

Civic

INDICATORS IN THE YAMPA VALLEY

Our Vision

The vitality of the Yampa Valley community depends on our capacity to engage effectively in mutual learning and decision making in order to maintain and improve our quality of life.

We call this capacity our "civic health."

Introduction

The vitality of Yampa Valley communities depends on our ability to come together to make decisions, solve problems, and share accomplishments. Civic indicators measure the systems, networks, a cooperative planning we rely on to address issues of importance and emerging needs.

Civic health is a difficult concept to quantify, but it is important for our future actions.

The indicators published in this report should ideally help us understand our community's progress towards our social, economic, environmental and civic goals.

The process of using and revising our civic indicators is one way to establish relationships and partnerships within our valley to improve our efforts when addressing regional issues.

Key Findings and Trends

- Community or master planning is a favored approach to addressing key community issue such as growth and development and preservation of structures and land.
- The Yampa Valley has an unusually high number of philanthropic funding organizations for a community of its size. These philanthropic organizations provide significant funding to area non-profit organizations.
- Electronic correspondence between government and residents is becoming a key component of communication including the expansion and use of www.YampaValley.info.

Community Planning

Existence of adopted Community Plans

Yampa Valley Plans Currently adopted for use	Year adopted	Update scheduled?
1. Routt County Master Plan	1980, updated 2003	2008
2. Steamboat Springs Area Community Plan	1995, updated 2004	2009
3. South of Steamboat Area Plan #1	1990	No
4. Oak Creek Town Plan	1996	No
5. Yampa Town Plan	1997	2006
6. Hayden Town Plan	2000	2005
7. West of Steamboat Springs Area Plan	1999	To be completed 2005
8. Stagecoach Community Plan	1999	2005-2006
9. Upper Elk River Valley Community Plan	1999	To be completed 2005
10. Sarvis Creek Plan	1996	No
11. Emerald Mtn. Area Plan	Under review	No
12. Moffat County and Craig Master Plan	1982, revised 2003	No
13. Craig Area/Moffat County Parks, Recreation, Trails & Open Space Master Plan	2002	No
14. Moffat County Fairgrounds Master Plan	2003	No
15. Moffat County Land Use Plan (public land plans)	2001	No
16. Moffat County Wildland Fire & Fuel Mitigation Plan	2001, 2002	2004 (phase 3)

Master planning is a community planning process that engages citizens in the process of setting community development goals for the future. Master plans provide direction to government and policy makers, institutions, organizations, and private entities on such issues as facility expansion, preservation of historic structures, land preservation, housing development, and roads and infrastructure. Communities in Routt and Moffat County have been actively engaged in community planning.

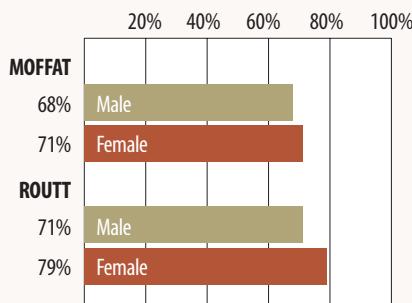
Sources: Routt County Planning, Moffat County Planning, City of Steamboat Planning, Town of Hayden, Town of Yampa, Town of Oak Creek

Citizen Participation

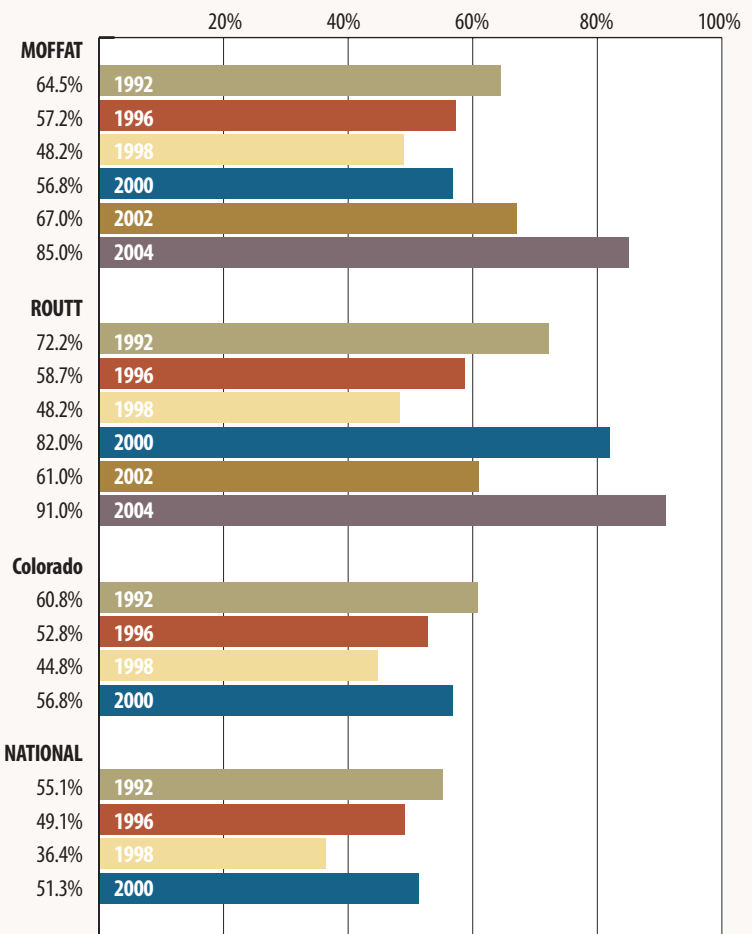
The percent of the voting age population who vote is an indicator of participation in a democratic society. This is best measured through voter turnout at elections, although the percent of the voting age population that is registered and “active” can also help define voter participation in a community. An “active” registered voter is a person who has voted in the last General Election and has not moved or made other changes that resulted in mail to that voter being returned by the post office as “undeliverable.” This latter indicator has the advantage of being available by gender at the county level.

