

INTRODUCTION

PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of the County/City Comprehensive Plan, hereafter known as The Plan, is to integrate the concerns and expressions of Minidoka County and Rupert City residents into a comprehensive statement of how the County and Cities should grow and develop. Furthermore, The Plan is to meet all legislative requirements, specifically the Idaho Planning Act of 1975, *Idaho Code, Title 67, Chapter 65*, and establish consistency of zoning regulations with The Comprehensive Plan.

This plan has been specifically created for and through efforts of Minidoka County and the City of Rupert. In an effort to coordinate consistency and uniformity throughout the county The Plan has been drafted to include, as appendices, the Comprehensive Plans of the Cities of Heyburn and Paul. The cities of Acequia and Minidoka endorsed and adopted the 2001 version of this plan and will be allowed to do so again if desired.

PLAN ADOPTION AND REVIEW

In August of 2000, the Minidoka County Commissioners and the Rupert City Council directed their respective Planning and Zoning Commissions, Administrators, and legal staff to review and update the existing comprehensive plan. Because the previous plan was a joint venture, the entities decided to work together and they jointly retained a consultant to facilitate and assist in the process.

The county and city went to work immediately seeking community input and support. Articles were run in all local papers soliciting participation. Key individuals of the community and representatives of business and commerce who could provide valuable input were contacted and invited to participate. Other government entities, such as City Councils and Planning and Zoning Commissions, Highway and Irrigation Districts and related associations and organizations were invited to contribute. In general, the invitation went out to any interested party to come and participate in the review process.

In late August, an organizational meeting was held and three citizen committees were created to assist in the review process. The various components of comprehensive planning were divided between the committees with all three considering the Personal Property Rights component. Representatives of the County and City Planning Zoning Commissions were assigned to be members of each committee with co-chairmen being members of each planning and zoning commission.

Each committee met at least once per month from August through December, reviewing the inventory, issues, goals and objectives of their assigned components. In January the committee dealing with land use had one additional meeting and at this time all recommendations were assembled together in a proposed draft. In February, there was another joint meeting to review the entire document and make a recommendation. It was the recommendation of those attending to submit the plan for public hearing and adoption.

The Minidoka County Planning and Zoning Commission, Minidoka County Board of County Commissioners, Rupert City Planning and Zoning Commission and the Rupert City Council subsequently held public hearings. The Plan was adopted by Resolution as per State Statute 67-6509-(c) and became effective upon passage and publication of the individual county and/or city.

It was also the recommendation of the different committees that the Comprehensive Plan be reviewed on a regular basis, in order to maintain its currency and effectiveness. Therefore, the County and City Planning and Zoning Commissions should meet at least annually for the purpose of reviewing The Plan.

In October of 2009, the revision process recommenced, following much the same process as the previous revision. Articles were run in local papers and many of the key citizens that participated in the 2001 version were contacted. An organizational meeting was held in late October and two committees were formed consisting of citizen volunteers from various sectors throughout the community. Because less than ten years had passed since the previous revision (and over 25 years had passed before the 2001 revision), it was anticipated that there would be less work required in updating.

One committee examined the first half of the plan from the Population section through Transportation; the other committee took the second half of Public Services, Facilities and Utilities. Both committees looked over the Purpose & Scope, Plan Adoption & Reviews and Setting & History sections as well as Private Property Rights. Each committee met once in November 2009 and January 2010, and then reviewed the Comprehensive Plan Map in February 2010 meetings.

Suggestions made at meetings were added in and some sections were assigned to be revised by individuals with particular knowledge to the current situation of a particular section. As changes were made, the plan was redistributed prior to each meeting. As before, the Minidoka County Planning and Zoning Commission, Minidoka County Board of County Commissioners, Rupert City Planning and Zoning Commission and the Rupert City Council will hold public hearings. The Plan will be adopted and become effective on passage and publication of the individual county and city ordinances.

SETTING

Situated amidst the rolling plains of south-central Idaho, Minidoka County is a land of abundant agricultural and natural resources. Minidoka County and the City of Rupert have a rich heritage in agriculture and related cultural and economic activities. Irrigation waters from the Snake River, which serves as the county's southern boundary, combined with fertile volcanic soils, have long provided a diversity of agricultural opportunities for county residents. Substantial public and private open space lands reinforce the strong-rural character and quality of life in the county.

Minidoka County is located in the fertile Snake River Plains of South Central Idaho, and contains 750 square miles. It is one of the most productive agricultural areas in the State. The county has unique topography and elevation. Its southern portion runs along the Snake River and was originally part of the riverbed; its northern portion runs over a somewhat higher tableland called the Northside Project; and its extreme northern and eastern boundaries consist of lava flows. Although the surface structure is varied, there is only 180 feet difference in elevation from its lowest point at the southwest corner, 4180 feet elevation, and its highest point in the northeast corner, 4360 feet.

The City of Rupert is the county seat and the largest city. It is located in the heart of county's

agricultural lands. Incorporated in 1906, it provides for a wealth of history and small town culture as well as an attractive small town life style.

HISTORY

Extracted partially from *The Minidoka Story*, published by the Minidoka County News, August 29, 1963.

The winding path of the Snake River, which crossed the area now known as Minidoka County, was the route of the early pioneers heading west. Minidoka Village, established in 1884, was the first permanent settlement and served as a railroad siding. The Bureau of Reclamation has stated that Minidoka is a Shoshone Indian name meaning "broad-expanse".

In the early 1900's, government owned land was made available for settlement and ownership by homesteading. Homesteaders were required to file a claim, live on the land for three years and do a limited amount of farming. Around 1912, many homesteaders came to live in the neighborhood of Kimama and Minidoka. However, by 1932 none of the dry land homesteads remained because of a lack of rainfall and other hazards such as frost, wind, weeds and pests.

President Theodore Roosevelt signed the Reclamation Act of June 17, 1902 that created the Minidoka Project. The project was established by the Secretary of Interior on April 23, 1904 and work began on the diversion works that year. Contracts were also let for the construction of canals and laterals shortly after. Delivery of water to the land began in 1907.

The rush of settlers started in 1904 and increased rapidly for two and half years. The settlers came from everywhere with the desire to own land and establish a home. However, very few had any experience in irrigation and both the settlers and the engineers in charge made many mistakes. As a result, many failed and left the land, but those who stayed were amply rewarded for their efforts.

Minidoka Dam, an earth-fill dam with a concrete powerhouse section, was the key structure in the project. The power plant is the oldest hydroelectric power plant operated by the Bureau of Reclamation. The first generating unit was placed in service and the first water was pumped using electric power from that unit in 1909. Two more units were placed in service in 1910 and the fourth and fifth were ready for operation in 1911. The sixth unit was completed in 1927, and the seventh unit was on-line in 1942 and the Minidoka Power Plant was designated as a historic site in 1974. Units 1-5 were decommissioned in September 1995.

In the early 1980s, Bureau of Reclamation identified the Minidoka Power Plant as a potential source for additional hydroelectric power, but lacked funding until 1993, when the Bonneville Power Administration joined the Bureau of Reclamation in the \$62 million construction project. The new plant provides 20 megawatts of additional electrical generating capacity and features state-of-the-art equipment.

Units 8 & 9 located in the Inman Power Plant adjacent to the Minidoka Power Plant were placed on-line in the spring of 1997. On May 6, 1998, the Allen E. Inman Power Plant was dedicated.

Construction of the power plant included downstream habitat preservation and development of a 5-acre wetland to replace habitat lost through construction. The current project generates xx 28 MW of power; therefore, the Minidoka project continues to meet its objectives of providing clean, renewable electricity for irrigation, municipal, and industrial uses without disturbing the delicate natural resources of the Snake River.

The Bureau of Reclamation laid out three town sites. Heyburn was surveyed and lots were sold on October 20, 1906. It was originally called Riverton and later changed to Heyburn after Senator Heyburn because the name Riverton was so common. This was to be the future metropolis where the river and the railroad met. However, when the lots were put up for sale, the people thought they were too expensive around the central square so they bought the cheapest lots on the town plat for the business section. Many early day residents felt this was why Rupert became the hub city of the county instead of Heyburn.

The site where the first well was sunk was called Wellfirst or Wetfirst and later named Rupert. Rupert was platted on November 21, 1905 and filed in Lincoln County on February 8, 1907. There were no restrictions governing the town site in 1904 and 1905, and many businesses were erected around the square. The owners were considered as squatters with no prior right to the lots they had built upon. To solve this problem, Congress passed a special act that let the businessmen buy the lots for designated prices. The Village of Rupert was incorporated on April 1906, and the town board was sworn in and held its first meeting. Rupert was named for the railroad man John Henry Rupert. Mail was sent along the railroad line with Mr. Rupert and while he eventually moved on the name remained.

Four men made up the first party who selected sites near what is now Paul. After barely surviving for three years, water arrived in 1907 and their dreams came true. In 1910, the railroad was built and crossed part of the land homesteaded by Jim Ellis. He saw the opportunity so he hired an engineer to survey a town site and called it Paul. It was named after Charles H. Paul, the supervising engineer in charge of the Minidoka Project from 1909 to 1911.

The early town of Scherrer was named after one of the early settlers who started a store and warehouse. However, the government refused to accept this name and when the post office was established, it was named Acequia, a Spanish word meaning, "water course". This apparently was to denote where the Main A and B Canals split off the main canal.

The fact that there have been large tracts of land open for homesteading twice in the lifetime of many residents makes Minidoka County unique. The first was a result of the construction of the Minidoka Dam in 1904 that opened up some 55,000 acres irrigated by gravity flow. The second tract came when the Northside Pumping Project was opened between 1954 and 1961. This opened up 76,802 acres with an additional 70,000 opened by private individuals. Homestead drawings were held in 1953 and more acreage was reclaimed each year, with approximately 5,000 acres added in 1965.

With all the hardships and triumphs of the early homesteaders and the growth of the various communities, the early history of the Minidoka County and the City of Rupert is as colorful and interesting as any other area in the nation.

Over the past couple of decades, the community has evolved as demographics changed. The Hispanic population has increased as a percentage of the total population. Although the total population has dropped as the baby boomers' children moved away and the size of families decreased, the number of households has stayed constant or grown slightly. Minidoka County schools serve 1,000 less students than 20 years ago.

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THE PLAN

POPULATION

The population of the county increased 25.3% from 1970 to 1980. The population decreased slightly in the decade between 1980 and 1990 but began to rise again in the 1990's, increasing 2.8% from 1990 to 1999. However, beginning in 1997, the population began a slow decline, decreasing in the next decade by 5.6% from 2000-2006.

The county's population resides primarily in the southern portion of the county, in and around the Cities of Rupert, Heyburn and Paul. In 2006, population figures showed that 5,214 people lived in Rupert, 945 lived in Paul and 2,768 lived in Heyburn. The population of the City of Burley within Minidoka County is 244, with an additional 256 people living in Acequia and Minidoka. The population in all of these communities has increased and decreased along the same trends as the county; however, the small communities of Acequia and Minidoka have increased slightly in population over the past decade while others decreased.

During the decades, the population has not experienced significant migration, and births exceeded deaths by a rate of more than two to one. The average number of persons per household has decreased from 3.52 in 1970 to 2.96 in 1990 to 2.87 in 2000. The county remains mostly rural, with 55.9% of the land considered rural in 2000, and 44.1% considered urban.

TABLE I POPULATION¹

YEAR	COUNTY	RUPERT	PAUL	HEYBURN	ACEQUIA	MINIDOKA
1950	9,785	3,098	NA	NA	NA	NA
1960	14,394	4,158	701	829	107	154
1970	15,731	4,563	911	1,637	107	131
1972	17,100					
1973	17,476	4,910	1,019	2,109	113	139
1974	18,000					
1975	18,203	5,201	1,004	2,337	116	143
1980	19,718	5,476	940	2,889	100	101
1990	19,361	5,455	901	2,714	106	67
1997	20,655	5,669	932	3,014	118	66
1998	20,205	5,415	906	2,958	115	68
1999	20,284					
2000	20,174	5,645	998	2,899	144	129
2006	19,041	5,214	945	2,768	135	121

¹ County Profiles of Idaho 2008, Idaho Department of Commerce

TABLE II

From 2000 Census data, the Department of Commerce did an age comparison of the county:²

AGE GROUP	POPULATION	PERCENTAGE
0 – 14	5,135	26%
15 – 24	3,087	15%
25 – 44	5,078	25%
45 – 64	4,216	21%
65 +	2,658	13%

In 2005, the per capita income for the county was \$20,086, which was 58.3% of the national average and 70.5% of the state average. Minidoka County’s comparative per capita income has declined over the past two decades in relation to national and state averages: In 1990, the per capita income was \$13,390, which was then 68.7% of the national and 85.2% of the state average.

TABLE III

Idaho Power prepared population projections for the county in 2007. These projections reveal the following:³

YEAR	PROJECTED POPULATION
2010	19,310
2015	19,960
2020	20,520
2025	20,990
2030	21,350

² Census Data on Idaho, Idaho Department of Commerce

³ Idaho Power Summer 2007 Economic Forecasts – Minidoka County

PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS

Minidoka County and the City of Rupert strive to insure that land use policies, ordinances, restrictions, conditions and fees do not violate private property rights, adversely impact private property values, or create unnecessary technical limitations upon the use of the property which would constitute an unconstitutional taking of private property rights.

There is a belief of the residents of the county and city that all new proposed uses should be studied carefully for potential impact on current uses and that any potentially negative impact should be mitigated. In addition, as the area's primary industries are agriculturally-related, efforts should be taken to protect agricultural uses in Minidoka County.

In order to evaluate each relevant action, the county and/or city will ask the following questions of each action. These questions come from the Attorney General's checklist as delineated by Idaho state law. If any question is answered in the affirmative, the action will need to be reexamined:

1. Does the regulation or action result in the permanent or temporary physical occupation of all or a portion of private property?
2. Does the regulation or action require a property owner to dedicate a portion of property or grant an easement without full compensation?
3. Does the regulation deprive the owner of all economically viable uses of all or any part of the property?
4. Does the regulation have a significant impact on the landowner's economic interest?
5. Does the regulation deny a fundamental attribute of ownership? Does it deny the right to possess, exclude others or dispose of all or a portion of the property?
6. Does the regulation or action serve the same purpose that would be served by directly prohibiting the use or action; and does the condition imposed substantially advance that purpose?

If any question above were answered in the affirmative, the action being taken would be reconsidered.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

GOAL:

It shall be the goal of Minidoka County and the City of Rupert to protect, enhance and insure private property values and rights within the accepted confines of national, state and local laws.

OBJECTIVES:

1. To review all land use decisions, policies, procedures and ordinances in context of the county and city's private property rights goal.
2. Adopt the Attorney General's checklist, answering the six questions stated above, to insure that all actions concerning private property are within the confines of the law.
3. To review each new proposed use carefully for its potential impact on current uses and that any potentially negative impact should be mitigated.
4. To address future uses and their benefit to the county and city in terms of investment versus their impact upon surrounding uses
5. To address the concepts of "Right to Farm" laws and encourage protection of agriculture.

SCHOOLS, EDUCATION AND RELATED TRANSPORTATION

Minidoka County has one school district within its boundaries, which is Minidoka County Joint School District #331. The district serves all of Minidoka and portions of Cassia, Jerome, Blaine and Lincoln Counties. As of the Fall 2010, the District Office will be located in the old Heyburn Elementary School of Rupert. The school complexes are located at:

- High School (9-12) – Between Rupert and Paul, and the alternative high school in Rupert
- Middle School (6-8) – In Rupert and Paul
- Elementary (Preschool – 5) – In Acequia (new construction—opened August 2009), Heyburn (new construction—opened August 2009), Rupert and Paul

As of November 2009, the District’s student racial demographics were as follows:⁴

TABLE IV

	#	%
TOTAL STUDENT POPULATION	3996	
American Indian	24	0.6%
Asian	5	0.1%
Black/African American	31	0.8%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	5	0.1%
Caucasian	2188	54.8%
Hispanic/Latin American	1706	42.7%
2 or more races	7	0.2%
Unclassified	30	0.8%

Additionally, the student migrant population is estimated to be 17%, 10.7% were in Special Education, 2% were in Gifted and Talented, 62.8% qualified for Free & Reduced Lunch and 12.4% were Limited English Proficient.

⁴ District Demographic Comparison, Nov. 09, Minidoka Joint School District

TABLE V

School enrollment has steadily decreased over the past several years:⁵

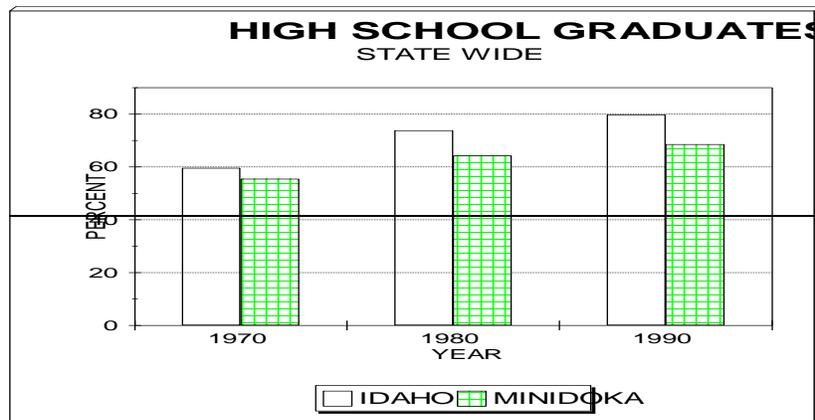
SCHOOL YEAR	ENROLLMENT
<u>00-01</u>	<u>4,482</u>
<u>01-02</u>	<u>4,369</u>
<u>02-03</u>	<u>4,338</u>
<u>03-04</u>	<u>4,247</u>
<u>04-05</u>	<u>4,123</u>
<u>05-06</u>	<u>4,112</u>
<u>06-07</u>	<u>4,067</u>
<u>07-08</u>	<u>4,136</u>
<u>08-09</u>	<u>4,097</u>
<u>09-10</u>	<u>3,974</u>

From 2000 to 2010 the districts saw a decrease of 508 students, 12.8% decrease. Enrollment is tied directly to the availability of jobs, which is tied to the most prominent industry – agriculture and related activities. There is one private school in the area (described below) and there are students who are being home schooled. There are several small private daycare services.

