for parents who work there.

We need to seek excellent teachers to teach our youth in the school system, and reward them - pay them well, offer the training they need, and provide good housing for their families. Then we need to get rid of substandard teachers who are just there for a pay check. The same should apply to DFS and the prison system in Wyoming. There are good people who are there for the right reasons and who do a good job, but because of the nature of their jobs, their lives are very stressful. We need to pay them well, offer good in-state training, and give them lots of paid time off so they don't burn out.

Then we need to get rid of free-loading substandard employees who are just there for a paycheck.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

17. How to encourage and embrace racial, religious and sexual diversity instead of fearing it. There is a disturbing fear in Wyoming of diversity (i.e. not white, Christian, heterosexual) that needs to be addressed.
18. Need to keep lots of strong small family business'. We are not just tourist oriented. Look to help the folks that are here all year. Getting workers with good ethics goes both with character and family. Are we getting so busy our families are last?
19. Most all of the options for under financial resources are important
20. We need a theatre or live stage. Diverse economy important. Availability of fresh vegetables and clean meat. Leadership skills! Modern library.
21. To make the world or our community a better place, we must set aside our differences. I don't have the answers, but I do know we're all in this together.
22. The County being in the rental business - the Park County Complex should be used for county purposes - not the largest commercial landlord in the county.
23. Social-recreation-wildlife conflict management (i.e. wolves, snowmobiles, park winter use, grizzlies, tourism).

### How do you prefer to get educational information?

1. All of the above
2. Hands-on activities, Reading books (I'm a multi-modal learner.)

### Park County

#### 26. How do you prefer to get educational information?

	Response Total	Response Percent
Face-to-face contact: one-on-one, meetings, programs, seminars, classes, trainings	94	76%
Electronic communication: internet, podcasts/vodcasts, e-mail, compressed video, webinars	55	44%
Radio and newspaper	28	23%
Publications, brochures, workbooks, newsletters	41	33%
Other, please specify	2	2%
<b>Total Respondents</b>	<b>124</b>	

1. All of the above
2. Hands-on activities, Reading books (I'm a multi-modal learner.)

**27. What is your age:**

		Response Total	Response Percent
18-25 years		4	3%
26-35 years		16	13%
36-50 years		42	34%
51-75 years		60	48%
Over 75 years		2	2%
<b>Total Respondents</b>		<b>124</b>	

**28. What is your gender?**

		Response Total	Response Percent
Male		37	30%
Female		87	70%
<b>Total Respondents</b>		<b>124</b>	

**29. Where do you reside?**

		Response Total	Response Percent
Big Horn County		0	0%
Fremont County		0	0%
Hot Springs County		0	0%
Park County		124	100%
Washakie County		0	0%
Wind River Indian Reservation		0	0%
Other		0	0%
<b>Total Respondents</b>		<b>124</b>	

**30. How long have you lived in this county?**

		Response Total	Response Percent
Less than 2 years		12	10%
2-7 years		32	26%
8-15 years		29	23%
16-24 years		13	10%
Over 25 years		38	31%
<b>Total Respondents</b>		<b>124</b>	

**31. What is your occupation?**

		Response Total	Response Percent
Education		20	17%
Professional services (financial, engineering, insurance, etc.)		23	19%
Skilled services (contractors, electricians, technical, etc.)		6	5%
Wholesale/retail sales		2	2%
Agriculture, natural resources		9	7%
Health care		18	15%
Social services		13	11%
Government		15	12%
Retired		17	14%
Other, please specify		16	13%

**Total Respondents** 121  
(skipped this question) 3

1. Mental health
2. Reclamation and soil conditioning services
3. Early Intervention
4. Retired educator now working for Wyoming government.
5. Media - broadcasting
6. Bookkeeper
7. Missionary
8. Student
9. Student
10. Cosmetologist
11. writer
12. Clergy
13. stay at home mom on a small cattle ranch
14. Farmer
15. Homemaker
16. Massage therapist private practice

**32. What is your educational level?**

		Response Total	Response Percent
High school or less		10	8%
Technical school		10	8%
Two years of college		17	14%
Bachelors degree		46	37%
Graduate degree		41	33%
<b>Total Respondents</b>		<b>124</b>	