In general, voter turnout in presidential election years (1992, 1996, 2000 and 2004) is higher than in non-presidential years. The percentage of people who cast their votes in the 2004 election in Routt County, 91%, was the highest of any county in Colorado.

Percent of Voting Age Population Registered to Vote and Classified as “Active,” August 2002



Percentage of Voting Age Population Who Vote



Sources: Moffat County Clerk and Recorder; Routt County Clerk and Recorder; Federal Election Commission; Colorado Department of Local Affairs (population estimates)

Major Philanthropic Grants Distributed by Service Category

The Yampa Valley has five large and active philanthropic funders for non-profit activities, the Yampa Valley Community Foundation, United Way of Routt County, United Way of Moffat County and the Human Resource Coalitions of Routt and Moffat Counties. The Community Foundation of Northwest Colorado, located in Moffat County, is building its endowment and did not provide grants in 2002 to 2004.

Service clubs of both counties also provide funding for community needs.

	Arts and Culture	Education (including scholarships)	Environment	Health & Human Services	Recreation	Total
COMPILED ALLOCATION DATA 2001						
Yampa Valley Community Foundation	13,885	171,119	80,294	65,850	25,610	356,758
United Way						
Routt County				210,295		210,295
Moffat County		500		144,838	8,000	153,338
Human Resources Coalition						
Routt County				270,000		270,000
Moffat County						
Community Foundation Northwest Colorado	2,500					2,500
COMPILED ALLOCATION DATA 2002						
Yampa Valley Community Foundation	31,909	59,300	104,650	73,770	59,786	329,415
United Way						
Routt County				274,411		274,411
Moffat County		500		176,175	9,000	185,675
Human Resources Coalition						
Routt County				296,000		296,000
Moffat County				56,000	2,000	57,000
Community Foundation Northwest Colorado						
COMPILED ALLOCATION DATA 2003						
Yampa Valley Community Foundation	22,954	87,216	61,429	213,642	8,795	394,038
United Way						
Routt County				323,898		323,898
Moffat County		9785		206,477	19,000	235,262
Human Resources Coalition						
Routt County				297,700		297,700
Moffat County				78,500	1500	80,000
Community Foundation NW Colorado						
COMPILED ALLOCATION DATA 2004						
Yampa Valley Community Foundation ¹						
United Way						
Routt County ²				327,689		327,689
Moffat County		10,577		246,981	29,376	286,934
Human Resources Coalition						
Routt County				298,300		298,300
Moffat County ³				56,000	2,000	58,000
Community Foundation NW Colorado						

¹ Yampa Valley Community Foundation had not completed 2004 grantmaking at press time

² Figures as of 11-1-04

Source: Yampa Valley Partners

Communication by local government promotes an informed public and helps citizens understand current events, define issues, become involved, and measure civic progress. By sharing information, cities and counties encourage a more collaborative, inclusive approach to governance.

Types of Communication Utilized by Government to Reach Citizens

	Newspaper, radio, cable TV	Official Posting Place	Website	Scheduled Media Briefings	Public Meetings	Other
City of Steamboat Springs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · The City Page · legal notices · advertisements · Cable TV notices 	Yes	www.steamboat-springs.net www.yampavalley.info	Weekly	City Council, Planning Commission, special hearings, open houses	City Survey
Town of Hayden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · legal notices · PSAs · meeting agendas · Cable TV notices 	Yes	www.townofhayden.org	No	Board of Trustees, Planning Commission	Flyers
Routt County	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · meeting agendas · advertisements 	Yes	www.co.routt.co.us	Weekly	Commissioners, Planning Commission, Board of Adjustment, special hearings	Posters and adjacent property owner notices
City of Craig	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · meeting notices · legal notices · agendas · press releases 	Yes	www.ci.craig.co.us	No	City Council and City Committees Planning Commission, special hearings	City Survey
Moffat County	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · legal notices · meeting agendas · advertisements 	Yes	www.co.moffat.co.us	As needed	Commissioners, Planning Commission, Committees, special hearings	Annual Report 2002 (premier report)

Sources: City of Steamboat, Routt County, City of Craig, Moffat County, Town of Hayden.

“We are pleased to join with Yampa Valley Partners in producing the CIP Indicators Project. This important information is only as good as the number of citizens who read it and act upon it. By distributing this year’s report to nearly every resident and second home owner in Routt and Moffat Counties, we hope our contribution helps the project have greater impact on improving lives of our citizens.”

SUZANNE SCHLICHT
 PUBLISHER/REGIONAL MANAGER
 STEAMBOAT PILOT & TODAY, CRAIG DAILY PRESS,
 HAYDEN VALLEY PRESS

“Yampa Valley Partners have produced community – based indicator reports for our valley which contain information and data on topics pertinent to our region. This information is crucial to review as the basis for a comprehensive approach to review an issue and set an action plan in place.”

MARIANNA RAFTOPOULOS
 MOFFAT COUNTY COMMISSIONER