High School graduation rates and, particularly, those pursuing 4+ years of college, are lower in Minidoka County compared with the State of Idaho:

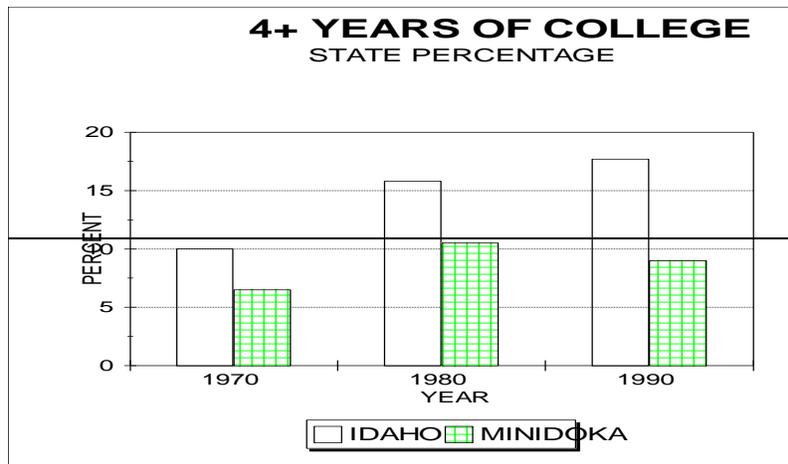
TABLE VI⁶

	Percent High School Graduates					Percent 4+ Years of College			
	1970	1980	1990	2000	2007	1970	1980	1990	2000
State of Idaho	59.5%	73.7%	79.7%	84.7%	<u>88.29%</u>	10.0%	15.8%	17.7%	21.7%
Minidoka County	55.4%	64.2%	68.5%	73.1%	<u>79.8%</u>	6.5%	10.5%	9.0%	10.1%



⁵ Historical Enrollment by School District, Idaho Department of Education

⁶ Bureau of the Census, Minidoka County School District Office
Idaho Department of Education, Minidoka County School District Office



Overall, the school buildings are in fair to excellent condition. Two new schools were constructed and opened in 2009 (replacements for the old Acequia and Heyburn Elementary Schools). In addition, much effort has been poured into preventative maintenance and remodeling to extend the useful life of all buildings.

A continued concern of the district is the water supply for the Minico High School. Because it is located outside a city boundary, it draws its water supply from a well. The nitrate levels and adequate fire flow are two issues the district is monitoring and attempting to address. Several upgrades have been made over the past few years to improve the water quality.

Transportation is provided by the school district's bus system. The bus routes have been set and are not expected to change significantly with future growth. All of the children living more than one and one half miles from their school, which may be outside of the city limits, are eligible to be bussed to school, the remainder walk or are transported by private methods. Safety bussing is used to prevent children from having to cross in dangerous situations (highly traveled roads and railroad crossings) on their way to school as approved by the state of Idaho.

Additional statistical information, including the school report card, can be obtained by accessing the State of Idaho's Department of Education website at www.sde.state.id.us, or by going to the District's website at www.minidokaschools.org.

Post secondary education is available to all of Minidoka County residents through the College of Southern Idaho (CSI) located in Twin Falls, Boise State University (BSU) located in Boise and Idaho State University (ISU) located in Pocatello. In addition, courses from the University of Idaho, BSU and ISU are offered at the Twin Falls CSI campus and the Mini-Cassia Learning Center, located in Burley. Degrees and technical preparatory credits can be earned at the Burley campus. Enrollment continues to increase at CSI and the Mini-Cassia Learning Center as it adds the option to local citizens of taking college classes and obtaining a degree while remaining at home.

The University of Idaho, in cooperation with the County, offers extension services, including educational programs. This office serves as the local gateway to the educational resources of the University. While extension education is an informal, out-of-school program, it is also delivered in

cooperation with other agencies. The local program is designed to fit local needs and currently emphasizes irrigation management, farm financial management, crop management, master gardening, food preservation, clothing construction and the 4-H program.

PAROCHIAL SCHOOL

The Saint Nicholas School is a Catholic School located at 806 F Street in Rupert. The school was built in 1958 and is in excellent condition. The entire church, rectory, and school complex is located on parts of two adjacent city blocks. The school teaches the first through the sixth grades and also houses a privately owned kindergarten.

HEADSTART

The Idaho Migrant Council offers a Headstart program in Minidoka County. Currently the program is geared towards, but not exclusive to, children in the migrant population. Headstart offers transportation to and from their program as well.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Education policies have an important impact upon the future of the area. Site selection, as well as faculty and student relationships, has a direct bearing on the educational system. Planning for all aspects of education should be coordinated so that it may effectively meet community, as well as educational requirements.

PROBLEMS AND ISSUES

1. There should continue to be an active partnership between the schools and both county and city governments.
2. The School District needs to be continually informed of development applications and plans for growth.
3. There needs to be coordination of election dates and bond issues with other public facility improvements.
4. Communication with teachers, parents, administrators, students, government officials and citizens is paramount.
5. The School District should continue to work cooperatively with other school districts in appropriate endeavors.

GOAL

To make quality educational opportunities available, including job training for young people and adults according to their individual needs.

OBJECTIVES

1. To plan future school sites in accordance with community growth.
2. To strive for continued cooperation and understanding between the schools and the community.
3. Continued cooperation should be used between the education institutions and the Planning Commission in the selection of sites.
4. Priorities and timing of school construction should be coordinated with construction of other public facilities within the county and city, including coordination of bond elections.
5. The local school board will be encouraged to continue to plan an adequate budget for maintenance of school facilities.
6. The schools capital facilities plan should be followed to ensure timely upgrading or replacement of facilities.
7. The public shall be made aware of what the money in a proposed school bond is going toward, including all federal and state matching or reimbursement funds included in the project.
8. Encourage the State Legislature to provide an equitable statewide distribution of funds for education.
9. Support statewide local teachers' salaries that are more comparable with the adjacent areas and states' average.
10. The continuation of work-based learning program should be encouraged with the input and cooperation of local businesses.
11. The initiation of student counseling programs should be encouraged at the elementary school level.
12. Encourage the school district to continue to cooperate with private schooling.
13. Education is the key to economic development and communications between these two efforts needs to be open. The business and agricultural community is encouraged to become involved in these efforts.

ECONOMIC

The total employment within Minidoka County was estimated around 8,089 in December 2009.⁷ The primary areas of employment are agricultural, trade and manufacturing. About 20% of those employed travel outside of the county to reach their places of employment, mainly to the City of Burley.

The local businesses serve the residents of the county and city in providing for commercial and service needs. These include a wide range of retail, convenience, and service establishments. Several agriculturally based businesses are also located in Minidoka County and City of Rupert, meeting the needs of farmers and ranchers in the area.

Most of Minidoka County's commercial businesses are located in and around the incorporated cities of Rupert, Heyburn, Paul, and in Burley's impact zone. These cities provide both water and sewer services inside city limits and limited services in the Areas of City Impact; an area designated outside the city limits for more urban-like and industrial development. There is also a corridor of businesses from Heyburn to Rupert and to some extent from Rupert to Paul. Most industrial uses, other than agricultural, are located where they can have access to city water and sewer. It has been established that some heavy agricultural uses may be in conflict with these more urban zones and are more appropriate in other areas of the county.

Economic development and recruitment has been the role of the Mini-Cassia Economic Development Commission (MCEDC), a two county commission looking at regional recruitment and development, and the local Mini-Cassia Chamber of Commerce. It is a volunteer organization based from Mini-Cassia businesspeople. The Mini-Cassia Development Commission has developed a strategic plan and included some goals for the area. The goals are:

- To promote and expand local business
- To recruit diverse business
- To market the attributes of the area
- To coordinate and develop resources
- To educate development professionals and volunteers, business leaders and the general public
- To increase funding and participating members
- To promote a responsible use of development resources

The purpose of the MCEDC is to bring business, government, and leadership together for the purpose of strengthening the Mini-Cassia economy through the retention and expansion of existing industry, the attraction of new employers and diversification of the economic base.

Through these goals they work to improve the overall economic well being of the Mini-Cassia area through more jobs for the youth that provide a living wage, high-quality community growth, better and more education and employment opportunities, better public facilities, affordable housing and a more diverse and stable community.

⁷ Minidoka County Work Force Trends, Jan. 2010, Idaho Department of Labor

One of the largest concerns is to provide a vibrant and diverse job market for the young people who grow up in Minidoka County and the City of Rupert but cannot find jobs after high school graduation. Several factors are necessary to create this type of economic environment. They include:

- Education – That factor is present through CSI, the vocational school, ISU and the school system
- Businesses – Businesses need to be recruited that can provide employment diversity
- Financial resources to accomplish recruitment – the county and city needs to look to the use of Industrial Revenue Bonds, grants and any other available and possible methods to finance recruitment
- Appropriate zones for businesses to be located near I-84 and its interchanges as well as along the State Highways 24, 25, 27 and 30 and other major transportation routes, as well as along the Eastern Idaho Railroad and Union Pacific Railroad.

Outside economic resources include Region IV Economic Development that operates two direct financing programs - an EDA funded Revolving Loan Fund and the Small Business Administration's Certified Development Company 504 loan program. Region 4 also has access to several banks for use with the Small Business Administration's 7(a) guarantee program. With these tools Region IV can package a wide variety of financial assistance to entice and facilitate business growth in the area.

Another important outside resource is the Southern Idaho Economic Development Organization (SIEDO). The purpose of SIEDO is stated:

To bring business, government and community leadership together for the purpose of strengthening the Magic Valley economy through the retention and expansion of existing industry, the attraction of new employers and diversification of the economic base.

To provide a self sustaining organization through the development of a foundation or other type of funding source over time, to ensure the survivability of SIEDO and provide continuity for future economic growth and development into the foreseeable future.

SIEDO operates under three guiding principles:

1. Implement a focused and cost-effective marketing plan to attract new firms to the Southern Idaho area.
2. Promote retention and expansion of existing firms.
3. Build support within the community for economic development.

Yet another resource available to Minidoka County and the City of Rupert is the presence of higher education facilities in Burley, (branch of the CSI campus), Twin Falls, Boise and Pocatello. These include the College of Southern Idaho (CSI), Boise State University, and Idaho State University. Courses from the University of Idaho as well as the other colleges listed are available through both

the Twin Falls and Burley CSI campuses. The Eastern Idaho Technical College is located in Idaho Falls, offering vocational training. These colleges have proved responsive in providing training to meet labor force requirements as well as other more direct services such as conducting surveys and studies in economic development. Many offer various degrees at both the bachelor and masters levels.

The Rural Development Office is another agency that has a high profile in the valley and loans money to local agricultural businesses and farmers. Several banking institutions currently serve the county and city and participate in loaning funds for business development.

Finally, such state agencies as the Idaho Department of Commerce can offer technical assistance and financial assistance in helping to seek out and locate businesses in Minidoka County and the City of Rupert.

TABLE VII

EMPLOYMENT⁸

AREA OF EMPLOYMENT	1990	1996	2005
Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing	2,191	2,408	1,552*
Construction	301	493	520
Manufacturing	1,938	1,957	1,113
Transportation and Communications	372	571	595
Trade (Wholesale and Retail)	1,836	2,086	1,521
Services and Miscellaneous	1,296	1,723	1,434*
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	272	211	427
Government	1,393	1,502	1,455

*Some numbers are not included to avoid disclosure of confidential material.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:

Economic development and commerce was the element of our society referred to by Thomas Jefferson as one of the pillars of prosperity and in his words "The most thriving when left to individual enterprise." If and when regulation may seem advisable it should be done first on a local level. Commerce is vital, and its growth should be encouraged in a rational manner that will allow business (including agri-business) to function efficiently and profitably for the benefit of the community.

PROBLEMS AND ISSUES

1. A critical lack of career opportunities in the county and city is forcing some of our bright and talented young men and women to move to other places where opportunities are available.

⁸ County Profiles of Idaho 2008, Idaho Department of Commerce

2. There is a noticeable lack of goods and services in Minidoka County and the City of Rupert that is driving consumer trade to surrounding areas where these goods and services are available. This becomes a detriment to all local businesses.
3. Government agencies should encourage as much work to be done by the private sector as is possible and efficient.
4. The utilization of the senior citizen sector of the community as a resource and in the work force.
5. Lack of available Sewer and Water (Potable and Fire Protection) Service is limiting potential development of the Highway corridor between Rupert and Heyburn.

GOAL

To provide a healthy environment for business development in Minidoka County and the City of Rupert aiming at providing better jobs, for more people with more available goods and services. To also provide a better place to live by minimizing discriminatory and restrictive regulations on commerce and unwise competition between private business and tax supported agencies.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Attract and retain new and current businesses in Minidoka County and the City of Rupert by working closely with and supporting the Mini-Cassia Development Commission.
2. Improve resources available to promote and attract new businesses, encouraging agricultural alternatives and businesses that support agriculture.
3. Utilize outside resources, such as the Idaho Department of Commerce, to assist in this effort.
4. Upgrade infrastructure, as needed including supporting infrastructure improvement efforts within the cities, such as water and sewer capacities. Promote aesthetics in the population centers of the county which service tourist and business needs.
5. Plan economic growth that will be compatible with the rural and small town way of life in Minidoka County and the City of Rupert and avoids a more metropolitan life style. Promote industries that will assist with the growth of Minidoka County and the City of Rupert.
6. Encourage policies that require that the cost of growth to be paid by that growth.
7. Recognize the current and potential impact that tourism could have on the economy and encourage further planning and development of this industry.
8. Develop committees, including representatives from affected taxing districts, which could look at the use of any available financing and funding options as well as other resources to

finance recruitment of new and diverse businesses to the county and city.

9. Using Urban Renewal (Idaho Code Title 50 chapters 20 & 29) as a tool to expand the City of Rupert water and sewer systems to promote managed development within the impact areas of the city.

LAND USE

Minidoka County is a high mountain desert area located in South Central Idaho, along the Snake River. There are 486,208 acres of land in the County.

TABLE VIII

LAND OWNERSHIP⁹

LAND OWNERSHIP	ACREAGE	PERCENTAGE
Federal	174,649	35.9%
State	7,720	1.6%
County	3,285	.7%
City	113	
Private	300,441	61.8%

The County has six incorporated communities – Acequia, Burley (North Burley), Heyburn, Minidoka, Paul and Rupert - which are home to approximately half of the county residents.

Agriculture is an important part of the economy in Minidoka County and utilizes much of the land. See Tables IX & X for 2000 agricultural figures on use production on agricultural lands.

TABLE IX

AGRICUTURAL LAND USE¹⁰

Idaho (2010)	Unit	2009	1997	1992	1987	1982
Land in Farms	Acres	11,400,000	11,830,167	13,468,992	13,931,875	13,921,639
Number of Farms	Number	25,500	22,314	22,124	24,142	24,714
Avg. Size of Farm	Acres	447	530	609	577	563
Buildings & Land						
Avg. Value/Farm	\$\$\$		536,521	410,206	336,615	459,965
Avg. Value/Acre	\$\$\$		1,017	682	572	814

⁹ County Profiles of Idaho 2008, Idaho Department of Commerce and Minidoka County Assessor property records.

¹⁰ Idaho Data, National Agriculture Statistics Service, USDA

TABLE X

MINIDOKA COUNTY – AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION¹¹

LIVESTOCK

	Unit	All	Beef	Dairy	Other
Cattle (2010)	Head	42,800	4,900	11,100	23,400
Sheep (2010)	Head	41,500			

CROPS

	Planted	Harvested	Avg. Yield	Unit	Total Yield	Price/unit	Total Value	% of Idaho
All Wheats (2008)	43,100	41,700	104.5	Bu.	4,363,000	\$6.38	\$27,835,940	4 %
Spring Wheat	30,600	29,600	105.5	Bu.	3,126,000	6.86	21,444,360	8 %
Winter Wheat (2009)	10,600	10,500	101.5	Bu.	1,068,000	4.45	4,752,600	2 %
Barley (2009)	34,600	33,800	120.4	Bu.	4,070,000	4.80	19,536,000	8 %
Sugar Beets (2009)	30,100	29,100	29.4	Tons	856,000			
Alfalfa Hay (2009)		32,300	6.2	Tons	200,400	115.0	23,046,000	4 %
Dry Beans (2008)	3,400	3,300	21.5	Cwt.	71,000	37.00	2,627,000	5 %
Potatoes (2008)	25,500 23,400	25,400 23,300	380.0 421	Cwt.	9,652,000 9,810,000	7.15	70,141,500	8 %

¹¹ Idaho Data, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA

HIGH (HEAVY) AGRICULTURAL LAND USE:

The preservation of historical and customary agricultural and range use is important to the citizens of Minidoka County, who base a portion of their economy on this use. Agriculture is defined as any facility for the growing, raising, or production of agricultural, horticultural crops, and vegetable products of the soil, poultry and poultry products, livestock, field grains, seeds, hay, apiary and dairy products, and the processing for commercial purposes of livestock or agricultural commodities. Use areas considered as High/Heavy Agricultural are those in which agriculture should remain the primary economic activity and use as well as for the location of agricultural activities, which by the nature of the activity and use is not compatible with more urban and rural use areas.

With much of the economy derived from agriculture and agriculturally related activities, maintaining viable tracts of agricultural and rangeland is a county goal. Non-agricultural uses could have adverse impacts within the agricultural land use area and must be carefully reviewed if allowed.

The Agricultural land use is suitable for all types of agricultural and range operations, confined animal feeding operations (CAFOs), single family homes, including manufactured homes meeting certain siting standards and not included in a subdivision, and any accessory buildings necessary for operation of the agricultural use. Related agricultural industrial land uses will be managed and be allowed after careful consideration of its impact on surrounding agricultural uses through a special use permitting process allowing for public input. Residential subdivisions shall not be encouraged and will only be considered through the appropriate review, approval and permitting process. Cottage industries or home occupations, under certain conditions, or historical uses could remain a viable use of the land. Utility installations, including communications towers, may be allowed upon review through a special use permit process. All non-agricultural uses will be managed to minimize the impacts on agriculture. Protection of wellheads will be considered in making planning decisions.

The county will be encouraged to look at such planning tools as the Transfer of Development Rights to assist in accomplishing the protection of high (heavy) agricultural land uses.

MEDIUM (LIGHT) AGRICULTURAL LAND USE:

The medium agricultural land use is created to provide a transition between those areas in the county that are strictly agricultural and those areas that may be suitable for other types of development, yet still dependent and respectful of the agricultural uses.

