RESOURCE TEAM ASSESSMENT REPORT

For

GREATER RONAN
MONTANA

MAY 9 – 10, 2016

INTRODUCTION
It was a privilege for the Greater Ronan Resource Team to spend time in your community and experience this unique and beautiful area of Montana. Thank you for your hospitality, your time, and for sharing with the team the vision you have for your home.

Before digging in to the report itself, I would like to thank Montana Department of Commerce (MDOC) for its support of the Montana Economic Developers Association (MEDA). It is a partnership between MDOC and MEDA that makes Resource Team projects available across the state.

Special thanks are due to the leadership of Lake County who supported the team’s visit as well as countless thanks to Gypsy Ray, of Lake County Community Development Corporation. Gypsy served as the champion behind this project and will continue her leadership role through to completion. Gypsy tapped shoulders of town hosts who gathered community members together so the team could hear as many voices as possible during each visit. The Ronan Assessment Committee included: Andrew Holmlund, Ronan School Dist.; Brooke Roberts, St. Luke Community Healthcare; Ellen Kaphammer, City Council; Gale Decker, County Commissioner; Jack Stivers, MSU Extension Lake County; Jamie Buhr, Valley Bank and Chamber of Commerce; Rob MacDonald, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes; Sandra Boham, Salish and Kootenai College; Nori Pearce, MSU Extension Lake County; Dan Miller, City Planner; Valley Bank and Ninepipes Lodge for housing and food; transportation was provided by Ronan School District.

The Ronan Resource Team Assessment was invited to attend the River Honoring Ceremony and experienced an unforgettable traditional Tribal event to honor the river through prayer, singers, drummers, and fellowship.

Finally, I applaud each and every team member who dedicated hours of work and volunteered their expertise in order to participate on the team: Gus Byrom, MT Dept. of Commerce/Community Development Division; Tracy McIntyre, Rural Economic Designs; Sarah Converse, Sweetgrass Development; Martin DeWitt, MT USDA/RD; Alyssa Townsend, MT Dept. of Commerce/Big Sky Trust Fund; John Donovan, SBA Montana District Office; and Eric Seidensticker, Montana Business Assistance Connection.

Each team member’s contact information is provided in the following report. Please feel free to call on any of us for additional information or support. It would be our pleasure.

The stage is now set for the future of the Ronan area. There are a number of short term and long term accomplishable recommendations that the resource team has provided in this report. Each of you individually must decide what it is that you want to do—what kind of project you want to tackle. It is also important for the entire community and county to be involved in finding ways to accomplish its goals. A few celebrations at the successful conclusion of an activity that has involved a large number of citizens will lead to a feeling of accomplishment that will carry over into other activities. Look through the suggestions, pick out one, and get started. It can be done. It is your choice, your decision; you can do it!

Gloria O’Rourke, MEDA Team Coordinator
PROCESS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF THIS REPORT

According to Montana Department of Commerce program requirements, Resource Team Assessments are to be approved through the community’s Certified Regional Development Corporation (CRDC). The CRDC for Lake County is Lake County Community Development Corporation, with Gypsy Ray serving as Executive Director. Ronan’s local leadership initiated the request for a Resource Team to visit. Gypsy Ray served as liaison and coordinator for the team’s visit. Montana Economic Developers Association (MEDA) provided staff support for the coordination of a resource team to assist Lake County in evaluating its assets and challenges and in developing suggestions for improving the environment, social and economic future of the area.

Under the direction of Gypsy Ray an agenda was developed, logistics arranged, as well as budgeting and publicity for the assessment. Resource Team members were selected to visit, interview citizens, businesses and community leaders to develop options for projects for the Greater Ronan Area. The team members were selected based on their fields of expertise that local leadership indicated would likely be needed to respond to the problem or project areas identified.

Throughout the Resource Team Assessment on May 9 – 10, over 100 people attended listening sessions and made comments. All notes from all listening sessions as well as those submitted via email or handwritten are included in this report. The team was available for listening to the following groups: 1st Listening Session: Ronan Middle School PAC (parents, teachers, staff, students, coaches and community); Listening opportunity: Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes River Honoring Ceremony & Dinner; 2nd Listening Session: Round Butte Women’s Club (agriculture community and community); 3rd Listening Session: St. Luke Community Healthcare (healthcare workers, patients, senior citizens, businesses, Government, community) 4th Listening Session: Salish Kootenai College-Arlee/Charlo Theatre (professors, staff, students, tribal government, tribal members, community); 5th Listening Session: Ronan Community Center (open session for all groups)

Each participant was asked to respond to three questions designed to begin communication and discussion and to serve as a basis for developing recommendations in this report. The three questions were:

• What do you think are the major strengths and assets in Greater Ronan?
• What do you think are the major problems and challenges in Greater Ronan?
• What projects would you like to see completed in two, five, ten and twenty years in Greater Ronan?

Upon completion of the tour and listening sessions on May 10th, the team went in to a work session to identify main topics and issues. A Town Hall Meeting was held that evening for the team to share its summary of all that was heard.

The team then agreed that each team member would carefully analyze the things said, synthesize what they heard with their knowledge of programs and resources, prepare their notes and suggestions, and forward these items to be combined into this final report to the people of Greater Ronan. The report is available on the MEDA website at http://www.medamembers.org under the Resources tab and the Resource Team Assessment tab.

A Town Hall Meeting is planned for June 8th. The purpose of the meeting will be to briefly review the report and guide attendees through a three step process to identify projects, set priorities and create working groups for action.

The team is always available for support and follow-up questions or resources. MEDA will check in on progress made by the working groups in six months and return to Ronan in one year to celebrate successes.
GREATER RONAN RESOURCES TEAM ASSESSMENT

May 9 – 10, 2016

TEAM ROSTER

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Greater Ronan Resource Team Assessment Schedule ~ Monday, May 9, 2016

Team arrives and checks in at Ninepipes Lodge
1:00-3:30 pm Tour through Ronan on school bus provided by Ronan School District

3:45-5:15 pm First PUBLIC Listening Session at Ronan Middle School PAC (parents, teachers, staff, students, coaches and community)
5:30-7:30 pm Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes River Honoring Ceremony & Dinner

8:00 pm Team returns to Ninepipes Lodge

Tuesday, May 10, 2016

7:30-8:30 am Team breakfast at Allentown Restaurant at Ninepipes

9:00-10:00 am Second PUBLIC Listening Session at Round Butte Women’s Club (agriculture community and community)

10:30-11:30 am Third PUBLIC Listening Session at St. Luke Community Healthcare (healthcare workers, patients, senior citizens, businesses, Government, community)

11:30-noon Working lunch for team at St. Luke Community Healthcare

12:30-1:30 pm Fourth PUBLIC Listening Session at Salish Kootenai College-Arlee/Charlo Theatre (professors, staff, students, tribal government, tribal members, community)

2:00-5:00 pm Work Session for the Team – Private team dinner and work session at Ronan Community Center

5:30-6:30 pm PUBLIC Town Hall Meeting at Ronan Community Center

6:45-7:30 pm Final PUBLIC Listening Session at Ronan Community Center

Supported by the Chamber of Commerce, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, City of Ronan, Lake County, Lake County Community Development Corporation, St Luke Community Healthcare, MSU Extension Lake County, Ronan School District and Salish Kootenai College.

For more information, please contact me at 406-676-5901, gypsy.ray@lakecounty.cdc.org or 407 Main St SW, Ronan, MT 59864.
The Main Topics and Issues listed below are a summary of the comments, ideas and suggestions made during the Greater Ronan Listening Sessions. These topics and issues form the outline for the Greater Ronan Resource Team Report. Topics and Issues can be added when the team returns to Ronan on June 8th.

| MAIN TOPIC: VISION AND IDENTITY | • Define Ronan  
• Finding a Vision for Ronan  
• Take Ownership and Pride  
• Market Ronan’s New Reality  
• Capitalize on what you have; Embrace this Heritage (Agriculture, etc.)  
• Continue the Ronan Community Assessment Committee as the Visioning Committee  
• Prioritization |
| --- | --- |
| MAIN TOPIC: BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT | • Valley Community Coordination, i.e., calendar of events (collaborate instead of compare)  
• Information Availability – online, print, i.e., business directory  
• Communicate Place and Cultural Pride (don’t forget the youth!) |
| MAIN TOPIC: COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE | • Tax Base  
• Wayfinding (signage, cell phone apps, etc.)  
• Trails/Recreation  
• School Facilities  
• Baseball/School Parking/Fairgrounds/Pioneer Days and/or MREC  
• Pocket Parks/Parks  
• Utilities, Sewer, Water, Storm Drainage  
• Safety- sidewalks, pedestrian |
| • Agriculture  
• Tourism  
• Destination Hotel  
• Niche Market, i.e., Brewery  
• Value-Added Manufacturing  
• Made in Ronan Store  
• Downtown/evening Amenities  
• Co-op  
• Chamber Owned Event Building |
| MAIN TOPIC: HOUSING | • Rehabilitate Existing Housing  
• Workforce  
• Quality  
• Median Income  
• College  
• Tribal  
• Rentals  
• Mixed Use Downtown |
| • Capital Improvements Plan (CIP)  
• Update Growth Policy  
• Status of Park and Rec Plan?  
• Downtown Master Plan (Facade, Facelift)  
• Brownfields  
• Ordinances – enforce community decay ordinances  
• Transportation – rail, Highway 93, and airport |
| MAIN TOPIC: COMMUNICATION AND COLLABORATION | • Outdoor Recreation Opportunities  
• Perception of City Government transparency  
• Tribal, City, County working together |
| • Under-served Needs  
  o Poverty  
  o Mental Health  
  o Youth  
  o Activities  
  o After school for older youth  
  o Transitional youth  
  o Drugs  
  o Job Readiness |
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MAIN TOPIC: VISION AND IDENTITY
Issue: Define Ronan and Finding A Vision for Ronan
The areas and strong points shared by participants that make up Ronan’s identity are numerous:

- Agriculture, agribusiness then and now;
- Considered the economic hub for the area, with a newspaper, hospital, Lake County Community Development Corporation, two active banks, Access Montana, two established grocers, a library, Lake County fairgrounds, an airport, active churches, one large manufacturing employer, and many small businesses;
- On the beautiful Hwy 93 corridor;
- Tourism options including two wildlife refuges, a bison range nearby, two golf courses nearby and an extended bike path in 2018 (MDT couplet construction);
- Mutually supportive working class community;
- Strength in diversity of cultures; and
- Western motif in downtown (though needs improvement).

Recommendation:
How to wrap these motifs into one strong brand for Ronan? The Montana Department of Commerce (MDOC) can assist further, utilizing our programs for technical assistance and grant funding:

- The Montana Office of Tourism offers a tourism and branding workshop for communities to bolster interest and attract visitors to the area at no charge to the city. Think of it as Phase II from the initial listening sessions, in drilling down to the direction Ronan wants to go and how this city wants to be seen by others.
  - Presenters from the programs offered at Commerce and other agencies attend this event, such as the Grant programs, Made in Montana and others.
  - Using social media sites to market Ronan and sharing best practices are also included in the workshop, which is free to the City government and all participants from the community. Lunch is offered by MDOC. (Note: LCCDC’s Gypsy Ray and Julie Walker at MDOC are already coordinating this opportunity for Ronan.)
  - Mailed invitations could be issued to all governments, organizations and businesses to ensure good attendance. All parties must be at the table to move forward with buy in.
  - Listening session participants have requested that an unbiased party be appointed to facilitate conversation. To some extent, this workshop can help with that conversation.
  - Emphasis should be placed on support to the businesses, and investment by the businesses.
- After the workshop, consider applying to the Big Sky Trust Fund program for a marketing plan that includes branding aspects. Next deadline is June 30, 2016.
- The MDOC Tourism grant program also offers assistance in digital development, including website development and enhancement. Grant cycle opens on July 1, 2016.
Further consultation from an outside consultant would be helpful. At the point the consultant is hired, there will be a wealth of data and input already available through the resource assessment process, and the city will be ready to move forward.

**Recommended Resources:**

Julie Walker  
Montana Department of Commerce  
Branding Workshop  
[http://tourism.mt.gov/MontanasTourismIndustry/MontanaBrand](http://tourism.mt.gov/MontanasTourismIndustry/MontanaBrand)  
jwalker3@mt.gov  
406.841.2887

Alyssa Townsend or Annmarie Robinson  
Montana Department of Commerce  
Big Sky Economic Development Trust Fund Program (BSTF)  
[http://businessresources.mt.gov/BSTF](http://businessresources.mt.gov/BSTF)  
406.841.2748, 406.841.2250

Carol Crockett  
Montana Department of Commerce  
Tourism and Business Development Grant Program  
[http://tourism.mt.gov/MarketingDevelopment/TourismGrantProgram](http://tourism.mt.gov/MarketingDevelopment/TourismGrantProgram)  
406.841.2796

Tash Wisemiller  
Montana Department of Commerce  
Montana Main Street Program  
[http://comdev.mt.gov/Programs/MainStreet](http://comdev.mt.gov/Programs/MainStreet)  
406.841.2756

**MAIN TOPIC: BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT**

**Issue: Tourism**

Ronan has many, many attractions in the area to draw tourists, but there appears to be a split opinion between those who would like to see tourism developed in Ronan, and those who are concerned about how more visitors would change Ronan, and the environmental implications. There is also collaboration on tourism needed between the Tribes that hold the reservation land that Ronan is located on, and the local/county governance, so that all parties are in agreement on what implementation does take place.

**Recommendations:**

There are opportunities for low-key promotion of the Greater Ronan area:

- There are two brochures already available from the CSKT that promoted bird watching tours. Can these, along with information on the National Bison Range be distributed heavily throughout the region, and a PDF placed on any website that promotes Ronan? Other placement recommendations are in Missoula, Kalispell and Glacier Park visitor centers.
- Advertising on the State websites that promote Montana?
- The Glacier Country Montana travel guide has worked with the Ronan Chamber of Commerce to provide a brief overview of Ronan (p. 106). However, this can be expanded upon, with an emphasis on Ronan as
a destination town, such as “stop at the visitor’s center, picnic in the park, have an amazing piece of pie, and enjoy the small town warmth of Ronan”, etc.

- In the guide, there is one business showcased for Ronan, the RV Park. The cost to advertise in the guide (with 5 and under employees) is $200, which includes membership. This guide reaches thousands of visitors.
- Under ‘Bike it Out” (p. 107, right next to the Ronan blurb!) the Ronan park and expanded bike path coming in could be highlighted.
- Ronan is currently included in the Southern Tier of the guide. Does Ronan identify more with the Northern Tier with Glacier Park, Kalispell and Flathead Lake, or more with the Southern Tier of Missoula, Hwy 90 and Hwy 200? This is a possible conversation with the producers of the guide.

- We were told that $12.00 conservation license permits are required for hiking in the Mission Mountains and on reservation land. This information should also be included in any tourism materials-the permit requirement (and where to get one) is necessary information, and will also appeal greatly to the wildlife enthusiast/hiker who is trying to avoid the crowds.
- Golfing is an activity that appeals to many people and could be promoted in this beautiful countryside, highlighting the two golf courses in the area.
- The BSTF program can assist the Tribes with a trail-based economic development plan, including the creation of a planning map of what trails are available in the area. Keeps people on the trails only, and knowledgeable about access points!
- The MDOC Tourism grants can assist with tourism website and app development, tourism infrastructure, including visitor center remodeling and wayfinding/signage for attractions, and national paid media advertising. A Montana nonprofit organization, city/county or tribal government, or private business may apply. Funds are available July 1, 2016.

**Recommended Resources:**

Racene Friede  
Glacier County Montana Travel Guide  
[www.glaciermt.com](http://www.glaciermt.com)  
406.532.3234

Alyssa Townsend or Annmarie Robinson  
Montana Department of Commerce  
Big Sky Economic Development Trust Fund Program  
[http://businessresources.mt.gov/BSTF](http://businessresources.mt.gov/BSTF)  
406.841.2748, 406.841.2250

Carol Crockett  
Montana Department of Commerce  
Tourism and Business Development Grant Program  
[http://tourism.mt.gov/MarketingDevelopment/TourismGrantProgram](http://tourism.mt.gov/MarketingDevelopment/TourismGrantProgram)  
406.841.2796

**Issue: Destination Hotel and Niche Market-such as a Brewery**

This was a topic brought up many times by participants. Make it appealing and they will come! A small hotel (or large bed and breakfast) on or near Main Street, with a brewery will definitely attract destination travelers.
Recommendations:

- Visit with the Montana Brewer’s Association or the Montana Distiller’s Guild. They might be aware of a brewer who is interested in opening a second craft brewery in an area like Ronan.
- When an interested party is found, apply to BSTF for a feasibility study that would analyze costs, capacity, operations, and a marketing analysis to determine if a brewery would do well in Ronan.
- Using local potatoes with a distillery could be an additional marketing strategy to appeal to locavore visitors (prefer to drink, eat locally grown food).
- Main Street needs an anchor tenant that is not an organization, but a privately-owned business. A hotel or brewery would fill this need, but also businesses such as a homemade candy store, an organic/good food store, or a unique bakery (perhaps Wheat MT might be interested?).
- Encourage the current businesses to remain open on Sundays, or consider later hours, and offer additional paid promotion in the newspaper for this amenity, if the business agrees (Chamber of Commerce or potential newspaper ad donation?).
- The city can promote the business revitalization effort by touting the low cost to lease and plans to revitalize the main street, especially with the new couplet coming in.
- If a building needs restoration, BSTF can assist with a Preliminary Architectural Report that meets other funding programs guidelines. Please also see the Main Topic “Planning” for more on the options to assist with a Master Plan for Main Street/Downtown.

Recommended Resources:

http://montanabrewers.org/
https://www.facebook.com/montanadistillers/

Tash Wisemiller
Montana Department of Commerce
Montana Main Street Program
http://comdev.mt.gov/Programs/MainStreet
406.841.2756

Alyssa Townsend or Annmarie Robinson
Montana Department of Commerce
Big Sky Economic Development Trust Fund Program
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Issue: Made in Ronan Store
The Community indicated an interest in starting a Made in Ronan store (or, Made in Montana-MIM) to support some local products. There are eleven businesses listed in the Made in Montana website that are based in Ronan, Montana! They are: Buckskin Creations and Glacier Lily Soap, Coffee Time Postcards by Skip, Creative Furniture and Cabinetry, Custom Ranch Design, EcoXClean, LLC, Family Health Pharmacy, Montana’s Rustic Décör, Moonlight Enterprises, Photographs by Ray Miller, The Misty Hollow Pixie, Twist N Ties.