The medium agricultural land use is suitable for single-family residential living, including manufactured homes (as allowed and defined by state law) meeting certain building and placement requirements. One purpose is to promote the development of residential neighborhoods in rural settings to meet the demands of the population, preferably on lands that are less desirable for agricultural use. If residential subdivisions are contemplated, clustering of the housing units will be encouraged. Standards should be developed to address construction around irrigation systems for their protection. Areas designated are suitable for single family and manufactured homes under certain conditions. All developments shall meet the health and safety regulations set by the Health

District and the state. Protection of wellheads will be considered in making planning decisions.

Other uses allowed under this land use category include crop and livestock agricultural activities, forest uses, public or semi-public facilities compatible to the agricultural and residential use, and cottage industries or home occupations having minimal impact upon surrounding properties. Utility installations, including communications towers, may be allowed upon review through a special use permit process. Livestock operations may be allowed when in compliance with separate local, state and federal regulations for Confined Animal Feeding Operations. Densities greater than one home per platted or recorded lot shall only be allowed upon review and approval of the City or County Planning and Zoning Commission. Densities on lots platted after adoption of this plan will not exceed those required for a sufficient septic system.

Homes should be clustered on less desirable land within this land use, leaving prime agricultural land in agricultural production. Location of these housing clusters should be near an adequate transportation system to serve the development. The clusters of development will assist in preserving agricultural use and open space now enjoyed by Minidoka County residents.

No lot will be developed without proper access to a public street or road (either directly, or by use of a private road meeting standards for ingress and egress and emergency response). Canal roads and alleys are deemed to not be proper access for development purposes. Should such public street or road not be improved to acceptable county or city standards, it shall be the responsibility of the property owner whose property is being developed to improve the street or road to county or city standards.

The developer/property owner shall also follow other applicable design standards for public infrastructure.

Temporary housing for the purposes of residence while a home is being constructed will be allowed upon issuance of special permit from the county.

Some commercial uses may be allowed through a special use permit in a transitional/agricultural area. However, in the case of commercial uses designed to serve agricultural needs or residential needs in the immediate area, such use may be allowed upon review and approval of the City or County Planning and Zoning Commission.

LOW AGRICULTURAL (RESIDENTIAL) LAND USE:

Residential land use in Minidoka County has been traditionally tied to the agricultural uses, with the exception of the communities in the county. The purpose of the low agricultural/residential land use is to promote the development of residential neighborhoods to meet the demands of the population. The county has recognized the need for residential subdivisions in appropriate areas of the county where such development will have minimal impact upon agricultural uses and protect the surrounding environmental quality.

Areas designated as residential are suitable for single family residential living, including manufactured homes meeting certain building requirements. Other uses allowed in this land use designation might include cottage industries or home occupations that have minimal impact on the

neighborhood, and public or semi-public facilities compatible to the residential use. Utility installations, including communications towers, may be allowed upon review through a special use process. All residential uses shall meet Health District requirements for water and sewer systems. Higher-density residential development should be located where central water and sewer systems are provided, or be required to provide central water and sewer systems.

No lot will be developed without proper access to a public street or road (either directly, or by use of a private road meeting standards for ingress and egress and emergency response). Canal roads and alleys are deemed to not be proper access for development purposes. Should such public street or road not be improved, it shall be the responsibility of the property owner whose property is being developed to improve the street or road to city or county standards.

The developer/property owner shall also follow other applicable design standards for public infrastructure.

Some commercial uses in low agricultural zones may be allowed with the issuance of a special use permit.

RESIDENTIAL LAND USE:

The purpose of residential land use is to promote the development of residential neighborhoods to meet the demands of the population. This land use will be found primarily inside the City limits. Areas designated as residential are suitable for low-density (single family), medium-density multi-family (one to four units per building), and high-density (apartments or condominiums) residential living, including manufactured homes meeting certain building and placement requirements. Other uses allowed in this land use designation might include cottage industries or home occupations that have minimal impact on the neighborhood, motels and hotels, bed and breakfasts, boarding houses and shelter or rest homes, and public or semi-public facilities compatible to the residential use. Utility installations, including communications towers, may be allowed upon review through a special use permit process.

The City of Rupert has many lots currently undeveloped. Residential development should occur within the city limits if it includes medium density single family or multi-family units. An effort to infill areas within city limits should be made to encourage efficiency and use of public facilities and services.

No lot will be developed without proper access to a public street or road (either directly, or by use of a private road meeting standards for ingress and egress and emergency response). Canal roads and alleys are deemed to not be proper access for development purposes. Should such public street or road not be improved, it shall be the responsibility of the property owner whose property is being developed to improve the street or road to city standards.

The developer/property owner shall also follow other applicable design standards for public infrastructure.

Some commercial uses in a residential zone may be allowed with the issuance of a special use permit.

COMMERCIAL LAND USE:

Commercial use in Minidoka County has traditionally been located along the state highways and main traffic routes in the cities, serving travelers through the area, serving the consumer needs of the residents, and serving agricultural needs. It is the desire of the citizens of Minidoka County to continue such uses along or within the areas of the highway corridors, but to cluster these endeavors throughout the county in the triangle formed by Heyburn, Rupert and Paul. Access control through developed standards will be utilized on state highways and along other county roads that constitute principal traffic corridors, including north of Rupert and west of Paul to the Kasota exit.

Commercial uses within the city limits of Rupert have traditionally been within the established ~~in~~ ~~the~~ downtown area (now identified as an historical district) and along the highway corridors (State Highways 24 and 25). The city can supply both full service water and sewer facilities for new or expanded development.

"Commercial" shall be defined as retail or wholesale establishments, or those that provide a service for a fee.

Only commercial and other similar compatible uses will be allowed in the commercial land use areas. Industrial uses shall be confined to the industrial zones within the county unless agriculturally related and approved for the agricultural land use areas. Heavy industrial use will not be allowed in commercial areas. To provide for "smart growth," residential development will be discouraged in commercial zones.

Such uses allowed shall be those that are highway related, such as gas stations, convenience stores, restaurants and lounges, grocery stores, motels and other related businesses. The land use designation shall also allow neighborhood-related uses such as laundries and dry cleaners and other related businesses. Standards for uses such as junkyards, auto wrecking yards, towing yards, auto storage and other types of salvage uses will be established. Public and semi-public facilities compatible to surrounding uses shall be allowed. Utility installations, including communications towers may be allowed only upon review through a special use permit process.

No commercial lot shall be developed without proper access to a public street or road. Should such street or road not be improved, it shall be the responsibility of the property owner of the property being developed to improve the street or road to city or county standards. Off street parking shall be adequate to meet the needs of the commercial use. The number of accesses onto major county and city roads and streets should be limited and strictly enforced.

The developer/property owner shall also follow other applicable design standards for public infrastructure. Transportation is the key for many businesses and transportation routes and modes should be upgraded and maintained.

INDUSTRIAL LAND USE:

The major industries in the county deal primarily with the processing of agricultural products. The following is a list of the four larger industries:

- Gossner Cheese
- Idahoan Foods, Inc.
- Amalgamated Sugar Company
- Brewster Cheese

Industrial use in the county and city has been primarily agriculturally related. Within the City of Rupert, industrial use has centered along the railroad tracks, in the southwest area of the city with some use northeast of the community along the railroad.

It is the general consensus of the citizens to allow and encourage industrial development in the appropriate industrial zones. The citizens will encourage the recruitment of clean industries that will compliment their community. Industrial uses might range from light to heavy depending upon location. The majority of industrial uses will be encouraged to locate within city limits or the area of impacts where city services are more likely to be available. Exceptions to this might include mining, farm services, and the initial processing of commodities, including grain elevators. Limited industrial development, under specific development standards, should be encouraged and allowed along the Eastern Idaho and Union Pacific railroad track corridors.

Industrial use may include light industries, small manufacturing plants, processing plants and other uses which are deemed compatible to the county or cities' other uses. Utility installations, including communications towers, may be allowed upon review through a special use permit process

No industrial lot shall be developed without the proper access to a public street or road. Should such street or road not be improved, it shall be the responsibility of the property owner of the property being developed to improve the street or road to county or city standards. Off street parking appropriate to the industrial use shall be required. Access on to major county or city roads and streets should be limited.

The developer/property owner shall also follow other applicable design standards for public infrastructure.

The county or city will encourage the orderly development of industry and the grouping of industrial uses in land developed as an industrial park as appropriate. To provide for "smart growth," residential development will be discouraged in industrial zones.

OTHER LAND USES:

The county and city may establish special land use categories to address unique characteristics of the land or environment. This may include identifying public lands, floodplain areas, and areas of critical concern such as historical sites, geographic features, wellhead protection, city well sites, wildlife areas, historic districts and natural resource areas. These are discussed more fully in the Natural Resource, Recreation, Hazardous Areas, and Special Areas and Sites elements of the plan.

Particular attention should be paid to the river corridor. This area should be reviewed for an overlay zone that might allow for access to the river; residential development in appropriate areas and under appropriate conditions; setback standards; recreational facilities such as walking paths,

golf courses, boat docks, swimming areas; floodplain considerations; and environmental and habitat protection.

EXISTING USES:

Prior to the establishment of some land uses (and subsequent zones) many uses of the land have been established. It is recognized that some of these uses that have existed prior to the Comprehensive Plan, may not conform to the requirements of the newly established land use. Such uses shall have the right to continue to exist as long as there are no health and safety concerns but will not be able to be expanded in physical size and if such use has been discontinued for a prolonged period of time it may not be allowed to continue without following certain procedures as set forth in Idaho Code. All existing lots, either legally platted or lots of record established in conformance with the City or County Subdivision Ordinance that are not of the proper sizes required by this plan and following ordinances shall be considered non-conforming and developable.

AREAS OF CITY IMPACT:

Areas of city impact are areas outside of the municipal boundaries of incorporated cities in which future development cause an impact upon that city. The Idaho Local Planning Act (Idaho Code § 67-6500) requires that cities and the county enter into mutually determined agreements determining what lands should be included within the area of impact and what laws and regulations should apply.

The preservation of agricultural uses within the city Areas of Impact should be protected. All of the Minidoka County cities are still of the size and inclination to allow these related uses within the area of impact. This allows for the mixture of larger agricultural parcels and smaller parcels providing for a rural, low-density living atmosphere. These lands are considered to be in a changing environment where public facilities and services will be necessary before intensive urbanization should occur. Many of the lands within these areas are best designated with the transitional/agricultural zone to allow for a transition area and buffer between the more urban city densities and uses and agricultural areas.

Heavy agricultural uses, such as confined animal feeding operations (CAFOs), should not be allowed. Conditions of agricultural uses should be met to insure the health and safety of its citizens, and the preservation of the value and aesthetics of surrounding properties.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

HIGH AND MEDIUM AGRICULTURE

Agriculture and its related industries are the most important part of Minidoka County and the City of Rupert's economy. Because land is a limited resource, private property owners should be encouraged to maintain their agricultural lands for the production of food, fiber and animal products. Because the right of an individual to own, use and dispose of his property must not be abrogated, the best method of insuring continued and expanded use of land for agricultural purposes

is to provide a climate in the county or city which will foster the growth of agriculture and its related industries and which will make it easier and more profitable to engage in the business of farming.

PROBLEMS AND ISSUES

1. People of the area enjoy the rural atmosphere.
2. Land being taken out of agricultural use often results in weed patches or junkyards.
3. Agricultural land is being sold at a higher price for uses other than agriculture.
4. Subdivision development in areas of Heavy agricultural land use are typically far removed from the cities and their areas of impact and are usually unnecessary, removes farm ground in agricultural production and may be detrimental to the pursuit of agriculture in that immediate area.
5. An inherent conflict exists between residential and agricultural uses.
6. Farm to Market roads are becoming more congested as more and more development puts traffic and numerous accesses on the roads.

GOAL

To provide for the orderly development of the county or city and for efficient and wise use of the agricultural land resource. Agricultural land shall be considered developed land.

OBJECTIVES

1. To provide a climate wherein agriculture and its related industries will continue to flourish as a primary part of the economic base of the county or city.
2. To have orderly rural growth by using the land according to its best ~~purpose use~~ (as related to social, economic and physical factors) while encouraging the property owner to retain as many acres as possible in agricultural use).
3. To encourage maximum compatibility between land uses.
4. To encourage private landowners to make continuing improvements of agricultural land for increased production, conservation practices, wise land use and beautification of the countryside.
5. To preserve the rural atmosphere and special character of the county or city with a minimum of land restrictions in a manner that will not be exclusionary to various life styles: that all people may benefit from it.
6. To encourage CAFOs to locate in outlying high agricultural areas away from areas

designated or developed as commercial or residential land uses.

7. To encourage use of land management resource easements that protect agriculture as the primary industry. (See Exhibit A)
8. The county or city should discourage residential development in high or heavy agricultural zones.
9. The county or city should develop strict manufactured/mobile home placement standards to ensure the continuity of development and life safety issues.
10. The county should look at allowing for an accelerated process for small plats (short plats) that do not require public improvements.
11. Support the "Right to Farm" concepts in zoning and other developmental laws to protect the County's agricultural base.
12. Look at the use of buffer areas between agricultural and other uses.
13. The Comprehensive Plan Land Use Maps will be used to classify all county and city lands as to priorities for future use, and as a guide for future land development and zoning regulations.
 - A. Quantifiable data on social, economic and physical criteria will be made available to support any action taken to make allowance for change in land use priority classifications.
 - B. Designation will be made of which lands are best for conversion to non-agricultural uses if development pressures make it necessary to look toward agricultural lands. Land will be allowed to be divided up to four total parcels for development purposes.
14. An agricultural or "farm" unit shall be defined according to use rather than property size.
15. The first party to develop ground in a particular area shall retain right to use (or to sell that land for continued use) in the manner that it was originally developed. New builders and residents shall understand that their decision to locate in rural areas pre-supposes a knowledge and acceptance of these agricultural practices that are generally prevalent there.
16. Higher density residential uses will be directed to within the city limits.

LOW AGRICULTURAL

Areas permitting limited residential growth and development to provide for the rural residential setting while protecting the agricultural economic base of the area. These areas would be where heavier agricultural uses are discouraged or not allowed.

PROBLEMS AND ISSUES:

1. Any development in this land use should be done in such a way to be annexed by the city with ease.
2. Standards for the placement of manufactured/mobile homes should be developed and enforced.
3. Property tax assessments based solely on location with city limits and not on use and market value inadvertently promotes development outside city limits.

GOAL:

Development in this land use should not be disruptive to either the surrounding agricultural uses or nearby cities.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Preserve the rural identity of the area while providing for residential development compatible with neighboring agricultural interests.
2. Support open space and rural residential lifestyle.
3. New development in this category shall provide screening and transitions using the larger lot sizes to serve as a buffer between urban development and agricultural uses.
4. Encourage development that utilizes innovative site planning to preserve the rural atmosphere.
5. Protect the flow of irrigation waters to neighboring agricultural lands.
6. The county should look at allowing for an accelerated process for small plats (short plats) that do not require public improvements.
7. The county and city should develop strict manufactured/mobile home placement standards to ensure the continuity of development and life safety issues.
8. Encourage equitable property assessments based upon use and market value, whether the property is located inside the city limits or just outside.

RESIDENTIAL

Areas in or near the cities where infrastructure, such water and sewer is or can be made available, where higher density residential development is more appropriate.

PROBLEMS AND ISSUES:

1. Many vacant and undeveloped lots and subdivisions exist within the city limits that could be filled.
2. There is a need for more senior housing and affordable multi-family housing.

GOAL:

To assist in meeting the residential needs of the community at every income level.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Promote compatible development of residential lands inside city limits.
2. To require essential public services, utilities, and applicable infrastructure be provided to proposed developments.
3. Encourage parks, and open spaces within residential areas.
4. Allow manufactured housing and other types of affordable housing that provide home ownership opportunities to all citizens.
5. Development shall be designed to minimize impacts on existing adjacent neighborhoods. Development of existing lots and infilling shall be encouraged.
6. Support well-planned and pedestrian friendly neighborhoods and developments.

COMMERCIAL

Areas for commercial uses such as retail, light manufacturing, office space and services, are generally located in commercial or downtown districts and along primary traffic corridors.

PROBLEMS AND ISSUES:

1. To provide aesthetically pleasing areas for commercial development.
2. Minimize the impacts of noise, odors or other undesirable factors.

GOAL:

To fulfill the commercial needs of the community.

OBJECTIVES

1. Support well-planned, pedestrian-friendly commercial services.
2. Encourage commercial facilities at locations where they complement the existing and future transportation facilities or routes at locations and adjacent land uses or require the development and construction of new roads.
2. Encourage landscaping to enhance the appearance of structures and parking areas that blend with or enhance the existing neighborhood.
4. Commercial area congestion shall be minimized and traffic safety assured by providing proper entrances and exits, and by including provisions for internal traffic circulation and parking. Commercial development shall occur only after sufficient right-of-ways improvements and special control of access points have been assured to accommodate the added traffic generated.
5. Promote commercial service and retail development within the Central Business Districts within the cities.
6. Encourage development of business and professional services in a manner commensurate with the needs of the community residents.
6. Require commercial development that satisfies the community design standards and objectives that reflect a use and design that is in harmony with established residential development.
8. Assess and consider all public service, environmental and social impacts of the commercial development.

INDUSTRIAL

The major industries located within the cities and county deal with the processing and packaging of agricultural products. However, there are also several light industrial operations dealing with other aspects of the economy. Local industries are an important source of employment, goods and revenue. A properly located and developed industrial area can add to a community, but if it is not carefully placed and developed, it can greatly detract from an area. When considering industrial areas, the quality as well as quantity should be considered.

PROBLEMS AND ISSUES

1. The location of some industries hinders expansion.

2. Growth of industry is directly tied to the capacity of the sewer and water systems as well as other facilities in the cities.
3. There is traffic congestion around some industry locations. Convenient access to the interstate is of utmost importance.
4. Encourage Agricultural related industry to be located close to the raw materials.

GOALS

To determine industrial areas suitable for that purpose and properly located with respect to other land uses and transportation routes and facilities.

OBJECTIVES

1. To promote orderly development of industrial sites.
2. The Comprehensive Plan Land Use Map is drawn to designate land which is most suitable as defined by environment, availability of industrial oriented facilities, and present adjacent land uses for future development of various types of industries.
3. All types of industries shall be located in areas zoned particularly for classification of light or heavy industry and where transportation access and other requirements of the industry, such as water, drainage, suitable soil bearing characteristics, etc. are available.
4. The cities and county will encourage the development of agricultural related industries that provide a market for products produced in this area.
5. The cities and county will encourage the development of non-agricultural industry in the county.

MINING

Mining in Minidoka County is limited to gravel and some clay excavation.

PROBLEMS & ISSUES

1. Abandoned gravel pits can become unsightly and dumps for junk or have contaminated water.
2. Clay and gravel excavation can be done by removing the topsoil and replacing it so the land can still be farmed.
3. Direct transportation routes to the interstate are not available.

4. Residences are constructed in the area, then mining begins.

To protect the scenic and natural beauty of the area while providing for orderly process with minimal detrimental effects, for the extraction and processing of this natural resource.

OBJECTIVE

1. To minimize impact on the environment caused by mining practices.
2. Included in the county map designating priorities for land uses shall be areas shown suitable for sand and gravel extraction and to identify suitable areas to minimize conflict between this and other uses.
3. Owners of land, which is suitable for sand and gravel extraction, shall retain the right to use, or sell their land to a buyer to use at his own discretion until a purchaser decides to develop a sand and gravel pit on the site.
4. Requirements should be established for rehabilitative measures of the excavation sites of all mining activities, including gravel and clay.
5. Develop an overlay zone map identifying gravel areas and cinder pits.

HOUSING

The following data was taken from census records with the 2000 census being the most recent. It reflects that the majority of the housing units in the county are single family, owner occupied houses.

TABLE XI

HOUSING UNITS¹²

UNIT DESCRIPTION	1970	1980	1990	2000
All Housing Units	4,816	6,876	7,044	7,498
Vacant-seasonal and migratory	44	89	22	
Owner Occupied	3,331	4,913	4,820	4,820
Average occupants per unit	3.52	3.12	2.96	2.87
Overcrowded Units (more than 1.5 persons/ room)	164	149	178	262
Units lacking some or all of a plumbing system	184	89	22	56

TABLE XII

AGE OF HOUSING UNITS¹³

YEAR BUILT	TOTAL
1990-Mar. 2000	776
1980 – 1989	733
1970 – 1979	2,404
1960 – 1969	1,174
1950 – 1959	1,032
1940 – 1949	514
1939 or earlier	1,187

Currently, the county or city has limited senior citizen housing. However there are several affordable housing units (listed below) available to seniors, particularly on an income basis. This proposal includes a 16-unit facility located next to the existing senior center in Rupert at 702 11th Street. The City of Rupert owns the land and will have to approve of the expansion. The units will be one and two bedroom and will be leased based upon income need. The expansion will also benefit the senior center by adding 1000 square feet onto the building for a quilting room, TV room and more eating space as needed. There is currently one assisted living facility in Minidoka County

¹² County Profiles of Idaho 2008, Idaho Department of Commerce

¹³ County Profiles of Idaho 2008, Idaho Department of Commerce

for the elderly but this does not adequately meet the needs for today and into the future.

The Paul Housing Authority, financed through Farmers Home Administration, has 80 units of migrant labor housing consisting of four-plexes and duplexes. While it no longer offers low income subsidized housing, it does offer reasonable rental rates. Other migrant housing is available in Heyburn. This complex is called Project Hope and is owned and operated by the Idaho Migrant Council. Need for this type of housing is of importance to Minidoka County and the City of Rupert.

An informal survey of housing units conducted in 2000 shows a minimum of five low income/subsidized housing complexes available, two that cater specifically to senior citizens and the disabled. Of these, there are 119 units, with 34 one-bedroom units, 79 two-bedroom units and 6 three-bedroom units. These units include Colonial Townhouses, Valley Park, Sunset Manor, Southwood Village all in Rupert and Mountain View West in Heyburn. Other possible units include C Street Manor in Rupert and Project Hope in Heyburn.

Overall, the real estate market is such that low-income families are afforded some opportunity to purchase their own homes. This is possible because of lower than average housing costs in the county or city and the presence of home ownership programs as offered through the Idaho Housing and Finance Association, Rural Development and other programs. There appears to be adequate affordable rental units in apartments and in homes of two bedrooms or less. Larger homes are not affordable in the current rental market.

There is also a need for townhouse or condominium opportunities for seniors still capable of living on their own but with less maintenance responsibilities.

The Idaho Housing and Finance Association has a program for qualified individuals offering subsidized rent on a leased property. IHFA also purchases properties for lease and offers to subsidize those who qualify.

Minidoka County and its cities support fair and affordable housing through the passage of resolutions and ordinances by their governing bodies. Other programs that exist to help with affordable housing include Habitat for Humanity.

Manufactured homes are considered a suitable housing type for single-family lots when meeting construction and placement requirements as set by the county or city and the state of Idaho.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:

Adequate shelter or housing is a basic human need and continued development of adequate housing is necessary in order to meet this need. Many issues must be taken into consideration when endeavoring to address and meet this need. Issues for consideration are population projections, soil capabilities, existence of natural hazards, compatibility with other land uses, the availability and cost of public utilities, police and fire protection, schools and transportation. All these issues play an important part in the livability of an area.

PROBLEMS AND ISSUES

1. Lots for housing are available in existing subdivisions and town sites. However many of these lots are not improved for development due to the cost of required public facilities and infrastructure. Most of the county's housing is being placed on small acreage or parcels throughout the county.
2. Subdivisions and housing development are becoming scattered and taking agricultural land out of production.
3. Other criteria, in addition to whether or not it is good agricultural land should be considered when allowing subdivisions.
4. There are some old platted subdivisions that have never been developed.
5. Outlying subdivisions may impose demands for city utilities and services that can ultimately result in a disproportionate share of cost versus benefits to taxpayers who are not involved in the subdivision. Discussion on when a central water and sewer system should be required is ongoing.
6. Building and fire codes have been adopted and are enforced to ensure public health and safety.
7. Standards for the protection of public health and safety need to be adopted and enforced.
8. Migrant housing complexes provide housing for migrant laborers upon which many farmers are dependent.
9. There is a need for additional attractive, well-maintained rental units particularly homes for larger families.
10. Minidoka County needs more Senior Citizens housing.

GOAL

Promote safe and adequate housing for all present and future members of the community.

OBJECTIVES

1. To evaluate the adequacy and cost of water, sewer and other necessary services when considering changes in residential densities.
2. To discourage the trend of "urban sprawl" and leapfrog developments.

3. Those areas of the county and city that have desirable livability aspects shall be designated "residential," to be used and where practical and preserved, as such.
4. Minimum lot size for residential development (including mobile homes) in agricultural land, outside of subdivisions, shall be of sufficient size where septic tank drainage meets Health Department standards and high water table with low permeability of the land, as determined by soil surveys and percolation tests of the lot.
5. Before any land is rezoned, quantifiable data will be obtained by the Planning and Zoning Commission to verify that rezoning would not cause economic, social or physical stress on existing uses of surrounding areas and will be in compliance with the Comprehensive Plan.
6. In order to deter unnecessary leapfrog development the subdivision ordinance shall be enforced requiring developers who wish to put a subdivision in rural or non-residential areas to present their plans to the Planning and Zoning Commission. The ordinance sets standards for public improvements so the cost of such is borne by the developer and not the general taxpayers.
7. All property owners within the immediate vicinity of a proposed subdivision in an area zoned other than residential, which would require rezoning of land, shall be served with written notice seven days in advance of a public hearing before the Planning and Zoning Commissions, City Council or Board of County Commissioners in which notice sets forth the intended action of the applicant.
8. If the developer is issued a permit, he shall be directly responsible for the provision of services and facilities to the subdivision.
9. The Zoning Ordinances of each jurisdiction shall establish specific density ranges within density categories.
10. The County and its cities will continue to maintain and enforce the most current version of the building and construction codes.
11. Residential building shall be encouraged in existing subdivisions that have not been fully developed.
12. Standards for the placement of mobile and manufactured homes shall be developed to protect life safety and insure compatibility with existing neighborhoods.
13. Adequate space in the urbanized areas shall be zoned as medium and high density-residential to encourage the provision of increased rental units in the cities.
14. It is recommended that all jurisdictions utilize "Planned Unit Development" procedures and practices applicable to specific projects which may encourage varied architectural designs, off-street parking, paved streets, curbs and gutters, buried utility lines and protective covenants.

15. It is recommended that Building, Plumbing, Electrical and Fire Codes continue to be updated and enforced.
16. It is recommended that all jurisdictions in Minidoka County encourage both public/private partnerships and private construction and maintenance for adequate senior citizen housing.
17. It is recommended that any senior citizen housing units be built on scattered sites in Rupert, Paul and Heyburn, and be located as close as possible to shopping areas in each city and meet current ADA standards.

TRANSPORTATION

HIGHWAYS AND ROADS

There are approximately 15.5 miles of Interstate, 71.68 miles of state highways and 607.68 miles of local roads within the county. The Minidoka County Highway District serves the unincorporated areas of the county and also cooperates in assisting the cities. They presently have about 310 miles of road that now qualify for Federal aid. 60% of the District's budget comes from gasoline tax. The 2008 Road Surface and Rupert City Streets and Limit maps show the major road and street systems for the area.

The City of Rupert's streets are maintained by the City Street Department. The majority of streets within the city limits are paved and in fair to good condition. Many of the streets within the city lack curb, gutter and sidewalk. There are some areas of priority, including those around schools and to major pedestrian areas such as the downtown. In some areas of the community this is being remedied with the use of Local Improvement Districts. The city also does not have a complete adequate storm drainage system in place. This issue is looming in the future as EPA regulations become stricter. The city will be looking at establishing storm water policies and standards to address this.

The City of Rupert has established a maintenance plan for its streets, but after many years of falling behind due to inadequate funds, it is continually playing "catch-up." Older streets are rebuilt and/or resurfaced as they come up on the priority list.

The City of Rupert has also been involved in researching the possibility of the development of a bike path plan that will ultimately connect the cities of Paul, Rupert and Heyburn. Grants are currently being applied for to help finance the continuation of this project. All of the state highways are maintained by the Idaho Transportation Department, whether inside the incorporated city limits or within the county. The Cities of Heyburn and Paul maintain the local streets and roads located within their city boundaries.

The Highway District has created standards for construction of both gravel and paved roadways in the county. These standards address new construction, maintenance and upgrade of roads. Any roads to be constructed must meet these standards prior to the district accepting them for maintenance. The district has also addressed policies for the building of new roads – their necessity and placement. Some issues concerning this include that all new construction sites for homes or businesses must have direct access to a county road and/or dedicated easements and cannot use canal right of way for that access. A location map can help to determine the future alignment and placement of road right-of-ways and the county has also considered the development of a future acquisitions map to allow for the right of first refusal on the purchase of right-of-way if it is threatened by development.

Other issues for transportation include:

- A direct farm to market access to the Mini-Cassia industrial areas and I-84 from primarily the northern agricultural areas of the county to avoid traffic and street limitations within the cities

- A route north to the INL and the Craters of the Moon area
- Possible additional off-ramp from 1-84 at potential locations such as Meridian Road (“A” Street), 850 West and formerly 600 East, Rupert
- Beautification projects at Exit 211
- Possible access through Rupert and Paul for tourism traffic heading to Sun Valley
- Developing the economic potential of 1-84 access for businesses and industries
- An improved farm to market road connecting Hwy. 24 northeast of Rupert to 600 West, north of Paul

AIRPORTS

The Twin Falls Airport is located south of that city. The Twin Falls Airport is small and in good condition. In addition to a lobby, it has restaurant and bar facilities.

Other airports serving the county residents include the Pocatello Airport to the east and the Boise Airport to the west. Both have commercial flights and are served by major airlines. Boise serves as a hub to several destinations. Both also handle private planes as well. The Burley Airport has no commercial flights and only handles private planes; its runways are very short and space is not available to lengthen them. There are also several private airstrips located within Minidoka County.

There has been discussion and an airport study within the past two years on the possibility of developing a regional airport to serve the City of Burley, Cassia and Minidoka County areas. The study identified five potential sites for such a facility but it was tabled at the time because public support was not high. There is discussion of revisiting this issue.

RAILROAD

Presently, there is no rail passenger service to this area. A mainline of the Union Pacific Railroad runs through the northern part of the county with a primary switching facility in the City of Minidoka. An Eastern Idaho Railroad spur line takes off at Minidoka and runs through Acequia, Rupert, Paul, Burley, Jerome, Twin Falls and Wendell. The railroad serves a valuable function in the transportation of freight for the area especially for agricultural products.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION:

There is limited passenger service offered by Greyhound Bus Line to the citizens of Minidoka County in Rupert and Burley, as well as the Salt Lake Express service and S&R of Burley.

In addition, limited public transportation services are offered by the Minidoka Senior Center, Countryside Care and Rehab at the Minidoka Memorial Hospital and the Valley Vista Assisted Living Home for seniors to get to doctor’s appointments, to the Senior Center and to meet other limited transportation needs. Valley Vista services are also extended to the disabled and homebound as well as others on a fee basis. The Idaho Migrant Council also offers transportation services for those involved in their many programs and the Disabled Veterans van provides veterans with transportation to meet their medical needs. Finally, Idaho State University provides shuttle service to and from the Pocatello campus for local residents.

FREIGHT SERVICE:

Overnight freight services are available in Rupert, Paul and Heyburn to service business and personal customers alike.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:

This element deals with the movement of people and goods within, to, and from the area. Transportation in the area is heavily dependent upon the private automobile. The transportation system brings people and facilities together, transports their goods, helps shape the urban form, and influences future land uses. Therefore, it must be planned in conjunction with other land developments if all aspects are to function properly.

PROBLEMS AND ISSUES

1. Older roads are being rebuilt and widened which can create a problem with setback requirements.
2. Subdivisions are required to meet the minimum standards and requirements of the Highway District or Cities Street Department.
3. There is discussion on the improvement of existing county roads as to who has this responsibility - the highway district, the developer or the adjoining property owners? This debate applies particularly to those roads that are platted or dedicated along the section lines.
4. There is no state highway going north into Blaine and Butte Counties and to the INL. Idaho Transportation Department has a current policy of not taking on any more miles of state highway, making a new highway north is possible only if some other miles are taken off their inventory.
5. Some railroad crossings are rough and poorly maintained causing safety hazards, and often crossings are tied up for long periods of time.
6. There should remain a consolidated highway district for the entire county. The highway district needs to continue addressing problems and issues such as road maintenance, construction standards, railroad crossing safety, and a relationship with the Idaho Transportation Department.
7. The county and city has no airport, and there is no regional airport.
8. There is limited service for senior citizens or handicapped people to get to the bus depots or airports.
9. There is a problem with restrictive bridges on both load and width causing problems for both agriculture and industry.
10. The lack of manageable truck routes creates heavy truck traffic near schools and residential subdivisions.

11. Repairs and rebuilding of existing roads is not keeping up with deterioration.

12. Existing roadways were not designed for current loads.

GOAL:

To provide a balanced transportation system which gives maximum mobility to all citizens and goods.

OBJECTIVES:

1. To strengthen the economy by providing the means for transporting people and industrial materials and products.
2. To reduce any hazards that may impair the people's safety.
3. To provide a sound basis for planning new development projects whose location depends upon transportation.
4. To reserve adequate right-of-ways along transportation routes to accommodate expected, as well as, existing traffic volumes.
5. To increase concern for the scenic quality along transportation routes.
6. To provide local citizens with a reasonable choice of transportation alternatives.
7. To continue to research and support efforts to bring a regional airport to the Mini Cassia area.
8. To facilitate access to historical and recreational sites in Minidoka County.
9. Roads, Streets and Highways
 - a. Any developer building a subdivision will obtain the Highway District's or the city's approval and shall follow the construction standards as set forth by the district or city, and shall dedicate all streets or roads to the county or cities.
 - b. The highway district will be encouraged to develop a policy, with citizen input, on the construction of new roads within the county.
 - c. A policy concerning the acceptance of private roads, placement, construction and maintenance within the county or cities should be developed.
 - d. The inclusion of utility corridors and easements within streets and rights-of way should be encouraged.

- e. The law prohibiting water on highways, and farming of dedicated road right-of-ways should continue to be enforced.
- f. Policies concerning the control of accesses onto county and city roads shall be developed and enforced.
- g. The Highway District shall be encouraged to continue coordination with ITD and the cities to maintain continuity and safety in the maintenance of existing roads and the development of new roads within the county.
- h. Storm water issues should be addressed through the development of policies by both the city and county. It is recommended that minimum road standards for all jurisdictions be established and followed.
- i. It is recommended that steps be taken to protect residential areas: served by street, other than arterial roads and expressways, from undesirable truck traffic and thoroughfare.
- j. It is recommended that any new highways or roads constructed in the county be carefully located to give minimum disruption to farming practices.
- k. It is recommended that the present interchange system for 1-84 (Interstate 84) be preserved and an additional interchange be encouraged.
- l. Zoning, Subdivision and Building Code setbacks continue to be enforced.
- m. The county and cities should continue to work with the railroads to insure that traffic, especially emergency response vehicles, is not delayed for long periods of time at crossings.
- n. The county and cities should encourage the railroad to properly maintain all railroad crossings and that critically visible railroad crossings on streets and highways have a minimum of flashing red lights for safety.
- o. The cities and the county should maintain adequate street signs for name and/or number throughout the area.
- p. The Highway District should remain as a consolidated unit serving the unincorporated areas of the county.
- q. The Highway District, utility companies and the cities should continue to cooperate and exchange future development and expansion plans by written agreement.
- r. A policy concerning the construction of new roads within the county will be developed to determine when new roads will be constructed and who will bear the responsibility for such.
- s. An overall transportation plan for the county and its cities be developed and followed.

- t. It is recommended that both the city and county address future requirements of the EPA and adopt storm water policies.
- u. Develop the economical potential of the off ramps and corridor of Interstate 84.

10. Public Transportation

- a. It shall be policy that transportation planning deal with all aspects of the interrelationships of all forms of transportation, including automobile, trucks, airplanes, railroads, bicycles, buses and pedestrians.
- b. It is recommended that the county and city periodically review public transportation needs and work within a public/private partnership to fulfill these needs.
- c. It is recommended that the county and cities continue to encourage and support modes of public transportation to transport senior citizens, children and individuals with disabilities so they can utilize other transportation, retail, recreational, and other public facilities.
- d. It is recommended that the county and city work together on the bike path development to link different parts of the city as well as ultimately link Rupert to Paul and Heyburn.