Ronan also has LCCDC’s Mission Mountain Food Enterprise Center on Main Street, easily accessible for businesses starting up or diversifying their food product line. LCCDC also offers assistance to new local businesses in many ways. But where to sell locally, and how to obtain the Made in Ronan/Montana designation?
Recommendation:
- Is there an option to sell Made in Ronan products in the Visitor’s Center? The Center is located on Hwy 93 and signs declaring “Made in Ronan Products Sold Here!” might entice a visitor stop.
- The Department of Commerce and Agriculture offers the Grown in Montana designation, and Commerce also offers the Native American Made in Montana designation. Native American businesses may also be interested in participating.
- If the Visitor’s Center does not have the capacity to sell products, apply to the MDOC Tourism Grant to expand the center.
- Other options for selling Made in Ronan products include the grocery stores, convenience stores, or even a marketing strategy for the banks in Ronan-such as a Made in Ronan gift basket with every new account opened, etc.
- Businesses who have not already done so can work with the Made in Montana (MIM) program to determine their eligibility. When approved, the business obtains a free online listing from the state MIM website, and materials identifying the product as Made in Montana (such as stickers). Members are invited to the two-day Made in Montana tradeshow, bringing their products to wholesale buyers and the public—a much wider market. This service is completely free.
- For those businesses that are looking at diversifying their product line, BSTF might also be able to assist with a grant for a product development plan.

Recommended Resources:
Erinn Donnell
Montana Department of Commerce
Made in Montana Program and Native American Made in Montana Program
http://www.madeinmontanausa.com/
406.841.2757

http://www.madeinmontanausa.com/growninmontana.aspx

Carol Crockett
Montana Department of Commerce
Tourism and Business Development Grant Program
http://tourism.mt.gov/MarketingDevelopment/TourismGrantProgram
406.841.2796

Alyssa Townsend or Annmarie Robinson
Montana Department of Commerce
Big Sky Economic Development Trust Fund Program
http://businessresources.mt.gov/BSTF
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MAIN TOPIC: BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT
Issue: Downtown Master Plan-Just the Beginning
Many citizens voiced their concern over the state of the downtown Main Street. Participants would like to make sure the highway change ensures Ronan benefits in the right way. Thoughtful planned development is a necessary step, but finding the sources of funding for the right project can be difficult to navigate.
Recommendations:

- A Master Plan for Main Street jointly funded by the BSTF program and either Economic Development Administration (EDA) planning grants or Community Development Block Grants-Economic Development (CDBG-ED) could assist with this effort. Typical cost for a plan is between $30,000 and $50,000, and a small investment on the part of the City of Ronan would be needed (check program requirements).

- For a project to move from planning to construction, and how state/federal programs can assist:
  Step 1: Master Plan of Main Street. BSTF open app round ends on June 30 (LCCDC applies), EDA funding opens on October 1 (LCCDC applies), CDBG-ED opens on July 1, 2016 (City applies).

  Step 2: Use the Master Plan to apply for further funding through the Tourism Grants, to assist with projects such as signage, visitor center revamp or expansion. Grants open July 1, 2016, City or LCCDC can apply.

  At the same time, use the plan to encourage renovation of buildings on Main Street to bring in a potential lessee. When a prospective business is found, apply to BSTF for an engineering plan to assess damages. Match, if available, should come from the business. Ensure the PER/PAR meets CDBG, EDA and USDA requirements, leaving the project open to further funding options.

  Step 3: If feasible, proceed with further funding for construction through the CDBG, EDA or USDA programs, and private funding.

  Step 4: If the construction or renovation results in job creation by the business, consider pursuing a grant through the BSTF Job Creation program, or a loan through the CDBG Program.

  At the same time, apply for a Primary Sector Workforce Training Grant (WTG) funds that can be awarded to train new workers (business applies directly to this state program, current deadline June 30 and throughout the year). BSTF and WTG combined awards can mean up to $12,500 per net new job created. The BSTF program can be used for wages reimbursement and several other business startup and expansion costs.

Recommended Resources:
Alyssa Townsend or Annmarie Robinson
Montana Department of Commerce
Big Sky Economic Development Trust Fund Program
http://businessresources.mt.gov/BSTF
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Kirk Keysor
Economic Development Administration-Montana
http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=280447
406-599-9795

Gus Byrom
Montana Department of Commerce
Outreach: Community Development Division
http://comdev.mt.gov/
406.841.2777
Issue: Airport Expansion
In Ronan, the County is moving forward with a proposal to extend the airport runway. If successful, this would mean a county mill levy for construction, and the Ronan Airport would then be the central airport in Lake County.

Recommendation:
- Expansion of the airport is an exciting opportunity to consider, but must be thoughtfully planned. The engineer who would design the expansion would work with all stakeholders, and ensure investment from all parties affected.
- Has the FAA Airport Improvement Program been considered to leverage funds for the project?
- The BSTF program can assist with planning activities for airport expansion. The criteria are that A) some sort of planning document is needed and B) the document is produced by an outside consultant. As the land is owned by the county, a strict bidding process is likely that includes public notice, giving stakeholders the opportunity to voice their interest in the project.
- Look at the option of the USDA-Community Facility Program for funding for construction as well.

FAA:
http://www.faa.gov/airports/aip/

Alyssa Townsend or Annmarie Robinson
Montana Department of Commerce
Big Sky Economic Development Trust Fund Program
http://businessresources.mt.gov/BSTF
406.841.2748, 406.841.2250

USDA-Missoula Area Office
http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/community-facilities-direct-loan-grant-program
406.829.3395

Issue: Other Planning Opportunities
Other areas where the BSTF program may be able to assist in combination with other state and federal funding programs are listed below. Please contact Gypsy Ray at LCCDC if you would like to set up a conference call to discuss any of these options for your project:
- A state of the workforce study to bring in new business-a document to engage interested companies on what the available workforce is in Ronan, and training opportunities, such offerings from the College.
• An expanded business plan for any business that is ready to grow and diversify.
• Any sort of analysis-cost, marketing, operations, feasibility studies for a business or city needs.
• Marketing analysis and branding design for a business.
• All documents leading up towards approval of the creation of a TEDD.
• All documents leading up towards approval of a BID/TBID.
• Industrial development, including a plan for an industrial park.

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http://www.lakecountycdc.org/
406.676.5901 x103

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MAIN TOPIC: SERVICES
Issue: Underserved Needs
In Ronan, citizens are both proud and concerned about the offerings in their community to better assist vulnerable populations, such as those living in poverty, mentally ill, those affected by drugs, and the youth in the community. We were told that Ronan has a strong ally in the school system, a very active FFA/4H, the Boys and Girls Club of Ronan, and the Ronan Public Library to support the needs of Ronan’s youth. In addition, the St. Luke’s Hospital is considered excellent by many of the citizens of Ronan, as an easily accessible resource when needed, but also as a job creator. The churches in the area are also active and known to “get things done”. Though poverty is high at 20.9% in Lake County (CEDS), we were told that living in a low income area means the citizens learn to work with what they have.

But for many in the community, it is not enough. Citizens of Ronan seem worried about their teenaged youth and the lack of activities to keep them busy. It was reported that kids don’t feel welcome in the community (as an overlooked population) and there is a distinct lack of pride in Ronan’s youth--of themselves, their school and their community. Poverty was also an issue brought up frequently. The condition of the houses (often an outward sign of poverty in an area) was particularly acutely felt by participants. “One nice house surrounded by 7 horrible houses...if you could afford the nice house, you wouldn’t want to buy it because of the poor neighborhood and fears of crime.” It was mentioned that very few wealthy donors are available in the area to financially assist with meeting the needs of the underserved. With high poverty also comes lower tax revenue for the City and County.

In addition, we were told that the Greater Ronan area has a high rate of suicide; that more services are needed to prevent mental illness, and to treat drug abuse that harms the community in many ways. We were told that 30% of births in the hospital are from meth or heroin addicted mothers, and the children then need additional services when they attend Head Start. These problems contribute to other factors affecting Ronan, such as an inconsistent workforce, and apathy of those affected by these issues.
Recommendation:
These problems can be difficult to discuss, so keep the discussion at the table! The hospital and the support services that are in your community are your greatest allies, and a task force of representatives from each of the following organizations can keep the focus on issues for the underserved, and how to tackle them:

- St. Luke’s Hospital staff
- Church representatives
- School counselors
- Ronan police
- Safe Harbor staff
- Women4Wellness staff
- Boys and Girls Club and other organizations
- City leadership--commitment is essential
- SKC Campus Wellness Center staff
- Staff from the Polson facility for mental health
- Newspaper staff-keep the issues in the spotlight, and the active work being done to deal with the problems
- Parent representative

First on the agenda? Becoming a Drug Free Zone-participating community and/or a Bully Free participant. Resource information is below. Ronan currently has one officer on the drug task force and around 100 cases per year. The police department needs community help. Are volunteers an option in the station?

To support teenage youth development and activities:

- Does the Kicking Horse Job Corps offer any activities/mentorship for local teenagers?
- Promote family events in the “off” season, such as winter--use the fairgrounds when it is not so busy. We are aware of a proposal from LCCDC staff for use of the fairgrounds for a winter event that is currently under consideration by the fairgrounds staff.
- Stop and Swap free family events--use the park for this event in the summer, and in the winter the fairgrounds could be used. A stop and swap is when families bring a bag of items they don’t use any more, then leave with a bag of free items they will use.
- Look at the cost and requirements for renovation/expansion of one of your key assets: the Ronan Public Library. Solicitation of a donation from a private company, such as Jore, and be willing to work with the terms that accompany such a donation.
- We have heard there is a small pool of local volunteers in Ronan. Use your youth! How about a senior service project requirement in the high school? This is your next generation of volunteers.
- The proposed EAGLES community garden is an excellent idea, and we encourage follow through on this project.
- Encourage youth and families to attend ceremonies and cultural activities held by the Tribes, such as the water ceremony held recently.
- Coordinate events using the bowling alley and movie theater for kids. Teen movie night at a slightly reduced ticket price?
- Is there a facility with a hall large enough to be a dance hall, used for teen dances?
- Use of career pathways to support high school students with job readiness. This is the integration of classes in high school towards a particular career focus, that eases the high school-to-college transition. Most colleges, such as FVCC and UM, also offer dual credit classes that the high school student takes and counts towards college credit.
- To tie in business needs with student activities, look at best practices for a “Student Business Ambassador” program. This can act as a business mentorship for the teen, provide skill sets that are real-
world useable, soft skills in customer service, and ties the teen to the local business. The program would also provide the business with general assistance, and often provides a fresh perspective from a not-often heard from demographic, resulting in problem solving for the business, and accessing new markets. This opportunity could be held either through the Ronan Chamber of Commerce, or the high school.

- Summer camps for teens: We were told these were offered at one point by the SKC. Is there a chance to restart the horse camps, or an outdoor camp?
- Regarding the sports facilities, can these be used to support more meets (track)? It is understood that the facilities are used often, but carefully coordinated events could mean more opportunities for kids, and substantial outside revenue from the participants at sports/track meets.
- Keeping kids active—There is a long stretch of 10-foot-wide bike path included in the design work from MDT. It is my understanding the bike path will connect all the way to Polson, and eventually down to Missoula. This path is accessible without a permit, and can provide a major opportunity for youth and family.
  - Nine13sports.org offers grants for training kids to use bikes properly.
  - Washington and Nevada offer best practices on how to start a bike recycle program for lower income families, and how to request donations.
  - A simple, inexpensive solution for determining bike ownership is ordering UV blacklight pens online, and writing a name or number somewhere on the bike, then providing a black light to the Ronan police department.
- Finally, the federal program Youth.gov is offering grants to assist rural, tribal communities with mentoring (funding) assistance. As no resources are currently already in place in Ronan for a youth mentorship program, Ronan is in an excellent position to receive an award. The focus must be determined: Who would act as a mentor? Would the relationship be A) positive youth development? B) school to career? Or C) academic?

Notice to Submit an Application is due on May 26, 2016, and the deadline for Transmittal of an Application is June 27, 2016. This information has already been provided to LCCDC, in order to make the early deadline if Ronan chooses to apply.

Recommended Resources:
For Student safety, grant opportunities:
http://www.stopbullying.gov/
https://www.whitehouse.gov/ondcp/Drug-Free-Communities-Support-Program
http://www2.ed.gov/programs/dvpformula/index.html

Student Job Readiness:
http://mus.edu/BigSkyPathways/

Bike recreation, grant opportunities:
http://nine13sports.org/
https://www.monttlas.com/index.cfm?pg=bikehelmet
http://oldtownbicycle.com/articles/donation-request-info-pg137.htm
Best practices: http://www.ncsd.k12.ca.us/?DivisionID=5419&ToggleSideNav=
http://www.blacklight.com/InvisID
Mentoring best practice example-mentorship program, grant opportunity:
http://www.sthelenschamber.com/i_want/to_inspire_young_people/business_ambassadors
http://youth.gov/youth-topics/mentoring/considerations-starting-mentoring-program
Deadline June 2016

Gypsy Ray
Lake County Community Development Corporation
http://www.lakecountycdc.org/
406.676.5901 x103

Map as of 2014 – Subject to Change
This map has not been updated since 2014 but provides an overview of MDT’s planned expansion of US 93 through the town of Ronan. This map is subject to change without notice.
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MAIN TOPIC: HOUSING  
Issue: Housing Conditions

Frequently, the lack of affordable housing and the deterioration of existing housing units were mentioned in the Ronan community. This issue not only affects the individual private health and safety of residents, but contributes to the appearance of blight in some portions of the community, thus discouraging investment by neighboring property owners. At the same time the existence of blight affects the community tax base, lowering the value of homes and thus exerting a negative effect on property tax collections.

In addition the lack of decent housing units affects the ability of Ronan to attract and maintain a viable work force, especially school teachers and health care workers. It was apparent during the Resource Team visit of the pride and support provided to schools and the recently-expanded hospital; however, it would seem logical that Ronan be able to house educational and health care workers as well as employ them (obviously, the competitiveness of the community would be encouraged if Ronan could offer a strong housing supply so prospective employees did not have to commute).

Recommendation:

Seek funding assistance from the Montana Department of Commerce Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME programs, as well as USDA Rural Development, for low interest loans and/or grants to assist qualified low and moderate income households with home rehabilitation assistance. CDBG planning funds can also be used for preparation of detailed housing studies or for preparation of a preliminary architectural report in support of the possible rehabilitation of a major apartment building. Working with Lake County Community Development, the City of Ronan could cooperate with the Community Action Partnership of Northwest Montana (CAP) and with the Ronan Housing Authority to undertake a housing rehabilitation program. CDBG planning funds could also be used to investigate the unique characteristics of the Ronan housing market and develop an overall housing plan for both new construction as well as housing rehabilitation, working in conjunction with Lake County Community Development, the Ronan Housing Authority, realtors, the banking community, the schools, hospital, and others in Ronan. Tribal housing representatives should be encouraged to participate in this process as well.
Resource(s):

Andrew Chanania, Program Manager
CDBG and HOME
Grants Bureau
Community Development Division
Montana Department of Commerce
301 So. Park Ave.
P.O. Box 200523
Helena, Montana 59620-0523
(406) 841-2551
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301 So. Park Ave.
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Tom Atkins, Housing Director
USDA Rural Development
Bozeman Area Office
2229 Boot Hill Court
Bozeman, Montana 59715-7914
Phone (406) 585-2551
Tom.Atkins@mt.usda.gov

Marney McCleary, Housing Director
Community Action Partnership of Northwest Montana
214 Main Street
P.O. Box 8300
Kalispell, MT 59904
Ph: (406) 758-5411
mmccleary@capnwmt.org

MAIN TOPIC: HOUSING
Issue: Housing Supply

Similar to the issue of the existence of deteriorated housing conditions in the community, the lack of new housing, especially the lack of affordable rental housing, was mentioned.
**Recommendation:**
Seek assistance from the Montana Department of Commerce Community Development Block Grant or HOME program. CDBG planning funds could be used for preparation of detailed housing studies or for preparation of a preliminary architectural report in support of the possible new construction of housing units.

In addition the Low Income Housing Tax Program of the Department of Commerce Housing Division could provide assistance with new housing construction for households earning less than 60 percent of the area median income. USDA housing programs may also be available, operating in tandem with Montana Department of Commerce programs, to increase the supply of affordable housing units in Ronan.

**Resource(s):**

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Mary S. Bair  
Multifamily Program Manager  
Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program  
Montana Board of Housing  
Montana Department of Commerce  
301 So. Park Ave.  
P.O. Box 200523  
Helena, Montana 59620-0523  
(406) 841-2845  
mbair@mt.gov
MAIN TOPIC: WAYFINDING

**Issue:** Signage for highlighting spots of interest
The importance of directing visitors to the Ronan Main Street businesses was stressed.

**Recommendation:**
Develop and implement a Wayfinding Plan for the Ronan community. A wayfinding system contributes to a larger walkable community effort – one focused on neighborhood and downtown connectivity, safety, accessibility, and enabling multiple forms of transportation.

**Resource(s):**
Tash Wisemiller, Program Coordinator
Montana Main Street Program
Community Development Division
Montana Department of Commerce
301 South Park Ave.
P.O. Box 200523
Helena, Mt 59620-0523
(406) 841-2771
comdev.mt.gov
twisemiller@mt.gov

Carol Crockett, Tourism Grant Manager
Office of Tourism and Business Development
Montana Department of Commerce
301 South Park Ave.
P.O. Box 200523
Helena, Mt 59620-0523
(406) 841-2796
Tourism.mt.gov
ccrockett@mt.gov
MAIN TOPIC: DOWNTOWN

Issue: Vacancies on Main Street, necessity for façade renovation, wayfinding, and deteriorating property conditions.

Recommendation: Seek funding from the Montana Main Street program to prepare a Downtown Master Plan to give guidance and direction for Main Street priorities, including exploration of the possibility of creating a Business Improvement District. Preparation of a Downtown Master Plan would provide a mechanism to address the issues identified above, developing specific goals, objectives, and action items for Downtown Ronan improvements.

CDBG planning grant funds may also be available to assist in the preparation of a downtown master plan. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) – Helena Office should also be contacted in regards to lead-based paint / asbestos remediation funds that can be used to assist in the clean-up of environmental contaminants in the older buildings in Downtown Ronan.