PUBLIC SERVICES, FACILITIES AND UTILITIES

Minidoka County and the City of Rupert contain numerous public and quasi-public facilities and services that serve the public. Each is identified below, by description and with the help of various maps.

PUBLIC FACILITIES AND SERVICES

1. **County Buildings:** The County Courthouse was built in 1915 and is in fair condition. It is located in the City of Rupert and houses the Treasurer, Auditor, Building and Zoning, Prosecuting Attorney and County Commissioners. The Courthouse is on the Idaho Historical Registry and is currently undergoing a multi-year remodel and historical restoration. The Judicial Building was built in 1974 and is in good condition. It houses the offices and facilities for the District and Magistrate Courts. The facility is in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. The Law Enforcement Building was built in 1973 and houses the Minidoka County Sheriff. The jail portion was remodeled and added on to in 1991 and now houses the Mini-Cassia Juvenile Detention Center. The County is partners in the Mini-Cassia Correctional Facility for adults located in Burley. The Minidoka County Office Annex is an office building acquired in 1994 and now houses the Juvenile Probation Department, known as the Larry R. Duff Annex. The County has also acquired a doctor's office located on the corner of G and 7th Streets which is now called the Assessor's Building and houses the offices of the Minidoka County Assessor, including the Property and Motor Vehicle Divisions. Another annex was acquired in 2008, known as the Duane Smith Annex. The McGregor Center is located adjacent to the Fair Grounds and formerly housed the Rupert Idaho National Guard Unit. The County obtained the building from the State of Idaho in 1998 and it now houses the University of Idaho Cooperative Extension Service and the Fair Board Office.
2. **City Buildings:** Each city except Acequia has its own City Hall that contains the city offices. Most city halls in the county are in good condition. The Rupert City Hall was renovated in 2000 to preserve its historic appeal and modernize its function. The Council Chambers are now located upstairs in the building. The room once served as the Public Library. The building was originally constructed in 1937 and is located at 620 F Street. It features an attached gymnasium that is used for recreation and public events (a more detailed description of this historic building can be found in the "Special Areas and Sites" component).

The City of Rupert has also recently acquired the Pershing School Campus located at 1st and C streets, as well as the building presently occupied by Maverick Country Store located at 318 Scott Avenue.

The City of Heyburn has a new City Hall and the City of Paul offices and Council Chambers are now housed in a new facility owned by the West End Fire District, which will also house the fire station.
3. **County and City Shops:** The County owns two shop buildings housing its maintenance and weed programs. The first is located at the McGregor Center in Rupert and the second is located east of the City of Paul. The Cities of Rupert, Heyburn and Paul each have various shop building housing the different electrical, public works and parks departments.

4. Fair Grounds: The fairgrounds are located east of Rupert at 85 East Baseline Road, encompassing an area of approximately 65 acres. They are owned, funded and maintained by Minidoka County. There is a well-maintained rodeo arena with covered grandstands seating 800, with an additional seating capacity of 2400 in the bleacher area. The display buildings include an antique building, a commercial building, 4-H and produce building, livestock show building, a state of the art commercial food booth with covered eating area, and an 80' x 100' open air pavilion for livestock shows, family reunions, and other community events. The grounds also have approximately 110 sheep and pigpens, 120 horse stables and 4 cattle barns. There is a 4 ½ furlong oval horse racing track with a ¼ mile straight a way with the finish line in front of a grandstand. The entire Fair Grounds complex including the Historical Museum and related parking, and the McGregor Center offering a large drill hall assembly room, a large and a small meeting/class room with tables and chairs available.

The fairgrounds have hosted Moto-X races that pull people from the whole intermountain area, annual horse racing events, a full week of events during the county fair including entertainment, open class exhibits, food, rodeo, 4-H and FFA livestock shows, two of the District VI High School Rodeos, cub scout day camps, Tool Sales, the National Dexter Cattle Show, the Magic Valley Reigning Cow Horse Show, State Rabbit Show, the annual Rupert 4th of July Celebration and Carnival, annual Community Auction, with numerous 4-H, business, family, and church functions and activities. We are fortunate to have this multi-purpose facility for use in our community.

5. Historical Preservation: The Minidoka County Historical Society was started in 1969 and is funded by membership fees and assistance from the County. More information on the museum and society can be found in the “Special Areas and Sites” component of this plan. The Minidoka County Historical Society museum is located on the northeast corner of the fairgrounds property. They have also moved several historic buildings onto the site adjacent to the museum.

The City of Rupert, in conjunction with the Rupert Renaissance Initiative, a citizen-formed community development committee, proposed the creation of a historic district for Rupert. Following extensive research on the history of the area, and working with the National Park Service and State Historic Preservation Office, Rupert’s historic town square and business district was created and placed on the National Register of Historic Places on Jan. 16, 2001.

The City of Rupert passed an ordinance establishing a Historic Preservation Commission after which the city was awarded Certified Local Government (GLC) status. This allows the Historic Preservation Commission to apply for grants for training and developing local guidelines and standards for the preservation of the district.

Initially, there were 34 buildings and the town square on the National Register of Historic Places and it continues to expand.

6. Libraries: There is one public library in the county. It is the De Mary Memorial Library located in the City of Rupert. The library was founded in 1958 and is financed by private donations and a two-mill levy from the city. The library has approximately 44,000 volumes. Future plans

include looking at the creation of a countywide or possibly a two county library district so that all rural and urban county residents might be served equally.

7. Cemeteries: A listing of the county cemeteries can be found in the “Special Areas and Sites” component.
8. Schools: The public school system and its needs are addressed in the “Schools and Transportation” component of the plan.
9. Senior Citizens Centers: The county senior center, located at 702 11th Street in Rupert provides services to all of the county’s seniors. Programs offered by the center include a recreation area, and locations where meals are served and meetings are held, Meals on Wheels for homebound seniors and a van to help with senior transportation needs. The center is open five days a week to provide these services. In addition, the center is looking at expansion of its facility to meet housing needs as well.
10. US Postal Service: Postal service is offered to county residents through the delivery service and at the post offices located in Rupert, Paul, Heyburn, Burley, and Minidoka.
11. Road and Bridge System: the Minidoka County Highway District, a separate taxing entity, serves the county with respects to road and bridge construction and maintenance. The district has responsibility for the maintenance of all roads outside the limits of all incorporated cities. City streets are developed and maintained by the individual cities and the Idaho Transportation Department maintains all federal and state highways and roads. The transportation infrastructure needs are addressed in the “Transportation” component of this plan.

The City of Rupert also works off of a Transportation Master Plan which includes road construction and a maintenance priority list. There is also a State and Local Agreement for maintaining the State Highway going through the City of Rupert. The Idaho Transportation Department maintains all federal and state highways and roads. Further infrastructure transportation needs are addressed in the “Transportation” component of this plan.

WATER SUPPLY SYSTEMS AND UTILITIES

It is important for the county and city to plan uses around these systems and utilities so that utility lines, pipelines and waterways are safe and compatible. It is appropriate to prohibit any construction or other continuous activities under or over these lines or systems. Major transmission facilities should be kept out of the residential areas of the community. Communication between the county and city, private landowners and the utility companies is essential to mitigate negative impacts from occurring.

Utility facilities must be maintained and improved on a regular basis to meet the needs of the county and city's citizens, allow for growth and provide quality level of service. This can in part be accomplished through negotiation of franchise agreements.

1. Water Resources: All water needs in Minidoka County and the City of Rupert, whether for

domestic, municipal or agricultural uses, are served by the Snake River aquifer and the BOR Upper Snake River Reservoir System. There are many legally established priorities on the system that could impact Minidoka County and the City of Rupert's current and future water supplies. These need to be carefully monitored by the county and city so impacts can be anticipated. New development should be responsible for meeting the state health guidelines in the provision of domestic water supply.

All the cities in Minidoka County except Acequia provide potable water to their residents. Most of the wells used by these cities, and all those used by the City of Rupert are located within their city limits. Wellhead protection and surface water protection policies are currently being considered to protect these water sources from possible contamination.

The water supply for Rupert is a combination of surface and groundwater. The surface water is from the Snake River and comes to Rupert through the BOR Upper Snake Reservoir system delivered via canal. This is used primarily for irrigation. The groundwater is pumped from the Eastern Snake Plains Aquifer. This water is used for municipal, agricultural and domestic purposes. The water is delivered through two separate systems. The irrigation water is delivered through a low-pressure irrigation system using mainly surface water. The city's potable water system consists of two main wells and two back-up wells, all approximately 500 feet deep. The city owns two storage tanks – one built in 1913 that stores 50,000 gallons of water and one constructed in 1984 holding 1.125 million gallons.

The water is distributed to customers through approximately 35 miles of pipe ranging from 2” to 16”. A major upgrade to the system was completed in 2001 and 2002 and includes a new well, storage tank and distribution system upgrades that will allow for expansion south and west of the current city limits.

The A&B Irrigation and Minidoka Irrigation Districts serve Minidoka County for irrigation water. The A&B District is a 100% pumping district that depends upon ground water supplies for approximately 67,000 acres and storage water rights in American Falls and Palisades reservoirs for 16,000 acres. It is located mainly up on the bench and contains about 14,000 acres (some in Jerome County). The Minidoka District is a canal district and depends upon the Walcott Reservoir behind the Minidoka Dam, located in the eastern area of the county. All cities have flood irrigation systems in place. In addition, some farmlands are irrigated by private wells.

2. Sewer Systems: Generally, county residents residing outside city corporate limits are served by individual septic systems approved by the health district. Future development should meet all new requirements for such systems and be of such a density so that pollution of surrounding properties is not possible. The Cities of Rupert, Heyburn and Paul have central sewer systems that serve their residents and policies on the extension of these services outside their city limits. The Cities of Minidoka and Acequia are served by individual septic systems, as are the county rural residents.

The City of Rupert has 20 lift stations. All of them are in good condition, and all but one lift station have the capability of a backup generator. The treatment plant finished an upgrade in 2008 which included a new headwork's building with screening and grit removal, a new blower

building with new blowers, new aeration system and clarifiers, and a new pump station to pump the final effluent to the lagoons.

Another upgrade is planned in the future to handle solids removal and disinfection. The treatment plant also has backup power. The City has approximately 44 miles of collection lines ranging from 6" to 30" in varying conditions. These lines are replaced on a continuous basis.

3. Electric Utilities: Consumers in Minidoka County are served by nine electric companies with legally described service boundaries: City of Burley, City of Heyburn, City of Minidoka, City of Rupert, East End, Farmers Electric, Idaho Power Company, Riverside and United Electric. The Idaho Power Company is the only investor-owned electric utility and is regulated by the Idaho Public Utilities Commission (PUC). The remaining seven consist of four municipalities and four cooperatives which are not regulated by the Idaho PUC. United Electric provides electric service in Minidoka and Cassia Counties as well as the Cities of Paul and Acequia and areas within the City Limits of Cities of Burley and Heyburn as well as areas adjacent to these cities and the City of Rupert. Riverside Electric serves the area around one mile south of Meridian Road to 600 South, east two miles to the Snake River and west on the south side of the Interstate. East End Mutual Electric and Farmer's Electric serve small rural areas northeast and south of the City of Rupert, respectively. The Cities of Heyburn, Minidoka and Rupert provide electrical service within their city limits and have a few electrical customers outside their corporate limits. The City of Burley serves consumers in the area of Minidoka County known as North Burley and the City's facilities are co-mingled with the facilities of the City of Heyburn and United Electric.
4. Telephone Service: There are two telephone companies serving the county. Qwest Telephone Company serves the City of Heyburn and the Emerson area. Project Mutual Telephone Co-op Association serves the remainder of the county. Project Mutual has expanded its services to the City of Heyburn, giving those residents a choice for phone service. Project Mutual was started in 1916 and has operated under the present name since 1954. All lines are private and most of the cable is buried underground.

The Enhanced 911 System is currently in operation at the Sheriff's Department and serves the entire county and a portion of Cassia County as well. Project Mutual maintains the Enhanced 911 Systems in both Minidoka and Cassia County.

5. Natural Gas: Intermountain Gas Company provides natural gas to the area. It serves the Rupert, Paul and Heyburn areas with lines that make a loop around the triangle. There are currently plans to expand the line east of Rupert to the museum.
6. Cable TV: Cable One and Project Mutual Telephone Company provide Cable TV to portions of Minidoka County. The Services are available primarily in the incorporated areas of the county; however, PMT supplies cable to much of their service area outside of town, with Cable in the Country over telephone lines.
7. Television: Direct television broadcasting is currently available to parts of the county, and a translator system serves the rest of the county, broadcasting from Pocatello and Twin Falls. With the advent of the federally mandated digital signal, antenna reception is limited in the

Mini-Cassia area. Most rural residences have switched to satellite or cable in the country for their television reception and service.

8. Internet Service: Qwest, Cable One and Project Mutual Telephone serve portions of Minidoka County. Project Mutual Telephone covers 95% of its service area with High Speed Bandwidth Internet Service. Safe Link Provides High Speed wireless service to areas within and surrounding the cities.
9. Intrastate Service: Project Mutual Telephone Company is a 20% owner in Syringa Networks. Syringa Networks is an Idaho Company that provides Long Distance Private Line, Internet Service Provider and Ethernet delivery around the Central Idaho area and is connected to the world through Boise.
10. Solid Waste Disposal: Solid waste disposal in the county and city is currently provided by the South Idaho Solid Waste District that serves a seven county area. They haul all solid waste to a site located in Cassia County. The District offers limited recycling programs to the residents of the area. There are various private solid waste disposal and recycling programs in the county.

PUBLIC SAFETY

1. Law Enforcement - General: Law enforcement in Minidoka County is currently provided by the Minidoka County Sheriff's Department, in the City of Rupert by the Rupert Police Department, in North Burley by Cassia County Sheriff's Department and in the City of Heyburn by the Heyburn Police Department. The Cities of Paul, Acequia and Minidoka depend upon the Sheriff's Department to provide law enforcement services, including traffic control. The Idaho State Police (ISP) and other surrounding law enforcement agencies provide mutual aid, with the ISP concentrating on traffic enforcement on the state highway and I-84 in Minidoka County. Response time in the county is dependent upon the location of the officer on duty and could be anywhere from a few minutes to over a half an hour. It could be slower at times if the officer is on another call. ISP officers will sometimes work from the office at 53 E Baseline, which can reduce response time. Current crime rates indicate that the current level of enforcement is adequate. The county and city residents expect that increased levels of police protection will be funded as they become necessary. Population growth, increased tourism, economic development and other growth factors will determine the rate of increased law enforcement services in the future.
2. Minidoka County Sheriff's Office: The Sheriff's Office is comprised of 18 full-time officers, 4 office staff, 6 dispatchers and 15 reserve officers. The Sheriff's Office provides law enforcement for the unincorporated portions of the County and the Cities of Paul, Acequia and Minidoka. Also the calls of service for North Burley are dependent upon who receives the call and if it is a felony. Minidoka County investigates all felony cases in North Burley and does actively patrol over there. The Department has the distinction of having the only whitewater rescue team in the Magic Valley and the only High Angle Rescue Team in the Mini-Cassia area. The Dive Team has 8 members and of those, 3 are Master Divers. The Department also has a Special Response Team (SRT). There are 15 members and they have received specialized training all over the United States. Some of the training has been done by

the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Drug Enforcement Administration, Delta Force, Special Forces, Counter Measure Tactical Institute, Mountain States Tactical Institute, Houston SWAT and Dallas SWAT.

Currently equipment is adequate, but care must be taken to keep all equipment up-to-date and maintained properly. Continual updating of this equipment will be essential to continue providing top quality law enforcement services in Minidoka County. Retention of trained officers is extremely important for continuity and cost savings for law enforcement services. This often can be difficult for a rural county like Minidoka, due to the long hours on the job, lower pay, and high stress. Smaller counties and communities serve as training grounds, after which a qualified officer may be enticed away by a larger, better paying department.

3. Rupert Police Department: The Rupert Police Department has a quick response time, depending on call volume. According to the 2008 Idaho Uniform Crime Report, the current overall crime rates for the last five years in the City of Rupert have indicated the percentage of criminal offenses, versus the population, have decreased from 511 in 2005 to 320 in 2008, while the clearance rate has increased. The city residents expect that increased levels of police protection will be funded as they become necessary.

Of the total 79 police departments in the state, Rupert is the 19th largest in comparison of certified police officers. The entry-level salary is considered average in comparison to other Idaho communities. Fiscal Year 2008 saw a decrease in force of two officer positions due to budget shortfalls.

Current equipment is considered marginally adequate necessitating continual updating. Officer training continues to be a challenging with rising tuition and travel cost. Continued efforts to increase police officer salaries must be made to retain trained, experienced officers. This is extremely important for continuity and cost savings for law enforcement.

4. Fire Protection: Fire protection in Minidoka County consists of two fire protection districts and the City of Rupert.

Minidoka County Fire District has four stations:

- Heyburn – a new station will be moved into in late 2010
- Northside – located at 1078 N 400 East, North of Rupert
- East End – located in Rupert
- West End – located in Paul

They have one full-time chief and approximately 50 volunteer firefighters. They protect from the interstate and 350 West to 1400 North and everything east in Minidoka County, including about 68 square miles of Blaine County east of Minidoka. South of the interstate they protect from the Snake River on the East to 1050 West except for North Burley, which is protected by the Burley Fire Department. All three stations provide Fire, QRU and extrication services.

West End Fire Protection District operates out of one station located in the City of Paul. The District encompasses 250 square miles which includes the City of Paul. Starting on the east

side then goes from 350 West in Minidoka County to the Jerome County Line. The North boundary is along 1600 North from 350 West to the Lincoln County line then along county line south to 1000 North and then West to the Jerome County line. The District covers a small portion of the eastern part of Jerome. West End Fire Protection District operates under three fire Commissioners, one full time Fire Chief, and 20 volunteers. The District provides Structural Fire Protection, Wild land Fire Protection, Extrication, Medical (QRU), and Hazardous Materials response as well as High Angel and Confined Space to the Mini-Cassia area.

The City of Rupert provides Fire, rescue and QRU services within the city limits. There are 23 volunteer and 1 full time firefighters.

All fire departments have mutual aid with one another in the Magic Valley. Fire equipment in Minidoka County consists of 10 structural engines, 4 tankers, 5 brush trucks, 2 rescue units and 2 Command Vans. All firefighters receive training in firefighting, hazardous materials, extrication and rescue, many are first responders and EMT's. The insurance rates by ISO range from a 4 to a 10. In the county everything within 5 miles of a fire station is an 8, within 10 miles is a 9, and beyond that is a 10. In the cities, Rupert has a 4, Heyburn has a 4 and Paul has a 4.

5. Ambulance Service: Ambulance service is provided by Minidoka Memorial Hospital. The hospital has three ambulances that provide both short and long range transport services. Cassia Regional Medical Center also provides ambulance service when needed. There is air transport available when needed and the hospital has a heliport on site. The level of service provided is advanced EMT.
6. Search and Rescue Service: Search and rescue services are provided by the law enforcement agencies with assistance from reserve volunteers. Their capabilities include extrication, a dive team and basic search and rescue functions.

All of the above services are dispatched by the Enhanced 911 system.

HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES

1. Hospitals: Minidoka Memorial Hospital (MMH) consists of the joint operation of the county's only hospital (25 beds) and skilled nursing facility (59 beds) located in Rupert, Idaho. The Minidoka County Commissioners have appointed a 10 member Board of Trustees (7 voting and 3 exofficio) to oversee all aspects of the organization's operations. The hospital operates the county's ambulance service. MMH was originally built in 1960, with recent additions and remodeling in 1999 and 2003. 33 physicians have privileges to treat patients at MMH. Gross patient charges exceeded \$30 million in fiscal year 2009. The MMH 2009 Annual Report, detailing operational outcomes and results, is available upon request from the hospital administrator, or online at the hospital's website, www.minidokamemorial.com.

Other area hospitals include Cassia Regional Medical Center in Burley, St. Luke's Magic Valley Regional Medical Center in Twin Falls, North Canyon Medical Center in Gooding and

Portneuf Medical Center in Pocatello.

Physician services are also available to county residents at Family Health Center, a Federally Qualified Health Center in Rupert near Minidoka Memorial Hospital and designed to treat low income and uninsured patients. FHC also provides dental services.

2. Department of Health and Welfare: South Central District Health maintains an office on the grounds of the Minidoka Memorial Hospital in Rupert. This state organization provides health services to the low income, along with many other public health programs. In addition, the State Health and Welfare Department offers child development services out of a Rupert office providing developmental services to children from birth to 3 years of age.

QUASI-PUBLIC:

Below is a list of quasi-public facilities in Minidoka County:

- Churches
- Meeting Halls – including the Elks Lodge in Rupert
- Convention Center – Located in North Burley
- Civic Auditorium – it is part of the building that houses the Rupert City Hall. It was built in 1938 and is located in the City of Rupert, and is used for recreation and various activities sponsored by different organizations. It is in the process of being modernized.
- Minidoka County Fairgrounds – See “Public Buildings” and “Recreation” components for more details

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:

A. SERVICES AND FACILITIES

For the most part, these services and facilities are either provided or supervised by public or semi-public agencies. As the area grows, the demands on these services also increase substantially, thus requiring careful and coordinated planning and management if they are to meet the demands made upon them. The public's investment in and scheduling of these public programs may be viewed as a major means of implementing the recommendations.

PROBLEMS AND ISSUES

1. The city/county law enforcement complex is overcrowded and new facilities should be considered in the near future.
2. Laws need to continue to be strictly enforced.
3. Assure that there continues to be fire protection for all areas of the county.
4. The County Courthouse is in need of modernization.

5. There has been a trend to consolidate public services by moving them to Burley making them inaccessible to some of the residents.
6. There is a need for more transportation options to get those in need to the location of the required services.

GOALS

Promote both a private and a governmental structure conducive to both efficient provision of services and responsiveness to the needs and desires of the public.

OBJECTIVES

1. To provide adequate public services and facilities to serve the existing population and coordinate future expansion in relation to, and in timing with, future growth needs including the coordination and prioritization of bond elections.
2. To reduce and avoid the number of overlapping services and facilities.
3. To develop a balance between consolidation of services and best meeting the service needs of the citizens.
4. The city and county continue to support joint city/county cooperation in providing both services and facilities to the citizens of Minidoka County and the City of Rupert.
5. The laws shall be strictly enforced.
6. Manage the disposal of solid waste so that air, land and water resources are not contaminated; and the health and safety of the public is protected.
7. All public owned buildings be properly maintained and have adequate provisions for disabled people.
8. Plans for future modernization of the courthouse should be made while preserving the historical value of the building.
9. Encourage expansion of library facilities funded by county and cities if needed possibly through the creation of a library district.
10. Encourage the combined efforts of the community to continue to improve and support a Historical Society.
11. Encourage the community to promote the fine arts and music.
12. Encourage the County Commissioners to work with the state to keep public services in Minidoka County.

B. WATER SUPPLY SYSTEMS AND UTILITIES

The demand upon all utility services is increasing substantially. This requires careful and coordinated planning and management if the demands upon them are to be met. The provision of utility services has a significant impact upon growth patterns of an area, and is therefore an important element to consider in achieving orderly growth.

PROBLEMS AND ISSUES

1. Most cities are working on upgrading their sewer systems.
2. There is high sub-water in several areas in the county and city.
3. There is a danger of the underground water system becoming polluted.
4. Regulations for water and sewer differ between different state and federal agencies.
5. The costs of supplying energy are increasing, and future availability of some forms of energy may be questionable.
6. Scattered developments hinder the provision of utility services and also increase costs.
7. Assure that utility companies continue to cooperate and work together.

WATER - SEWER

GOAL

To provide water and sewer systems that effectively meet current and anticipated needs.

OBJECTIVES

1. To plan for all development within the areas of city impact for public water and sewer systems.
2. To reduce local flooding and ground water problems.
3. To continue to improve sewage treatment systems so that the discharge continues meets accepted water quality standards and the current and future needs of residential and commercial development.
4. To continue to locate medium and high density residential uses in areas that can be economically served by community or city water and sewer systems.

PUBLIC UTILITIES

GOAL

To encourage cooperative and coordinated development of quasi-public utility facilities and services.

OBJECTIVES

1. To encourage and work with local utility companies on improving or adding to the existing utility systems.
2. To consult and plan with utility companies so that facilities installed may be located and designed to minimize the impact on the environment and surrounding uses where practical.
3. To work with utility companies to review the location of utility plants and study the economic, social and physical influences that such facilities provide.
4. To notify all utility companies of Planning and Zoning Commission decisions, and of the size and location of new developments.

C. HEALTH

The health of a community is a vital factor in whether or not it prospers. The hospital board in the county has planned expansion for the hospital in various phases to meet increasing demands, and the South Central Health District plans most of the public health programs in the area. Community support and interest has been excellent in most of the health care programs. With public programs covering most low-income families, the soaring cost of health services to the middle-income people continues to be a problem.

PROBLEMS AND ISSUES

1. There is a continuous need to update and modernize the hospital to meet licensing, accreditation standards and increasing demand.
2. There is a need to recruit and retain physicians and clinicians, as need dictates.
3. The shortage of mental health service is a significant issue.
4. Non-insured and underinsured Minidoka residents put a financial strain on health care providers and the indigent budget of Minidoka County.

5. Uncertainty of Federal Government intrusion into health care leaves more questions than answers.
6. The prevalence of illegal immigrants in Minidoka County places an unfunded burden on health care providers.

GOAL:

To promote adequate health services to residents and visitors to Minidoka County.

OBJECTIVE

1. To maintain cooperation and coordination between health care agencies and the community in planning for future needs.
2. To support the hospital plan for needed services and facilities.
3. To promote the need that public health services should continue to be made available locally.
4. To promote mental health services.
5. To provide educational opportunities on health related issues and medical services available.
6. To provide opportunities to serve as health care volunteers.

NATURAL RESOURCES AND HAZARDOUS AREAS

NATURAL RESOURCES:

CLIMATE

The climate of Minidoka County corresponds, in general, with that of the semi-arid valleys of southern Idaho. The range in temperature is moderately wide. The precipitation is generally light, particularly during the summer.

The average annual precipitation is 9.48 inches, however, it did increase to 13.70 inches in 1968 and dropped to an unprecedented low of 3.38 inches as of September 1, 1969. The mean temperature of Rupert is +62.2⁰F maximum and +34.4⁰F minimum. Only rarely does the temperature exceed +105⁰F or go below -34⁰F.

The average date of the last killing frost in the spring is May 17th and the average date of the first killing frost in the fall is September 21st. There averages a 127-day frost-free period.

SOILS

Of the total 480,000 acres of land, approximately 75% is farmed. A soil survey (Soil Survey of Minidoka Area, Idaho. U.S. Soil Conservation Service, Issued January 1975) identifies the capability of the soils for varied land uses. It can be used as a general guide in managing a watershed, an area of range, a wildlife area or in planning engineering works, recreational facilities and community developments, as well as the capability of soils for other agricultural purposes.

Extensive areas have been identified as having severe limitations for the disposal of sewage waste through septic tank filter fields. The Department of Health considers these limitations when issuing permits, and may prohibit septic tanks or require a mounding system in these areas.

FLOODING

Some areas in the county are subject to periodic flooding as a result of the snowmelt and drainage from irrigation. The areas most often affected are the Deno area, the Whittle Lake Area, the Camp Hawley Lake area, the Gowin Sump area and the Kerr Grain area. Maps published by the U. S. Geological survey show the boundary of the areas that have a one to one hundred probability of being flooded during any year. Minidoka County has adopted an ordinance that outlines land use and control measures to reduce losses of life and/or property resulting from future floods in these areas. The County has also become eligible for the National Flood Insurance Program.

High ground water levels are characteristic in some parts of the County due to widespread irrigation. Water levels fluctuate in these areas dependant upon the soils and irrigation practices, and present some obstacles to development.

SNAKE RIVER

All water needs in Minidoka County and the City of Rupert, whether for domestic, municipal or agricultural uses, are served by the Snake River aquifer and the Bureau of Reclamation Upper Snake River Reservoir System. There are many legally established priorities on the system that could impact Minidoka County and City of Rupert's current and future water supplies. These need to be carefully monitored by the county and city so impacts can be anticipated. New development should be responsible for meeting the state health guidelines in the provision of domestic water supply. All cities except the City of Acequia provide potable water to their residents.

The river also offers recreational and economic opportunities to the county residents. It spans the southern boundary of the county.

IRRIGATION SYSTEMS

The A&B Irrigation and Minidoka Irrigation Districts serve Minidoka County for irrigation water. The A&B District is a pumping district that depends upon ground water supplies. It is located mainly up on the bench and contains about 14,000 acres (some in Jerome County). The Minidoka District is a canal district and depends upon the Walcott Dam, located in the eastern area of the county. All cities have flood irrigation systems in place. In addition some farmlands are service by private wells. Maps delineating the districts are shown in the Maps Section.

HAZARDOUS AREAS:

Hazardous Areas are those areas where it is determined that development should not occur or where special precautions should be taken.

Hazardous Areas are those areas of known hazards that include but may not be limited to the following: surface ruptures from faulting, earthquakes and ground shaking, ground failure, and floodplain hazards.

There are several problem areas caused by poor soil conditions or problems located throughout the county. Some of the building site limitations are as follows:

1. High water tables
2. Steep slopes
3. Shallow soils to bedrock (lava rock is prevalent in the county)
4. The flood plain
5. Potential man-made hazards in the county and city come from the following sources:
 - a. Underground storage tanks that have not been removed or do not meet the new federal requirements to prevent leakage/contamination into the groundwater

- b. Storage of grains and other agricultural products
- c. Storage and use of chemicals in residential, commercial or industrial operations.
- d. Hazardous material transported on trucks or the railroad coming through the county. The close proximity of the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory (INL) increases this risk.
- e. Old landfill or other dumps sites.
- f. Dam breaching – the location of the American Falls and Minidoka Dams pose a potential hazard if the dam were to be breached. An emergency plan exists to deal with this unlikely occurrence. Other concerns of lesser magnitude would be the breaching of a major canal.

GRASS FIRES

Much of Minidoka County consists mostly of grass and agricultural lands and is highly susceptible to wildfires during the hot summer months. Given the right conditions any fire or group of fires may explode and extend beyond immediate control of any protection agency.

AIR QUALITY

Air quality in Minidoka County and the City of Rupert is generally excellent. The greatest sources of air pollution from non-beneficial uses include smoke from grass fires, crop burning and dust. Emissions from the Twin Falls area as it grows may affect the county's air shed.

WATER QUALITY

Today the water quality in Minidoka County watersheds is a subject of primary concern. In the Snake River basin, water provides the lifeblood for irrigated agriculture. As part of the Clean Water Act the county and city must comply with State of Idaho water quality standards. Individual subsurface sewage disposal systems can pose a threat in terms of groundwater pollution unless properly located and designed. In addition, there is still a presence of individual and agricultural injection wells although these are being slowly eliminated. Wellhead protection is an important issue as well.

Another concern is the elevated levels of nitrate found in groundwater all over the state. The Department of Environmental Quality and the University of Idaho conducts frequent well testing programs to assist in monitoring these levels.

WEATHER

The Idaho winters occasionally limit human activity due to weather conditions such as snow, sleet, wind, rain and cold temperatures.

The Natural Resources and Hazardous Areas items need to be considered in the Comprehensive

Plan in such a way that they do not unnecessarily infringe on private property rights as spelled out by the Attorney General of the State of Idaho.

The county and city has prepared Emergency Operations Plan to deal with natural and man-made disasters and hazards. The plan lists both hazardous areas as well as materials prevalent in the county and city and provides procedures in dealing with disasters. The plan is like all county and city plans enabling any coordinator in the state to go to any county or city and be familiar with the plan. It covers the entire county including all of the incorporated cities. The plan is updated regularly and there is at least one exercise a year to give agencies experience in implementing it. The plan as been distributed to over ten agencies in Minidoka County and can be found on file in the County Courthouse in Rupert.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:

PROBLEMS AND ISSUES

1. Increasing population is causing increasing demands on the water resources.
2. Sprinkler irrigation is being used more for efficient use of irrigation water, and may have an effect upon the aquifer levels. Because of this we need to be aware of projects that affect, deplete or recharge the aquifer.
3. The use of flood irrigation within the cities contributes to the seasonal high sub water problem in many areas.
4. Loss of soil due to wind and water erosion.
5. Noxious weeds are not fully eradicated at this time.
6. There is discussion on use and extension of city water and sewer facilities as the county or city continues to grow and sees applications for well and septic permits.
7. As the county or city develops subdivisions, there is a growing question on the water rights attached to those lands and use of the irrigation water.

GOAL

To create a setting in Minidoka County and the City of Rupert which protects, maintains and conserves the county's natural beauty and countless resources and reduce the areas of both natural and man-made hazards.

OBJECTIVES

1. To preserve, maintain and enhance soil, water, air, plants, wildlife and other natural resources so they may be used by this and later generations.

2. To respect the limitations of the land.
3. To properly manage wildlife as a desirable resource so that it can be an economic and recreational benefit to all of the people of the community.
4. To continue to maintain access to public lands in Minidoka County.
5. Water
 - a. To preserve and conserve the water supply through proper conservation measures and to reduce waste and unnecessary consumption. The county and city should take an active position in regional and national policies to address and resolve the issues concerning the aquifer.
 - b. To consider and establish wellhead protection provisions to assist in protecting the immediate water supply and the aquifer.
 - c. To encourage and help develop Best Management Practices in the irrigation systems for the best efficiency and balance of different types of systems where feasible in the development of new lands for agriculture purposes in the county.
 - d. To develop standards and requirements in both the county and cities for development and review of irrigation plans in new subdivisions and developments. New subdivisions in high sub-water areas be required, and cities with high sub-water problems be encouraged, to use sprinkler irrigation systems for lawns and gardens and discontinue overuse of water.
 - e. To encourage irrigation districts to continue to maintain their systems in an orderly and efficient manner to ensure highest productivity of lands affected by high sub water.
6. Soils
 - a. To encourage proper crop rotation and conservation measures on all agricultural lands. Minidoka County Extension Service, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Bureau of Land Management and Bureau of Reclamation to continue assistance in conservation problems.
 - b. To establish proper anti-erosion measures by using cover crops and windbreaks for land subject to severe wind erosion; and public and private agencies be encouraged to provide assistance in planning and funding these measures.
7. Plants
 - a. To discourage overgrazing practices of both public and private lands.
 - b. To expand the County Weed Program and enforce weed laws to combat noxious weeds in the county.

- c. The County Weed Program to continue to participate in cooperative agreements with the State, Federal and private holding agencies to control noxious weeds on their lands; and to secure adequate funds.
- d. To encourage irrigation districts to keep noxious weeds from spreading to croplands by better control along all canals and laterals maintained by the districts.
- e. The County Highway District, railroads, Idaho Fish and Game, the state highway system and other governmental agencies continue to work with the County Weed Program to control noxious weeds along all county road and state highway rights-of-way whenever possible, to reseed rights-of-way with adaptable grasses.
- f. To promote contracting with private enterprise, when feasible, to accomplish the work described in c, d, and e.

8. Wildlife

- a. To adopt and enforce laws to ensure proper management and operation of wildlife sports and to provide adequate staff by appropriate agencies to enforce said laws.
- b. To improve the cooperation between the Idaho Fish & Game Department and other agencies, sportsmen and landowners. To continue to support legislation and laws that will make it unlawful to trespass or hunt without permission on any private property.
- c. To work with the Fish & Game to manage wildlife with Best Management Practices and agriculture in mind.

RECREATION

RUPERT

The City of Rupert, which covers 1,321 acres, has approximately 50 acres of parks and recreational facilities throughout the city. These parks include beautiful trees, gardens, fountains, memorials, picnic shelters, a gymnasium and recreational facilities including a bike/walking pathway and greenbelt.

The City Square Park is probably the most noted park in Rupert. It is located in the historical city center and has 90,000 square feet. The park is in excellent condition and has a beautiful flower garden in the center as well as fountains, memorials and children's playground area. Picnicking facilities are available. The park hosts many annual events such as the Christmas City USA lighting and decorations, 4th of July celebration, and concerts.

The K Street Park runs from 1st to 8th Street and has open space and is in good condition. No picnicking facilities are available. Basketball courts are available.

The 11th and 12th Street Park runs from F to H Streets, and contains 153,780 square feet. It is for open space and has no picnicking facilities available. This is the site for the city's skateboard park, used by the youth on a regular basis and has a small basketball court.

The City Shop Park is located at 10th and A Street and has 2,800 square feet. It is for open space and is in good condition. No recreation or picnicking facilities are available. The park provides no fee recreational vehicle dumping facilities and a no fee non-potable water supply used by cattlemen and others.