Resource(s):

Tash Wisemiller, Program Coordinator
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Julie DalSoglio, EPA
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10 West 15th St., Suite 3200
Helena, Montana 59626
(406) 457-5025
Dalsoglio.Julie@epamail.epa.gov
MAIN TOPIC: STREET AND ROADWAYS

Issue: Deteriorated Condition of Ronan Streets and Roads

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the City prepare a Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) / Preliminary Engineering Report (PER). During the resource meetings and according to an additional comment received after the initial public meetings, it was voiced that the City’s streets and roadways are in a serious state of overall disrepair. While State Department of Transportation funds will be used for the reconstruction of Highway 93, the city is responsible for the maintenance and reconstruction of a significant network of local streets and roads within the community, including associated stormwater drainage improvements. By preparing a CIP the city would be able to prioritize its future, major capital facility needs, including streets and stormwater drainage. At the same time a PER could be prepared focusing on specific street and stormwater needs. Together this joint report (CIP and PER) would lay the foundation for a financial grant or loan application to USDA Rural Development.

An application for initial funding assistance to prepare the CIP / PER report could be made to USDA Rural Development in anticipation of a full construction application to follow. If the city chose not to apply for CDBG funds for preparation of a Downtown Master Plan, the Department of Commerce could be approached for planning funds to supplement this effort. Treasure State Endowment Program (TSEP) planning grants can also be used for the preparation of both comprehensive capital improvement plans and PERs; while there is no funding remaining in this biennium, funds are expected to be available following the completion of the 2017 legislative session next spring.

Resource(s):

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Steve Troendle, Community Facilities Director
USDA Rural Development
Bozeman Area Office
2229 Boot Hill Court
Bozeman, Montana  59715-7914
Phone (406) 585-2551
Steve.Troendle@mt.usda.gov
MAIN TOPIC: TRANSPORTATION – County Airport Expansion

Issue: Need to expand runway at County airport facility

Recommendation:

Lake County could request planning funds to assist in the investigation of the feasibility of expanding the airport runway at the County airport.

Resource:
Allison Mouch, AICP
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Community Development Division
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MAIN TOPIC: VISION AND IDENTITY

Issues: Define Ronan and finding a Vision for Ronan

In such a short time, I was unable to determine a clear definition or vision for Ronan based on the people’s comments. It seemed like the attendees were all over the place as to their ideas; this seems normal to me that there would be a diversity of opinion. One person’s vision could differ widely from another’s depending on their personal wants and needs.

Recommendation:
I would recommend a process for Ronan that would engage as many sections of Ronan’s population as possible so that everyone could provide input on defining the identity of Ronan. MT Dept. of Commerce has programs to assist.

Resources:
Carol Crockett
Montana Department of Commerce
Tourism and Business Development Grant Program
http://tourism.mt.gov/MarketingDevelopment/TourismGrantProgram
406.841.2796

Julie Walker
Montana Department of Commerce
Branding Workshop
http://tourism.mt.gov/MontanasTourismIndustry/MontanaBrand
jwalker3@mt.gov
406.841.2887

MAIN TOPIC: BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Issue: Capitalize on what you have; Embrace this Heritage (Agriculture, etc.)
The area has great agricultural potential, superb natural beauty, good outdoor recreation potential, and close proximity to other scenery and recreation.

Recommendation:
Continue and possibly expand efforts to market the facilities at the Mission Mountain Food Enterprise Center and the other assets in this area.
Resources:
SBA does not make direct loans to small businesses. Rather, SBA sets the guidelines for loans, which are then made by its partners (lenders, community development organizations, and microlending institutions). The SBA guarantees that these loans will be repaid, thus eliminating some of the risk to the lending partners.

Click on this link to explore the possibilities:

https://www.sba.gov/tools/sba-learning-center/search/training

Issue: Destination Hotel
Ronan is in need of a new motel. Visitors currently have few choices and this lack impacts many business opportunities in the Ronan area.

Recommendation:
Good research is available through Smith Travel Research. Many of their reports do cost money but usually not over several hundred dollars. Some key reports could be purchased by local economic development entities to ascertain exactly what the market might hold for the Ronan area. Most of the information is up to date and very market-specific. This information could also be provided to interested motel developers or individuals pursuing a motel. http://www.str.com/

Issue: Niche Market, i.e., Brewery
Why isn’t there a craft brewery in Ronan?

Recommendation:
Ronan should be able to easily support one or more breweries based on nationwide and statewide trends, observations, and population. There are many towns in Montana that have less population yet support one or more breweries. Should someone be interested in beginning a brewery and qualified to do so, the person and various lenders should work with local leadership and local lenders to bring a quality brewery to the area. Maybe the brewery could also be located near a new motel.

http://montanabrewers.org/trail-map/
http://montanabrewers.org/

MAIN TOPIC: COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE

Issues:
1) Street upgrades and repairs
2) Housing for various sectors in demand
3) Ronan main street business area needs upgrades
4) Investigate reconfiguration of sports complex (again) and re-investigate and activate the other park
5) Wayfinding (signage, cell phone apps, etc.)

Recommendations: Investigate additional cost for the MDT and it’s contractors to re-work main street and other designated streets while they are re-building the highway as add-ons. They will already have the heavy equipment, manpower, and materials mobilized. Contact the Job Corp about re-working the streets as part of their construction training program. This could potentially reduce the cost to materials and some limited overhead. Encourage local players make regulations and incentives for making housing upgrades, new developments, and remodeling, as easy as possible. Ronan needs to visit the Montana Main Street Program.
Even though it has already been analyzed and debated, it appears that the sports center and the available park property plan should be dusted off and re-worked with a new, creative, super-sports facility utilizing both properties. A survey and plan should be put in place to get this up to speed. Also, if possible review existing Ronan-Area tourist maps for possibilities to upgrade and accent natural features, scenic drives, etcetera.

Resources:

Tash Wisemiller, Program Coordinator
Montana Main Street Program
MDOC/Community Development Division
P.O. Box 200523
Helena, Mt 59620-0523
(406) 841-2771
twisemiller@mt.gov

MAIN TOPIC: COMMUNICATION AND COLLABORATION

Issue: Outdoor Recreation Opportunities
The opportunities are not being capitalized upon by the community.

Recommendation:
Continued meetings by residents and the tribe to clarify what parts of the area can really be promoted and which areas need to be restricted. Once determined then maps, apps., promotional information, and websites can be further developed.

Issue: Tribal, City, County working together
There was talk that the various entities do not communicate and work together as well as they could. My experience from working with multiple groups with common ground is they have too many things they are trying to do at once.

Recommendation: Through the Resource Team Assessment return visit process, pick three or four things that really matter and form a working group.

MAIN TOPIC: YOUTH

Issue: More Activities for Youth in Summer

Resource:
Upward Bound Summer and Year Round Program is a program that gives youth the opportunity to explore different career options, learn about higher education, connect with their peers and get academic tutoring support during the school year. The summer program involves a teepee encampment for a week next to the SKC campus with classes part of each day and then activities. It all culminates with a special college visitation trip at the end of six weeks. The program is open to all students who have finished 8th grade as well as those who are in 9 – 11th grade. Two main requirements for enrollment: First Generation to College; and Low Income. For more information-contact Heather at heather_licht@skc.edu.
MAIN TOPIC: VISION & IDENTITY

Issue: Prioritization
The team heard a lot of the same issues such as “Defining Ronan” and identifying what the long term should look like for the community. The importance of this issue is that the community all believes that Ronan needs a pathway for its identity, but there was a lack of consensus to what is the most important step to take first.

Recommendations:
- Continue the Ronan Community Assessment Committee and re-organize the committee so that it is one that solely focuses on defining Ronan’s current identity, and works to create an identity for “X” amount of years.
- Work with City, County, and Tribal Government officials towards establishing a shared vision.

MAIN TOPIC: COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE

Issue: Tax Base
It was heavily mentioned that Ronan did not have a very good tax base, and that it was crippling the local economy.

Recommendations:
- Diversification:
  - Attract new businesses to town, especially in the downtown area.
    - Niche market=success!
    - Will create more job openings
  - Attract more young professionals
    - Many graduates want to stay in the area!
  - Attracting new housing development
    - Sell investors on the location and all that it has to offer. Housing is a major hurdle for the community, but one that can open the most possibilities.
- Tax Increment Finance (TIF) District
  - Identify and designate a part of Ronan that would benefit most from a TIF District.
  - Work with LCCDC and put together an application to the Big Sky Trust Fund (BSTF) for a planning/feasibility study.
    - Implement marketing in the scope of work and/or project deliverable with an
emphasis in the downtown area.

MAIN TOPIC: HOUSING

Issue: Rehabilitate Existing Housing

After touring the town, it was seen/mentioned that there are many older homes that need attention. However, the cost of renovating may exceed the cost of replacing some of these homes. Some of these homes will most likely need some sort of remediation before they can be renovated/replaced which adds to the overall cost per home.

Recommendations:
- Access grant programs like Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) to help aid low income individual/families so that they can have their older homes renovated.
- Identify potential areas around town that could be demolished to make way for housing units.
  - Identify areas in and around downtown that could be reconstructed for apartments, or condos.

Resources:

http://comdev.mt.gov/Programs/CDBG/Housing/Overview

MAIN TOPIC: COMMUNICATION & COLLABORATION

Issue: Information Availability

It was mentioned that sometimes members of the community did not always know what was going on in Ronan, or the Greater Ronan area. This tied in to what local businesses were doing, what civic functions were taking place, or what was generally happening around time.

Recommendations:
- Continue using local newspaper, but seek ways to improve getting information out. There is always room for improvement
- Leverage Social Media:
  - Websites such as Facebook are relatively user friendly, and are proven to work when it comes to spreading information.
- Business Directory:
  - This can be tied into the downtown by establishing a kiosk in the center of town that includes every business in the downtown area. If there is already one, identify what can be updated and make sure that is remains up to date.

MAIN TOPIC: BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Issue: Niche Market

Many members of the community talked about how they would like to see more specialized types of business come to the community.
Recommendations:

- Brewery Effect:
  - Local breweries are popping up all over Montana in every sized town. The challenge is attracting a qualified brewer and business developer that can envision a sustainable business, especially in a small town.
  - Promoting a common vision for Ronan will help attract those individuals. It will appeal to them in a sense that Ronan is place that has an identity, or is a town on the move.

- Identify what niche markets would work in the downtown area.
  - “Made in Ronan” type shop was mentioned.
  - Perform outreach to other towns and identify what type of businesses have worked for them.

Resources:


MAIN TOPIC: PLANNING

Issue: Update Growth Policy

It was mentioned by some that the most recent Growth Policy has been shelved, and not a working document anymore.

Recommendations:

- Review the most recent Growth Policy, and identify what needs to be updated most.
- Referencing the importance of a vision for Ronan, and translating into an updated Growth Policy.

Resources:

- BSTF: http://businessresources.mt.gov/BSTF/Planning/Information

MAIN TOPIC: SERVICES

Issue: Job Readiness

It was brought to the team’s attention that many Native American and Non-Native Americans in Ronan/Greater Ronan lack job related skills. These individuals cannot market themselves to enter the workforce because they do not have basic to intermediate skills necessary.

Recommendations:

- Utilize resources with Salish Kootenai College to set up workshops that focus on developing skills.
  - For Example: a workshop that focuses on the Microsoft Suite.
- If workshops these already exist, evaluating the effectiveness and identifying how frequently workshops should be offered (i.e. monthly or quarterly).
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MAIN TOPIC: VISION AND IDENTITY ISSUES

Issue:

Defining who/what Ronan is and where the community and greater Community would like to go is essential to the future of Ronan. Throughout our visit, we were very impressed with all of the opportunities and success that Ronan has but heard constantly that other towns were better, that Ronan’s Mainstreet was bad, and a lot of negative comments on the overall Ronan area. What I saw was a town that had remarkable opportunities and a lot of passion from the residents, business owners, and community leaders. This is something to build from and though it will take some hard work, a vision (similar to a strategic plan) for 3-5-10 years for Ronan would help solidify issues and divisions and give all a direction to work towards.

Recommendations:

First recommendation is to build a steering committee that is diverse of the different businesses and community aspects of the area. I believe the committee that brought the MEDA resource team to the table would be a good start. Second, explore roles and responsibilities for the committee and clearly state them to the public. It is extremely important that during a community visioning process that the public feels engaged. From the very beginning the Ronan Vision Committee should have a clear definition of purpose and public engagement. I would highly recommend that social media is utilized as well as more traditional methods of communicating with public such as newsletters (Chambers, Tribal, Town, etc.) and newspaper articles and commentaries.

It is important that the committee understands and builds upon what the community already has and celebrates those successes. The rich heritage of the Valley specifically in the agriculture and cultural diversity is a uniqueness to Western Montana as many Counties and Towns have lost their agricultural connections. Building realistic goals while incorporating and recognizing the past heritage and diversity will be a challenge but one I believe the Ronan community is capable of.

After the formation of the steering committee it may be helpful to seek an outside consultant to facilitate meetings with public and help the steering committee formulate the plan for public interactions and writing a strategic action plan. This plan could easily be implemented into the updated Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for the larger three county areas.

As always, funding is an issue when looking at long term planning. At this moment under the current administration at the State, a lot of emphasis has been placed on communities that have worked on comprehensive planning that includes economic and community along with key infrastructure. Though the committee may need to identify tangible items that are the “attainable low hanging fruits” to build trust and relationships, it should be noted that this is a long term commitment that will be time consuming and need good facilitation and guidelines for collaboration and finding solutions that work for the community.
My recommendation would be for the committee to agree to a fiscal agent to apply for funding through the State and possibly Federal and non-profit sources. This funding can be used to hire facilitators, consultants, as well as trips to some of the communities that the residents kept mention including Philipsburg and Polson to truly understand what is and is not working for other communities.

Funding options include the Montana Community Development Block Grant and potentially if the case can be made an US Dept. of Commerce Economic Development Administration planning grant. Following will be a list of contacts to explore funding sources with the Montana Department of Commerce as well as the US EDA. However, I also highly recommend that this committee invest $25.00 and purchase a Montana Foundation Directory from MSU Billings (following).

Recommended Resources:

Karyl Tobel: Finance Assistance Bureau at the Montana Dept. of Commerce
406-841-2732
301 S. Park
Helena, MT 59601
www.commerce.mt.gov

- Karyl can help coordinate who within the Dept. of Commerce to discuss the project with and what funding source(s) could potentially be utilized.
- Karyl also has a vast history of working with communities and could help coordinate on the ground involvement from the State for funding and technical assistance.

Joe Ramler, Senior Research Economist at the MT Dept. of Commerce Census and Economic Information Bureau (406) 841-2719
301 S. Park
Helena, MT 59601

- Joe and others at the CEIC will be able to provide accurate demographics. It is important to understand the demographics of a community when working on this type of planning project.

Jennifer Olson, Community Grants Bureau Chief at the Montana Dept. of Commerce
(406) 841-2770
301 S. Park
Helena, MT 59601
http://comdev.mt.gov/GrantsBureau

- Jennifer will be a good contact to help coordinate funding for planning through the Community Development side including the Community Development Block Grant Program. She also is very knowledgeable on housing, community planning, and infrastructure development. She can assist in this project in a number of ways as well as bring on a variety of members of her team to assist as needed.
Kirk Keysor, Economic Development Representative- MT, ND, SD, and WY
US Department of Commerce- Economic Development Administration
(406)599-9795
kkeysor@eda.gov
https://www.eda.gov/funding-opportunities

- EDA has the EDA Planning Program and Local Technical Assistance Program. EDA assists eligible recipients in developing economic development plans and studies designed to build capacity and guide the economic prosperity and resiliency of an area or region. Kirk would be the initial point of contract to determine if a visioning/planning process for Greater Ronan would be available.

Other resources that could provide insight include:

“Your Town, A Destination: The 25 Immutable Rules of Successful Tourism” Maury Foreman and Roger Brooks

“The Ten Commandments of Community Leadership” Maury Foreman and Michele Harvey

“Keeping Business Healthy, Happy and Local- Business Retention and Expansion Primer” Ginger Rich

“Learning to Lead: A Primer on Economic Development Strategies” Maury Foreman and Jim Mooney

The MSU-Billings Library has a Directory that is redone every two years on all foundations that give in Montana. The Directory are $25.00 each and can be very beneficial for communities. The Director not only includes foundations that give in Montana but a number of scholarship opportunities for youth. https://www.msubillings.edu/forms/library/forms/FoundationDirectoryOrder.aspx

MAIN TOPIC: COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE/PLANNING

Issue:

There are a variety of infrastructure issues that we heard from the community that included funding and tax base decline, wayfinding, trails and recreation, roads specifically Mainstreet, school facilities, a crowded multi use facility, parks, utilizes, sewer, water, storm drainage, and sidewalks and safety. Overall, these are all issues that are facing the majority of rural communities in Montana.

Also heard throughout the time in the greater Ronan area was that there was a need to update plans and communicate those plans to the public. The plans discussed were the Town’s Capital Improvement Plan, County Growth Policy Plan and a desire to know the status of the Park and Rec Plan specifically to the MREC property.

I have combined planning and community infrastructure into one Main Topic as they go hand in hand overall. In order to obtain funding for community infrastructure projects comprehensive planning is required. A Capital Improvement Plan and Growth Policy plans are usually required components of grant applications to State agencies for public infrastructure such as water and wastewater, bridges, and storm drains.
The largest obstacle to community infrastructure is funding. Through conversations with the County Commissioner, it was obvious that the County and Town are both experiencing a decline in tax base and budgets. This proposes a significant problem when it comes to financing infrastructure projects of any kind.

**Recommendations:**

The first recommendation I have is for the community to work with the City of Ronan and create a comprehensive Capital Improvement Plan as well as encourage the County to update their Growth Policy Plan. There should also be coordination with the Tribal offices to incorporate their planning into the County-wide Growth Policy Plan, or at least engage to have their involvement in both planning documents. Funding as outlined in the above issue is available through the State for both of these planning documents; though it should be noted that the above recommended Ronan Visioning Committee could act as a catalyst to gather public input and assist in the development of prioritized project matrix.

The second recommendation is to gather all organizations and government entities, including the Tribe, working on brick and mortar projects for a facilitated discussion on community planning and needs. Through open dialogues, the different organizations and government entities can capitalize on private and public partnerships to accomplish more. It is important though that these participating organizations’ missions are carefully considered and incorporated within the planning documents for the area including the above recommended vision/strategic planning process.