There are several small triangular shaped parks in Rupert. The one located at 8th and Scott Street has 3,200 square feet, another at 7th and Scott Street has 1,250 square feet and the last at 2nd and Scott has approximately 1,000 square feet. These parks are for limited use, open spaces and are in good condition. No recreation or picnicking facilities are available. The park on 8th Street is landscaped with the crushed red rock and is a historical site commemorating the Northside Pumping Project.

Neptune and Flake Addition Parks are located at 3rd Street South and F Street ~~They~~ and are in good condition. There is 166,001 square feet in Neptune Park and 190,607 square feet in Flake Park. The parks have tennis, swimming, picnicking and playground equipment available. The Neptune Pool is in ~~fair~~ like new condition and lessons are sponsored by the Red Cross. There are ~~six~~ four tennis courts at Neptune with night lighting. Also there is a practice board. Basketball courts and lighted baseball fields can be found at this recreational site.

The swimming pool located at Neptune Park is outdoors and heated, originally built in 1949. The swimming pool at Neptune Park underwent a complete rehabilitation, including structural and mechanical upgrades and continues to serve the swimming recreational needs of the county and city. Possible future plans include expansion of the facility and installing a roof to provide for year around aquatic activities.

Lincoln Park is located at 8th and D Streets and used to be part of the school grounds. The park currently offers picnicking facilities with playground equipment, sand volleyball court and expansive open area for passive recreational activities areas.

The Big Valley Park, located at 18th, 19th and 20th Streets, is in good condition. It has 11 acres or 506,880 square feet. There are four little league diamonds all in excellent condition with two diamonds having night lighting. All four diamonds have fencing and grass. Eight bleachers are available with a total seating capacity of 400 people.

Johnson Park is a private park on 90,000 square feet of land. It is in good condition and located at 15th and G Street. Playground equipment is available. The City of Rupert maintains this park.

Renaissance Park is a new park created in 1997 and is located at the southeast end of Fremont Street next to the historical Wilson Theatre and Railroad Park created in 2000 and located by the stop light on Oneida and F Street marking the entryway to the downtown area. The Idahoan Park located along Oneida Street (Highway 24) has been added a strip park to beautify the industrial corridor entering into Rupert from the southwest.

Annual events in Minidoka County and the City of Rupert include:

- Fourth of July Celebration (Parade, rodeo, horse races and carnival)
- Christmas in July Breakfast
- Minidoka Memorial Hospital Caring and Sharing Tree Festival
- Easter Egg Hunt
- Relay for Life
- POW Summer in the Park

Plans for future development include development of an indoor recreation complex, a swimming pool and complete bike path systems within the Rupert area. Plans for future programs include skiing and possible lifetime sports programs in conjunction with the school district. Also handicap-accessible (ADA compliant) restroom facilities and picnic shelters are to be built at Big Valley, Neptune and Lincoln Parks. Tennis courts by Neptune Park will be upgraded because of their age and for safety purposes.

HEYBURN

The City of Heyburn has six parks and three roadside or corner parks. These parks are all in good condition and efforts to improve our parks to provide for the citizens needs are on a continuing basis.

McBride Park: McBride Park is located at Elsie and Brockie Avenue and is 2 ½ acres in size. It has one picnic site, playground equipment, and a basketball court. The park is in good condition and is fenced and lighted at night.

Ga-lawn Park: Ga-lawn Park is located at 17th & K Street. It is 3 ½ acres in size and is in good

condition. It has 2 fenced tennis courts, restrooms, 2 individual picnic sites and a group pavilion which will hold approximately twelve picnic tables. It also has swings and playground equipment. The park has many mature trees.

Sport Park: The Sports Complex is located at 18th & I Street. It consists of 2 3/4 acres. It has two large baseball diamonds with dugouts and 2 small diamonds. The backfields are fenced and there is an electronic scoreboard. There is also a batting cage for practice. The field is lighted at night, has a concession stand, and is in good condition.

The In-line Hockey Rink is adjacent to the baseball fields. It is paved, fenced, and lighted for night games. It also has a concession stand. There are portable bleachers at this site. The rink is well used by teams of all ages in both the spring and the fall. Many individuals and families also utilize the rink.

Roadside Park along Hwy 30 at 18th Street: This is a landscaped transportation area consisting of about 5 acres in size. It is planted in natural grasses that are irrigated and mowed regularly. Trees are planted strategically throughout the area. There are no picnic areas available.

Corner Triangle Park at J Street and Hwy 30: This is a unique triangle shaped park of about 1/3 acre. It has healthy well-maintained grass under sprinkler irrigation. A flowerbed runs the full length of the south side with 3 newly planted trees. There are no picnic sites available.

Memorial Park: Is located at Hwy 30 and 7th Street and is approximately 1 ½ acres in size. Street lighting runs the full length on the west side. It has a mature well-kept lawn under sprinkler irrigation. There are numerous newly planted trees with memorial plaques alongside.

Dayley Park: Is located at 16th Street and D St. and is 3 ½ acres in size. It has well maintained lawn and trees under sprinkler irrigation. This is an open space and has no picnic sites or restrooms available.

Heyburn Riverside Park: Is located at 1175 7th St. and is adjacent to the beautiful Snake River. The park includes three picnic sites with tables and grills. A sandy volleyball court is also available. A nature path runs along the river and provides over 1 mile of scenic and tranquil pathway. In addition, the park includes a recently constructed arboretum, restrooms and amphitheatre with plans for a foot bridge to extend the nature path.

Heyburn R.V. Park: Is also located at 1175 7th Street. It includes 29 full service R. V. sites with water, sewer, and electricity. There are also picnic tables and grills at each site. Adjacent to this site is the Community Chest Building, the Mini-Cassia Chamber of Commerce and Visitor's Center. Future plans include a restroom and shower facility, tent area and group fire pit.

Annual Events in Heyburn include:

- Mountain Men Trade Rendezvous
- Post Christmas Hot-dog Roast
- Easter Egg Hunt
- Hoe-down

- Arbor Day Celebration
- Future Fishing Derby

Future Plans include:

- A Skateboard Park is in the preliminary stages.
- Basketball Court at Ga-Lawn Park
- Tent area and Group Fire Pit at the R.V. Park
- Improvements at Riverside Park on continuous basis as funding permits.

PAUL

The City of Paul has one City Park that is one block long and ½ block wide. The park contains picnic facilities and 14 picnic tables

The City of Paul has a second park that is in the process of being developed. The eleven acre park is on the West side of Paul and was started in 2006. It will be a multi-use park with walking paths, green areas, two small soccer fields, sled hill, water park, day-use RV parking, rest rooms, picnic shelters and picnic tables.

MINIDOKA

The City of Minidoka has one city Park that covers approximately one-half block. This park has some playground equipment and adjacent to the park are two tennis courts.

COUNTY

Hollenbeck Park/Emerald Lake was developed and is maintained by Minidoka County. The lake is located four miles southwest of Rupert. The State of Idaho leased the land, which was originally expended gravel pits, to the county for development. The pond was filled with percolating water and stocked with game fish by the Idaho Fish and Game Department. Approximately 55 surface acres of water exist that are suitable for fishing and small boating. The park is easily accessible in all seasons from state and county roads. The park contains 70 acres and has been landscaped with a sprinkler system installed. It has two parking areas and beach frontage. In addition to fishing and small boating, the park has excellent picnic facilities with tables, fireplaces and restrooms.

The fairgrounds located just east of Rupert are funded and maintained by the county. There is a rodeo arena with a seating capacity of 800 in the grandstands and 2,400 in the bleachers. The display buildings include a commercial building, livestock show building and produce building. All of these buildings are public and may be used by interested groups if they pay for cleaning and electricity. The grounds also have approximately 77 sheep and pigpens, 120 horse stables and 4 cattle barns. Activities include the Fourth of July rodeo and horse races and the annual Labor Day

Weekend horse races. There is the annual county fair that takes place the week before Labor Day Weekend. The Wranglers use the arena for practicing and there are cutter races during the winter at the racetrack. Future plans include rearranging and enlarging the horseracing track. The new track would be 4½ furlongs in an egg-shaped oval with a ¼ mile straight a way with the finish line in front of the grandstands. The Minidoka County Historical Society constructed a museum on the northeast corner of the fairgrounds property. They have also moved several historic buildings onto the site.

RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS

The City of Rupert in conjunction with the cities of Heyburn and Paul has recently formed the newly adopted Tri-City leagues. This cooperative effort provides numerous sports activities for both the youth and adults throughout the Mini-Cassia community. Additionally, sports tournaments and clinics are offered annually.

YOUTH PROGRAMS:

The Tri-City youth athletic program provides opportunities in a variety of activities including volleyball, basketball, football, swimming, tennis, soccer, softball and baseball. These leagues are held at various times and locations throughout Minidoka County.

In the fall session during the months of September and October Co-Ed Volleyball for grades 5-7 is played at the Rupert Civic Building. Also, at the same time Flag Football for boys, grades K-5 is played at the Big Valley Sports Complex. Basketball begins in November for junior high school boys. Basketball league players are allowed opportunities to practice at the Rupert Civic Gym Monday through Friday from 3:00 until 6:00 p.m. before evening games begin. These youth basketball leagues end in December.

In the winter session during the months of January and February boy's basketball leagues are held for grades 1-7. Additionally, a high school basketball league is also held for boys in grades 9 through 12. Games are played at the Rupert Civic Gym.

In the spring session soccer games for girls and boys grades 1 through 12 are played during March and April at Neptune Park. Baseball and softball leagues for boys ages 4-13 and girls 4-16 begin in May and continue into the summer session at the Big Valley Park and Recreational Facility and Heyburn Ballpark concluding in July. The Babe Ruth Baseball program for boys, ages 13-15 is played at Flake baseball field from May through July.

In the summer session also running in conjunction with the softball and baseball leagues the American Red Cross swimming lessons are held at the Rupert Swimming Pool during June, July and August. A swimming program is also held at the Rupert Pool for all second graders in cooperation with the Minidoka County School District in September. The Rupert Swimming Pool opens in June and runs daily through August.

Additionally, a small-scale skateboard park is in use throughout the year in Rupert by the Senior Citizen Center.

ADULT PROGRAMS:

Programs held for adults include co-ed volleyball, 60 and Over Get Fit, citizen fitness walking, and senior swimming.

The adult Co-Ed Volleyball league runs November through March at the Rupert Civic building every Tuesday, Friday and Saturday. The 60 and Over Get Fit class is held in cooperation with the College of Southern Idaho and is held at the Rupert Civic Gym in the mornings on various weekdays from September through April. Citizen Fitness Walk is held throughout the year at the Rupert Civic Gym Monday through Friday. Classes are scheduled for senior swimming during the summer months.

RECREATIONAL PARKS AND FACILITIES:

In Rupert, Neptune Park and Flake Baseball Field are recreational facilities located at 3rd Street South and F Street. This park includes the public swimming pool, outdoor volleyball, six-lighted tennis courts and one lighted full-size outdoor basketball court. Soccer and flag football games are held at Neptune Park. Flake field contains a lighted baseball diamond/concession stand used mainly for the Babe Ruth league.

In Rupert, the K Street Park along 1st Street to 8th Street has an outdoor basketball court and a walking trail.

In Rupert, Big Valley Park and Recreational Facility is located at 18th and D Street. Little league baseball and softball are played on two lighted diamonds with a concession stand used by city, public.

In Heyburn, the Heyburn Ballpark located at 18th and I Street has a concession stand with two lighted fields and two mini-fields used for T-ball. This park also includes a full size lighted outdoor in-line hockey rink. Ga-Lawn Park in Heyburn is located at 17th and K Street and has two outdoor tennis courts.

STATE/FEDERAL

Lake Walcott is managed by the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation. The Park is located about 12 miles northeast of Rupert on Lake Walcott near Minidoka Dam. The Bureau of Reclamation manages Minidoka Dam and the water levels in Lake Walcott. The Dam and powerhouse are on the Register of National Historic Places. The Park is about 30 acres in size and offers picnicking, camping, hiking, and water sports, except swimming. Swimming is prohibited because of various hazards. The Park has picnic tables, restrooms, fireplaces, and gazebos for day use. It has 21 RV campsites and areas for tent camping. There is a boat ramp with limited dock space. Boating, water skiing, and fishing from boats is allowed from April through September within the designated area. Portions of Lake Walcott are within the Minidoka National Wildlife Refuge and are closed to boating to protect wildlife. Fishing from the shoreline is permitted all year. The Park contains one of the few 18-hole disk golf courses in Idaho; participants from a

recent tournament ranked it as the best in Idaho.

The US Fish and Wildlife Service manage Minidoka National Wildlife Refuge. The Refuge includes all of Lake Walcott and the surrounding shoreline, about 20,699 acres total. The Refuge headquarters are located within Walcott State Park. The Refuge protects habitat for nest colonies of herons, gull, cormorants and pelicans and wildlife typical of sagebrush habitat. The Refuge is an important area for migrating and molting waterfowl, with up to 100,000 birds being present during late summer and fall. While the Refuge must protect wildlife first, it does provide recreational opportunities. With minor exceptions, the entire Refuge is open to public access and bank fishing, but vehicles are restricted to established roads. Waterfowl and small game hunting are allowed in designated areas. Boating and water sports, except swimming, are allowed April through September. Boat access is through Walcott State Park. Over 230 different species of birds have been seen on the Refuge, providing good opportunities for bird watchers.

The Craters of the Moon National Monument, established in 1924 for the purposes of protecting the unusual landscape of the lava flows was expanded in 2000 to assure protection of the entire Great Rift volcanic zone and associated lava features. This brought the boundaries of the monument into the north end of Minidoka County. The proclamation setting the boundaries states that the Department of Interior shall develop a transportation plan by 2003 that addresses actions, including road closures or travel restrictions that may occur in the future and possibly affect the citizens of the county and city. A map of the boundary expansion is shown in the Map Section.

PRIVATE

Other publicly or privately owned recreational opportunities include:

- Bowling – The Snake River Bowl is located in North Burley.
- Theaters – The Historic Wilson Theater (under renovation), and the New Century Theater in Burley includes five theaters.
- Golf Courses – The Country Club golf course at the Elks, two miles west of Rupert, is the only full size golf course in the county. This privately-owned course is open only to members and their guests. The eighteen-hole course covers about 130 acres of land and is about thirty-five years old. The Ponderosa located in the City of Burley in Minidoka County has a nine-hole Par 3 Golf Course. This is a privately-owned course open to the general public with the longest hole being 220 yards.
- In-line Hockey Rink – Heyburn
- Shooting Range – indoor range run by a club and offering gun safety courses
- Minidoka County Senior Center – offering recreational activities to the county's seniors.
- Old Barn and river access – Privately owned, with remodeled historical barn, picnic facilities and river access available for private use.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:

A. RECREATION

It is preferred that recreation areas should be distributed throughout the county so everyone has an opportunity to share in the enjoyment of the facilities. The parks may range in size from play lots that serve small neighborhoods or communities to full size athletic complexes. As the population of the county and city increases, land and facilities for the enjoyable use of leisure time should be provided.

PROBLEMS AND ISSUES

1. Shortage of developed recreational facilities in some areas and a need for a greater variety of activities to be offered.
2. Due to the hiring of a joint director, the consolidated efforts between the cities, county and school district has improved.
3. Lack of arts and crafts programs.
4. Importance of the growing recreational opportunities for senior citizens.
5. Increase usage of some facilities to justify their renovation or upgrade.
6. Reconsider and reexamine the issues concerning a county (or two county) wide recreation district.

GOAL

To preserve and enhance indoor and outdoor recreational areas and facilities.

OBJECTIVES

1. Identify potential park sites on public lands and protect them from urban encroachment until they can be developed.
2. Provide local parks that can be reached safely on foot.
3. Expand recreational opportunities through both public and private means.
4. Incorporate the development of bike trails into development planning and approval process.
5. Gear recreation programs to all segments of the population, including senior citizens, disabled and all socio-economic groups.
6. As growth warrants, encourage the acquisition and development of neighborhood parks within projected growth areas that will eventually be annexed to the cities. Ask developers of subdivisions to dedicate land within their subdivisions for public park development or else enter into an agreement with the taxing unit for park site acquisition that would serve the subdivision in accordance with the Subdivision Ordinance.

7. Look at the development of canal, other waterways and drainage areas for bike and walking paths.
8. Need, design and maintenance of public recreation accesses to the Snake River reviewed and established in development and approval processes.
9. The cities and county shall be encouraged to coordinate their recreational activities and hire a recreation coordinator and adequate staff to coordinate the activities
10. Lanes for bicycles, separate from automobile traffic lanes, shall be provided on designated streets or highways and these streets marked with official signs. The development of the bike path plan ultimately connecting Heyburn, Paul and Rupert should be pursued.
11. The county, cities, and school district will continue to share recreational facilities.
12. The present public recreation facilities will be properly maintained and expanded when needed to serve the growing population and construction of an indoor recreation center will be encouraged to offer a variety of activities for both active and passive recreation.
13. A wider variety of recreational programs will be offered to accommodate a wide range of interests.
14. The present swimming pool in Rupert will be maintained and used primarily for teaching programs when the indoor recreation center offers swimming facilities.
15. The sports program will be continued and expanded so all may participate.
16. Provisions will be made for an arts and crafts programs and an annual art show will be undertaken to display the work.
17. The cities and county will continue to support the Senior Citizen program.
18. Look at the concept of a recreation district as a goal for Minidoka County and the cities so organized recreation projects don't have to compete with other priorities in the City and County's general funds.

B. OPEN SPACE

Open space lands in the county are ecologically valuable for hunting, protection of wildlife, controlled grazing of livestock, and providing nature, hiking and bridle trails. The land adjacent to the Snake River also has an important role in fishing, boating accesses, maintaining water resources, and preventing costly floods. The protection of these lands from urban encroachment is necessary to prevent pollution and maintain scenic quality. The surest way of protecting these lands is through outright purchase or purchase of scenic easements. However, strict zoning ordinances will have impact upon future development of these areas.

PROBLEMS AND ISSUES

1. The existence of a large open space area located in the lava beds with grazing rights in some areas.
2. The shortage of accesses and boating facilities on the Snake River and the hazards of building adjacent to it.

GOAL

To preserve and maintain adequate open spaces which have unique natural characteristics.

OBJECTIVES

1. Identify unique open space areas on public land and protect them from urban encroachment.
2. Incorporate the development of nature, bikeway and walking paths, bridle and off-road vehicle trails where they do not conflict with other uses.
3. Work to establish an Environmental Education Center at Lake Walcott, tied to schools and libraries.
4. Encourage a south gate to the Craters of the Moon, tying access to the Minidoka/Butte Road.
5. Controlled ranging and grazing of livestock will be allowed on land that has not been developed for recreation.
6. Access to recreational areas on the Snake River should be preserved for public use.
7. Land may be utilized in controlled ranging and grazing of livestock and recreational uses that are compatible.
8. In planning and developing the Lake Walcott area, maintain local support and input, including promoting public/private partnerships.

SPECIAL AREAS OR SITES

The citizens of Minidoka County and the City of Rupert have identified several sites within their county and city that have special or historical significance to them. These are:

1. Snake River Fords and Ferry sites, Islands – The Snake River has played an important part in the history of the county and city. The river has many historic sites along it, including several sites where early day pioneers crossed the river either by fording it or using a ferry. The river has two islands that are located within Minidoka County, Custer Island and an unnamed one the State of Idaho owns.
2. D. W. Wilson Theatre – Daniel Ward Wilson, a Kansas native, built the Wilson Theatre in 1920, when city officials approached him and his wife, Mennie, to build on three lots the couple owned on the northwest side of the Rupert Square.

The Wilson's estimated the cost of the theatre at \$30,000, but when completed the cost for the theater and equipment was \$75,000. The Wilson Theatre was incorporated in February of 1920, valued at \$50,000, with \$30,200 of the stock subscribed to Daniel Ward Wilson, E.S. Gillette, and A.M. Trent. On Aug. 25, 1920, the doors opened and the theater was "filled to capacity." It was used for vaudeville, silent movies, local plays and high school productions. By the end of the 1920s, it was hosting the "talkies." The building was also used for community meetings and church events. Even the clerk for the City of Rupert was housed in the Wilson Theatre until the city hall was built in 1939.

By 1925, Ward was the theater's sole owner, and turned the theatre back to the bank and sold the movie equipment to I.H. Harris for \$7,000. In 1930, sound equipment was installed and the first talking picture was "Sally." The building had to be rewired and remodeled to accommodate the new equipment. Later the balcony was closed because it was hard to heat, new seats were installed and the front entrance was enclosed. Shows changed once a week (in the 1930's to the 1950's there were four show changes a week). The building changed hands again when purchased by Harris. People can still recall with fond memories of going to see a movie and being able to pay only 10 cents to get in! In 1938, the Wilson Building and Theatre's then-current operators, Harris and Voeller, purchased it from the bank for \$10 and back taxes. Under this new ownership, the theater continued to be of major importance to the community.

In a similar renaissance to that of 1919-20, a volunteer group of businessmen began a community development committee called the Rupert Renaissance Initiative (RRI) that began in 1997. It was through the RRI the Wilson Theatre was purchased by the City of Rupert. The Renaissance Arts Center, Inc. was created, a volunteer board of directors was developed, an executive director was hired, and non-profit status was secured and the Wilson Theatre was leased from the City of Rupert for 25 years at \$10 a year with the goal of restoring, renovating and making the historic facility the cornerstone it was in 1920. The capital campaign began in January 2000. On Jan. 16, 2001, the Wilson Building and Theatre was listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Wilson Building and Theatre has stood steadfastly as a monument to the determination and

character of those pioneering souls who developed the history of Minidoka County and Rupert, the county seat. The renaissance of the Historic Wilson Theatre Business District provides not only a glimpse into the past but a vision for the future.

3. Minidoka National Wildlife Refuge – The refuge is located near Minidoka Dam and entails over 20,000 acres, including all of Lake Walcott and most of the surrounding shoreline. The Refuge’s primary goal is to protect wildlife habitat and supports a variety of wildlife typical of sagebrush habitat, such as mule deer, antelope, sharp-tailed grouse and songbirds. Over 230 species of birds have been seen on the reservoir, attracting birders from all over Idaho and other states. The shallow water in the upper end of the reservoir supports lush beds of aquatic plants that attract as many as 100,000 ducks and 20,000 Canadian geese during the late summer and in the spring and fall migrations. The reservoir contains perch, trout and bass. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service manage the Minidoka National Wildlife Refuge.
4. Downtown Rupert and Town Square – The City of Rupert, in conjunction with the Rupert Renaissance Initiative, a citizen-formed community development committee, proposed the creation of a historic district for Rupert. Following extensive research on the history of the area, and working with the National Park Service and State Historic Preservation Office, Rupert’s historic town square and business district was created and placed on the National Register of Historic Places on Jan. 16, 2001.

The City of Rupert passed an ordinance establishing a Historic Preservation Commission after which the city was awarded Certified Local Government (GLC) status. This allows the Historic Preservation Commission to apply for grants for training and developing local guidelines and standards for the preservation of the district. Initially there were 34 buildings and the town square on the National Register of Historic Places and it continues to expand. The district has a committee that oversees decisions in the area (as shown on Exhibit 1) that ensures the preservation of the area.

The square had its origins in 1905, when the only public well for many miles was located there. People came to get water and socialized. In 1907 the center of the park was a circle of 75 ft in diameter to which paths led diagonally from each corner and one from each side of the four-sided center. After fencing the park, revolving gates were placed at all openings. 800 Carolina poplars from 10 to 12 feet tall were set in double rows around and in the park. Grass was seeded and clubs raised money for benches and swings. The bandstand was erected in the center in 1910. In 1911 some of the business people tried to have the park moved from the downtown. In 1920 concrete paths were installed to replace the original paths. After 25 years the poplars in the park grew brittle and were replaced by hardwood trees that are seen today. In 1960 the bandstand was torn down due to disrepair and the parks fate was in the air. Due to a special committee and their efforts, the park has slowly been improved to its current beauty with the inclusion of the new bandstand (gazebo), water fountain, wisteria arbor, windmill and water fall (made from lava rock from the desert north of Hazleton).

5. Rupert City Hall – The Rupert City Hall complex consists of the City Hall building, the Rupert Civic Center and the old jail. The property on which it sits was formerly occupied by the Gem State Lumber Company and was purchased by the city in 1921. The city qualified for a W.P.A. matching grant and City Hall was constructed in 1937. The building is a vernacular municipal

building with Art Deco elements. It was renovated in 1999. On the east side of the building is the Rupert Civic Center containing a combination auditorium and gymnasium. The old jail is located on the southwest corner of the Civic Center.

6. Bridges – Most all of the Bridge sites have historical significance even though most of the current bridges are newer structures and have replaced their historical predecessors.
 - Verberg – 1905
 - Downard – 1910
 - Paul/Burley – 1911
 - Jackson – 1916 (removed)
 - Montgomery – 1919
 - Heyburn - 1938
7. Heyburn Elementary – This school was built in 1908 as a four-room brick building. The initial enrollment was 168 students, who walked, rode horse or rode in the horse drawn school buggies. As enrollment grew, a top floor was added to the school and housed an auditorium. The school progressed into a combination elementary school/high school and three small portable buildings were added. In 1939 a new high school was added to the site, but in 1955 the high school students were transferred to the current Minico High. In 1961 Heyburn Elementary had a new building added for primary grades and in 1971 grades 7 – 9 were moved to the new West Minico Jr. High, leaving 800 enrolled in grades 1-6. In 2009, ownership of the Old Heyburn School (or north campus) was turned over to the City of Heyburn for future public or commercial uses. The south campus was retained by the School District to be converted to the Mouth Harrison Junior and Senior (alternative) High School.
8. Art Works – Between the years of 1935 and 1940, J.M. Whiting put together the idea for an art exhibit. For a time, the school purchased paintings each year for the exhibit and soon collected paintings from almost every state as well as local talent. Exhibits have been held every year with the exception of the three years during World War II. The collection now consists of 46 oil paintings, which is the largest privately owned collection in the state of Idaho.
9. CCC Tradition – In 1932 President Franklin Roosevelt signed a bill creating the Civilian Conservation Corps. In Minidoka County, three camps were established, Camp BR 27 located at Minidoka Dam, Camp Paul and Camp Kimama. The camps kept men off of welfare and on “work fare” until 1942 when WWII took most of them into the military. The camps each had different responsibilities – the one at Minidoka Dam maintained and performed construction work at the dam, the one at Paul worked on the irrigation canals and the one at Kimama built and maintained waterholes for livestock.
10. Prisoner-of-War Camp (Camp Rupert) - Camp Rupert (so named because Rupert was the nearest open Post Office) was located 5 miles west of Paul, on a 300-acre site. It was 1 of 24 camps built in Idaho, Montana and Oregon and 1 of 666 built in 44 states. Built in 1942, it did not receive its first prisoners until September of 1944, when they were needed for field help. The first prisoners to arrive were the Italians, then the Mongolians, and finally the Germans. The camp was built to house 3,000 prisoners but at one point had 3,337 men confined there. The prisoners had a major impact on the agricultural economy in Idaho, since they filled the

spots left empty by those who were called away to fight in the war. The camp consisted of a hospital, motor pool, fire department, barracks and warehouses. The prisoners were allowed to do stage plays, have a music band and send and receive mail from home. There are pictures of the artwork done by the prisoners at the museum.

11. Oregon Trail – The Oregon Trail was prominent on both sides of the Snake River and brought pioneers from the east into Idaho and beyond. Several spots on the trail are still visible today in Minidoka County.
12. Minidoka City – This was the first community in Minidoka County and was a siding on the Oregon Short Line Railroad. Soon, a hotel, store, saloon and one-room school became part of the growing community. In 1904 the Oregon Short Line began to build the Minidoka and Southwestern Railroad from Minidoka to Buhl. At this same time the town began to boom with the construction of the Minidoka Dam, with a population of over 1,000. The town was incorporated and 200 acres were set aside for its growth. In 1905 the Minidoka Water Company was formed to sink a village well, the first newspaper was sent to press, a four room school house was built with bell and belfry, a dance and opera house was built and the town boasted 55 businesses and almost 2,500 residents. However in 1906 a fire destroyed about half the town and homesteaders were moving from the town into the now irrigated farmlands. In 1920, D.L. Evans chartered the Minidoka Bank, the only one in the county to weather the depression. The bank moved to Paul in 1926. In 1924, electricity came to the county. By the 1940's however, Minidoka ceased to be a major railroad terminal, and diesels brought an end to the need for coal, causing the Round House to be torn down. By the 1970's the depot, after 100 years of service to the community, was put to rest as well.
13. Rupert Train Depot – Built in 1905 the depot cost \$4,500 to build. The east end served as the express and freight office, the center was used for the ticket and telegraph office as well as a waiting area for passengers and the west end served as living quarters for the agent and his family. In 1936 a freight depot was added. In 1971, passenger service was discontinued and by 1988 the depot was moved to its present location next to the museum.
14. Minidoka County Historical Society and Museum – In 1969 the Historical Society was started. They acquired the old jail as their first museum in 1970. By 1976 they were able to construct their own building at 100 E. Baseline, adjacent to the Fair Grounds. Concrete blocks were sold at \$1 each to help finance the \$57,000 building. Since that time the museum has expanded and also accepted donations of both a rail car and cabooses from the Union Pacific, several homestead homes, equipment and the train depot to expand its site and offerings
15. Historical Ferry Sites – There are several sites on the Snake River that have historical significance as early ferry sites for crossing the river.
 - Montgomery Bridge and Ferry site/Oregon Trail - 1888
 - Story Ferry – 1882
 - Starrh's Ferry – 1880
 - Howell's Ferry – 1907
 - Minidoka (Lincoln) County Downard Ferry and Bridge - 1890
 - Verberg – 1889

16. Camp Hawley Lake – this seasonal lake created by seasonal runoff and snowmelt, was located north of Rupert. Though through the agricultural development of the Northside Irrigation there is no longer a seasonal lake or flooding problem, however in extreme circumstances the area is still subject to some flooding during spring runoff and snow melt.
17. Minidoka County Cemeteries – Minidoka County has many cemetery sites, many of which are of historical significance. These include:
- Jackson Cemetery – an old cemetery located on private property in Rupert that accepted burials through 1969.
 - Minidoka Cemetery – is a now defunct cemetery that served Minidoka City. It once had over 40 gravesites there, but only two remain visible.
 - Rosehill Cemetery – This cemetery was located a few miles northeast of Minidoka and contained at least 29 graves until 1957. However several of the graves were moved and the stones and wooden crosses are gone. It now rests beneath a plowed field.
 - The Trinity Lutheran Church Cemetery – This is located about 14 miles north of Rupert and one-half mile southeast of the Adelaide siding.
 - Congregational Church Cemetery, Kimama/Adelaide – Located two miles west of Adelaide near the mainline of the Union Pacific Railroad the remains of this cemetery lie near the old church building.
 - Minidoka Dam Grave Site – This site contains a single grave and is located only a few feet west of Walcott Park near the boundary of trees and sagebrush.
 - Paul Cemetery – Is an active cemetery funded through a cemetery taxing district and is located two miles north of the City of Paul.
 - Rupert Cemetery - Is an active cemetery funded through a cemetery taxing district and is located four miles north of the City of Rupert.
 - Riverside (Heyburn) Cemetery – Is an active cemetery funded through a cemetery-taxing district and is located in the City of Heyburn adjacent to the Snake River.
- 18) Minidoka Power Plant - The development of the irrigation based agricultural industry in the western U.S. in many ways had its beginnings here in Minidoka County. There was a need to provide homes and employment for the influx of immigrants coming into the nation. Many of the innovations that occurred here on the Minidoka Project were truly firsts in the nation. The Minidoka Power Plant, and the three pumping stations located near Declo mark the first time hydroelectric power was used for pumping large amounts of water for irrigation purposes. The first lift pumping plant was the largest in the world when it was constructed. An interesting sideline is, in the early 90s numerous pumping installations across Idaho were tested for efficiency, the first lift pumping plant was the most efficient in the State. The installation of the generators at the Minidoka power plant provided additional benefits. There was excess capacity, beyond the immediate need for pumping power. The Bureau of Reclamation initiated a marketing strategy, making additional power available to the surrounding communities at a reasonable rate, a practice that continues to this day. This led to rural electrification and the construction of the first electrically heated school in the United States. The old schools have since been torn down. The sites of the old Lincoln, and Rupert High School should be properly identified and monuments erected pointing this out. This practice of marketing hydropower was further expanded over the years and eventually led to the establishment of the Bonneville

Power Administration, one of the leading power producing entities in the nation.

- 19) Minidoka Dam, Walcott Park – The Minidoka Dam was completed in 1909, creating the reservoir known as Lake Walcott. The dam and lake are located about 12 miles northeast of Rupert and are operated by the Bureau of Reclamation. Walcott State Park is located at the dam and has over 30 acres of ground available for picnicking, camping, hiking and water sports (except swimming). The park is operated by the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation. The purpose of the dam was to provide irrigation to agriculture, the largest industry in Minidoka County.

In addition to these identified sites, the State Historical Office has identified the Walcott Dam and Power Plant and the Rupert City Hall as sites of historical significance in the county and city. All are on the National Register of Historic Places.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:

GOAL:

To maintain areas and sites of interest in our county and city whether for lessons in education, for preserving history, for recreational use, or to maintain a sense of community pride and heritage.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Encourage private owners of these sites to recognize their significance to the community and preserve them as much as possible.
2. To keep a historic record of each site for future generations.
3. To research the possibility of additional sites being named on the National Historic Register.
4. Preserve and maintain access to scenic and recreational areas of interest within the county and city.
5. Maintain those special areas that are currently publicly owned for access and enjoyment by all.
6. Record selected special sites that are threatened, are not in a current protective status, or are not practical to preserve (including an inventory of features, written descriptions, photos, precise locations, description of significance and, as appropriate, known history).
7. Research possible candidate sites at the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office, which in concert with the Department of the Interior maintains a registry of cultural sites qualifying for the National Registry.
8. Preserve and protect the scenic and recreational areas of the county and city and to contribute to the quality of life enjoyed by present residents of Minidoka County and the City of

Rupert and undoubtedly contribute to the local economy. This objective stresses the preservation of this quality of life and opportunities for future generations.

9. Identify special sites on public lands in the land use plan and support retention of such lands in public ownership.
10. Work with private landowners who may have one or more “special sites” on their lands, to be preserving these sites for today and for future generations.

COMMUNITY DESIGN

Minidoka County and the City of Rupert have developed the following "design standards":

1. Zoning requirements
2. Subdivision requirements
3. Sign regulations
4. Street and road construction standards
5. Landscape requirements (inside specific overlay districts)
6. Floodplain regulations
7. Building codes and seismic regulations

The City of Rupert has formed a Renaissance Committee that has been striving over the past few years, to develop a strategic plan for the revitalization and beautification of Rupert and the surrounding areas. Goals from this plan are incorporated in the Comprehensive Plan of both the city and county.

The goal is to adopt standards to make Minidoka County and the City of Rupert aesthetically pleasing to residents and visitors alike, while maintaining the integrity of the environment, the historical structure, the unique rural culture, and the scenic value of our high desert area. Because of the numerous positive reasons to live in Minidoka County and the City of Rupert, we will strive to promote this area as a desirable place to locate a business and an optimum locale for family activity.

There are many positive reasons to live in Minidoka County and the City of Rupert. They should be protected and promoted. New industry should be pursued, provided that inappropriate industrial development is not allowed within the city limits.

Standards need to be developed to address non-agricultural development outside cities and their impact areas, to address the mobile and manufactured home siting standards and to address junkyards and their placement.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:

GOAL:

To encourage the development of an aesthetically pleasing community and to protect the quality of life Minidoka County and the City of Rupert residents currently enjoy.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Encourage the planting and care of appropriate trees and landscaping, particularly in industrial and commercial areas.
2. Encourage residents to provide adequate maintenance of residential, commercial and industrial properties.

3. Develop standards for such things as nuisances, junkyards, livestock containment operations, etc.
4. Continue the code enforcement program, utilizing means under the Idaho code to enforce codes on individual properties that are not in compliance with county and city codes. The violator as much as possible should pay for enforcement of these policies.
5. Enhance the image of Minidoka County and the City of Rupert as good places to live, work or visit.
6. Develop more standards for signs and billboards, particularly along the major state highways, county roads and city streets.
7. Develop policies to preserve scenic ways and areas, including the use of a recreation zone or overlay.
8. Continue use of current Building and Construction Codes within the county and city.