An annual Needs Assessment meeting co-hosted with the Chamber, Economic Development Organization, City, Tribe, and County would be a good way to engage the public and other organizations as well as show these entities leadership and collaborative approach. At the Needs Assessment meeting information can be shared on the years’ work plan from the agencies and entities, gather public input on what is important and supported by them, as well as what funding is available and being sought by who and for what. Plus, an annual Needs Assessment will qualify as the first required public meeting for the majority of the State funding applications. A Needs Assessment meeting should be well advertised through newspaper, flyers, newsletters, and social media plus radio and TV if available. On-line and alternative ways to participate in the Needs Assessment should be available for those unable to participate in person.

After the planning processes are completed and at least a five year prioritized work matrix is created with realistic objectives and associated costs, the City and organizations can begin the process of addressing the infrastructure needs of the community with the limited funds available.

One key component I would stress is to make sure that key industries such as your hospital are engaged. Utilizing the needs of the industries can help finance infrastructure projects through public and private partnerships. It is important to know what the capacity of businesses in the area are and if they will be available to assist in the infrastructure projects. As part of the planning process it is important to identify potential partners (funding and in-kind contributions) as well as funding sources. This would alleviate duplication of efforts and collaboratively work as a community to address the highest needs in the area.

Another incredible important step is for the City to hire a respected and reliable engineering firm through open procurement processes. The Engineer for the City should be engaged throughout the discussions and hopefully will be a firm that will do some pro-bono work with the knowledge that long term commitment to infrastructure development will “payoff”.

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Recommended Resources:

The good news is the key person I would recommend as a resource is Gus Byrom who is part of your Montana Economic Developers Association Resource Team. Utilizing Gus’s knowledge of projects will be a great step in formulating successful infrastructure projects.

The MSU-Billings Directory is also a great source for non-government funding for project such as wayfinding signage and trails/recreational.

Another source of funding for infrastructure projects specifically those around recreation, signage, and trails/sidewalks is the Montana Tourism Offices. Connecting to the Montana Office of Tourism and Business development will be a good first step to gather information and technical assistance in planning and development of projects that can benefit the community as well as meet the objectives of the State Tourism Strategic Plan. Julie Walker would be a good person to connect with for overall community branding assistance and Carol Crocket for the grant programs such as Tourism Infrastructure Investment Program. Carol also has funding availability for digital and marketing efforts for private and public projects.  
http://tourism.mt.gov/

MAIN TOPIC: HOUSING

Issue:

Housing is a continued issue for most communities in Montana. What I witnessed within the greater Ronan area was a significant need to rehabilitate existing housing units in and outside of the City limits. The area has great potential but it was most evident that the housing conditions do not meet the need of the area’s workforce. There also seemed to be some confusion amongst the public and the different organizations on who is working on housing and to what capacity.

It also seemed like there was not a clear definition of what type of housing was needed in the area. We heard that workforce for the schools and hospital have extreme complications when buying/renting a quality home with the current housing available. We also heard that the Salish-Kootenai College is struggling with housing their students, and that the rental quality is extremely low in the area. There also seemed to be an interest from the Ronan Business community to build mixed use downtown as a way to revitalize Mainstreet and recruit/retain younger workforce.

Recommendations:

The first recommendation to start addressing housing would be to coordinate efforts between the different entities working on housing and clearly communicate to the public who is filling which role. There was some confusion on tribal verses non-tribal housing and how members of the public can access different assistance programs. As part of this effort, a Housing Needs study would be very beneficial as it would study the overall population and demographics, types of housing availability currently on the market (rental and sales), and build in formal recommendations on how to address the housing.

Another alternative to address housing is to participate with the State Housing initiatives that the Montana
Dept. of Commerce is conducting as well as connecting to Statewide organizations like Neighborhood Works for technical assistance. Also, the Montana Cooperative Development Center (MCDC) is working on a three state housing study to determine if Housing Cooperatives could address housing needs in rural areas of Montana, Wyoming and Idaho. MCDC will begin the solicitation of pilot communities for cooperative housing which could be a good fit for the Ronan area to address workforce housing needs. The Montana Dept. of Commerce Community Division has funding available to assist with conducting a Housing Study and can also provide technical assistance in the process.

It is also important to understand how other communities are addressing housing needs. There are some great models in the State. I would recommend that after it is clear on who is working on housing within the Ronan area that they reach out to other Housing Organizations in Western Montana to learn some best practices and maybe what not to do.

Unfortunately, housing is not a focal area of mine specifically so overall I can provide some resources below.

**Recommended Resources:**

Jennifer Olson, Community Grants Bureau Chief at the Montana Dept. of Commerce  
(406) 841-2770  
301 S. Park  
Helena, MT 59601  
http://comdev.mt.gov/GrantsBureau

Bruce Brensdal, Executive Director at the Montana Board of Housing-Housing Division Montana Department of Commerce (406)841-2840  
PO Box 200528  
Helena, MT 59620-0528  
http://housing.mt.gov/MBOH

Lad Barney, Regional Director of USDA-Rural Development  
Kalispell Area Office:  
(406) 756-2005 - Phone  
(855) 576-2678 - Fax2Mail  
450 Corporate Drive  
Suite 111  
Kalispell, MT 59901  
http://www.rd.usda.gov/mt

**MAIN TOPIC: COMMUNICATION AND COLLABORATION**

**Issue:**

During the MEDA Resource Team visit to the Greater Ronan area it became evident that communications and collaboration continue to provide obstacles for successful project development. Communication in a community is extremely difficult as Community Apathy is rampant in rural Montana. It is a continued challenge for a good portion of Montana Communities and unfortunately there isn’t any silver bullet to address it.
What we saw in Ronan was that there needed to be better communication and collaboration across the Communities in Lake County as a whole. The potential of coordinating marketing and communication outlets with community organizations and leaders in the Polson area as well as Pablo and other outlying communities. It also is very important that the City of Ronan, Chamber of Commerce and other organizations develop an online presence. It was obvious that the public was frustrated with lack of communication from public officials and leaders and that they would like to be able to participate/learn on the happenings of the key leadership entities in the area.

Ronan has a lot of pride and passion from their residents, businesses, and community leaders. It was inspiring to see the amount of participation in our meetings and the number of ideas that came forward. Now is the time for the leaders of Ronan to engage the community, recruit volunteers, and build on the moment of this process to address the lengthy list of needs of the area.

**Recommendations:**

First, under the leadership of Lake County Community Development Corporation, I would highly recommend a quarterly meeting (lunch or dinner) for County officials, City Governments, Chambers of Commerce, Extension and other business and community entities to share activities and update on projects as well as obstacles and needs. This quarterly update meeting will allow for more open engagement and provide an avenue for public and private partnerships to develop. I would also recommend that one of the organizations is responsible for taking minutes of the meeting and public release of those minutes or at least tangible tasks and key topics discussed. This information should then be disseminated to the public through traditional and social media means to keep the public informed and aware of the activities. It was obvious that transparency is a concern so make sure that these quarterly meetings do not become dubbed as “good old boys”.

Second, the City of Ronan needs to complete the development of their website. A website under Word Press can be done within a day and if designed correctly could also provide an area for a Mayor’s Corner and/or City Council Comments. Plus, it is a key area for the City to post agendas and minutes, after they area approved. If the City is able to with current staff, engagement on Facebook is an excellent way to get public involvement. However, if the City doesn’t have that capacity again through public/private partnerships relevant information can be shared on Chamber and Economic Development pages urging the public to go to the City’s website to become informed.

Third, a need to build in the Community’s pride in its heritage and cultural was well recognized. We noticed when walking in the downtown corridor areas that could be used for pocket parks; small grass areas between buildings. These areas could be developed into pocket parks with limited funds through donation of benches and potentially kiosks that could have the area’s history as well as pertinent information on it. Kiosks could serve as a place for community flyers to be posted as well as a source of information for visitors. This type of project could potentially be a project under the Montana Tourism grant programs but is also an excellent opportunity for 4-H Clubs, Boy Scouts, or other service based youth organizations to lead and raise funds for through business contributions and private donations.

Forth, an area wide annual All Organization Showcase would be very beneficial to the area. An All Organization Showcase is built around the idea of inviting all organizations (schools, service clubs, city, county, hospital etc.) to set up booths to share information with other organizations and the public. They also can be a great tool to recruit volunteers. With the great working relationship with the School, it could be hosted in the gymnasium with an afternoon dedicated to the students and then and evening/Saturday
dedicated to the public. All organizations involved should participate in the advertisement of the event through their networks via mail, social media, and other venues they utilize for communication. It would be important to set aside an hour or more for the organizations to gather and discuss their mission, year’s work plan etc. thus opening communication even further.

**Recommended Resources:**

There are a number of books regarding Community Development and many do include communications. However, personally, I think it is really about providing the means for the public to become engaged and inspiring the community to take the effort to do so. The bigger issue about Community Communication and Collaboration is usually, in my opinion, Community Apathy. Towns like Anaconda have been having success in some collaboration efforts and engagement. Doing outreach to similar sized towns could be beneficial to learn how others are engaging and communicating. Though again, there is no set way to address this issue.

Flathead Valley Community College (FVCC) does host a variety of classes on social media and website development that could potentially be utilized by the City of Ronan.

**MAIN TOPIC: BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT**

**Issue:**

The Ronan Mainstreet was a high point of discussion and concern with many of the individuals we spoke with. The concern with the 93 Highway rerouting was significant and there is a lot of uncertainty about retail and service based businesses in and around Ronan. There are also a lot of opportunities with traditional industries and emerging industries. Agriculture is a hub for economic activity in the Ronan area and though it was noticeable, it was also identifiable that agriculture is not celebrated as a leading industry in the area. Tourism and Destination Businesses were discussed as needs within the community as well as identification of niche businesses like a brewery and a Made-In-Ronan Store. These are all good ideas but many came with obstacles that will need to be addressed.

**Recommendations:**

First, I believe that the Ronan Mainstreet could be a leading Mainstreet in Montana, with some elbow grease and community/business participation. Signage on Mainstreet needs to be updated as done some general cleanup with new paint and cosmetic updates. However, these all cost money and it was understood that many of the owners of the buildings on Mainstreet live outside of the community and no longer have the motivation to complete these upgrades. An incentive plan to encourage these building owners to complete the work will be needed or coordinate “Clean Ronan Days” where members of the community and businesses donate goods and services to make significant changes on Mainstreet.

Second, is to become a member of the Montana Mainstreet Program. Tash Wisemiller and his team have excellent resources to better Mainstreet and also have examples of how communities across the Nation are making their Mainstreet a destination. Though the Mainstreet Program a Downtown Master Plan can be developed which could be incorporated into the overall vision/planning for the Ronan area.

Third, utilize the idea of cooperative development to build new businesses on Mainstreet. It was brought to our attention that there are many artists in the area. Cooperatively rent a building to make a Made in Ronan
Store. Lake County Community Development houses a Cooperative Development Center that can assist in the development of cooperative based business development. Another idea is to visit Anaconda and learn about their pop up business program that they have to address empty buildings in their community. It had excellent results and was funded by the USDA-Rural Development. For the concept of Made in Ronan I would encourage engagement with the Made in Montana program. It is also important to note that Lake County Community Development operates Mission Mountain Enterprises a very successful food processing center and incubator program. Their success should be celebrated and built upon especially if there is any interested individual that wants to start a brewery. The crew at Mission Mountain Enterprise can help guide the development of a brewery for the Ronan area which could be the catalyst to develop.

Fourth, identify members of your community that has business ideas or entrepreneurship desires and start a mentorship program. It sounded like there are a lot of retirees or so to be retirees in the area. Are some of those businesses currently owned by potential retirees? If so can you pair a younger person to them to learn the business and potentially by the business in the future and work with local financial institutions as well as Lake County Community Development for potential funding sources. Another way to engage entrepreneurs is to work with the School and create an entrepreneurship program where the youth create a business and sale their wares/services to the public. Through the 4-H program there is curriculum for entrepreneurship and there are many examples of this type of activity happening in communities across the US. Maybe there is an opportunity to have a website company started that can assist with the City’s website and social media engagement?

Fifth, highlight and celebrate successful businesses in the area. Not only the big corporations that have large employment but home based businesses, niche companies, those that are struggling but still open and engaged in the public. Many communities showcase how important their local companies are by having a business award night hosted by the Chamber of Commerce; which could also be a fundraiser for the Chamber to do more marketing on the area as a whole.

Business Development has a number of resources at the Dept. of Commerce, USDA-Rural Development, US Economic Development Administration and many more. Lake County Community Development is a leading economic development organization in the State with a knowledgeable staff that can connect many businesses to resources and funding. However, there seemed to be many individuals who were not aware of their resources so again it is very important to expand and improve community communication instead of recreating what is already available.

**Recommended Resources:**

Montana Mainstreet Program
[http://comdev.mt.gov/Programs/MainStreet](http://comdev.mt.gov/Programs/MainStreet)

Made in Montana, USA
[http://www.madeinmontanausa.com/](http://www.madeinmontanausa.com/)

Janice Brown, Montana Cooperative Development Center Executive Director
(406) 727-1517  
PO Box 3027  
Great Falls, MT 59404  

Jan Tusick, LCCDC’s Cooperative Development Center Director
REPORT BY: SARAH CONVERSE, Executive Director  
Sweetgrass Development  
521 1st Avenue NW  
Great Falls, MT  59404  
406-727-5173  phone  
406-454-6903  fax  
sweetgrassdevelopment@gmail.com  
www.sweetgrassdevelopment.org  

MAIN TOPIC: PLANNING ISSUES  

Issue: Old Buildings/Vacancy  

Some of the buildings may need to be torn down or combined with the downtown master plan for action.  

Recommendation:  

Brownfields/Demolition program. The EPA has a beautification program as well as Brownfields programs that would assist with perceived as well as real contamination and further action plans with redevelopment. An inventory of these properties will assist in applications for funding and community involvement. DNRC planning grants may be used for inventory of properties. The state has brownfields funding as well. In addition, the tribes receive funding through a set aside and working with them to clean up fee land so they may use their funding on trust land is a relatively new concept and may assist with opening up additional funding opportunities. It is imperative to work with a CRDC, tribal government and local governments to accomplish these tasks.  

Recommended Resource(s):  
http://dnrc.mt.gov/grants-and-loans  
https://www.epa.gov/learn-issues/learn-about-land-and-cleanup  
http://nrd.csktribes.org/  

MAIN TOPIC: SERVICES  

Issue: Under-served Needs – lack of knowledge of what is available to the community and who provides those services  

Recommendation:  

Complete an inventory of services and offerings within the community, both tribal and non-tribal. Create a database and a community directory based upon those findings and inventory. Enlist a non-profit to organize and coordinate a community resource team, which may be a result of the visioning committee and their recommendations, possibly a community foundation to coordinate fundraising as well. United Way and Alliance for Youth are great models. Red Lodge Community Foundation created a similar database and coordination plan for activities.
Recommended Resource(s):
http://allianceforyouth.org/afy_2011/
http://www.rlacf.org/nonprofit-directory/
https://cor.mt.gov/Portals/104/YouthServices/YthResDir.pdf
http://www.csktribes.org/services/tssd
http://foundationcenter.org/getstarted/topical/sl_dir.html - funding opportunities

MAIN TOPIC: COMMUNICATION AND COLLABORATION

Issue: Perception of City Government transparency, Tribal, City, County working together, Valley Community Coordination, i.e., calendar of events (collaborate instead of compare), Information Availability – online, print, i.e., business directory.

Communication is essential for an entity, organization or government body. When there is doubt or dissatisfaction with leadership, it is very difficult to regain that trust and faith not only in the leaders, but in the system and processes. Outreach, availability, transparency and communication are key to reestablishing a positive relationship.

Recommendation:

Setting monthly, bi-monthly or quarterly meetings with cities, county and tribal government will assist with rebuilding relationships. Being cognizant of the sovereignty of the tribal government and how they work with local government is key. Putting together a master plan for issues that affect natives and non-native as well as tribal and non-tribal land will assist in future planning and relationships. Coordinating programs (such as the permitting issue) for visitors and citizens alike will establish parameters and processes that are easily identifiable. Websites and constant contact mailing lists for those citizens that participating in local government is essential. Possibly conduct a strategic planning session involving the cities and counties as well as essential non-profit leaders within the communities. Utilize a facilitator; the MSU Extension LGC is always available and willing to assist.

Recommended Resource(s):
http://www.msulocalgov.org/
http://www.csktribes.org/natural-resources/tld
http://www.csktribes.org/history-and-culture
City and county websites
Chamber sites
Lake County Community Development
REPORT BY: Martin DeWitt  
Area Specialist, Business-Cooperative Programs  
USDA Rural Development  
1629 Avenue D  
Building A Suite 6  
Billings, MT 59102  
Phone: (406) 657-6297 ext. 121  
Email: martin.dewitt@mt.usda.gov  
Web: www.rd.usda.gov/mt

MAIN TOPIC: Vision and Identity

Issue:
Repeatedly, the people of Ronan said that there were concerns with Main Street along with comparisons to neighboring communities. Also, there was interest from the community in working on making Ronan a destination point as a stand-alone event or in conjunction with surrounding community events.

Recommendations:
First assignment is to have the current Community Assessment Committee to transition into a Visioning Committee and don’t forget to include the youth as this will be their community.

Work towards determining the identity of Ronan, as stated in one of the listening sessions, western heritage community is an example. Use the determined identity to accentuate everything that the Greater Ronan area has to offer, such as scenery, existing businesses, tribal culture, agriculture and outdoor opportunities. This is an area where collaboration of governments will be required.

Take pride in what you have, a great town with a pile of potential. Consider a downtown master development plan potentially funded through the Montana Main Street Program. Other planning efforts could be considered using USDA Rural Development, Rural Business Development Grant (RBDG) along with Montana Big Sky Trust Fund (BSTF) planning funds.

Finally, develop an area calendar that can help coordinate Ronan events with surrounding community events. Not to compete but build on existing events to make the area a destination.

Recommended Resources:
USDA Rural Development
http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/MT_Home.html
Lad Barney, Area Director, 3550 Mullan Rd, Missoula, MT (406)829-3395

Montana Department of Commerce
http://businessresources.mt.gov/BSTF
Alyssa Townsend, Program Specialist, 301 S. Park Ave., Helena, MT (406)841-2748

MAIN TOPIC: Community Infrastructure Issues

Issue:
Infrastructure needs is a common theme in small communities especially ones with a limited tax base. The main topics that were discussed regarded use of existing facilities and potential needs with water, waste water and storm drainage.

**Recommendations:**
Funding opportunities and services are available through USDA Rural Development, USDA Natural Resource Conservation.

**Recommended Resources:**
USDA Rural Development  
Lad Barney, Area Director, 3550 Mullan Rd, Missoula, MT (406)829-3395  
Steve Troendle, Program Director, 2229 Boot Hill Court, Bozeman, MT 59715 (406)5854-2551

**USDA NRCS**  
Ronan Field Office, 64352 Hwy 93, Ronan, MT (406)676-2841

**MAIN TOPIC: Housing**

**Issue: Rehabilitate Existing Housing**
Throughout the meetings held there was concern mentioned regarding the limitations of available housing stock. These concerns covered not only the availability of workforce housing, college housing, medium income housing and rental housing, but also the quality of the existing housing stock within the same markets. Community members stressed the limitations to the amount of available quality housing for rent or sale.

**Recommendations:**
Potential options are to work through a community housing study to check on availability of existing structures for renovation or demolition and potential areas for expansion of existing availability. The housing study can provide a viable approach to prioritize need while addressing need to potentially revitalize existing structures. Research potential developers to accommodate adding to the existing housing stock that is well versed in tax credits and additional funding sources. Check with Lake County Community Development Corporation (LCCDC) for available coordination efforts and funding cycles.

**Recommended Resources:**
USDA Rural Development  
Melissa Ciliento, Area Specialist, Single Family Housing, 3550 Mullan Rd, Missoula, MT (406)829-3395

**Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)**  
[http://comdev.mt.gov/Programs/CDBG/Housing/Overview](http://comdev.mt.gov/Programs/CDBG/Housing/Overview)  
Jennifer Olson, Community Grants Bureau Chief, 301 S. Park, Helena, MT (406)841-2770  
Bruce Brensdahl, Montana Board of Housing, 301 S Park Ave, Helena, MT (406)841-2840

**Lake Count Community Development Corporation**  
[http://www.lakecountycdc.org/Home](http://www.lakecountycdc.org/Home)  
Gypsy Ray, Executive Director, 407 Main St. SW, Ronan, MT (406)676-5901

**MAIN TOPIC: Business Development**
Issue:
Several statements were made regarding the downtown businesses leaving or to develop some type of niche market. It was stated that there are too many vacancies in the downtown and that it looked run down. Also, when events are held in Ronan there are limitations to the available hotel accommodations.

Recommendations:
First, I think your downtown looks pretty good. If it is not already in place, consider starting a clean sweep day or week in the early spring. This is simply the community coming together as a whole to shine up the town after winter. Make sure the empty lots are mowed or weeds sprayed as appropriate, make sure high need buildings get painted and maybe put some flower pots out on the sidewalk. This could be manage or coordinated through a community beautification committee.

Next, I would recommend the city consider reviewing blight ordinances to ensure that empty buildings are being maintained to the satisfaction of the community. Easy fix to make an empty building have curb appeal is use the interior window display area as a way to promote local artwork or community events. Also consider having the chamber or creating a business co-op that can purchase one of the empty buildings to host events or become an attraction point to the downtown.

Regarding hotel development, there are some small chain hotels that look for communities to expand their markets. This project requires finding a developer or committed group to spearhead this effort. There are a variety of business funding opportunities the quick first step is discussing these with Lake County Community Development Corporation to guide access to USDA Rural Development programs, Montana Department of Commerce programs and the Small Business Administration programs.

Recommended Resources:
USDA Rural Development
http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/MT_Home.html
Lad Barney, Area Director, 3550 Mullan Rd, Missoula, MT (406)829-3395

Montana Department of Commerce
http://businessresources.mt.gov/BSTF
Alyssa Townsend, Program Specialist, 301 S. Park Ave., Helena, MT (406)841-2748

Lake Count Community Development Corporation
http://www.lakecountycdc.org/Home
Gypsy Ray, Executive Director, 407 Main St. SW, Ronan, MT (406)676-5901

Small Business Development Administration
https://www.sba.gov/offices/district/mt/helena
John Donovan, Economic Development Specialist, 10 W. 15th St., Suite 1100, Helena, MT (406)441-1087

MAIN TOPIC: Planning

Issue:
This is an area that continued to come up through a variety of issues including public facilities, roads, infrastructure, transportation and declining downtown business. Many of the issues seemed to be tied back to funding and limitations on the available tax base. Additionally, when planning documents were discussed there were limitations to the known usefulness or age of existing documents. The planning efforts that came
up were regarding Capital Improvements Plan, Growth Policy and MREC planning document.

Also, an area of concern that I noticed was when the community was asked about passing mill levies to address needs locally that there was concern that a levy would not pass the vote.

**Recommendations:**
Planning is key to proper development and addressing community needs in any situation. Equally as important to planning is the implementation and continuous review of the planning efforts. This allows the opportunity to identify priorities, address or adjust the approach and celebrate meeting the defined goals of planning.

First area to address begins with developing an inventory of existing planning documents and determine what is obsolete and what is still usable documents. Develop committees utilizing local government, community organizations and youth to review and assist in updating the pertinent documents. Then identify funding assistance opportunities to hire a planning consultant as necessary and begin addressing needs. Utilize the information from planning and don’t be afraid of asking the taxpayers to pass a mill levy to support their community needs! If you don’t ask you won’t get it.

**Recommended Resources:**
USDA Rural Development  

Lad Barney, Area Director, 3550 Mullan Rd, Missoula, MT (406)829-3395

Montana Community Planning Bureau  
[http://comdev.mt.gov/PlanningBureau](http://comdev.mt.gov/PlanningBureau)

Allison Mouch. Community Planning Bureau Chief, 301 S. Park, Helena, MT (406)841-2598

Montana Department of Transportation  

**MAIN TOPIC: Services**

**Issue: Underserved Needs**
Members of the community seemed pleased with the availability of currently existing services in the community for underserved needs. However, concerns were brought up regarding drugs, job readiness and opportunities for junior high and high school age youth as well as young adults. Mental health issues were discussed as well regarding having an understanding of who provides the services.

**Recommendations:**
Develop a community listing of services and offerings throughout the community. Promote the availability of these services through community calendars, web presence and outreach from service staff.

**Recommended Resources:**
USDA/Positive Youth Development  
[https://nifa.usda.gov/program/positive-youth-development](https://nifa.usda.gov/program/positive-youth-development)
USDA Rural Development Montana
Summary of Major Programs

USDA Rural Development is committed to the future of rural communities. Through our programs, we touch rural America in many ways and help to improve the economy and quality of life for rural Americans.

Rural Development contacts and funding notices are at [www.rd.usda.gov/mt](http://www.rd.usda.gov/mt). The [Contact Us](http://www.rd.usda.gov/mt) menu tab has office addresses and phone numbers, or contact us at (406) 585-2580.

*USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.*
### Rural Housing and Community Facilities Programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Applicant</th>
<th>Uses</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Loan/Grant</th>
<th>Terms/Conditions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Single-Family Housing Direct Loans (including Self Help Loans)</td>
<td>Families and individuals</td>
<td>Buy, build, improve, repair or rehabilitate a rural home as the</td>
<td>Rural areas with populations of up to 36,000.</td>
<td>Direct loan.</td>
<td>Up to 100% of market value or cost. Loan term of 20 years. Applicant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>applicant’s permanent residence.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>may be eligible for payment assistance (subsidy) on the loan.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single-Family Housing Guarantees</td>
<td>Families and individuals</td>
<td>Purchase new or existing homes and reference existing Rural</td>
<td>Rural areas with populations of up to 36,000.</td>
<td>Loan guarantee.</td>
<td>35 year fixed. Interest rate is negotiated between lender and borrower. Loans up</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Development guaranteed or direct loans</td>
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<td>to 100% of market value plus the amount of the up-front guarantee fee being</td>
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<td>Reacqire space, vacationing, purchase or repair heating system,</td>
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<td>financed.</td>
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<td>structural repair, water/sewerage connected fees, etc.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single-Family Rental Loans and Grants</td>
<td>Families and individuals</td>
<td>Technical assistance to help small groups of families to build each</td>
<td>Rural areas with populations of up to 36,000.</td>
<td>Direct loan and grant.</td>
<td>Loans up to $20,000, up to 20 years at 1%. Grants available to very low-income</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>other’s homes</td>
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<td>applicants 62 years or older unsuitable to pay 1% loan.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single-Family Rental Housing Direct Loans</td>
<td>Non-profit and public bodies</td>
<td>Build or rehabilitate affordable rental housing</td>
<td>Rural areas with populations of up to 36,000.</td>
<td>Direct loan.</td>
<td>Up to 100% of up-front cost (non-profit), 67% (for profit), 55% (for-profit</td>
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<td>with Low Income Housing Tax Credits); 30-year term with up to 50-year amortization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single-Family Rental Housing Guarantees</td>
<td>Individuals, trusts, associations, limited</td>
<td>New construction or substantial rehabilitation of rental housing</td>
<td>Rural areas with populations of up to 36,000.</td>
<td>Grant.</td>
<td>Grant agreement.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>partnerships, for profit and non-profit</td>
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<td>entities, tribes, public bodies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rural Rental Housing Direct Loans</td>
<td>Individuals, trust, associations, limited</td>
<td>Provide loan guarantees on loans to build or preserve affordable</td>
<td>Rural areas with populations of up to 36,000.</td>
<td>Grant.</td>
<td>Grant agreement up to 5% of the principal.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>partnerships, for profit and non-profit entities, tribes, public bodies</td>
<td>affordable housing for very low-to moderate-income tenants.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural Rental Housing Guarantees</td>
<td>For profit and non-profit lenders</td>
<td>Build or rehabilitate affordable rental housing</td>
<td>Rural areas with populations of up to 36,000.</td>
<td>Grant.</td>
<td>Grant agreement up to 5% of the principal.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing Preservation Grants</td>
<td>Public bodies and nonprofit organizations</td>
<td>Operation of a program which finances repair and rehabilitation</td>
<td>Rural areas with populations of up to 36,000.</td>
<td>Grant.</td>
<td>Grant agreement up to 5% of the principal.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>activities for single-family and small rental properties.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farm Labor Housing Loans and Grants</td>
<td>Individuals, public and private non-profit</td>
<td>New construction or substantial rehabilitation of rental housing</td>
<td>Not applicable.</td>
<td>Direct loan and grant.</td>
<td>Up to 100% of total development cost. Loan term of 35 years to repay at 1% interest.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>organizations</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Facilities Loans and Grants</td>
<td>Public bodies, non-profits, and federally recognized Indian Tribes</td>
<td>Construct, upgrade or otherwise improve essential community</td>
<td>City, town or unincorporated area of not more than 20,000 in population. Facilities must primarily serve rural residents.</td>
<td>Direct loan and grant.</td>
<td>Up to 100% of market value. Terms for use of the facility or equipment, the State statute, or 40 years. Maximum grant 75% of project cost. Grant eligibility based on income, population, and need.</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>facilities, such as public safety, fire and rescue, telecommunications, schools, libraries, hospitals, health care facilities, etc.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food Enterprise Development Initiative</td>
<td>Private non-profit or public organizations, philanthropic foundations, low-income communities</td>
<td>Technical assistance grants of $50,000 to $300,000 to develop the capacity and ability of the awardees to carry out needed projects.</td>
<td>City, town, or unincorporated area of not more than 50,000 in population.</td>
<td>Grant.</td>
<td>Matching funds required for grant.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For Direct Loans and Grants, apply to Rural Development. For Loan Guarantees, apply to participating intermediaries such as approved banks, mortgage companies, etc.
### Rural Business and Cooperative Programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Applicant</th>
<th>Uses</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Loan/Grant</th>
<th>Terms/Conditions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Business and Industry Loan Guarantee</td>
<td>Lenders/Businesses.</td>
<td>Real estate, buildings, equipment, supplies, working capital, and some debt refinancing.</td>
<td>All areas except cities over 50,000 and their contiguous urbanized areas.</td>
<td>Loan guarantee.</td>
<td>Lender and borrower negotiate terms. Up to 30 years for real estate, 15 years for machinery and equipment, and 7 years for working capital.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural Business Development Grants</td>
<td>Public bodies, government entities, non-profit entities, and Federally recognized Indian Tribes.</td>
<td>Acquire or develop land, buildings, plants and equipment; build or improve access roads, parking areas, utility extensions, and water and waste disposal facilities; provide technical assistance; establish revolving loan funds; and support rural distance learning programs that provide educational or job training.</td>
<td>All areas rural in character except cities over 50,000 and their contiguous urbanized areas.</td>
<td>Grant.</td>
<td>Grants are awarded on a competitive basis.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intermediary Revolving Program Loans</td>
<td>Public bodies, non-profit corporations, Native American Tribes, and cooperatives.</td>
<td>Community development projects, establishment or expansion of businesses, creation or saving of rural jobs.</td>
<td>Rural areas and incorporated places with populations of less than 50,000.</td>
<td>Direct loan.</td>
<td>The intermediary makes loans to businesses from its revolving loan fund on terms consistent with security offered. Intermediary pays 1% for 90 years.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural Microenterprise Assistance Program</td>
<td>Microenterprise Development Organizations (MDOs).</td>
<td>Loans, technical, and capacity-building assistance to businesses with 10 or fewer employees and sole proprietorships.</td>
<td>All areas except cities over 50,000 and their contiguous urbanized areas.</td>
<td>Loans, grants.</td>
<td>Rural microenterprises apply directly to the intermediary.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural Economic Development Loans and Grants</td>
<td>Rural Utilities Service-financed electric and telephone utilities.</td>
<td>Business startups or expansion projects that create rural jobs.</td>
<td>Rural areas with priority to places with populations of 2,500 or less.</td>
<td>Direct loan or grant to establish revolving loan fund.</td>
<td>Intermediary makes loans to for-profit or non-profit businesses and public bodies. Loans are 2% for 10 years.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural Cooperative Development Grants</td>
<td>Non-profits and institutions of higher education.</td>
<td>Establish centers to provide technical assistance, training, applied research, and collection and interpretation of data, for the purpose of cooperative development.</td>
<td>All areas except cities over 50,000 and their contiguous urbanized areas.</td>
<td>Grant.</td>
<td>Minimum 30% fund match (5% for 984 Institutions). Grants awarded competitively.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Socially Disadvantaged Group Grants (Previously called Small Socially Disadvantaged Producer Grants)</td>
<td>Cooperatives and co-op development centers that serve socially disadvantaged groups. Where a majority of the board of directors or governing board is comprised of individuals who are members of socially disadvantaged groups.</td>
<td>Technical assistance.</td>
<td>All areas, except cities over 50,000 and their contiguous urbanized areas.</td>
<td>Grant.</td>
<td>Grants are awarded on a competitive basis. There is no matching requirement.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Value Added Producer Grants</td>
<td>Independent producers, farm and ranch cooperatives, producer groups, majority-controlled producer-based business entities.</td>
<td>Feasibility studies, business plans, and working capital.</td>
<td>All areas.</td>
<td>Grant.</td>
<td>Grants are awarded on a competitive basis. Funds cannot be used to build facilities or purchase equipment. Funds must be matched on a dollar-for-dollar basis.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Rural Business and Cooperative Programs (Cont’d.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Details</th>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Applicant</th>
<th>Uses</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Loan/Grant</th>
<th>Terms/Conditions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rural Energy for Success Programs</td>
<td>Provide assistance for energy efficiency improvements or purchase of a renewable energy system for operations.</td>
<td>Rural small businesses and agricultural producers.</td>
<td>Energy efficiency improvements, renewable energy systems, land acquisition and working capital.</td>
<td>Cities, towns, unincorporated areas with population less than 50,000.</td>
<td>Loan guarantee and/or grant.</td>
<td>Grants up to 25% of project costs not to exceed $200,000 for energy efficiency projects and $500,000 for renewable energy. Loan guarantee up to 75% of project cost not to exceed $25 million.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REAP Audit Development Grants</td>
<td>Provide grant to entity to pass through to a small business or agricultural producer for 75% of the cost of an energy audit or renewable energy development assistance.</td>
<td>State, tribal, or local government institutions of higher education; rural electric cooperatives; or public power entities.</td>
<td>$100,000 grant to entities, smaller areas to small business and agricultural producers for 75% of energy audit or renewable energy development assistance.</td>
<td>Cities, towns, unincorporated areas with population less than 60,000.</td>
<td>Grant.</td>
<td>$100,000 to entities and up to 75% of the cost of energy audit for renewable energy development assistance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural Infrastrutures Infrastructure Program</td>
<td>Provide loan guarantees for the development and construction of commercial-scale biorefineries or to retrofit facilities using eligible technology for the development of advanced biofuels.</td>
<td>Individuals, Indian Tribes, States or local governments, corporations, firms, cooperative associations of agricultural producers, national industry associations, educational institutions, rural electric cooperatives, public power entities, or consortia of any of the entities.</td>
<td>Loan guarantee to develop and construct commercial-scale biorefineries or retrofit facilities to use eligible technology for the development of advanced biofuels.</td>
<td>No restrictions.</td>
<td>Loan.</td>
<td>80% (maximum) guarantee on loans up to $125 million; 60% (maximum) guarantee on loans up to $150 million; 70% (maximum) guarantee on loans of $150 million but less than $200 million; 60% (maximum) guarantee on loans of $200 million to $200 million.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renewable Energy Assistance Programs</td>
<td>Provide payments to biorefineries to replace fossil fuels with biomass.</td>
<td>Biorefineries.</td>
<td>Grant to biorefineries, including ethanol and biodiesel plants that use electricity generated from renewable energy using plants and require funds for the fermentation process.</td>
<td>No restrictions.</td>
<td>Grant.</td>
<td>As funds are available. Complete applications submitted to National Office for review.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced Biorefinery Programs</td>
<td>Provide payments to producers of advanced biofuels.</td>
<td>Eligible producers of advanced biofuels.</td>
<td>Grant to producers of advanced biofuels (non-commercialized).</td>
<td>No restrictions.</td>
<td>Grant.</td>
<td>As funds are available. Complete applications submitted to National Office for review. Grant awards determined by National Office.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For Direct Loans and Grants, apply to Rural Development. For Loan Guarantees, apply to participating intermediaries such as eligible banks, etc. For Revolving Funds (RRP, REDLG, RMAP), intermediaries apply to Rural Development, others to the intermediaries.
### Rural Utilities Programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Applicant</th>
<th>Uses</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Loan/Grant</th>
<th>Terms/Conditions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Water and Wastewater Loans and Grants</td>
<td>Public entities, Indian Tribes and non-profit corporations</td>
<td>Build, repair and improve public water systems and waste collection and treatment systems.</td>
<td>Rural areas, and towns with up to 10,000 population.</td>
<td>Direct loan and grant.</td>
<td>Repayment period is a maximum of 40 years. Grant funds may be available.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water and Wastewater Loan Guarantee</td>
<td>Public entities, Indian Tribes and non-profit corporations</td>
<td>Construct, repair and improve water supply and distribution systems and waste collection and treatment systems.</td>
<td>Rural areas, and towns with up to 10,000 population.</td>
<td>Loan guarantee.</td>
<td>Eligible lenders obtain up to a 90% guarantee on loans they make and service.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solid Waste Management Grants</td>
<td>Public bodies, private non-profit organizations, Indian Tribes, academic institutions</td>
<td>Technical assistance and training to improve landfill conditions and protect against threats to nearby water resources.</td>
<td>Rural areas, and towns with up to 10,000 population.</td>
<td>Grant.</td>
<td>Applications accepted year-round. Complete applications submitted to National Office for review.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technical Assistance: Training (Grant)</td>
<td>Public, private, and non-profit organizations</td>
<td>Provide technical assistance and training to assist with management of water and wastewater projects.</td>
<td>Rural areas and towns with up to 10,000 population.</td>
<td>Grant.</td>
<td>As funds are available. Complete applications submitted to National Office for review.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural Broadband Access Loans and Grants</td>
<td>Entities seeking to provide broadband services in rural areas.</td>
<td>Finance the construction, improvement and acquisition of facilities and equipment to provide broadband service in eligible rural communities.</td>
<td>Rural areas and towns with up to 10,000 population.</td>
<td>Refer to the new rules, when available, for loan terms and conditions.</td>
<td>Refer to the new rules, when available, for loan terms and conditions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electric and Telecommunications Loans</td>
<td>Non-profit and cooperative associations, public bodies, and other utilities.</td>
<td>Generation, transmission facilities and distribution of electric power, including alternative, renewable, conservation and energy efficiency programs. Enhance 911 emergency service, digital switching equipment, and fiber optic cable, along with traditional main system telecommunications service.</td>
<td>Electric areas served by an existing rural electric borrower, or rural area other than a city or town of more than 20,000. Telecommunications areas cities with population under 5,000.</td>
<td>Direct loan or loan guarantee.</td>
<td>Interest rates are established in accordance with 7 CFR 1714. Contact RUS at <a href="http://www.ofr.usda.gov">www.ofr.usda.gov</a> or 1-860-875-6553.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural Housing and Infrastructure</td>
<td>Incorporated entities, including municipalities, for-profit, and non-profit corporations that operate rural schools, libraries, healthcare clinics and other educational or healthcare facilities.</td>
<td>To provide and use equipment and programming that delivers distance learning and telemedicine services into eligible areas.</td>
<td>Rural areas outside incorporated or unincorporated cities with populations up to 20,000.</td>
<td>Grant.</td>
<td>Awards range from $50,000 to $200,000. A minimum of 10% in matching funds is required.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Connect Grants</td>
<td>Public bodies, tribes, cooperatives, non-profits, limited dividend or mutual associations, corporations, and other legally organized entities</td>
<td>To build broadband infrastructure and establish a community center that offers free public access to broadband for two years.</td>
<td>A single community outside incorporated or unincorporated cities with population over 20,000 which does not have broadband.</td>
<td>Grant.</td>
<td>Minimum: $50,000; Maximum: $1 million. Amounts are published in Notices of Funding Availability and may vary.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Electric and Telecom Programs:** Contact the Rural Utilities Service Administrator; **Water Programs:** Contact the Rural Development State Office. **CFR** refers to Code of Federal Regulations.
### Rural Development Program Purposes

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Single Family Housing Direct Loans (including Self-Help Loans)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Single Family Housing Loan Guarantees</td>
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<tr>
<td>Single Family Housing Repair Loans/Grants</td>
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<tr>
<td>Self-Help Housing Technical Assistance Grants</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rural Rental Housing Direct Loans</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rural Rental Housing Loan Guarantees</td>
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<tr>
<td>Housing Preservation Grants</td>
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<tr>
<td>Farm Labor Housing Loans/Grants</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community Facilities Direct Loans, Loan Guarantees, Grants*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rural Community Development Initiative</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rural Business and Cooperative Programs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Business and Industry Loan Guarantees</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rural Business Development Grants</td>
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<tr>
<td>Intermediary Relending Program Loans</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rural Economic Development Loans and Grants</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rural Cooperative Development Grants</td>
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<tr>
<td>Socially Disadvantaged Groups Grants</td>
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<tr>
<td>Value-Added Producer Grant</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rural Energy for America Program Loan Guarantees/Grants</td>
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<tr>
<td>Biorefinery, Renewable Chemical, and Biobased Product Manufacturing Assistance Program Loan Guarantees</td>
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<tr>
<td>Repowering Assistance Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>Advanced Biofuel Payment Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rural Utilities Programs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Water and Waste Disposal Direct Loans, Loan Guarantees, Grants</td>
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<tr>
<td>Solid Waste Management Grants</td>
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<td>Technical Asst./Training/Grant Rider</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rural Broadband Direct Loans and Loan Guarantees</td>
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<tr>
<td>Electric and Telecommunications Direct Loans/Loan Guarantees</td>
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<tr>
<td>Distance Learning and Telemedicine Loans/Grants</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community Connect Grants</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

* Initial operating expenses are eligible in conjunction with the financing of an eligible Community Facility project. However, grant funds may not be used to fund initial operating expenses.

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Greater Ronan Resource Team Assessment     May 9 – 10, 2016     52
GREATER RONAN RESOURCE TEAM ASSESSMENT
LISTENING SESSION COMMENTS (In person, handwritten, and emailed)
MAY 9 - 10, 2016

What are the strengths and assets of Ronan?

Listening Session at: Ronan Middle School PAC
Parents, Teachers, Staff, Students, Coaches, and Community

- Beautiful mountain, lake, destination valley, scenery,
- The view
- Tourism
- Agriculture is a very strong element of business here….
- Diversity (ditto)
- Caring, helpful, people – if there is a need, this community will support and do whatever it takes to get you through a difficult time.
- Small town – people come together for a cause.
- Our youth – people care about them!
- Our schools
- Summer lunch program for our kids
- Close knit community – even without enough assets we all try.
- Good Chamber of Commerce – active
- The little park downtown is nice and well kept – under utilized.
- Great visitor center
- Farmers market –
- Clean streets
- Volunteer base
- Our community pulls together
- Outdoor environment – many opportunities from biking, floating, birding, golf, capitalize on these items.
- Very welcoming community – students and parents both
- Family events, career fairs, etc. Community support is phenomenal.
- School is terrific – retain our teachers
- Hospital – excellent
- Corridor of transportation
- Agriculture, western heritage
- S & K College
- Facilities here are amazing – PAC, all-weather track, amazing gym,
- Lake County Community Development Corp.

Listening Session at Round Butte Women’s Center
Agriculture Community and Community

- Location – between Kalispell and Missoula, on the way to Glacier Park – must come through Ronan.
- Agriculture – our backbone throughout the valley.
- Great participation for this process – people are showing they are interested. Ditto – great participation.
• Natural beauty of the area (ditto)
• Sense of community
• Prime agriculture trading center.
• A lot of services for a small town.
• Community pride
• Retail opportunities are one strength.
• Tribal wilderness area – right here.
• Mission Mountain Food Processing Center
• The people and their community spirit for the people – we have fund raisers and people in need – people participate
• We are the highest growing region for new emerging farmers.
• We have high speed internet.
• Airport
• S & K College

Listening Session at St. Luke Community Healthcare
(Healthcare workers, Patients, Senior Citizens, Businesses, Government, Community)

• Strong anchor businesses that provide support such as our banks, the school system, and our location.
• This corridor – great location.
• Ditto
• Outdoor area is our major strength, not overly populated.
• Longstanding families that have lived here and look out for each other.
• Incredible entrepreneurial spirit – we want to get stuff done.
• Diversity
• Our churches – get things done.
• People are committed to the success of this community – not just their own business or church.
• Kids are a priority.
• Passionate people.
• Ag industry in this area – it is critical.
• Healthcare – great healthcare resources in this area.
• Lake County Community Development – brings a lot of opportunities to the area.
• Ranch stores and businesses that support Agriculture are here.
• Great location and attractions.
• Low income area but when in that situation you learn to do more yourself; makes us stronger.
• Our people – and our volunteers.
• Community and school events are supported.
• Tribal government and its resources
• College – high caliber
• Restaurants in the area
• Thrift Store
• Two golf courses – both open to the public.
• School
• Youth
• Boys and Girls Club
• Senior Citizens are phenomenal -willing to do outreach and help.
• We live in an amazing valley on the way to amazing places.
• Ninepipes Hotel and restaurant.

Listening Session at Salish Kootenai College – Arlee/Charlo Theatre
(Professors, Staff, Students, Tribal Government, Tribal Members, Community)
• Beautify of the area
• S & K College
• Lake County Community Development
• The park
• Our high school
• Our new community center
• Our people – so supportive.
• Close knit and supportive community.
• We are a resilient population – things have happened in our valley with businesses closing, the recession, etc., and people figured out how to make it though.
• Ditto the people – the people make it a wonderful place to live.
• Home of Valley Journal which is one of the most read newspapers in the valley.
• Polson has a facility for mental health crisis situations.
• Campus health and wellness center.

Projects and Vision
Listening Session at Ronan Community Center
• Library
• Medical facilities
• Volunteers in the community
• Beautiful place
• Increased cooperation between city, tribe, county
• Quality of life – best of both worlds – rural and city
• Don’t do everything perfect but we do it together
• Love my neighborhood
• Caring and mentoring school
• Job Corps Students are a great asset
• FFA is fabulous; as well as 4H
What are the **challenges** of Ronan?

**Listening Session at: Ronan Middle School PAC**
**Parents, Teachers, Staff, Students, Coaches, and Community**
- Affordable housing – can’t keep good people unless they have a nice place to live.
- Public transportation – how can we connect more easily within the valley especially for the elderly and those unable to drive.
- Hard to find affordable housing that you want to put a family in; families have left Ronan because they could not find decent housing.
- Infrastructure – roads are in bad shape – hard to show off Ronan if roads are horrible.
- Resources are not available to address the drug problems here
- Volunteers are a strength but also a problem because we need to be coordinated and have better communication.
- Need a stronger reason to come here – to get people to stop.
- We have a lot of government type entities in our area and it is difficult to get them to come together.
- Signage – a lot of old signage
- First arrived and went to the police station – knocked on the door, no one was there.
- Downtown housing –
- City hall and library need improved lighting outside and inside.
- Problem is funding to address all of the needs such as infrastructure, crime, beautification, etc.
- A house in Polson is worth twice as much as one in Ronan, but Ronan residents pay twice as much in taxes.
- Chicken and the egg thing – need more revenue but people need a place to live.
- Poverty – rampant in the Ronan area. Between Polson and Ronan, Polson will have donors step forward who have retired on the lake will give thousands of dollars. Ronan does not have that type of population. As retirees, we do not attract extremely wealthy people.
- Ronan has received negative publicity – Ronan and Pablo listed with high crime.
- Community decay – the city is trying to address it but it is a huge problem.
- The people who have money in Ronan are nonprofits, i.e., hospital.
- Some of the good things that we have we don’t utilize – for example, this PAC is too often used just for a school activity.
- County, City, School, Tribe properties come together – Fair Ground, Baseball Field, Rodeo Arena. In that five acres we tend to suffocate each other – need ideas on how to make better use of it.
- We are on the corridor – but how do we become the destination?
- More lodging needed and restaurants open longer to accommodate crowds.
- What will happen when the highway comes through? Will give us a different feel.
- People are interested in investing in a subdivision but it gets very complicated with different land owners, leases, etc.
- One nice house surrounded by seven horrible houses….if you could afford the nice house you wouldn’t buy it because of the poor neighborhood and fears of crime.

**Listening Session at Round Butte Women’s Center**
**Agriculture Community and Community**
- Lost production and processing of our food, timber, etc. – raw product was always available, but not production.
- Health department in Polson – there should be a sewer system here as we are on a big clay slab.
Could run a rural sewer system for less than it would cost for people to put in their own.

- Bad perception from people who do not live here – especially in the surrounding areas. Therefore, people don’t do their business here.
- Abandonment of downtown. DITTO
- No reason for people to come off of the highway.
- Roads are in very bad repair downtown and as well as on the outskirts of town.
- Communication challenges between Tribe and locals. When we work together it is successful, but we don’t work together well often.
- Volunteer base exists but there is a level of apathy as a large group just lets the same group of people do everything.
- Getting the word out about our assets like the food center, our beauty, outdoor recreation, etc.
- We don’t have a great trail system – so don’t have access to scenic areas in some places.
- Use the broadband we have!
- Challenge to generate revenue from tax base. The vision from the tribal perspective and vision from non-native perspective is very different.
  - Cities and county government needs tax payers from business and development. The tribe would prefer to put property in trust.
- City Drinking water – quality compared to neighboring areas is bad.
- Out of state ownership of downtown buildings.
- More training opportunities for jobs – a training center here, although there is one in Polson.

Listening Session at St. Luke Community Healthcare
(Healthcare Workers, Patients, Senior Citizens, Businesses, Government, Community)

- Suicide prevention – mental health issues.
- Trying to keep families in town during the summer so they can keep the businesses supported.
- High sewage and water rates.
- Love hate relationship with growth – don’t want a lot of people to move here permanently.
- Box stores – harm this area.
- In a typical community a hospital would have been assisted financial with its expansion project; Ronan could not.
- The highway change – making sure Ronan benefits in the right way.
- Planned development – challenging in many ways.
- Inconsistent workforce - need for people to show up for work.
- Roads in Ronan – especially downtown Ronan.
- The city is not business minded – has other problems to deal with.
- Business people are not part of the decision makers in their process.
- Fairgrounds – try to bring events to town as attendees support local businesses. But we are fractured – don’t look at what is good for our town as well as the valley. Look at the big picture.
- You get to the point that you are discouraged and start to look after only yourself.
- Appears to be a lack of leadership but getting things done in Ronan is complicated.
- We don’t know what we want – hard to come up with a mural that explains what we are/do/want to be.
- Entrepreneurial spirit can be beaten down.

Listening Session at Salish Kootenai College – Arlee/Charlo Theatre
(Professors, Staff, Students, Tribal Government, Tribal Members, Community)
• We are not capitalizing on the traffic that moves from Missoula to Glacier Park.
• Housing – I am on the school board and tired of teachers not being able to live here because there is not safe affordable housing.
• Use and abuse of drugs.
• Main Street is very run down – needs the streets repaired.
• Highway is coming with a couplet design. We need to use it to attract business – and make everything fit together.
• High water level causes Ronan’s roads to erode quickly.
• Drugs use – 30% of the births in the hospital have addicted mothers.
• High rate of suicide.
• Jobs are available here but we need higher paying wage jobs.
• Our ag future is uncertain due to aging community, difficulty in getting product to market, and if ag leaves the community, we lose our biggest support.
• Resilient – yes, we see highs and lows of the economy, - be prepared for the highway project as there are problems when the construction arrives.
• Need more services to prevent mental illness –
• Youth and lack of pride – don’t even apply for scholarships; pride in self, school, and community.

Projects and Vision
Listening Session at Ronan Community Center
• Take on the challenges of CDBG grants.
• Where is the next generation? Where are our next generation leaders? Not apathy so much as hard working families.
• Streets – very bad state
• Ag producer (potatoes) battled engineers - suggests an engineer on the side of ag to be present during this type of highway negotiations.
• Severe lack of room for students in the library after school. They need more books and more room!
• Property owners and tax payers but have no say because we do not live in the city limits. How do property owners get a vote as to what happens with our tax dollars? (Talk to your legislators.)
• Lack of investment in our infrastructure
• Getting companies to re-locate here
• Chicken and egg problem – need jobs to improve housing, need people to increase business and tax bases, but they have little choice of good housing.
• Native and Non-native friction
• Housing – get the people who work here to live here.
• Kids feel not welcome in the community; the community doesn’t feel welcome in the school.
What **projects and/or vision** for Ronan would you like to see in the next year – or 5, 10, years in the future?

**Listening Session at: Ronan Middle School PAC**
*Parents, Teachers, Staff, Students, Coaches, and Community*

- A brewery – what makes those successful and is it a fit for Ronan’s main street?
- Utilize downtown area park more
- An event similar to the Spartan Race – 3,000 people came
- Explore use of the railroad or explain why we aren’t using it. – Montana Rail Link
- Replace old signs with new signs.
- Show case what we have and utilize it better!
- Bring on the next generation of volunteers to step up
- I want to hear more and more people say “I live in Ronan.”
- Get streets updated – using SID s with what is in place; going to do some chip sealing but need more funds.
- Perhaps have people contribute to get their segment of road repaired.
- County level project and for Ronan – a lot of property is in trust; county is working to get payment in lieu of taxes on the properties to provide an economic boost.
- Sidewalks, paths, or trails especially where the kids walk to school.
- More baseball fields, more youth activities.
- Get the Ronan website up!
- Newspapers – partnerships with nonprofits, and businesses, including downtown and school, as well as service organizations to build energy and cohesion.
- Grants for community concerts and other events;
- Consider a group page for advertising - get businesses together on the corridor. Newcomers don’t know about the traditional things like Easter Egg hunts.
- Fill up our Main Street with viable businesses.
- Need higher income housing, too, to provide revenue for taxes. Income level to attract – teachers, hospital,
- Average wage in the range of $30,000 to $60,000
- Beautification efforts are wasted at times due to vandalism.

**Listening Session at Round Butte Women’s Center**
*Agriculture Community and Community*

- How to mesh the differing visions for the future of the area – tribes vision and city/county vision.
- Make us an attraction that provide something we don’t need – like Philipsburg; a reason for people to come downtown. Need three businesses at least.
- Ditto
- More activities for kids to get outdoors and enjoy/respect what we have.
- See the city park promoted more; place pods for children’s activities, etc.
- Signage!
- Ronan becomes a destination town with a brewery, bike tours, etc.
- Collaboration between City Council, our people, the Fair Board, county – all work better together. They are all great but they don’t collaborate.
- Youth focus – pathway projects, baseball facility, better rodeo area, better fairgrounds, etc. Expand where we do these things; better use of our facilities.
• School – utilize our Ronan Middle School Auditorium better!
• Capitalize on Ag industry and the trend for young people to return to the land.
• Consensus on what Ronan should look like in the future – the Chamber, Fair Board, Baseball Association, - remove the turf wars and come together and agree on what we need to do.
• Use the local facilities – make sure the word is out that we have a dog groomer, hair dressers, etc. – that we have right here in town. Create a business directory.
• 20 years – strong collaboration between the tribe and non-tribal residents and there is controlled access to our wilderness that both promotes and protects it.
• Develop; beautify the housing just behind Main Street.
• Workforce housing - income level to attract and retain

Listening Session at St. Luke Community Healthcare
(Healthcare Workers, Patients, Senior Citizens, Businesses, Government, Community)

• Wise growth that keeps Ronan as Ronan.
• We must focus on the highway changes and be ready to work with them.
• A new part of town with new infrastructure; need to build a tax base!
• Signage to have people see the scenic drives
• Another hotel for events and visitors.
• Have a facilitator that is not vested with any local entity and facilitate us to work together.
• Projects are prioritized and folks working together to achieve them.
• A community center that we can all use – including boys and girls club – would also include a workout center. Yet it must be sustainable.
• A theme we can build on….
• Community Garden that is being proposed – becomes a reality.

Listening Session at Salish Kootenai College – Arlee/Charlo Theatre
(Professors, Staff, Students, Tribal Government, Tribal Members, Community)

• Make Ronan a destination spot – and create a theme!
• Develop Main Street along the theme.
• Do create a website and keep it updated – include events and promote them!
• Affordable housing – so that hospital staff, school staff, can live here.
• After school programs are essential – do have a bowling alley and a theatre that provides a place for kids to go; more coordinated events!
• Summer camps for the kids – for sports and/or non-sport camps.
• Dance halls for kids.
• Become a Drug Free Community program participant.
• Expansion of Junior Fair
• Harvest Fest – expand and market the events we do have!
• Capture the Sunday crowd – we have a lot more traffic on Sunday’s.

Projects and Vision
Listening Session at Ronan Community Center

• Beautification of the hitching posts.
• Expand the library (ditto)
• Repair the streets
• Baseball complex – more robust than what we have
• Boys and Girls Club and Community Center completed
• Host state tournaments – put our infrastructure in place to do it.
• Use our track for more meets
• Use our Chamber to bring us together again
• City of Ronan website
• Revitalize downtown along with the highway change; 2.3 million tourists come through to Glacier.
• Street improvement
• Leadership development for youth and adult – bring your kids along
• Business mentoring program
The following data was collected from a SurveyMonkey online survey for the general public, and students.

### Q1 What are the major strengths and assets of Ronan?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Responses</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>The major strengths and assets are. The spring sports and activities.</td>
<td>5/20/2016 3:07 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>The food</td>
<td>5/20/2016 3:03 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>arts and crafts</td>
<td>5/20/2016 3:02 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>The major strengths and such at Ronan us that we are so small that everyone knows each other and understands about their past</td>
<td>5/20/2016 3:00 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>I like the city park</td>
<td>5/20/2016 2:57 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Ronan has little strengths. Maybe its alright at Basketball?</td>
<td>5/20/2016 2:55 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>sports</td>
<td>5/20/2016 2:55 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Sports</td>
<td>5/20/2016 2:55 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Maybe peoples love for athletics.</td>
<td>5/20/2016 2:55 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>not much</td>
<td>5/20/2016 2:55 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>the people</td>
<td>5/20/2016 2:54 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Poparties are good poparties are the greatest</td>
<td>5/20/2016 2:53 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>nothing</td>
<td>5/20/2016 2:53 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>I really couldn't tell you because I just come here to do my classes and leave.</td>
<td>5/20/2016 2:53 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>it's pretty. We also have a good community.</td>
<td>5/20/2016 2:53 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>It's a small good town</td>
<td>5/20/2016 2:52 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Nothing</td>
<td>5/20/2016 2:51 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Ronan is quite clean, air- and road-wise. There is a lot of plants, and parks.</td>
<td>5/20/2016 2:36 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>The major strengths and assets of Ronan are that we do not have an issue of bullying at our school.</td>
<td>5/20/2016 2:34 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Being nice and friendly to those around me</td>
<td>5/20/2016 2:33 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Good at keeping track of attendance and reminding students to be here</td>
<td>5/20/2016 2:33 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>They are big on not leaving anyone behind. Disciplined and goals are set.</td>
<td>5/20/2016 2:32 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>You can count on someone being there to help you if you need help with anything.</td>
<td>5/20/2016 2:32 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>The community is rather interwined and anybody will help you out with the drop of a hat</td>
<td>5/20/2016 2:31 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Tech team the football field</td>
<td>5/20/2016 2:30 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Football field and our tech team.</td>
<td>5/20/2016 2:30 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>We have a good Fine arts program for the most part</td>
<td>5/20/2016 2:30 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>our football field and tech team</td>
<td>5/20/2016 2:29 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>I haven't been here long, so I don't really know yet.</td>
<td>5/20/2016 2:29 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>ITS WRESTLING team. The people in Ronan are nice, the mountains.</td>
<td>5/20/2016 2:12 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>nature</td>
<td>5/20/2016 2:11 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>Make main street more accessible for the public and cars.</td>
<td>5/20/2016 2:05 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>I don't know the Strength of this city.</td>
<td>5/20/2016 2:01 PM</td>
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<td>34</td>
<td>Nothing</td>
<td>5/20/2016 1:24 PM</td>
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<td>Response</td>
<td>Date/Time</td>
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<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>Ronan has a really good Tech program and robotics team. Some teachers can help out a lot with students and getting their work done.</td>
<td>5/20/2016 1:18 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36</td>
<td>REALY NOTHING</td>
<td>5/20/2016 1:18 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37</td>
<td>I think the major assets of Ronan are kids can start working young because there are lots of farms and other things kids can learn and do young.</td>
<td>5/20/2016 1:15 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>38</td>
<td>kids can get a house of jobs easy because we have a house of farms and there is a beautiful view.</td>
<td>5/20/2016 1:14 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39</td>
<td>Kids can get jobs easy and help there families</td>
<td>5/20/2016 1:14 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>Ronan has a lot of agriculture and we have the beautiful Mission Mountains.</td>
<td>5/20/2016 1:14 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>41</td>
<td>that we all try and pass all of are grades, and try out for all of the sports and try and stay in there and be happy.</td>
<td>5/20/2016 1:14 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>42</td>
<td>People living on the street</td>
<td>5/20/2016 1:14 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43</td>
<td>Nothing</td>
<td>5/20/2016 1:12 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44</td>
<td>CLASSE S</td>
<td>5/20/2016 1:12 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45</td>
<td>you can go of campus for lunch.</td>
<td>5/20/2016 1:11 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46</td>
<td>Off campus lunch</td>
<td>5/20/2016 1:10 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>47</td>
<td>Some nice people</td>
<td>5/20/2016 1:18 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48</td>
<td>Drugs</td>
<td>5/20/2016 1:08 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>49</td>
<td>community</td>
<td>5/20/2016 10:54 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50</td>
<td>I'm not sure</td>
<td>5/20/2016 10:52 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51</td>
<td>Clean hallways/bathrooms.</td>
<td>5/20/2016 10:51 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>52</td>
<td>We have nice people, and we have some great classes to choose from.</td>
<td>5/20/2016 10:49 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>53</td>
<td>They have many classes available and several extra curricular activities.</td>
<td>5/20/2016 10:49 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>54</td>
<td>They have lots of classes available, and courses</td>
<td>5/20/2016 10:49 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55</td>
<td>I think roan offers a lot good courses, they have a good variety.</td>
<td>5/20/2016 10:49 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>56</td>
<td>The people are great, the teachers are really easy to get along with. You build a second family while you're there. They actually care.</td>
<td>5/20/2016 10:48 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>57</td>
<td>we all get along pretty well.</td>
<td>5/20/2016 10:47 AM</td>
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<tr>
<td>58</td>
<td>Sports is a strength</td>
<td>5/20/2016 10:46 AM</td>
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<tr>
<td>59</td>
<td>The major strengths in Ronan are the sports.</td>
<td>5/20/2016 10:46 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60</td>
<td>none really</td>
<td>5/20/2016 10:46 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>61</td>
<td>Cooperative</td>
<td>5/20/2016 10:45 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>62</td>
<td>I feel Ronan is a very fun school with teachers that are fun and educational at the same time, being here I have learned a lot and have also had a fun time while I did.</td>
<td>5/20/2016 9:57 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>63</td>
<td>Sports</td>
<td>5/20/2016 9:57 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>64</td>
<td>How almost everything is within walking distance from each other.</td>
<td>5/20/2016 9:56 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65</td>
<td>Sports</td>
<td>5/20/2016 9:55 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>66</td>
<td>Every one has a good connection with each other, every one has respect for each other. It is like a big team.</td>
<td>5/20/2016 9:55 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>67</td>
<td>Sports, Nice field, Nice teachers</td>
<td>5/20/2016 9:54 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>68</td>
<td>every one has a connection, and the team work is great, a lot of kids really put in effort, sports are a really big one I think.</td>
<td>5/20/2016 9:54 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>69</td>
<td>The lack of violence given the size of the school.</td>
<td>5/20/2016 9:52 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70</td>
<td>food</td>
<td>5/20/2016 9:50 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>71</td>
<td>I don't know.</td>
<td>5/20/2016 9:50 AM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Great views, small town feel  

Be more specific, the school as a whole? or individual problems? I'd have to say, being in an honors classes there are a lot of working people.  

Its small, easy to get around, people are nice all around  

Education, the use of technology available for student use, Sports programs and the grades before sports rule.  

Works together...  

Friends teachers who are friendly and supportive of us  

Robotics. Saying we are the best and doing stuff, but not.  

I don't think there are any  

Saying we are going to do something and not doing it. Saying we are going to make changes but not.  

Sports  

Basketball  

Some major strengths and assets of Ronan are that we have some very good teachers here, they like to focus on the learning of students as well as progress.  

I don't know  

It's a small town  

Teachers who try to give help to students.  

Close friends with almost everyone  

Teachers that try and connect on a personal level, good facilities, and the amount of resources available.  

A major asset of Ronan is teachers being understanding of sports and helping when you've missed days.  

Sports and Sciences  

Should I really answer this?  

Nothing  

Our band, Our tech department, and our science and English departments  

Sports sometimes  

Small town  

Girls Basketball  

Great role models, sports programs  

The strengths and assets are our community comes together and supports our sports and things like that.  

I don't know.  

Sports and academics  

Tribal acceptance and history  

Sports, Speech and Debate, Science, Math, History.  

The teachers are kind and friendly, sports programs are pretty decent  

Gumba, Sports  

The people  

Speech and debate, sports.  

Indian people yee ha  

English teachers and extra curricular teachers  

Subway  

The Students
| 111 | Hand working, generous people; beautiful area; diverse and fascinating cultural mix. | 5/10/2016 10:38 PM |
| 112 | Scenic setting, on major Mt. highway location for traffic business; Major business activity; Large park lands; Diversity of races and future of various economic opportunities. | 5/10/2016 3:37 PM |
| 113 | Business leaders, Non Profit agencies to assist those in need | 5/10/2016 10:43 AM |
| 114 | Excellent public school facilities; Healthcare facilities and providers are strong; Automobile, farm supply, grocery retail is very good; Positive economic impact from the Tribe and College; Strong economic impact from farming community | 5/9/2016 9:21 PM |
| 115 | Most importantly the Community is a huge asset; Strong Community and families; Plus the agriculture is phenomenal; I love the park but it too has kinda lost its luster. | 5/9/2016 10:38 AM |
| 116 | The City Council seems to have learned some valuable lessons these past several years and I can see improvement with the police department at least. | 5/2/2016 2:04 PM |
| 117 | The Event Center, Grocery Store | 4/27/2016 4:08 PM |
### Q2 What are the major problems and challenges in Ronan?

**Answered:** 119  **Skipped:** 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Responses</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Ronan has difficulties keeping the town and community clean and safe of littering. Also we as a community need to be able to communicate better as a whole town. And the pot holes in the streets in Ronan are so bad.</td>
<td>5/20/2016 3:07 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Some of the people that are messed up in the head.</td>
<td>5/20/2016 3:03 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>the school work</td>
<td>5/20/2016 3:02 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Some of the major problems in Ronan is that there's a lot of racism and bullying, some of the teachers kind of need to chill and be nicer to each other.</td>
<td>5/20/2016 3:00 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Most student disrespect the teachers and subsitutes</td>
<td>5/20/2016 2:57 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Teachers are not fair, and can will make dumb reasons to get you into trouble. The vice principal will make some seriously dumb reasons to get you detention or suspended. I feel as if we got a new one Ronan would be better than it is right now.</td>
<td>5/20/2016 2:55 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>food</td>
<td>5/20/2016 2:55 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Food, students and a few teachers.</td>
<td>5/20/2016 2:55 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Major problems and challenges in Ronan is definitly equality. No one excepts each other and everybody is incredibly racist to one another. Another is sexual harassment, the males in our school are getting way to full of themselves and sexually harass almost EVERY girl they ever talk to.</td>
<td>5/20/2016 2:55 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>drugs</td>
<td>5/20/2016 2:55 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>schooling and driving</td>
<td>5/20/2016 2:54 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>sometimes I run out of money to buy popcarts</td>
<td>5/20/2016 2:53 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>nothing</td>
<td>5/20/2016 2:53 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>I don't really pay attention to this school's strengths and problems, just come here to graduate.</td>
<td>5/20/2016 2:53 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>There's a lot of drug users.</td>
<td>5/20/2016 2:53 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>nothing fun</td>
<td>5/20/2016 2:52 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Winning in Sports</td>
<td>5/20/2016 2:51 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>I'm pretty sure that there are way too many under-age people using drugs and alcohol. And for some reason, fixing the perfectly fine trail that runs through the park is more important then filling the many potholes in the neighborhood around it.</td>
<td>5/20/2016 2:36 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>The major problems and challenges in Ronan are that some people think that they will not do great things in life because they live in Ronan Montana.</td>
<td>5/20/2016 2:34 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>so much homework in such a little time period</td>
<td>5/20/2016 2:33 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>bullying</td>
<td>5/20/2016 2:33 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>When no one gets left behind it doesn't always let other students excel further in their education.</td>
<td>5/20/2016 2:32 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>i think they could be more helpful in preparing us for college and the world out of school.</td>
<td>5/20/2016 2:32 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>The lack of people and our middle of nowhere location</td>
<td>5/20/2016 2:31 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>drama, drugs</td>
<td>5/20/2016 2:30 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Drama and the drugs.</td>
<td>5/20/2016 2:30 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Our math program is struggling greatly!</td>
<td>5/20/2016 2:30 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>drugs and drama</td>
<td>5/20/2016 2:29 PM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
29 I have noticed that the teachers aren't particularly hard on kids, the work/grades here are much simpler than my old school. I don't have to work as hard.

30 mostly the teachers.

31 They challenge us physically and mentally. Some classes can really make you think, and use your smartness. I like P.E. best because he likes to push the people who actually try.

32 Walking to Dairy Queen in winter for lunch.

33 The crime and drugs.

34 Teachers

35 people not now in gun safety and people not seeing what screwdrive is

36 I think major problems in Ronan are there aren't enough jobs as adults that will help long term. You have to travel far to go to the college that will succeed in.

37 the major problems in Ronan is that there is a lot of drugs.

38 The Drug abuse

39 The major problems is that there is a lot of drugs around the Ronan area.

40 the challenges are that we all try and stay out of trouble, but that never happens at all everyone just wants to start something all the time.

41 The roads, high ways and Build

42 Teachers

43 THEY ARE STRICT

44 Drugs, Students

45 the students, drugs

46 A lot of listening and Feminism both teach

47 other Drugs

48 I don't know

49 Teachers believe gets tied into their teachings & some are very confident in their teachings.

50 We have lots of homework

51 We have school Fridays. A lot of people are cultural and can't be here Fridays because of powwow or cultural events.

52 Not having early releases on Fridays because hardly anyone comes to school on fridays.

53 I think some challenges in Ronan are the attendance and how a lot of kids don't come to school.

54 just more sub when teachers are gone so other teacher don't have to give up their prep. AND LOSE THAT TEN DAY ABSENCE POLICY ITS STUPID AND COUNTERPRODUCTIVE FOR THE STUDENTS

55 not a lot of homework, we have other things to do and when they send us home with a lot of homework not all of us have the time to do it so we end up failing.

56 Drugs, people

57 There are really no problems or challenges in Ronan.

58 dealing with the kids and teachers

59 Bullying

60 I think the school would benefit from a more harder work environment, sometimes I feel like I could be pushed more, or someone who needs help could be pushed harder.

61 The major problems are student discipline, attendance, narcocics, and grades.

62 The major problems in Ronan is the lack of walking and exercising everyone does.

63 student discipline, attendance and behavior

64 2/4
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID</th>
<th>Comment</th>
<th>Timestamp</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>65</td>
<td>Some students or teachers have a hard time understanding your situation.</td>
<td>5/20/2016 9:55 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>66</td>
<td>Student discipline, attendance, grades</td>
<td>5/20/2016 9:54 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>67</td>
<td>Sometimes the teachers can be difficult</td>
<td>5/20/2016 9:54 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>68</td>
<td>The lack of one on one with the teachers</td>
<td>5/20/2016 9:52 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>69</td>
<td>Schools pretty boring and too hard</td>
<td>5/20/2016 9:50 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70</td>
<td>I don't know</td>
<td>5/20/2016 9:50 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>71</td>
<td>Security (drug related), racial issues, poor shape of streets, lack of life on Main Stree</td>
<td>5/19/2016 4:15 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>72</td>
<td>1. Too much homework in some classes, teachers don't understand there is more going on in our lives then JUST their work. 2. To much complaining, everybody is a bunch of sissies</td>
<td>5/19/2016 3:29 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>73</td>
<td>There is not a lot to do. a lot of drugs go around.</td>
<td>5/19/2016 3:29 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>74</td>
<td>The tech software does not always work and has lots of problems.</td>
<td>5/19/2016 3:28 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75</td>
<td>Roads</td>
<td>5/19/2016 3:28 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>76</td>
<td>TOO MUCH HOMEWORK Teachers never understand we have a busy schedule after school and do not have time to do the homework unless we stay up until 3 in the morning. 7 classes of homework is so much fun not...</td>
<td>5/19/2016 3:28 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77</td>
<td>cant do anything here without being judged</td>
<td>5/19/2016 3:27 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>78</td>
<td>We aren't one. No motivation and just not together.</td>
<td>5/19/2016 3:26 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>79</td>
<td>drugs and bad roads, no money</td>
<td>5/19/2016 3:26 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80</td>
<td>NO MOTIVATION</td>
<td>5/19/2016 3:26 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>81</td>
<td>I don't know</td>
<td>5/19/2016 3:26 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>82</td>
<td>Essays</td>
<td>5/19/2016 3:25 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>83</td>
<td>School spirit, bullying, sports funding</td>
<td>5/19/2016 3:25 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>84</td>
<td>idk</td>
<td>5/19/2016 3:24 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85</td>
<td>We have a low graduation rate</td>
<td>5/19/2016 3:24 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>86</td>
<td>Bad teachers</td>
<td>5/19/2016 3:23 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>87</td>
<td>Some rules are enforced too much, and others, not enough</td>
<td>5/19/2016 3:23 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>88</td>
<td>Bad teachers</td>
<td>5/19/2016 3:23 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>89</td>
<td>Is other students not being active listeners in class and disrupting school work.</td>
<td>5/19/2016 3:23 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90</td>
<td>Drugs and beer beverages etc.</td>
<td>5/19/2016 3:23 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>91</td>
<td>School spirit, and community support for teams and the school. No turnout for games.</td>
<td>5/19/2016 3:21 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>92</td>
<td>Jobe</td>
<td>5/19/2016 3:20 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>93</td>
<td>Drugs, kids who don't care and some bad sports coaches</td>
<td>5/19/2016 1:40 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>94</td>
<td>everything</td>
<td>5/19/2016 1:38 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>95</td>
<td>drugs online</td>
<td>5/19/2016 1:37 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>96</td>
<td>Teachers have bad relationships with students</td>
<td>5/19/2016 1:36 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>97</td>
<td>Drop out rate,</td>
<td>5/19/2016 1:35 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>98</td>
<td>I guess some coaches and teachers but also our townsfolk.</td>
<td>5/19/2016 1:35 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>99</td>
<td>I don't know</td>
<td>5/19/2016 1:35 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100</td>
<td>No school pride</td>
<td>5/19/2016 1:35 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>101</td>
<td>Drugs</td>
<td>5/19/2016 1:34 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>102</td>
<td>People being stereoed or bullied in school, not showing up for school.</td>
<td>5/19/2016 1:34 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>103</td>
<td>Drop out rate, chewing tobacco</td>
<td>5/19/2016 1:34 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ID</td>
<td>Comment</td>
<td>Date</td>
</tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>194</td>
<td>Not a lot of activities</td>
<td>5/19/2016 1:34 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>195</td>
<td>nothing</td>
<td>5/19/2016 1:33 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>196</td>
<td>Unfairness</td>
<td>5/19/2016 1:33 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>197</td>
<td>gambling</td>
<td>5/19/2016 1:33 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>198</td>
<td>From my perspective I would say everything, students and Staff other than the first question</td>
<td>5/19/2016 1:32 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>199</td>
<td>IDK</td>
<td>5/19/2016 1:32 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>200</td>
<td>I don't really see any, maybe presenting in class.</td>
<td>5/19/2016 1:30 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>201</td>
<td>Tunnel vision; resistant to change; lack of communication; severe drug problems; lack of funding for police protection and retention of trained officers; personal agendas in City Hall; historical unwillingness by local civic organizations and governments to work together on just about any project.</td>
<td>5/19/2016 10:38 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>202</td>
<td>Low income with town population. Higher income people residing outside of town. People that always challenge the CSKT Reservation and Indian people. Drug usage throughout the population of the Mission Valley and the loss of people and economics from it. Being able to capture more tourism dollars and retirement facilities.</td>
<td>5/19/2016 3:37 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>203</td>
<td>Lack of housing. Drug use. Crime. Police department have no relationship with Lake County Sheriff - he doesn't back them up and is on a power trip.</td>
<td>5/19/2016 10:43 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>204</td>
<td>Need to improve streets, library, park with inadequate tax base. Constant fighting between extreme tribal and non-tribal constituents that hold back community development.</td>
<td>5/5/2016 5:21 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>205</td>
<td>Several and that is why I moved, but still work in the community. Below are just my opinions. 1. School District - NOT enough Native Teachers Period!!! Plus it's the retention rate is awful! No push to get students to graduate and very cliquish!!! 2. Business Development. I remember when Ronan flourished when I was young, main street was full of business now it's full of mostly-bare buildings. 3. Police - need to say more! 4. Drugs - I know Town Pump is a huge place where drugs go in and out of business (from workers to patrons). I refuse to go there and go to Conex. 5. Lack of fitness Center 6. Lack of hotels/motels. 7. Lack of community development. 8. Hospitals/Health Clinic - Haha, it's a joke especially all the drugs that come out of their that ruin our community and not to mention their lack of knowledge of sexual health care!</td>
<td>5/5/2016 10:38 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>206</td>
<td>Our city roads are so bad, and there seems to be no rhyme or reason why some roads are paved and some roads are still dirt. Maintenance of our dirt roads has improved over the last few years, as oiling and other dust control measures have been applied. However, it feels like city officials are not fair to all Ronan citizens and that if you are not IN with them, your road is the last to be maintained. Maybe have the city schedule streets for snow plow, grading and oiling so the citizens can be shown they are maintaining ALL city streets fairly.</td>
<td>5/2/2016 2:04 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>207</td>
<td>Minimal allowed usage for the gym.</td>
<td>4/27/2016 4:08 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>208</td>
<td>Streets are a beyond description</td>
<td>4/27/2016 1:21 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>209</td>
<td>It needs a better business presence on main street and something that can bring the town back to life!</td>
<td>4/27/2016 12:11 PM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Q3 What projects would you like to see accomplished in Ronan in the next two, five, ten, and twenty years?

Answered: 118  Skipped: 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Responses</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>In two years I want to see that the potholes are getting taken care of. Next the Graduation level goes 25% higher and then after that less incidents on the highways. I have no clue because I might be gone maybe everything getting better every year.</td>
<td>5/20/2016 3:37 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>I have no clue what I want to accomplish in twenty years from now if I am in Ronan</td>
<td>5/20/2016 3:35 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>I would like to accomplish all the work</td>
<td>5/20/2016 3:02 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>no racism and better quality school and maybe be a A school</td>
<td>5/20/2016 3:00 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>To fix all the roads</td>
<td>5/20/2016 2:57 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>New Vice principal, expansion of school, less harsh rules</td>
<td>5/20/2016 2:56 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>school lunch gets better</td>
<td>5/20/2016 2:55 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Hire better teachers and have more respectful students.</td>
<td>5/20/2016 2:55 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Projects I would like to see accomplished in Ronan in the next decade or two would be equality and especially add a boost in attitude between teachers and especially the principal. Teachers are supposed to be supportive and people who WANT their students to succeed, not make them want to tear their eyeballs out. But it isn’t just one sided, the students here are disrespectful and depressed. What I’d like to see is probably a therapy session group or something to help the students deal with mental issues, family issues, or just need someone to talk to.</td>
<td>5/20/2016 2:56 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>money</td>
<td>5/20/2016 2:55 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>I would like to accomplish big things in life.</td>
<td>5/20/2016 2:54 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>better place and free popstans</td>
<td>5/20/2016 2:53 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>nothing</td>
<td>5/20/2016 2:53 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>It really dose not matter to me, it’s all up to the people in charge in the end anyways.</td>
<td>5/20/2016 2:53 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>The space next to the hospital get sold and turned into something nice.</td>
<td>5/20/2016 2:53 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>better town</td>
<td>5/20/2016 2:52 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Some State Championships</td>
<td>5/20/2016 2:51 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>2: fill all the potholes. 5: expand the school curriculum. 10: public pool for the summer, which could be used as an ice-skink during the winter. 29: I don’t know, build some public building I guess.</td>
<td>5/20/2016 2:36 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>A project that I would like to see accomplished in Ronan in the next two, five, ten, and twenty years is a swimming pool.</td>
<td>5/20/2016 2:34 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>More classes to prep me for college</td>
<td>5/20/2016 2:33 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>more class opportunities and classes that help prepare you fro college</td>
<td>5/20/2016 2:33 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>More classes to prepare for college. Better help with getting and filling out scholarships.</td>
<td>5/20/2016 2:32 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>More classes to help me prepare for college. Like for scholarships and stuff like that.</td>
<td>5/20/2016 2:32 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>More businesses to increase population and town size</td>
<td>5/20/2016 2:31 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Idk</td>
<td>5/20/2016 2:30 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Better ways to learn</td>
<td>5/20/2016 2:30 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Doing more activities as a school or as a class</td>
<td>5/20/2016 2:30 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>better sports teams</td>
<td>5/20/2016 2:29 PM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 / 4
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>MEDA Listening Session</th>
<th>SurveyMonkey</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Noting in particular.</td>
<td>5/20/2016 2:29 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>less drug abuse</td>
<td>5/20/2016 2:11 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>To get a bus system and in school and espresso can for the students.</td>
<td>5/20/2016 2:05 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>Not only to see increase in population but the wealth and the city itself expand the city boundaries.</td>
<td>5/20/2016 2:01 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>Nothing</td>
<td>5/20/2016 1:24 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>nothing really...</td>
<td>5/20/2016 1:18 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>me leaving Ronan to go to north dixedan</td>
<td>5/20/2016 1:18 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36</td>
<td>I think there should be more stores, hotels, and I feel like schools should have more motivation.</td>
<td>5/20/2016 1:15 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37</td>
<td>I would like to see there have more stores/restaurants/hotels and just make the town bigger.</td>
<td>5/20/2016 1:14 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38</td>
<td>More stores, more hotels and restaurants.</td>
<td>5/20/2016 1:14 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39</td>
<td>The projects I would like to see would be more restaurants/fast food places. I would also like to see more hotels because of our big event center.</td>
<td>5/20/2016 1:14 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>that we could stop the building in the school and have more teachers and at least have a bigger gym in the high school</td>
<td>5/20/2016 1:14 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41</td>
<td>I don’t know,</td>
<td>5/20/2016 1:14 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42</td>
<td>Nothing</td>
<td>5/20/2016 1:14 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43</td>
<td>NEW LOCKERS</td>
<td>5/20/2016 1:12 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44</td>
<td>use tablets for homework and school work, also some teachers need to be addressed of bulling kids.</td>
<td>5/20/2016 1:11 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45</td>
<td>use of tablets for homework and school, for recreational purposes</td>
<td>5/20/2016 1:10 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46</td>
<td>Not be so cancerous</td>
<td>5/20/2016 1:10 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>47</td>
<td>Drug stuff</td>
<td>5/20/2016 1:08 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48</td>
<td>I’m not sure</td>
<td>5/20/2016 10:52 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49</td>
<td>Better teachings</td>
<td>5/20/2016 10:51 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50</td>
<td>Maybe have early outs on Friday? Or more late starts</td>
<td>5/20/2016 10:48 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51</td>
<td>No school Fridays and more sporting events like swimming</td>
<td>5/20/2016 10:48 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>52</td>
<td>early releases on fridays</td>
<td>5/20/2016 10:48 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>53</td>
<td>I would like to see the school get bigger, or updated.</td>
<td>5/20/2016 10:48 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>54</td>
<td>upgrade the older buildings, get more tech oriented so it’s easier on the teachers and the students,</td>
<td>5/20/2016 10:48 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55</td>
<td>to have late starts or early release of Fridays instead on Wednesday.</td>
<td>5/20/2016 10:47 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>56</td>
<td>Better high school building</td>
<td>5/20/2016 10:46 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>57</td>
<td>I am gonna be graduated in that time.</td>
<td>5/20/2016 10:46 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>58</td>
<td>More personable people</td>
<td>5/20/2016 10:46 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>59</td>
<td>New computers, heators, and classrooms</td>
<td>5/20/2016 10:46 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60</td>
<td>I feel like the school is already in a good state as is.</td>
<td>5/20/2016 9:57 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>61</td>
<td>I would like to see this schooling system turned around</td>
<td>5/20/2016 9:57 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>62</td>
<td>The major projects I would like to see Ronan accomplish is putting up at least one more park for kids enjoyment,</td>
<td>5/20/2016 9:56 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>63</td>
<td>new high school</td>
<td>5/20/2016 9:55 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>64</td>
<td>different, more school activities</td>
<td>5/20/2016 9:55 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65</td>
<td>I want be here</td>
<td>5/20/2016 9:54 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>66</td>
<td>In five years hopefully i will be graduated. I dont really know. I really like how Ronan is a small homey town and it makes me happy, but other than that I think that more school activities could be put in play.</td>
<td>5/20/2016 9:54 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>67</td>
<td>Giving students advanced tech so bring home to keep up with times.</td>
<td>5/20/2016 9:52 AM</td>
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<tr>
<td>68</td>
<td>get my own place stay there leave the town to go to the country</td>
<td>5/29/2016 9:50 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>69</td>
<td>I don’t know.</td>
<td>5/29/2016 9:50 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70</td>
<td>Emphasis on building a sense of community, greater walkability (sidewalks) for greater livability</td>
<td>5/19/2016 4:15 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>71</td>
<td>sports!! or early out days!!</td>
<td>5/19/2016 3:28 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>72</td>
<td>nothing because in the last five years there has been nothing going on, nothing new built.</td>
<td>5/19/2016 3:28 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>73</td>
<td>New available languages to learn, better academics cleaner facility.</td>
<td>5/19/2016 3:28 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>74</td>
<td>better roads</td>
<td>5/19/2016 3:28 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75</td>
<td>I have no idea Late Start Fridays Or early out Fridays at least once a month</td>
<td>5/19/2016 3:28 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>76</td>
<td>more appreciation for all sports and school activities and not just the certain few</td>
<td>5/19/2016 3:27 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77</td>
<td>New language classes, but keep Lethal forever. Don’t make classes do the same thing and just sit there and watch videos.</td>
<td>5/19/2016 3:26 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>78</td>
<td>more, the community won’t do anything</td>
<td>5/19/2016 3:26 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>79</td>
<td>A new high school building, mandatory tooth brushing and deodorants wearing.</td>
<td>5/19/2016 3:26 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80</td>
<td>more options for sport</td>
<td>5/19/2016 3:26 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>81</td>
<td>I have no idea</td>
<td>5/19/2016 3:25 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>82</td>
<td>I would like to see some effort put into the sports that are hardly noticed.</td>
<td>5/19/2016 3:25 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>83</td>
<td>idk</td>
<td>5/19/2016 3:24 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>84</td>
<td>Better roads</td>
<td>5/19/2016 3:24 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85</td>
<td>Win state in all athletics for boys.</td>
<td>5/19/2016 3:23 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>86</td>
<td>Bigger high school building or more technological</td>
<td>5/19/2016 3:23 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>87</td>
<td>I’d like to see an improvement in the math department. Win a state title in football. More Chromebooks, and possibly iPads/iPodi.</td>
<td>5/19/2016 3:23 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>88</td>
<td>Is more school spirit! More kids being involved in extra-curricular clubs.</td>
<td>5/19/2016 3:23 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>89</td>
<td>Crack down on Drugs most of the time many of the drug users are never caught during searches. Its not hard to catch them but more searches etc. out in parking lot you will catch a lot of them.</td>
<td>5/19/2016 3:22 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90</td>
<td>More support from the community in sports and events.</td>
<td>5/19/2016 3:22 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>91</td>
<td>Fire Jobe</td>
<td>5/19/2016 3:20 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>92</td>
<td>Some state title and less drugs</td>
<td>5/19/2016 1:40 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>93</td>
<td>will only be here 1 more year</td>
<td>5/19/2016 1:38 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>94</td>
<td>crime drug rate down</td>
<td>5/19/2016 1:37 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>95</td>
<td>More activities outside of school.</td>
<td>5/19/2016 1:36 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>96</td>
<td>Bigger high school</td>
<td>5/19/2016 1:35 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>97</td>
<td>Our school succeed in sports, academics and bullying problems.</td>
<td>5/19/2016 1:35 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>98</td>
<td>I would like to see a state title for football. I would also like to see less kids doing drugs.</td>
<td>5/19/2016 1:35 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>99</td>
<td>more school pride</td>
<td>5/19/2016 1:35 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100</td>
<td>a high school baseball team and Legion</td>
<td>5/19/2016 1:34 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>101</td>
<td>More technology, better funding for certain sports.</td>
<td>5/19/2016 1:34 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>102</td>
<td>state championships in sports.</td>
<td>5/19/2016 1:34 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>103</td>
<td>using more technology</td>
<td>5/19/2016 1:34 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>104</td>
<td>To Graduate from college</td>
<td>5/19/2016 1:33 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>105</td>
<td>Starting school at 9:00</td>
<td>5/19/2016 1:33 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>106</td>
<td>taco bell in ronan</td>
<td>5/19/2016 1:33 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>107</td>
<td>New VP (Vice Principal) and a major boost in help from teachers with those who are struggling and begin falling behind.</td>
<td>5/9/2016 1:32 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>108</td>
<td>Some fun project.</td>
<td>5/9/2016 1:32 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>109</td>
<td>More Basic Championships</td>
<td>5/9/2016 1:30 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>110</td>
<td>Street repairs; revitalization of Main Street; increased community activities; more cooperation between City, County and Tribe.</td>
<td>5/9/2016 10:38 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>111</td>
<td>Increase average income for town residents and affordable housing. Belling sewer system into compliance. Revitalize mainstreet to capture tourist traffic. Complete all planned pathway projects. Provide business incentives for value added cottage industries.</td>
<td>5/9/2016 3:37 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>112</td>
<td>We need low income housing units and recreation for the youth.</td>
<td>5/9/2016 10:43 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>113</td>
<td>Expanded library facility. Improved street pavement, curbs and gardens. Summer recreation programs for youth. Adequate funding for Boys and Girls Club program. Public transportation within the community and last service.</td>
<td>5/9/2016 9:21 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>114</td>
<td>1. Community Center - Community Swimming Pool 2. When and if the highway go through - make it look pretty!!! Arlen’s lights are nice, something similar to that. 3. More businesses 4. Education - Hire more native teachers, encourage Native kiddos to want to stay in school - have more native empowerment. 5. Quit being hypnagogia 6. More places to stay - chain hotel with a view of the mountains.</td>
<td>5/9/2016 10:38 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>115</td>
<td>Paving the city streets. Installing street lights.</td>
<td>5/2/2016 2:04 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>116</td>
<td>A community center or sort of Event Center open and welcoming Tribal people, the current one is pretty limited and people don’t feel too welcomed.</td>
<td>4/27/2016 4:08 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>117</td>
<td>Fix the streets</td>
<td>4/27/2016 1:21 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>118</td>
<td>I would love to see a completed bike path all the way to Black Road, once the bike path ends it is dangerous and there is not a shoulder to ride on after that point.</td>
<td>4/27/2016 12:11 PM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>